



Wisconsin Crop Progress & Condition

Upper Midwest Region - Wisconsin Field Office · 2811 Agriculture Drive · Madison WI 53718-6777 · (608) 224-4848
fax (855) 271-9802 · www.nass.usda.gov

Cooperating with Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

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For the week ending April 16, 2017
Media Contact: Greg Bussler

Rainy Week Slows Tillage

There were 2.4 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending April 16, 2017, according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Though above-normal temperatures worked to warm up soils, frequent rains and thunderstorms prevented fieldwork in much of the state this week. Reporters commented that it will take time for mud and standing water to dry up enough for fieldwork to begin in earnest. Some spring tillage, manure spreading, potato planting and small grains planting were reported, mostly on light soils. Farmers were still in the process of assessing freeze damage to alfalfa and winter wheat fields.

Topsoil moisture supplies were rated 0 percent very short, 1 percent short, 60 percent adequate and 39 percent surplus. **Subsoil moisture** supplies were rated 0 percent very short, 1 percent short, 66 percent adequate and 33 percent surplus.

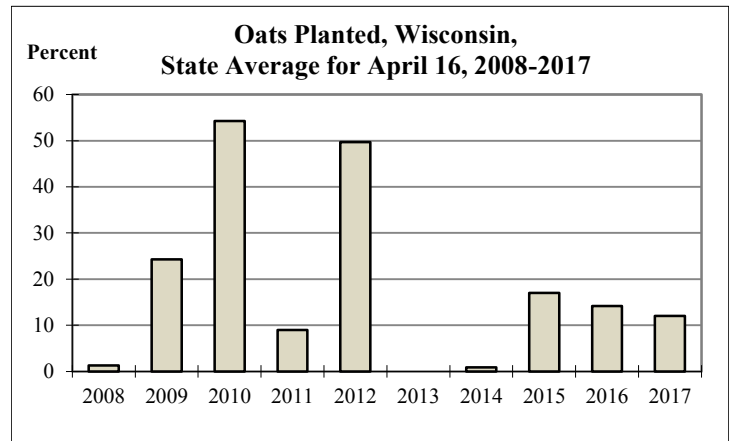
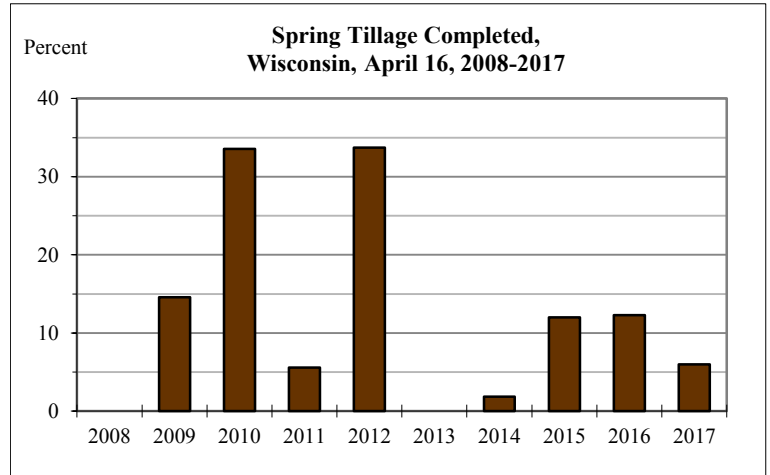
As of April 16, **spring tillage** was 6 percent complete statewide, 6 percentage points below both last year and the five-year average.

Oats planting is reported as 12 percent complete, 2 percentage points behind last year, and 4 percentage points behind the 5 year average. Two percent of the oat crop has emerged.

Potatoes planting has begun with 6 percent complete, two percentage points behind last year.

Pasture condition was rated 48 percent good to excellent condition, compared to 45 percent in good to excellent week.

Winter wheat was 60 percent in good to excellent condition statewide, slightly up from last week.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of April 16, 2017

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Pasture & Range	5	9	38	41	7
Winter Wheat.....	3	6	31	47	13

Wisconsin Crop Progress as of April 16, 2017

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.....	8	1	3	13	6	3	27	25	15	12	4	14	16
Potatoes Planted.....	1	0	0	0	7	n.a.	19	23	n.a.	6	0	8	n.a.
Spring Tillage.....	6	3	4	9	8	4	9	4	4	6	2	12	12

n.a.=not available

Days Suitable for Fieldwork and Soil Moisture Conditions as of April 16, 2017

Item	District average									State average		
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This week	Last week	Last Year
Days Suitable	Days									Days		
	3.4	0.4	1.2	2.6	3.4	1.8	3.7	2.4	0.5	2.4	2.5	3.9
	Percent									Percent		
Topsoil Moisture												
Very Short.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Short.....	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	1	4
Adequate.....	80	25	42	73	58	39	85	67	48	60	69	69
Surplus.....	16	75	58	27	42	61	15	31	51	39	30	27
Subsoil Moisture												
Very Short.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Short.....	4	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	2
Adequate.....	82	25	41	85	67	42	98	72	49	66	72	71
Surplus.....	14	75	59	14	33	58	1	28	51	33	27	27

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Selected Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

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

BAYFIELD/DOUGLAS-C.B.: No fieldwork started yet. Temperatures have been above normal, fields are drying out nicely. Field work should start soon.

RUSK-S.V.: In the past week we have received 1.25 inches rain in parts of Rusk County. With the heavy soils in some parts of county it will be awhile before producers are able to get back in the fields.

LINCOLN/MARATHON-D.E.: More rain stopped any manure hauling or any type of field activity. Water is ponding everywhere. Need sunshine and wind.

SHAWANO-B.R.: Everything is still way too wet here to do anything. Winter wheat is looking pretty good. Alfalfa showing heaving in some places but we will have to wait for nicer weather to see what effect it actually has on plant stand.

EAU CLAIRE-J.C.: Alfalfa stands look good in most fields. Some winterkill and injury in low areas of the field but overall a small percentage. Rain has slowed any field work.

ST CROIX-D.K.: Cool wet week kept fieldwork to a minimum. Alfalfa fields seem to be coming out of dormancy looking good.

ADAMS/JUNEAU-J.W.: We did get some warmer weather but received at least 3 inches of rain during the past week. Some areas received substantially more and there is a lot of water standing in fields. There was a little tillage done on the lighter soils and some seeding was also completed. Based on the forecast, it looks like we will be delayed a little bit more.

MARQUETTE/WAUSHARA-D.B.: 1.5 inches of rain parked the potato planters for a few days.

KEWAUNEE-T.S.: Even though temperatures have been warmer in the past week, still not much if any field work has been done in this area. The ground was just getting dry to the point where it could have been tilled, but then more rain came, making everything quite wet again. Not much rain is forecast for this upcoming week, so perhaps by the end of the week, some producers will be starting to work in the fields. The warmer temperatures have spurred the growth of lawns, winter wheat and alfalfa. The winter wheat is beginning to look good, especially the wheat planted on well drained soils. Even the wheat on tiled ground is doing well. This is especially true for the wheat planted somewhat earlier last fall. Some of the later planted crop is not looking good now, but its condition may improve with time. As for the alfalfa, it is still too early to really know how it came through the winter, but it seems to be doing alright. The alfalfa has been growing slower than the winter wheat, so determining its condition adequately will require more time. Overall, with drier weather and warmer temperatures, field work and planting should begin soon.

CRAWFORD-J.B.: Winter wheat fields and pastures are greening up. On the ridge tops farmers have been applying anhydrous, seeding oats, and spreading manure. Apple growers were spraying trees over the weekend, and trees should start to bloom in the next couple weeks.

IOWA-S.M.: We are seeing considerable winterkill in the alfalfa. Will make a determination in the next week or so.

DANE-F.P.: There has been rain the past several nights which has made fields wet with standing water. Manure has been applied on fields and some alfalfa has been planted.

ROCK-C.O.: Over 3 inches of rain last week has left standing water in a lot of fields. No field work being done.

RACINE/MILWAUKEE-T.O.: April showers are keeping us out of the fields.

Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on April 16, 2017

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. 15	Mar. 1 to Apr. 15 normal*	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	59	39	71	26	49	+7	88	38	1.81	3.40	+0.20	7.47	+2.43
Green Bay	61	40	74	32	51	+9	88	32	1.47	4.22	+0.88	7.57	+2.01
La Crosse	66	46	76	34	56	+10	153	58	1.43	4.63	+1.05	8.48	+2.72
Madison	64	42	76	30	53	+9	114	61	1.64	5.34	+1.45	10.04	+3.61
Milwaukee	63	43	82	36	53	+10	103	n.a.	1.39	6.53	+2.09	10.54	+2.62

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. n.a.=not available. T=trace Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>.

For more 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/>