



Wisconsin Crop Weather

Compiled by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service

May 19, 2003

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Planters Slowly Advance on Spring Field Operations

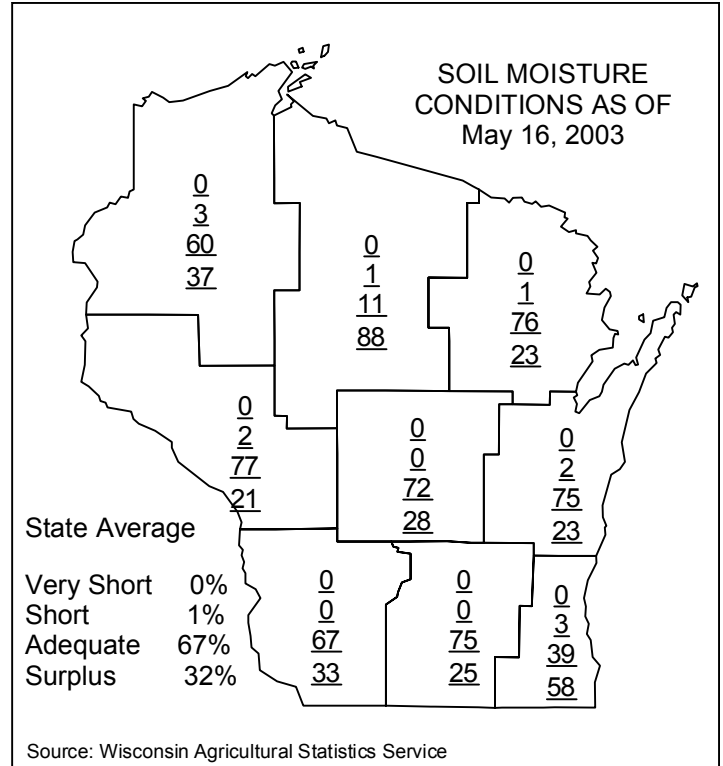
Tractors were back in the fields, but they had to pick the right fields to continue spring work. The rains of the previous two weeks made for difficult field conditions in many areas. There were an average of 3.6 days suitable for fieldwork last week. Rainfall amounts for the week ranged from .25 to 1.25 inches, with local areas getting heavier rains. The problem was the total rainfall in the last three weeks. Farmers were appreciative of the rain, but would like a respite from it to finish planting. Soil moisture conditions were rated as 0% very short, 1% short, 67% adequate, and 32% surplus. Temperatures for the past week were very close to normal conditions for this time of year, and averaged just 1 to 2 degrees below normal for the week. The sufficient moisture and temperatures improved pasture field conditions around the state. Pasture condition was rated as 1% very poor, 4% poor, 21% fair, 48% good, and 26% excellent.

First crop **alfalfa** is growing rapidly around the state. Northern growers are noticing damage from winterkill to older stands, some fields are being sprayed, and some turned into corn fields. New seeding appears to be doing well. Southern Wisconsin growers report alfalfa growth at over a foot tall. Early harvest of first crop hay could begin very soon. **Winter wheat** conditions were reported as 2% very poor, 4% poor, 30% fair, 46% good, and 18% excellent.

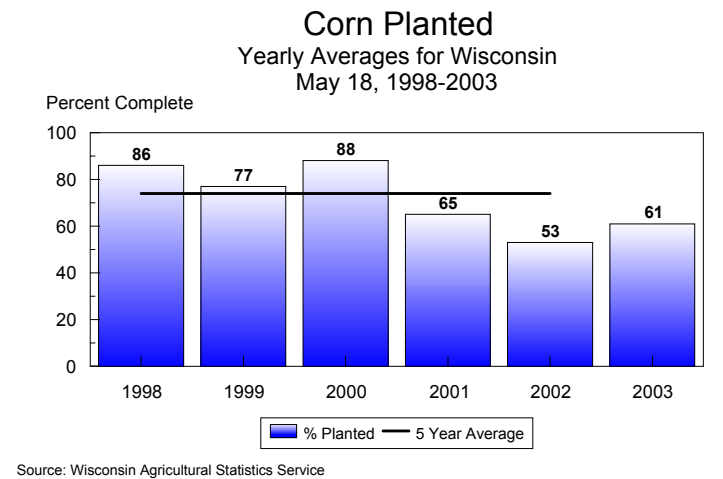
Planters continued to run wherever soil conditions allowed. **Corn** planted was reported as 61% complete, compared to 53% last year and behind the 5-year average of 74% complete. A few days of dry weather will greatly accelerate planting schedules. Corn emerged was rated at 16%, ahead of 12% last year, but behind the 5-year average of 36% emerged. The wet conditions have caused much of the emerged corn to yellow from lack of sun. Many farmers are beginning to switch to **soybean** planting, to take advantage of fields than can be worked. Soybeans planted was rated as 20% complete, behind both the 27% last year, and the 5-year average of 37%.

Small grain planting is mostly complete around the state. **Oats** planted reached 90% complete, compared to 75% last year, and 92% for the 5-year average. Oats emerged at 61%, was behind the 5-year average of 76%.

Spring tillage completed was ranked at 75%, behind the 5-year average of 82%, but ahead of last year's 58%. The wet weather has made soil compaction an issue. **Potato** planting in northern Wisconsin was going full swing to catch up to the Central Sands country. Weeds are becoming a problem in many areas of the state. **Fruit trees** continue to bloom in northern Wisconsin.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of May 16, 2003					
Item	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Pasture	1	4	21	48	26
Winter wheat	2	4	30	46	18
Oat	0	8	14	65	13



Wisconsin Crop Progress, May 18, 2003

Crop and percent of acreage	District average									State average		
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This year	Last year	5-year average
Spring tillage completed	73	77	74	70	76	65	82	78	73	75	58	82
Oats planted	80	80	82	87	88	86	99	99	96	90	75	92
Oats emerged	39	41	30	61	58	49	87	91	91	61	46	76
Corn planted	51	53	51	56	65	52	67	64	71	61	53	74
Corn emerged	7	2	2	8	16	7	30	24	20	16	12	36
Soybeans planted	15	17	20	13	25	17	30	20	20	20	27	37

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

BURNETT-R.B.: Very little winterkill on alfalfa and winter wheat. Work going full speed, but low spots and low fields causing trouble, but was a good week.

RUSK-G.P.: Alfalfa continues to show damage; lots of stands being torn up or reseeded. Usual tracks are evident in almost all stands. The only stands that came through without damage are high ph, high fertility, well-drained, and young. Average, slow week. Corn is the seed of choice at the moment.

LINCOLN-F.O.: Some old alfalfa fields have some damage, new seedings very good. No reseeding. Most tillage is done. Small grains are almost done. With good weather coming up, planting should be about done by next week. Low spots are too wet to work. Crop emergence has been slow.

ONEIDA-P.L.: Potato farmers are planting up a storm due to the late date. Most should be completed this week, if the weather permits. Need rain and warmer weather to kick the alfalfa.

LANGLADE-A.K.: Some older, late-fall-cut stands that first seemed alright, lost some plants. Overall, nothing major or reseeding being done. Wet, but since Wednesday, has been nice planting conditions. With warm temperatures, crops should emerge fast.

SHAWANO-B.R.: Most fields too wet for tillage, except for sandy soils. Some corn that was planted three weeks ago have not seen any out of the ground yet. Alfalfa extremely short for this time of May.

DUNN-R.H.: Alfalfa is looking worse every day; severe winterkill in many fields. Most fields will go to corn. Many mud slides in the area and lots of erosion. No fieldwork, only lighter soils; many fields have standing water.

EAU CLAIRE-M.H.: We had spotty problems across the county with alfalfa winterkill and some grasses as well. A lot of fieldwork got done last week, and corn planting is wrapping up. An abundant crop of dandelions in most hayfields.

PORTAGE-K.K.: Some old alfalfa stands are being taken up.

WAUPACA-L.B.: Still some pretty wet land around here. Weather conditions look good right now, but we still need good drying for sometime to get planting done.

SHEBOYGAN-T.B.: Winterkill in alfalfa and winter wheat fields is showing up in isolated cases. There is limited reseeding of alfalfa, but it is happening. Oats and corn planting is progressing but, growers are planting around wet field holes and skipping fields all together in attempts to plant the dry fields. Field conditions are generally wet, with fewer and fewer areas dry enough to work.

WINNEBAGO-R.H.: Spring tillage has went well with perfect weather, and the soil was almost in perfect condition for planting before the rains came.

LAFAYETTE-L.W.: Never complain about rain; however, farmers would like a week without rain to get planting finished. Early-planted corn is emerging very well.

RICHLAND-S.K.: We saw our first hay mowed down this week. I would guess if the weather holds, next week we will be into a full scale harvest of first crop hay. Many farmers are finishing up their corn planting as fields dry out. We were starting to plant soybeans last week, and if the weather holds, we should finish in a week or so. We are now in good shape moisture-wise and the pastures and hayfields are doing very well.

DODGE-E.B.: Ideal growing conditions; should start cutting alfalfa next week.

ROCK-S.H.: No evidence of winterkill. Corn is emerging in good condition. Some crusting on soybeans.

WALWORTH-E.P.: A lot of corn has emerged. Rain helped winter wheat and hay. Ground is dry two feet down.

WAUKESHA-R.F.: Some fields show 40 percent winterkill. Ground very mellow, good working conditions.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on May 18, 2003

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 May 17	Mar. 1 to May 17 normal *	Last week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal*	Year to date
Eau Claire	68	44	74	39	56	-1	361	275	1.23	9.40	2.79	10.36
Green Bay	64	44	71	39	54	-2	232	227	0.20	6.93	0.96	8.07
La Crosse	68	48	73	41	58	-2	383	325	1.30	8.60	1.44	9.69
Madison	65	45	72	38	55	-2	327	318	0.73	7.65	0.37	8.50
Milwaukee	60	45	68	43	53	-2	232	n.a.	0.65	7.14	-0.88	7.93

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 1961-90 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>>. N.a. = not available. T = trace.