Heat Boosts Crop Emergence

It was a hot and humid week, with temperatures climbing into the 80s state wide. Heavy rains at both the beginning and end of the week interrupted field work and reportedly left standing water on heavy soils, particularly across the north and west of the state. Topsoil moistures rose to 22 percent surplus compared to 19 percent surplus last week. However, sunny weather mid-week saw farmers working long hours to catch up on spring fieldwork. Planting and emergence measures progressed rapidly, moving closer to the five year average. Like last year, producers were juggling oats, corn, and soybean planting with the first cutting of alfalfa. Some reporters noted that acreage was being switched to shorter season crops and varieties due to muddy soils and a lack of days suitable for fieldwork earlier this year. There were 5.2 days suitable for fieldwork statewide.

Across the reporting stations, average temperatures last week were 3 to 9 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 74 to 86 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 52 to 59 degrees. Precipitation totals ranged from 0.48 inches in Green Bay to 1.89 inches in Madison. If you are interested in further weather data, please reference the following sites:

http://www.noaa.gov/
http://www.csc.wisc.edu/~sco/
http://www.cocorahs.org/
http://www.weather.gov/

As of June 1, spring tillage was 89 percent complete statewide.

Corn was 86 percent planted, up 19 percentage points over the previous week. The crop was 52 percent emerged, compared to 21 percent last week. Corn condition was 80 percent good to excellent statewide.

Soybeans were 69 percent planted, up 30 points over the previous week. Statewide, 28 percent of soybeans had emerged.

Oats were 91 percent planted and 71 percent emerged.

Fourteen percent of the winter wheat crop was heading, with 65 percent of the crop in good to excellent condition. Reporters noted that some winter wheat has declined in quality in the past few weeks and will be plowed under.

Potatoes were 87 percent planted.

All hay condition improved to 88 percent good to excellent statewide. The first cutting of alfalfa was 22 percent complete.

Pasture condition continued to improve, with 81 percent in good to excellent compared to 72 percent the previous week.
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.

RUSK-G.P.: A great week for finally getting things done. Corn is mostly planted and a good start on beans. Some growers are done with all planting and will start on 1st crop this week, other growers are still trying to get the last of the 2013 corn crop off. Rain over the weekend put field work to a halt for a few days, but everyone needed a bit of a break to catch their breath. Some oats up and hard to believe how much oats went in compared to the last couple of years. It's been quite a spring.

WASHBURN-P.H.: Still standing water in many fields with areas that won't be planted this year.


MARINETTE-N.S.: Hay fields look very good, need drier weather to get in and harvest them. We saw a lot of the planted corn and soybeans acres emerge this week. Some areas continue to have wet conditions and producers are unable to plant.

SHAWANO-B.R.: Most of the corn got planted this week even if it had to be mudded in. There is still excess moisture in many fields. A few are starting to cut first crop alfalfa which does look quite good although a little short in length.


ST CROIX-D.K.: Crops emerged fast with heat and moisture. Alfalfa harvest will begin with the next stretch of nice weather. It isimportant to get in before the next rain. Hay looks really good, need drier weather to harvest.

JUNEAU-J.W.: It was another good week for planting with significant rainfall during the first part of the week and then the last day. A lot of people were finishing up getting their corn and soybeans planted and a lot of hay was also cut and harvested. Some were going to wait until the weekend storm passed before they cut their hay. The rain has really varied some areas have received 6.0 or more inches in the last week while others have gotten 2.0. The storm on this last weekend was the most significant and there has been some flooding in low lying areas.

PORTAGE-J.W.: Scheduled planting of peas, snap beans and sweet corn continued in the sandy soils. Vegetable crops looking average. Corn and oats planting continued at a slower pace on the heavier soils, due to wetter soil conditions. Apple bloom was very poor, maybe due to cold winter, plum and cherry near normal bloom. Biting insects in excessive amounts due to wet conditions.

DOOR-A.B.: Many are still struggling to plant in the clay soils. Corn is coming along slowly and with heavy rain expected, it will be further delayed. Alfalfa looks excellent with plenty of leaves and decent height. Producers will have to make the choice to keep planting corn or cut hay for the second spring in a row. Winter wheat started out excellent this spring, but some fields are starting to look very poor with large bare spots on hills and in low areas.

FOND DU LAC-B.B.: Low rainfall and consistent warmth made for the most planting progress this spring. Winter rye and other grasses are vigorous.

RICHLAND-J.C.: Rains early in the week kept farmers out of the field for a few days. Heavy rains at the end of the week will delay hay cutting for several days.

DANE-F.P.: Lots of hay harvested this past week. Very warm weather has helped crop growth improve dramatically.

GREEN-M.M.: First crop hay harvest is in full swing. Most of the corn has emerged and about half of the beans. Rains were spotty ranging from 0.3 to 3.0 inches in the county this week.

OZAUKEE-G.S.: A lot of progress made in the fields again last week. Rain late Sunday and into today (Monday) will stop things for a day or two but the last part of this week should allow producers back into the fields again.

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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on June 1, 2014

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<th>City</th>
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1/ Formula used: GDD = (daily maximum (86°F) + daily minimum (50°F))/2-50°F; where 86°F is used if the maximum exceeds 86°F and 50°F is used if the minimum falls below 50°F. *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.

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.