Crops Maturing Quickly

There were 4.9 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending August 14th, 2016, according to the USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service. This summer’s prevailing weather pattern continued with high humidity and above normal temperatures statewide. Haying and harvest activities were interrupted by rain late in the week. There were scattered reports of heavy downpours and standing water in fields across the northern half of the state. However, southeastern Wisconsin has been missed by recent rains, and reporters there commented that crops were stressed by dry conditions. This summer’s sustained hot, humid weather and frequent precipitation have reportedly helped crops to mature quickly in most areas. Reporters noted good yields for hay, processing vegetables, and small grains.

Topsoil moisture supplies were rated 1 percent very short, 7 percent short, 82 percent adequate and 10 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies were rated 1 percent very short, 8 percent short, 84 percent adequate and 7 percent surplus.

As of August 14th, 97 percent of the state’s corn acreage was in or beyond the silking stage. Fifty-one percent of corn had reached the dough stage, 2 days ahead of last year, and 6 days ahead of the five-year average. Seven percent of corn was dented, 3 days ahead of last year, and 6 days ahead of the five-year average. Corn condition was 88 percent good to excellent.

Ninety-nine percent of the state’s soybean acreage was at or beyond the blooming stage. Ninety percent of soybeans were setting pods, 9 days ahead of last year, and 12 days ahead of the average. Two percent of soybeans had begun turning color. Soybean condition was 87 percent good to excellent.

Eleven percent of potatoes had been harvested statewide, 14 days behind last year. Potato condition was rated 91 percent good to excellent.

Oats for grain were 74 percent harvested, 2 days ahead of last year, and 5 days ahead of the average.

Ninety-Five percent of winter wheat had been harvested.

The third cutting of alfalfa was 78 percent complete. The fourth cutting was 12 percent complete. All Hay condition was rated 91 percent good to excellent.

Pasture condition was rated 76 percent good to excellent.
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-T.B.: Another week with a deluge rainfall that halted all field work. Reports varied widely, but most of the area got too much rain too fast. Hay harvest has been going well, but growers have had to time it with wet weather. All crops have been growing well and yields are expected to be very good this season.

ASHLAND/IRON-C.B.: Rain part of the week. Nice towards the end of the week. Progress made on small grain harvest and a small amount of third crop haylage put up.

SHAWANO-B.R.: A nice shot of rain this week has continued to make the crops look very good. Excellent third crop alfalfa being made. Corn is in the yellow stage with very little in the dough stage.

FOND DU LAC-B.B.: What a week it has been with more than a inch of rain to maximize soybean pod fill, however. Corn looks good at this time, very tall in areas where ponding does not affect it. This last week the rain was spotty. In one area three miles down the road 2 inches from the same cloud.

PORTAGE-GE.: Hay making early in week, followed by rain stopped just enough rain with crops looking good.

LA CROSSE-J.W.: Hay making early in week, then rain stopped getting dry and crops are beginning to show signs of stress.

SHEBOYGAN-GE.: Just enough rain with another inch of rain to maximize soybean pod fill, however.

CRAWFORD-J.B.: Corn and soybeans doing very well. Pastures are holding up pretty well. Weather hasn't been very good for cutting hay to be harvested as "dry" hay. Vegetable crops in the county seem to be doing very well although the wet weather has affected harvesting activity. Some apple orchards throughout the county will be opening for business in the next week or so.

DODGE-R.J.: Growing conditions have been excellent. Crops are definitely ahead of normal.

WALWORTH-N.W.: Some of the areas of the county are in severe drought with some thinking they will start to chop corn as it is drying up. Other areas have been getting just enough rain with crops looking good.

OZAUKEE-G.S.: We could use some moisture in the area, it is getting dry and crops are beginning to show signs of stress.

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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on August 14, 2016

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Temperature</th>
<th>Precipitation</th>
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<td>Avg. min.</td>
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1/ Formula used: \[ \text{GDD} = (\text{daily maximum (86\degree F)} + \text{daily minimum (50\degree F)})/2-50\degree \], where 86\degree F is used if the maximum exceeds 86\degree F and 50\degree F is used if the minimum falls below 50\degree F.