



# Wisconsin Crop Progress

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

August 20, 2007

Vol. 07, No. 20

## Soggy Southwest

Heavy rainfalls over the weekend in southern areas have saturated the ground. The National Weather Service indicated that some areas received nearly one foot of rain last week. Soil Moisture is adequate to surplus in southern districts, while the northern areas remain mostly short to very short in condition. State-wide soil moisture conditions were 26 percent very short, 18 percent short, 39 percent adequate, and 17 percent surplus. Average temperatures were 0 to 2 degrees below normal across the state. High temperatures stayed in the mid to high 80s. Low temperatures ranged from the mid 40s to high 50s. There was an average of 4.4 days suitable for fieldwork last week.

**Corn** condition improved slightly this past week. Sixty-one percent of the crop was in the dough stage, compared to 59 percent last year and the 5-year average of 45 percent. Corn in dent stage increased to 19 percent complete, above both last year's 16 percent and the 5-year average of 7 percent. Some corn is being chopped for silage. Crop condition in northern areas has declined, and there is concern for high loss in yields. Southern areas will have to wait and see how the crop recovers after the heavy rains.

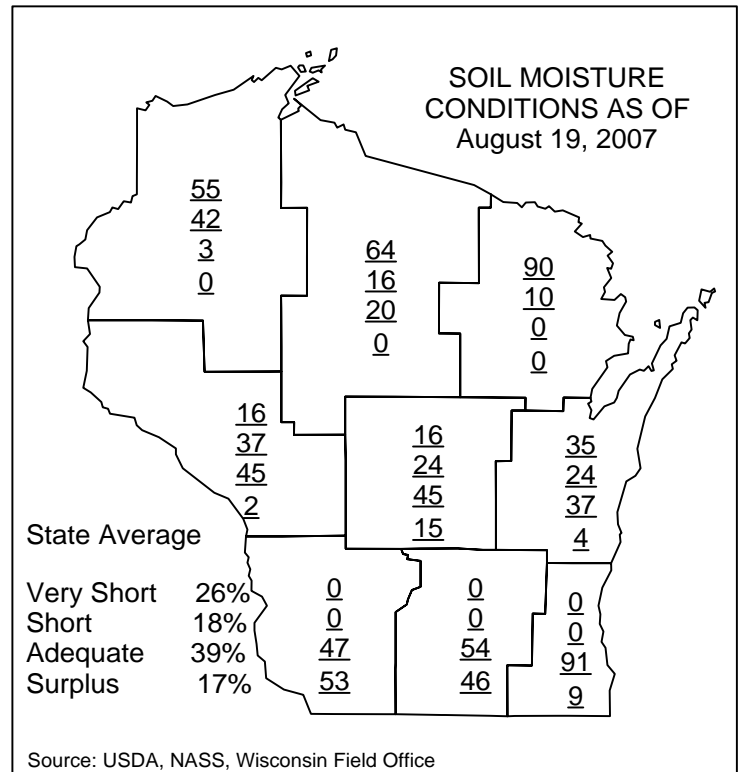
**Soybeans** setting pods were rated at 92 percent complete, above both last year's and the 5-year averages of 85 and 83 percent, respectively. Soybeans began to turn color last week, and were rated at 3 percent complete. This is unchanged from last year's average and slightly above the 5-year average of 1 percent complete. The crop has handled the heat better than corn; however aphids and spider mites are a major concern in dry, northern areas. The rain in southern counties has helped to alleviate the aphid problems.

**Oat** harvest neared completion, and was rated at 95 percent complete, slightly above last year's average of 94 percent and the 5-year average of 86 percent. Progress will not likely be made across the bottom third of the state this week as fields are too wet.

Third cutting of **alfalfa** was at 62 percent complete, slightly above last year's 61 percent and the 5-year average of 46 percent. There is renewed hope for a bountiful fourth crop of hay in southern districts. Pasture conditions have improved to 27 percent good to excellent, compared to 19 percent last week. Pastured livestock are being supplemented in northern areas, and there is fear that some pastures may not recover.

**Sweet corn, snap bean, and potato** harvest continues with reports of good yields. **Apple** trees in the northwest are dropping apples because of the dry conditions.

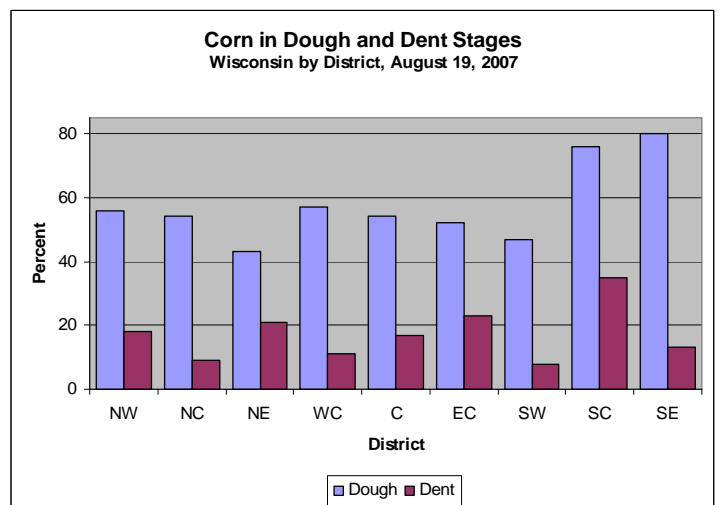
**Watermelon and cantaloupe** harvest began in central areas.



## Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of August 19, 2007

| Item     | V.-poor | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent |
|----------|---------|------|------|------|-----------|
|          | Percent |      |      |      |           |
| Corn     | 11      | 19   | 25   | 29   | 16        |
| Soybeans | 7       | 13   | 29   | 32   | 19        |
| Pasture  | 31      | 26   | 16   | 18   | 9         |

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.



## Wisconsin Crop Progress, August 19, 2007

| 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                  | 56               | 54 | 43 | 57  | 54 | 52 | 47  | 76 | 80 | 61            | 59        | 45             |
| Corn dent                   | 18               | 9  | 21 | 11  | 17 | 23 | 8   | 35 | 13 | 19            | 16        | 7              |
| Soybeans setting pods       | 92               | 97 | 98 | 86  | 92 | 87 | 92  | 99 | 91 | 92            | 85        | 83             |
| Soybeans turning color      | 2                | 9  | 6  | 3   | 4  | 8  | 1   | 0  | 2  | 3             | 3         | 1              |
| Third cutting hay           | 67               | 48 | 76 | 75  | 50 | 66 | 61  | 59 | 61 | 62            | 61        | 46             |
| Oats harvested for grain    | 92               | 91 | 99 | 100 | 99 | 90 | 100 | 96 | 95 | 95            | 94        | 86             |

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

**BAYFIELD-S.S.:** It is extremely dry. Everything is turning brown.

**RUSK-G.P.:** We need rain. Corn and soybeans are both declining. Third crop hay is short and going backwards in both yield and quality. We are done spraying for aphids in soybeans; crop is mostly beyond the treatment stage at this point.

**LANGLADE-A.K.:** Corn and soybeans have gone downhill big time. Fifty percent of the corn is gone. Soybeans are also gone. Hard to justify cutting of third crop hay for what there is. We are spraying for leafhoppers. Have not seen a single growing season this dry. We have received only 50 percent of our normal rainfall.

**EAU CLAIRE-R.S.:** Some stressed corn is being chopped, but some it does not pay to chop. Corn cobs are very small. Rains have been very spotty. Most of the county is getting too little too late or none at all.

**PEPIN-H.R.:** We had some high winds and 2.0 inches of rain on Monday evening. Corn and soybeans on the heavier soils are in good condition. Yields should be very good now. Crops on the lighter soils are in the disaster group. Third crop hay is shorter than usual. Small grain harvest is done.

**KEWAUNEE-T.S.:** This area finally received rain this week, with more on the way. As of Sunday night, we have received 1.0 inch of rain. Unfortunately for most of the corn in this area, the rain will not help its condition. The stalks have been drying up extensively in the last couple of weeks. Farmers have begun chopping corn silage, but for the most part, the corn is still too wet. Even on the driest ground, recent corn silage moisture tests range from 70 to 75 percent. As far as soybeans, many pods are seen on the plants, but many pods toward the top of the plants are flat, with no beans in them. For those plants that have not yet begun to turn, it is hoped that the rain this week will help to fill out the pods. The soybeans have been handling the dry weather better than the corn. No one in this area has been doing any spraying for spider mites or aphids on the soybean plants. The recent damp weather may help in ridding the plants of these pests. At this time, the rain that has fallen will mostly help the third crop hay to grow or fourth crop in some cases, and any crops that were recently planted.

**GRANT-L.F.:** Corn and soybeans look really good-still have some green color. Hay and pastures have really

turned green. It is hard to get hay harvested with the rain we have had. We got some much-needed rain last week and also this week. Saw some weeds coming up in the soybeans. Looks like we could use a good fourth crop hay. Corn seems to be a real good crop.

**LAFAYETTE-M.R.:** We have received so much rain, it looks like spring.

**DANE-D.R.:** With the moisture and heat units, producers could be harvesting corn silage within the next two weeks. Corn grain yields are down, but respectable. Soybean plants are short but quite a few pods are filling well. Third crop hay yielded better than second. Top producers might get a fourth cutting.

**JEFFERSON-B.K.:** We have received 10-12 inches of rain in our county between August 4 and August 19. Pastures have come back to life. Corn and soybeans are two weeks ahead of normal. Yield potentials are all over the board due to spotty rains earlier in the year. Rain is predicted for the next six days.

**ROCK-C.O.:** Very tough to harvest third crop hay with over 10.0 inches of rain in a week. Pastures have come back, but rain is too late for some corn. Yields will be down considerably from last year. Silo filling or corn silage harvest has begun.

**RACINE-L.F.:** Rains have continued on schedule and the crops are in wonderful shape.

**WASHINGTON-R.B.:** It is hard to make dry hay. It rains too much. Soybeans are forty-five inches tall. Aphids are not bad, it seems. Corn has filled ears to the tip. Most corn is looking very good, as it did last year. Weeds are bad in wheat fields.



USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office  
 P.O. Box 8934  
 Madison, WI 53708-8934  
 (608) 224-4848  
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/wi/>

**Robert J. Battaglia**  
 Director

**Jessica Scrimger**  
 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 19, 2007

| 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. 18                         | Mar. 1 to Aug. 18 normal * | Last week     | Since June 1 | June 1 dep. from normal * | Year to date | Year dep. from normal * |
| Eau Claire | 78          | 58        | 86        | 50       | 68   | -2                      | 2266                                      | 1877                       | 1.86          | 8.09         | -2.69                     | 15.91        | -5.30                   |
| Green Bay  | 79          | 56        | 89        | 46       | 68   | 0                       | 2088                                      | 1742                       | 0.84          | 7.40         | -1.51                     | 16.08        | -2.40                   |
| La Crosse  | 79          | 63        | 87        | 58       | 71   | -1                      | 2532                                      | 2100                       | 5.67          | 15.75        | 5.04                      | 27.31        | 5.64                    |
| Madison    | 78          | 61        | 88        | 55       | 69   | 0                       | 2301                                      | 2041                       | 5.65          | 17.73        | 7.31                      | 26.64        | 7.85                    |
| Milwaukee  | 77          | 64        | 86        | 59       | 71   | 0                       | 2173                                      | n.a.                       | 1.97          | 9.34         | 0.0                       | 20.80        | -1.56                   |

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. Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.