



Wisconsin Crop Progress

August 1, 2011

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Timely Moisture Proves Helpful

Ample precipitation this past week helped to accelerate crop growth after a prolonged spell of high temperatures and dry conditions. Despite putting a stop to fieldwork, including the cutting of second crop hay, the rains proved especially beneficial in helping late planted corn catch up and in soybean maturity. Statewide, farmers had 4.3 days suitable for fieldwork. The moisture was welcomed but adequate precipitation during the month of August will be needed.

Across the reporting stations, average temperatures last week were normal to 4 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 82 to 85 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 62 to 69 degrees. Precipitation totals ranged from 1.20 inches in La Crosse to 2.89 inches in Green Bay. Growing degree days were above normal at all reporting stations. If you are interested in further weather data, please reference the following sites:

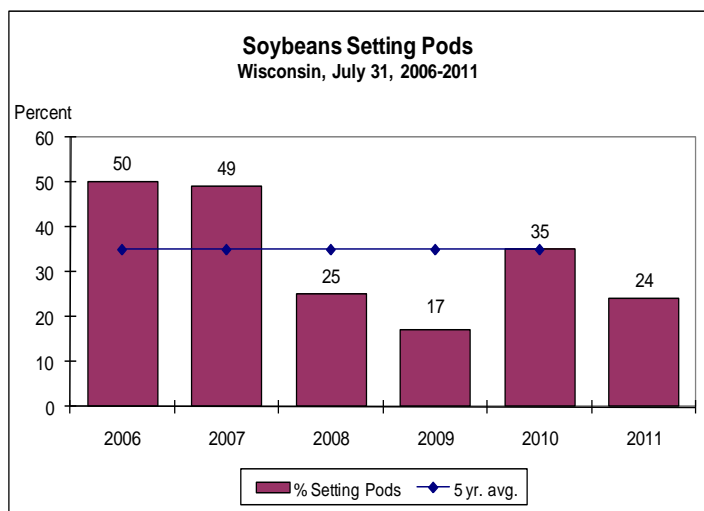
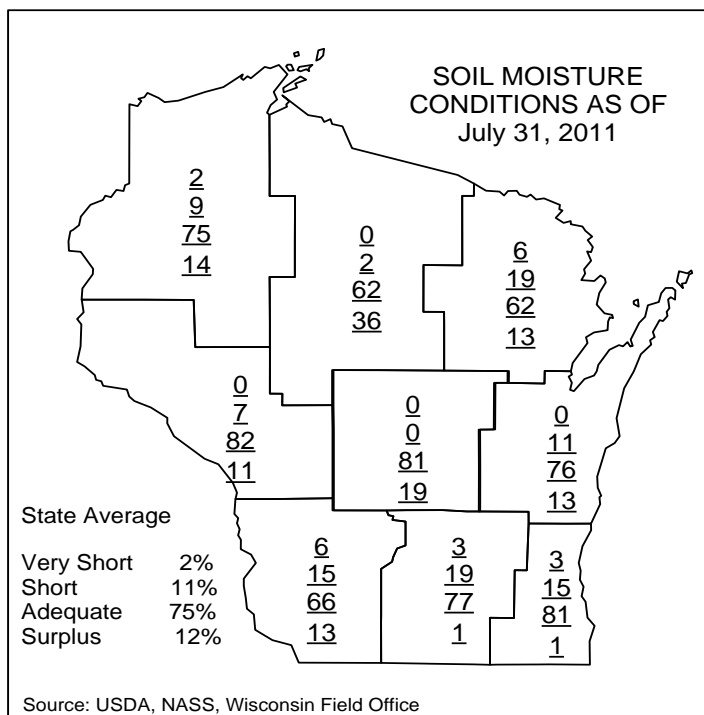
- <http://www.noaa.gov/>
- <http://www.aos.wisc.edu/~sco/>
- <http://www.cocorahs.org/>
- <http://www.weather.gov/>

The **corn** crop was looking good as recent heat, humidity, and precipitation have helped to push corn growth and maturity. There were reports of yield losses due to the extreme heat and dryness, but it was still too early to tell its total effect. Statewide, 72 percent of the corn had silked with an average height of 78 inches. Across the state, 5 percent of the corn crop was reported as being in dough stage.

Soybeans were also looking good and were growing well with 71 percent blooming statewide. Several reports stated that soybeans were flourishing and advancing rapidly, due primarily to the recent moisture. Spraying had caught up before the rains and made the fields look much cleaner and weed-free. Across the state, 24 percent of soybeans were setting pods.

Even though the precipitation proved beneficial for most growers, second crop **hay** harvest was hindered due to wet conditions. Several rainy days limited the ability to take off second crop hay, but accelerated the growth of third crop for those growers at that stage. Statewide, 91 percent of second crop hay and 13 percent of third crop hay was harvested. Early reports suggested good quality and quantity for third crop.

Across the state, 18 percent of **oats** had been harvested for grain. The weather wasn't conducive for oat harvest, with several fields lodged due to heavy rains, and early reports indicate that straw yields were down. **Wheat** harvest cranked up during the past week as several combines were spotted rolling across the fields in Manitowoc County. **Peas** were harvested while **snap beans** and **sweet corn** harvest was just beginning in Columbia County.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of July 31, 2011

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Corn	2	4	13	54	27
Soybean	1	3	15	55	26
Oat	1	4	17	60	18
Winter Wheat	1	3	15	52	29
Pasture	2	7	28	51	12

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
Average corn height (in.)	73	75	67	84	75	66	85	83	82	78	69	81	78
Corn silked	67	62	40	75	70	46	88	87	80	72	42	87	67
Corn in dough stage	5	1	3	6	3	1	13	3	4	5	n.a.	14	6
Soybeans blooming	64	60	57	65	85	65	72	83	70	71	55	79	75
Soybeans setting pods	11	11	5	25	37	17	22	30	31	24	7	35	35
Oats harvested for grain	5	0	3	18	9	8	37	44	43	18	6	40	31
Second cutting hay	85	87	91	94	76	92	94	99	99	91	86	82	86
Third cutting hay	7	7	13	14	4	22	9	21	17	13	n.a.	15	10

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.

BARRON-D. B.: Good week of hay making weather. Corn and soybeans look good. We received 7.5 inches of rain for the month of July.

CHIPPEWA-R.M.: Turning out to be quite a year. Plenty of moisture, everything really growing.

CLARK-R.H.: Corn and soybeans look good, good weather for corn pollination. Saw some oat shocks made this week as small grains are near harvest stage in the next week to ten days. Soybeans are branching to fill in bare areas of fields. There is some white mold and septoria in some produce crops.

MARATHON-S.N.: Second crop hay yields better than first crop hay. The soybean and corn crop looks good, growing well with the heat and humidity.

SHAWANO-B.R.: Frequent rains and warm temperatures helping to get the crops back on schedule after a late start to spring. Corn is starting to tassel and with the recent rains it should be ideal. Third crop alfalfa is really growing fast. Wheat harvest has just begun but humid weather is making it difficult.

BUFFALO-R.S.: A wet week 3.0 - 5.0 inches of rain, winds lodged hay and oats. No field activity. Oats harvest has low yields, like 25 bushels/acre.

DUNN-J.R.: Third crop hay quality is looking very good and yield so far is average. Soybeans have really taken off this week with most fields finally canopying. We seem to get an inch of rain at a time and then the heat needed to keep crops growing. Oats are starting to be combined and most should be done in the next week or so. Doesn't appear to be much straw yield in oats so far.

TREMPEALEAU-K.L.: Continued warm and humid weather conditions. Isolated heavy rain storms with some flash flooding this week. Small grain harvest just beginning. Corn and soybeans looking good. Farmers struggling to get hay made.

PORTAGE-J.W.: The 4.6 inches of rain this week slowed field activity. Some hay got made, most poor quality, a few fields were good. Weather hasn't cooperated with oat harvest. Canning potato harvest moving along. Potatoes, snap beans, sweet corn and beets are doing well. Corn and soybeans looking good.

WAUSHARA-K.W.: Crops looking quite a bit better now with afternoon thunderstorms going thru.

CALUMET-B.L.: Variable rainfall from 0.5-1.5 inches fell last week. With the heat the crops have moved considerably. Earliest and best corn here has blistered ears and pollinated very well during the intense heat. Soybeans are advancing rapidly. The very first wheat is coming off. No reports to date of yields or disease issues. Considerable third cutting is harvested or cut. Some of the third is on a 26 day cutting and looks very good. Many second cuttings in better fields were 80-90 percent of first cutting and with a good third, some of our legume forage inventory issues may be improved. Here the early planted corn handled the very intense heat and humidity very well.

MANITOWOC-M.R.: A good portion of third crop hay was harvested this week and with a week of dry weather the remaining third crop will come of within the next week. Winter Wheat harvest

cranked up this week too - lots of combines rolling across the fields.

SHEBOYGAN-M.B.: Rains this past week ideal for crops and the timing was critical for pollination and soybean pod set. Yields of second and third crop are generally good. Crops in general good to very good.

GRANT-J.R.: Rain has delayed anyone finishing up on second crop hay but rain is welcome. The northern part of the county has seen half the rain that the southern part of the county has. Corn is 100 percent tasseled and pollinating.

RICHLAND-J.C.: We did receive some much needed rain last week, but it was not enough to overcome the dry soils. With temperatures above normal, the moisture disappeared before it had a chance to do much good.

COLUMBIA-B.K.: The county received very much needed widely scattered rains ranging from 0.6 inch to localized areas of almost 3.0 inches. Still showing some signs of dry conditions but not as much as a couple of weeks ago. Wheat being harvested. Peas are harvested with snap bean harvest starting along with sweet corn. Wheat yields were very good, peas were average.

DANE-J.K.: Second and third crop hay was very good. Crops lost yield due to extreme dryness and heat. Weeds and diseases have slowed down due to heat and dry conditions. Corn and soybeans are drying up in places. It is hurting corn the most. I think soybeans are being affected too, not sure. Liquid manure going on wheat fields as soon as straw is taken off. Some people are planting no till soybeans. Digging potatoes and getting a lot of beans and peas.

OZAUKEE-K.A.: Hot! Had 2.0 inches of rain Wednesday night, corn sure perked up. Weeds starting to appear in wheat fields.

WASHINGTON-G.S.: Second and third crop hay is good in quality and quantity. Most crops could still use some moisture.



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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 July 31, 2011

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 July 30	Mar. 1 to July 30 normal*	Last Week	Since June 1	June 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	83	62	87	57	72	0	1601	1533	2.23	14.69	6.67	25.19	6.94
Green Bay	83	64	88	60	74	4	1495	1412	2.89	9.91	3.22	24.62	8.32
La Crosse	85	66	90	59	76	2	1801	1718	1.20	13.22	5.16	26.30	7.25
Madison	85	66	90	61	75	3	1739	1672	1.27	5.40	-2.42	17.24	-1.91
Milwaukee	82	69	89	63	75	2	1529	n.a.	1.66	7.01	0.00	22.67	2.79

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.