



Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Field Office of
USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service

August 21, 2006

Vol. 06, No. 20

Rain Hits Key Areas

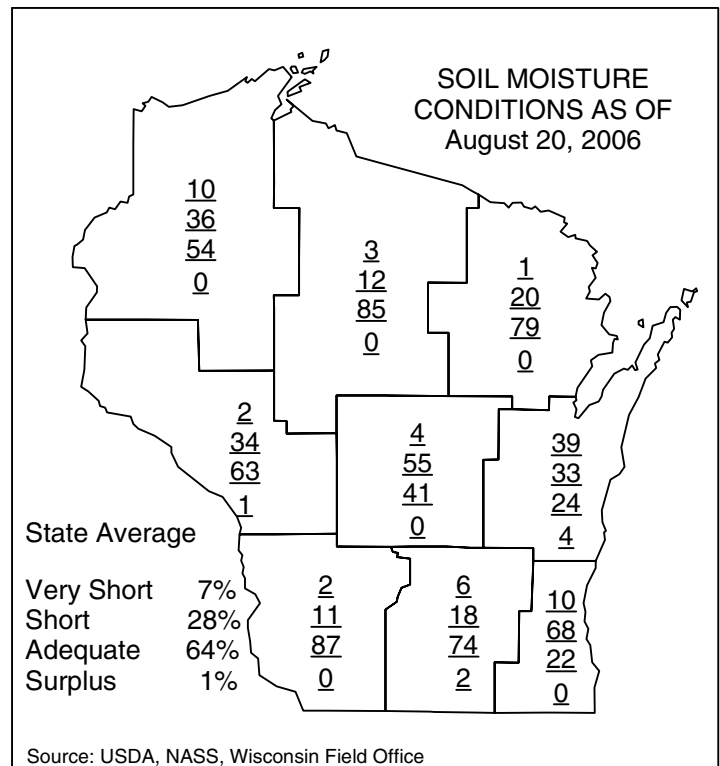
Much-needed rain came to northern and western areas of the state last week, which aided struggling crops. Rainfall totals ranged from 0.17 inches in Madison to 1.51 inches in La Crosse. Temperatures remained around average this week, ranging from 1 degree below to 1 degree above normal. Average high temperatures were in the high 70s to low 80s in most areas. Lows averaged in the high 50s to low 60s for the week. Soil moisture conditions were at 7 percent very short, 28 percent short, 64 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus. Last week there was an average of 5.8 days suitable for fieldwork in Wisconsin.

Corn in the dough stage was at 62 percent, ahead of last year's 55 percent and well beyond the 5-year average of 40 percent, according to the Wisconsin Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Corn dent was at 18 percent complete, double last year's 9 percent and ahead of the 5-year average of 5 percent. Corn conditions were rated as 7 percent very poor, 8 percent poor, 20 percent fair, 43 percent good, and 22 percent excellent. Some corn in the northern parts of the state is starting to be cut for silage.

Soybeans setting pods was at 87 percent, lower than last year's 91 percent, but higher than the 5-year average of 78 percent. Soybeans turning leaves was at 4 percent, behind last year's 5 percent, but ahead of the 5-year average of 1 percent. Rains improved soybean conditions, as most were rated good to excellent. White mold was reported by some farmers in the southern part of the state.

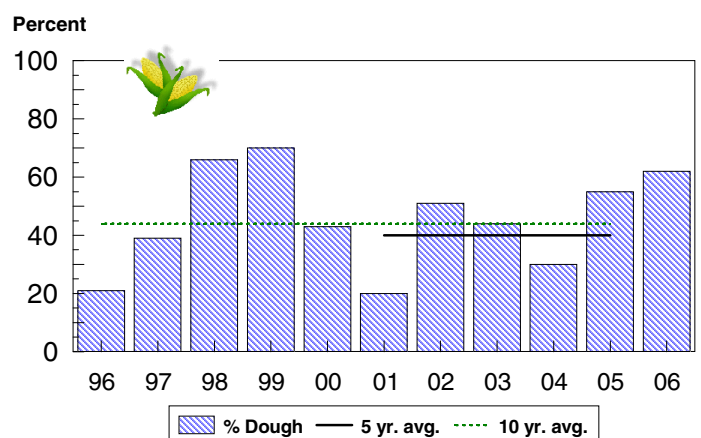
Third cutting **alfalfa** was at 64 percent complete, ahead of last year's 54 percent and the 5-year average of 45 percent. Quantity looks to be higher in southern parts of the state, but quality looks good across the entire state.

Winter wheat harvested was at 98 percent complete, behind last year's 100 percent, but ahead of the 5-year average of 95 percent. **Oats** harvested for grain was reported at 95 percent, below last year's 97 percent, but above the 5-year average of 83 percent. **Apples** and **pears** have started to ripen, and the **cranberry** crop looks good. Vegetables, including **potatoes** and **sweet corn**, are being harvested with quality looking good.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of August 20, 2006					
Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Percent					
Corn	7	8	20	43	22
Soybeans	2	7	23	44	24
Pasture	8	23	30	34	5

Progress of Corn in Dough Stage
August 20, 1996 - 2006, Wisconsin



Wisconsin Crop Progress, August 20, 2006												
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 dough	42	47	40	70	61	63	55	72	75	62	55	40
Corn dent	12	0	1	17	18	10	15	34	31	18	9	5
Soybeans setting pods	94	86	88	96	86	81	95	84	78	87	91	78
Soybeans turning leaves	0	2	0	3	1	13	12	2	0	4	5	1
Third cutting hay	40	60	57	85	64	44	75	77	47	64	54	45
Oats harvested for grain	95	94	99	100	98	77	99	99	96	95	97	83

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BURNETT-R.B.: Hay ground needs a good rain. There are lots of weeds in some places.

RUSK-G.P.: Corn and soybeans continue to look good with the additional rain and cooler temperatures. Pollination on corn is spotty on the early and late-planted corn. Soybeans are filling well, but will be later than normal this year. Small grains now are almost all harvested. Third crop hay is in full swing; quality and quantity are both good. Some corn is being taken early for corn silage. Weeds are pushing through.

CLARK-N.S.: Small grain yields were very good, but there were some test weight problems. Third crop forages have very good quality. Some alfalfa and clover seedings under small grains are thin and were reseeded, or will be reseeded next spring. Soybeans and corn are variable, but will make grain.

LANGLADE-A.K.: Received 1.5 inches of rain early in the week. Crop improvement has been dramatic. Corn is shorter and uneven more than normal, but most looks to be decent for grain. Soybeans look really good.

SHAWANO-B.R.: Everything is growing like mad now, with good moisture. Even the weeds are coming through in a lot of places. Small grain yields were generally high this year and there is plenty of straw. This was a poor week to make third crop hay with a few small showers popping up.

PIERCE-J.K.: Corn is starting to dent. Third crop hay has had excellent tonnage. Corn silage harvest is starting. A nearby farmer has his fourth hay crop done already. Generally, crops look good considering all the heat and lack of moisture this summer.

ST. CROIX-L.M.: Corn has not pollinated well; yields will be low. Nearing corn silage harvest. Soybeans look much better than 3-4 weeks ago. Still some very bad fields in our area. Spider mites have been a huge problem. Many have had to spray. Some soybean leaf beetle damage is occurring.

MARQUETTE-K.V.: Silage harvest has begun.

FOND DU LAC-R.P.: Very dry. Soybeans are really showing stress from lack of rain. Corn is maturing and should be ready to chop in two weeks. Third crop hay is only average in yield. Summer-seeded alfalfa has not germinated.

IOWA-K.V.: Corn and soybeans are maturing nicely. Do need some moisture. Fall seeding of alfalfa is going on. Excellent yields in wheat and wheat straw.

LAFAYETTE-M.R.: Expect very high yields again for corn and soybeans. Giant ragweed seems to be worse than normal. Pulled a lambsquarter weed from a flowerbed; it had white mold on the base of the stalk. I doubt it could lessen the weed problem, but made me wonder if it could be a host for this bean disease, or a prediction tool for bean infestation.

GREEN-M.M.: Corn looks good and is maturing ahead of schedule due to abundant heat and moisture this growing season. Corn silage harvest will probably start within the next week. Good yields have been harvested from all three hay cuttings due to timely rains. This area will have excess hay to sell.

RACINE-L.F.: Heat and dryness is starting to take a toll on the crops on sandy ground - need some rains soon, yields are decreasing daily.

WASHINGTON-R.B.: Soybeans have aphids and are growing-needed to spray for aphids. Soybeans look like drought stress, but it is the aphids doing it. Corn is filling the ear two-thirds up the ear, one-third of the ear is not filled. Crops are two weeks ahead in maturity. Need rain. Weeds are bad in corn and soybeans.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on August 20, 2006

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. 19	Mar. 1 to Aug. 19 normal *	Last week	Since June 1	June 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	80	60	86	54	70	1	2391	1896	1.18	8.59	-2.42	17.83
Green Bay	78	57	84	51	68	0	2047	1760	0.33	8.14	-0.90	20.15
La Crosse	80	62	86	57	71	-1	2483	2121	1.51	7.79	-3.02	20.48
Madison	79	59	84	53	69	0	2221	2061	0.17	8.03	-2.53	22.79
Milwaukee	80	63	82	58	72	1	2150	n.a.	0.29	9.11	-0.37	24.60

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 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>>. N.a. = not available. T = trace.