Snow Delays Planting

There were 1.2 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending April 14, 2019, according to the USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service. Most of Wisconsin saw blizzard conditions, with many places reporting record snowfall. Fields were warming up and drying out early in the week, but the cold and snow put a stop to any fieldwork. The week finished with low temperatures and renewed snow cover in many areas. Reporters expressed concern about the impact of the late storm on winter wheat and alfalfa, but other fields are doing well, with mixed conditions overall. Farmers are eager to begin planting, but field conditions are not cooperating.

Topsoil moisture supplies were rated 0 percent very short, 0 percent short, 46 percent adequate and 54 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies were rated 0 percent very short, 0 percent short, 56 percent adequate and 44 percent surplus.

As of April 14, spring tillage was 3 percent complete statewide, up 2 percentage points from last week, and 2 points behind the 5 year average.

Oats planted were reported as 3 percent complete, 6 days ahead of last year but 4 days behind the 5 year average.

Winter wheat was 38 percent in good to excellent condition statewide.

Pasture condition was rated 17 percent in good to excellent condition.

The maple syrup season is drawing to a close.
BAYFIELD/DOUGLAS-K.R.: Frost has left the soil except for shaded areas. Snow and low temperatures have added more moisture to the soil making fields unsuitable for equipment traffic.

CHIPEWA-T.P.: Some fields with coarser textured soils were getting close to ready for fieldwork until 10 inches of snow fell on Wednesday and Thursday. Frost can still be found in scattered areas of fields.

MARATHON-J.B.: Concern about winterkill on winter wheat. Pasture and range condition unknown (covered in snow).

CLARK-R.H.: Snow, rain, sleet, and ice is the theme this week. Too early to look at forage fields, but did see some winter small grains greening up before 8-10 inches of snow this week. Maple syrup guys are riding the rollercoaster: with weather changes so does the sap flow. Robins are wondering why did we come home so early?

SHAWANO-B.R.: We had eight inches of snow on Thursday with cold weather following that. Everything is white at this time. No field action again this week and it will be a while before anything moves here.

MARINETTE-L.B.: We received 10 inches of snow, ground is covered.


EAU CLAIRE-T.L.: Spring was starting. Clover, cover crops, and grasses started to green up at an inch height. Today we have snow covered fields again.

ADAMS/MARQUETTE/WAUSHA-L.M.: It is really too soon to tell the conditions of winter wheat and pasture. More snow fall last week has put everything up hold again.

WAUPACA-L.N.: 5-6 inches of snow/ice on April 11, 2019.

OUTAGAMIE-L.M.: The county hasn't started any land preparation for spring.

FOND DU LAC-B.B.: Mid-week snow and rain combined to nearly a liquid inch of water and kept operators out of the field for the remainder of the week. Just as soon as it warmed up the temps fell to below average. It may be another two weeks before field work begins in earnest. Pasture grasses arereviving some but alfalfa is still parked.

CRAWFORD/GRANT-M.D.: Did avoid snow this week, however, wet and cool conditions this week have resulted in no field activity. Area concern over emergence of alfalfa as many fields are bare, however still early.

LAFAYETTE-M.B.: Too early to tell on winter wheat quality. Pastures are greening up but not growing yet. Too cold and wet.

DANE-F.P.: The weather has been very cold and wet. Some manure has been applied to fields.

ROCK-C.O.: Soggy fields have prevented field work from starting. Some fertilizer application has started, but not much else.

OZAUKEE/WASHINGTON-M.P.: Other than manure spreading in the fields, there was little to no other field work. There were some warmer days that helped bring the alfalfa and wheat/rye out from dormancy to grow. There is still a lot of wheat/rye acres that look poor and are waiting to access to see if viable for 2019 crop.

WALWORTH-C.O.: 3 inches of snow on ground after the last storm.

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**Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on April 14, 2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Temperature Avg.</th>
<th>High</th>
<th>Low</th>
<th>Avg.</th>
<th>Growing degree days (modified base 50)</th>
<th>Precipitation Precipitation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Avg. max.</td>
<td>min.</td>
<td>max.</td>
<td>min.</td>
<td>Mar. 1 to Apr. 13</td>
<td>Mar. 1 to Apr. 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eau Claire</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>26</td>
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<tr>
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<td>38</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>-2</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>38</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>46</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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