



# Wisconsin Crop Progress

August 29, 2011

Vol. 11, No. 21

## Fieldwork Advances with Cool, Dry Weather

Wisconsin experienced another week of scattered, spotty rains, with all weather stations reporting less than three quarters of an inch of total precipitation for the week. Lighter, sandy soils across the state were in need of additional moisture, though some heavy soils in the northern parts of the state were still waterlogged from this summer's heavy rains. Statewide, there were 6.1 days suitable for fieldwork last week.

Across the reporting stations, average temperatures last week were 1 to 3 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 79 to 83 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 55 to 63 degrees. Precipitation totals ranged from 0.08 inches in Milwaukee to 0.72 inches in Green Bay. Growing degree days for corn remain above normal for all reporting stations. 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/>

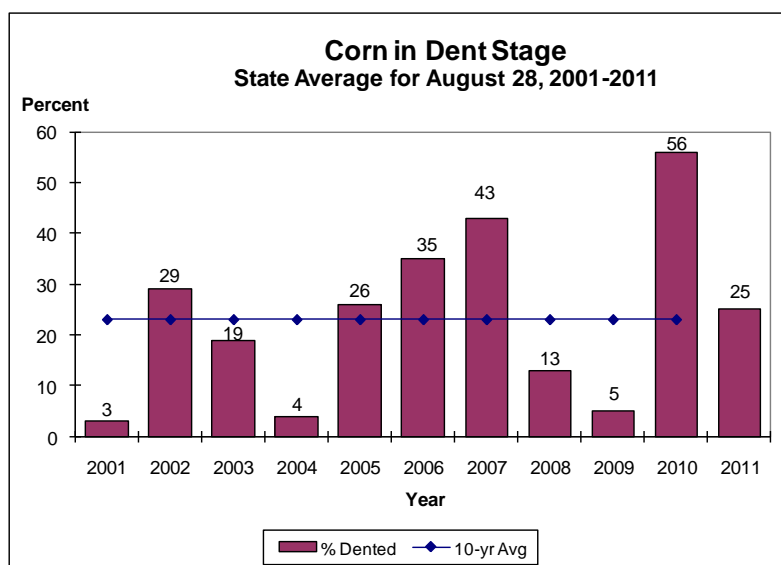
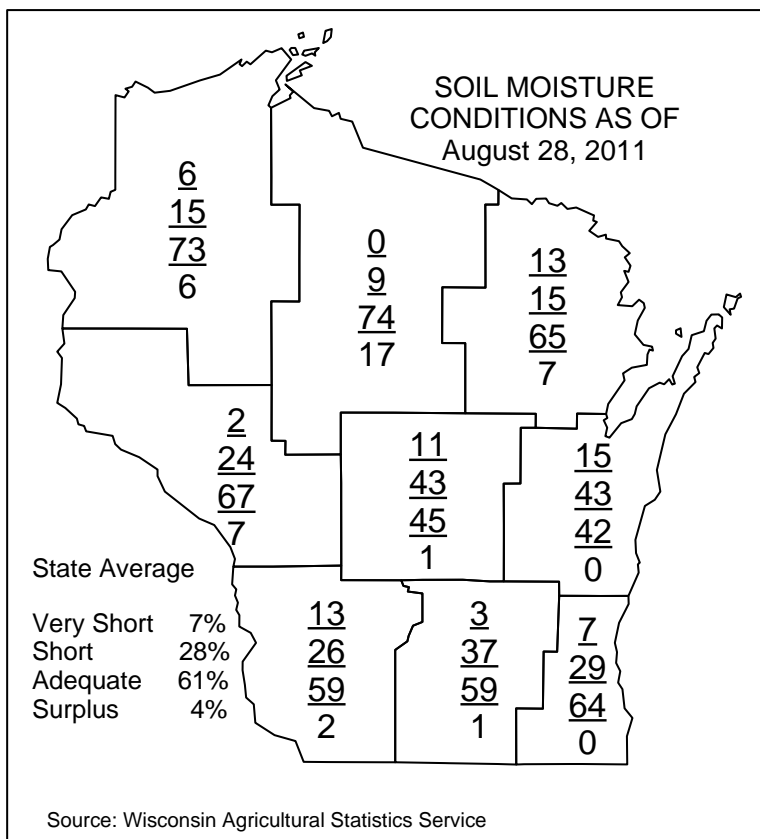
**Corn** was 78 percent in the dough stage and 25 percent dented. Corn in the southern and central parts of the state was in need of timely rain, with crops showing the most stress on sandy or shallow soils. Many reporters commented that the corn silage harvest would begin in the next week, though producers in need of feed are already chopping silage.

Statewide, 96 percent of **soybeans** were setting pods. In areas with adequate moisture, the crop was reported in excellent condition. But many reporters across the south and central parts of the state noted that rain is needed to fill the pods and continued dryness will impact yields.

Another week of excellent haying weather saw the third crop **hay** harvest at 88 percent complete and the fourth crop harvest at 13 percent complete. Haying has reportedly been delayed in some of the driest areas, where the latest crop has been slow to mature.

**Oats** were 94 percent harvested this week. Small grain yield and test weight reports varied widely from county to county this year.

The **potato** harvest was reportedly looking good in most areas, though some reporters commented that the cold spring lead to a late harvest with lower yield. The **cranberry** crop was maturing well, with abundant berries in good size and color. An Oneida County reporter noted a bumper crop of **blackberries** due to timely rains. A Waupaca county reporter reported a fifty percent loss on **squash** and **pumpkins** due to fungal disease, though squash are reportedly in good condition in other areas.



## Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of August 28, 2011

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Corn	2	5	17	50	26
Soybean	2	4	16	52	26
Pasture	4	12	30	48	6

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 week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
Corn in dough stage	73	66	40	81	70	65	87	92	77	78	58	84	71
Corn in dent stage	18	12	11	22	19	17	32	37	26	25	9	56	30
Soybeans setting pods	89	98	99	96	99	92	96	100	99	96	90	95	94
Oats harvested for grain	85	82	88	100	99	90	100	100	99	94	84	93	95
Third cutting hay	79	83	89	89	82	91	92	91	90	88	76	77	73
Fourth cutting hay	9	12	27	10	5	10	12	23	20	13	n.a.	17	9

**Selected Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents**

All comments are used in creating this report, but only a few are published below.

**BARRON-T.J.:** Corn and soybeans are looking great.  
**POLK- A.M.:** Rain would be a good thing.  
**ONEIDA-P.L.:** We had a great week for harvesting small grains and making hay and straw. We saw one day with a few widely scattered showers, but nothing but a couple of tenths of rain in the evening. The rains showers seemed to go north and south of us. Some lodging was reported in the oats harvested. Yields seem to be pretty good with nice heavy grain versus east and north of here where they have not received the rain we have throughout the season. There are red potatoes being dug now. It looks to be a nice potato crop. The nights are cooling down and the days are very pleasant in the 70's. This is allowing the pastures some nice growth for August. We have had about 2.5 inches of rain in August. The Apples continue to look good but appear on the small side.  
**VILAS- R.K.:** Potatoes are a week late. Vine kill has started.  
**OCONTO-J.M.:** Timely rains this past week will help crops. Many farmers expect some of their best soybean yields.  
**SHAWANO-B.R.:** Many in the county received between 2 to 4 inches of rain this week with some high winds. We do have a few places where water is standing in the field but overall are in very good shape. Corn is starting to dent in a few places. Soybeans are looking very nice, but weeds are showing through the canopy on some fields. Third crop alfalfa was excellent. Some farmers are starting to chop corn silage but only because they are out of silage.  
**DUNN-S.S.:** Third and fourth crop hay quality was good and quantity was fair. Corn, beans, and potatoes all look good.  
**EAU CLAIRE-D.J.:** Corn cobs look a little short. Otherwise, all looks good.  
**MARQUETTE-D.B.:** Dry, dry, dry!!!! If there is no irrigation things look tough. Soybeans are looking worse than the corn.  
**PORTAGE-J.B.:** General rule is yields are down this year due to wet, cold start in the pea, snap bean, sweet corn and potato harvests. Spraying continues for blight. Rot has been severe in much of the pickle harvest. Last week storms missed a large part of the county. Some on the south and west parts got rain but the rest didn't and crops are firing from the bottom. Need rain. Irrigation systems running full speed. Third crop hay that was harvested had excellent quality.  
**CALUMET-B.L.:** Rain, we need rain!!! Many of our gravel knolls and shallow soils are showing severe moisture stress. Corn is firing up to the ears in places, soybeans show many patches of shorter plants white in color to now yellow. The fourth cutting hay is shorter too due to the moisture stress. In the heavier soil regions the crops are moving forward about on a normal pace.

Our first corn silage dry down event is August 30th so we will see what the crop is looking like in our southern portion of the county. The direct seeding after wheat needs the moisture soon.  
**SHEBOYGAN-M.P.:** Beans and sweet corn look good. Corn and beans on some thinner soils are showing stress due to a lack of moisture.  
**LAFAYETTE-M.Y.:** Many fields affected by the wind storm on July 11 have come back well as it looks from the road, but getting further into the fields harvesting will be a challenge and only time will tell how the yields will really be affected.  
**RICHLAND-J.C.:** Conditions are very dry. It appears that corn will be started early this year.  
**COLUMBIA-B.K.:** No rain. Early planted corn (April 17th) early maturity varieties are maturing very nicely. Ears are starting to drop. A few soybeans are starting to show leaf color change, partly due to weather conditions and some because of maturity. Third crop hay all done, a little fourth crop cut.  
**ROCK-C.O.:** Silage harvest has begun in earnest. Reports are the crop is variable and fields that look ok from the outside are very poor in some spots. Some areas not even an ear formed, but it depends a lot on soil type. It certainly is not the crop like last year. Beans are doing ok, and the tobacco harvest is in full swing.  
**OZAUKEE-K.A.:** Could use rain. Third crop hay just about done - fair yields. Fourth crop is very uneven due to lack of moisture.  
**WASHINGTON-J.N.:** We could use rain at this time. Some alfalfa has a lot of grasshoppers. Wheat is all harvested.



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 Director

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**Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on August 28, 2011**

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50) 1/		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar. 1 to Aug. 27	Mar. 1 to Aug. 27 normal*	Last Week	Since June 1	June 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	82	57	85	51	69	1	2171	2039	0.44	17.01	4.86	27.51	5.15
Green Bay	79	55	83	49	67	1	2061	1899	0.72	12.08	2.02	26.79	7.10
La Crosse	83	60	87	55	72	2	2440	2282	0.29	14.81	2.87	27.89	5.03
Madison	82	60	88	53	71	3	2353	2219	0.59	8.50	-3.14	20.34	-2.77
Milwaukee	81	63	91	57	72	2	2180	n.a.	0.08	7.57	-2.94	23.23	-0.23

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.