



Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

May 29, 2001 - 3 p.m.

Vol. 01, No. 9

Rain Delays Spring Activity, Again

Activity in Wisconsin was slowed after a week of rain. Hay harvest started in the southern two-thirds of the state during periods of dry weather. Wisconsin farmers experienced a drastic change in the number of days suitable for fieldwork last week, with the state averaging 1.4 days. Soil moisture was 54% adequate and 46% surplus.

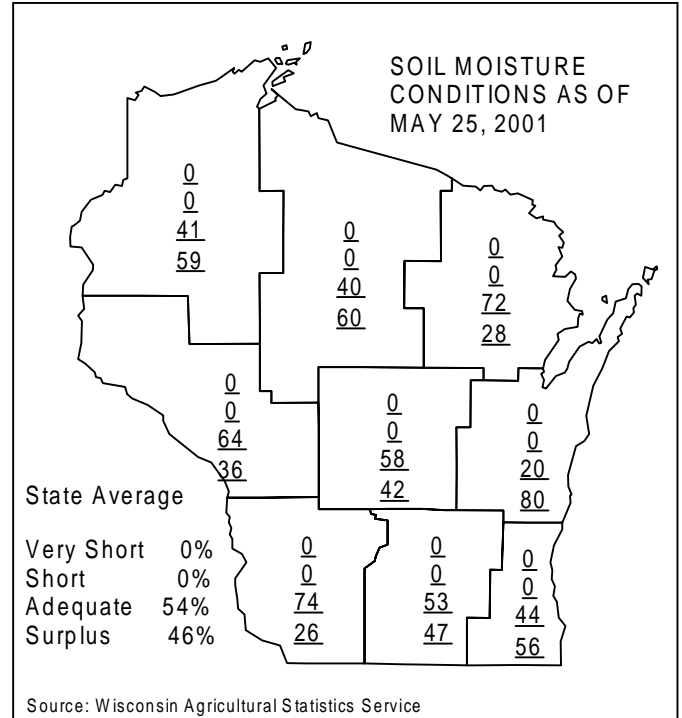
Corn planted reached 77%, behind last year's 96%, and the 5-year average of 88%. Corn emergence reached 43%, compared to last year's 82%. Several reporters noted yellow foliage on emerged corn. **Soybean** planting slowed last week, with the state average reaching 40% complete, behind last year's 82%, and the 5-year average of 67%. Soybean emergence reached 21% complete, behind last year's 55%.

Winter wheat fields continue to be rated 89% good to excellent throughout the state. **Oat** acreage reached 95% planted last week, compared to 100% last year, and the 5-year average of 96%. Oat emergence was reported 86% last week, below last year's 100%, and the 5-year average of 90%. Winter wheat and oats found last week's wet, cool weather favorable.

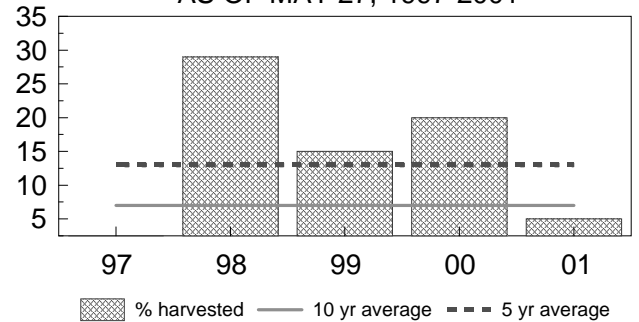
Alfalfa and **winter wheat** are growing fast with the continual wet weather. Alfalfa harvest started last week with the state reaching 5% complete, compared to 20% last year, and the 5-year average of 13%. Fields saturated after a week of intermittent rains made harvest difficult. In some Wisconsin locations alfalfa was laying in windrows for a week. Other farmers were waiting for dry conditions to harvest, as relative feed value decreased each day.

Cherry and **apple** bloom is complete in Door County. Tart cherries are approaching shuck-split stage, approximately seven days behind southern Wisconsin.

Spring tillage averaged 86% complete last week, behind last year's 100%, and the 5-year average of 95%. A Manitowoc County farmer forced fields to dry by working them.



FIRST CROP HAY HARVESTED WISCONSIN AS OF MAY 27, 1997-2001



| Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of May 25, 2001 | | | | | |
|--|---------|------|------|------|-----------|
| Item | V.-poor | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent |
| Percent | | | | | |
| Pasture | 0 | 0 | 8 | 68 | 24 |
| Oats | 1 | 1 | 27 | 60 | 11 |
| Corn | 0 | 1 | 31 | 60 | 8 |
| Soybean | 1 | 1 | 26 | 68 | 4 |
| Winter Wheat | 0 | 1 | 10 | 65 | 24 |

Wisconsin Crop Progress, May 27, 2001

| Crop and percent of acreage | District average | | | | | | | | | State average | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|---------------|-----------|----------------|
| | NW | NC | NE | WC | C | EC | SW | SC | SE | This year | Last year | 5-year average |
| Oats planted | 94 | 85 | 97 | 95 | 97 | 94 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 96 |
| Oats emerged | 76 | 74 | 83 | 90 | 70 | 89 | 93 | 99 | 100 | 86 | 100 | 90 |
| Corn planted | 63 | 56 | 77 | 76 | 75 | 68 | 84 | 86 | 89 | 77 | 96 | 88 |
| Corn emerged | 20 | 19 | 19 | 38 | 42 | 34 | 54 | 59 | 65 | 43 | 82 | n.a. |
| Soybeans planted | 24 | 34 | 26 | 22 | 27 | 30 | 53 | 43 | 65 | 40 | 82 | 67 |
| Soybeans emerged | 10 | 12 | 11 | 10 | 10 | 14 | 30 | 20 | 40 | 21 | 55 | n.a. |
| 1st crop hay harvested | 2 | 4 | 0 | 6 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 10 | 2 | 5 | 20 | 13 |
| Spring tillage | 73 | 76 | 81 | 81 | 88 | 80 | 99 | 91 | 97 | 86 | 100 | 95 |

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BAYFIELD-J.M.: Apple, strawberry, and blueberry crops are in full bloom. Forest tent caterpillars are a problem on those crops planted near forested land.

CHIPPEWA-J.J.: We went from “sixty to zero” this week. Rains and cool temperatures have stopped the fieldwork. Some green chopping to open the fields is the only haying started.

LINCOLN-R.S.: Corn is all planted. Oats are up in some fields. Fieldwork has slowed down due to rain every day since Monday. Hayfields are growing rapidly. Corn is starting to grow.

PRICE-M.K.: Fieldwork and crop growth came to a virtual halt this week with the advent of cold and wet weather.

FOREST-A.K.: Apple trees are in bloom now. All fieldwork held up because of rain this week.

BUFFALO-R.S.: Total soil saturation with 2.3 inches of rain so far this week. Cattle are cutting up pastures. First crop hay making will be muddy. A lot of hay has lodged and maturing fast. Crop planting and spraying won’t happen soon. Emerged corn looks yellow. Winter wheat looks ready to form heads.

PEPIN-R.W.: It has been raining for 6 days. Many acres of corn need to be sprayed as soon as possible.

WOOD-F.M.: Hayfields are ready to harvest, but ground is too wet to travel on without major damage. Tonnage going up; quality going down. Farmers talking trading seed corn for shell corn and planting some beans.

BROWN-K.J.: Too wet to do anything but wait until it dries up. Alfalfa is maturing, and hay will be put in before corn is all planted. It looks good if weather will permit the harvesting.

DOOR-M.F.: Cherry and apple blossom is complete. Growers seemed pleased with bee activity caused by the warm trend during pollination. Hoping for some sun to begin the hay harvest early next week. Using the PEAQ stick, some RFV’s are in the 175 to 180 range. About 80 percent of the canning peas are planted, and snapbeans are expected to begin going in this next week.

MANITOWOC-R.B.: Forced some acreages to dry by working it Saturday. Got some beans and corn in Sunday. Other land was close to getting dry enough to try, but has rained every day since. Oats turning yellow, as is corn that is up. Some winter wheat is up. Hay was supposed to be cut last Monday for 155 RFV.

CRAWFORD-V.H.: Wet, wet ,wet. Things are starting to dry out. Cool air temperatures have not caused corn to stall. Corn that was planted almost jumped out of the ground.

IOWA-R.G.: This week has been wet again. Crops that are in the ground are emerging. Hay is ready, and farmers are anxious.

SAUK-C.N.: After a good week the previous week, the weather turned cold and wet again. Several hayfields are cut, but getting showered on. Some corn fields in need of spraying.

COLUMBIA-R.S.: Constant showers have halted any fieldwork to be done. Oats and winter wheat really like this weather. Still a little corn and soybeans to be planted. No hay being made; some is over mature, but will have to do.

DANE-D.F.: A good week for equipment maintenance, as it rained every day. Some winter wheat has started to head out; straw is very short. Cool weather resulted in very little crop changes.

ROCK-C.O.: Rain showers every day have slowed fieldwork. Some have had hay down all week with constant showers; in some places with standing water, it is difficult to harvest. Winter wheat is all headed out and looks good. Some blossoms in alfalfa.

KENOSHA-J.H.: Too many showers on too many days.

RACINE-S.S.: Corn planting is done except for marsh areas; good emergence. Soybean planting is wrapping up. Soybean stands look very good. Strawberries are about 3 weeks away from start of picking. Apple crop looks good at this time. Winter wheat has started to head out; looks like a good crop.

WASHINGTON-K.R.: Some farmers are done planting; most have some left to plant. No planting done since Sunday. If sun comes back, it will mean cutting hay, finishing planting, and spraying all at once.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on May 27, 2001

| 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 26 | Mar. 1 to May 26 normal * | Last week | Since Mar. 1 | Mar. 1 dep. from normal* | Year to date |
| Eau Claire | 59 | 46 | 72 | 38 | 52 | -8 | 430 | 386 | 3.36 | 11.62 | 3.93 | 13.22 |
| Green Bay | 62 | 45 | 78 | 38 | 54 | -4 | 419 | 325 | 1.89 | 8.45 | 1.69 | 10.90 |
| La Crosse | 63 | 48 | 78 | 42 | 56 | -6 | 449 | 437 | 1.01 | 8.30 | 0.83 | 10.48 |
| Madison | 62 | 44 | 77 | 38 | 53 | -6 | 501 | 439 | 1.76 | 7.61 | 0.00 | 11.24 |
| Milwaukee | 60 | 46 | 70 | 42 | 53 | -4 | 409 | n.a. | 0.70 | 7.69 | -0.85 | 12.28 |

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 1961-90 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>>. N.a. = not available. T = trace.