Varied Crop Conditions

There were 4.6 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending July 9, 2017, according to the USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service. Temperatures were close to average this week, with daytime highs in the 80s and 90s. However, scattered showers and thunderstorms kept fields from drying out in some areas. Reporters noted that crops on higher ground and lighter soils improved with the week’s heat, while crops on low ground and heavy soils were showing signs of stress. Reporters attributed crop stress to late plantings, prevented spraying, moisture stress, and emerging crop disease, along with scattered reports of hail damage in some areas of the state. Some farmers were still struggling to get into fields for their first cutting of hay while others have finished the second cutting. A few producers experienced a long enough window of clear weather to bale dry hay this week, while others noted that cut hay was still lying in wet fields.

Topsoil moisture supplies were rated 0 percent very short, 2 percent short, 75 percent adequate and 23 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies were rated 0 percent very short, 1 percent short, 77 percent adequate and 22 percent surplus.

Corn condition was 69 percent good to excellent, 2 percentage points below last week.

Twenty-two percent of the state’s soybeans have bloomed, 7 days behind last year, but 1 day ahead of average. Soybean condition was 74 percent good to excellent, 1 percentage point below last week.

Oats headed was reported at 85 percent, 7 days behind last year, and 2 days behind the average. Oats turning color was reported at 88 percent complete, 6 days behind last year. Oats condition was 78 percent good to excellent, same as last week.

Potato harvest is just getting underway in some areas. Potato condition was rated 79 good to excellent, 4 percentage points above last week.

Pasture condition was 79 percent good to excellent, 1 percentage point above last week.

Winter wheat coloring was reported at 80 percent, 5 days behind last year. Winter wheat was 78 percent in good to excellent condition statewide, 3 percentage points above last week.

The second cutting of alfalfa was reported as 54 percent complete, 8 days behind last year, but 1 day ahead of the average. Third cutting has started in some areas. All hay condition was reported 78 percent good to excellent, 1 percentage points above last week.
Wisconsin Crop Progress

Selected Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BARRON-T.B.: Field operations again slowed by sporadic rain events. Localized downpours brought hay making to a halt for some and barely slowed others. Most everyone has given up on trying to replant flooded corn or soybeans. Some diseases showing up in small grains, expecting issues in some unprotected soybean fields. Hay making continues but it’s been difficult to find hay that has not been rained on. Local snap bean harvesting began this week. Pastures recovering quickly from grazing events, but hoof compaction taking its toll.

CHIPPEWA-T.P.: Corn is beginning to canopy in most fields. Can see brace root development starting. Most soybeans have received herbicide applications. Growth is starting to progress nicely with the warmer weather. Small grains/peas nurse crops are being harvested along with some second crop alfalfa. Leafhoppers are exceeding thresholds on some new seedings.

LINCOLN/MARATHON-D.E.: Continued almost daily rains and below average temperatures are taking their toll on many crops, but especially corn, ginseng and potatoes. Getting in dry hay is almost impossible in heavier soils. Spraying attempts have resulted in severely rutted fields in low areas. On higher ground and lighter soils, crops are starting to look much better.

FLORENCE/FOREST-T.B.: Still struggling to get first crop hay in. Rain events preventing enough drying time.

LA CROSSE-I.H.: Hail in some areas did a little damage to corn and beans. Some farmers spraying beans this week, others are looking to start second cutting hay.

ADAMS/JUNEAU-J.W.: It appears this will be an all or nothing year. The crops that got sprayed and fertilized timely were able to take advantage of the warm temperatures, high humidity, and rain that we received last week. Corn probably grew two feet, is close to 6 feet tall, and really looks good. However the low areas that were too wet are either completely failed, are yellow, and may only be ankle high because they were replanted, or are full of weeds because they couldn't be sprayed. Soybeans are the same situation. I've talked to one producer that still has not been able to make first crop hay and some were still trying to get some crops planted last week. Pastures and hay seem to be doing well but the problem has been the ability to harvest the hay or graze the pastures because they are too wet and producers don't want to destroy the fields or pasture.

MARQUETTE/WAUSHARA-D.B.: Excessive rain and hail Thursday night affected an area of the counties. Unsure of total acres affected at this time. Severe damage to acres hit.

DOOR/KEWANEE-T.S.: Snap bean planting went well.

VERNON-K.L.: A few days of hot, humid weather and the corn and soybeans are looking much better. Farmers finishing up with first crop hay and a few others working on second crop. Numerous farmers talking about seeding in August since they were unable to get their oats and alfalfa seeding done during the wet spring.

DODGE-R.H.: Need consecutive days of sunshine to make hay.

WALWORTH-N.W.: Spotty thunderstorms and hail this last week have left some areas flooded and a few fields shredded from the hail. Rainfall has come in buckets this spring and summer making everything a challenge.

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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on July 9, 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Temperature</th>
<th>Growing degree days (modified base 50)</th>
<th>Precipitation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Avg. max.</td>
<td>Avg. min.</td>
<td>High max.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eau Claire</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>59</td>
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<td>58</td>
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<td>Milwaukee</td>
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<td>62</td>
<td>91</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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°.


For more weather data, please reference the following sites:
- http://www.nws.gov/
- http://www.nws.noaa.gov/ncw/
- http://www.ccccli.com/