WISCONSIN CROP PROGRESS

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

December 2007

REVIEW OF THE 2007 CROP YEAR

2007 - Season of Extremes

The 2007 growing season was defined by extremes. Northern Wisconsin suffered from dry weather all summer, while the southern areas had August flooding.

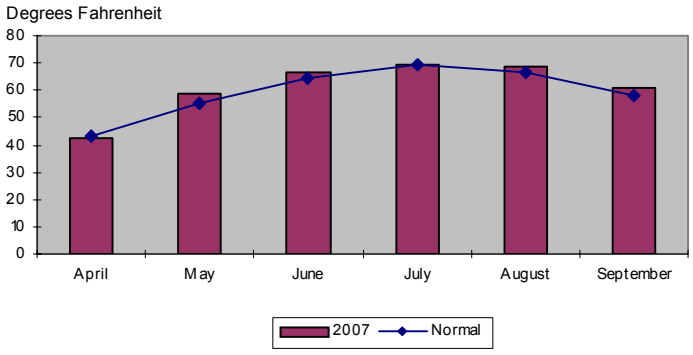
Spring fieldwork was delayed by cold weather and a mid-April snow fall. Planting progress and crop development were behind 5-year averages for the entire month of April. Warm, dry weather in mid-May allowed for progress to pick up. Favorable weather at the end of May and the beginning of June improved soil moisture and kept crop and pasture conditions at optimal levels. Additionally, above normal growing degree days helped crops to mature at a rapid pace. The entire state received below average rainfall for July. Crop conditions slowly began to decline, and pasture conditions deteriorated rapidly. By mid-August, farmers in the northern portion of the state were still trying to cope with low moisture levels, while some farmers in southern areas were dealing with flooded fields. Fall weather pushed crops to mature at above average rates, and rainfall made for muddy fields at harvest time.

Temperatures from June to September were 1.8 degrees above normal in 2007, making this the third straight growing season with above normal temperatures. September and October were significantly warmer at 3.0 degrees and 6.1 degrees above normal, respectively.

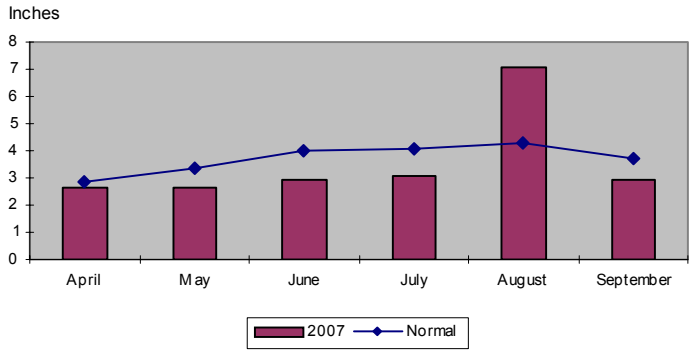
Precipitation and soil moisture varied greatly across the state in 2007. Total precipitation for April through September was 21.3 inches, 1.05 inches below normal. Rainfall in the northern third of the state was 5.5 inches below normal for April through September. The southern third of the state averaged 6.1 inches above normal for the same months.

Spring rains were timely, allowing planting to progress and crops to emerge ahead of schedule. Rainfall was short across the state in June and July, 1.1 and 1.0 inches below normal, respectively. Crops began to show signs of stress, and conditions declined during critical stages of crop development. During the month of August, rainfall remained below average in northern areas. Southern areas received flash flood warnings during the third week of August and averaged 9.2 inches above normal rainfall. The excess rains continued to cause problems with crops later in the season, such as mold, disease, and weak stalks. Spotty northern rains and surplus rains in the south caused extremely variable yields at harvest time.

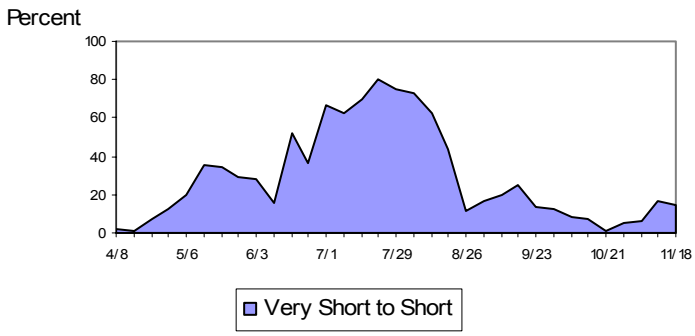
Monthly Temperature
2007 Wisconsin State Average



Monthly Rainfall
2007 Wisconsin State Average



Soil Moisture Ratings
2007 Wisconsin State Average



MONTHLY TEMPERATURES: 2007 GROWING SEASON AND NORMAL*

District	April 1/		May 1/		June 1/		July 1/		August 1/		September 1/	
	2007	Normal	2007	Normal	2007	Normal	2007	Normal	2007	Normal	2007	Normal
	Degrees Fahrenheit											
NW	41.4	41.7	57.5	54.4	65.3	63.1	68.9	68.1	66.9	65.9	59.7	56.6
NC	40.0	40.4	56.6	53.2	64.7	61.8	67.4	66.4	65.9	64.2	58.0	55.3
NE	41.2	41.3	56.3	53.6	65.4	62.5	67.3	67.0	66.9	64.8	60.2	56.0
WC	44.4	45.2	61.3	57.4	68.7	66.4	71.3	70.8	69.3	68.3	61.8	59.3
C	43.7	44.5	59.8	56.7	67.5	65.8	69.9	70.2	69.0	67.7	61.4	59.0
EC	43.0	42.8	57.1	54.6	66.5	64.1	69.1	69.5	69.6	67.9	62.8	59.8
SW	45.1	46.1	61.6	57.9	68.3	67.2	71.1	71.4	70.7	69.0	63.6	60.5
SC	44.8	45.8	61.8	57.8	68.8	67.2	71.2	71.3	71.1	68.9	63.9	60.6
SE	43.8	45.0	59.2	56.3	67.6	66.0	70.3	71.2	71.0	69.4	63.3	61.4
STATE	42.6	43.2	58.7	55.5	66.7	64.5	69.4	69.1	68.4	66.9	61.1	58.1

1/Preliminary estimates, 2007. * Normal is defined as the 30-year average for the years 1971-2000. Source: State Climatologist

MONTHLY RAINFALL: 2007 GROWING SEASON AND NORMAL*

District	April 1/		May 1/		June 1/		July 1/		August 1/		September 1/	
	2007	Normal	2007	Normal	2007	Normal	2007	Normal	2007	Normal	2007	Normal
	Inches											
NW	1.87	2.39	2.80	3.29	2.22	4.19	2.75	4.29	3.70	4.44	3.85	3.89
NC	2.18	2.40	2.98	3.31	2.93	4.01	2.57	4.06	2.89	4.36	3.69	4.03
NE	2.00	2.65	1.79	3.29	3.15	3.69	3.68	3.70	2.11	3.81	1.74	3.74
WC	1.67	3.05	3.81	3.69	3.08	4.24	2.95	4.45	10.01	4.54	3.94	3.82
C	2.61	3.02	2.80	3.52	2.17	3.88	3.46	4.13	7.91	4.22	2.54	3.72
EC	2.18	2.81	2.21	2.95	3.10	3.51	3.12	3.38	4.09	3.86	2.20	3.42
SW	4.31	3.55	2.18	3.60	3.49	4.35	3.79	4.33	16.66	4.46	2.97	3.42
SC	4.72	3.47	1.77	3.40	3.53	4.19	2.89	4.07	13.74	4.24	1.80	3.51
SE	4.21	3.48	1.97	3.13	3.59	3.76	3.32	3.82	10.20	4.22	1.56	3.48
STATE	2.61	2.86	2.61	3.37	2.93	4.02	3.09	4.07	7.08	4.27	2.96	3.74

1/Preliminary estimates, 2007. * Normal is defined as the 30-year average for the years 1971-2000. Source: State Climatologist

COMPARATIVE TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION DATA

District	Average Temperature						Total Precipitation					
	June - September						April - September					
	Normal*	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007 1/	Normal*	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007 1/
	Degrees Fahrenheit						Inches					
NW	63.4	64.1	61.7	65.8	64.6	65.2	22.49	20.22	21.99	17.44	15.91	17.19
NC	61.9	62.9	61.2	65.6	63.3	64.0	22.17	19.63	19.96	16.97	18.60	17.24
NE	62.6	63.2	61.7	66.2	63.5	65.0	20.88	21.32	18.09	16.79	20.84	14.47
WC	66.2	67.1	65.0	68.7	66.9	67.8	23.79	18.43	27.90	21.73	21.61	25.46
C	65.7	66.1	64.4	68.8	66.1	67.0	22.49	19.73	24.56	18.27	19.77	21.49
EC	65.3	65.1	64.0	68.7	66.1	67.0	19.93	19.72	21.86	15.04	18.46	16.90
SW	67.0	67.3	65.5	69.7	67.3	68.4	23.71	19.08	27.66	20.08	25.62	33.40
SC	67.0	67.6	66.0	70.3	67.4	68.8	22.88	18.96	25.19	16.78	26.62	28.45
SE	67.0	66.7	65.5	70.1	67.3	68.1	21.89	16.29	24.04	15.06	22.90	24.85
STATE	64.7	65.2	63.4	67.7	65.4	66.4	22.33	19.51	23.12	17.79	20.46	21.28

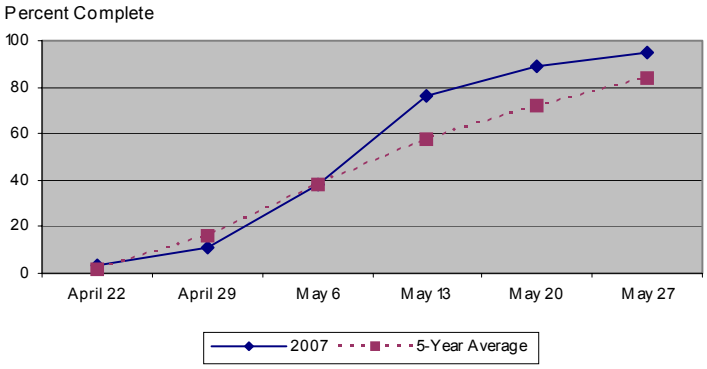
1/Preliminary estimates, 2007. * Normal is defined as the 30-year average for the years 1971-2000. Source: State Climatologist

CORN

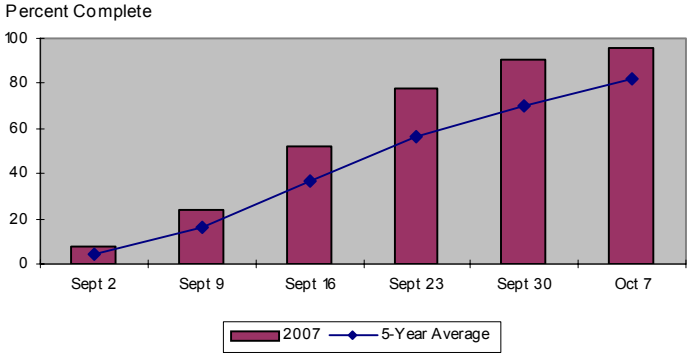
Despite getting off to a slow start, corn planting progress reached a record pace during the week ending May 20, 2007. At 89 percent, progress was significantly above the prior year's 81 percent and the 5-year average of 72 percent. Fast-paced planting was followed by earlier than normal emergence. By the beginning of June, 93 percent of the crop had emerged, 25 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Corn heights reached record highs on June 10 at 11 inches. Reported corn heights continued to set record highs until mid July. Dry conditions during July caused some corn to curl as early as the first week of the month. Corn condition declined throughout July, and only slightly improved by the end of August.

Silage chopping began early this year, as farmers were trying to salvage the crop in dry fields. By September 23, seventy-eight percent of corn harvest for silage was complete, compared to the 5-year average of 56 percent. Many reporters indicated that small ear size was a problem during silage harvest. Lodging and stem rot were widespread issues in southern districts caused by excessive rainfall in August. Additional rain in October slowed the progress of grain harvest. Then a very dry November allowed for completion of the corn harvest. Variable precipitation and growing conditions caused extremely diverse yields.

Corn Planted
2007 Wisconsin State Average



Corn Harvest for Silage
2007 Wisconsin State Average

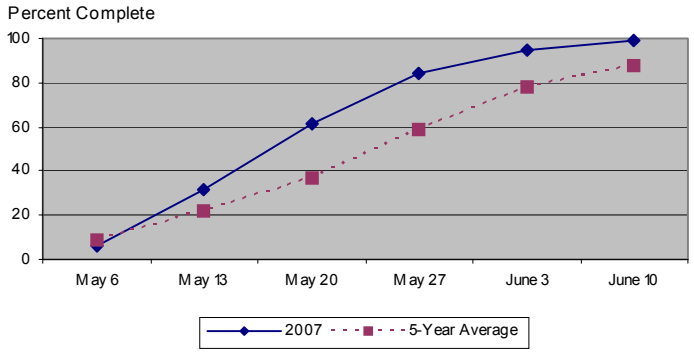


SOYBEANS

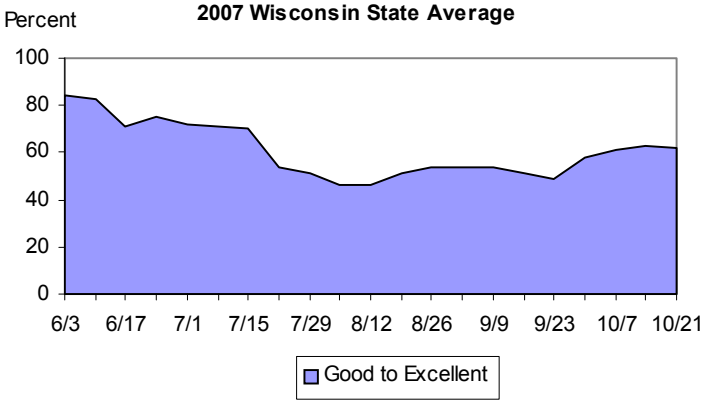
Favorable weather in May allowed soybean planting to begin on time. By May 27, farmers were significantly ahead of schedule and had 84 percent of the crop planted. This was well above the 2006 average of 69 percent and the 5-year average of 59 percent. Soybean emergence began in mid-May. Rains at the end of May and the beginning of June helped crop growth to progress quickly. On June 10, ninety-three percent of the crop had emerged, the highest recorded percentage in ten years. Soybean condition peaked during the week ending June 3, at 84 percent good to excellent and remained at or above 70 percent good to excellent until July 15.

The soybean crop sustained a lot of stress during the 2007 growing season. Aphids were a major cause for concern by the end of July. As it did for corn, the wet August weather in southern areas made disease more prevalent. Many reporters noted that fields matured unevenly prior to harvest. During harvest, mold and wet fields were wide-spread issues.

Soybeans Planted
2007 Wisconsin State Average



Soybean Condition
2007 Wisconsin State Average



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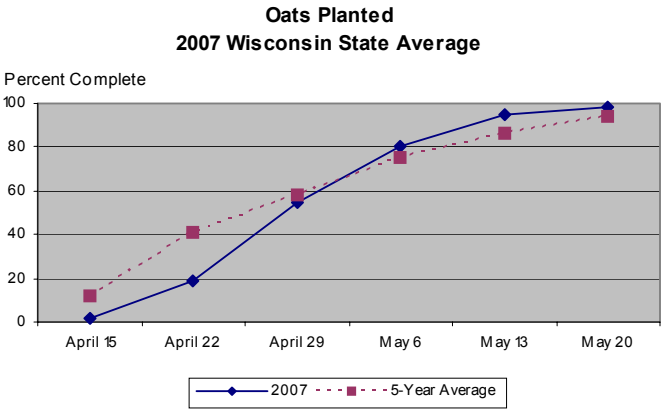
SMALL GRAINS

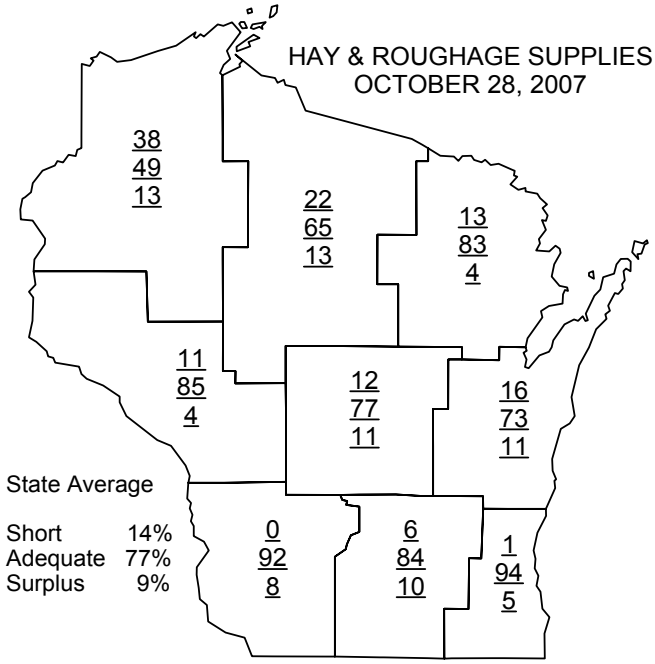
Oat planting began on lighter soils in southern and central areas of the state during the first week of April. Progress increased the last week of April when temperatures improved. The slow start to planting meant later emergence for the crop. As harvest began in mid July, soil moisture levels were low and several fields were in need of rainfall. Due to dry weather, farmers were able to harvest at a pace ahead of both last year's and the 5-year averages.

Cold weather the first two weeks of April set back winter wheat growth. However, the crop survived the winter in excellent condition. Freeze damage to winter wheat for 2007 was 78 percent none, 16 percent light, 5 percent moderate, and 1 percent severe. Winter wheat was also rated at or above 70 percent good to excellent for the entire 2007 growing season. Harvest was completed at a fast pace. Although straw production was short due to low moisture levels, the wheat crop was good to excellent in both quantity and quality.



HAY & PASTURES

The 2007 alfalfa crop survived the winter with minimal winter kill. Winter freeze damage was rated as 65 percent none, 26 percent light, 5 percent moderate, and 4 percent severe. First cutting of alfalfa was short on quantity from the lack of moisture. Second and third crops suffered additionally, as regrowth was slow for both alfalfa and pastures in July, and insect pressure was high. Mid and late August rains improved the quality of fourth crop alfalfa. Pastures in northern areas especially suffered this year. During the first two weeks of August, pasture conditions were rated at 60 percent poor to very poor. Late August rains brought relief, and conditions slowly improved.



Source: USDA, NASS, WI FO