

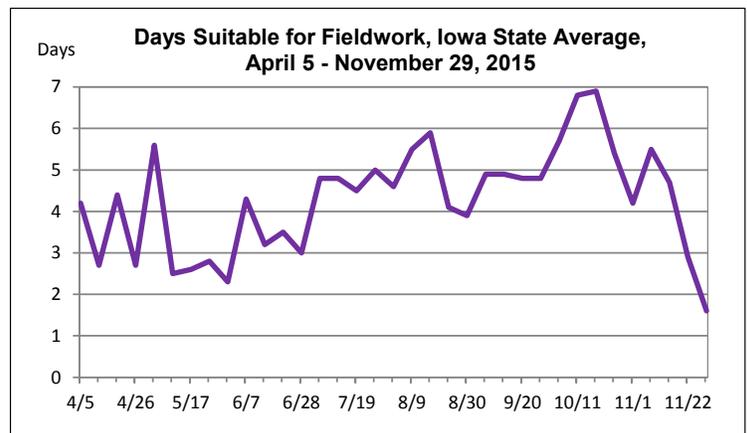
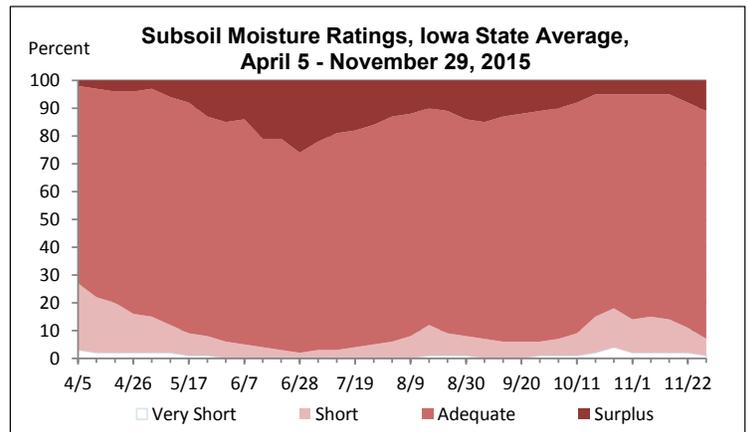
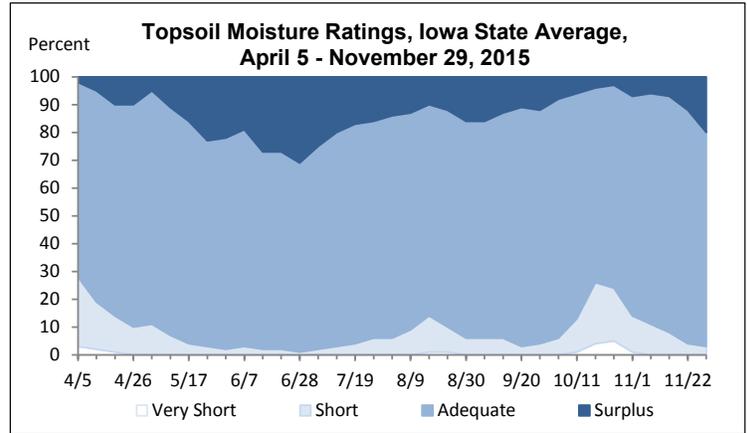


2015 IOWA CROP PROGRESS REVIEW

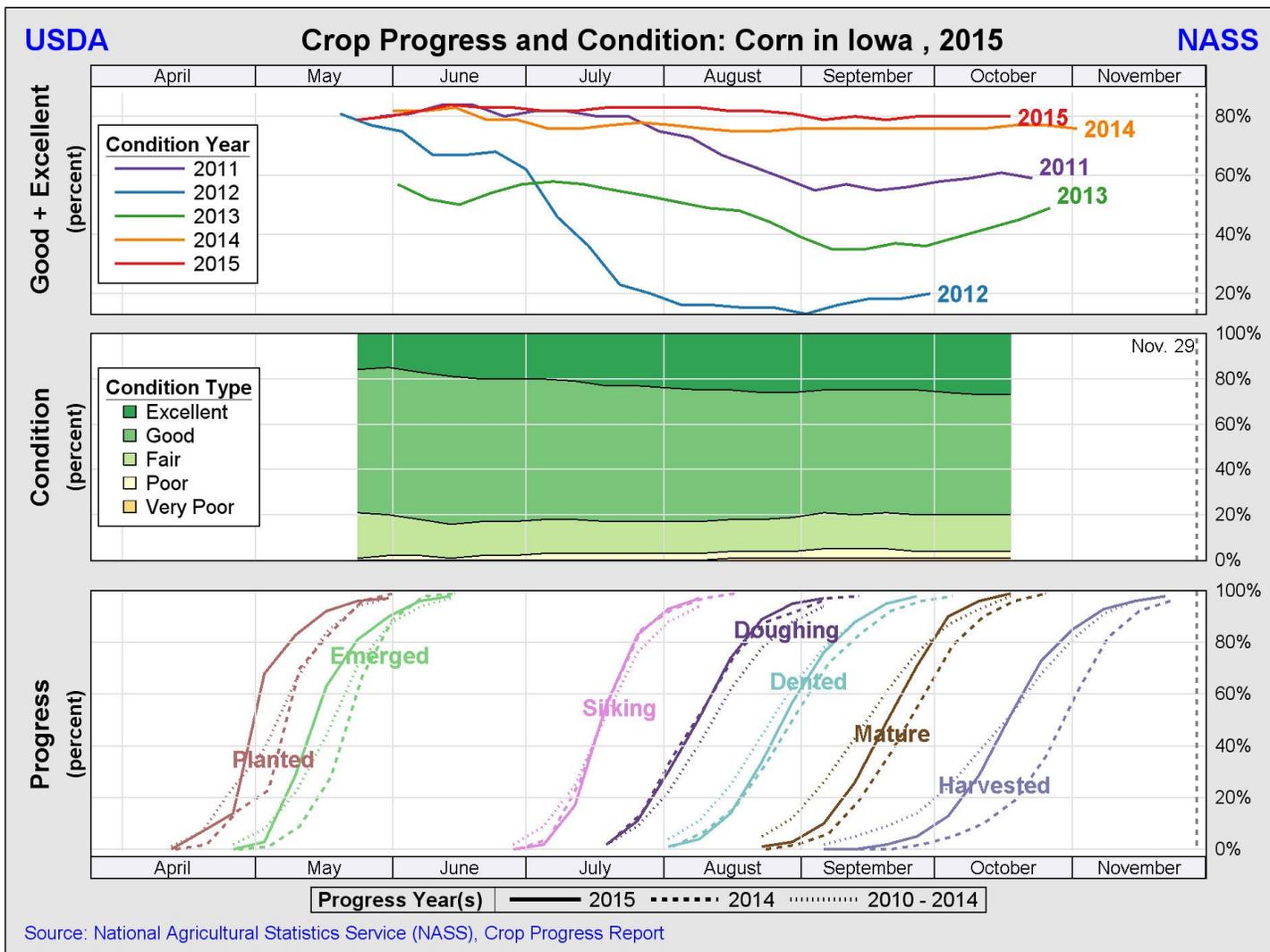
The Crop Progress and Condition Report is made possible by the dedication of our volunteer Crop Progress Reporters. Thanks for your help!

Review of the 2015 Crop Year:

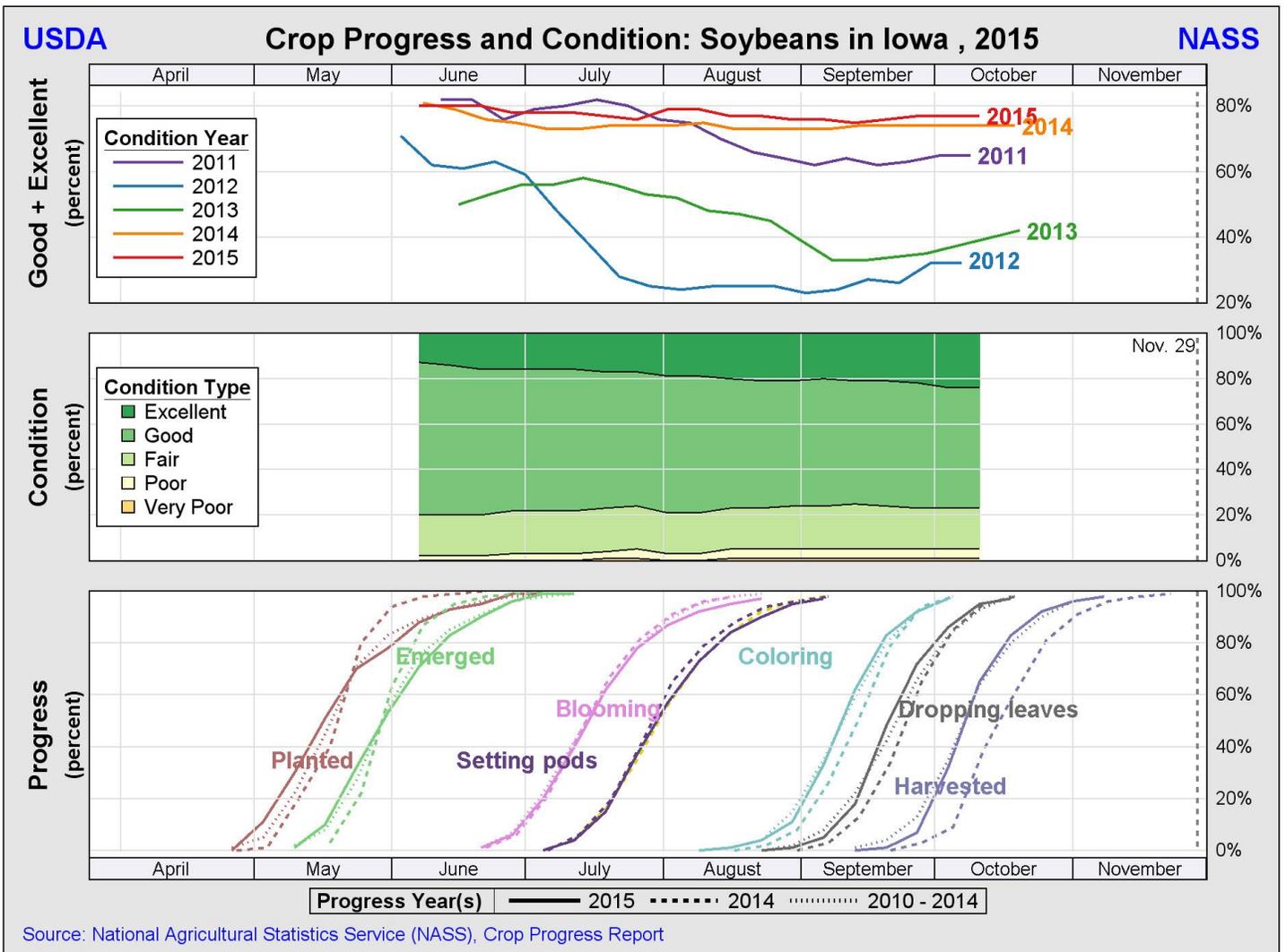
Planting progress during April was ahead of last year but slightly behind the five-year average. Statewide above normal precipitation throughout April helped replenish soil moisture levels. Planting progress advanced rapidly during the beginning of May, but slowed down due to heavy rain events as May came to a close. The planting of corn was completed by the beginning of June, while soybean planting didn't wrap up until July due to torrential rainfalls in southwest and south central Iowa. The week ending June 28 recorded the highest topsoil moisture at 31 percent surplus and the highest subsoil moisture at 26 percent surplus statewide. Crop development was either slightly behind or equal to the average pace throughout the season, due to a much cooler than normal July and August. However, September saw temperatures warmer than normal, which helped crop mature. Harvest was underway by the end of September. Farmers took advantage of good field conditions in the first half of October when precipitation was almost non-existent and large amounts of corn and soybeans were harvested. November saw above average precipitation, and the fewest days suitable for fieldwork in the season for the week ending November 29. By the end of the season, only isolated corn fields remained to be harvested and soybean harvest was virtually complete.



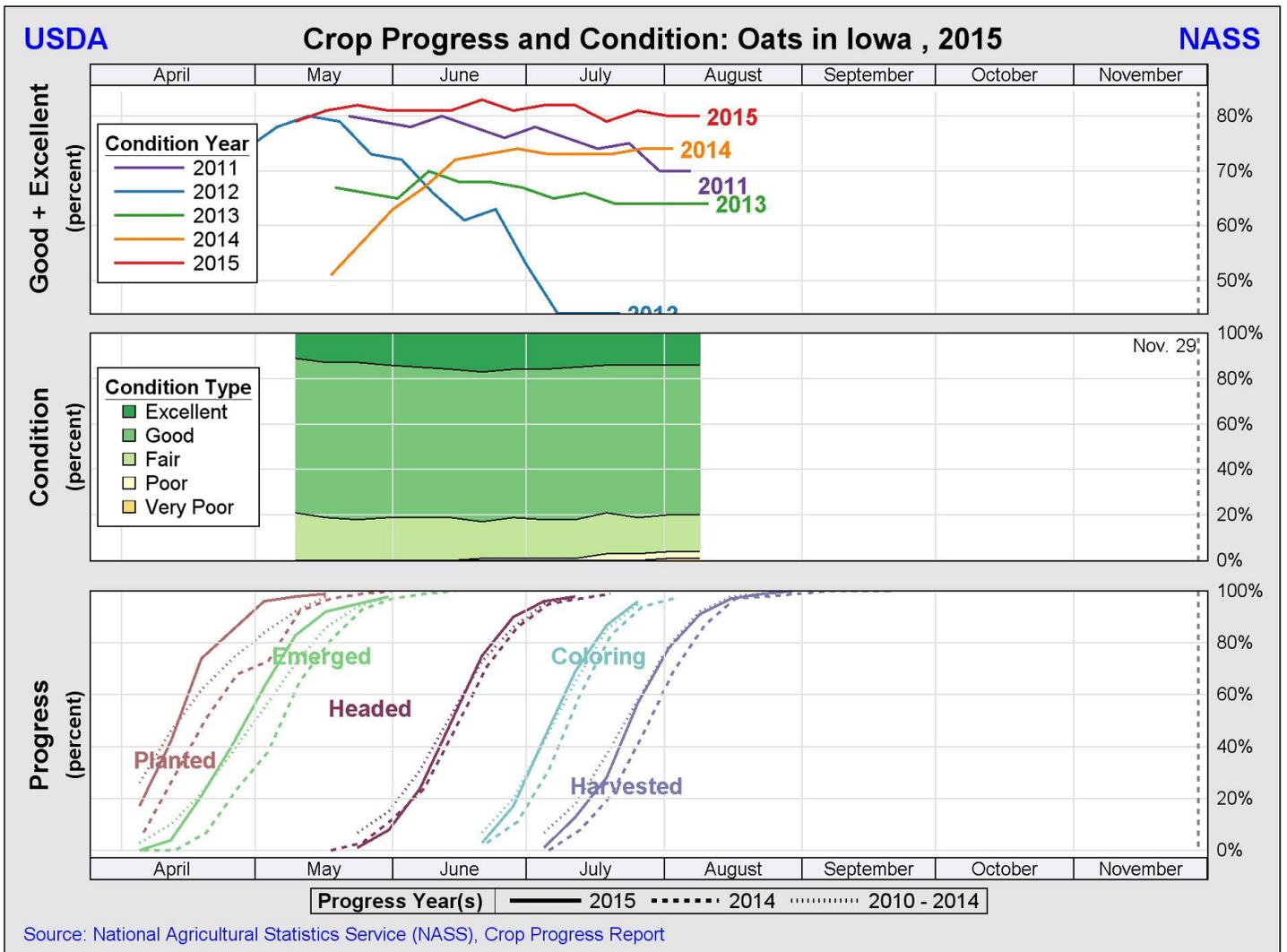
Corn planting in Iowa began at a normal pace in April, but jumped ahead of the average pace as April turned to May. A majority of the state's corn had been planted by May 3, with 54 percent of the corn crop planted within that week. By the end of May planting progress was nearly complete and emergence was not far behind, with 90 percent of the corn crop emerged. Corn silking surpassed the five-year average pace in mid-July, with slightly more than half of the acreage in or beyond the silking stage. The percent of corn in the dough stage was equal to or ahead of average throughout the season, but cooler than normal temperatures in July and August delayed dent and corn maturity. Dent and maturity progress caught up to the average towards the end of September as above average temperatures arrived. Corn harvest began slowly in mid-September, remained behind average until October 18, and then stayed at or ahead of the average pace. Corn moisture levels were about average the last week in September, but fell quickly due to a very dry October. The condition of the crop did not change dramatically from early in the year and ended with 80 percent in good to excellent condition as of October 18. By November 22, 98 percent of the corn crop was harvested, equal to the 5-year average.



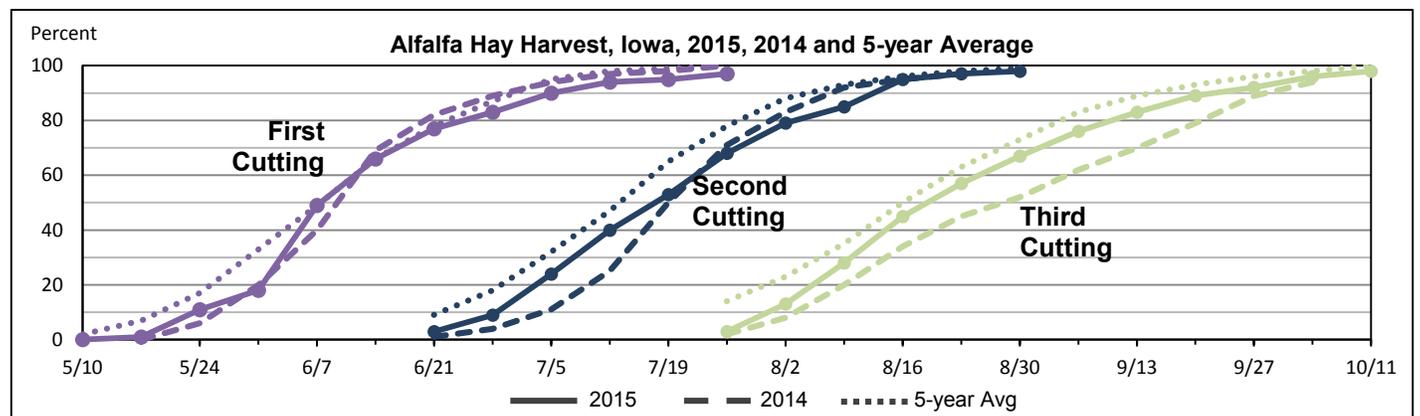
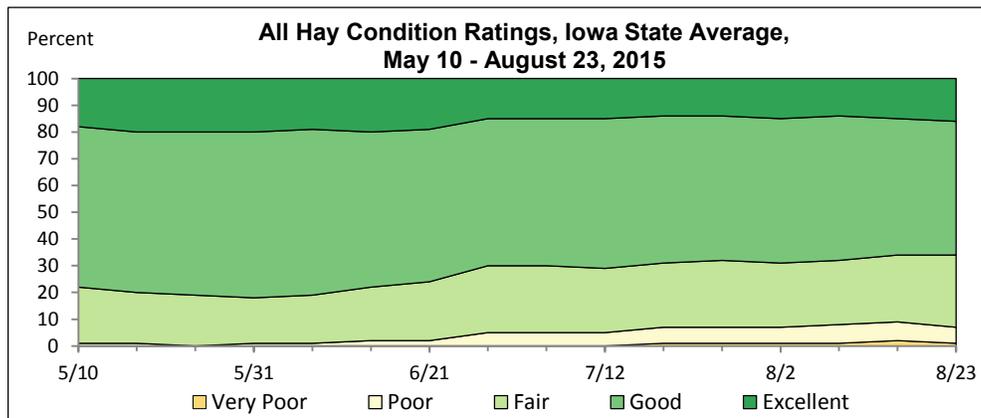
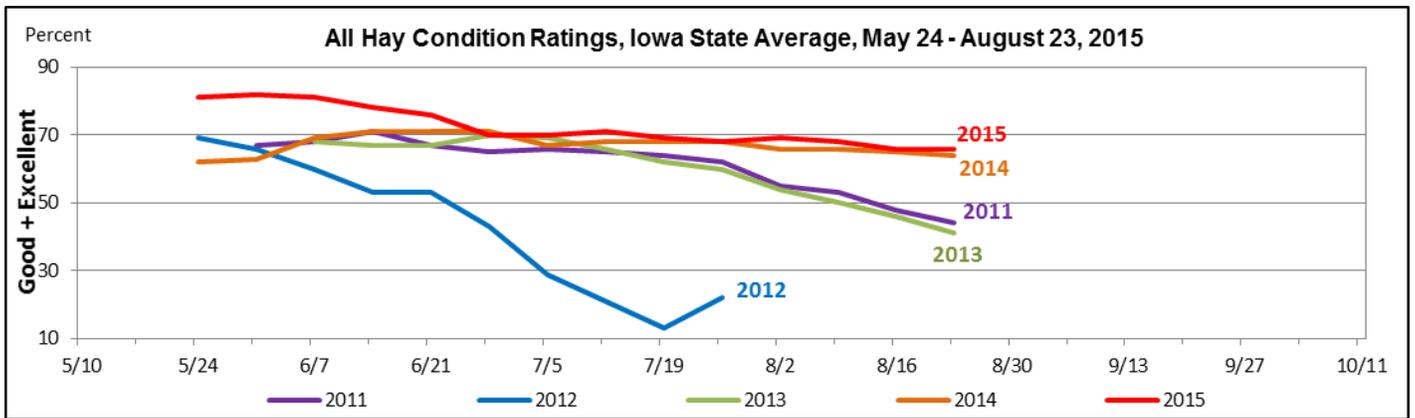
Soybean planting started quickly and was 5 days ahead of last year, and 4 days ahead of the five-year average by the week ending May 3. However, planting progress slowed due to rain as May came to a close and began falling behind the average. Soybean emergence followed a similar trend and was not fully emerged until mid-July. Plants began blooming before the end of June, but remained a day behind average for four weeks. Pods set were either equal to the average or only a day ahead or behind for almost the entire season until September as progress slowed near the end of the stage. Leaves turning color was slightly behind average until September 13 when progress jumped ahead of average. Harvest started in mid-September, ahead of the previous year but a few days behind average. Conditions remained consistent from June to harvest and were rated 77 percent good to excellent on October 4. Thirty-two percent of the soybean acreage was harvested by the first week of October, and 96 percent of the acreage was harvested as October came to a close. Harvest slowed in the beginning of November and was 98 percent complete by November 8.



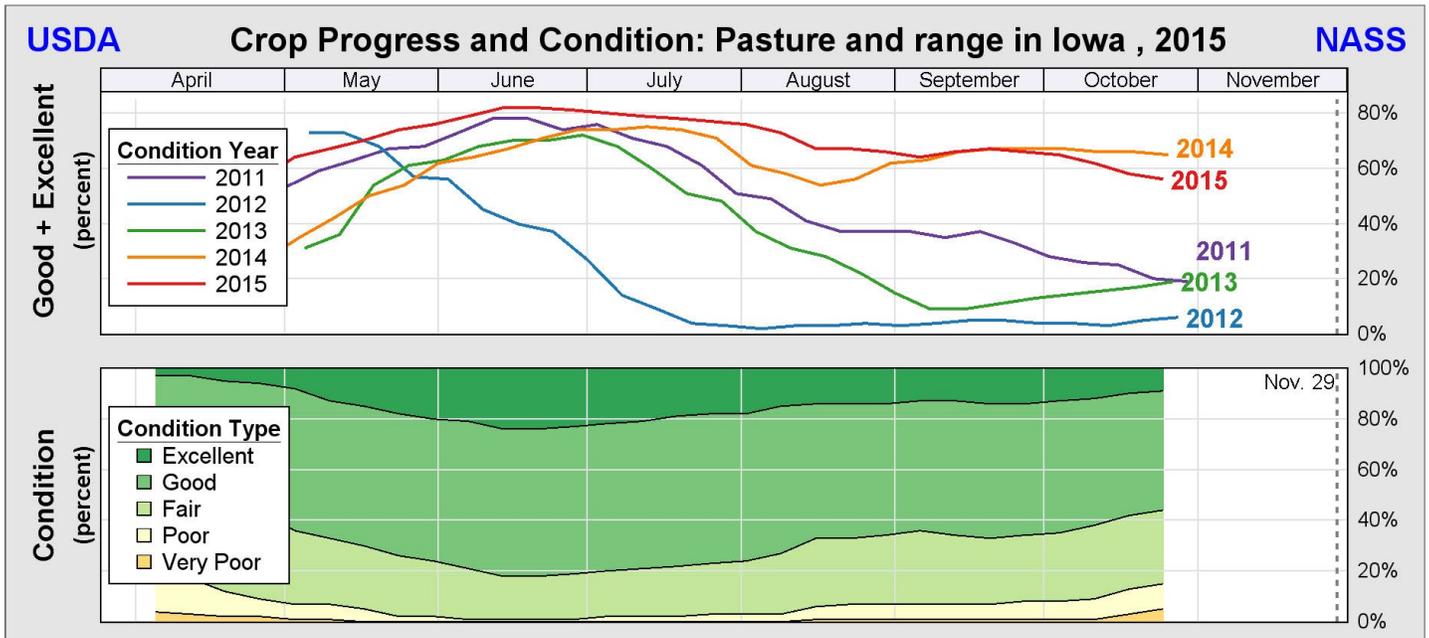
Oat seeding started slightly later than average, but was well ahead of the previous year and rapidly advanced throughout April. Planting continued into May, but finished up before the month was over, nearly a week ahead of last year and a few days ahead of the five-year average. Emergence started off 1 week behind average and finished 2 days behind average in the first part of June. By June 7, 24 percent of the oat acreage was headed, 3 days behind average, but heading surpassed the average by the third week of June. The crop started to turn color in the latter half of June and harvest began the first week of July, 11 days behind the average. The condition rating of the crop remained consistent throughout the season with the last rating reported at 80 percent good to excellent on August 2. Harvest was steady throughout July and the first half of August. By August 30, harvest was 100 percent complete, equal to the average.



The first cutting of **alfalfa hay** was 11 percent complete by May 24, 4 days behind the five-year average. Progress advanced and caught up to the average by June 7 and remained at the average pace for two weeks. However, frequent rains slowed harvest and progress remained behind average for the rest of the year. The second cutting of alfalfa hay was 9 percent complete by June 28, one week behind average. Ninety-five percent of the second cutting was complete by August 16, but the remaining acres continued to be cut into the first part of September as rain prevented hay from being baled. The third cutting of alfalfa hay spanned almost 3 months from the end of July to the middle of October, never advancing ahead of the average. By October 11 the third cutting of alfalfa hay was 98 percent complete, just over one week behind the average. Two-thirds or more of the state's hay was rated in good to excellent condition throughout the season.



Pastures recovered from the winter at a quicker pace than in 2014. On April 5, 33 percent of pastures were rated in good to excellent condition. Abundant moisture and warmer temperatures helped pastures grow lush and green during the next two months. By May 31, over three-quarters of the state's pastures were in good to excellent condition. The highest condition ratings came the weeks ending June 14 and 21 where 82 percent of pastures were in good to excellent condition, with nearly one-quarter in excellent condition. Conditions declined the rest of the season until the season's final rating October 25 with 56 percent in good to excellent condition.



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