Scattered Storms Surge Through The State

A few light showers throughout most of the state helped to improve crop conditions, but more rain is needed. Some reports indicated hail damage to crops from recent storms. Rainfall totals ranged from 0.52 inches in Madison to 1.49 inches in La Crosse. Temperatures were 1 to 3 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures were in the high 70s to low 80s. Average low temperatures were in the mid 50s to low 60s. Soil Moisture conditions were at 4 percent very short, 32 percent short, 62 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus. There was an average of 5.5 days suitable for fieldwork last week.

Corn height was reported at an average of 31 inches, ahead of last year’s 24 inches and the 5-year average of 18 inches. More rain is needed for corn on lighter soils, especially in some areas in the north. Recent rains provided a temporary refill, but subsoil moisture did not benefit. Corn condition improved slightly, as it was rated as 1 percent very poor, 3 percent poor, 15 percent fair, 62 percent good, and 19 percent excellent.

Soybeans emerged was reported as 99 percent complete, and soybeans bloomed was reported at 4 percent complete. Late planted soybeans just finished emergence due to earlier dry conditions, while most soybeans are moving along much faster than normal. Soybean condition saw a slight increase this week as conditions were rated as 75 percent good to excellent.

Oats headed was at 78 percent complete, ahead of last year’s 68 percent and ahead of the 5-year average of 51 percent. Weather conditions helped oats to progress quickly last week. Oat condition looked good in most areas, with 73 percent rated as good to excellent.

First cutting Alfalfa was at 94 percent complete, tying last year’s progress, and ahead of the 5-year average of 79 percent. Second cutting alfalfa was at 8 percent complete, ahead of last year’s 7 percent and the 5-year average of 1 percent. Even though second cutting alfalfa surpassed last year’s level by 1 percent, it was reported that yields in some areas are short due to lack of moisture.

Winter Wheat is heading, and conditions have improved to 76 percent good to excellent, up from last week’s 70 percent.

Strawberries and Peas are being harvested, and potatoes are blooming.
**Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents**

- **BARRON-T.J.:** Much needed rain arrived this past week-just in time. Subsoil moisture remains very low, so weekly rains are needed to keep crops growing well. An estimated 2,000 acres of corn and soybeans were damaged by hail during a thunderstorm last Wednesday evening. Most of the hail damage was limited to leaf tattering, but some isolated instances of stalk damage were seen in corn fields.

- **BAYFIELD-S.S.:** Corn looks great. Hay harvest continues. Barley is starting to head out.

- **MARATHON-M.K.:** Some first crop hay is still being worked. Corn is doing very well.

- **LANGLADE-A.K.:** 1.0-2.0 inches of rain on Monday night gave corn and soybeans some color; should help second crop re-growth. It is still very dry in our area.

- **SHAWANO-B.R.:** Dry weather caused some soybeans to lay in the ground 3-4 weeks before they germinated, making some fields thin at this time. Corn is looking very good with great color and near three feet high. Some second crop alfalfa is starting to be cut due to high leafhopper counts. It is very short due to dry weather.

- **LACROSSE-S.H.:** Crops are looking good for most of the area. Second crop hay is being harvested by some farmers. Alfalfa weevil and leafhopper pressure continues in some alfalfa fields. Scouting of corn and soybeans continues to take place. Armyworms and corn borers in corn. Soybean aphids are in the soybeans.

- **MONROE-W.D.:** Some second crop hay is being chopped; very short but good quality. If we do not get more rain, the second crop will be very short. Corn and soybeans continue to surprise us-how well they are doing with so little rain. Many fields of oats are headed. Straw will be short this year.

- **WAUPACA-D.H.:** Corn grew well the last two weeks. Minimum till corn is doing well. Most hay yields are somewhat below normal.

- **WAUSHA-L.K.:** It is still very dry. Some corn has become rather weedy. First crop hay yields were below normal and second crop hay needs more moisture. Early sweet corn is starting to tassel.

- **FOND DU LAC-E.A.:** Crops in this area look very good at this time. Second crop alfalfa is a good crop. Winter wheat looks very good. It is starting to ripen.

- **SHEBOYGAN-E.P.:** Soybeans emerged slowly where they received very little rain. Corn conditions improved after a few very little rain showers. Oats are now in good condition. Hay yields are lower than usual.

- **GRANT-L.F.:** Crops look real well after getting 1.4 inches of a real nice soaking rain on Sunday and Monday afternoon. Weather cooled off and everything looks green again. Second crop hay made early looks very good. Most first crop was a little short on production. Some corn and soybean fields are weedy. Oats look clean and most are heading out. Now we have to have cooler weather to make them fill out. Corn sure grew after the rain. This also helped bring on the second crop hay, also the pastures. We got 3.6 inches of wild rain. It rained too hard and was real windy. We had some pea size hail also.

- **DODGE-G.R.:** Intermittent rain showers have hampered completion of first cutting alfalfa, but benefited re-growth of second crop. Corn fields look robust due to combination of moisture and hot, humid weather. Winter wheat is turning, some oats headed and soybean fields all emerged.

- **KENOSHA-J.H.:** We had a heavy rain on Monday evening. Rain from 1.5 to 4.5 inches reported. On Thursday morning, we had hail in this area with a few farms having significant damage.

- **WAUKESHA-R.F.:** It is very dry. We need rain. Weed control is good. Second cut alfalfa is not growing. Field conditions are getting dry. Weeds are hardening and beginning to resist post applied herbicides.

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**Wisconsin Crop Progress**

**City**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Temperature</th>
<th>Growing degree days (modified base 50) 1/</th>
<th>Precipitation</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Avg. max.</td>
<td>Avg. min.</td>
<td>High max.</td>
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<td>Milwaukee</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>90</td>
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</tbody>
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1/Formula used: GDD = (daily maximum (86°) + daily minimum (50°))/2-50°; where 86° is used if the maximum exceeds 86° and 50° is used if the minimum falls below 50°. *Normal based on 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>.

n.a. = not available. T = trace. Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.