



# Wisconsin Crop Progress & Condition



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Cooperating with Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

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For the week ending August 30, 2015  
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## Chilly Week Foreshadows Fall

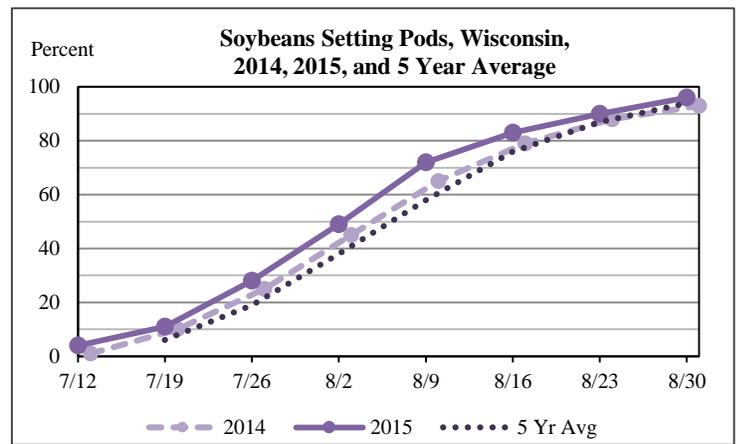
There were 5.0 **days suitable for fieldwork** during the week ending August 30, 2015, according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Temperatures were below normal across the state this week, with overnight lows falling into the low 50s and upper 40s. Cool, clear days helped farmers wrap up their small grains harvests but the lack of heat reportedly slowed development of corn and soybeans. Soaking rains fell across southern and central Wisconsin late in the week, which helped to alleviate dry conditions there. The weekend saw temperatures climb toward more seasonal levels. Reporters noted that additional heat is needed to mature corn and soybeans for harvest.

Topsoil moistures ended the week with 21 percent short to very short on average compared to 29 percent the previous week. Subsoil moistures were 26 percent short to very short compared to 31 percent last week.

As of August 30, 40 percent of the **corn** crop was in or beyond the dented stage, 8 days ahead of last year and 2 days ahead of the five-year average. The corn crop was rated 77 percent good to excellent. There were a few reports of corn being harvested for silage. Ten percent of the **soybean** crop had begun turning color, 2 days ahead of last year but 2 days behind the five-year average. Seventy-nine percent of the soybean crop was rated good to excellent, 2 percentage points higher than the previous week. Ninety-two percent of the **oat** crop had been harvested, over 3 weeks ahead of last year and 4 days ahead of the five-year average. Thirty-nine percent of **potatoes** had been harvested statewide, just over 2 weeks ahead of last year. Potato condition was rated 91 percent good to excellent, the same as last week.

**Pasture** condition was rated 59 percent good to excellent, up 1 percentage point from last week. The **third cutting of alfalfa** was 92 percent harvested, while the **fourth cutting of alfalfa** was 30 percent harvested. This haying season continues at the second fastest pace in more than 35 years, trailing only 2012. **All hay condition** was 77 percent in good to excellent condition, one percentage point up from last week.

A reporter in Sawyer County reported that the **cranberry** crop is turning color. A reporter in Fond Du Lac reported that **apples** and **pears** were ripening well. Several reporters throughout the state reported animal damage to crops.



## Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of August 30, 2015

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Corn.....	1	5	17	51	26
Hay, All.....	1	5	17	55	22
Pasture & Range..	4	12	25	45	14
Potatoes.....	1	2	6	71	20
Soybeans.....	1	5	15	53	26

## Wisconsin Crop Progress as of August 30, 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.....	87	81	92	94	93	95	96	94	87	92	87	77	84
Alfalfa hay, fourth cutting.....	32	13	29	36	32	31	26	43	15	30	17	14	24
Corn in or beyond dough stage	77	61	65	85	93	85	84	96	80	84	72	68	75
Corn in or beyond dent stage..	45	20	17	38	48	41	36	45	50	40	20	21	37
Oats harvested.....	88	80	78	99	95	93	100	100	98	92	87	72	89
Potatoes harvested.....	28	57	76	90	26	n.a.	35	30	n.a.	39	34	11	n.a.
Soybeans setting pods.....	96	89	98	95	98	94	99	98	94	96	90	92	94
Soybeans coloring.....	10	4	8	10	9	5	15	9	14	10	5	8	13

n.a.=not available

## Days Suitable for Fieldwork and Soil Moisture Conditions as of August 30, 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	5.0	3.8	4.3	5.3	5.2	5.1	4.8	5.4	5.1	5.0	4.4	3.5
	Percent									Percent		
Topsoil Moisture												
Very Short.....	0	0	7	1	0	0	4	15	2	4	7	1
Short.....	3	7	17	10	15	23	16	28	25	17	22	11
Adequate.....	85	92	70	83	81	70	52	53	72	70	62	78
Surplus.....	12	1	6	6	4	7	28	4	1	9	9	10
Subsoil Moisture												
Very Short.....	0	0	8	1	1	3	9	12	2	5	6	1
Short.....	5	8	16	11	14	31	28	36	28	21	25	16
Adequate.....	87	92	75	84	82	64	63	49	69	71	66	77
Surplus.....	8	0	1	4	3	2	0	3	1	3	3	6

# 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.

**BAYFIELD-C.B.:** More rains again this week. Some fieldwork still getting done between the rains. Pastures are holding up well for this time of the year.

**SAWYER-K.S.:** Nice stretch of weather last week allowed farmers to continue with small grain and straw harvest. Overall, crops are still looking very nice. A little more heat and good fall harvest weather should set us up for above average or near record yields. Cranberry crop is turning color; yields are expected to be about normal.

**CLARK-A.K.:** It still is dry. The hay is mostly standing still. It sounds like this next week will be a good time to make dry hay. Most of the oats and wheat fields yielded very well with plenty of straw. Corn is starting to dent. Soybeans are doing well but there are some weed escapes. Corn silage is not far off.

**VILAS-R.K.:** Potato harvest will start next week.

**SHAWANO-B.R.:** We are not lacking for moisture and will soon have issues in the corn fields that need to be chopped if we get any more rain. This will be good for any alfalfa that was seeded lately. Corn is starting to dent and a few leaves on the bottom of the soybean plants are turning color. It has been an ideal summer for the livestock.

**ST CROIX-D.K.:** Crops are maturing well. Some warmer weather this week will bring corn silage up soon.

**JUNEAU-J.W.:** 1.5-2.0+ inches of rain received over the weekend was very welcome. It was a nice soaking rain and should get the crops through the next couple weeks and close to harvest. Silage should start coming off in a couple weeks. I heard from a couple of producers that the soybeans look great but when you start looking at the plant the pods are really spaced out so there aren't a lot of beans present. Yields could be disappointing.

**WAUPACA-D.L.H.:** Cool damp weather has slowed hay harvest this past week. Warmer weather forecast for next week will push maturity of corn and soybeans. Overall, crops are looking the best in many years for late August.

**FOND DU LAC-B.B.:** A very chilly week with an average high/low of 69.8/54.0 did little by way of soybean pod fill. Perfectly paced 1 inch of rainfall did lead to improvement in the soil moisture profile. Barn swallows flew south for the winter mid-week. Apples and pears are ripening well. Seeing too much Oak Blight in these parts!

**VERNON-K.L.:** Week started off very cool. Received a nice rain Thursday evening with totals from 0.5 up to 2.4 inches around the county. Producers reporting small spots of aphids in the soybeans. Overall crops are looking very good. Corn silage expected to start soon.

**COLUMBIA-G.K.:** Excellent rain on Friday night into Saturday morning. Got a full inch of rain over a 12 hour period. Beautiful soaking rain, should result in improved bean pod fill and corn kernel growth. Warm weather expected this week should help with that as well.

**WALWORTH-N.W.:** Corn is maturing quickly. A couple of producers starting on corn silage. Hot and humid weather in the forecast this weekend. Soybeans have not started to turn color yet probably due to the recent rains.

### Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on August 30, 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. 29	Mar. 1 to Aug. 29 normal*	Last Week	Since Jun. 1	Jun. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	70	51	76	45	61	-6	2188	2077	0.23	18.10	+5.62	27.55	+4.79
Green Bay	69	53	75	47	61	-5	2148	1938	0.56	9.26	-1.02	16.22	-3.56
La Crosse	72	56	77	51	64	-6	2624	2325	1.63	10.12	-2.07	22.72	-0.46
Madison	70	56	75	50	63	-4	2378	2261	1.84	12.27	+0.36	22.99	-0.46
Milwaukee	69	56	75	53	63	-6	2082	n.a.	0.92	7.55	-3.23	17.76	-5.92

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/>