



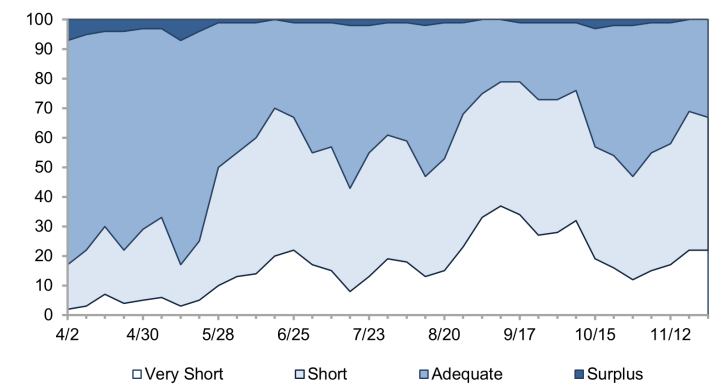
2023 IOWA CROP PROGRESS REVIEW

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!

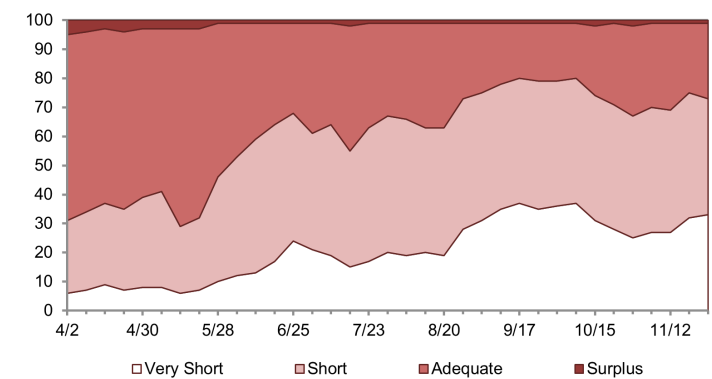
Review of the 2023 Crop Year:

Above average temperatures and below average precipitation in April kept fieldwork and planting activities near the 5-year average or above it. By May 7, farmers had made significant progress planting field crops, with corn, soybeans, and oats all 1 week or more ahead of the 5-year average. Corn and soybean planting were virtually complete by the start of June, both ahead of average by double digit days. For most stages, corn development began near the average and then moved ahead of normal relatively quickly throughout the season. Soybean development also spent a majority of the season ahead of the 5-year average. Corn and soybeans developed ahead of normal partly due to early planting, but also because temperatures were warmer than average for most of Iowa in all months except for July. Iowa saw a cooler than normal July, but crops quickly matured with warmer than normal temperatures in the following months. Drought conditions worsened through the growing season also speeding up crop maturity as nearly all of Iowa experienced some level of drought rating. Iowa corn for grain harvest began during the week ending September 10 with soybean harvest also kicking off that same week. Soybean harvest reached 74 percent complete by October 15, 9 days ahead of the average. More than half of the corn for grain was harvested by October 22, reaching 62 percent. By November 19 corn harvest was at 97 percent complete 10 days ahead of normal. The last weekly crop progress report was collected for the week ending November 26 and showed the south central district in Iowa lagged behind with 9 percent of corn still to be harvested, while the other 8 agricultural districts were virtually complete with their corn harvest activities. With harvest complete, farmers were busy with fall tillage, fertilizer or manure applications.

Topsoil Moisture Ratings - Iowa State Average
 April 2 - November 26, 2023



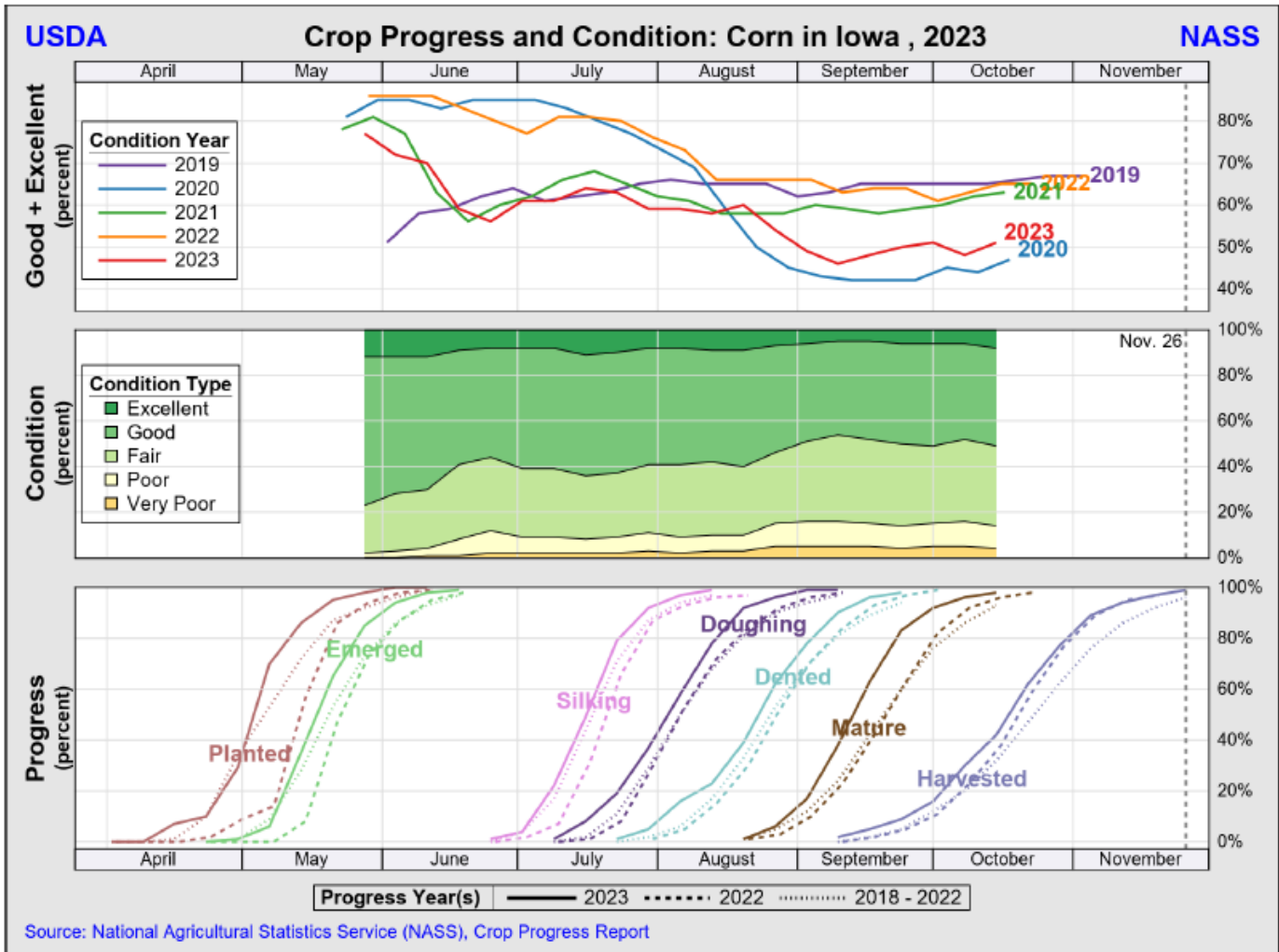
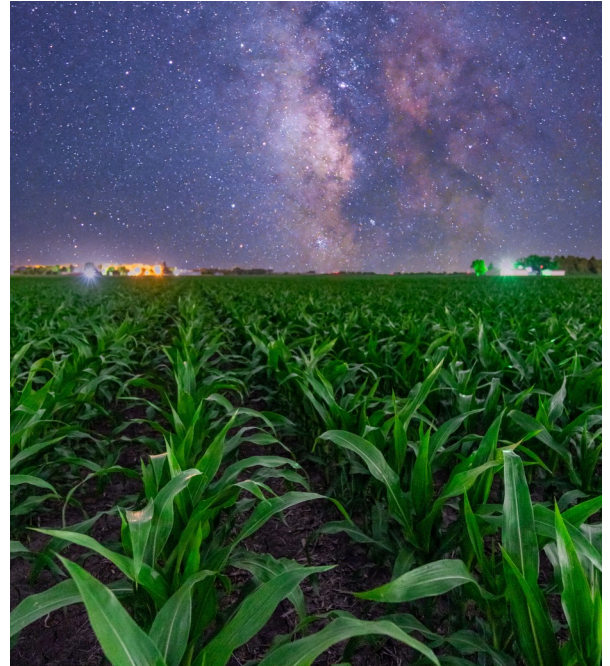
Subsoil Moisture Ratings - Iowa State Average
 April 2 - November 26, 2023



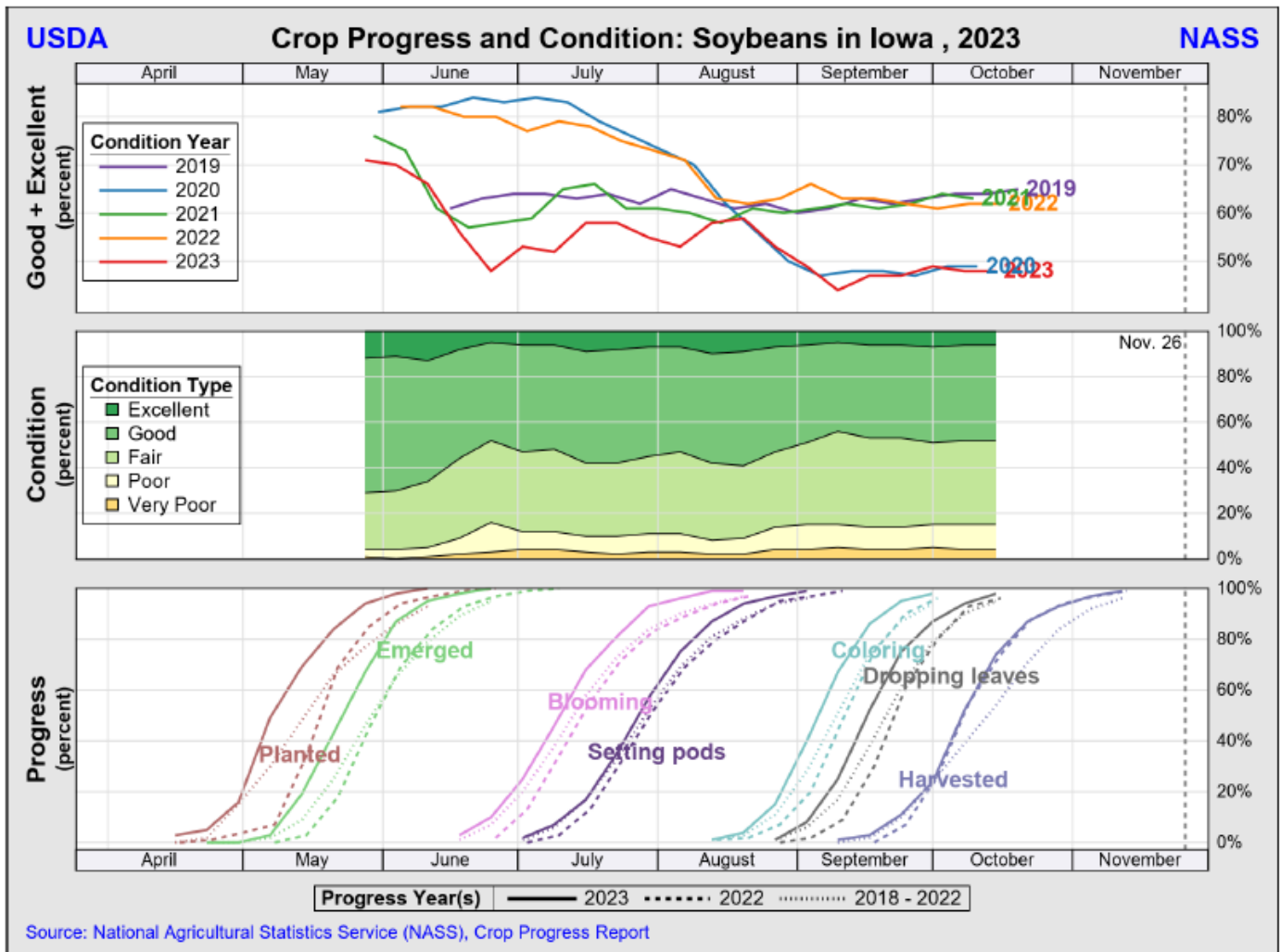
Days Suitable for Fieldwork - Iowa State Average
 April 2 - November 26, 2023



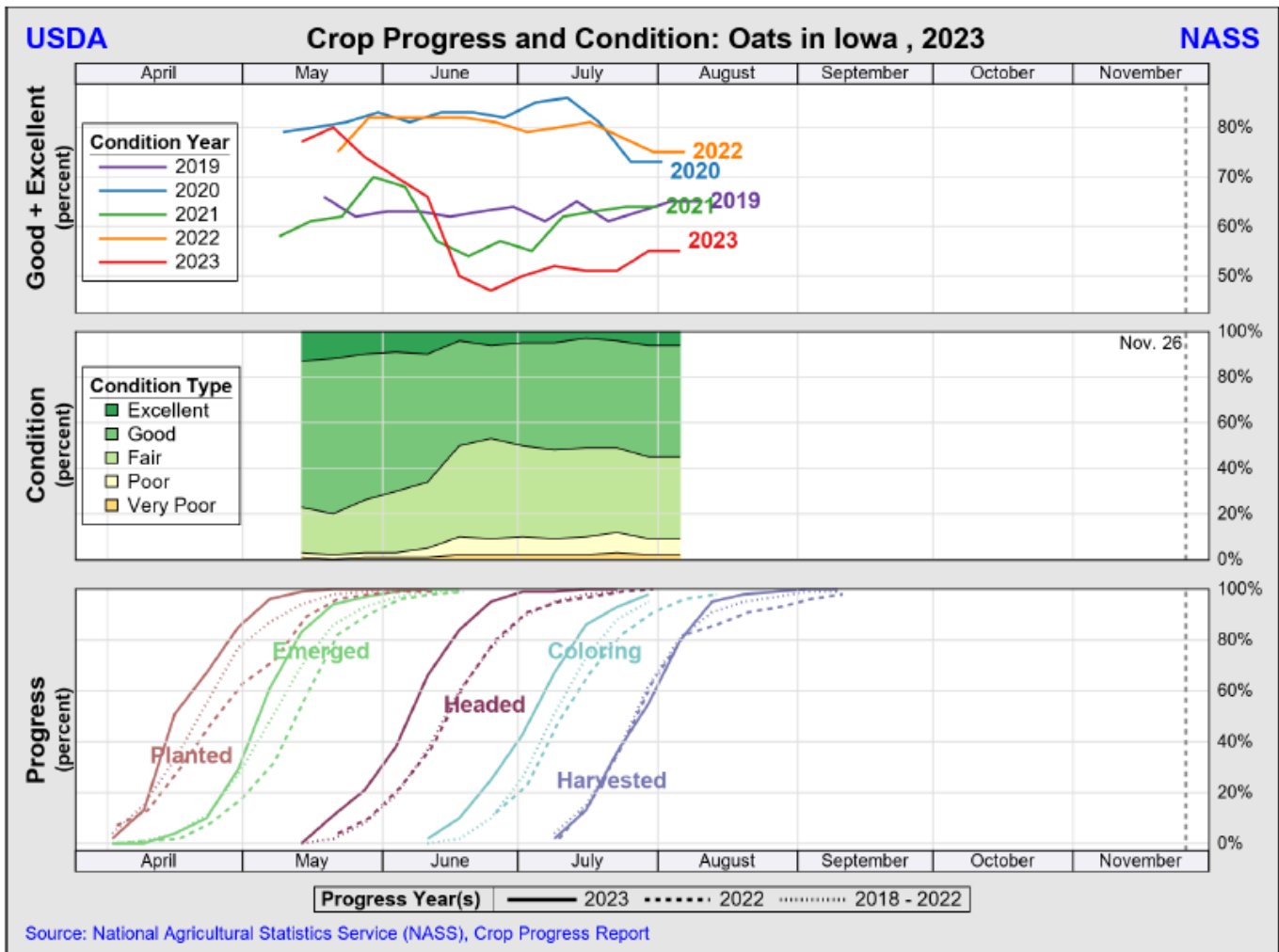
Corn planting in Iowa started off ahead of last year and the 5-year average with planting activities getting underway in mid-April. While corn planting started and remained ahead of last year's pace the whole season, there were a couple weeks where it fell a little behind the average. Seventy percent of the State's expected corn crop was planted by May 7, 12 days ahead of last year and 1 week ahead of normal. By the end of May planting was virtually complete and emergence was not far behind at 85 percent. Ninety-four percent of the corn crop had emerged by June 4. Corn silking was slightly ahead of the five-year average at 49 percent by July 16. The percent of corn in or beyond the dough stage was also slightly ahead of average through most of the stage. This was also true for the dent stage which was also ahead of normal through much of the stage. Virtually all of the corn crop had reached maturity by October 15, at 98 percent. Corn harvested for grain began in early September. Dry conditions enabled corn harvest to proceed ahead of the five-year average throughout the season. By the end of October 77 percent of the corn crop had been harvested, 8 days ahead of the average. By mid-November corn harvest was winding down and as of the final weekly crop progress report 99 percent of the corn had been harvested with the week ending November 26. South central Iowa was the only agricultural district that lagged behind with 9 percent of their corn still needing to be harvested on November 26. Corn moisture level for field corn being harvested was reported at 20 percent at the very beginning of October, gradually falling to 16 percent by early November. The first condition rating of the corn crop on May 28 was 77 percent good to excellent, which coincidentally was also the highest rating of the season. Corn condition gradually declined through most of the season to a low of 46 percent good to excellent on September 10. The final corn condition rating came in at 51 percent good to excellent on October 15.



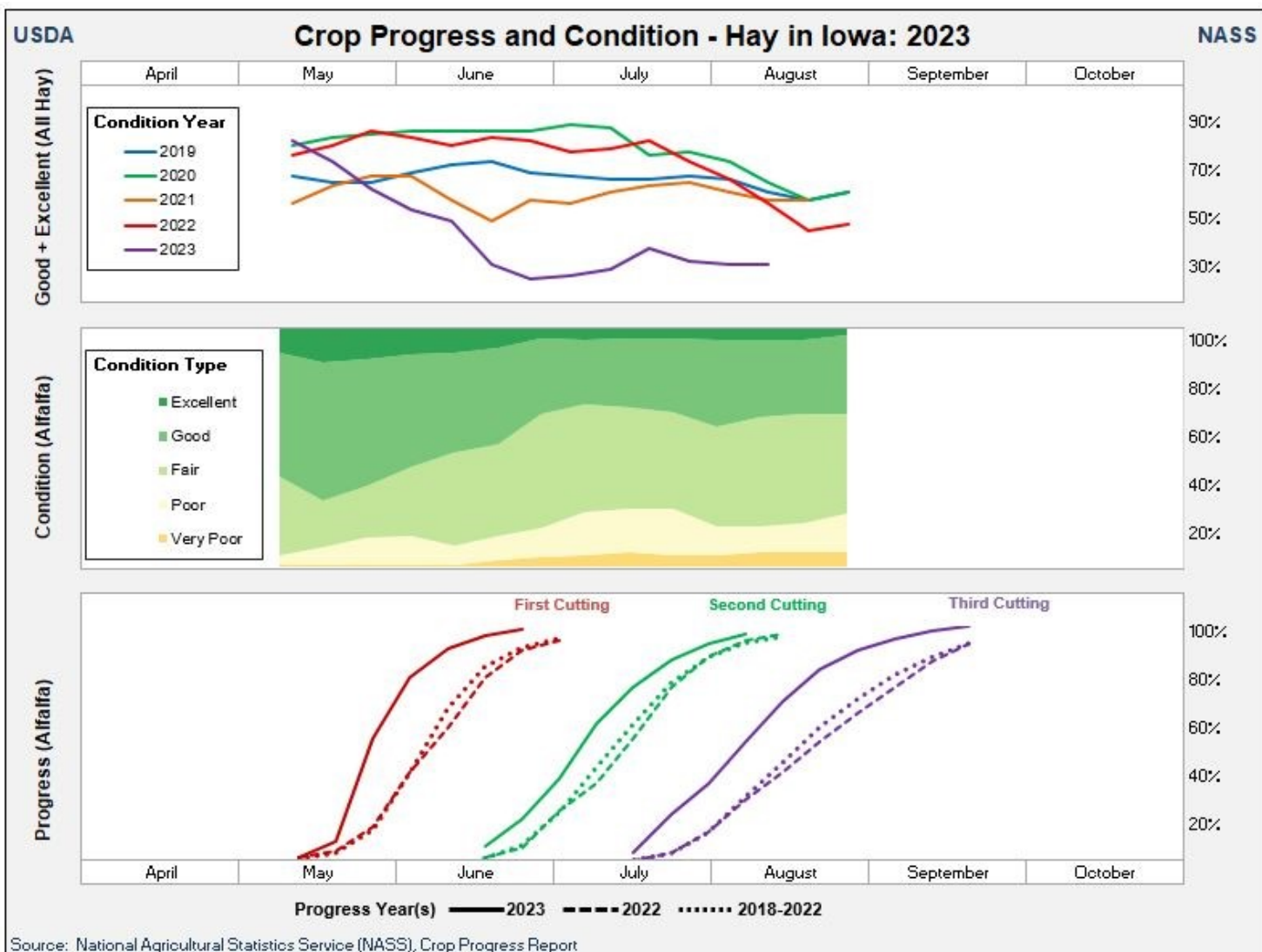
Soybean planting was underway by mid-April, ahead of the 5-year average. By May 7, 49 percent of the soybean crop was planted, 8 days ahead of the average. Soybean planting was virtually complete by the first week of June. The week ending June 4 soybean emergence was 87 percent, 12 days ahead of normal. By July 2, a quarter of the soybean crop had started blooming, 2 days ahead of the average. Three-quarters of the soybean crop was setting pods by August 6, 3 days ahead of normal. Leaves turning color or beyond reached 95 percent on September 24, with 75 percent of soybean acres already dropping their leaves at that same time. Harvest began in early September and by October 8 more than half of Iowa's soybean crop had been harvested, 1 week ahead of the average. Soybean harvest was at 97 percent on November 5, 9 days ahead of normal. As of May 28, the first condition rating of the soybean crop was 71 percent good to excellent. Crop conditions declined during the month of June, but bounced back up a little in July. Soybean condition declined once again from mid-August going into September then leveling off the rest of the season. The final soybean condition rating of the season showed 48 percent good to excellent on October 8.



Oat seeding got underway at the very beginning of April with two percent of the expected oat crop planted by April 2, 3 days behind the 5-year average. By the end of April, 85 percent of the oat seeding had been completed. Seeding was virtually complete by May 14 and 83 percent of the oat crop had emerged at that time. By June 4, 38 percent of the oat crop had headed. Oats turning color was at 43 percent on July 2, 5 days ahead of the 5-year average. Oats turning color progress was ahead of both last year and the average the entire season due to the drought conditions. Oats harvest for grain kicked off in early July and was over 50 percent harvested by the end of July. Oats harvested was 95 percent complete by August 13, 4 days ahead of normal. Oat condition started the season off well with above 70 percent good to excellent ratings in May, but quickly declined in June dropping below 50 percent good to excellent at one point. During July oat condition stayed steady hovering just above that 50 percent good to excellent rating. The condition of the oat crop was affected by the drought Iowa experienced this summer.

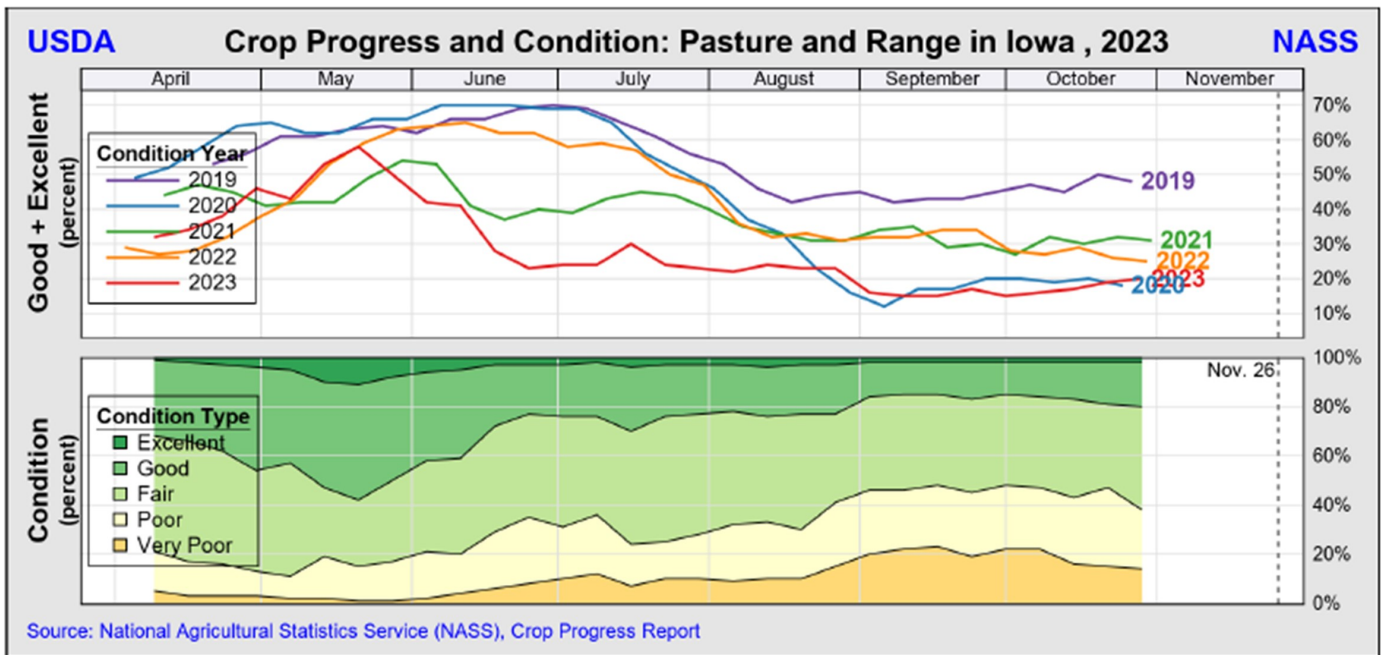


The first cutting of **alfalfa hay** was more than halfway complete by May 28, reaching 52 percent, 11 days ahead of the 5-year average. By June 25 the first cutting was virtually complete, 15 days ahead of the average. The second cutting was 97 percent complete by August 6, 8 days ahead of the average. The third cutting of alfalfa was 98 percent complete by September 10, roughly 3 weeks ahead of average. Hay condition averaged 46 percent good to excellent for the season, with a high of 72 percent in mid-May. The last crop condition rating of the season showed 36 percent good to excellent on August 6. All cuttings of alfalfa hay were ahead of the 5-year average the whole season for the same reason the condition of hay was not great this season—much of Iowa was in a drought in 2023.



Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Crop Progress Report

Iowa's pastures remained mostly dormant until early April. With precipitation received in April, pasture condition reached a season high of 58 percent good to excellent on May 21. Pasture conditions declined from that season high through the remainder of the season with the exception of a slight increase in mid-July. 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 in mid-September and again in early October with a good to excellent rating of only 15 percent. The season ended with a rating of 20 percent good to excellent on October 29.



USDA-NASS Upper Midwest Regional Office

Phone: 800-772-0825

Fax: 855-271-9802

E-Mail: nassrfourmr@usda.gov

Greg Thessen, Director
 Tony Dahlman, Deputy Director
 Steve Maliszewski, Deputy Director

