Rain and Heat Badly Needed

After a fourth week of below average temperatures and very little precipitation, reporters across the state commented that crops were in need of rain. On average, soil moistures were 59 percent short to very short this week compared to 44 percent last week and 62 percent on August 18, 2012. Corn and soybeans were both reportedly showing stress from lack of moisture, especially in the northern half of the state. A few reporters in north central Wisconsin noted spotty frost mid week. Late planted crops reportedly continued to lag behind normal development; heat is still needed for these acres to pollinate successfully. Reporters commented that the cool, dry conditions were also impacting pasture and third crop hay quality. There were 6.8 days suitable for fieldwork statewide.

Across the reporting stations, average temperatures last week were 4 to 5 degrees below normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 74 to 80 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 50 to 58 degrees. Precipitation totals ranged from 0.01 inches in Green Bay to 1.15 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 88 percent silking and 25 percent in dough stage. One percent of corn was in dent stage, compared to 18 percent last year and a five year average of 9 percent. Reporters noted that late plantings were short, yellow and showing stress due to the lack of moisture.

Soybeans were 86 percent blooming and 61 percent setting pods.

Oats were 60 percent harvested for grain, with most reporters noting good yields.

Second cutting alfalfa was 97 percent harvested and wrapping up. The third cutting was 49 percent harvested.

Winter wheat harvest was reportedly wrapping up with slightly below average yields. Sweet corn and potatoes were being harvested in Marquette and Portage Counties.
Uniform temperature is reducing both corn and soybean yields on shallow soils. Cool temperatures are expected on days. The oat harvest is reduced yields. Pastures are brown. We really need rain. Third cutting of hay is being harvested with substantially all non-irrigated crops. Small grains continue to be harvested hot this week and humid.

The severe lack of rainfall is negatively affecting all non-irrigated crops. Small grains continue to be harvested. Third cutting of hay is being harvested with substantially reduced yields. Pastures are brown. We really need rain. Sweet corn and potatoes being harvested. WAUPACA-D.L.H.: WE NEED RAIN. For the month of July the Eau Claire area is over 4.0 inches behind normal and for the month of August to date we are over 3.0 inches behind normal rainfall. Please send moisture.

SHAWANO-J.N.: Sure could use some rainfall, starting to show moisture stress with the sandy soils being in desperate need now. Winter wheat harvest is wrapping up with light test weights and a little below average yields. Grasses are being planted on prevent acres with hopes to harvest forage after November 1st. EAU CLAIRE-A.B.: WE NEED RAIN. For the month of July the Eau Claire area is over 4.0 inches behind normal and for the month of August to date we are over 3.0 inches behind normal rainfall. Please send moisture.

PIERCE-M.B.: Getting dry, about 2 weeks since rain. Getting hot this week and humid.

ST CROIX-R.F: Precipitation. Please send moisture. Third crop had nice harvest conditions and decent yields. Small grain harvest good start, some oats still turning. Would not count on anything making grain corn in Langlade County right now about 25 percent looks like high moisture potential. Rest will be corn silage.

LANGLADE-A.K.: Third crop had nice harvest conditions and decent yields. Small grain harvest good start, some oats still turning. Would not count on anything making grain corn in Langlade County right now about 25 percent looks like high moisture potential. Rest will be corn silage.

Lack of rain is starting to show its impacts on soybean fields yet. Haven't heard or seen any major bug damage in ears, a few stalks with 2 full ears showing. Beans starting to set pods. Haven't heard or seen any major bug damage in bean fields yet.

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Majority of the corn is in the dough stage. Soil moisture levels are very low and lack of rain over the past 3 weeks will reduce both corn and soybean yields on shallow soils. Third crop hay harvest is almost complete, some may get a fourth cutting yet this fall if we get some much needed rain.

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