



WISCONSIN CROP PROGRESS

May 6, 2013

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May Snowstorm Delays Fieldwork Further

Temperatures climbed into the 70s and 80s across the state early this week, before a cold front brought yet another winter storm system through on Thursday. The northwest received over a foot of snow in some areas, with heavy rain reported elsewhere. As wintery conditions dragged on problems were mounting for livestock producers, especially in the north. Reporters commented that feed and hay supplies were tight, calf losses were up due to the cold weather, pastures remained dormant and manure pits were close to overflowing where spreading has been delayed. Preliminary assessments of winterkill to alfalfa stands were mixed, with reporters expecting significant loss in some areas. Oats, alfalfa, vegetables, and some corn were being planted as soil conditions permit, primarily in the south and the central sands. There were 2.6 days suitable for fieldwork this week.

Across the reporting stations, average temperatures last week were 2 degrees below normal to 6 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 58 to 69 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 39 to 45 degrees. Precipitation totals ranged from 0.09 inches in Milwaukee to 1.53 inches in Green Bay. 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/>

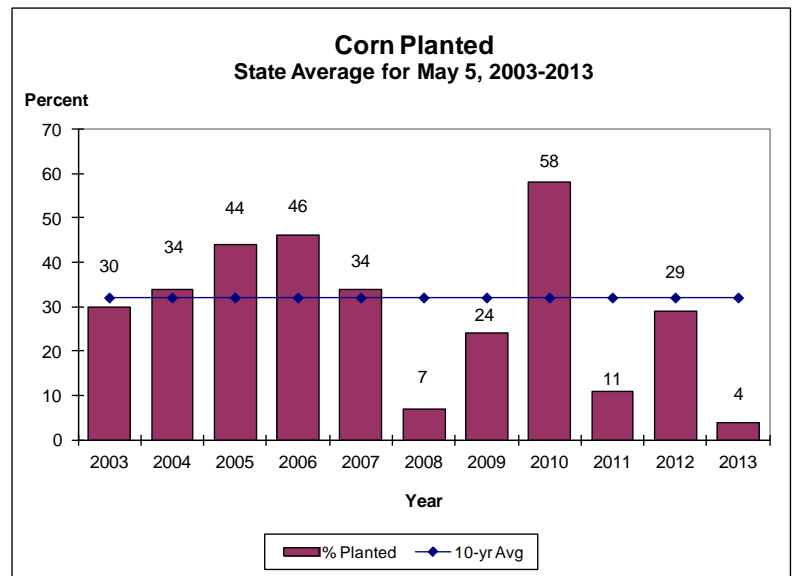
Statewide, **spring tillage** was 12 percent complete.

Corn was 4 percent planted, compared to 29 percent last year and a 26 percent 5-year average.

Oats were 18 percent planted this week, 44 percentage points below the 5-year average.

Alfalfa was reportedly being seeded where winterkill was evident. Reporters noted that some producers were considering rotating corn into their most damaged alfalfa fields.

Preliminary reports of winterkill in **winter wheat** and **rye** were mixed. **Maple syrup** season was wrapping up in the north, with excellent production and quality reported for this longer-than-normal season. **Peas** were being planted in Marquette, Waushara, and Ozaukee Counties. **Potatoes** were going in the ground in Marquette, Portage, and Waushara Counties.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of May 5, 2013

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	19	21	43	15	2

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office

Wisconsin Crop Progress, May 5, 2013

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	1	0	3	5	21	5	40	51	17	18	5	85	62
Spring tillage	1	2	8	5	16	4	26	26	9	12	4	66	47

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork and Soil Moisture Conditions, May 5, 2013

Item	District average									State average		
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This week	Last week	Last year
Days Suitable	0.8	0.3	1.8	2.2	4.4	1.6	3.6	4.3	2.3	2.6	1.4	3.0
Topsoil Moisture	Percent									Percent		
Very Short	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Short	1	0	0	1	0	0	4	6	0	2	4	5
Adequate	78	60	49	68	80	48	87	75	66	70	71	65
Surplus	21	40	51	31	20	52	9	19	34	28	25	30
Subsoil Moisture	Percent									Percent		
Very Short	8	0	0	3	0	1	0	1	0	2	1	n.a.
Short	13	8	16	23	5	2	22	10	1	13	17	n.a.
Adequate	75	91	61	72	74	76	76	70	73	74	71	n.a.
Surplus	4	1	23	2	21	21	2	19	26	11	11	n.a.

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Alert! The window to respond to the Census of Agriculture is almost closed!

There are only a few weeks left to complete and return the 2012 Census of Agriculture. Because time is running out, NASS may contact you or farmers in your area by phone or in person to collect information for the Census. **Help ensure you and your industry have the most complete set of agricultural statistics available for your country and county.** For more information or for help filling out your Census form, visit www.agcensus.usda.gov or call (888) 424-7828.

Wisconsin Crop Progress

Selected Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

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

SAWYER-K.S.: Spring field work almost started this week, but another major snow fall on Wednesday night and Thursday morning put the brakes on that. Most of Sawyer County received 8-15 plus inches of snow. The frost is mostly out of the ground and prior to the snow, some field work was being done. Pastures and winter wheat and rye are greening up. Until the snow melts it will be difficult to assess winterkill. Fruit trees are starting to push buds, but no signs of leaf. Lots of anxiety building as weather delays field work and other "normally" scheduled work.

WASHBURN-E.M.: On May 2 the area got a huge snowstorm. Heavy snow varied from 8-12 inches in Washburn County; Burnett County was more sporadic with some areas receiving up to 6 inches.

ASHLAND-C.B.: Over one foot of snow fell on the eastern part of Bayfield County, and all of Ashland and Iron Counties. Very little snow in Douglas and western Bayfield County. The ground is very wet and we are still a ways off from any field work or pasturing yet.

ONEIDA-B.E.: Temperatures dipped back to below average again this past week, with highs only in the 30s to 40s, and lows in the 20s to 30s. We received about 1.75 inches of rain, and almost 2 inches of snow this past week as well. Just about all of the ice and snow are gone now, with only small areas of both remaining. There is still frost in the ground in the cranberry beds, about 3 inches down, but expect that to be gone by the end of this coming week.

SHAWANO-J.N.: There isn't much going on besides some manure being hauled to high ground. Hopefully this week will go as forecasted and we will begin to dry out. Pastures are finally starting to green up with the warmer temperatures.

JACKSON-T.W.: Farmers have found patches of alfalfa winterkill, some may be significant. Only in lighter soils have farmers been able to apply fertilizer. Some dairy and livestock farmers continue to experience forage shortages.

PEPIN-T.M.: Several farm buildings collapsed from the wet heavy snow.

JUNEAU-J.W.: A really good week weatherwise. Especially the weekend. There was some corn planted last week although the

ground was still cold. Things should really progress this week with warm temperatures and little chance of rain. Things are greening up very well. Haven't seen or heard about any extensive winterkill damage to alfalfa or winter wheat but I'm sure there is some. Tractors will be going full tilt this week.

WAUPACA-L.B.: Strawberries planted, raspberries greening out, and too early to assess winter damage.

BROWN-M.H.: We are estimating that 30-50 percent of alfalfa stands in Brown County have winterkilled. Options such as interseeding and completely rotating out are being considered.

SHEBOYGAN-M.B.: I would estimate about a 60 percent alfalfa loss county wide due to ice and excessive moisture. Twenty-five percent loss on the winter wheat for the area. Only a few farmers on the very light soils have been able to get into the fields.

GRANT-D.W.: Spring field work began in earnest last Thursday. Lots of oats and a little corn has been planted. Way behind last year when most of the corn was in by this date. Some alfalfa fields are showing a fair amount of winterkill.

GREEN-D.M.: Some alfalfa fields have spotty areas of winter kill. Overall winter wheat looks good, just slow growth. Good four day window of warm dry weather allowed me to get spring wheat and alfalfa planted.

ROCK-C.O.: Alfalfa fields that looked fine a month ago are now showing signs of winter kill. Some stands are 50 percent loss. Corn planting has begun as has application of fertilizers.

OZAUKEE-KA: Warm air has arrived. Wheat starting to green up. Applied fertilizer on land where ground is firm enough to carry the spreader. Alfalfa field not looking too good - older stands are slow to green up while the new seeding is coming in good shape. Seen a little oats and peas planted on May 1st - but no corn planted yet.

WAUKESHA-R.F.: Winter wheat looks fairly good now. Alfalfa looks fair. Fruit trees look fantastic. Leaves are almost complete now. Hot days really moved. Nothing will get planted until things dry out.

Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on May 5, 2013

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 May 4	Mar. 1 To May 4 normal*	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	58	39	81	31	49	-2	71	155	0.74	6.16	+0.99	8.73	+1.69
Green Bay	66	43	84	35	55	+5	90	125	1.53	6.66	+1.73	11.31	+4.16
La Crosse	62	42	85	32	52	-2	101	190	1.41	9.31	+3.50	11.71	+3.69
Madison	69	45	86	36	57	+6	141	189	0.98	9.19	+3.15	14.47	+5.91
Milwaukee	64	44	85	37	54	+4	109	n.a.	0.09	9.09	+2.26	15.29	+4.69

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.



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