

Crop Weather



A field office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service
United States Department of Agriculture

Gary R. Keough, Director

Phone: 603-224-9639

Fax: 603-225-1434

www.nass.usda.gov/nh

nass-nh@nass.usda.gov

Volume 28, Number 12

(Issued weekly on the Internet, May – October)

July 21, 2008 – 4 pm

For week ending 7/20/08

Hot and Wet in the North, Hot and Dry in the South

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending July 20, 2008, there were 5.8 days available for field work across New England. Pasture condition was rated 3% poor, 31% fair, 54% good and 12% excellent. Weather conditions were variable across New England over the past week. Southern states received very little rain, ranging from 0.00 to 1.10 inches of total rainfall. Thunderstorms on Friday and Saturday produced hail and high winds; crop damage has yet to be determined. Despite the rain, many areas remained very dry and irrigation was necessary. Specialists stated many crops were beginning to show signs of drought stress due to the lack of moisture and high temperatures. The week was very wet and stormy in northern states, hindering field work and dry hay production. Total precipitation ranged between 0.50 to 4.09 inches of rain. The thunderstorms on Friday and Saturday also produced hail and heavy winds in the southern states, but no damage to crops was reported. The dry, sunny days mid-week provided excellent growing conditions for all crops. Daytime temperatures across New England were average to above average and ranged from the upper-70s to low-90s. Nighttime temperatures were in the upper-50s to low-70s.

FRUIT: The highbush blueberry and raspberry harvests were in full swing this past week, with strong business at pick-your-own operations. The rain in Maine greatly benefited the wild blueberry crop. Fruit size was rated average/above average and the berries were beginning to color nicely. Cranberries reached petal fall by week's end. Strawberry growers were busy picking the last of the harvest and renovating beds. Early variety peaches were starting to ripen and the harvest began in Connecticut. Hail damage and insect infestations were reported on the apple and pear crops. Orchardists were busy thinning and summer pruning, spraying insecticides, and mowing orchard floors.

VEGETABLES: The sweet corn condition varied from north to south due to the variable amounts of rain received. In southern states, the crop was beginning to brown with the lack of rain and high temperatures. In northern states, the crop was reported in good condition and the harvest was going well. Despite the rain in the north, vegetable growers across New England were irrigating to keep crops growing. Harvesting of summer vegetables continued including: summer squash, cucumbers, peppers, zucchini, greens, beans, peas, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, and radishes.

FIELD CROPS: Field crop conditions varied widely north to south. Field corn in the south was curling as a result of the lack of rain, but was growing well in the north with the hot, humid weather. The crop began tasseling across the region. Southern farmers were able to put up a lot of dry hay over the past week. Hay producers were busy baling hay and spreading manure on recently harvested fields. The shade tobacco harvest began this past week and was ten percent complete by Sunday, on par with last year and normal. Maine potato farmers were once again on a five-day spray schedule. Although a couple instances of late blight were reported in the Central Aroostook area, the crop was rated in good to excellent condition. Both the oat and barley crops in Maine were reported to be growing well and were rated in good condition.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
Percent			
Topsoil Moisture			
Very Short	5	1	1
Short	16	21	10
Adequate	71	70	73
Surplus	8	8	16
Subsoil Moisture			
Very Short	2	2	1
Short	14	16	12
Adequate	83	78	71
Surplus	1	4	16

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Set	Fruit Size	Condition
	2008	2007	5 -yr Avg			
Apples	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good
Peaches	5	<5	-	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Pears	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Blueberries						
Highbush	15	15	15	Average	Average	Good
Wild, ME	-	-	-	Above Average	Avg/AboveAvg	Good
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good
Strawberries	99	99	99	Average	Average	Good/Fair

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2008	2007	5-yr Avg	Condition
Percent Emerged				
Sweet Corn	100	99	99	
Percent Harvested				
Barley, ME	-	-	-	Good
Oats, ME	-	-	-	Good
Potatoes				
Maine	-	-	-	Good/Excellent
Mass	-	-	-	Good/Fair
Rhode Island	-	-	-	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	-	-	-	Good
Sweet Corn	10	10	5	Good/Fair
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	-	-	-	Good
Shade	10	10	10	Good/Excellent
Dry Hay				
First Cut	90	95	90	Good/Fair
Second Cut	30	25	25	Good/Fair
Third Cut	-	-	-	Good/Fair

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics

Prepared By AWIS, Inc.

For the Period: Monday July 14, 2008
 To: Sunday July 20, 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	59	88	73	+4	1118	+115	435	+94	0.48	-0.22	3	2.21	-0.69	13
Bangor_Intl_Arp	57	89	72	+4	1043	+147	390	+116	0.40	-0.37	2	1.55	-1.53	9
Bethel	52	85	68	-1	908	-2	307	+29	0.97	+0.20	3	3.79	+0.49	13
Caribou_Municip	53	83	68	+2	763	+23	235	+49	0.33	-0.58	5	4.50	+1.14	16
Dover-Foxcroft	52	85	69	+3	843	+69	279	+75	0.66	-0.14	3	2.74	-0.58	10
Frenchville	55	77	65	+1	667	-15	190	+35	0.99	+0.13	6	5.63	+2.36	16
Houlton	49	83	67	+0	749	-15	237	+35	0.45	-0.39	6	4.04	+0.78	17
Livermore_Falls	52	87	69	+3	952	+182	338	+140	0.59	-0.18	2	2.96	-0.30	10
Moosehead	48	82	66	+1	639	+10	179	+44	0.96	+0.05	4	2.15	-1.55	12
Portland_ME	58	87	73	+4	1067	+183	406	+139	1.12	+0.42	1	3.86	+0.93	10
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	52	84	68	+2	903	+40	287	+56	1.52	+0.75	3	4.81	+1.62	9
Berlin_AG	50	83	67	+1	924	+62	297	+53	1.26	+0.42	3	3.61	+0.15	11
Concord	53	91	74	+4	1210	+179	510	+153	0.74	+0.02	3	3.55	+0.72	15
Diamond_Pond	50	77	64	+2	621	+67	146	+63	2.88	+1.83	4	6.86	+2.68	15
Keene_AP	50	90	72	+4	1154	+213	476	+184	0.27	-0.54	3	3.24	+0.14	12
North_Conway	53	86	70	+1	999	+37	340	+27	1.04	+0.20	3	4.93	+1.48	14
Rochester	56	92	74	+4	1220	+120	518	+116	1.11	+0.34	4	3.90	+0.80	16
VERMONT														
Burlington_Intl	55	85	72	+2	1276	+151	531	+108	2.80	+1.96	4	5.49	+2.22	13
Island_Pond	51	81	67	+3	826	+134	262	+107	1.98	+1.01	4	5.53	+1.69	13
Montpelier	51	84	69	+3	1024	+151	365	+111	1.60	+0.90	4	3.05	+0.20	11
Pownal	53	88	72	+5	1167	+269	466	+203	0.93	+0.02	4	4.71	+0.91	18
Rochester	53	84	69	+3	921	+79	310	+73	1.31	+0.46	3	5.00	+1.63	13
Rutland_AG	52	86	69	-2	1029	-144	375	-70	0.99	+0.10	2	5.60	+2.19	10
Springfield_VT	53	90	72	+5	1151	+205	455	+163	0.62	-0.17	4	5.42	+2.13	18
Sutton	51	82	68	+3	829	+127	257	+90	2.10	+1.14	4	4.99	+1.16	15
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	66	95	78	+4	1470	+156	719	+174	0.20	-0.43	2	3.31	+0.70	10
Fitchburg	57	92	76	+8	1410	+482	650	+360	0.02	-0.82	1	3.23	-0.13	10
Greenfield	52	91	72	+1	1225	-38	484	-24	0.32	-0.52	3	5.06	+1.67	15
New_Bedford	57	91	76	+2	1256	-41	583	+59	0.00	-0.68	0	0.77	-2.04	8
Otis_AFB	63	88	74	+4	1135	+118	507	+154	0.41	-0.22	2	2.57	-0.06	13
Plymouth	59	94	76	+5	1279	+210	605	+214	0.17	-0.60	1	2.67	-0.41	12
Walpole	61	93	77	+7	1350	+226	629	+212	0.45	-0.32	2	2.96	-0.22	10
Chicopee/Westov	54	94	74	-1	1336	-116	587	-48	0.29	-0.52	4	3.18	-0.25	12
Worthington	51	87	70	+3	1014	+109	361	+95	1.12	+0.14	4	5.58	+1.78	14
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	64	96	80	+7	1564	+326	768	+271	0.00	-0.70	0	0.94	-1.93	8
Woonsocket	58	96	75	+5	1336	+230	604	+210	0.26	-0.60	2	2.52	-1.07	11
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	64	92	79	+5	1585	+260	786	+226	0.58	-0.28	2	1.20	-2.22	8
Hartford/Bradle	60	94	77	+4	1552	+151	745	+136	0.52	-0.18	2	5.05	+2.06	11
Norfolk	55	87	72	+5	1104	+195	435	+164	0.43	-0.48	2	2.46	-1.42	12
Thomaston_Dam	58	91	75	+6	1335	+229	587	+195	0.34	-0.60	2	3.90	+0.23	11
Willimantic	58	93	76	+6	1411	+291	632	+230	0.49	-0.49	1	1.07	-2.66	8

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.
 Copyright 2006. AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.
 For detailed ag weather forecasts and data visit the AWIS home page at www.awis.com or call toll free at 1-888-798-9955

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, July 20, 2008

STATE	AIR TEMPERATURES				PRECIPITATION	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	47	89	69	+2	0.00	1.93
NH	42	93	70	+3	0.06	3.08
VT	48	90	69	+2	0.00	4.19
MA	50	95	74	+4	0.00	1.12
RI	58	96	77	+6	0.00	0.26
CT	55	94	76	+4	0.00	0.70

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

CONNECTICUT - Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland: A mostly dry, very hot week. Brief showers did little to add needed moisture to soil and crops. Sweet corn bottom leaves beginning to brown and field corn curling due to drought stress. Everything on light soils needs irrigation to keep producing. Crops in good supply at farmers markets and many sell out at day's end. Shade tobacco harvest started and broadleaf is being topped. Most finished first cutting hay with many working on second. Heavy thundershowers on the weekend produced rain but much just ran off. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Hot and humid weather. Dry, corn on gravelly soils is really stressed. Results of hail storm in southeast part of county two weeks ago shredded the leaves of vegetables and corn, most are recovering. Hail damage evident from earlier storm in Pomfret area on apples and pears. Monday we had a half inch of torrential rain in half an hour in a few towns, most of the county needs a good day of steady rain, corn is starting to tassel, sweet corn ready to pick, blueberries reasonable size, thinning apples, summer pruning, pear crop is down due to April/May freeze, Macoun crop losses too. Net wrapping round bales, faster than string wrap. Second cutting hay excellent for some farmers. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** This was a very hot and humid week. Vegetables are growing very well but they are being affected by the extreme heat and they need rain. Producers are irrigating their crops. Summer squash, cukes, peppers are being harvested and they look good. Sweet corn was ready at the end of this week. Looking for the first early tomatoes this coming week. **Jude Boucher (Ext), Tolland:** Dry in eastern and southern CT. Some towns in the southeast have been four weeks without rain. Western CT and the northern part of the CT River Valley still with ample moisture. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** A lot of dry hay got put away with a week of beautiful weather. Second cut haylage finished up. Some late first cut fields need another week or two to grow out yet. Warm weather really sparked the field corn. Some fields grew three to four feet in one week and the change in color was equally dramatic with fields taking on the deep green of healthy corn seemingly overnight.

MAINE - Pam Hickey (Ext), Aroostook: Crops are looking excellent. Farmers are on a five-day spray schedule for Central Aroostook area. Crop conditions are excellent and the crops are growing rapidly. There have been two small finds of potato late blight in the Central Aroostook area. **Steve London, Aroostook:** There has been some late blight found in Aroostook County, most farmers are on a five day spray program. They are also spraying for corn borers at this time. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** The area had nice weather the beginning of the week, followed by rains over the weekend. Gorham was hit with a microburst on Friday. Some farms suffered physical damage to buildings and equipment. Sweet corn is starting to be picked. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** We are now very dry here and rain is desperately needed. The second crop is burning up and the blueberry crop is also drying up. The dryness is affecting just about all crops here. We need rain but Mother Nature is not cooperating. **Laura Rand (FSA), Penobscot:** Weekend rains provided over three inches in some areas of the county in heavy downpours. Cultivation, spray activities, and harvesting of small crops ongoing. Local sweet corn beginning to show up at farmstands. Strawberry harvest complete. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Despite some rain on Friday night, we are still in desperate need of more! Corn is showing drought stress on sandy soils and where weed control is poor. Lots of poor quality first cutting hay harvested last week. Strawberry harvest is over. Highbush blueberries are coming on strong. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Recent showers have relieved stress on the wild blueberry plants, since this is the first precipitation we have had this month. Fruit flies are being captured and insecticides are being applied as needed. The berries are beginning to turn blue and it is expected that harvest will begin next week in the Union area.

MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: This was a better week for making hay. So far quality and quantity are down this year. Thunderstorms, hail and high winds on Friday and Saturday afternoons. Possible crop losses yet to be reported. Summer and zucchini squash, greens, beans, peas, cukes, raspberries, blueberries and local sweet corn are being harvested. **Emily Desrosiers (FSA), Bristol:** Conditions continue to be dry in all parts of Bristol and Norfolk Counties. Water tables are still adequate for irrigation, but high temperatures and little rain are stressing all crops. **Janice Barnes, Franklin:** Very warm this week, with thunderstorms the later part of the week. **Tom Monahan (NRCS), Hampden/Worcester:** Hot and humid week. Some areas are getting dry and irrigation is started in those areas. Tree fruit not affected by hail is looking real good. First apple maggot sprays going on. Trap counts are high. Sweet corn and veggies are being harvested and markets are strong. Pumpkins and hard squash are just starting to run and the first powdery mildew infection was found. Downy mildew is being watched very carefully because of infection in bordering states (NY).

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap: Weekend rains took some of the pressure off. The following are being harvested: blueberries, raspberries, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, greens, cucumbers, peas, beans, summer squash, zucchini, and first cut hay. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** A few dry, sunny days mid-week, but muggy conditions have returned. Field corn is doing great with a few tassels peeking out here and there. Second cutting alfalfa/grass haylage is finished, and re-growth for third cut looks good. Still tricky weather for dry hay. Veggie crops all doing well, should see sweet corn soon. PYO raspberries and blueberries in full swing, looking like a good crop of blueberries. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending July 19th, we received heavy rains during the first part of the week and at the end of the week. Nearly three inches of rain for the week in total. There were severe thunderstorms and heavy winds with some spotty hail. Top soils are fully saturated now. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Vegetables: Farmers kept busy harvesting, cultivating, hoeing weeds, monitoring pest pressures, spraying pesticides for insects and diseases. Very good demand for produce at most local farmers' markets and farmstands. Few corn earworms were caught in traps and high numbers of squash vine borers were caught during week. Growers harvesting an array of vegetables including: beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, cucumbers, greens, lettuce, potatoes, radishes, snap beans, summer squash and first sweet corn. Fruit: Growers are renovating strawberry beds. Blueberry and raspberries harvest continued. Orchardists busy monitoring for pests, spraying if needed, and mowing orchard floors. Field Crops: Farmers making baled hay between showers, still tricky drying conditions for dry hay. Silage corn is rapid growing. Second hay crop is looking good. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Picking blueberries, red and black raspberries, greenhouse tomatoes, cucumbers, summer squashes, herbs, greens and cut flowers. Renovating strawberry fields. Monitoring pests in fruit orchards and vegetable fields, weeding, and irrigating. A soaking rain is needed for a couple of days. Late Sunday afternoon into the evening we had strong and gusty winds with downpour rain. Pasture, hay fields and field corn need rain. Haying and haylage being done. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** The early part of the week was dry, hot and humid, but throughout the weekend we had thunderstorms. Hay producers were busy cutting grass for hay and haylage in the first part of the week. Vegetable growers were weeding and irrigating their fields the first part of the week but did not need to irrigate later in the week. Growers were also busy harvesting an array of different vegetable crops. Fruit growers were mowing orchard floors and irrigating in the early part of the week. Strawberry harvesting was winding down and harvesting of blueberries and raspberries were at the peak. Early varieties of peaches were also starting to ripen. Greenhouse growers were starting to propagate poinsettias and continued caring for the fall mums.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: Blueberry harvest is going very well, crop good and PYO going well and raspberries look good. Field corn and sweet corn look great even with the lack of rain the fields are not showing any stress. Harvesting summer squash, cukes, tomatoes and some corn. Irrigating where available. Some farm ponds are in pretty good shape but we really could use some rain.

VERMONT - Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia: Another good growing week. Some hot and humid weather. About one and a half inches of rain. Some severe thunderstorms, lightning caused a church fire, some hail. Ground is very wet. Spreading manure after hay crop off. Another inch and a half of rain on Sunday and ground conditions are water logged. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** We have turned to some very wet and stormy weather in Franklin County. Had a good beginning of the week with much second cut being dried and baled along with haylage harvest. Some sweet corn is tasseling and a few farm stands starting to sell sweet corn started under plastic. End of week storms causing some very wet fields, however, no major flooding to date. High winds have caused the most damage to buildings and trees mostly in Grand Isle and Lamoille Counties. Field corn is doing very well with hot, humid

weather. **John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille:** Last week was a difficult one for getting any field work done. Fickle weather made haying hit or miss and the week ended on a very soggy note with over two inches of rain in some places on Sunday. Crops need some drying time to recover from the effects of excessive moisture. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Last of cultivating done. Harrowing up some unplanted fields for weed control. Still spraying potato and vine crops for blight and bugs. Strawberry season finished with average yield. Set of fruit on apple trees looks good. Rain for the week 1.986 inches. Really good rains that put some surplus into the soil. Most of planting finished. Market full of all summer vegetables. Sweet corn almost ready. Started digging early potatoes. Good rains and warm weather doing all crops a lot of good. Have a good week! **Julie Jacque (FSA), Windham:** Weekly weather was back to showers in the afternoon causing some delay and guesswork for hay harvest. Farmers seem undamaged from severe thunderstorms moving through the area over the weekend. Rain showers were welcomed as early in the week things were looking dry again. Humidity keeps the corn growing overnight. Apple producers have good reports so far. Blueberry harvest is excellent so far. Early variety peaches just starting to fill out and blush nicely. Vegetables all coming in well.

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
Lorie Warren, Statistician

Gerald D. Tillman, Deputy Director
Deirdre Davis, Stat Assistant