**Timely Moisture Proves Helpful**

Ample precipitation this past week helped to accelerate crop growth after a prolonged spell of high temperatures and dry conditions. Despite putting a stop to fieldwork, including the cutting of second crop hay, the rains proved especially beneficial in helping late planted corn catch up and in soybean maturity. Statewide, farmers had 4.3 days suitable for fieldwork. The moisture was welcomed but adequate precipitation during the month of August will be needed.

Across the reporting stations, average temperatures last week were normal to 4 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 82 to 85 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 62 to 69 degrees. Precipitation totals ranged from 1.20 inches in La Crosse to 2.89 inches in Green Bay. Growing degree days were above 2.95 at most reporting stations. If you are interested in further weather data, please reference the following sites:

- [http://www.aos.wisc.edu/~sco/](http://www.aos.wisc.edu/~sco/)

The corn crop was looking good as recent heat, humidity, and precipitation had helped to push corn growth and maturity. There were reports of yield losses due to the extreme heat and dryness, but it was still too early to tell its total effect. Statewide, 72 percent of the corn had silked with an average height of 78 inches. Across the state, 5 percent of the corn crop was reported as being in dough stage.

Soybeans were also looking good and were growing well with 71 percent blooming statewide. Several reports stated that soybeans were flourishing and advancing rapidly, due primarily to the recent moisture. Spraying had caught up before the rains and made the fields look much cleaner and weed-free. Across the state, 24 percent of soybeans were setting pods.

Even though the precipitation proved beneficial for most growers, second crop hay harvest was hindered due to wet conditions. Several rainy days limited the ability to take off second crop hay, but accelerated the growth of third crop for those growers at that stage. Statewide, 91 percent of second crop hay and 13 percent of third crop hay was harvested. Early reports suggested good quality and quantity for third crop.

Across the state, 18 percent of oats had been harvested for grain. The weather wasn’t conducive for oat harvest, with several fields lodged due to heavy rains, and early reports indicate that straw yields were down. Wheat harvest cranked up during the past week as several combines were spotted rolling across the fields in Manitowoc County. Peas were harvested while snap beans and sweet corn harvest was just beginning in Columbia County.

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**SOIL MOISTURE CONDITIONS AS OF July 31, 2011**

*Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office*

### Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of July 31, 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>V-poor</th>
<th>Poor</th>
<th>Fair</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percent</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corn</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soybean</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oat</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winter Wheat</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pasture</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

### Wisconsin Crop Progress, July 31, 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crop and percent of acreage</th>
<th>District average</th>
<th>State average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average corn height (in.)</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corn silked</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corn in dough stage</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soybeans blooming</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soybeans setting pods</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oats harvested for grain</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second cutting hay</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third cutting hay</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

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**SOIL MOISTURE CONDITIONS AS OF July 31, 2011**

*Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office*
BARRON-D. B.: Good week of hay making weather. Corn and soybeans look good. We received 7.5 inches of rain for the month of July.

CHIPPEWA-R.M.: Turning out to be quite a year. Plenty of moisture, everything really growing.

CLARK-R.H.: Corn and soybeans look good, good weather for corn pollination. Saw: The oat shocks of rain this week slowed field activity. Some hay got made, most poor quality, a few fields were doing well. Corn and soybeans looking good.

DUNN-J.R.: Third crop hay quality is looking very good and yield so far is average. Soybeans have really taken off this week with most fields finally canopying. We seem to get an inch of rain at a time and then the heat needed to keep crops growing. Oats are starting to be combined and most should be done in the next week or so. Doesn’t appear to be much straw yield in oats so far. The county received very much needed widely scattered rains ranging from 0.6 inch to localized areas of almost 3.0 inches. Still showing some signs of dry conditions but not as much as a couple of weeks ago. Wheat being harvested. Peas are harvested with snap bean harvest starting along with sweet corn. Wheat yields were very good, peas were average.

EAU CLAIRE-K.L.: Variable rainfall from 0.5-1.5 inches fell last week. With the heat the crops have moved considerably. Earliest and best corn here has blistered ears and pollinated very well during the week. Third crop will come of within the next week. Winter Wheat harvest is used if the maximum exceeds 86°F or 30°C; where 86°F is used if the maximum exceeds 86°F and 50°F is used if the minimum falls below 50°F - Normal based on 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov

GRANT-J.R.: Rain has delayed anyone finishing up on second crop hay but rain is welcome. The northern part of the county has seen half the rain that the southern part of the county has. Corn is 100 percent tasseled and pollinating.

GREEN BAY-M.R.: We received some much needed rain last week, but it was not enough to overcome the dry soils. With temperatures above normal, the moisture disappeared before it had a chance to do much good.

HAYWARD-A.L.E.: The oat shocks of rain this week slowed field activity. Some hay got made, most poor quality, a few fields were doing well. Corn and soybeans looking good.

LA CROSSE-S.N.: The oat shocks of rain this week slowed field activity. Some of our legume forage inventory issues may be.

MANITOWOC-R.H.: Rain has delayed anyone finishing up on second crop hay but rain is welcome. The northern part of the county has seen half the rain that the southern part of the county has. Corn is 100 percent tasseled and pollinating.

MAZECT K.A.: Second and third crop hay is good in quality and quantity. Most crops could still use some moisture.

MANITOWOC-M.R.: A good portion of third crop hay was harvested this week and with a week of dry weather the remaining third crop will come of within the next week. Winter Wheat harvest cracked up this week too - lots of combines rolling across the fields.

PORTAGE-M.L.: Good week of hay making weather. Corn and soybeans look good, growing well with the heat and humidity.

ROCK RIVER-P.R.: Frequent rains and warm temperatures helping to get the crops back on schedule at a late start to spring. Corn is starting to tassel and with the recent rains it should be ideal. Third crop alfalfa is really growing fast. Wheat harvest has just begun but humid weather is making it difficult.

SHAWANO-B.R.: Some hay got made, most poor quality, a few fields were doing well. Corn and soybeans looking good. Farmers struggling to get hay made. With the heat the crops have moved considerably. Earliest and best corn here has blistered ears and pollinated very well during the week. Third crop will come of within the next week. Winter Wheat harvest is used if the maximum exceeds 86°F or 30°C; where 86°F is used if the maximum exceeds 86°F and 50°F is used if the minimum falls below 50°F - Normal based on 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov

FEEDING: 1.5 inches fell last week. With the heat the crops have moved considerably. Earliest and best corn here has blistered ears and pollinated very well during the week. Third crop will come of within the next week. Winter Wheat harvest is used if the maximum exceeds 86°F or 30°C; where 86°F is used if the maximum exceeds 86°F and 50°F is used if the minimum falls below 50°F - Normal based on 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov

SHAWANO-G.S.: The oat shocks of rain this week slowed field activity. Some hay got made, most poor quality, a few fields were doing well. Corn and soybeans looking good.

ST. LOUIS-J.W.: Second and third crop hay was very good. Crops lost yield due to extreme dryness and heat. Weeds and diseases have slowed down due to heat and dry conditions. Corn and soybeans are drying up in places. It is hurting corn the most. I think soybeans are being affected too, not sure. Liquid manure going on wheat fields as soon as straw is taken off. Some people are planting no till soybeans. Digging potatoes and getting a lot of beans and peas.

WAUSAU-A.L.: Some hay got made, most poor quality, a few fields were doing well. Corn and soybeans looking good.

WISCONSIN WEEKLY WEATHER, SELECTED CITIES, ENDING AS OF 7:00 A.M. ON JULY 31, 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Temperature</th>
<th>Growing degree days (modified base 50)</th>
<th>Precipitation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Avg. max.</td>
<td>Avg. min.</td>
<td>High max.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eau Claire</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Bay</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La Crosse</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madison</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milwaukee</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1/ Formula used: GDD = (daily maximum (86°F) + daily minimum (50°F))/2.50; where 86°F is used if the maximum exceeds 86°F and 50°F is used if the minimum falls below 50°F - Normal based on 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov

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Robert J. Battaglia
Director
This report has been made possible through the cooperative efforts of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, and the National Weather Service.