

This is Melissa Couch, Agricultural Statistician for the USDA NASS Iowa Field Office with the weekly crop progress and condition report for the week ending April 28, 2024.

Although the week began with dry weather, by Friday severe storm systems brought cooler temperatures and rain which allowed Iowa farmers 4.2 days suitable for fieldwork during the week ending April 28, 2024, according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service. The storms also brought tornadoes and hail to areas of the State. Corn, soybean, and oat planting advanced early in the week, but came to a halt for most as storms arrived.

Topsoil moisture condition rated 5 percent very short, 17 percent short, 68 percent adequate and 10 percent surplus. Recent rains led to just 22 percent short to very short for the State's topsoil versus 37 percent as of April 21, 2024. **Subsoil moisture** condition rated 14 percent very short, 27 percent short, 53 percent adequate and 6 percent surplus.

Corn planted reached 39 percent complete, 4 days ahead of last year and 3 days ahead of the 5-year average. Two percent of the expected corn crop has emerged. Twenty-five percent of the expected **soybean** crop has been planted, 4 days ahead of last year and 5 days ahead of the average. Ninety percent of the expected **oat** crop has been planted, 5 days ahead of last year and 9 days ahead of the 5-year average. Fifty-three percent of the oat crop has emerged, 8 days ahead of last year.

Pastures and hay ground continued to green up, but warmer temperatures would aid in growth. Reports were received of cattle being turned out onto pasture.

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