Cold Soils, Temps Prevent Fieldwork

There were 2.0 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending April 1, 2018, according to the USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service. Temperatures were close to normal this week, with a cold front pushing into northern Wisconsin over the weekend. Northern portions of the state received heavy snow on top of preexisting snow pack, keeping fields inaccessible. Warm periods in February and March combined with less than normal precipitation to keep fields bare in much of southern Wisconsin. However, cold nights meant soils were still frozen in many areas. With more snow and cold temperatures in the forecast, reporters noted that it was too early to assess winterkill in wheat and hay fields. Producers were spreading manure where conditions allowed.

Topsoil moisture supplies were rated 3 percent very short, 14 percent short, 72 percent adequate and 11 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies were rated 2 percent very short, 12 percent short, 79 percent adequate and 7 percent surplus.

As of April 1, spring tillage was 1 percent complete statewide, the same as last year. Oats planted were reported as 1 percent complete.

Statewide, 46 percent of the winter wheat crop was reported in good to excellent condition.
### Wisconsin Crop Progress

**BAYFIELD/DOUGLAS-C.B.:** No field activity. Still substantial snow cover throughout the area. Looks like it will be a late spring this year.

**SAWYER-K.S.:** Still winter here. Prior to the 10-12 inches of snow that fell on Friday night/Saturday morning there was nearly 2 feet of snow left on the ground in some areas. Cold temps forecast all next week will keep the snow pack from melting anytime soon. Maple sap had run some on warm sunny days however very little sap flow expected in the coming week. It’s not very likely we will see any crops planted or field work for at least 2 more weeks maybe even longer. Some manure hauling where snow depth allowed travel.

**LINCOLN/MARATHON/ONEIDA-D.E.:** Snow last week and cold weather put a halt to any spring time planning. More cold and snow is predicted for this week. There is concern about new seeding fields with possible winterkill.

**FLORENCE/FOREST-J.V.:** Still too cold and wet in areas to complete field work.

**GREEN LAKE/FOND DU LAC-J.V.:** Too cold and wet in areas to complete field work.

**DUNN-S.C.:** Frost is still in the ground. Some snow cover yet especially on north exposures.

**PIERCE/ST CROIX-A.M.:** Snow has melted in fields and causing some minor flooding in low lying areas and small creeks.

**GREEN LAKE/FOND DU LAC-J.V.:** Still too cold and wet in areas to complete field work.

**ADAMS/JUNEAU-J.W.:** We have not had warm enough weather yet for any progress with field work. Some alfalfa had started to emerge but with snow and below freezing temperatures predicted for the next week we won’t be able to determine the condition of the forage and winter wheat crops for a few more weeks.

**CALUMET-K.P.:** Progress is slow so far. Spring has been cooler. Lack of snow over winter has caused concern for dry spring. However, plenty of snow in forecast hopefully helps that situation. Frost still in ground has put behind any field work thus far.

**IOWA/RICHLAND/SAUK-L.A.:** Cold weather and there is still frost in the ground. No field work has started yet. We are starting to cut seed potatoes anticipating we will start planting about April 10-15.

**COLUMBIA-G.K.:** Still have frost in the ground. Winter wheat and alfalfa have still not broken dormancy. Need warm spring rains to wake things up.

**ROCK-C.O.:** Wheat needs heat to break dormancy as it does not look good now.

**OZAUKEE/WASHINGTON-G.S.:** It is beginning to warm up and some producers are starting to spread fertilizer. Winter wheat and alfalfa look like they have come through the winter well, but it is still a bit too early to know for certain.

**WALWORTH-N.W.:** A few producers have been applying anhydrous ammonia along with a few new seeded hay fields.

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### Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on April 1, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Temperature</th>
<th>Growing degree days (modified base 50)</th>
<th>Precipitation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Avg. max.</td>
<td>Avg. min.</td>
<td>High max.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eau Claire</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>54</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Milwaukee</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1/ Formula used: \[ \text{GDD} = (\text{daily maximum (86\,\degree F)} + \text{daily minimum (50\,\degree F)})/2 - 50\,\degree F \] where 86\,\degree F is used if the maximum exceeds 86\,\degree. 50\,\degree F is used if the minimum falls below 50\,\degree.