



# Wisconsin Crop Progress

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

August 25, 2008

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## Conditions Remain Dry; Crops are Showing Stress

A refreshing rain is needed as corn and soybeans are showing signs of moisture stress, especially on lighter soils. Hayfields and pastures have dried up in some Wisconsin counties that have not received any rain for several weeks. Some spotty showers were reported, with other areas receiving only a trace of moisture. The majority of the state received no precipitation at all.

Average high temperatures ranged from 82 to 84 degrees, with average low temperatures ranging from 60 to 67 degrees. Precipitation totals last week ranged from 0.03 inches in Milwaukee to 0.23 inches in Eau Claire. Soil moisture conditions were at 19 percent very short, 46 percent short, 35 percent adequate, and 0 percent surplus. There was an average of 6.6 days suitable for fieldwork last week.

**Corn** silked (tasseled) was 99 percent complete, with 46 percent reaching the dough stage. Corn in dent was reported at 4 percent complete with some cobs appearing light and not filled to the tip. Crop condition was reported as 4 percent very poor, 11 percent poor, 23 percent fair, 48 percent good, and 14 percent excellent. Corn for silage harvest has begun in several areas of the state. It was reported that this was due to the crop drying down sooner than anticipated.

**Soybeans** bloomed was 98 percent complete with 90 percent setting pods. In west central Wisconsin, there was a report of empty pods. Soybean conditions were reported as 2 percent very poor, 7 percent poor, 27 percent fair, 49 percent good, and 15 percent excellent. Moisture stress was evident, especially on lighter soil. Portage County reported soybean aphids showing up in larger numbers.

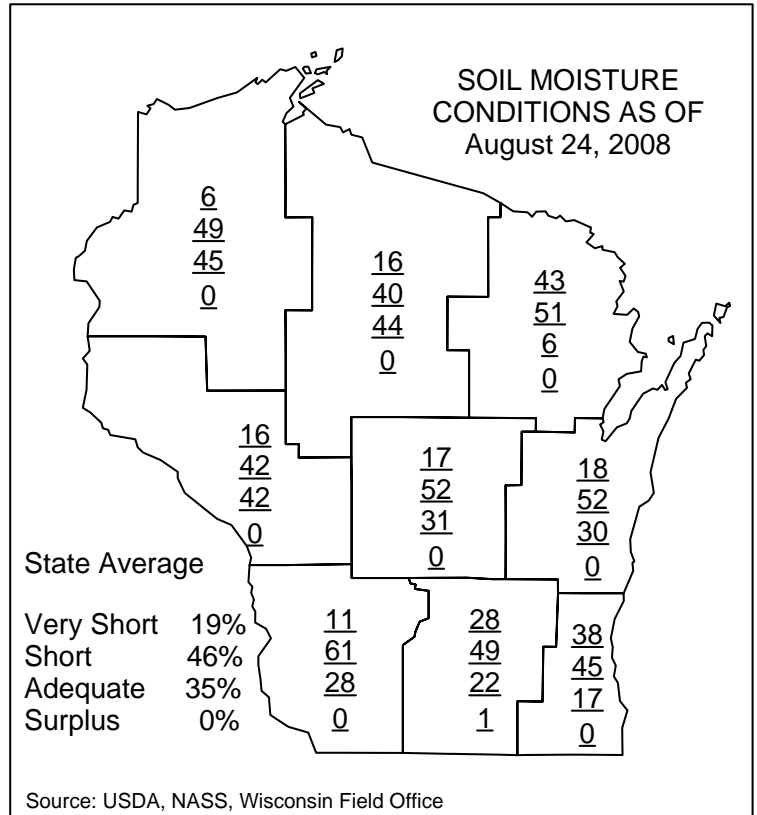
Third crop **hay** harvest was 64 percent complete, with fourth crop harvest at 5 percent complete. Moisture is needed to spur growth.

**Winter wheat** harvest was at 97 percent complete with yields ranging from below to above normal depending on location.

Reports showed that 86 percent of **oats** had been harvested for grain.

**Pasture** conditions were declining with reports of 13 percent very poor, 25 percent poor, 27 percent fair, 32 percent good, and 3 percent excellent. Some beef and dairy grazers were already feeding hay as pastures on many soils were reported to be brown and dry.

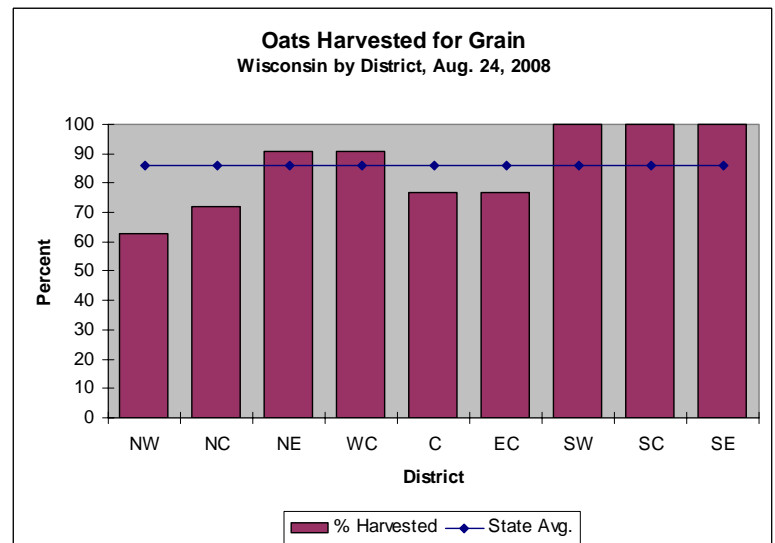
**Snap bean** and **potato** harvest continued. **Pumpkins** were doing well but are in need of rain. **Sweet corn** harvest was progressing. **Cucumbers** were being harvested. Irrigated vegetables were above average in condition



## Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of August 24, 2008

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Corn	4	11	23	48	14
Soybean	2	7	27	49	15
Pasture	13	25	27	32	3

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 dough	27	38	37	49	40	36	62	50	56	46	75	61
Corn dent	1	0	6	4	3	6	2	4	7	4	32	17
Soybeans setting pods	76	90	93	81	95	94	99	95	92	90	95	90
Oats harvested for grain	63	72	91	91	77	77	100	100	100	86	100	94
Third cutting hay	43	58	79	60	75	66	66	70	63	64	65	58

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

**Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents**

**BARRON-D.B.:** Corn and soybeans are showing signs of moisture stress, especially on lighter soil. Corn test weights will be light. Winter wheat and oat harvest is progressing rapidly with average to above average yields and plenty of straw. Third cutting alfalfa crop has excellent quality, but yields are lacking due to no rain.

**POLK-C.S.:** Corn and soybeans still look quite good. A refreshing rain would be beneficial especially for soybeans. Wheat and oat yields were average to below average.

**VILAS-L.K.:** There is nothing growing except irrigated potatoes. Hayfields and pastures have dried up. We have not received any rain for five weeks.

**OCONTO-K.H.:** Dry conditions were not relieved this week. Spotty showers Saturday night dropped up to 0.25 inch in some local areas, but most got only a trace. Corn exhibits at the fair were down. While dented, many cobs appeared light and were not filled to the tip. Pastures and hayfields are dry. Fourth cutting alfalfa crop harvest appear to be very light, where it is being taken.

**SHAWANO-T.A.:** Crop stress is pretty common; soil moisture is the major issue.

**BUFFALO-R.S.:** Crop potential is declining. Soybeans have pods but there is nothing inside them. Corn kernels do not seem to be filling. We are thirty days away from a normal killing frost date. Other parts of the county had rain and their crops were better.

**EAU CLAIRE-R.S.:** It is getting very dry. Third crop alfalfa looks real good. Oat yields were above average. Corn needs more time than it might get; needs hot nights.

**PORTAGE-D.Z.:** We need rain. Dryland crops are hurting. Soybean aphids are showing up in larger numbers. Vegetable crop yields on harvested fields are at or slightly above average.

**WAUSHARA-L.K.:** It is very dry here. Corn and soybeans are suffering from the lack of moisture. I have not seen any soybean aphids. Third and fourth crop hay does not grow much due to lack of moisture.

**FOND DU LAC-E.A.:** Corn and soybeans look good in this area, but need rain to mature. Third crop hay is a good crop. Fourth crop alfalfa will be ready to harvest in a week.

**SHEBOYGAN-T.B.:** Corn and soybeans are looking stressed especially in the well drained soils. Small grain harvest is wrapping up and yields were very good. Most were harvested with little or no lodging problems and the weather cooperated for quick dry down. The yield of third crop hay was good on the short rotation fields, but the very recent harvests have been getting worse. It is questionable if there will be a fourth crop unless we get some rain soon. Field conditions are very dry and there are some growers who will be taking corn silage ahead of maturity due to the crop drying down sooner than anticipated.

**IOWA-S.M.:** It is very dry here. Crops continue to struggle.

**LAFAYETTE-M.R.:** Soybeans need rain. The soil is very dry. Some corn is firing from lack of rain and or nitrogen

**COLUMBIA-R.S.:** We need rain. Corn fields are burning up. Some fields will not be harvested. Soybeans are curling up in the daytime on lighter soil areas. We will need a very late frost to get this crop harvested.

**DODGE-G.R.:** Corn fields are showing stress from lack of moisture. Yellow bottoms and leaves especially on hills. Soybeans look uniformly good. All fields are still a deep green and setting pods. Third crop alfalfa is nearing harvest readiness. Oat and wheat combining is completed.

**WASHINGTON-R.B.:** We have had no rain. Aphids are bad and need to be sprayed. All crops are drought stressed.

**WAUKESHA-D.W.:** Harvesting of small grains like oats and wheat are done. We have not received any rain for some time. Corn is in need of rain.



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

**Craig Christianson**  
Statistician

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**Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on August 24, 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. 23	Mar. 1 to Aug. 23 normal *	Last week	Since June 1	June 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	83	62	89	54	73	4	1962	1982	0.23	12.40	0.82	23.21	1.32
Green Bay	84	60	90	54	72	5	2003	1846	0.05	11.00	1.44	23.08	3.85
La Crosse	84	64	90	56	74	3	2203	2220	0.12	15.92	4.55	29.25	6.93
Madison	83	62	86	58	73	4	2110	2159	0.06	19.64	8.49	36.83	14.24
Milwaukee	82	67	87	65	74	4	1999	n.a.	0.03	17.83	7.82	32.99	10.09

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.