



Wisconsin Crop Progress

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

September 2, 2008

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Dry Conditions Taking a Toll on Crops

Lack of moisture negatively impacted crop conditions last week. Growers in the west central part of the state received some much needed rain, while the rest of the state saw trace amounts at best. Dry conditions have stressed crops, and rain is urgently needed.

Average high temperatures ranged from 78 to 81 degrees, with average low temperatures ranging from 50 to 61 degrees. Precipitation totals last week ranged from 0.00 inches in Milwaukee to 1.66 inches in Eau Claire. Soil moisture conditions were 29 percent very short, 45 percent short, 26 percent adequate, and 0 percent surplus. There was an average of 6.6 days suitable for fieldwork last week.

Corn in dough stage reached 61 percent complete last week, while corn in dent was 20 percent complete. Dry conditions hurt corn development on many fields. Crop condition was reported as 8 percent very poor, 17 percent poor, 26 percent fair, 41 percent good, and 8 percent very good. The 49 percent reported as good to excellent is down from 62 percent reported as good to excellent the previous week. Corn harvested for **silage** continued to get under way with 3 percent complete.

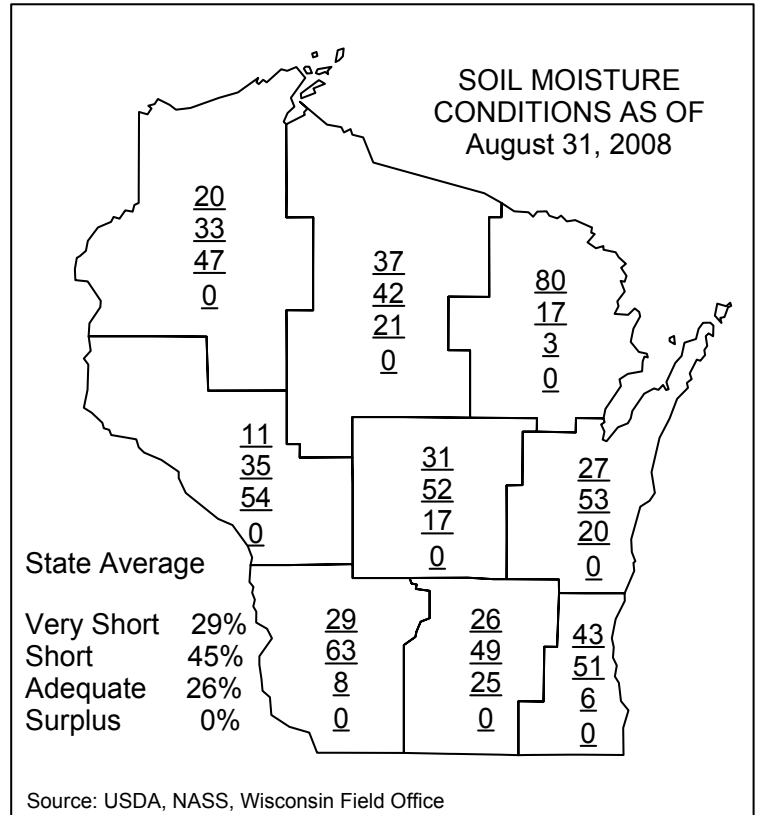
Soybeans setting pods was 98 percent complete with 10 percent having turned color. There were reports that the number of pods and beans in the pods were down due to the dry conditions. Soybean conditions were reported as 10 percent very poor, 19 percent poor, 21 percent fair, 43 percent good, and 7 percent excellent. The 50 percent reported as good to excellent is down from 64 percent reported as good to excellent the previous week.

Oats harvested for grain was wrapping up with 98 percent complete. There were still some oats to be harvested in the central part of the state. Yields varied widely across the state.

Third crop **hay** was 84 percent complete, with fourth crop harvest at 19 percent complete. Hay regrowth has been slowed in many areas due to lack of moisture.

Pasture conditions were reported as 23 percent very poor, 33 percent poor, 26 percent fair, 16 percent good, and 2 percent excellent.

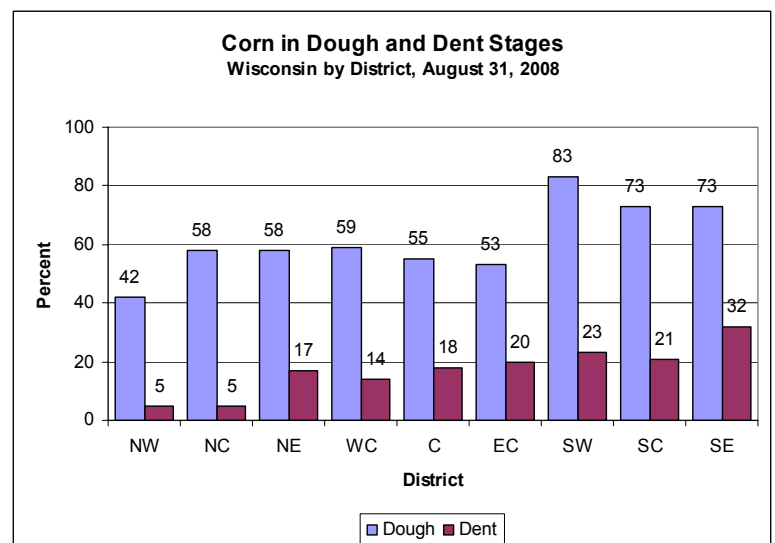
Early **apples** were being harvested with yields looking good. **Sweet corn, potato, and snapbean** harvest continued in the central part of the state, with a report of good yields.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of August 31, 2008

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Corn	8	17	26	41	8
Soybean	10	19	21	43	7
Pasture	23	33	26	16	2

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office



Wisconsin Crop Progress, August 31, 2008

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	58	58	59	55	53	83	73	73	61	86	73
Corn dent	5	5	17	14	18	20	23	21	32	20	50	34
Soybeans turning color	8	5	12	13	5	7	15	11	7	10	19	20
Third cutting hay	81	65	95	89	84	86	95	96	82	84	71	70
Fourth cutting hay	2	9	35	33	13	15	20	37	7	19	5	4

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BARRON-R.C.: Drought stress is taking a toll on corn and soybeans. Corn is firing and soybeans are aborting beans and pods. The forecast is showing little chance of rain, so prospects are not looking good. Small grains did well. Canning crops are yielding below normal. We need rain.

CHIPPEWA-J.C.: Much-needed rain was received especially to help the soybeans. Corn yields will be down on lighter soils due to previous dry conditions. Third crop hay harvest is nearing completion; yields are good.

PRICE-M.K.: About a third of the county's corn crop was frosted or frozen on Monday, with various degrees of damage. Many fields in the southern part of the county were killed outright. Spotty rain during the week was insufficient to break the continuing drought. Corn development has been hurt on most fields. Hay and pasture growth is still stagnant. Small grain harvest is nearly complete, with earlier planted fields producing good yields in most cases.

VILAS-L.K.: Oat yields are fair. Straw is very short. We had some light frost on Sunday. Some first crop hay is still being made.

SHAWANO-B.R.: Everyone needs moisture now. The corn and soybeans are both turning brown rapidly due to dry weather. While third crop hay was not too bad, fields just stay brown after the hay is picked up. We will have to be watchful of the corn moisture to be sure the silage will be put in at the right time.

SHEBOYGAN-T.B.: Corn and soybeans are looking extremely stressed. Parts of many fields are beyond the permanent wilting point. Oat yields are average. The late cuttings of alfalfa hay have been short to non-existent depending on the soil type it was growing on. Field conditions are extremely dry, and all or many crops will not be able to finish the growing season.

BUFFALO-R.S.: We received 1.0 inch of rain for the week. Corn and soybeans were at a standstill but the rain will help. Lots of third crop hay is being made. We are having cool nights. Many grazers are feeding baled hay already.

MARQUETTE-K.V.: Just enough rain Thursday morning to give plants another day. We need rain badly or ear fill and pod set will be affected along with fall-seeded alfalfa and grasses.

WAUSHARA-K.W.: Crops are all hurting from lack of moisture.

CALUMET-B.L.: Monday corn silage dry down saw several samples with little to no dent and moistures in the mid to low 70 percent range. The corn unevenness in our fields is really showing up now. Shallow soil portions of soybeans are shorter, whiter in color, and aborting more pods. Third cutting hay was excellent with the early August moisture, but regrowth is slower in coming back.

IOWA-S.M.: Corn and soybean fields are showing severe drought stress. There is very little regrowth in alfalfa and pastures.

DANE-J.K.: Corn and soybeans are hurting badly on high ground. We are losing yields everyday now. Some fields continue to look very good where there was no compaction which is a big factor. Oats yielded very well; 80-105 bushels per acre. Some third and fourth crop hay yielded very well. Tobacco harvest is in full swing. It has very good quality so far. Some liquid manure is going on after wheat and then direct seeding is being done.

ROCK-C.O.: Silage harvest has begun as whole plant moisture levels have decreased down to the low 60's. Corn is still behind either in milk or dough stage with a lot of variability in the same field. Hilltops and sand are dry, but low spots have corn in milk stage. Soybeans are not uniform, with the fields that were not sprayed showing symptoms and prematurely dropping leaves. Most farmers are hoping for a late frost or more heat to mature the crop. Fourth crop hay was put off to wait for rain to no avail.

KENOSHA-J.H.: It is very dry; crops are drying up prematurely.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on August 31, 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. 30	Mar. 1 to Aug. 30 normal *	Last week	Since June 1	June 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	79	50	84	40	64	-3	2071	2109	1.66	14.06	1.40	24.87	1.85
Green Bay	80	50	84	47	65	0	2114	1973	0.05	11.05	0.63	23.13	3.85
La Crosse	81	53	87	45	67	-2	2324	2363	0.32	16.24	3.94	29.57	6.29
Madison	80	52	87	48	66	-1	2226	2301	0.43	20.07	7.98	37.26	13.68
Milwaukee	78	61	87	57	69	0	2135	n.a.	0.00	17.83	6.90	32.99	9.09

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.