



# 2024 IOWA CROP PROGRESS REVIEW

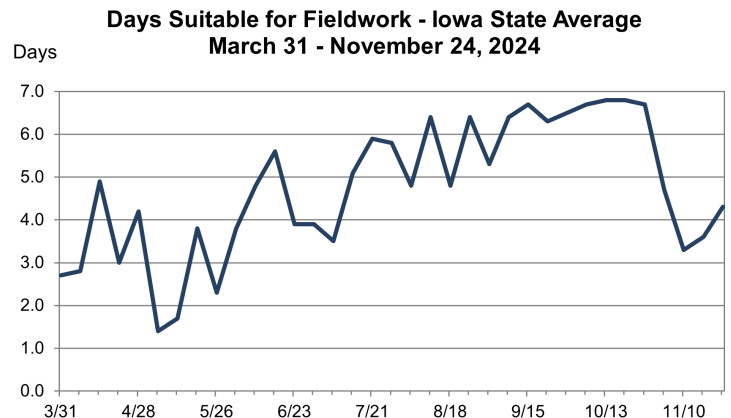
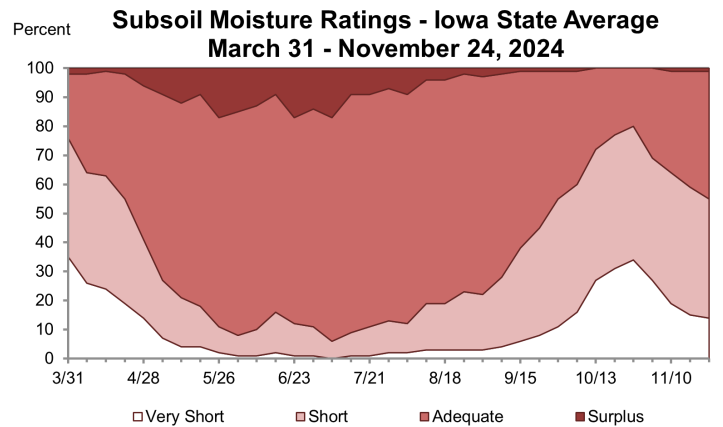
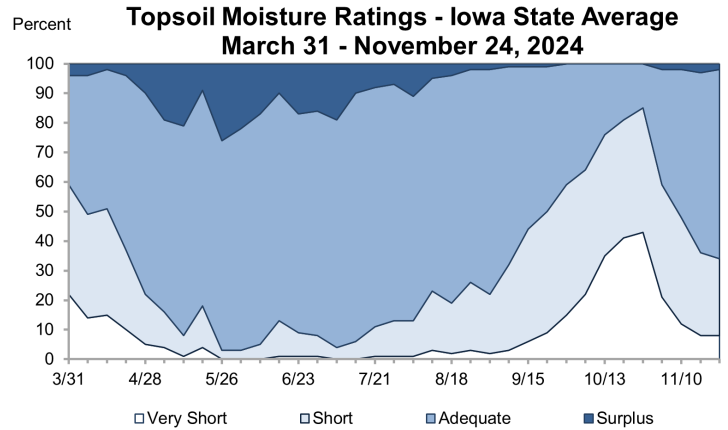
The Crop Progress and Condition Report is made possible by the dedication of the many farmers, FSA, NRCS, Extension, and agribusiness personnel who provide information each week. Thank you for your help!

## Review of the 2024 Crop Year:

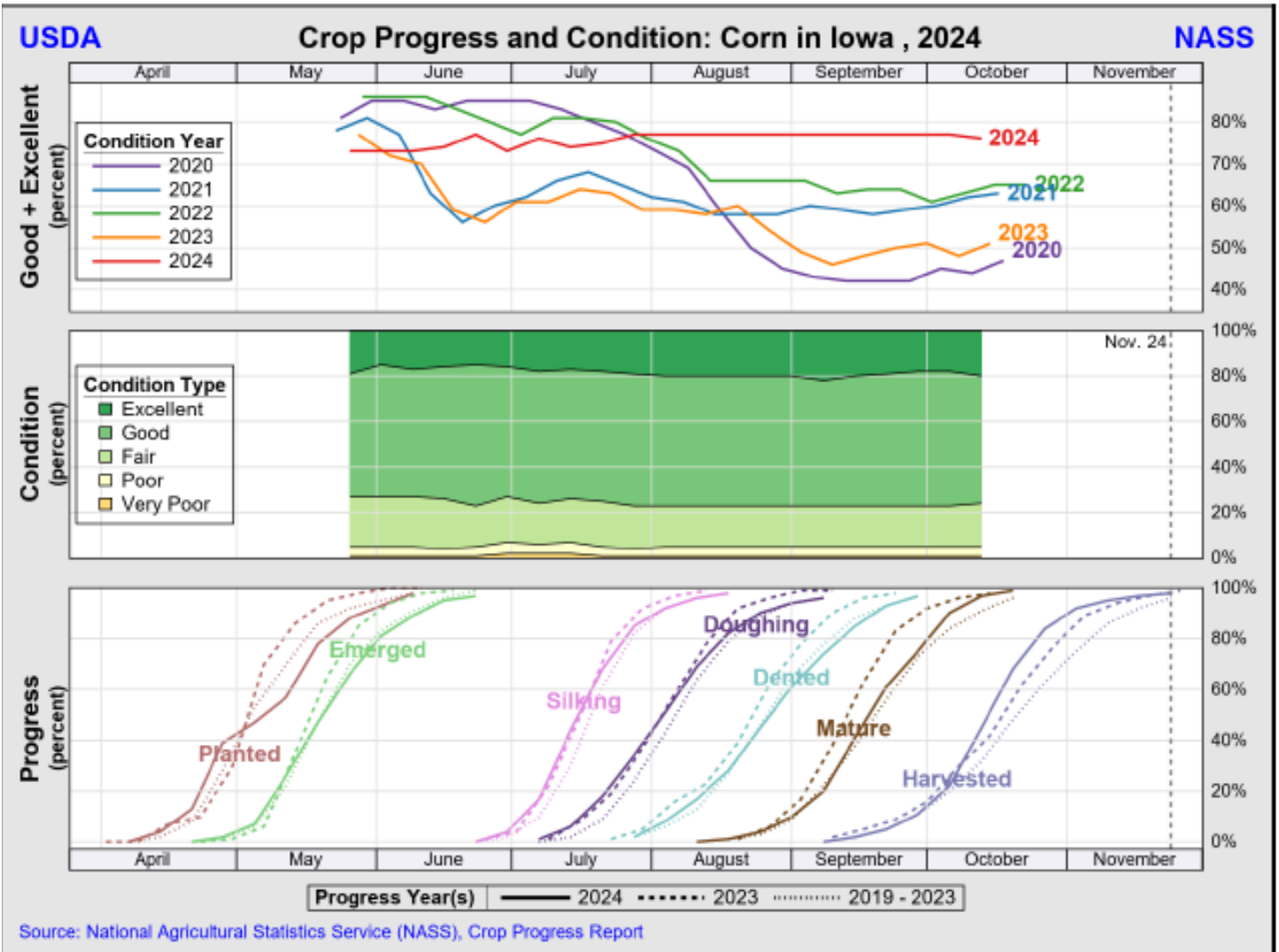
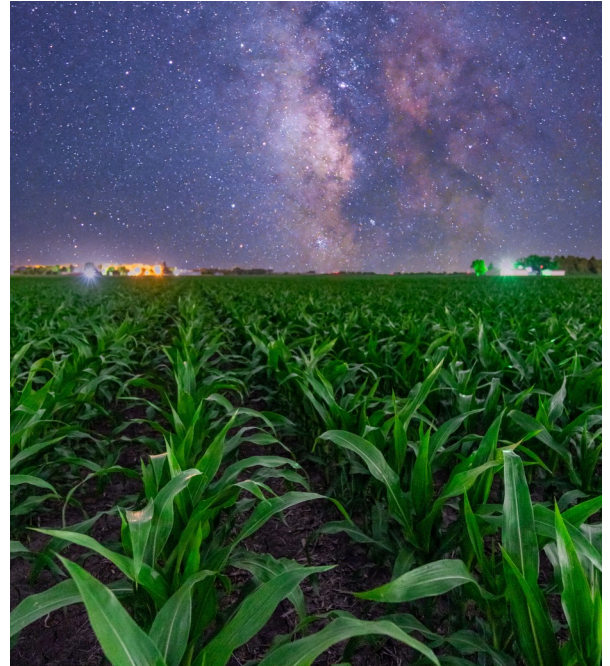
Above average temperatures and below average precipitation in April started fieldwork and planting activities near the 5-year average or ahead of it. By May 5, farmers had planted 96 percent of oats, 10 days ahead of the 5-year average. Corn and soybean planting were slightly behind the 5-year average on May 5 but caught up to normal by early June. For most stages, corn development began ahead of average and then stayed near normal throughout the stage. Soybean development also spent a majority of the season equal to the 5-year average.

Iowa saw a wetter than normal July, but crops quickly matured with warmer than normal temperatures accompanied by dry conditions in the following months. Drought conditions developed through the growing season, speeding up crop maturity as nearly all of Iowa experienced some level of drought.

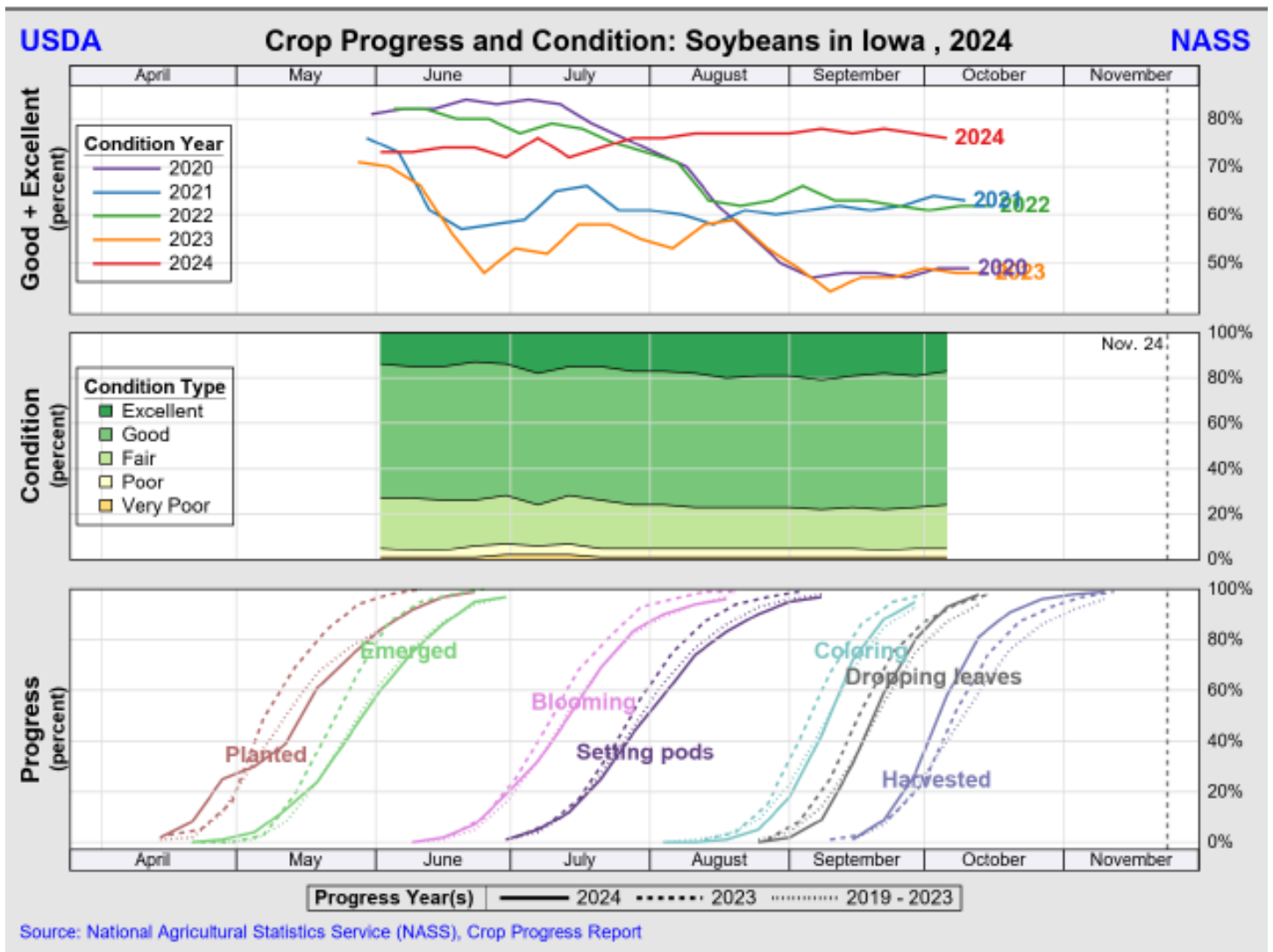
Iowa corn for grain harvest began during the week ending September 15 with soybean harvest also kicking off that same week. Soybean harvest reached 81 percent complete by October 13, 10 days ahead of the average and was virtually complete by November 10. More than half of the corn for grain was harvested by October 20, reaching 68 percent. By November 17, corn for grain harvest was at 97 percent complete, 10 days ahead of normal. As harvest was completed, farmers kept busy with fall tillage and fertilizer or manure applications.



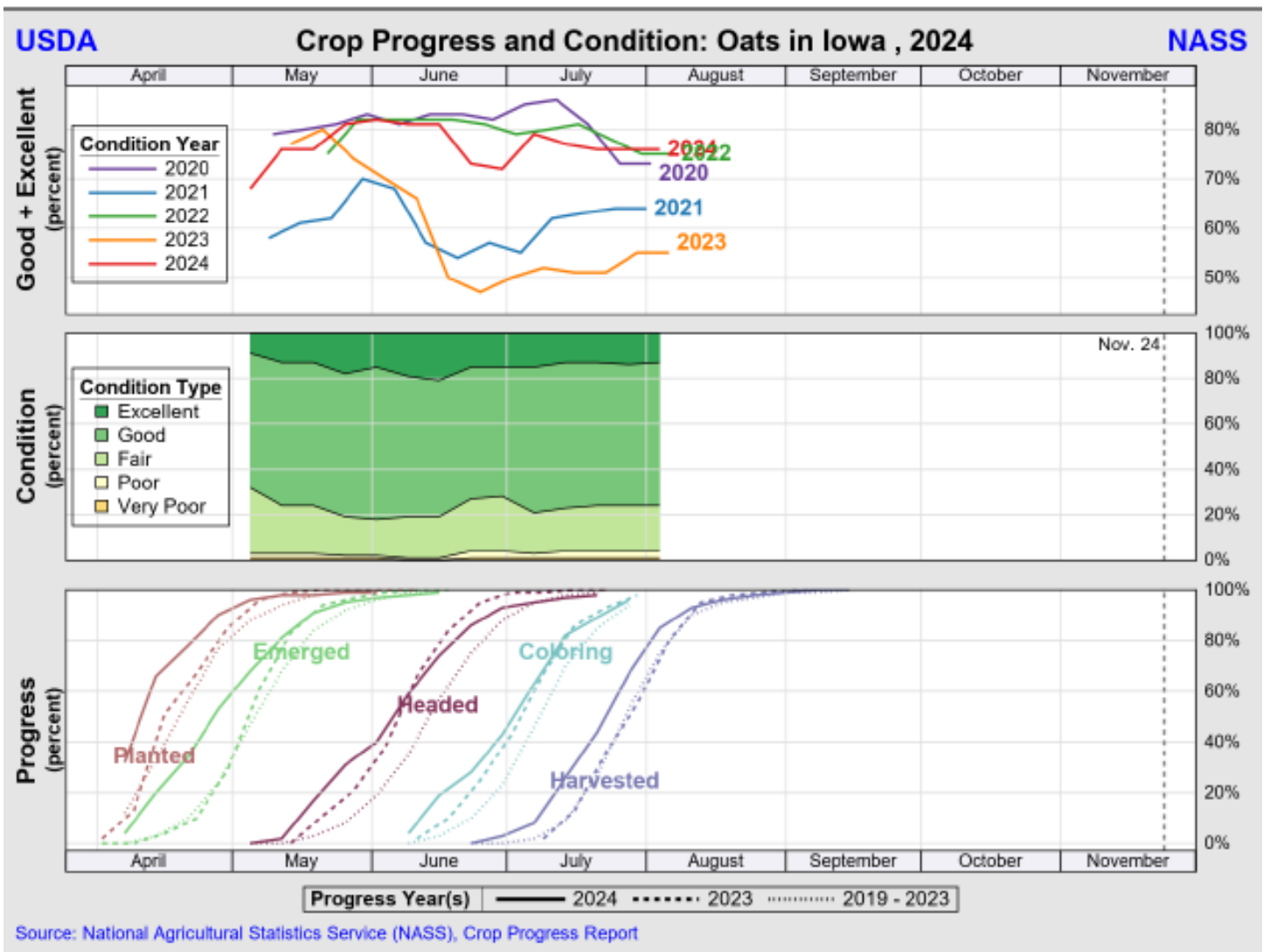
Corn planting in Iowa started off a few days ahead of last year and the 5-year average with planting activities getting underway in the second week of April. But progress slowed and fell behind the normal pace in early May. Only 57 percent of the State's expected corn crop was planted by May 12, 1 week behind last year and 6 days behind normal. By the first week of June planting was nearing completion and emergence was not far behind at 81 percent. Ninety-five percent of the corn crop had emerged by June 16. Corn silking was slightly ahead of the 5-year average at 44 percent by July 14. The percent of corn in or beyond the dough stage and in or beyond the dent stage was on pace with the 5-year average through most of the stages. Virtually all of the corn crop had reached maturity by October 13, at 97 percent. Corn harvest for grain began in mid-September. Dry conditions enabled corn harvest to proceed ahead of the 5-year average through October. By October 27, 84 percent of the corn for grain crop had been harvested, 12 days ahead of the average. By mid-November corn harvest was winding down and on November 24, 98 percent had been harvested. Corn moisture level for field corn being harvested was reported at 18 percent at the beginning of October, gradually falling to 14 percent by early November. The first condition rating of the corn crop on May 26 was 73 percent good to excellent. Corn condition improved slightly and spent 10 weeks at 77 percent good to excellent. The final corn condition rating came in at 76 percent good to excellent on October 13.



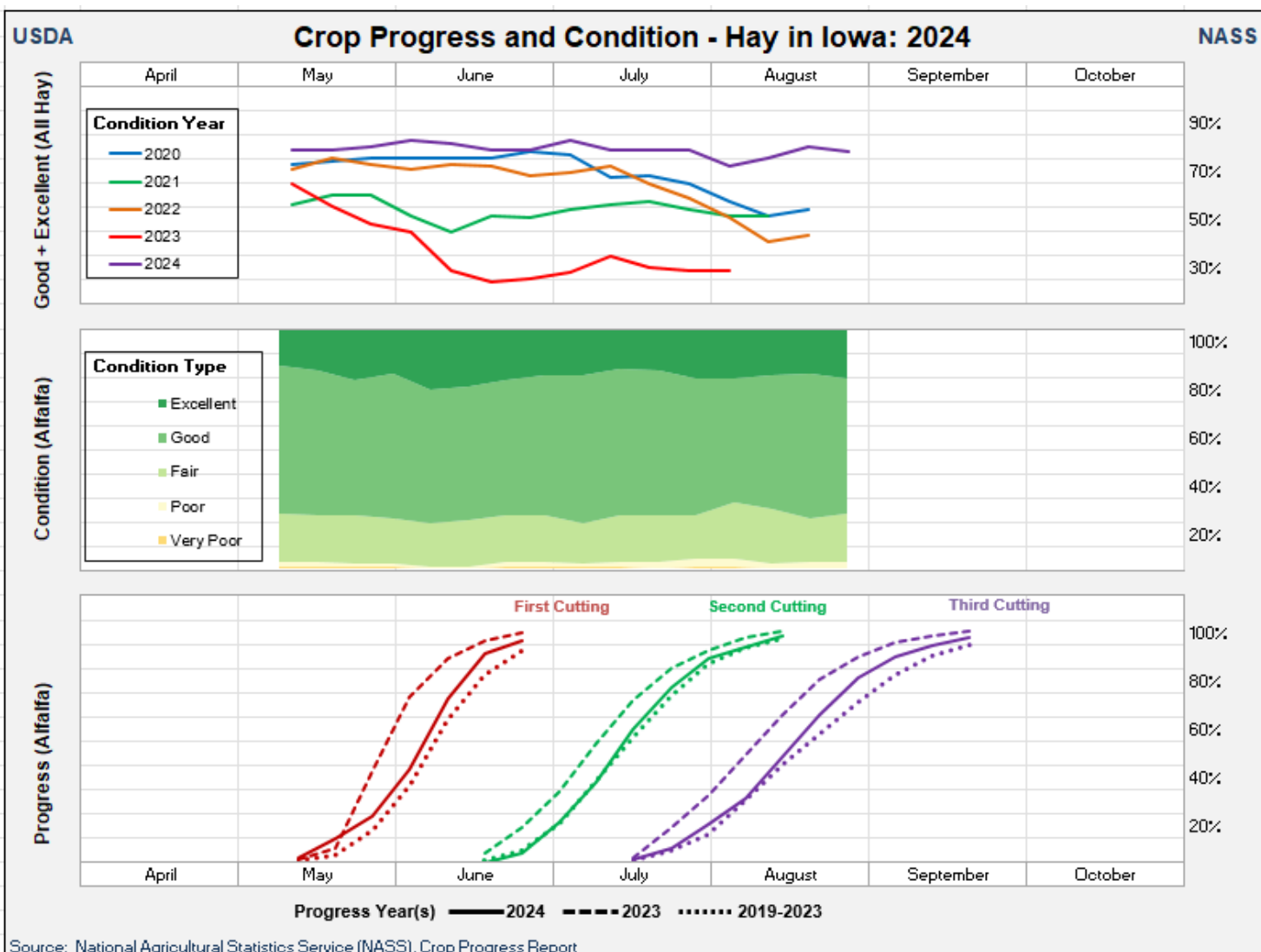
**Soybean** planting was underway by mid-April, ahead of the 5-year average but fell behind shortly after the beginning of May. By May 12, 39 percent of the soybean crop was planted, 4 days behind the average. Soybean planting was virtually complete by the mid-June. As of the week ending June 9, soybean emergence was at 75 percent, 1 day behind normal. By June 30, 19 percent of the soybean crop had started blooming, 2 days ahead of the average. Seventy-four percent of the soybean crop was setting pods by August 11, 2 days behind the normal. Leaves turning color or beyond reached 95 percent on September 29, with 80 percent of soybean acres dropping their leaves at that time. Harvest began near mid-September and by October 6 more than half of Iowa's soybean crop had been harvested, 1 week ahead of the average. Soybean harvest was at 98 percent on November 3, 11 days ahead of normal. As of June 2, the first condition rating of the soybean crop was 73 percent good to excellent. Crop conditions improved slightly by the end of July and remained steady through the end of the season. The final soybean condition rating of the season showed 76 percent good to excellent on October 6.



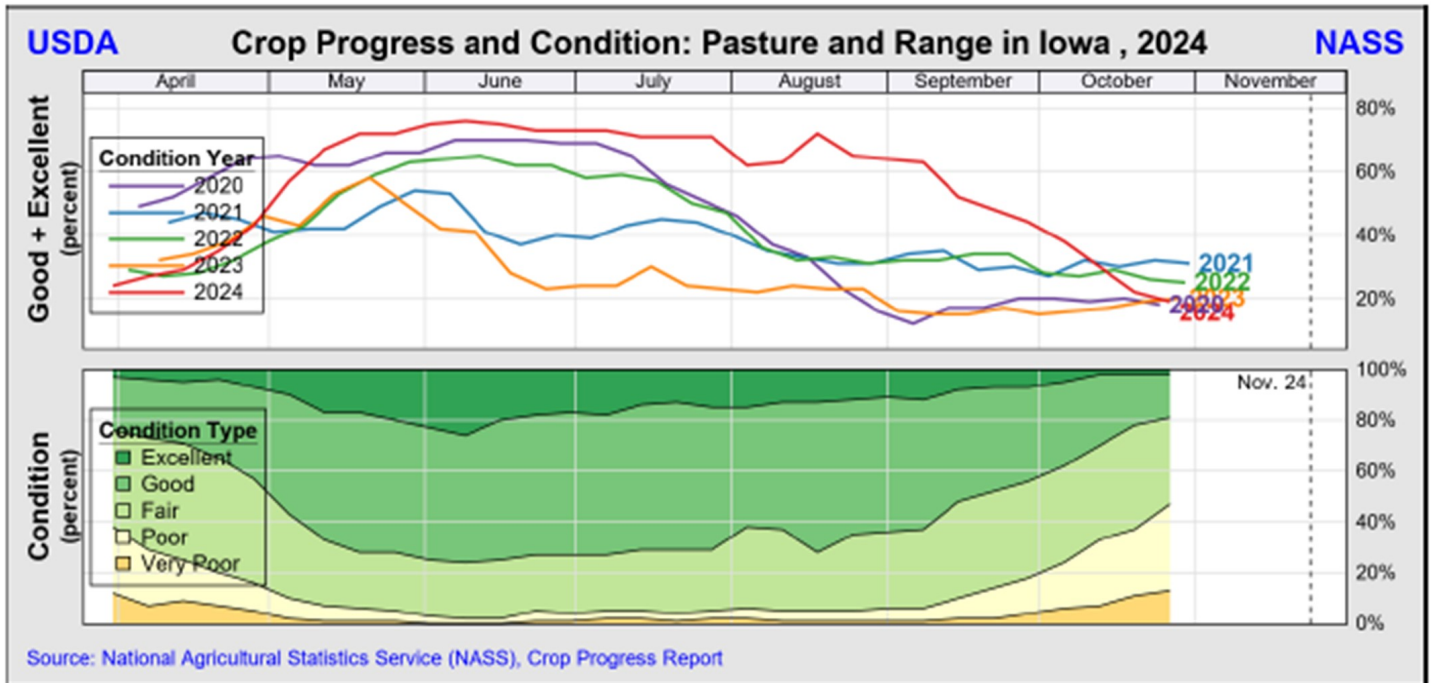
**Oat seeding** began in March. Twenty-one percent of the expected oat crop was already planted by March 31—eleven days ahead of the average. Ninety percent of oats were seeded by April 28. On May 12, seeding was virtually complete. At that same time, 81 percent of the oat crop had emerged. As of June 2, 40 percent of the oat crop was headed. At the end of June, 43 percent of oats had started turning color, 6 days ahead of the 5-year average. Oats harvested for grain started earlier than last year with 3 percent harvested on June 30. Two-thirds of the harvest was complete around July 28. Ninety-six percent of oats were harvested by August 18, finishing off the season on track with the 5-year average. Oat condition rated above 70 percent good to excellent for all but the first week of the season. From late May through the first half of June, oat condition was over 80 percent good to excellent for four weeks in a row.



The State's first cutting of **alfalfa hay** began early in May with 2 percent cut by May 12, with 70 percent complete by June 9, a week behind last year but 3 days ahead of the 5-year average. The first cutting was 95 percent complete on June 23, a week ahead of the 5-year average. The second cutting was virtually complete by August 11, two days ahead of the average. The third cutting of alfalfa was 96 percent complete on September 15, 10 days behind last year but a week ahead of the 5-year average. This year's alfalfa hay crop condition was the highest in recent years, averaging 78 percent good to excellent throughout the season. Condition never dropped below 72 percent good to excellent. The last crop condition rating of the season, on August 25, was 77 percent good to excellent. In the previous 5 years the final crop condition rating was no higher than 57 percent good to excellent.



Iowa's pastures remained mostly dormant until early April. Pasture condition reached a season high of 76 percent good to excellent on June 9. Pasture conditions declined from that season high through the remainder of the season. Drought conditions encompassed practically all of Iowa, which led to a rapid decline in pasture conditions and they remained low as the drought carried through the summer and into fall. The lowest pasture condition ratings came at the end of October with a good to excellent rating of only 19 percent.



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