



Wisconsin Crop Progress

August 9, 2010

Vol. 10, No. 18

Warm, Dry Week Speeds Up Harvest

The past week saw above average temperatures and very little moisture, allowing many growers to finally enter fields. Some reports indicated that despite the minimal rainfall, humidity was still causing a problem for hay making. Heavy dews were also reported as making some fieldwork a late afternoon activity. Small grain harvest was in full swing the past week with multiple dry days across most of the state, but some growers were still dealing with wet fields.

Across the reporting stations, average temperatures last week ranged from 2 to 4 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 83 to 87 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 63 to 68 degrees. Eau Claire had 0.25 inches of rainfall, while all other stations reported no precipitation for the week. There were 5.4 days suitable for fieldwork. If you are interested in further weather data, please reference the following sites:

- <http://www.noaa.gov/>
- <http://www.aos.wisc.edu/~sco/>
- <http://www.cocorahs.org/>
- <http://www.weather.gov/>

Corn continued to be ahead of normal with corn silked reported at 97 percent complete, an increase of 8 percentage points from the previous week. Across the state, 33 percent of corn was reported to be in the dough stage and 2 percent in the dent stage. Corn fields were reported as looking good, with some fields uneven due to excess moisture earlier this season.

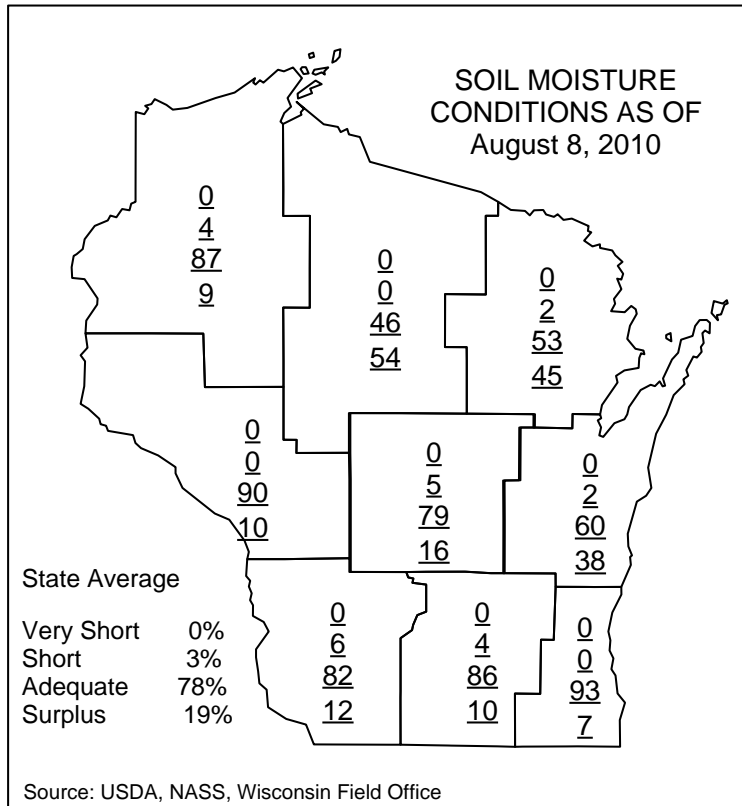
Across the state **soybeans** blooming was reported at 89 percent complete. Soybeans setting pods was reported at 57 percent complete, 20 percentage points above last week. Reports indicated that soybeans were looking good, with soybean condition reported at 85 percent Good to Excellent. Loopers, a soybean pest, were reported as showing up in some fields in Kewaunee County and white mold was reported as a problem in Brown County.

The dry weather last week allowed **oat** harvest to really progress, with 72 percent reported complete, an increase of 30 percentage points from the previous week. Fields with lodged oats from previous storms were reported as making combining a slow process.

Despite some fields still being wet, the past week allowed for many to get into the fields to cut dry hay. Second cutting **hay** was wrapping up statewide at 92 percent complete. Across the state many growers were also able to work on third cutting hay with 37 percent complete, an increase of 19 percentage points from the previous week. Yields were reported as lower than expected.

Red **potatoes** were reported as being harvested in Oneida County, and harvest of fresh market potatoes was reported as going well in Portage County.

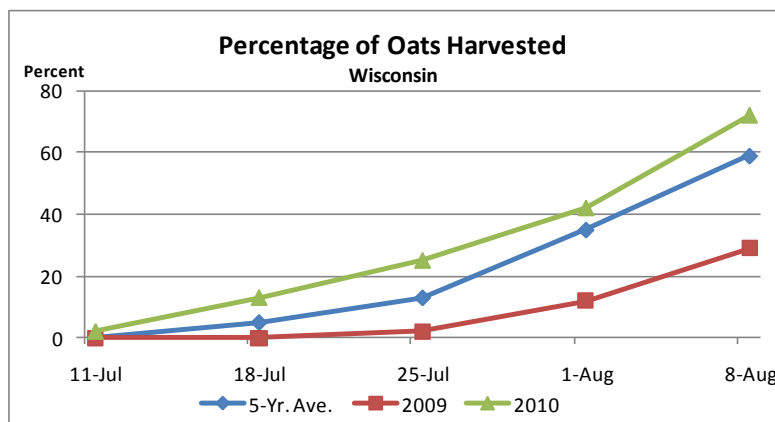
The warm temperatures and sunshine aided **cranberries** over the past week. Very little insect pressure was reported in Oneida County.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of August 8, 2010

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Corn	1	3	10	44	42
Soybean	1	2	12	47	38
Oat	2	12	18	53	15
Pasture	1	1	16	63	19

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 week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
Corn silked	97	98	96	99	95	90	98	99	99	97	89	74	86
Corn in dough stage	37	24	24	38	41	19	41	33	39	33	15	7	16
Soybeans blooming	78	83	76	88	98	87	87	98	83	89	82	75	87
Soybeans setting pods	42	51	45	57	83	62	56	56	51	57	37	35	59
Oats harvested	62	33	58	79	85	52	93	98	87	72	42	29	59
Second cutting hay	96	75	90	95	89	90	95	98	93	92	83	93	95
Third cutting hay	35	22	33	45	27	33	36	53	25	37	18	15	25

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Selected Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

All comments are used in creating this report, but only a few are published below.

RUSK-G.P.: The week started hot and humid but went out with nice weather. A little drier this week but still plenty of moisture. Corn and soybeans are looking good. Corn is filling and soybeans are at growth stage R5. Lots of hay and haylage going up with drier weather at the end of the week. Small grains a mess, lots of weeds.

MARATHON-S.N.: Crops are in good condition. No rainfall for the week of August 2 helped farmers continue to harvest second and third crop. Many fields of oats and wheat are lodged from the past heavy rainfall and high winds making combining a slow process. Soybeans are setting pods.

ONEIDA-B.E.: Excellent growing conditions for cranberries this week. Plenty of sunlight, highs in the mid 80's, lows in the 60's. Three inches of rainfall and very little insect pest pressure. Weeds, though abundant, are under control. Vines look healthy and vigorous, and a good crop is expected.

FLORENCE-T.B.: No one in the area harvesting small grains yet. Harvesting second crop hay has been difficult again this past week. The younger stands are yielding a lot. A lot of the alfalfa is at 50 percent flower or more. The density of the crop is not allowing the ground to dry out any so at cutting the swath lies on very wet soil making it hard for drying. Need 3-4 days drying time and that has been hard to get. Older stands of grasses are yielding very low. Corn is looking great at this time. Tonnage for silage is going to be excellent. Cobs are starting to fill in some areas.

SHAWANO-B.R.: Wheat harvest winding down with yields in the 60-80 bushel range and test weights being very light at around 51-53 pounds. Combining of oats is slow with many fields too wet. Grass, weeds and alfalfa are all growing through the oats and those golden fields now look pretty green. Alfalfa harvest is all over the board with a few still not able to cut first crop and some starting their third crop.

LA CROSSE-I.H.: Corn will remain an uneven stand due to the abundance of moisture that saturated some fields. Soybeans improved this week due to hot, dry days. Hay is a continuing saga. A lot of poor quality due to harvesting between the rain drops. Only a few days had low humidity so hay could be baled, still heavy dew in the morning made hay making a late afternoon activity. Yield of second and third crop hay is above normal, but second cut is getting poorer in quality. Some hayfields have areas that were affected by standing water. Harvesting small grains was difficult (slow) due to lodging and weeds, test weight low.

TREMPEALEAU-D.D.: Second planting of snap beans look real nice and for many first plantings yielded very well. Corn maturity is ahead a couple weeks from normal. Third and fourth crops of alfalfa look real good. Locally hay and haylage are abundant.

JUNEAU-J.W.: Very hot humid week. Received more rain over the weekend. Pods are setting and corn looks good other than the low areas in fields. Timing is and was everything as far as the hay crop goes. If first crop was made before June 1 farmers have been able to get an excellent crop but if not first, second and third could be very poor.

PORTAGE-D.Z.: Had a couple of dry days. Finally getting some wheat and rye combined.

DOOR-T.S.: Wheat was a disappointment with 50 bushel average and concern about sprouting on unharvested wheat. Average oat yields with some 100 bushel yields. Very little dry hay made yet but yields have been excellent. Barley yields ran 85-90 bushel. Corn yields look like we will see a lot of 150-160 bushel corn across the county. It looks like we may also have a lot of 50 bushel soybeans. Very little report of disease or pest in corn or soybeans.

SHEBOYGAN-S.D.: All crops look good. Second and third crop hay quality and quantities are good.

VERNON-K.L.: Perfect week in the eyes of farmers. Much warmer temperatures, sunny days, humid some of the time for the week, and no rain. Crops looking good. Second and third crop hay being harvested, and fields with surplus moisture drying down. Harvesting of corn silage will be beginning this upcoming week if the weather holds.

COLUMBIA-B.K.: Oat harvest completed. More third crop hay harvested. Sweet corn harvest in full swing. Corn and soybeans still looking very good.

OZAUKEE-K.A.: Very hot. Combining of small grains winding down. Third crop hay yields are better than expected. Corn is the best I have seen in many years. Soil moisture just perfect for harvesting dry third crop hay.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on August 8, 2010

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. 7	Mar. 1 to Aug. 7 normal*	Last Week	Since June 1	June 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	84	63	91	58	74	2	2075	1675	0.25	11.66	2.48	17.93	-1.55
Green Bay	84	63	90	57	74	4	1937	1548	0.00	16.25	8.59	23.89	6.71
La Crosse	87	67	91	59	77	3	2309	1873	0.00	15.10	5.95	23.61	3.44
Madison	83	66	88	59	75	4	2183	1821	0.00	16.36	7.47	26.41	6.10
Milwaukee	83	68	85	63	75	3	2104	n.a.	0.00	17.86	9.93	26.87	6.05

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.