



New England Agricultural Statistics Service

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Crop Weather

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For week ending 7/14/02

Dry Weather Continues, Crops Need Rain

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending July 14, 2002, there were 6.5 days suitable for field work across New England. Pasture condition was rated as 1% very poor, 4% poor, 26% fair, 49% good, 20% excellent. Dry weather continues throughout most of New England. Some crops are beginning to show stress from the lack of moisture. Irrigation took place where available last week, though farmers continue to be wary of low water supplies. Major farm activities included: planting vegetables; harvesting strawberries, highbush blueberries and early vegetables; weeding and cultivating fields; sidedressing fields with fertilizer; cutting dry hay and chopping haylage; mowing orchards; monitoring for pests and disease; irrigating, where necessary and available; applying fungicides, herbicides and insecticides.

FRUIT: Strawberry harvest continued across the region last week and some fields were renovated. Raspberry, cherry and highbush blueberry picking also continued. Orchardists mowed and monitored for diseases and insects. Pears were rated in poor condition last week; frost and hail in the spring caused considerable damage in Connecticut. Traps in Maine wild blueberry fields have captured fruit flies, spraying has begun. Massachusetts cranberries were rated in good condition last week, though they do not favor consistently hot and humid weather.

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2002	2001	5-yr Avg	
Apples	--	--	--	Good/Fair
Peaches	--	--	--	Good/Fair
Pears	--	--	--	Poor
Blueberries				
Highbush	5	15	10	Good
Wild, ME	--	--	--	Good
Cranberries, MA	--	--	--	Good
Strawberries	90	90	90	Fair

VEGETABLES: Vegetable growers sidedressed and cultivated fields, and irrigation took place where available. Sweet corn planting is nearly complete and harvest has just begun. Growers also harvested tomatoes, greens, beans, beets, cucumbers, broccoli, cabbage, squash, peas, carrots, zucchini, radish and lettuce last week.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
	-- Percent --		
Topsoil Moisture			
Very Short	7	6	0
Short	21	19	10
Adequate	62	58	84
Surplus	10	17	6
Subsoil Moisture			
Very Short	7	7	0
Short	20	17	20
Adequate	70	71	76
Surplus	3	5	4

FIELD CROPS: Hay making and haylage chopping continued last week. Early planted barley in Maine has started to ripen. Potatoes in Maine and Rhode Island were rated in good to excellent condition, and Massachusetts potatoes remained in good condition. Field corn is completely emerged and the crop remains in good to fair condition. Shade tobacco harvest is underway, ahead of last year but progressing as expected.

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2002	2001	5-yr Avg	
Barley, ME	--	--	--	Excellent/Good
Oats, ME	--	--	--	Excellent/Good
Potatoes				
Maine	--	--	--	Good/Excellent
Mass	--	--	<5	Good
Rhode Isl	--	--	--	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	--	--	--	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	<5	5	10	Good/Fair
Tobacco				
Shade	5	--	5	Good/Fair
Broadleaf	--	--	--	Good/Fair
Dry Hay				
First Cut	85	90	85	Good/Fair
Second Cut	25	35	25	Good/Excellent

For the Week Ending Sunday, July 14, 2002

The 41 stations shown below are limited by space but are well distributed across the region. All 86 stations appear on the Internet and in e-mail subscriptions.

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				CUM SINCE MAR 1 GROWING DEGREE DAYS				1-WEEK PRECIP			4-WEEK CUM PRECIP			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	BASE -50F		BASE -60F		TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES		DFN DAYS	
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN				INCHES	DFN	DAYS	
MAINE															
Augusta_ME	49	86	68	-2	847	-16	320	+49	0.05	-0.65	1	1.75	-1.22	13	
Bangor	47	86	68	+0	781	+15	280	+67	0.05	-0.72	2	1.47	-1.61	13	
Bethel	48	84	65	-4	742	-40	249	+30	0.33	-0.46	2	1.16	-2.28	10	
Caribou	47	82	63	-4	589	-39	183	+41	0.67	-0.22	4	6.41	+3.26	15	
Dover-Foxcroft	45	81	64	-4	564	-91	163	+8	0.12	-0.72	1	1.55	-1.85	11	
Frenchville	46	81	62	-3	513	-64	157	+43	0.13	-0.71	3	3.88	+0.72	15	
Houlton	44	82	62	-5	628	-18	198	+45	0.63	-0.21	4	4.78	+1.59	16	
Livermore_Falls	39	89	65	-2	767	+114	278	+129	0.05	-0.72	1	3.45	-0.02	13	
Moosehead	43	86	61	-4	534	+10	146	+47	0.42	-0.49	1	3.22	-0.48	13	
Portland_ME	47	89	69	+0	835	+84	299	+95	0.55	-0.15	2	1.35	-1.67	12	
NEW HAMPSHIRE															
Benton	44	83	63	-4	768	+23	266	+84	1.03	+0.26	1	3.40	+0.09	10	
Berlin_AG	44	83	63	-4	724	-19	233	+40	0.55	-0.29	1	2.23	-1.37	9	
Concord	42	89	67	-3	1036	+145	434	+147	0.09	-0.61	2	2.26	-0.62	9	
Diamond Pond	43	77	59	-5	464	+1	116	+57	0.36	-0.66	2	3.44	-0.81	14	
Keene_AP	41	88	66	-6	1025	-4	409	+35	0.14	-0.64	1	2.31	-0.96	4	
North_Conway	48	90	68	+0	908	+79	360	+110	0.33	-0.51	1	1.32	-2.20	10	
Rochester	46	91	67	-3	983	+26	382	+54	0.08	-0.69	1	1.93	-1.22	8	
VERMONT															
Burlington_VT	49	84	67	-4	1044	+66	434	+88	1.26	+0.47	1	4.73	+1.46	13	
Island Pond	43	80	62	-3	678	+88	216	+96	0.54	-0.37	2	2.95	-0.94	15	
Montpelier	45	82	63	-4	822	+69	286	+83	0.87	+0.18	1	4.49	+1.54	15	
Pownal	44	84	63	-5	879	+105	322	+113	0.34	-0.57	1	3.49	-0.45	9	
Rochester	44	85	63	-4	780	+57	267	+79	0.88	+0.04	2	4.54	+1.18	13	
Rutland_AG	42	84	64	-7	876	-152	323	-46	0.07	-0.77	2	1.43	-1.93	10	
Sutton	44	82	63	-2	698	+101	220	+89	0.87	-0.04	2	4.35	+0.45	16	
Townshend_Lake	45	87	67	-4	956	+10	364	+42	0.03	-0.71	1	1.46	-1.38	9	
MASSACHUSETTS															
Ashburnham	50	86	68	-1	989	+190	385	+156	0.14	-0.70	1	1.78	-1.58	9	
Boston	51	91	73	-1	1303	+157	598	+151	0.62	-0.01	1	2.52	-0.16	7	
Greenfield	42	92	68	-5	1122	+13	469	+45	0.30	-0.54	1	2.86	-0.58	9	
New_Bedford	48	88	70	-4	1162	+33	466	+40	0.02	-0.63	1	1.23	-1.74	6	
Otis_AFB	52	86	70	+0	1052	+182	400	+124	0.05	-0.58	1	0.28	-2.48	5	
Plymouth	45	91	70	-2	1091	+170	445	+133	0.10	-0.67	1	0.42	-2.66	5	
Walpole	48	91	71	+0	1161	+184	502	+163	0.63	-0.14	1	1.65	-1.66	7	
Westover	46	88	70	-5	1290	+9	591	+58	0.22	-0.62	1	1.46	-2.08	11	
Worthington	42	86	65	-3	895	+114	337	+126	0.27	-0.71	1	1.94	-1.76	9	
RHODE ISLAND															
Providence	54	91	73	+2	1297	+220	587	+181	0.04	-0.66	1	0.57	-2.37	7	
Woonsocket	48	88	70	-1	1162	+203	500	+183	0.48	-0.43	1	1.31	-2.36	8	
CONNECTICUT															
Bridgeport	56	89	74	+0	1352	+195	619	+157	0.37	-0.51	1	1.16	-2.18	4	
Hartford_AP	48	93	72	-2	1369	+136	641	+130	0.27	-0.43	1	1.02	-2.12	8	
Norfolk	47	86	67	-1	1036	+253	412	+197	0.32	-0.63	1	2.31	-1.71	9	
Thomaston_Dam	45	90	68	-3	1179	+213	501	+179	0.23	-0.68	1	0.83	-2.83	6	
Willimantic	47	90	69	-2	1202	+225	523	+195	0.23	-0.70	1	0.87	-2.75	10	

STATE WEATHER SUMMARY
For the Week Ending Sunday, July 14, 2002

Summary based on NWS data.
DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).
Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.
Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.
Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	36	90	64	-3	0.00	0.94
NH	28	92	64	-4	0.02	1.20
VT	37	89	64	-4	0.03	2.00
MA	41	92	69	-2	0.02	1.08
RI	48	91	71	+0	0.00	0.48
CT	45	93	70	-2	0.08	1.80

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REPORTERS COMMENTS, By County: *Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS), or other knowledgeable individuals.*

CONNECTICUT - Howard Rood (FSA), Fairfield/Litchfield: It was another very hot and dry week. Most areas of the county need some rain. Vegetable growers are irrigating if possible. Second cutting of hay is not growing very well due to the dry weather. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Warm days and cool nights, coupled with low humidity, made for great hay making weather this week. More farms now harvesting sweet corn. Bean harvest started and pea harvest continued. Summer squash and cabbage also being harvested. Field corn growing fast. Could use some rain. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Picking early peaches and blueberries. 4/10" of rain last week - not enough to make a difference on crop conditions. **Nancy Welsh/Karen Lockman (FSA), New Haven:** Soils are dry, producers need rain. They are irrigating where possible. Blueberries are being harvested and depending on the area, berries can be plentiful to sparse. First peaches are on the stands, size looks good. Hay making continues. Vegetables will be late this season, we are looking at beginning of August.

MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook: Potatoes: Good weather during most of the week helped growers catch up on field work - hilling, spraying, etc. Crops are growing rapidly. In fact, most crops have just about caught up to where they should be at this time of year. A few insect problems, but nothing serious. Early planted barley starting to ripen. **Steve London (Ext), Southern Aroostook:** Potato crop is looking very good - we haven't seen any wireworms for a couple of weeks. **Albert Dow (NRCS), Piscataquis:** Cool weather. Still a challenge getting hay in dry, due to showers. **Janet King (FSA), Somerset:** Crops are looking very good at this time. Strawberries are still being harvested. Could need some rain, but farmers are having a hard time getting dry hay in. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** A week of dry weather has helped finish off the first hay crop and allowed some to start the 2nd crop. Corn is still behind schedule, and bird and cutworm damage seems to be almost everywhere. Still no armyworms! Strawberry harvest almost done. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Spraying on blueberry fields for fruit flies began this week. Haying continues with an above average crop. More fresh vegetables available each week. Many areas have now gone several weeks without rain. **David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild Blueberries: Fruit flies have begun to be captured in traps and insecticides are beginning to be applied. Fruit is starting to turn blue, but ripening is very uneven. Crop development is about one week behind normal. **Michael Tardy (FSA), Androscoggin:** What a week! Just about any road you traveled you saw someone out haying the fields. Bales, both round and square, were finally finding their way into the barns. The corn looks great; other crops are doing just fine. Strawberries are on their last legs; most "Pick Your Own" farms are reporting a week or two more for the season. We could use some moisture. **Parker Rand (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Producers are cutting second crop hay and are reporting a big yield. Strawberries are winding down. It's hard to believe how quickly it's dried out, we need some rain. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Square bales are coming in fast and furious. The corn crop is a rich green and looks beautiful. **Laura Rand (FSA), Oxford:** Producers busy harvesting hay, conducting spray activities, and cultivating crops. Crops look good in spite of slow start. Strawberry and pea harvest is well underway. The weather has been very warm, however, less humid than the past week.

MASSACHUSETTS - Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire: Haying going on high speed, crop is maturing early, making crop look good. Fertilizing for 2nd crop. Strawberries nearly all picked. No local sweet corn product yet. **David Rose (FSA), Bristol:** It has now been one month since we have had any significant rain. Irrigation is being used everywhere. Corn is curling, yields on squash are low, beans have no snap - they bend due to lack of water. All farm stands are open and now picking sweet corn. Strawberry harvest is over and blueberry harvest has begun. **Paul Russell (FSA), Southeast Massachusetts:** Hot, humid weather is good for corn but not cranberries, bees don't like to work and the

fruit that has formed is very tender. Growers are also dealing with fireworm and cranberry weevil. Vegetable growers are starting to harvest, most crops are coming on fast. Summer squash, cukes, sweet corn are good to excellent. Growers are irrigating all crops. Second cutting of hay is excellent in both quality and quantity and field corn looks good. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** It's dry! If you own an irrigation system it's being used. Harvesting sweet corn, summer squash, cabbage, carrots, and blueberries. Early broadleaf tobacco is being topped and shade tobacco is being harvested. Crop farmers also busy cultivating, fertilizing, and scouting for diseases and pests. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** Hot and dry. Crops and growers showing stress. Renovation of strawberry fields underway. No appreciable rain in some time in this area. At farm stands, local produce is selling well. Perennials still in big demand, annuals in containers, too. Some stray cucumber beetles and squash bugs around. Corn here is at tassel stage. No European corn borers or Colorado potato beetles yet.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap: Strawberry harvest completed in most places. Blueberry harvest just beginning. Harvesting swiss chard, greens, zucchini, summer squash, peas, new potatoes, field tomatoes on plastic, few hot peppers on plastic, cucumbers, and cut flowers. Fruit is set on pumpkins and melons. Sidedressing and waiting for sweet corn. Trouble with crows and weeds. Second cut hay down in some places. Pastures look fine but could use some rain. **Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll:** First cutting of hay is finally finishing up! The fields that were cut early have a nice second cutting coming on now. The amount of precipitation has been more favorable for putting in dry hay and warmer weather is helping the corn grow much better. Strawberry harvest is winding down, blueberries are not quite ready. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Any 1st cut hay remaining is excessively mature. Second cut is well underway, and the week generally provided good drying conditions. Silage corn is growing well, with most corn 36-48" high. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Corn has made excellent growth in the last two weeks. Regrowth on alfalfa grass mixes good to excellent. Second cutting continues as weather permits. First cut hay finishing up. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruits: Strawberry harvest is over and growers are renovating strawberry beds. Harvesting raspberries and blueberries. Orchardists busy monitoring for pests, spraying and mowing orchard floor. Growers training newly planted trees. Some apple scab seen. Vegetables: Growers concerned about irrigating crops. Continued harvesting vegetables such as beets, broccoli, greens, lettuce, peas, potatoes, radishes and summer squash. The first sweet corn was harvested. Growers busy sidedressing fields with fertilizer, cultivating, mowing weeds around edges of fields, scouting for pests and spraying accordingly. Field Crops: Sidedressing fertilizer to field corn and harvested hayfields. Farmers continued to bale hay or make haylage. **David Seavey (Ext), Merrimack:** Harvesting peas, greens, summer squash, cukes, raspberries, strawberries and a few blueberries. Second cut hay looks good while some are still putting up 1st cut hay. Growers are mowing and applying post-emergence weed control materials. Some corn fields look great, while others not so good. Warm weather has stimulated growth of corn and field tomatoes. Greenhouse tomato sales are excellent. Starting to get a little dry, rainfall would be welcomed. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Nice, sunny days with a couple of cold nights. Crops are in need of a good soaking rain. Good haying week. Harvesting sweet corn, summer squash, leafy vegetables, tomatoes, raspberries, blueberries. Getting ready to renovate strawberry beds. Weeding, cultivating, and monitoring pests in vegetable fields and fruit orchards and spraying accordingly. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** The week was dry and hot. The growing conditions for crops under irrigation was excellent. Vegetable growers continued to harvest early crops, such as lettuce, radish and greenhouse tomatoes. Growers were also harvesting peas and broccoli. They also continued to monitor for pests and diseases. Fruit growers were busy monitoring for pests and spraying when needed. Strawberry harvesting continued and raspberry harvesting started. Producers continued to make hay. Some producers are already

making the second cut. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Somewhat cooler, less humid weather this week. Corn now beginning to grow rapidly, soil nitrate testing and top dressing of field corn during the week. Dry hay still a bit of a challenge with occasional showers, damp ground in some locations. Early season veggies, peas, lettuce on market, local strawberries coming available. A slow start to the summer overall.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: Irrigation pipes are out in full force, cabbage, potatoes, vegetables all under some percentage of irrigation. A windy, warm week added dryness to vegetables, but made the haying easier. Spraying and cultivating crops still going strong, some early corn starting to show up at roadside stands. **Marilu Soileau (FSA), All Counties:** Warm and dry! Fields are dusty. Irrigation systems are running where available. Early, native, spot-picked sweet corn is now appearing at farm stands. A nice assortment of produce is available. We need rain in all parts of the state. The fields are wilting and pastures are brown. Mowing, weeding, spraying and harvesting are the activities of the week.

VERMONT - John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille: After a wet start, the second half of the week allowed for grass to be dried and put up as dry baled hay. Many corn farmers are sidedressing with nitrogen before the corn gets too high. Some manure being spread on first cut fields. Quite a bit of second cut grass being harvested with a few already finished. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Very nice week for finishing first cut hay. Most landowners are dry baling the remainder of their first crop. Corn looks much better this week due to a decrease in wet weather and the warmer temperatures. Some landowners have begun second cut hay. The

fields are still wet but not as bad as 3 weeks ago. **Lynette Hamilton (FSA), Windham:** The weather has turned to dry with some crop showing drought stress. Most first cut hay is completed and fertilizer is spread, but we need a little rain to wash it in. Started picking blueberries and raspberries this past weekend and the reports are really good crops. **Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Continued hay crop harvest, mostly as chopped haylage. Dry hay harvest continues with remains of first cut and some second crop, good regrowth. Soil too dry in some fields (corn wilting), too wet in others, some corn fields and new seeded hay fields not planted at all this year. New seeded fields have good complete coverage. Pasture regrowth is good, but slowing. Corn crop looks excellent with vigorous growth. **Richard Noel, Grand Isle/Franklin:** A lot of hay went in this week. Second cut hay chopped, baled hay still difficult because of the wet ground, but quite a bit went in. Corn that's ready is being top-dressed. Manure very hard to apply due to wet ground conditions on grass ground. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Summery week. Many farmers had a chance to dry some hay. This was first cut hay - not much feed value in it. Still leaving ruts in fields, wetter ground is still very wet. Second cut of hay is growing well, some have started harvesting it. Good week for growing. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Sprayed potatoes for blight and bugs, also sprayed vine crops for cucumber beetles. Cultivated vine crops, hand hoed squash and pumpkins. Picking a good crop of peas. Started marketing carrots, summer squash, turnips and green onions. Rain was short (.02 in) this week. Potato bugs not very bad so far, have sprayed just once. Corn growing well. Early corn is in full tassel, but due to cold start, will be later this year. Beans will be on the market soon. Have a nice week.

To receive this report every Monday evening, send an e-mail message to listserv@newsbox.usda.gov and in the body, type **subscribe usda-new-eng-crop-weather**

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