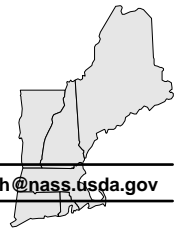




New England Agricultural Statistics



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July 2, 2007 – 4 pm

For week ending 7/1/07

All Crops Need Rain

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending July 1, 2007, there were 6.7 days suitable for field work across New England. Pasture condition was rated 1% very poor, 9% poor, 23% fair, 57% good, and 10% excellent. Hot and humid conditions dominated the region during the first half of the week, with some areas reporting their first official heat wave of the summer. Daytime high temperatures between Tuesday and Thursday ranged from the mid 80s to the upper 90s in all but northernmost parts of the region. Several areas reported receiving severe thunderstorms on Wednesday and Thursday which downed tree limbs and power lines, causing damage to fruit trees and recently planted vegetables. Cooler temperatures arrived on Friday and remained throughout the weekend. Daytime highs remained below 80 degrees in most areas with overnight lows falling into the 40s and 50s. Scattered showers brought some rain to localized areas; however, most areas remained very dry throughout the week, forcing farmers to irrigate crops where possible.

FRUIT: Pick-your-own operations welcomed the weekend's ideal weather conditions as strawberry harvest began to wind down this week. Recent hot weather helped to quickly ripen the strawberry crop, leaving producers worried about a short season and crop loss. Sweet cherry harvest began this week, and early highbush blueberries and summer raspberries have started to ripen in southern states. The cranberry crop in Massachusetts reached full bloom this week. Sunny weather was ideal for pollination; however, growers are concerned that beds are getting dry. Wild blueberry growers in Downeast Maine continued to monitor for fruit fly. Growers are concerned that dry soils and cooler temperatures have delayed crop maturation. Tree fruit producers continued to monitor crop development, mow orchard floors, and apply sprays for pest control and thinning.

VEGETABLES: Growers continued harvesting a wide variety of early season vegetables this week, including lettuce, radishes, peas, Swiss chard, spinach, peas, beets, cabbage, broccoli, greenhouse tomatoes. A few producers in southern states reported harvesting summer squash and early sweet corn. Vegetable producers kept busy irrigating due to the dry soil conditions, side-dressing fields with fertilizer, cultivating and hand-hoeing weeds, scouting for pests and spraying as needed.

FIELD CROPS: Dry weather kept hay producers very busy this week with both round and dry bales being made. Some areas reported beginning second cut this week. Producers worried that the lack of recent rain will keep second cut yields low. The week's warmer weather was beneficial to silage corn development, although growers are concerned about weed control and the lack of rain. Growers kept busy top dressing nitrogen and side dressing field corn as needed. Tobacco producers in Connecticut reported that recently planted broadleaf tobacco is hurting for water; however, tobacco planted earlier looks good. The potato crop in Maine continues to look excellent, with no signs of late blight anywhere in the state. Growers spent the week scouting for pests and applying protective sprays.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	14	3	0
Short	35	25	0
Adequate	51	70	49
Surplus	0	2	51
Subsoil			
Very Short	12	2	0
Short	30	21	0
Adequate	58	75	56
Surplus	0	2	44

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Set	Fruit Size	Condition
	2007	2006	5-yr Avg			
Apples	-	-	-	Avg/Above	Average	Good
Peaches	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good
Pears	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good
Blueberries						
Highbush	-	-	5	Avg/Above	Average	Good
Wild, ME	-	-	-	Average	Avg/Below Avg	Good
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-	Average	-	Good
Strawberries	65	50	50	Average	Average	Good/Excellent

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2007	2006	5-yr Avg	Condition
--Percent Planted--				
Silage Corn	100	95	95	
Sweet Corn	95	90	95	
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	100	99	95	Good
Shade	100	100	100	Good
--Percent Emerged--				
Barley, ME	100	100	100	Excellent
Oats, ME	100	100	100	Good/Excellent
Potatoes				
Maine	99	95	95	Good/Excellent
Mass	100	99	100	Good
Rhode Island	100	100	100	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	99	85	90	Good
Sweet Corn	90	80	85	Good/Excellent
-- Percent Harvested --				
Dry Hay				
First Cut	80	50	65	Good
Second Cut	10	0	5	Good/Fair

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

For the Period: Monday June 25, 2007
To: Sunday July 1, 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	52	93	71	+4	733	+118	270	+117	0.28	-0.47	1	1.60	-1.46	9
Bangor Intl_Arp	43	92	68	+3	657	+119	217	+101	0.20	-0.57	2	2.11	-0.98	8
Bethel	48	91	67	+2	591	+37	183	+61	0.59	-0.30	2	4.37	+0.69	9
Caribou Municip	43	80	62	-2	532	+99	150	+81	0.67	-0.08	6	2.44	-0.28	13
Dover-Foxcroft	44	89	65	+1	511	+65	125	+51	0.88	+0.04	3	1.80	-1.65	8
Frenchville	45	77	60	-3	475	+86	126	+73	2.34	+1.57	5	4.98	+2.05	12
Houlton	38	85	62	-3	513	+70	138	+63	1.28	+0.51	6	2.87	-0.21	15
Livermore Falls	42	95	66	+3	571	+120	175	+99	0.08	-0.82	1	2.00	-1.83	9
Moosehead	42	84	62	-1	429	+82	92	+52	0.82	-0.15	3	2.19	-1.50	11
Portland_ME	50	94	71	+6	710	+192	245	+143	0.05	-0.72	2	2.91	-0.31	7
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	48	90	67	+3	596	+55	179	+72	0.34	-0.50	4	2.75	-0.78	14
Berlin AG	45	91	66	+1	572	+43	168	+60	0.84	-0.07	2	2.63	-1.19	9
Concord	46	95	72	+5	837	+191	328	+156	0.05	-0.66	2	2.78	-0.18	13
Diamond Pond	40	83	61	+0	372	+64	78	+55	0.20	-0.85	2	2.94	-1.37	12
Keene AP	46	93	70	+2	781	+15	290	+49	0.34	-0.50	2	2.92	-0.44	12
North Conway	47	95	68	+2	620	+25	196	+50	0.07	-0.84	2	2.87	-0.84	12
Rochester	49	96	72	+5	738	+35	282	+77	0.30	-0.48	1	3.46	+0.19	8
VERMONT														
Burlington Intl	52	96	73	+5	897	+177	393	+175	0.08	-0.75	3	1.48	-1.78	13
Island Pond	44	90	65	+3	554	+142	160	+93	0.77	-0.21	4	2.93	-1.05	15
Montpelier	48	92	69	+5	714	+176	250	+133	0.09	-0.66	2	1.40	-1.82	13
Pownal	47	88	68	+3	713	+155	252	+129	0.13	-0.88	1	3.25	-0.98	13
Rochester	47	92	68	+5	625	+108	198	+90	1.64	+0.80	2	4.43	+0.95	14
Rutland AG	47	94	69	+2	705	-67	252	+8	0.03	-0.81	2	2.96	-0.40	12
Springfield_VT	47	94	70	+5	772	+180	301	+163	0.35	-0.51	3	2.83	-0.76	17
Sutton	46	89	66	+4	562	+150	158	+89	1.20	+0.22	5	4.32	+0.34	19
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	59	96	77	+7	1032	+183	443	+163	0.23	-0.47	2	2.18	-0.71	10
Fitchburg	52	94	74	+9	986	+416	425	+295	0.03	-0.81	1	2.27	-1.09	10
Greenfield	42	94	71	+2	856	+27	329	+55	0.17	-0.68	3	3.48	-0.07	16
New Bedford	56	90	73	+3	835	+2	302	+39	0.19	-0.57	3	1.78	-1.54	12
Otis_AFB	55	84	70	+3	696	+83	216	+64	0.06	-0.64	1	1.71	-1.28	11
Plymouth	53	93	73	+5	830	+172	312	+131	0.10	-0.67	2	2.14	-1.06	11
Walpole	55	94	74	+7	918	+206	371	+165	0.01	-0.83	1	3.26	-0.22	10
Chicopee/Westov	47	95	72	+2	904	-71	367	+9	0.27	-0.64	1	4.05	+0.27	11
Worthington	45	89	68	+3	692	+127	230	+105	0.10	-0.81	1	4.83	+1.22	12
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	59	95	76	+6	1048	+260	430	+181	0.92	+0.16	2	3.25	+0.17	9
Woonsocket	56	93	73	+6	912	+211	351	+162	1.31	+0.40	2	4.26	+0.50	12
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	59	91	74	+4	1046	+186	416	+120	0.21	-0.63	2	4.04	+0.82	12
Hartford/Bradle	52	96	75	+5	1111	+180	490	+151	0.12	-0.69	2	3.10	-0.37	12
Norfolk	49	89	70	+6	778	+216	293	+169	0.30	-0.73	3	2.02	-2.27	11
Thomaston Dam	53	92	72	+6	921	+208	361	+161	0.54	-0.37	3	3.76	-0.03	16
Willimantic	52	93	73	+6	957	+234	388	+183	0.18	-0.73	2	2.75	-0.76	10

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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Prepared by AWIS, Inc.

STATE WEATHER SUMMARY

For the week ending Sunday, July 1, 2007

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	L	HI	AV	DF	LO	HI
ME	37	96	65	+1	0.00	2.34
NH	30	98	68	+3	0.01	0.84
VT	38	96	67	+3	0.03	1.64
MA	42	96	72	+5	0.00	1.03
RI	56	95	73	+5	0.00	0.31
CT	43	96	73	+4	0.04	0.54

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: Most crops look good. Weather has been warm and humid - great for growing corn. Scattered thunderstorms fell in some areas of the county. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Very dry, a heat wave during the week and lows in the 40's on the weekend. Irrigation was the major activity for the week to keep crops progressing. Summer squash and sweet corn are starting to be harvested. Peas are ready for harvest. Dry hay put up at a good rate. Earlier planted broadleaf tobacco looks good but more recently planted is hurting for water. Corn silage liked the heat last week. **Frank Himmelstein (Ext), New London:** Field corn continues to grow nicely in many areas. Weed control needed immediately in many fields planted to glyphosate resistant corn. After the corn reaches a foot tall, weeds competing with the corn start reducing full yield potential. It was disappointing to still see corn this week injured by poor herbicide choices from custom applicator recommendations. Any grower that allows the active ingredient flumetsulam (Hornet, Python) to be included in a spray mix with pre-emergence herbicide applications on very coarse soils under a variety of less than optimum weather conditions may experience stunting and yellowing of corn. Not a good way to start the growing season. There are safer options available to control broadleaf weeds in corn. Any growers seeing unusual corn growth should consult with their local Extension Educators. Despite the up and down temperatures and humidity this week mixed with occasional rain showers, hay harvest continues with both square and round bales being made. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Vegetables are excellent. Should start picking tomatoes within next week. Plan to start picking sweet corn within 10 days. Producers still reporting deer damage as a problem. Some areas of the county looking for rain which seems to go north of New London County. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Picking swiss chard, spinach, beets, cabbage, broccoli, greenhouse tomatoes. Farmers markets busy with sales of vegetables and plants. Strawberries are about done. Mowing orchards, summer pruning, thinning peaches. Fruit trees look good, no scab, good size fruit, more thinning needed. Mowing hay fields, replanting cutworm ruined corn fields, replanting pumpkins. A gentle steady rain would be nice as some fields are getting dry. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** This was a week of very high temperatures that was the first official "heat wave" of the summer. The hot weather really pushed the field corn along. Operators had to get water to their vegetable crops. There was only a trace amount of rain reported across the two county areas. Strawberry harvest continued to yield nice sweet berries. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Strawberry picking has ended and raspberries are just coming in. Second cut haylage is off in most of the area. Topdressing corn is winding down.

MAINE - Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook: Farmers are currently recommended to add a "protective spray" since Aroostook County area has surpassed the 18 severity value level. Minor aphid activity. Crop continues to grow rapidly and looks excellent. Recent shower activity has been welcomed for crop growing conditions. **Dee Potter (Ext), Northern Aroostook:** Showers off and on most of the week. Temperatures cool toward the end of the week, pastures, forage, potatoes and grain crops are all looking good at this time. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Potatoes are growing well and looking good at this time. Some European corn borer moths have been found and will be treating for them in the next few weeks. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** Scattered and some severe thunderstorms brought needed rain to localized areas but also brought downed tree limbs and power outages. Hay crop good and first cut harvest proceeding. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Dry weather continues. Good for getting first crop hay completed, but fields that have been harvested are brown and dry. Corn doesn't seem to be suffering yet, but some areas have not had significant rains for nearly four weeks. Spotty showers and some thunderstorms have brought relief to some spots. Strawberry harvest is underway with lots of ripe berries in the hot weather of last week. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Lots of dry hay harvested this week. Hay wagons with square bales were being unloaded and large round bales now in fields. Lots of baylage also has been harvested as big white bags now sitting at the edge of many fields. Peas are being picked for the 4th of July. Normal field activities took place this week such as cultivation, etc.

Strawberry harvest is great this year. Still need rain. .15 inch of rain fell in this area yesterday. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Fly traps continue to be set out in fields Downeast to monitor for the fruit fly. Fruit at green to white stage, cool temperatures delaying crop maturation. Soil is very dry, showers did not provide much precipitation, so rain is badly needed. **Jill Littlefield (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Things have dried out fast. Market farmers are pumping water. Hay farmers are finishing up first crop with little drying time due to the dry weather. All want rain and soon. Second cut hay is not growing like it should be due to lack of moisture. Strawberry pickers filled the fields this week. Fruit is of good size and great quality. Peas are ready right on time for the July 4th celebrations. **Elaine Moeus (FSA), Androscoggin/Franklin:** This past weekend was the perfect haying weather. We had low humidity, temperatures in the 70s, and wind in some areas to help dry the hay. Some producers have finished their first crop and are starting their second crop. So far, a reasonably good first crop, but we need rain. There was no significant rain this week. The farmers markets are busy selling vegetables and flower seedlings. The wet and cold conditions earlier in the spring delayed a lot of seeding. Strawberry harvest is underway, but the season may be short due to high temperatures and humidity of previous weeks. Corn is doing well in some places and growing slowly in others due to lack of rain. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Oxford County producers are going strong out in the fields with hay, cultivating, spraying and weeding market gardens. Some rain showers throughout the county last week in spots were reported. Strawberry harvest is in full swing. Irrigation pumps are going strong in crop fields where located as we are dry and in need some moisture to keep the crops growing on schedule.

MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: Average temperatures were normal this week but we broke records in the 90's then at night in the low 40's high 30's in the mountains. Vegetables had a good growing week and corn is catching up with where it should be. Things are very dry with only scattered storms in the area dropping up to an inch. High winds knocked down a few trees but no crop damage reported. A successful strawberry season is wrapping up with good business at pick your own farms. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Bloom continues, and it is a very good bloom this year, with bees doing a nice job pollinating the flowers. Some beds have a nice population of wild bumblebees as well. Rain events have been very scattered, things are getting very dry. There were reports of some hail in Duxbury and Kingston on June 22nd, but damage to the blossoms was minimal. Pest populations continue to be normal so far. **Emily Tchorz (FSA), Bristol:** A band of thunderstorms moving through the county last week brought with it some strong winds, damaging some recently planted vegetable crops, as well as fruit trees. The high temperatures through the middle of the week do not appear to have been too harmful, but soil moisture is slightly low. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Franklin/Hampshire/Hampden:** Four days of very hot and humid weather with temperatures in the high 80's and 90's. Many vegetables growers are irrigating due to the dry soil conditions. Growers are harvesting strawberries, lettuce, beets, radishes, summer squash and cukes. All growers are hoeing, cultivating, topdressing and spraying for Colorado potato beetle and flea beetle. Sweet corn under plastic has reached silk stage.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap: It has been a very good year for strawberries so far. The earliest blueberries are just starting to ripen. Fireblight has devastated young apple trees in some places. Lettuce, beet greens, snap peas, Swiss chard and other leafy greens are being harvested now. **Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll:** We've been from one extreme to the other; hazy, hot and humid to start, cool and dry to finish the week. We could really use a good soaking rain. Hit or miss showers and thunderstorms, first cut hay still coming in. Strawberries available all over, blueberries will be available soon. Irrigated crops doing fine, non-irrigated crops are on the edge. Very dry conditions, lawns showing drought stress, even weeds and brush exhibiting signs of drought in some areas. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** A few hot and muggy days midweek and it's starting to look a little dry out there. No widespread moisture stress yet, but some rain certainly wouldn't hurt. Field corn looks good, many fields around waist-high. Many folks working to get hay in, still mostly first cutting, but some are starting second cutting. Strawberry harvest starting to wind down, blueberries to start pretty soon. Starting to see a wider variety of produce at farm stands and farmers' markets.

Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos: Cooler, somewhat wet weather conditions affect remaining first cut hay being mowed, harvested. Field corn could use some heat units now. Earlier planted fields about right for soil nitrate testing and nitrogen top-dressing. Nothing out of ordinary plant pest problems reported so far. Growing degree days at 321, base 50 in Lancaster. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** First and second cutting continuing. Corn continues to grow slowly. Scattered rain hampering hay harvest, but helping with 2nd and 3rd cut re-growth. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** The dry weather is forcing growers to irrigate crops. Assessing hail damage to fruit crops, especially tree fruits, that occurred on June 21 and 22. Vegetables: Growers continued harvesting early season vegetables such as lettuce, greens, radishes, and peas. Growers busy trying to irrigate, side dressing fields with fertilizer, cultivating and hand-hoeing weeds, scouting for pests and spraying if needed. Fruit: Fruit growers monitoring pest and crop development and applying sprays for pest control. Fire blight can be seen in most orchards and apple scab in a few orchards. Also, growers are training young fruit trees along with mowing an orchard floor. Sweet cherry harvest is under way. Strawberry harvest continues (80% harvest) and getting ready to renovate harvested beds after July fourth or the following week. Hot warm weather during last week of a June ripen strawberry crop quickly and pick-your-own operations needed customers to keep up to the ripening crop to prevent crop loss from occurring. Field Crops: Farmers continued to bale hay or make haylage at a faster rate. Growers are side-dressing fertilizer to field corn if needed. Corn growers were busy side-dressing nitrogen on corn fields and hay fields. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Picking cherries. A great weekend for strawberry picking, however, picking during the middle of the week was done in about 95 degree Fahrenheit hot weather for a couple of days. Still planting vegetables. Irrigating fields, weeding and monitoring for pests. Harvesting leafy greens, greenhouse tomatoes, summer squashes and herbs. Asparagus harvest done. Monitoring pests in fruit orchards, mowing grass. Pastures look from fair to good condition. Hay and haylage being done. A good soaking rain needed. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** Dry weather through the week. Nice weather for haying and picking strawberries.

Growers irrigating crops due to the dry weather. Vegetable growers are harvesting an array of crops, and fruit growers harvesting strawberries.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: Spraying potatoes and summer crops with fungicides. Still planting some sweet corn. Field corn looks good, potatoes flowering. Finishing up some first cut hay. Harvesting lettuces and cole crops. Grazing fields could use some rain and the dry weather is starting to show some signs of stress on crops.

VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille: Last week saw some record breaking heat as well as some chilly temps on the weekend. Not much rain which has slowed down grass growth. Maybe looking at some reduced second cut grass yields. Corn crop is looking very good with good weed control. Fruits and veggies are also looking good so far. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Most farms have completed first cut hay. The crop appears to be of normal yield and quality. Most farms have been spreading manure on the hay fields. Second crop appears to be growing well. Recent rain has helped this. Pastures remain in good condition. A little bit of slow re-growth on the drier sandy soils. Corn is mixed. There is some really nice corn and then some really poor looking corn. Overall the crop looks pretty good with a few exceptions. **Jeffrey Carter (Ext), Addison:** Corn growth good, some nitrogen shortage noted. Weed control good to excellent if it was timely. Side-dress nitrogen on corn, manure on grassland after first cut dry hay. Second cut haylage short crop. Very dry soil conditions. Insect damage noted from corn thrips, potato leaf hopper. **Dennis Kauppila:** Dry week in general. Scattered downpours with some serious thunderstorms. Hardly any corn will be knee-high by Wednesday. Plants here need rain. Some people have started their second cut of hay. Very hot and humid early in the week, followed by very cool at the end of the week. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Corn all planted and emerged. Side-dressing as corn gets high enough. Have sprayed for potato bugs. Early potatoes in full blossom. A real good crop of strawberries, season nearly finished. Some real good showers with no damage to crops. Asparagus done for season. Peas in the market and a full line of early summer vegetables. Sales have been good for all green vegetable crops.

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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