



Wisconsin Crop Progress

May 16, 2011

Vol. 11, No. 6

Small Break in Showers Allows Planting

While many farmers were able to get into fields last week, Wisconsin was still far behind the average for planting of oats, corn and soybeans. Across the southern half of the state, planting of corn and soybeans progressed rapidly. However, reports indicated that the rain continued to keep those on heavy soil out of fields across the north. Many are hoping for multiple days of sun and warmth to allow more time in fields and to aid growth of crops.

Across the reporting stations, average temperatures last week ranged from 3 to 7 degrees above normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 65 to 73 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 46 to 52 degrees. Precipitation totals ranged from 0.58 inches in Milwaukee to 1.42 inches in Eau Claire. There were 3.9 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 continued last week between storms and on higher or lighter soil. Corn planted was at 35 percent complete statewide. This is an increase of 19 percentage points from the previous week, but still 31 percentage points below the five-year average.

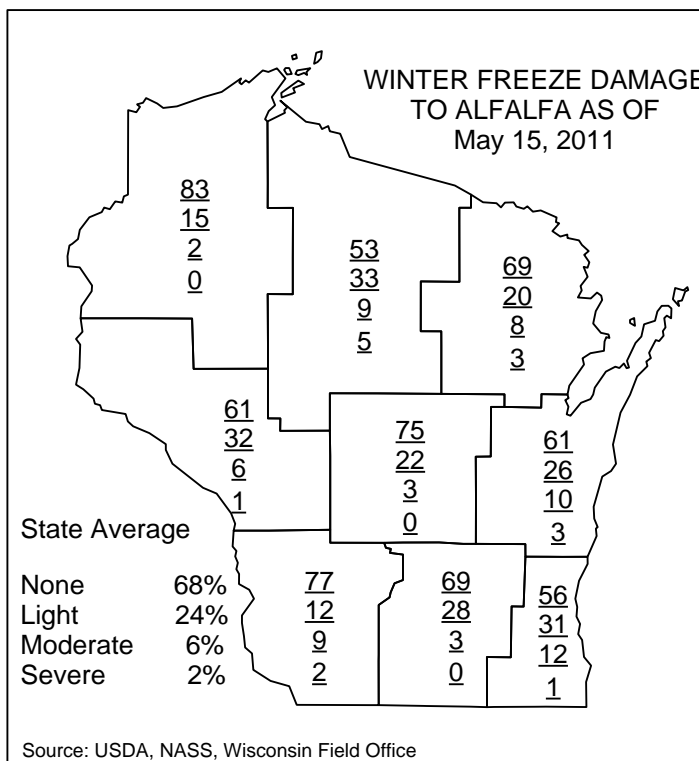
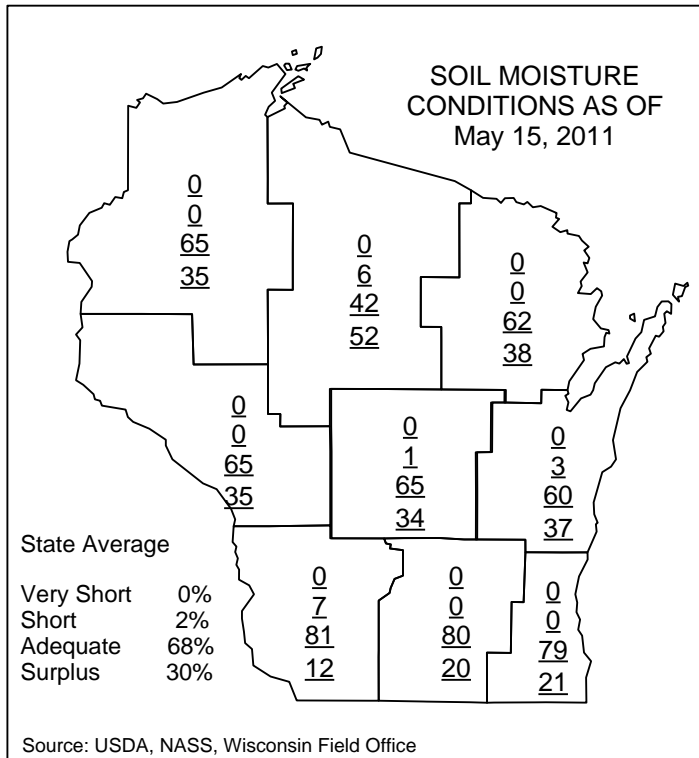
Soybean planting started across the state, with 10 percent reported complete. This is 16 percentage points below the five-year average.

Spring tillage was also well underway last week with 50 percent reported complete statewide, an increase of 18 percentage points from the previous week. **Manure** hauling continued to be important as reports indicated that storage was still full on many farms across the northern half of the state.

Planting of **oats** continued to progress with reported plantings at 53 percent complete. This is well below the state five-year average of 91 percent, however, across the southern districts almost all oats were in the ground. Emergence progressed and was reported at 21 percent emerged.

Growth of **winter wheat** and alfalfa has shown more signs of winterkill. Reports indicated that older stands suffered more than new stands, but overall, winter wheat and alfalfa are looking good.

Fruit trees and **cranberries** were reported as budding, while **peas, snap beans, green beans,** and other vegetables were being planted.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of May 15, 2011

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Winter Wheat	1	4	22	57	16
Pasture	1	5	30	53	11

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

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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
Corn planted	15	5	17	22	26	8	74	50	49	35	16	77	66
Soybeans planted	1	1	1	1	2	1	29	19	16	10	NA	29	26
Oats planted	50	6	33	58	49	20	85	90	73	53	33	99	91
Oats emerged	9	1	7	13	2	1	53	50	24	21	9	87	69
Spring tillage	33	11	27	50	38	23	86	73	66	50	32	87	77

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.

WASHBURN-EM/TF: Cool, wet conditions hampering planting progress. Mornings have been in low to mid 30's.

ASHLAND-CB: Very little progress being made on spring tillage. Continued wet weather and cold soils are delaying planting.

FLORENCE-TB: Another wet week so tillage was minimal but we did get some heat early in the week to really green up the hay. Could almost watch it grow. Now that we have some growth the signs of winter kill is becoming more noticed. Looks like the older stands suffered more damage than the newer stands did. Can only hope that conditions keep improving.

DUNN-SS: Still getting enough rain to make it hard to get a lot of field work done. A lot of corn yet to be planted. Hay fields are greening up and growing nice. Fruit trees are beginning to bloom.

TREMPEALEAU-DW: Farmers still preparing the land by spreading manure and fertilizer. Discing and tillage still going on. The canning crops, peas and snap beans are planted. Farmers trying to get corn planted between rain showers.

GREEN LAKE-BK: Spring tillage is finally underway, anyone who could plant was planting trying to play catch up.

DOOR-RS: Waiting for warm weather.

KEWAUNEE-TS: While more crops went into the ground last week, this area is still far behind where we would normally be at this time of year. It is amazing to think May is half over and at least half the ground has not even been worked yet. Some oats, beans and corn were planted early last week, until the rains came, which stopped all activity. There will be more work done this week, though. Precipitation last week here was only about nine-tenths of an inch. And with the sun and wind, the ground should be ready for tilling early this week. The big problem is the temperature. With highs in the 50's and lows in the 30's, the soil temperature has been going down, not up. Any corn planted now will be sitting in the soil for a longer period of time before it sprouts. Another sign of how cool it has been is how slow the

trees are getting their leaves. Last year at this time, they were all decked out. This year, at least half still do not have their leaves. And the leaves that have appeared are small and not fully developed. However, two crops that are looking good are the winter wheat and the alfalfa. The precipitation has helped their conditions greatly and both are looking pretty good. The winter wheat is showing areas where winter kill has affected it, but these areas are small. Alfalfa is looking very good and is growing. It will be harvested later this year than last year, due to the cooler temperatures. Most of the cutting will occur in June, not May. Hopefully most of the planting will be done by the time the alfalfa needs to be made.

VERNON-KL: Spring tillage progressing. Areas of the county had 0.5 to 1.5 inches of rain this week. Farmers getting into the fields as soon as they dry. Some oats emerged this past week. Farmers still hauling manure. A few farmers in the southern part of the county have started planting soybeans. Alfalfa looks good.

DODGE-SB: Last week a lot of tillage and planting occurred. Winter wheat looks great. We need warm weather to kick-start everything.

ROCK-RS: Not much done.

WASHINGTON-KR: Wet soil and slow drying.

WAUKESHA-BF: Too wet yet for field work.



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

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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on May 15, 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 May 14	Mar. 1 to May 14 normal*	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	67	49	80	40	58	3	194	242	1.42	6.85	0.63	8.70	0.65
Green Bay	65	48	72	37	57	3	141	199	0.59	9.94	4.20	12.51	4.55
La Crosse	72	52	89	43	62	4	240	289	0.91	8.91	2.01	10.82	1.73
Madison	73	51	86	36	62	7	239	285	1.22	7.82	0.78	10.69	1.15
Milwaukee	65	46	86	39	56	3	169	n.a.	0.58	9.47	1.65	12.93	1.59

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.