



Wisconsin Crop Progress

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Farmers are anxious to return to the fields

Wet fields are still delaying spring fieldwork in Wisconsin with a report of 4 inches of snow in one area and continuous unneeded rain in many other areas. There were reports of some fields being worked up for **pea** and **potato** planting in a couple of Central counties and a report of snow still on the ground in the Northwest.

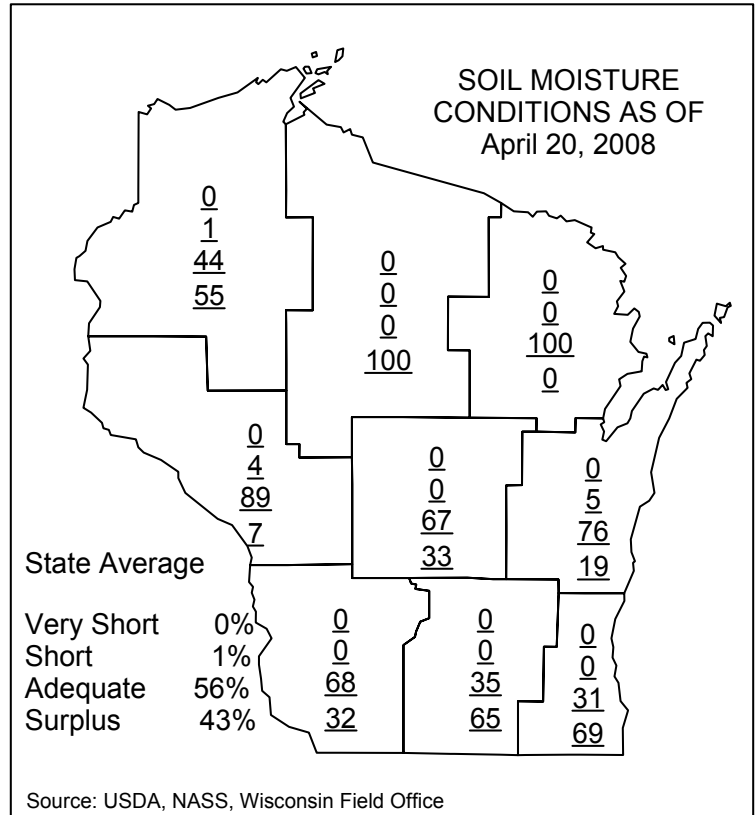
Average temperatures were close to normal with average high temperatures from the mid 50s to 60 degrees and average low temperatures ranging across the 30s. Precipitation totals last week ranged from no precipitation in Milwaukee to 1.93 inches in La Crosse. Soil moisture conditions were at 0 percent very short, 1 percent short, 56 percent adequate, and 43 percent surplus. There were 2.8 days suitable for fieldwork last week.

Very few **Oats** have been reported as being planted. Fields remain water logged with ponding in low lying areas. The overall state total was 3 percent oats planted. Winter temperatures have kept the soil cold, with a report of some frost still remaining in the ground in the northern part of the state.

Spring tillage was very slow due to wet field conditions. There was still snow being reported on some fields in northern areas of the state.

Alfalfa and **winter wheat** conditions continue to vary across the state with a report of winterkill in areas where heavier rains left standing water. Most reporters stated that it was still too early to tell the extent of any winterkill, with a North Central county reporting that alfalfa has not broken dormancy and a Southwest county reporting that it is still too cold for alfalfa. However, a Southeast county reported alfalfa at two inches tall and looking good. Winter wheat seems to have come through the winter in good condition and is slowly greening up.

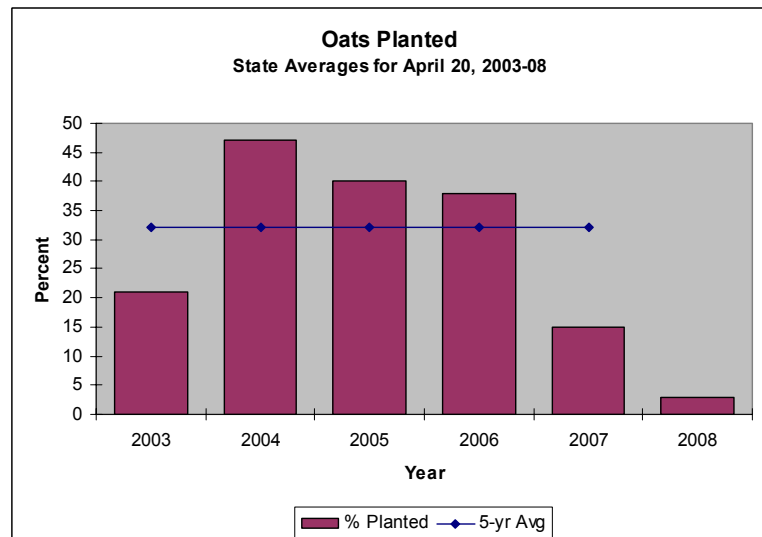
Manure hauling and spreading was reported as being the main activity at this time due to standing and running water in many fields. There also was some moving of round bales of **hay** and one report of **small grains** planted in the Southwest. **Potato** planting has just begun in some Central counties.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of April 20, 2008

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Winter Wheat	1	2	16	58	23
Pasture	18	15	26	34	7

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office



Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BARRON-D.B.: It is too early to tell if there is any damage to alfalfa or winter wheat.

POLK-C.S.: Alfalfa and winter wheat appear to have survived through the winter. Fields are still too soft to begin any tillage. Manure hauling and moving round bales of hay are the activity at present.

WASHBURN-R.H.: Still have some frost in areas. We had snow from Thursday through Saturday night. It is now melting and soaking into the ground. Maple syrup season was good with sugar content up to 3 percent.

FLORENCE-R.O.: Fields are still partially snow covered. It was 9 degrees on Tuesday morning.

BUFFALO-R.S.: Too early to tell conditions about alfalfa and winter wheat. Manure spreading and a little tillage is the activity going on, but still too wet. Did not see any oats seeded.

DUNN-S.S.: Too early to tell about winterkill. It has been a very good season for maple syrup. There has not been anybody in the fields in our area yet. Most of the frost is out. We could use a good rain shower. Everyone is just getting ready to start work.

PEPIN-H.R.: Winter wheat is greening-up, looks like very little winterkill. It is too early to tell about alfalfa. Some work was done on sandy soils this week like lime fertilizer. Maple syrup season was real good; best in several years but a low sugar count.

ST. CROIX-R.K.: Too early to tell about winterkill. There is no fieldwork being done.

PORTAGE-D.Z.: We will be getting into the fields this week. Potato planting has started. Some fieldwork is being done.

WAUPACA-D.H.: Alfalfa has not broken dormancy. Winter wheat appears to have survived with very little winterkill. Most soils are still too wet to allow spring planting except for fields on lighter soils. The sunny and windy days earlier this week were needed to warm and dry the soil to get things going this year.

WAUSHARA-L.K.: There is no winterkill in wheat or alfalfa. Fields are being worked up for planting potatoes. Peas are being planted.

FOND DU LAC-E.A.: Alfalfa and winter wheat seem to have come through the winter in good condition in this area.

SHEBOYGAN-E.G.: Spring is progressing and soil is dry

enough to work.

CRAWFORD-A.B.: Fields dried up and everyone got busy spreading manure and fertilizer. Winter wheat and pastures are in need of some warmer weather.

IOWA-S.M.: It is still too cold for alfalfa. Winter wheat looks good.

COLUMBIA-J.J.: A limited amount of fieldwork was done on lighter ground. The last of our snow finally left on Thursday. Still snow in sheltered areas and ditch lines.

DANE-D.R.: It is too early to tell about winterkill. Some fieldwork on the ridges in the southwestern part of the state is going on. Have not observed much work here. The rain this week and next week will slow progress.

JEFFERSON-B.K.: There is some spotty winterkill in wheat and alfalfa. Some lighter soils were sown to oats. On lighter soils manure hauling is limited. Wheat is fertilized where conditions allowed.

WASHINGTON-R.B.: Warm temperatures on Friday helped wheat green-up. Alfalfa is 2.0 inches tall and looks good. Friday I plowed up some ground.

WAUKESHA-D.W.: There are no signs of winterkill. It is still very wet. We did turn some soil on Thursday on higher ground.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on April 20, 2008

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 Apr. 19	Mar. 1 to Apr. 19 normal *	Last week	Since March 1	March 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	56	34	71	20	45	-1	50	68	0.77	4.01	0.37	5.72	0.28
Green Bay	56	39	71	30	47	2	45	59	0.25	5.25	1.58	11.20	5.31
La Crosse	57	38	73	25	48	-1	53	93	1.93	6.13	2.05	8.57	2.32
Madison	60	39	73	27	50	4	61	96	0.86	6.50	2.11	11.97	5.06
Milwaukee	55	39	75	31	47	1	57	n.a.	0.00	6.02	1.01	11.41	2.90

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.