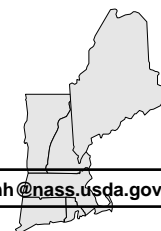




New England Agricultural Statistics



Aubrey R. Davis, Director

Phone: 603-224-9639

Fax: 603-225-1434

www.usda.gov/nass

nass-nh@nass.usda.gov

22 Bridge Street
P.O. Box 1444
Concord, NH 03302

A field office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service
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Crop Weather
Volume 25, Number 16 (http://www.nass.usda.gov/nh/cwxyyearsmain.htm , May – October) August 15, 2005 – 4 pm For week ending 8/14/05

Crops Require More Rain

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending August 14, 2005, there were 6.4 days suitable for fieldwork. Topsoil moisture: 16% very short, 39% short, 45% adequate. Subsoil moisture: 13% very short, 23% short, 61% adequate, 3% surplus. Pasture condition: 2% very poor, 9% poor, 45% fair, 41% good, and 3% excellent. Hot, humid days continued to hinder growing conditions throughout the region. On Tuesday, light rain fell in southern New England whereas, the northern region had clear skies. Thunderstorms and much needed rain arrived to the region Friday afternoon and into the evening. Near record high temperatures on Saturday created unfavorable working conditions. Then on Sunday more rain hit the region with severe thunderstorms and heavy rains in southern New England; however more rain is welcomed to enhance crop conditions. Major farm activities included cultivating, weeding, irrigating, monitoring pests and diseases, spraying fungicides and pesticides, spreading manure, mowing orchard floors, moving bins to orchards, summer pruning, renovating strawberry beds, haying, harvesting an array of fruits and vegetables.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	16	8	0
Short	39	28	3
Adequate	45	61	62
Surplus	0	3	35
Subsoil			
Very Short	13	5	0
Short	23	28	4
Adequate	61	64	74
Surplus	3	3	22

FRUIT: Continuous warm, humid days have put stress on berries. Pick your own raspberries were near complete at week's end. Highbush blueberry harvest continued as condition was rated good to excellent. Poor pollination and a lack of rain have hindered Maine wild blueberry yields as harvest now in full swing. More rainfall needed as dry conditions have caused cranberry growers to irrigate beds. Peach growers continued to harvest ahead of last year as condition was rated fair to good. Recent warm conditions have enhanced pears as harvest just underway. Poor pollination this spring delayed apple harvest a couple of weeks. Vista Belle, an early harvested apple was being picked and Paula Reds and Jersey Macs harvest should begin this week. Orchardist's were busy mowing the orchard floors, monitoring for pest, and moving bins to the orchards for the upcoming harvest. Strawberry growers were busy cultivating and weeding newly renovated beds.

FIELD CROPS: Numerous days of hot and humid conditions have hindered re-growth of haylage. First cutting of hay near complete at week's end and should finish this week if weather permits. Limited rainfall has hindered second and third cuttings quantity of haylage but quality was rated good to excellent. In parts of southern New England, some corn fields in poor quality soil were under stress from limited rainfall in the past few weeks; in addition some had no ears on corn and corn started to curl. However, the recent string of hot and humid days has enhanced growth greatly but more rainfall is needed to keep the crop condition rated at excellent to good. Maine oats and barley were growing well and farmers should begin combining next week as both were in excellent to good condition. Broadleaf tobacco harvest reached the half-way point and continued ahead of last year and the five year average due to the recent warm conditions. Shade tobacco harvest progressed ahead of last year and condition was rated good. Maine potato growers have only reported one case of late blight in Southern Aroostook County this year. Growers continued to spray on a seven to ten day schedule. Massachusetts potato harvest just underway rated in good condition.

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	- Percent Harvested -			Fruit Size	Condition
	2005	2004	5-yr Avg		
Apples	-	<5	5	Avg	Good/Fair
Peaches	35	30	40	Avg	Fair/Good
Pears	<5	-	-	Avg	Fair/Good
Blueberries					
Highbush	60	70	65	Avg	Good/Excel
Wild, ME	35	20	30	B Avg/Avg	Fair/Poor
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-	Avg	Good

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2005 2004 5-yr Avg			Condition
	-- Percent Harvested --			
Barley, ME	--	--	--	Excellent/Good
Oats, ME	--	--	--	Excellent/Good
Potatoes				
Maine	--	--	--	Good/Fair
Mass.	15	10	10	Good
Rhode Isl.	--	--	20	Fair/Poor
Sweet Corn	45	40	40	Good/Fair
Field Corn	-	-	-	Excellent/Good
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	50	30	45	Good/Fair
Shade	55	50	50	Good
Dry hay, 1 st cut	99	95	95	Good/Fair
Dry hay, 2 nd cut	60	60	65	Good/Excellent
Dry hay, 3 rd cut	20	10	15	Good/Excellent

VEGETABLES: Week's of hot and humid conditions have started to take its toll on some vegetable crops. Limited rains in parts of the region have caused stress to some crops due to a lack of moisture. Some reports of powdery mildew and other fungal diseases on squash and pumpkins so farmers were busy spraying pesticides. Growers were busy harvesting a variety of vegetables such as: beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cucumbers, greens, lettuce, onions, peas, peppers, radishes, snap beans, summer squash, sweet corn and tomatoes. Greenhouses and nurseries were busy harvesting and selling flowers. Farm stands and farmers' markets were also busy selling flowers and an array of vegetables.

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

For the Period: Monday August 8, 2005
To: Sunday August 14, 2005

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				CUM SINCE MAR 1 GROWING DEGREE DAYS				1-WEEK PRECIP			4-WEEK CUM PRECIP		
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	BASE-50F TOT	DFN	BASE-60F TOT	DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS
MAINE														
Augusta_State_A	59	90	75	+7	1521	+47	745	+174	0.08	-0.69	2	1.63	-1.35	7
Bangor_Intl_Arp	55	90	74	+7	1508	+167	705	+228	0.50	-0.27	3	4.82	+1.89	11
Bethel	50	89	72	+6	1390	+48	621	+152	0.15	-0.76	1	1.59	-1.83	6
Caribou_Municip	48	87	71	+8	1278	+172	544	+229	0.48	-0.43	2	1.63	-2.15	12
Dover-Foxcroft	47	85	68	+3	1183	+10	481	+119	0.48	-0.36	2	3.44	+0.29	12
Frenchville	49	88	71	+8	1250	+224	526	+256	0.30	-0.63	3	2.78	-0.86	12
Houlton	47	88	72	+8	1255	+104	526	+177	0.16	-0.75	2	2.13	-1.45	12
Livermore_Falls	53	92	73	+8	1438	+279	684	+337	0.10	-0.81	3	2.18	-1.16	10
Moosehead	46	87	68	+5	1099	+124	419	+169	0.57	-0.27	3	5.92	+2.40	12
Portland_ME	62	92	75	+7	1481	+143	713	+230	0.25	-0.38	3	1.56	-1.03	9
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	58	89	73	+8	1409	+160	631	+249	0.20	-0.71	2	2.56	-0.85	11
Berlin_AG	53	89	73	+8	1419	+162	641	+237	0.00	-0.98	0	1.15	-2.52	5
Concord	59	93	77	+9	1736	+240	881	+300	1.14	+0.37	2	1.87	-1.19	7
Diamond_Pond	53	82	67	+6	1075	+228	400	+237	0.69	-0.50	2	3.12	-1.32	12
Keene_AP	57	90	76	+7	1741	+71	878	+173	0.38	-0.53	1	2.50	-0.98	7
North_Conway	55	90	74	+8	1535	+135	739	+229	1.06	+0.15	3	5.37	+1.85	12
RocheSter	54	91	76	+8	1569	-20	765	+114	0.05	-0.79	1	2.81	-0.46	4
VERMONT														
Burlington Intl	59	89	77	+8	1899	+288	998	+331	0.02	-0.90	1	3.26	-0.26	8
Island_Pond	51	86	71	+9	1369	+341	604	+343	0.56	-0.56	2	4.04	-0.18	11
Montpelier	54	88	73	+9	1601	+333	767	+358	0.09	-0.80	1	2.06	-1.10	8
Pownal	56	89	75	+9	1628	+319	764	+332	0.78	-0.20	3	3.43	-0.31	10
Rochester	50	91	73	+8	1555	+319	740	+349	0.03	-1.02	1	1.27	-2.61	9
Rutland_AG	55	90	75	+6	1686	+28	844	+155	0.05	-0.93	1	2.03	-1.68	10
Sutton	52	86	71	+9	1371	+325	610	+334	0.34	-0.78	2	3.06	-1.11	12
Townshend_Lake	54	90	74	+6	1662	+96	819	+183	0.45	-0.46	3	1.68	-1.70	10
MASSACHUSETTS														
Ashburnham	61	88	76	+10	1692	+333	838	+359	0.27	-0.55	1	2.98	-0.32	9
Boston/Logan_In	66	95	79	+7	1892	+13	1014	+142	0.32	-0.38	4	1.62	-1.07	8
Greenfield	57	91	75	+5	1796	+14	908	+121	0.35	-0.49	2	4.22	+0.86	9
New_Bedford	63	95	78	+5	1703	-174	833	-36	0.00	-0.96	0	0.40	-2.91	5
Otis_AFB	64	90	77	+7	1907	+390	984	+367	0.13	-0.64	1	0.37	-2.45	4
Plymouth	66	96	79	+9	1708	+128	883	+218	0.02	-0.87	2	0.36	-2.91	5
Walpole	66	92	79	+10	1880	+254	986	+308	0.19	-0.69	3	1.55	-1.72	7
Chicopee/Westov	66	96	79	+6	2059	+22	1090	+108	0.74	-0.03	2	2.98	-0.11	12
Worthington	57	90	74	+8	1566	+243	730	+288	0.00	-0.97	0	0.22	-3.69	6
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	67	100	81	+9	2016	+231	1081	+274	0.21	-0.61	2	0.42	-2.64	7
Woonsocket	63	96	79	+10	1873	+275	963	+318	0.13	-0.78	2	0.90	-2.68	8
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	72	94	80	+7	2090	+178	1082	+171	0.51	-0.26	2	1.53	-1.70	5
Hartford/Bradle	67	97	81	+9	2157	+193	1165	+231	0.00	-0.80	0	0.94	-2.05	7
Norfolk	65	87	75	+9	1622	+293	761	+312	0.04	-0.98	2	3.37	-0.52	9
Thomaston_Dam	64	94	78	+10	1904	+324	978	+352	0.15	-0.81	2	2.90	-0.92	9
Willimantic	65	97	79	+10	1914	+305	971	+320	0.01	-0.90	1	1.18	-2.52	7

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, August 14, 2005

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	L	HI	AV	DF	LO	HI
ME	41	92	71	+6	0.02	1.88
NH	44	98	73	+8	0.00	1.32
VT	48	94	73	+8	0.02	0.92
MA	57	97	77	+8	0.00	0.74
RI	61	100	78	+7	0.00	0.21
CT	62	98	78	+8	0.00	0.51

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

CONNECTICUT - Howard Rood (FSA), Fairfield/Litchfield: Vegetable crops are showing signs of stress due to lack of rain. **Jude Boucher (Ext), Tolland:** The brief shower at the Extension office in Vernon last Monday missed most farms in the area. We need rain bad. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Another brutally hot week. Scattered showers were around but few towns received what they needed. Despite the dryness, field corn still looks ok with the exception of gravel areas. Showers Saturday night and Sunday did bring some relief in the water department. **Frank Himmelstein (Ext), New London:** Record heat and humidity continued throughout this week. This would normally be great for corn but due to little if any rain in New London County particularly in the southern half it appears a poor silage corn crop is likely for many in the area. Late planted corn could still do well if timely rains occur. Grass hay- some hay was taken in this week although with the high humidity it was a challenge to dry properly. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Extreme hot humid weather is taking its toll on livestock and crops. Corn is curling. Need rain, but storms seem to be going north and south of this county. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Dry, parched, rain needed badly, no ears on corn in gravelly soils, ears are filling in on heavier soils but corn is showing distress all over the county, hay is all dry and brittle, should have had rain two weeks ago to keep things going, vegetables need irrigating, new plantings of beans not coming up, water recharge in wells is delayed, hauling water to cows, 26 days of over 90 degrees, this past week was a bear of oppressive humidity on people and animals, milk production down. Farmers are concerned about forage feed quality. **Joyce Meader (Ext), Windham:** Despite the drought, some corn still looks very good, some looks terrible. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Hot humid conditions continue. Scattered showers make for difficult drying. Farmers report corn looks good in one area and poor a couple miles away depending on where showers fall. Short season silage corn already out of milk in the area.

MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook: Potatoes and small grains: Soil conditions continue to be very dry. This could have an adverse effect on quality and yield. Rain is desperately needed. Growers continue with fungicide sprays however and are preparing harvesting equipment. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Oats and barley crops are looking good and they should start to harvest some next week. Farmers staying with their fungicide program with the crop looking good. **Albert Dow (NRCS), Piscataquis:** Corn laid over by the previous week's wind and rain has partly come back to an almost normal position. There are still fields with first crop hay standing due to wet soil. **Donna Lamb (Ext), Piscataquis:** This past week was very hot and dry with crops beginning to show signs of water stress. Sunday night rain helped. **Gleason Gray (Ext), Penobscot:** Surface moisture low for some vegetable crops. **Donald Burke (FSA), Waldo:** Liquid manure was spread on some fields after second crop harvested. Harvest of second crop continues with crop looking good. Silage corn is still short in a lot of areas due to late planting. Rain is needed. Blueberry harvest was poor in this area. Low yields are blamed on lack of pollination. A few showers received this week. Much needed rain fell overnight which will help crops rebound. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** All vegetables are being harvested. Fall crops looking good right now. Harvest of second crop has started. Silage corn seems to be catching up with all the heat in July. Early varieties of sweet corn being harvested a little later than normal. Quality of first cut grass is below normal. Low yields on blueberry harvest reported. Blueberries a lot smaller than normal. Lack of pollination may have caused problem with blueberry crop. Conditions have been dry but some much needed rain fell overnight. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries; Warm, humid temperatures and the lack of rain is putting stress on the crop. Berry size and yield is below average. Showers helping in some areas but overall harvest is below average. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Drought conditions prevail. Showers late Sunday will help. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Light scattered showers during the week and at night seem to be coming at the right time for crops. Farmers markets are busy with their produce sales. Silage corn is gaining in height with the heat and occasional showers. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Oxford County has had another good week of weather. Haying still going strong and the vegetable gardens in need of some rain. Blueberry producers are all done and have reported a small crop this year and the berry size varied. Sweet corn is being harvested. Grain and silage corn still trying to catch up due to late plantings. Some Potatoes are beginning to be dug and harvested, while other potato plants are still struggling to come along.

MASSACHUSETTS - Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire: Wickedly hot and dry! Central and southeast counties have fields drying up. One shepherd had to sell half his flock and is starting to feed hay because his pasture has dried up. Also, a report of no 2nd cutting, no way! The hay hasn't grown for two weeks. The week ended with violent storms on Sunday through part of the county. They got rain but damage too. Full reports are not available yet. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Dry conditions continue, with only spotty showers in limited locations. Growers are regularly irrigating. Stress is showing in the vines in the higher edges of the beds. The lack of rain will have deleterious effects of fruit sizing eventually. Growers are concerned about water levels in the reservoirs as we approach the eventual nights of frost protection and harvest. Had we not had so much snow melt earlier this year, we'd be in big trouble now. The USDA crop forecast occurs this coming Tuesday. **Jason Otto (FSA), Bristol:** Very dry and hot all week. Some brief showers Sunday did not help much. **John Devine (FSA), Franklin:** Hot and muggy weather conditions finally broke on Sunday afternoon with several lines of severe thunderstorms. Farmers have reported a lot of rain but no reports of crop damage yet. Silage corn is ripening well ahead of schedule and chopping should begin within two weeks. Tobacco harvest is drawing down to a close and the crop looks good in the barn. Fall vine crops look okay in some fields and bad in others. Disease pressure, standing water and heat have taken their toll on many fields. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Another extremely hot and humid week. Farmers were irrigating all week long due to the drought conditions. Some farms have not seen a considerable amount of rain for about three weeks. On Sunday August 14th, a rain storm left over one inch of rain throughout the Connecticut River Valley. The drought conditions have reduced yields on all crops. Growers are harvesting apples, peaches, blueberries, summer squash, cucumbers, tobacco, and sweet corn.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap: Sunday's rain was welcomed and we are wishing for more. Soils are quite dry. Raspberry harvest is about done. Now picking melons, field tomatoes, few peppers, sweet corn, greens, summer squashes, carrots, beets, onions and blueberries. Early apple varieties are showing nice color. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Dry, but humid, for most of the week, with some welcome rain on Sunday evening. Field corn continues to do well, with most fields in drought stage, though more places showing moisture stress. Pastures and hayfields slowing growth, but alfalfa still going strong. Third cutting for haylage underway. Vegetable operations also dealing with dry conditions, but generally reporting good yields for most crops. PYO berries still going strong...looks like a banner year for blueberries. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Unseasonably hot and dry for Coos County this week, some drought stress on corn and other crops in sandy, light soils. Grass pastures in low end of their cycle, clovers still look pretty good. Generally, all corn now tasselling with field corn about blister-stage. A little sweet corn now reaching market. Most summer veggies available at farm stands, farmers' markets. Blueberries still producing. Powdery mildew, other fungal diseases on squash and pumpkins becoming more visible on leaves. Corn earworm present on untreated sweet corn. Somewhat less than an inch of rain on Sunday was a help, but still can use a good soaking rain. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Third cutting continues. Dry weather starting to affect corn on some of the lighter soils. Corn continues to grow with the hot weather. Second cutting finishing up. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** Soil conditions have been dry. Another super stretch of weather for making hay. Some corn is showing drought stress on the sandier sites. Overall, crops look ok. So far during the month of August, we have received a total of 0.78" of precipitation. **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 and other vegetables. Beginning of week irrigating crops and by week's end thunder showers occurring. High disease and insect pressure, so farmers kept busy spraying pesticides for insects and diseases. Very good demand for produce at most local farmers' markets and farmstands. More growers are reporting damage on sweet corn caused by birds. Fruit: Orchardists harvesting peaches and Vista Belle apples. Blueberry and raspberry harvests continued. Orchardists busy monitoring for pests, mowing orchard floors, move bins into orchard and fixing up orchard roads. Apple growers busy summer pruning trees. Cultivating and weeding newly strawberry renovated beds. Field Crops: Hay making and cutting haylage continued during the week with the second cut.

The remaining first cutting is only good for mulch hay. Silage corn is rapid growing. **Sadie Puglisi (Ext), Merrimack:** Things got pretty dry for a while, this rain is right on time. Early potatoes being harvested, tomatoes coming into full swing. Blueberry PYO operations are enjoying good crowds. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Pick-Your-Own blueberries and raspberries are in full swing. Harvesting an array of vegetables, sweet corn, potatoes. Harvesting peaches, pears, and some very early apples varieties. Apple orchards are ready to open. Some pastures are very dry. Irrigating vegetables fields. Hay and haylage being done. A good soaking rain is needed. Leaf spot diseases on tomatoes, and cut flowers. **Pam Marvin (FSA), Sullivan:** Rain showers the last few days have been a welcome. Silage corn leaves have been curling. Abundance of summer vegetables. Third cut of alfalfa underway with second and third cuttings of dry hay being done. Late summer reseeding of hay fields ongoing. Could use more rain. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** A hot and humid week. Farmers making second cut for hay and haylage. Some still not done with first cut. Fruit growers busy mowing orchard floors and monitoring crop growth. Blueberry harvesting in full gear. Pick your own operations very busy with customers. Some operations seeking for more customers. Peaches were the new item for the week. Customers were eagerly waiting for peaches. Vegetable growers busy harvesting an array of different kinds of vegetables. Greenhouses and nurseries monitoring growth of fall mums and poinsettia. Some mums already showing color. Field cut flower growers busy harvesting different kinds of flowers. Farm stands and farmers' markets busy with a lot of cut flowers and vegetables.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: Lots of haying being done, the crop is thin, but certainly not being rained on. Still harvesting blueberries, sweet corn looks good, squashes and summer vegetables are taking a beating with the heat and lack of water. Still irrigating potatoes and summer vegetables. Corn mazes are opening and roadside stands are full of summer fare.

MelissaTurrisi: Drought-like conditions continue to effect farms throughout the state. Producers continue to irrigate but are now face depleting water supplies. The intense sun is burning tomato and other plants. Despite fertilizer applications, pumpkins and other crops are not maturing or setting fruit. Many farmers fear that without significant rain soon, these conditions will have a devastating effect on this year's production and for perennial crops, on next year's as well.

VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille: Another in a string of beautiful weeks for field work. Vegetable growers are having minimal problems with insects this year. Christmas tree growers were doing some shearing. Manure being spread on second cut grassland. Week ended with some much needed rain. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** We had a nice rain on Sunday to help the third crop grow. Almost all of second crop has been harvested. It appears to be a good crop for both quantity and quality. The corn is looking real good in most cases. All corn has tasseled and it looks like there is good ear growth. The temperatures remain warm helping the corn out. Soil moisture remains adequate from all of the rain earlier in the summer. The landscape remains really green for this time of year. **Perley Sparrow (FSA), Windham:** Corn starting to curl. Crops need rain soon. **Terence Bradshaw, Univ of Vermont:** Welcome rains over the weekend should help size up crop. This week growers should begin harvesting early varieties such as Paulareds and Jersey Macs. Spraying programs should be wrapping up this week. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Still spraying potatoes and vine crops for blight. Early potatoes about ready to start digging. Picking big crop of lettuce, broccoli and cabbage. 0.004 inches of rain for the week, short. Good week for haying. All vegetable crops growing and maturing well. A great plenty of all crops in market. Sweet corn at its peak with excellent flavor. All cole crops doing well. Demand for vegetable crops is strong.

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**

Aubrey R. Davis, Director
Travis Averill, Statistician

Gerald Tillman, Deputy Director
Deirdre Davis, Stat Assistant

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