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 dent 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 year. 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.
Selected Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

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.

VIJAS-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 was very welcome. It was a nice soaking rain and should result in improved bean pod fill and corn kernel growth. Warm weather expected this week should help with that as well.

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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Temperature</th>
<th>Precipitation</th>
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<td>Milwaukee</td>
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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°.
