



Wisconsin Crop Progress

August 27, 2012

Vol. 12, No. 21

Dry Conditions Continue

This week's spotty rains failed to provide much needed moisture to many areas. Statewide, soil moistures were 26 percent very poor this week, compared to 23 percent last week. This summer's drought and uneven rain patterns have reportedly caused wide variations in crop condition and potential yields both from region to region and field to field in some areas. Pasture conditions slid as well, with 56 percent of pasture in poor to very poor condition statewide, compared to 54 percent last week. Livestock producers were reportedly looking to early silage, emergency CRP haying and purchased feed to keep their herds fed. Reporters noted farmers were planting extra fall forage as other crops came off the fields. Fourth cutting hay was ongoing across the state, with some producers reportedly hoping for a fifth cutting. There were 6.1 days suitable for fieldwork.

Across the reporting stations, average temperatures this week were 1 degree below to 2 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 81 to 84 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 53 to 62 degrees. Precipitation totals ranged from 0.00 inches in Madison to 0.55 inches in Milwaukee. If you are interested in further weather data, please reference the following sites:

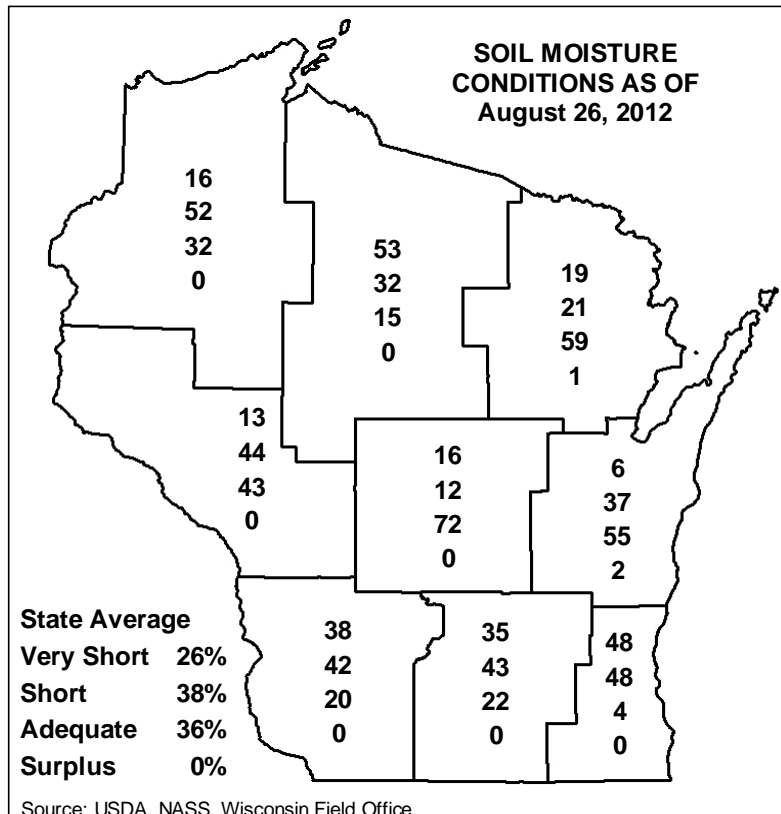
- <http://www.noaa.gov/>
- <http://www.aos.wisc.edu/~sco/>
- <http://www.cocorahs.org/>
- <http://www.weather.gov/>

Corn was 80 percent in dough stage and 41 percent denting statewide. Corn was 3 percent mature, compared to 0 percent last year and a 1 percent five-year average. Corn **silage** was 6 percent harvested statewide as damaged corn chopping continued and producers began to open up fields. Corn development is about 15 percentage points ahead of normal.

Soybeans were 98 percent setting pods this week, and 18 percent had leaves turning.

Fourth cutting hay was 46 percent harvested. In spite of this year's record early start to the hay cutting cycle, drought and insect pressure have reportedly resulted in poor yields in some areas.

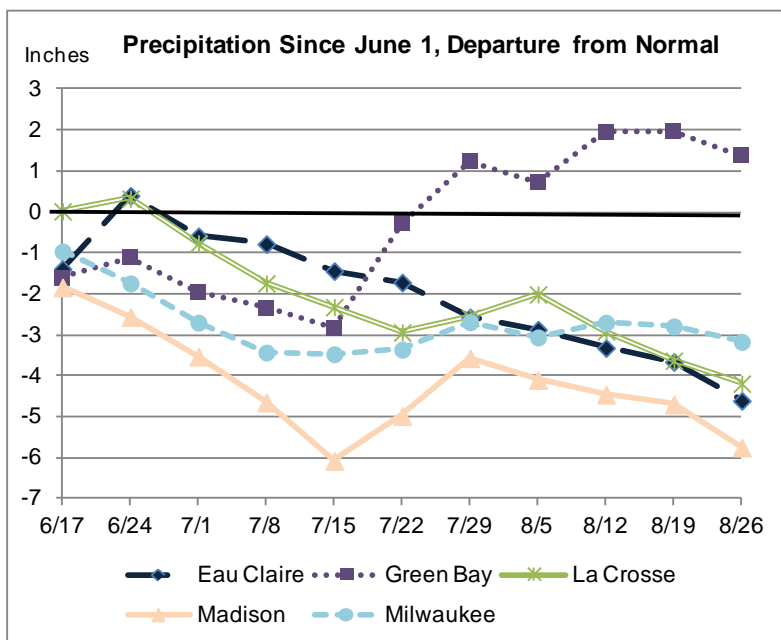
Potato harvest was underway in Oneida, Dunn and Portage Counties. **Apple** picking has begun early, with reports of low yields and trees dropping fruit due to drought conditions. Reporters commented that drought on top of this spring's early bloom and freeze events have resulted in heavy losses for many orchards.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of August 26, 2012

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Pasture	27	29	33	11	0
Corn	15	22	27	30	6
Soybeans	7	16	33	36	8

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	80	92	62	85	85	62	97	81	66	80	63	72	66
Corn in dent stage	33	43	36	48	34	18	59	50	35	41	20	20	24
Corn harvested for silage	8	8	3	10	6	3	17	8	5	6	3	n.a.	n.a.
Soybeans setting pods	96	98	100	100	100	96	100	99	93	98	93	94	92
Soybeans leaves turned	10	33	6	13	15	6	34	26	20	18	2	2	5
Fourth cutting hay	34	27	53	44	46	58	50	61	33	46	24	10	8

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

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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-P.T.: We could use some rain.

CHIPPEWA-R.M.: Thankful for the 1.1 inches of rain. Crops are better here than some areas. We will get an average crop of corn, but soybeans will be below average. I have seen some migrating birds going south.

MARATHON-S.N.: Received 0.7 inches of rain on Sunday. Topsoil moisture is short unless you farm on clay. Fourth crop has good quality, poor yield. Some farmers are chopping corn silage because it is so dry. Maple and ash trees and sumac are turning colors.

LANGLADE-A.K.: Growing season is basically done due to lack of moisture, crops are drying down prematurely. Expect yields and test weights to vary.

DUNN-J.R.: Fourth crop quality is good but yield is minimal at best. Fifth crop will be taken by many this year. Corn silage harvest has started with moisture levels ranging from 55-68 percent. Fields that are being chopped had estimated yields ranging from 10-125 bushels per acre.

EAU CLAIRE-D.J.: We need rain. It would help for the fall feed.

PORTAGE-D.Z.: Drought stricken fields being tested for nitrates and how soon to silage, so they aren't a complete loss. Received 2.0 inches rain 2 weeks ago - helped the soybean pod filling process but too late for most corn.

DOOR-R.S.: Need moisture.

KEWAUNEE-T.S.: After some rain that fell in the last week of July, conditions have turned very dry in this area. Some scattered showers have fallen in recent weeks, but there has not been a wide spread rain event for a while now. For the most part, this lack of rain may not be hurting the crops. Most of the soybeans and corn have matured to the point where rain may not help them increase the yields. The soybeans are looking good, and the plants are beginning to drop their leaves. It looks as if there will be some good yields, judging by the number of pods per plant. Time will tell, however, once the harvesting begins. The corn is doing well, too, with some plants starting to dry up and cobs starting to drop. Some of this activity is because the plants are maturing, but some is due to the dryness being experienced right now. Some producers are just getting into chopping silage now, mainly because the plants are drying up. They want to be able to harvest a crop with enough moisture in it. The harvest of alfalfa is all over the place. There is still some third crop to be made, and a lot of fourth crop is already in. The yields on

these two crops has been good, better in many cases than the previous crop was. This area will be blessed with enough hay going into the winter. A lot of alfalfa is going in the ground at the present time, with most of it being planted in the former winter wheat fields. The dry weather has also negatively affected the apple crop in this area. Many apple trees did not have as much fruit as in past years and those that have apples are starting to lose them. The frost in the spring did a lot of damage to the apple blossoms. This is becoming quite evident now. The dry and warm weather of the past week is causing the apples to fall off the trees, and has forced pick your own orchards to open earlier than usual.

RICHLAND-J.C.: Fourth crop alfalfa is yielding better than third crop in many cases. Area farmers are likely to take a fifth crop, especially the large dairy farms. The silage that has been taken is from the acreage severely affected by the drought.

DANE-J.K.: Hot dry weather has been horrible for all crops. Weeds are still growing and diseases continue. Must be the dew at night. Fourth crop alfalfa was very low on yields and not too much on quality. Fifth crop is about 8 inches tall, but will need rain to get a fifth crop. A lot of corn silage is being taken now.

DODGE-S.B.: We received a nice amount of rain this weekend which will increase the chances of a fifth crop of hay.

WALWORTH-N.W.: Corn silage harvest is well under way. Reported yields range from 7-15 ton to the acre. Some silage with very little corn in it.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on August 26, 2012

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. 25	Mar. 1 To Aug. 25 normal*	Last Week	Since Jun. 1	Jun. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	82	53	87	41	68	0	2603	2018	0.11	7.22	-4.61	18.98	-3.08
Green Bay	81	55	89	49	68	+1	2522	1881	0.29	11.19	+1.38	21.74	+2.33
La Crosse	84	56	91	47	70	-1	2870	2260	0.39	7.45	-4.19	18.99	-3.61
Madison	84	56	91	47	70	+2	2798	2198	0.00	5.75	-5.75	16.83	-5.91
Milwaukee	82	62	89	56	72	+2	2665	n.a.	0.55	7.06	-3.17	19.70	-3.47

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.