



Wisconsin Crop Progress

July 2, 2012

Vol. 12, No. 13

Heat Stresses Crops, Livestock

Another week without rain dried out fields across the state and exacerbated drought conditions for southern Wisconsin. Highs in the 90s boosted crop growth in areas where moisture was adequate, but proved punishing on livestock and agricultural workers. Soil moisture conditions were 70 percent or more short to very short in five of the nine reporting districts. The Madison weather station recorded record low rainfall for the month of June, only 0.35 inches, compared to the previous record low of 0.59 inches in June of 1895. Irrigation systems were getting a workout statewide. Pesticide and herbicide applications were ongoing. There were 6.8 days suitable for fieldwork.

Across the reporting stations, average temperatures this week were 3 to 5 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 85 to 90 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 58 to 64 degrees. Precipitation totals ranged from 0.0 inches in Eau Claire, La Crosse, Madison and Milwaukee to 0.06 inches in Green Bay. 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/>

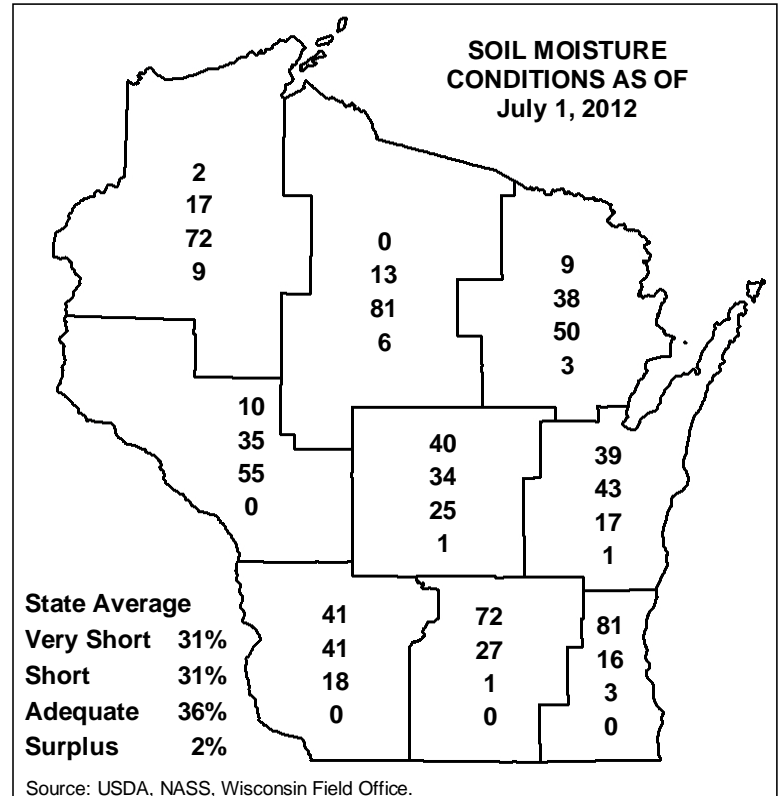
Corn had an average height of 40 inches statewide. One percent of corn was silking, compared to 0 percent last year and 0 percent five-year average. Corn was growing rapidly with the heat and humidity but the crop was reportedly uneven in some areas. Dry conditions have reportedly led to curling and other signs of stress. The crop needs rain soon to recover.

Soybeans were 3 percent blooming, compared to 1 percent last year and a 4 percent five-year average. Soybeans, too, need additional moisture. Weed control was an issue in some areas of the state.

Oats were 96 percent headed this week. Oats were 2 percent harvested, compared to 0 percent last year and a 0 percent five-year average. The five-year average start date for oat harvest is July 12.

Second cutting hay was 68 percent harvested. Though conditions have been good for curing hay, drought conditions have slowed or halted regrowth in some areas. Insect pressure has also been a major concern across the state.

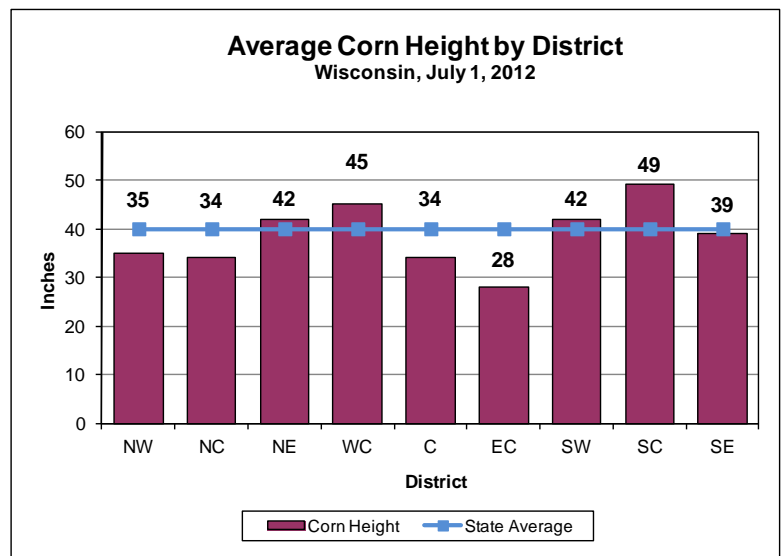
A few producers were harvesting **winter wheat** with good yields reported in Green, Kenosha and Walworth Counties. Many reporters noted that wheat harvest will begin in the next week. **Sweet corn** was reportedly tasseling in Trempealeau and Portage counties. A Portage County reporter reported that early **potatoes** for canning were being dug. Reporters in Oneida and Crawford counties noted **apple** trees dropping fruit due to the heat.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of July 1, 2012

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Pasture	13	21	29	34	3
Oats	2	8	23	57	10
Corn	8	16	26	40	10
Soybeans	8	17	26	40	9

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.



Wisconsin Crop Progress, July 1, 2012

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.)	35	34	42	45	34	28	42	49	39	40	28	25	33
Oats headed	89	93	99	99	93	99	96	100	100	96	89	57	73
Second cutting hay	48	50	79	65	56	73	81	87	66	68	42	8	13

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.

CHIPPEWA-R.M.: Need rain again. Second crop hay was good to average. Oats are starting to turn color.

CLARK-J.B.: All crops look good, some fields are soft. Second cutting look has good quality and yields. Some oats have been harvested for oatlage.

ONEIDA-P.L.: Potato and corn fields look good and are pretty normal for this time of the year. Oats are heading out and starting to fill, wheat is filling and seems to be on schedule nicely. Haying weather is cooperating this week, with some good quality hay being put up. I have seen some fruit drop from the apple trees. I think it is still a combination effect of the late frost (fruit set), and low moisture levels. Farmers Market is picking up with more items available each week. Strawberry picking is reaching its end of season. We are still behind on moisture with only 3.7 inches for June, but we are holding our own so far with moisture levels for growth. If we don't get some July rain we could be in more trouble. The corn and potato crop could be affected as well as the grain quality.

SHAWANO-B.R.: Second crop alfalfa cutting is almost done with average yield and good quality. Leafhoppers are very active in the regrowth. A lot of spraying done this week as weather finally cooperated. Weeds were getting ahead of the soybeans in many fields. Corn is dark green and looks quite good. Wheat harvest is about two weeks away. Could use more rain.

EAU CLAIRE-D.J.: We did have a problem with army worms with second crop hay in newer seeding. I'm spraying for them. Haven't noticed them in the corn.

TREMPEALEAU-K.L.: The corn height jumped this week. Lots of insects reported, weather allowing for spraying to continue. Short strawberry picking season. More rain needed.

WAUPACA-D.H.: Harvesting of winter wheat has just begun. No rain received this past week and crops are very dry. Crops continue to be re-sprayed for weeds.

WOOD-M.L.: Second crop alfalfa is coming off, a decent crop. New seedings and established alfalfa have some leaf hopper damage.

CALUMET-B.L.: We could use some rain again. Some corn waist high, some 8 inches tall and maybe in the same field! The lower ratings for both beans and corn in my summary are mostly due to poor emergence and lower stand counts. Soon we won't be able to see the bare spots and we won't know until harvest what the impacts will be. Winter wheat harvest is on target here for right after the 4th of July. We are still about 14-20 days ahead on wheat and our alfalfa cutting schedules. Our third cutting is greening up after the rain on June 18th. Many hay fields have been sprayed for a multitude of insects and pressure remains above normal growing seasons. My strawberries are about done but my raspberries seem later then most as I have not picked any yet. More hot and dry weather is predicted for the short term.

FOND DU LAC-E.A.: Hay had good quality, but light harvest. Winter wheat looks good, but not sure if heads will fill out, because of the heat. Crops will be okay if we get rain soon.

CRAWFORD-J.B.: The entire county is extremely dry. This week will be critical. Second crop hay and some third crop is being harvested and not real certain whether additional crops will happen. Some pockets in the county have not had rain for over a month and a half. While in general crops still seem to be holding their own it won't last much longer if hot dry conditions persist. Wheat harvest should begin shortly. I suspect apples are dropping more than normal because of the intense heat and dry conditions. This weather probably isn't doing much for any berry crops as well. We need rain.

RICHLAND-J.C.: Alfalfa regrowth is struggling in many areas of the county. Corn is showing drought stress, and some may tassel early.

GREEN-D.M.: Majority of conventional corn fields have leaves curled, with patches wilting. Conventional soybean fields showing signs of stress. Second crop hay looked decent, but yield down as much as 50 percent. Amazingly crops are still growing under these dry conditions, and can still salvage a yield if rain does come. You don't appreciate all the effort and research into crop genetics until you come up against weather conditions like this. I have not cultivated my organic corn and bean fields for two weeks, in an effort to salvage any moisture left in the soil. Thankfully, weed pressure has been minimal also. So far, my fields are not showing much sign of stress yet. Corn is in bottom land, and beans on a mainly hillside facing north. My luck will be running out if things don't change.

ROCK-D.C.: Extremely dry. At this time I would say some corn will not recover enough to make any grain.

RACINE-K.I.: Things are drying up- we need rain!!!

WALWORTH-N.W.: Another week without rain. One inch of rain in almost two months. The dry weather hasn't affected the wheat yields. Report of 108 bushels per acre from one producer.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on July 1, 2012

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 Jun. 30	Mar. 1 To Jun. 30 normal*	Last Week	Since Jun. 1	Jun. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	85	58	91	49	72	3	1371	936	0.00	3.66	-0.59	15.43	0.88
Green Bay	86	59	93	48	72	4	1300	842	0.06	1.48	-1.96	12.03	-1.04
La Crosse	88	63	95	55	75	3	1548	1063	0.00	3.24	-0.76	14.78	-0.14
Madison	90	59	97	46	74	5	1485	1039	0.00	0.35	-3.53	11.43	-4.01
Milwaukee	85	64	96	54	74	5	1289	n.a.	0.00	0.90	-2.70	13.54	-2.97

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.