Needed Rain Received

Planting and haying progressed rapidly this week as daytime highs climbed into the 80s and 90s. Farmers contended with dry, dusty or hard crusted topsoil and high winds in some areas. A much-needed rain came late in the week, dapping down dust and benefitting crops. Thunderstorms caused localized heavy rains, but additional precipitation is needed in many areas. There were 6.7 days suitable for fieldwork this week.

Across the reporting stations, average temperatures last week were 3 to 7 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 74 to 80 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 52 to 55 degrees. Precipitation totals ranged from 0.33 inches in Green Bay to 1.53 inches in La Crosse. 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/

Statewide, corn was 95 percent planted and 65 percent emerged this week. Reporters noted corn being replanted in many areas due to storm damage, soil crustling or frost damage. Many reporters also noted that older hay fields were being replanted to corn as the first crop came off.

Soybeans were 79 percent planted and 31 percent emerged.

Oats were 97 percent emerged this week. Oats were 3 percent headed statewide, compared to 0 percent last year and 0 percent-five-year average.

First cutting hay was 63 percent harvested this week. Frost damage, weeds and insect pressure meant quality and yield of the first crop varied greatly.

Spring tillage rose to 97 percent complete.

Winter wheat was reportedly heading out several weeks ahead of normal statewide. Pea planting was finished and emergence was reported at 90 percent in Door County. Strawberries were flowering in southern Wisconsin, though berry size was reportedly smaller than normal. Reports on the apple crop indicate 50 percent losses in some areas. A reporter from Oneida County noted that the cranberry crop looks very good.

Farmers should watch for their survey and be sure to respond. Your information matters!
BARRON-D.B.: Received nice rain on Thursday. Crops all look good. First cutting hay was average yield.

BURNETT-J.D.: We almost had 4.0 inches of rain on Thursday.

POLK-A.M.: Rain showers were welcomed. Halsted most field work but overall planting still ahead of schedule.

CLARK-A.K.: Apple trees going the way they are, there will be very few apples on trees. Blossoms must have frozen very bad. Generally speaking conditions are good. Would be nice if wind dying down so spraying could be done.

VILAS-R.K.: Potato planting 50 percent complete.

SHAWANO-T.B.: Planting progressed very well, but droughty conditions becoming an issue. Soil is dry and weeds are coming on strong. First crop hay is either great or poor depending on winter injury.

EAU CLAIRE-A.B.: Horseradish planting is completed and the local pumpkin producer is 70 percent planted but got rained out this weekend. The rows are evident on corn and soybean fields and the weeds are also greening up the fields. Spraying is going full tilt. Hay and alfalfa harvest is in full swing, the quality is normal but the yield is down 20 percent for a first crop harvest. A few producers are taking the first cutting of hay and double cropping to corn. I have not seen any replanting to date.

MONROE-P.B.: Hay yields below normal for most farms. A welcome 1.0 inch of rain will boost second crop.

ST CROIX-R.F.: Most of the county received over 1.5 inches of rainfall this past week. We really needed the rain. Some older stands of alfalfa looked weak. Lots of dandelions were prevalent. Several producers have taken a cutting of hay and have now plowed these older stands and planted them to corn. Yields of first cutting hay have been below normal, however quality was excellent. Overall, spring-planted crops look good.

WAUSHARA-K.W.: First crop hay is short due to nearly three weeks without rain, (May 6 to May 24).

BROWN-B.S.: First crop hay was very short.

CALUMET-B.L.: Some small but timely rains came for the lighter and upland early planted crops. The rule of 85 and not E-85 we are about 85 percent planted on corn, 85 percent of which will be corn and soybean planting. Ground was very dry and absorbed all the rain. Hay being made when possible. Crops in the county off to a good start.

GREEN-T.J.: We received about an inch of rain on May 26. That was the first rain since May 6. There is some talk of corn replanting due to low stand densities from soil crusting. First crop hay yield was low, regrowth has been slow until the May 26 rain.

RACINE-K.L.: Starting to receive calls about apple damage due to warm March and cold April. Number of apple farmers have called with losses to their crops.

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(608) 224-4848
http://www.nass.usda.gov/wi/

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.

Wisconsin Crop Progress

Selected Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents
All comments are used in creating this report, but only a few are published below.

Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on May 27, 2012

<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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<td>Avg. max.</td>
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<td>High max.</td>
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1/ Formula used: GDD = (daily maximum (86°) + daily minimum (50°))/2. 50° is used if the maximum exceeds 86° and 86° 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.