The new growing season is upon us, which means that it is once again time for USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office to begin reporting the progress of crop planting, growth and development, harvesting, and current crop conditions. If you are interested in further weather data, please reference the following sites:

http://www.noaa.gov/
http://www.aos.wisc.edu/~sco/
http://www.cocorahs.org/
http://www.weather.gov/

Farmers Hoping for Warmer Weather

Cooler temperatures last week delayed fieldwork and crop development. Frost was reported to still be in the ground in many areas across the state. Across the reporting stations, average temperatures last week were 2 to 3 degrees below normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 47 to 52 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 26 to 33 degrees. There was very little precipitation last week, with totals between 0 to 0.07 inches. Soil moisture conditions were reported as 4 percent very short, 16 percent short, 70 percent adequate, and 10 percent surplus. There were 4.8 days suitable for fieldwork.

The cooler temperatures slowed growth in alfalfa and winter wheat. Many reporters noted that it is still too early to determine the amount of winter kill.

Planting of oats was reported as getting underway in many areas of the state, with the Southwest and South Central districts being the furthest ahead. Across the state, oats planted was reported as 10 percent complete. Some alfalfa seeding was also reported.

Spring tillage was also getting started across the state, with 6 percent complete. Fields were generally reported as being dry but still very cold. Some of the lower lying areas did still have standing water. There were a few reports from the northern part of the state that saw snow in some fields.

Manure hauling was in full swing in many areas of the state, and there were some reports of fertilizer going on winter wheat and alfalfa fields.

The maple syrup season was winding down, with many reports indicating a very good season.
Precipitation

shaded areas. Early pea planting has started. If manure is spread, it is too early to tell how alfalfa survived. Frost is out of the ground except in sap. Some tillage has begun on lighter soils.

WAUPACA-D.H.: Spring is happening. Ground is dry for this time of year. Seeding of oats and alfalfa is on condition. Manure pumping and spreading is happening. Alfalfa and wheat fields are still brown. Fertilizer is being spread on winter wheat but both look ok. We still are getting freezing temperatures each night. A few farmers were doing fieldwork on Wednesday but the pockets were too wet to work. There is a small amount of oats in on lighter and higher ground. Soil temperatures are very cold and quite wet. There is very little spring tillage going on.

DODGE-G.R.: Fields of alfalfa and winter wheat are just beginning to green-up. Too early to estimate winterkill. Cold, brisk winds began the week with temperatures reaching only into the low 50’s at best. Soil is drying out on higher fields making some manure spreading possible. No planting or tillage observed in our area as yet. Some hints of green in alfalfa and wheat fields.

KENOSHA-R.R.: Too early to say anything about winterkill. Water is standing in low spots. Fields are still brown. Fertilizer is being spread on winter wheat and alfalfa fields.

Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on April 12, 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Temperature</th>
<th>Growing degree days (modified base 50°F) 1/</th>
<th>Precipitation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Avg. max.</td>
<td>Avg. min.</td>
<td>High max.</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Milwaukee</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

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