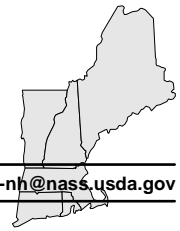




# New England Agricultural Statistics



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## Crop Weather

(Issued weekly on the internet, May – October)

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June 19, 2006 – 4 pm

For week ending 6/18/06

### What a Difference a Week Makes!

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:** For the week ending June 18, 2006, there were 5.7 days available for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture: 1% short, 43% adequate, 56% surplus. Subsoil moisture: 55% adequate, 45% surplus. Pasture condition: 4% very poor, 8% poor, 11% fair, 53% good, 24% excellent. The week began with average temperatures and cloudy conditions. On Wednesday and Thursday, portions of the region had thunderstorms, while other areas had clear skies. By Friday, warmer weather arrived and lasted through the weekend. On Sunday, hot, humid weather caused unfavorable working conditions with some areas setting record high temperatures.

**FRUIT:** Finally a week of dry weather allowed strawberry growers to open their fields to the public for pick your own. Strawberry growers were busy applying fungicides to fields to protect against mold, but early projections are looking promising for some growers. Fruit tree growers were busy monitoring for pests, mowing orchard floors, spraying fungicides and herbicides with consecutive days of dry weather. Fruit tree growers reported some caterpillar problems, apple scab, peach leaf curl, and brown rot in orchards. Massachusetts cranberry growers were busy placing bees out to pollinate as the bogs were reaching early bloom stage of development. Maine wild blueberry growers continued to monitor fields with harvest season slowly approaching ahead of schedule. Recent rainfall has provided excellent conditions for wild blueberry growth.

allowed for greenhouses and nursery sales to prosper after weeks of poor sales.

#### SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
<b>Topsoil</b>			
Very Short	0	0	3
Short	1	0	4
Adequate	43	27	55
Surplus	56	73	38
<b>Subsoil</b>			
Very Short	0	0	3
Short	0	0	5
Adequate	55	46	58
Surplus	45	54	34

**FIELD CROPS:** A few days of clear skies and warmer temperatures allowed many farmers to catch up with field work. Operators were busy planting and re-planting corn as quickly as possible. Also, the break in the weather gave hay producers an opportunity to get their first cut of hay in. Many fields are still too wet to support heavy tractors and some farmers have stopped putting their cows out to pasture due to the muddy conditions. In Maine, the barley and oat crops have fully emerged though some grain and potato seeds have been lost due to the rains. Both oats and barley conditions were rated mostly good to excellent. Shade tobacco has reached one hundred percent planted, while Broadleaf tobacco is three fourths complete.

#### FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Stage	Fruit Set	Condition
Apples	Petal Fall	Average	Good/Fair
Peaches	Petal Fall	Average	Good/Fair
Pears	Petal Fall	Average	Good/Fair
Blueberries			
Highbush	Petal Fall	Average	Good/Fair
Wild, Maine	Petal Fall	Above Avg/Avg	Good/Excellent
Cranberries, MA	BS/EB		Good
Strawberries	Petal Fall	Average	Good

BS = Bud Stage, EB = Early Bloom

**VEGETABLES:** Vegetable growers have struggled to finish planting 2006 crops in recent weeks. Finally, better conditions allowed farmers to continue planting and harvesting crops. Fields located along low lying land still remained to be planted after numerous weeks of continuous rain. Vegetable farmers continued to re-plant and plant sweet corn where field condition permitted. Vegetable growers were busy planting cabbage, eggplants, herbs, peppers, pumpkins, tomatoes, and winter squash and harvesting asparagus, greens, rhubarb, and spinach. Vegetable growers applied side dressing, cultivated weeds, scouted for pests and sprayed where necessary. Farmers have spotted asparagus beetles, flea beetle, corn maggot, striped cucumber beetle, and Colorado potato beetle in fields. Warm weekend conditions

#### FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2006	2005	5-yr Avg	Condition
--Percent Planted--				
Potatoes				
Maine	99	95	99	Excellent/Good
Silage Corn	80	95	90	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	75	80	85	Fair
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	75	80	75	Good/Fair
Shade	100	100	99	Good/ Fair
--Percent Emerged--				
Barley, Maine	100	85	95	Excellent/Good
Oats, Maine	100	85	95	Good/Excellent
Potatoes				
Maine	85	50	50	
Mass	85	95	95	Good
Rhode Island	100	100	100	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	65	75	75	
Sweet Corn	60	50	55	
--Percent Harvested--				
Dry Hay				
First Cut	35	40	40	Good/Fair

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

For the Period: Monday June 12, 2006  
To: Sunday June 18, 2006

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
<b>MAINE</b>														
Augusta_State_A	54	84	68	+5	469	+67	127	+53	0.22	-0.55	2	6.51	+3.30	15
Bangor_Intl_Arp	53	83	67	+5	466	+125	113	+62	0.41	-0.36	4	6.48	+3.36	16
Bethel	50	84	65	+3	396	+40	97	+40	0.07	-0.89	2	4.81	+1.20	10
Caribou_Municip	45	80	64	+4	406	+139	81	+52	0.08	-0.57	2	2.28	-0.39	13
Dover-Foxcroft	53	81	64	+4	285	+11	60	+31	0.40	-0.51	2	4.55	+1.12	14
Frenchville	45	80	63	+4	357	+126	66	+49	0.36	-0.34	3	2.43	-0.40	14
Houlton	43	83	64	+4	397	+124	81	+50	0.39	-0.38	4	4.97	+1.89	16
Livermore_Falls	49	84	65	+5	416	+137	96	+65	0.03	-0.95	1	4.91	+1.16	11
Moosehead	44	85	63	+4	263	+63	51	+41	0.21	-0.70	2	4.88	+1.43	17
Portland_ME	55	82	68	+6	436	+114	107	+68	0.02	-0.82	1	7.64	+4.42	14
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>														
Benton	46	80	62	+0	344	-17	78	+22	0.10	-0.81	2	5.28	+1.79	15
Berlin_AG	47	82	63	+2	369	+26	82	+28	0.37	-0.61	4	5.42	+1.73	14
Concord	48	85	67	+3	553	+123	165	+74	0.06	-0.71	2	6.39	+3.45	13
Diamond_Pond	43	75	58	+0	211	+28	43	+39	0.71	-0.39	4	6.32	+2.20	18
Keene_AP	46	82	64	-3	484	-47	128	-11	0.15	-0.69	3	3.43	+0.00	14
North_Conway	50	81	67	+4	476	+86	134	+61	0.90	-0.05	3	4.14	+0.43	11
Rocheſter	48	83	66	+2	473	-5	116	+4	0.26	-0.58	2	5.81	+2.45	13
<b>VERMONT</b>														
Burlington_Intl	52	86	66	+1	596	+104	185	+62	0.08	-0.75	2	3.86	+0.78	17
Island_Pond	46	80	61	+2	356	+97	79	+46	0.14	-0.88	3	5.06	+1.19	18
Montpelier	48	82	63	+2	472	+116	115	+55	0.01	-0.83	1	3.33	+0.05	15
Pownal	45	79	62	+0	420	+47	93	+28	0.25	-0.81	3	4.69	+0.42	16
Rochester	46	83	62	+1	382	+45	88	+33	0.32	-0.56	2	5.40	+1.69	14
Rutland_AG	48	81	63	-4	458	-83	113	-34	0.06	-0.78	1	3.47	+0.14	12
Springfield_VT	49	84	65	+3	487	+91	124	+50	0.17	-0.74	1	4.52	+0.82	14
Sutton	43	78	60	+0	323	+66	65	+33	0.21	-0.80	4	4.25	+0.44	19
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>														
Boston/Logan_In	58	85	70	+3	605	+20	179	+30	0.10	-0.62	2	6.94	+4.04	13
Fitchburg	55	84	69	+7	600	+229	193	+130	1.74	+0.90	2	7.00	+3.67	12
Greenfield	50	83	66	-1	531	-49	145	-12	0.48	-0.43	5	3.93	+0.29	17
New_Bedford	51	85	67	+0	523	-52	133	-6	0.34	-0.50	3	7.58	+4.18	15
Otiſ_AFB	55	84	67	+4	520	+126	136	+67	0.20	-0.57	2	8.50	+5.35	14
Plymouth	50	85	67	+3	495	+66	128	+42	0.52	-0.29	3	8.48	+5.15	15
Walpole	53	85	69	+4	550	+69	160	+52	0.14	-0.77	2	7.53	+4.19	15
Chicopee/Westov	46	84	66	-4	583	-117	153	-62	0.19	-0.78	2	3.73	-0.16	11
Worthington	49	80	63	+2	396	+22	99	+35	1.67	+0.77	3	6.61	+2.81	14
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>														
Providence	55	85	70	+3	675	+141	187	+57	0.06	-0.71	2	5.79	+2.60	12
Woonsocket	51	83	68	+4	552	+78	155	+60	0.25	-0.73	3	8.39	+4.64	15
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>														
Bridgeport/Siko	55	85	69	+2	678	+80	172	+4	0.12	-0.65	1	4.41	+1.15	12
Hartford/Bradle	50	86	68	+0	705	+44	214	+12	2.04	+1.14	2	6.72	+3.09	11
Norfolk	48	77	63	+1	440	+71	120	+59	0.61	-0.49	2	4.19	-0.12	10
Thomaston_Dam	50	83	66	+3	573	+81	150	+39	0.42	-0.56	2	4.66	+0.74	14
Willimantĭc	50	84	67	+3	622	+124	172	+60	0.37	-0.47	2	5.52	+1.99	12

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 18, 2006

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	L	HI	AV	DF	LO	HI
ME	40	85	65	+4	0.02	1.32
NH	37	90	63	+2	0.06	1.08
VT	41	86	62	+0	0.01	0.98
MA	46	87	67	+2	0.06	1.74
RI	51	85	68	+3	0.06	0.25
CT	48	87	67	+1	0.02	2.04

**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:** Fields are finally starting to dry out after all that rain. Some field corn looks yellow in the heavier soil. Vegetable farmers report problems getting crops planted. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Finally a couple of days with warm dry weather until Wednesday p.m. were up to three inches fell in a couple of hours in the northern part of Hartford and Tolland counties. The Connecticut River has remained high which really hurts those folks farming the meadows. Sweet corn is showing tassels in the earliest plantings and spraying has begun. Field corn still being planted in the wet spots and those that got their corn in during May figure they will need to add 100 pounds of N per acre for what has been leached out. **Frank Himmelstein (Ext), New London:** Corn Silage- Some growers finally able to work the fields again. A significant amount of acreage still needs to be planted. Most growers at least four to six weeks behind schedule. Where the corn is up and planted before heavy rains, large areas where water accumulated did not grow. Other fields that were planted but too wet to be treated with herbicides for weeds have significant weed pressure. This would have been an ideal year for growers to have planted a glyphosate resistant hybrid as their options would have been greater for later control. Some corn hybrids definitely have the ability to grow better under wet soil conditions than others. One can see that clearly driving by corn fields. Dry Hay- With an optimistic forecast for haying later in the week many growers had a significant amount of hay down for the weekend. An unexpected weather disturbance on Saturday washed the hopes of bringing in some high quality feed this weekend. Although the heat is currently on, the humidity is very high, morning dews are heavy, and thunderstorms are likely for the early part of the coming week so those hay fields that will be harvested in the coming week will have drying problems. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Corn being replanted for the 2nd time in some cases. Fields too wet for heavy equipment to green chop. Strawberries plentiful and tasty. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** A few days of dry weather in a row prompted major hay cutting for baling and chopping. Some cut hay got wet later in the week, just could not get it dry before the next shower arrived. Corn planting and major re-planting continues. One farmer noted he has replanted more land than ever in the last 30 years. The showers are forcing farmers to be innovative in using lighter tractors and equipment to get fields done. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** Sunny, warm and breezy weather this week has helped dry out the fields and perked up the crops in the ground, as well as allowing planting to resume. Strawberries are coming along well and the pick-your-own operations were busy over the weekend. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Finally - some haymaking weather! Most farms got into the fields to make hay or haylage this week - even though many fields ended up with large ruts due to saturated soils. But the hay started coming off. Strawberries look to be bumper crops this year with everyone happy about the berries for a change.

**MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Great weather this past week allowing growers to get a lot of field work done. Busy finishing up herbicide applications. Beginning fungicide applications. Hilling potatoes. All crops growing rapidly. Early planted potatoes have vine growth ahead of normal. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Farmers have finished planting crops. Some herbicides being applied, also some fungicide applications. Rock picking fields around area. Some initial insecticide applications. Crop conditions look excellent in Central Aroostook. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Some areas lost some grain and potato seeds from too much rain. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis:** Finally some sun. Some field operations have been hampered by equipment getting stuck in muddy areas. Forages are headed out so hay quality is starting to go down. First strawberries of the season were harvested and sold by a farm growing them under floating row cover. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** Corn is up and first cut of hay proceeding. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Some dry weather towards the end of the week has allowed for some first cutting and more corn to be planted. Field crops are way behind. Many fields are still too wet for tractor traffic. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Fields were too wet for much field work. Farmers worked on their greenhouses. Strawberries are looking OK and should be ready to

pick soon. No pumpkins or squash have been planted. Farmers hope to get these crops in this upcoming week. Very little hay down, again too wet. Some farmers will be replanting some sweet corn acreage. Blueberries are looking good. Bumper crop predicted. Over seven inches of rain has been received to date in June. Farmers spent most of the last week fixing and repairing equipment. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Plant set good and growth excellent because of ample rainfall. Crop is about a week ahead in development, plant at green fruit stage. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Summer has finally arrived. Producers are trying to catch up with planting. Hay harvest has begun on well drained land. Strawberries picking will start this week. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Androscoggin/Franklin:** A mild beginning of the week, with temperatures heating up for the end of the week and into the weekend. Perfect haying this weekend, except for some spotty showers on Friday. Strawberries are ripe and for sale on the farm stands. Some silage corn producers are concerned for their early planted corn - some may have to be replanted due to the rain earlier this month. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** The sunshine arrived last week, which was needed by all! Some hay was harvested. Pastures looking green and animals are grazing but fields are still soggy. Some fields still have standing water and need the sun and high temps to dry the saturated soils. **Laura Rand (FSA), Androscoggin:** Despite the poor conditions, crops are looking pretty good. If the sun sticks around, producers should be able to finish up planting and begin haying. **Guy Piper (FSA), Kennebec:** Most fields have standing water in them. This limits 1st cutting of hay, putting cows to pasture (therefore no surplus feed), spreading manure (many manure pits are full), replanting silage corn/grain (this increases fuel, seed, fert, costs to replant), poor seed germination for corn and vegetables, doing field work and planting corn, barley and oats. Spreading manure, cutting 1st crop hay on fields with standing water ends up rutting the fields. Minor flooding along low lying streams from recent rains. Cows in wet pasture rut up the area fields but farmers with no feed left over from winter have no choice but to pasture at this time. The farmers that the heavy rains have affected has put an additional strain on them due to the high production costs.

**MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire:** Why yes! It really is summer...some sunshine and six good working days this week. Pleasant temps, a little cool until Friday. One day with showers off and on. Very windy on Sunday but field crops aren't up high enough to get clobbered. Small grain growers reported mild losses due to the wet year so far. Others were grateful they had seeded some fields last fall. Hay and haylage made this week, some fields were ready earlier but weren't accessible, so there may be some loss of quality. Reports of caterpillar problems in cane fruit and cherries. Folks did get to put in sun loving transplants for tomatoes, peppers, herbs, eggplant etc. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Things dried out nicely last week. Bee hives are now in place and over the weekend (with warm weather), blossoms of the early varieties opened significantly. First fruit rot fungicides will be applied shortly. Insecticides for caterpillars and weevil being applied as well. Vines look fabulous industry-wide. Newly-planted beds look good as well. **Jason Otto (FSA), Bristol:** Field work resumed this week due to some sunshine. A lot of fields are still too wet to get into. Crop losses are being reported and prevented planting acres are still wet. Some crops have are being replanted as fields dry out enough. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Franklin/Hampshire/Hampden:** The sun and heat have arrived and the farmers are very happy. Vegetable growers are harvesting rhubarb, strawberries, greens and lettuce. Planting tomatoes, winter squash, pumpkins, cabbage and eggplant. Shade and field tobacco and potatoes look very good. Sweet corn is tasselling and potatoes are being hilled up. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** Finally a good weather week. Planting corn and last of transplants going in. Farmers baling some hay. U-pick strawberries started this week. Sweet corn beginning responding to heat, looking better.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap:** Growers are planting successive vegetable crops. Harvests include rhubarb, lettuce, spinach, peas and asparagus. Apple scab, peach leaf curl and brown rot are present in orchards. Many have their first cut of hay done. Growers are worried about strawberry diseases because of heavy rains early in season. **Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll:** Finally the sun! Dry hay cut and in the barn this week-end. Planting continue, better late than never. What a difference a week makes! **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Finally - a week with sun every day!

Bright & sunny early in the week, hot & muggy by the weekend. Corn is doing excellent, growing by leaps and bounds - most of it in five leaf stage. Lots of dry hay harvested, but occasional showers made it tricky. Vegetable crops putting on good growth with sun and heat, farms working hard to catch up on field work. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** From cold and rainy at beginning of week to quite hot and humid and end. Corn fields really starting to grow aw are grasslands. Growing degree days in Lancaster now shoots up to 449. Farmers market opens with early season greens available. Time to start haying! Some cornfields along low lying areas of major rivers flooded at early part of the week; ponding prolonged periods of roughly two days under water may have adversely affected young seedlings. White, also red, clover now blossoming time for beekeepers to prepare for honey flow. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** First cutting continues as weather permits. Showers still hampering drying. Corn planting completed and corn is growing slowly. Warmer weather should spur growth. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** The week was wet to start. However we had three days with no rain, warm temperatures and sun at the end of the week. Those who had hay to put up were getting right at it. Some soils are still too wet to get on, but the sun and wind are drying thing out pretty fast. The corn is behind for this time of year, but a lot can happen between now and fall. The corn is quite a bit shorter than normal. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Vegetables: Transplanting tomato and pepper plants, and making successive planting vegetable crops. Harvesting spinach, greens, radishes, asparagus and rhubarb. The sun finally was out and warmer to hot temperatures over the weekend. Growers busy side dressing fields with fertilizer, cultivating weeds, scouting for pests and spraying if needed. Asparagus beetle, flea beetle, corn maggot, striped cucumber Beetle, and Colorado potato beetle were seen. Fruit: Strawberry Pick-Your-Own operations open over the weekend. Fruit growers monitoring pest and crop development and applying cover sprays for pest control. Mowing orchard floor and weed spraying under trees. With the previous weeks' rainy conditions, growers are making sure to have protectant fungicides applied for strawberry fruit mold control and to control apple scab. Field Crops: Planting and weed spraying corn fields. Farmers are continuing trying to make haylage and trying to make baled hay between rain showers. Some fields still too wet for harvest equipment. Grasses heading out and maturing, especially orchard grass. **Sadie Puglisi (Ext), Merrimack:** This past week was full of sunshine, allowing people to catch up on planting and get in the first cut of hay. Strawberries are just starting to be harvested.

Nurseries and garden centers are finally getting the customers in on the weekends. Everyone is looking forward to a few more days like this. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** A hotter, warmer and sunnier week. Crops growing well. Some fields are still wet. Harvesting asparagus, rhubarb, leafy greens, and strawberries. Cutting hay. Planting successive crops of vegetables and sweet corn. Planting field corn. Spraying protective fungicide in fruit orchards. Weeding and fertilizing vegetable fields. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** There was a break in the weather and hay producers took the advantage to get the first cut. Fruit growers were busy mowing orchard floors and doing fruit thinning by hand on apples and peaches. There was a localized hail storm around Milton which had slight fruit damage on apples around the area. Most of pick your own strawberry operations opened their fields for picking by customers last weekend. Vegetable growers continued to plant an assortment of vegetable crops and to cultivate, weed and fertilize already planted crops. Greenhouse and nursery operations continued to have good sales of annuals, perennials and woody ornamentals. Most greenhouse growers were also busy planting fall mums.

**RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport:** Some erosion evident from last weeks rain. Started PYO Strawberries this week, they look good especially considering the enormous amount of cold and rain. Cultivating potatoes, still planting some sweet corn, harvesting lettuces and cole crops. Lots of wind at the beginning of the week making it tough for spraying, farmers catching up of lots of field work with the good weather.

**VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille:** What a difference a week makes! The rains finally stopped and the sun has been working overtime to dry things out. The corn has taken a turn for the better and folks were in a haying frenzy over the weekend. Weed control in cornfields is going to be a challenge this year. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Fair weather has returned and farmers are starting to harvest hay and finish planting corn. Several farmers are faced with having to replant corn in some fields. Fields are very wet and you can see a lot of tracks on the fields that have been harvested. The quality of the hay is poor due to being over matured. Many farmers have suspended letting their cows out to pasture due to the mud. **Heather Darby (Ext), Franklin:** After all the rain, a few nice days of weather began to dry fields out last week. A lot of first cut was finished over the weekend and corn planted (or replanted) as well. Corn is in all stages of development and all types of conditions. There are many fields still not planted.

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