



# WISCONSIN CROP PROGRESS

September 9, 2013

Vol. 13, No. 23

## Dry Conditions Persist

Some precipitation was received along the Lake Michigan shoreline over the weekend but the rest of the state saw little to no rain this week. Topsoil moisture was over 70 percent short to very short in seven of the nine reporting districts; ratings ranged from 94 percent short to very short in the West-Central District to 27 percent short to very short in the Northeast district. Reporters in many areas commented that both corn and soybeans were drying up, with farmers chopping wilted and unpollinated fields for silage. Pastures and haystands were reportedly going dormant due to the lack of moisture, putting the squeeze on already short feed supplies. Producers were reportedly taking CRP hay for supplementary feed. Some reporters noted that soils were getting too dry for fall plantings. There were 6.6 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 77 to 83 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 52 to 59 degrees. Precipitation totals ranged from no precipitation received in La Crosse and Madison to 0.50 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/>

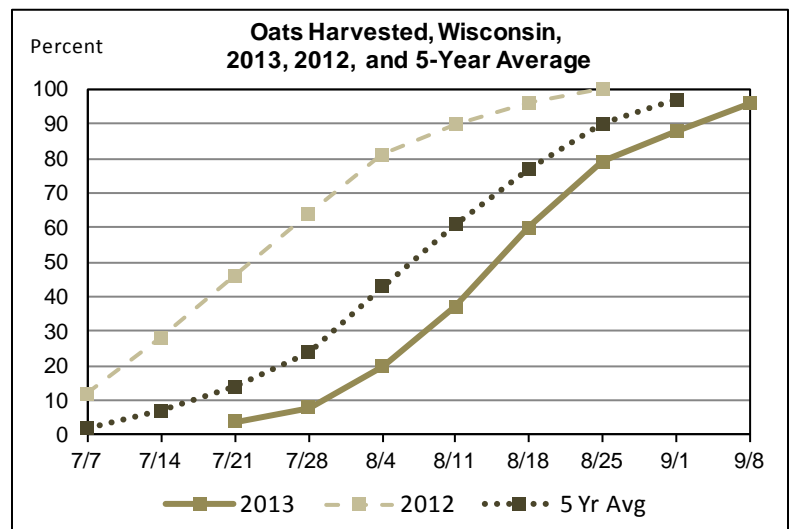
**Corn** was 76 percent in dough stage, 38 percent in dent stage and 5 percent mature. Corn silage was 9 percent harvested. Late planted corn was still lagging behind normal development, though dry and hot conditions were pushing the crop toward maturity.

**Soybeans** were 94 percent setting pods, and 22 percent had leaves turning color.

**Oats** were 96 percent harvested for grain.

**Third cutting alfalfa** was 88 percent harvested and the **fourth cutting** was 22 percent harvested. Hay was reportedly thin and turning brown in many areas.

**Potato** digging was reportedly in full swing in Portage County.



## Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of September 8, 2013

|          | Very Poor | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent |
|----------|-----------|------|------|------|-----------|
|          | Percent   |      |      |      |           |
| Pasture  | 29        | 31   | 27   | 12   | 1         |
| Corn     | 9         | 20   | 30   | 32   | 9         |
| Soybeans | 10        | 17   | 31   | 31   | 11        |

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office

## Wisconsin Crop Progress, September 8, 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 in dough               | 69               | 77 | 47  | 66 | 79 | 72 | 85 | 87  | 81  | 76            | 61        | 94        | 86             |
| Corn in dent                | 29               | 11 | 10  | 30 | 44 | 34 | 42 | 55  | 57  | 38            | 20        | 74        | 54             |
| Corn mature                 | 2                | 0  | 0   | 4  | 3  | 6  | 3  | 11  | 2   | 5             | n.a.      | 21        | 11             |
| Corn silage harvested       | 13               | 2  | 3   | 14 | 5  | 7  | 15 | 10  | 9   | 9             | 2         | 35        | 17             |
| Soybeans setting pods       | 85               | 83 | 100 | 92 | 95 | 95 | 94 | 99  | 93  | 94            | 87        | 100       | 100            |
| Soybeans leaves turned      | 26               | 8  | 5   | 15 | 13 | 13 | 29 | 39  | 19  | 22            | 7         | 66        | 39             |
| Oats harvested              | 90               | 88 | 96  | 99 | 97 | 98 | 99 | 100 | 100 | 96            | 88        | 100       | 100            |
| Third cutting hay           | 80               | 63 | 96  | 93 | 81 | 95 | 93 | 97  | 81  | 88            | 78        | 100       | 93             |
| Fourth cutting hay          | 12               | 0  | 35  | 16 | 23 | 26 | 25 | 43  | 17  | 22            | 10        | 78        | 40             |

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

## Days Suitable for Fieldwork and Soil Moisture Conditions, September 8, 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    | 6.7              | 6.9 | 5.6 | 7.0 | 6.8 | 6.4 | 7.0 | 6.7 | 5.6 | 6.6           | 6.2       | 5.9       |
|                  | Percent          |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | Percent       |           |           |
| Topsoil Moisture |                  |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |               |           |           |
| Very Short       | 49               | 56  | 3   | 64  | 55  | 34  | 40  | 37  | 21  | 44            | 34        | 30        |
| Short            | 36               | 17  | 24  | 30  | 30  | 44  | 49  | 36  | 34  | 35            | 38        | 41        |
| Adequate         | 15               | 27  | 66  | 6   | 15  | 22  | 11  | 27  | 44  | 21            | 27        | 29        |
| Surplus          | 0                | 0   | 7   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 1   | 0             | 1         | 0         |
| Subsoil Moisture |                  |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |               |           |           |
| Very Short       | 35               | 15  | 14  | 54  | 45  | 24  | 25  | 28  | 22  | 32            | 27        | n.a.      |
| Short            | 47               | 50  | 38  | 39  | 49  | 40  | 56  | 44  | 53  | 46            | 43        | n.a.      |
| Adequate         | 18               | 35  | 45  | 7   | 6   | 36  | 19  | 28  | 25  | 22            | 30        | n.a.      |
| Surplus          | 0                | 0   | 3   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0             | 0         | 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-T.P.:** Corn and soybeans are dying due to lack of soil moisture. Many alfalfa stands are starting to go into early dormancy. Chopping has started on some farms. Moisture levels are in the mid 60s on severe drought damaged corn. Yields are below average.

**CLARK-A.K.:** No rain for about two months. April oats planted are all harvested. Oats planted the 5th of July, all headed out and milky. No third crop hay in this area. Send us rain.

**FLORENCE-T.B.:** Some third crop hay being cut for those short on feed but expect that will come to an end soon until after a hard frost which we could get any time in this part of the state. We need frost to hold off for corn to mature. Maturity rates are very wide spread. Some corn is being harvested as green chop feed.

**BUFFALO-S.M.:** Rain is desperately needed. Some corn silage is being chopped. There is even talk of producers taking soybeans as forage due to drought conditions. Pastures have seen very little regrowth since mid July. Third crop hay was extremely short.

**PIERCE-G.A.:** Moderate drought conditions continue.

**WAUPACA-D.L.H.:** Some hail damage to corn and soybeans from Sunday's storm. Excellent quality third crop hay but quantity was low due to dry weather.

**KEWAUNEE-T.S.:** Though little if any rain fell this past week in this area, the crops still are doing well. Some moisture shortages are being felt in the corn crop as a few stalks are drying up and some cobs are starting to hang down. This is being noticed on the sandier soils, those that don't hold onto the rain so well. On heavier soils, the corn is looking very good and has not really started changing color. A few producers have chopped some early corn silage, but most are still waiting for the whole plant moisture to come down more before they start. The early planted soybeans in this area are really starting to turn yellow and some leaves are just starting the dropping process. Later planted and longer maturing varieties are still a week or two away from this point. It remains to be seen how the growing shortage of rain will affect the corn and the soybeans. It appears at this time that there is enough moisture in the soil so that the yields will not be negatively affected. This assessment may change as the harvest time draws closer. The harvest of third crop hay is continuing and while it is mainly done, not all

producers have completed it yet. A small number are taking off fourth crop, but the majority will wait until the end of September to remove it. The alfalfa is growing well and yields are okay. A few producers have been trying to make dry hay, but while the weather this past week was sunny and dry, higher humidity and a lake breeze at the end of the week was not conducive to making quality hay. This has been the story this year in this area. And finally, yellow and red leaves are being seen as the season of fall approaches.

**MANITOWOC-M.R.:** Another week of dry weather here this past week has corn plant moisture crashing and it looks like corn silage harvest will begin this week.

**CRAWFORD-J.B.:** The recent hot dry weather has certainly affected all crops. The rain received in the county a couple of weeks ago certainly helped some late planted crops. Quality of hay seems good but yields are down and some producers will be taking a fourth cutting. Producers are beginning to chop corn for silage. For the most part all small grains have been harvested and yields were fairly respectable. I suspect the hot weather caused apples and other fruit crops to have some loss because of trees aborting fruit. Most pastures and lawns are pretty brown.

**RICHLAND-J.C.:** There are areas of the county that do not have enough growth for a third crop of alfalfa. The corn has matured quickly over the last two weeks due to the heat and dry weather.

**DANE-K.L.:** Several farmers harvested fourth crop hay. Yielded as good as third crop. Earlier planted crops are starting to mature. Noticed some areas of the county are dry. We need moisture.

**ROCK-C.O.:** Limited rain has had a negative effect on the beans and may cause small beans. Some are already dead. Corn is maturing fast too. One bright spot is the drying time to make hay has been shortened.

**KENOSHA-R.R.:** Where corn was muddy going in it's now yellow, short, small ears or no ears. Leaves are drying up. Some are spraying soybeans for Japanese beetles, leaves are turning fast.

**RACINE-K.I.:** Dry spell has made fantastic crop of corn and soybeans just OK. Could really use some rain.

### Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on September 8, 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 Sep. 7                          | Mar. 1 To Sep. 7 normal* | Last Week     | Since Sep. 1 | Sep. 1 dep. from normal * | Year to date | Year dep. from normal * |
| Eau Claire | 82          | 54        | 93        | 42       | 68   | +4                      | 2298                                      | 2200                     | 0.01          | n.a.         | n.a.                      | 27.68        | +3.40                   |
| Green Bay  | 77          | 52        | 85        | 45       | 64   | +1                      | 2190                                      | 2063                     | 0.49          | n.a.         | n.a.                      | 24.43        | +3.37                   |
| La Crosse  | 83          | 59        | 94        | 48       | 71   | +4                      | 2571                                      | 2470                     | 0.00          | n.a.         | n.a.                      | 27.14        | +2.69                   |
| Madison    | 81          | 56        | 90        | 46       | 68   | +3                      | 2436                                      | 2405                     | 0.00          | n.a.         | n.a.                      | 36.47        | +11.83                  |
| Milwaukee  | 79          | 59        | 85        | 53       | 69   | +2                      | 2292                                      | n.a.                     | 0.50          | n.a.         | n.a.                      | 30.63        | +5.53                   |

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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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.