



*The DeLong Co., Inc.*

CROP PROGRESS | JULY 29, 2025



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FEEDBACK!**

### **Help us shape the future of the Crop Progress Newsletter!**

We want to make sure our newsletter is as helpful, relevant, and informative as possible for you, our valued customers, producers and ag professionals.

This quick survey is a chance to:

- Tell us what sections you find the most valuable
- Share what you skip or don't find helpful
- Let us know how often you read the newsletter
- Suggest improvements or topics you want more of

Your input helps us tailor future updates to better support your operation and decision-making because your time and trust matter!

**As a thank you for your feedback, everyone who completes the survey and includes their name and phone number will be entered into a drawing to win a DeLong swag basket!**

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It only takes a few minutes, and your feedback goes a long way!

**[The DeLong Co. Crop Progress Newsletter Feedback Survey](#)**



## Local Crop Progress

**ILLINOIS** - For the week ending in July 27 there were 4 days suitable for fieldwork. Corn silking reach 92%, 6 percentage points ahead of last year, but only 3 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. 35% of corn was reported to be at or beyond the dough stage, 3 percentage points ahead of last year and 7 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Corn condition was rated 71% good to excellent. Soybeans blooming reached 81%, 6 percentage points behind last year but 4 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Soybeans setting pods reached 50%, 6 percentage behind last year and 7 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Soybean condition was rated 65% good to excellent.

**WISCONSIN** - The USDA recorded 4.8 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending in July 27. Increased insect pressure was reported on some corn fields across the state. 10% of corn fields were reported to be at or beyond the dough stage. Corn silking was reported to be 56% complete, even with both last year and the 5-year average. Corn condition was rated 82% good to excellent. Soybeans blooming reached 76%, with 36% setting pods, 4 days ahead of last year but equal to the 5-year average. Soybean condition was rated 84% good to excellent, 9 percentage points ahead of last week.

**NEW YORK** - New York recorded 6.5 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending on July 27. Corn silking was reported to be 30%, 5 percentage points behind the 5-year average. 1% of corn was reported to be at or beyond the dough stage, equal to the 5-year average. Corn condition was reported to be 61% good to excellent. Soybeans blooming reached 44%, 7 percentage points ahead of last year at this time but 5 percentage points behind the 5-year average. Soybeans setting pods reached 15%, 2 percentage points ahead of last year at this time and 9 percentage points behind the 5-year average. Soybean condition was reported to be 60% good to excellent.

**KANSAS** - For the week ending on July 27 there were 5.1 days suitable for field work. Corn silking reached 77%, equal to the 5-year average but 5 percentage points behind last year. 36% of corn is at or beyond the dough stage, 9 percentage points behind last year and 2 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Corn condition was rated 66% good to excellent. Soybeans blooming reached 63%, near both last year and the 5-year average. Soybeans setting pods reached 27%, 2 percentage points ahead of last year and 2 percentage points behind the 5-year average. Soybean condition was rated 70% good to excellent.

**OHIO** - Topsoil moisture conditions were rated at 69% adequate and 12% surplus. There were 5.2 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending on July 27. Corn silking reached 65%, near the 5-year average, but 13 percentage points behind last year. 20% of corn is at or beyond the dough stage, near last year at this time, but 8 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Corn condition was reported to be 62% good to excellent. Soybeans blooming reached 75%, near the 5-year average, but 6 percentage points behind last year at this time. Soybeans setting pods reached 39% 4 percentage points behind last year at this time and 3 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Soybean condition was rated 58% good to excellent.



# DeLong Agronomy Update

## Corn Sweat & Mid-Summer Humidity

It's no secret the heat has been relentless lately. With much of the Midwest stuck under a heat dome, temperatures and humidity have soared to uncomfortable, and at times dangerous, levels. As corn reaches its rapid growth stages in late July, it becomes a key contributor to rising humidity levels, a phenomenon often referred to as "corn sweat." Scientifically known as evapotranspiration, this process occurs when corn draws water from the soil and releases it through its leaves as water vapor. On a hot summer day, just one acre of corn can release 3,000 to 4,000 gallons of moisture into the air.

This added humidity doesn't just impact the weather forecast, it affects how the heat feels in the field. As moisture from corn fills the atmosphere, it pushes dew points higher and increases the heat index, making already hot days feel even more oppressive. While corn sweat is a natural and healthy sign of a thriving crop, it's a good reminder to plan fieldwork carefully, hydrate often, and be aware of increased risk of heat-related stress.

## Prioritize Weekly Scouting for Soybean Aphids

Mid-season scouting reports from southern Wisconsin show many soybean fields progressing into the R2-R4 growth stages (full bloom to full pod), a critical window for monitoring insect activity. While soybean aphid populations remain low overall, a small percentage of fields are reporting moderate counts of 25-50 aphids per plant. The average is still under 10 per plant based on DATCP surveys conducted July 3-16 in 125 fields.

Aphids are currently colonizing fewer than half the plants in most fields, but populations are expected to increase as we move into early August. Remember, the treatment threshold is 250 aphids per plant and 80% of the plants. Now is the time to prioritize weekly scouting to track changes and make timely decisions.



## Corn Earworm Activity Arrives Early

Early and unusually strong corn earworm moth flights have prompted sweet corn growers in Wisconsin to begin protection programs well ahead of schedule. Pheromone traps in southern Wisconsin counties recorded 100-276 moths per trap per week, with the highest count so far at 276 moths in Rock County. The cumulative count is already at 1,402 moths across 13 monitoring sites.

Corn earworm typically peaks in mid-August, but this year's early arrival means that silking sweet corn is at immediate risk for infestation. Fields with green, exposed silks are vulnerable, and even a one-day delay in treatment during heavy flights can result in 10-15% of ears being infested. Treatments are recommended when traps register 10+ moths per night for three consecutive nights, and should be repeated every 3-4 days until silks brown. Trap lures should be replaced weekly.

## Fungicide Applications in Full Swing

DeLong agronomists and employees have been hard at work this month supporting fungicide applications on both corn and soybeans. Thanks to Amy Mansfield for capturing this great shot of aerial spraying in action. Timely fungicide use during tassel and pod development stages is an important part of protecting yield and plant health as disease pressure increases.



## Market Recap

A summer that was filled with potential opportunity has started to fizzle and here we are talking about geopolitical topics, with global tariff developments moving back into the spotlight. Over the past two weeks, trade policy, not weather, has taken center stage.

A high-stakes U.S.–EU tariff agreement was finalized just in time to avoid a broader escalation. The deal imposes a 15% tariff on most EU exports beginning August 1 but expands zero-tariff access for select U.S. ag and industrial goods, a notable win for American farmers. In return, the EU agreed to major purchases of U.S. energy and increased investment in U.S. industries, including agriculture. This development is particularly positive for Great Lakes-region grain growers, as export lanes to the EU remain open and potentially more competitive. The U.S. also imports a range of EU goods, which could see cost impacts, **see the chart at right for major categories.**

### US Buys Pharma Products and Cars From EU

Top US imports from the EU

Item	Value	Share of total US imports
Pharmaceutical preparations	\$152B	25.1%
Passenger cars, new and used	45	7.5
U.S. goods returned, and reimports	31	5.2
Industrial machines	23	3.7
Medicinal equipment	16	2.6
Cell phones and other household goods	14	2.3
Electric apparatus	13	2.2
Other parts and accessories of vehicles	13	2.1
Engines-civilian aircraft	11	1.9
Petroleum products	11	1.8

Source: US Census Bureau  
Note: Data as of 2024

Bloomberg

Meanwhile, U.S.–China talks in Stockholm aim to extend the current tariff truce beyond mid-August. While details remain limited, ag inputs, energy, and semiconductor-related controls are on the table, each with downstream effects for U.S. farm production costs and trade relationships.

South of the boarder, tariff threats add another layer of uncertainty: Brazil faces a 50% U.S. tariff, Mexico is negotiating to avoid a 30% penalty, and Chile’s copper tariffs are set to begin August 1. Though not directly grain-related, these shifts affect input and infrastructure markets that tie back to global grain movement and fertilizer costs.

With Bloomberg forecasting up to \$2 trillion in lost global growth through 2027 due to U.S. tariff policy alone, farmers should remain alert to policy-driven shifts in demand flows, export competitiveness, and input pricing, factors that may have just as much impact on margins as the weather.

## Market Insights Are Back!

Yield365’s Daily Market Commentary has returned, bringing you timely grain market insights each weekday in both audio and written formats. Whether you prefer to listen while you work or catch up with a quick read, we’ve got you covered. Access the latest commentary through the DeLong app or by [visiting our website.](#)

Scan the QR code at right to stay in the know.





**CROP  
INSURANCE**

from Melissa Gerner, DeLco Crop Insurance

### Forage Seeding

**Last call for producers in IA, NY & WI!** If you plan on seeding forage acres this fall (between 6/30 & 8/31) and want to insure them for perils such as winter kill, we **MUST** have a signed application no later than **July 31!** If the stand is less than 75% of “normal” come next spring, the policy pays as if it’s a 50% loss and a stand less than 55% of “normal” would pay at 100%. A forage seeding policy is a great way to protect your future forage acres at a rather inexpensive cost. Reach out to a DeLco Crop Agent today to see if Forage Seeding is available in your county!

### Wheat

Don’t forget to report your wheat production! While yields in most of our trade area have been coming in above insurance guarantees, we are dealing with lower harvest prices which may help trigger a loss for some growers. As a reminder, the 2025CY Projected Price was set at \$6.06. For those growers in IA, IL & NY, the current July average (as of 7/28/28) for our 2025 CBOT September Wheat is **\$5.46**. For those growers in WI, we’ll be watching the month of August to determine our harvest price.

### Supplemental Disaster Relief Program for Crop Years 2023 & 2024

Earlier this month the USDA announced details for Stage 1 of the new Supplemental Disaster Relief Program (SDRP). Qualifying producers should have received USDA’s prefilled SDRP applications in the mail; be sure to verify the loss cause, sign and return to FSA **ASAP** to receive payment. It’s important to note that these applications will have a precalculated number printed on the application but this first round only pays 35% of that number at this time. Any “top up” would come at a later date (similar to how ERP worked).

In order to qualify for Stage 1 of SDRP, growers must have suffered a yield loss in 2023 &/or 2024 and must have collected loss payments via the federal crop insurance program or NAP. If you are still unsure about what to write for a loss cause, please reach out to a DCI agent today and we help talk you through the correct information!

As a reminder, if you collect on SDRP, you are required to continue to carry crop insurance for at least the next two crop years.

### Upcoming Wisconsin Corn Events

Wisconsin Corn is hosting events in August and September that may be of interest to our Wisconsin growers and customers. Please see below for more information and to register:

#### **Trade Policy Academy | August 5th | LaCrosse, WI | 9am CST | [Link to Register](#)**

“Trade School Academy is specifically designed for growers and those related to trade interested in enhancing their knowledge of global trade policy, market access, and international advocacy. These programs offer a unique opportunity to engage directly with experts in the field, providing firsthand insights into current trade dynamics and the historical context of trade policy.”

#### **Corn Day at the Capital | September 3rd | Madison, WI | 10am CST**

“Capitol days are designed to educate our representatives on issues vital to Wisconsin Corn Growers, foster strong relationships, and advocate for meaningful policy changes that benefit our agricultural community.

During our discussions, we will be focusing on several key topics, including our ongoing ethanol initiatives, the important issue of sandhill cranes, and other current agricultural policy matters impacting Wisconsin. Your participation and insights will be invaluable as we work to advance these important discussions.”

*DeLco Crop Insurance is an equal opportunity provider.*



## Grown Climate Smart: Update as of July 2025

The Grown Climate Smart program **remains on pause pending USDA review** and guidance regarding updated practice reporting requirements. Once official guidance is received, we will provide growers with next steps on continuing the program.

In the meantime, any questions can be directed to [info@grownclimatesmart.com](mailto:info@grownclimatesmart.com) or by calling 608.676.3041.

## Regenerative Agriculture

### The Soil Bank: How Cover Crops Pay Off Over Time

Cover crops are becoming an increasingly valuable tool for corn, soybean, and wheat growers focused on long-term productivity. While the benefits may not always be immediate, species like cereal rye, oats, and radish can deliver lasting returns by improving soil structure, moisture retention, and weed suppression. By protecting the soil surface, enhancing nutrient cycling, and reducing erosion, cover crops help build healthier fields that are more resilient to weather extremes. Over time, these improvements contribute to greater yield stability and can help reduce input costs—especially as soil organic matter and overall fertility improve.



Cereal rye continues to be a popular choice in corn-soybean rotations, offering flexibility when terminated ahead of planting. Oats are also an effective option, particularly for growers looking for a winter-killed cover that requires no spring termination.

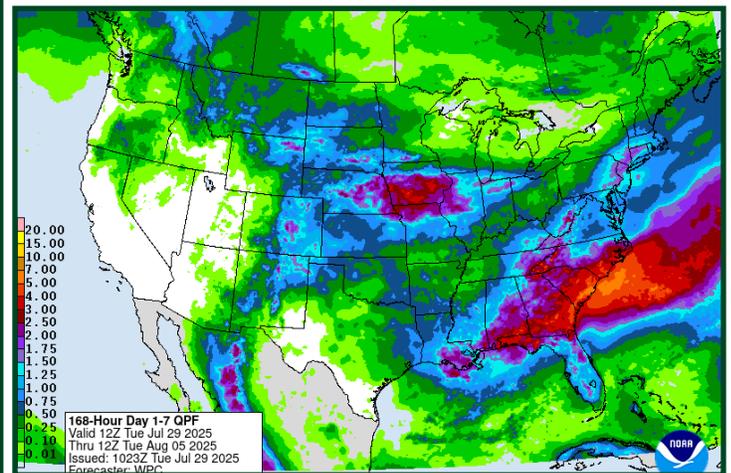
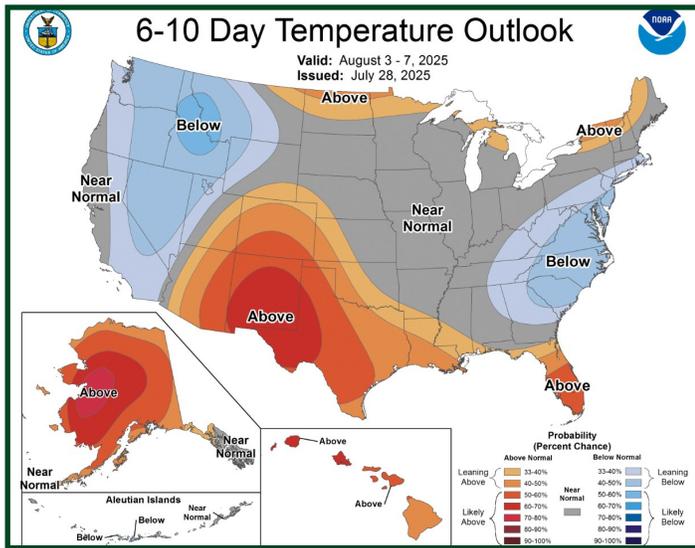
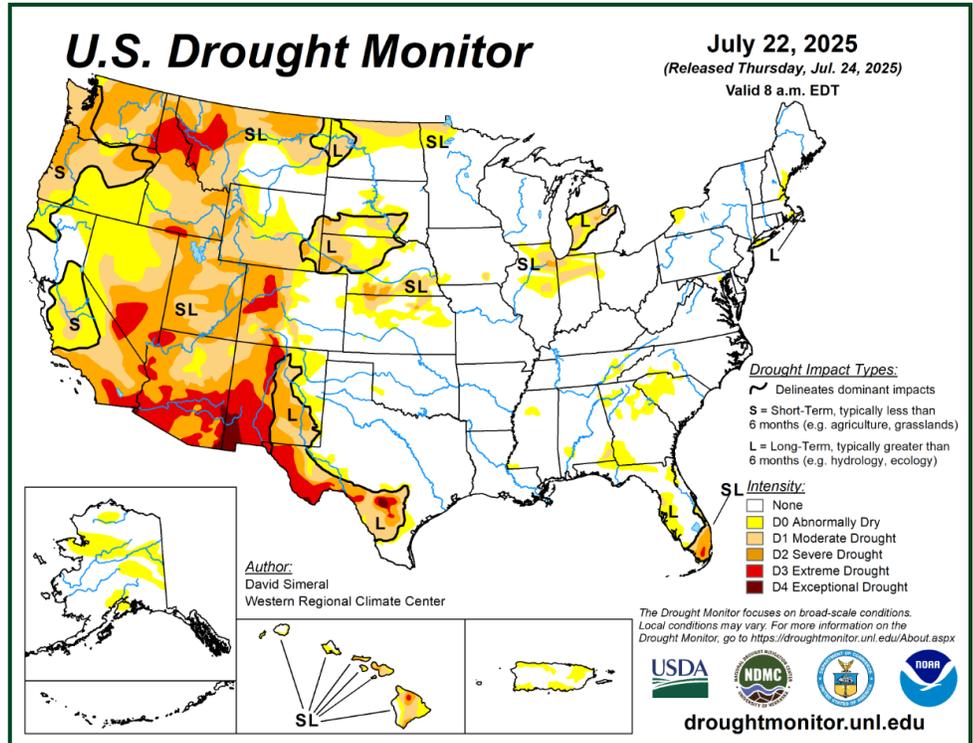
Implementing cover crops contributes to long-term soil improvement, driving better nutrient retention, field performance, and overall system resilience.



# Agriculture Weather Maps

As the growing season ramps up, make sure to take advantage of the helpful weather maps available on The DeLong Co. website at [delongcompany.com](http://delongcompany.com). These tools can help support your in-field decisions throughout the season.

You can find them by clicking on the **New's & Resources** tab on our website, or by clicking this [LINK](#). Maps are updated daily or weekly to help you stay informed.



This newsletter is provided by The DeLong Co., Inc., with information from our Yield365, DeLco Crop Insurance, and Grown Climate Smart teams, along with our grain merchandisers, agronomists, and seed staff. Together, we gather information from farmers and other top resources to provide quality information to our customers. This newsletter will be sent out biweekly throughout the remainder of the 2025 growing season.

Please reach out if you have insight to share with our crop progress report to [marketing@delongcompany.com](mailto:marketing@delongcompany.com)!

