



Wisconsin Crop Progress

August 22, 2011

Vol. 11, No. 20

Cool Nights, Sunny Days

Seasonable weather boosted crop development across Wisconsin this week, with spotty rains bringing small amounts of moisture to most areas. Statewide, there were 6.0 days suitable for fieldwork. Producers in the north and central regions of the state used the drier weather to forge ahead with hay and small grains harvests. The southern regions of the state are still drier than normal for the season.

Across the reporting stations, average temperatures last week were 1 degree below normal to 1 degree above normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 81 to 83 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 56 to 63 degrees. Precipitation totals ranged from 0.05 inches in Green Bay to 0.89 inches in Eau Claire. Growing degree days for corn remain above normal. 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/>

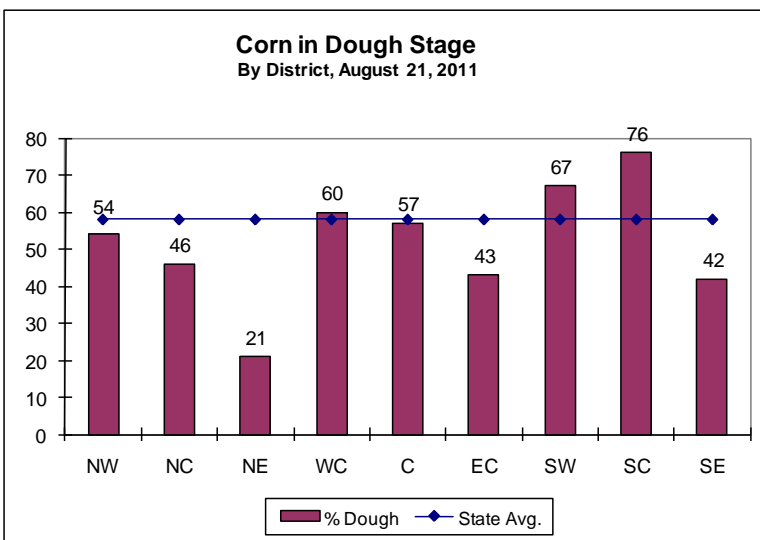
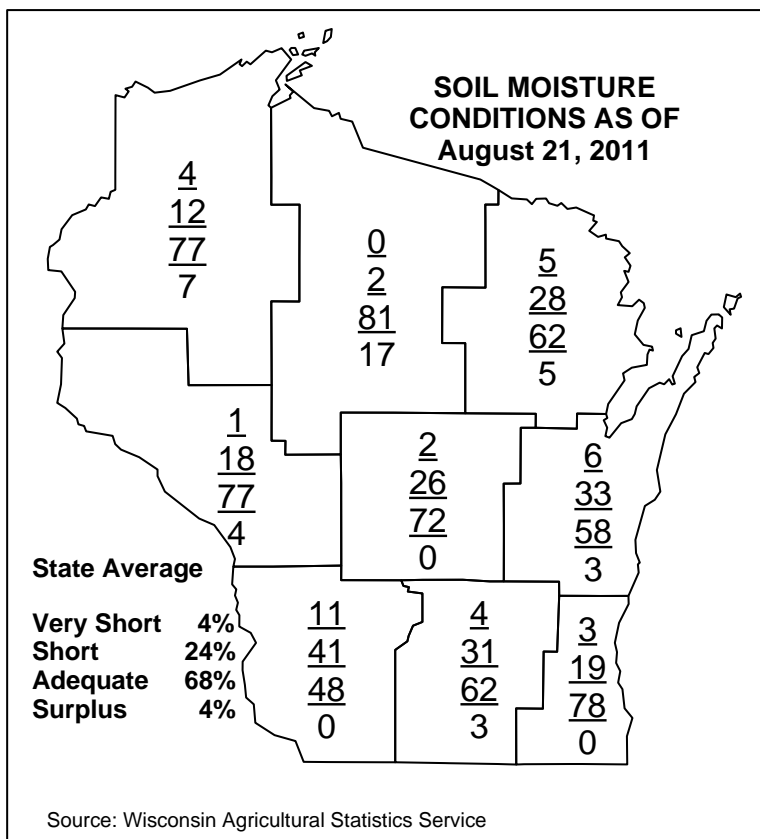
Wisconsin's **corn** crop continued to mature with the favorable weather. Corn was 58 percent in dough stage and 9 percent dented. A reporter from Green County noted that corn in extremely dry soils has already been harvested for silage.

Statewide, 90 percent of **soybeans** were setting pods, compared to 89 percent last year and a five-year average of 85 percent. Soybeans have just started turning color in some parts of the state. Additional rain is needed in some areas to help the pods fill. Problems with Japanese beetles were reported in Chippewa, Dane, Rock and Kenosha Counties.

Third crop **hay** was 76 percent harvested, with some producers starting on the fourth crop. Statewide, 3 percent of fourth crop hay was harvested, compared to 5 percent last year and a five-year average of 1 percent. A second week of drier weather in the northern parts of the state aided the drying and baling.

Oats were 84 percent harvested this week. Yields for both oats and **winter wheat** were reportedly lower than average this year.

Apples in northern Wisconsin were reported to be plentiful, though smaller than normal in some areas. The **grape** harvest in Vernon County was reportedly behind schedule, with the first table grapes appearing at farmer's markets this week. The **tobacco** harvest has begun in Dane County. A reporter from Lincoln County stated that **ginseng** yields were low due to a variety of diseases, as well as the spring snows in 2010 and humid weather of this summer.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of August 21, 2011

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Percent					
Corn	1	5	16	53	25
Soybean	1	4	14	56	25
Pasture	3	11	27	51	8

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

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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
Corn in dough stage	54	46	21	60	57	43	67	76	42	58	36	73	55
Corn in dent stage	6	3	3	5	3	4	21	15	3	9	n.a.	31	16
Soybeans setting pods	80	95	86	89	97	84	92	95	88	90	76	89	85
Oats harvested for grain	77	53	75	97	93	72	100	99	98	84	64	85	85
Third cutting hay	68	71	74	80	64	82	82	80	73	76	56	60	59

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-G.L.: Really great apple crop. Everything looks great, except fungus crossed with white mold in the soybeans.

RUSK-G.P.: A touch of fall in the air this week. Corn and soybeans are looking good. Small grain harvest continues, yields are average and quality is not good. Third crop harvest also continues. I have not seen any fourth crop yet. Lots of things at the local farmers market right now. Sweet corn and tomatoes finally showing up, both late this year.

CLARK-R.H.: Good yields on second and third crop, but with scattered showers there has been a problem making dry hay and rain affected quality. Small grains harvest made considerable progress this week, but some fields still are not mature because of the late planting this spring. Volunteer corn and some late weeds are now visible in some soybean fields. Corn and soybeans are looking very good considering planting challenges this spring.

TAYLOR-D.E.: Overall crops look good. Hay is coming back nicely due to timely rains. Corn still needs time.

SHAWANO-J.N.: Starting to get a little dry - could use some moisture. Everything looks good otherwise. Some weed pressure in the soybeans.

BUFFALO-R.S.: Timely inch of rain for the week. Hay and straw harvested. Small grain yields are low and low test weight. Hay looks good but tests lower than normal.

JACKSON-T.W.: Oat yields are below average for the year so far.

PEPIN-J.F.: One grower reported very good yield and quality third crop alfalfa.

TREMPEALEAU-J.S.: Great week for crops, especially getting some hay harvested. Hay quality and quantity good with few insect problems reported.

JUNEAU-J.W.: The week was very dry and we need a nice soaking rain. Crops on lighter soils are curling and showing signs of stress. The soybeans are huge but the pods don't seem to be filling out.

WAUPACA-D.L.H.: Corn and soybeans are maturing with the seasonable weather. Third crop hay coming off fields - good yield and quality.

BROWN-B.S.: Corn in sandy soil areas are showing signs of stress and drying down already. We could be looking at chopping corn early.

DOOR-T.S.: Snap bean yields are way down due to very dry conditions. Lots of alfalfa going in after wheat with only a few wheat fields left to be harvested. Wheat yields were highly variable this year. The area is very dry and rain is needed badly.

GRANT-E.B.: First time this year we are short in moisture. I feel it's enough to lower the yields of corn, soybeans, and hay.

SAUK-J.P.: Tomatoes have lots of fruit on vine but small and slow to ripen. Sweet corn ears small this year. Very timely rain last Saturday. Corn and soybeans look fabulous, still need at least six weeks before frost. Some third crop hay done, fourth is coming, some have visions of fifth.

DANE-D.R.: The Madison area has missed much of the rains. Moisture needed for lawns.

GREEN-M.M.: Many corn fields started denting late last week and silage harvest will likely start within the next two weeks if we have normal temperatures. Soybeans are looking very good and third crop hay yields were average to above normal on most fields due to adequate rainfall.

KENOSHA-R.R.: Dry - crops are starting to fire. Spraying for Japanese beetles last week in the soybeans, but they came back this week. They are also in the corn.

WALWORTH-N.W.: Some varieties of corn are starting to dent. Rain has been falling in just the right amount the last month. In general, crops are in good shape. Fourth crop hay will be getting under way this week. Small grain harvest has been completed with good quality and yields reported.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on August 21, 2011

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. 20	Mar. 1 to Aug. 20 normal*	Last Week	Since June 1	June 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	81	57	85	52	69	-1	2034	1915	0.89	16.57	5.53	27.07	5.76
Green Bay	82	57	84	54	69	1	1938	1778	0.05	11.36	2.20	26.07	7.32
La Crosse	83	60	89	56	71	-1	2289	2142	0.16	14.52	3.61	27.60	5.70
Madison	83	56	88	51	70	1	2203	2081	0.38	7.91	-2.77	19.75	-2.44
Milwaukee	81	63	85	59	72	1	2030	n.a.	0.10	7.49	-2.11	23.15	0.68

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.