



# Wisconsin Crop Progress & Condition



Upper Midwest Region - Wisconsin Field Office · 2811 Agriculture Drive · Madison WI 53718-6777 · (608) 224-4848  
fax (855) 271-9802 · www.nass.usda.gov

Cooperating with Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

Vol. 15, No.9  
Issued June 1, 2015

For the week ending May 31, 2015  
Media Contact: Greg Bussler

## Week of Rain Boosts Emergence

There were 2.7 **days suitable for fieldwork** during the week ending May 31st, 2015, according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Widespread rains and thunderstorms passed through the state nearly every day this week, dropping a reported 2 to 6 inches of rain in total. This stalled both planting and haying but greatly benefited pastures and emerging crops. Temperatures turned from balmy and humid to cool over the weekend, with scattered frost reported in northern portions of the state on Sunday morning. Reporters commented that sustained heat is now needed to support crop growth and development.

Though some reporters noted localized erosion or ponding, most of this week's rains were well-absorbed by soils. Developing drought conditions were reportedly alleviated in many areas and precipitation totals rose closer to seasonal and yearly normals at the five major weather stations. Statewide, **topsoil moistures** finished the week with 8 percent short to very short compared to 20 percent last week. **Subsoil moistures** were rated 14 percent short to very short compared to 26 percent last week.

As of May 31<sup>st</sup>, **spring tillage** was 95 percent complete statewide, 10 days ahead of last year and a week ahead of the five-year average.

**Corn** planted was at 96 percent complete, 15 days ahead of last year and 13 days ahead of the five-year average. Corn emerged was 86 percent, 2 weeks ahead of last year and 13 days ahead of the five-year average. Corn condition was 84 percent good to excellent, up 3 percentage points from the previous week.

**Soybeans** planted was at 85 percent, 10 days ahead of last year and 11 days ahead of the five-year average. Soybeans emerged was 61 percent, the highest for this week of May since 2000.

**Oats** emerged was at 96 percent, two and a half weeks ahead of last year and almost two weeks ahead of the five-year average. Oats condition was 86 percent good to excellent, compared to 85 percent the previous week.

The first **potato** condition of the year was 0 percent very poor, 0 percent poor, 5 percent fair, 90 percent good, and 5 percent excellent.

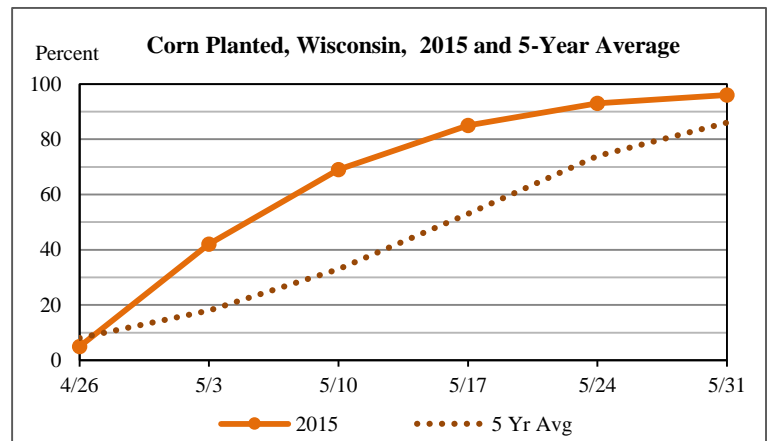
**Winter wheat** headed was at 23 percent, 4 days ahead of last year. Winter Wheat was 74 percent in good to excellent condition, up 2 percentage points from the previous week.

**Pasture** condition improved moderately with 76 percent rated good to excellent compared to 71 percent last week.

The **first cutting of alfalfa** was 31 percent harvested, four days ahead of last year and equal to the five-year average.

**All hay condition** was 81 percent in good to excellent up 1 percentage point from last week.

A reporter in Trempealeau County reported that early **peas** look really good and may start blooming this week.



## Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of May 31, 2015

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Corn	0	1	15	67	17
Hay, All	1	4	14	61	20
Oats	0	0	14	65	21
Pasture & Range	1	6	17	58	18
Potatoes	0	0	5	90	5
Winter Wheat	1	3	22	54	20

## Wisconsin Crop Progress as of May 31, 2015

Crop and percent of acreage	District average									State average			
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
	Percent									Percent			
Corn planted	95	98	95	98	94	98	96	98	96	96	93	83	86
Corn emerged	84	85	79	87	82	91	84	91	90	86	69	48	58
Alfalfa hay, first cutting	18	12	18	31	25	29	50	41	37	31	19	19	31
Oats emerged	93	94	93	99	94	99	98	99	97	96	92	68	82
Soybeans planted	85	92	88	87	81	92	78	85	84	85	74	65	66
Soybeans emerged	52	56	44	67	69	70	47	66	66	61	35	25	30
Spring tillage complete	95	97	96	98	97	99	98	88	99	95	94	87	91
Winter wheat headed	32	30	12	36	34	25	30	19	16	23	5	12	n.a.

## Days Suitable for Fieldwork and Soil Moisture Conditions as of May 31, 2015

Item	District average									State average		
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This week	Last week	Last Year
	Days									Days		
Days Suitable	3.6	2.0	1.6	3.0	2.1	2.5	3.3	2.7	2.2	2.7	5.2	5.2
	Percent									Percent		
Topsoil Moisture												
Very Short	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	0
Short	8	0	5	7	7	2	16	14	7	8	19	6
Adequate	82	69	76	83	75	70	80	76	78	78	76	72
Surplus	9	31	19	10	18	28	3	8	15	14	4	22
Subsoil Moisture												
Very Short	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	3	0	0	2	0
Short	11	0	7	12	17	7	24	27	12	14	24	7
Adequate	80	93	87	81	77	80	75	67	78	80	72	79
Surplus	8	7	6	7	5	13	0	3	10	6	2	14

**Selected Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents**

All comments are used in creating this report, but only a few are published below.

**BAYFIELD-C.B.:** Continued rains have hampered spring work. Still a lot of crops not planted yet. Pastures and hay are looking better because of all the rain.

**SAWYER-K.S.:** Planting should finish up this week and first cutting of hay should start. Scattered frost reported across the county. Some reported damage, however corn should grow out of it.

**CLARK-R.H.:** Soil temperatures are fairly stable this week at 50 degrees or above. Corn appears to be recovering from the freeze from last week, but it is showing signs of stress. Soybeans are emerging. First crop hay harvest is on hold as most of the week has been wet. RFV ranges from 180-200 as of this morning. Some dry weather in the forecast will crank up a full assault on the first cutting hay. Winter wheat is heading and looking good. Farmers may want to scout fields while waiting for first cut. There are pests that may be in your field and early injury detection will reduce a potential loss.

**LANGLADE-A.K.:** Between 4-5 inches of rain this last week, put a hold on completing spraying. Crops overall look very good. Missed the predicted frost last night.

**SHAWANO-B.R.:** As of this Saturday morning, we have received over 3 inches of rain. While this is plenty for now, it will help the beans finish germinating and get out of the ground. As soon as the fields dry out, the alfalfa cutting will go into high gear. It is just starting to bud out. There will be troubled spots in the fields with all of this rain. Corn looks very good.

**MONROE-B.H.:** Wet weather slowed field work last week.

**PIERCE-G.A.:** Frequent rains are delaying first cutting alfalfa and other hay.

**JUNEAU-J.W.:** Last week was rainy so there wasn't much field work done. It was a good rain with no reports of significant flooding although there is some standing water in a few fields. Most of the county received around 2 inches of rain with the northern part getting a little more. Forages are growing well and corn looks good. Some soybeans still need to get planted but the fields are too wet right now. I did hear of one report of some prevented planted corn.

**PORTAGE-D.Z.:** Rained every day since Sunday, anywhere from 2.5 to over 5 inches. Nothing getting done this week. First cutting hay is ready but no one wants to cut up their fields, besides it won't dry anyway.

**KEWAUNEE-T.S.:** Not a lot of field work was accomplished this past week, mainly due to the rain that fell. The rain was needed to help germinate some of the later planted spring crops. In this area, many producers saw in excess of 2 inches of rain. Nearly all the planted corn has emerged now and is looking good, along with the oats. Soybeans are just starting to come up and should be doing as well as the other crops. Overall, this spring has been quite favorable in this area for planting and now emergence of the crops. The rain that has fallen has not been heavy, so a crust has not been formed on the soil. And with nearly all the crops coming up now, a crust on the top of the soil is much less of an issue. The rain from last fall has kept an adequate amount of moisture in the subsoil, so even the deeper planted seeds have been able to germinate and emerge. The rain did slow down the pending harvest of the first crop alfalfa. With dry weather forecast for this week, the first cutting will be taken. The yield will be down, and the quality may not be as good, since some of the alfalfa has been winter killed. Those areas where the alfalfa disappeared have filled in with mainly dandelions. A few fields have not suffered the effects of last winter's cold weather and are doing well. In a few areas, the total yield of this year's alfalfa will be short due to the extreme weather last winter.

**CRAWFORD-J.B.:** Not much field work performed this week but the area received much needed rain. What is needed right now for all crops would be some nice warm weather.

**COLUMBIA-G.K.:** Rain last week slowed the hay making process, but was needed to improve topsoil and subsoil moisture conditions. Rainfall amounts ranged anywhere from 2 to 4.5 inches across the county. A few heavy downpours caused some erosion in newly planted fields.

**OZAUKEE-G.S.:** Planting is nearly complete and first crop hay is being made. Could use some warmer weather to spur crop progress along.

**WASHINGTON-K.R.:** Wet week.

**Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on May 31, 2015**

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 30	Mar. 1 to May 30 normal*	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	72	54	85	43	63	+2	552	437	2.84	8.86	+0.66	9.45	-0.60
Green Bay	76	56	83	42	66	+6	517	371	2.21	5.97	-1.22	6.96	-2.44
La Crosse	75	60	85	52	67	+3	704	502	4.58	11.38	+2.76	12.60	+1.84
Madison	75	57	82	44	66	+5	617	493	1.53	9.32	+0.61	10.73	-0.44
Milwaukee	75	55	80	41	65	+6	429	n.a.	1.31	8.48	-0.83	10.22	-2.55

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 1971-2000 data. n.a.=not available. T=trace Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>.

For more weather data, please reference the following sites: <http://www.noaa.gov/> <http://www.aos.wisc.edu/~sco/> <http://www.cocorahs.org/> <http://www.weather.gov/>