Wet in the North, Dry in the South

There were 4.8 days suitable for fieldwork during the week ending June 7th, 2015, according to the USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service. It was another rainy week for northern Wisconsin as multiple storms interrupted planting and haying. Reporters in some areas noted standing water in low spots and crops yellowing due to cool temperatures and excessive moisture. By contrast, the southern portions of the state received only scattered precipitation over the weekend, but made good progress on the first cutting of hay. Temperatures were below normal this week, providing excellent conditions for pastures and livestock but less heat than needed for corn and soybeans.

Though the statewide average for topsoil moisture shifted only slightly from the previous week, this week’s precipitation caused topsoil moisture conditions to diverge at the district level. Topsoil in the three southern districts was drier than the previous week, while topsoil in the three northern districts was wetter. In the three central districts, more topsoil moisture was rated adequate than in the previous week, causing both short and surplus ratings there to fall.

As of June 7th, corn emerged was 94 percent, over two weeks ahead of last year and 13 days ahead of the five-year average. Winter Wheat was 76 percent in good to excellent conditions for pastures and livestock but less heat than needed for corn and soybeans.

Soybeans planted was at 95 percent, 12 days ahead of last year and 2 weeks ahead of the five-year average. Soybeans emerged was 77 percent, the highest for this date since 2000. The first soybean condition of the year was 0 percent very poor, 1 percent poor, 13 percent fair, 65 percent good, and 21 percent excellent.

Oats headed was at 9 percent, almost a week ahead of last year. Oats condition was 86 percent good to excellent.

Potato condition was 95 percent good to excellent.

Winter wheat headed was at 58 percent, just over a week ahead of last year. Winter Wheat was 76 percent in good to excellent condition, up 2 percentage points from the previous week.

Pasture condition improved moderately with 78 percent rated good to excellent compared to 76 percent last week.

The first cutting of alfalfa was 61 percent harvested, 5 days ahead of last year and 4 days ahead of the five-year average.

All Hay Condition was 80 percent in good to excellent condition, down 1 percentage point from last week.

A reporter in Washburn County reported that winter rye is pollinating now. A reporter in Wood County noted that cranberry vines are in the “roughneck” stage of growth.
RUSK-G.P.: Please turn off the water!


ASHLAND-C.B.: Field work progress has been slow due to periodic rains. Hay growth appears to be behind where the hay growth was at this time last year.

PRICE-D.E.: Some crops are not planted - trying to get hay off first or it has just been too wet. Harvesting hay is a challenge with wet conditions. Corn, soybeans and small grains doing well despite the bouts of frost in the past few weeks.

SHAWANO-J.N.: As of Sunday morning, June 7, we had another inch of rainfall. This makes over 4 inches in the last 2 weeks. We went from being dry to having too much now, as some of it came as heavy rainfall. Some corn is suffering from saturated ground. I noticed one field planted right before the rain which will not emerge because of rotted seed. It will need to be replanted when it dries out. Soybeans look good. Alfalfa harvest varies from good to disappointing. Some had more winterkill than first realized.

DUNN-M.B.: Crops are looking good and progressing well. Intermittent rains have aided hay production.

LA CROSSE-L.H.: Recurrent rain has restricted access to fields for crop harvest. When we get more than two days of sun in a row, farmers will attack fields with passion.

WAUPACA-D.L.H.: A lot of hay has been harvested with the favorable weather of the past week. Some corn, soybeans and oats show stress from recent wet conditions. Warmer weather is needed for growth of corn and soybeans.

WOOD-B.E.: Over the past two weeks we have seen over 3.5 inches of rain here. Temperatures last week were a bit below normal and we had to run the sprinkler irrigation system to protect the cranberry vines from frost several times. This recent week the temperatures were closer to average and, with the rainfall we received, we are now within 0.1 inch of normal. Cranberry vines are in the "roughneck" stage of growth. Weed pressure is above average here, while insect pressure is low.

FOND DU LAC-B.B.: Early by mid-week field activities returned to harvest of first crop hay which saw a good yield and RFV put up. Soybeans are good and green with 2-6 true leaves. Corn averages 4.0 inches of height but is a bit nitrogen deprived. We could use some warmer temps - especially in the overnight - to get the soil more active and give up more of its nitrogen. Weeds are well in control. Second crop alfalfa coming back nicely. These have been most comfortable days for pastured livestock.

OUTAGAMIE-S.S.: We have had too much rain - 4.5 inches since May 23.

SHEBOYGAN-M.B.: Harvesting of an excellent alfalfa crop is well underway. Crop conditions are generally very good.

VERNON-K.L.: Some much needed sunshine in past week, but still a couple of rain showers. First crop hay looks good but we could use a dry week for farmers to finish harvesting and planting. Winter wheat starting to head out, but short.

DODGE-R.H.: Lots of hay made this week. An excellent crop this year.

GREEN-M.M.: Most farmers are finished with first cutting of hay with good yields.

WALWORTH-N.W.: All crops are in good shape. We are a little short on rainfall.

---

Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on June 7, 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Temperature</th>
<th>Growing degree days (modified base 50)</th>
<th>Precipitation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Avg. max.</td>
<td>Avg. min.</td>
<td>High max.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eau Claire</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Bay</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La Crosse</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madison</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milwaukee</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Formula used: 

\[
GDD = \text{daily maximum (86°F)} + \text{daily minimum (50°F)-2.50°F}, \text{where 86°F is used if the maximum exceeds 86° and 50°F is used if the minimum falls below 50°}. 
\]
