



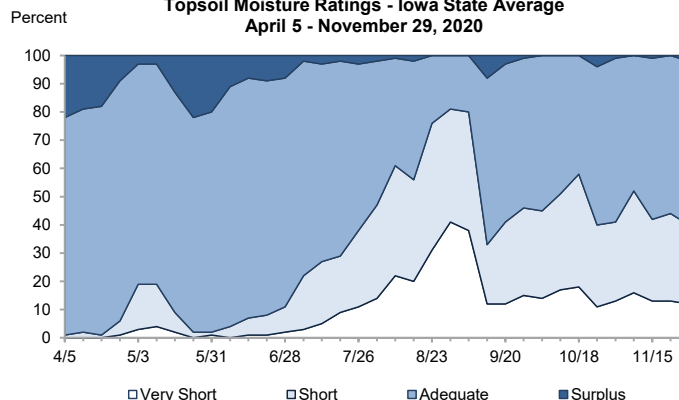
2020 IOWA CROP PROGRESS REVIEW

The Crop Progress and Condition Report is made possible by the dedication of the many farmers, FSA, NRCS, Extension, and agribusiness personnel who provide information each week. Thank you for your help!

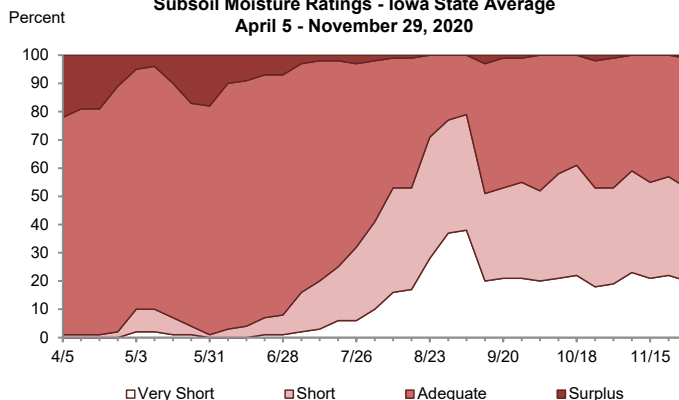
Review of the 2020 Crop Year:

Iowa saw snow and rain in early April delaying fieldwork and planting activities. The last week of April and into May saw little precipitation which allowed farmers to jump ahead in field work. Planting of corn was almost complete by May 24 with 97% of the expected crop in the ground, almost two weeks ahead of the 5-year average. That same week, soybean planting was nearing completion at 92%, over two weeks ahead of average. Crop development remained ahead of average throughout the season. Drier than normal conditions were experienced for much of the growing season. By August 18, areas of west central Iowa were rated as D3 (extreme drought) with much of the remaining western and northeastern portions of the State rated as D1 (moderate drought) to D2 (severe drought) according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. On Monday, August 10, a derecho blew a wide swath across the State causing damage to crops and structures. Iowa corn and soybean harvests began during the week ending September 13, which marked just the third time in 10 years soybean harvest had begun by that date. Soybean harvest reached 55% complete by October 4, just over two weeks ahead of the average. Corn for grain harvest reached 42% complete by October 11, almost two weeks ahead of average. By mid-November only a few areas of the State had reports of crops remaining to be harvested which gave most farmers plenty of time for fall tillage and fertilizer or manure applications.

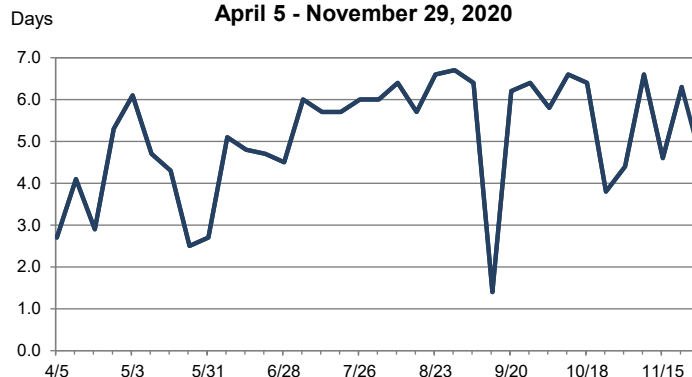
Topsoil Moisture Ratings - Iowa State Average
April 5 - November 29, 2020



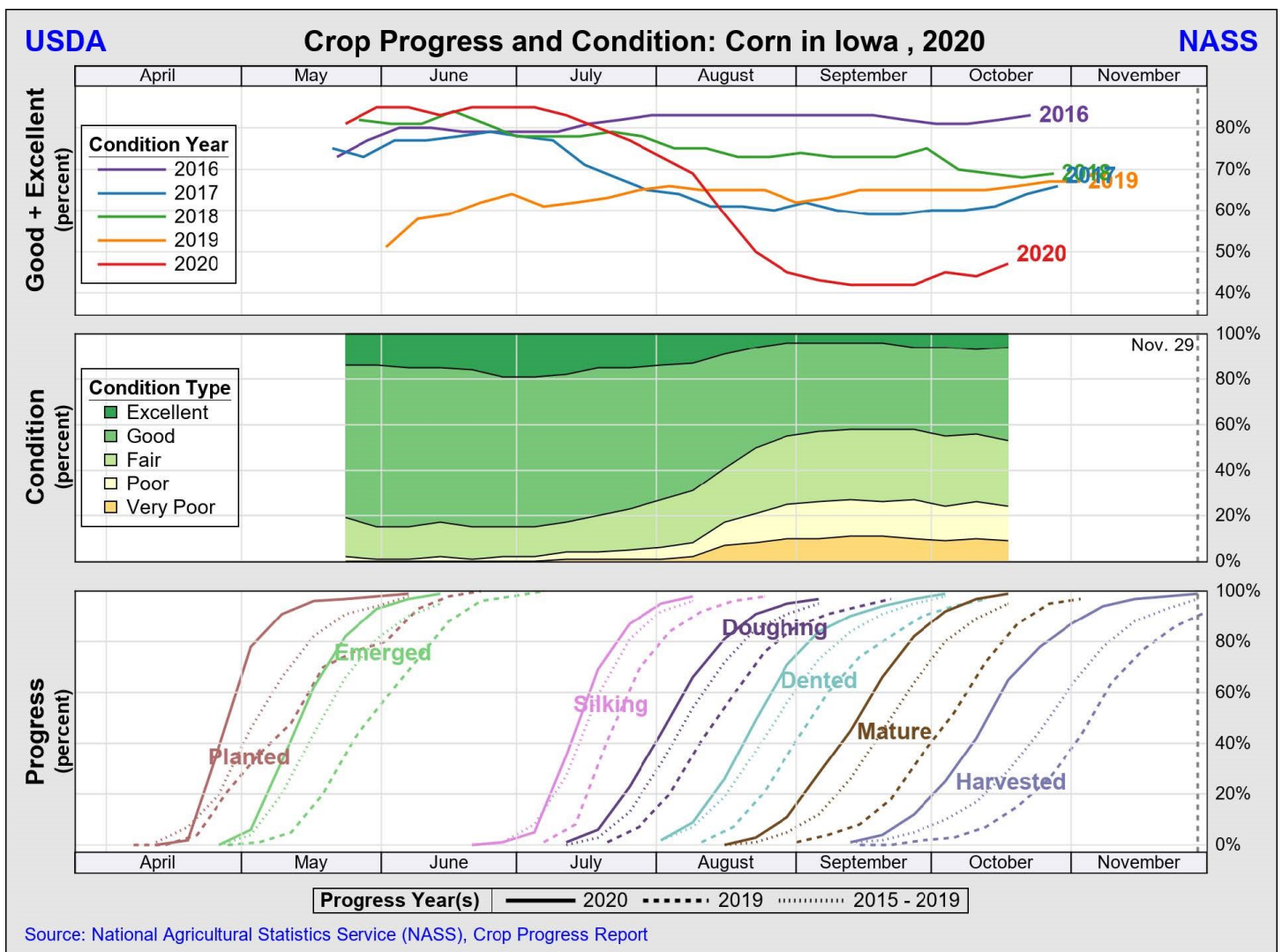
Subsoil Moisture Ratings - Iowa State Average
April 5 - November 29, 2020



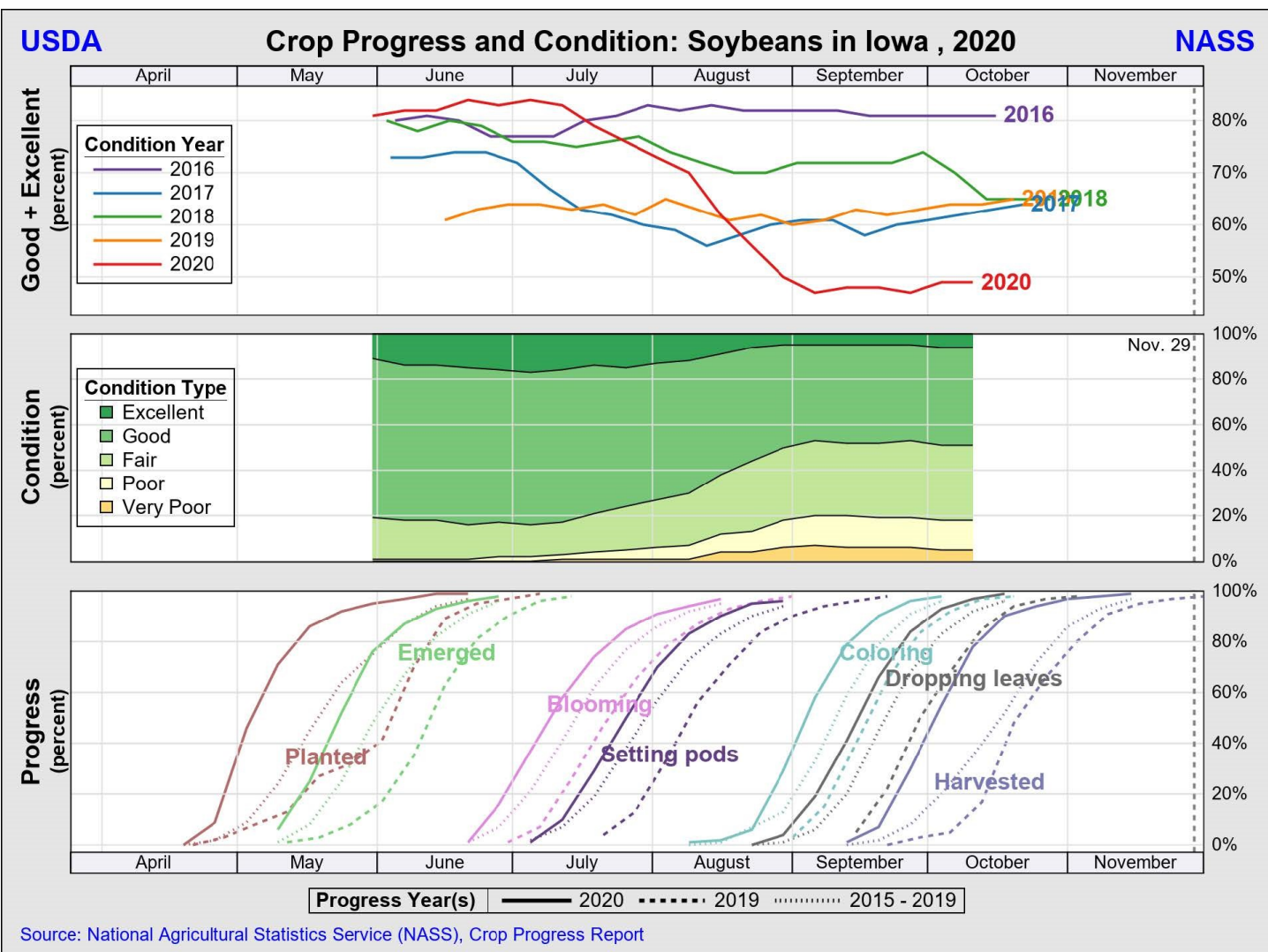
Days Suitable for Fieldwork - Iowa State Average
April 5 - November 29, 2020



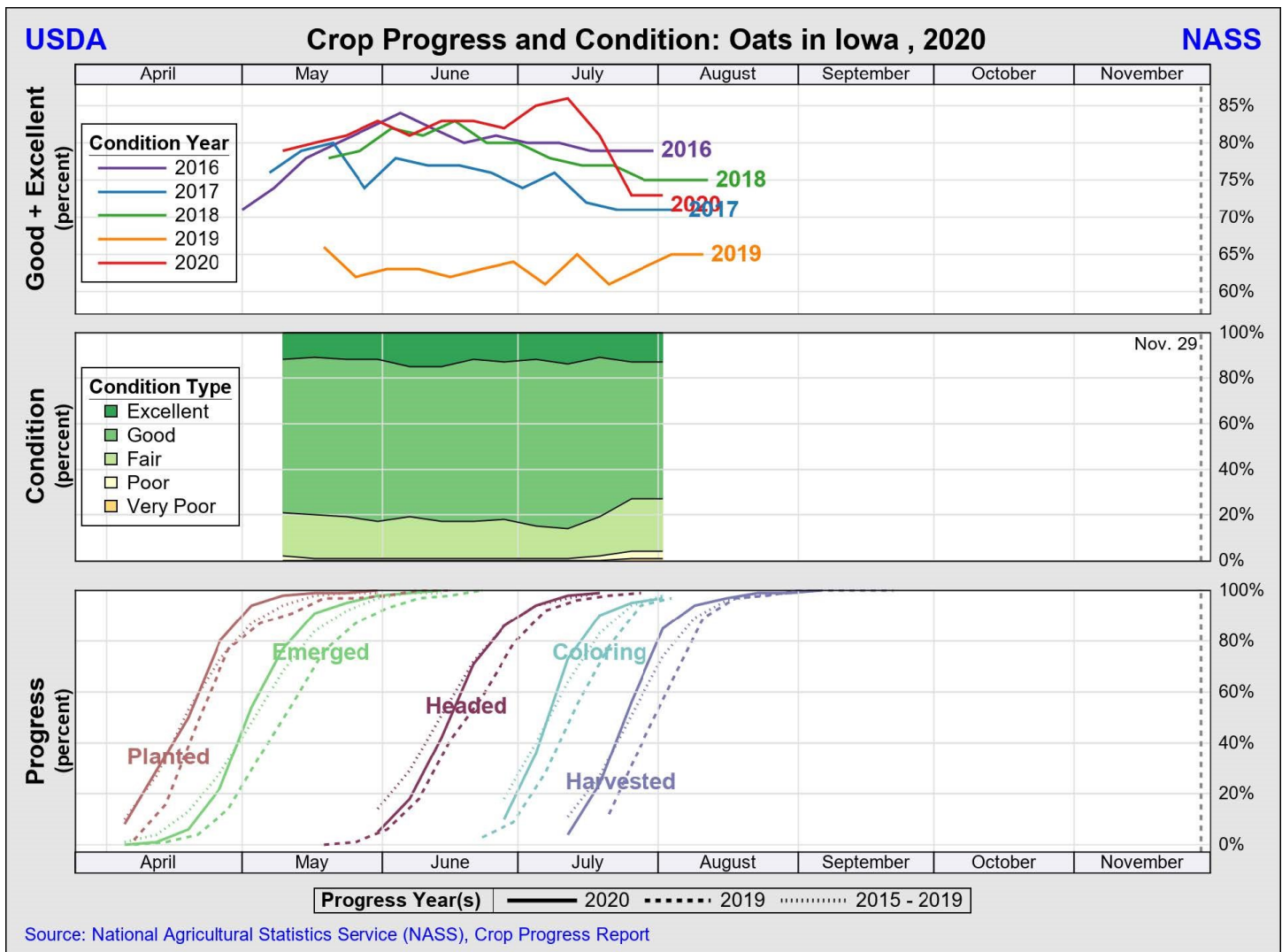
Corn planting in Iowa began in mid-April and quickly jumped ahead of the average pace. Over three-quarters of the State's corn had been planted by May 3rd, with 39% of the corn crop planted during that single week. By the end of May planting was nearly complete and emergence was not far behind, with 93% of the corn crop emerged. Corn silking surpassed the five-year average pace by July 12, with 35% in or beyond the silking stage. The percent of corn in or beyond the dough stage was ahead of average throughout the stage. Dent and maturity progress began on pace but both stages jumped ahead of average by the second week progress for those stages was reported. Two-thirds of the corn crop reached maturity by September 20. Corn harvest began even with the five-year average in mid-September but like other stages throughout the season moved ahead of average by the second week harvest was reported. By mid-November 97% of the corn crop was harvested, over 2 weeks ahead of the 5-year average. Corn moisture levels for field corn being harvested were reported at 22% the last week in September, but quickly fell and for most of harvest hovered in the mid-teens. As of May 24, the first condition rating of the corn crop was 81% good to excellent. Due to adverse weather conditions varying from drought to high winds from a derecho in August, the season ended with 47% in good to excellent condition as of October 18.



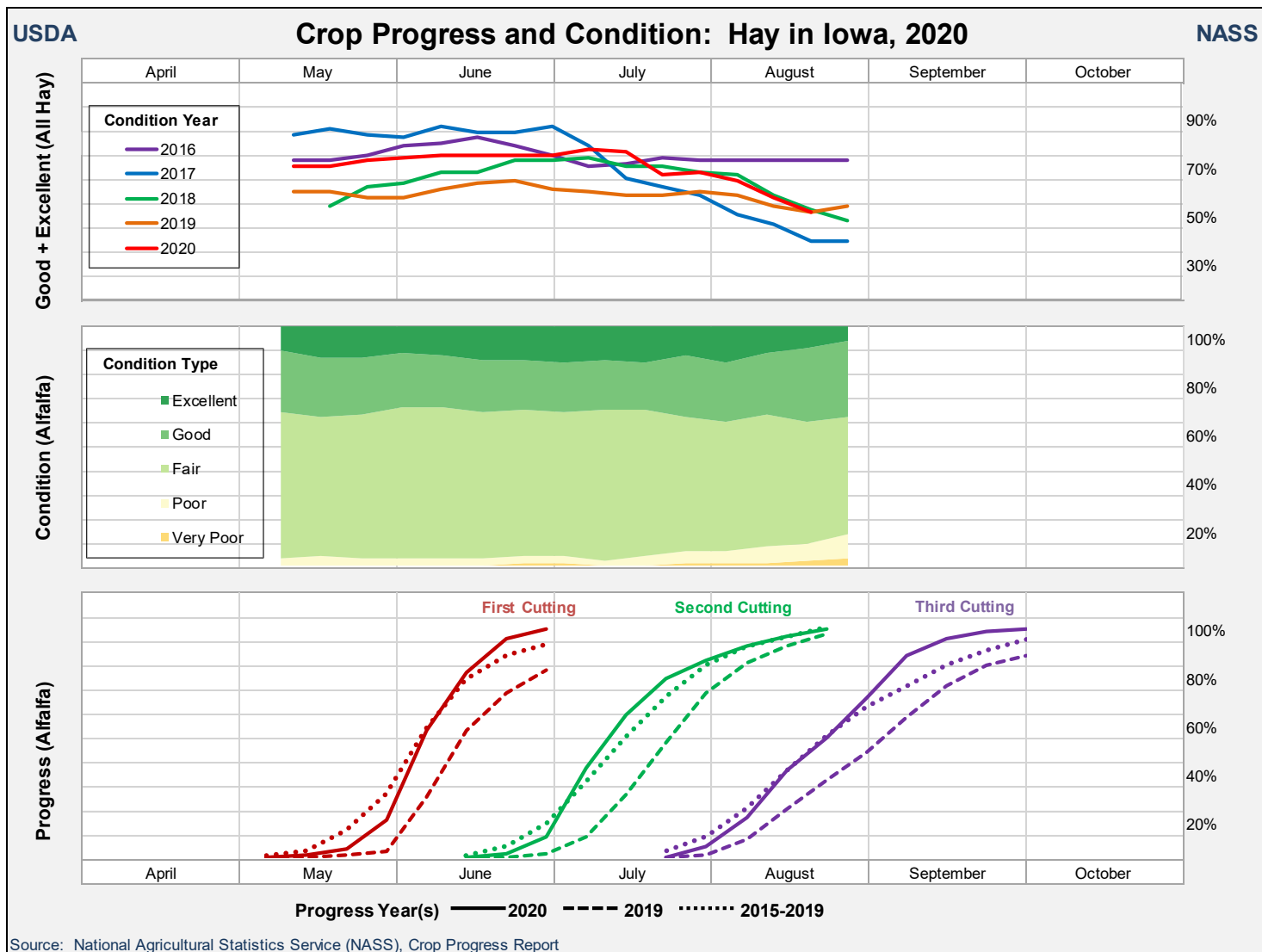
Soybeans planting began in late April and progressed rapidly. Nearly half of the soybean crop was planted by May 3, over 2 weeks ahead of the 5-year average. Soybean planting was virtually complete by mid-June. By May 24, over half of the crop had emerged, compared with the average of 26%. Nearly all of the crop emerged by June 28, 5 days ahead of the average. By July 12, 58% of soybeans had started to bloom and 10% of the crop was setting pods, both a few days ahead of the average. Leaves turning color got off to a early start and neared completion at 98% on October 4, four days ahead of the average. Harvest began early in mid-September, and remained ahead the 5-year average through completion. During the 2 weeks from September 28 through October 11, Iowa farmers harvested nearly half of the soybean crop, reaching 78% harvested. This was just the second time in the last 10 years at least half of the soybean crop was harvested by October 4. Soybean harvest was nearly complete at 98% on November 8. As of May 31, the first condition rating of the soybean crop was 81% good to excellent. Crop conditions declined throughout much of the growing season due to drought in some areas and other adverse weather conditions. The final crop condition rating of the season was rated 49% good to excellent on October 4.



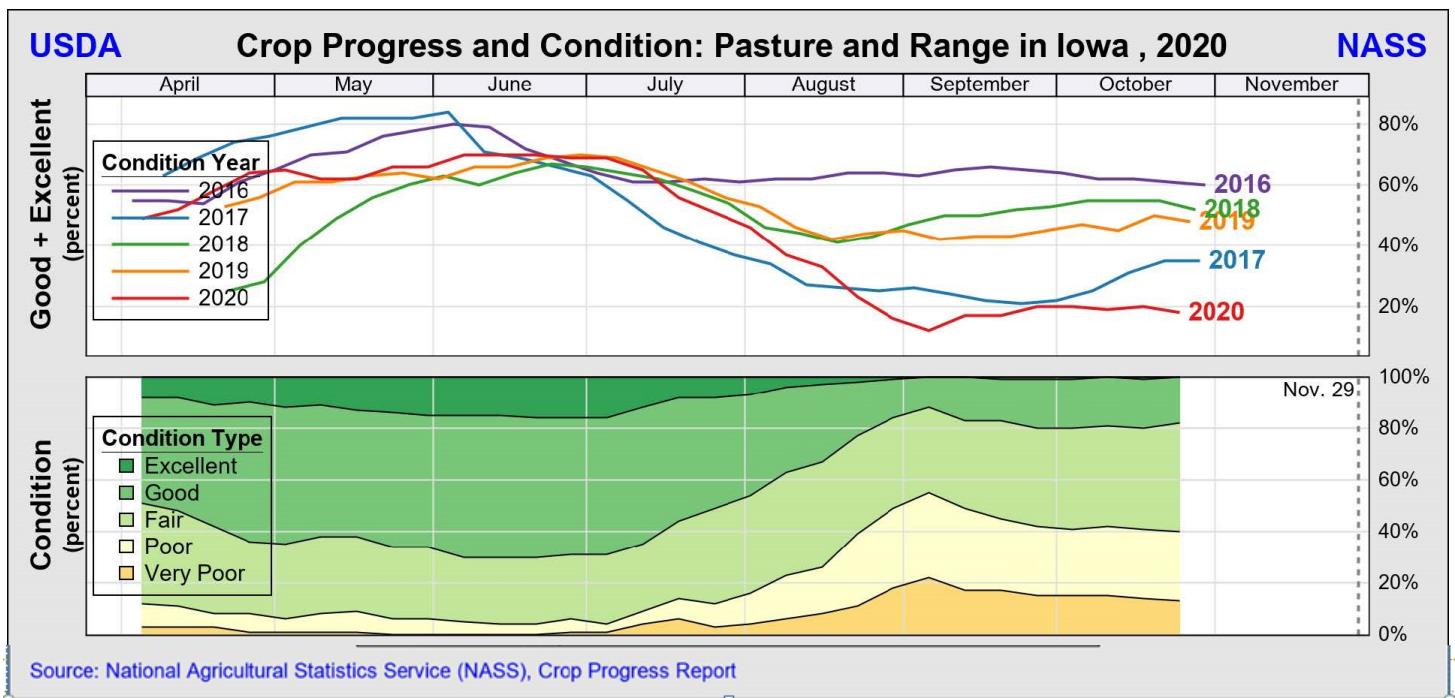
Oat seeding began the last few days of March due to wet field conditions. By the end of the first week of April planting progress was only 2 days behind the 5-year average. By mid-April, 50% of the oat seeding had been completed. Seeding reached 100% complete by end of May. The oat crop was almost fully emerged by June 7th, 11 days ahead of previous year and equal to average. By mid-June and throughout the remainder of the stage, oats headed remained equal to average. Oats turning color started out 6 days behind average but by July 26 was slightly ahead of average at 95% complete. On July 26, 56% of oats for grain had been harvested, 2 days ahead of average. By August 23, virtually all oats had been harvested for grain at 99% complete statewide, 2 days ahead of average. Oat condition began the season with 81% rated good to excellent, but fell towards the end of the growing season due to drought conditions. The last rating of the season came in at 73% good to excellent.



The first cutting of **alfalfa hay** got off to a fast start and reached 54% complete by June 7, nearly equal to the 5-year average. The first cutting was nearly complete by June 28, with 9% of the second cutting also complete. The crop condition peaked during the week ending July 5 with 77% of the State's hay rated good to excellent. The second cutting was 97% completed by August 16, only one day behind average. The third cutting of alfalfa got off to a late start with only 5% of the crop harvested by July 26, three days behind average. The last crop condition rating of the season rated 55% good to excellent on August 16. By September 20, nearly all of the third cutting of alfalfa had been harvested at 97% complete statewide, just over 2 weeks ahead of average.



Pasture growth was slow to begin due to persistent cold, wet weather. Pastures had plenty of moisture as rains continued through May. By June 7, 70% of the State's pastures were in good to excellent condition, which was a season high. Pasture conditions began to decline as June came to a close and by September 6 condition ratings hit a season low with just 12% rated good to excellent. Most of the pastures' regrowth had gone dormant with below average temperatures and lack of rain in early October. The last rating of the season showed only 20% good to excellent on October 18.



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