



Wisconsin Crop Progress

May 31, 2011

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Planting Continues Despite Showers

Many farmers throughout the state tried to squeeze in planting amid the rains this past week. Statewide, 4.5 days were reported as suitable for fieldwork. Several storms delayed the planting of corn and soybeans, especially in heavy soils and low-lying grounds. Numerous producers, especially in the Southern half of the state, were racing to get their crops planted before first crop hay was ready to cut. Dry weather and heat is needed to finish up planting, aid crop emergence, and facilitate growth.

Across the reporting stations, average temperatures last week were 1 to 4 degrees below normal. Average high temperatures ranged from 63 to 69 degrees, while average low temperatures ranged from 47 to 50 degrees. Precipitation totals ranged from 0.96 inches in Madison to 2.16 inches in La Crosse. Several areas of the state reported at least one night of frost with varying reports on damage. 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/>

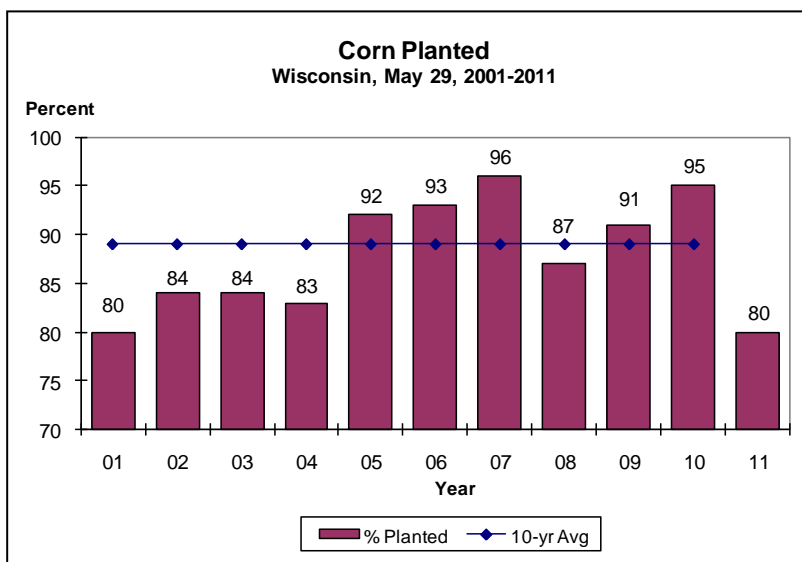
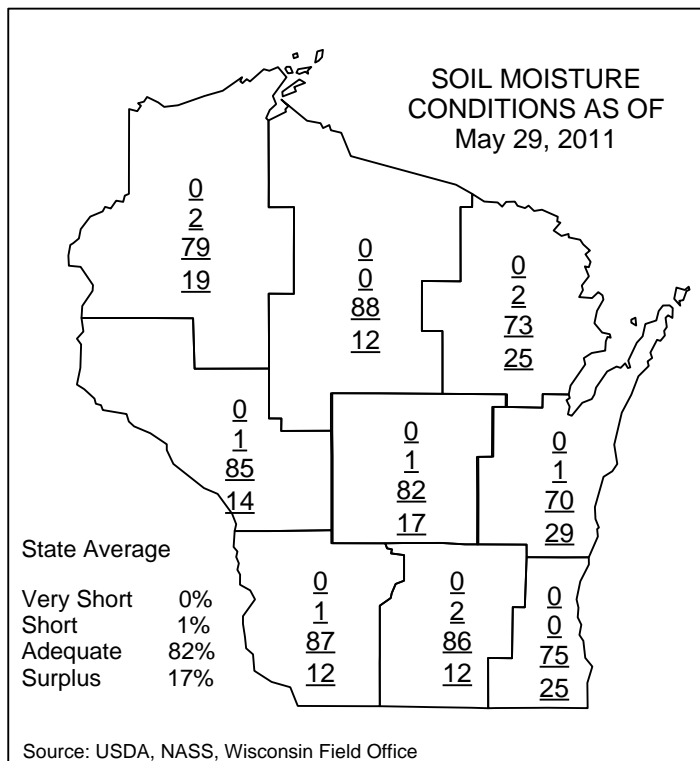
The planting of **corn** progressed this past week, jumping to 80 percent complete statewide, but is still behind the five-year average of 92 percent. Reports indicated that most of the corn has been planted except for spots on wetter ground and heavy soils. Corn emergence also increased, totaling 39 percent emerged across the state, but remains behind the five-year average of 65 percent.

Soybean planting progressed, amid the periods of showers, to 50 percent complete across the state. Many low-lying areas weren't touched and farmers were hoping for drier days to get their beans in before turning to hay. Statewide, soybeans were 12 percent emerged, compared to a five-year average of 33 percent.

The abundance of rain helped **alfalfa** grow rapidly, with 7 percent of first crop hay harvested statewide, but more heat is needed to take alfalfa out of bud stage. Many are hoping for dry days this coming week to allow farmers, who are finished planting, to start harvesting their hay.

Oats planted was reported as 90 percent complete across the state. Despite the cool, wet weather, oats emerged was reported at 68 percent, an increase of 27 percentage points from last week. Overall, oats were reported as looking good.

There were several reports that the unseasonably cold temperatures last week may have damaged some **cranberries** and **strawberries**. **Winter wheat** was reported as looking good with few reports of winterkill. **Spring tillage** was reported as 88 percent complete statewide, up 13 percentage points from the previous week. **Apple** trees were blooming and warmer weather is needed to aid pollination by bees.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of May 29, 2011

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Oat	0	1	11	77	11
Winter Wheat	1	3	17	57	22
Pasture	0	2	18	63	17

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	74	75	69	79	75	61	95	88	85	80	63	95	92
Corn emerged	20	6	21	40	37	9	61	57	56	39	14	72	65
Soybeans planted	42	29	21	37	44	38	74	62	55	50	25	77	75
Soybeans emerged	10	0	4	7	4	2	40	17	8	12	NA	38	33
Oats planted	88	67	87	96	81	86	98	100	94	90	80	100	99
Oats emerged	59	28	71	74	58	44	88	94	83	68	41	99	93
First cutting hay	2	1	1	3	3	3	16	15	6	7	NA	36	20
Spring tillage	79	83	75	90	80	79	97	98	91	88	75	100	96

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-G.L.: Apple blossoms are 10 days behind average blossom. All other crops are also behind, but all have good color.

WASHBURN-R.H.: Planting is progressing at a fast pace. Fruit trees are in full bloom and hay is growing.

CLARK-R.H.: It was a good week for field work. There was an isolated area in the county that received excessive rain over the weekend that limited work in that area. Some producers are wrapping up corn and small grain planting. Predictive Equations of Alfalfa Quality (PEAQ) stick measures in the county reveal hay harvest may be a week to ten days off with relative feed value (RFV) in the 200-240 range.

ONEIDA-B.E.: Frost protection on several nights here this past week, with record low temps set across the area. An adequate amount of sunlight was observed, though light to moderate cloud cover was seen throughout the week. Approximately 1.2 inches of rainfall was recorded. The cranberry vines are fully out of dormancy now, and the early varieties have opened and begun to elongate. Other varieties are swollen and beginning to open. First application of fertilizer and second application of herbicides scheduled for the coming week.

LANGLADE-A.K.: Ten to 20 percent winterkill for winter wheat.

MARINETTE-S.R.: Expect that Thursday night's freeze really hurt fruit crop potential.

EAU CLAIRE-D.J.: Fruit trees were sprayed. Hay looks good.

LA CROSSE-I.H.: Low areas got lots of rain, but no hail occurred. Standing water in fields in low areas. Yellowing of many corn and oat plants as a result. Five tornadoes, one in La Crosse. About 200 homes damaged in La Crosse. Getting ready for hay cutting. No wheat - plowed under for fertilizer.

TREMPEALEAU-J.S.: Corn planting is finishing up. Farmers are starting to cut first crop hay. Cool temperatures still prevail. Need some heat units.

WAUPACA-D.H.: Spring planting is again slowed due to wet conditions. Some local farmers have only 10 percent of crops in soil. Hay is growing but warmer weather would give it a boost.

WAUSHARA-K.W.: Frost in AM on May 27th. Temperature was 34 degrees, but frost on roof and grass, emerged corn not affected. One inch of rain on May 25th.

FOND DU LAC-F.P.: Still wet spots in the fields. Alfalfa is growing well. Apple trees are blooming.

WINNEBAGO-S.E.: Hay looks good. Still very wet. Spotty planting conditions.

GRANT-R.R.: We are finally getting some good rains and warm weather. It has really helped the crops. Alfalfa looks good.

LAFAYETTE-M.Y.: Rain towards the end of last week put the first hay crop back a little. Windy conditions have also prevented some spraying that producers have wanted to start.

DANE-D.R.: Warm weather needed for crop growth. Farmers are spraying for weed control. Some heavy soils not planted.

ROCK-C.O.: Rain is making it tough for hay making. Crops look tough due to cold and wet feet. Oats look good with the cool wet weather. Jury out on wheat, but many have sprayed fungicides.

KENOSHA-R.R.: Fruit trees and the strawberries are in full bloom. Need some good drying days before getting back in the fields.

WASHINGTON-J.N.: Except for wet spots, corn and beans are all planted in this area. You can see the corn rows already and beans are popping out. Wheat and hay look good.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on May 29, 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 28	Mar. 1 to May 28 normal*	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	68	50	74	37	59	-1	345	409	1.21	8.65	0.72	10.50	0.69
Green Bay	65	48	81	34	56	-3	257	347	1.58	12.14	5.17	14.71	5.52
La Crosse	69	50	78	42	60	-3	399	472	2.16	11.15	2.77	13.06	2.53
Madison	67	48	85	35	58	-2	375	464	0.96	8.87	0.43	11.74	0.77
Milwaukee	63	47	79	40	55	-4	253	n.a.	1.98	11.98	2.91	15.44	2.89

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.