Cool damp weather limited the number of days suitable for fieldwork to 2.1 days during the week ending May 5, 2019, according to USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service. Field activities included hauling manure, spreading fertilizer, and planting. While planting progress was made for many crops, soybeans and sunflowers still have less than 1 percent of their expected acres planted.

Topsoil moisture supplies were rated 0 percent very short, 0 percent short, 58 percent adequate and 42 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies were rated 0 percent very short, 1 percent short, 54 percent adequate and 45 percent surplus.

Six percent of Minnesota’s corn was planted, a day behind the previous year and 17 days behind the five-year average.

Seven percent of spring wheat has been planted, 4 days behind last year and 23 days behind the average. Oats were 21 percent planted, 18 days behind normal. Three percent of the oat crop had emerged, 17 days behind the average. Barley planted reached 5 percent, 4 days behind last year and 22 days behind normal.

A few reports of dry edible beans going into the ground were received. Potatoes planted were 22 percent complete, 8 days behind the average. Sugar beets were 13 percent planted, 5 days behind last year and 3 weeks behind normal.

Reports indicated that forage and pastures are starting to green up in the southern half of Minnesota, while northern half of the state growth continues to be slowed by the colder temperatures. The first pasture conditions of the season came in at 1 percent very poor, 9 percent poor, 29 percent fair, 56 percent good, and 5 percent excellent.
Minnesota Temperatures and Precipitation for the week ending May 5, 2019

Average Temperature (°F): Departure from 1981-2010 Normals
April 29, 2019 to May 05, 2019

Accumulated Precipitation (in)
April 29, 2019 to May 05, 2019

National Weather Service data, courtesy of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources State Climatology Office, is available at:
http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/climate/historical/summary.html

Growing Degree Days can be found at https://mygeohub.org/groups/u2u/gdd

Temperature and Precipitation Maps, courtesy of the Midwestern Regional Climate Center, are available at: http://mrcc.isws.illinois.edu/CLIMATE/