

Crop Progress & Condition



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United States Department of Agriculture

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August 3, 2009 – 4 pm

For week ending 8/2/09

Mix of Sun and Rain

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending August 2, 2009, there were 4.0 days available for field work across New England. Pasture condition was rated 1% very poor, 14% poor, 34% fair, 38% good, and 13% excellent. Last week began partly cloudy with average high temperatures ranging in the mid-70s to high 80s. Nighttime temperatures were generally above average, ranging in the high 50s to low 70s. Significant rainfall moved into the area Wednesday and continued to fall through Friday. Mid-week temperatures were average to below average throughout the area. Temperatures remained average to below average for the weekend, ranging in the upper 60s to mid-80s. All states enjoyed a sunny Saturday, but a cold front brought cloudy skies and light to moderate rain throughout the region on Sunday. Total precipitation for the week ranged between 0.55 and 3.10 inches. Warmer temperatures and dryer conditions are needed to boost crop growth. Expected harvest dates are well behind normal for this time of year.

FRUIT: The strawberry harvest came to a close this past week and growers were busy renovating beds. Crop specialists stated this year's production was considerably less than last year. Picking of blueberries continued with 40% of the highbush and 5% of the Maine wild blueberry crops harvested at the end of the week. Both crops were rated in good condition. However, the crop requires more sun and warmer temperatures to mature. The peach harvest was 30% complete at week's end, ahead of last year and normal. The first apples were being harvested. Orchardists were busy monitoring for pests and mowing orchard floors.

VEGETABLES: Sweet corn harvesting was still just beginning in most locations, 15% behind last year and normal. As a result of the ongoing humid conditions, late blight continued to be a serious problem and a large portion of vegetables in the southern states were on the verge of dying. In contrast, vegetable conditions were improving in northern New England. Growers in all states were busy removing infected plants and spraying pesticides and fungicides. Harvesting of peas, beans, lettuce, cabbage, squash, greens, beets, broccoli, radishes, cucumbers, peppers, and snap beans continued.

FIELD CROPS: Wet weather continued to hinder field work. First cut hay was 85% harvested and second cut was 35%, both behind last year and normal. Both cuts were reported in fair to good condition due to the lower quality and quantity of production; livestock producers are worried about the lack of feed. The shade tobacco harvest continued at a slow pace and was 10% complete at week's end. Both broadleaf and shade tobacco were reported in good to fair condition as growers have been plagued by excess rain, hail, and disease. Potato growers continued a 5-day spray schedule. Field corn was 100% emerged and conditions improved in the northern states due to warmer weather. However, field corn is very short for this time of year. Maine oats and barley were reported in good condition.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	0	1
Short	0	0	2
Adequate	46	51	60
Surplus	54	49	37
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	0	1
Short	1	0	2
Adequate	47	54	70
Surplus	52	46	27

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Set	Fruit Size	Condition
	2009	2008	5-yr Avg			
Apples	<5	0	0	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Peaches	30	20	15	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Pears	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Blueberries						
Highbush	40	40	50	Average	Average	Good
Wild	5	10	5	Above Avg	Average	Good
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good
Strawberries	100	100	100	Average	Average	Good/Fair

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2009	2008	5-yr Avg	Condition
--Percent Emerged--				
Silage Corn	100	100	100	Fair/Good
Sweet Corn	100	100	100	
-- Percent Harvested --				
Barley, ME	-	-	-	Good
Oats, ME	-	-	-	Good
Potatoes				
Maine	-	-	-	Good/Excellent
Mass	5	0	<5	Good/Fair
Rhode Island	<5	0	0	Fair/Poor
Sweet Corn	10	25	25	Good/Fair
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	N/A	10	10	Good/Fair
Shade	10	35	25	Good/Fair
Dry Hay				
First Cut	85	90	95	Fair/Good
Second Cut	35	45	45	Fair/Good

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday July 27, 2009
 To: Sunday August 2, 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	---	---
MAINE														
Augusta_State_A	60	83	72	+2	1115	-128	322	-139	1.87	+1.12	6	5.81	+2.94	18
Bangor_Intl_Arp	59	83	71	+3	1051	-73	306	-76	1.00	+0.30	5	4.47	+1.50	17
Bethel	58	85	70	+2	953	-179	236	-144	2.36	+1.52	4	6.99	+3.77	16
Caribou_Municip	54	85	69	+4	914	-17	276	+18	1.27	+0.29	4	4.37	+0.66	17
Dover-Foxcroft	55	86	69	+3	876	-102	233	-56	1.74	+0.97	5	6.42	+3.22	19
Frenchville	54	82	68	+4	807	-55	219	+0	2.06	+1.15	5	5.71	+2.21	19
Houlton	54	85	70	+4	892	-73	264	-19	2.28	+1.37	5	5.20	+1.74	17
Livermore_Falls	55	86	70	+4	984	+12	268	-11	1.85	+1.04	4	6.02	+2.90	17
Moosehead	53	85	67	+3	720	-89	176	-22	1.96	+1.05	4	4.88	+1.24	18
Portland_ME	60	85	72	+4	1139	+25	354	-25	0.80	+0.17	3	7.16	+4.44	12
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	57	83	70	+4	944	-118	254	-59	2.79	+1.94	3	5.80	+2.63	14
Berlin_AG	57	85	69	+3	937	-129	235	-95	1.36	+0.45	3	3.70	+0.27	14
Concord	55	87	72	+3	1272	+1	431	-46	1.47	+0.70	4	5.64	+2.70	13
Diamond_Pond	50	84	63	+0	581	-127	99	-28	1.90	+0.81	4	5.82	+1.61	19
Keene_AG	57	86	72	+2	1282	-146	463	-120	2.33	+1.49	5	7.83	+4.55	14
North_Conway	57	86	68	+0	992	-197	249	-171	2.46	+1.58	5	7.39	+3.99	17
Rochester	58	87	74	+4	1258	-94	430	-104	1.65	+0.83	3	6.11	+2.96	10
VERMONT														
Bennington_AP	56	84	71	+4	1271	+161	413	+59	2.68	+1.77	4	6.02	+2.38	15
Burlington_Intl	60	88	74	+4	1384	+8	524	-29	0.76	-0.11	3	3.98	+0.66	15
Island_Pond	55	83	68	+5	891	+25	246	+33	1.57	+0.53	3	5.92	+2.02	18
Montpelier	55	86	70	+4	1140	+62	363	+24	2.41	+1.64	4	5.89	+3.03	16
Rochester	55	85	68	+2	998	-48	284	-37	2.87	+1.91	3	6.40	+2.86	15
Rutland_AG	56	86	70	-1	1162	-260	361	-212	2.69	+1.78	4	7.21	+3.68	10
Springfield_VT	57	86	71	+4	1277	+115	433	+45	3.14	+2.30	6	6.29	+3.03	19
Sutton	55	83	68	+4	810	-72	190	-37	2.15	+1.12	2	5.85	+1.97	17
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	66	87	77	+4	1550	-52	617	-96	0.95	+0.27	2	5.44	+2.87	10
Fitchburg	62	88	76	+8	1541	+391	605	+214	1.52	+0.72	4	6.25	+2.93	15
Greenfield	59	85	72	+0	1315	-212	465	-187	2.49	+1.65	4	9.21	+5.85	13
New_Bedford	61	86	74	-1	1375	-215	489	-212	0.72	-0.08	3	6.55	+3.71	14
Otis_AFB	64	82	75	+4	1457	+188	544	+56	1.08	+0.38	2	6.38	+3.78	9
Plymouth	65	85	75	+5	1375	+44	488	-47	1.10	+0.31	4	6.40	+3.30	12
Walpole	62	85	74	+4	1333	-47	470	-84	0.99	+0.19	2	5.66	+2.55	11
Chicopee/Westov	57	88	74	-1	1500	-252	577	-238	1.77	+1.00	5	7.82	+4.61	16
Worthington	54	83	69	+2	1083	-38	314	-46	3.16	+2.18	6	8.45	+4.53	16
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	65	87	76	+3	1528	+13	596	-60	0.57	-0.20	4	6.29	+3.40	13
Woonsocket	62	87	75	+5	1423	+65	521	-5	1.61	+0.70	2	7.24	+3.67	11
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	64	87	76	+2	1581	-42	656	-84	0.97	+0.14	4	4.18	+0.77	13
Hartford/Bradle	60	88	75	+2	1646	-43	691	-86	2.93	+2.19	5	9.05	+6.19	13
Norfolk	57	82	70	+2	1169	+44	361	-6	2.17	+1.19	3	9.17	+5.38	14
Thomaston_Dam	60	86	74	+4	1439	+93	544	+31	2.32	+1.36	5	7.20	+3.43	19
Willimantic	63	86	76	+7	1589	+218	643	+109	1.39	+0.48	5	5.44	+1.69	17

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, August 2, 2009

STATE	AIR TEMPERATURES				PRECIPITATION	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	50	88	69	+2	0.67	3.52
NH	45	89	70	+3	1.04	4.36
VT	52	88	70	+3	0.75	4.29
MA	54	93	74	+3	0.48	5.19
RI	62	87	75	+4	0.28	1.61
CT	57	89	75	+3	0.66	3.63

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: Another wet week but temperatures did get in to the 80's but was also very humid. More broadleaf tobacco was harrowed up from a variety of losses caused by excess rain, hail, and disease. Silage corn growers concerned now about harvest if rain does not stop. Many veggies are on the verge of dying. Most if not all farmers are depressed by this weather and the prospects for their crops. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Late blight, early blight, mold, powdery mildew, downy mildew - all of the weather relates problems are on every grower's agenda these days. Field corn got a little more height this week although still way off normal. No reports of tasseling yet so maybe we will get a little more growth if this week has some heat. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** Things are not improving. Several severe thunderstorms dumped heavy rains this week. Producers are reporting standing water in the fields. All crops are suffering ill effects from too much rain. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Sunshine, rain heavy at times, some fields are really wet, even gravelly soils can't handle any more rain, corn is excellent to really poor, some fields replanted three times, pumpkins have also drowned, plants are stunted from cool days and too much rain, "late blight" fungus has attacked tomato and potato plants. Spraying fungicides and removing infected plants to control. Picking cukes, squash, peaches and sweet corn. Blueberries are abundant but pick your own is down due to poor weather for picking. Mosquitoes are relentless to pickers as well. Vegetable crops missing out on the nitrogen that would have been applied during irrigating. Excellent flavor on sweet corn.

MAINE – Doreen Conlogue (FSA), Aroostook: Some areas of the county received more than 3" of rain last week. The warmer temps are welcomed and crops are thriving. Grains are starting to mature and potato growers are seeing good size under their plants. Hay producers are still struggling....hopefully this weeks weather will help them out. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** A wet week in Central Aroostook. Farmers are still on a five day spray schedule. Broccoli harvest in the area. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Farmers are spraying for late blight on a five day program, crop is looking good at this time. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** A few good days of summer weather finally arrived last week. Rain still came every other day, which made making dry hay tricky. Crops look like it is the beginning of July, not August. Silage corn that was given another shot of urea has greened up, but still is very short. The weather forecast is good this week, we'll see how the crops respond. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** A little more hay was harvested. Looks like the weather will be a little better this week. Quality has dropped on all first cut hay left standing. The undergrowth should be good. Fields that have just been cut are staying green and spurting new growth. Corn has just started to really get going. Garden vegetables are still maturing very slowly. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Much needed sun and heat was welcomed this past week; scattered showers were not. Corn started to look better but still behind. Apples are small, blueberries look pretty good but concerns of *Valdensinia* leaf spot are out there. Harvest should be starting this week. Strawberry production was about half of normal. Potatoes look good. More haylage harvested this past week but dry hay is not being harvested since showers are still around. Herbicides and nitrogen are being applied but hard to build up soils with all the showers. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Although last week's weather was an improvement of previous weeks, fields remain extremely wet with standing water evident in most crop fields. Most anticipated crop harvest dates will be delayed due to the extreme wet conditions. Some crop fields have been replanted and other fields have simply failed. Late blight has been found on the tomato and potato crop, while *Valdensinia* leaf spot disease in some blueberry fields has been confirmed in Knox County. It appears farmers are harvesting what hay or grass they can from fields, but most fields are too wet to be harvested. Many fields cannot be entirely harvested due to wet areas that remain in fields. A better

week of weather is forecasted, but farmers are confirming that yields will be down for most crops. Expenses will be up due the numerous applications of urea on fields which has continued to leach off crops with the unusual amounts of rainfall. The exception may be the blueberry crop although the harvest has just started in this area. There are many concerns about the lack of hay for livestock in this area. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Sunshine!! Still need warm weather to dry out the soils. Hay fields are still very wet, but some producers trying to harvest where they can. Corn crop needs warm temps to mature. All producers that have livestock are discussing the lack of feed for their animals. Report of hail and very high winds last Monday, which uprooted and damaged many large trees in the local area. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** Some warm sunny days have helped this week but continued heavy rain showers are interfering with field work, hay harvesting, corn and vegetable crop development. **Janet King (FSA), Somerset:** Rainfall totals for the month of July averaged 5.8" throughout Somerset County, according to the National Weather Service. Some growth in the corn crop has been noticed with the few hot and humid days lately, but overall the corn is still way behind schedule. Some sweet corn has tasseled and the early varieties will be ready soon. Strawberry harvest is now complete with less production reported this year than last, but a little better than expected from the frost reported in late May, and the wet months of June and July. Highbush blueberries are ripening and the crop looks good. Some hay is being harvested, but also is way behind schedule with the wet spring and summer. There is still a lot of first crop hay standing. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Wet weather still causing issues with one or two good days sprinkled with periods of heavy rain. Very difficult to make dry hay. Lots of rutted fields from producers trying to harvest feed. Strawberry harvest is over. Still no local sweet corn. **Dr. David Yarbrough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Harvest in the mid-coast area should begin on Friday, July 31st but most fields in the area will start on Monday, August 3rd. Fields on the blueberry barrens Downeast will not begin until August 8th. This is about a week later than normal. The crop still requires more sun and warm temperatures to mature. The coastal fields which are usually later than the inland fields are actually ahead in ripening.

MASSACHUSETTS – Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: Our wettest July since 1939 just ended with severe flooding, field washouts, and the loss of the tomato crop to late blight. 10.39 inches of rain was the official measurement. Some areas saw six inches or better with just one of the storms this week. Oh yeah, we also realized that there aren't enough degree days left in the summer to save the corn crop. Forget about hay. Happy August. **Lori Carver (FSA), Franklin:** Blight has been spotted in a few potato fields. Tobacco is not fairing well and continues to be destroyed. Sweet corn harvest is in full swing, along with blueberries and raspberries. Peach harvest is beginning. Farmers continue to deal with disease resulting from extreme wet conditions.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Dot Perkins (Ext), Belknap: Late blight is hitting NH hard and tomato and potato growers are reporting losses across the county and state. Hay is being harvested and blueberry picking is in full swing. Yields are very good for that fruit crop. Vegetables are doing well and the break in the constant rain has helped tremendously. If the weather continues to cooperate we may get a good harvest after all. It is strongly suggested that protective fungicides continue to be used throughout the growing season. **Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll:** By the time summer arrives, it will be winter. A bit warmer, and a little sun, but still too much rain and humidity. Tomatoes and potatoes showing late blight and a variety of other fungal diseases. Blueberries look good and picking is going well, plentiful big berries, not too much mummyberry. Crops suffering from excessive water and cool temps. Pastures and hayfields are water logged, but cool temperatures have kept the grass growing well, just not enough dry days to put any hay in the barn, about 50

percent of the hay crop will be lost. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Warm all week, with a couple days of heavy rain. Field corn is tasseling, most of it looking pretty good. Grass growth still strong, harvesting conditions still poor. Most vegetable crops doing OK, some late blight moving into commercial operations. PYO berries doing well, starting to see some peaches. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** A few days of drier weather allowed some baled hay to be got in; much lower quality by now however. Much warmer week has corn starting to show a bit better growth along with warm weather veggies. Pumpkins and winter squash running and flowering well. Beans, other mid-season veggies, berries being harvested. Honey being taken off hives. Typical mid-summer pests apparent. A little more late blight reported. Weeds hard to keep up with. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** The week ending August 1st was a wet one. Rain fall amounts varied around the county from as little as an inch to nearly four inches in other locations. Field conditions remain too wet to operate on many of the upland and poorer drained soils. We received some amount of rain during each 24 hour period for six out of the seven days of last week. Hay producers are very frustrated and many are concerned about having enough feed for their animals this coming winter. Corn is looking better, due to the warmer days that we had. Some fields are still off considerably for the time of year. Others are looking better. **Heather Bryant (Ext), Grafton:** Late blight has become more widespread this week. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Vegetables: Late blight found on commercial farms in potato field and tomato fields. Corn Earworm high numbers increased over the week. Farmers kept busy cultivating, hoeing weeds, monitoring pest pressures, spraying pesticides for insects and diseases. Growers harvesting an array of vegetables including: beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, cucumbers, greens, lettuce, potatoes, radishes, snap beans, sweet corn, summer squash and first field tomatoes and peppers. Fruit: Peach, blueberry and raspberry harvests continued, along with the first apples. Orchardists busy monitoring for pests, spraying if needed, and mowing orchard floors. Field Crops: Farmers making baled hay. Silage corn is rapid growing. Field corn is starting to tassel and beginning to silk. Second crop of hay is looking good. **Amy Ouellette (Ext), Merrimack:** Farms with soil drainage problems are having a tough summer. Late blight on tomato and potato continues to spread and a number of other fungal diseases of plants are present in Merrimack County. The earliest apples are being harvested, as well as peaches, raspberries and blueberries. All sorts of veggies are ready - most importantly....sweet corn!!!! People who were lucky enough to get a first cut done earlier in the season are doing a second cutting now. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** The few warm, sunny days were welcomed. Picking peaches, blueberries, raspberries and whole array of vegetables. Pastures look good. Haying being done. Weeding, side-dressing with fertilizer and irrigating some vegetable fields. Monitoring pests in vegetable and orchards. Crows and starlings birds damaged almost ready to pick sweet corn. Farm stands and farmers market busy. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** Corn and other warm weather crops started to show some better growth due to warmer temperatures last week. Hay producers worked hard to cut and dry hay. A thunderstorm in the middle of the week made things difficult for hay producers, but it was better than the last several weeks. Fruit growers mowed orchard floors, making effort to control Japanese beetles which are out in large numbers. Raspberry harvesting winding down, but growers looking forward to the fall raspberries. Strawberry

harvesting winding down and blueberry harvesting still going strong. Strawberry growers renovating strawberry beds and those with ever bearing strawberries will start harvesting soon. Peach growers started to harvest early varieties. Vegetable growers harvesting an array of vegetable crops, but field tomatoes, peppers and other warm climate crops were slowed down by the cool temperatures in the last month.

RHODE ISLAND – Heather Faubert, (FSA): A little drier this week than last week, but that isn't saying much. With the aid of numerous fungicide applications, potato and tomato growers are successfully protecting their crops from late blight.

VERMONT – Jeff Carter, (Ext), Addison: Some spraying this week and a little hay harvested leaving ruts in fields. Mostly fields are still very wet. Little new seedings harvested. Standing water in fields at week's end again. Not so nice now that August is here and most fields are damaged. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Warm damp week for a change. Some second cut haylage came in this week, no dry hay. Fields very wet, some damage to fields when trying to get in there. Some fields too wet for harvesting. Corn beginning to tassel. Corn is extremely variable- none of it great. Late blight showing up now. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Franklin County, depending on which part one is in, is either very soggy or rain being very spotty this week. It even hit our field days this past week with rains that kept gate attendance down. Corn is beginning to tassel and move to the reproductive stage. Still many wet areas that are on the short side. The *Free Press* carried an article on blight in tomatoes and potatoes. This seems to be a problem carried with the wet weather, being caused by a fungus which has ideal conditions for growth. Sweet corn is more abundant at farm stands and seems to be a fair crop to date. **Heather Darby, (Ext), Grand Isle:** The weather continues to be a challenge. Some corn has started to tassel while other fields remain around knee-high. Farmers are working to finish the second cut while others are still trying to get in the last bit of first cut. Winter wheat is being harvested with decent quality. **John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille:** All of the early corn is tasseling and really enjoyed some of the hot weather that we saw last week. The sweet corn crop has perked up and is looking decent. Tomato and potato growers are applying fungicides to battle the blight which has already wiped out many growers. Animal grazers are having a good year with pastures that normally would be weak this time of year actually looking like it's June. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** We had a lot of rain again this week but also had a few nice days mixed in. Temperatures were much warmer and with some sun the corn looks better today than a week ago. The color is a darker green and it is a lot taller. fields that I have looked at vary quite a bit from about four feet tall to eight feet. Some tasseling is occurring. Even within fields, the height of the corn varies. With the little bit of sun we had last week, a limited amount of second cut hay was done. We have still not had the weather to be able to dry hay. The fields are so wet now that drying hay is a real trick. Pastures are fair but grow so fast that they get far ahead of the cattle. There is also a fair amount of mud on the laneways. **Julie Jacque, (FSA), Windham:** Wet and cool conditions continue to be problematic. Vegetable crops are delayed in maturing - just beginning to see tomatoes, summer squash, cucumbers, corn etc. Many farmers are wrapping hay.

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