

## Winnebago County Crops Quick Update

Assembled by Nick Schneider, Winnebago County Agriculture Agent

July 9, 2009

**Wisconsin Crop Progress:** July 6 2009. Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office

Full report at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/wi/>

Soil Moisture		
	East Central Wisconsin	State Average
Very Short	14	5
Short	31	25
Adequate	54	67
Surplus	1	3

Wisconsin Weekly Weather								
City	Temperature		GDD (50 base)		Last Week	Precipitation		
	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal	March 1 to July 4	Normal		Since June 1	June 1 dep. from normal	Year to date
Green Bay	65	-3	892	894	0.05	2.65	-1.24	13.09
Madison	65	-5	1082	1103	0.02	4.56	0.00	21.31

Wisconsin Crop Progress					
Crop and percent of acreage	East Central		State Average		
	Central	Central	This Year	Last Year	5-Year
Average Corn Height	25	25	36	29	40
Oats Headed	91	81	84	68	86
Second Cutting Height	14	14	19	19	25

**Observations of the week:** Soybean aphid populations seem to be similar for the second consecutive week. Four out of 20 plants in the sentinel field had between 10 and 15 soybean aphids while five plants had no aphids. In 12 inch tall third crop alfalfa, 2 potato leafhoppers were found in 10 sweeps. Still pretty low. A corn rootworm beetle look-a-like, the striped cucumber beetle, can be easily found in many vine crops.

On Monday through Wednesday I was in Marshfield coordinating a soils training event. As part of the training we visited a no-till farm near Spencer. The producer had 5 years of consecutive no-till corn. The stand was a little erratic in spots because there was a huge amount of stalk litter. However, where we peeled away the layer of corn stalks, there was a tremendous amount of soil moisture retained even near the surface. The grower said his corn is consistently the last to show drought symptoms in the neighborhood. Then we went to a field where alfalfa was sprayed off this spring and

planted to corn. The corn was waist high with a dark green color. No other fertilizer is added beyond 9-23-30 corn starter. There were 4-6 earthworm middens built out of alfalfa stems per square foot.

Wisconsin Pest Bulletin: Wisconsin DATCP. Volume 54, Number 10, June 26 2009

Full report at: <http://pestbulletin.wi.gov/>

No update in the past week.

The Soy Report, Shawn Conley UW Soybean and Small Grain Specialist and Paul Esker, UW Plant Pathologist. <http://thesoyreport.blogspot.com/>

Saturday, July 4<sup>th</sup>

### **Preliminary Scab Results - Winter Wheat Variety Trials**

During this past week, Karen Lackermann (MS Student in Plant Pathology) collected field data to estimate the incidence and severity of Fusarium head blight in the Winter Wheat Variety Trials in Wisconsin. This work is a part of our program to develop an integrated management platform for wheat disease management in Wisconsin. Data were collected on a plot basis, with 100 heads assessed per plot (50 consecutive heads in one border row; 50 consecutive heads in the second border row). Incidence was defined as the presence of Fusarium head blight on a wheat head, while severity was based on the rating scales of [Engle et al.](#) and [Stack and McMullen](#). In addition, an index value was calculating as percentage incidence x percentage severity and dividing that number by 100.

#### **Preliminary results:**

On average, FHB was low across the variety trial locations in Wisconsin. The highest levels of scab (incidence, severity, and index) were observed at the Lancaster trial location, however, even there, the index values were less than 5%. A more formal analysis will be shortly conducted and summarized for the variety trial book. Furthermore, post-harvest testing of grain for evidence of *Fusarium graminearum* and DON will be conducted.