

Crop Progress & Condition



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June 15, 2009 – 4 pm

For week ending 6/14/09

Warm, Sunny Weather Wanted

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending June 14, 2009, there were 4.2 days available for field work across New England. Pasture condition was rated 14% fair, 60% good, 26% excellent. It was a cool and rainy week across New England. Monday began with partly cloudy skies and average high temperatures in the mid-60s to upper 70s. Rain moved into the area overnight on Monday and continued into Tuesday. Areas received anywhere from 0.10 to 1.20 inches of rainfall. Skies cleared up for Wednesday and persisted for most of the day Thursday. Temperatures were below average in the mid-50s to low 70s with average nighttime lows in the 50s. More rain fell across New England Thursday night through Friday morning. Areas picked up an additional 0.42 to 1.41 inches of rainfall. Temperatures were below average to average for the weekend with further showers overnight Saturday. Total rainfall for the week ranged from 1.13 to 3.85 inches.

FRUIT: Fruit development ranged from full bloom to petal fall across New England with the exception of Massachusetts cranberries, which were at bud stage to early bloom. Pick your own strawberry harvest began in more areas last week with some still reported the need for sun to ripen. Apples remain in good condition however orchardists were busy spraying for scab control and monitoring for plum curculio. Growers in New Hampshire were still accessing possible damage to apples due to hard frosts that occurred during bloom. Pollination of Maine's wild blueberry crop was complete last week and the recent moisture will provide for good plant and fruit growth. Bee hives were moved next to cranberry beds in Massachusetts. Growers were forced to apply fungicides to prevent fruit rot due to the rainy weather.

VEGETABLES: Sweet corn needs heat to grow. Pumpkins were planted last week, however many vegetable crops were completely planted by week's end. Vegetables are on target for this time of the year however warm weather vegetables are growing slowly. Growers were busy harvesting greens, rhubarb, radishes, peas and asparagus in some areas. Growers also kept busy weeding and spraying.

FIELD CROPS: Persistent rain made it difficult for farmers to harvest dry hay and haylage last week; however many growers in the north report that they are finished with first cutting. Hay that has not been cut is past mature and laying down in fields but the second crop re-growth looks very good. Wet conditions also made it difficult for corn producers to get into the fields with equipment as standing water was being seen in fields. Shade tobacco is about ready to start tying. Broadleaf tobacco is starting to grow with many producers hoping to finish transplanting this week. Potatoes are growing well with the cool weather; however other crops are in need of sunshine and warm weather.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	1	2	1
Short	1	17	14
Adequate	71	76	82
Surplus	27	5	3
Subsoil			
Very Short	1	2	2
Short	1	13	14
Adequate	78	80	83
Surplus	20	5	1

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

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

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

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2009	2008	5-yr Avg	Condition
--Percent Planted--				
Barley, ME	100	100	100	
Oats, ME	100	100	99	
Potatoes				
Maine	100	100	99	
Mass	100	100	100	
Rhode Island	N/A	100	99	
Silage Corn	95	95	90	
Sweet Corn	85	75	80	
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	75	80	75	Good/Fair
Shade	100	100	99	Good/Fair
--Percent Emerged--				
Barley, ME	95	90	85	Good
Oats, ME	95	90	85	Good
Potatoes				
Maine	35	60	40	Good
Mass	100	85	85	Good
Rhode Island	N/A	95	95	N/A
Silage Corn	85	80	75	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	70	65	60	Good
-- Percent Harvested --				
Dry Hay				
First Cut	45	45	40	Good

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday June 8, 2009
 To: Sunday June 14, 2009

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				CUM SINCE MAR 1 GROWING DEGREE DAYS				1-WEEK PRECIP			4-WEEK CUM PRECIP			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	BASE-50F		BASE-60F		TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES		DFN DAYS	
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN				INCHES	DFN		
MAINE															
Augusta_State_A	48	76	59	-5	376	+31	52	-5	1.78	+1.01	5	3.39	+0.14	13	
Bangor_Intl_Arp	40	75	57	-5	300	+12	26	-12	1.62	+0.85	5	3.14	-0.01	12	
Bethel	47	75	57	-5	277	-26	25	-19	2.27	+1.32	4	3.79	+0.24	11	
Caribou_Municip	35	72	53	-7	183	-41	18	-3	0.65	+0.02	4	3.16	+0.47	13	
Dover-Foxcroft	37	71	54	-7	204	-25	16	-5	2.25	+1.38	5	3.39	+0.03	11	
Frenchville	34	71	52	-8	137	-53	11	+1	0.79	+0.09	4	3.37	+0.54	14	
Houlton	30	73	53	-7	187	-41	21	-2	1.13	+0.36	4	2.99	-0.09	12	
Livermore_Falls	41	77	57	-4	274	+41	23	+0	1.84	+0.86	5	3.65	-0.02	12	
Moosehead	35	70	52	-7	122	-40	15	+9	1.91	+1.00	3	3.61	+0.24	9	
Portland_ME	51	78	61	-2	392	+121	75	+48	2.53	+1.69	5	4.38	+1.20	11	
NEW HAMPSHIRE															
Benton	40	72	58	-4	257	-56	30	-15	1.95	+1.04	5	3.87	+0.46	10	
Berlin_AG	40	73	57	-5	265	-28	26	-16	1.60	+0.62	6	2.71	-0.89	12	
Concord	49	79	62	-2	464	+93	104	+32	2.87	+2.11	4	4.32	+1.42	11	
Diamond_Pond	38	69	52	-6	102	-49	7	+7	1.37	+0.31	5	3.49	-0.51	12	
Keene_AG	50	82	63	-3	436	-30	102	-13	2.39	+1.55	6	4.02	+0.59	13	
North_Conway	46	76	58	-5	322	-12	40	-17	2.09	+1.12	7	4.22	+0.53	15	
Rochester	51	80	62	-2	457	+41	102	+12	2.46	+1.62	4	4.30	+0.94	10	
VERMONT															
Bennington_AP	48	79	63	+3	469	+146	96	+43	1.63	+0.53	5	3.21	-1.06	11	
Burlington_Intl	45	77	63	-2	464	+34	94	-7	1.83	+1.04	6	3.13	+0.13	13	
Island_Pond	39	73	57	-2	204	-15	24	-1	1.44	+0.46	6	2.91	-0.84	12	
Montpelier	43	75	60	-1	352	+45	61	+13	1.14	+0.30	6	3.39	+0.15	13	
Rochester	46	75	59	-3	282	-7	40	-3	1.98	+1.07	6	5.50	+1.72	12	
Rutland_AG	47	75	61	-4	382	-95	66	-57	1.86	+1.02	4	4.07	+0.77	13	
Springfield_VT	50	79	62	+1	447	+104	88	+28	2.59	+1.68	5	3.83	+0.13	10	
Sutton	39	71	56	-4	189	-28	22	-2	1.50	+0.52	7	3.62	-0.08	15	
MASSACHUSETTS															
Boston/Logan_In	53	83	62	-5	632	+120	185	+68	0.92	+0.16	4	1.94	-0.96	12	
Fitchburg	52	82	63	+2	634	+317	187	+139	3.28	+2.44	5	4.25	+0.94	12	
Greenfield	52	80	63	-3	471	-40	109	-19	2.66	+1.75	5	4.09	+0.45	12	
New_Bedford	53	79	64	-3	510	+5	104	-6	0.73	-0.15	3	2.55	-0.81	14	
Otis_AFB	54	81	65	+2	554	+218	118	+67	0.59	-0.18	5	1.98	-1.21	15	
Plymouth	53	81	63	-2	525	+158	114	+49	0.77	-0.07	6	2.05	-1.35	18	
Walpole	52	79	62	-3	485	+67	106	+21	1.05	+0.17	4	3.61	+0.35	14	
Chicopee/Westov	53	82	65	-4	590	-33	153	-25	2.40	+1.42	4	2.99	-0.87	9	
Worthington	51	78	61	-1	373	+51	76	+25	3.03	+2.12	5	4.19	+0.30	11	
RHODE ISLAND															
Providence	55	81	65	-2	591	+126	149	+48	1.01	+0.24	4	2.26	-0.97	14	
Woonsocket	53	82	63	-2	555	+143	139	+65	1.52	+0.54	6	2.53	-1.18	17	
CONNECTICUT															
Bridgeport/Siko	57	76	64	-3	567	+41	132	-5	2.02	+1.24	6	3.66	+0.32	11	
Hartford/Bradle	55	83	65	-3	661	+75	196	+29	3.03	+2.12	5	3.85	+0.17	11	
Norfolk	51	77	61	-1	420	+103	94	+46	3.60	+2.48	6	4.44	+0.15	13	
Thomaston_Dam	55	80	64	+1	537	+106	131	+41	2.86	+1.88	6	4.61	+0.69	17	
Willimantic	55	81	65	+1	622	+186	164	+74	1.84	+1.00	5	3.04	-0.53	14	

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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1-888-798-9955

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, June 14, 2009

STATE	AIR TEMPERATURES				PRECIPITATION	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	30	79	56	-5	0.64	2.53
NH	30	82	59	-3	1.37	3.43
VT	36	80	60	-2	1.14	2.75
MA	48	83	63	-2	0.44	3.79
RI	53	82	64	-1	0.71	1.52
CT	51	84	64	-2	0.97	3.70

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

CONNECTICUT - Howard Rood (FSA), Fairfield/Litchfield: Another cool wet week. It is very difficult to harvest dry hay. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Another cool, wet week. More heat needed for sweet corn and field corn development. More sun needed to dry hay. Many completed chopping grass with some ruts left in muddy spots. Top dressing urea on early planted field corn. Pumpkins planted on many farms by direct seeding. Tomatoes, peppers and eggplant being still set out. Shade tobacco coming along nicely and about ready to start tying. Broadleaf tobacco has started to grow with many producers hoping to finish planting this coming week. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Rain continues to plague forage crop harvest. On those rare occasions when the sun does come out the ground is saturated and won't support equipment. Standing grass has been totally flattened in a number of areas by heavy rains and high winds. We need some sunshine! **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Pick your own strawberries started June 9th in the area with reports of big, sweet, berries. First cut hay was good to excellent, especially chopped. There is a concern there is very little baled hay. Some producers reported being unable to get on fields for first cutting, especially heavier soils which were too wet. Vegetables are on target for this time of year. Hoping for some hot, sunny weather to move crops along. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** Rainy, wet and cool weather continued this week. We had a lot of scattered showers along with some heavy rains from thunderstorms. Things are pretty wet and soggy out there and we really need some warm weather and sunshine to perk things up and encourage growth. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Rain, rain, rain! No hay baled this week and the hay fields are past mature and laying down from heavy rains. Spraying grapes and potatoes with fungicides, also spraying apples for scab control. Sweet corn is up, field corn in height from a few inches to a foot. Still trying to plant corn. Farmers markets doing well.

MAINE – Doreen Conlogue (FSA), Aroostook: Received a nice soaking rain on Friday, some areas of the County really needed it. Crops look good and the weather forecast for this week promises some warmer temps! **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Herbicide applications were applied. Finished planting grains; broccoli continued to be planted. Started rock picking. Crops have emerged, everything is looking good so far. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Now that the plants have been watered, we need some sunshine and heat. The growing season is progressing well. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Much needed rain was received and possible in some areas too much. Need some warm and sunny days in order for crops to emerge and develop. First crop hay has been harvested and look pretty good. This might mean some second and third cuttings which would be good for winter feed. Apples, strawberries and blueberries are looking good and sun will help size up at this point. Planting has been completed for the most part. **Maria Granger (FSA), Kennebec:** A lot of rain moved through our area this past week making field activities difficult. Most field crops have been planted at this time. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Most of the past week has been too wet to do field work. Some cultivating of crops did occur earlier in the week. The strawberry crop needs some sunshine to ripen. A higher incident of blossom blight is being reported in blueberry fields due to wet weather earlier in the growing season. The normal application of post-emergence herbicide on the blueberry crop has been delayed due to wet conditions. Luckily some much needed sunshine is forecasted for at least three days of this upcoming week. We need some warm, dry weather here in the mid-coast area. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Oxford County received heavy showers over this past week. The crops are in need of warm sunny days. The cool temps along with the rain are not setting well with gardens or field crops. Hay harvest came to a stand still last week due to rain and more rain. Some crops fields have standing water. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Heavy rains have slowed field work.

Most corn is now emerged, but cool weather has slowed progress. Some cutworm damage. Warm weather vegetable crops still growing slowly. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries; Pollination is complete and bees are being moved from the fields. The recent moisture will provide for good blueberry plant and fruit growth.

MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: There was up to four inches of rain throughout the county this week. Pastures and hayfields look lush but fields are too wet to work in slowing haying, transplanting and other field work. Farmers harvested asparagus, rhubarb, strawberries, greens, peas and flowers. Sunshine early Saturday was good for farmers' markets; evening brought a deluge with local flooding. **Emily Desrosiers (FSA), Bristol:** Lower than average temps have delayed early crops slightly. Rain on several days over the past week was good for corn as well as vegetable crops. Hay cutting has been delayed due to the rain. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** A cool, cloudy and damp weather pattern, with scattered showers persisted for most of the week. Cool season crops along with potatoes really like this growing weather. Vine crops and sweet corn would like to see more heat and sunshine. Potatoes are blossoming and early sweet corn is going to tassel. Growers are finishing planting field corn, vine crops, and tobacco. They are harvesting strawberries, asparagus, lettuce, greens, peas, turnips and radishes. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Things are moving into bloom, with the early varieties at 10-15% open blooms. Bee hives are being moved next to beds, having arrived from the Maine blueberry fields. Now we need some good pollination weather. Growers will be applying fungicides for fruit rot this week, as well as a newly approved material for post-emergence treatment of dodder. Rains have come often, keeping the vines happy. This looks like a year for very active fairy ring disease.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap: First cutting of dry hay is finished in many places. Growers started picking strawberries this weekend. Blueberry fruit set looks very good. Apple growers monitored for plum curculio. Scrub season is over. Vegetables being harvested include greens and early crops planted under plastic row covers. **Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll:** Cold and wet. Vegetables planted, but not much growth. Warm weather needed to get things going. Hay and pasture growing well, not enough dry or warm weather to get any hay put in. Apples and pears doing well, strawberries could use some dry weather. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Overcast and rainy much of the week, bringing some welcomed moisture but making it hard to get things done in the field. Enough heat for corn to grow well - most of it at three to four leaf stage. Forages harvested as conditions allowed, with some hayfields looking pretty stemmy. Vegetable crops doing pretty well. PYO strawberries started and most of them looking good. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Mixed weather conditions with occasional heavy downpours interrupting some field activities. Much field corn now up, farms assessing condition, weed emergence, etc. Haylage harvest continues as weather permits good amount already in and of decent quality from last week. Pastures growing steady, getting ahead of some grazing, but a bit wet. Still accessing possible damage to apples when hard frost occurred while many in bloom. Garden centers were busy as customers began more planting; too early ones were replacing frost damaged plants. Looking for a couple of weeks of dry weather as we approach prime harvest time for timothy dry baled hay. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending June 13, 2009, we had three days with very light spotty rain and one day with a good soaking rain. Total rainfall for the week was variable, with as little as 1.3 inches in some areas to nearly two inches reported in another. Field corn is all planted, and almost all of it is emerged. Some areas of no-till corn are coming along at a little slower rate. Vegetable crops are mostly planted, with some left to go

in the ground. First cutting is almost all in. Yields here are variable. A number of producers have reported a lower yield on their first cut due to extensive winter kill. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Vegetables: Harvested spinach, greens, asparagus and rhubarb. Finished transplanting tomato and pepper plants, and continued making successive planting of various vegetable crops. Seeing Asparagus Beetle, Flea Beetle, seed Corn Maggot, Striped Cucumber Beetle, and Colorado Potato Beetle. Fruit: First strawberries were being picked during the week and strawberry Pick-Your-Own operations opened over the weekend. Fruit growers monitored pest and crop development and applied cover sprays for pests. Mowed orchard floors and weed spraying under trees, also hand thinned peaches. Field Crops: Most farmers finished up planting and weed spraying corn fields. Farmers are trying to make haylage and baled hay between showers. Grasses maturing, especially orchard grass. **Amy Ouellette (Ext), Merrimack:** The strawberry harvest is underway and early picking is fantastic. Highbush blueberry fruit set looks very good. Vegetables like spinach, lettuce, all sorts of greens, radish, broccoli, and Swiss chard are being harvested. First cut of hay is done in most places. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Picking strawberries, leafy greens, herbs, garlic and scallions. Haying was done. Pasture looks good. Some days have been cold, soggy and cloudy. Seeds slow to germinate and crop slow to grow. Continued preparing vegetable fields, successive planting, weeding, monitoring pests and sprayed protective fungicides. Mowed orchards, monitored pests and sprayed protective fungicides.

RHODE ISLAND – Melissa Turisi (FSA), Chopping hay instead of baling.

VERMONT – Jeff Carter, (Ext), Addison: More rain left standing water in fields at the end of the week. Some corn fields require re-planting (<5%) and newly planted soybeans are on very wet soil. Hay harvest slow, some haylage chopped. Weed control is good in corn fields with soil applied applications of herbicide. More fields

noted where grass weeds let go for later Roundup spray control. Second crop hay regrowth is very good with adequate rain the past two weeks. Some Nitrogen fertilizer and manure spread on regrowth. Most of first crop hay very mature with grass seed heads fully out. Green beans are up and flea beetles are numerous. Just started to see gypsy moth caterpillars. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Another cool week with about 1.5 inches of rain. First cut of haylage coming along. Spreading manure afterwards. We had some warm afternoons, but we still need some heat to get corn growing. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Another great week in Franklin County. Had some rains through the week, however, not enough to cause any problems. Most of the first cut hay is off and manure has been applied to a lot of this land. Yields have been very good for the later harvested first cut and quality seems to be good for the time of cut. Re-growth is fantastic on the harvested grasses especially where manure has been applied and the showers last week have really accelerated the re-growth. Fruits and vegetables are doing great with strawberries staging for the first onset of "pick your own" harvesting getting people out and moving around a bit. **John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille:** Last week saw the wrap up of corn planting and a big push to get first cut haylage harvested. A few have finished first cut and were busy spreading manure on those acres. Pastures are doing much better with the warmer temps. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** First cut hay is really heavy now. Most of it has headed out so the quality has probably gone down. Most farms have their first cut harvested. Pastures are outgrowing the grazing. I have had a few grazers tell me that they are mowing pastures because the animals can't graze fast enough. Corn germination looks excellent and the seedlings look healthy. We had some nice rains over the past few days that have helped the corn a lot. Now we could use some hot days to really get the corn started well. Moisture levels in most soils are optimum with last weeks rains. **Julie Jacque, (FSA), Windham:** Early berries, greens, and lettuces arrived in stores from local producers. Rhubarb harvest going on. Rain showers halted any hay/haylage work. Field corn doing well despite cool temps hanging around.

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