



Wisconsin Crop Progress

May 2, 2011

Vol. 11, No. 4

Warm, Dry Week Needed

Another wet, cold week kept many out of the fields. Reports indicated a need for warm, dry weather to bring soil temperatures up and dry fields out. Frost was reported as still being in the ground in some areas across the Northern part of the state. Many reports indicated little to no fieldwork being done the previous week as fields were too wet to get into them.

Across the reporting stations, average temperatures last week were 0 to 5 degrees below normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 54 to 57 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 34 to 41 degrees. Precipitation totals ranged from 0.88 inches in Madison to 1.94 inches in Green Bay. There were 1.3 days suitable for fieldwork. 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/>

Corn planting was off to a slow start, with one percent of corn reported as planted statewide. This was well below the five-year average of 23 percent. A report from Trempealeau County stated some farmers tested their corn planters on a few acres.

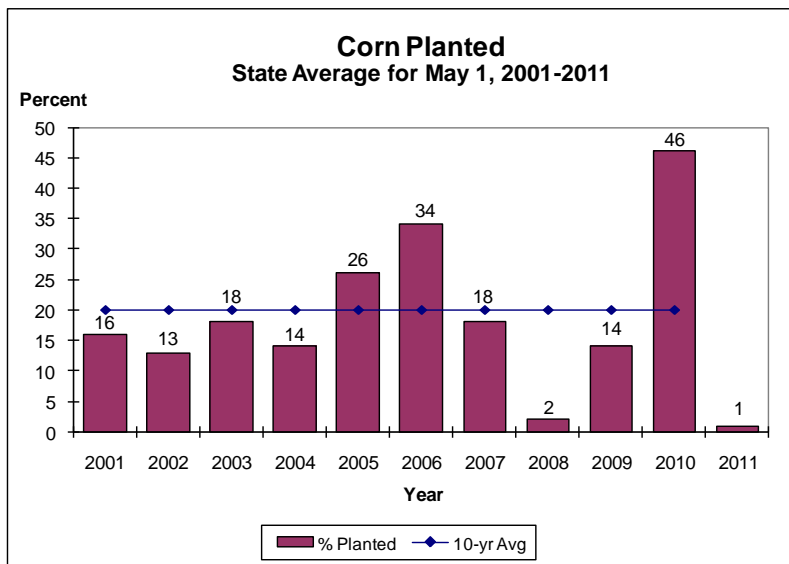
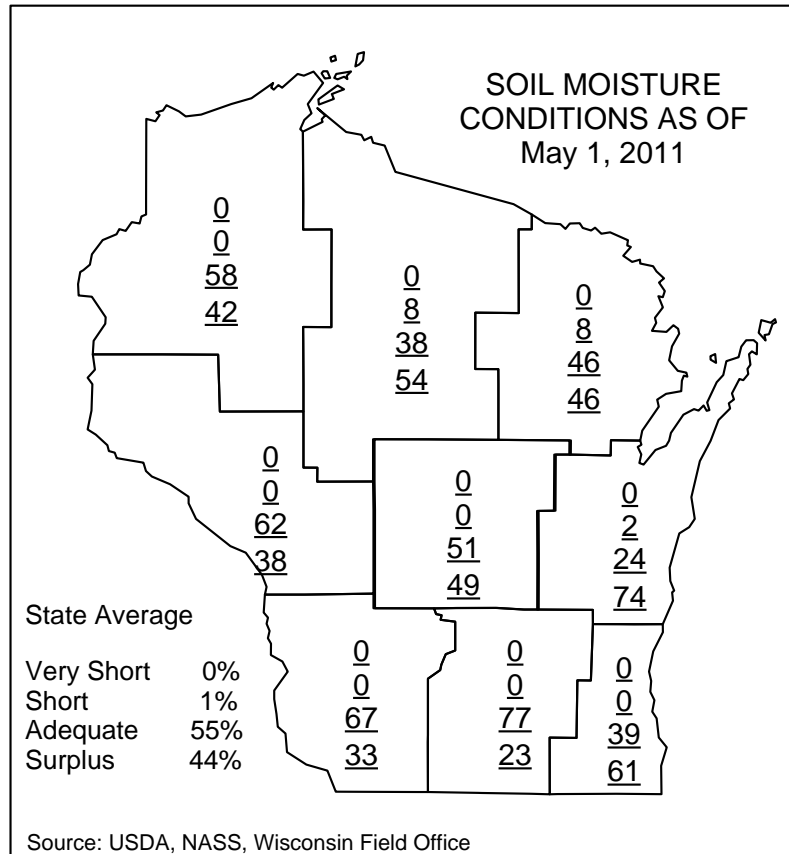
Oats continued to be planted last week despite fields being wet. Oats planted was reported at 17 percent complete statewide. This was an increase of 7 percentage points from the previous week, but still well behind last year's 90 percent complete and the five-year average of 64 percent complete.

Spring tillage slowly continued over the past week, with 11 percent reported complete. This is well behind the previous year of 70 percent. Reports indicated that many are geared up and ready to enter fields as soon as conditions permit.

Many are waiting for fields to dry before spreading **manure**, but a few reports indicated manure was being moved to fields due to pits being too full.

Most **winter wheat** and **alfalfa** was reported as looking good. Wheat fields were being fertilized where possible, but many reported that heat is needed to aid winter wheat and alfalfa growth.

Some **potatoes** were reported as being planted, and **fruit trees** were reported as starting to bloom.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of May 1, 2011

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Winter Wheat	1	3	23	59	14
Pasture	3	11	39	40	7

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Wisconsin Crop Progress, May 1, 2011

Crop and percent of acreage	District average									State average			
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
Oats planted	5	0	1	7	10	0	49	40	24	17	12	90	64
Spring tillage	6	1	3	10	9	1	29	15	19	11	7	70	44

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Selected Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

All comments are used in creating this report, but only a few are published below.

CHIPPEWA-J.C.: Very little fieldwork this week, but some oats were planted. Alfalfa looks good with very little winterkill. Apple trees in late bud stages.

ASHLAND-G.H.: Snow and rain this week put a stop to all activities. Clay soils in region are saturated and will take some time to dry out if cool weather continues. Area had 2.0 to 10.0 inches of snow Tuesday night and Wednesday during the storm.

LANGLADE-A.K.: Two nice days this last week, otherwise cold, wet, and windy. Need warm temps and sunshine to even think of getting in the fields.

SHAWANO-J.N.: No real change from the past few weeks. Some manure is being moved, partly because of pits being full. I have only seen drag lines used because of the wet fields. Nothing planted too wet and cold. Winter wheat varies from poor on the lower fields to nice and green on the higher sandy soils.

EAU CLAIRE-A.B.: Winterkill of alfalfa and wheat was limited to low areas within fields. Livestock producers are spreading manure wherever possible. The frost report is that it has left us until next fall/winter. Spring's wet conditions and cold temperatures have prevented cropping activities. The local greenhouse owners commented, "The soil temperature is too cold to plant potatoes". The soil temperature is still below 50 degrees.

MARQUETTE-K.V.: Some potato planting, some peas, and some no till corn. Fruit trees have not reached green tip yet.

PORTAGE-D.Z.: Another 2.0 inches of rain this week; a few potatoes being planted as weather allows; may have some corn planting this coming weekend. Alfalfa fields still breaking dormancy, overall they look good, except for pockets where water stood; pretty much the same for wheat.

BROWN-M.H.: Wheat and Alfalfa continue to green up and come out of dormancy. Record rainfall continues. Fieldwork is at a standstill and manure pits continue to be very full.

GRANT-E.B.: Cold wet conditions, cannot even haul manure.


DODGE-S.B.: The winter wheat and alfalfa look great - everything is getting green. Fieldwork is just starting.

ROCK-C. H.: Slowly a few buds on trees, but ground is still cold.

OZAUKEE-K.A.: Alfalfa coming thru the winter in very good condition. Land is very wet - standing water almost everywhere. Some wheat is slow at greening up - land too wet and cold. Wheat on high land looks very good. Very little sunshine this past week - it just rains.

WASHINGTON-J.N.: April 26th the barn swallows are back. I hope this is a sign of warm weather to come. Winter wheat looks good. No field work this week, all too wet.

WAUKESHA-R.F.: The season is getting later and later. Winter wheat looks good. Fruit trees are starting to blossom. Alfalfa looks ok. No frost in the ground and it is too wet. Need to haul manure soon.



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

Robert J. Battaglia
 Director

Stacy Leitner
 Statistician

This report has been made possible through the cooperative efforts of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, and the National Weather Service.

Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on May 1, 2011

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 Apr. 30	Mar. 1 to Apr. 30 normal*	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	56	34	67	27	45	-5	93	120	1.44	5.18	0.43	7.03	0.40
Green Bay	54	39	61	35	46	-2	59	97	1.94	8.68	4.07	11.24	4.39
La Crosse	56	38	67	33	47	-6	116	151	1.27	8.00	2.64	9.91	2.35
Madison	57	40	70	31	49	-1	112	152	0.88	6.59	0.96	9.46	1.31
Milwaukee	56	41	65	35	48	0	82	n.a.	1.85	8.83	2.48	12.29	2.46

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. Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.