Cool Temperatures Hindering Crop Development

Scattered rains across the state have helped corn and soybeans to progress, but have slowed down the drying of hay. Many growers reported that the cooler, damp temperatures have increased disease in several plants. Warmer temperatures are needed to help crops mature as an early frost could be detrimental.

Across the reporting stations, precipitation ranged from 0.22 inches in Eau Claire to 1.46 inches in Green Bay. Average temperatures were 3 to 5 degrees below normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 70 to 76 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 51 to 58 degrees. On average, there were 4.7 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 in dough stage was reported at 58 percent complete statewide, an increase of 19 percentage points from the previous week. Across the state, 7 percent of corn was reported to be dented. Many growers reported that the recent moisture helped corn development, but it is still behind schedule. Corn maturity was reported at various stages across the state.

Soybeans setting pods were reported as 93 percent complete, and 2 percent of the soybean leaves were turning color around the state. Recent rains continue to help soybean pods fill out. Some growers reported that soybean pods were increasing in number, while others stated that pod counts were lower due to several overcast days during the growing season. Soybean pods were formed well enough in some parts of the state that spraying was no longer economical. White mold was beginning to show more in soybean fields due to the frequent precipitation around the state.

Combining oats for grain continued and is up to 94 percent complete around the state, an increase of 16 percentage points from the previous week.

Third cutting hay harvest has reached 73 percent complete across the state, up 18 percentage points from last week. The recent moisture has slowed the drying of hay. While many were working on third cutting hay, some were happy with their early fourth crop yields. Fourth cutting hay harvest was reported as 6 percent complete.

Apples in the West Central and Central districts were reported to be looking good and ready for harvest.

Tobacco harvest has begun with huge yields in the South Central district.
Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

CHIPPENDA-J.C.: Corn and soybeans are looking better after the rains replenished topsoil moisture. Small grain harvest is complete.

WASHBURN-P.H.: Alfalfa harvest is slow due to frequent rains. Corn is late and just starting to dimple some kernels. Soybean aphids were sprayed by some farmers and those who did not spray, aphid counts are high but soybean pods are formed well enough now that spraying is not economical. Frequent light rains the last few weeks have been good conditions for white mold which is showing up more in some soybean fields.

CLARK-A.K.: Since we have had some rain the crops are doing well. Crops are late and need warm weather and a late frost to mature. Third crop hay yield and quality is above average. Small grain yields were good to excellent with yields from 60 to 100 bushels per acre.

VILAS-L.K.: We still need more rain.

SHAWANO-T.B.: Crops are looking very good, but will need some heat to finish out the season. Late cuttings of hay look very good with the recent rain. Scattered frost was predicted late in the weekend which could be disastrous considering how far the row crops have to go to finish off the season.

BUFFALO-R.S.: Frost is not too far off. Very little corn is in dough stage. Soybean pods are about half filled. Lots of third crop hay was made. We received 7.5 inches of rain in August. Some farmers are seeding alfalfa, rye and wheat.

MONROE-P.B.: Soybeans are beginning to show more leaf disease due to various stresses. Corn ears appear to be filling nicely with good yield potential for silage and grain.

PORTAGE-J.W.: Farmers are working on third cutting hay with average yields. Corn and soybeans are slow to mature. We need more warm weather. Snapbeans, sweet corn and potato harvest continues with good yields.

CALUMET-B.L.: Green is a nice color to see again. Crops are filling nicely with good yield potential for silage and grain.

DODGE-G.R.: More rain during the week halted fieldwork.

SHAWANO-T.B.: Crops look good, but the growing season is behind two weeks. Need hot weather to get season back on track.

Wisconsin Crop Progress

Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on August 30, 2009

<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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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Avg. max.</td>
<td>Avg. min.</td>
<td>High max.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eau Claire</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Bay</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>51</td>
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<td>La Crosse</td>
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<tr>
<td>Milwaukee</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.