

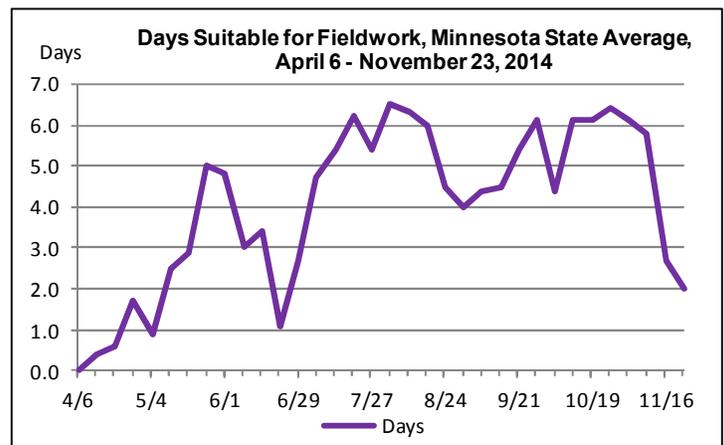
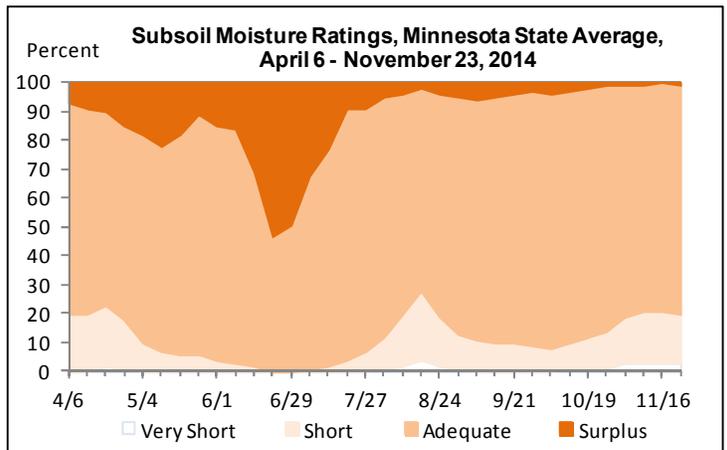
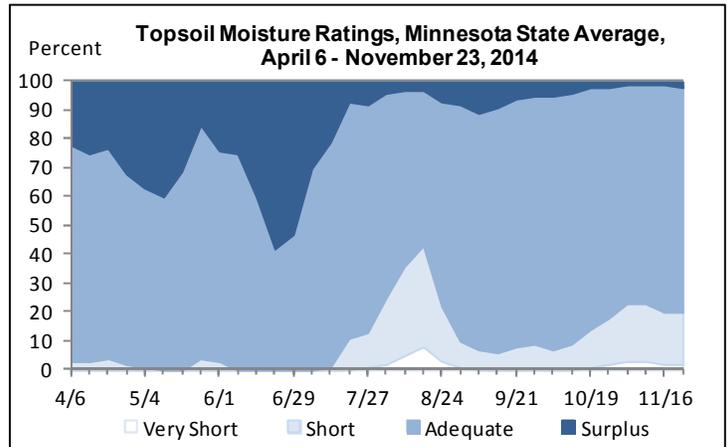


2014 MINNESOTA CROP PROGRESS REVIEW

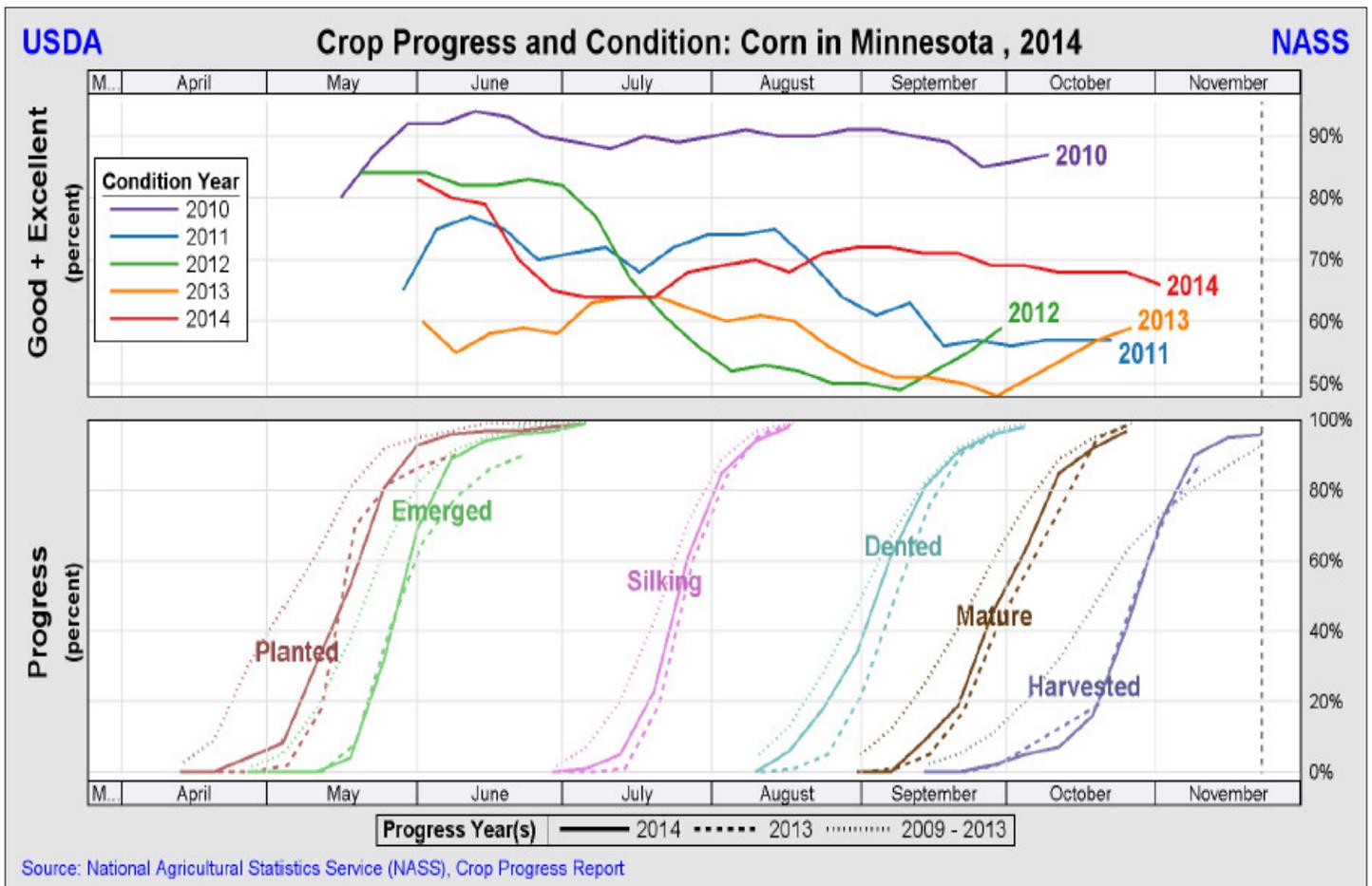
The Crop Progress and Condition Report is made possible by the dedication of our volunteer Crop Progress Reporters. Thanks for your help!

Review of the 2014 Crop Year:

Snow cover in the northern half of Minnesota and considerable frost depth throughout the state delayed the start of the 2014 crop season. Planting started off ahead of last year in April, but was well behind normal pace. Precipitation in late April and early May slowed planting progress to behind the five-year average. Topsoil moisture was 100 percent adequate to surplus on May 11 for the first of several times this year. Waterlogged fields were an issue throughout much of the season, causing delays in both planting and harvesting for most crops. Minnesota didn't see 5.0 or more days suitable until the week ending May 25, allowing rapid planting progress to be made during that week. Warm weather arrived at the end of May to help advance crop emergence. Topsoil and subsoil moisture reached their highest levels the week ending June 22, with 58 percent and 53 percent in surplus condition, respectively. As the weather warmed in July, conditions improved for most crops. In late July, northern counties endured heavy rainfall while farmers in southern Minnesota wanted more rain. As of August 17, 43 percent of topsoil moisture was rated short to very short. Small grain harvest continued through late September, behind the normal pace. High grain moistures caused many farmers to delay the beginning of harvest activities. However, favorable weather conditions during October and the beginning of November allowed harvest to advance past last year's progress and past the five year average for several crops. November brought cold temperatures and the first appearance of measurable snow on November 10.

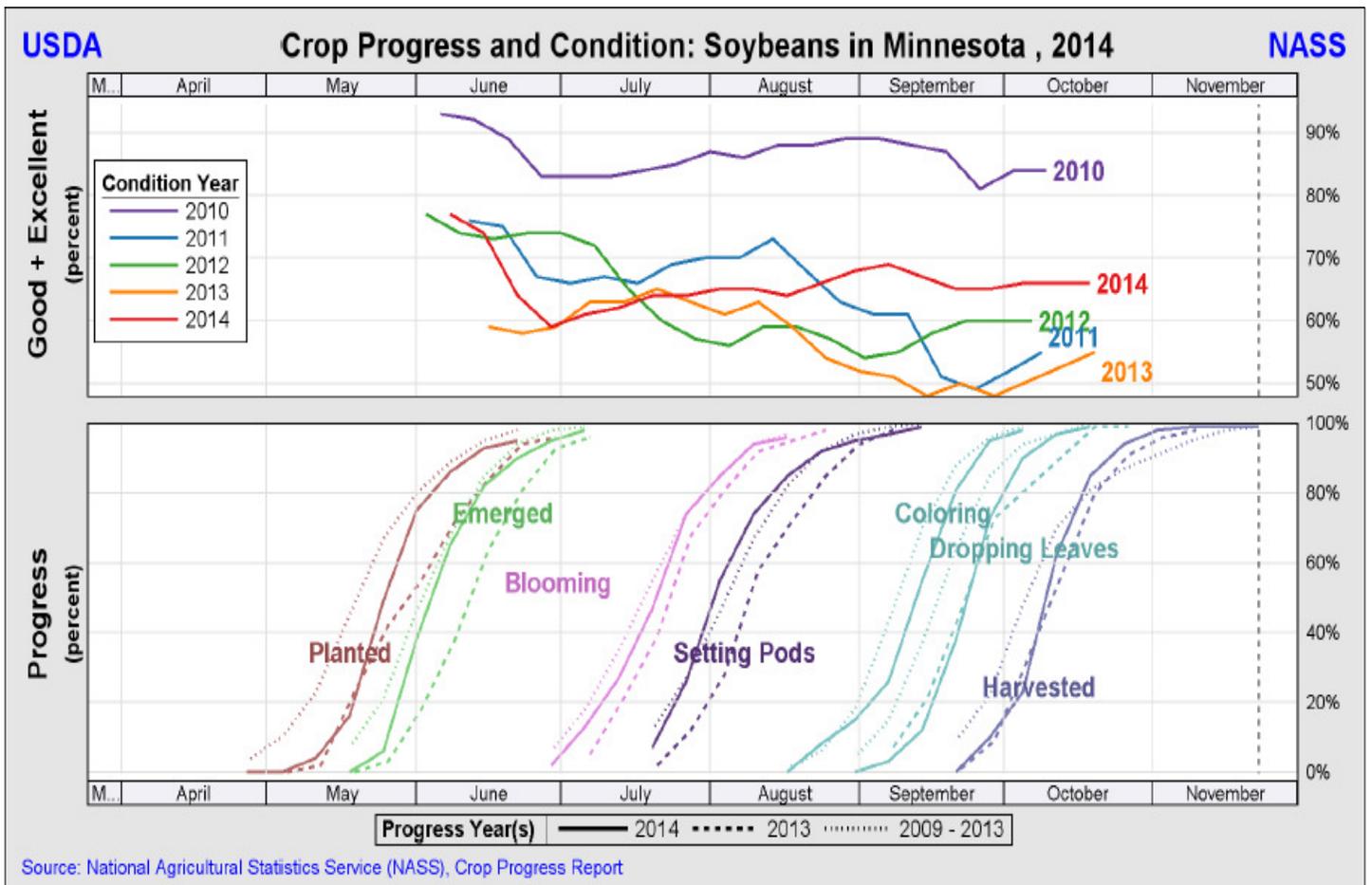


Corn—Cold and wet conditions delayed planting, with only 8 percent of corn planted as of May 4, just over 2 weeks behind normal. By the first week of June, planting was nearing completion but still six days behind the five-year average. Although emergence started out behind both last year and normal, by the beginning of June it moved ahead of last year. Condition of the crop was good, with 83 percent rated good to excellent on June 1. Corn silking was ahead of last year but behind average nearly the entire season. The percent of corn acreage in or beyond the dough stage was a week ahead of average on August 23 and remained ahead the rest of the season. Dent progress and corn maturity were both behind normal. High grain moisture levels kept the beginning of the corn harvest about two weeks behind normal, with only 5 percent harvested on October 5. However, large week-to-week gains in the second half of the month saw the harvest quickly catch up to and surpass the average. Condition was 66 percent good to excellent as of November 2. The corn harvest reached 96 percent complete on November 23, three percent above normal.



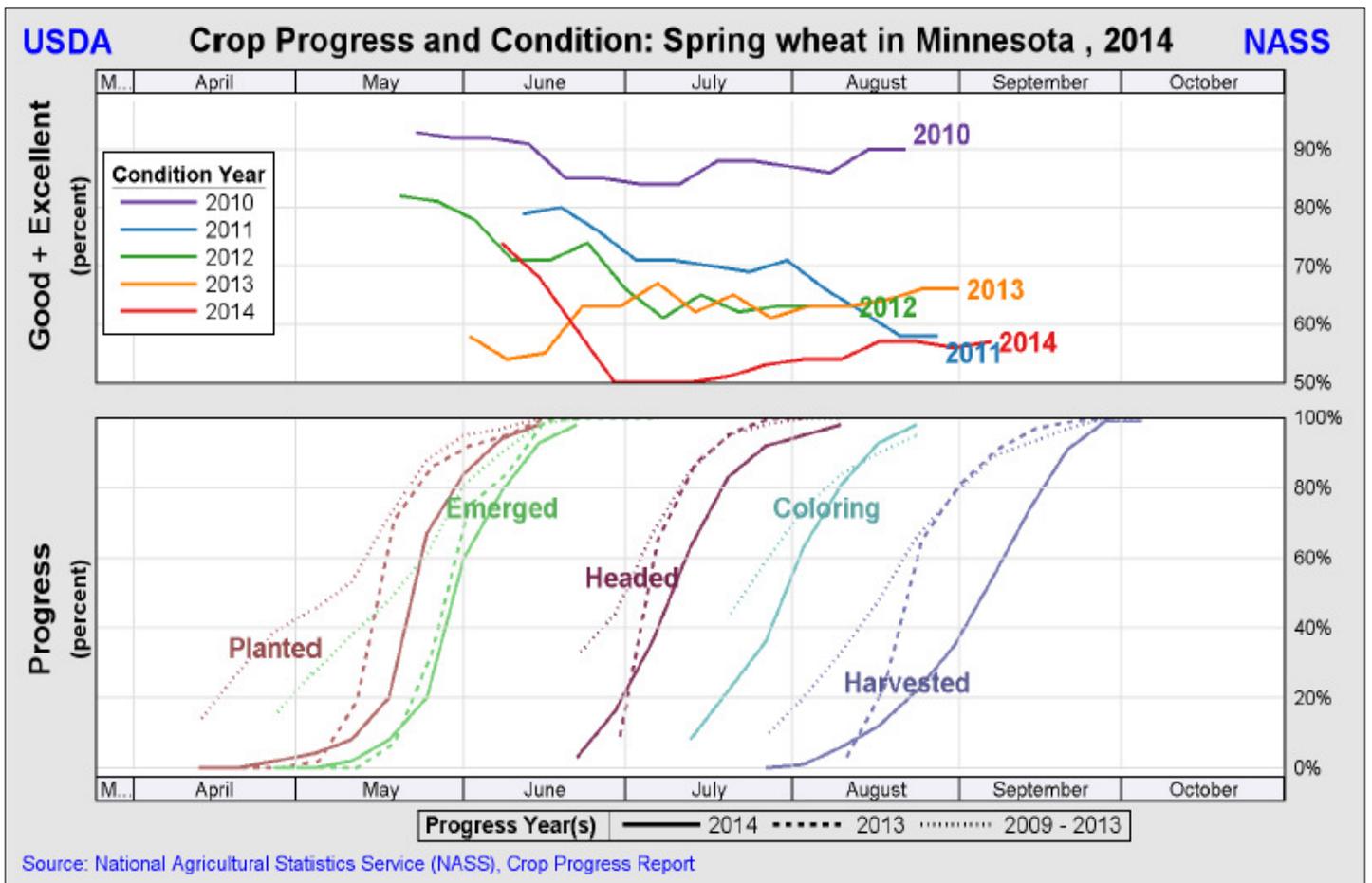
*Due to a lapse in federal funding in October 2013, the Crop Progress reports for the weeks ending October 6, 2013 and October 13, 2013 were cancelled. Therefore, previous year and five-year average estimates will reflect the years 2009-2013 using published estimates for 2009-2012 and imputed estimates for 2013.

Soybeans—Planting started ahead of last year, but well behind the five-year average due to poor weather conditions. Though planting was eleven days behind normal on May 18, it was only four days behind normal one month later, on June 15. Emergence began over a week behind normal but was only one day behind the five-year average by June 8. Over 60 percent of the soybean crop was rated good to excellent from July 6 until the end of the season. Thirteen percent of soybean acreage was blooming by July 6, three days behind average. The setting of pods began later than normal but moved ahead of normal before the end of July. Leaves turning color and leaves dropping progress were behind normal most of the season. Harvest of soybean acreage was six days behind normal with 10 percent completed on September 28. However, harvest moved rapidly ahead of the five-year average in October. On November 2, 98 percent of soybeans were harvested, 10 days ahead of average



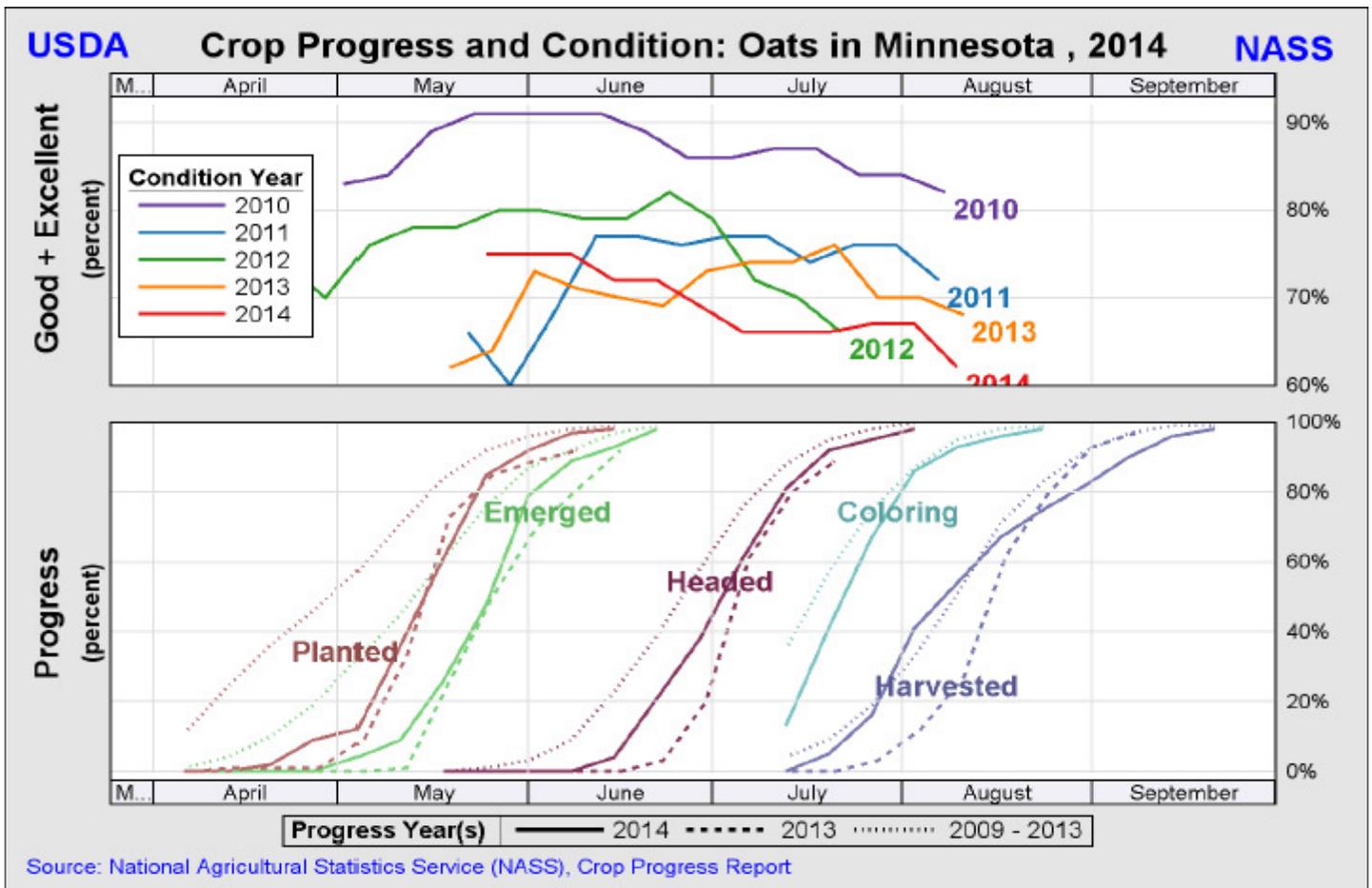
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Spring Wheat—Spring wheat planting had not yet begun by April 20, when normally over one-quarter of the crop would already be planted. By May 19, spring wheat was 52 percentage points behind the five-year average, but the following week saw the greatest progress of the season, with 47 percent of the crop planted during 5.0 days suitable for fieldwork. Emergence followed a similar pattern the week ending June 1, with 40 percent emerging during that week. Crop condition was highest in early June with 74 percent rated good to excellent, but most of the season 50-60 percent was rated good to excellent. Spring wheat in the jointing phase was close to normal in July, however headed and coloring were consistently 20-30 points behind the five-year average until late in each stage. Six percent of the spring wheat crop was harvested by August 11, seventeen days behind normal. However, harvest was 99 percent complete by September 28, only two days behind average.



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Oats—As with other crops, wet fields delayed the planting of oats, with only 9 percent planted by April 28, well behind the five-year average of 46 percent. Emergence was also delayed, with 4 percent emerged by May 4, almost three weeks behind normal. Emergence improved slowly and reached near normal in June. Oats jointing, headed and coloring were all behind normal throughout the season. Harvest began with 5 percent harvested by July 20, five days behind the five-year average. Harvest moved briefly ahead of normal by August 3 before falling back behind by August 17. Harvest was nearly complete on September 21, with 98 percent harvested. Conditions began with 75 percent of oats rated good to excellent at the end of May. Conditions dropped slowly throughout the season with 62 percent rated good to excellent on August 10.



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Alfalfa—Alfalfa harvest began behind normal, with only 6 percent of the first harvest cut by June 2, compared to the five-year average of 29 percent. Hay condition dropped from 78 percent good to excellent on June 8 to 58 percent on July 13, but spent most of the season with two-thirds or more of hay rated good to excellent. The second cutting of alfalfa began ahead of last year, a position it maintained until July 27, at which point it fell behind. Alfalfa's third cutting also maintained a lead over last year's harvest, until frost delays in mid-September slowed progress down, at which point the third cutting fell slightly behind with 89 percent harvested by September 22 compared with 90 percent the previous year.

Barley—Barley started off slowly compared to normal and by May 25 it was the slowest planting since 1999. Late planting caused barley emergence to reach 57 percent on June 1, the slowest since 1997. Barley in the jointed stage was ahead of last year until mid-June, but was behind the five-year average. Barley in the headed stage started ahead of last year, but by July 6 was two days behind last year and eight days behind the five-year average. By the end of the summer, barley harvest was well behind, with only 44 percent harvested by August 24, the second slowest in ten years.

Dry Edible Beans—Wet conditions and limited field time caused dry edible beans to get off to its second latest planting season since 1996, with only 13 percent planted by May 25. The following week saw a 39 percentage point jump, putting planting ahead of last year but still five days behind the five-year average. Emergence jumped from 10 percent on June 1 to 43 percent on June 8, and remained ahead of the previous year. Blooming and the setting of pods progress were similar to the previous year. However, dry edible beans fully podded, leaves turning yellow, and the dropping of leaves stage all were behind the previous year for the entire crop season. Harvest started slow, with 18 percent harvested on September 21, eleven days behind normal and the second lowest total for that date in the past 30 years. However, by October 12, farmers had mostly caught up, with harvest only two days behind the five-year average.

Sunflowers—The sunflower crop got off to its slowest planting season since 1996, with only 11 percent planted by May 25, over two weeks behind the five-year average. Though planting made good progress in early June, progress slowed again by the end of the planting season and finished up at the third slowest pace since 1985. Sunflowers were 2 percent harvested on October 5, well below the five-year average of 25 percent. However, harvest conditions improved, allowing progress to catch up to normal. Sunflower harvest reached 95 percent complete on November 16, over one week ahead of normal. The condition of the crop was steady, ranging from 37 to 41 percent rated good to excellent the entire season.

Sugarbeets—Although the planting season started roughly in line with last year, spotty rain and cold temperatures kept farmers out of the fields. On May 18, sugarbeet planting was almost three weeks behind normal, but progress accelerated rapidly as conditions improved. Forty-six percent of sugarbeet acres were planted during the week ending May 25, and planting reached 99 percent complete on June 1. Sugarbeet harvest followed a similar pattern of slow start and rapid acceleration. Harvest leapt from a below-average 10 percent complete on September 28 to 50 percent complete on October 5, 22 percentage points ahead of normal. One week later, on October 12, sugarbeets reached 97 percent harvested. This year's sugarbeet harvest was completed earlier than any other year since records began in 1985.

Pastures—Snow cover slowed pasture recovery, with 16 percent rated poor to very poor at the start of the crop progress season. But pasture conditions quickly improved as the snow melted, with only 5 percent of the pastures rated poor to very poor on May 25. Pasture condition in the good to excellent categories remained above 60 percent until August 18 when the good to excellent rating briefly dropped to 59. Pasture conditions improved to 71 percent rated good to excellent as of September 14 before falling to 58 percent to end the reporting season at the end of October.



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