



Wisconsin Crop Progress

Compiled by the Wisconsin Field Office of
USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service

August 17, 2009

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Rain, Heat, and Humidity Spruce Up Crops

Timely precipitation paired with above average temperatures and high humidity this past week helped to green up many crops around the state. This combination aided the condition of corn and soybeans as well as perking up pastures and accelerating hay re-growth. Specifically, the Northwest district received some much-needed rain to help relieve their current dry conditions. Growers remained optimistic while hoping for a late frost and future conducive weather during the month of September.

Across the reporting stations, precipitation ranged from 0.00 inches in La Crosse to 3.07 inches in Eau Claire. Average temperatures were 2 to 4 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 83 to 86 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 62 to 66 degrees. On average, there were 5.0 days suitable for fieldwork. If you are interested in further weather data, please reference the following sites:

<http://www.noaa.gov/>
<http://www.aos.wisc.edu/~sco/>
<http://www.cocorahs.org/>
<http://www.weather.gov/>

Corn silked was 90 percent complete statewide while 18 percent of the corn was reported to be in the dough stage, an increase of 10 percentage points from previous week. Corn maturity remains varied in many fields around the state. Some was reported as looking great while other areas will have to be cut for silage due to a very low expected yield if kept for grain.

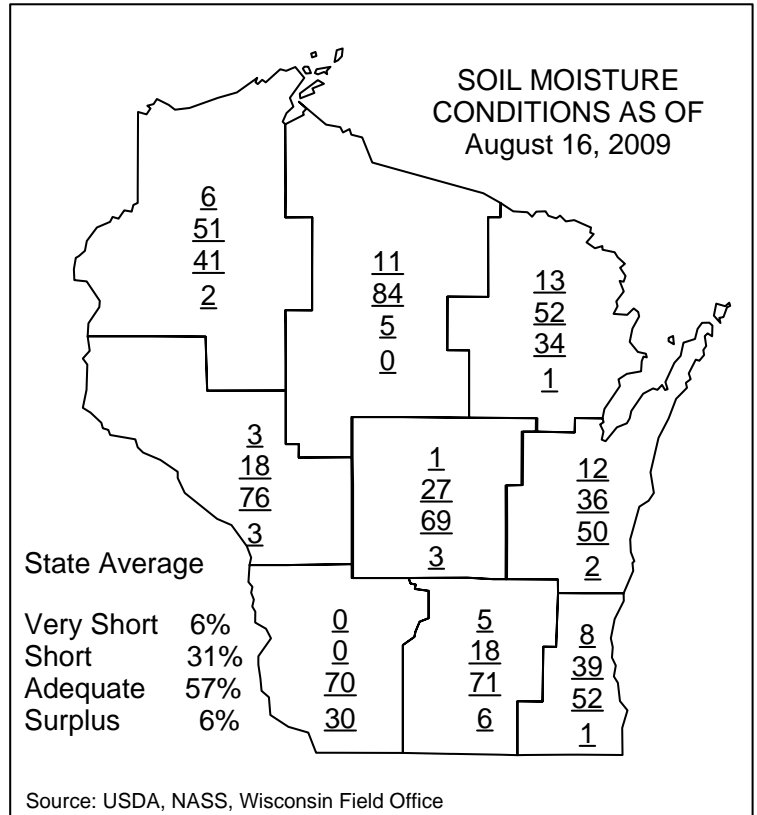
Soybeans blooming were reported as 90 percent complete, while 66 percent were setting pods. Many growers were spraying their beans for aphids and mites as well as applying some fungicides to those that have mold. Future moisture will aid soybean seed development as those beans setting pods continue to progress rapidly.

Winter wheat harvested for grain shot up 25 percentage points from the previous week to 81percent complete statewide. Plenty of small grain harvest was able to take place after the heavy rains last weekend. Harvest around the state is progressing swiftly, leaving plenty of straw behind to be baled or chopped, and is even starting to wrap up in some areas. Reported yields vary, but for the most part seem to convey an above-average crop.

Oats harvested for grain continues to advance steadily and has reached 54 percent complete across the state. Many growers reported above average oat yields as well.

Third cutting **hay** harvest is moving along rapidly and has reached 40 percent complete across the state. Third and fourth crop re-growth has benefitted from the recent rains that have accelerated development.

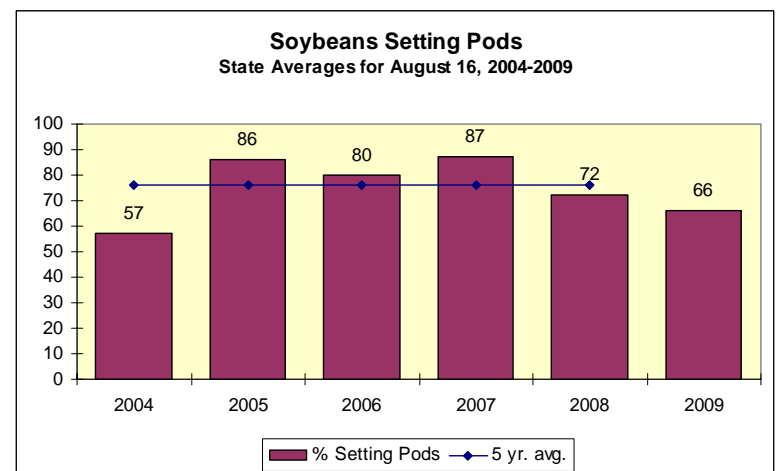
The second planting of **snap beans** in Trempealeau County looked good, while the **tobacco** harvest was proceeding in Dane County.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of August 16, 2009

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Corn	3	9	27	43	18
Soybeans	2	9	23	52	14
Oats	1	4	23	59	13
Pasture	8	18	35	32	7

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
Corn silked	89	88	97	96	93	77	100	95	80	90	94	94
Corn in dough stage	5	18	4	11	11	9	41	25	14	18	22	37
Soybeans blooming	74	97	100	92	61	87	97	98	90	90	92	94
Soybean setting pods	54	65	87	58	49	65	80	79	49	66	72	76
Winter wheat harvested	59	53	75	65	78	75	88	98	79	81	92	93
Oats harvested	66	36	19	62	55	44	85	86	31	54	64	79
Third cutting hay	29	50	33	36	28	47	34	49	34	40	41	42

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

CHIPPEWA-R.M.: Saturday and Sunday we received rain which was a crop saver. Corn, soybeans and hay have revived but pastures are still too dry.

WASHBURN-P.H.: Lots of small grains were harvested last week. Yields averaged low depending on heavier soil and timely rain. Most corn pollinated in our area last week, hope for a late frost. Third cut alfalfa is starting to bloom but is short.

CLARK-A.K.: Crops are looking good. Fields with weed pressure or compaction issues are hurting. Third crop hay is looking good but alfalfa grass is not. Thursday through Friday morning we received over 3.0 inches of rain which should help corn and soybeans. Oats are mostly harvested with better than expected yields.

MARINETTE-S.R.: Winter wheat yields are highly variable due to drought. Better soils have very good yields but poor soils have very poor yields.

SHAWANO-J.N.: Crops look pretty good considering a lack of moisture. Most showers and storms that passed through last week missed us, leaving us with a few tenths of an inch while areas not far away received 1.0 inch or better. Corn has tassled out and pollinated with good ear set. Soybeans have finished flowering and pod set has begun. Soybeans look good except they are short. Wheat harvest really progressed this past week leaving straw behind to be baled or chopped. Yields were from good to average with good test weight.

LACROSSE-I.H.: Rain in our area is making some of the crops look a little better. Farmers are finding a few more aphids in the soybeans. A week of hot days is getting the corn and soybeans in better shape. The bigger farmers are finishing third cut hay while smaller farmers are still working on the tail end of second cut. Hayfields that had been recently cut benefitted from the warm humid days. Those fields are coming back and looking green.

MONROE-W.D.: Some farmers are still harvesting second crop hay while others have finished third crop. Oat yields were good and excellent straw. A farmer had 90 to 100 bushels per acre which was the best he had in years.

GREEN LAKE-R.G.: Sweet corn looks good in our area. A couple of good rains would go a long way in finishing out our corn crop. Third crop hay that was sprayed for bugs has good quality and quantity. Wheat and oat harvest is winding down.

WOOD-J.M.: We had some nice rain this week. Corn

has a ways to go before it is mature, so every growing degree is needed.

KEWAUNEE-T.S.: Even after spotty showers that fell, there are still big cracks in the ground. It would take a good 1.0 to 2.0 inches to bring the soil moisture to where it should be. Corn and soybeans are tending to be shorter. Third crop hay is also shorter, but with some recent rains, is starting to fill in and growing. The most activity this past week was the harvest of oats and winter wheat, both of which are turning out great this year. For the most part, yields are excellent, with reports of winter wheat averaging from 80 to 100 bushels per acre and oats averaging from 70 to 100 bushels per acre. There was a lot of straw that had to be taken care of. In some instances, it was chopped back on to the field due to no place to put it.

LAFAYETTE-M.R.: The hail damaged areas still look very bad, but corn and soybeans are looking like they will mature before frost; yields should be exceptional.

ROCK-C.O.: Soybeans are being sprayed with fungicide as mold has set in. Wheat harvest is done with good reported yields. Oats are ok. Corn is behind in maturity, and most farmers are worried about an early frost.

WASHINGTON-R.B.: Third crop hay yielded one third of first cutting. Soybeans have spider mites and aphids. Corn is mostly tasseled but three weeks behind. Wheat is good in quality but not in yield; 70 bushels per acre.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on August 16, 2009

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50) 1/		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	March 1 to August 15	March 1 to August 15 normal*	Last week	Since June 1	June 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	84	63	88	54	73	2	1758	1823	3.07	11.06	0.73	17.37	-3.30
Green Bay	84	62	87	56	73	4	1610	1691	0.59	6.59	-1.96	17.03	-1.08
La Crosse	86	66	91	60	76	3	1996	2039	0.00	11.29	1.03	20.63	-0.63
Madison	84	64	87	55	74	4	1845	1981	0.18	7.66	-2.28	24.41	3.00
Milwaukee	83	65	90	59	74	2	1824	n.a.	0.96	8.35	-0.62	22.42	0.44

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.