



Wisconsin Crop Weather

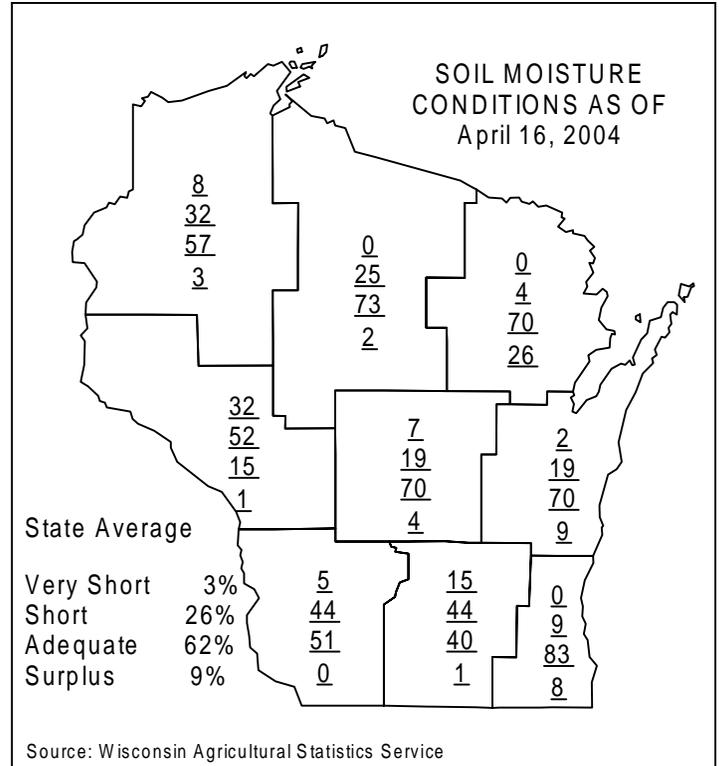
Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

April 19, 2004

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Rain and Warmer Temperatures Needed

Temperatures across the state ranged from the mid 80's to the low 20's. Overall, temperatures were 2 to 4 degrees above normal for this time of year. However, soil temperatures remained cold, with the last frost finally coming out of the ground in the northern parts of the state. In the southern parts of the state, the ground is still too cold for corn planting due to the cold nights. Rainfall amounts ranged from trace amounts in the northern parts of the state, with .3 to .5 inches in the southern parts of the state. Many counties are reporting a lack of rain. Fields are getting dry, so the rain that was received this past weekend was welcomed. Soil moisture conditions were reported 11% very short, 33% short, 52% adequate, and 4% surplus. For the week ending April 18, there was an average of 6.0 days suitable for fieldwork across Wisconsin.



Throughout the state, farmers were doing **spring tillage** in earnest. Spring tillage was reported as 26% complete, ahead of both the 12% last year and of the 5-year average of 17%. Activities included plowing, sowing small grains, seeding alfalfa and, in some cases preparing the ground for corn and applying Nitrogen. **Oats** were 41% planted, compared to 17% last year and the 5-year average of 24%.

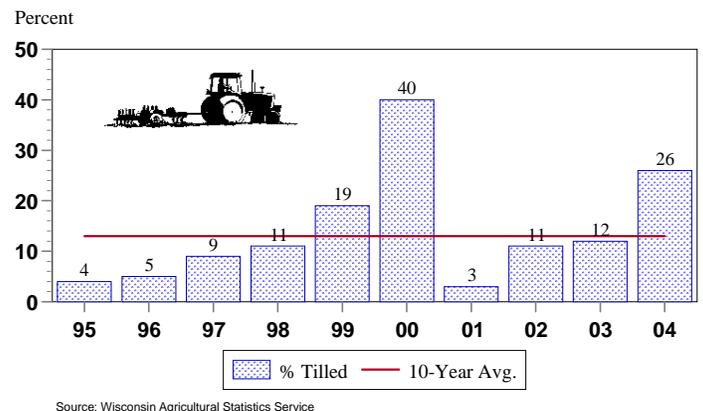
Pasture conditions were rated as 10% very poor, 15% poor, 37% fair, 36% good, and 2% excellent. The cool, dry weather has slowed pasture growth. Warm rains would help conditions to improve quickly. **Winter wheat** looks fairly good across the state with 2% rated as very poor, 2% poor, 17% fair, 61% good, and 18% excellent. The cold nights have slowed **alfalfa** growth across the state. Most alfalfa and winter wheat seems to have survived the winter fairly well, although it may be too early to tell in some areas.

Potatoes are being planted throughout the Central Sands area. Overall, a good rain is needed with warmer temperatures. Farmers seem somewhat upbeat about this spring planting season due to the strong commodity prices.

Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of April 16, 2004					
Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Pasture	10	15	37	36	2
Winter Wheat	2	2	17	61	18

SPRING TILLAGE COMPLETED

Wisconsin State Average
April 18, 1995-2004



Crop and percent of acreage	District average										State average		
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This year	Last year	5-year average	
	Oats planted	16	9	6	50	31	23	69	67	74	41	17	24
Spring tillage completed	13	30	11	28	25	17	30	36	36	26	12	17	

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BAYFIELD-S.S.: Too soon to tell about winterkill. Fields are starting to dry up; some fieldwork is beginning.

RUSK-G.P.: Too early to tell about winterkill. Frost mostly out, still some in sheltered areas. Small grains and seeding just going into the ground on lighter soils. Most farmers are still waiting for it to dry out a little more before starting. Maple syrup season is done.

LINCOLN-F.O.: Winter wheat looks good. Alfalfa not showing much growth yet. Frost is out of the ground. Heavy snow cover delayed fieldwork due to wet conditions. Do not know of any field crops planted, but some tillage is being done.

TAYLOR-D.E.: Spring tillage began in earnest last week with some oats planted. Manure pits are being emptied and then the residue is worked in quickly. The ground temperature is still pretty cold, with the last of the frost finally coming out in many areas. Hayfields are starting to green up, but it is hard to tell, at this point, if there was any winter damage.

FOREST-A.K.: There is no fieldwork yet. Some manure is being hauled and spread. Sap season was fair to good.

OCONTO-D.T.: Winter wheat looks very green, but no new growth yet. There is no fieldwork started around here yet.

DUNN-S.S.: Really hard to tell yet about winterkill, as it is so dry-nothing really showing much. Winter wheat is green, but not growing. Potato planting pretty much in full swing. Seeding of oats just getting underway. Still some manure hauling going on. The only thing green is winter wheat. Hayfields and pastures are just laying dormant, waiting for rain. Maple syrup season was about average.

MONROE-W.D.: Most alfalfa looks good. There is some winterkill due to the ice cover. This past week some farmers were sowing oats or planting alfalfa. Some farmers were amazed at the erosion from the spring thaw; especially in no-till soybeans and corn fields. There is no corn in yet; ground is too cold. Some farmers have commented on how mellow the ground is this year-works up nice.

WAUPACA-D.L.H.: Alfalfa and winter wheat survived the winter in good condition. It is too cold for fieldwork.

WAUSHARA-J.J.: Alfalfa looks good-taking off and perking up after the snow. There is some field tillage this week, also manure spreading. There is no planting of potatoes or oats yet, but they are ready to go.

SHEBOYGAN-T.B.: Manure hauling, plowing, field cultivator tillage, conventional and direct seeding of alfalfa, wheat fertilization, and oats seeding are all going on. The fields were dry enough to allow tillage work, but the soil was too cold for anyone to plant anything except peas, oats, and alfalfa. Should be ready to plant corn as soon as the ground is dry enough to allow tillage.

WINNEBAGO-D.U.: Oats and alfalfa are going on in our area. If the fields stay dry, corn planting will begin next week.

RICHLAND-S.K.: The last couple weeks have seen the start of the planting season. We saw potatoes and peas going in on the lighter soils a week ago. This week, oats and alfalfa were being planted. Lots of manure and lime were spread this week. Many farmers are starting to chisel or disk down their corn stalks in preparation for corn and soybean planting. The pastures are pretty bleak. The alfalfa is coming around and the winter damage is minimal, at this point. Things look pretty good right now.

ROCK-C.O.: Nitrogen is going on around the clock. Most is flying, as topsoil is very dry. There are no corn planters going yet. Oats, peas, or alfalfa are not coming up yet, as we need warmer night temperatures and a shower to get it going. Manure spreading is done.

WALWORTH-E.P.: Started planting corn on Friday. Some farmers are putting Nitrogen on the corn ground.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on April 18, 2004

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50) 1/		Precipitation			
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg dep. from normal*	Mar. 1 to April 18	Mar. 1 to April 18 normal *	Last week	Since March 1	March 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	62	31	79	20	47	2	106	55	0.02	2.76	-0.69	5.70
Green Bay	58	36	78	25	47	3	81	48	0.26	4.22	0.71	7.08
La Crosse	67	36	86	24	52	4	169	79	0.07	3.45	-0.42	5.70
Madison	62	34	81	21	48	2	136	83	0.54	4.20	0.05	6.26
Milwaukee	57	37	82	29	47	2	117	n.a.	0.31	4.36	-0.37	6.89

1/Formula used: GDD = (daily maximum (86°) + daily minimum (50°))/2-50°; where 86° is used if the maximum exceeds 86° and 50° is used if the minimum falls below 50°. *Normal based on 1961-90 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>>. N.a. = not available. T = trace.