Wisconsin Crop Progress

August 20, 2012

Hints of Fall

Wisconsin saw another week of cooler than average temperatures, with thunderstorms and spotty rain showers. Overnight temperatures in north-central Wisconsin fell into the low forties and upper thirties, prompting frost protection measures for the cranberry crop. Soil moisture improved slightly in the southern and central parts of the state, but fell in the north. As corn and soybeans mature, farmers continue to monitor the damage caused by this summer’s drought. Reporters statewide commented that poor pollination and cob fill will affect corn yields and silage quality. Crop condition and maturity remained patchy and widely varied according to soil type and rain received, with soybeans in overall better condition than corn. Pasture conditions ranged from 22 percent poor to very poor in the Northwest District to 78 percent poor to very poor in the Southwest District. A few farmers across the state were reportedly chopping silage early to supplement short feed supplies. Spraying for weeds and insect pests continued. There were 5.7 days suitable for fieldwork.

Across the reporting stations, average temperatures this week were 2 to 5 degrees below normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 76 to 78 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 54 to 60 degrees. Precipitation totals ranged from 0.27 inches in La Crosse to 0.82 inches in Green Bay. If you are interested in further weather data, please reference the following sites:

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

Corn was 63 percent in dough stage and 20 percent denting statewide. Though chopping of drought damaged corn continued this week, silage harvest has not begun in earnest.

Soybeans were 93 percent setting pods this week. Two percent of the crop had leaves turning, compared to 0 percent last year and a 1 percent five-year average. Reporters noted that much of the soybean crop has bounced back after recent rains. Weeds and spider mites remain a concern in some areas.

Oats harvest was wrapping up with 97 percent complete this week. A reporter from Shawano County commented that some producers were planting oats for fall forage.

Third cutting hay was 93 percent harvested, and the fourth cutting was 24 percent harvested. A reporter in Waupaca County noted some fifth crop hay being cut. Quality and yield reports varied greatly.

Vine killing has reportedly begun in the potato fields of Oneida County, with early red varieties being dug. Reports on sweet corn and other vegetable quality were mixed, with irrigated crops in very good condition.
BARRON-D.B.: Dry weather continues to have a negative effect on alfalfa, corn and soybeans.

RUSK-G.P.: A dry week this week with spotty showers on Saturday. Crop conditions slipped a bit this week, but still good compared to many areas. Soybeans are showing a lot of premature yellowing, not normal maturity. Not sure what the cause is yet. Third and fourth crop yield ok, quality good. Some early corn silage coming off, 68 percent moisture.

CLARK-J.B.: Third and fourth cutting hay has good quality, but low yield. Due to lack of rain, some corn is being harvested early as corn silage. Small grains had lower than average yield.

TAYLOR-D.E.: Crops look good, there is some concern on corn yields, but should be at least average.

OCONTO-N.S.: Conditions continue to remain spotty with some areas receiving rain and others staying dry.

SHAWANO-B.R.: Crops are in good overall condition here. Fourth cutting alfalfa will be more than average for yield. Corn is denting and the first silage will come off this next week that is mature, which is very early for this area. Soybeans looking very tall with good pods.

BUFFALO-R.S.: Received 1.1 inches of rain, a neighbors corn and soybeans got hail damage. Checking corn acres shows kernels not filled to end of cob. Hay and soybeans seem to be recovering with rain. Some plan to harvest corn silage now. Pastures still look dead for now. Next threat will be frost - full moon end of August.

MONROE-M.Y.: We received 1.0 inch of rain this week.

PORTAGE-J.W.: Irrigated vegetable crops harvest continues with good yields, especially sweet corn. Little bit of third cut hay made, low yields. Straw all baled, good yields. Some fall tillage ongoing.

WAUPACA-D.H.: Some corn silage is just starting to be harvested. Disease and insect pressure in crops has remained low. Fourth and even some fifth cutting alfalfa is being harvested with good quality and average yields.

CALUMET-B.L.: Our first corn silage dry down had 5 samples all in the mid 70s with the Koster tester. We are about a month away from last Thursday (August 16th) for most of the corn all in the mid 70s with the Koster tester. We are about a month away from last Thursday (August 16th) for most of the corn. We have a harvest end of August. Corn is where it needs to be with good quality and average yields.

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ROBERT J. BATTAGLIA
Director
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**Wisconsin Crop Progress**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Avg. max.</th>
<th>Avg. min.</th>
<th>High max.</th>
<th>Low min.</th>
<th>Avg. dep. from normal *</th>
<th>Mar. 1 to Aug. 18</th>
<th>Mar. 1 to Aug. 18 normal*</th>
<th>Last Week</th>
<th>Since Jun. 1</th>
<th>Jun. 1 dep. from normal *</th>
<th>Year to date</th>
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1/ Formulas: *CDD = (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.