



Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

August 11, 2003

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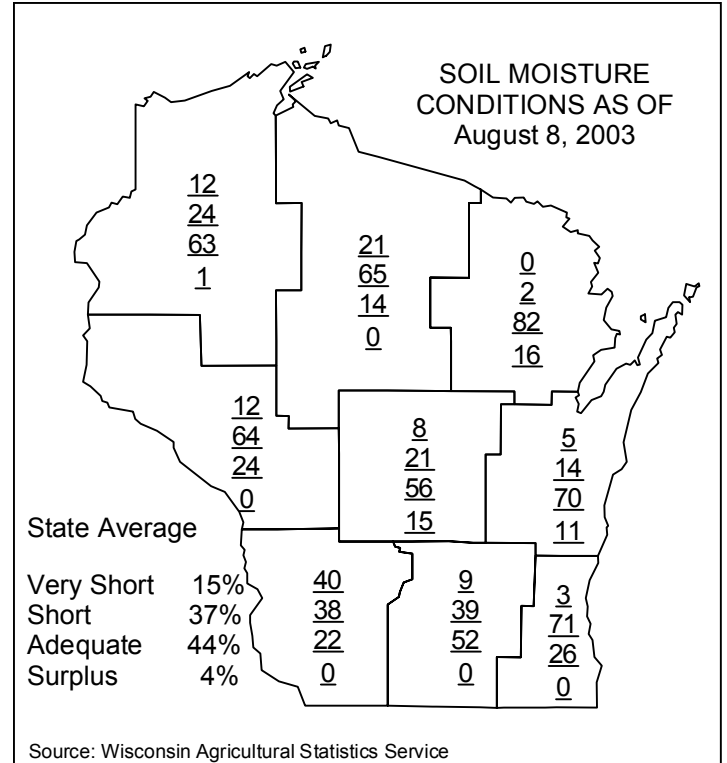
Dry Conditions Continue to be the Big Story

The first full week of August brought spotty rains for Wisconsin farmers. Rainfall amounts were extremely varied across the state. Large areas of the state received little or no rains for the week, while scattered areas had beneficial showers. The eastern half of the state had the more significant rains. The rains have helped stressed crops, but most producers are still waiting for that "good soaker." Soil moisture conditions for the state averaged 15% very short, 37% short, 44% adequate, and 4% surplus. The 52% in the short to very short range is 5 percentage points higher than last week. There was an average of 5.4 days suitable for fieldwork for the week. Pastures began to show more stress and producers are supplementing hay in some areas. Pasture feed conditions were lower again this week at 13% very poor, 24% poor, 39% fair, 22% good, and 2% excellent.

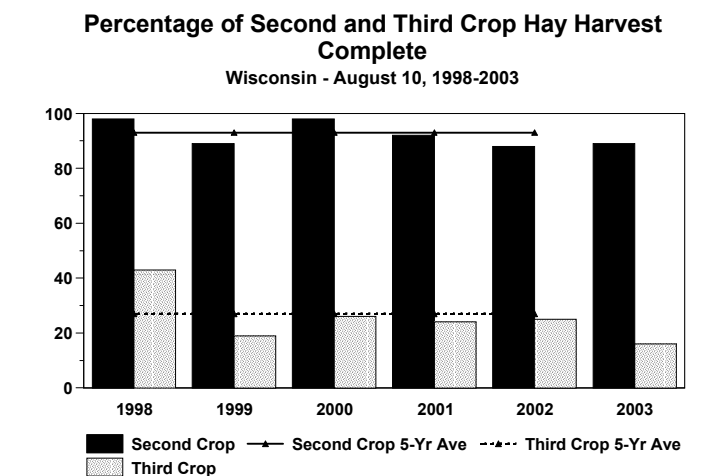
Reports from around the state for the **corn** crop are extremely varied, not only statewide, but locally. The last month brought only scattered rains; very few rains covered large areas. The crop is 81% silked, compared to 88% last year and a 5-year average of 91% silked. Precipitation for the pollination and dough stage would really jump start the crop. **Soybean** condition at week's end was rated at 2% very poor, 5% poor, 18% fair, 55% good, and 20% excellent. Some fields are reported to be shorter than normal due to lack of precipitation.

Second crop **hay** harvest advanced to 89% complete, ahead of the 88% last year, but behind the 93% complete for the 5-year average. Quantity of hay harvested has suffered due to lack of moisture. This has also hampered regrowth of third crop hay. **Winter wheat** harvest reached 67% complete. This remains behind both the 88% last year and the 92% 5-year average. Yields are reported to be good to above average. **Oat** harvest at 42% complete, is also behind last year's 61% and the 5-year average of 66% complete. The crop is also yielding good to above average.

Early **potato** harvest has begun across the state. **Cucumber** and vegetable crop harvesting are in full swing in Waushara County. **Sweet corn** is available over most of the state at roadside stands. Dane County saw some activity in early **tobacco** harvest.



| Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of August 8, 2003 | | | | | |
|--|-----------|------|------|------|-----------|
| Item | Very poor | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent |
| | Percent | | | | |
| Pasture | 13 | 24 | 39 | 22 | 2 |
| Oat | 0 | 6 | 25 | 54 | 15 |
| Corn | 3 | 7 | 22 | 51 | 17 |
| Soybeans | 2 | 5 | 18 | 55 | 20 |



Wisconsin Crop Progress, August 10, 2003

| Crop and percent of acreage | District average | | | | | | | | | State average | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---------------|-----------|----------------|
| | NW | NC | NE | WC | C | EC | SW | SC | SE | This year | Last year | 5-year average |
| Winter wheat harvested | 26 | 40 | 31 | 56 | 67 | 55 | 95 | 92 | 85 | 67 | 88 | 92 |
| Oats harvested | 22 | 15 | 29 | 38 | 50 | 38 | 65 | 60 | 50 | 42 | 61 | 66 |
| Corn silked | 79 | 73 | 73 | 84 | 85 | 75 | 85 | 92 | 92 | 81 | 88 | 91 |
| Corn in dough stage | 5 | 5 | 7 | 17 | 11 | 8 | 25 | 15 | 15 | 13 | 23 | 26 |
| Soybeans blooming | 85 | 70 | 76 | 78 | 70 | 80 | 90 | 93 | 98 | 86 | 93 | 89 |
| Soybeans setting pods | 44 | 35 | 40 | 34 | 37 | 46 | 73 | 68 | 60 | 56 | 58 | 56 |
| Second cutting hay | 83 | 75 | 86 | 95 | 91 | 88 | 93 | 96 | 95 | 89 | 88 | 93 |
| Third cutting hay | 7 | 5 | 7 | 21 | 13 | 10 | 26 | 31 | 16 | 16 | 25 | 27 |

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

CHIPPEWA-C.M.: Third crop alfalfa is not growing due to lack of moisture.

LINCOLN-F.O.: First and second crop hay yields are below normal. Some farmers are buying hay. Barley has good heads. Corn is tasseling. Late-planted soybeans are not growing due to lack of rain.

MARATHON-M.K.: Crops need lots of rain. Second crop hay was poor. Direct seeding crop was not good to poor, and very short on feed.

MARINETTE-S.R.: Six straight days with some rain have decreased Leafhopper and Aphid problems. Rain has hopefully set crops up well for moisture needs for the rest of the year.

SHAWANO-B.R.: Rains came in a great deal of variation. Hail did some damage to a few corn, soybean, and grain fields. Second crop hay is difficult to make for those that are not done. Third crop alfalfa is growing like crazy. Small grains are ready to harvest for the most part; but not enough dry weather to accomplish this.

EAU CLAIRE-R.S.: Second crop hay is very short; just too dry, and third crop alfalfa has had a very slow start. Need soaking rain for pastures.

PEPIN-H.R.: Some third crop alfalfa was cut, but short. Most all second crop hay is done. Bugs are in third crop alfalfa and needs spraying again. Some corn on sandy soils is not irrigated; getting burned up. Soybeans are looking good. Small grains are getting good yields and some good test weights.

PORTAGE-J.W.: Sweet corn harvest has started. Potato and snapbean harvest continues.

WAUSHARA-A.S.: Crops on the sandy soil in central part of the county are very spotty. Rain has been tough to come by in any amount. Irrigated crops look good.

MANITOWOC-H.W.: Third crop alfalfa is growing fast now with the moisture. Some grass starting in some wheat fields. No combining yet.

SHEBOYGAN-T.J.: With substantial rain this last week, third crop alfalfa has really taken off. Most of this was sprayed for Leafhoppers before the rain. Wheat and oats are all ready for harvest, and will come off as soon as the weather permits.

IOWA-K.V.: Rain has been real "hit and miss." Some corn and soybeans look good, some corn is dying. Winter wheat yields averaged about 75 bushels per acre. Soybean Aphid population is

decreasing.

RICHLAND-S.K.: Third crop hay is progressing and the quality and quantity looks very good, but lack of rain has slowed down the next crop. The corn crop still looks very good, but our rains have been spotty. Some fields are starting to show stress from lack of rain. The soybean crop looks very good also, but again, lack of rain is having an affect on certain fields. Our pastures are showing the signs of late summer, and are for the most part, poor.

DODGE-J.F.: Wheat yields were much better than average; 90-plus bushels per acre. Harvest is almost complete. Soybean Aphid pressure is very heavy, but getting too late to treat now.

JEFFERSON-B.K.: Spotty rains produced 0.5 to 3.5 inches of rain in last week. Crops suffering where rains missed with yield losses occurring. Majority of beans sprayed for Aphids, counts over 1,000 per plant. Wheat yields were 70-110 bushels per acre, oats from 70-130 bushels per acre, with test weights of 32-38 pounds.

WALWORTH-EP.: Heavy rain on Saturday afternoon. Most wheat is out. Some oats are left. Corn is all silked out. Soybeans are podding.

WASHINGTON-L.K.: Corn is spotty; parts of the field are very good, and other parts are two feet tall and look terrible. Corn Rootworms are taking their toll this week. Corn leaves have not closed due to the extended dry weather which gave the weeds below a boost. Soybean Aphid numbers are all over. Soybeans are very short and blooming, while others are hip-high. Wheat yields are good, some approaching 90 bushels per acre. The range has been 60-90 bushels per acre. After needing to run it through the drier, most wheat has been between 16-22% moisture. Test weights have been between 59-63 pounds per bushel. Oats have been harvested in some fields, and even some old time threshing has taken place.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on August 10, 2003

| 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. 9 | Mar. 1 to Aug. 9 normal * | Last week | Since June 1 | June 1 dep. from normal* | Year to date |
| Eau Claire | 83 | 57 | 86 | 53 | 70 | -1 | 1848 | 1712 | 0.14 | 6.77 | -2.63 | 17.65 |
| Green Bay | 78 | 60 | 84 | 57 | 69 | 0 | 1516 | 1585 | 1.13 | 10.56 | 2.68 | 19.58 |
| La Crosse | 84 | 61 | 87 | 58 | 73 | 0 | 2013 | 1915 | 0.66 | 5.67 | -3.77 | 15.69 |
| Madison | 80 | 58 | 85 | 53 | 69 | -2 | 1766 | 1863 | 0.10 | 6.52 | -2.66 | 15.76 |
| Milwaukee | 76 | 64 | 80 | 61 | 70 | -2 | 1560 | n.a. | 0.41 | 4.39 | -3.89 | 13.08 |

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 1961-90 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>>. N.a. = not available. T = trace.