Although there have been recent rainstorms, weather conditions are still not favorable. The picture to the right shows our current drought situation with some areas experiencing moderate drought. The August weather outlook below shows that hot and dry conditions will continue to persist. In the weather diagram, the left shows that there is a 50-60% chance that temperatures will be above normal averages. The right shows that there is a 40-50% chance of rainfall falling below normal amounts.

Drought stressed corn can tassel earlier than anticipated. Joe Lawrence with Pro-Dairy has stated that drought stressed corn can also experience delayed dry down if there are high temperatures late in the season. Growing Degree Day predictions are a good step to predict harvest timing but checking dry matter also ensures that you are on target. Soybean yield losses are greatest to occur when drought stress occurs between R4 and R5 growth stages. The number of pods per plant is reduced along with seeds per pod and size of seed in some occasions. Also, high soil temperatures (90 degrees) can decrease nodulation and nitrogen fixation. Hay yields are reduced which may create future feed shortages. Consider planting winter cover crops such as triticale to use for feed in the spring. Currently, pest presence is low but there is no guarantee it will remain that way. Continue scouting fields to ensure that fields remain below threshold.