



New England Agricultural Statistics



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Crop Weather
(Issued weekly on the internet, May – October)

June 27, 2005 – 4 pm

For week ending 6/26/05

Make Hay While The Sun Shines!

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending June 26, 2005, there were 6.6 days suitable for field work. Topsoil moisture was rated 3% very short, 8% short, 65% adequate, and 24% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 3% very short, 6% short, 66% adequate, and 25% surplus. Pasture condition was rated 2% very poor, 1% poor, 11% fair, 59% good, and 27% excellent. The week began with normal temperatures with a mixture of sun and clouds. On Wednesday, throughout the region, cool, light rain arrived with scattered thunder and lightning storms. By week's end, conditions began to warm up with near record high temperatures for the weekend. A strong Bermuda high pressure brought hot and humid air mass into the region. Throughout New England, temperatures were in the 90s on Saturday and Sunday with heat indices around 100 degrees on Saturday. Major farm activities included baling hay, chopping grass silage, finishing planting, and tilling fields, spreading manure and fertilizer on fields, spraying herbicides and fungicides, cultivating weeds, scouting for pests, applying pesticides and herbicides to fruit trees and berries, mowing orchards, removing bees from blueberry fields, harvesting strawberries, brush cutting, planting sweet corn and vegetables, and harvesting lettuce, summer squash, radishes and zucchini.

FRUIT: Strawberry harvest began behind schedule but berries are ripening fast with the warm, sunny days; conditions varied throughout the region, good to very poor in Massachusetts, good to fair in Connecticut and good to excellent elsewhere. Blueberry growers removed bees from fields as bloom finished and applied fertilizer. Cranberry growers applied fungicides as berries begin to set on warmer beds. Apple growers continued to find trees damaged from the May 13th frost in the southern region on New England. Also, some growers reported scabbing on apple trees from the wet, cold spring. Fruit growers continued to apply fungicides, insecticides, and pesticides in orchards and mowed orchard floor. Apple growers were still pruning some trees and peach growers continued to thinning trees.

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	- Percent Harvested -			Fruit Size	Condition
	2004	2005	5-yr Avg		
Apples	-	-	-	Avg	Good/Fair
Peaches	-	-	-	Ave/Below	Good/Fair
Pears	-	-	-	Avg	Fair/Good
Blueberries					
Highbush	-	-	-	Avg	Good
Wild, ME	-	-	-	Avg	Good/Excel
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-		Good/Fair
Strawberries	20	20	35	Avg/Above	Good/Excel

VEGETABLES: The week's condition allowed vegetable growers to finish planting crops though sweet corn planting should finish shortly. Growers were busy fertilizing, cultivating, spraying pesticides to fields and weeding. The hot, humid weekend enhanced vegetable growth to catch up with the cool, wet spring delay. Growers harvested lettuce, summer squash, radishes and zucchini. Producers continued to scout for European corn borer, cabbage root maggot, cabbageworm, flea beetles and cucumber beetles. Greenhouse sales continued to prosper as the transition from bedding plants to woody ornamentals and perennial sales. Botrytis and other diseases were spotted in nursery crops and perennials.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
	-- Percent --		
Topsoil			
Very Short	3	3	4
Short	8	4	13
Adequate	65	55	80
Surplus	24	38	3
Subsoil			
Very Short	3	3	3
Short	6	5	12
Adequate	66	58	78
Surplus	25	34	7

FIELD CROPS: Farmers took advantage of the sunshine. First cutting of hay harvest continued on schedule as farmer's baled hay while there was sunshine. Hay condition was rated good to fair though some grass over mature. Some second cut haylage harvested in southern New England, but re-growth of grass limited due to a lack of rainfall. Field corn planting almost completed at week's end. Warm, humid conditions enhanced corn growth and emergence. Some parts of southern New England, limited rain has caused concern of drought stress. Maine potato completed planting at week's end but behind normal. Potato growers in Aroostook County Maine, spotted Colorado potato beetles and European corn borer moths. Growers with unprotected potatoes were advised to scout fields. The frequency of application is more critical than the rate or material, which is a low to mid rate of a protectant. Broadleaf tobacco should finish planting by week's end, with only five percent left to plant. Shade tobacco plants have been tied.

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2005	2004	5-yr Avg	Condition
	-- Percent Emerged --			
Barley, ME	100	100	100	Good/Excellent
Oats, ME	95	100	100	Good/Excellent
Potatoes				
Maine	85	85	90	Excellent/Fair
Mass.	100	100	100	Good
Rhode Isl.	100	100	100	Good
Silage Corn	90	90	85	Good/Excellent
Sweet Corn	80	90	80	Good/Excellent
	-- Percent Planted --			
Barley, ME	100	100	100	Good/Excellent
Oats, ME	100	100	100	Good/Excellent
Potatoes, ME	100	100	100	Excellent/Fair
Silage Corn	99	99	95	Good/Excellent
Sweet Corn	90	95	90	Good/Excellent
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	95	95	90	Good
	-- Percent Harvested --			
Dry hay, 1 st cut	60	70	60	Good/Fair

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics
Prepared By AWIS, Inc.

For the Period: Monday June 20, 2005
To: Sunday June 26, 2005

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	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS
MAINE														
Augusta State A	47	94	67	+2	466	-62	180	+62	0.14	-0.63	2	20.69	+6.94	54
Bangor Intl_Afp	43	95	67	+3	486	+28	173	+86	0.00	-0.77	0	14.49	+1.48	38
Bethel	43	95	65	+1	431	-43	152	+59	0.10	-0.81	1	26.58	+12.56	47
Caribou Municip	41	90	65	+4	390	+25	142	+92	0.01	-0.69	1	14.17	+3.68	52
Dover-Foxcroft	43	87	65	+3	340	-35	121	+69	0.00	-0.85	0	15.29	+1.87	41
Frenchville	46	89	66	+5	380	+56	141	+105	0.22	-0.55	2	12.49	+1.88	54
Houlton	35	93	65	+3	388	+15	137	+83	0.09	-0.68	2	14.80	+3.67	56
Livermore Falls	41	96	66	+4	436	+55	172	+117	0.21	-0.74	1	25.53	+10.74	50
Moosehead	36	94	62	+2	304	+18	108	+83	0.12	-0.80	2	16.27	+3.71	54
Portland_ME	47	94	67	+3	446	+9	165	+91	0.27	-0.50	2	23.12	+8.63	49
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	41	90	64	+1	449	-19	159	+75	0.21	-0.65	1	16.05	+4.16	50
Berlin AG	42	92	65	+2	463	+10	175	+92	0.15	-0.81	1	17.18	+3.76	45
Concord	42	94	68	+2	609	+50	243	+107	0.19	-0.55	1	16.78	+5.17	50
Diamond Pond	37	91	61	+2	320	+64	114	+101	0.29	-0.81	2	19.95	+6.11	66
Keene AP	41	91	66	-2	601	-71	228	+30	0.00	-0.84	0	17.06	+3.99	47
North Conway	44	92	67	+2	486	-26	180	+66	0.20	-0.71	1	21.76	+6.37	54
Rochester	45	94	67	+0	504	-109	190	+25	0.25	-0.54	1	23.00	+7.80	45
VERMONT														
Burlington Intl	45	92	68	+2	698	+70	287	+110	0.21	-0.63	1	10.46	-0.71	45
Island Pond	38	90	64	+4	448	+98	169	+117	0.58	-0.41	1	15.00	+2.51	58
Montpelier	40	91	66	+3	561	+97	216	+125	0.28	-0.49	2	13.06	+1.95	55
Pownal	43	88	64	+0	585	+102	211	+114	0.00	-1.05	0	14.43	-2.43	51
Rochester	41	91	65	+2	520	+76	195	+111	0.15	-0.69	1	17.82	+3.23	48
Rutland AG	48	93	67	-1	574	-106	222	+19	0.04	-0.80	1	13.29	+1.70	47
Sutton	42	91	64	+3	441	+93	169	+117	0.19	-0.81	1	16.30	+3.27	60
Townshend Lake	44	92	67	-1	576	-24	223	+63	0.31	-0.39	2	15.82	+3.04	54
MASSACHUSETTS														
Ashburnham	48	91	66	+2	582	+93	218	+118	0.01	-0.83	1	20.21	+6.90	55
Boston/Logan_In	52	95	70	+1	642	-101	252	+27	0.03	-0.67	1	11.99	-1.37	43
Greenfield	46	93	68	-1	651	-78	253	+28	0.07	-0.79	2	14.42	+0.23	48
New Bedford	43	87	65	-5	553	-176	173	-37	0.07	-0.75	1	16.15	+0.91	45
Otis AFB	46	86	68	+2	695	+171	262	+147	0.06	-0.67	1	15.91	+1.82	42
Plymouth	43	93	66	-2	538	-27	200	+60	0.03	-0.74	2	18.36	+3.03	41
Walpole	45	94	68	+1	653	+34	247	+83	0.07	-0.80	1	16.78	+2.03	42
Chicopee/Westov	48	95	70	-2	796	-69	317	+18	0.06	-0.85	1	12.12	-3.03	53
Worthington	40	90	65	+0	538	+50	190	+92	0.02	-0.88	1	15.99	+0.69	55
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	49	93	69	-1	711	+25	266	+68	0.10	-0.67	1	13.80	-1.15	40
Woonsocket	47	92	67	+0	669	+60	248	+100	0.05	-0.86	1	18.09	+2.44	48
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	55	87	69	-1	789	+35	271	+29	0.28	-0.53	1	10.64	-3.88	46
Hartford/Bradle	49	94	70	+0	849	+26	347	+65	0.07	-0.77	1	12.10	-2.91	48
Norfolk	46	87	66	+2	579	+95	206	+110	0.00	-1.05	0	12.72	-4.63	47
Thomaston Dam	48	91	68	+2	697	+73	261	+99	0.13	-0.78	1	14.27	-2.01	52
Willimantic	46	92	66	-2	712	+79	259	+94	0.05	-0.85	2	11.60	-3.94	45

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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STATE WEATHER SUMMARY

For the Week Ending Sunday, June 26, 2005

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	L	HI	AV	DF	LO	HI
ME	35	96	65	+2	0.00	0.46
NH	32	99	65	+2	0.00	0.90
VT	35	96	65	+1	0.00	0.58
MA	39	95	66	-1	0.00	0.41
RI	47	93	67	-1	0.05	0.36
CT	43	95	68	-1	0.00	0.28

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

CONNECTICUT - Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland: Another mostly dry week made for good hay drying. With the exception for isolated showers on Wednesday, most crops were hurting for water and irrigation continued. Picking strawberries and summer squash is almost ready. Early sweet corn has tasseled and is in silk. Field corn growing well. Hay fields slow to regrow for 2nd cut with lack of rain. **Frank Himmelstein (Ext), New London:** Field Corn- Record Heat and dry weather pushed corn growth along and made up for many growing degree days lost in May. The last of the fields will be planted this week. Dry weather did have adverse effects on pre-emergence weed control with weeds escaping treatments. Hot temperatures above 90 can also have adverse effects with some post-emergence weed control treatments. Need rain badly to promote optimum crop growth. Weeds grow rapidly under such weather conditions and can impact yields if not treated in a timely manner. Some drought stress corn observed in extremely coarse soils. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** No rain again this week. Corn has been replanted in some of the previous wet fields. Spraying for army worms that appeared in some no-till planted fields. First cutting is good quality, 2nd cutting will be light unless we get rain. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Lots of hay to get done, some over mature, first and some second cutting done, round up ready corn being sprayed, corn looks good, apples good fruit set, peaches look good, blueberries have some winter injury, hand thinning peaches, pruning apples still, vegetables all planted, asparagus done, planting potted mums for fall, farmers markets open, strawberries bountiful and flavorful, a bit hot for daytime picking, getting dry, it is summer! **Karen Vozarik (FSA), New Haven:** Extreme heat and close to 100% humidity, no rain in sight making producers irrigate. Isolated thundershowers are hit and miss. Orchards are finding that as time goes on very little fruit remains on the trees due to Friday the 13th of May frost. Strawberries are rotting quickly due to weather conditions. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Strawberry harvest is peaking, corn looks better after some heat, hay being harvested despite humidity and heavy dew.

MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook: Potatoes and small grains: Good weather during the week helped growers get caught up on field work. Herbicide applications continue. Some growers have begun applying fungicides. Potato fields are being cultivated. Crops look good however potatoes are somewhat behind normal due to late planting. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Still a few cover crops being planted. Potatoes are all planted. Emergence is 95%. Crops are looking good. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Finished applying herbicide for potatoes, oats and barley. Some potato growers have noticed Colorado Potato Beetle, but have not sprayed for them yet. **Albert Dow (NRCS), Piscataquis:** Equipment was getting stuck in fields the first of the week as farmers were anxiously taking advantage of the good weather. Haying and green chopping are in full swing. Producers were still getting crops planted. **Donna Lamb (Ext), Piscataquis:** Strawberries grown under remay are starting to be harvested. Farmers are finally able to get some dry hay in the barn. **Gleason Gray (Ext), Penobscot:** Some hay being cut some folks still trying to finish planting. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** A better week at last except for the near record heat over the weekend. **Donald Burke (FSA), Waldo:** Hayfields are being cut now that summer weather is here. Strawberries and fresh vegetables ready for market. Some hayland still too wet for equipment. Hay quality is going downhill because of the late start. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Haying is underway with temperatures in the 90's. Fertilizer application on blueberry fields going on. Fresh strawberries are in and looking good. Lots of veggies now at farm markets. Appears to be damage from monilinia blight (mummy berry) on blueberry fields after two months of rain. Skips in sweet corn plantings noted. Some pastures and hayfields still too soft for animals or equipment. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Bloom finishing up on the Down East fields. Bees being moved out. Bloom was delayed by two weeks because of the cool wet weather, so crop is also delayed as well. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Farmers took advantage of the sunny weather to continue planting crops. Some areas of fields are still too wet for planting or harvesting hay. Strawberries have started turning red. It

finally feels like summer! **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Some side affects from the cool wet spring are: Insects seem to be hatching later than usual. They will need to be monitored closely for control. Grass seems to be well established in row crops and will be more difficult to control especially for organic farmers. Soil is more compacted than usual and has crusted over in some cases. Good cultivation should produce good crops especially with the heat & moisture. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Oxford County producers welcomed the sunshine. Producers have been busy trying to catch up on field work and getting crops in the ground. Pastures looking good. Strawberries are beginning to be harvested. **Laura Rand (FSA), Oxford:** Producers are busy trying to "make hay while the sun shines". The past weeks' weather has provided a break to those trying to gather haylage and finish planting what could not be planted earlier. Apple growers are reporting some scab and potato growers are cultivating

MASSACHUSETTS - Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire: Hot weather. A full week of field work for those who could stand it. Our rainfall is down by about 3" compared to the average. Reports are that the soil is dry and getting dryer. FAV farmers are busy. Farmer's markets and CSA's are getting lots of press and customers. **Carolyn DeMoranville (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: As bloom becomes widespread, growers are applying first fungicide treatments. With consistent warm weather, bloom is advancing and some fruit is beginning to set on warmer beds. Bees have been brought in for pollination. First report of damage attributed to earlier winter moth larvae activity on cranberry was received. **John Devine (FSA), Franklin:** Severe weather, including high winds and heavy rain, affected sections of Franklin County yesterday. Crops look very good and are progressing well at this time. Most farms are making hay, cultivating and top-dressing this week. Aside from local downpours-Franklin County remains very dry. Shade tobacco has been tied, potatoes are flowering and sweet corn is tasseling this week. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** All crop through out the county look good. All summer crops have been planted. Growers are cultivating, hoeing and side-dressing all crops. Harvesting strawberries, lettuce, radishes, zucchini and summer squash. Potatoes are being hilled up and are flowering. Sweet corn that was under plastic is in silk stage. The lighter dryer soils are being irrigated. Vegetable growers are scouting for European Corn Borer, Cabbage Root Maggot, Cabbageworm, flea beetles and cucumber beetles. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** All summer crops looking real good with this heat. Heavy T'storms ripped through this area on Sunday and fortunately no serious crop damage. Strawberries cooking in field as heat kept many u-pickers away. Tying tomatoes, transplanting new strawberry fields, top dressing corn, transplanting final fall crops and trying to stay cool principal farm activities here. No serious insect problems. Flowers still selling well.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll: Finally a little haying weather! A lot of the first cut hay going in the barn in the last week. Hazy, hot and humid weather reigns. Pastures and hay fields finally drying out. Warm weather helping vegetable plants to really get growing. Blueberry growers report lots of fruit, few leaves. Strawberries will be ready soon. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Lots of great sunny weather for the first part of the week, with more humid conditions towards the end. Lots of producers out making dry hay. Field corn looks good - some folks out sidedressing. Veggies seem to be doing well. PYO strawberry harvest has started, and blueberries continue to look good. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Haying was the task at hand this week with timothy heading out, time to cut, bale and get it off the field before rain. A couple of unwanted showers making this a bit of a challenge. Generally hot, especially for up here and unusually dry. Corn growing fairly well now although looking a little yellow-green on some fields, time to start nitrate testing. Weed control a concern. Seeing sun scald on vegetable transplants following very hot weather. A touch of frost in colder locations in the county at mid-week. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Haying continued due to good weather. The heat finally got the corn growing and some of the early corn is looking very good. Second cutting will probably begin fairly soon as the regrowth from the rain and heat is finally taking off. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** Farmers are making hay while the sun shines! There

are still wet fields out there that can't be hayed or planted. The dry weather was much needed. Corn is starting to look a lot better. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** George Hamilton ICCOM: Fruit: Growers harvesting field grown strawberries, week late compared to normal years. With hot weather berries are ripening faster. Fruit growers monitoring pest and crop development and apply sprays for pest control, along with mowing orchard floor. Field Crops: Farmers making haylage and baled hay, along with finishing planting and weed spraying corn fields. Vegetables: Continuing successive planting of several vegetables. Growers continued harvesting early season vegetables such as lettuce and radishes. Grower's busy side dressing fields with fertilizer, cultivating weeds, scouting for pests and spraying if needed. Weather: From cold and wet to hot, causing stress problems with plants. Isolated hail storm and extreme heavy rain storms occurred on June 17 caused some damage to fruit and vegetable crops. **Sadie Puglisi (Ext), Merrimack:** Hot, humid weather produced a lot of GDD for the week, allowing crops to catch up in growth. Growers got a chance to catch up on planting and cutting. PYO strawberries opened this weekend around the county. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Several hot and humid days. Hot weather pushed plant growth. Pick-Your-Own strawberry operations open and busy picking. Very hot and muggy weekend kept some pickers away from the fields. Planting a succession of vegetables. Weeding, cultivating, irrigating and controlling insect pests. Botrytis and other diseases showing on nursery crops and herbaceous perennials. Gusty winds and heavy rain occurred for about an hour on Sunday afternoon damaging some crops. **Pam Marvin (FSA), Sullivan:** Second cut of alfalfa haylage is coming along good. Humid days have helped to move along the growth as well as push up the silage corn. Some blueberries were hit by hail and damage could be substantial. Assessing going on. PYO strawberries have begun. Crop looks good. Spot showers are making it difficult to get first cut of dry hay in. Some done but most still standing. Summer vegetables are starting to be harvested with help from the hot humid weather. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** A dry week at last. A very hot and humid weekend. Some producers continue to make first cut for hay

and haylage. Grass in pastures and hay fields continue to do well. Fruit growers continue to apply protective fungicides and insecticides. They also continued to do fruit thinning on peaches and some apple varieties. Fruit set on some apples is very poor due to poor pollination during the cool wet weather. Pick your own Strawberry growers welcomed customers for the first picking last week. Vegetable growers busy weeding, and fertilizing crops. Greenhouse tomatoes growers started harvesting their early crops. Bedding plant season winding down and woody ornamentals and perennial sales picking up strong. Fall mum growers busy planting their mum cuttings.

RHODE ISLAND - Melissa Turrisi (FSA): Strawberry season is underway and this year's crop looks good. Summer vegetables are soaking up the warm sunny weather but could definitely use some rain.

VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille: It was a fabulous week for cropping. First crop of grass is almost done for most farmers and many were able to put up low moisture bales. Corn has been growing day and night with a few fields about waist high. With continued hot weather some rain will be needed soon. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** This was a great hay making week. Dry weather with a lot of heat. A lot of dry hay went in the barn this week. Corn is looking good. Some is already knee high. Most of the larger farms are done first crop and are spreading manure. **Perley Sparrow (FSA), Windham:** What a wild week for the weather in southern Vt. A great week to dry hay and for late planted corn. Veggie producers are reporting that their crops are bouncing back to catch up with the season. Field corn is chest high after this past week of hot weather. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Hilling potatoes and spraying for bugs. Cultivating vine crops. Side dressing with nitrogen as crops are ready. Germination has been good on most all crops. 2.02 rain for week. Asparagus about finished for season, picking a great crop of strawberries, first picking of peas. Plenty of early vegetables in the market. Vegetable market in full swing. Have a good 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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