



New England Agricultural Statistics Service

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United States Department of Agriculture

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Crop Weather

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August 23, 2004 - 4 pm

For week ending 8/22/04

Is Sun in the Forecast?

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending August 22, 2004, there were 4.8 days available for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture was rated 62 percent adequate, 38 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 73 percent adequate, 27 percent surplus. Pasture condition was rated 11 percent poor, 24 percent fair, 49 percent good, 16 percent excellent. This was another unfavorable week for farmers. Humidity, morning fog and rain prevented harvesting of crops throughout the week; then sun arrived on Sunday. Major farm activities included: mowing orchards; pruning trees; spreading manure; monitoring fields; applying pesticides; cutting and baling hay; cultivating and weeding renovated strawberry bed; harvesting highbush and wild blueberries, peaches, potatoes, other vegetables, broadleaf and shade tobacco.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil Moisture			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	0	3	9
Adequate	62	62	72
Surplus	38	35	19
Subsoil Moisture			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	0	4	14
Adequate	73	74	76
Surplus	27	22	10

FRUIT: Highbush blueberry harvest was 80 percent completed and wild blueberry harvest was over the half-way point. Harvesting of highbush blueberries should be completed this coming week if weather permits. Early pear harvest were now underway with size reported as good. A wide range in pear conditions reported in Connecticut and Massachusetts; ranging from very poor to good in the two-state region. Apple harvest was in the early stages in New England, with growers picking Jersey Mac, Paula Red and Lodi varieties. Peach production has had late season disease pressure and excessive moisture caused some splitting. Cranberry sizing continued to improve from the timely rains.

FIELD CROPS: Wet weather caused unfavorable conditions for harvesting and for working in the fields. Operators were still trying to finish up first cut haying and some farmers were harvesting second and third cutting. Silage corn harvest is expected to be delayed due to continued growth and late maturity. Maine potato growers applied fungicides and insecticides as needed to control disease and insect pressure on a five-day spray schedule. Potato late blight continued to spread in northern, central and isolated areas of southern Aroostook County. Harvest of shade tobacco continued while broadleaf was slowed by rain.

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2004	2003	5-yr Avg	
Apples	5	5	10	Good/Fair
Peaches	55	40	55	Good/Fair
Pears	<5	5	5	Good/Poor
Blueberries				
Highbush	80	80	85	Good/Fair
Wild, ME	60	75	70	Good
Cranberries, MA	--	--	--	Good/Fair

VEGETABLES: Most vegetables continue to grow but were maturing slowly due to the cool, wet season; causing concerns from reports of mildew and mold on crops. Sweet corn growers needed some sun to ripen the crop. There were also reports of a high number of corn earworm and fall armyworms. Producers harvested an array of vegetables, such as beans, cucumbers, peppers, potatoes, pumpkins, summer squash, tomatoes and winter squash.

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2004	2003	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Harvested --				
Barley, ME	--	35	25	Good/Excellent
Oats, ME	--	20	15	Good/Excellent
Potatoes:				
Maine	--	--	--	Good/Excellent
Mass	20	20	25	Good
Rhode Isl	25	20	35	Excellent/Good
Silage Corn	--	--	--	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	55	55	55	Good/Excellent
Tobacco:				
Shade	70	60	75	Good
Broadleaf	55	65	75	Good
Dry Hay:				
First Cut	95	99	99	
Second Cut	70	70	75	Good/Fair
Third Cut	15	20	25	Good/Excellent

For the Week Ending Sunday, August 22, 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 INCHES		DFN DAYS	
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN				INCHES	DFN	DAYS	
MAINE															
Augusta_State_A	51	79	67	-1	1538	-93	578	-61	1.69	+0.92	5	6.96	+3.91	16	
Bangor_Intl_Arp	50	79	66	+0	1464	-24	543	+7	1.48	+0.71	5	4.59	+1.62	14	
Bethel	46	80	64	-2	1410	-72	469	-52	2.27	+1.36	5	5.66	+2.09	14	
Caribou_Municip	46	77	63	+1	1165	-52	371	+25	0.50	-0.41	3	3.72	-0.02	10	
Dover-Foxcroft	50	79	63	-1	1153	-147	345	-59	0.51	-0.33	3	3.84	+0.60	11	
Frenchville	46	77	63	+2	1085	-46	321	+24	0.08	-0.87	2	5.47	+1.75	10	
Houlton	43	79	63	+0	1174	-96	389	+3	1.20	+0.26	4	3.22	-0.47	13	
Livermore_Falls	43	83	66	+3	1479	+197	557	+171	1.33	+0.35	4	4.21	+0.61	13	
Moosehead	44	78	61	-2	1025	-58	247	-32	0.80	-0.04	4	3.80	+0.37	14	
Portland_ME	51	79	67	-1	1497	+6	562	+14	2.13	+1.50	4	6.21	+3.69	14	
NEW HAMPSHIRE															
Benton	43	76	63	+0	1346	-27	427	+4	2.28	+1.37	5	4.56	+0.98	15	
Berlin_AG	44	80	64	+0	1374	-9	453	+7	1.26	+0.28	5	5.84	+1.98	13	
Concord	44	85	68	+2	1845	+197	783	+138	2.35	+1.59	4	4.94	+1.87	15	
Diamond_Pond	41	72	59	-2	888	-47	163	-21	2.37	+1.20	4	6.33	+1.73	13	
Keene_AP	48	84	67	-2	1738	-98	679	-103	1.74	+0.86	5	3.43	-0.11	13	
North_Conway	45	80	65	-1	1581	+40	610	+47	1.01	+0.10	4	5.65	+2.04	16	
Rochester	47	87	67	-2	1627	-126	643	-82	2.78	+2.00	4	6.62	+3.34	12	
VERMONT															
Burlington_Intl	46	80	67	-1	1811	+42	769	+34	0.93	+0.02	4	4.11	+0.48	16	
Island_Pond	41	77	62	+1	1224	+90	368	+80	1.44	+0.33	5	5.20	+0.81	18	
Montpelier	43	79	65	+1	1480	+86	529	+79	2.01	+1.11	6	6.24	+2.82	21	
Pownal	48	82	67	+3	1565	+122	532	+52	2.59	+1.61	5	8.78	+4.95	19	
Rochester	45	80	65	+2	1463	+99	504	+70	2.16	+1.11	5	7.63	+3.54	14	
Rutland_AG	44	78	64	-5	1560	-260	556	-206	2.15	+1.17	5	7.52	+3.72	18	
Sutton	42	75	63	+2	1225	+73	360	+57	1.17	+0.10	5	4.64	+0.34	18	
Townshend_Lake	49	83	65	-3	1595	-129	571	-133	2.39	+1.48	6	5.72	+2.17	17	
MASSACHUSETTS															
Ashburnham	50	83	67	+3	1717	+218	673	+143	3.66	+2.89	5	6.74	+3.53	17	
Boston/Logan_In	57	90	70	-2	2072	-1	970	-6	1.59	+0.82	4	4.30	+1.45	10	
Greenfield	51	84	68	-3	1852	-106	763	-110	1.68	+0.84	5	4.80	+1.44	16	
New_Bedford	53	84	69	-4	1883	-198	803	-180	1.34	+0.36	3	6.22	+2.56	11	
Otis_AFB	54	82	69	+0	1808	+116	779	+78	1.68	+0.91	3	3.65	+0.66	11	
Plymouth	55	86	69	+0	1810	+56	777	+29	1.73	+0.82	3	5.93	+2.48	13	
Walpole	53	85	68	+0	1961	+168	860	+105	1.68	+0.77	4	4.85	+1.40	12	
Chicopee/Westov	50	88	69	-4	2104	-134	953	-140	2.03	+1.22	4	5.17	+2.05	14	
Worthington	45	84	64	-2	1509	+47	510	+18	2.56	+1.65	4	8.02	+4.20	16	
RHODE ISLAND															
Providence	57	87	71	-1	2104	+130	968	+62	0.81	-0.03	3	6.69	+3.47	11	
Woonsocket	52	88	69	+2	1933	+170	841	+122	1.63	+0.72	3	7.13	+3.49	11	
CONNECTICUT															
Bridgeport/Siko	58	87	73	+0	2235	+119	1072	+47	1.72	+1.02	3	6.04	+2.99	11	
Hartford/Bradle	52	90	71	+0	2216	+61	1052	+17	1.37	+0.53	5	5.00	+1.83	15	
Norfolk	48	85	66	+2	1638	+171	597	+98	2.50	+1.45	5	9.80	+5.75	18	
Thomaston_Dam	53	90	70	+3	2101	+359	950	+253	2.94	+1.96	4	5.79	+1.96	15	
Willimantic	54	86	69	+2	1999	+224	870	+143	1.53	+0.69	5	6.37	+2.80	14	

STATE WEATHER SUMMARY
For the Week Ending Sunday, August 22, 2004

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	39	83	64	-1	0.07	3.64
NH	33	87	64	-1	1.01	4.06
VT	39	83	65	+0	0.43	3.17
MA	35	90	68	+0	0.99	4.17
RI	52	88	69	-1	0.00	1.63
CT	48	90	69	-1	1.23	4.16

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: Very heavy rain fell Friday and Saturday, but we have not received any reports of crop damage at this time. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** A very muggy week. Vegetable harvest continued with a wide array of produce being marketed. Shade tobacco harvest continued. Broadleaf harvest slowed by showers. Spray schedule for sweet corn on every three days now. Blueberry harvest winding down. Very heavy rains on Saturday (up to 3 inches in Glastonbury) with high winds and several lightning strikes. Weather turned dry on Sunday and looks like a beautiful week ahead. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Spraying field corn for cucumber vine; evidence of early army worm damage. Melons short on sweetness. Hard to get dry hay in with showers and foggy mornings. Corn good in height and initial stages of full maturity; still a while before chopping. Peaches are delicious, early apples good, cucumbers, tomatoes and other vegetables doing well. Fall mums beginning. **Karen Vozarik (FSA), New Haven:** Received approximately 3.5 inches of rain from Charley and tomato losses are reported around the counties. Heavy rains on Saturday. High humidity most of the week but, dried out on Sunday. **Joyce Meader (Ext), Windham:** Threat of thunder showers from the tropical storms kept hay farmers home for the week. But on Sunday the fields were cut and rapidly drying on a beautiful low humidity day. Corn looks great.

MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook: Potatoes and small grains: Growers are busy preparing harvesting equipment and spraying fungicides. Outbreaks of late blight have growers concerned but they appear to be controlling its spread. Several acres of crops were flooded out last weekend when the St. John River overflowed its banks. Total acreage damaged is unknown at this time. Potato tuber size and quality look very good. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: No late blight reported; MA30 applied. **Albert Dow (NRCS), Piscataquis:** Farmers are cutting second crop hay. Some were still struggling against the weather to put up first crop hay. About 1.5 inches of rain fell. **Donna Lamb (Ext), Piscataquis:** There are still a number of hay fields that have not been harvested due to the wet weather this summer. Also, a number of fields were cut and the hay has been left in the field and the second growth has started coming up through it. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Wet weather continues with almost two inches of rainfall on Saturday. Many fields are now too wet to travel with tractors. Dry week ahead? **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** 38 varieties of locally grown vegetables are available! Blueberry harvest continues but should finish this week. No haying this week due to continued wet weather. Three to five inches of rain fell on Saturday in the mid-coast area. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Crop harvest progressing rapidly. Berry size very good because of rain. Additional rains preventing harvesters from getting into fields. **Michael Tardy (FSA), Androscoggin:** Wet weather continues to plague the agricultural community. Producers with hay crop are having a difficult time getting it off the ground if they bale hay. Some have not been able to complete the first crop on some fields and are working on third crop on another field. The corn is looking short and may be a light crop. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Heavy rains hit the area on Saturday, we have enough water for the rest of the season. Summer still hasn't hit, even though it is mid August. Cold nights are starting to slow sweet corn, tomatoes and melons. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Terrible hay weather again last week. Looks like a good week coming for hay but the dew is getting very heavy now. Plants should all grow like crazy with a little sunshine. Hopefully, field corn, winter squash and pumpkins will start maturing before it is too late. Wow, that was another "good" soaking on Saturday. **Laura Rand (FSA), Oxford:** Wet conditions prevail. Producers having a difficult time getting hay cut and dried, potato producers are finding the fields wet and muddy for harvest, silage corn is slow to mature, and sweet corn is late in maturing. Sun, Warmth, and dry conditions are needed.

MASSACHUSETTS - Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire: Very little haying last week. Good conditions reported on most fruit but very little harvesting of peaches. Solanaceous vegetables (potato family) failing to thrive. Herbs doing well. Almost five inches of rain last week. Most row crops need more warm nights and hotter days. Ear maturity is late (no hardening up). Early color change starting on sugar maples. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Quiet week, with growers enjoying the lull before harvest. They are getting the beds ready and the equipment all tuned up. Some weed clipping and ditch maintenance. Rain fell on Friday and Saturday, but not great amounts in most beds. Some wild weather in the Sharon-Wrentham area. Crop estimate is 1.8 million barrels, pretty close to what's out there, in my opinion. That is, of course, if things size up the way they should. **David Rose (FSA), Bristol:** The excessive rain last week caused peaches, plums and nectarines to split. There was severe weather in Norfolk county with the possibility of a small tornado. But other than that everything is OK. **John Devine (FSA), Franklin:** Producers are reporting scattered damage following severe thunder-storms Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. High winds and heavy rain effected some corn, tobacco and vine crops. Farmers are also dealing with scattered cases of early and late blight in potatoes. The early apple harvest has begun and this year's crop looks good! **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Hot, humid and rainy week. This weather brings on plant diseases, so growers are applying a protective spray to their crops. Harvesting an array of crops: tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, beans, sweet corn, blueberries, apples, potatoes, and lots of others. Very difficult week to harvest tobacco and hay with heavy rains and thunder storms in the area. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** What a storm! Tornado watch in Gardner, and with all that high wind and water many sweet corn sections have now got flattened pockets of plants on the ground. I know since I have lots of them. European Corn Borer still a problem and with all this rain on a tight 3-day spray schedule. All field crops look good with sugar pumpkins, orange and carving pumpkins sizing up well and breaking color. Fall squashes look great. SINBAR failure in strawberry fields.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll: Rain, rain and more rain! The grass is growing but who can get any of it into the barn? Great year for grazing. Veggies are in full swing, growing and maturing slowly everything about two weeks behind schedule. Early apples showing up at farm stands, Jersey, Macs, Paula Reds and few local peaches managed to survive. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Same ol' same ol' - rain showers and muggy weather, though there were a couple of reasonably dry and sunny days. Ears are maturing on field corn - everything's from late blister to late milk stage. Some farms working on third cutting for haylage, a few more pecking away at second cut dry hay. Regrowth on mowed fields is excellent, and late summer seedings starting to emerge. Powdery mildew and other diseases are common in veggies, and they're still ripening slowly without bright sunshine. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Still contending with weather as farms continue to try and put up some dry hay. Mowing, raking, and tedding in-between frequent, often hard, rains particularly in northern Coos. Second cut on-going, some just starting. Field corn looking good, generally in silk with some silk drying down. Need some hot weather to ripen corn. Sweet corn now available at most locations, looks free of most caterpillar problems. Cucumber, beans, mid-summer veggies available. Fungal problems pretty common in this wet year, apple scab, powdery mildew in pumpkins, etc. Some spraying to protect crop. Hasn't looked much like summer this year. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Cool wet weather continues to affect corn growth and hay harvest. Corn growing slowly. Hay drying weather has been very limited. Heavy dew plus cloudy weather hasn't helped. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Orchardists harvesting peaches, plums, and apples (Paula Red, Lodi, Jersey Mac). Highbush blueberry harvest continues and soon be winding down, and fall raspberry harvest continued. Cultivating and weeding newly renovated strawberry beds. Orchardists busy

monitoring for pests, summer pruning trees, mowing orchard floors, fixing up orchard roads and move bins into orchard. Vegetables: Harvesting an array of vegetables, including pumpkin and some winter squash. Farmers kept busy harvesting crops, monitoring pest pressures, spraying pesticides for insect and disease control where needed. Major out break of mildew in pumpkins and some winter squash. High numbers of corn earworm and fall armyworm along with increasing number of European Corn Borer. Field Crops: Hay making and cutting haylage continued during the week with the second cut and some third cutting being made. Growth has been good to excellent. The remaining first cutting is only good for mulch hay. Farmers make new seeding for pasture and hayfields. Corn looks good to excellent. **John Porter (Ext), Merrimack:** Silage corn still needs heat units to mature. Some late planted corn has barely tasseled. Pastures continue to hold up well and are lush. Wet conditions have caused a lot of disease problems in vegetables and slow ripening. Lot of early blight in tomatoes, white mold on beans, and smut in sweet corn. Growing degree day project in Merrimack County has shown a lot of variation in different geographic areas.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: Harvesting potatoes, sweet corn, beans, squash, tomatoes, and all summer vegetables. Pumpkins and winter squash are looking great. Good sun and rain this week. Field corn is enormous and it's been a great growing season. **Marilu Soileau (FSA), All Counties:** Spraying squash and pumpkins. Harvesting lots of other vegetables. Reports of tomatoes splitting from recent rains. Mold/fungus on squash and pumpkins.

VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille: Frequent showers continue to discourage dry hay producers with some fields not yet harvested. Barley harvest getting behind due to rainy conditions. Corn and soybean crop progressing nicely. Some manure was spread on second cut fields last week. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Continued rain has made it very challenging to harvest crops. Drying hay is nearly impossible. Corn has tasseled but development is slow. The wet cool summer has delayed corn maturity. The quantity of the crop varies greatly from field to field. The wetter fields will see a much lower yield than the traditionally drier fields. **Perley Sparrow (FSA), Windham:** Sweet corn has taken a hit from all the bad weather, fields have been flattened with the high winds and heavy rains. Drying hay is impossible and the fields are becoming to muddy to drive on. **Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Some hay harvest and manure spreading on fields. Corn ear development starting, no dent yet on kernels. Grass regrowth good with excess field moisture. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Another wet week. There was some haying, but not much 'never-rained on hay' has been made this year. Another couple of soaking rains during the week. Grass is growing, expect there will be a lot of hay knocked down this week, the forecast is for several dry days. The corn is coming along, but we have not received the heat that corn wants. It was 42 degrees the other morning. Heavy fog in the valleys tell us that fall is coming real fast. **Chris Benedict (Ext), Chittenden:** Early apple cultivar harvest should be getting on its way this week. Local peach production has had a year of heavy late-season disease pressure, which may lead to some storage issues. Pear size has looked good this year.

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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