



Wisconsin Crop Progress & Condition



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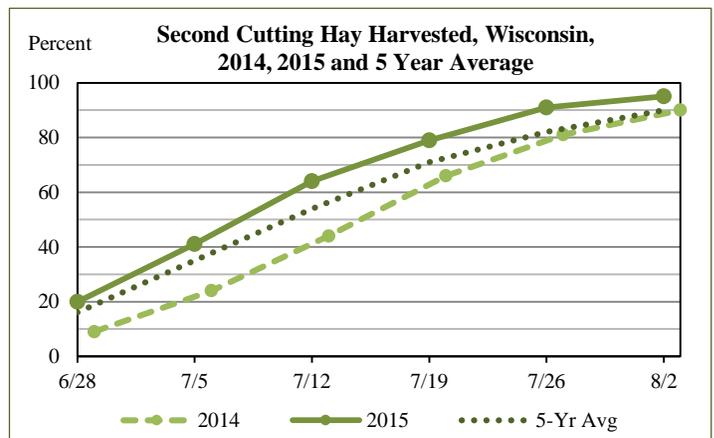
Dry Spell Advances Harvests, Stresses Pollinating Crops

There were 6.4 **days suitable for fieldwork** during the week ending August 2, 2015, according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Sunny skies and hot, windy weather made it an excellent week for haying and small grains harvest in Wisconsin. Good yields were reported for oats, wheat, straw and dry hay. Scattered thunderstorms brought rain to some areas but left others dry for a second week in a row. Many reporters noted that crops and pastures were showing signs of stress from the lack of moisture, particularly on sandy soils. Timely rain is needed to ensure pollination and grain development in corn and soybeans.

Topsoil moistures were rated 36 percent short to very short, compared to 19 percent the previous week. Subsoil moistures were 27 percent short to very short compared to 15 percent last week.

As of August 2, 82 percent of **corn** had reached the silking stage, 8 days ahead of last year and 3 days ahead of the five year average. Seven percent of corn had reached the dough stage, equal to last year but 3 days behind the five-year average. The corn crop was rated 80 percent good to excellent, compared to 82 percent the previous week. Eighty-one percent of **soybeans** were at or beyond the blooming stage, 3 days ahead of last year and 2 days ahead of the five-year average. Forty-nine percent of the soybean crop had begun setting pods, 3 days ahead of last year and 4 days ahead of the five-year average. Eighty-one percent of the soybean crop was rated good to excellent, 3 percent less than the previous week. Ninety-three percent of the **oat** crop had begun turning color, 10 days ahead of both last year and the five-year average. The oat crop was at 31 percent harvested, 5 days ahead of last year but 3 days behind the five-year average. Oats condition was rated 82 percent good to excellent, 1 percent less than last week. Eleven percent of **potatoes** had been harvested statewide. **Potato** condition was rated 91 percent good to excellent, equal to last week.

Sixty-two percent of **winter wheat** had been harvested, 5 days ahead of last year, with 40 percent harvested during the week. Winter wheat was rated 80 percent in good to excellent condition, compared to 81 percent last week. **Pasture** condition was rated 69 percent good to excellent, down 10 percentage points from last week. The **second cutting of alfalfa** was 95 percent harvested and the **third cutting of alfalfa** was 40 percent harvested. This haying season continues at the second fastest pace in more than 35 years, trailing only 2012. **All hay condition** was 82 percent in good to excellent condition. A reporter in Barron County reported that the wax beans harvest is in full swing and the crop looks good.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of August 2, 2015

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Corn.....	1	4	15	53	27
Hay, All.....	0	3	15	55	27
Oats.....	0	3	15	56	26
Pasture & Range..	0	8	23	51	18
Potatoes.....	0	1	8	71	20
Soybeans.....	1	3	15	55	26
Winter Wheat.....	1	5	14	51	29

Wisconsin Crop Progress as of August 2, 2015

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			
Alfalfa hay, second cutting....	95	93	94	93	96	98	98	95	97	95	91	89	90
Alfalfa hay, third cutting.....	42	21	43	34	35	53	42	50	41	40	20	20	29
Corn silking.....	72	65	66	92	81	73	88	93	83	82	59	65	76
Corn in or beyond dough stage	5	11	5	3	7	8	9	10	6	7	0	7	11
Oats turning color.....	95	92	87	96	91	91	95	99	97	93	86	81	n.a.
Oats harvested.....	16	19	8	58	32	16	40	43	45	31	12	21	37
Potatoes harvested.....	9	22	6	39	11	n.a.	1	3	n.a.	11	6	0	n.a.
Soybeans blooming.....	69	64	92	76	93	78	82	88	90	81	67	77	77
Soybeans setting pods.....	45	35	39	57	49	53	47	50	55	49	28	42	38
Winter Wheat harvested.....	37	47	34	67	60	56	62	78	69	62	22	43	n.a.

n.a.=not available

Days Suitable for Fieldwork and Soil Moisture Conditions as of August 2, 2015

Item	District average									State average		
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This week	Last week	Last Year
	Days									Days		
Days Suitable	5.7	6.2	6.4	6.2	6.9	6.8	6.6	6.5	6.4	6.4	6.0	5.7
	Percent									Percent		
Topsoil Moisture												
Very Short.....	1	3	13	0	11	11	5	6	1	5	2	6
Short.....	10	19	35	13	46	52	29	32	56	31	17	25
Adequate.....	83	78	48	79	41	33	39	60	39	57	72	65
Surplus.....	6	0	4	8	2	4	27	2	4	7	9	4
Subsoil Moisture												
Very Short.....	0	0	5	0	3	9	2	4	1	2	1	3
Short.....	8	4	32	10	29	51	24	26	54	25	14	17
Adequate.....	89	96	63	85	64	38	74	67	41	71	82	76
Surplus.....	3	0	0	5	4	2	0	3	4	2	3	4

Selected Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

All comments are used in creating this report, but only a few are published below.

BAYFIELD-C.B.: Another dry week, a small amount of rain yesterday. Some nice looking oats in the area. Pastures are getting poorer due to the lack of rain.

RUSK-G.P.: A warm week with spotty rainfall. Overall, conditions are getting drier but crops are not showing much stress yet. Corn looks good and beans are looking some better with the warmer temps. Lots of hay put up this week, lots of hay around.

PRICE-D.E.: Crops received well-needed sunshine and warmer weather. Small grains harvest has begun in many areas. Hay harvesting for dry hay is going very well, with good quality hay. Corn and soybeans look good, but low wet fields are definitely showing signs of stress from excess moisture early in the season.

SHAWANO-J.N.: We could really use some rainfall. Moisture stress is evident on sandy soils in both corn and beans. Early corn is entering dough stage and beans are setting pods. Winter wheat harvest has started and yields are average to above average. Straw yield is above average. Some oats harvest has begun.

LACROSSE-I.H.: Hay was really good; good quality and high volume. Corn is all tasselled and very tall. Oats are really tall too. Several farmers have started combining. Beans are making pods.

ADAMS-D.B.: Hot and dry week is stressing any crops not irrigated.

WOOD-M.L.: It has dried considerably. Crops are good yet, for the first time all season, we could actually benefit from rain. Soybean crop is the best in many years. Corn is uneven due to water stress in low areas.

KEWAUNEE-T.S.: It was a warm week and mainly dry. The weather was ideal for making dry hay and for harvesting winter wheat and oats. Sunshine and west winds both combined to produce some very dry conditions. The dry weather, though, did cause some stress to the corn and soybeans. Curling leaves were common on both crops. Some yellowing of the lower leaves was occurring on both crops as well. And some aphids were making an appearance on the soybean plants. The weather conditions improved greatly late in the weekend with a round of heavy rain that came down. Amounts of 1.75 inches to over 2 inches were measured. Some small hail fell, but the damage to the crops was minimal. There were also some strong winds that accompanied the thunderstorms, but these did not cause too many problems. Some standing wheat and oats were knocked down. Harvesting these crops will be slow in areas where the lodging was extensive, but the rain was welcome by all. Second crop hay harvest is continuing and the third crop is beginning to come off. Yields may be down a little since the alfalfa hasn't been growing with the dry conditions. All plants will grow more now that the rain has fallen.

SHEBOYGAN-M.B.: Significant water stress on both corn and beans this past week. Corn is silking so water is critical.

RICHLAND-J.C.: Any rains in the last several weeks have missed the majority of Richland County. We are very dry and it is showing in the pastures and crop fields.

DODGE-R.H.: Oats yielding 100-110 bushel per acre with excellent test weight of 33-35 pounds per bushel.

OZAUKEE-G.S.: We had a nice, warm, dry week, which pushed crop maturity along and allowed for hay, oats and wheat harvest in the area.

Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on August 2, 2015

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. 1	Mar. 1 to Aug. 1 normal*	Last Week	Since Jun. 1	Jun. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	84	63	86	59	73	+1	1695	1557	0.31	8.60	+0.26	18.05	-0.55
Green Bay	85	61	88	58	73	+3	1643	1435	0.01	5.04	-1.96	12.01	-4.67
La Crosse	86	66	87	62	76	+2	2043	1744	0.72	7.33	-1.09	19.93	+0.59
Madison	85	64	87	60	74	+2	1829	1697	1.42	8.17	+0.09	18.89	-0.58
Milwaukee	85	66	88	61	76	+4	1530	n.a.	0.00	4.09	-3.21	14.31	-5.84

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. n.a.=not available. T=trace Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>.

For more 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/>