

Crop Weather



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For week ending 6/29/08

Where is the Sun?

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending June 29, 2008, there were 4.3 days available for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture was rated 4% short, 70% adequate, and 26% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 10% short, 74% adequate, and 16% surplus. The rains continued throughout the week, with Wednesday the only day noted with no rainfall in any of the eleven weather stations tracked for this report. Severe thunderstorms with heavy rains, strong winds, and hail damaged fruit and vegetable crops in many areas. Field corn and strawberry crops were showing signs of stress due to excessive moisture and dry hay production has been minimal for two weeks now. Total rain accumulation for the week ranged between 0.66 inches to 3.08 inches. Some locations were nearly four inches above average for the month by the end of the week. Daytime temperatures ranged in the mid-70s to mid-80s throughout the week. Nighttime temperatures were in the upper-50s to mid-60s. Overall, temperatures were average for the week, with most areas in need of sun and warmer temperatures to progress crop development.

FRUIT: It was another difficult week for tree fruit growers. The heavy thunderstorms brought more hail damage again and incidences of scab were reported due to excessive moisture. Despite the poor weather conditions, apples, peaches, and pears were rated in good condition with an average fruit set. Orchardists were busy mowing orchard floors and monitoring for pests and weeds. The strawberry harvest was in full swing, advancing just past the half-way mark at week's end. The heavy rains are causing fruit rot in some areas and diminishing crowds at pick-your-own operations. Cranberries were in early bloom to full bloom by the end of the week. Cranberry growers were busy monitoring pollination activities and treating for fruit rot and weeds. Blueberry producers began setting fly traps and spraying insecticides to control the emergence of flea beetles.

VEGETABLES: Planting of the sweet corn crop neared completion at week's end. In between thunderstorms, growers continued harvesting a wide variety of early season vegetables including greens, lettuce, radishes, summer squash, peas, asparagus, and greenhouse tomatoes. The wet weather deterred crowds at farmers' markets and roadside stands. Vegetable growers kept busy assessing fields for hail damage, side dressing fields with fertilizer, cultivating and hand-hoeing weeds, scouting for pests, and spraying herbicides and pesticides as needed.

FIELD CROPS: The wet weather hindered dry hay production again this week. Many reporters stated the poor weather conditions during the growing season for the first cut of hay diminished yields and quality throughout New England. However, the crop outlook for the second cutting of hay looks better. More sun and drier conditions would help progress crop development. Potato farmers continued with a five-day spray schedule due to heavy rains. Maine farmers kept busy cultivating and hilling in fields when the weather cooperated. Potatoes in Massachusetts and Rhode Island were in full bloom by the end of the week. Oats and barley in Maine were completely emerged at week's end and were rated in good to fair condition. Field corn conditions were rated good to fair across New England. The heavy rains over the past two weeks have hindered growth and flooded fields in low-lying areas.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
Percent			
Topsoil Moisture			
Very Short	0	0	14
Short	4	5	35
Adequate	70	82	51
Surplus	26	13	0
Subsoil Moisture			
Very Short	0	1	12
Short	10	5	30
Adequate	74	87	58
Surplus	16	7	0

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Set	Fruit Size	Condition
	2008	2007	5-yr Avg			
Apples	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good
Peaches	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good
Pears	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Blueberries						
Highbush	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good
Wild	-	-	-	Above Avg	Average	Good/Excellent
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-			Good
Strawberries	55	55	45	Average	Average	Good

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2008	2007	5-yr Avg	Condition
Percent Planted				
Silage Corn	99	100	95	
Sweet Corn	95	95	90	
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	95	99	95	Good/Fair
Shade	100	100	100	Good/Excellent
Percent Emerged				
Barley, ME	100	100	100	Good/Fair
Oats, ME	100	100	99	Good
Potatoes				
Maine	95	95	95	Good/Fair
Mass	100	100	99	Good
Rhode Island	100	100	100	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	90	99	90	Good
Sweet Corn	85	90	80	Good
Percent Harvested				
Dry Hay				
First Cut	60	75	65	Good/Fair
Second Cut	5	10	<5	Good

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

For the Period: Monday June 23, 2008
To: Sunday June 29, 2008

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				CUM SINCE MAR 1 GROWING DEGREE DAYS				1-WEEK PRECIP			4-WEEK CUM PRECIP		
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	BASE-50F TOT	BASE-50F DFN	BASE-60F TOT	BASE-60F DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS
MAINE														
Augusta State A	56	83	68	+2	659	+62	186	+41	1.08	+0.33	5	2.58	-0.49	19
Bangor Intl Arp	56	83	68	+3	596	+74	153	+43	0.71	-0.06	4	2.96	-0.14	14
Bethel	54	80	65	-2	526	-12	135	+19	1.24	+0.34	5	5.64	+1.95	16
Caribou Municip	51	77	64	+1	393	-26	75	+10	3.05	+2.31	6	5.37	+2.66	16
Dover-Foxcroft	50	79	65	+2	452	+21	98	+29	0.85	+0.01	4	4.64	+1.19	17
Frenchville	50	76	62	-1	329	-47	56	+7	2.92	+2.15	6	5.56	+2.64	20
Houlton	42	78	64	+0	379	-50	76	+6	1.77	+1.00	5	4.30	+1.22	17
Livermore Falls	49	83	66	+3	552	+115	148	+77	1.41	+0.50	4	3.92	+0.07	18
Moosehead	47	76	62	+0	314	-20	60	+23	0.44	-0.52	4	8.01	+4.34	19
Portland_ME	54	82	67	+2	617	+116	166	+70	2.32	+1.55	6	3.65	+0.43	16
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	49	78	65	+1	529	+3	123	+21	2.37	+1.53	4	4.48	+0.95	16
Berlin AG	49	80	65	+1	556	+43	139	+36	0.96	+0.04	4	4.75	+0.93	17
Concord	51	83	68	+1	737	+109	247	+83	1.86	+1.16	6	4.60	+1.65	16
Diamond Pond	46	74	61	+2	343	+46	66	+45	2.54	+1.48	6	9.52	+5.21	22
Keene AP	50	82	67	+2	697	+128	229	+99	2.13	+1.38	5	4.44	+1.36	14
North Conway	53	80	64	-3	589	+11	140	+1	1.65	+0.74	6	5.20	+1.49	20
Rochester	53	85	68	+0	744	+59	252	+55	1.48	+0.71	6	6.05	+2.78	15
VERMONT														
Burlington Intl	53	83	68	+1	817	+116	282	+73	1.79	+0.96	5	4.72	+1.47	14
Island Pond	46	78	64	+3	476	+77	119	+55	0.89	-0.09	4	4.96	+0.98	21
Montpelier	50	81	66	+2	625	+102	176	+65	1.35	+0.59	6	4.69	+1.45	19
Pownal	53	81	68	+4	716	+173	225	+108	2.18	+1.16	6	5.57	+1.33	20
Rochester	49	81	64	+0	535	+33	134	+31	3.40	+2.56	6	6.72	+3.23	18
Rutland AG	51	80	66	-3	639	-114	195	-40	4.28	+3.44	6	9.57	+6.22	15
Springfield_VT	50	84	66	+2	708	+132	222	+90	3.09	+2.22	6	5.07	+1.47	18
Sutton	49	79	64	+2	472	+73	110	+45	1.63	+0.65	6	5.01	+1.03	23
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	60	85	72	+2	929	+102	388	+120	1.90	+1.20	3	3.46	+0.57	10
Fitchburg	56	84	69	+4	892	+339	342	+218	1.10	+0.26	4	3.11	-0.24	14
Greenfield	54	83	69	-2	765	-44	234	-30	2.50	+1.66	4	5.64	+2.09	14
New Bedford	58	86	72	+2	742	-70	279	+27	0.47	-0.31	4	2.20	-1.14	12
Otis_AFB	59	81	70	+4	645	+50	227	+83	1.25	+0.55	4	2.85	-0.15	11
Plymouth	58	85	71	+4	752	+113	288	+116	2.36	+1.59	6	3.64	+0.43	14
Walpole	56	85	70	+3	813	+120	302	+105	1.20	+0.36	4	3.12	-0.36	14
Chicopee/Westov	51	88	69	-3	830	-123	291	-55	1.64	+0.73	3	5.13	+1.34	13
Worthington	51	82	66	+2	606	+57	163	+44	2.67	+1.76	5	6.68	+3.07	16
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	62	85	74	+5	982	+215	396	+158	0.62	-0.14	4	2.42	-0.67	13
Woonsocket	55	84	70	+3	821	+139	299	+119	1.46	+0.55	4	3.58	-0.18	13
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	61	86	73	+4	1007	+169	418	+133	0.02	-0.82	2	4.15	+0.93	13
Hartford/Bradle	57	90	72	+2	1001	+92	404	+77	2.03	+1.21	3	4.85	+1.36	13
Norfolk	56	84	68	+3	670	+124	211	+93	1.07	+0.03	4	6.83	+2.53	16
Thomaston Dam	55	85	70	+4	830	+135	292	+100	1.82	+0.91	3	6.04	+2.24	14
Willimantic	56	87	71	+4	891	+186	322	+125	0.11	-0.80	4	2.85	-0.66	16

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, June 29, 2008

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	L	HI	AV	DF	LO	HI
ME	41	84	65	+1	0.20	3.84
NH	43	88	66	+0	0.96	2.95
VT	46	86	66	+1	0.52	4.28
MA	49	88	69	+2	0.10	3.02
RI	55	85	72	+4	0.49	1.46
CT	53	93	71	+2	0.02	2.03

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 have had several violent thunderstorms with heavy downpours and high winds and in some cases, hail. Field corn is showing signs of stress because of too much water. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Corn is shoulder high on some early plantings. Spraying for army worms around the county with concern in no-till and minimum till fields. Scattered showers all week hampered strawberry picking and haying. Farmers reporting their crop acreage to the FSA office and insured crops to RMA. Cool evening temperatures and little sun has caused early, mid and late season corn to even out in some areas. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** This was another warm and humid weather week with a lot of scattered showers. Crops are growing well but it wasn't a good week for making dry hay. Early vegetables are being harvested along with strawberries. **Joyce Meader (Ext), Windham:** Some corn being pulled up by crows, replanted three times. Trying a crow distress audio tape in the field. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Thunderstorms continue to make haying difficult. Some places have had rain almost daily for the last two weeks. Fungus and mildew are becoming major problems on backyard ornamentals. Strawberries are ready in the field but rain showers are keeping the PYO customers at home.

MAINE - Pam Hickey (Ext), Aroostook: Some cultivating and hilling in fields when weather cooperates. Herbicides being sprayed on canola, small grains and soybeans. Crops are looking excellent. Crops are growing rapidly with all the rain. With all the rain activity, we could use some drying weather. It is extremely important that all potato crops be protected. Spray schedule for this area is five-day. **Steve London, Aroostook:** Due to the wet weather, potato farmers are still on a five day spray program. There are some cut worms in the area and some Colorado potato beetle as well. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Rain and thunderstorms occur every day. Hail damage has been reported on apples and strawberries. We really could use some dry weather! **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Major thunderstorms keep rolling through. Pest control is difficult because treatment keeps washing off. Hail damage continues to be a major threat. Let's hope that July is a sunny month. **Maria Granger (FSA), Kennebec:** Some parts of the county have been hit with very heavy rains and hail repeatedly. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** In between intermittent showers, some dry hay has been cut and baled this week. Strawberries are available at all local farm stands now. The harvest is going well and berries are above average in size. The apple crop continues to look good with no hail reported in this area to date. Normal maintenance practices are occurring on the apple crop and our local growers continue to be optimistic with a heavier than normal fruit set. Fly trapping will begin early next week on the blueberry crop. Fungicide is now being applied to the non-bearing crop. All farming activities continue to go well in the beautiful mid-coast area of Maine. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Oxford County has received numerous thundershowers with heavy rain and wind. Reports of damage to apple, potato and small vegetables have been received. Some crop fields have standing water and erosion due to heavy rains. Strawberry crop is looking good for the most part with little rot due to wet weather. Harvesting hay has come to a standstill due to wet stormy weather. Some areas have also received more hail damage. **Laura Rand (FSA), Penobscot:** All crops growing and looking good thus far. Cultivation and spray activities are ongoing when possible. First crop hay has started to be harvested, however, slow because of rain and high humidity. Strawberries are being harvested and by all reports a bumper crop. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis:** Very short window of opportunity to get some dry hay harvested. **Janet King (FSA), Somerset:** Where is the Sun? Strawberries are rotting in the fields and many will not ripen due to lack of sun. Corn producers are having problems with getting on their fields to plant. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** We really need some sun. With almost daily thunderstorms it has been extremely difficult to get dry hay in. Fruit crops need sun and warmth to develop quality and flavors. Strawberry harvesting has begun in between the rainstorms and is at risk of developing rot if the weather doesn't change. **Rick**

Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo: Off and on rain has made harvesting dry hay very difficult. Some farms having trouble getting onto fields to spray herbicides. Strawberry harvest is in full swing. **Dr. David Yarbrough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Fly traps being deployed in fields and initial captures of fruit flies are occurring in the Knox/Lincoln Counties. Some adult flea beetles are emerging from the soil and are being treated with insecticides. Berries are still green fruit set continues to look good.

MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: More rain and thunderstorms this week, one to two inches of rain countywide in the afternoons and overnights. Haylage was made this week between the showers. Pastures remain good and crops are growing steadily. Corn in some low spots is yellowing from excess water. A good crop of strawberries is being harvested. Hot, hazy and humid at week's end. **Emily Desrosiers (FSA), Bristol:** Severe thunderstorms early in the week caused some damage to vegetable crops in the county. A hail event on Tuesday, 6/24 caused damage to crops in the western and southern parts of the county. Water level is high and some fields are wet. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Very hot, humid and rainy week. Farmers having a very difficult time cultivating, harvesting and spraying fields because they are saturated with rain. Hay and strawberries are over ripe because of all the rain. Sweet corn has tasseled and potatoes are in full bloom. Harvesting greens, lettuce, beets, radishes, summer squash and greenhouse tomatoes. Fungicides and sprays are being applied on fruits, vegetables, and tobacco to prevent the onset of disease. Sunshine and dry weather is needed. **Janice Barnes, Franklin:** Thundershowers throughout week, with heavy rains at times. Close to two inches of rain for the week. Hot and humid, corn should grow as well as the weeds are. **Carl Bannon, Franklin/Hampshire:** Need some good drying conditions. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: All beds are in bloom, Ben Lear and Early Black beds are in full bloom, right on schedule. So far honey bees are working the blossoms well, and wild bumblebees are everywhere this summer, boding well for good fruit set. Everything looks good so far. Growers are treating beds for fruit rot, applying Callisto for weed control and ready to apply the first fruitworm sprays. During the week showers and thunderstorms were widespread in the area. Some areas received more than four inches while other areas got nearly nothing. On Tuesday, hail was widespread in the area, but there were no reports of damage to the blossoms anywhere.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll: First Cut hay yields way down, lack of moisture kept grass from growing and limited amount harvested. Fortunately, the rains have arrived and second cut looks like it will be a good crop. Recent rains have also helped pastures green up. Strawberries are in full swing and so tasty. Looks like we'll have a good crop of blueberries as well. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Well, we asked for rain a couple weeks ago, and we got it! Rain almost every day this past week, with a few brief, scattered hail events. Field corn doing well and growth on hayfields is good, but no one can get in them to harvest - even if the ground isn't too wet, drying conditions are poor. More variety showing up on vegetable operations - summer squash, cukes, high tunnel tomatoes. Strawberry harvest about done, blueberries will be coming along soon. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Weather continues wet, making for delays in dry baled hay harvest. Some flooded hay lands and low areas of cornfields noted along the CT River. Timothy, brome, and other late season grasses now headed out. White and red clover in full bloom. Manure and fertilizer spreading as able on haylage fields cut earlier, nice re-growth. Armyworm traps taken, down appears not a problem this year. Still checking fields hit last year. Bedstraw flowering in standing hay fields is prompting calls. Looks liked good weed control on cornfields. A little dry hay comes in this week, small window of opportunity in mid-week, but scattered thunderstorms makes such unpredictable. Crops can use some hot, dry weather. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending June 28, we had scattered showers

almost every day. Some farmers were frustrated by the lack of good drying weather for hay. While first cut hay was down in many areas, the second cut is responding well with the rains of the last couple of weeks. Last week spawned some violent localized thunderstorms with severe winds. Some trees blown down, and isolated hail events. There were no reports of major crop damage. We could use a few days in a row of good drying weather. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Three or four thunderstorms occurred during week that produced hail which damaged fruit crops. At one farm saw bad damage to strawberry crop. Assessing hail damage to crops, especially tree fruits. Fruit: Fruit growers monitoring pest and crop development and applying sprays for pest control, very few fire blight strikes seen and apple scab can be seen in a few orchards. Also, growers are training young fruit trees along with mowing an orchard floor. Sweet cherry harvest is under way with all the showers causing fruit to crack. Strawberry harvest continues (70% harvest). Field Crops: Farmers making haylage between showers and stopped baling hay because of rain. Growers are side-dressing fertilizer to field corn, if needed, and to hay fields. Vegetables: Growers continued harvesting early season vegetables such as lettuce, greens, radishes, and peas. Growers side-dressing fields with fertilizer, cultivating and hand-hoeing weeds, scouting for pests and spraying if needed. **Dorothy Perkins (Ext), Merrimack:** The rain is becoming a problem for strawberry growers and greenhouse growers. Botrytis is starting to run rampant. If the weather doesn't break harvest won't be an option for many berries. First cut hay is in and the hay fields are looking good for a second cut. All corn sweet and silage is emerged and doing well. All the rain may cause a nitrogen deficiency. Greenhouse tomatoes are selling well along with greenhouse cucumbers. Lettuce, kale and Swiss chard are being harvested regularly now and consumers are looking for locally grown foods. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** The week started with rain and high temperature and ended on Sunday with gusty and damaging winds, heavy downpour and hail. Strawberry picking interrupted by rain on several occasions. Harvesting asparagus, leafy greens, herbs, snow and snap peas. Blueberry crops looks good. Haying and haylage being done. Pasture range from fair to good.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: Torrential rains midweek caused damage on strawberries and some lettuce crops. Some erosion and light flooding caused damage. Potatoes flowering, sweet and field corn finishing up planting, winter squash and pumpkins finished. Second cut hay looks good. Roadside stands doing well considering the economy.

VERMONT - Jeffrey Carter (Ext), Addison: Very wet conditions in fields. Corn crop is now very poor with widespread stunting and dead plants from standing water in fields. Very dry conditions at planting resulted in delayed and uneven emergence of corn and soybeans on heavier clay soils and are now too wet and plants are dying. The first crop of hay was poor with one-half expected yield and very early maturity. Second crop hay re-growth looks vigorous with adequate water. Hay harvest is now stopped with excess rains. Pasture re-growth adequate. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Starting to move towards finishing first cut here in Franklin County. Have seen some replanting of corn in wet areas, however very minimal. The predicted heavy rains for this week-end missed us providing some welcome chance to get some more first cut off and even getting some baled as dry hay. Strawberries are in full swing with a great crop. Second cut looks tremendous, if we can get some weather to get it harvested. Looks like we will have some corn hitting knee high by the fourth of July. Still poor growth in some wet areas of the fields, however, some days with out rain will be the best booster for these areas. **John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille:** Another challenging week for field work! Crops have had more than enough rain and everybody is looking forward to a dry spell whenever that happens. Pastures are doing quite well but other crops are suffering in varying degrees except for grass which seems like it can't get enough rain. Slugs have also been quite happy with all the moisture. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Daily rain showers have made harvesting hay a real challenge. I don't know anybody who has been able to put up dry hay. Most of what is left of first cut hay is targeted to be dry hay. Some farms have been working on harvesting second cut. The crop looks pretty good. The corn could use some sun and heat to really take off. The pastures are in good shape with all the rain we have gotten. Other activities on the farm have been manure spreading. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Heavy field work finished, now cultivating, hoeing, and spraying to control bugs and blight. Side-dressing all crops as needed. Sweet corn is all planted for the season. Now picking a fair crop of strawberries. 0.935" of rain finally came in showers. Warmer weather and a little sun helping to grow and mature vegetable crops. Last cutting of asparagus. Now in market, peas, radishes, lettuce, scallions, spinach, and rhubarb. Most crops have been slow to mature. Have a warm, sunny growing week! **Julie Jacque (FSA), Windham:** Thunderstorms and humidity delay hay harvesting; needed warmth and rain very good for corn crop boost. Early variety blueberries just starting to ripen. Farmers markets going strong around the area.

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