Spring Arrives, Finally

There were 3.4 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending April 29, 2018, according to the USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service. A week of sunny, dry and breezy conditions allowed farmers to take to the fields. Temperatures were near normal, with daytime highs reaching the 60s and 70s in many areas. Most of the state’s snow cover had melted off by the weekend, even in areas where the snow pack had been thick. Reporters in some areas noted that fields were too wet to support machinery while, in others, soils soaked up the snowmelt and dried out quickly. Soil temperatures remained unfavorably low for corn planting, except in the southern portions of the state. Manure hauling continued statewide with oats planting and spring tillage taking off.

Topsoil moisture supplies were rated 2 percent very short, 8 percent short, 76 percent adequate and 14 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies were rated 2 percent very short, 8 percent short, 80 percent adequate and 10 percent surplus.

As of April 29, spring tillage was 15 percent complete statewide, up 13 percentage points from last week, but 11 points behind the 5 year average.

Corn planting was 3 percent complete, 2 days behind last year and 5 days behind the 5 year average. One percent of the state’s expected soybean acres have been planted.

Oats planted were reported as 16 percent complete, 9 days behind last year and 8 days behind last year and 5 days behind the 5 year average. Oats emerged was at 3 percent, 10 days behind last year and 8 days behind last year and 5 days behind the 5 year average.

Potato planting is reported as 3 percent complete, 16 days behind last year.

Winter wheat was 57 percent in good to excellent condition statewide, up 6 percentage points from last week.

Pasture condition was rated 29 percent in good to excellent condition, compared to 68 percent in good to excellent condition last year.

### Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of April 29, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crop and percent of acreage</th>
<th>District average</th>
<th>State average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NW</td>
<td>NC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oats Planted………………….</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Tillage………………</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Days Suitable for Fieldwork and Soil Moisture Conditions as of April 29, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>District average</th>
<th>State average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NW</td>
<td>NC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Days Suitable……………..</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Wisconsin Crop Progress as of April 29, 2018

**Crop and percent of acreage:**

- Oats Planted: 3 percent complete, 2 days behind last year and 5 days behind the 5 year average.
- Spring Tillage: 3 percent complete, 16 days behind last year.

**Topsoil Moisture:**

- Very Short: 0 percent, 0 days suitable.
- Short: 0 percent, 0 days suitable.
- Adequate: 76 percent, 24 days suitable.
- Surplus: 24 percent, 14 days suitable.

**Subsoil Moisture:**

- Very Short: 0 percent, 0 days suitable.
- Short: 0 percent, 0 days suitable.
- Adequate: 75 percent, 25 days suitable.
- Surplus: 25 percent, 10 days suitable.
CHIPPEWA-T.P.: Most snow has melted except north facing slopes along woods. Solid manure applications and some fertilizer applications are beginning to occur. Road bans are limiting progress of liquid manure and fertilizer applications. Rye planted before October of last fall is greening up. Alfalfa is also beginning growth. For the few fields checked, little winter injury has occurred.

RUSK/SAWYER-S.V.: Snow is finally gone from fields. Have seen a couple producers in fields combining last year’s corn, so fields are firming up.

LINCOLN/MARATHON-D.E.: Fields are starting to dry out but no field work has been done to date. The ground is very cold and wet.

SHAWANO-B.R.: Still have a little snow in the fields yet. Moisture is plentiful with water standing in several spots. Winter wheat is just starting to green up. No fieldwork will be done in this area for a few days yet.

BUFFALO/PEPIN-S.M.: Considerable amounts of manure hauling, spring tillage and some planting beginning. Warm temperatures and wind have dried the soils quickly after the snow melt.

DUNN-S.C.: North slopes still have some frost in the ground.

ADAMS/JUNEAU-J.W.: Spring has arrived finally. Soil temperature is still cold but a lot of field work was getting done. Fertilizer was being applied, and oats and even a little corn may have gotten planted. There is a lot of concern about the winter wheat and alfalfa but things are just starting to green up so we can’t really tell how much winterkill occurred. We did have some livestock losses reported to the FSA offices as a result of the heavy snows received April 13-18.

MARQUETTE/WAUSHARA-D.B.: Tillage and planters have started running.

CALUMET-K.P.: Progress in the fields is still very slow, as there are several areas of standing water due to the snow from Blizzard Evelyn melting. Things are greening up quite nicely. Temperatures in the 50s and 60s are slowly drying fields up. Forecasted weather has temperatures in the 70s and windy with lots of sunshine. Farmers are anxious and looking forward to getting fieldwork started.

MANTOWOC-M.R.: Winter wheat really greened up this past week. Still way too wet from the snow melt for any fieldwork to happen. Hopefully they can get rolling this coming week.

VERNON-K.L.: Farmers started planting corn and oats, also spreading fertilizer & manure. Most of the frost is out of the ground. Weather cool, but sunny. Need a little rain to green things up.

DANE-F.P.: The weather has been cold with some tillage starting. It is very dry and there is plenty of fire danger.

GREEN-J.T.: All field activities have started and there have been five days suitable for planting corn and soybeans. It is dry and we could use some rain.

OZAUKEE/WASHINGTON-G.S.: We finally have conditions conducive to getting some field work done. Producers will be extremely busy over the next several weeks trying to catch up.

---

**Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on April 29, 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>64</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Bay</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La Crosse</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madison</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milwaukee</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:**
- Temperature units are °F.
- Growing degree days are calculated using the modified base of 50°F.
- Precipitation is in inches.

---

**Formulas:**
- \( \text{GDD} = (\text{daily max.} - 50) + (50 - \text{daily min.}) \)
- \( \text{GDD} = (\text{daily max.} - 50) - (\text{daily min.} - 50) \)

**Source:**
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Climate Prediction Center
- National Weather Service

---

This report has been made possible through the cooperative efforts of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection, and the National Weather Service.