



Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Field Office of
USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service

May 15, 2006

Vol. 06, No. 06

Rains Replenish Soil

Wisconsin's soil moisture levels were replenished last week, as a low pressure system spun over the Great Lakes. While the rain caused an abrupt halt to fieldwork, many areas needed the moisture. Average high temperatures just made it to the low 60s. Lows dipped into the 30s at one point last week. Average temperatures ranged from 1 to 6 degrees below normal for the week. Rainfall totals ranged from 1.64 inches in Madison to 2.82 inches in La Crosse. Most of the precipitation came in the form of rain showers. A few areas of the state experienced snow and sleet. Soil moisture conditions were at 5 percent short, 55 percent adequate, and 40 percent surplus. There was an average of 3.0 days suitable for fieldwork last week.

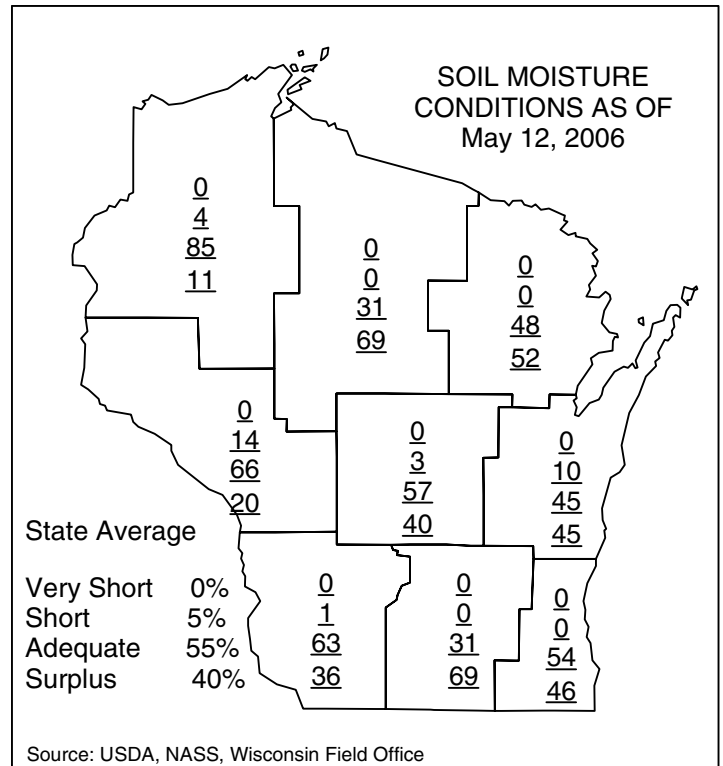
Corn planting progress moved to 75 percent complete. Last year's planting progress was at 74 percent, while the 5-year average was at 56 percent complete. Muddy field conditions slowed planting activity. Most farmers need a few dry days to finish planting corn before focusing on soybeans. Corn emerged was rated at 13 percent complete, ahead of last year's 11 percent and even with the 5-year average of 13 percent. Corn emerged rapidly early in the week. Emergence was delayed in the latter half of the week as cool, wet conditions persisted.

Soybean planting progress showed moderate advancement, increasing 16 percent during the week. Soybeans planted was at 26 percent complete by the weekend, compared to last year's 37 percent and the 5-year average of 22 percent. Planting progress was starting to intensify before the rain. Farmers will have to wait for several dry days before they can get back to planting. Soybeans emerged was rated at 1 percent. There has been some concern about how the cool weather will impact emergence.

Oats planted was reported at 96 percent complete, above last year's average of 93 percent and the 5-year average of 84 percent. Oats emerged was reported at 78 percent complete, higher than last year's 54 percent and the 5-year average of 51 percent. The majority of oat fields have been planted and are in good shape with the recent moisture. Oat conditions improved slightly during the week, with 92 percent of the crop rated as good to excellent.

Spring tillage was reported at 82 percent complete, compared to last year's 81 percent and the 5-year average of 70 percent. All tillage stopped during the middle of the week, but progress remains ahead of normal.

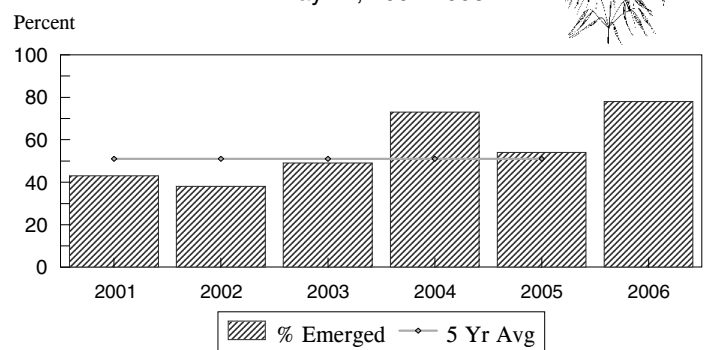
Alfalfa growth has been ahead of normal, and the crop looks good. Producers are expecting to start cutting fields as soon as conditions are dry enough. **Apples, cherries, and strawberries** were blooming. Cold temperatures may have caused some frost damage on these crops.



Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Winter wheat	0	2	8	54	36
Oat	0	1	7	73	19
Pasture	1	8	17	52	22

OATS EMERGED

Wisconsin
May 14, 2001-2006



Wisconsin Crop Progress, May 14, 2006

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
Corn planted	60	68	81	73	62	74	86	80	72	75	74	56
Corn emerged	4	8	11	11	8	5	17	20	25	13	11	13
Soybeans planted	12	32	40	18	21	31	20	33	34	26	37	22
Oats planted	93	93	96	98	91	93	99	99	98	96	93	84
Oats emerged	65	72	74	78	73	69	86	95	91	78	54	51
Spring tillage completed	84	85	87	84	76	80	78	81	86	82	81	70

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BARRON-D.B.: Light rains and cooler than normal temperatures are slowing spring tillage and planting progress. Most corn is planted. Alfalfa looks good. Pasture conditions are about ideal.

RUSK-G.P.: Limited fieldwork this week; cold and wet. Oats are mostly done. Corn is about half done and soybeans just starting. Oats are up and looking good. First-planted corn is struggling out of the ground after two weeks.

CLARK-N.S.: Fieldwork nearly came to a halt this week. A few farmers indicated they will start to cut hay at the end of the week, if the weather cooperates.

OCONTO-K.H.: Good planting progress was being made until the rain began Thursday and continued almost continually through Sunday afternoon. Water is ponded in low spots. Alfalfa starting to stretch out, but looks good. Have not seen any scissor cut results yet. Some early- planted corn has emerged and spring-seeded small grains look good.

SHAWANO-B.R.: Starting to see a few corn rows here and there in some fields. Most of the corn is planted, and a lot of soybeans in the ground also.

BUFFALO-R.S.: The April-planted corn has emerged. No fieldwork activity because of the rain and wind. Rain lodged all the rye and tall grasses. First crop alfalfa will soon bud. Little fieldwork will happen next week due to muddy fields.

EAU CLAIRE-R.S.: Fieldwork is at a standstill with a week of cold, damp weather. First crop hay looks very good.

PIERCE-J.K.: Oats and alfalfa fields are looking good. Most corn is planted, and farmers were working on soybeans until the wet weather came along. Emergence will be slowed by the cool conditions.

WAUSHARA-K.W.: Cool, wet, week held up planting and crop growth. Have seen a couple of fields of corn just up. Hay is about ready to be cut on heavier soils. Still short on sand fields.

WOOD-F.M.: Planted Saturday and Sunday, then the rain started and is still raining. About 3.0 inches of rain on heavy soil stops everything. Crops are not growing. Alfalfa and clover look very good. Pastures will be damaged by wet weather.

FOND DU LAC-B.B.: Most corn was planted ahead of the rain and a good start on soybeans. Most winter wheat was sprayed this past week and looking very good. Winter rye is tillering-growing very rapidly.

MANITOWOC-H.W.: Spring tillage was going good until Wednesday when we got one inch of rain; badly-needed, as it was dry. Winter wheat and hayfields look good.

SHEBOYGAN-T.J.: Alfalfa and winter wheat are excellent in our area. Excessive topsoil moisture has really slowed down planting of corn in our area. Most corn that has been planted this week has been planted in marginal field conditions. Weeds in non-tilled fields are really taking off.

WINNEBAGO-D.U.: Latest recurring rainfall is becoming a serious concern - need to establish warm, drier weather to get the crops moving and finish planting soybeans.

GRANT-G.C.: Lots of corn starting to emerge earlier in the week.

COLUMBIA-R.S.: This cold rain we have been getting may have some corn and soybeans in trouble. Soggy, cold ground could lead to seeds rotting-time will tell.

DANE-D.F.: All fieldwork has stopped since last Tuesday. Most corn is planted, and producers have a good start on soybeans. High winds from last week resulted in severe lodging in early winter wheat and rye fields. Alfalfa also appears to have lodged some.

DODGE-M.H.: Rains have stopped fieldwork. Corn is spiking through, but have not seen any soybeans popping up yet. Alfalfa stands are in the 185 RFV range and should be cut by mid or end of the week, if weather improves to capture high quality forages.

RACINE-L.F.: Planting has gone well-way ahead of schedule. Fields are looking wonderful.

WAUKESHA-D.W.: Early-planted corn is up. Soybeans are being planted at a fast pace.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on May 14, 2006

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 May 13	Mar. 1 to May 13 normal *	Last week	Since March 1	March 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	62	45	74	39	53	-3	338	232	2.05	7.20	1.05	8.74
Green Bay	61	45	73	38	53	-1	271	191	2.69	5.85	0.18	8.83
La Crosse	60	46	72	39	53	-6	347	277	2.82	10.35	3.59	11.53
Madison	61	45	70	34	53	-3	309	274	1.64	9.42	2.50	12.19
Milwaukee	61	45	72	37	53	-1	266	n.a.	1.88	9.87	2.22	13.70

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 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>>. N.a. = not available. T = trace.