



New England Agricultural Statistics Service

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Crop Weather

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For week ending 6/23/02

Field Activities Progress with Improved Weather

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending June 23, 2002, there were 5.1 days suitable for field work across New England. Pasture condition was rated as 0% very poor, 1% poor, 12% fair, 65% good, 22% excellent. Temperatures finally began to warm up in the six-state region last week, particularly near week's end, and planting neared completion for most crops. Cool, wet conditions earlier in the season caused localized damage to fruit and vegetable crops, and as a result crop growth remains behind schedule. Major farm activities included: planting field corn, vegetables, sweet corn and tobacco; harvesting strawberries and early vegetables; cutting dry hay and chopping haylage; mowing orchards; monitoring for pests and disease; applying fungicides, herbicides and insecticides.

FRUIT: New England's strawberry crop was 30 percent harvested at week's end, and growers continued to monitor damage caused by the recent cool, wet conditions. Apple growers are concerned about the lack of sunshine and its effect on this year's crop. Maine wild blueberries progressed to the petal fall stage and bees are being moved out of fields. Massachusetts cranberry growers continue to apply fungicides as they keep an eye out for fruit rot; as of June 23, this year's crop was in the early bloom stage and the fruit set was rated average.

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested	Fruit Size	Condition
Apples	--	Avg/B.Avg	Fair
Peaches	--	Avg/B.Avg	Fair/Good
Pears	--	B.Avg/Avg	Fair/Poor
Blueberries			
Highbush	--	Avg	Good/Fair
Wild, ME	--	Avg	Fair
Cranberries, MA	--	--	Good
Strawberries	30	Avg/B.Avg	Fair/Good

VEGETABLES: Planting that had been delayed by earlier rainy conditions progressed during last week's drier weather. Farmers planted sweet corn, tomatoes, pumpkins, squash, peppers and other vegetables. Sweet corn growth sped up with the arrival of warmer temperatures and sunshine. Last week farmers harvested asparagus, tomatoes, beet greens, cucumbers, turnips, spinach, broccoli, summer squash, peas, zucchini, radish, lettuce and rhubarb.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
	-- Percent --		
Topsoil Moisture			
Very Short	1	0	1
Short	11	7	15
Adequate	55	49	74
Surplus	33	44	10
Subsoil Moisture			
Very Short	2	0	8
Short	17	17	9
Adequate	75	71	72
Surplus	6	12	11

FIELD CROPS: With the arrival of warmer, drier weather last week, hay fields dried out a little and some farmers were able to get out in fields and bale hay. Most farmers still await more days of sunshine and heat in order to make dry hay. Maine oat and barley crops are now completely emerged and conditions for both crops look good. Massachusetts farmers finished planting potatoes last week and most of the crop has already emerged. As of June 23, field corn planting had another ten percent to go before completion, and the crop remained in good to fair condition. Shade tobacco growers tied plants last week, while broadleaf growers hoed and sidedressed fields.

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2002	2001	5-yr Avg	Condition
	-- Percent Emerged --			
Barley, ME	100	100	95	Good
Oats, ME	100	100	95	Good
Potatoes				
Maine	60	95	85	Excellent/Good
Mass	100	100	100	Good
Rhode Isl	100	100	99	Good
Silage Corn	85	95	90	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	85	85	80	Good/Fair
	-- Percent Planted --			
Silage Corn	90	99	95	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	95	90	90	Good/Fair
Tobacco				
Shade	99	100	100	Good
Broadleaf	85	90	85	Good/Fair
Dry Hay				
First Cut	50	60	60	Good
Second Cut	<5	<5	<5	Good/Excellent

For the Week Ending Sunday, June 23, 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	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS
MAINE														
Augusta_ME	48	86	63	-3	405	-74	88	-12	0.04	-0.73	3	3.65	+0.49	13
Bangor	46	86	63	-2	351	-62	60	-12	0.02	-0.75	2	3.07	-0.05	13
Bethel	45	89	61	-3	355	-73	66	-12	0.08	-0.83	2	5.07	+1.41	12
Caribou	44	88	61	-2	255	-71	48	+7	0.61	-0.09	3	1.80	-0.87	15
Dover-Foxcroft	42	84	60	-3	223	-113	24	-18	0.07	-0.81	1	1.78	-1.67	12
Frenchville	42	85	59	-4	205	-83	42	+15	0.48	-0.27	3	2.71	-0.14	14
Houlton	41	87	60	-3	286	-48	51	+7	0.28	-0.49	2	2.70	-0.38	13
Livermore_Falls	47	88	63	+1	361	+20	73	+28	0.99	+0.01	2	5.05	+1.20	12
Moosehead	40	89	59	-3	215	-37	25	+6	0.21	-0.70	1	3.11	-0.44	10
Portland_ME	49	79	62	-2	395	+3	69	+10	0.22	-0.57	4	4.53	+1.31	15
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	45	85	61	-2	401	-25	98	+26	0.64	-0.25	4	4.75	+1.22	18
Berlin_AG	46	88	62	-2	358	-52	70	-1	0.09	-0.89	1	7.58	+3.79	12
Bethlehem	44	86	61	-3	334	-92	65	-8	0.48	-0.50	4	5.64	+1.96	18
Concord	44	88	63	-3	580	+71	183	+65	1.09	+0.32	4	4.92	+1.93	18
Diamond_Pond	43	81	58	-2	197	-30	27	+18	0.54	-0.58	4	7.95	+3.71	16
Keene_AP	46	86	65	-3	596	-22	185	+11	0.96	+0.12	2	4.28	+0.89	16
North_Conway	45	89	63	-2	462	-2	124	+27	0.29	-0.62	3	4.73	+1.02	16
Rochester	47	89	64	-3	537	-24	146	+2	1.10	+0.28	3	6.37	+3.03	17
VERMONT														
Burlington_VT	51	88	66	+0	588	+13	188	+33	1.14	+0.30	4	6.22	+3.04	15
Island_Pond	44	86	61	+0	337	+23	72	+29	0.50	-0.52	5	8.59	+4.65	18
Montpelier	47	85	62	-1	451	+29	118	+40	0.74	-0.06	6	5.80	+2.51	18
Pownal	45	83	62	-2	474	+34	119	+35	0.70	-0.35	3	7.75	+3.48	18
Rochester	45	87	61	-2	414	+12	108	+36	0.97	+0.13	4	5.62	+2.01	15
Rutland_AG	46	85	64	-4	485	-141	135	-46	0.30	-0.54	3	4.62	+1.29	14
Sutton	48	85	61	+1	344	+32	71	+28	0.41	-0.62	5	8.23	+4.31	18
Townshend_Lake	45	84	63	-4	529	-19	147	+8	0.27	-0.43	3	4.87	+1.88	15
MASSACHUSETTS														
Ashburnham	46	83	63	-2	541	+98	147	+62	0.85	+0.01	3	4.80	+1.47	15
Boston	50	85	66	-3	734	+52	239	+44	0.56	-0.14	4	4.42	+1.52	15
Greenfield	50	87	67	-2	645	-27	201	+3	0.84	-0.05	3	5.76	+2.14	18
New_Bedford	50	82	65	-4	655	-14	169	-12	0.28	-0.56	2	4.88	+1.48	12
Otis_AFB	52	79	65	-1	568	+95	126	+30	0.07	-0.69	1	4.17	+1.08	11
Plymouth	49	83	65	-3	597	+85	161	+43	0.21	-0.56	2	4.38	+1.10	13
Walpole	49	84	67	+0	661	+96	212	+71	0.79	-0.11	3	5.02	+1.59	15
Westover	50	84	67	-4	768	-34	279	+13	0.64	-0.28	4	3.92	+0.06	18
Worthington	45	83	63	-1	492	+49	138	+54	1.05	+0.17	4	6.61	+2.93	17
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	53	84	68	-1	728	+101	228	+57	0.36	-0.41	3	3.61	+0.47	13
Woonsocket	48	82	66	+0	662	+105	210	+83	0.34	-0.60	3	4.23	+0.47	12
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport	56	87	69	+1	784	+90	261	+49	0.03	-0.75	1	4.22	+1.00	12
Hartford_AP	50	86	69	-2	826	+66	308	+58	0.64	-0.21	3	6.76	+3.18	14
Norfolk	46	83	65	+2	590	+151	175	+94	0.64	-0.41	4	6.24	+1.93	15
Thomaston_Dam	46	90	67	+1	705	+132	237	+96	0.22	-0.71	2	5.01	+1.14	13
Willimantic	50	88	66	-1	702	+121	233	+89	0.26	-0.61	4	4.19	+0.68	15

STATE WEATHER SUMMARY
For the Week Ending Sunday, June 23, 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	37	90	61	-3	0.00	0.99
NH	33	89	61	-3	0.09	1.21
VT	41	91	63	-1	0.19	1.80
MA	42	87	65	-2	0.00	1.94
RI	48	84	66	-1	0.34	0.36
CT	46	91	67	-1	0.03	1.79

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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: Hail early in the week ruined early vegetable plants and damaged fruit crops. Excellent haying weather later in the week. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Armyworm damage noticed in the Ellington area with some replanting required. Some fields too wet to get in to spray. Planting of broadleaf tobacco continues and cultivation continues. A fair amount of dry hay made at the end of the week; however, some fields are too wet. Field corn starting to grow fast now that the heat has arrived. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Late ripening strawberries have been hit by recent heavy thunderstorms. Silage corn, sweet corn and vegetables need warmer weather. First cutting of hay nearing completion between thunderstorms. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** At last, hot days and nights, great growing weather. Scattered thunderstorms still dropping buckets of rain with wind and a bit of hail, fields slick enough to deter spraying and spreading. Some field corn still not up yet, while other fields are looking better than "knee high by the 4th of July." Weed control is a concern. Strawberry picking affected by showers and heat, but berries are tasty when you do get them! **Nancy Welsh/Karen Lockman (FSA), New Haven:** The weather has gone from cool, wet weather to hot and humid. Corn looks good. Wet weather has demolished strawberries. Vegetable growers are struggling with crops. Producers finishing up hay. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Afternoon showers continue to slow haymaking in spots, while other areas had excellent hay weather toward the end of the week. PSNT testing is in full swing, even the late planted corn is tall enough now. Some concerns with low test results due to rain.

MAINE - Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook: Cultivation of fields is being done, and rock picking and herbicide applications are continuing. The week began and ended in light rain, with the middle part of the week sunny and warm. At the end of the week, fields were at 50 percent emergence. **Steve London (Ext), Southern Aroostook:** Now that we have had some heat for a few days, the crops are growing well. We are still finding some wireworm in this area. **Albert Dow (NRCS), Piscataquis:** Farmers are harvesting hay and green chop. **Janet King (FSA), Somerset:** Corn is coming up and strawberries are gearing up for the 4th. First crop of hay is being harvested. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Some decent weather has allowed for first crop hay to be harvested at a rapid pace. Strawberries will be ready in a week or so if warm weather continues. Lots of cutworm damage on corn silage crops. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Haying continues. A good week for field work. Some insect damage on new-burn blueberry fields in wet areas. **David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild Blueberries: Bees being moved out of the fields this week after an extended pollination period. A very uneven ripening in the crop is expected. Berries are green, it is difficult at this stage to access the extent of the pollination. **Michael Tardy (FSA), Androscoggin:** What a time we're having. We get the rain, but no heat. We get a teaser day or two of heat, then it cools off and rains. The grass is getting harvested, but everyone is having quite a time. No one can get bales made. The strawberries need some heat and sun. Some market gardeners have had to replant; some items rotted in the ground. Most of the corn looks good. It's out of the ground and is green and healthy. Next week's weather sounds promising. **Parker Rand (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Finally a few days for haying and a lot was made. Corn, both sweet and silage, is very slow - we need heat. Just starting to see strawberry signs popping up. Harvesting small garden crops, peas, beet greens, broccoli, and zucchini. Cutworm is showing strong in some areas. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** First cut hay is a bumper crop. Farmers now need some dry weather to get some square bales in. Early potato plants and corn are growing well. Sunshine and heat will really promote growth. **Laura Rand (FSA), Oxford:** Not much sunshine during the first part of the week. Apple growers started to show some concern over the limited amount of sunlight. Potatoes are being cultivated and look good. Producers are busy cutting hay - this week was a good hay week. Reports are being received that the strawberries may be a little late.

MASSACHUSETTS - Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire: Corn planting near the end of the week. Field hay cutting going great (baleage, silage and dry hay). The cold weather earlier nearly killed all fruit crops (tree and vine crops). No insect problems yet. For all the rain we've had, most hay ground is somewhat dry. **Paul Russell (FSA), Southeast Massachusetts:** Weather is starting to feel like summer. Heat is pushing all plants. Sweet corn, field corn and other vegetables are finally growing, cranberries are starting to bloom on schedule. Growers are concerned with the potential for fruit rot and are applying fungicides. Growers have found an insecticide that is controlling cranberry weevil, so all is good right now. Shellfish growers continue harvest with excellent growth and a stable market. **Kip Graham (FSA), Worcester:** Continuing fungicide applications for tender crops. Added sidedressing of fertilizer to corn and potatoes. First crop of hay finally nearing the end. Second crop rapidly coming into production already. Some areas got a little hail. For the most part, crops are looking good. Seem to be getting a balance of rain and sunshine. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Blossoms are everywhere; many early beds will be at full bloom this week. Excellent pollination weather so far. Bee hives still lacking from some beds. First fruit rot applications in place. Cranberry weevil is still a concern. Spruce aphid (not a cranberry pest) is here for the first time and causing significant damage to selected spruces in the area. Damage is so severe that some large spruces may not survive the infestation. **David Rose (FSA), Bristol:** Finally a week of good weather. Hay was being made everywhere. Crops have started to really grow. Greenhouse tomatoes being harvested, as is lettuce, summer squash, zucchini, peas and rhubarb. Planting and side dressing continues. Spraying for cucumber beetle. **John Devine (FSA), Franklin:** Weather conditions improved enough for the hay harvest to begin in earnest in Franklin County. All first cut hay is ripening very quickly. The tobacco crops, both shade and broadleaf, are looking much better after getting some warm weather. Broadleaf producers are side-dressing and hoeing, while shade producers are tying the plants. Potatoes are flowering this week and they look great. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Warm weather finally arrived. A few rain showers and the sun and heat are great for making all crops grow. Harvesting strawberries, radishes, turnips, peas, lettuce and green house tomatoes. Growers are cultivating for weed control and applying fungicides for diseases. Growers are also scouting for the following insects: armyworms, striped cucumber beetles and European Corn Borers. Early sweet corn is in silk stage and early potatoes are flowering and being hilled up. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** Finally heat! You can hear the crops grow, but along with the heat you get the cucumber beetles. Spraying to control them. Strawberries starting to ripen. Good plant sales at the farm stand once again as perennials start to bloom in profusion, driving customer sales. Rototilling between plastic aisles to control weeds.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap: Lettuce, spinach, oriental greens, greenhouse tomatoes and cucumbers being harvested. Wet weather has made field work difficult. Some hay cut and baled. Pastures are green but muddy in places. Strawberries not quite ready. Botrytis seen on several highbush blueberries due to wet cloudy weather. **Bruce Clement (Ext), Cheshire:** Rainy, cool weather persists. Farmers getting frustrated with lack of haying weather. Haylage and baleage harvesting continues. Early vegetables coming in: lettuce, spinach, etc. Strawberry harvest just starting. Berry size and yield are down. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Cornfields along rivers drying out from flooding, leaving some large patches of dead corn plants where water had collected for several days. Some ponding yet in fields, hayland flood-silted. Timothy heading out, white clover in bloom. Good hay and haylage making weather at end of week and farms keep busy doing so. Cool, wet conditions have us behind this year in corn and vegetable plantings, especially vegetables. Also giving difficulties on applying pesticides. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Rain showers continue to slow hay harvest. Regrowth on alfalfa and grass look good to excellent. Corn continues to grow slowly in cool weather. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Harvesting strawberries during week. Fruit growers monitoring pest and crop

development and applying sprays for pest control. Field Crops: Between rain showers, farmers continued trying to make haylage and baled hay, trying to finish planting and weed spraying corn fields. Vegetables: Continued successive plantings. Growers continued harvesting early season vegetables such as lettuce, spinach, other greens, and radishes. Growers busy side dressing fields with fertilizer, hoeing and cultivating weeds, scouting for pests and spraying if needed. **David Seavey (Ext), Merrimack:** First cut hay delayed due to rainy weather. Strawberries are being harvested but pick-your-own customers are not coming out in the rain. Hayfields are being fertilized after first cut. Vegetable crops are sidedressed. Mowing in orchards continues. Weed spraying in fruit and vegetable crops. Black cutworms a problem on sweet corn. Apple scab and some strawberry fruit rot appearing. Slugs found on strawberries and vegetable crops. Great weather for planting ornamental trees and shrubs. Pasture and hayland seedings look great. Apples and blueberries are sizing well. More heat needed to spur corn growth. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Fields are muddy. Some vegetables such as spinach and beets were lost because of the wet fields. Planting and re-planting sweet corn and other vegetables. Sidedressing vegetable fields with fertilizers. Strawberry picking was done between rain showers. Some signs of gray mold in strawberry fields. Hay and haylage being done. Lilly leaf beetles seen in big numbers feeding on plants. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** The week ended with heavy rains. The conditions continue to be unfavorable for drying hay. Most vegetable and corn producers were happy with the rising temperatures which will speed up the growth of crops. However, more sunny warm weather is needed. Strawberry growers were hoping for more sunny weather to ripen berries. Nurseries and garden centers were still enjoying good sales.

RHODE ISLAND - Marilu Soileau (FSA), All Counties: Scattered rain showers hit various communities with high winds and electrically charged thunder and "lights." Hay was harvested between these weather events. In many cases the hay will be good for mulching only! Pastures look good. A few fields that

crops are doing well in general. Spraying taking place for poison ivy in orchards as well as fungicide applications almost everywhere. Humidity is up throughout the state.

VERMONT - John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille: Late week hot spell sped up the drying process after the recent wet conditions. Hot weather was particularly timely for corn growth. Good progress was made on first cut, which had fallen behind schedule. Most vegetables have fared relatively well lately, with the exception of lettuce which likes cooler temperatures. **Bill Snow (Ext), Orange:** Trying to put up dry hay. Round bales more common than square bales. Getting three dry days in a row is difficult this summer. No shortage of rainfall for this year's crops. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Landowners trying to complete first cut hay. Land is very wet at the surface. Many fields have been rutted from the equipment. 90% of hay cut is for haylage or wrapped round bales. Very little dry hay has been harvested to date. All corn has emerged, however some of it looks poor due to the wet and cool conditions. **Lynette Hamilton (FSA), Windham:** The weather got a little better last week for farmers - they had four days without rain. Farmers are thinking about sidedressing corn. Early cut alfalfa will be ready to cut again by the 4th of July. **Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Some dry hay baled, more haylage chopped. Little corn planted, some fields prepared to plant. Pastures good with regrowth after rains. **Richard Noel, Grand Isle/Franklin:** Farmers were just getting back on the land and Sunday brought 0.4 inches of rain! At least 25% of corn still isn't planted and haying hasn't started on many farms. Hopefully this week the last of it will go in the ground. It's pretty late, but maybe that 75-day wonder corn will make it to maturity, but you wonder if it will. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Early potatoes cultivated and hilled. Sprayed early vine crops for aphids and Striped Beetles. Early corn just about ready for nitrogen. Lambquarters and nutsedge starting in early corn fields. Warm temperatures big boost to vegetables. Half an inch of rain. Still cutting asparagus, should have peas before 4th of July, radishes, scallions in good supply. Also lots of rhubarb. Last three days of sun was a great tonic for plants and humans. "Have a nice, sunny week!"

caught repeated rain are too wet to access right now. Vegetable

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