



WISCONSIN CROP PROGRESS

August 19, 2013

Vol. 13, No. 20

Rain and Heat Badly Needed

After a fourth week of below average temperatures and very little precipitation, reporters across the state commented that crops were in need of rain. On average, soil moistures were 59 percent short to very short this week compared to 44 percent last week and 62 percent on August 18, 2012. Corn and soybeans were both reportedly showing stress from lack of moisture, especially in the northern half of the state. A few reporters in north central Wisconsin noted spotty frost mid week. Late planted crops reportedly continued to lag behind normal development; heat is still needed for these acres to pollinate successfully. Reporters commented that the cool, dry conditions were also impacting pasture and third crop hay quality. There were 6.8 days suitable for fieldwork statewide.

Across the reporting stations, average temperatures last week were 4 to 5 degrees below normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 74 to 80 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 50 to 58 degrees. Precipitation totals ranged from 0.01 inches in Green Bay to 1.15 inches in Milwaukee. 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/>

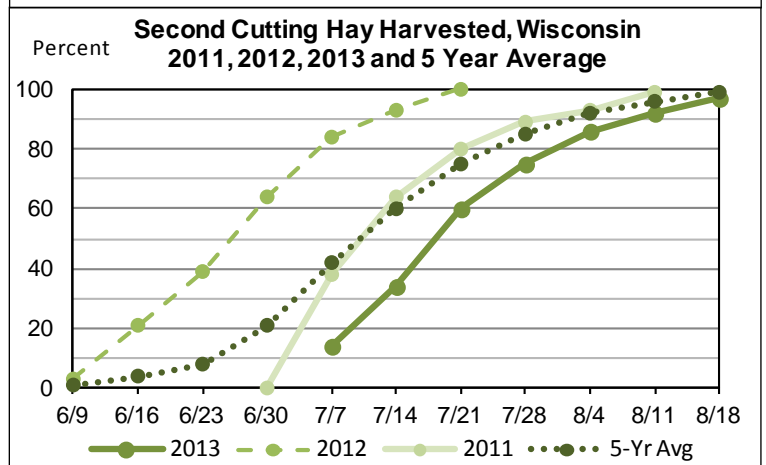
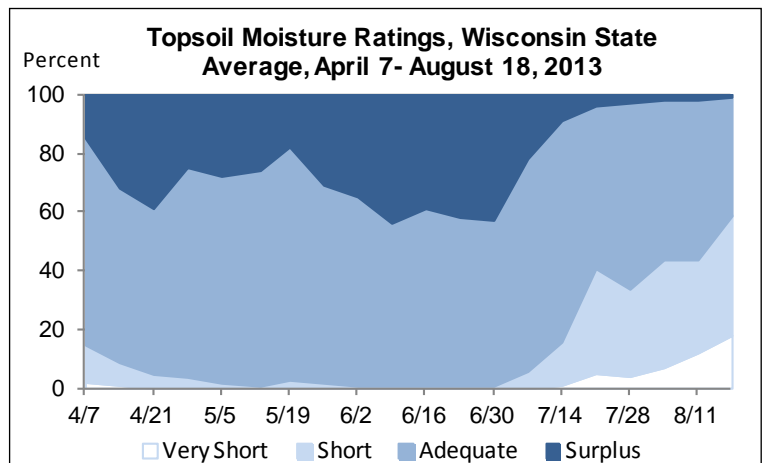
Corn was 88 percent silking and 25 percent in dough stage. One percent of corn was in dent stage, compared to 18 percent last year and a five year average of 9 percent. Reporters noted that late plantings were short, yellow and showing stress due to the lack of moisture.

Soybeans were 86 percent blooming and 61 percent setting pods.

Oats were 60 percent harvested for grain, with most reporters noting good yields.

Second cutting alfalfa was 97 percent harvested and wrapping up. The **third cutting** was 49 percent harvested.

Winter wheat harvest was reportedly wrapping up with slightly below average yields. **Sweet corn** and **potatoes** were being harvested in Marquette and Portage Counties.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of August 18, 2013

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Pasture	8	21	34	33	4
Corn	4	12	30	41	13
Soybeans	4	10	30	42	14

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office

Wisconsin Crop Progress, August 18, 2013

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
	Percent									Percent			
Corn silked	82	68	91	85	85	82	96	99	89	88	78	100	97
Corn in dough	16	16	8	22	28	29	49	23	8	25	12	60	45
Soybeans blooming	77	81	90	83	86	88	75	97	88	86	75	99	96
Soybeans setting pods	47	46	82	49	58	66	52	83	56	61	40	91	81
Oats harvested	53	17	47	58	78	65	78	93	85	60	37	96	77
Second cutting hay	93	88	98	98	94	98	99	100	99	97	92	100	99
Third cutting hay	35	12	72	41	38	66	52	70	43	49	27	92	61

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork and Soil Moisture Conditions, August 18, 2013

Item	District average									State average		
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This week	Last week	Last year
	Days									Days		
Days Suitable	6.9	7.0	7.0	6.8	7.0	6.5	6.9	7.0	6.2	6.8	5.7	5.6
	Percent									Percent		
Topsoil Moisture												
Very Short	25	49	6	19	17	9	10	18	11	18	12	23
Short	52	21	35	43	39	43	50	34	43	41	32	39
Adequate	23	30	54	37	44	48	40	45	46	40	54	37
Surplus	0	0	5	1	0	0	0	3	0	1	2	1
Subsoil Moisture												
Very Short	14	0	8	15	12	6	4	9	2	8	6	n.a.
Short	52	54	32	43	38	36	43	41	43	43	31	n.a.
Adequate	34	46	57	41	50	58	53	47	55	48	62	n.a.
Surplus	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	3	0	1	1	n.a.

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Wisconsin Crop Progress

Selected Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

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

BURNETT-J.D.: Last rain was 2 weeks ago. Very dry all of June, July and August.

SAWYER-K.S.: Lack of rain is starting to show its impacts especially on forage crops. Feed inventories will be tight if third crop harvests are poor. Row crops planted late or on sandy soil are definitely stressed. Yield reductions likely. Small grain yields for grain and straw were above average.

CLARK-R.H.: Spotty showers have missed many areas in the county for the past 6 weeks. Soybeans, corn, second/third crop hay, and vegetable crops are all under stress from drought conditions since July 1 unless irrigated. Cool temperatures are adding to the stress on the crops. Traveling across the county corn is knee/waist high to setting grain and soybeans in a similar situation. Tough decisions will have to be made as the growing season continues.

LANGLADE-A.K.: Third crop had nice harvest conditions and decent yields. Small grain harvest good start, some oats still turning. Would not count on anything making grain corn in Langlade County right now about 25 percent looks like high moisture potential. Rest will be corn silage.

SHAWANO-J.N.: Sure could use some rainfall, starting to show moisture stress with the sandy soils being in desperate need now. Winter wheat harvest is wrapping up with light test weights and a little below average yields. Grasses are being planted on prevent acres with hopes to harvest forage after November 1st.

EAU CLAIRE-A.B.: WE NEED RAIN. For the month of July the Eau Claire area is over 4.0 inches behind normal and for the month of August to date we are over 3.0 inches behind normal rainfall. Please send moisture.

PIERCE-M.B.: Getting dry, about 2 weeks since rain. Getting hot this week and humid.

ST CROIX-R.F.: The severe lack of rainfall is negatively affecting all non-irrigated crops. Small grains continue to be harvested. Third cutting of hay is being harvested with substantially reduced yields. Pastures are brown. We really need rain.

MARQUETTE-D.B.: Sweet corn and potatoes being harvested.

WAUPACA-D.L.H.: Crops need warmer weather for maturity.

KEWAUNEE-T.S.: Even though some areas have been lacking for precipitation, this has not been the case here. In the local

area, nearly half an inch of rain fell this past week, making for a slow go for making dry hay or combining. This was in the early part of the week, and later on, conditions improved greatly and much work was accomplished in the fields. Third crop hay harvest is going strong now. Yields, while respectable, will not be as good as second crop. The quality should be good, however. With some producers finishing second crop within the past week, the harvest of third crop will be spread out over several weeks, going into September. The winter wheat harvest and oat harvest was continuing this past week. Vomitoxin has been seen in some of the wheat that has been brought in, caused by the cool and damp weather experienced for the most part this year. Treatments with a fungicide helped, but even that did not totally eliminate the problem. The wheat harvest was a challenge in this area this year, mainly because of the high moisture content of the grain, and the low test weight. Producers could have waited for conditions to get drier, but this may have meant taking the chance that the wheat could sprout, making the grain worth a lot less. Yields of the wheat are not that good, ranging from in the 20s to over 70 bushels per acre. It is very common to see yields from 50 to 60 bushels per acre. The oat harvest is looking very good, with some yields over 100 bushels per acre being reported. A lot of chopping and baling of both the wheat and oat straw has been going on.

GRANT-R.R.: We really need rain and it doesn't sound like any is on the way

GREEN-M.M.: Majority of the corn is in the dough stage. Soil moisture levels are very low and lack of rain over the past 3 weeks will reduce both corn and soybean yields on shallow soils. Third crop hay harvest is almost complete, some may get a fourth cutting yet this fall if we get some much needed rain.

KENOSHA-J.H.: Too cool, too dry.

OZAUKEE-K.A.: Cool - need some 90 degree weather as the corn can use some more heat. Early planted corn is setting cobs, a few stalks with 2 full ears showing. Beans starting to set pods. Haven't heard or seen any major bug damage in bean fields yet.

Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on August 18, 2013

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. 17	Mar. 1 To Aug. 17 normal*	Last Week	Since Jun. 1	Jun. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	80	52	84	47	66	-4	1810	1859	0.02	6.92	-3.72	26.96	+6.07
Green Bay	76	50	82	43	63	-5	1762	1725	0.01	7.87	-0.97	21.63	+3.30
La Crosse	79	56	84	52	68	-5	2041	2080	0.63	8.11	-2.42	27.03	+5.58
Madison	77	53	82	46	65	-5	1967	2021	0.12	15.16	+4.92	35.25	+13.63
Milwaukee	74	58	77	53	66	-5	1825	n.a.	1.15	8.95	-0.27	28.46	+6.40

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.



USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field office
P.O. Box 8934
Madison, WI 53708-8934

(608)224-4848
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/wi/>
Greg Bussler, State Statistician

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.