



Wisconsin Crop Progress

April 25, 2011

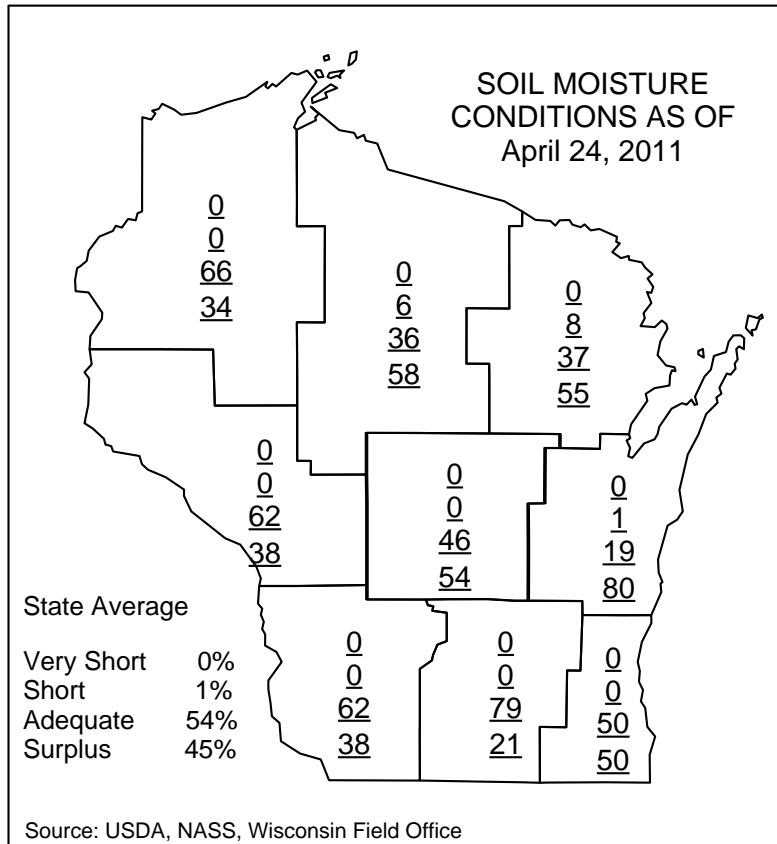
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Cold, Wet Weather Delays Fieldwork

Very little fieldwork was done last week statewide, as winter weather came back to visit Wisconsin. Many northern counties reported heavy wet snow early last week, which prevented most fieldwork from being completed. Last week there was only 1.0 day suitable for fieldwork statewide.

Across the reporting stations, average temperatures last week were 5 to 8 degrees below normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 43 to 49 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 31 to 35 degrees. Precipitation totals ranged from 0.69 inches in Eau Claire to 1.58 inches in Madison. Growing degree days remain behind the normal levels due to the cold weather. If you are interested in further weather data, please reference the following sites:

- <http://www.noaa.gov/>
- <http://www.aos.wisc.edu/~sco/>
- <http://www.cocorahs.org/>
- <http://www.weather.gov/>

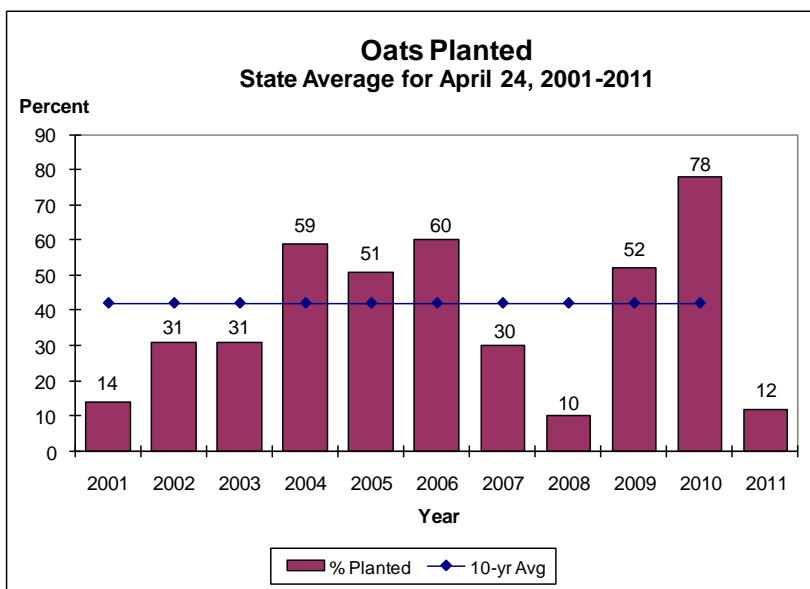


Planting of **oats** slowed last week due to the weather, but southern districts were well ahead of the rest of the state. Statewide, oats planted was at 12 percent complete, compared to 78 percent last year and the five-year average of 46 percent.

Spring tillage was minimal due to the wet conditions statewide. Spring tillage was at 7 percent complete statewide, up only 1 percent from last week. Last year spring tillage was at 56 percent complete and the five-year average was 28 percent. At this time of the year, spring tillage has been less than 10 percent complete statewide only three other times in the past 20 years: 2008, 1995, and 1993.

Many reporters indicated that **alfalfa** and **winter wheat** looked good and appeared to have made it through the winter. Southwest District reporters commented that **pastures** were greening up, but growing very slowly.

Pea and **potato** fields were being worked in lighter, sandy soils in the Central District. One report from Washburn County stated that **winter rye** experienced some die back, but new shoots were still coming. A reporter from Marinette County stated that the early **sweet corn** was getting planted.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of April 24, 2011

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Winter Wheat	1	5	25	57	12
Pasture	6	17	42	30	5

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Wisconsin Crop Progress, April 24, 2011

Crop and percent of acreage	District average									State average			
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
Oats planted	2	0	0	6	2	0	41	30	20	12	10	78	46
Spring tillage	3	1	1	7	5	1	26	9	17	7	6	56	28

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Selected Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

All comments are used in creating this report, but only a few are published below.

WASHBURN-P.H.: Alfalfa looks to have survived good. Winter rye experienced some die back but new shoots are still coming. Still waiting for warm weather before tillage or planting.

TAYLOR-D.E.: No spring tillage...far too wet. Hoping the road bans come off because many manure pits are in danger of overflowing. Fields are trying to green up, but at this point it is hard to determine any winterkill.

MARINETTE-S.R.: Earliest sweet corn getting planted, otherwise mostly manure spreading and primary tillage.

SHAWANO-B.R.: This wet, cold weather is starting to cause some problems with plants showing some rotting. The extent of this will not be known until the weather warms up. Manure pits are nearing full capacity in many instances and need to be pumped soon. It will take at least a full week of good weather before anything moves in the fields now.

LA CROSSE-I.H.: Eight and a half inches of snow on the ridges... 3.5 inches in the valley Tuesday night. Little chance for fieldwork this week except for cutting brush and fixing fences.

PORTAGE-J.B.: Through rain nor sleet nor driving snow, a planting potatoes we will go! And that's been it. In the sandy country, fields are being worked for peas and potatoes but with the cold and wet everything else is pretty much at a standstill. Manure spreading still going on in fields they can get to.

WAUPACA-D.H.: Very little winterkill in alfalfa and winter wheat. Most fields are water logged. The recent snowstorm dumped 5.0 inches of wet snow, we need a couple weeks of dry warmer weather before much of anything can be done.

FOND DU LAC-B.B.: Winterkill is very slight in alfalfa and wheat. Ponding may end up causing some bare patches, however, 2.2 inches rain and 6.0 inches snow for the week still holds up manure application and tillage. At least the frost is out of the ground.

OUTAGAMIE-D.F.: Old Wisdom says: the early robin has to get snow on his tail three times before you can plant corn. This must have been the fourth time at least!

IOWA-K.M.: Wet cool weather has slowed the planting this spring. Spring tillage remains steady with some planting going on in the western part of the County.

SAUK-J.P.: Five inches of snow has put a stop to all fieldwork. All that had been going on was spreading of manure and a little anhydrous. Alfalfa is greener than a week ago and grasses seem to be growing too. A couple of sunny days with warm breezes would make everyone's temperament a bit more tolerable.

DANE-J.K.: No sign of winterkill on winter wheat or alfalfa yet, but it's still hard to tell on alfalfa. With snow every other day and snow cover it's hard to tell at this point. No field work done for the last 5 days except some liquid and hard manure hauled Monday. No frost left in the ground that I know of, but it could freeze again the way it's going. It's hard to tell if it's spring or winter, you hear thunder and see lightning thinking it's spring, but look out and see the ground white. No potatoes in yet, garden or otherwise. I don't think we will see spring this year. We will go right into summer, if that ever happens!

RACINE-K.I.: We need the rain to stop to allow for planting.

WAUKESHA-R.F.: Winter wheat looks good. Alfalfa looks ok. Mid-week was not Spring, it was raining, snowing, and sleeting.



USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office
 P.O. Box 8934
 Madison, WI 53708-8934
 (608) 224-4848
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/wi/>

Robert J. Battaglia
 Director

Stacy Leitner
 Statistician

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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on April 24, 2011

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. 23	Mar. 1 to Apr. 23 normal*	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	46	31	51	24	39	-7	65	86	0.69	3.73	-0.23	5.58	-0.23
Green Bay	43	32	53	27	37	-8	40	74	1.10	6.73	2.73	9.30	3.06
La Crosse	49	35	53	30	42	-8	90	113	1.00	6.73	2.25	8.64	2.00
Madison	47	34	57	26	41	-6	80	117	1.58	5.69	0.87	8.56	1.25
Milwaukee	46	35	60	31	41	-5	58	n.a.	1.39	6.97	1.49	10.43	1.44

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.