



New England Agricultural Statistics



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Crop Weather

(Issued weekly on the internet, May – October)

July 10, 2006 – 4 pm

For week ending 7/9/06

Drier Conditions Welcomed

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending July 9, 2006, there were 5.9 days available for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture: 2% short, 61% adequate, 37% surplus. Subsoil moisture: 62% adequate, 38% surplus. Pasture condition: 3% poor, 11% fair, 65% good, 21% excellent. Heavy thunderstorms scattered across the region early in the week hit crops hard. Hail, rain, and lightning in Southern New England shredded field corn, hit fruit trees, ruined vegetable crops, damaged siding on buildings, took trees down, and hit irrigation equipment. Farmers welcomed drier conditions by week's end. Many took advantage of the dry weather to catch up on field work delayed by the saturated soils.

FRUIT: Strawberry harvest neared completion this week, PYO operations enjoyed a nice weekend. Many strawberry growers reported an average to good crop; although recent wet weather caused damage and affected berry size. Several blueberry and raspberry pick your own operations opened for customers this week. Wild blueberry growers in Maine captured fruit flies and applied insecticides for control. Early varieties of cranberries are showing good fruit set, while late varieties are in full bloom. Apple scab was reported in many orchards. Tree fruit growers were busy mowing orchard floors, monitoring their crops for insect pests and irrigating due to continuous dry days.

VEGETABLES: Growers across the region harvested early season vegetables this week, while weeding and irrigating other crops. Farm stands were selling squash, peas, lettuce, radishes, carrots, and some tomatoes. Early sweet corn was tasseling this week. Although warm sunny weather this week helped some crops, some vegetable crops are still struggling from too much rain earlier in the season. There were reports of losses in lettuce, some cabbage, peppers and summer squash in CT. Greenhouse operators spent the week cleaning their greenhouses and planting poinsettias and irrigating their fall mum crop. Growers were busy side dressing fields with fertilizer, cultivating, mowing weeds, scouting for pests and spraying if needed.

FIELD CROPS: Many farmers took advantage of the week's sunny weather to make dry hay and haylage. The first and second cuttings continued as weather permitted, but some fields were still too wet to work on. Growers across the region were concerned about the forage quality due to high moisture. Field corn continued to be planted and replanted across the region. Field corn conditions were rated very poor to poor in Vermont and good to fair elsewhere. Growers believe that delayed weed control in corn fields due to wet conditions will hurt yields. Tobacco growers spent the week side dressing and fertilizing both broadleaf and shade tobacco varieties. Maine potato growers continued spraying fungicides and finished hilling. Some late blight has appeared in Maine's potato fields; growers are spraying to control it. Some early planted barley in Maine started to turn color this week.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	0	4
Short	2	0	14
Adequate	61	49	77
Surplus	37	51	5
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	0	3
Short	0	0	20
Adequate	62	56	74
Surplus	38	44	3

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	- Percent Harvested -			Fruit Size	Condition
	2006	2005	5-yr Avg		
Apples				Average	Good/Fair
Peaches				Average	Good/Fair
Pears				Average	Good/Fair
Blueberries					
Highbush	10	0	<5	Average	Good
Wild, ME				Average	Excellent
Cranberries, MA					Good/Fair
Strawberries	90	75	80	Average	Good/Fair

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2006	2005	5-yr Avg	Condition
--Percent Planted--				
Silage Corn	95	99	99	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	95	95	99	Good/Fair
--Percent Emerged--				
Potatoes				
Maine	100	100	100	Good/Fair
Silage Corn	85	95	95	
Sweet Corn	90	90	95	
--Percent Harvested--				
Barley, ME				Good/Excellent
Oats, ME				Good/Excellent
Potatoes				
Mass				Good
Rhode Island				Good/Excellent
Tobacco				
Broadleaf				Good/Fair
Shade				Fair/Good
Dry Hay				
First Cut	50	75	75	Fair/Good
Second Cut	<5	15	15	Good/Excellent

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

For the Period: Monday July 3, 2006
To: Sunday July 9, 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
MAINE														
Augusta_State_A	58	83	71	+3	893	+129	341	+119	0.03	-0.70	1	2.19	-0.83	14
Bangor_Intl_Arp	54	85	70	+4	880	+204	318	+145	0.35	-0.42	2	1.99	-1.09	17
Bethel	55	85	69	+3	795	+103	286	+107	1.15	+0.31	2	5.76	+2.17	15
Caribou_Municip	51	85	67	+2	771	+221	237	+125	0.55	-0.29	3	3.05	+0.10	14
Dover-Foxcroft	54	81	67	+2	640	+69	205	+85	0.92	+0.08	3	3.72	+0.27	13
Frenchville	51	82	65	+1	686	+184	192	+103	1.53	+0.71	3	6.00	+2.94	15
Houlton	47	86	67	+2	778	+212	252	+132	0.62	-0.21	3	1.97	-1.17	16
Livermore_Falls	50	86	70	+5	832	+259	302	+183	0.00	-0.79	0	3.61	-0.01	12
Moosehead	52	84	66	+3	606	+152	185	+111	1.38	+0.47	2	4.28	+0.58	14
Portland_ME	56	84	70	+3	845	+187	306	+145	0.05	-0.69	1	2.04	-1.08	7
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	53	82	67	+3	720	+55	244	+93	0.39	-0.40	2	3.83	+0.42	14
Berlin_AG	53	83	67	+2	754	+96	257	+99	0.06	-0.78	1	3.80	+0.10	14
Concord	51	86	71	+3	1019	+224	421	+181	0.00	-0.70	0	2.61	-0.32	10
Diamond_Pond	49	80	63	+2	506	+105	129	+85	0.77	-0.28	2	5.89	+1.58	15
Keene_AP	50	84	70	-1	920	-5	354	+35	0.04	-0.75	1	2.45	-0.86	13
North_Conway	53	86	70	+3	888	+152	336	+129	0.06	-0.78	1	5.18	+1.57	16
Rochester	53	85	71	+3	923	+66	356	+78	0.00	-0.77	0	1.91	-1.29	7
VERMONT														
Burlington_Intl	55	88	71	+2	1053	+177	432	+138	0.75	-0.04	1	5.06	+1.77	13
Island_Pond	51	82	66	+3	710	+190	223	+125	0.63	-0.33	4	6.06	+2.10	17
Montpelier	53	83	68	+3	871	+203	304	+136	0.00	-0.70	0	4.51	+1.45	12
Pownal	52	83	68	+2	816	+127	279	+105	1.21	+0.27	2	5.07	+1.02	14
Rochester	54	84	68	+2	758	+116	254	+100	0.10	-0.74	1	6.21	+2.81	14
Rutland_AG	54	84	68	-2	870	-58	315	-4	0.00	-0.84	0	2.94	-0.42	12
Springfield_VT	53	85	70	+3	921	+191	348	+152	0.04	-0.80	1	5.17	+1.66	11
Sutton	51	82	66	+3	666	+144	200	+94	0.57	-0.39	2	6.08	+2.12	17
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	62	88	75	+3	1122	+93	486	+106	0.15	-0.48	1	3.80	+1.05	9
Fitchburg	56	87	73	+7	1102	+393	485	+296	0.02	-0.82	2	5.19	+1.83	10
Greenfield	53	88	70	-1	981	-18	385	+21	0.27	-0.58	3	4.53	+1.04	18
New_Bedford	56	85	71	-2	975	-37	375	+15	0.67	-0.03	2	4.30	+1.18	11
Otis_AFB	59	82	71	+2	948	+180	354	+129	1.33	+0.68	2	5.26	+2.40	9
Plymouth	55	87	72	+3	972	+156	395	+137	0.43	-0.34	3	4.23	+1.11	13
Walpole	55	88	74	+4	1046	+174	446	+162	0.51	-0.27	3	4.50	+1.09	11
Chicopee/Westov	51	87	72	-2	1054	-107	414	-49	0.25	-0.60	2	3.67	+0.03	13
Worthington	50	85	69	+4	809	+113	302	+126	0.02	-0.93	1	4.90	+1.25	13
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	59	88	75	+4	1184	+222	486	+144	0.52	-0.18	3	4.26	+1.27	12
Woonsocket	55	88	73	+4	1043	+186	436	+171	0.38	-0.53	3	5.02	+1.30	13
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	62	87	74	+2	1181	+141	465	+70	0.88	+0.04	2	2.68	-0.57	9
Hartford/Bradle	55	89	75	+3	1236	+123	535	+94	0.23	-0.52	2	5.62	+2.33	12
Norfolk	54	84	69	+3	857	+162	327	+150	0.50	-0.48	2	5.67	+1.52	13
Thomaston_Dam	55	86	72	+4	1048	+182	415	+143	0.32	-0.59	2	5.80	+2.09	13
Willimantic	55	87	73	+4	1121	+244	461	+183	0.36	-0.55	4	4.97	+1.42	11

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, July 9, 2006

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	L	HI	AV	DF	LO	HI
ME	46	87	68	+2	0.00	2.41
NH	39	90	68	+3	0.00	1.89
VT	45	90	68	+2	0.00	1.75
MA	49	89	72	+3	0.00	1.96
RI	55	88	73	+3	0.38	1.83
CT	53	90	73	+2	0.08	2.22

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: We finally got several days of good weather. Fields are starting to dry out and farmers are replanting wet spots in their cornfields. We are finally able to make some dry hay. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Heavy showers on Monday and Tuesday were isolated but hit most of the area. By the end of the week many dairy farmers were trying one last time to plant (replant) corn for silage. Summer squash harvest began along with blueberry picking. Side dressing and fertilizing both broadleaf and shade tobacco. Most crops need more sun and heat. Over the weekend more first cut dry hay put up. **Frank Himmelstein (Ext), New London:** Growers still planting corn this week. Planting season has extended over two months this year. June planted fields growing nicely in well drained area. Large areas in fields never grew in May planted fields. July planted fields will not have much energy value unless short season varieties used. Delayed weed control in fields will hurt yields as well. Dry Hay- Many fields have not been cut. Fields either too wet to work on or weather conditions have not allowed for good drying. Everyone who has tried to harvest any hay this week had rain delay harvest and reduced forage quality. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Trying to get finished with corn planting and chopping grass in wet fields. Vegetables and corn that was planted earlier, looking good with the few warm and sunny days that we have had. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** More rain, heavy showers. Micro burst in Northern county hit crops hard with 70 mph winds, hail, rain, and lightning. It shredded field corn, hit fruits multiple times, ruined vegetable crops, damaged siding on building, took trees down and hit irrigation equipment. Overall things are still to wet. Replanting a third time on some corn fields, if they can get into field and afford to buy more seed. Farmers are concerned that there will be no feed to buy and no money to buy it with. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** The warm sunny weather this week has helped some crops, but a lot of the vegetable plants have suffered irreversible damage due to the wet conditions. There have been reports of losses in lettuce, some cabbage, peppers and summer squash. The first cutting of hay has suffered major losses in both counties and there is clear evidence of loss in corn fields where standing water lay too long. Some corn never got planted. **Joyce Meader (Ext), Windham:** Corn is finally looking good. Some stands have lost 33% of the plants due to erosion and rot, but yield will still average 20 tons per acre if conditions continue good at this point.

MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook: Potatoes and small grains: Field activities in sections of the area have been pretty much curtailed due to heavy downpours, which caused considerable damage to some fields. However by the end of the week growers were able to get back in the fields and continue spraying fungicides and finish up hilling. All crops continue to be ahead of normal. Some early planted barley is starting to turn color and some potato fields are in blossom. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Hilling, cultivating, fungicide and insecticide applications continue. The potato crop is beginning to bloom in some early planted fields. Everything is looking good with only minor insect infestation. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Potato crop looks good. Some late blight has appeared in potato fields. Growers are spraying to control it. Small gains are looking okay with so much rain early it isn't growing as evenly as it should, so it may not mature correctly. Farmers are getting caught up cultivating fields. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis:** Nice weather has led to hay harvesting. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** Sun is welcome this week! **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Some dry weather has hay harvest finally in full swing. Strawberry harvest is near completion. Corn still is poor with many spotty fields with poor weed control. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** The weather pattern has finally improved. Summer is here! Haying is underway. Fly traps have been set out to monitor for blueberry fruit flies. A summer weekend brought customers to farmstands and farmers' market. The strawberry crop was short lived this year because of weather conditions. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries; Fruit flies being captured and insecticides applied for control. I noted many small fruit that if mature will provide for a better than average crop. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** The area experience dry and warm weather. Strawberry picking is winding down, most reported a good crop. Other vegetable crops are still struggling from too much rain earlier. Soils are drying out now and the irrigation pumps are starting to run. Wet spots in

hay fields are drying out. Hay quality is poor. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Androscoggin/Franklin:** There is an amazing amount of first cut hay still standing. The most I can remember this late in the year. Early plantings look good. Late planting do not look very good. Lots of hay went in this weekend. Farmers are going to have to cut hay and hope that it rains on their neighbor this week. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Oxford County Producers have had a good week to do field work. The crops really needed the sunshine. Hay is being harvested. Field corn has a lot of failed acreage in this county due to the very wet weather. Strawberry crop being harvested. Foresters still reporting that the woods are very wet and some still unable to get into woodlots. Some parts of the county received severe T-storms with hail. Overall a good week with the sun and heat. **Laura Rand (FSA), Androscoggin:** What a blessing this past week has been. Producers are finding hay many fields are still too wet to get on. Corn has finally gotten a much needed warm, humid spell and strawberries are winding down.

MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: We had a wonderful growing week. Field days were filled with sun and good temperatures with some late day showers provided moisture without a washout. Most troubles are still coming from having to plant late or replant due to the earlier rain this season. Some fields will remain fallow. Vine crops have taken a hit with the wet year although no major pumpkin problems are noted. Strawberry season seemed short and the wet, hot conditions did not leave fruit viable for very long at the pick-it operations. Weed control and cultivation along with more haying was the business of the week. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Bloom continues; early varieties have a good amount of set fruit while late varieties are in full bloom. Bee activity has been variable, depending on the weather and the location. There aren't huge numbers of wild bumblebees around this summer. Growers are applying the second or third fungicide for fruit rot and the first insecticide for fruitworm. Bloom has been very good. We'll see how the fruit set is by the end of next week. Things have dried out pretty nicely. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Franklin/Hampshire/Hampden:** Crop fields are all drying out and some growers have started to irrigate. Dairy farmers were harvesting hay and topdressing field corn. Vegetable growers were planting late fall crops and cultivating fields. Vegetable and fruit growers were scouting for insects and applying fungicides to prevent diseases. Harvesting blueberries, cucumbers, summersquash, greens and peas.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll: Warm dryer weather prevails, hay cutting continues, a lot of hay made it into the barn this week-end! Tourists are moving in, farm stands doing a brisk business. Finally feels like summer, everything should take off now. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Pretty much no rain all week - the longest stretch of sunny weather since before Memorial Day. Field corn doing great - lots of it waist-high or better. Everyone working furiously to get hay in - lots of progress made on remaining first cutting and a number of farms working on second cutting haylage/baleage. Early planting of sweet corn tasseling, farm stands offering cukes, zucchini, and greens. PYO blueberries and raspberries should start later this week. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Scattered rain showers but a much drier week than many so far; hay and haylage coming in. Quality not the best considering weather/stage of growth. Looks like some top-dress nitrogen of field corn which is starting to look better. Peas, greens available. Pumpkins starting to loft up, raspberries and blueberries begin to color. Cabbage moths flying. Farms trying to play catch-up this week. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** First and second cuttings continuing as weather permits. Second cut quality is excellent. Corn is growing well except on the wetter soils. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** We are finally having a stretch of dry weather. We have gone a week without some kind of major rain event. Many fields are beginning to dry out a little. Some fields are still, as of today, too wet to get onto. Some fields will need two to three weeks of no rain in order to dry out enough for access or cropping activities. Some first cut hay has still not been taken, due to the wet spring and summer and the forage quality on these fields is poor at best. There are still some corn pieces that remain unplanted due to wet soil conditions. The corn crop that was planted earlier has started to look better in the last week with some dryer weather and

heat. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Vegetables: Continuing successive planting. Growers continued harvesting early season vegetables such as lettuce, peas, greens, radishes, summersquash. Growers busy trying to side dressing fields with fertilizer, cultivating, mowing weeds, scouting for pests and spraying if needed. Corn Earworm, Potato Leafhopper, and Squash Vine Borer seen or trap during week. Fruit: Growers monitoring pest and crop development and apply sprays for pest control, if needed. Apple Scab can be seen in most orchards. Also, growers are training young fruit trees along with mowing orchard floor. Strawberry harvest is nearly over (98% harvest) and getting to renovate harvested beds. First blueberries harvested during the end of the week. Field Crops: Farmers continued to bale hay or make haylage at a faster rate. Growers are side-dressing fertilizer to field corn if needed and spreading manure on harvested hayfields. **Sadie Puglisi (Ext), Merrimack:** Stands are full of squashes, peas, lettuce, and some tomatoes. PYO strawberry pickers enjoyed a nice weekend. Hay is being cut. Some fields are still wet from this past spring and will not be able to be planted. Otherwise things are looking good. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Strawberry season almost to an end. Harvesting blueberries, raspberries, sweet cherry, leafy greens and other early season vegetables. Haying. Pastures are OK. Weeding, side-dressing fertilizers, monitoring pests in vegetable fields and irrigating fields in need of rain. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** An excellent week for field work. Hay producers were busy making hay and haylage. Fruit growers were busy mowing orchard floors, monitoring their crops for insect pests and irrigating due to continuous dry days. Some growers were also busy weeding and cultivating new strawberry plantings. Strawberry harvesting is winding down while raspberry and blueberry harvesting has just started. Most blueberry and raspberry pick your own operations opened for customers this week. Vegetable growers were busy weeding and irrigating crops as well as harvesting early crops, such as peas, cucumbers, squash, radishes

and carrots. Greenhouse operators were busy cleaning their greenhouses and planting poinsettia and irrigating their fall mum crop. **Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap:** Growers are harvesting many vegetables, strawberries and raspberries, which are just getting started. Apple orchards are being monitored for pests and sprays are going on regularly. Weather was good for field work all week.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: Strawberry season finished up with an average harvest. Some damage and size affected by the weather. Lots of field work continues, sprays being applied to crops, Round up being applied to field corn. Getting some hay in and some good drying weather this week. The farm stands still have lots of flowers and local crops are starting to appear.

VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille: Week started off wet but ended with some great weather for harvesting grass. Most are still playing catch up on first cut but some have started second cut which is looking very good. Corn crop is looking more robust and any vegetables that didn't drown are also coming along nicely. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** A lot of sun this week helped farmers begin to catch up on cropping. You can see many fields where some hay was left standing in the wetter spots. Ground is still very wet from all of the rain. The first crop is very over mature. I've heard test results as low as 5% protein. Some second crop has been harvested. There doesn't appear to be a lot of quantity. Some corn is starting to look good where other fields have poor germination and slow growth. Re-growth on pastures has been slow probably due to the lack of sun. **Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Continued wet field conditions. Just starting dry hay harvest, all grass mature. First crop haylage was very late and much ruined by wet conditions. Alfalfa survival good, harvested mostly after full bloom. Corn crop from 0 to 30". Nitrogen deficiency and poor weed control in most corn fields. Many portions of fields with drowned out corn.

June 2006 Crop Weather Summary: Cool, wet conditions dominated the beginning of the month. By mid-month, warmer weather arrived to the region, however heavy rains continued to hinder field work. Most of the region had over five inches of rainfall during June, and New Bedford, Massachusetts had over 10 inches of rain. Oats and barley continued to grow well with the mixture of sun and rain. At month's end both grains had completely emerged and conditions were good to excellent. Maine potato growers delayed plantings due to saturated fields. Crop specialists estimate that five percent of planted acreage in Aroostook County may be lost due to flooding from June storms. Conditions on remaining potato crop were good to excellent. Rhode Island potatoes thrived during the month with conditions rated good to excellent; the crop was fully emerged by the second week of June. Massachusetts potatoes were affected by heavy rains which delayed full emergence of the crop until the last week of June. Saturated field conditions caused farmers to delay planting silage corn and sweet corn and to re-plant fields completely lost from flooding. At month's end, both sweet corn and silage corn remained up to two weeks behind schedule. Tobacco transplanting was delayed due to the heavy rains but by the end of June all broadleaf and shade tobacco was set out. Farmer's attempts to bale hay were hindered from saturated fields and few continuous days of dry weather. At the end of the month first cutting had only advanced to the halfway point, compared with normal of 75 percent cut. More dry weather is needed for farmers to enter hay fields as conditions are too wet for equipment. Strawberry harvest started in mid-June, which was earlier than normal and by the end of the month, 55 percent of the crop was picked. Blueberry growers have appreciated the rainfall during June as berry size flourished. By month's end, highbush blueberry harvest was underway and condition was rated good. Maine wild blueberries were also rated in good condition in response to adequate heat and moisture. Wet conditions during June have caused unfavorable growing conditions for fruit trees and growers report scab on apple trees. Peach growers were busy during the month preparing orchards for the upcoming harvest. At month's end, Massachusetts cranberries reached peak bloom. Heavy rains have provided plenty of water for reservoirs, but increased insect pressure.

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