Spring Snowstorms Bury Fields

There were 0.9 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending April 8, 2018, according to the USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service. Heavy snow fell across the state on Tuesday night, halting manure spreading and other early fieldwork. Additional snow showers later in the week dropped anywhere from a trace to several inches of snow in many areas. Southern Wisconsin saw light snows that melted quickly, while the northern portions of the state remained buried under thick drifts. Overnight lows dropped into the teens, keeping the ground frozen. Reporters noted that overwintered crops were greening in a few areas but remain snow covered in most of the state.

Topsoil moisture supplies were rated 2 percent very short, 13 percent short, 75 percent adequate and 10 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies were rated 2 percent very short, 16 percent short, 75 percent adequate and 7 percent surplus.

As of April 8, spring tillage was 1 percent complete statewide, 1 percentage point behind last year but equal to the 5 year average.

Oats planted were reported as 1 percent complete, 3 percentage points behind last year, and 1 point behind the 5 year average.

Winter wheat was 48 percent in good to excellent condition statewide, up 2 percentage points from last week.

There were some reports that maple sap had stopped running in the northern part of the state.
Wisconsin Crop Progress

Selected Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents
All comments are used in creating this report, but only a few are published below.

BARRON-L.H.: Still snow cover in our area.

BURNETT/WASHBURN-P.H.: More snow and below freezing so nothing moved this week. Still around 20 inches of snow in the fields. It will take some warm weather to melt it before any fieldwork or planting is done.

CLARK-R.H.: Snowing and blowing is the story this week and the ground is frozen. With snow covering the wheat it is hard to determine how it's growing. Hopeful next week is better, because the robins have had 3 snows on their tails.

SHAWANO-J.N.: 10 inches of snow this week and more today (Friday). Cold.

BUFFALO/PEPIN-S.M.: Still frost in ground and had snow in most of county. The temperature has been continually cooler than normal.

JACKSON-T.W.: Waiting for snow cover to melt.

MARQUETTE/WAUSHARA-D.B.: Snow last week and a little more today.

PORTAGE/WOOD-J.B.: Last week 12+ inches of snow fell so nothing moving. Sap hasn't run in the northern half of the county for the last two weeks and not much all year yet in the southern half. Some are saying three weeks ago it ran very good with a high sugar content of around 2.9 but the trees budded and they are done!

BROWN/OUTAGAMIE-B.S.: Snow cover and frost still remain on 75 percent of the cropland.

MANITOWOC-M.R.: Too early to tell how wheat and alfalfa came through the winter. No field work other than some manure spreading due to cold/snow.

LAFAYETTE-R.L.: Some dry fertilizer going on crop fields and the weather has been favorable for hauling livestock manure. Other than those two things, not much happening with crops right now. Warmer weather mid-week through the end of this coming week will be welcomed. A good warm rain could really help warm the ground and ease some stress.

DANE-F.P.: It has been very cold, temperatures in the teens. We had snow earlier this week.

GREEN-J.T.: Even with the cold weather there is daily activity and a little tillage here and there. Only an inch of snow fell here and melted in a few hours. Manure and fertilizer continue but slowly.

WAUKESHA-K.T.: Still frost in the ground.

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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on April 8, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Temperature</th>
<th>Growing degree days (modified base 50)</th>
<th>Precipitation</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Avg. max.</td>
<td>Avg. min.</td>
<td>High max.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eau Claire</td>
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<td>12</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Milwaukee</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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


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