



Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

September 2, 2003

Vol. 03, No. 22

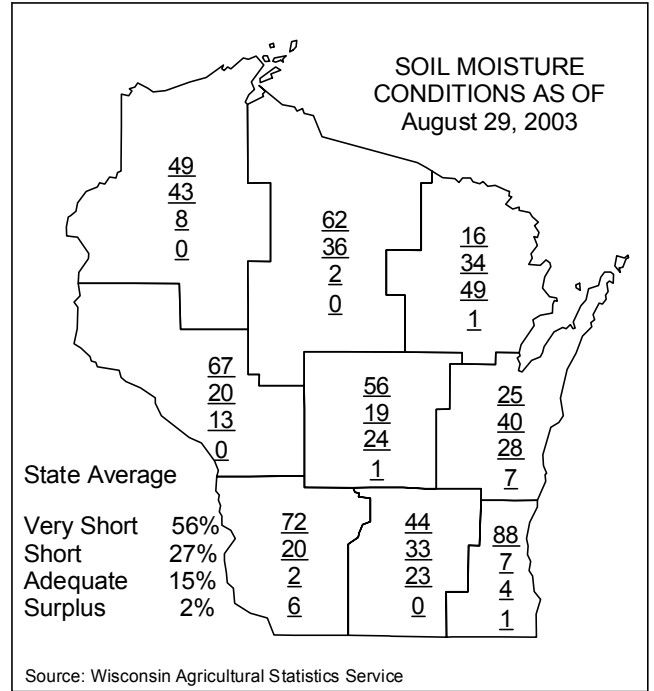
Scattered Rains, but Most Continue Dry

The month of August finished with another warmer than average week. Temperatures averaged 5-7 degrees above normal. The warm weather only added to soil moisture stress over most of Wisconsin. There were some areas that received rain, but it was localized again, and large areas of the state were missed. The warm, dry conditions caused many crops to show significant stress. There were 6.3 days suitable for fieldwork for the week. Topsoil moisture conditions continue to drop in most regions. Statewide, conditions were rated as 56% very short, 27% short, 15% adequate, and 2% surplus. Pasture conditions dropped with the lack of significant rain. Pasture feed condition was rated 55% very poor, 28% poor, 13% fair, 4% good, and 0% excellent. Supplemental feeding of livestock is necessary in many areas.

Corn fields continued to show serious stress with the warm, dry days. The scattered areas that received rains over the past weeks were helped in filling out ears; those areas look to have good crops. In areas that have remained dry, many producers feel that it is too late for any future rain to help the crop. Corn condition was rated at 18% very poor, 22% poor, 35% fair, 22% good, and 3% excellent. **Soybeans** are also being adversely affected by the dry spell. Some fields are beginning to turn color, but the question remains, is it due to maturity or moisture stress? Soybeans turning color were at 22% this week, above both the 13% last year and 14% 5-year average.

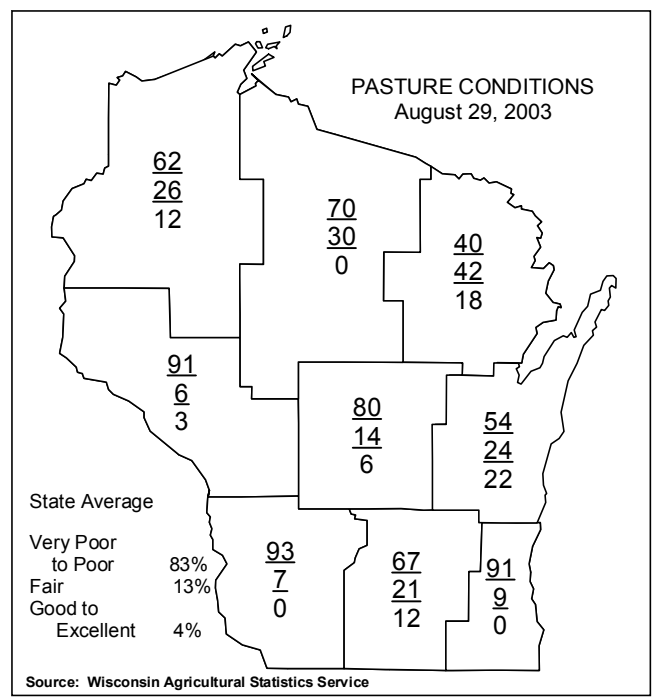
Third crop **alfalfa** harvest is running at 74% complete, very close to the 79% of last year and the 75% 5-year average. Quantity has been greatly reduced, but quality appears to be good. Many farmers report that there will be no fourth crop harvest and, overall, forage supplies are light. Stressed corn and soybean fields are being taken as forage to supplement supplies.

Apple harvest is beginning, but there are reports of small apples and early dropping of fruit. **Potato** harvest is continuing, and yields are reported as good.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of August 29, 2003

Item	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Pasture	55	28	13	4	0
Corn	18	22	35	22	3
Soybeans	18	21	34	23	4



Wisconsin Crop Progress, August 31, 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
Corn in dough stage	65	70	59	70	80	65	85	83	79	74	79	75
Corn in dent stage	19	18	10	18	30	22	42	33	32	27	37	35
Soybeans turning color	15	18	10	25	24	15	26	23	21	22	13	14
Third cutting hay	65	57	58	73	59	61	81	80	69	69	71	69

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

POLK-C.S.: Third crop hay was a little less than normal yield, quality average. We are still treating fields for Leafhoppers. Corn, soybeans, and alfalfa yields are being reduced for every day that passes without rain. Will start chopping corn next week to prevent some further losses.

ASHLAND-G.M.: Barley and oats are poor to fair due to lack of rain. We have had 1.0 inch of rain in six weeks. Late second crop alfalfa and third crop alfalfa is short in size and quantity.

MARATHON-T.K.: Crops are drying up. Hay is in short supply. Soybeans are being chopped due to few pods.

FOREST-A.K.: Second crop alfalfa was short. Oats combined with mixed yield. Some oat fields yielded 25 bushels per acre and some were 50 bushels per acre. Corn is coming nicely in dough stage.

LANGLADE-A.K.: What third crop alfalfa there was, is not as much now, if still standing. Corn and soybeans are suffering, but holding, considering what little rain we have had. Hay supply is not good at all.

PEPIN-R.C.: Soybeans are being chopped for silage as the pods are not developing. Corn not even making ears on some soils. Light soils are as bad as in 1988. Heavier soils are doing better, but still very dry, with yield losses on all crops growing with the days. No rain in sight!

TREMPEALEAU-D.D.: We received two rains this past week, perhaps too late for most corn and some soybean fields. Hay is dormant on many soils, as well as pastures are not productive at all. Many acres of corn have been chopped, and some soybeans are being chopped. Forage and grain supplies will be tight in this area.

MARQUETTE-K.V.: Hay quantities low for all cuttings, many producers chopping drought stressed corn this week and putting it in silos to meet forage needs and salvage corn. Rain came Monday, but it is too late for corn, may help soybeans and pastures.

OUTAGAMIE-K.J.: Third crop alfalfa yielded better than second crop for many producers from .1 to .3 tons of dry matter, in most cases. Quality was better in many instances, where those harvesting hay beat the weather. Reports of soybean pods with four beans developing in several locations.

GRANT-J.G.: Corn is being chopped, some at 50 percent plant moisture, and some high in nitrates. Corn plants have really fired this last week. The corn that broke off from high winds a week ago has died, and the cobs are mushy. Soybean leaves are starting to fall. Most pods have two seeds, but are very small. Looking at over 50 percent loss in soybeans. Some hay reportedly is good, some bad.

RICHLAND-S.K.: Our crops are under a great deal of stress. We are starting to chop corn. The whole stock moisture is about 65 percent moisture, but the corn is not mature yet. Our corn crop went from a very good crop to just a fair crop. Our soybeans still are green, but we are starting to see browning on the leaves, and there are concerns about poor pod set. At this point, there is very little regrowth of alfalfa, and the pastures are the worst I have seen since 1988.

DODGE-G.R.: We are blessed with moisture. Three timely weekend rains yielded a total of 3.0 inches. As a result, most crops look good, especially third crop alfalfa which is now blossoming and getting cut. Some fields are even lodged. Corn is filling out with some leaf curling on gravel knolls only. Later-planted fields are looking better and greener than early-planted fields. Soybeans look less rigorous and green compared to other years.

KENOSHA-J.H.: Third crop alfalfa is very short. There will be no fourth crop hay. Many, many grasshoppers, with more insects than I can recall. Small grains yielded well. Have never seen a year where promise and potential turned to disappointment and devastation so quickly for both corn and soybeans. You can actually see the deterioration on a day to day basis.

WAUKESHA-R.F.: We have had no rain. Corn is hurting. Soybeans will not have many beans. Hay is gone. This year is very much like 1988.



Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service
P.O. Box 8934
Madison, WI 53708-8934
(608) 224-4848
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/wi/rlsetoc.htm>

Robert J. Battaglia
State Statistician

Bob Hunter
Statistician

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

Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on August 31, 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. 30	Mar. 1 to Aug. 30 normal *	Last week	Since June 1	June 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	85	57	97	43	71	5	2329	2094	0.18	6.95	-5.68	17.83
Green Bay	83	60	92	55	71	6	1948	1956	0.45	11.70	1.26	20.73
La Crosse	86	64	99	54	75	6	2537	2345	1.17	6.84	-5.59	16.86
Madison	86	62	93	53	74	7	2243	2282	0.52	7.22	-4.81	16.46
Milwaukee	85	66	92	62	75	6	2060	n.a.	0.12	4.52	-6.50	13.22

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.