Wisconsin Crop Progress

Compiled by the Wisconsin Field Office of
USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service

July 23, 2007 Vol. 07, No. 16

Scattered Rains Not Enough

Rainfall continues to be spotty across the state. Most regions continue to need more rain, except areas of southwest Wisconsin which experienced flooding last week. The southwestern district of the state had the most improved soil conditions this past week. State-wide soil moisture conditions were at 42 percent very short, 38 percent short, 20 percent adequate, and 0 percent surplus. Average temperatures were 1 to 4 degrees below normal. High temperatures reached the mid 80s to lower 90s, while low temperatures were in the mid 40s to mid 50s. There was an average of 6.3 days suitable for fieldwork last week.

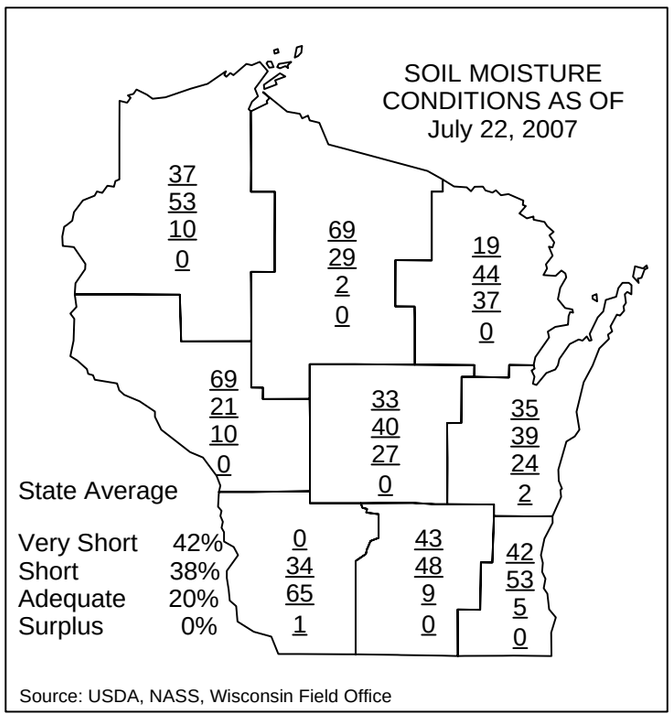
Corn silked was reported at 51 percent complete, above both last year's 42 percent and the 5-year average of 27 percent. Corn height increased to 76 inches, above both last year's 71 inches and the 5-year average of 65 inches. Reporters indicated that 1 percent of the crop was in the dough stage. Condition of the crop decreased to 51 percent good to excellent, compared to 68 percent last week. Reporters commented that the crop has been curling during the day, sometimes as early as mid-morning.

Soybeans bloomed was at 74 percent complete, increasing 23 percentage points from last week. This is above both last year's average of 57 percent and the 5-year average of 48 percent complete. Soybeans setting pods was reported at 20 percent complete, slightly above last year's 18 percent and the 5-year average of 11 percent. Crop condition declined 16 percentage points to 54 percent good to excellent.

Winter wheat and **oat** harvest continued. Winter wheat harvested jumped to 54 percent complete, significantly above both last year's and the 5-year average of 23 percent complete. A wide range of yields were reported. East-central areas of the state have seen yields break 100 bushels per acre. Oats harvested increased to 15 percent complete, above both last year's and the 5-year average of 8 percent complete.

Second cutting of **alfalfa** was 80 percent complete, equal to last year's average, but above the 5-year average of 63 percent. Fields are in need of more rain, especially for the third crop. Quality on the fields that have been cut seems to be good, however quantity remains below normal. Some farmers in the northern areas of the state will not have a second crop of alfalfa.

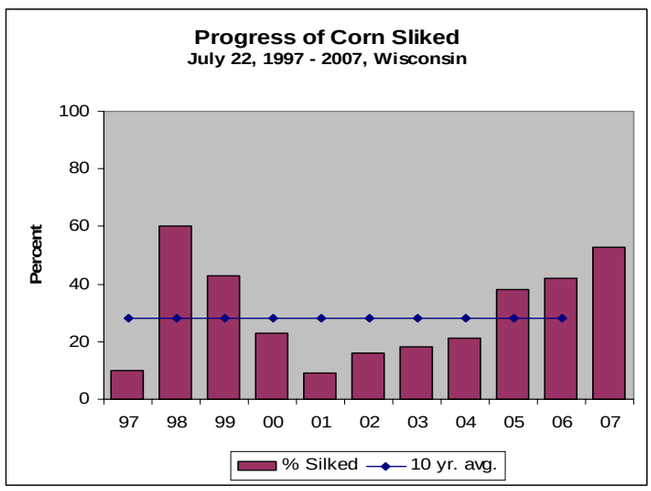
Cucumber harvest continues, and **pea** harvest is wrapping up.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of July 22, 2007

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Corn	5	14	30	34	17
Soybeans	3	14	29	42	12
Winter Wheat	2	3	18	49	28
Oat	1	7	27	54	11
Pasture	24	25	33	15	3

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.



Wisconsin Crop Progress, July 22, 2007

Crop and percent of acreage	District average									State average		
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This year	Last year	5-year average
Corn silked	40	32	33	52	34	52	65	62	41	51	42	27
Average height of corn	67	80	75	71	67	74	86	81	78	76	71	65
Soybeans bloomed	65	84	35	70	50	78	90	82	64	74	57	48
Soybeans setting pods	18	32	15	20	11	15	26	22	13	20	18	11
Second cutting hay	78	75	69	88	78	80	80	80	75	80	80	63
Oats harvested for grain	2	5	7	33	14	2	32	20	3	15	8	8
Winter wheat harvested	3	6	55	39	34	56	42	73	40	54	23	23

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

POLK-C.S.: Corn on the lighter soils is drying up and will not make much grain. A nice rain would benefit corn on the better soils as well as soybeans, hay, and pastures.
RUSK-G.P.: Corn is tasseling now. Moisture is becoming critical, but it is OK right now. Another week of 90 degree temperatures and no rain is predicted. Soybeans are doing OK. Oats are ready to be combined in a week or so, but does not look like a good crop. Hay needs rain.
FLORENCE-R.O.: It is dry and getting hot again; we need rain. There is no second crop hay; first crop was short. There is lots of winterkill in the alfalfa, three years with no snow cover.
FOREST-A.K.: Second crop hay is too short to be cut. Corn is doing nicely. Gardens are slow; too dry.
EAU CLAIRE-R.S.: Pastures are dried up. Hayfields, where second crop is, are staying brown after two weeks or more. Corn needs rain soon; it might be too late already.
MONROE-M.Y.: Rye thrashing has started. Fifty percent of the oats has been cut and shocked.
PORTAGE-J.W.: Rust is showing up on the sweet corn. Soybeans are blooming and sweet corn is tasseling. Second crop hay has good quality, but yields are low. We could use more rain.
WOOD-F.M.: Timely rains have helped all the crops. Corn and soybeans are looking very good. Second crop tonnage has varied due to soil conditions. Oat harvest is getting started. There is some lodging due to the wind and rain. Cranberry reports are very good.
WINNEBAGO-R.H.: Corn and soybeans look good on the better soils. Sweet corn is looking good, but it is like all the other crops-it needs rain.
LAFAYETTE-M.R.: Corn and soybeans still have full yield potential. Moisture reserves are adequate.
KEWAUNEE-T.S.: Rain in the past few weeks has really helped the crops. Some crops in this area were hit by hail on July 5, some damage was done to the soybean crop. The stems were bruised, which could cause the plant to topple once the pods add weight to the plant. Otherwise, the soybeans are doing well right now. The plants will be shorter than last year due to the lack of rain earlier. Winter wheat harvest is in full swing now, with quite a few fields cleaned off. Oats have been turning gold in the last few weeks, with harvest for that crop just around the corner. For the most part, the corn is looking good right now. There are going to be some fields with uneven levels of maturity. Some of the corn did not come up until after the rain began falling. Those plants are growing well, but they are behind some other plants that are already tasseling. The fields may have to be used for corn silage. Waiting for the corn to dry down in the fall may take a long time.
SAUK-C.S.: Corn looks pretty good with the lack of rain. Yields of second crop hay will be short due to no rain.
ROCK-C.O.: Dry conditions have really taken their toll on crops. Corn is firing on the bottom leaves and curling every day. Some of the crop is irreversibly damaged as are some soybeans. Too early for pollination checks, but I am sure they will be less than ideal. Alfalfa is slow on coming back and being affected by leafhoppers and weevils. Without rain this week, yields will be greatly diminished.
WASHINGTON-R.B.: We need rain. Wheat in spots is 125 bushels per acre. Second crop hay is yielding well. Corn is losing tops and yield. Corn is tasseling and is very uneven. Some spots have no tassels and another field has tasseled for a week. Soybeans are very short.

USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office
P.O. Box 8934
Madison, WI 53708-8934
(608) 224-4848
http://www.nass.usda.gov/wi/

Robert J. Battaglia
Director

Jessica Scrimger
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.

Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on July 22, 2007

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 21	Mar. 1 to July 21 normal *	Last week	Since June 1	June 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	84	55	93	45	70	-2	1651	1344	0.07	3.15	-3.69	10.97	-6.17
Green Bay	78	54	83	47	66	-4	1490	1231	0.02	668	0.98	15.36	0.0
La Crosse	85	61	88	51	73	-1	1862	1513	0.0	4.92	-1.91	16.48	-1.43
Madison	82	57	86	49	69	-3	1657	1473	0.01	7.07	0.41	18.98	0.91
Milwaukee	76	61	84	56	68	-4	1511	n.a.	0.27	4.88	-1.07	16.33	-2.65

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.