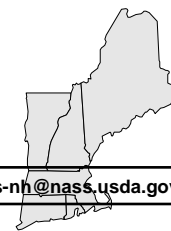




New England Agricultural Statistics



Gary R. Keough, Director

Phone: 603-224-9639

Fax: 603-225-1434

www.nass.usda.gov

nass-nh@nass.usda.gov

22 Bridge St. 3rd Floor
P.O. Box 1444
Concord, NH 03302

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

Crop Weather

Volume 26, Number 5

(Issued weekly on the internet, May – October)

May 30, 2006 – 4 pm

For week ending 5/28/06

Sunshine Welcomed

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending May 28, 2006, there were 5.2 days available for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture was rated 45% adequate, 55% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 61% adequate, 39% surplus. Pasture condition was rated as 8% fair, 58% good, 34% excellent. The week began with cool conditions. By Thursday, warm, sunny weather arrived and improved field conditions. On Friday, rain moved into the region bringing some field activities to a halt. Over the weekend, clear skies and warm conditions provided great weather for field work and farm stand sales.

FRUIT: Plenty of sun and warmer conditions during the week improved the development of most fruits. Most of the tree fruits are in petal fall or closely approaching. The Maine wild blueberry crop is a week ahead of schedule and pollination is progressing well, though blight symptoms have been reported in some fields. The week provided great conditions during the early developmental stage for Massachusetts cranberries to improve the 2006 crop outlook. Growers have found high levels of gypsy moth larvae and black headed fireworms. Fruit growers were busy monitoring pests and applying sprays for pest control. Orchardists were busy mowing grass and spraying under trees. Development stages for strawberries varied throughout the region from early bloom to petal fall, with reports of winter damage in some strawberry beds.

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Stage	Condition
Apples	FB/PF	Good/Fair
Peaches	Petal Fall	Fair/Good
Pears	Petal Fall	Good/Fair
Blueberries		
Highbush	EB/FB	Good/Fair
Wild, ME	Full Bloom	Good
Cranberries,	Bud Stage	Good
Strawberries	EB/FB	Good/Fair

EB = Early Bloom, FB = Full Bloom, PF = Petal Fall,

VEGETABLES: Drier weather enhanced field conditions and crops. Most growers spent the week planting and re-planting crops in dry fields. Vegetable growers were busy planting beets, beans, cabbage, eggplants, lettuce, parsnips, peppers, radishes, tomatoes, and winter squash. Producers were also busy weeding, applying fertilizer, and harvesting asparagus, spinach, and rhubarb. The recent rains have caused some growers to re-plant crops that were completely lost. After weeks of dismal sales, warm, sunny days over the weekend improved greenhouse and nursery sales.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
	-- Percent --		
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	0	0	2
Adequate	45	28	53
Surplus	55	72	45
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	0	6	9
Adequate	61	48	47
Surplus	39	46	44

FIELD CROPS: Much needed warm weather arrived to help improve conditions of saturated fields and allow farmers to continue planting crops. At week's end, most crops were ahead of last year and the five year average. Rhode Island potato growers finished putting the last of the seedings into the ground, while Massachusetts potato growers were close to wrapping up plantings for the 2006 crop, with only five percent left to be planted. In Maine, potato growers were busy working long days with plenty of sunshine and warmer temperatures. Maine oats and barley producers were winding down on planting the 2006 crops. Field corn planted acreage was slowly progressing and remained behind the five year average. Tobacco growers were in full-swing with planting shade and broadleaf tobacco. Finally, warm, dry days allowed some farmers to begin chopping and baling hay. Some farmers delayed planting corn fields to harvest haylage before grass becomes too mature.

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2006	2005	5-yr Avg	Emerged	Condition
	-- Percent Planted --			Percent	
Barley, ME	90	50	75	65	Excellent/Good
Oats, ME	90	45	75	70	Excellent/Good
Potatoes					
Maine	80	20	65	20	Good/Excellent
Mass	95	90	90	40	Good
Rhode Isl	100	90	95	50	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	60	55	65	25	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	50	40	55	25	Good/Fair
Tobacco					
Broadleaf	10	15	15	--	Fair/Good
Shade	40	90	65	--	Fair/Good
Dry Hay	-- Percent Harvested --				
First Cut	5	5	10		Good

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

For the Period: Monday May 22, 2006
To: Sunday May 28, 2006

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				CUM SINCE MAR 1 GROWING DEGREE DAYS				1-WEEK PRECIP			4-WEEK CUM PRECIP		
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	BASE-TOT	50F-DFN	BASE-TOT	60F-DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS
MAINE														
Augusta_State_A	43	80	57	-2	178	+25	17	+5	0.27	-0.57	4	4.44	+0.98	17
Bangor_Intl_Arp	40	77	56	+0	172	+57	9	+2	0.19	-0.58	3	4.12	+0.89	15
Bethel	36	77	55	-3	133	+7	9	-1	0.06	-0.78	1	5.88	+2.57	15
Caribou_Municip	41	73	55	+1	146	+61	10	+6	0.44	-0.26	4	5.11	+2.34	18
Dover-Foxcroft	37	75	52	-4	61	-27	2	-1	0.40	-0.44	3	3.74	+0.48	15
Frenchville	41	69	53	-1	120	+57	3	+3	0.12	-0.61	4	3.99	+1.16	16
Houlton	39	76	55	+1	146	+59	12	+7	0.58	-0.19	4	5.69	+2.68	16
Livermore_Falls	37	79	55	+0	138	+50	6	+3	0.27	-0.59	2	4.82	+1.43	15
Moosehead	35	79	50	-2	44	-5	4	+4	0.84	+0.05	5	4.49	+1.41	19
Portland_ME	42	78	57	+1	153	+46	10	+9	0.38	-0.39	3	12.31	+9.02	18
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	37	78	52	-5	125	-22	9	-9	0.61	-0.22	3	6.82	+3.76	16
Berlin_AG	35	76	53	-4	117	-9	5	-9	0.32	-0.52	2	5.29	+2.10	16
Concord	37	84	59	+1	236	+65	41	+20	0.09	-0.62	2	8.06	+5.25	14
Diamond_Pond	33	74	47	-5	37	-17	4	+4	1.38	+0.42	4	6.42	+2.90	18
Keene_AP	36	81	57	-4	201	-33	33	-7	0.22	-0.68	2	5.54	+2.12	13
North_Conway	39	79	57	-1	172	+25	17	+2	0.44	-0.47	2	7.68	+4.05	16
Rochester	39	79	58	-2	195	-4	19	-9	0.27	-0.57	2	14.56	+11.01	15
VERMONT														
Burlington_Intl	41	79	57	-3	279	+67	56	+20	0.60	-0.11	5	6.65	+3.86	19
Island_Pond	36	77	52	-3	116	+26	9	+3	1.34	+0.43	5	6.07	+2.79	18
Montpelier	36	79	55	-2	201	+59	25	+8	0.26	-0.51	4	5.81	+2.92	16
Pownal	40	79	56	-1	177	+25	17	-3	0.54	-0.51	2	6.08	+1.94	17
Rochester	36	80	54	-2	130	+1	14	+0	0.37	-0.61	1	6.23	+2.31	16
Rutland_AG	37	82	55	-7	186	-62	23	-27	0.31	-0.53	2	4.02	+0.90	14
Springfield_VT	36	81	57	-1	195	+35	25	+5	0.29	-0.65	2	8.59	+4.92	14
Sutton	35	77	51	-4	111	+23	7	+1	0.89	+0.01	4	5.75	+2.52	17
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	45	78	62	+1	279	+21	47	+20	0.38	-0.32	2	12.48	+9.54	15
Fitchburg	41	83	61	+4	268	+130	52	+42	0.38	-0.46	2	8.02	+4.84	16
Greenfield	39	82	58	-4	221	-40	31	-9	0.38	-0.53	2	6.81	+3.31	16
New_Bedford	39	80	59	-3	225	-34	26	-1	0.21	-0.63	4	7.59	+4.26	17
Otis_AFB	43	79	59	+2	216	+73	27	+20	0.24	-0.59	3	4.10	+0.71	13
Plymouth	40	79	59	+2	209	+49	26	+16	0.29	-0.55	3	7.86	+4.24	15
Walpole	41	80	60	+0	240	+39	38	+17	0.44	-0.33	3	7.73	+4.58	16
Chicopee/Westov	36	83	59	-5	275	-68	40	-24	0.41	-0.55	2	5.53	+1.84	16
Worthington	37	80	55	-3	134	-13	15	+0	0.50	-0.53	2	5.72	+1.54	16
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	43	80	61	+2	331	+104	45	+24	0.21	-0.63	2	7.26	+3.83	14
Woonsocket	40	81	59	+0	242	+45	33	+17	0.90	-0.01	2	8.09	+4.39	15
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	43	77	60	-2	336	+63	39	-7	0.56	-0.28	3	6.50	+2.93	14
Hartford/Bradle	40	84	61	-3	352	+38	64	+4	0.91	+0.00	2	7.70	+3.97	14
Norfolk	38	77	56	-2	175	+32	23	+10	0.62	-0.43	2	7.48	+3.34	15
Thomaston_Dam	40	81	58	-2	253	+36	30	+1	0.55	-0.43	3	5.59	+1.55	16
Willimantic	39	83	60	+0	289	+73	40	+12	0.40	-0.51	2	6.41	+2.60	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.

Copyright 2006. AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

For detailed ag weather forecasts and data visit the AWIS

home page at www.awis.com or call toll free at

1-888-798-9955.

STATE WEATHER SUMMARY

For the Week Ending Sunday, May 28, 2006

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	L	HI	AV	DF	LO	HI
ME	34	81	54	-2	0.04	1.27
NH	19	84	55	-2	0.02	3.87
VT	24	82	54	-3	0.15	1.97
MA	34	84	59	+0	0.01	0.85
RI	40	81	59	+0	0.12	0.90
CT	36	84	59	-2	0.18	1.40

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: There was some damage to crops due to the recent heavy rains. Recently planted field corn drowned in puddles in low lying fields. Overall the damage was not extensive. **Jude Boucher (Ext), Tolland:** Growers along the CT River were mad as hell this week at the Army Corp of Engineers for releasing the dam in Holyoke MA, with no prior warning. They faced flooding two weeks in a row. They need some sort of warning system to let them get machinery out of the meadows and plan their day/week. They are currently trying to plant around the flooded areas in a patchwork fashion for lack of any more upland fields. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Land started to dry out this week and on selected fields saw the first tomatoes, peppers, winter squash and eggplant transplanted. Field corn, sweet corn and green bean planting resumed. Spraying herbicides on field corn. Shade tobacco planting moved along and broadleaf started this week. Some growers having issues with tobacco seedlings in beds and green houses. Some started to chop hay for silage. **Frank Himmelstein (Ext), New London:** Field Corn- Corn finally emerged this week in the earliest planted fields. Growers need to determine what areas require replanting and what weed control measures are needed both in areas treated and to be treated. More progress is being made on fields that were not harrowed before all the rains hit. Those fields harrowed right before the rains came will still be difficult to work in some areas. No major rain expected until Friday so there should be a number of days available to catch up on field work. Grass Hay- Weather still not good for making dry hay. Some growers anxious to chop grass are sacrificing future field conditions by rutting up fields in an effort to harvest high quality grass. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Replanting sweet corn and field corn at the rate of 30% that was planted just before the ten inches of rain last week. Harvesting of hay and green chopping beginning as fields are drying out. Finishing planting field corn. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Grass heading out, corn planting behind. Farmers debating do we stop corn planting and get the grass before the expected hot weather takes it to far or do we keep going on cornfields that are muddy? Chopping grass, baling round bales. Finished pruning blueberries and peaches. Early sweet corn up with cut worms working and spraying planned. Fields dry fast when the sun shines. Several infection periods on fruit, no scab yet. Heat forecasted. **Joyce Meader (Ext), Windham:** Hay harvested this weekend without rain! Now for the next gamble - will we get another three days of sun? **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Corn is emerging yellow due to rain and denitrification. Farms scrambled to bring in haylage. Some even tried to make dry hay - but were hampered by wet field conditions. Strawberries are blooming. Hotter weather late in the week should help.

MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook: Potatoes and small grains: Soils finally dried out enough so growers were able to continue planting toward the end of the week. Growers applying herbicides on potato fields. Some emergence on first planted. Most of the small grains have emerged. **Gleason Gray (Ext), Penobscot:** Beautiful weekend. Corn and potatoes starting to poke through. Some hay silage being harvested. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Corn has finally started to emerge in the early planted fields. Warm weather over the holiday weekend will help start to turn it green from the pale yellow it was from all the rain. Apple blossoms in full bloom. Strawberries are blooming as well. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Fields have been too soft for equipment but have begun to dry out for silage corn plantings. Haying should begin as soon as we get several days in a row without showers. Garden crops still being planted. Great weekend weather was appreciated by everyone, including the bees that were actively pollinating blueberry blossoms. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Bloom is excellent and pollination is progressing well. We should have a better than average crop if summer rainfall is sufficient. Fields which were not protected from monilinia by fungicides have considerable blight symptoms on leaves and blossoms. Crop is about one week ahead of normal. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Fields that are well drained are being planted. Some fields are still too wet to plant. Crops that were planted early may need to be fertilized again after all the rain two weeks ago. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** First cut hay is underway. Sheep are being shorn. Barley & oats are coming up and the corn is beginning to sprout. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Oxford County producers have been busy in the crop fields this past week. The past weekend brought high temps and sunshine, which was

needed across the county. Crops that were planted prior to the rainy weather we received are now beginning to show growth. Some fields still have standing water in them, but show improvement.

MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: We had five good days for field work with heat over the holiday weekend. The fields have dried out and now there are concerns about emergence of corn planted before the rains which is behind and/or non-existent. 1st cut haying is going on now as the fields are ready. Strawberries are holding their blossoms longer. Farmers markets did well during the last week and nursery sales are up. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: A good week for drying out the beds from the previous week. Vines are continuing to grow out of dormancy, with new growth showing in the warmest spots. Growers are finding high levels of gypsy moth larvae in many areas, and black-headed fireworm has been found in other locations. Kerb is being applied for control of dodder. Higher incidence of leaf spotting diseases this year, although this should not impact the crop. Most beds look very good at this point. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Franklin/Hampshire/Hampden:** Crop fields by mid-week are drying out nicely due to the 75-80 degree days. Dairy farmers continue planting corn and started to harvest hay. Orchardists reported poor pollination of their crop due to the prolonged cold wet period. Vegetable growers continue planting beets, beans, sweetcorn, cabbage lettuce, radishes, potatoes and parsnips. Harvesting spinach, rhubarb and asparagus. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** A good weather week. Everyone busy making up for lost time. Transplanting, laying plastic, planting more sweet corn, 17-18 hr field work days not unheard of. Plants FINALLY starting to move retail, as citizens had a good weather week also. Strawberries look just great, but some winter kill noticed. Emerged early planting of sweet corn on a "wait and see" status. Excellent pollination in pear trees noted.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap: Farmers got back on some fields following previous week's record rainfall. Several acres of early sweet corn were lost. We are just past petal fall on apple. Orchardists are spraying protective fungicidal sprays. Farmers are spreading manure, cultivating and planting field corn plus summer vegetables. **Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll:** Beautiful holiday week-end! Hot weather pushed fruit blossoms to maturity and petal fall in southern parts of the county. Lilac blossoms going by as well. Water levels remain high in Lake Winnepesaukee, most rivers have returned to more normal levels, flooded fields drying out quickly. Pastures growing well, hayfields have begun to head out, but are shorter than normal, yields will be reduced accordingly. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Sunny weather all week, and getting fairly warm towards the weekend. A good week for field work for everyone. Corn planting just about done, now corn is coming up and farms are getting spraying done. First cutting has begun, mostly for haylage/baleage but also a little bit of dry hay. Greenhouses and nurseries did great business over the holiday weekend. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Cold wet beginning of the week turns to hot sunny days by end. Generally drying out yet some cornfields on lower areas still to be planted. Grass growing quite well, should see some dropping anytime now. Good year for fertilizing grasslands for optimum growth, moisture, temp condition. Early veggies planted, nice weekend for garden centers' sales. June beetles have made their appearance. Prime conditions for good pollination with apples and blueberries at full bloom for sunny end of week. Growing degree days pass the 200 degree mark. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Corn planting is finishing up. First cut began and is moving swiftly as weather permits. Quality is good to excellent. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** We received some warm sunny weather last week, and a couple of days without rain. Soils are beginning to dry out a little, and field work is underway. Corn planting has started back up, and is going along well on the better drained soils along the river bottom land. Some upland fields that are not as well drained still have a ways to go before anything can be done on them. Grass silage is being chopped, and some hay is being put up on the better drained fields. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Vegetables: Transplanting tomato plants, and making successive planting vegetable crops. Harvesting asparagus and rhubarb. Flea beetle, striped cucumber beetles, and seed maggot damage have been seen. With all the cool rainy cloudy weather prior to the past week, sweet corn plantings and many other crops are yellow and not growing very well. Many farmers are already side-dressing nitrogen fertilizer. Seeing the SUN and having warmer temperatures has helped to start plants growing.

Fruit: Growers monitoring pest and crop development and applying cover sprays for pest control. Orchardists wondering if they should be applying thinning sprays to apple orchards. Mowing orchard floor and weed spraying under trees. Blueberries and most strawberries were blooming during week. Winter damage on raspberries and strawberry plants being seen. Field Crops: Planting and weed spraying corn fields. Many grass plants are starting to head out in pastures and hayfield. Many hay fields are still too wet to harvest. All Crops! Cost of fertilizer and fuel have all farmers very concerned. **Sadie Puglisi (Ext), Merrimack:** The weather was hot and dry for the weekend, allowing the fields to dry out enough to plant. The corn that was planted before the floods has emerged, and a few people took advantage of the dry forecast by cutting their hay fields. Bright sun brought good Memorial Day traffic to the garden centers. Everyone's busy playing catch up. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** A warmer and drier week. Most of the fields have dried up since the last 12-15 inches of rain that happened two weeks ago. Still assessing the effect of hail and hurricane (in Hampton vicinities) that occurred on Sunday, May 21. Planting and replanting vegetables. Weeding, side-dressing with fertilizer; harvesting asparagus and rhubarb. Strawberries in blooms and petal falls. Blueberry crops look good. Fertilizing, applying manure, lime and planting field corn. Sour and sweet cherry loaded with fruits. Orchardists monitoring closely apple scab and spraying for plum curculio. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** This was a great week for field work. Grass in pastures and hayfields is growing very well. Vegetable growers were busy planting an assortment of vegetable crops. Others were harrowing and preparing fields for planting. Fruit growers were monitoring their crops for disease and insect pests and spraying where necessary. Greenhouse and nursery operations were very busy

with customers purchasing all kinds of plant material. Good weather drew people out to buy plant material.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: Catching up on lots of field work, plenty of field and sweet corn being planted, finished up potatoes. Some summer crops being planted but some real cool nights have kept things off a bit. Some thinning of apples, strawberries look just great and everything has taken advantage of the rain and some good sunshine this week.

VERMONT - The flooding from a week ago damaged 250 acres of planted corn and 800 acres of grass forage. There will need to be some replanting of corn. On the better drained cropland we saw renewed planting of corn and soybeans. Some first cut grass was mowed over the holiday weekend. Manure still being spread and everyone's cows are out on pasture. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** The rains have finally stopped. There was some widespread flooding in parts of the county. Farmers are trying to make up for lost time planting corn. A few farmers have started haying but the fields are very wet. The hay crop looks good however it is maturing early. **Heather Darby (Ext), Franklin:** Last week and over the weekend the land started to dry. Corn fields were beginning to green up and finally emerge. Some fields (especially heavy soils) will need to be replanted. Orchard grass and some reed canary grass have started to head out. The alfalfa is in the bud stage. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Planting goes on in spite of weather. Peas all planted also beans and early squash. All crops slow coming up. Rain 2.398 inches. The rains came, but flooding not too bad in Rutland area. It was a damp cool, cloudy week, but a great sunny warm day Wednesday. Asparagus slowed up, need's heat and sun as all early vegetables do. Rhubarb doing well. A sunny, warm week would help a lot.

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**

Gary R. Keough, Director
Travis Averill, Statistician

Gerald D. Tillman, Deputy Director
Deirdre Davis, Stat Assistant

RESORTED
FIRST CLASS
POSTAGE & FEES PAID
USDA
PERMIT NO. G-38

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
POST OFFICE BOX 1444
CONCORD, NH 03302-1444
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED