Crops Vary by Soil Types

Conditions remained dry throughout most of the state this past week. There was some scattered rain last Wednesday that was a welcome relief to those that received it. Crops on heavier soils were looking good, while those on lighter soils were showing signs of stress from lack of moisture. Later planting dates and cool evening temperatures have caused crop development to be behind normal. Some reporters were concerned that there may not be enough time for crops to mature.

High average temperatures ranged from 75 to 80 degrees. Lows were between 54 and 59 degrees. Average temperatures were 1 to 5 degrees below normal. Rainfall totals ranged from 0.00 inches in Green Bay and LaCrosse to 0.45 inches in Eau Claire. Soil moisture conditions were 9 percent very short, 32 percent short, 56 percent adequate, and 3 percent surplus. There was an average of 6.1 days suitable for fieldwork last week.

Corn silked was 95 percent complete, behind last year’s 100 and equal to the 5-year average of 95 percent. Corn in dough stage increased 15 percentage points from last week and was 24 percent complete. This is below both last year’s 54 percent and the 5-year average of 42 percent complete. The crop was just beginning to reach the dent stage, at 1 percent complete.

Soybeans bloomed was 93 percent complete, behind both last year’s 100 percent and the 5-year average of 97 percent. Soybeans setting pods increased to 75 percent complete, compared with 89 percent last year and the 5-year average of 80 percent. Some growers saw soybean aphid populations increase last week, and some spraying was done to combat them.

Dry weather has helped move along the harvest of small grains. Winter wheat harvest is coming to a close with winter wheat harvested 94 percent complete. Oats harvested for grain was 68 percent complete. Growers reported yields for most small grains to be fair to excellent.

Third cutting hay was 45 percent complete, compared to 19 percent last week. This is slightly above the 5-year average of 44 percent, but below last year’s 58 percent complete. Reports varied on the quality and quantity of the hay crop, but were generally favorable.

Potatoes and cucumbers were doing well in some central areas.
Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

POLK-C.S.: Corn and soybeans look good. We are scouting and spraying for soybean aphids. Oat and wheat harvest is moving along as weather allows with average yields.

ASHLAND-G.M.: We are very short on rain. Alfalfa looks good. Second crop hay is very poor. Winter wheat and rye are very good. Oats and barley are poor. There is an abundance of grasshoppers.

OCOTTO-K.H.: No rain again this week. Combined with bright sun, wind, and low humidity; this has many crops in moisture stress. Virtually all corn fields observed were showing curled leaves during the afternoons, and some were not recovering over night. More fields showing drying and yellowing on lower leaves. Soybeans seem to be showing fewer signs of stress generally, but light soil spots in fields can be picked out by the curled and wilted plants. Pastures are dry and brown.

DUNN-S.S.: Corn and soybeans look pretty good considering we have just been getting by in moisture. Most second crop hay is from fair to good. Third crop hay is slow in coming back. Pastures really seem to be hurting due to lack of rain. The oat crop is fair to good.

MONROE-W.D.: Corn and soybeans have grown past the hail damage, and they look good. I hope there will be time for all crops to mature. There is still some second crop hay being made. Third crop hay is about half-way done with excellent quality and quantity. Oats are also about half done with average yields and short on straw.

ST. CROIX-R.K.: Corn and soybeans are behind in maturity; cool weather is responsible. This area does not have a surplus of moisture. Hay crops are below average.

WAUSON-A-J.J.: Corn and soybeans look good. Rain on Wednesday was very timely for both crops.

OUTAGAMIE-K.J.: Corn continues to progress. The majority of corn is good to excellent. Corn silage harvesting timing will be wider this year because of the range in planting dates and maturities. Winter wheat harvest is moving along as weather allows with air planes are buzzing applying both foliar fertilizers and fungicides on corn and soybeans. Most straw is baled, third crop is done; time for a little R & R. Air planes are using both foliar fertilizers and fungicides on corn and soybeans. Most straw is baled, third crop is done; time for a little R & R.

ROCK-C.O.: Alfalfa and corn have grown past the hail damage, and they look good. I hope there will be time for all crops to mature. There is still some second crop hay being made. Third crop hay is about half-way done with excellent quality and quantity. Oats are also about half done with average yields and short on straw.

LAFAYETTE-M.R.: Corn and soybeans are behind in maturity; cool weather is responsible. All corn is losing color. Most corn is a pale green, and ear size is noticeably small. No corn will dent before September 1. Soybeans seem to be ok. Soybean aphids are increasing. Fourth cutting alfalfa will be short if it does not rain soon.

JEFFERSON-B.K.: Alfalfa and corn have grown past the hail damage, and they look good. I hope there will be time for all crops to mature. There is still some second crop hay being made. Third crop hay is about half-way done with excellent quality and quantity. Oats are also about half done with average yields and short on straw.

WAUSHARA-J.J.: Corn and soybeans look good. Rain on Wednesday was very timely for both crops.

GRANT-G.C.: Corn and soybeans are good. Second crop hay is very poor. Winter wheat and rye are very good. Oats and barley are poor. There is an abundance of grasshoppers.

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