Crops Hanging On, Pastures Slow to Recover

Wisconsin saw yet another week of scattered rainfall and above average temperatures this week. Hay and soybeans were responding well to any moisture received, though insect pressure continued to be a problem in many areas. Reports on corn were mixed, with some of the crop too far gone to pollinate and some of the crop in good or improving condition. There were several reports of drought-damaged corn being chopped for silage and forage. Reporters commented that pasture land was very short to recover and forage supplies were tight. Small grain harvest was wrapping up with better than average yields reported. A reporter from Calumet County noted that winter wheat fields were being replanted with additional fall forage. Soil moistures ranged from 40 percent short to very short in the Northeast District to 99 percent short to very short in the sandy Central District. There were 5.9 days suitable for fieldwork.

Across the reporting stations, average temperatures this week were 2 to 6 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 84 to 88 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 62 to 70 degrees. Precipitation totals ranged from 0.32 inches in Green Bay to 1.51 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/

Soil Moisture Conditions as of August 5, 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>NC</th>
<th>NE</th>
<th>WC</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>EC</th>
<th>SW</th>
<th>SC</th>
<th>SE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State average</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very Short</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adequate</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surplus</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

WisconsinCrop Conditions as of August 5, 2012

<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>Pasture</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corn</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soybeans</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Pasture Condition, Wisconsin, By District, August 5, 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>NC</th>
<th>NE</th>
<th>WC</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>EC</th>
<th>SW</th>
<th>SC</th>
<th>SE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very Poor</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Wisconsin Crop Progress, August 5, 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crop and percent of acreage</th>
<th>District average</th>
<th>State average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>This week</td>
<td>Last week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td>NC</td>
<td>NE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corn silked</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In good stage</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soybeans blooming</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soybeans setting pods</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oats Harvested</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.
BARRON-D.B.: It is dry and we need rain.

RUSK-G.P.: Had almost an inch of rain last week. Crops are holding their own on all but the lightest soils. Oats are coming off with good quality and yield. Third crop is winding down, fourth crop is starting. A touch of fall in the air this morning with temps in the upper 40s. Corn silage about a month away and fall seedlings starting to gain.

CLARK-R.H.: Moisture is required for all our crops. Corn and soybeans need some moisture or there may be abortion of kernels and flowers. Hard to believe in mid-June we had too much rain. Small grain harvest is wrapping up, hay harvest has been close to average for yield and quality, but most producers will have a fourth cutting this year.

FLORENCE-T.B.: A heavy rain late last week along with some light showers this past week has started hay crops growing again. Very little second crop has been cut to this point, but the emergence of new growth could make harvest of a crop still possible this season. Would expect some grain to be harvested soon. Rain has started a second emergence of grasses and weed growth which will make combining difficult.

LANGLADE-A.K.: Rained 0.4 inches this week, cooler and some overcast, crops overall are not going backwards. But not going forward like you would like as well. Pivots are running nonstop where available.

DUNN-S.S.: Third crop yields of hay very short. We need rain.

LACROSSE-I.H.: Timely rains have improved the outlook of corn and beans that were in fair condition previously. Weeds are showing in some bean fields and some farmers are spraying for the weeds. Due to the lack of moisture third crop hay was very short. Corn in the sandy areas is hurting. Two inches of rain this week arrived at a critical time and will turn a questionable crop to one that is looking a lot better.

WAUPACA-L.B.: Will be harvesting squash next week.

KEWAUNEE-T.S.: Even though some areas have been short of rain, this area is now looking good. After more rain fell this week, the crops continue to improve daily. The soybeans have been putting on some height now, with some plants almost 4 feet high. The rain is allowing the pods to fill out. The biggest problem with the beans is the pests that are showing up, with spider mites being the most prevalent at the present time. A heavy rain will wash the pests and their eggs off the plants, but none of the rain received has been of that variety. That leaves heavy rain will was

ROCK-C.O.: Smut is starting to show in corn fields with higher than normal amounts. Early planted corn is terrible, too early to tell on late planted corn. Recent rains may help bean crop and fourth crop hay. Forage supplies will be very tight.

WASHINGTON-J.N.: Top soil now has moisture. Corn and soybeans look good. Farmers are busy spraying soybeans for spider mites. A lot of spider mites around.

WAUKESHA-D.W.: Corn is still in tough shape. Beans are looking up with 0.5 inch of rain this past week.

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**Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on August 5, 2012**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Temperature</th>
<th>Growing degree days (modified base 50°F)</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>88</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Bay</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La Crosse</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madison</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milwaukee</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1/ Formula used: \( GDD = (\text{daily maximum} - 50°)\times \frac{\text{daily minimum} + 50°}{2} \).

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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.