

# Crop Progress & Condition



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

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For week ending 7/5/09

## Rainy Week, Dry Weekend

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:** For the week ending July 5, 2009, there were 2.4 days available for field work across New England. Pasture condition was rated 4% very poor, 16% poor, 30% fair, 46% good, and 4% excellent. The first part of last week was once again cool and rainy. Daytime temperatures for the week were mostly below average, ranging in the upper 60s to low 80s. Nighttime temperatures were average, ranging in the mid-50s to low 60s. Rain fell Monday through Friday in the southern states and Monday through Saturday in the northern states. Thunderstorms raged through the area on Wednesday and Friday, providing the heaviest rainfall of the week, as well as hail and tornadoes in Connecticut and New Hampshire. Damage was reported on broadleaf and shade tobacco, peaches, and apples. Total precipitation for the week ranged from 0.56 to 4.34 inches. The holiday weekend provided the first glimpse of relief from the rain, though most locations were still too wet to complete much fieldwork.

**FRUIT:** The highbush blueberry harvest began this past week. Growers reported a nice fruit set with large berries. Maine wild blueberry producers were busy placing traps in the fields for fruit fly detection. The end of the week provided excellent pollinating conditions. The strawberry harvest was 80% complete at week's end, slightly ahead of last year and normal. However, the prolonged wet conditions have caused considerable rot issues and kept many customers away from pick-your-own operations. The cranberry crop was in full bloom to petal fall at the end of the week. Cranberry growers spent the week applying fungicides and insecticides. Tree fruit was reported in good at the end of the week, but were beginning to show signs of stress from the weather.

**VEGETABLES:** Diseases, mold, cutworms, and slugs continued to spread throughout vegetable crops. Dry, warm weather is desperately needed to allow farmers to spray fungicides and pesticides, as well as spur crop development. The sweet corn harvest was just beginning at the end of the week. Between rain showers, farmers harvested summer squash, zucchini, peas, cauliflower, broccoli, radishes, lettuce, cabbage, scallions, and greens. Growers were busy side dressing fields with fertilizer, cultivating, and hand-hoeing weeds.

**FIELD CROPS:** Hay quality continued to decline this past week. Both the first and second cuts of hay were reported in good to fair condition by week's end. The first cut of hay was 70% harvested and the second cut was 5% harvested, both behind last year and normal. Fields where the first cut of hay was done early and pastures are growing well, as the cool, wet weather favors them. The field corn condition continued to decline as well and was reported in fair to good condition. The Maine potato crop was reported in good to fair condition to excellent condition south to north. Massachusetts potatoes were reported in good condition. Growers were busy scouting for pests and disease, applying fungicides, hilling, and cultivating.

### SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
<b>Topsoil</b>			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	0	1	11
Adequate	34	39	73
Surplus	66	60	16
<b>Subsoil</b>			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	0	3	9
Adequate	39	39	79
Surplus	61	58	12

### FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Set	Fruit Size	Condition
	2009	2008	5 -yr Avg			
Apples	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good
Peaches	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good
Pears	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Blueberries						
Highbush	<5	<5	<5	Average	Average	Good
Wild	-	-	-	Above Avg	Average	Good
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-			Good
Strawberries	80	75	70	Average	Average	Good/Fair

### FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2009	2008	5-yr Avg	Condition
--Percent Planted--				
Silage Corn	99	99	99	
Sweet Corn	95	99	95	
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	99	99	100	Good/Fair
Shade	100	100	100	Good/Fair
--Percent Emerged--				
Silage Corn	99	99	95	Fair/Good
Sweet Corn	90	95	90	Good/Fair
-- Percent Harvested --				
Barley, ME	-	-	-	Good
Oats, ME	-	-	-	Good
Potatoes				
Maine	-	-	-	Good
Mass	-	-	-	Good
Rhode Island	-	-	-	N/A
Dry Hay				
First Cut	70	75	75	Good/Fair
Second Cut	5	10	10	Good/Fair

**Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics**  
Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday June 29, 2009  
To: Sunday July 5, 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	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS
	---	---	---	---	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	INCHES	---	---	INCHES	---	---
<b>MAINE</b>														
Augusta_State_A	55	75	62	-7	647	-41	123	-63	2.46	+1.71	7	8.09	+5.03	21
Bangor_Intl_Arp	56	76	65	-3	594	-12	117	-26	1.80	+1.03	5	9.19	+6.11	21
Bethel	56	75	63	-4	547	-75	98	-51	3.83	+2.98	7	10.78	+7.14	22
Caribou_Municip	58	75	65	+2	512	+22	138	+49	1.30	+0.50	6	3.29	+0.46	16
Dover-Foxcroft	54	76	64	-2	478	-29	94	-2	1.84	+1.00	6	7.31	+3.86	21
Frenchville	54	73	63	-1	447	+2	111	+42	0.98	+0.20	7	2.65	-0.33	18
Houlton	56	75	66	+2	501	-2	128	+32	1.59	+0.80	7	5.94	+2.84	20
Livermore_Falls	56	75	64	+0	564	+53	113	+17	3.16	+2.31	7	10.63	+6.89	23
Moosehead	51	72	62	-1	379	-20	80	+24	2.13	+1.19	5	6.49	+2.79	15
Portland_ME	51	78	60	-7	648	+62	138	+8	2.71	+1.94	4	10.00	+6.81	19
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>														
Benton	49	75	63	-3	539	-62	111	-16	2.76	+1.93	7	5.84	+2.35	18
Berlin_AG	54	74	64	-2	550	-43	113	-19	2.71	+1.83	7	6.20	+2.42	18
Concord	50	80	65	-4	780	+61	215	+11	3.49	+2.78	6	8.37	+5.41	20
Diamond_Pond	52	73	63	+2	339	-14	62	+30	3.55	+2.50	6	7.83	+3.52	18
Keene_AG	50	79	67	-3	783	-62	244	-35	1.75	+0.92	6	6.72	+3.37	20
North_Conway	55	75	63	-5	590	-74	116	-59	4.06	+3.18	7	9.46	+5.78	25
Rochester	53	79	63	-6	744	-35	191	-49	2.53	+1.74	5	8.38	+5.14	19
<b>VERMONT</b>														
Bennington_AP	50	80	66	+1	799	+177	218	+71	2.26	+1.28	6	7.39	+3.22	21
Burlington_Intl	55	80	68	-2	851	+55	271	+17	1.73	+0.91	6	5.89	+2.60	18
Island_Pond	53	76	64	+2	506	+42	122	+40	3.28	+2.30	7	6.53	+2.55	20
Montpelier	50	78	65	+0	677	+75	180	+39	3.02	+2.31	6	4.87	+1.73	17
Rochester	50	77	64	-1	577	-1	138	+8	3.11	+2.27	7	7.91	+4.47	21
Rutland_AG	52	78	65	-5	699	-149	177	-103	3.07	+2.23	6	6.03	+2.67	16
Springfield_VT	50	77	66	-1	789	+129	223	+57	1.98	+1.14	7	6.10	+2.55	22
Sutton	52	76	63	-2	448	-18	86	+0	3.53	+2.55	7	6.92	+2.94	22
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>														
Boston/Logan_In	58	80	65	-8	942	+5	289	-39	2.00	+1.33	5	4.66	+1.83	18
Fitchburg	57	80	66	-2	965	+327	309	+151	3.65	+2.81	5	9.55	+6.19	22
Greenfield	51	79	67	-4	807	-106	237	-81	1.51	+0.64	5	6.62	+3.09	22
New_Bedford	57	79	68	-4	826	-95	218	-92	2.05	+1.33	4	5.05	+1.81	15
Otis_AFB	59	82	69	+2	888	+199	251	+64	2.28	+1.59	4	4.69	+1.75	16
Plymouth	57	80	66	-4	813	+77	203	-15	1.44	+0.67	5	5.31	+2.15	21
Walpole	55	78	66	-4	795	+4	211	-33	2.19	+1.37	4	6.97	+3.51	20
Chicopee/Westov	53	85	69	-5	955	-112	310	-99	2.00	+1.11	4	7.71	+3.99	18
Worthington	47	78	64	-3	656	+27	164	+15	0.90	-0.01	4	7.59	+3.98	19
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>														
Providence	57	79	69	-4	933	+59	281	-13	4.50	+3.78	6	7.10	+4.07	20
Woonsocket	55	78	66	-4	872	+95	249	+24	2.51	+1.60	4	6.13	+2.37	21
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>														
Bridgeport/Siko	56	81	71	-2	964	+16	319	-25	0.06	-0.78	2	5.21	+1.99	16
Hartford/Bradle	56	86	70	-3	1052	+31	377	-12	2.22	+1.45	4	8.32	+4.93	19
Norfolk	52	79	65	-2	716	+89	185	+36	1.67	+0.68	5	11.10	+6.87	23
Thomaston_Dam	53	81	69	+1	894	+105	279	+44	2.21	+1.30	6	10.44	+6.69	24
Willimantic	56	83	70	+2	1000	+201	334	+94	3.82	+2.91	5	10.30	+6.79	19

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 precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.  
Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.  
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**State Weather Summary**  
For the Week Ending Sunday, July 5, 2009

STATE	AIR TEMPERATURES				PRECIPITATION	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	50	79	63	-3	0.90	3.83
NH	35	81	63	-3	1.29	7.58
VT	42	80	65	-1	1.73	4.79
MA	47	85	66	-3	0.90	3.65
RI	55	79	68	-3	2.51	4.50
CT	48	86	70	-1	0.46	4.97

**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:** Good weather at the end of the week. Farmers are finally starting to harvest dry hay. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Hail in multiple locations across the area resulted in damage to broadleaf tobacco, shade tobacco, and peaches. Some silage corn growers have given up planting on their wettest acres. Up to four inches of rain last week which brings the total since June 1 to about eight inches of rain. Sun over the weekend allowed for some dry hay to be baled...finally. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** This week was a clone of the previous weeks in terms of growing conditions, poor and disappointing. Disease continues to spread in vegetables and producers are using everything recommended but to no avail. **Jude Boucher (Ext), Tolland:** A tornado and/or hail in Wethersfield, Southington, and E. Hartford, floods in the southeast corner and flooded fields all over. Nobody can get in second cutting. One fella burned down his greenhouse after storing wet bales in it. Most corn fields need more nitrogen. We found late blight at all retail stores we checked. Things don't look good for tomatoes and potatoes in the northeast. Growers that are zone-tilling are still able to get in and plant sweet corn. Are we having fun yet? **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Hail, lightning, heavy rain with some parts of the county getting four inches in one night. High winds, rain on and off for four days and then partly cloudy ending the week with two days of gorgeous sunshine in the 70's. All crops are in need of more sunshine to thrive. Replanting corn fields that had drowned out. Brooks were overflowing, causing flooding and erosion concerns. Assessing hail damage to orchards and vegetables. The Dairy Bill was signed, optimism of help for dairy farms.

**MAINE – Doreen Conlogue (FSA), Aroostook:** A poor week for field work: rain, rain and more rain. Hopefully this week will be better! Crops continue to look great despite the soggy weather. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Field scouting for insects and diseases. Applying fungicides. Hilling, cultivating and some post-emergence weed control, if possible. With all of this rain the crop is growing very quickly. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Growers need some good weather to finish cultivating and to spray on schedule. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Another week of wetness with cool temperatures. Pounding rain was received on Thursday. Fortunately the weather over the weekend changed. Farmers are trying to get in the plantings that were missed last week. Early sweet corn should be ready this week, but is two to three weeks late. Most vegetable producers have lost some crops. Strawberries were hit badly; the later varieties are producing this week. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Things are still pretty much at a standstill. There are wet spots and dead areas in fields. Hopefully we'll get a window for hay, but rain is predicted. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** The past week was another wet and cold week. Heavy rains have really stopped all activity in the fields. Farmers are starting to feel the strain of not being able to get out and spray, cultivate and even start harvesting again. Fields are saturated and crops are starting to yellow. Dry, windy and sunny days are much needed. **Maria Granger (FSA), Kennebec:** Wet conditions continued last week. Many producers have still not planted all of their crops. There have been reports of seeds rotting in the field and planting activities that are usually done by machine, being completed by hand. A few severe thunderstorms moved through the county last week causing heavy downpours and some power outages. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Over four inches of rain fell Thursday evening with severe thunderstorms, which only added to the woes the farmers have been experiencing this growing season. There were many reports of roads washing out in both counties. Approximately 40% of the pumpkin crop has been damaged from cutworms. Most crops are way behind schedule in growth/maturity, especially silage corn. Fly traps are being placed on blueberry fields and even though some mold is being spotted underneath the vines, growers are remaining cautiously optimistic

for a good crop. Attempting to apply needed insecticides, etc. has been a difficult task with some farmers treating by hand as fields cannot be accessed with equipment. The strawberry crop yield is anticipated to be off by 30-40 percent. The quality of the hay crop deteriorates with each passing day that it is not harvested. A better week is forecasted although some showers are still in the forecast for the first part of this week. Even an improving weather pattern may be too little too late for some crops. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Rain showers have pestered Oxford County again! Flash floods were reported in parts of the county with hail. Sun was actually spotted but did not last. In need of sunshine, warm temperatures and no rain!!!! **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** A few days in a row of sun expected this week should help crops. **Janet King (FSA), Somerset:** Another wet week with about one and a half inches of rain. Corn ground is wet, standing water in some areas, nitrogen leeching from fields, slow growth, with temperatures too cool to release phosphorus. The rain has severely affected hay producers-many producers have only been able to harvest a small percentage of their first crop. This area is expecting more rain this week, further delaying harvest of hay and decreasing the quality of the hay. At this time, the apple crop looks good although stressed by rain as some apples have been lost. We need sun! **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Rain is all I can say. Strawberries continued to be harvested. Fields are too wet for any field work. No hay/haylage harvested last week. Many corn fields are under water and nitrogen starved. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries; Traps being placed in the field for detection of the fruit fly and leaf and soil samples being taken. Pollination good on most fields but considerable June drop observed.

**MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire:** It was a cool week with some rapidly moving storms. It ended with a couple of sunny breezy days. Temperatures remain cool however. There is still standing water in some corn fields which ordinarily would have drained by now and the corn does not look vigorous. Pastures are lush but muddy in places. Strawberry season is in full swing. **Lori Carver (FSA), Franklin:** Sunshine was a welcome site for the holiday weekend!! Crops showing stress from the days of no sun and rain - yellowing of leaves, diseases setting in, etc. Producers are spraying fungicides, and topdressing. A hail storm on Tuesday night missed tobacco crops. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** The week began cloud covered with rainy weather and scattered hail. It ended with two days of sunny, breezy weather. Farmers harvested some sweet corn, blueberries, summer squash, peas, cauliflower, broccoli, cabbage, scallions and greens. Due to the wet soil conditions farmers are trying to cultivate, hoe and top-dress their crops. Vegetable, fruit, and tobacco growers are applying a protective fungicide on their crops to prevent crop diseases. Growers are scouting for beetles, potato leafhoppers, squash vine borers and potato aphids. All crops need more sunshine and warmer temperatures. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: It was a two phased week. Monday through Wednesday featured rain, sometimes severe thunderstorms with hail, and generally overcast conditions so that growers could not apply fungicides for fruit rot control or insecticides for fruit worm control, and bees stayed in the hives. Thursday through Sunday featured delightful weather wherein growers could get their sprays applied and the bees feverishly pollinated - they were starved! Fruit is setting up, particularly thanks to a nice population of wild bumblebees that have been out working in the lousy weather. Certain cranberry diseases not often seen are visible in several beds. Vines are lush, even where no fertilizer has been applied.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE - Dot Perkins (Ext), Belknap:** The rain continued to keep us off the fields and the quality of the hay continues to decline. Very small windows of opportunity to cut have been promised by forecasters. You decide! Strawberries continued

to rot in the fields with botrytis running rampant. Blueberry sets are very good with growers reporting large berries. Row crops are starting to suffer from Nitrogen deficiencies due to leaching. Growers are urged to watch for late blight in tomato and potato crops. **Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll:** Finally a bit of Sun! The sun finally arrived on Sunday, just in time to finish off the holiday week-end. Some brave, maybe desperate, souls cut hay on Friday afternoon, hoping that the "chance" of thunderstorms predicted would miss them, unfortunately there were several thunderstorms on Friday and Saturday, but they may get what they cut dry enough to save for mulch early this week. Pastures keep growing well, as the wet cool weather favors their growth. Any field that had first cut taken off has re-grown well, there are just not many of them. Vegetables and fruits are showing the effects of too much moisture, mold and fungal diseases are prevalent. Slugs are having a great year. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** A three-day drought caps off another solid week of rain; actual sunshine and warmth! Corn still looking pretty good out there - much of it waist-high. Alfalfa and grass is ready for second cutting, but rain has delayed harvest. Some dry hay made over the weekend. Greater variety of vegetable crops starting to show up in farm stands and at farmers' markets. Raspberry and blueberry harvests should begin this coming week. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** A very rain filled week hampering field work. Rivers running quite high, a number of low lying cornfields flooded in spots. Field corn about to five to six leaf stage or more so on earlier planted ground. timothy headed out, losing highest quality of hay as weather remains uncooperative. Earlier cut haylage fields re-growing well, pasture also but quite sodden fields can make for difficult grazing. Looked at some substantial cutworm damage to corn plants along the Connecticut River. Probably bad enough that one field may be worth re-planting. Reports of lost apple crop on orchard hard hit by our late freeze mentioned in earlier reports. Slow growth on most veggies. Potatoes and blueberries look good. Over five inches on my unofficial rain-gauge in Lancaster for the week ending today. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending June 6th, things were very wet. Too much rain, and not enough sunny warm days. Haying came to a halt. Soils remain saturated and soggy. Some vegetable growers have mentioned that straw berries are rotting, and one reported problems with wet weather on the blue berry crop. We need some dry weather, sun and some warm conditions. **Heather Bryant (Ext), Grafton:** Minor hail storms over the weekend, and lots of rain the rest of the week. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** More rain and thunderstorms occurred during week. Vegetables: Growers continued harvesting early season vegetables such as lettuce, greens, radishes, and zucchini. Growers side-dressing fields with fertilizer, cultivating and hand-hoeing weeds, scouting for pests and spraying if needed. Saw first case of bacterial canker and early blight on tomatoes. Potato leaf hopper is very active. Fruit: Fruit growers monitoring pest and crop development and apply sprays for pest. Sweet cherry harvest is almost completed with heavy losses due to fruit cracking caused by rainy weather. Strawberry harvest continues with end in sight and

getting ready to renovate harvested beds. Most pick-your-own operations seeing few customers because of rainy weather. First blueberry and raspberry fruit picked. Field Crops: Farmers making haylage between showers and hard to bale hay because of rain showers. Growers are side-dressing fertilizer to field corn, if needed, and to hay fields. **Amy Ouellette (Ext), Merrimack:** Several heavy rains beat up delicate crops and spread grey mold in strawberries. Growers are on the look out for late blight, which has arrived early through infected vegetable transplants brought in from out of state. Many fields have been too wet to get cucurbits into the ground. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Many fields are soaked wet. Too much rain at the beginning of the week and no time to dry. Heavy showers and gusty winds happened during the week sometimes uprooting newly planted plants. The sun was welcomed on Friday and Sunday. Picking the last strawberries, cherries, blueberries, raspberries, leafy greens, garlic, herbs and cut-flowers. Growers watching very closely tomato plants for any late blight. Monitoring all vegetables and fruits for fungal diseases and other pests.

**VERMONT – Jeff Carter, (Ext), Addison:** Wet field conditions with corn showing stress from wet pockets in fields. Light green corn lacking Nitrogen. Some side-dress N started. Second cut hay crop growing fine. Pastures look worn out. Soybeans up a few inches. Barley and oats in new seedings heading out, rye in dough stage. Some new seedings being harvested for first cutting, alfalfa and clover seems to be doing well under nurse crops and weeds. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Very wet week. No crop work. One dry day- crops responded to the sun and heat. A report of armyworm. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** The rains have finally caught up to Franklin County. Some flooding in low areas has corn and hay crops sitting in water. The test of time will determine how severe the damage is. Some cut worm damage has been reported by late life cycles caused by cool wet weather. The primary watch here will be in the late planted corn that does not have as much growth. Strawberry harvest season is at the mid way point. The rains are coming at the wrong time for this, keeping pick your own customers at home. The crop will go by quickly with the wet weather. Some scattered sweet corn has started to show up at stands, however, very limited at this point. Pastures are muddy, however, good growth is keeping yields good. Second cut harvest has come to a stand still. Not a great harm here with the later first cut fields not at maturity yet. **Linere Silloway (NRCS), Orleans:** More rain fell last week. Some fields were flooded along the flood plains of the rivers. Most fields are too wet to work at this point. Below average temperatures have set the corn crop behind. Most of first cut hay has been harvested however some producers are trying to dry hay but conditions are not allowing this. Second cut hay has started. Dry weather will help to allow harvesting but the forecast does not look promising. Pastures are growing well but are also muddy. A week of dry, hot weather is needed to get crops and fields back on tract.

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