Precipitation in the form of both snow and rain and below normal temperatures meant Minnesota farmers had just 2.5 days suitable for fieldwork during the week ending April 18, 2021, according to USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service. Field activities included spreading manure, applying fertilizer, disking and planting.

Spring wheat was 10% planted, 10 days ahead of last year and 3 days ahead of the 5-year average. Oats were 29% planted, 5 days ahead of last year and one week ahead of normal. Barley was 6% planted, 4 days ahead of last year and 2 days ahead of average. Potato planting has begun and was 5% complete, 2 days ahead of last year but 3 days behind average. A few reports of corn planting were received.

Topsoil moisture supplies were rated 4% very short, 18% short, 67% adequate and 11% surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies were rated 5% very short, 25% short, 63% adequate and 7% surplus. Some reports mentioned continued dry conditions.

Although some pastures remained dormant, others continued to green up despite below average temperatures. Pasture condition rated 5% very poor, 10% poor, 43% fair, 38% good and 4% excellent. Livestock conditions were good.
Minnesota Temperatures and Precipitation for the week ending April 18, 2021

Maps from the Midwestern Regional Climate Center reflect data collected from 7:00 A.M. Central Time on April 12, 2021, through 7:00 A.M. Central Time on April 18, 2021.

Average Temperature (°F): Departure from 1981-2010 Normals
April 12, 2021 to April 18, 2021

Accumulated Precipitation (in)
April 12, 2021 to April 18, 2021

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://mrcc.illinois.edu/U2U/gdd/

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