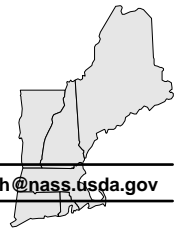




New England Agricultural Statistics



Gary R. Keough, Director

Phone: 603-224-9639

Fax: 603-225-1434

www.nass.usda.gov

nass-nh@nass.usda.gov

53 Pleasant Street, Rm 2100
Concord, NH 03301

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May 29, 2007 – 4 pm

For week ending 5/27/07

An Excellent Week for Field Work

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending May 27, 2007, there were 6.4 days suitable for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture was rated 1% very short, 5% short, 90% adequate, and 4% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 2% short, 94% adequate, and 4% surplus. Pasture condition was rated 3% poor, 6% fair, 74% good, and 17% excellent. The first part of the week remained cooler than normal. Although skies were clear, daytime temperatures across the region ranged from the mid-60s to low 70s on Monday and Tuesday. Nighttime lows on Tuesday fell into the 20s and 30s in northern states, prompting concerns for a late spring frost. Warmer weather arrived on Thursday, and temperatures remained well above average until Sunday. Daytime highs broke records in many locations on Friday, peaking in the 80s to low 90s across the region. Dry weather and clear skies provided excellent field work conditions; farmers were active planting and cultivating fields all week. While most areas report that soil moisture is good, a few reporters noted that heavier soils in some fields still need more time to dry.

FRUIT: Apple trees reached early to full bloom in Maine this week, while blossoms were falling in other areas. Orchardists kept busy mowing orchard floors and applying protective fungicide and pesticide sprays. Strawberries and highbush blueberries continued to develop well across the region, while raspberries in New Hampshire were starting to bud. Berry producers irrigated fields this week, some due to the threat of frost earlier in the week, others due to the dry conditions throughout the week. Wild blueberry growers in Maine continued to burn fields where necessary, applied fungicides, and began to move bees into fields for pollination. Insect populations grew along with vines in cranberry beds in Massachusetts, prompting cranberry growers to apply insecticides this week.

VEGETABLES: Roadside stands, greenhouses, and garden centers kept very busy throughout the weekend as a result of the sunny weather. Farmers continued to plant and transplant a variety of vegetables this week, including sweet corn, tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, and squash. Producers in Connecticut expressed concern that vegetables under plastic may have been damaged by 90+ degree temperatures on Friday. Other producers were busy still preparing fields for planting, and laying plastic mulch and drip irrigation tape. More asparagus, rhubarb, and early leafy green vegetables were harvested this week across the region.

FIELD CROPS: Farmers took advantage of the week's dry weather to plant field corn at a quick pace. Early planted corn has emerged in many locations thanks to the warm weather. Growers in Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Vermont began chopping grass for both dry hay and haylage over the weekend; producers reported that the quality of grass is very good so far. Shade tobacco transplanting was close to completion this week in Connecticut and near the halfway mark in Massachusetts. Potato planting wrapped up in Massachusetts and Rhode Island this week, while farmers in northern Maine planted potatoes and small grains at a frenzied pace. Farmers across the region also kept busy plowing, disking, fertilizing, applying pesticides, and fixing fences.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	1	0	0
Short	5	1	0
Adequate	90	75	45
Surplus	4	24	55
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	2	1	0
Adequate	94	83	61
Surplus	4	16	39

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Development	Condition
Apples	FB/PF	Good
Peaches	PF	Good/Fair
Pears	FB/PF	Good/Fair
Blueberries		
Highbush	EB/FB	Good/Fair
Wild	EB	Good/Fair
Cranberries, MA	BS	Good
Strawberries	EB/FB	Good

BS = Bud Stage, EB = Early Bloom, FB = Full Bloom, PF=Petal Fall

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2007	2006	5-yr Avg	Condition
--Percent Planted--				
Barley, ME	75	90	75	
Oats, ME	70	90	70	
Potatoes				
Maine	70	80	60	
Mass	100	95	90	
Rhode Island	100	99	95	
Silage Corn	60	60	55	
Sweet Corn	60	50	50	
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	25	10	10	Good/Fair
Shade	85	35	55	Good/Fair
--Percent Emerged--				
Barley, ME	<5	65	30	Good
Oats, ME	<5	65	25	Good
Potatoes				
Maine	0	15	<5	N/A
Mass	45	40	35	Good
Rhode Island	90	45	35	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	15	20	20	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	30	20	25	Good/Fair
-- Percent Harvested --				
Dry Hay				
First Cut	10	5	5	Good/Fair

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

For the Period: Monday May 21, 2007
To: Sunday May 27, 2007

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				CUM SINCE MAR 1 GROWING DEGREE DAYS				1-WEEK PRECIP			4-WEEK CUM PRECIP		
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS
MAINE														
Augusta State A	36	91	61	+4	213	+69	75	+64	0.09	-0.75	1	2.70	-0.77	11
Bangor Intl Arp	33	92	58	+3	170	+62	59	+53	0.07	-0.70	1	3.64	+0.40	11
Bethel	32	89	58	+2	152	+34	50	+41	0.52	-0.32	1	3.15	-0.16	9
Caribou Municip	31	91	56	+2	139	+60	47	+44	0.41	-0.29	1	1.95	-0.81	10
Dover-Foxcroft	32	91	56	+2	116	+34	38	+36	0.25	-0.59	1	3.16	-0.10	10
Frenchville	30	88	55	+3	133	+75	50	+50	0.62	-0.11	2	1.25	-1.57	10
Houlton	26	91	54	+0	143	+62	47	+43	0.11	-0.66	1	2.10	-0.90	11
Livermore Falls	29	90	58	+4	141	+59	40	+38	0.13	-0.72	1	2.23	-1.16	9
Moosehead	27	91	55	+4	97	+52	27	+27	0.49	-0.29	1	3.05	-0.02	9
Portland_ME	39	92	60	+4	204	+104	58	+58	0.04	-0.73	1	2.26	-1.05	9
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	33	87	57	+2	162	+23	49	+32	0.69	-0.13	1	2.19	-0.85	9
Berlin AG	32	88	57	+2	147	+28	46	+33	0.53	-0.31	1	3.71	+0.53	8
Bethlehem	35	89	60	+4	186	+49	52	+35	1.31	+0.53	2	3.43	+0.50	11
Concord	33	93	62	+5	280	+118	97	+78	0.24	-0.46	1	3.44	+0.64	11
Diamond Pond	29	82	53	+2	87	+37	22	+22	0.96	+0.01	1	5.32	+1.83	12
Keene AP	34	90	62	+2	250	+27	85	+48	0.13	-0.76	1	2.15	-1.25	10
North Conway	32	91	58	+2	161	+22	49	+35	1.38	+0.47	1	3.43	-0.20	9
Rochester	36	91	59	+0	219	+30	69	+43	0.30	-0.54	1	3.59	+0.02	9
VERMONT														
Burlington Intl	36	89	63	+4	256	+54	91	+58	0.26	-0.44	1	1.80	-0.98	7
Island Pond	29	85	56	+3	138	+53	41	+36	0.40	-0.50	1	2.44	-0.81	11
Montpelier	32	87	60	+4	200	+65	58	+42	0.09	-0.68	1	1.92	-0.95	9
Pownal	35	89	60	+4	209	+65	64	+45	0.93	-0.12	1	3.15	-0.99	7
Rochester	32	88	59	+4	156	+34	37	+24	0.02	-0.96	1	2.18	-1.74	10
Rutland AG	32	87	60	-1	184	-53	53	+6	0.44	-0.40	1	2.37	-0.73	9
Springfield_VT	32	90	62	+5	225	+73	77	+59	0.05	-0.88	1	3.19	-0.47	12
Sutton	31	87	57	+5	136	+54	39	+34	0.45	-0.42	1	4.24	+1.04	11
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	48	92	67	+7	380	+134	128	+104	0.49	-0.21	1	3.78	+0.82	10
Fitchburg	40	92	66	+9	362	+232	133	+124	0.86	+0.02	1	4.26	+1.09	10
Greenfield	39	91	65	+4	287	+38	92	+55	0.50	-0.41	1	3.17	-0.33	9
New Bedford	37	91	63	+3	259	+12	60	+36	0.21	-0.62	1	2.86	-0.48	9
Otis AFB	37	90	61	+5	196	+61	41	+35	0.37	-0.47	1	3.34	-0.07	10
Plymouth	39	90	63	+5	261	+110	73	+65	0.22	-0.63	1	2.80	-0.84	9
Walpole	38	93	64	+6	325	+134	112	+93	0.30	-0.47	1	3.71	+0.54	12
Chicopee/Westov	35	90	64	+2	310	-19	103	+44	0.15	-0.80	1	2.35	-1.33	9
Worthington	34	89	61	+5	220	+81	62	+48	0.11	-0.93	1	2.00	-2.19	11
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	44	93	66	+7	385	+169	111	+93	0.15	-0.69	1	2.41	-1.03	10
Woonsocket	39	92	64	+6	331	+144	106	+92	0.15	-0.76	1	3.15	-0.55	8
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	49	89	66	+6	367	+106	87	+45	0.00	-0.85	0	1.03	-2.55	8
Hartford/Bradle	42	93	67	+5	415	+114	138	+82	0.32	-0.60	1	3.44	-0.29	9
Norfolk	37	85	61	+5	239	+104	73	+61	0.14	-0.91	2	1.94	-2.20	12
Thomaston Dam	40	89	64	+6	303	+96	85	+58	0.03	-0.95	1	2.01	-2.04	12
Willimantic	38	91	64	+6	329	+123	100	+74	0.18	-0.73	1	1.93	-1.89	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, May 27, 2007

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	L	HI	AV	DF	LO	HI
ME	25	94	57	+2	0.00	0.81
NH	22	94	58	+3	0.03	1.39
VT	28	90	59	+3	0.00	0.93
MA	34	95	63	+5	0.09	0.86
RI	39	93	64	+6	0.00	0.22
CT	37	94	65	+5	0.00	0.32

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: With excellent weather, dairy farmers pushed ahead with planting field corn. Some grass is being chopped. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Lots of sun and warmth for the week. Record high on Friday of 93 put sweet corn under plastic at risk of being burned. Some showers Sunday night (5/27/07) but very little rain left fields still dry and blueberries were getting irrigated on Monday (5/28/07). Field corn planting was well along and direct seeding of cucumbers and squash was moving forward. Tomatoes and peppers were being set out. Shade tobacco was nearly all set and broadleaf was moving along well. Some dry hay was baled but much more was chopped and round baled as silage. Green houses and garden centers were busy with customers buying plants. Monday afternoon a tornado touched down in Somers and ripped a roof off a polo arena. Eyewitnesses reported that it only lasted for a few hundred feet and then dispersed. **Frank Himmelstein (Ext), New London:** An excellent week for field work. Manure spread on many fields and harrowed in during the week. Corn planting is in full swing. Corn has emerged quickly due to the warm weather conditions. Overall, it's a much better planting season than last year at this time. Let's hope the trend continues. Growers also green chopped hay over the weekend and the first hay fields for dry hay being cut in anticipation of more nice weather. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** An excellent warm sunny week to do a lot of fieldwork with spreading, harrowing, planting, mowing, chopping, baling. Corn up three to five inches, sweet corn also doing better, some fields are still too wet to work, but action on all the drier fields has been good. Plant sales are improving. Concern for a blue moon frost is still possible. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Ideal weather for planting corn, harvesting dry hay and green chopping grass as well as planting vegetables and flowers. Greenhouses were emptied over the weekend. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Wonderful weather this past week helped finish the bulk of the corn planting. A few smaller farms still have some fields to go yet. Strawberries are in full bloom. First cut hay/haylage is coming in. With a forecasted week of no rain haymaking will be on everyone's agenda this coming week.

MAINE - Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook: Farmers were able to resume planting on Tuesday (5/22/07). The recent warm temperatures have helped to get approximately 80 percent of the crops planted. No crop conditions to report as of yet, still planting. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Farmers put in many hours in the fields this week. Many are trying to hurry to get work done while the sun is shining. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis:** Field operations are in full swing with spreading manure, tillage and planting. Hay fields are looking good. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Progress continues, although some fields still have some wet spots. Apples blooming, strawberries are coming along with bloom just beginning. Some corn is up and emerged. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Silage and sweet corn were planted this week. Land has been plowed in preparation of planting pumpkins. A little greenhouse lettuce and a few greens were harvested this week. Fungicide and Velpar have been applied to blueberry fields. Great weather this week allowed farmers to complete field work planned. More rain is needed and is forecasted for the end of this week. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Fields still being burned because of delay with late snowfall and wet weather, expect to be completed this week. Crop development is about 5 days behind normal. Bees are being moved into fields to begin pollination. Some fields had a frost; frost protection irrigation was used on fields that had irrigation systems capable of frost protection. Very little insect activity noted. Mummy berry blight symptoms are beginning to show up. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Androscoggin/Franklin:** There is a lot of field work that is being done, manure being spread, some corn has been planted. The high bush blueberries have started to bud, probably 30-40 percent have buds. First cut of hay began this weekend. It was a beautiful weekend weather wise. **Guy Piper (FSA), Kennebec:** The weather for the most part has been good. Farmers have been busy spreading manure, plowing, harrowing, planting corn, seeding hay land, much outdoor work being done. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Penobscot:** Producers have been in the fields planting and cultivating due to warm and sunny days and fairly warm nights. Corn is starting to pop up in spots. Producers have finished

planting vegetables in most locations. Ground is fairly moist, we could use a light rain but the sunshine is nice. Apple trees are at full bloom and some blossoms are falling with the light wind. Very little winter damage was reported on apple trees. Strawberries are nice and green as well as blueberry plants are starting to green up.

MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: This was a beautiful week for farming. We dodged a hard frost and are watching the precipitation though. It is getting dry, but pasture and field conditions are still good. Last plantings of corn are underway and about 20-30 percent has emerged. Strawberry crops are being treated and look good. Flower sales are high due to great weather, Memorial Day and good plant conditions. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberry vines grew significantly this week with warm weather. Insect populations grew as well, requiring insecticide applications. There is more than the usual leaf spotting on last year's leaves, caused by two different fungi. Growers are ready to plant vines in renovation projects. Dodder seed has germinated and will soon show itself in cranberry beds. **Emily Tchorz (FSA), Bristol:** Land prep and planting continues in full swing. Beautiful weather over the Memorial Day Weekend made for busy days at farm stands and greenhouses. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Franklin/Hampshire/Hampden:** Everyone is planting tobacco, tomatoes, corn, cabbage, beets, beans, lettuce, collards, squash, and radishes. Harvesting of Lettuce, asparagus, rhubarb and hay. Excellent dry and warm week for planting.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap: Farmers continue to seed and transplant field crops. It's petal fall time for apples. Blueberries are in bloom. Pastures and hay land look very good. Calcium nitrate is difficult to find. **Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll:** Glorious Week-end! Great start to the summer season. Plant sales are brisk at the garden centers and greenhouses. Grass in pastures and hayfields growing like mad, some grasses going to seed, time to grease up the baler. Tree fruit at petal fall, not many bees evident during bloom, we'll see what we've got for pollination. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Warm sunny weather all week with some rain just at the end, ideal for getting things done in the field. Lots of farms are catching up on planting corn, more of the early plantings emerging. First cutting is ready for harvest, and a few farms just starting to harvest baleage or a bit of dry hay. Vegetable operations transplanting warmer-weather crops, greens, etc. should be ready for harvest soon. Orchards keeping up with spraying programs. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** A variable weather week, wide with frost in morning one day and 90 degrees the next. Wet fields starting to dry up. Some corn planting, fertilizer, manure spreading continue as conditions permit. Vegetable gardens are seeing more activity with seeding and transplants going in. Apples, blueberries starting to blossom vigorously now, probably the best seen for a few years. Some concerns of growers regarding pollination, lack of services with decline in bee numbers/active bee keepers. Growing degree days finally break the 100 mark at base 50 in Lancaster. Grasslands look terrific. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Weather allowed for a good start to first cutting. Quality is excellent as grasses were still in the boot. Corn planting finishing up and some corn has emerged. The rain last week helped provide needed moisture. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** A good share of the corn has now been planted. The arrival of warmer weather gave the planting schedule the push it needed. Some of the heavier soils still need to dry out a little more before they are operable. Many farmers are putting in first cut haylage. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Apple are at full bloom to petal fall in later blooming areas of the county area and petal fall in early blooming area of the county. Blueberry is at full bloom. Orchardists are applying protective fungicide sprays on fruit trees and blueberries. Finishing up pruning peach trees. Field Crops: Farmers are plowing, discing, fertilizing, planting corn, and applying herbicides. Pastures and hayfields starting to look good, orchard grass is head out. Early planted corn has emerged and new seedings up and growing. Vegetables: Continued planting vegetables, along with successive planting of sweet corn. Laying plastic mulch and drip irrigation tape, and harvesting asparagus. **Dorothy Perkins (Ext), Merrimack:** All fields seem tilled up and most of the field corn has been planted. Petals have fallen from most of the apples and the raspberries have buds. The hay is almost ready to cut in some areas. The weather is cooperating nicely. Good rain then warm sunny days are pushing things right along. The black flies haven't skipped a beat and are

eating all of us and our livestock alive. Your animals should also be checked for ticks as they are abundant in fields also right now. Greenhouses are reporting good sales of bedding plants. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Harvesting asparagus, rhubarb and early leafy green vegetables. Greenhouse tomatoes are growing well with a lot of tomatoes. Preparing vegetable fields by plowing, discing, liming, applying fertilizers. Continue successive vegetable planting. Covering squashes, tomatoes and other vegetables with plastic slit row covers or fabric covers. Spraying insecticides and protective fungicides in fruit orchards. Blueberry crops look good. Some fields infected with mummy berry disease. Bedding plants sales at garden centers and greenhouse operations going well. Heavy wind with severe thundershowers occurred Sunday evening. Overall the week was dry and warm. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** Beautiful weather throughout the week. An excellent week for field work. Vegetable growers are busy planting an array of vegetable crops. Others were busy preparing the fields for planting. Fruit growers mowing orchard floors and applying pesticides and fungicides where needed. Garden centers and greenhouse operations were very busy with customers as a result of the beautiful weather. Memorial day weekend was a very busy weekend for garden centers.

RHODE ISLAND - Good weather let field work go almost non stop. Finished planting potatoes, lots of field and sweet corn being planted. Summer vegetables; squashes, beans, peas, onions all doing well. Some rye is being chopped. Spraying crops, and

farmers are really playing catch up. Roadside stands packed for the holiday weekend.

VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille: Last week marked the beginning of the first cut of grass forage in this area. Good progress was made planting many crops including corn. A frost early in the week was hopefully the last until fall and didn't harm the corn plants that had already emerged. Pastures are doing much better compared to a couple of weeks ago. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** A lot of activity went on this past week. Many corn growers are planting their crops. Field conditions are good with only a few wet spots. First cut hay also began last week. The crop looks good and I saw very little tracking in the fields. Most farmers have their cows on pasture now. The rain on Sunday will help push the pastures a little more. **Julie Jacque (FSA), Windham:** Great weather for planting and for crops to "pop". Green chop started around the valley as the grasses have been very prosperous this spring with adequate moisture and cooler temps. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Great week for spring's work. Some farms got a start on haying; some were planting corn, some fixing fences. It got up near 90 on Friday, showers of rain on Sunday. Plants are really growing. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Plowing under rye finished for the season, corn fertilizer going in with the planting. Land is in good shape. Strawberries in full bloom, have had to water them three times to keep off the frost. Cold and damp 1st of week, but warm last end. Asparagus cutting good, also rhubarb. All small vegetable crops, spinach, lettuce, carrots, beets germinated good and growing fast. Season beginning to look good. Have a good week.

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
John Miyares, Statistician

Gerald D. Tillman, Deputy Director
Lynne Arsenault, Stat Assistant

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