Rain is Needed in Most Areas

Timely rains and warm temperatures are needed for corn and soybean development to continue. Most Wisconsin counties reported dry weather and little or no rain. There were still some flooded areas, but for the most part, conditions are dry.

Average high temperatures ranged from 81 to 87 degrees, with average low temperatures ranging from 57 to 65 degrees. Precipitation totals last week ranged from no rain reported in Milwaukee to 1.55 inches reported in Green Bay. Soil moisture conditions were at 8 percent very short, 23 percent short, 65 percent adequate, and 4 percent surplus. There was an average of 6.2 days suitable for fieldwork last week.

Average corn height was reported at 79 inches with 62 percent tasseled. Corn condition was reported as 3 percent very poor, 6 percent poor, 22 percent fair, 55 percent good, and 19 percent excellent. Most areas of the state reported corn progressing nicely with daily improvement.

Soybeans continued to make progress with blooming reported at 77 percent and 32 percent showing pods. Soybean conditions were reported as 2 percent very poor, 5 percent poor, 21 percent fair, 55 percent good, and 17 percent excellent. Aphid populations are increasing, and some spraying has been done.

Second crop hay harvest was nearing completion with 88 percent harvested. Some areas were working on their third crop harvest.

Winter wheat harvest was in full swing with reports of very good to excellent yields on the 60 percent that was harvested. Conditions were reported at 1 percent very poor, 2 percent poor, 15 percent fair, 55 percent good, and 17 percent excellent. Conditions were reported as 4 percent very poor, 11 percent poor, 28 percent fair, 52 percent good, and 6 percent excellent.

Oats showed improvement with conditions reported at 1 percent very poor, 4 percent poor, 17 percent fair, 60 percent good, and 18 percent excellent. Reports showed that 24 percent of oats had been harvested for grain.

One reporter in north-central Wisconsin noted that pastures look dormant due to the dry weather. Statewide, conditions were reported at 3 percent very poor, 8 percent poor, 21 percent fair, 52 percent good, and 16 percent excellent.

Snap beans were being harvested. Sweet Corn was coming off the field. Fresh potato harvest began. Final peas were being harvested.
BARRON-R.C.: Timely rains have helped keep corn and soybeans looking good. Producers are finishing up with second crop alfalfa, with quality and quantity being reported as above average. Snapbeans are being harvested with reported yields ranging from very good to excellent.

POLK-C.S.: Corn and soybeans are developing very fast. Timely rains and warm temperatures need to continue. Spraying for alfalfa leafhoppers is going on. Soybean aphids are starting to reproduce and counts are starting to reach threshold levels.

MARATHON-M.K.: There is lots of hay. Corn and soybeans look good.

PRICE-M.K.: Corn looks very good except on lighter soils. Small grains are turning. Second crop hay harvest continues with apparent high quality and very low yields from the dry conditions. Forage crop growth is very slow due to the dry weather. Most pastures are dormant.

SHAWANO-B.R.: Alfalfa harvest is in a wide range; some farmers are starting second crop and others are already cutting third crop. Spotty showers continue to cause problems with making dry hay. Hay had to be blown back into numerous fields because of poor quality due to showers and repeated rakings. Wheat harvest is in full swing with many reported yields of 80-95 bushels per acre and heavy straw yields. Corn and soybeans continue to make excellent progress.

PEPIN-R.C.: All crops are doing well considering the limited rains.

PIERCE-J.K.: Corn and soybeans look excellent with another 1.0 inch of rain on Sunday night. Oats are starting to be swathed and harvested. Second crop hay is finishing up and some have been working on third crop.

WAUSHARA-L.K.: Corn and soybeans look good but need rain. Showers have been missing this area. Second crop alfalfa had good yield and quantity.

FOND DU LAC-R.P.: Corn is improving daily. Some farmers are starting to seed alfalfa on wheat ground. Straw is selling at a very good price as yields were less than expected.

KEWAUNEE-T.S.: After waiting for rain to fall, it finally came late this past week. For the most part, the corn is looking good. Some fields, though, do not look so good, mainly because of problems caused by spring fieldwork. Soil compaction, especially on clay soils, has caused some corn fields to be very uneven, with some plants tall and some short. These fields will be a challenge to harvest in the fall, particularly if the corn is going to be harvested for grain. Soybeans are really looking good, with some plants reaching knee to thigh high in height. Barrng any problems with pests or damage from hail, they should yield well. Second crop hay harvest is beginning to wrap up, with nearly all of it in. Yields have been very good. Some producers here have started third crop hay harvest as well. Winter wheat harvest is in full swing, with a lot of grain and a lot of straw being taken off the fields. No oat harvest has begun here yet. Some fields are showing weeds.

CRAWFORD-V.H.: Crops are looking good all things considered. Majority of crop acres in county could use a good slow shot of moisture.

DODGE-M.H.: Corn that received Nitrogen side dress is looking very good. There is some yellowish looking corn across the countryside though. Soybeans are setting pods. Aphid numbers are below threshold but increasing rapidly. Some third cut hay crop was made over the past week.

RACINE-R.S.: For the most part, crops look extremely well although we are in need of some rain as hills and sandy ground are showing some major signs of stress. Some areas have corn that is half fired already. Yield potential is looking better, but we will not know what is truly out there until combines start rolling.

WAUKESHA-R.F.: All crops need rain.