



Wisconsin Crop Progress

August 20, 2012

Vol. 12, No. 20

Hints of Fall

Wisconsin saw another week of cooler than average temperatures, with thunderstorms and spotty rain showers. Overnight temperatures in north-central Wisconsin fell into the low forties and upper thirties, prompting frost protection measures for the cranberry crop. Soil moistures improved slightly in the southern and central parts of the state, but fell in the north. As corn and soybeans mature, farmers continue to monitor the damage caused by this summer's drought. Reporters statewide commented that poor pollination and cob fill will affect corn yields and silage quality. Crop condition and maturity remained patchy and widely varied according to soil type and rain received, with soybeans in overall better condition than corn. Pasture conditions ranged from 22 percent poor to very poor in the Northwest District to 78 percent poor to very poor in the Southwest District. A few farmers across the state were reportedly chopping silage early to supplement short feed supplies. Spraying for weeds and insect pests continued. There were 5.7 days suitable for fieldwork.

Across the reporting stations, average temperatures this week were 2 to 5 degrees below normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 76 to 78 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 54 to 60 degrees. Precipitation totals ranged from 0.27 inches in La Crosse to 0.82 inches in Green Bay. 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/>

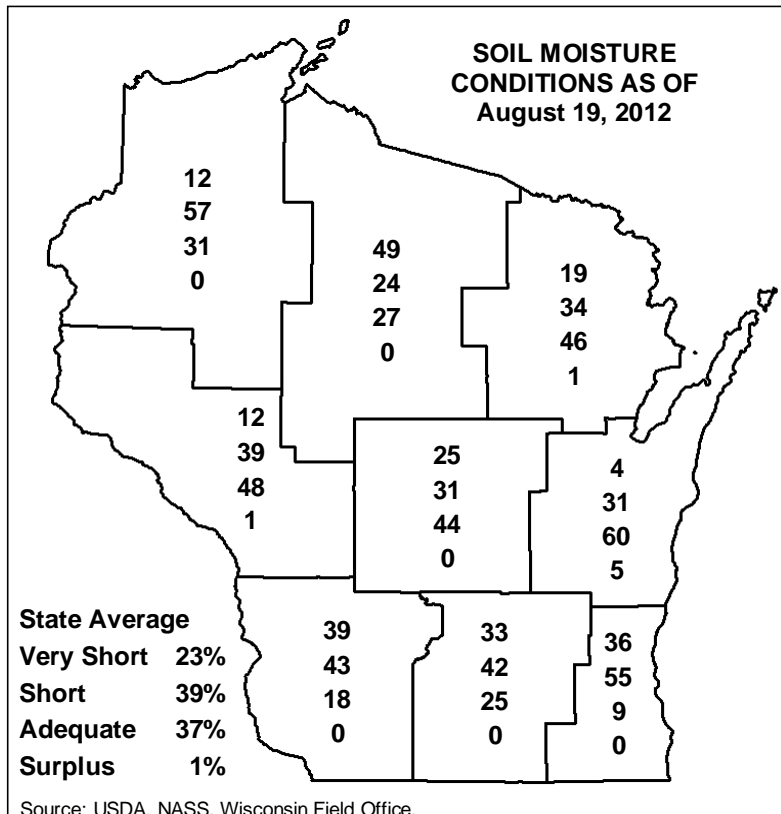
Corn was 63 percent in dough stage and 20 percent denting statewide. Though chopping of drought damaged corn continued this week, **silage** harvest has not begun in earnest.

Soybeans were 93 percent setting pods this week. Two percent of the crop had leaves turning, compared to 0 percent last year and a 1 percent five-year average. Reporters noted that much of the soybean crop has bounced back after recent rains. Weeds and spider mites remain a concern in some areas.

Oats harvest was wrapping up with 97 percent complete this week. A reporter from Shawano County commented that some producers were planting oats for fall forage.

Third cutting hay was 93 percent harvested, and the fourth cutting was 24 percent harvested. A reporter in Waupaca County noted some fifth crop hay being cut. Quality and yield reports varied greatly.

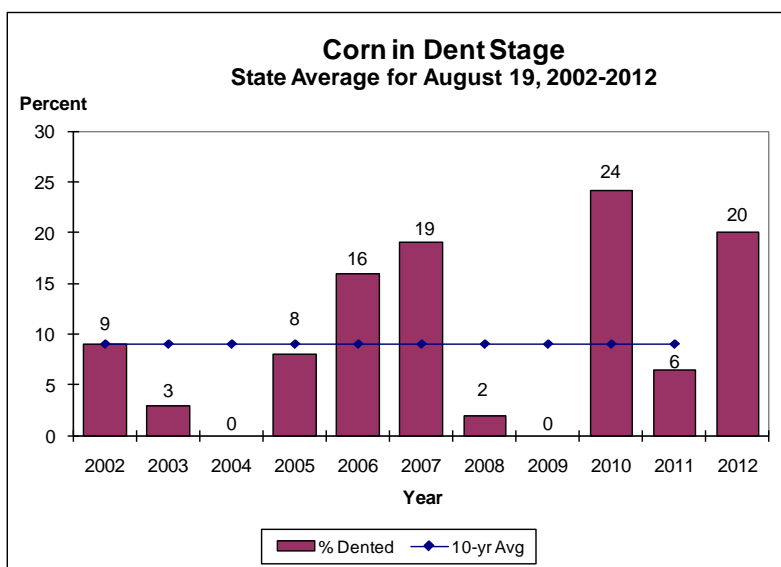
Vine killing has reportedly begun in the **potato** fields of Oneida County, with early red varieties being dug. Reports on **sweet corn** and other vegetable quality were mixed, with irrigated crops in very good condition.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of August 19, 2012

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Pasture	24	30	34	11	1
Corn	14	22	25	31	8
Soybeans	7	17	31	36	9

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	60	85	60	68	56	43	83	63	45	63	42	52	48
Corn in dent stage	9	27	18	27	11	7	34	24	6	20	6	6	10
Soybeans setting pods	93	94	100	93	91	91	95	99	76	93	81	86	83
Oats Harvested	96	94	100	100	100	94	100	100	100	97	91	78	78
Third cutting hay	89	89	99	94	87	94	99	95	88	93	88	70	57
Fourth cutting hay	17	2	36	21	19	38	25	33	12	24	11	1	1

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

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Selected Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

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

BARRON-D.B.: Dry weather continues to have a negative effect on alfalfa, corn and soybeans.

RUSK-G.P.: A dry week this week with spotty showers on Saturday. Crop conditions slipped a bit this week, but still good compared to many areas. Soybeans are showing a lot of premature yellowing, not normal maturity. Not sure what the cause is yet. Third and fourth crop yield ok, quality good. Some early corn silage coming off, 68 percent moisture.

CLARK-J.B.: Third and fourth cutting hay has good quality, but low yield. Due to lack of rain, some corn is being harvested early as corn silage. Small grains had lower than average yield.

TAYLOR-D.E.: Crops look good, there is some concern on corn yields, but should be at least average.

OCONTO-N.S.: Conditions continue to remain spotty with some areas receiving rain and others staying dry.

SHAWANO-B.R.: Crops are in good overall condition here. Fourth cutting alfalfa will be more than average for yield. Corn is denting and the first silage will come off this next week that is mature, which is very early for this area. Soybeans looking very tall with good pods.

BUFFALO-R.S.: Received 1.1 inches of rain, a neighbors corn and soybeans got hail damage. Checking corn acres shows kernels not filled to end of cob. Hay and soybeans seem to be recovering with rain. Some plan to harvest corn silage now. Pastures still look dead for now. Next threat will be frost - full moon end of August.

MONROE-M.Y.: We received 1.0 inch of rain this week.

PORTAGE-J.W.: Irrigated vegetable crops harvest continues with good yields, especially sweet corn. Little bit of third cut hay made, low yields. Straw all baled, good yields. Some fall tillage ongoing.

WAUPACA-D.H.: Some corn silage is just starting to be harvested. Disease and insect pressure in crops has remained low. Fourth and even some fifth cutting alfalfa is being harvested with good quality and average yields.

CALUMET-B.L.: Our first corn silage dry down had 5 samples all in the mid 70s with the Koster tester. We are about a month away from last Thursday (August 16th) for most of the corn silage. Some fields fully dented, most in the milk and dough stage. Soybeans are looking very good with pods set throughout all the nodes and very good color. Spider mites were a late season problem with many producers spraying for them. The fourth cutting for some will be their best alfalfa cutting this season. Most stands look green, tall and thick for later stands. Fertility and insect management are showing up big time in the later cuttings. Oat harvest is nearly complete with yield ranges

from the 50s to 95 with test weights from 26 to 36 with averages about 32. Barley yields were in the 50s with slightly below average test weights.

DOOR-T.S.: Spidermite activity has dropped with the cooler weather and some recent rain. Corn is where it needs to be and soybeans are looking good.

OUTAGAMIE-J.B.: Rain very spotty.

GRANT-D.W.: The corn crop continues to suffer. At a recent moisture check of corn silage samples, about 40 percent were still above 70 percent moisture. Crop scouts indicate that many fields look good on the edges, but the middle portions are significantly damaged.

VERNON-K.L.: County received 1.0-2.0 inches of rain in areas this past week. Temperatures are more fall like now. Apple harvest has begun. Grapes are also being harvested this past week with average yields.

GREEN-J.T.: Corn is worse than expected. Recent rains have caused forage regrowth.

WASHINGTON-G.S.: Crops are looking better with the recent rains and cooler temps. Third crop hay was non-existent and fourth crop should bounce back now that we have received some rain. Small grains yielded well. Have not seen any early silage being taken yet.

WAUKESHA-R.F.: Corn is very poor quality with so many dry stalks. Soybeans are also very poor. Looks like 20 percent of soybeans are dead. 70 percent of leaves have turned, because of drought they are dying. We had an inch of rain. It was a nice slow rain. I think the rain maybe too late for major crops. I've never seen such poor crops.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on August 19, 2012

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. 18	Mar. 1 To Aug. 18 normal*	Last Week	Since Jun. 1	Jun. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	76	54	82	47	65	-5	2470	1894	0.65	7.11	-3.66	18.87	-2.09
Green Bay	77	54	81	46	66	-2	2395	1760	0.82	10.90	+1.97	21.45	+2.96
La Crosse	77	57	84	50	67	-5	2730	2120	0.27	7.06	-3.63	18.60	-3.02
Madison	78	55	85	44	66	-4	2659	2061	0.71	5.75	-4.70	16.83	-5.02
Milwaukee	76	60	84	55	68	-3	2516	n.a.	0.76	6.51	-2.79	19.15	-3.11

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.