



# New England Agricultural Statistics Service

a field office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service  
United States Department of Agriculture

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## Crop Weather

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July 19, 2004 - 4 pm

For week ending 7/18/04

### Mix of Rain and Sun

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:** For the week ending July 18, 2004, there were 5.0 days available for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture was rated 24 percent short, 65 percent adequate, 11 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 23 percent short, 71 percent adequate, six percent surplus. Pasture condition was rated 11 percent poor, 24 percent fair, 56 percent good, nine percent excellent. Scattered showers that fell across the six State region hindered harvest activities in many locations. Many crops are in need of more warmth and sunshine to aid in development. Major farm activities included: haying; harvesting strawberries, highbush blueberries and shade tobacco; spreading manure; mowing; cultivating; top-dressing, side-dressing fields with fertilizer; monitoring fields; applying pesticides.

#### SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
	-- Percent --		
<b>Topsoil Moisture</b>			
Very Short	0	4	11
Short	24	14	31
Adequate	65	77	55
Surplus	11	5	3
<b>Subsoil Moisture</b>			
Very Short	0	3	8
Short	23	20	25
Adequate	71	74	67
Surplus	6	3	0

**FRUIT:** Orchardists continued monitoring for pest and applied pesticides as needed. Fifteen percent of highbush blueberries have been harvested and the crop was reported in good to fair condition. Mummyberry disease has been reported in some highbush blueberries due to the wet conditions during the spring and early summer. The cool conditions have also hindered maturity in Maine wild blueberries. Fungicide and fruit worm applications were applied to Massachusetts cranberries. Strawberry harvest is nearly complete with only five percent of the crop left to harvest.

**FIELD CROPS:** When able, farmers were busy harvesting hay in between showers as both first cut and second cut hay harvest advanced five percentage points from last week. Massachusetts potato growers harvested 10 percent of their crop, ahead of last year and normal. Potato farmers in Maine finished hilling their fields. Small grains were forming heads and the crop condition was rated excellent to good. Early planted broadleaf tobacco was being topped and shade tobacco harvest continued. Corn silage fully emerged during the week with the crop condition rated as good to fair.

#### FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2004	2003	5-yr Avg	
Apples	--	--	--	Good/Fair
Peaches	--	--	<5	Good/Fair
Pears	--	--	--	Good
Blueberries				
Highbush	15	10	15	Good/Fair
Wild, ME	--	--	--	Poor/Fair
Cranberries, MA	--	--	--	Good/Fair
Strawberries	95	95	95	Fair/Good

#### FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2004	2003	5-yr Avg	Condition
	-- Percent Emerged --			
Silage Corn	100	95	99	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	100	100	99	Good
	-- Percent Harvested --			
Barley, ME	--	--	--	Excellent/Good
Oats, ME	--	--	--	Excellent/Good
Potatoes:				
Maine	--	--	--	Excellent/Good
Mass	10	--	--	Good
Rhode Isl	--	--	--	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	--	--	--	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	--	5	10	Good
Tobacco:				
Shade	5	5	5	Good
Broadleaf	--	--	--	Good/Fair
Dry Hay:				
First Cut	90	90	90	Fair/Good
Second Cut	20	25	35	Good/Fair

**VEGETABLES:** More sun and heat is needed for summer vegetables. Growers applied protective sprays to prevent diseases. Sweet corn harvest is still in its early stages but is expected to pick up in the next few weeks. Vegetable growers harvested cucumbers, early sweet corn, summer squash, cabbage, beans, beets, broccoli, and peas.

For the Week Ending Sunday, July 18, 2004

The 41 stations shown below were limited by space but were 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		DFN	DAYS
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN				INCHES	DFN		
<b>MAINE</b>															
Augusta_State_A	58	81	67	-3	869	-94	259	-62	0.36	-0.34	4	2.21	-0.71	15	
Bangor_Intl_Arp	55	82	68	-2	806	-52	233	-23	0.28	-0.49	3	2.77	-0.31	14	
Bethel	54	80	66	-3	825	-47	227	-33	1.32	+0.55	4	3.56	+0.22	13	
Caribou_Municip	50	81	66	+0	599	-109	141	-31	0.33	-0.58	5	2.94	-0.36	19	
Dover-Foxcroft	54	79	64	-4	584	-156	122	-68	0.30	-0.52	3	2.48	-0.86	12	
Frenchville	53	80	65	+0	529	-123	103	-40	0.96	+0.12	4	6.64	+3.41	17	
Houlton	45	82	65	-2	596	-134	144	-44	0.24	-0.60	4	2.56	-0.68	20	
Livermore_Falls	52	84	67	+2	832	+96	254	+70	0.91	+0.14	5	3.46	+0.14	16	
Moosehead	48	81	64	-1	539	-60	91	-33	0.34	-0.57	6	3.47	-0.23	18	
Portland_ME	58	78	66	-3	834	-12	249	+0	0.59	-0.11	3	3.25	+0.30	13	
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>															
Benton	56	78	66	-1	808	-21	218	+1	0.14	-0.63	2	5.01	+1.80	13	
Berlin_AG	54	79	67	+1	823	-5	239	+11	0.03	-0.81	1	2.87	-0.63	10	
Concord	55	84	68	-3	1136	+145	423	+86	0.51	-0.19	5	2.71	-0.12	14	
Diamond_Pond	51	74	62	-1	495	-33	65	-10	1.07	+0.03	4	4.53	+0.33	15	
Keene_AP	57	82	67	-4	1069	-65	354	-75	0.28	-0.55	3	2.00	-1.27	12	
North_Conway	57	81	67	-3	942	+18	313	+18	0.27	-0.57	4	4.74	+1.27	16	
Rochester	55	80	66	-5	952	-106	318	-62	0.65	-0.12	2	3.70	+0.60	10	
<b>VERMONT</b>															
Burlington_Intl	62	81	71	+0	1157	+74	460	+59	1.67	+0.83	3	5.15	+1.88	18	
Island_Pond	55	79	67	+3	712	+50	181	+36	0.49	-0.46	4	4.27	+0.43	16	
Montpelier	56	80	68	+1	902	+64	285	+47	0.37	-0.32	4	2.78	-0.09	20	
Pownal	58	79	67	-1	969	+107	283	+36	1.99	+1.08	3	5.78	+1.94	14	
Rochester	56	83	68	+2	890	+82	266	+43	0.46	-0.38	4	3.44	+0.08	14	
Rutland_AG	59	83	69	-3	964	-167	293	-130	0.41	-0.46	4	3.34	-0.05	15	
Sutton	55	79	67	+2	725	+53	189	+33	0.53	-0.41	3	3.89	+0.06	17	
Townshend_Lake	59	82	67	-4	981	-66	303	-72	0.60	-0.17	5	2.52	-0.37	17	
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>															
Ashburnham	58	84	68	-1	1052	+162	356	+84	0.71	-0.13	5	3.43	+0.07	16	
Boston/Logan_In	60	85	70	-5	1291	+25	539	+22	0.63	+0.00	2	3.35	+0.72	9	
Greenfield	59	83	69	-4	1169	-50	429	-55	0.39	-0.45	4	2.45	-0.94	11	
New_Bedford	52	83	68	-7	1139	-110	408	-88	0.59	-0.07	3	1.46	-1.39	11	
Otis_AFB	57	81	68	-4	1064	+89	383	+52	0.49	-0.14	2	1.13	-1.53	6	
Plymouth	52	85	68	-5	1084	+58	400	+33	0.55	-0.22	4	1.94	-1.14	10	
Walpole	59	87	69	-3	1217	+135	466	+72	0.43	-0.34	2	2.87	-0.34	7	
Chicopee/Westov	59	84	69	-6	1376	-26	572	-33	0.74	-0.09	3	2.82	-0.65	10	
Worthington	56	81	65	-3	931	+62	272	+22	0.94	-0.04	4	3.98	+0.20	14	
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>															
Providence	60	85	70	-4	1320	+128	534	+63	1.03	+0.33	2	2.24	-0.65	8	
Woonsocket	57	85	68	-3	1198	+134	456	+84	0.43	-0.45	3	2.79	-0.82	9	
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>															
Bridgeport/Siko	63	87	72	-3	1413	+136	600	+68	2.29	+1.41	3	3.07	-0.34	7	
Hartford/Bradle	61	87	71	-4	1419	+66	605	+24	0.61	-0.09	4	3.49	+0.46	11	
Norfolk	56	79	66	-3	1028	+155	334	+79	0.40	-0.51	4	2.92	-1.00	15	
Thomaston_Dam	57	88	70	+0	1347	+281	546	+174	0.74	-0.18	4	2.22	-1.43	12	
Willimantic	58	84	69	-2	1262	+184	483	+103	1.34	+0.36	4	2.09	-1.62	10	

**STATE WEATHER SUMMARY**  
For the Week Ending Sunday, July 18, 2004

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	45	84	66	-2	0.00	3.01
NH	43	88	66	-2	0.03	1.12
VT	50	87	68	+0	0.17	3.29
MA	46	87	68	-3	0.05	0.99
RI	57	85	68	-4	0.43	1.26
CT	56	88	70	-3	0.40	2.29

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.

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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:** Rain fell at the end of the week. Some areas received heavy showers, and others received nothing at all. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Picking blueberries, summer squash, herbs. Beginning to pick tomatoes. Sweet corn nearly ready to be picked. Scattered showers all week. The crops all needed a fresh drink. Corn, for the most part, looks good. **Karen Vozarik (FSA), New Haven:** Warm, humid weather. Rained for two days. Rain was welcomed by all crops. Corn is showing stress. Some growers are irrigating.

**MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Heavy rains and showers during the week made getting any field work done difficult, however, most growers have completed their hilling of potato fields. Growers managing to get their fungicide sprays on. Moisture and warm temperatures are bringing crops along rapidly. Small grains are forming heads. No disease or insect problems spotted yet. Keeping our eye out for corn borer egg masses. Some grains have lodged due to heavy rains. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Insecticides and fungicides are being applied. Hilling and cultivating continue. Crops look excellent. Crops are growing rapidly and coming into blossom with many fields in full bloom. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: There have been no reports of European Corn Borer hatching yet, but the corn borer moths are still being seen. The weather has been slowing down their maturing. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Cool wet and changing conditions have made dry hay harvest a struggle. Corn silage is growing, but very slowly. Strawberry harvest almost complete. Where is the summer? **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Blueberry fruit fly trapping and spraying is in progress. Potatoes are ready. A sunny weekend was good news to home gardeners. Foggy, wet weather during the week has slowed the first crop hay harvest. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Crop maturity delayed a week because of cool conditions, fruit size is good because of adequate moisture. Few fruit files being captured on traps. **Michael Tardy (FSA), Androscoggin:** Crops are doing OK, but we do need some heat; some of those warm summer evenings are what corn and some other crops demand. Apples are still a problem when we look at the dead or dying trees, only time will tell. The strawberry folks had some problems with the winter weather. In some places, the berries were small and some plants didn't survive the cold. The hay crop looks pretty good but the farmers are having a hard time making hay.

**MASSACHUSETTS - Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire:** Very little haying this week. There are reports of worms in the sweet corn crop. Growers are (due to the wet weather) repairing equipment. **Paul Russell (FSA), Southeast Massachusetts:** Much needed rain arrived, warm weather pushed all crops along. Vegetable growers are picking sweet corn and many other vegetables. Insect pressure has been high but manageable, most crops are at a normal stage in growth with growing conditions near perfect. Hay growers are wrapping up their first cutting with good yields and quality. Silage corn is improving daily, weed control is good and growing conditions are good but a little hot humid weather would push the crop along. Cranberries have set and the crop looks great, insect pressure is high. Growers continue to apply insecticides and fungicides and fertilizer as this crop starts to size. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Bloom is nearly over. Bees have done an excellent job pollinating, as fruit set looks excellent. Many hives are being removed. Final fungicide applications and fruit worm applications are being

applied. Weeds being wiped with Roundup. Some beds lack crop, due to winter injury or frost. By and large, things look very good. **David Rose (FSA), Bristol:** Harvesting all types of vegetables. Crops look real good. Prices are somewhat depressed. No disease or insect problems right now. **John Devine (FSA), Franklin:** A week of peculiar weather effected the farmers in this county. A strong low pressure system brought storms from the southwest. Bright, clear, and sunny skies clouded over quickly and dropped a half inch of rain. The humid, wet weather increased the threat of blue-mold on tobacco and scab on apples. Corn, potatoes, blueberries and cukes look great! **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Rainy and cloudy throughout the week. Lots more sun and heat needed for summer vegetables. Growers are applying a protective spray to prevent disease. This weather is ideal for bacterial diseases. Mostly all crops look good in the valley. Harvesting cucumbers, sweet corn, summer squash, zucchini, cabbage, beets, pears, and blueberries. The early planted broadleaf tobacco is being topped and shade tobacco harvest continues. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** Just another perfect weather week for crops and people. Spraying sweet corn and completing strawberry field renovation. Harvesting wide array of vegetable crops. Growers in Worcester County now harvesting sweet corn, mine's about four days away from picking. Fruit setting on pumpkins and fall squashes.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE - Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll:** A dry day early in the week followed by cool, damp wet weather. Haying not even an option! Mummyberry running rampant, last weeks estimate of 30 percent is an understatement. Some growers report a near total loss. Squash, cukes and peas available from most farm stands. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Rainy, with the sun making a brief appearance towards the end of the week. Corn continues to look good - most of it in pre-tassel stage. Moisture has been good for regrowth on forage crops, but many farms are delayed in harvesting second cut hay and alfalfa/grass haylage. Field operations limited to spreading manure or fertilizer on harvested fields. PYO raspberries and strawberries selling briskly in between showers, and an ever-increasing variety of vegetables at farmers' markets and farm stands. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Haying operations continuing as weather permits. Corn continues to grow. Weather still cool but crops still growing well. Spotty showers delayed haying. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** Light, intermittent showers frustrated farmers trying to put up hay and haylage. Light showers occurred on five days out of seven last week. Total accumulation for the week was only one tenth of an inch. The topsoil is starting to get dry and subsoil is below normal. The corn crop responded well to a couple of hot days. It still has some catching up to do. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Vegetables: Growers harvesting an array of vegetables: beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, cucumbers, greens, lettuce, peas, potatoes, radishes, snap beans, summer squash, sweet corn (grown with plastic & floating row covers) and other vegetables. Farmers kept busy cultivating, hoeing weeds, monitoring pest pressures, spraying pesticides for insects and diseases - if needed. Very good demand for produce at most local farmer's markets and farm stands. Fruit: Blueberry and raspberry harvests continued. Orchardists busy monitoring for pests, spraying if needed, and mowing orchard floors. Blueberry mummyberry disease is very bad in some blueberry plantings due to the wet conditions in spring and early summer. Field Crops: Rain showers stopped farmers from making dry hay. Silage corn is rapidly growing, rain storms occurred, along with the humid weather. **John Porter (Ext), Merrimack:** Adequate rainfall has kept pastures in good condition. Corn is growing well, but needs heat units. Vegetables doing well, broccoli starting to form heads. For

those who survived the winter, there is a good blueberry crop. Several reports of mummyberry. **Pam Marvin (FSA), Sullivan:** First, not enough rain, now too much. The county has seen numerous down pours from Friday through Sunday. So far all crops holding their own. Some second cut of alfalfa turning yellow from inability to harvest with on/off rain showers. Excellent silage corn crop. Roadside stands doing good business with various vegetables being harvested. Some mummyberry reports in blueberries. Frost in spring pretty much wiped out peach crop. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** Haylage making continued through the week. Last week of strawberry harvesting on most farms. Blueberry and raspberry harvesting strong. Apples doing well and growers monitoring for pests and spraying if necessary. Vegetable growers busy harvesting an assortment of vegetables. Weeding around other vegetables and monitoring for diseases and insect pests and spraying if necessary. Farmers markets busy with an assortment of vegetables and cut flowers. Fall mums doing well and greenhouse growers also busy planting poinsettia cuttings.

**RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport:** Some needed rain midweek helped kick summer vegetables into high gear. Blueberries look good with some nice size. Getting fungicides down on squash and potatoes. Some haying the first part of the week. Shearing started on Christmas trees. Crops look good.

**VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille:** Last week's humid, hot weather was beneficial to crops but detrimental to our hay farmers. The southern end of LaMoille county suffered a severe weather event of four inches of rain in one hour, resulting in road and property damage, but no agricultural land damage. Slugs and mosquitoes are thriving. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Some farms have begun harvesting second cut hay. A few farms are still trying to dry first cut hay. Some manure is being spread on hay fields. Second crop hay looks short in the field. Some corn looks very poor while other fields look good, field drainage probably accounts for this variance. The showery weather has made it very challenging to harvest crops. Finally some warmer temperatures have helped the corn crop. **Perley Sparrow (FSA), Windham:** Second cut hay is slow because of the wet weather. Most all alfalfa is in full bloom. Field corn looks the best ever - we only need some hot, dry weather now. Some ears are starting to develop. Veggie growers are still having problems with bugs in cucumbers and squash along with blight. **Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Starting second harvest of hay. Top-dress fertilizer and manure on hay land. First harvest of newly seeded hay fields. Good uniform stands in most situations. Corn vigorous growth, some side-dress nitrogen. Mostly good weed control. Annual grasses showing up. Pasture regrowth good to fair. **Chris Benedict (Ext), Chittenden:** Excessive moisture has sized up fruit accordingly but has placed additional pressure on apples and peaches.

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