



Wisconsin Crop Progress & Condition



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Cooperating with Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

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For the week ending April 26, 2015
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Rain, Snow, and Frosts Delay Fieldwork

There were 4.1 days suitable for fieldwork during the week ending April 26th, 2015, according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Snow, rain, hail, and cold, windy conditions stalled fieldwork at the beginning of this week. With freezing nights and a lack of snow cover, several reporters noted the potential for damage to **winter wheat** and **alfalfa** stands. Despite below-average temperatures, alfalfa and small-grains planting was able to resume in many areas by the weekend. Some farmers were reportedly planting test fields of **corn**, though soils were not yet warm enough for corn to germinate. Tillage, manure spreading, and fertilizer applications rounded out field activities for the week.

Topsoil moistures fell slightly in spite of the precipitation received, ending the week with 2 percent very short, 20 percent short, 68 percent adequate and 10 percent surplus. **Subsoil moisture** changed little from the previous week, averaging 3 percent very short, 20 percent short, 71 percent adequate and 6 percent surplus.

As of April 26th, **spring tillage** was 31 percent complete statewide, 16 days ahead of last year and 4 days ahead of the five-year average.

Corn planted was 5 percent complete, 9 days ahead of last year but 3 days behind average.

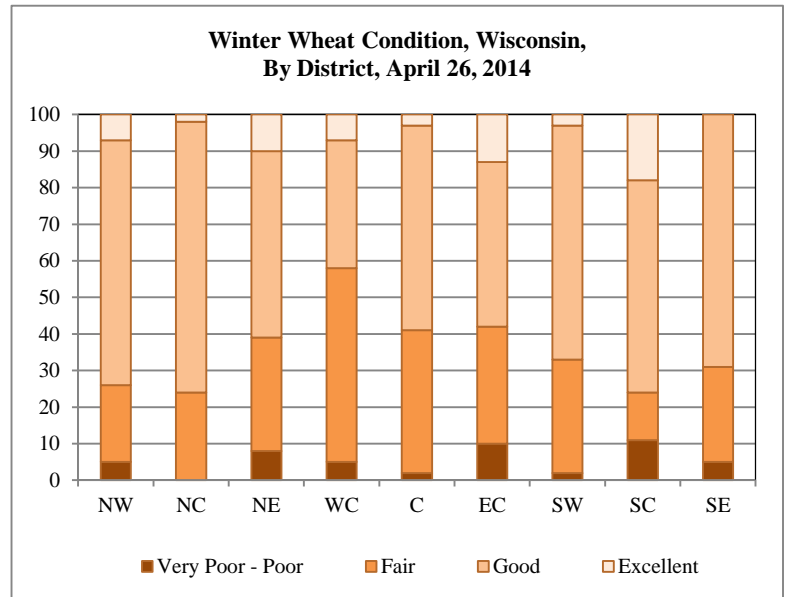
Oats planted was at 46 percent, 18 days ahead of last year and currently 7 days ahead of the five-year average.

Potatoes planted continued to progress, reaching 40 percent.

Pasture condition continued to improve week-over-week, with 44 percent rated good to excellent compared to 38 percent last week.

Winter wheat also improved, from 65 percent in good to excellent condition statewide last week to 67 percent this week, though several reporters did note isolated winter kill.

A report from Crawford County noted that **apple** trees were very close to bloom.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of April 26, 2015

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Pasture & Range	2	20	34	39	5
Winter Wheat	0	7	26	57	10

Wisconsin Crop Progress as of April 26, 2015

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
	Percent									Percent			
Corn planted	3	3	2	11	4	1	5	6	7	5	1	1	8
Oats planted	32	40	36	49	52	28	61	57	51	46	26	11	36
Oats emerged	3	4	1	8	8	7	7	15	8	7	1	1	14
Potatoes planted	13	31	8	44	49	n.a.	26	30	n.a.	40	23	2	n.a.
Spring tillage complete	30	29	17	39	31	21	40	36	28	31	18	8	26

Days Suitable for Fieldwork and Soil Moisture Conditions as of April 26, 2015

Item	District average									State average		
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This week	Last week	Last Year
	Days									Days		
Days Suitable	3.8	4.6	4.2	3.7	4.9	4.5	3.8	3.7	3.7	4.1	5.1	2.1
	Percent									Percent		
Topsoil Moisture												
Very Short	2	0	0	0	1	2	2	8	1	2	1	0
Short	26	15	11	23	23	10	33	21	7	20	19	3
Adequate	63	69	60	68	68	71	64	63	76	68	66	62
Surplus	9	16	29	9	8	17	1	8	16	10	14	35
Subsoil Moisture												
Very Short	2	0	0	1	1	0	5	11	1	3	2	0
Short	29	4	15	29	20	9	33	22	11	20	21	7
Adequate	61	88	76	65	77	81	61	61	78	71	68	75
Surplus	8	8	9	5	2	10	1	6	10	6	9	18

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Selected Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

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

CHIPPEWA-B.P.: Rainy earlier in the week and then changed to snow. We had three days of light snow and cold. Down to the low 20s two mornings and two mornings in the high 20's. Pastures did green up but are slow to grow. I did spend 3 days picking rocks on higher ground. Lower fields are too wet for any field operations.

RUSK-G.P.: This week is starting with sun and warmer temps with a good forecast. Much better than last week, which started with rain followed by falling temps and snow on and off for the week. A little fieldwork done, but mostly just waiting for better conditions. Oats are continuing to go in and I expect to see corn planters rolling in a big way as the week goes on.

MARATHON-S.N.: Clear, fair skies and temperatures in the 50's. Manure hauling and discing ongoing. Small grain seeding going well. Weight limits lifted at the end of the week.

FLORENCE-T.B.: Cold and wet start to the week. Two more inches of snow. Later part of the week was suitable for field work.

LANGLADE-A.K.: Conditions are right for finishing manure. Tillage and fertilizer application is in full swing. Small grains going in, fall covers and hay fields look very good. Normal spring with good conditions.

DUNN-S.S.: Need some warm weather and moisture. It frosted twice in the past week.

WAUPACA-D.L.H.: Cool, damp weather of the past week slowed spring planting progress. Winter kill in alfalfa is severe in spots on older seedings - also some damage showing in winter wheat fields. Farmers are anxious to get going with spring work.

WOOD-B.E.: Temperatures were below normal for most of this week, and we saw a mixed bag of precipitation/rain, snow, sleet, along with a little sunshine at times as well, though it was mostly cloudy much of the week. Total precipitation here was 0.85 inches for the week. Cranberry vines are in the "cabbage head" growth stage and we have flooded the beds to protect them from the cold nights. Sprinkler irrigation system is being assembled now.

DOOR-A.B.: Alfalfa fields are greening up slowly. Some fields are showing significant winter kill from the lack of snow cover. Other winter kill is evident in high traffic areas from the heavy compaction on wet soil last fall. Frost heaving is a problem on clay soils. Time will tell with the alfalfa crop. Oats are going in on most soils and coming up nicely. Not much winter wheat planted last fall, but the crop that is coming up looks decent.

MANITOWOC-M.R.: Saw a little bit of tillage happening, along with some manure hauling and a little bit of new seeding being planted.

VERNON-K.L.: A cold and blustery week! Temps went from high of 70s to barely 40s with snow flurries, rain showers and high winds. Soil temperature is around 47-50 degrees. Grape buds are swelling. Alfalfa looks good but slow due to cold temperatures.

DODGE-R.H.: Had 1.2 inches of rain on Monday. Most of the week was windy and cool. Had 0.3 inches of rain on Friday night. Need sunny weather

OZAUKEE-G.S.: Still not much activity out in the fields last week. This week we should see a whole lot more going on as temps are warming up and there is no rain in forecast.

Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on April 26, 2015

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. 25	Mar. 1 to Apr. 25 normal*	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	52	33	62	25	43	-4	181	97	0.88	2.49	-1.65	3.08	-2.95
Green Bay	51	35	67	29	43	-3	132	81	0.48	2.56	-1.63	3.55	-2.78
La Crosse	55	37	61	28	46	-5	238	126	0.93	4.98	+0.29	6.20	-0.68
Madison	53	35	74	26	44	-4	199	129	0.96	5.14	+0.11	6.55	-0.97
Milwaukee	48	37	55	30	42	-5	122	n.a.	1.21	6.06	+0.35	7.80	-1.37

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. n.a.=not available. T=trace Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>.

For more 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/>

This report has been made possible through the cooperative efforts of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection, and the National Weather Service.