

# WISCONSIN CROP PROGRESS

April 15, 2013

Vol. 13, No. 2

## Rain, Snow and Sleet

Wet and chilly weather kept farmers out of fields this week. A series of storms brought heavy rain across southern Wisconsin and snow, sleet and freezing rain to the north. Water was reportedly standing in fields where soils are highly saturated or still frozen. Rivers and streams were reportedly at or near flood stage in some areas. Topsoil moisture was 32 percent surplus statewide. Temperatures remained below average and growing degree days were well below normal at all reporting stations. There were 0.0 days suitable for fieldwork this week.

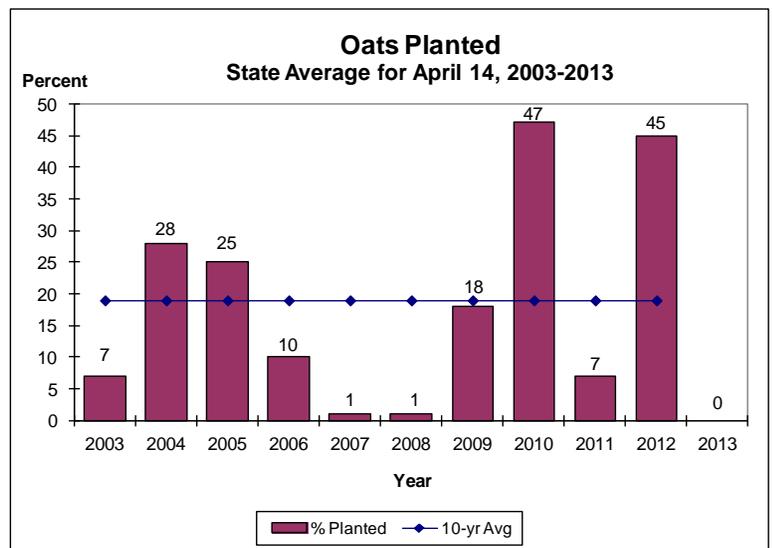
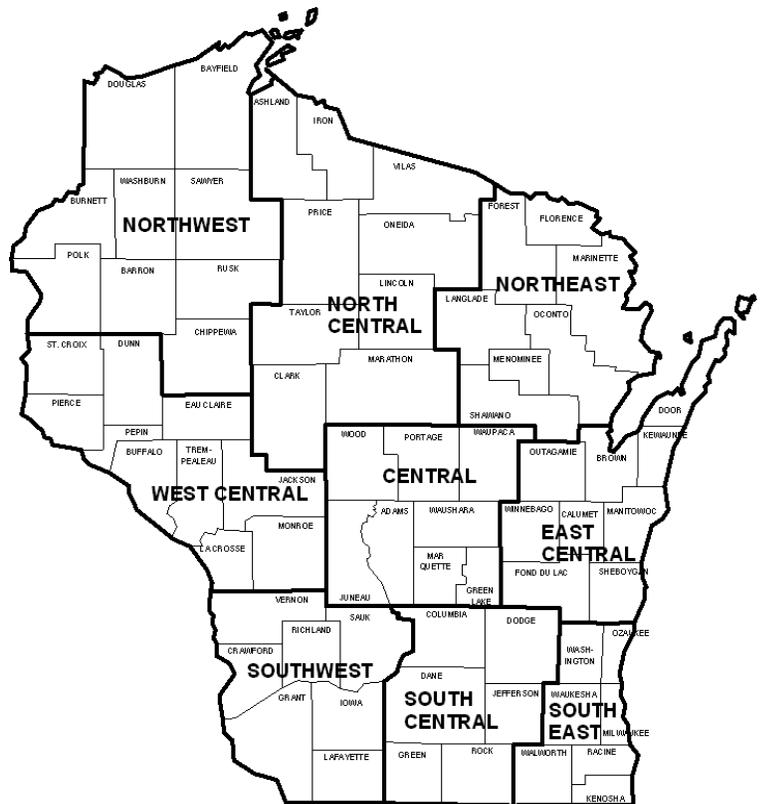
Across the reporting stations, average temperatures last week were 3 to 7 degrees below normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 39 to 44 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 29 to 35 degrees. Precipitation totals ranged from 0.84 inches in Eau Claire to 3.91 inches in Milwaukee. 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** had not yet begun. **Manure spreading** was halted by snowy, soggy field conditions.

**Alfalfa** was greening up in a few areas, though stands remained dormant throughout most of the state. Reporters noted that it was still too early to judge freeze damage. Standing water and ice were reported in some hay fields.

**Winter wheat** was also greening up in some areas, though low temperatures and snowfall kept growth minimal. **Maple syrup** season continued. Reporters commented that sap production was much better than last year.



### Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of April 14, 2013

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	39	21	31	8	1

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office

### Days Suitable for Fieldwork and Soil Moisture Conditions, April 14, 2013

Item	District average									State average		
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This week	Last week	Last year
Days Suitable	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	5.6
Topsoil Moisture	Percent									Percent		
Very Short	6	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	1	2	6
Short	14	1	0	4	7	0	21	7	0	8	13	28
Adequate	60	83	27	78	66	39	54	53	54	59	70	61
Surplus	20	16	73	18	27	61	24	38	46	32	15	4
Subsoil Moisture	Percent									Percent		
Very Short	9	0	0	5	0	1	3	7	0	3	9	n.a.
Short	27	16	4	36	32	5	51	18	11	26	32	n.a.
Adequate	59	84	52	56	46	61	44	59	71	58	53	n.a.
Surplus	5	0	44	3	22	33	2	16	18	13	6	n.a.

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

# 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.

**RUSK-G.P.:** Snow has returned, not the big snow predicted but enough to make it white again. Temperatures remain cold and frost and ice on the lakes continues. No field work of any kind and alfalfa, wheat, and pastures are still completely dormant. Sap run has finally picked up, getting more reasonable amounts now and good quality.

**WASHBURN-P.H.:** More snow. Frost still 36 inches deep. Nothing happening.

**ASHLAND-C.B.:** Continued below normal temperatures. A foot of snow fell recently throughout the area. We are way behind normal. Does not appear that there will be any fieldwork for a while. Reports of a good maple syrup run this year, as temperatures at night continue to be below freezing.

**TAYLOR-D.E.:** Maple sap collection slowed down due to colder temperatures during the day. Still a lot of snow on the ground and mud anywhere there is not snow. It will be a while before anyone gets into the fields here. There is growing concern about manure pits overflowing because nothing can be hauled out.

**MARINETTE-S.R.:** Solid snow cover in northern Marinette County and Florence County yet. Temporarily solid snow cover throughout entire area, for that matter. No good ability to determine winter survival on anything yet.

**OCONTO-J.M.:** After this week's snowfall the ground is again 100 percent covered with snow.

**BUFFALO-S.M.:** Most snow cover has now melted off in the rains of the past week. Manure hauling/spreading had begun but has slowed due to recent weather.

**LACROSSE-I.H.:** At this time, the ground is covered with a layer of ice. It continues to rain and the rain turns to ice. Frost is still in the ground. Unable to judge the condition of winter wheat and alfalfa.

**TREMPEALEAU-J.H.:** Winter does not want to go away.

**JUNEAU-J.W.:** Most of the snow is gone except for some of the piles. After the rain this past week I think most of the frost is out of the ground or at least getting close. We can actually see some rye and a little wheat starting to green up.

Temperatures are supposed to be in the 50s this coming week but then a snow storm is predicted for the end of the week. Frustrating.

**PORTAGE-J.W.:** Snow, sleet and rain have resulted in about 2 inches of rainfall equivalent for the week. We still have snowfall, 1-2 inches covering fields. Maple syrup winding down, most say it was a good season.

**BROWN-M.H.:** Can't see anything at the moment, it is snowing as I file my report!!!

**SHEBOYGAN-E.P.:** Rain turned into sleet. Frost still in ground. Some alfalfa under water and ice yet.

**LAFAYETTE-M.Y.:** It has been raining since last Sunday.

**VERNON-K.L.:** A week of multiple weather conditions--- rain, sleet, snow, and hail. An average of 2-3 inches of rain throughout the county. Temperatures well below normal. Winter wheat has emerged. Too soon to determine winter kill on alfalfa.

**COLUMBIA-S.H.:** Cloudy, rainy with a little snow this past week. Most of the frost is gone from the soil. Lots of rain, much of it has infiltrated into the soil, therefore helping to recharge soil moisture and groundwater. Field conditions are saturated and muddy, with some standing water in low lying depressions. Cold temperatures are keeping the winter wheat and alfalfa from greening up too quickly. Still too early to know if the plants have all survived winter.

**ROCK-D.C.:** Wet. Not a wheel turning for anything.

**OZAUKEE-K.A.:** Water ponds all over, river over its banks. Wheat - too early to tell and the same goes for hay land. Still snow banks on the north side of buildings. Still frost in the ground at 14 inches down. Just cold and rainy!

**WALWORTH-N.W.:** Our area has ponding in most fields with more rain on the way for most of this week. Hopefully we are building back the subsoil moisture that we lost last year. Winter wheat has greened up with the abundance of moisture. Some fields that looked like a loss actually look good.

### Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on April 14, 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 Apr. 13	Mar. 1 To Apr. 13 normal*	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	39	29	43	20	34	-7	0	28	0.84	3.89	+0.88	6.46	+1.61
Green Bay	39	32	50	31	35	-6	0	25	2.11	4.21	+1.05	8.86	+3.46
La Crosse	43	34	55	27	39	-6	12	47	2.56	4.87	+1.52	7.27	+1.73
Madison	44	35	57	32	40	-3	18	51	3.24	5.72	+2.06	11.00	+4.79
Milwaukee	43	34	53	30	39	-3	18	n.a.	3.91	5.59	+1.39	11.79	+4.09

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.



USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field office  
P.O. Box 8934  
Madison, WI 53708-8934

(608)224-4848  
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/wi/>  
Greg Bussler, State Statistician

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