Crops Soak in the Heat

There were 5.3 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending July 1, 2018, according to the USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service. Clear, sunny conditions started off this week, allowing farmers to make good progress with haying and spraying. Hot and humid weather moved into the state by the weekend, with temperatures climbing into the 90s. Later in the week there were scattered thunderstorms across the southern third of the state and a few reports of crop damage from high winds. Some reporters in the South Central and Southeastern districts noted standing water was causing corn to yellow in low spots. Crops grew rapidly in response to the heat and abundant moisture. Several reporters noted good results from recent weed control and nitrogen applications. There were some reports of heat stress to crops and livestock, particularly in northern portions of the state where more rain is needed.

**Topsoil moisture** supplies were rated 0 percent very short, 7 percent short, 84 percent adequate and 9 percent surplus. **Subsoil moisture** supplies were rated 0 percent very short, 5 percent short, 86 percent adequate and 9 percent surplus.

**Corn** condition was 84 percent good to excellent, 3 percentage points below last week. There were a few reports of corn in the silking stage.

Ninety-seven percent of the state’s **soybeans** have emerged, the same as last year and 2 days ahead of the 5-year average. Thirteen percent of soybeans have bloomed, 3 days ahead of last year and 4 days ahead of the average. Soybean condition was 83 percent good to excellent.

**Oats** headed was reported at 68 percent, 1 day ahead of last year and even with the average. Oats turning color was reported at 16 percent, 1 day ahead of last year. Oat condition was 88 percent good to excellent.

**Potato** condition was 80 percent good to excellent, 2 points below last week.

**Winter wheat** was 93 percent headed, 6 days behind last year. Winter wheat coloring was reported at 50 percent, 3 days behind last year. Winter wheat condition was 83 percent good to excellent.

The first cutting of **alfalfa** was reported as 96 percent complete, 4 days behind last year, but 4 days ahead of the average. The second cutting was 55 percent complete, 2 days ahead of last year and 4 days ahead of the average. All hay condition was reported 84 percent in good to excellent condition, 2 points above last week.

**Pasture** condition was rated 85 percent in good to excellent condition, compared to 83 percent in good to excellent condition last week.

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**Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of July 1, 2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Very Poor (percent)</th>
<th>Poor (percent)</th>
<th>Fair (percent)</th>
<th>Good (percent)</th>
<th>Excellent (percent)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Corn</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hay, All</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oats</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pasture &amp; Range</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Potatoes</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soybeans</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter Wheat</td>
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<td>25</td>
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**Wisconsin Crop Progress**

**BARRON-T.B.:** Lots of hay making happened this week. Fields were getting dry and could use some rain. Weedy crop fields are turning around as herbicide applications taking effect. Lots of interest in tissue and soil nitrate testing as growers wrestle with decisions to side dress nitrogen sources on corn.

**SAWYER-K.S.:** In general crops are all looking pretty good. More rain fell over the weekend to provide some needed moisture after several hot, dry days. Lake, river and stream levels are still high with some wet areas in fields. The big rains fell more to the north.

**LINCOLN/MARATHON-D.E.:** There was a lot of complaining about hot weather but the crops loved it. Timely rains also were welcomed. There were reports of high winds in some areas with some structural damage, but crops, for the most part, were unharmed. Ginseng gardens reported some wind effects on the crop.

**MARINETTE-L.B.:** The crops look good but really need rain.

**TREMPEALEAU-L.N.:** Heat and humidity have really helped the corn progress. Lots of uneven corn out there yet, some places beautiful and "person high by the 4th of July." Rain has been spotty in the county with intense rains in some places and just a half inch in others, but it all helps. Rain makes corn and so is very important when it’s tasseling.

**WOOD-M.L.:** After last week’s rains we now have yellow corn in patterns in the fields.

**WAUPACA/OUTAGAMIE-D.L.H.:** Crops have pretty much recovered from the stress of heavy rains in mid-June. Some weedy fields that were too wet for herbicide application have been sprayed and look better.

**KEWAUNEE-T.S.:** The warmth and humidity of the past week has really given the crops a boost. The corn in many places is already more than knee high, with the soybeans reaching about 7 to 8 inches in height. Herbicide spraying is beginning to be done on the bean crop and some side dress nitrogen is being applied to corn at the present time. In another week, with the good growing conditions, crops could be at a height where they would be damaged if any kind of fertilizer or herbicide application takes place. Some second crop alfalfa is being harvested now, but this coming week will see a lot of it come off. The weather so far this summer has been favorable for making dry hay. For the most part, the second crop won’t be as heavy as the first crop was, but there will still be a lot of it to store away. The winter wheat and the oat crops are both nearly fully headed out. The wheat and oats should be ready to come off the field about the middle of August. And for those producers harvesting oats and peas as a forage, this crop will be ready to chop in a couple of weeks. More moisture will always be needed, especially if temperatures stay in the 80s to low 90s.

**VERNON-K.L.:** Hot and humid this week. Farmers finishing up with spraying. Crops look good. The county received 1-2 inches of rain at the end of the week. With the rain came some high winds; no evidence of damage to crops at this point. Corn is really looking good.

**DANE-F.P.:** The hot, dry weather during the past week resulted in most of the alfalfa haylage being harvested. Corn is shoulder high in a lot of fields on the 1st of July. Winter wheat is turning color.

**DODGE-R.H.:** Too much rain.

**WASHINGTON/FOND DU LAC-B.B.:** Accumulated degree days at Jackson, Washington County March 1st through June 30 Base 50 totaled to 990dd. Soil moisture is growing short with all the heat and wind in the last three days. Crops are still growing with some stress only showing up on the thinnest of soils. It was a productive week in the fields with herbicide and fertilizer applications and second crop hay harvest.

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**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.

**Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on July 1, 2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Temperature (degrees F)</th>
<th>Growing degree days (modified base 50)</th>
<th>Precipitation (inches)</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Avg. max.</td>
<td>Avg. min.</td>
<td>High max.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eau Claire</td>
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<tr>
<td>Milwaukee</td>
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<td>65</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Notes:
- **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.gov)
- [http://www.aos.wisc.edu/~sco/](http://www.aos.wisc.edu/~sco/)

This report has been made possible through the cooperative efforts of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection, and the National Weather Service.