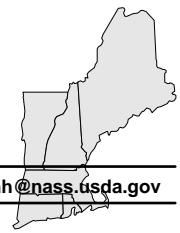




New England Agricultural Statistics



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Crop Weather

(Issued weekly on the internet, May – October)

July 17, 2006 – 4 pm

For week ending 7/16/06

The Heat is On

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending July 16, 2006, there were 6.4 days available for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture: 4% short, 75% adequate, 21% surplus. Subsoil moisture: 76% adequate, 24% surplus. Pasture condition: 2% poor, 20% fair, 53% good, 25% excellent. Warm, sunny conditions rolled over from the weekend into Monday providing farmers another day to work the fields. By Tuesday, scattered rain arrived into the region and remained until Thursday, thus limiting field work activities. By week's end, sunshine and humid conditions lingered over the region. Farmers took advantage of the hot, humid weekend to plant and harvest crops.

FRUIT: Warm, rainy conditions have caused many strawberry growers to end the season early. At week's end, five percent of the crop remained to be picked. Strawberry growers that had finished the harvest were busy renovating beds. Warm conditions have enhanced growth of highbush blueberries and harvest remained ahead of previous year and normal. Raspberry patches have started to open to the public for pick your own. Maine wild blueberry growers continue to monitor and prepare fields for the upcoming harvest season. Peach growers in Connecticut started to harvest and conditions were rated fair to good in the state. Fruit tree growers were busy spraying protective fungicides, mowing orchard floors, and training young trees as harvest approaches. Massachusetts cranberries have reached petal fall and growers were busy applying protective fungicides.

VEGETABLES: Sunshine and warm weather in the region has enhanced sweet corn development and are in silk stage. Most of the sweet corn crop was planted at week's end but one percent remained unplanted. Vegetable growers were busy finishing planting late season crops as field conditions improved. In addition, growers were harvesting beets, broccoli, cabbage, cucumbers, greens, lettuce, peas, radishes, summer squash, and tomatoes. Some growers were irrigating fields due to hot conditions. Farmers continued to cultivate, hoe weeds, monitor pest pressures, and spray pesticides. Local farm stands are starting to fill-up with a variety of vegetables. Greenhouses and nurseries are starting to sell more perennials and woody ornamentals.

FIELD CROPS: Warm, sunny conditions early and late in the week provided ideal conditions for fieldwork. Farmers were busy finishing first cutting hay and beginning second cutting. Second cutting of hay was in full-swing with ten percent of the crop harvested. Drier weather allowed farmers to finish planting fields that were not planted or had to be re-planted from heavy rains during May and June. Maine oats and barley continue to grow well and crop conditions were rated good to excellent for both. Maine potatoes continue to grow rapidly with warm conditions and potato plants were starting to bloom. Isolated reports of late blight in Bridgewater, Mars Hill, and in the Fort Kent area. Growers continue to use a five day spray schedule. Shade tobacco harvest underway in Connecticut and crop condition was rated fair to good in the region.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	0	3
Short	4	2	22
Adequate	75	61	70
Surplus	21	37	5
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	0	2
Short	0	0	13
Adequate	76	62	78
Surplus	24	38	7

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	- Percent Harvested -			Fruit Size	Condition
	2006	2005	5-yr Avg		
Apples	-	-	-	Average	Good
Peaches	<5	-	-	Average	Good/Fair
Pears	-	-	-	Average	Good/Fair
Blueberries					
Highbush	20	10	10	Avg/Above Avg	Good/Excellent
Wild, ME				BelowAvg/Avg	Excellent
Cranberries, MA					Good/Fair
Strawberries	95	95	95	Average	Good/Excellent

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2006	2005	5-yr Avg	Condition
--Percent Planted--				
Silage Corn	100	100	99	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	99	95	99	Good/Fair
--Percent Emerged--				
Silage Corn	95	95	99	
Sweet Corn	95	95	99	
--Percent Harvested--				
Barley, ME		-	-	Good/Excellent
Oats, ME		-	-	Good/Excellent
Potatoes				
Maine		-	-	Excellent/Good
Mass		-	-	Good
Rhode Island		-	-	Good/Excellent
Tobacco				
Broadleaf				Good/Fair
Shade	5	10	5	Fair/Good
Dry Hay				
First Cut	80	85	90	Good/Fair
Second Cut	10	20	25	Good/Excellent

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

For the Period: Monday July 10, 2006
To: Sunday July 16, 2006

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				CUM SINCE MAR 1 GROWING DEGREE DAYS				1-WEEK PRECIP			4-WEEK CUM PRECIP			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	BASE-50F		BASE-60F		TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES		DFN	DAYS
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN				INCHES	DFN		
MAINE															
Augusta State A	63	91	74	+5	1064	+161	442	+151	1.16	+0.46	3	3.13	+0.18	15	
Bangor Intl_Arp	61	93	74	+7	1051	+249	419	+190	1.14	+0.37	4	2.72	-0.36	17	
Bethel	57	88	72	+4	948	+130	369	+134	1.32	+0.55	3	7.01	+3.61	16	
Caribou Municip	58	86	71	+7	923	+263	319	+165	2.27	+1.36	5	5.24	+2.03	17	
Dover-Foxcroft	54	92	70	+4	783	+94	278	+109	0.91	+0.07	3	4.23	+0.85	14	
Frenchville	60	81	71	+7	835	+228	271	+146	1.43	+0.59	4	7.07	+3.87	16	
Houlton	56	90	71	+6	927	+248	331	+164	1.14	+0.30	5	2.72	-0.49	17	
Livermore Falls	58	91	73	+8	994	+309	394	+231	0.92	+0.15	2	4.50	+1.09	13	
Moosehead	56	90	71	+8	756	+202	265	+156	1.36	+0.45	4	5.43	+1.73	16	
Portland_ME	61	89	73	+5	1010	+221	401	+179	2.98	+2.28	4	5.00	+2.02	10	
NEW HAMPSHIRE															
Benton	58	84	71	+5	868	+90	322	+126	2.14	+1.37	4	5.87	+2.60	16	
Berlin AG	57	87	71	+5	905	+128	338	+131	1.17	+0.33	2	4.60	+1.04	12	
Concord	59	92	74	+5	1188	+257	520	+213	2.15	+1.45	4	4.70	+1.84	12	
Diamond Pond	57	81	68	+6	631	+142	184	+119	0.83	-0.19	2	6.01	+1.78	13	
Keene AP	61	88	74	+4	1087	+16	451	+55	1.32	+0.52	3	3.62	+0.35	13	
North Conway	59	90	72	+4	1042	+175	420	+152	2.52	+1.68	5	6.80	+3.30	18	
Rochester	58	87	73	+3	1083	+86	446	+98	3.06	+2.29	3	4.71	+1.58	8	
VERMONT															
Burlington Intl	64	90	75	+5	1232	+212	541	+173	0.98	+0.17	2	5.96	+2.69	13	
Island Pond	56	85	70	+7	853	+235	296	+166	0.54	-0.38	3	6.46	+2.60	17	
Montpelier	58	87	72	+6	1023	+236	386	+169	2.30	+1.61	3	6.80	+3.89	14	
Pownal	60	85	71	+4	965	+157	358	+135	1.64	+0.73	5	6.46	+2.56	16	
Rochester	57	88	71	+5	904	+147	330	+128	2.34	+1.50	2	8.23	+4.87	14	
Rutland AG	60	86	72	+3	1026	-42	401	+11	1.98	+1.14	3	4.86	+1.50	14	
Springfield_VT	59	90	73	+6	1081	+225	438	+186	3.16	+2.39	5	8.16	+4.79	15	
Sutton	58	85	70	+6	806	+179	270	+129	1.08	+0.17	4	6.95	+3.09	17	
MASSACHUSETTS															
Boston/Logan_In	64	92	76	+4	1309	+115	603	+128	1.21	+0.58	3	4.91	+2.25	10	
Fitchburg	61	89	75	+8	1279	+444	592	+347	1.38	+0.54	3	4.83	+1.47	11	
Greenfield	61	91	74	+3	1150	-3	484	+36	2.05	+1.21	5	6.10	+2.68	18	
New Bedford	57	85	73	+0	1140	-37	470	+16	0.67	+0.04	2	4.63	+1.72	10	
Otis AFB	61	82	73	+3	1110	+198	446	+148	0.33	-0.30	2	5.39	+2.67	9	
Plymouth	61	88	74	+4	1144	+181	497	+163	0.71	-0.06	2	4.42	+1.34	12	
Walpole	62	90	75	+5	1225	+206	555	+194	0.48	-0.29	2	4.84	+1.57	11	
Chicopee/Westov	62	89	74	+0	1224	-105	514	-47	1.18	+0.34	3	4.66	+1.15	14	
Worthington	58	87	72	+5	961	+146	384	+158	1.16	+0.18	3	4.39	+0.66	13	
RHODE ISLAND															
Providence	63	89	76	+4	1367	+244	599	+167	0.57	-0.13	2	4.77	+1.85	12	
Woonsocket	61	89	75	+5	1219	+218	542	+203	0.23	-0.68	2	5.00	+1.35	12	
CONNECTICUT															
Bridgeport/Siko	66	86	76	+3	1364	+159	578	+88	1.04	+0.14	3	3.60	+0.22	11	
Hartford/Bradle	64	91	77	+4	1425	+144	654	+115	0.56	-0.14	2	4.14	+1.05	12	
Norfolk	61	88	73	+6	1019	+200	419	+188	0.29	-0.64	3	5.35	+1.37	14	
Thomaston Dam	62	88	74	+5	1219	+213	516	+174	0.59	-0.32	2	5.97	+2.33	13	
Willimantic	61	88	75	+6	1301	+284	571	+223	0.19	-0.76	3	4.79	+1.13	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, July 16, 2006

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	L	HI	AV	DF	LO	HI
ME	53	93	72	+6	0.30	3.68
NH	52	96	72	+5	0.83	3.12
VT	54	93	72	+5	0.16	3.16
MA	54	92	74	+4	0.07	2.28
RI	61	89	74	+4	0.12	0.57
CT	57	91	75	+4	0.09	1.04

Prepared by AWIS, Inc.

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: Several days of good weather gave farmers an opportunity to finish planting field corn, sweet corn and other vegetables. Silage yields will be lower than normal because 90 day corn was planted instead of the usual 120 day corn. Everyone hopes for good weather for the remainder of the growing season. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Sweet corn is in good supply now. Blueberry harvest in full swing. Dairy farmers still planting corn or replanting on Friday. A fair number of acres will be re-planted. With the drier weather and some heat finally here field corn and vegetable crops are finally looking better. Dry hay made over the weekend. **Frank Himmelstein (Ext), New London:** Growers continue to plant and replant corn this week with the hopes that it will be a long fall growing season. Some of the corn just recently planted within the last few weeks and fertilized with poultry manure looks great. Only time will tell if it will have much energy value in the fall. Some fields planted in May and early June are either suffering from lack of weed control or lack of nitrogen. More hay cut and rained on earlier this week. The sun finally came back on Friday and a large amount of first cut hay was mowed in the area with the anticipation of a string of several drying days ahead. High humidity may slow the drying process. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Producers are taking advantage of the past week's dry weather to finish replanting some severely water damaged corn fields and to cut long overdue hay fields. Vegetable producers are also trying to recover from the extremely wet conditions that have caused rotting problems in the fields. Blueberry picking has just begun with reports of a good crop. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Sunny, hot days helped with haying. Corn is growing at last. Thunderstorms. Still some wet fields. Early vegetables at farm stands and farmers markets. Vegetable and flower bedding plant sales to clear out plants that did not sell in the wet weather. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** Warm, sunny weather early in the week and late in the week allowed hay making to resume. The quality is not very good, but at this point producers are willing to take what they can get. There were reports of 2+ inches of rain mid-week in some parts of the counties and 1/4 inch in other parts. Harvesting of summer squash, cukes and beans. **Joyce Meader (Ext), Windham:** Windrows drying, great haying weather. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Make hay was the order for the week. Farmers made hay at fever pitch to try to make up for lost time. Some farmers were cutting second cutting on fields that were harvested earlier before going back for the rest of first cutting in fields that were too wet to harvest on time. Scattered showers did make drying difficult in certain areas.

MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook: Potatoes and small grains: Warm temperatures and adequate rainfall was helpful in bringing all crops along in a rapid fashion. Finding some two inch tubers in early planted fields on varieties such as Superiors. Crop development is indeed ahead of normal. Growers are able to maintain a five day schedule on spray application. Finding some Colorado beetle, even a few in fields treated with in-furrow treatments of insecticide. Only one late blight find reported in Northern Aroostook which is a credit to the exceptional job growers are doing applying fungicides. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Fungicide and insecticide applications, some broccoli harvesting, some cultivation. New potatoes are being harvested at farmstands and grains are beginning to turn color. Potatoes are in blossom and look excellent. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Potatoes in bloom. Some late blight in Bridgewater area. Also some corn borer reports. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis:** Haymaking is in full swing. Strawberry fields have closed and renovation has been started. Raspberries are being picked. Pastures are starting to show signs of stress due to the hot weather. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Hot dry weather has allowed the first cutting of hay/haylage to proceed with most farmers going full bore. Quality will be terrible.

Spotty thunder showers have made hay harvest a little tricky. Strawberry harvest is done. Sweet corn is in silk. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries; Fruit flies being captured and insecticides applied for control. Heat helping to ripen crop, but showers helping to keep crop in good shape. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Hot humid weather has hit the area. Producers are hoping the weather will jump start the vegetables. Raspberry and blueberries are starting to be picked. First crop hay is still being harvested with very poor quality. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Androscoggin/Franklin:** The heat is on! Haying is in full swing this week. A significant amount of rainfall one evening into the early morning hours during the week delayed hay production slightly. Cucumbers, lettuce, other greens and snow peas are plentiful at the farmers markets as well as highbush blueberries and raspberries. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Oxford County producers had a good week with the much needed sunshine and heat for the crops. Hay is being harvested and market gardens are soaking up the sunshine. Raspberries are being harvested. Strawberries had a short season due to the weather conditions. Potato growers were able to get back into fields and continue spraying fungicides and finish up hilling. Still a lot of standing hay in fields waiting to be harvested as soon as the soils are dry enough to get equipment on. Hay quality is poor. **Gleason Gray (Ext), Penobscot:** The heat is here, but we are still plagued by on and off rain showers. Producers working to get their first cut hay in with hopes that the second cut will bring improved quality.

MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: Warm sunny weather with a smattering of showers produced a good growing week. Field corn that did get planted is catching up in growth. Patches of fields that did not germinate or drowned are evident. Berkshire grown sweet corn is projected for August. Cherries are being harvested and blueberries are promising a strong year. More hay was made. Summer vegetables are being harvested with planting for fall harvest underway. Cultivation continues. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Bloom is nearly completed and bee hives are departing. Weather conditions were poor early but got better as bloom expanded. Bee activity was variable, as was the number of wild bumblebees. We'll have a good idea about the degree of fruit set this week and next week. Growers will be applying fertilizer this week to give the developing fruit a boost. Fungicides for fruit rot control are nearly completed, but second fruit worm applications should be continued this week. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Franklin/Hampshire/Hampden:** Another rainy week. Some areas had downpours and other areas just received light showers. Many fields are water logged. Many growers have a tight spray schedule for disease control. Harvesting an array of crops like summer squash, blueberries, greens, beets, peas, cukes, radish, lettuce and cabbage. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** Real busy week for growers and farmers as weather for once is co-operating. Hot dry week finally pushing corn along. Hay making even on fields "gone by" as farmers have no choice. Veggie growers continue spraying for wide variety of fungal diseases and insects. Harvesting usual early (?) summer crops. Blueberries are just great.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap: Fields that had just dried out got another dose of rain. Harvesting raspberries and starting blueberries. The blueberry crop looks like it will be a good one. Strawberries are at the tail end. Many vegetables are ready but not sweet corn. For many, the weather has created a very difficult hay season. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Not too many totally rainy days, but more than we needed and HOT towards the weekend. Field corn thriving in most places, a little bit of side-dressing going on. Second crop haylage starting, still poor conditions for dry hay. Farm stands starting to fill up with a variety of veggies. Blueberry and raspberry harvest has begun. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Much hotter, humid weather this week.

Still isolated storms to contend with, heavy downpours mid-week. Haying remains difficult but some dry hay coming in along with haylage. Quality of hay less than desirable in many cases. Field corn beginning to look better although showing nitrogen deficiency. Re-planted corn finished up. Sweet corn starting to tassel on earlier planted pieces. Potatoes in flower. Japanese beetles becoming a problem. Fungal diseases becoming more apparent. Lots of mosquitoes this year! Growing degree days edging up towards 1000 mark. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Hay harvesting (1st and 2nd) continuing as weather permits. Corn growing well except in wetter areas of fields. Losses due to wetness may be significant. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** The week of July 9th provided some good weather along with intermittent showers and/or rain. Making dry hay was still a challenging task, even when there was sun and heat. Soils are still wet on many fields and this makes drying hay difficult. The warm weather and sun have helped the corn. Some wet spots still look poor. Farmers still struggle to get first cut off wet fields. The quality of this feed will be minimal at best. There is growing concern about sufficient feed and or quality feed for the winter on a number of farms. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Vegetables: Beginning to irrigate with hot weather. Continuing successive planting. Growers harvesting an array of vegetables: beets, broccoli, cucumbers, greens, lettuce, peas, potatoes, radishes, summer squash and other vegetables. Farmers kept busy cultivating, hoeing weeds, monitoring pest pressures, spraying pesticides for insects and diseases - if needed. Very good demand for produce at most local farmer's markets and farm stands. Fruit: Growers monitoring pest and crop development and apply sprays for pest control. Also, growers are training young fruit trees along with mowing orchard floors. Strawberry harvest is over and renovating strawberry beds. Blueberry harvest continues. Field Crops: Farmers continued to bale hay or make haylage. **Sadie Puglisi (Ext), Merrimack:** PYO blueberries and raspberries started this past week. Hot temperatures and plenty of sunshine allowed berries to ripen and people to pick them. Some vegetables are still a little late coming in, but many are picking cucumbers and some high tunnel tomatoes. First cut of hay still being done. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Renovating strawberry beds. Weeding vegetable fields and spraying protective fungicides in fruit orchards. Harvesting has been difficult this wet season. Harvesting cherries, blueberries, raspberries, hi-tunnels tomatoes,

cukes, squash and a whole array of vegetables. Hail (size of golf ball size) hit some areas and their vicinities in Rockingham County (7/11/06): Stratham, Exeter, North Hampton, Kingston, Hampton Falls and their vicinities damaging apples, peaches, green vegetables, squash, cukes, tomatoes, other vegetables and crops, blueberries, raspberries, mums, cut-flowers, greenhouse structures and others. Some fields were again soaked, floated with the rain (from one to six inches) that occurred that night. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** Rain storm in the middle of the week. The rest of the week was good for field work. Hay producers trying to get some second cut in. Fruit growers monitoring their crops for insects. Some growers were hand thinning the fruits that may have been damaged by hail earlier in the season. Strawberry harvesting is now over and growers are now harvesting blueberries and raspberries. Vegetable growers were harvesting an array of vegetable crops including greenhouse tomatoes, cucumber, squash, radishes, beets, lettuce. Most greenhouse, nursery and garden centers are finished with annual plants and are now doing more with perennials and woody ornamentals. Some growers were busy planting poinsettias. Fall mums are growing well for most nurseries.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: Lots of hay cut this week and some OK drying weather. Vegetables coming in, some smaller than usual. Sweet corn being harvested in areas where it was under cover, but it's coming along fast. Good weather for getting sprays down, pasture is benefiting from sun and dryer weather. Hot, hazy and humid is the picture out there.

VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille: Last week was probably the best week for haying so far this summer. Corn crop is responding to the heat and humidity. Some manure being spread on first cut fields. Most veggies doing well. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Applying nitrogen to late sweet corn as it gets ready. Spraying potatoes for blight and potato bugs. Most crops slowed down with dry spell but rain will start then growing and maturing again. Had a fine crop of strawberries. 2.115 inches of rain. A very welcomed rain yesterday was very much needed, all crops beginning to feel the need. In market; peas, green beans, lettuce, radishes, scallions, swiss chard and new potatoes. With the good rain sweet corn will soon be ready. Rain was truly a blessing for farmers and market gardens.

To receive this report every Monday evening, send an e-mail message to listserv@newsbox.usda.gov and in the body, type **subscribe usda-new-eng-crop-weather**

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