



Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

August 18, 2003

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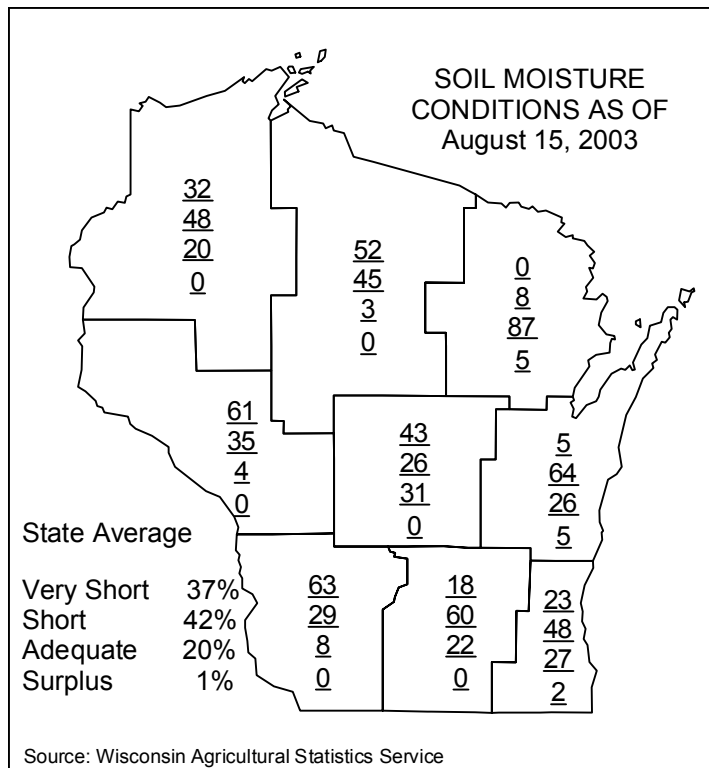
Another Very Dry Week

Continued lack of rain is really becoming an issue for Wisconsin agriculture. The week brought little to no rain, adding to existing dry conditions. Temperatures were 2-5 degrees above normal for the week. The hot, dry conditions stressed crops, statewide. Soil moisture conditions declined drastically. Statewide conditions were rated as 37% very short, 42% short, 20% adequate, and 1% surplus. The dry weather allowed for an average of 6.8 days suitable for fieldwork for the week. Pastures feed conditions declined to 24% very poor, 34% poor, 29% fair, 12% good, and 1% excellent. Many areas are now supplementing pasture with already reduced hay supplies. The continued dry conditions are coinciding with crucial corn and soybean crop development.

The **corn** crop is showing stress in many areas due to lack of rain during pollination and ear filling. Some areas have begun to chop silage due to poor development. Corn plants are drying from the ground up towards the ears. Corn crop condition was rated as 6% very poor, 12% poor, 27% fair, 42% good, and 13% excellent. **Soybeans** were also stressed during pod development and seed-filling stages. Later-planted soybeans were reported to be showing the most stress. Statewide, soybean condition was ranked as 3% very poor, 9% poor, 31% fair, 42% good, and 15% excellent.

The dry weather made for good harvest conditions for the third crop **hay**. Quality has been reported as very good, but quantity suffered from lack of moisture and insect predation. The third crop harvest was 38% complete, compared to last year's 44% and the 5-year average of 41%. Small grain harvest continued in many areas. Yields and test weights are reported as very good. **Winter wheat** harvest reached 87% complete, slightly behind both the 95% for last year, and the 98% for the 5-year average. **Oat** harvest jumped to 78% complete, up from last week's 42%.

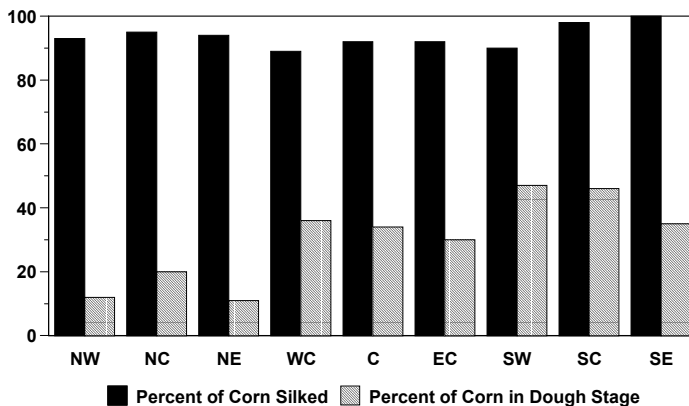
Sweet corn harvest for canning is in full swing across Wisconsin. Vegetable crop harvesting is moving quickly with the good harvest conditions. **Potato** harvest continued in the Central Sands. **Tobacco** harvest advanced with the dry weather. Late season vegetable crops would all benefit from needed precipitation.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of August 15, 2003

Item	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Pasture	24	34	29	12	1
Corn	6	12	27	42	13
Soybeans	3	9	31	42	15

Percentage of Corn Silked and in Dough Stage Wisconsin by District - August 17, 2003



Wisconsin Crop Progress, August 17, 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	73	85	82	87	91	85	99	95	97	87	95	98
Oats harvested	65	69	66	80	77	73	90	81	83	78	83	82
Corn silked	93	95	94	89	92	92	90	98	100	93	94	97
Corn in dough stage	12	20	11	36	34	30	47	46	35	35	42	43
Soybeans setting pods	77	72	77	79	77	74	91	82	92	83	82	72
Third cutting hay	30	30	20	42	32	30	55	54	40	38	44	41

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BARRON-R.C.: The heat and dry weather is taking a toll on the corn and soybean crops. Corn and soybeans on lighter soils have fired, with some acres to the point of no return. There is little doubt that yields are being affected everyday that it does not rain. With no rain forecasted until mid-week, many more acres of each crop will be hurt or destroyed. On the bright side, it has been easy for folks to get hay up; however, regrowth is nill, and spots in the fields have turned brown.

WASHBURN-K.S.: Continued dry weather has been ideal for putting up hay and harvesting of small grains; however, it is starting to adversely effect corn and soybean growth.

MARATHON-M.K.: There is no third crop hay to cut. Corn is late and needs rain.

LANGLADE-A.K.: Third crop alfalfa will be our best crop for quality and maybe even quantity. Rain two weeks ago have all the crops looking good.

SHAWANO-T.A.: Crops are moving pretty well with weather. Hay yields have been very uneven. Timely rains should make the corn silage crop.

MONROE-W.D.: This past week has been great for oats and hay harvest. Most of the oats were up and easy to combine; yields were in the 40-60 bushels per acre. New seeding looked good, but needs a good drink. Most fields were combined high to avoid burn down of the alfalfa. Most crops look green, except on light soils. In between, or down at ground level, the dryness is very obvious. Corn and soybeans are at a critical stage.

TREMPEALEAU-J.Z.: Third crop hay is going to have good quality, the problem is whether or not there is enough there to cut. Crops on lighter soils are burning up. Irrigation systems having a difficult time keeping up. Some harvesting of corn silage started, with no ears on stalks.

WAUPACA-D.H.: Third crop hay is growing fast from all the recent rains; mature enough for harvest. Nearly impossible for making dry hay due to very heavy dew each day and some cloudy days. Too many Leafhoppers. Soybeans look great. Wheat and oat yields are excellent.

WAUSHARA-L.K.: Corn and soybeans are starting to dry up in areas that did not get showers in nearly a month, except the farms with irrigation. Corn is still about a week behind normal growth.

FOND DU LAC-E.A.: Third crop hay is a good crop; had to spray for insects. Small grains are yielding very well. Wheat from 50-90 bushels per acre. Soybeans look good, setting pods now.

WINNEBAGO-R.H.: Third crop alfalfa is very short due to lack of moisture and cool weather, some fields have turned yellow in spots. Corn and soybeans look very good, some corn 9-10 feet tall and making a very good ear. Sweet corn looks very good in most fields. Pea crop was above average. Wheat yields were very good, some over 100-bushel yields.

GRANT-G.C.: Over a month and only 0.20 inch of rain. Corn, soybeans, and alfalfa are under stress. Alfalfa is shrinking in many fields. Some spraying has been done on alfalfa for Leafhoppers, which are usually not a problem this time of year.

SAUK-D.H.: The oats crop for many was average yield.

GREEN-M.M.: Small grain harvest is complete, with yields running much above normal. Soybean Aphid populations started to drop last week. Corn and soybeans need rain.

ROCK-S.H.: Aphids in soybeans are going to reduce yield, if left untreated. A lot of Western Corn Rootworm and beetles in soybeans. Some Soybean Leaf beetles are in the plants, but are waiting to see if pod damage occurs. Corn looks good, but rain is needed.

WASHINGTON-R.B.: Some started third crops. If you did not spray and had no rain, it is not good; if you did, third is more than first or second crop put together. Corn is behind, but doing well; pollination is in full swing and looks like it will pollinate the whole ear. Soybean Aphids are all but gone, but did a lot of damage. Fields not sprayed have half the pods they should have and dead spots. Wheat harvest is still going on, but wheat will not dry down.

WAUKESHA-D.W.: It is very dry with no help this week. Some corn is firing up in the bottom leaves. Soybeans are shriveling. All crops need rain.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on August 17, 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. 16	Mar. 1 to Aug. 16 normal *	Last week	Since June 1	June 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	88	60	94	54	74	4	2008	1841	0.00	6.77	-3.64	17.65
Green Bay	81	58	86	55	70	2	1656	1708	0.05	10.60	1.92	19.63
La Crosse	90	63	98	58	77	5	2186	2060	0.00	5.67	-4.63	15.69
Madison	84	60	93	54	72	2	1916	2001	0.17	6.68	-3.44	15.92
Milwaukee	82	67	92	61	74	3	1725	n.a.	0.00	4.40	-4.76	13.10

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.