



Wisconsin Crop Weather

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

May 30, 2006

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First Cutting Alfalfa Ahead of Schedule

Warmer temperatures and limited rainfall allowed many farmers to harvest alfalfa during the week. First cutting progress was 10 percentage points above the 5-year average, according to the Wisconsin Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Average high temperatures were in the 70s in most areas. Low temperatures averaged in the upper 40s and low 50s last week. Temperatures ranged from average to 3 degrees above normal for the week. Rainfall totals ranged from 0.17 inches in Eau Claire to 1.70 inches in Madison. Eau Claire is the only reporting station with below average rainfall since March 1. Soil moisture conditions were at 2 percent very short, 8 percent short, 72 percent adequate, and 18 percent surplus. Last week there was an average of 5.1 days suitable for fieldwork in Wisconsin.

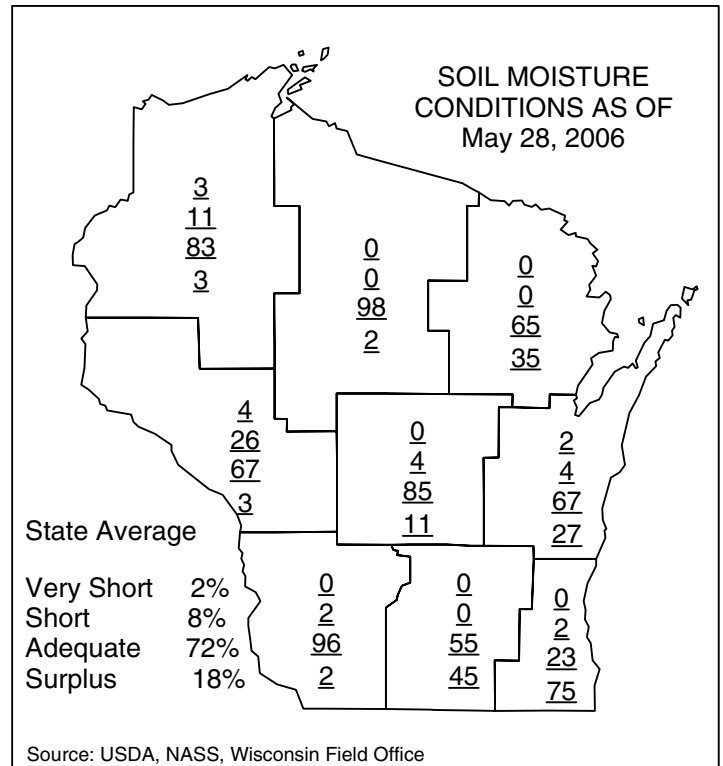
Corn planting progress reached 93 percent complete. Last year's progress was at 91 percent, while the 5-year average was at 83 percent complete. Most of the corn acres have been planted. The remaining fields have been too wet to plant or will be planted to corn after the forage crop is harvested. Corn emerged was rated at 64 percent complete, ahead of last year's 54 percent and the 5-year average of 47 percent. Some farmers in northern counties have had to replant fields after poor emergence in cold, wet soils. Hard rains have crusted some fields, causing producers to use a rotary hoe to improve emergence. Corn has greened-up with the warmer weather, and the majority of the crop was rated good to excellent.

Soybean planting was reported at 72 percent complete, even with last year and above the 5-year average of 57 percent. Planting conditions improved, as progress increased 26 percentage points during the week. Wet field conditions were causing problems in some locations. Soybeans emerged was rated at 23 percent complete, behind last year's average of 26 percent, but ahead of the 5-year average of 22 percent.

Alfalfa harvest progressed rapidly during the week. First cutting hay harvested was reported at 17 percent complete, above last year's 6 percent and the 5-year average of 7 percent. Reports indicated that yields are good with good quality.

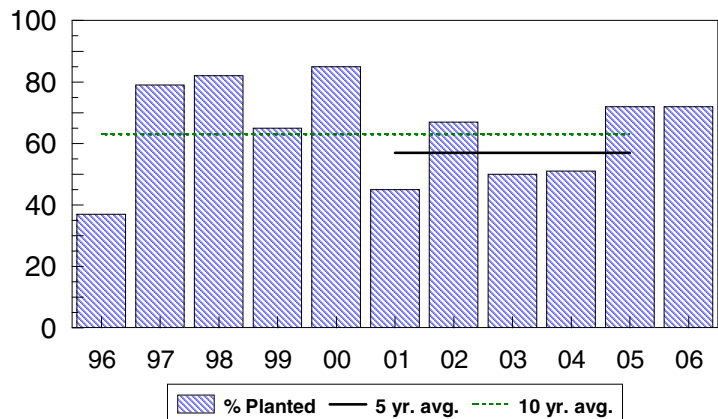
Oats emerged was rated at 97 percent complete, higher than last year's 92 percent and the 5-year average of 84 percent. The majority of the oat crop has emerged with 91 percent of the crop rated as good to excellent.

Tobacco planting is expected to start next week. **Snap bean** and **sweet corn** planting continued during the week. Locating dry fields has been a problem for **pea** planting.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of May 28, 2006					
Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Percent					
Corn	1	3	27	57	12
Winter wheat	1	3	8	53	35
Oat	0	1	8	68	23
Pasture	0	3	20	52	25

Progress of Soybeans Planted
May 28, 1996 -2006
Wisconsin



Wisconsin Crop Progress, May 28, 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	94	98	95	95	83	87	94	92	87	93	91	83
Corn emerged	46	64	57	67	50	50	69	72	67	64	54	47
Soybeans planted	62	88	77	80	59	69	76	70	59	72	72	57
Soybeans emerged	10	15	15	21	21	26	33	25	23	23	26	22
Oats emerged	86	99	99	100	98	91	99	100	99	97	92	84
First cutting hay	12	14	7	22	13	8	26	23	18	17	6	7
Spring tillage completed	94	97	96	95	88	91	92	92	95	93	92	88

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BARRON-R.C.: A great week for tilling and planting, as soil conditions could not be better. Most farmers have finished planting and are starting to cut first crop hay. Hate to complain; however, we could use an inch of rain.

POLK-C.S.: Corn is planted and looking quite good. Soybean planting is finishing up. Busy finishing spraying before conventional corn emerges. Crop emergence looks good for all crops. First crop hay is getting started.

MARATHON-M.K.: Big crop of hay to come. All crops are planted, and corn looks good.

VILAS-L.K.: Recent rains have stopped potato planting. Hay crop is coming real good.

LANGLADE-A.K.: Shortage of heat has held up emergence the last two weeks. Local downpours caused some washouts and standing water. Haying starts next week.

SHAWANO-B.R.: Six and one-half inches of rain since the first of the month has made the eastern part of the county look like the land of many lakes. Even alfalfa fields are now being rutted trying to get the hay off of the field that was cut. Corn is looking pretty good for many, but some had to replant as much as 30 percent of their total acres due to cold, wet soil.

BUFFALO-R.S.: Had a strong frost two mornings-probably did little damage because the corn planted in April is still only 2 to 3 leaf stage. Soybeans have not emerged. First crop hay is probably 20 percent harvested. Planting and spraying seems to be done. Rye is fully headed out.

EAU CLAIRE-M.P.: Crops look good, with planting virtually complete. Lots of alfalfa harvested mid-week as buds appeared.

ST. CROIX-R.K.: Need rain soon. All showers have gone around our area.

MARQUETTE-K.V.: Frost damage from last week is showing up in some alfalfa fields. Area had 1.5 inches of rain, which slowed down hay harvest.

WAUSHARA-L.K.: We had frost on Sunday; it froze the alfalfa. Most of the corn and soybeans have been planted. The early corn is all up, and the frost did not hurt the corn that was up.

SHEBOYGAN-E.P.: Corn and soybeans are mostly planted. New seeding of alfalfa is doing good. Corn is slow in emerging. Soybeans got a nice rain after planting this week.

WINNEBAGO-R.H.: Spring tillage pretty well done, except for a few wet fields. Some fields have standing water. Soybeans seem slow to emerge-too cold and wet since the rains last weekend.

GRANT-E.B.: Finally some warm weather. Everything is looking better. The dairymen are putting up haylage very fast.

LAFAYETTE-M.R.: Have seen no dry hay being made-either flat, vertical, or wrapped silage. Only corn not planted is corn after winter rye or organic corn.

DANE-J.K.: Spring tillage is almost complete, except for late soybeans. Some snap beans and sweet corn are being planted. With the temperatures finally into the 80's and 0.5 inch of rain, things are starting to grow fast. We got all our hay done before the rain-custom hired it done. Relative feed value was about 180-plus, or very good quality and good quantity. Hay would have been higher if we would have let it go longer. Some corn had a hard time coming through the hard ground, especially that which was planted just before the rain on finely-worked ground. Some fertilizer going on hayfields.

JEFFERSON-B.K.: Excess moisture has slowed everyone. Lowlands will need a week of dry weather to get in to plant. Wheat heading and showing signs of leaf disease. Soybean emergence was excellent with soil being so soft.

RACINE-L.F.: We need the rain to stop for a week or so. The fields need to dry out so planting can be completed.

WAUKESHA-D.W.: We have had some timely rain. Most all crops are in. Corn is starting to green up.



USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office
P.O. Box 8934
Madison, WI 53708-8934
(608) 224-4848
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/wi/rlsetoc.htm>

Robert J. Battaglia
Director

Jon Hornung
Statistician

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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on May 28, 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 27	Mar. 1 to May 27 normal *	Last week	Since March 1	March 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	78	50	86	34	64	3	536	397	0.17	7.49	-0.39	9.03
Green Bay	73	48	81	36	60	1	409	336	0.71	7.67	0.77	10.65
La Crosse	78	53	88	37	65	2	535	459	0.40	10.99	2.73	12.17
Madison	74	51	83	37	63	2	469	452	1.70	11.85	3.51	14.62
Milwaukee	69	50	78	37	59	0	388	n.a.	0.26	10.50	1.53	14.33

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.