Corn planting is hitting the home stretch nationally, with 88% of acres seeded, down three points from the five year pace, but still six points ahead of last year on this date, according to USDA figures released today. In the Crop Progress report, delayed one day by the observance of Memorial Day, USDA also said soybean planting has reached the halfway mark. This is 12 points behind the national five-year average, but still slightly ahead of last year at this time.

The corn number is slightly lower than traders' estimates ahead of the report, but the soybean number is right on target with their expectations.

Ohio corn growers still seem to be stuck in the mud, getting just a small number of acres into the ground since last week. Growers there seem to have focused instead on planting soybeans.

USDA estimates that nationally 64% of the corn crop has emerged, well behind the normal pace. Just 17% of the soybean crop has emerged, well behind the five-year average of 33%.

For sorghum, 40% of the crop is seeded nationally, compared with a season average of 48% since 1998.

Weather for the coming week is expected to be favorable to planting. Meteorlogix weather service is predicting only minor planting delays. They are calling for a few light showers in the far west and far east on Wednesday, according to Reuters.

Nationally, the winter wheat crop is developing on schedule, with 76% of the crop heading. One hundred percent of the crop is mature in Arizona, California and Oklahoma. The condition of the crop was upgraded slightly this week. Now 55% is rated good or excellent. Eighty-three percent percent of the crop is rated fair or better.

Spring wheat planting is drawing to a close, with 90% of the crop in the ground. South Dakota and Washington growers have completed their planting activities, and Minnesota and Idaho growers are not far behind. Emergence is at 71%, ahead of the five-year average pace, and 22 points ahead of last year at this time.