



Wisconsin Crop Progress & Condition



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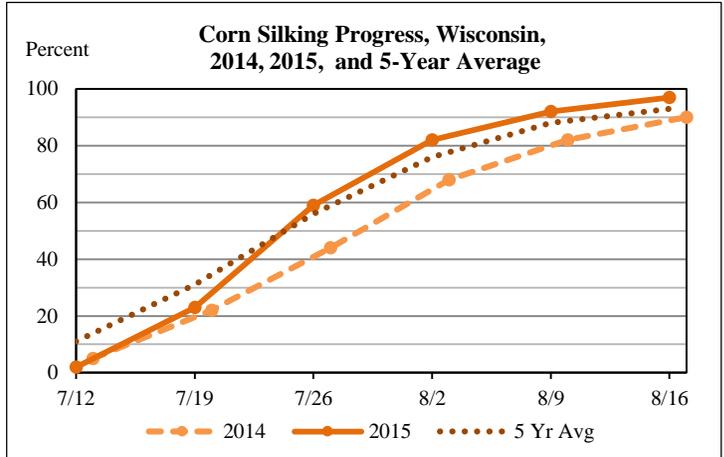
Hot Week Worsens Dry Conditions

There were 6.1 **days suitable for fieldwork** during the week ending August 16, 2015, according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Temperatures climbed into the 90s for much of the state with high humidity and scattered precipitation. Southwestern Wisconsin once again missed out on the week's rains, with storms affecting the Lake Michigan shoreline and the northern portion of the state on different days. Fieldwork advanced quickly as farmers worked to harvest small grains, potatoes and hay. However, muggy conditions reportedly caused hay and straw to dry more slowly than usual. Though the heat pushed corn and soybeans toward maturity, reporters commented that crops in many areas were showing signs of stress due to the lack of soil moisture.

Topsoil moistures fell this week, ending with 41 percent short to very short statewide compared to 32 percent the previous week. Subsoil moistures were 36 percent short to very short compared to 28 percent last week.

As of August 16, 52 percent of the **corn** crop was in or beyond the dough stage, 8 days ahead of last year and 4 days ahead of the five-year average. The corn crop was rated 76 percent good to excellent, compared to 79 percent the previous week. Eighty-three percent of the **soybean** crop had begun setting pods, 4 days ahead of last year and the five-year average. Seventy-six percent of the soybean crop was rated good to excellent, 4 percentage points lower than the previous week. Twenty-one percent of the **oat** crop was harvested during the week, bringing the total to 76 percent harvested, 18 days ahead of last year and 5 days ahead of the five-year average. Thirty percent of **potatoes** had been harvested statewide. Potato condition was rated 91 percent good to excellent, compared to 93 percent last week. Ninety-three percent of **winter wheat** had been harvested, seven days ahead of last year, with 8 percent of the crop harvested during the week.

Pasture condition was rated 59 percent good to excellent, down 4 percentage points from last week. The **third cutting of alfalfa** was 78 percent harvested. This haying season continues at the second fastest pace in more than 35 years, trailing only 2012. **All hay condition** was 76 percent in good to excellent condition, 5 percentage points lower than last week.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of August 16, 2015

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Corn.....	1	5	18	51	25
Hay, All.....	1	5	18	51	25
Pasture & Range..	2	13	26	44	15
Potatoes.....	1	2	6	70	21
Soybeans.....	2	5	17	52	24

Wisconsin Crop Progress as of August 16, 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, third cutting.....	78	54	81	79	77	84	79	86	67	78	63	54	59
Alfalfa hay, fourth cutting.....	9	2	5	11	12	3	4	15	2	8	0	1	4
Corn silking.....	95	86	96	99	98	98	99	98	95	97	92	89	93
Corn in or beyond dough stage	35	27	24	52	65	51	65	64	36	52	27	35	43
Corn in or beyond dent stage..	6	2	1	4	6	6	6	4	6	5	0	3	7
Oats harvested.....	67	68	48	93	72	63	92	93	84	76	55	53	70
Potatoes harvested.....	14	38	71	79	18	n.a.	10	13	n.a.	30	21	0	n.a.
Soybeans blooming.....	91	95	99	86	99	94	98	97	95	94	89	93	93
Soybeans setting pods.....	74	82	89	75	88	81	90	90	80	83	72	77	76
Winter Wheat harvested.....	75	86	84	99	91	91	93	99	99	93	85	88	n.a.

n.a.=not available

Days Suitable for Fieldwork and Soil Moisture Conditions as of August 16, 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	5.5	5.9	5.5	6.1	6.0	5.9	6.9	6.1	5.9	6.1	5.7	6.0
	Percent									Percent		
Topsoil Moisture												
Very Short.....	1	0	16	1	3	9	20	23	5	10	6	13
Short.....	7	4	23	15	33	47	42	40	59	31	26	32
Adequate.....	87	96	61	77	61	39	30	34	35	55	61	53
Surplus.....	5	0	0	7	3	5	8	3	1	4	7	2
Subsoil Moisture												
Very Short.....	0	0	7	1	3	9	11	14	2	6	4	7
Short.....	7	4	26	14	30	48	33	42	61	30	24	30
Adequate.....	90	96	67	81	64	41	56	41	36	62	70	61
Surplus.....	3	0	0	4	3	2	0	3	1	2	2	2

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-B.P.: Crops are moving forward to maturity at a fast pace with sun, heat and plenty of moisture--will need rain within a week if heat continues.

BAYFIELD-C.B.: Timely rain earlier this week. Many dairy farmers are in the process of chopping third crop silage. Beef operators still have some first crop hay not done yet.

SHAWANO-B.R.: Hot but humid weather made for some difficulty in harvesting wheat and oats lately. Yields were pretty good with most of the oats going well over 100 bushels per acre. Getting the straw dry and off the field was another issue. Alfalfa cut for haylage went well but alfalfa for dry hay was somewhat of a disaster and just would not get dry. Corn and soybeans moving ahead very well with the moisture we received again this week.

LA CROSSE-I.H.: Good week for working in the fields except it was extremely warm. Corn is stressed on rocky or lighter soil. Beans seems to be holding their own, but could use some rain. Hay has slowed due to the heat.

ADAMS-D.B.: Hot and dry weather this week starting to stress crops again.

JUNEAU-J.W.: Crops appear to be holding on but once again we need rain badly. A lot of soybeans were aborting their pods last week because of the lack of moisture and warm weather. We are really hoping that the forecast for cooler temperatures and moisture is correct.

KEWAUNEE-T.S.: The past week was the warmest and most humid of any week this summer. While this was good for the growing crops of corn and soybeans, it made it a challenge for anyone wanting to make dry hay or harvest oats or winter wheat. The higher moisture in the air made drying a slower process. The wind did help in this regard. Not much rain fell in this area in the past week. There were a few times the sky looked threatening, but in the end, only a few drops of rain came down. Yields of oats and winter wheat in this area have been fairly good this year. Depending on the variety, oats have been yielding as high as 100 bushels per acre. However, this was mainly for the oats that is standing well. There are more than a few fields that are nearly completely lodged. This made picking up the crop a slow job, and some of the crop was

undoubtedly left in the field. These same fields are also seeing weed pressure come into play. Harvesting this crop is taking on some urgency now. The winter wheat harvest is pretty much wrapped up. There hasn't been as much of it this year, with the yields ranging from 60 to about 80 bushels per acre. There was a lot more oats planted in this area to make up for the winter wheat that didn't get planted last fall. Unfortunately, neither the oats nor the straw are worth too much at the present time since there is so much of it this year. The alfalfa harvest is continuing, with most of the third crop already taken off. The fourth crop is coming back very good. By the end of August, some of that crop may be cut. The corn and soybeans are looking good. The rain and heat over the past few weeks have really boosted the growth of these two crops. If current conditions continue, some impressive yields should be seen this fall. The corn silage harvest in some areas may be a few weeks away.

RICHLAND-J.C.: Very, very dry.

DANE-F.P.: It is getting very dry, we need rain. The ground where the lawn is bare is showing cracks. Rainfall is spotty.

ROCK-C.O.: Limited rain since the 4th of July is starting to cause stress in all crops.

OZAUKEE-G.S.: The crops could use some rain to alleviate some stress and help with maturity. It is starting to get pretty dry around here.

Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on August 16, 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. 15	Mar. 1 to Aug. 15 normal*	Last Week	Since Jun. 1	Jun. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	85	63	90	55	74	+3	1987	1823	0.99	15.04	+4.74	24.49	+3.92
Green Bay	84	61	90	55	72	+3	1924	1691	0.18	7.10	-1.45	14.06	-4.19
La Crosse	88	66	95	58	77	+4	2382	2039	0.53	8.07	-2.14	20.67	-0.42
Madison	85	64	92	55	74	+4	2141	1981	0.01	8.54	-1.39	19.26	-2.14
Milwaukee	82	64	93	60	73	+1	1839	n.a.	1.14	5.75	-3.23	15.96	-5.90

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/>