



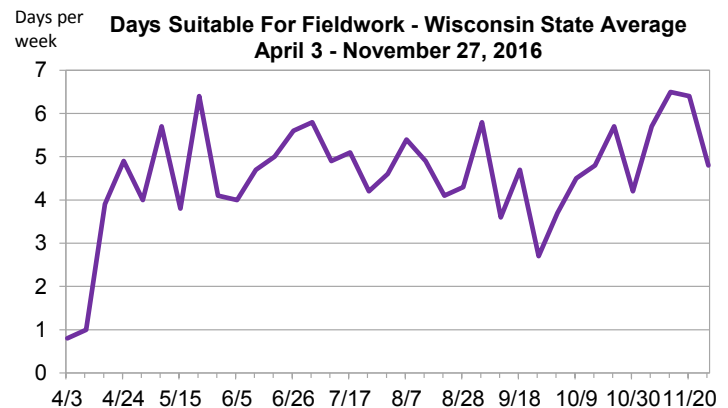
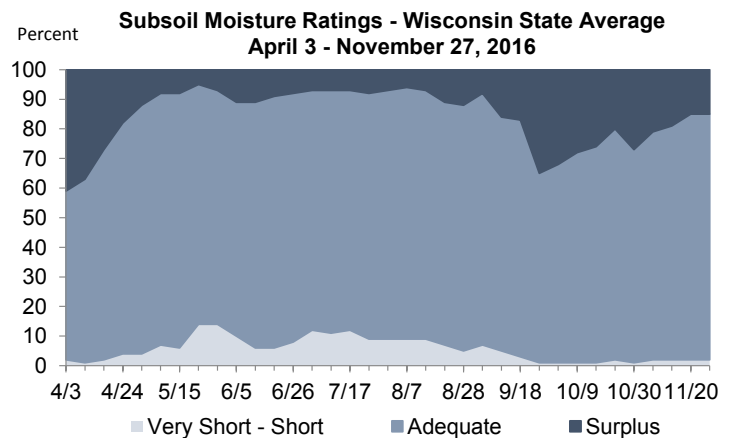
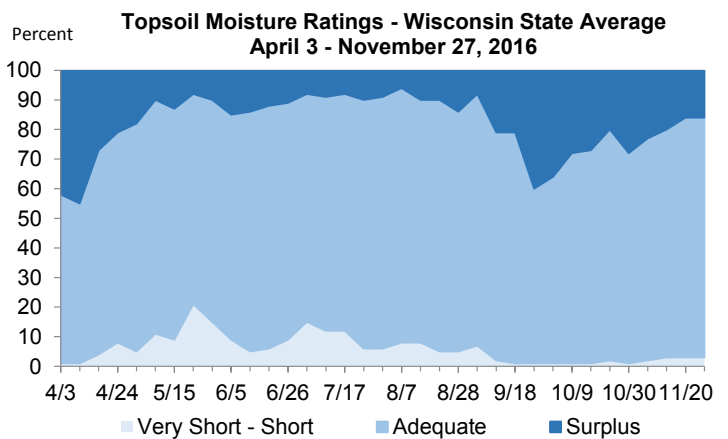
# 2016 WISCONSIN CROP PROGRESS REVIEW

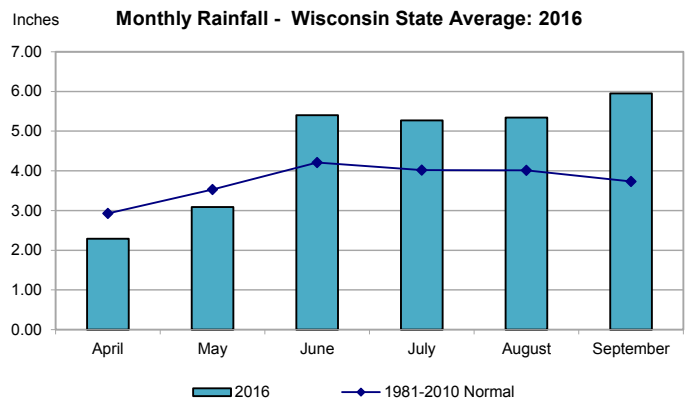
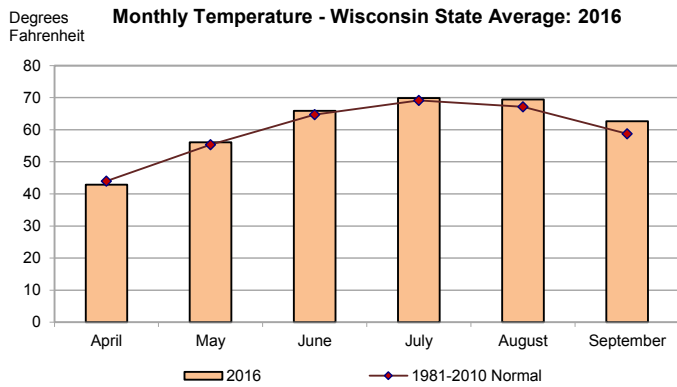
The 2016 planting season opened with soggy field conditions and below normal snow cover due to a warm, wet March. Wet soils in the northern portions of the state delayed the start of tillage and planting there. But fields dried up quickly in the southern portions of the state, and warm, sunny weather during April accelerated early fieldwork in those areas. A hard frost during the week ending May 15 damaged some fruit blossoms and emerging crops, though most new plantings bounced back quickly. Rainfall was patchy and intermittent in May and June, providing plenty of days suitable for fieldwork. Planting and emergence of all the major crops trended slightly behind the 2015 pace but well ahead of the five-year average. Hot weather, high humidity and frequent rains characterized July, August and September, boosting crop growth and keeping crops in good to excellent condition overall. However, the frequency of rains in this period disrupted hay harvest and contributed to major flooding events in Northern and Western Wisconsin. Severe storms dropped up to 10 inches of rain across various parts of Wisconsin during these months, causing damage to crops in low lying areas. Infrastructure damage and very high soil moistures associated with these rains also disrupted access to fields which were not directly damaged by flooding. In all, 8 counties declared a state of emergency due to flooding in July and another 13 counties declared emergencies in September. Above normal temperatures and rainy conditions continued into the fall. Though crop development trended ahead of average for all crops during the 2016 season, harvest activates in September and October trailed averages due to wet field conditions and high grain moistures. The first frost of the season struck the northern portions of the state during the week ending October 11, several weeks later than normal. The southern part of the state did not receive the first frost until the week ending November 13. The city of La Crosse broke its record for latest frost ever recorded on November 9, compared to November 7, 1900. November brought an extended stretch of dry, clear weather and above normal temperatures, allowing farmers to catch up on harvest and tillage. Fall tillage was 86 percent complete as of November 27, 2 percentage points above the previous year.

Statewide temperatures started off above normal with March temperatures 6.3 degrees above normal. April through September were 1.3 degrees above normal in 2016, compared to 0.9 degrees above normal in 2015. April was the only month this season with below normal temperatures, averaging 1.1 degrees below normal. The remaining growing season months ranged from 0.8 degrees above normal in May and July to 3.9 degrees above normal in September. October averaged 4.0 degrees above normal and November was 8.6 degrees above normal.

Precipitation totals for April through September were above normal for much of Wisconsin but below normal in the Southeast District. The statewide total was 27.34 inches, 3.54 inches above the total for 2015 and 4.91 inches above normal. April and May had normal to below normal precipitation across the state, while June through September had above normal precipitation on average. September was the month with the greatest departure from normal, with 2.22 inches above normal for the state. By district, departures from normal for April through September ranged from 0.89 inches below normal in the Southeast District to 7.90 inches above normal in the Southwest District.

*The Crop Progress and Condition Report is made possible by the dedication of our volunteer Crop Progress Reporters. Thanks for your help!*





**MONTHLY TEMPERATURES: 2016 GROWING SEASON AND NORMAL<sup>1</sup>, WISCONSIN DISTRICTS AND STATE AVERAGE**

District	April		May		June		July		August		September	
	2016	Normal	2016	Normal	2016	Normal	2016	Normal	2016	Normal	2016	Normal
	Degrees Fahrenheit											
NW	41.6	42.4	54.9	54.1	64.1	63.2	68.7	68.0	67.6	65.9	60.5	57.1
NC	40.2	41.6	54.2	53.4	63.6	62.5	67.5	66.8	67.0	64.9	60.0	56.4
NE	39.5	42.0	54.6	53.4	63.6	62.9	68.2	67.2	68.2	65.4	60.8	57.0
WC	45.8	45.7	57.7	56.8	67.8	66.2	71.4	70.6	70.4	68.3	63.4	59.7
C	44.1	45.2	57.2	56.3	67.0	65.7	71.0	69.9	70.7	67.8	63.6	59.4
EC	41.7	44.1	55.8	54.8	65.8	64.8	70.7	69.4	70.7	67.8	64.3	59.8
SW	47.1	46.9	58.2	57.7	68.7	67.3	71.7	71.4	71.4	69.3	65.2	61.1
SC	45.9	46.8	58.0	57.7	68.6	67.4	72.1	71.5	71.9	69.4	66.0	61.3
SE	44.2	46.1	57.1	56.6	68.0	66.6	72.5	71.2	72.5	69.6	66.3	61.7
STATE	42.9	44.0	56.1	55.3	65.9	64.7	69.9	69.1	69.4	67.1	62.6	58.7

1. Normal is defined as the 30-year average for the years 1981-2010.  
Source: WI State Climatologist <http://www.aos.wisc.edu/~sco/clim-watch/index.html>

**MONTHLY RAINFALL: 2016 GROWING SEASON AND NORMAL<sup>1</sup>, WISCONSIN DISTRICTS AND STATE AVERAGE**

District	April		May		June		July		August		September	
	2016	Normal	2016	Normal	2016	Normal	2016	Normal	2016	Normal	2016	Normal
	Inches											
NW	3.31	2.65	3.10	3.36	5.09	4.09	6.69	4.08	4.53	4.01	4.70	3.97
NC	2.89	2.62	3.48	3.39	5.95	4.04	5.29	3.95	5.24	3.81	5.38	4.01
NE	2.61	2.57	2.11	3.23	6.29	3.77	4.03	3.68	3.73	3.46	4.53	3.61
WC	1.86	3.13	3.08	3.78	5.55	4.44	5.45	4.25	7.96	4.49	7.68	3.87
C	1.51	3.00	3.28	3.60	5.00	4.35	4.29	4.04	5.13	4.03	7.55	3.61
EC	1.76	2.86	2.86	3.26	4.86	3.87	4.18	3.67	3.47	3.59	5.23	3.38
SW	1.39	3.56	3.53	4.02	5.39	4.83	6.83	4.44	7.15	4.52	8.44	3.46
SC	1.68	3.37	3.15	3.71	5.30	4.63	5.08	4.09	5.84	4.18	5.92	3.50
SE	2.09	3.42	2.96	3.61	3.99	4.04	3.42	3.78	4.57	4.02	4.37	3.42
STATE	2.29	2.93	3.09	3.53	5.40	4.21	5.27	4.02	5.34	4.01	5.95	3.73

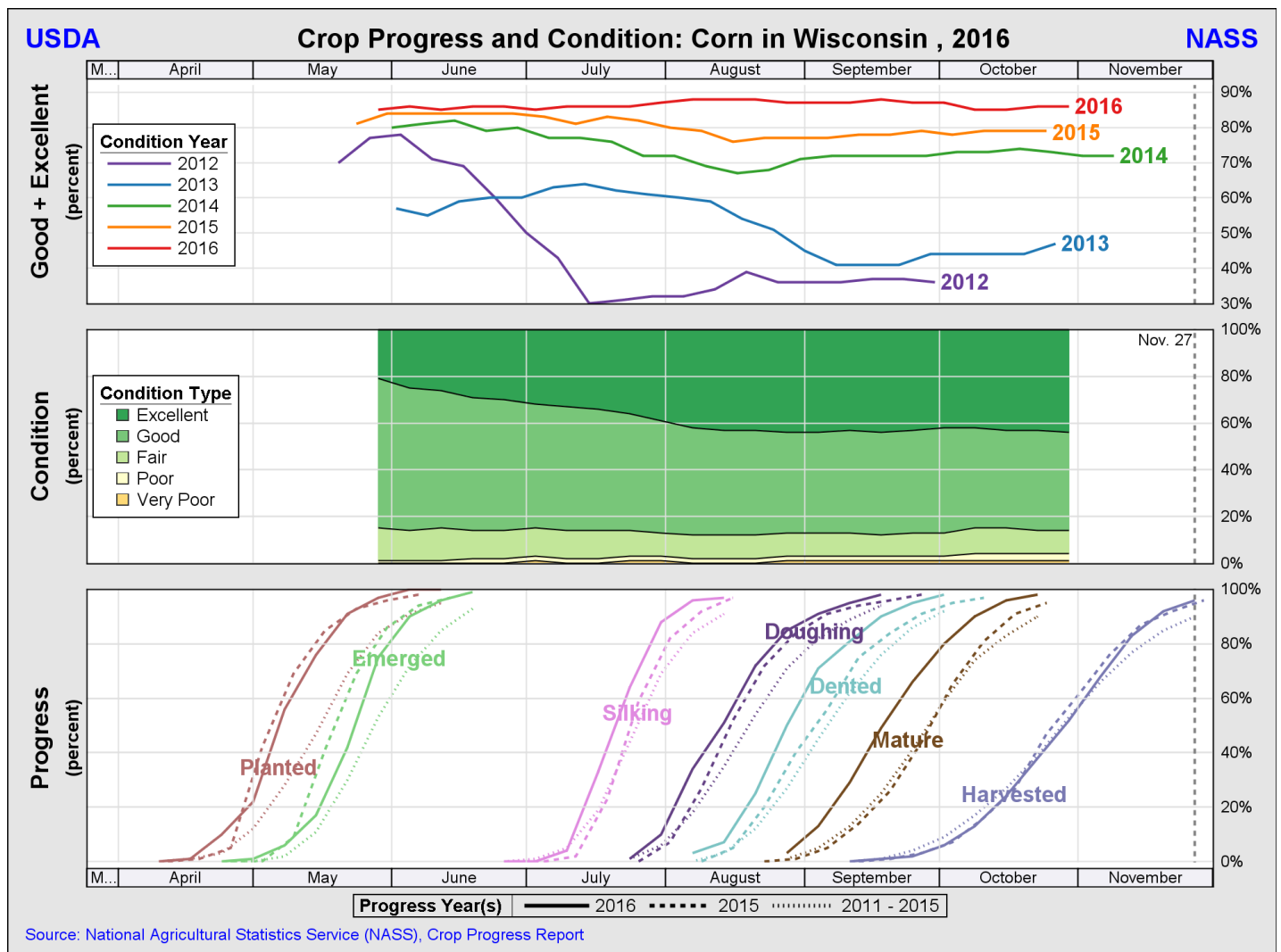
1. Normal is defined as the 30-year average for the years 1981-2010.  
Source: WI State Climatologist <http://www.aos.wisc.edu/~sco/clim-watch/index.html>

**COMPARATIVE TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION DATA, WISCONSIN DISTRICTS AND STATE AVERAGE**

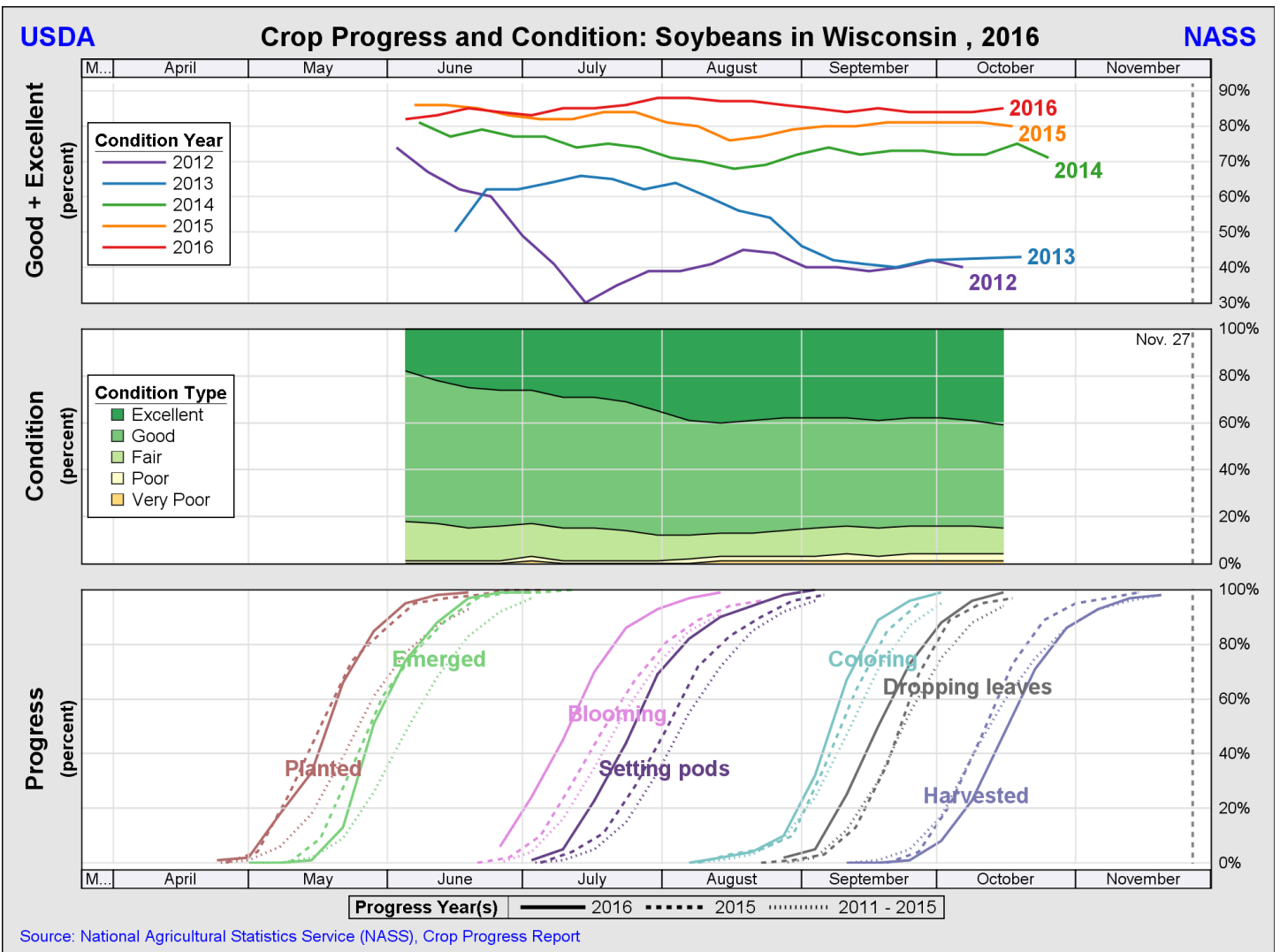
District	Average Temperature						Total Precipitation					
	June - September						April - September					
	Normal <sup>1</sup>	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Normal <sup>1</sup>	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
	Degrees Fahrenheit						Inches					
NW	63.6	65.0	64.0	63.2	64.8	65.2	22.16	20.80	22.23	30.31	24.33	27.42
NC	62.7	64.0	63.0	62.0	63.5	64.5	21.82	19.10	25.44	27.92	21.82	28.23
NE	63.1	64.6	63.3	62.4	64.0	65.2	20.32	17.54	21.29	23.31	22.07	23.30
WC	66.2	68.2	67.1	66.3	67.4	68.3	23.96	18.86	23.55	30.55	28.02	31.58
C	65.7	68.0	66.4	65.7	66.8	68.1	22.63	16.96	21.16	25.88	24.54	26.76
EC	65.5	67.6	65.5	64.5	66.2	67.9	20.63	17.92	20.13	25.65	21.70	22.36
SW	67.3	69.3	67.9	67.0	67.9	69.3	24.83	15.26	28.66	25.36	22.75	32.73
SC	67.4	69.7	67.6	66.7	67.5	69.7	23.48	14.03	27.69	25.69	25.58	26.97
SE	67.3	69.6	66.9	65.9	67.0	69.8	22.29	14.52	25.47	23.56	23.14	21.40
STATE	64.9	66.7	65.3	64.5	65.8	67.0	22.43	17.86	23.83	27.12	23.80	27.34

1. Normal is defined as the 30-year average for the years 1981-2010.  
Source: WI State Climatologist <http://www.aos.wisc.edu/~sco/clim-watch/index.html>

**Corn** planting proceeded quickly thanks to an early spring thaw and wrapped up in late May, more than two weeks earlier than the five-year average. There were some reports of newly emerged corn injured by late the frost during the week ending May 15, though the crop reportedly bounced back easily with favorable weather in late May and June. Warm temperatures and abundant moisture kept corn development well ahead of both last year and the five-year average throughout the summer. Corn condition averaged 86 percent good to excellent for the season, compared to 80 percent good to excellent in 2015. Frequent rains in August and September delayed silage chopping in some areas, but overall silage harvest proceeded about 5 days ahead of average, wrapping up around October 23. High plant moistures and muddy field conditions kept grain harvest in line with the five-year average through October. Clear, warm weather in November provided plenty of days suitable for fieldwork as farmers worked to wrap up fall harvest. Corn harvested for grain reached 96 percent harvested on November 27, with excellent yields reported across most of the state. A lack of storage space for grain, along with isolated wet spots, meant some pockets of corn were still standing at the end of November.

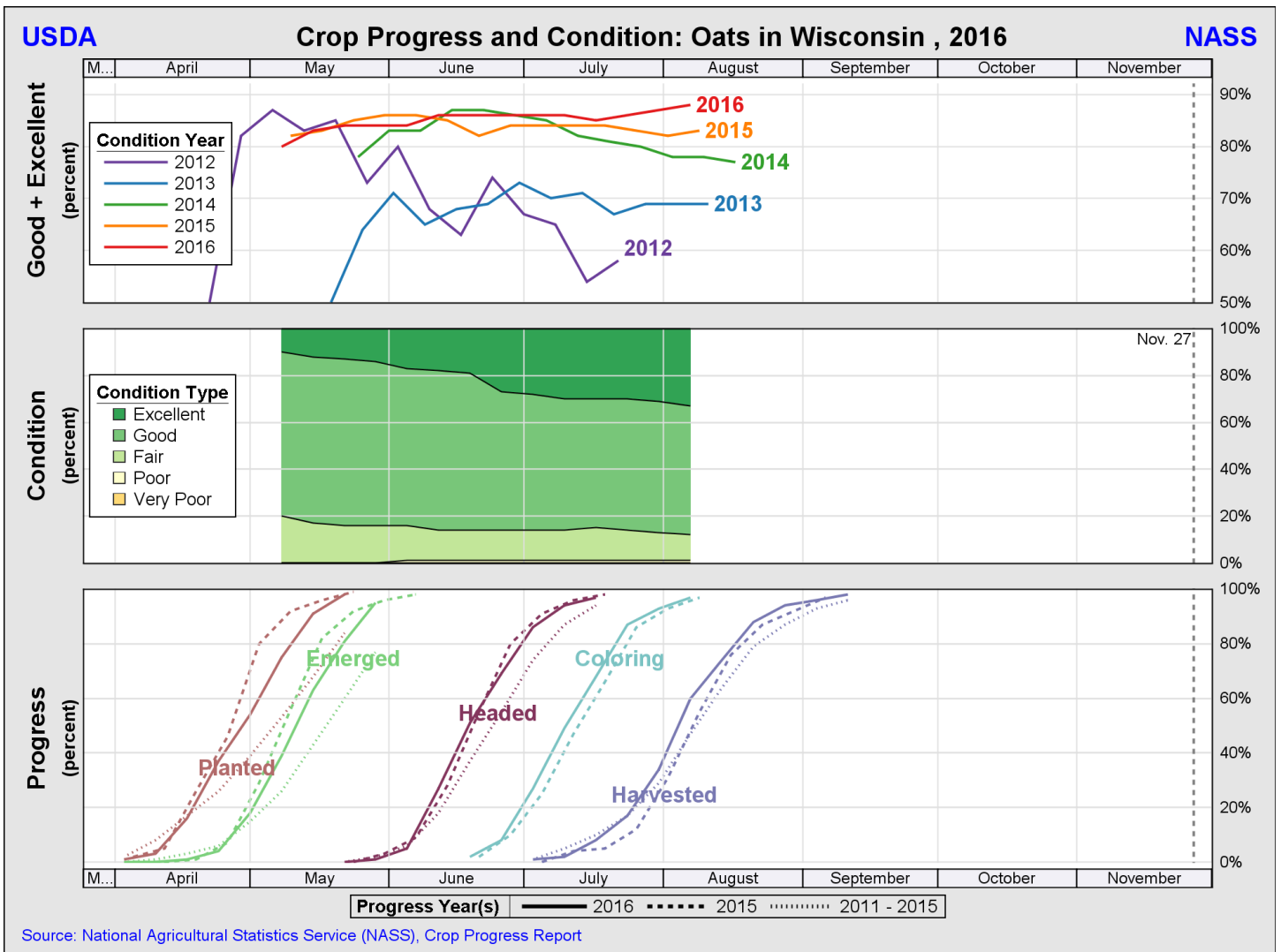


**Soybeans** planting took off in early May, and wrapped up in mid-June, two weeks ahead of the five-year average. The emergence, blooming and setting pods stages all ran well ahead of average, thanks to warm weather and adequate rainfall in June and July. Soybeans condition averaged 85 percent good to excellent for June through mid-October, compared to 81 percent good to excellent for the previous year. Frequent rains and oversaturated soils in August and September pushed the leaves turning and dropping phases back to one week ahead of average instead of two. There were isolated reports of mold and other diseases affecting soybeans due to wet weather in late summer and early fall, though yields were reportedly above normal across most of the state. Soybeans harvest got off to a late start, as wet conditions delayed fieldwork. Starting in September, good weather allowed producers to get 97 percent of soybeans harvested by November 13, in line with the five-year average.



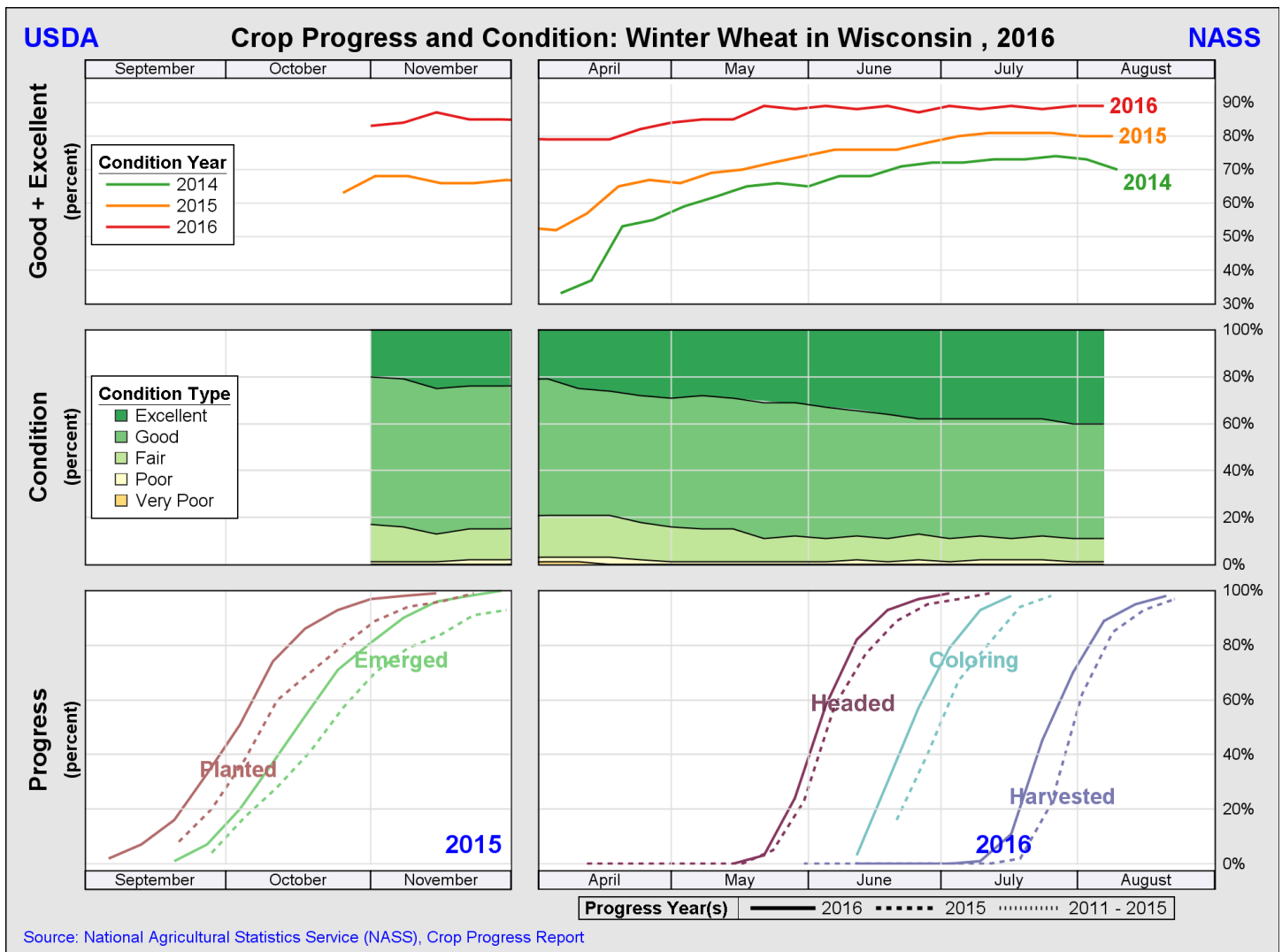


Oats planting in 2016 started slightly behind the five-year average, but accelerated quickly as wet fields dried out. Both planting and emergence were complete by mid-May slightly behind the 2015 pace but about two weeks ahead of the five-year average. Warm temperatures and abundant moisture kept the oat crop in very good condition throughout the season, averaging 85 percent good to excellent from May 8 through August 7. Oats headed out about a week ahead of the five-year average. Frequent rains slowed late-summer fieldwork, keeping harvest pace close to both the average and the previous year. Oats were 98 percent harvested on September 11, only 2 percentage points ahead of the five-year average.

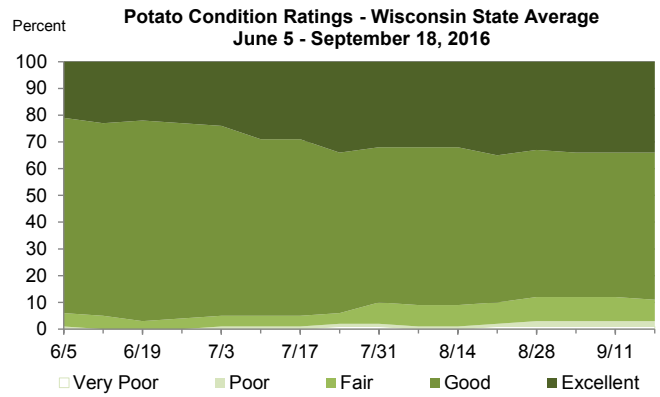
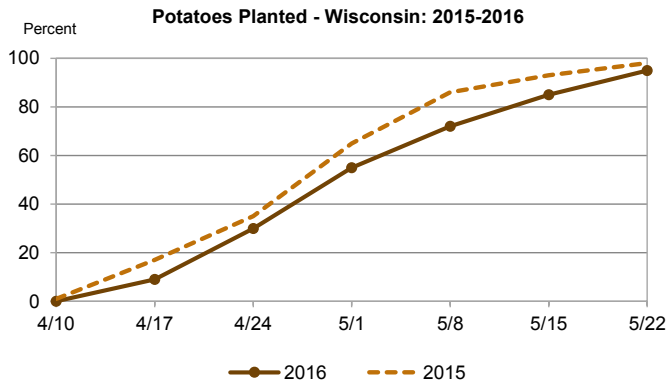


Warm weather in March helped the **winter wheat** crop start this season with 79 percent in good to excellent condition, well above the 52 percent of winter wheat in good to excellent condition on April 5, 2015. Wheat conditions improved slowly but steadily despite variable snow cover and occasional freezes during April and early May. Wheat condition then continued to improve through the summer months, averaging 86 percent good to excellent for the season. The crop matured quickly with warm, dry weather in June, trending at least a week ahead of the previous year. Harvest activities began the week ending July 10, also a week ahead of 2015, and reached 98 percent complete on August 21.

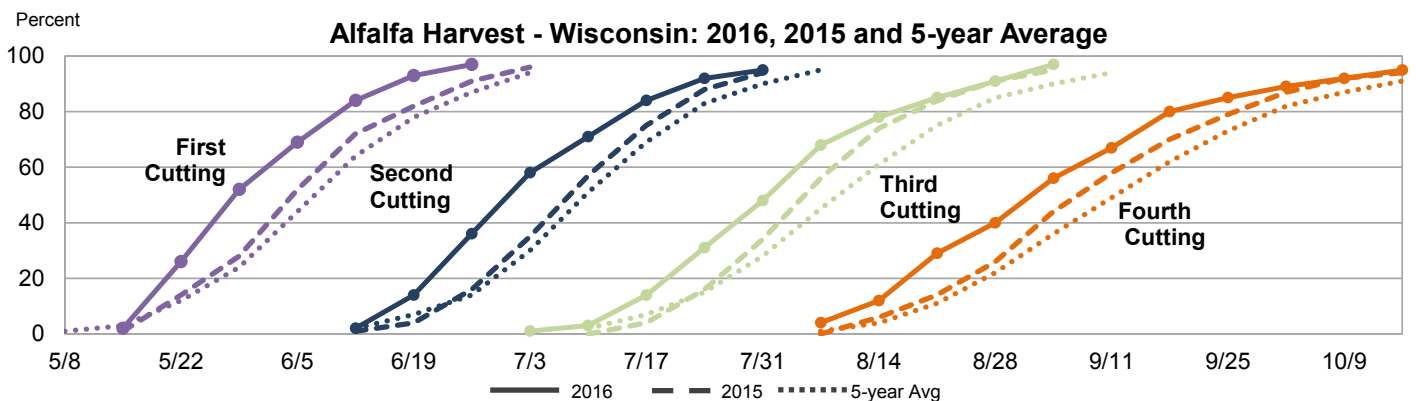
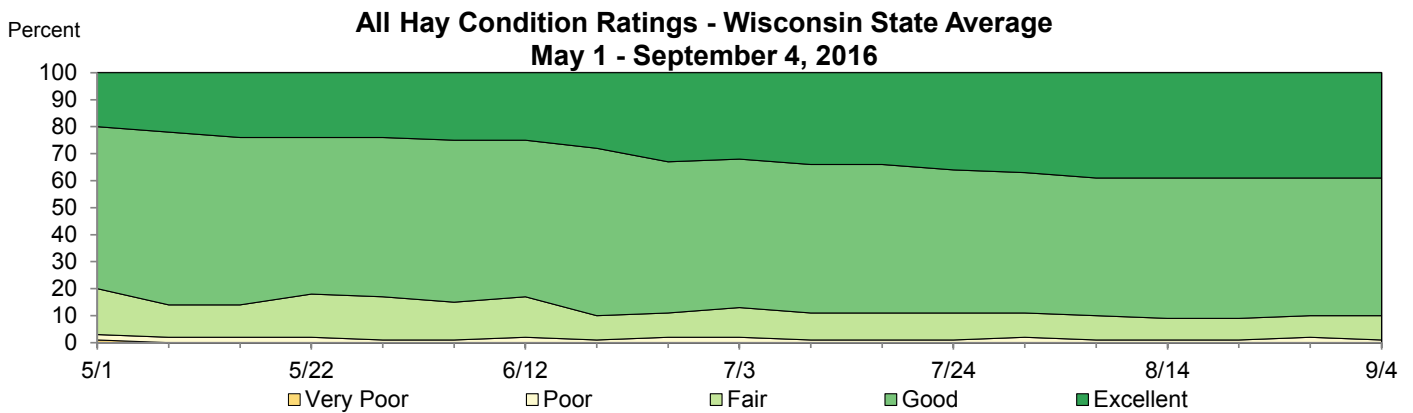
Though fall planting of the 2017 crop started out ahead of the previous year's pace, frequent rains and delays to other fieldwork slowed progress in September and October. Above normal fall temperatures helped keep the crop in very good condition going into the winter season. Winter wheat condition averaged 82 percent good to excellent from mid-October through the end of November.



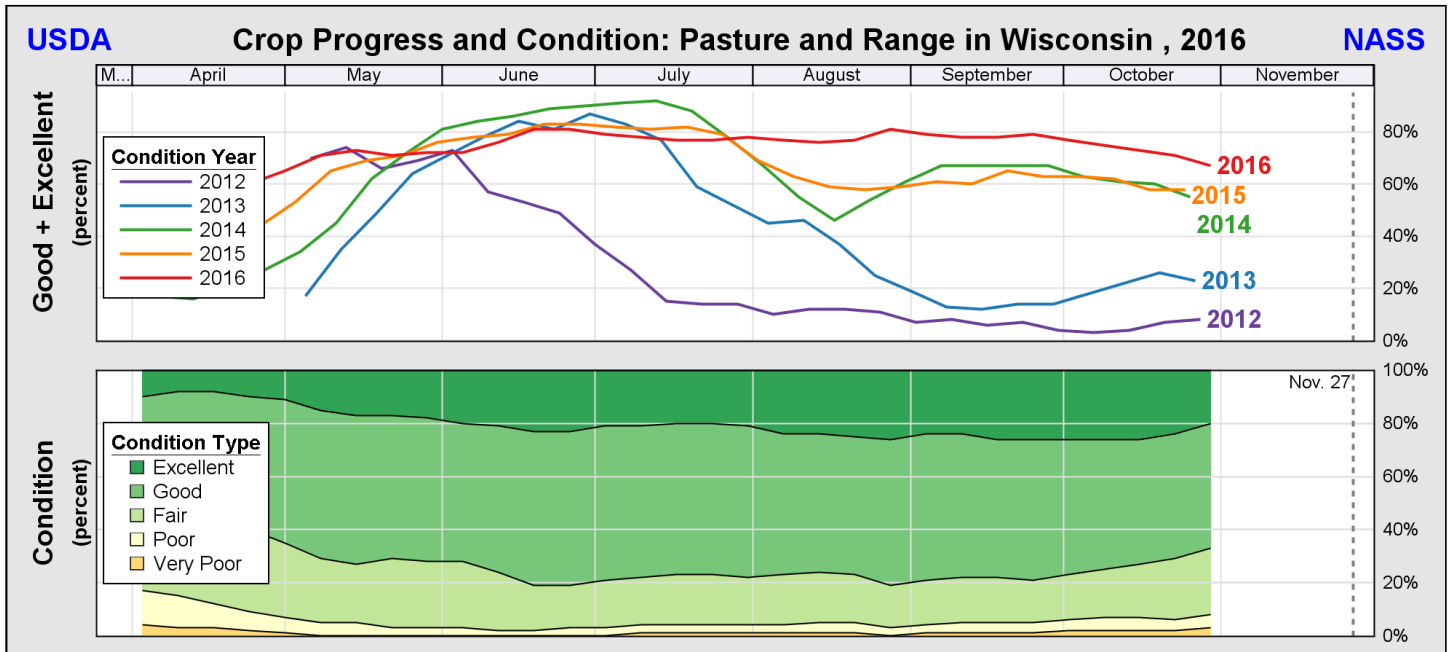
**Potato** planting was underway in early April, thanks to an early snow thaw. Planting proceeded slightly behind the 2015 planting pace, and reached 97 percent complete on May 29. Potato condition averaged 92 percent good to excellent for the season, peaking at 97 percent good to excellent on June 19 and declining slowly throughout the frequent rains of July and August. The limited number of days suitable for fieldwork kept the potato harvest one to two weeks behind the 2015 harvest pace. There were some reports of fields not being harvested due to muddy conditions.



As of May 15, winter freeze damage to **alfalfa** was rated 1 percent severe, 3 percent moderate and 19 percent light. There was no damage to the remaining 77 percent of alfalfa stands, up from 72 percent undamaged the previous year. Abundant heat and moisture kept alfalfa growing quickly throughout the spring and summer, though frequent rains in July, August and September interfered with baling dry hay. All four cuttings of alfalfa ran ahead of both the five-year average and the 2015 haying season, replacing 2015 as the second fastest harvest pace in the past 35 years. Cuttings were still about a week behind the record early haying season of 2012, however. Warm fall weather allowed widespread access to a fourth and even fifth crop of alfalfa, and left stands in good shape to overwinter. The season average for hay condition was 87 percent good to excellent, compared to 80 percent good to excellent for the 2015 season.



Warm weather in March started Wisconsin's **pastures** in considerably better condition than average this year. On April 3, 51 percent of pastures were in good to excellent condition compared to a five-year average of 27 percent good to excellent. Condition plateaued after late frosts during the week ending May 15, but began to trend upward again in mid-June. Pastures averaged 75 percent in good to excellent condition from May through October, compared to 69 percent good to excellent in 2015. Unusually warm weather in October and November kept pastures suitable for grazing well into the fall season.



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