



Wisconsin Crop Progress

July 30, 2012

Vol. 12, No. 17

Rain Received, More Needed

Much of Wisconsin received rain this week, however amounts varied greatly. Corn and soybean development jumped in response to recent precipitation. Some reporters noted that rain came too late to allow good corn pollination, while in other areas the crop was pollinating normally. Flowering soybeans reportedly benefited more than corn, as the crop's progress was not as far ahead of average. Small grains harvest continued with good yields reported. Pastures were 62 percent in poor to very poor condition statewide. Reporters noted that livestock operations were turning to emergency CRP grazing and haying, feeding hay baled earlier this season or purchasing feed for their cattle. Soil moistures were 71 percent short to very short statewide, compared to 76 percent short to very short last week. There were 5.7 days suitable for fieldwork.

Across the reporting stations, average temperatures this week were 4 to 6 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 85 to 89 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 65 to 71 degrees. Precipitation totals ranged from 0.05 inches in Eau Claire to 2.29 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/>

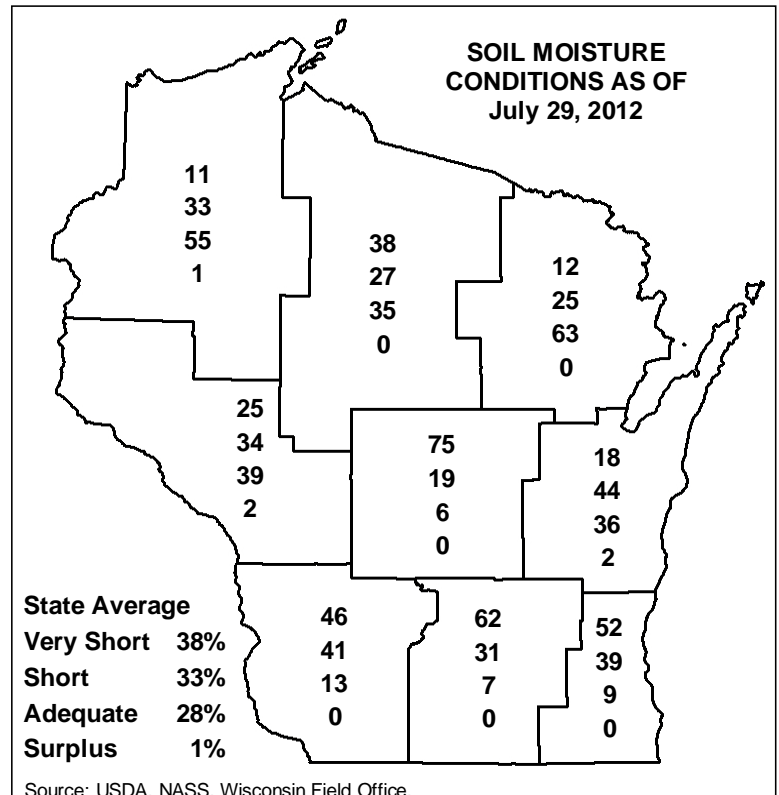
Corn had an average height of 75 inches statewide this week. The crop was 83 percent silked and 10 percent in dough stage. Corn condition and pollination reportedly varied widely by soil type, amount of rain received and planting date. A few producers in the southern parts of the state were reportedly chopping drought-damaged corn for silage.

Soybeans were 82 percent blooming and 41 percent setting pods this week. Adequate moisture will be needed to ensure pods fill.

Oats were 66 percent harvested for grain. Rain and high humidity slowed combining this week. Yield reports ranged from 70-90 bushels per acre. Straw tonnage was reportedly high, with many baling straw for feed.

Third cutting hay was 63 percent harvested. Reporters noted that harvest timing greatly affected the quality and yield of the third crop. Dormant stands were beginning to green up with recent rains, and reporters commented that the fourth cutting was starting in some areas.

Winter wheat harvest also slowed due to conditions this week, though yield, test weight and straw tonnage were reportedly high. **Sweet corn** was being picked in Oneida, Portage and Calumet Counties

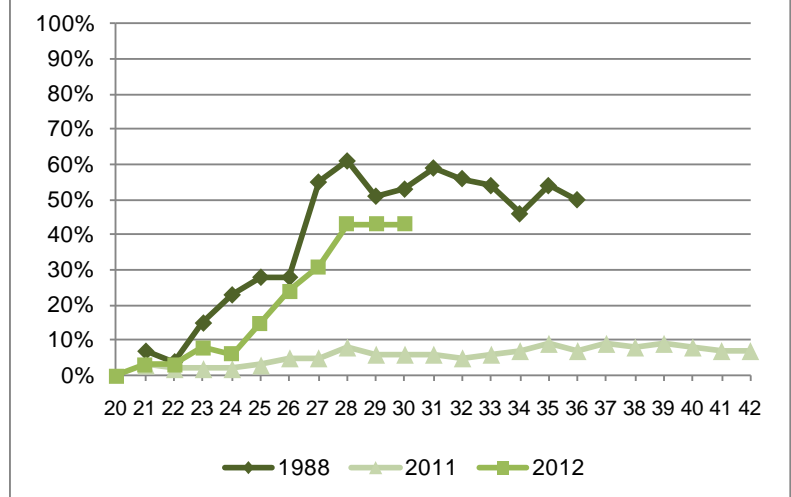


Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of July 29, 2012

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	35	27	24	12	2
Corn	19	24	25	24	8
Soybeans	10	20	31	30	9

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Percent of Corn in Poor to Very Poor Condition By Week, Wisconsin, 1988, 2011 and 2012



Week 20 of 2012 represents Monday, May 14 through Sunday, May 20.

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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.)	79	84	90	86	66	69	73	67	69	75	70	75	76
Corn silked	84	78	87	92	78	69	89	86	77	83	62	63	60
Corn in dough stage	9	17	6	11	5	8	23	7	4	10	2	4	4
Soybeans blooming	77	80	100	81	84	73	76	89	79	82	63	66	69
Soybeans setting pods	30	50	71	36	22	30	41	59	34	41	15	19	26
Oats Harvested	48	41	41	83	63	57	89	95	96	66	49	15	21
Third cutting hay	50	56	82	61	48	76	72	64	49	63	45	9	6

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-J.C.: Most corn appears to have been pollinated with small beneficial rains helping. Most third crop hay is harvested and small grain harvest is in full swing. Japanese beetles a problem in some fields.

TAYLOR-D.E.: Getting very dry in this area but crops still look good, so far. Third crop hay beginning to be harvested. Need rain now.

MARINETTE-S.R.: Timely rains have kept things going, but heat and locally dry conditions have certainly impacted yield negatively.

OCONTO-N.S.: Corn and soybean crops are looking very well in most areas. Producers are reporting lower hay yields and insect problems. Some areas reported as much as 3.0 inches of rainfall last week.

ST CROIX-D.K.: Got another 1.5 inches of rain and things look great.

TREMPEALEAU-D.D.: Some say third crop was excellent others report very light. Spotty showers are to credit or blame. Some corn has been chopped and more is being considered. Crop insurance adjusters hold the decision making cards

MARQUETTE-K.V.: No pastures left, many fields with grasshoppers eating all the forage. Some parts of county received 1.0 inch of rain, others 0.3 inches.

PORTAGE-J.W.: NO RAINFALL AGAIN THIS WEEK. No third cut growth, no pasture growth. Cattlemen feeding hay to keep livestock going. Crops on irrigated sand doing well. Early fresh market potato harvest began, good yields. First field of processing sweet corn harvested. Snap beans continue to be harvested.

CALUMET-B.L.: The southern portion of the county received 2.0-3.5 inches of rain this week. The northern portion an additional 1.75 to 3.0 inches to add to last week's 1.75 to 4.0 inches. We now have adequate moisture for the short term. I checked five fields with various planting dates from April 25 to May 17 and pollination looks very good for the most part. Stand count and late emergence will be factors in final yields. The soybeans look surprisingly good with fewer floral abortions than I would have guessed. Our early alfalfa harvesters will be on target again for mid August for fourth cutting. Wheat yield reports continue to be good with a few individuals averaging over 120 bushels per acre. Straw is in high demand and the tonnage was good this year. Trying to

set dates for silage dry down events will take some real thought this year with wide ranges in crop conditions and growth and development. My raspberries are finally slowing down. The crop did very well in the heat. My May 10th sweet corn is tasting good.

FOND DU LAC-M.R.: Finally got 1.0-3.0 inches of rain over the week. Unfortunately, localized wind and hail damage as well.

WINNEBAGO-S.E.: Things are looking a little better with recent rains

SAUK-J.P.: The recent rains have not only improved the crops but also some farmers' outlooks. A few are actually expecting a near normal crop of corn. Hay has been behind all year and cannot be expected to catch up, though a fifth crop is talked about by many. Beans that were sprayed during the hot dry spell have good weed control. One grower of evergreen trees claims to have lost all the trees planted in the past three years. Those with a better established root system are okay for now.

DANE-L.J.: Much needed rainfall arrived this week. Third crop hay was short and poor quality. Corn is trying to pollinate. Silks are out, but not much pollen is available. I'm expecting about 50 percent pollination when it is done. The soybeans have responded very well to the rain. Flowering is going well and pods are forming.

WALWORTH-N.W.: More spotty rains this week. Drought stricken corn is starting to green up on top. Checked some early planted corn and noticed that the affected areas in the field are forming ears but missed the pollination. Just a few kernels on very small ears. The rain will benefit the soybeans the most. They are finally starting to canopy over.



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Director

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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on July 29, 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 Jul. 28	Mar. 1 To Jul. 28 normal*	Last Week	Since Jun. 1	Jun. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	88	65	95	53	76	+4	2078	1511	0.05	5.22	-2.57	16.99	-1.08
Green Bay	85	66	93	58	76	+6	1992	1393	2.29	7.72	+1.24	18.27	+2.25
La Crosse	89	68	98	61	79	+5	2312	1695	1.34	5.24	-2.58	16.78	-1.86
Madison	89	68	98	58	78	+6	2234	1650	2.28	4.03	-3.57	15.11	-3.77
Milwaukee	87	71	99	65	79	+6	2051	n.a.	1.40	4.04	-2.69	16.68	-2.94

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.