

# NEWS FROM EXTENSION

Wood County | July 2024



## Welcome Ka Zoua Thao!

Hello! My name is Ka Zoua Thao. I am the new HMong Bilingual Community Health Worker in Wood County.

I previously worked at Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools for eight years as a HMong bilingual aide to help bridge the gap between school and home. During this time, I returned to school at the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point to pursue my teaching degree.

After graduation, I began my teaching career as an English Language Learner teacher at Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools. For the last 11 years, I worked closely with minority students and their families to close the gap within the schools and community.

I began my position with Extension Wood County in April 2024. During this time, I have had many conversations with community members and partners about the different needs within the HMong community.

I look forward to using my knowledge and skills to help close the gap between the HMong community and Wood County as a whole.

When I'm not being chauffeur, I love to be outdoors with my husband and three children, two teenage daughters and a son.

If you see an opportunity to collaborate to help the HMong community, feel free to reach out to me at [kazoua.thao@wisc.edu](mailto:kazoua.thao@wisc.edu) or (715) 540-8617.



# Rain, rain go away! Come again another day.

by Matt Lippert, Agriculture Educator

Bummer! This summer's rain, extremely consistent, has been a drag for outdoor activities, lawns and gardens. It has been nearly catastrophic for farmers trying to grow crops. Now in Mid-July many Wood County fields are still unplanted because they have never been dry enough for field operations. Other fields have drowned out, need to be replanted, or for the hay crop, the delay in harvest has caused a loss of quality that will greatly reduce animal performance and make it more expensive to feed the animals.

The Marshfield Agriculture Research Station places 2024 as the fourth wettest spring since 1913 with 18.82" April-June, with only 3.93" in April. What may set this year apart from even the wettest seasons is the regularity of the rains preventing windows of opportunity to establish crops.

Extension participated with farmers in a meeting discussing alternative fast-growing crops that may yet get herds of livestock fed this winter, crops they may replace the quality that has been lost. Also discussed was crop insurance; this compensation can be vital, but certain rules need to be followed not to lose eligibility. Conservation practices that will encourage healthy soil and prevent erosion were also discussed. This information has also been made available on the web as fact sheets and zoom programs, in articles in farm papers and many personal conversations.

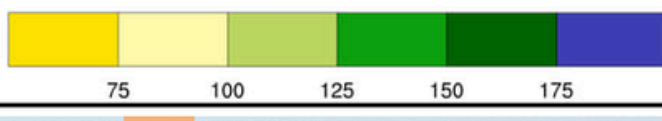
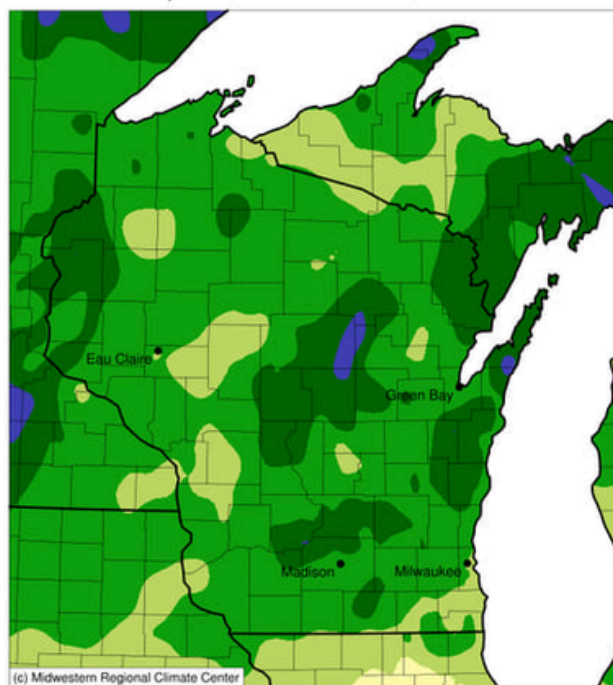
As dry as it was last year, this year is wet and failed crops are the result.



Photo: Marshfield ARS

## Accumulated Precipitation (in): Percent of 1991-2020 Normals

April 01, 2024 to June 30, 2024



Dark green on the map above puts Wood County among the wettest areas in the state.



This weather forecast was repeated over and over.