



WISCONSIN CROP PROGRESS

August 26, 2013

Vol. 13, No. 21

Spotty Rains Not Enough

Though much of the state received rain this week, precipitation was spotty and light for most. Moisture received was offset by warmer temperatures, which were above normal statewide for the first time in over a month. Though crops needed the heat units, fields and pastures were reportedly suffering after weeks of unusually dry weather. Average topsoil moisture fell, with 72 percent short to very short this week compared to 59 percent last week. Crops continued to lag behind normal development across the board and the gap in development between early and late plantings remained wide. Pasture condition was 41 percent poor to very poor this week compared to 29 percent last week. Reporters commented that adequate precipitation and a late frost will be needed to allow corn, soybeans and forage crops time to mature. There were 6.3 days suitable for fieldwork statewide.

Across the reporting stations, average temperatures last week were 1 to 4 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 81 to 87 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 57 to 64 degrees. Precipitation totals ranged from 0.11 inches in La Crosse to 1.67 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/>

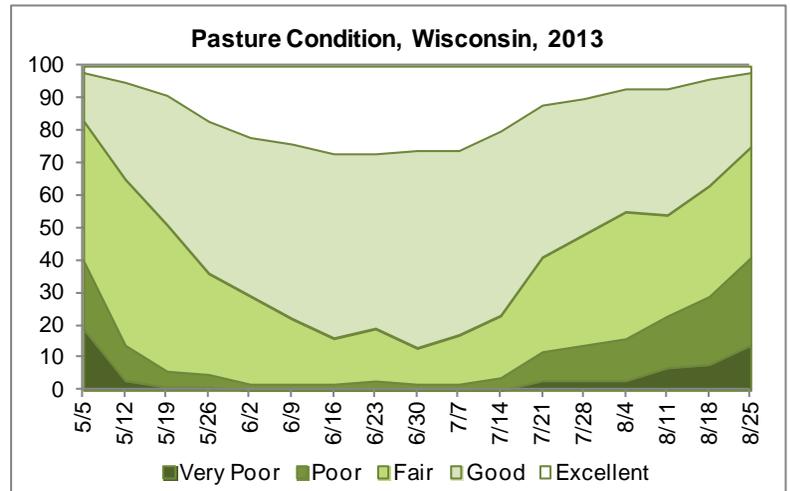
Corn was 94 percent silking, 40 percent in dough stage, and 5 percent in dent stage. In some areas farmers were reportedly starting to chop unpollinated or wilting corn for silage.

Soybeans were 91 percent blooming and 75 percent setting pods.

Oats were 79 percent harvested for grain. Oat yields have reportedly been average to good for both grain and straw.

Third cutting alfalfa was 67 percent harvested. The **fourth cutting** was 3 percent harvested this week compared to 43 percent last year and a five year average of 15 percent. Hay stands were reportedly showing poor regrowth due to dry conditions.

Reporters commented that **winter wheat** harvest was about done statewide. Variable yields were reported due to this year's adverse conditions. **Snap beans** were being harvested in Portage and Door Counties, with above average yields reported. **Apples** were reportedly ripening in Washburn County, and a Shawano County reporter commented that apple trees were loaded with fruit.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of August 25, 2013

| | Very Poor | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent |
|----------|-----------|------|------|------|-----------|
| | Percent | | | | |
| Pasture | 14 | 27 | 34 | 23 | 2 |
| Corn | 4 | 14 | 31 | 39 | 12 |
| Soybeans | 4 | 11 | 31 | 40 | 14 |

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office

Wisconsin Crop Progress, August 25, 2013

| 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 |
| | Percent | | | | | | | | | Percent | | | |
| Corn silked | 93 | 84 | 97 | 92 | 90 | 89 | 99 | 100 | 96 | 94 | 88 | 100 | 99 |
| Corn in dough | 31 | 20 | 25 | 35 | 41 | 40 | 69 | 39 | 33 | 40 | 25 | 78 | 64 |
| Corn in dent | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 13 | 3 | 12 | 5 | 1 | 38 | 22 |
| Soybeans blooming | 87 | 86 | 96 | 91 | 92 | 92 | 78 | 99 | 94 | 91 | 86 | 100 | 98 |
| Soybeans setting pods | 60 | 60 | 90 | 75 | 77 | 79 | 62 | 87 | 76 | 75 | 61 | 97 | 91 |
| Oats harvested | 72 | 35 | 73 | 87 | 88 | 83 | 93 | 98 | 99 | 79 | 60 | 100 | 90 |
| Third cutting hay | 61 | 16 | 87 | 54 | 60 | 83 | 83 | 86 | 53 | 67 | 49 | 99 | 76 |

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork and Soil Moisture Conditions, August 25, 2013

| Item | District average | | | | | | | | | State average | | |
|------------------|------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------------|-----------|-----------|
| | NW | NC | NE | WC | C | EC | SW | SC | SE | This week | Last week | Last year |
| | Days | | | | | | | | | Days | | |
| Days Suitable | 6.5 | 6.2 | 5.7 | 6.6 | 7.0 | 6.5 | 5.9 | 5.8 | 6.1 | 6.3 | 6.8 | 6.0 |
| | Percent | | | | | | | | | Percent | | |
| Topsoil Moisture | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Very Short | 27 | 57 | 9 | 27 | 41 | 23 | 12 | 22 | 38 | 27 | 18 | 26 |
| Short | 58 | 17 | 43 | 55 | 34 | 47 | 52 | 34 | 48 | 45 | 41 | 38 |
| Adequate | 15 | 26 | 43 | 18 | 25 | 30 | 36 | 44 | 14 | 28 | 40 | 36 |
| Surplus | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Subsoil Moisture | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Very Short | 16 | 11 | 14 | 27 | 24 | 14 | 4 | 17 | 30 | 18 | 8 | n.a. |
| Short | 62 | 54 | 34 | 44 | 41 | 45 | 55 | 40 | 50 | 47 | 43 | n.a. |
| Adequate | 22 | 35 | 50 | 27 | 35 | 41 | 41 | 43 | 20 | 35 | 48 | n.a. |
| Surplus | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | n.a. |

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

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.

CHIPPEWA-J.C.: Rain finally fell this week to give some relief. Too late for some corn and just in time for the rest. Very low yields on third crop hay.

RUSK-G.P.: Dry weather continues. Corn and alfalfa are holding their own, but pastures and soybeans are really suffering. Soybean aphids are a problem right now, lots of spraying. Third crop continues but yields are down. Oats seem to be doing well, good yield and test weight and lots of straw. Farmers continue to hope for rain and a late frost. Corn has a ways to go.

MARATHON-S.N.: Received an inch of needed rain on August 21. Heat and humidity helping the corn mature. Quality and quantity of harvested small grain adequate.

FLORENCE-T.B.: We've had somewhat of a dry spell in the area the past couple weeks. We did get near 0.75 inches rain mid week but most of that was run off. Half an hour down pour. Haven't had a good all day rain in a long time and we could use one. Second crop hay is half of what it should have been. Started out well but then the combination of cold weather with little rain hurt the crop. Corn is looking good at this time but if we don't get a good rain we could see problems with good cob development.

BUFFALO-R.S.: No measurable rain since August 7. Pastures are done, feeding stored forage, finishing up second crop hay and some finished third crop. Corn and soybeans still doing OK. Oat harvest was better than expected, but its straw was short. Hay and straw are in short supply.

EAU CLAIRE-D.S.: Still very dry.

LACROSSE-I.H.: The dry weather has been hard on the crops. With only 0.2 inches of rain this week, optimism is waning as far as the crops are concerned. Third crop hay is short in the southern end of the county and about normal in the center. Since making hay has been so spread out, very little fourth cut has been made this year. Many farmers are still trying to start third cut hay, however due to the lack of rain, there is very little in the fields to cut.

GREEN LAKE-B.K.: Crops suffering from lack of rain and hot temps.

JUNEAU-J.W.: The storms that passed through the area missed the county and we are now extremely dry. Less than 0.5 inches for the month. The corn and soybeans are maturing with the heat but moisture is desperately needed. Alfalfa growth has slowed. The last few days have been hot and breezy drying the crops and soil out and now the hot weather will really cause damage.

WAUSHARA-K.W.: Crops on unirrigated land have basically quit growing. Received 0.1 inches of rain on August 21, 0.2 inches on August 11, 0.3 inches on August 6, not enough to keep crops growing for a whole month. Some corn has ears hanging down so that crop is done.

DOOR-T.S.: Snap bean yields are well above average. Beets will be coming off in two weeks. We could use a shot of rain in much of the county.

FOND DU LAC-B.P.: Very dry, crops are burning up. Drought worse this year than last year.

IOWA-K.M.: Need rain and heat. Forecast looks good for the heat but not the rain.

COLUMBIA-S.H.: Soybeans, corn, pastures, and hayfields are stressing due to lack of water. Columbia County received anywhere from 0.1 to 0.5 inches of rain last week. Topsoil is extremely dry in most areas, subsoil is very dry. Fall seeded oats and peas for forage are waiting for enough moisture to germinate.

DANE-J.K.: Crops were going backwards until 1.6 inches of rain came Monday or Tuesday of last week. Yield quality very good on third crop alfalfa. Fourth crop of hay grew about 1 foot in 2 days of rain. Good rain that all of it went in ground. Small grains are done, yields and weights were good. Fruits and veggies are doing very good now. Also, the rain makes the difference. Tobacco harvest is wrapping up. Short, high quality crop this year. Good wilt on most.

WALWORTH-N.W.: Very spotty rain fell this week. Some received 2.0 inches while some received 0.2 inches. The early planted corn is starting to dent.

WAUKESHA-R.F.: Need rain. Don't need as much heat. Drier this year at this time than it was last year in this area.

Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on August 25, 2013

| 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. 24 | Mar. 1 To Aug. 24 normal* | Last Week | Since Jun. 1 | Jun. 1 dep. from normal * | Year to date | Year dep. from normal * |
| Eau Claire | 87 | 60 | 91 | 51 | 73 | +4 | 1972 | 1984 | 0.71 | 7.63 | -4.10 | 27.67 | +5.71 |
| Green Bay | 82 | 57 | 87 | 54 | 70 | +3 | 1901 | 1846 | 1.63 | 9.50 | -0.19 | 23.26 | +4.04 |
| La Crosse | 86 | 64 | 90 | 57 | 75 | +4 | 2215 | 2221 | 0.11 | 8.22 | -3.19 | 27.14 | +4.72 |
| Madison | 83 | 60 | 89 | 52 | 71 | +2 | 2116 | 2159 | 1.23 | 16.39 | +5.17 | 36.48 | +13.83 |
| Milwaukee | 81 | 62 | 89 | 57 | 71 | +1 | 1975 | n.a. | 1.67 | 10.26 | +0.51 | 30.13 | +7.13 |

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.



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