Wisconsin Crop Progress

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

July 30, 2007 Vol. 07, No. 17

Rain and Crop Improvement Scattered

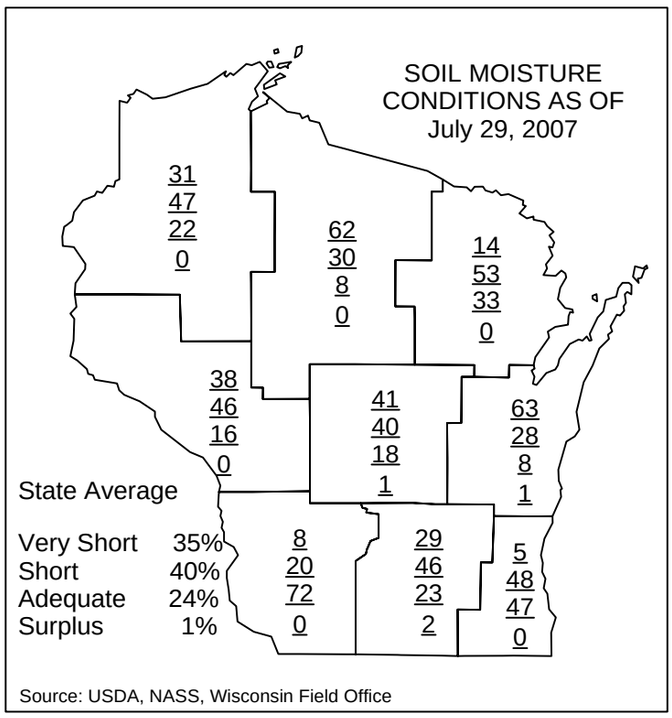
Rains this past week provided scattered relief to crops. Average temperatures were 0 to 3 degrees above normal for the week of July 23. High temperatures reached into the high 80s and mid 90s. Low temperatures ranged from 51 to 60 degrees. Rainfall totals ranged from 0.05 to 2.42 inches. Soil moisture conditions improved slightly and were rated at 35 percent very short, 40 percent short, 24 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus. There was an average of 6.0 days suitable for fieldwork last week.

Corn silked jumped 26 percentage points last week to 77 percent complete. This is above both last year's 71 percent and the 5-year average of 52 percent complete. Reporters noted 7 percent of the corn had reached dough stage, above both last year's 5 percent and the 5-year average of 2 percent. Timely rains will be crucial this week as temperatures heat up. Average corn height was 82 inches.

Soybeans bloomed was at 88 percent complete, a record high for July 29 since records began in 1995. This is significantly above both last year's 75 percent and the 5-year average of 68 percent complete. Soybeans setting pods was rated as 44 percent complete, the same as last year's average, but above the 5-year average of 29 percent. Soybean aphid pressure has built up and is cause for concern in several areas.

Second cutting of **alfalfa** continues and third cutting has started. Second cutting was rated as 89 percent complete, below last year's 91 percent, but above the 5-year average of 77 percent. Third cutting hay was 11 percent complete, the same as last year's average, but above the 5-year average of 3 percent complete. Both second and third cutting hay yields are being affected by the dry conditions. Some are hoping that last week's rains will improve yields for third cutting hay.

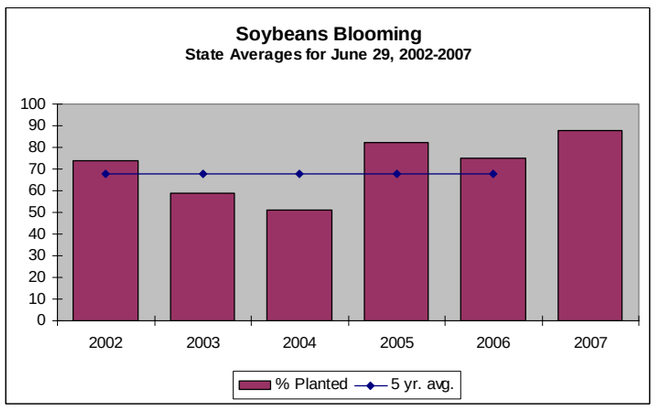
Winter wheat harvest was 81 percent complete, significantly above both last year's 60 percent and the 5-year average of 49 percent complete. Yields are reported as good to excellent in most areas. **Oat** harvest began to pick up, increasing 23 percentage points from the prior week to 38 percent complete. This is above both last year's average of 34 percent and the 5-year average of 26 percent complete. Oat condition declined slightly last week from 65 percent good to excellent to 62 percent.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of July 29, 2007

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Corn	7	15	33	34	11
Soybeans	6	11	32	41	10
Oat	2	9	27	54	8
Pasture	26	24	29	16	5

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.



Wisconsin Crop Progress, July 29, 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	74	67	75	79	60	76	91	78	85	77	71	52
Corn dough	4	0	0	8	4	6	6	11	3	7	5	2
Average height of corn	77	88	85	75	73	77	91	85	85	82	76	74
Soybeans bloomed	76	90	67	89	69	83	95	98	87	88	75	68
Soybeans setting pods	40	49	19	44	32	28	53	61	22	44	44	29
Second cutting hay	85	81	84	95	84	87	92	95	94	89	91	77
Third cutting hay	12	4	9	15	10	6	11	20	2	11	11	3
Oats harvested for grain	35	22	26	61	32	11	68	52	27	38	34	26
Winter wheat harvested	45	63	95	74	58	72	68	92	88	81	60	49

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

WASHBURN-K.S.: Timely rains fell just as corn began to tassel. Sub-soil moisture is still well below normal. Soybeans are coming along nicely, although moisture stress is apparent on sandy soils. Spring wheat is being combined, and yields are running in the 25-35 bushel per acre range. In general, the yield and quality of second cut alfalfa was poor; lack of rain and potato leaf hoppers were the main culprits. Third crop hay cutting is showing some potential provided the rains keep coming.
LINCOLN-F.O.: Timely rains have allowed all crops to do well. Corn is all tasseled. Small grains are almost ready for harvest. Second crop hay is short of normal.
PRICE-M.K.: Second crop forage harvest is in progress with good quality but low yields from the dry weather. A 1.0 inch rain this week was a huge help, but it will take a lot more to provide substantial, continued forage growth due to depleted sub-soil moisture. Small grains have turned and are drying down and look good. Corn is continuing to survive.
OCONTO-K.H.: Another 0.5 inch of rain helped crops keep growing and developing, but again it was spotty. We will need precipitation to continue regularly to keep crops going. Wheat harvest is about wrapped up. Have heard yield reports all over the place from 20 bushels per acre or under on sandy soils to over 60 bushels per acre on heavier ground. Second and third crop hay cutting yields appear to be affected by dry conditions. Corn and soybeans continue to generally look very good. A few corn fields, even before tasseling, are showing signs that nitrogen was not put on at full rate.
EAU CLAIRE-R.S.: Rains have been very spotty. Third crop hayfields are not recovering after second cutting. Corn is curling early in the day. We will need rain soon to fill the ears.
PEPIN-H.R.: Corn fields on lighter soils are showing lots of curling. Corn on heavier soils looks very good. Soybeans are a lot like the corn on lighter and heavier soils. Lots of aphids are in the soybeans again, so they will need another spraying. Hay crops have been good if they were sprayed; if not, they are very poor.
WAUPACA-D.H.: A lot of corn and soybeans are showing extreme stress due to dry and warm weather. We need a substantial rain. Third crop hay is very short. Winter wheat harvest is showing some good yields.
SHEBOYGAN-E.P.: Crop conditions have declined. Corn has been curling in the hot sun most of the day.
GRANT-G.C.: Corn and soybeans look good in our area. Dry weather made excellent conditions for baling second crop hay; yields were better than expected. Lawns are showing dry weather stress. We had 3.0 to 4.0 inches of rain in early July.
LAFAYETTE-M.R.: Corn and soybeans look to have 100 percent of their original yield potential.
DODGE-G.R.: Much-needed rain finally arrived at the week's end. Tasseling corn fields and plants are setting ears. Corn showed signs of stress indicating yield jeopardy. Alfalfa fields looked OK despite lack of moisture, but now will get big boost. Most of the second crop hay cutting is complete. Winter wheat and straw has been harvested. Soybeans generally look OK though some fields had cupped leaves before rain.
RACINE-L.F.: Much-needed rain arrived again - things are looking very good. Wheat ran with an average of about 75 bushels per acre. There is not much straw. Hail-damaged corn and soybeans seem to have survived the storm, but will not know the final story until harvest.
WAUKESHA-D.W.: The rain came too late for some corn; ears will be half full. Soybeans are short but look good and are blooming. We finally got some rain.

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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on July 29, 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 28	Mar. 1 to July 28 normal *	Last week	Since June 1	June 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	86	65	93	59	75	3	1820	1493	2.42	5.57	-2.16	13.39	-4.70
Green Bay	84	61	90	51	72	2	1647	1374	0.05	6.73	0.26	15.41	-0.64
La Crosse	87	66	96	60	77	3	2041	1674	1.65	6.57	-1.25	18.13	-0.56
Madison	85	63	87	54	74	2	1825	1629	0.44	7.51	0.0	19.42	0.39
Milwaukee	80	65	86	55	73	0	1671	n.a.	0.37	5.25	-1.48	16.70	-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.