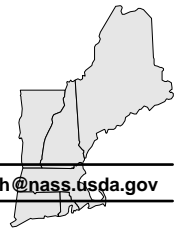




# New England Agricultural Statistics



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August 27, 2007 – 4 pm

For week ending 8/26/07

## Cool Early, Hot Late

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:** For the week ending August 26, 2007, there were 6.4 days suitable for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture was rated 5% very short, 30% short, 63% adequate, and 2% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 3% very short, 25% short, 71% adequate, and 1% surplus. Pasture condition was rated 12% poor, 42% fair, 41% good, and 5% excellent. The week began with cooler temperatures during the day. In higher elevations, temperatures were around freezing. Foggy mornings and cloudy days lingered in the region until the weekend hindering dry hay harvest. Early in the week, southern areas had some light rain showers. By Friday, warmer weather arrived which brought scattered thunderstorms. Some reports of damage to areas where severe storms brought hail and high winds. On Saturday, record high temperatures were set as temperatures approached the century mark.

**FRUIT:** Pear harvest has now begun with five percent of the crop picked. Apple growers continued to harvest early varieties in the region, though some reports of isolated storms damaging apples. Peach growers have reached the halfway point in the harvest season. Orchardists were busy monitoring for pests, pruning trees, mowing orchard floors, fixing roads, and moving bins into the orchards. Showers and cool nights are maintaining crop quality for Maine wild blueberry growers as the harvest season starts to wrap up. Cranberry quality rated fair to excellent, as some beds show fruit rot. The week's cool weather enhanced the berries on the top vines. White harvest will start next week. More rain would benefit berry sizing before harvest. Fall raspberry harvest winding down and strawberry growers were busy cultivating and weeding newly renovated beds.

**VEGETABLES:** Growers continued to harvest an array of vegetables and reporting an exception year. Sweet corn growers are over half way complete. Farmers continued to harvest broccoli, cabbage, cucumbers, fennel, garlic, melons, peppers, potatoes, squashes, and tomatoes. Farmer's markets and roadside stands are full of fruits and vegetables. Warm conditions over the weekend enhanced greenhouse sales as they offer end of season sales. Some reports of Plectosporium spreading in pumpkins and summer squash. Vegetable growers were busy irrigating, monitoring pest pressures, and spraying pesticides.

**FIELD CROPS:** First cutting of hay has finally come to an end as farm completed as weather permitted. Second cutting of hay continued ahead of schedule but reports of light yield due to re-growth being hindered from a lack of rain since first cuttings. Those farmers that have been fortunate to cut first and second cuttings are in full-swing with third cutting. Recent foggy mornings and scattered showers have limited farmers from harvesting second and third cuttings. More rain is needed to help improve yield for dry hay and haylage. Corn silage harvest should start soon on early hybrids as crop condition is rated good. Farmers supply of corn silage starting to deplete after a low production year in 2006. Maine small grain growers are in full-swing with harvest as barley reached 15 percent and oats are less than five percent combined. Both crops are behind the five year average. Tobacco harvest for broadleaf and shade continued slightly behind last year and the five year average. Growers are reporting that the crop is drying well in the sheds.

### SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
<b>Topsoil</b>			
Very Short	5	4	0
Short	30	30	2
Adequate	63	64	89
Surplus	2	2	9
<b>Subsoil</b>			
Very Short	3	3	0
Short	25	18	2
Adequate	71	78	87
Surplus	1	1	11

### FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Size	Condition
	2007	2006	5-yr Avg		
Apples	10	10	10	Average	Good
Peaches	50	60	60	Average	Good
Pears	5	10	5	Average	Good/Fair
Blueberries					
Highbush	90	95	90	Average	Good/Excellent
Wild, ME	80	95	90	Above Avg/Avg	Good/Fair
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-	Average	Good/Excellent

### FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

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

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

For the Period: Monday August 20, 2007  
To: Sunday August 26, 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
<b>MAINE</b>														
Augusta State A	46	89	65	-2	1787	+108	767	+109	0.24	-0.51	3	2.30	-0.73	12
Bangor Intl Arp	41	86	63	-3	1639	+106	651	+99	0.28	-0.49	3	2.33	-0.67	12
Bethel	39	89	62	-3	1467	-57	531	-5	0.21	-0.70	2	2.72	-0.88	9
Caribou Municip	38	74	60	-2	1345	+95	455	+100	0.82	-0.09	3	2.93	-0.78	14
Dover-Foxcroft	40	83	59	-5	1289	-49	380	-36	0.69	-0.15	3	2.51	-0.76	11
Frenchville	41	70	58	-4	1212	+51	368	+65	1.22	+0.30	3	4.95	+1.23	13
Houlton	36	76	61	-2	1334	+29	462	+67	1.15	+0.24	3	2.95	-0.74	16
Livermore Falls	37	91	62	-2	1465	+147	550	+154	0.41	-0.55	2	4.13	+0.46	12
Moosehead	35	84	59	-3	1115	+0	287	+0	3.27	+2.43	3	6.09	+2.69	13
Portland ME	43	88	65	-2	1744	+206	727	+161	0.01	-0.65	1	3.16	+0.61	7
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>														
Benton	38	89	61	-3	1427	+17	496	+61	1.10	+0.19	2	2.98	-0.63	10
Berlin AG	38	88	61	-2	1396	-25	482	+24	0.30	-0.68	2	2.78	-1.12	8
Concord	39	97	67	+1	1944	+250	892	+229	0.00	-0.73	0	1.90	-1.14	6
Diamond Pond	37	81	57	-3	973	+12	229	+39	0.87	-0.27	3	5.33	+0.70	11
Keene AP	39	93	66	-3	1861	-26	833	+30	0.12	-0.73	1	1.47	-2.07	11
North Conway	39	89	62	-3	1520	-63	571	-7	0.68	-0.23	2	3.36	-0.28	10
Rochester	41	96	65	-3	1797	-7	794	+48	0.00	-0.77	0	2.67	-0.58	6
<b>VERMONT</b>														
Burlington Intl	43	91	68	+2	2008	+191	955	+201	0.18	-0.73	2	1.46	-2.20	9
Island Pond	37	87	61	+0	1309	+143	409	+113	1.49	+0.41	3	5.74	+1.34	13
Montpelier	41	89	65	+2	1645	+213	654	+192	0.28	-0.59	2	2.00	-1.46	9
Pownal	46	91	65	+2	1656	+172	656	+164	0.44	-0.54	5	2.47	-1.39	15
Rochester	40	91	63	-2	1506	+103	550	+104	0.20	-0.85	1	1.88	-2.26	9
Rutland AG	40	89	63	-5	1657	-213	670	-113	0.83	-0.12	3	2.18	-1.62	8
Springfield VT	41	91	66	+2	1808	+264	796	+260	0.29	-0.62	2	1.42	-2.17	13
Sutton	38	88	61	+1	1361	+178	442	+132	0.80	-0.25	3	3.18	-1.14	11
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>														
Boston/Logan In	55	96	70	-2	2343	+208	1194	+187	0.00	-0.77	0	2.44	-0.46	7
Fitchburg	46	93	68	+4	2202	+661	1087	+543	0.01	-0.76	1	2.92	-0.28	11
Greenfield	43	87	65	-5	1872	-141	802	-96	0.03	-0.81	1	1.75	-1.61	8
New Bedford	49	88	68	-5	2059	-87	969	-48	0.00	-0.98	0	1.41	-2.34	6
Otis AFB	54	81	67	-2	1851	+105	813	+88	0.04	-0.74	1	3.37	+0.34	6
Plymouth	50	91	69	+0	2046	+238	970	+198	0.00	-0.93	0	3.30	-0.23	7
Walpole	49	94	68	-1	2150	+306	1048	+271	0.00	-0.91	0	1.23	-2.28	8
Chicopee/Westov	48	89	67	-5	2071	-230	985	-141	0.06	-0.78	1	1.67	-1.48	7
Worthington	44	90	63	-2	1615	+111	624	+117	0.00	-0.91	0	1.82	-1.97	8
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>														
Providence	56	92	71	+1	2398	+364	1220	+284	0.01	-0.83	1	2.59	-0.66	8
Woonsocket	50	93	68	+2	2135	+321	1018	+278	0.05	-0.86	1	2.32	-1.32	10
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>														
Bridgeport/Siko	57	82	68	-5	2367	+185	1178	+118	0.87	+0.17	2	2.78	-0.21	11
Hartford/Bradle	53	89	70	-1	2437	+222	1259	+195	0.03	-0.81	2	0.98	-2.25	9
Norfolk	49	90	65	+1	1798	+289	769	+256	0.35	-0.70	2	2.28	-1.80	9
Thomaston Dam	53	88	67	+0	2100	+307	983	+265	0.54	-0.44	2	2.87	-0.96	13
Willimantic	52	87	69	+2	2188	+362	1063	+315	0.13	-0.74	2	2.25	-1.32	9

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, August 26, 2007

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	L	HI	AV	DF	LO	HI
ME	32	96	61	-3	0.00	3.27
NH	31	97	63	-2	0.00	1.10
VT	32	93	63	-1	0.00	1.49
MA	40	98	67	-2	0.00	0.07
RI	50	93	69	-1	0.00	0.05
CT	44	90	68	-1	0.00	1.15

**REPORTERS COMMENTS, By County:** *Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS), or other knowledgeable individuals.*

**CONNECTICUT - Jude Boucher (Ext), Tolland:** The leaves on some winter squash on sandy soils are going down with sunscald on the fruit. Mature fruit need to be harvested and protected from the bright sun. Recent rains have caused Plectosporium to spread beyond its normal hosts of pumpkins and summer squash. Winter squash are now becoming infected. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Another dry week with harvest and irrigation being the major activities for the week. Field corn suffering in dry soils but the majority looking ok. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Just beginning to harvest silage corn in the southern part of the county. Vegetable growers are reporting an exceptional year. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Dry, fruits and vegetables on the smaller side except where irrigated. Reseeding turf fields, cutting hay, seeding hay fields, and preparing for corn demo days. Ear development needs some moisture. Corn chopping is about to begin. Greenhouses having end of season clear out sales, good response. Weekends good for farmers market and pick your own peaches. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** Some much needed rain fell throughout the two county areas, averaging about 1/2 inch midweek. Sweet corn harvest continues to produce very tasty high quality ears. Tomatoes and peppers are being harvested in abundance. The summer squash crop is coming to an end. The orchards are expecting an abundant harvest. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** First watermelon of the season picked in our area this week. Farmers markets bursting with fruits and vegetables in all types and colors.

**MAINE - Dee Potter (Ext), Northern Aroostook:** Oats are near ripe. Some potatoes are starting to shut down. Pastures are looking good. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Farmers were vine killing some fields. Barley being harvested, approximately 35% done. Recent rain this weekend will help growth of later varieties. Crops still looking good, especially after this weekend's rain - needed moisture. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Very few aphids found. Farmers continue with fungicide sprays with some potato vines being killed. Crop looks good so far. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis:** Rains at the end of the week were welcome. Earlier in the week some areas experienced cold temperatures of 38 degrees one morning. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** Crops look good, vegetables and fruits at high harvest. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Pastures and grass lands have started to grow again with the rainfall. Harvest of second cutting haylage has been below normal yields. Corn crops looking good, but some are way behind in maturity. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Blueberry harvest is complete in this area and overall the harvest was average. Sweet corn is the big crop being harvested right now with the larger farms delivering daily to small stores and large grocers in and out of our local area. Soon pumpkins and winter squash will be available with the harvest anticipated to start in early September. Right now these two crops appear to be approximately 50% fair and 50% good. There were problems with germination with a portion of these crops being replanted. Second and a little third crop of grass continues to be cut. We have not had great weather for making dry hay. Silage corn should start to be chopped in mid-September. The apple harvest is underway with most orchards being full of apples even though some apples were injured from an early hail storm in late June. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Crop harvest finishing up in mid-cost region, crop harvest is about 75 percent complete. Showers and cool night temperatures are maintaining crop quality. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Early in the week the area experienced a taste of fall weather with very cool nights. Humidity and higher temps returned by the weekend. Strong thunderstorms Saturday night knocked down trees, but didn't provide any significant rain. Irrigation is required to keep anything growing.

Silage is starting to turn yellow. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Androscoggin/Franklin:** Some thunderstorm damage. The weather has been very good for growing crops. Pastures are still very green. Third cut hay coming in and some small grains being harvested. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Oxford County producers have reported that the cool nights are hurting production of small vegetables. Hay is being harvested along with the potato crops. Sweet corn is flying into farm markets and grocery stores. Apples are being harvested. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Penobscot:** All crops are in the harvest stage. Isolated hail storm did some damage to apples but overall are average. Blueberries are average but down a little from last year. Sweet Corn, potatoes and mixed vegetables are about average and are being harvested. Moisture is needed in most of the county at this time. Corn silage is down from last year but doesn't look too bad.

**MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire:** Calm cool weather until the weekend, then a record hot, humid day ending with the most severe storms thus far this year. Heavy cloud to ground lightning, 200 strikes per hour in north county. Early reports of damage include downed trees so far. Countywide average rain for the week was one inch. Work this week included field prep for cover crops, more haymaking and ordering of chemicals for next year. Blueberries and peaches are being harvested along with the best sweet corn and beginning of fall squashes, melons, broccoli, cabbage, fennel, and garlic for curing. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Crop estimate for MA announced at the summer annual meeting last Tuesday was 1.8 million barrels, right on the mark from what I see. Quality is starting to be what we thought it would be - fair to poor, as several beds are showing fruit rot. Cool weather this past week has really blushed up the berries on the top of the vines. White harvest will start next week. Growers are mostly cleaning ditches and finishing up Roundup wiping. We could use a good soaking - this dry weather has not helped to size up the berries. **Emily Tchorz (FSA), Bristol:** Extended periods of high heat with little precipitation has caused some crops without irrigation to suffer. Lower temperatures during this past week has helped slightly. Rain would help more. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Franklin/Hampshire/Hampden:** Another hot and dry week. Farmers were irrigating all week long due to the drought conditions. Harvesting tobacco, sweet corn, peaches, blueberries, summer squash, cucumbers, and tomatoes. Growers are scouting for insects and diseases. A cover crop is being applied to harvested fields. Orchardists are mowing orchards and picking Paulareds and JerseyMacs. Tobacco growers are reporting that the crop is drying down nicely in the sheds.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE - Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll:** Cool, dry air, dry conditions. Hit or miss showers have left some areas of the county very dry, there have been a lot of clouds, but not much moisture during the last few days. An abundance of vegetables available with tomatoes and sweet corn topping the list. Apples almost ready, blueberries winding down. Very cold overnight temperatures early in the week, but no frost reported, warmer temperatures for the weekend. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Cool and often overcast at the beginning of the week, but hot & muggy by the end. Very little rain, we could use more. Field corn still looks good and grain is ripening. Third cut for haylage/baylage moving along. Still lots of vegetables available. Apple harvest continuing with early varieties. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Third cut continuing. Quality very good to excellent. Corn is looking very good. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** Last week brought showers and thunderstorms into the area. Some areas received only a small amount of rain while others received almost two inches. Corn is doing well. Grass and forage crops responded well to the rain. Some producers of hay forage crops are reporting lower yields than normal on their second cutting, due to drier conditions and low level infestations of army worms. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Orchardists harvesting peaches, first pears,

plums, and finished JerseyMac and now picking Paulared and Ginger Gold apples. Highbush blueberry harvest winding down and fall raspberry harvest continued. Orchardists busy monitoring for pests, summer pruning trees, mowing orchard floors, fixing up orchard roads and moving bins into the orchard. Cultivating and weeding newly renovated strawberry beds. Vegetables: Farmers kept busy irrigating, harvesting array of vegetable crops, monitoring pest pressures, spraying pesticides for insect and disease control where needed. Field Crops: Hay making with the second and some third cutting being made along with chopping forage continued during the week. Corn looks good to excellent and farmers starting to get equipment ready to start chopping in a couple of weeks. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Needs some soaking rain. Saturday's temperature was in the high nineties. Picking blueberries, apples, peaches and a whole array of vegetables. Pastures look somewhat good but in need of rain. Hay being done. Irrigating vegetables fields.

**RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport:** Blueberries winding down, but all in all it was a pretty good harvest. Raspberries are doing well and so is the apple harvest. Some second cut being done, but the crop is thin. Harvesting potatoes and they are looking good. Field and sweet corn look great and summer vegetables coming in strong. Pastures are dry and we could use some rain. Farmers markets and roadside stands doing great.

**VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille:** Appeared to be a generally quiet week for fieldwork. Foggy mornings are making it more difficult to dry hay. Third crop of grass

is coming along slowly due to hot and relatively dry conditions. Corn crop is still progressing very well. Pastures will remain fairly weak until we get a spell of cooler, wetter weather. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** We saw a lot of rain this past week in the form of fairly strong storms. The season overall remains wet. This has helped the pastures and hay growth but has caused some harvesting challenges. Corn is looking good for the most part. There are some exceptions with corn on the heavy soils with too much moisture. Farmers are beginning to harvest third crop hay. The yields look fairly good. **Jeffrey Carter (Ext), Addison:** Corn silage crop looks very good, ready to harvest starting next week for early hybrids. Some corn on clay soil showing drought and nitrogen stress with early firing leaves. Corn supplies depleted on farms. Weed pressure came back strong especially foxtail, crabgrass, nutsedge, and lambsquarter. Hay growth poor with second and third crop very short yields. Pastures look beat. Barley and wheat harvest complete, grain shriveled and light test weight. **Julie Jacque (FSA), Windham:** Corn crop is looking a little dry, some browning leaves. Chopping should be starting soon; second cutting hay going well. Early apple varieties starting to come in. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Week started very cool, ended very hot, with only 1/4 inch of rain. Getting dry. Haying and spreading manure were the week's big activities. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Mowed and baled hay for mulch on unplanted land. Mulching and seeding winter rye on harvested fields. Early seeded rye fields looking good. Bee's working last of crop blossoms now at the goldenrod and late clover. Rain for the week 1.383 inches. Heavy rain early in the week, then light showers. Digging early potatoes, crop looks good. Lots of mid-season sweet corn on the market. Good crop of cole crops, broccoli, cabbage and cauliflower. Set looks good on pumpkins and squash, Indian corn and gourds beginning to ripen. Time to get produce ready for the fairs.

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