



Wisconsin Crop Progress

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August 18, 2008

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Crops Vary by Soil Types

Conditions remained dry throughout most of the state this past week. There was some scattered rain last Wednesday that was a welcome relief to those that received it. Crops on heavier soils were looking good, while those on lighter soils were showing signs of stress from lack of moisture. Later planting dates and cool evening temperatures have caused crop development to be behind normal. Some reporters were concerned that there may not be enough time for crops to mature.

High average temperatures ranged from 75 to 80 degrees. Lows were between 54 and 59 degrees. Average temperatures were 1 to 5 degrees below normal. Rainfall totals ranged from 0.00 inches in Green Bay and LaCrosse to 0.45 inches in Eau Claire. Soil moisture conditions were 9 percent very short, 32 percent short, 56 percent adequate, and 3 percent surplus. There was an average of 6.1 days suitable for fieldwork last week.

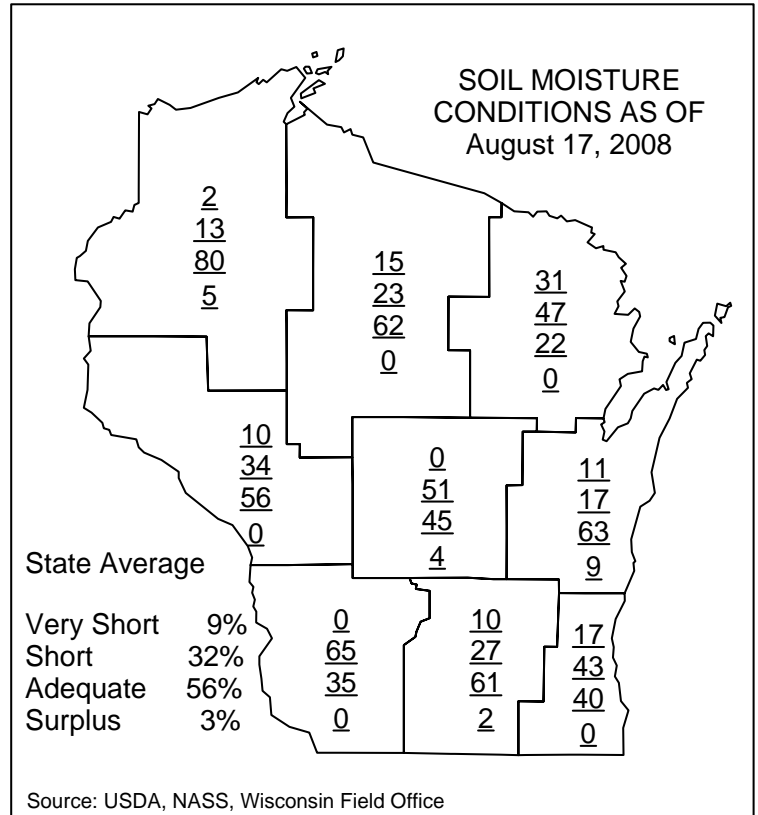
Corn silked was 95 percent complete, behind last year's 100 and equal to the 5-year average of 95 percent. Corn in dough stage increased 15 percentage points from last week and was 24 percent complete. This is below both last year's 54 percent and the 5-year average of 42 percent complete. The crop was just beginning to reach the dent stage, at 1 percent complete.

Soybeans bloomed was 93 percent complete, behind both last year's 100 percent and the 5-year average of 97 percent. Soybeans setting pods increased to 75 percent complete, compared with 89 percent last year and the 5-year average of 80 percent. Some growers saw soybean aphid populations increase last week, and some spraying was done to combat them.

Dry weather has helped move along the harvest of small grains. **Winter wheat** harvest is coming to a close with winter wheat harvested 94 percent complete. **Oats** harvested for grain was 68 percent complete. Growers reported yields for most small grains to be fair to excellent.

Third cutting **hay** was 45 percent complete, compared to 19 percent last week. This is slightly above the 5-year average of 44 percent, but below last year's 58 percent complete. Reports varied on the quality and quantity of the hay crop, but were generally favorable.

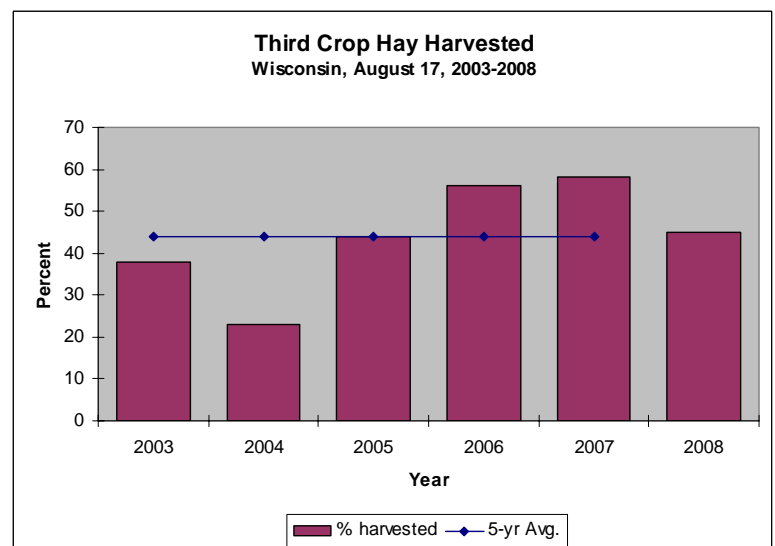
Potatoes and **cucumbers** were doing well in some central areas.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of August 17, 2008

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Corn	4	8	24	47	17
Soybean	3	7	22	48	20
Pasture	6	15	38	34	7

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office



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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 silked	94	97	98	96	91	96	100	92	94	95	100	95
Corn dough	8	23	14	20	33	20	35	26	31	24	54	42
Soybeans setting pods	63	70	88	58	84	71	98	88	53	75	89	80
Winter wheat harvested	50	82	97	92	97	92	100	100	97	94	100	92
Oats harvested for grain	40	35	75	73	64	58	97	94	80	68	94	85
Third cutting hay	29	47	52	32	51	56	36	51	48	45	58	44

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

POLK-C.S.: Corn and soybeans look good. We are scouting and spraying for soybean aphids. Oat and wheat harvest is moving along as weather allows with average yields.

ASHLAND-G.M.: We are very short on rain. Alfalfa looks good. Second crop hay is very poor. Winter wheat and rye are very good. Oats and barley are poor. There is an abundance of grasshoppers.

OCONTO-K.H.: No rain again this week. Combined with bright sun, wind, and low humidity; this has many crops in moisture stress. Virtually all corn fields observed were showing curled leaves during the afternoons, and some were not recovering over night. More fields showing drying and yellowing on lower leaves. Soybeans seem to be showing fewer signs of stress generally, but light soil spots in fields can be picked out by the curled and wilted plants. Pastures are dry and brown.

DUNN-S.S.: Corn and soybeans look pretty good considering we have just been getting by in moisture. Most second crop hay is from fair to good. Third crop hay is slow in coming back. Pastures really seem to be hurting due to lack of rain. The oat crop is fair to good.

MONROE-W.D.: Corn and soybeans have grown past the hail damage, and they look good. I hope there will be time for all crops to mature. There is still some second crop hay being made. Third crop hay is about half-way done with excellent quality and quantity. Oats are also about half done with average yields and short on straw.

ST. CROIX-R.K.: Crops vary by soil types. Lighter soils have suffered from rain shortage. Grain crops were very good with lots of straw. Need rain to continue as there is no reserve.

WAUPACA-D.L.H.: Corn and soybeans are behind in maturity; cool weather is responsible. This area does not have a surplus of moisture. Hay crops are below average.

WAUSHARA-J.J.: Corn and soybeans look good. Rain on Wednesday was very timely for both crops.

OUTAGAMIE-K.J.: Corn continues to progress. The majority of corn is good to excellent. Corn silage harvest timing will be wider this year because of the range in planting dates and maturities. Winter wheat harvest is complete with over-the-scale yields coming in as high as

109 bushels per acre. Two tons of straw per acre was common. Third crop hay came in higher in tonnage than second for several farmers. While rains had a negative impact on quality in some cases, wet weather prevented leafhoppers from being a significant problem during the summer.

GRANT-G.C.: Soybeans and corn are progressing toward pod and ear filling. No insect damage observed this season. Small grain combining moved along rapidly due to dry weather. Many oat yields were low.

LAFAYETTE-M.R.: Soybeans and pastures would benefit from rain. Corn needs time and heat units.

JEFFERSON-B.K.: It is very dry here. Corn and soybeans are showing stress. All corn is losing color. Most corn is a pale green, and ear size is noticeably small. No corn will dent before September 1. Soybeans seem to be ok. Soybean aphids are increasing. Fourth cutting alfalfa will be short if it does not rain soon.

ROCK-C.O.: Airplanes are buzzing applying both foliar fertilizers and fungicides on corn and soybeans. Most straw is baled, third crop is done; time for a little R & R. Corn will need some heat to be safe from frost. Some fields still have wet spots, and some could use rain.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on August 17, 2008

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	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	78	54	83	45	66	-4	1804	1857	0.45	12.17	1.68	22.98	2.28
Green Bay	79	54	85	48	67	-1	1849	1725	0.00	10.95	2.26	23.03	4.76
La Crosse	80	56	84	52	68	-5	2036	2079	0.00	15.80	5.41	29.13	7.87
Madison	78	55	81	50	66	-4	1949	2021	0.09	19.58	9.44	36.77	15.27
Milwaukee	75	59	82	54	67	-4	1827	n.a.	0.31	17.80	8.72	32.96	10.99

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.