



Wisconsin Crop Progress & Condition



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Rains Slow Harvest, Improve Soil Moisture

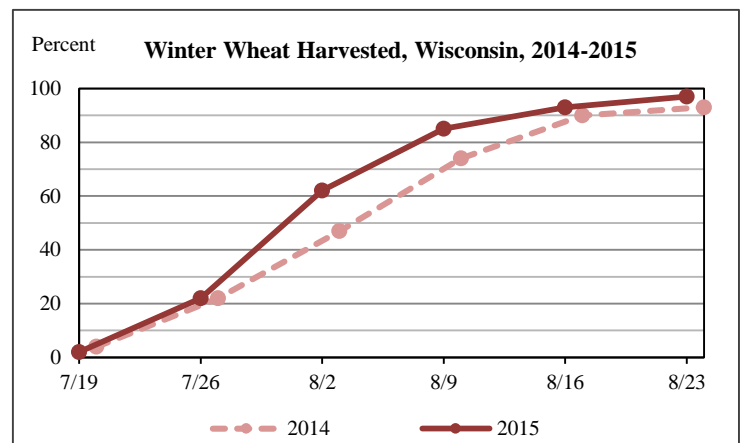
There were 4.4 **days suitable for fieldwork** during the week ending August 23, 2015, according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. A cold front pushed a large scale storm system through the state on Tuesday, dumping heavy rains statewide and spawning three tornadoes in southeastern Wisconsin. Windy, overcast conditions, occasional showers and cooler temperatures dominated the remainder of the week, slowing harvest activities. A few reporters noted erosion or ponding due to heavy rains, while others mentioned that some crops on light soils had been too damaged by this month's dry conditions to fully recover. However, the majority of the state welcomed the rain, with reporters noting lessened stress in corn and soybeans and strong growth in alfalfa.

Topsoil moistures improved, with 29 percent short to very short statewide compared to 41 percent the previous week. Subsoil moistures were 31 percent short to very short compared to 36 percent last week.

As of August 23, 72 percent of the **corn** crop was in or beyond the dough stage, 10 days ahead of last year and 6 days ahead of the five-year average. The corn crop was rated 77 percent good to excellent, compared to 76 percent the previous week. Ninety percent of the **soybean** crop had begun setting pods, 4 days ahead of last year and 2 days ahead of the five-year average. Seventy-seven percent of the soybean crop was rated good to excellent, 1 percentage point higher than the previous week. Eleven percent of the **oat** crop was harvested during the week, bringing the total to 87 percent harvested, 24 days ahead of last year and 4 days ahead of the five-year average. Thirty-four percent of **potatoes** had been harvested statewide. Potato condition was rated 91 percent good to excellent, the same as last week. Ninety-seven percent of **winter wheat** had been harvested.

Pasture condition was rated 58 percent good to excellent, down 1 percentage point from last week. The **third cutting of alfalfa** was 87 percent harvested, while the **fourth cutting of alfalfa** was 17 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, the same as last week.

A reporter in Barron County reported that heavy rains slowed **snap bean** harvest, while a reporter in Chippewa County noted that harvest was beginning for early varieties of **apples**.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of August 23, 2015

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Corn.....	1	5	17	52	25
Hay, All.....	1	5	18	53	23
Pasture & Range..	4	12	26	43	15
Potatoes.....	1	2	6	71	20
Soybeans.....	2	5	16	53	24

Wisconsin Crop Progress as of August 23, 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.....	82	64	89	88	87	91	93	92	74	87	78	66	74
Alfalfa hay, fourth cutting.....	11	5	18	21	19	15	16	27	7	17	8	8	12
Corn in or beyond dough stage	62	49	50	69	84	71	78	88	53	72	52	51	60
Corn in or beyond dent stage..	20	12	9	16	27	19	17	24	29	20	5	9	19
Oats harvested.....	82	74	61	98	90	89	96	99	97	87	76	63	82
Potatoes harvested.....	15	56	75	83	21	n.a.	32	26	n.a.	34	30	5	n.a.
Soybeans blooming.....	94	97	99	90	99	96	100	98	97	96	94	96	97
Soybeans setting pods.....	85	86	93	80	97	90	97	94	91	90	83	87	87
Soybeans coloring.....	7	2	5	6	5	2	7	3	9	5	3	3	4
Winter Wheat harvested.....	83	89	92	100	96	97	100	100	99	97	93	93	n.a.

n.a.=not available

Days Suitable for Fieldwork and Soil Moisture Conditions as of August 23, 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	3.5	3.6	3.2	4.0	4.8	4.8	5.4	4.8	4.2	4.4	6.1	4.2
	Percent									Percent		
Topsoil Moisture												
Very Short.....	0	0	7	1	1	7	15	18	2	7	10	3
Short.....	2	4	17	12	14	38	26	35	29	22	31	19
Adequate.....	80	95	67	80	80	48	33	44	68	62	55	73
Surplus.....	18	1	9	7	5	7	26	3	1	9	4	5
Subsoil Moisture												
Very Short.....	0	0	7	1	2	8	12	13	2	6	6	4
Short.....	4	5	17	11	18	41	32	38	40	25	30	25
Adequate.....	88	95	75	83	71	49	56	46	57	66	62	67
Surplus.....	8	0	1	5	9	2	0	3	1	3	2	4

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.

BARRON-L.H.: Crops are thriving with all the rainfall in the county.

RUSK-G.P.: The weather is taking a turn to fall with cooler temps moving in. Rains through the week slowed field work, but brought soil moistures back up a bit. Corn and beans looking good but, with the cooler temps and September 1st just around the corner, growers are concerned about the crop reaching maturity. Oats are mostly off, yields from 40 to 110 bushels per acre. Did some spraying for soybean aphids, but the combo of rain and a maturing crop have put an end to that. Some color already showing up in the trees.

WASHBURN-P.H.: Over 4 inches of rain during the week made it tough to harvest small grains or hay. Oat and winter rye yields have been good. Corn, soybeans and alfalfa look great.

PRICE-D.E.: Cold wet weather this past week once again hampered harvesting. Corn is a long way from mature at this point. Small grains look good but some lodged badly with strong winds. Hay yields are average to above average with good quality hay.

LANGLADE-A.K.: Rainy week, much needed, gave corn and soybeans a boost. Remaining oats still in field are down flat.

BUFFALO-S.M.: Got some needed rain and it's cooling off quickly.

EAU CLAIRE-M.H.: Very damp and cool week. No hay harvested to speak of. The small grains are all harvested with a little straw to bale. The corn and bean crops are all looking good. All that is remaining for a very good crop is some more warm weather and no early freeze.

PIERCE-G.A.: Recent rains this week of 2-4 inches will likely make this year's yield potential for corn and soybeans as high or higher than yields over the past 10 years. We have seen some white mold outbreaks in soybeans and some soybean fields had aphid numbers climb to threshold.

PORTAGE-J.B.: Three inches of rain last week set us up for fall. Moisture is good. Our heat is gone though and we have a cool start for fall!

DOOR-T.S.: Snap beans look excellent.

SHEBOYGAN-M.B.: The rains this past week were very beneficial. All in all, the crop condition is very good.

VERNON-K.L.: The County received 1 to 1.5 inches of badly needed rain. Crops were showing signs of stress due to dry conditions.

DODGE-R.J.: Most of the county at least received some needed rainfall. On average crops are on schedule and looking well.

KENOSHA-R.R.: Spraying for spider mites in the soybeans; need rain.

Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on August 23, 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. 22	Mar. 1 to Aug. 22 normal*	Last Week	Since Jun. 1	Jun. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	75	59	86	48	67	-2	2107	1950	2.83	17.87	+6.49	27.32	+5.64
Green Bay	79	61	88	49	70	+3	2065	1813	1.60	8.70	-0.75	15.66	-3.43
La Crosse	79	62	92	54	71	-1	2525	2183	0.42	8.49	-2.86	21.09	-1.11
Madison	79	61	88	50	70	+1	2286	2121	1.89	10.43	-0.54	21.15	-1.11
Milwaukee	81	64	90	55	72	+1	1992	n.a.	0.88	6.63	-3.26	16.84	-5.91

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/>