



Wisconsin Crop Progress

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Knee-High By the Fourth of July

In the Midwest, you hear the phrase "knee-high by the Fourth of July" referring to the height of corn. Even with the heavy rains and flooding this year, many Wisconsin fields will have corn well above knee height by July 4. However, some fields that were affected by flooding or ponding had total crop losses while other wet fields have short, stressed plants. In addition, weed growth has rapidly increased to the point of causing crop stress. With the sprayers once again in the fields, the weeds were becoming more manageable.

Average high temperatures were 79 to 80 degrees, with average low temperatures ranging from 56 to 62 degrees. Precipitation totals last week ranged from 0.30 inches reported in Madison to 1.06 inches reported in Eau Claire. Soil moisture conditions were at 0 percent very short, 11 percent short, 77 percent adequate, and 12 percent surplus. There was an average of 6.0 days suitable for fieldwork last week.

Corn and Soybeans were reported as short in height, but growth accelerated this past week. The average corn height was reported at 21 inches. Corn condition was reported as 4 percent very poor, 8 percent poor, 28 percent fair, 47 percent good, and 13 percent excellent.

Soybean conditions were improving, and plants grew well this past week. Unfortunately, so did the weeds. Much spraying was done in soybean fields. Nearly all soybeans have been planted with 97 percent emergence and 1 percent in bloom. Soybean conditions were reported as 4 percent very poor, 7 percent poor, 29 percent fair, 51 percent good, and 9 percent excellent.

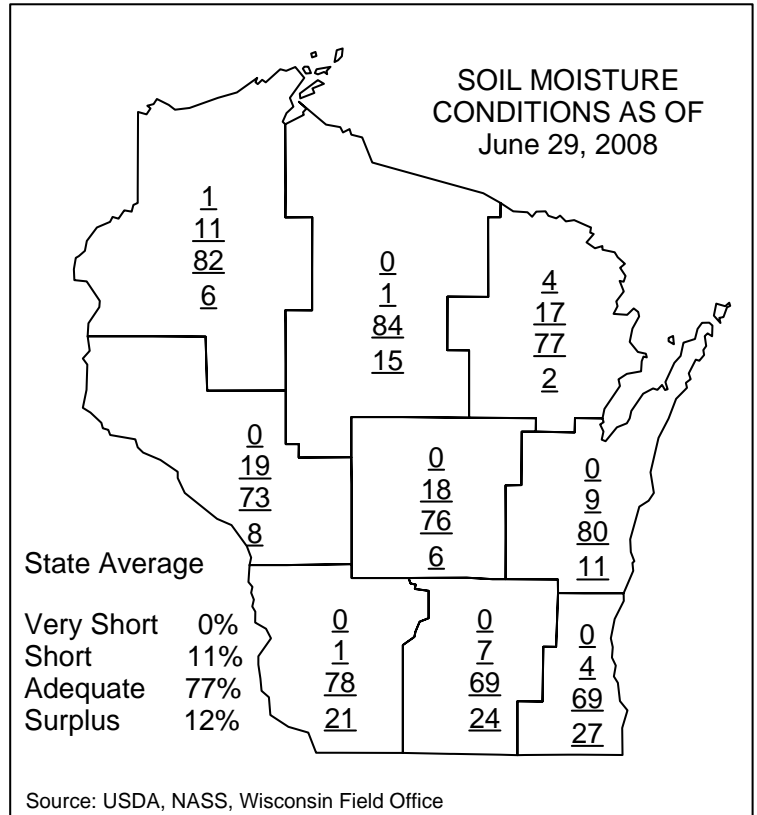
In most north and central areas, **hay** quality and quantity has been good, with reports of first crop hay better than last year's. Too much rain in early June hurt hay quality in southern parts of the state. Some second crop hay was nearing harvest in the east central area of the state while farmers in some west central and southern counties have already begun harvesting. First crop hay was reported at 87 percent harvested with second crop at 3 percent.

High **winter wheat** yields are expected in some southern and central areas. Some rust disease was reported on winter wheat in the northern part of the state. Winter wheat condition was reported at 1 percent very poor, 4 percent poor, 21 percent fair, 52 percent good, and 22 percent excellent.

Oats that were under water on good soil were being replanted where the water has receded. In other areas, oats were starting to head, with reports of 44 percent headed. Oat conditions were reported at 1 percent very poor, 4 percent poor, 21 percent fair, 57 percent good, and 17 percent excellent.

Pastures were reported as being productive. Pasture condition was reported as 1 percent very poor, 3 percent poor, 17 percent fair, 56 percent good, and 23 percent excellent.

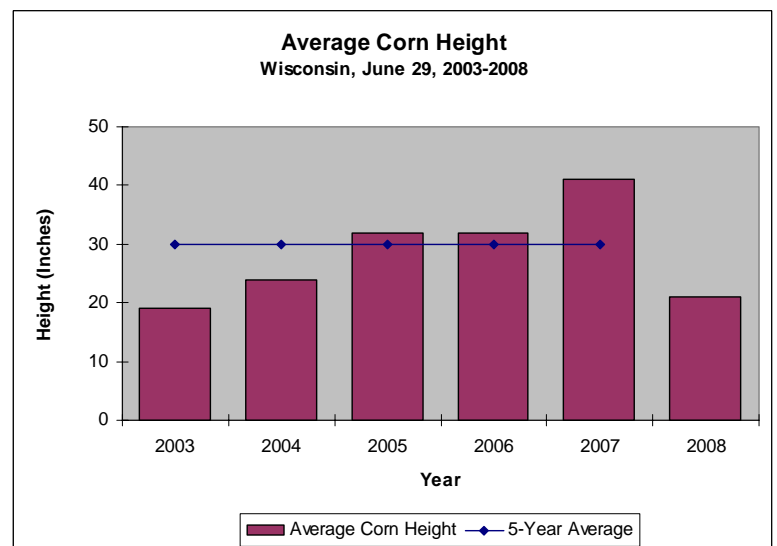
Early pea harvest was winding down. **Potatoes** were blooming and showing good growth. **Snap beans** were up. **Double crop sweet corn** was being planted. **Strawberries** were being picked and were reported as a good crop in the Central district. The **apple** crop was reported to be in excellent condition in Dunn County. **Cranberry** bloom was reported at nearly 50 percent in the central area of the state. **Triticale** harvest was set to wrap up. **Rye** was turning and looked good.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of June 29, 2008

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Corn	4	8	28	47	13
Soybean	4	7	29	51	9
Oats	1	4	21	57	17
Winter Wheat	1	4	21	52	22
Pasture	1	3	17	56	23

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office



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Crop and percent of acreage	District average									State average		
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This year	Last year	5-year average
Average corn height	17	14	15	17	15	19	28	27	20	21	41	30
Soybeans emerged	98	99	95	98	95	96	98	97	97	97	100	97
Oats headed	39	15	34	29	32	38	85	61	63	44	87	77
First cutting hay	82	94	88	94	65	86	90	98	79	87	97	91

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BAYFIELD-S.S.: First crop hay is well above last year's production. Corn is up but needs moisture and warm weather.

BURNETT-J.D.: It is getting very dry like last year.

VILAS-L.K.: First crop hay harvest is about to start. It is getting very dry here.

FOREST-A.K.: Harvesting hay has just started. Some farmers are spraying for weeds.

SHAWANO-T.A.: It is a pretty good crop season. So much work let some of the oatlage cover crop get away. Alfalfa growers are rebuilding inventory with the heavy hay crop.

DUNN-T.F.: All crops are looking good. Snapbeans went in late last week and are up. Growers report the best yielding first crop hay in a long time. Pastures are very productive so far. It will be tough for corn to be knee high by the 4th of July.

EAU CLAIRE-R.S.: First crop hay yields are good, but quality is only fair. Lots of grass due to cool damp weather. Corn is coming but needs heat to catch up.

PEPIN-H.R.: Some fields on heavy ground are really hard and crusted. Hay went in real fast last week. Some hay was plenty ripe. Some fields are weedy with spraying going on in most.

WAUPACA-D.H.: Crops have improved significantly with more favorable weather. Lots of first crop haying being made with quality diminishing due to maturity. Some corn fields are very weedy.

WOOD-M.L.: Late hay yielded very well. Pastures are excellent. Corn is growing slowly.

DOOR-D.V.: Crops have been progressing slowly due to the cool temperatures. Most crops are in excellent condition, but moisture is becoming limited. Weed control in corn was delayed in early June because of the wet field conditions. It is likely yields will be impacted.

FOND DU LAC-M.R.: Corn is looking much better after a week of mostly sunshine. Low areas are still yellow. Second crop hay harvest has begun.

KEWAUNEE-S.G.: Fields are drying up a bit. A lot of alfalfa got rained on several times before it could be harvested. Protein will be down in alfalfa due to the late harvest. Some first crop hay is still getting cut while some second crop is nearing harvest already.

SHEBOYGAN-E.P.: Hay making and spraying for weeds in oats and corn are the major activities. Oats that were under water in ponds on good soil is being replanted where water has receded.

GRANT-G.C.: We have had excellent haying weather. With earlier excessive rains, poorer growing conditions, and winterkill, hay yields are down. Corn, oats, and soybeans are all short for this time of year. Very little insect and weed pressure noticed.

LAFAYETTE-M.R.: A couple of weeks of drier weather improved the looks of corn and soybeans. Lots of mature hay was made. The 1.5 inches of rain we received may help some shallow rooted plants.

COLUMBIA-R.S.: Weeds are all over the corn fields. A lot of corn is over knee high already. Color is beginning to come back. Soybeans are looking good, even ones that were flooded. They appear to be growing again. There are still very large field ponds; they do not seem to be going down very fast.

DODGE-M.H.: Low areas are finally drying out. Some corn for silage and soybeans are being replanted. Overall, the corn is showing signs of nitrogen deficiency. Nitrogen side dressing is being done as fast as possible. No signs of soybean aphids yet.

GREEN-M.M.: Most farmers finished up first crop hay cutting this week while others were already harvesting second crop on fields that had been harvested prior to the flooding rains. Quantity is up, but quality will be down on first cutting of hay. Approximately 5 percent of the corn and soybeans in low lying areas have been lost due to standing water. Both corn and soybeans are about 1-2 weeks behind in normal development.

WAUKESHA-R.F.: Crops look good but dry, except in ponds. Alfalfa yield was good. Some fields have weeds, need spraying.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on June 29, 2008

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50) 1/		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar. 1 to June 28	Mar. 1 to June 28 normal *	Last week	Since June 1	June 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	80	56	88	50	68	-1	830	909	1.06	5.82	1.87	16.63	2.42
Green Bay	80	61	87	54	70	3	864	819	1.00	5.32	2.21	17.40	4.70
La Crosse	80	59	89	56	70	-2	953	1032	0.80	8.19	4.57	21.53	6.99
Madison	79	60	83	54	70	1	933	1014	0.30	12.05	8.35	29.24	14.09
Milwaukee	79	62	86	54	70	1	808	n.a.	0.94	12.42	9.20	27.58	11.46

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.