Heavy Rains Slow Fieldwork

Frequent rains kept many farmers out of fields this week, slowing hay, potato, and small grains harvests. Reporters noted heavy downpours, with weekly precipitation totals as high as 5.0 inches reported in some northeastern locations. Topsoil mores stateside, with 89 percent adequate to surplus compared to 82 percent adequate to surplus last week. Some reporters noted crops yellowing in low lying areas and difficulty accessing fields due to muddy conditions. Temperatures were above normal across the south and central portions of the state. The heat and moisture boosted corn development but late plantings still had a long way to go before maturity. Reporters statewide commented that farmers are hoping for a warm fall with a late frost. There were 3.5 days suitable for fieldwork statewide.

As of August 31, seventy percent of corn was in or past the dough stage, up 17 percentage points over the previous week. Twenty-three percent of corn was in or beyond the dent stage, up 13 percentage points from the previous week. Corn condition improved slightly with 71 percent rated good to excellent.

Ninety-three percent of soybeans were setting pods and 9 percent had leaves turning color. Soybeans condition was rated 72 percent good to excellent.

Seventy-three percent of oats for grain has been harvested. Ninety-five percent of winter wheat for grain has been harvested.

Potatoes were 12 percent harvested with 73 percent rated in good to excellent condition. The third cutting of alfalfa was 78 percent complete and the fourth cutting was 15 percent complete. All hay condition was rated 83 percent good to excellent.

Pasture condition was rated 61 percent good to excellent, up 7 percentage points from the previous week.
BAYFIELD-C.B.: Continuing heavy rains throughout the area have slowed fieldwork considerably. Some corn and soybean fields are yellowing in the low areas.

CHIPPEWA-R.M.: Heavy rain last week - had 5.5 inches all week. Corn was late planted. Couldn't get in to fertilize or spray. Need about 4 or 5 days of good weather.

ONEIDA-B.E.: Received 1.75 inches of rainfall this past week. Had one night where we had to run the sprinkler irrigation to re on to fertilize all and pouring out all average high and low.

A formula used: $GDD = \frac{(\text{daily maximum} + 50) - \text{daily minimum}}{2}$.

MARINETTE-N.S.: Good soaking rains have benefited hay, corn, and soybean fields throughout most of the area.

SHAWANO-J.N.: Well another year is in the books for the Shawano County Fair. Once again it was a great success with exhibitors showing great vegetables crops and livestock. On the farm, rain showers and local heavy rain have slowed field work with oats fields still waiting to be combined. Other crops are likely running 2-3 weeks behind normal. The hope is for a warm fall and a late frost date.

BUFFALO-S.M.: Over last week, had spotty rain but at least 2.0-5.0 inches of rain. Some pretty big storms. One person saw some cattle out in the field, so some lightning issues. Some hard, fast rain.

TREMPALEAU-D.D.: Some corn is being chopped, but only for emergency feed. It is not ready yet.

PORTAGE-J.B.: Couldn't get any rain from July through the middle of August and now it won't go away! Another 4.0+ inches fell last weekend in our area. Things went from brown to green in a hurry but we need a very late frost for corn and soybeans to reach maturity in the earlier drought stressed areas. The rains have stopped potato harvesting and were very hard on the sweet corn and green bean harvesters which can't stop or the crops will get over mature. They said no rain today, Tuesday, but it's pouring out my window right now!

WOOD-M.L.: Fields are saturated. Intended hay cuttings this week won't be made.

FOND DU LAC-B.B.: This week saw the departure of the barn swallows and arrival of the Canadian geese. Was a quiet week in the fields as things are caught up. 0.70 inches rain fell for the period.

VERNON-E.B.: Crops looking good due to getting moisture.

COLUMBIA-G.K.: Corn crop is coming along nicely. Soybeans look good, but not expected to be record high yielding. Hay crop looks good running into September. August was a challenge getting hay dry enough to bale. Chopped and ensiled hay was excellent.

DANE-F.P.: 1.25 inches rain on Monday, 1.5 inches of rain on Saturday helped corn, beans, hay, and winter wheat dramatically.

KENOSHA-R.R.: All the crops look very good including fruit, pears, apples. White mold is forming on the melons, cumber, and pumpkins leaves.


Wisconsin Crop Progress

Selected Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on August 31, 2014

<table>
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<th>City</th>
<th>Avg. max.</th>
<th>Avg. min.</th>
<th>High max.</th>
<th>Low min.</th>
<th>Avg.</th>
<th>Avg. dep. from normal *</th>
<th>Mar. 1 to Aug. 30</th>
<th>Mar. 1 to Aug. 30 normal*</th>
<th>Last Week</th>
<th>Since Jun. 1</th>
<th>Jun. 1 dep. from normal*</th>
<th>Year to date</th>
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1/ Formula used: $GDD = \frac{(\text{daily maximum} + 50) - \text{daily minimum}}{2}$.

This report has been made possible through the cooperative efforts of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection, and the National Weather Service.