



Wisconsin Crop Weather

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

May 22, 2006

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Cool Temperatures Slow Emergence

Two weeks of below average temperatures have started to impact crop emergence. Warmer weather could rapidly improve corn and soybean fields. Temperatures ranged from 1 degree above to 4 degrees below normal for the week. Average high temperatures made it to the 60s in most areas. Eau Claire had an average high of 70. Low temperatures averaged in the mid 40s last week. Rainfall totals ranged from 0.12 inches in Eau Claire to 0.85 inches in Green Bay. Soil moisture conditions were at 4 percent short, 70 percent adequate, and 26 percent surplus. Last week there was an average of 2.6 days suitable for fieldwork in Wisconsin.

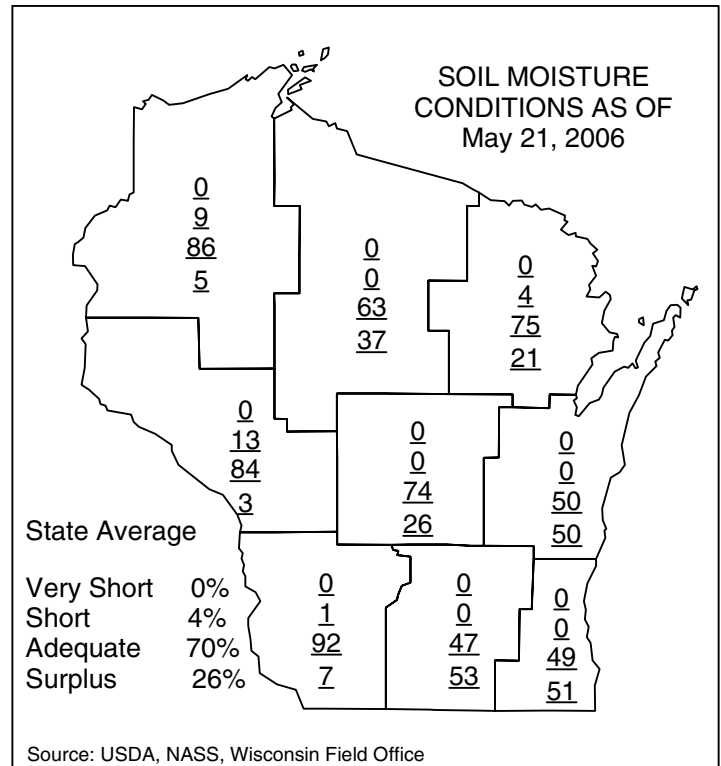
Corn planting was reported at 82 percent complete, even with last year and above the 5-year average of 72 percent. Wet field conditions slowed planting progress. Producers were able to plant some fields by the middle of the week. Corn emerged was rated at 35 percent complete, ahead of last year's 27 percent and the 5-year average of 29 percent. Most of the early-planted corn has emerged. While emergence is ahead of the normal pace, cold and wet weather caused some of the corn to turn yellow.

Soybean planting progress reached 46 percent complete. Last year's progress was at 52 percent, while the 5-year average was at 38 percent complete. Wet fields and cooler temperatures continue to delay planting. Soybeans emerged was rated at 3 percent complete, behind last year's average of 9 percent and the 5-year average of 7 percent. The temperatures have slowed emergence and concerned some growers.

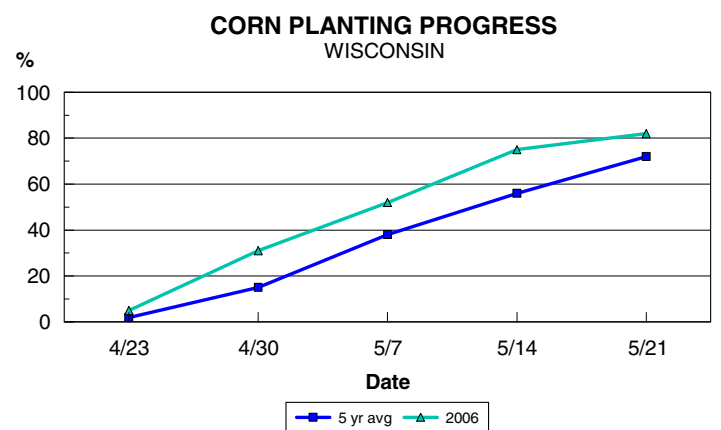
Oats emerged was reported at 93 percent complete, higher than last year's 76 percent and the 5-year average of 70 percent. Aided by the recent rains, the majority of the oat crop has emerged and was reported in good to excellent condition.

Alfalfa harvest started at the end of the week, with 2 percent of the first cutting complete. Many fields are ready for cutting as soon as conditions are dry enough. Minimal winterkill and spring rains have helped push alfalfa growth ahead of normal. Quality and quantity of this cutting is expected to be good in most areas of the state.

Potatoes have emerged in some of the early-planted fields. **Snap bean** and **sweet corn** planting has started at a slow pace, due to below average temperatures. **Pea** planting is expected to be completed, after fields dry.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of May 21, 2006					
Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Corn	1	5	35	52	7
Winter wheat	0	1	7	57	35
Oat	0	2	15	63	20
Pasture	1	3	20	51	25



Wisconsin Crop Progress, May 21, 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	75	78	85	84	73	83	88	84	76	82	82	72
Corn emerged	19	44	37	30	34	25	49	41	35	35	27	29
Soybeans planted	41	58	56	39	41	55	44	45	35	46	52	38
Soybeans emerged	2	1	6	1	5	1	8	2	7	3	9	7
Oats emerged	84	92	93	94	90	89	96	99	97	93	76	70
First cutting hay	3	1	1	1	2	1	3	5	1	2	0	0
Spring tillage completed	92	90	90	88	82	86	91	87	87	88	86	80

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BURNETT-R.B.: Fields that are plowed are not coming up very fast.

WASHBURN-L.C.: Everything is nicely moist. Still too wet for any real ground activity.

CLARK-N.S.: Planting progress moved well ahead last week. PEAQ stick measurement indicates cutting of alfalfa should begin this week for high quality dairy forage. A thick alfalfa stand had a weighted yield of 1.35 tons dry matter.

PRICE-M.K.: Wet weather over the past week has halted most fieldwork. Early corn on light soils is beginning to emerge, while small grain and forage seedings are almost all up and growing well.

FOREST-A.K.: Corn planting is near done. New seeding is doing good.

SHAWANO-T.A.: Corn is slow to spike in some fields; sunshine should improve the color. Some first crop hay was on the ground late in the week. Yield looks strong and quality exceptional.

DUNN-S.S.: Due to rain and colder weather last weekend and first two days this week, there was no fieldwork. On Wednesday, just about everyone was in the field finishing corn planting and working on soybeans. Right now everything is green and working great. With the past rain, everything has taken on a new life. No hay harvesting as of yet-probably in two weeks.

MONROE-M.Y.: Planting has stopped for ten days on account of rainy weather. There is still a lot of corn to plant.

PEPIN-R.C.: First crop hay is just beginning to be cut in our area. The hay has good height and should yield very well. Pastures are getting a great start. Corn and soybeans are mostly planted, and germination looks good. We have a great overall growing season going.

TREMPEALEAU-D.D.: Much-needed rains stopped long enough for planters to get a good start on soybeans, and haybines began rolling. Relative feed values of alfalfa still in the 170-plus range. Oats and new seedings look great. Corn is not good with the cold, wet weather.

MARQUETTE-K.V.: Excellent moisture this past week of 3.0 inches or more. Cool weather has hastened grass growth. Soil temperatures are cool and some concern over seeds rotting in the ground in heavy soils. Crops on the sand look great.

WAUPACA-D.H.: With the 3-plus inches of rain, everything is at a standstill. Many are worried about corn that was planted before

the cold and wet weather. Alfalfa is ready to cut once field conditions permits.

FOND DU LAC-R.P.: Four inches of rain in the past eight days. Hay is very tall, and some is lodged. Water sitting in most fields. Some corn is up, even with the lack of heat and sun this past week. Some hay cut on hillside fields-mainly because feed supplies are low.

OUTAGAMIE-E.W.: Most corn was planted before rain came. Three inches of rain has stopped most fieldwork. Hay crop and pastures look good. Corn is slow in coming-need heat.

GRANT-R.R.: Dry weather has gotten everyone out in the fields. Some are starting to cut first crop hay. It has been so cool that crops do not look very well. We need some warm weather.

IOWA-K.V.: Corn, soybeans, and alfalfa look good. Application of fungicides nearly complete on winter wheat. Still too wet for soybean planters.

GREEN-M.M.: Harvest of first cutting hay started this week. The majority of the corn has emerged.

ROCK-C.O.: Wet weather has hindered all planting and hay harvesting. Today maybe the first chance we have to get back in some fields. Some are water logged and others have standing water in them. Alfalfa is starting to bud, so with any dry weather, the first crop harvest will start in earnest. Corn looks sick, and there is concern about soybeans planted just before the week of cold, wet rain. The soybeans have swelled, but not germinated. Oats and winter wheat look the best of all crops.

KENOSHA-J.H.: We needed the rain; however, all work in the fields has stopped.

WASHINGTON-K.R.: Corn is slow in emerging. Forecast for dry weather will help planting. Will take a few more days for most fields to dry out. Burn down spray is working well.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on May 21, 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 20	Mar. 1 to May 20 normal *	Last week	Since March 1	March 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	70	47	77	42	59	1	414	312	0.12	7.32	0.35	8.86
Green Bay	64	46	74	39	55	-2	319	260	0.85	6.96	0.69	9.94
La Crosse	68	47	76	44	58	-3	413	365	0.24	10.59	3.08	11.77
Madison	65	43	74	38	54	-4	362	358	0.71	10.15	2.52	12.92
Milwaukee	62	44	74	38	53	-4	310	n.a.	0.28	10.24	1.92	14.07

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.