

Crop Progress & Condition



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

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June 14, 2010 – 4 pm

For week ending 6/13/10

Cooler, Cloudier Week

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending June 13, 2010, there were 5.1 days available for field work across New England. Pasture condition was rated 3% poor, 18% fair, 70% good, and 9% excellent. The week began partly cloudy with average to below average daytime temperatures ranging from the mid-60s to mid-70s. Below average temperatures in the low 60s to mid-70s continued into the end of the week in New England. Rain showers arrived in New England on Wednesday and Thursday, with accumulations from 0.11 to 0.69 inches. Saturday saw showers throughout New England, dumping as much as 1.58 inches. In southern States, some localized spots reported lightning and small hail. The week ended humid with localized rain showers. Nighttime average temperatures for the week ranged from the mid-40s to mid-50s. Total rainfall for the week ranged from 0.15 to 2.08 inches. Many of the fields in Maine are still dry and in need of more showers.

FRUIT: Last week's weather was very favorable for pollination. Blueberries and strawberries were in petal fall stage by week's end. Severity of frost damage was still being examined last week. Blueberries seemed to have fared better than expected with some reporting no losses. PYO strawberry operations were open last week but activity slowed due to abundant rain over the weekend. The first blueberries were being picked by week's end. Cranberries were blooming and 20 percent reached full bloom stage, significantly ahead of schedule. The crop was not adversely impacted by insects or diseases last week. Fruit growers were busy mowing orchard floors, monitoring for pests, and spraying herbicides and fungicides.

VEGETABLES: Planting of sweet corn and late season vegetables continued despite rainy weather. Farmers were also occupied harvesting asparagus, cabbage, cucumbers, fiddleheads, greens, lettuce, peas, radishes, rhubarb, scallions, spinach, summer squash, and tomatoes. Vegetable crops being harvested were reported in good quality. Vegetable operators were weeding and irrigating fields in areas that did not receive sufficient rain. Vegetable growers were scouting for pests such as slugs, snails, beetles, and a variety of vine-type weeds.

FIELD CROPS: Moisture levels were varied throughout New England, with some fields plagued by oversaturated soils while others were in need of a significant rain shower. Fieldwork across New England was slowed again last week due to rain. Corn was in good condition, despite complications such as weeds, crows, and cutworms. Field corn height ranged from 3 inches to over a foot high. Potatoes were in very good condition though yellowing occurred in a few low lying areas due to excessive moisture. Grasses benefited from the rain and were greening up while growing very well. Cutting of hay progressed slowly as lack of sunshine left fields wet. Farmers were busy applying protective sprays, spreading manure, fertilizing, mowing, and cutting rye for straw.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	1	1
Short	12	10	1
Adequate	78	76	71
Surplus	10	13	27
Subsoil			
Very Short	1	1	1
Short	11	11	1
Adequate	80	79	78
Surplus	8	9	20

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Set	Fruit Size	Condition
	2010	2009	5 yr Avg			
Apples	-	-	-	Avg/Below	Average	Fair/Good
Peaches	-	-	-	Avg/Below	Average	Fair/Good
Pears	-	-	-	Avg/Below	Avg/Below	Good/Fair
Blueberries						
Highbush	<5	0	0	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Wild	-	-	-	Above Avg	N/A	Exc/Good
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-	N/A	N/A	Good
Strawberries	25	10	5	Avg/Below	Avg/Below	Good/Fair

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2010	2009	5-yr Avg	Condition
--Percent Planted--				
Silage Corn	95	90	90	
Sweet Corn	85	85	80	
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	60	70	70	Good/Fair
Shade	100	100	99	Good/Fair
--Percent Emerged--				
Barley, ME	100	90	85	Good/Excellent
Oats, ME	100	95	85	Good/Excellent
Potatoes				
Maine	90	30	40	Good/Excellent
Mass	100	99	85	Good
Rhode Island	100	90	90	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	80	80	75	Good
Sweet Corn	70	65	60	Good
-- Percent Harvested --				
Dry Hay				
First Cut	60	45	35	Good/Fair
Second Cut	<5	0	0	Good

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday June 7, 2010
 To: Sunday June 13, 2010

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
MAINE														
Augusta_State_A	45	73	59	-4	529	+198	124	+71	0.32	-0.45	3	2.18	-1.08	9
Bangor_Intl_Arp	40	76	58	-4	485	+210	110	+75	0.63	-0.14	3	2.41	-0.75	9
Bethel	40	74	56	-6	431	+141	91	+50	1.38	+0.44	5	4.24	+0.71	11
Caribou_Municip	39	76	57	-3	364	+150	84	+64	0.45	-0.18	1	3.76	+1.06	9
Dover-Foxcroft	38	74	56	-4	338	+119	65	+46	0.73	-0.13	4	3.79	+0.45	10
Frenchville	38	75	55	-4	296	+116	60	+51	0.29	-0.41	2	2.08	-0.75	8
Houlton	34	75	55	-5	331	+113	74	+53	0.55	-0.22	3	4.53	+1.45	10
Livermore_Falls	36	74	55	-5	393	+171	83	+62	0.83	-0.15	3	2.62	-1.03	10
Moosehead	37	72	54	-5	252	+99	40	+35	0.72	-0.19	2	3.61	+0.26	9
Portland_ME	45	72	59	-3	503	+244	111	+87	1.36	+0.52	5	3.38	+0.20	11
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	34	65	54	-8	398	+97	99	+56	1.06	+0.15	5	2.39	-1.00	14
Berlin_AG	39	69	55	-6	395	+114	85	+46	1.18	+0.20	3	3.46	-0.11	10
Concord	40	73	59	-5	624	+267	213	+145	1.52	+0.77	4	3.23	+0.34	12
Diamond_Pond	33	59	45	-12	146	+2	23	+23	1.27	+0.22	3	4.22	+0.25	11
Keene_AG	41	74	59	-6	576	+126	183	+74	2.09	+1.25	4	4.01	+0.58	13
North_Conway	43	71	56	-7	473	+152	111	+58	1.63	+0.67	6	3.35	-0.33	14
Rochester	44	72	57	-8	597	+196	176	+91	1.97	+1.13	4	4.34	+0.98	10
VERMONT														
Bennington_AP	39	75	59	-3	593	+282	201	+151	2.89	+1.78	6	4.59	+0.32	15
Burlington_Intl	44	71	58	-6	622	+207	210	+114	1.90	+1.12	5	3.78	+0.80	14
Island_Pond	38	68	54	-5	366	+156	81	+58	1.18	+0.20	4	3.69	-0.04	14
Montpelier	40	67	55	-6	480	+185	142	+97	1.30	+0.46	6	3.22	-0.01	17
Rochester	39	68	54	-7	432	+154	113	+73	1.40	+0.49	4	3.10	-0.69	12
Rutland_AG	41	69	57	-9	526	+64	160	+43	0.90	+0.06	4	2.44	-0.85	10
Springfield_VT	40	70	58	-4	593	+263	190	+133	1.09	+0.18	6	3.17	-0.53	16
Sutton	39	66	53	-7	356	+148	75	+53	1.76	+0.78	7	4.82	+1.14	17
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	53	82	63	-3	809	+314	287	+177	1.03	+0.26	4	4.08	+1.18	12
Fitchburg	47	79	62	+1	809	+505	302	+257	0.99	+0.15	4	3.71	+0.41	12
Greenfield	42	76	60	-7	606	+112	203	+82	2.70	+1.79	4	3.68	+0.04	11
New_Bedford	42	78	62	-5	670	+182	201	+98	1.76	+0.88	4	4.47	+1.11	10
Otis_AFB	48	81	61	-2	535	+213	124	+77	1.30	+0.53	5	4.09	+0.89	14
Plymouth	45	81	63	-1	723	+371	242	+182	0.53	-0.31	3	2.64	-0.77	10
Walpole	45	76	61	-4	743	+340	269	+189	0.80	-0.07	4	3.54	+0.30	13
Chicopee/Westov	39	81	61	-7	741	+137	271	+102	1.68	+0.70	4	3.41	-0.44	13
Worthington	37	75	57	-5	528	+218	157	+109	2.11	+1.20	4	3.97	+0.06	10
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	50	82	64	-3	824	+376	278	+184	1.25	+0.48	5	3.70	+0.46	12
Woonsocket	45	84	62	-2	743	+346	253	+184	1.35	+0.38	3	5.02	+1.32	11
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	51	82	65	-2	768	+259	252	+122	1.20	+0.41	4	3.03	-0.33	11
Hartford/Bradle	45	83	63	-5	891	+323	340	+181	1.74	+0.83	4	4.46	+0.77	12
Norfolk	43	75	58	-4	581	+276	180	+135	2.10	+0.98	5	3.68	-0.60	13
Thomaston_Dam	44	81	62	-3	705	+289	239	+154	2.09	+1.11	5	4.16	+0.24	13
Willimantic	44	83	62	-3	755	+334	269	+184	1.15	+0.30	4	3.13	-0.46	12

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 13, 2010

STATE	AIR TEMPERATURES				PRECIPITATION	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	33	78	56	-5	0.29	1.82
NH	28	74	56	-6	0.76	2.73
VT	37	77	56	-6	0.71	3.19
MA	37	83	61	-3	0.41	3.29
RI	45	84	63	-2	1.25	1.60
CT	41	87	62	-4	0.85	2.58

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: Showers mid week into weekend totaled up to 2 inches. Very little sun during the week accounted for several getting wet hay. Annual vegetable crops generally look good. Broadleaf tobacco planting is going well with several producers done setting. Strawberry harvest continues and some early blueberries coming in. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Strawberries are peaking, growers report good to excellent crops. Some concerns about weekend weather forecasts might keep PYO sales low. Finishing up corn planting. PSNT samples are coming in slowly. Vine type weeds - poison ivy, Virginia creeper and Asian bittersweet seem to be growing like wildfire this year. At least we are seeing lots of calls/complaints already. **Patricia Smith (FSA), New London:** Weather was much cooler to make working easier. Rain a couple of days. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** This was a cool and rainy week which slowed field work down. What is planted looks good. Some field corn is a foot high while other fields are about 6 inches high. The strawberry crop is sweet and plentiful but the rain takes a toll on it. There were a lot of muddy fields by weeks end and then we had a lot of rain from wide spread thunderstorms over the weekend. **Jude Boucher (Ext), Tolland:** Some hail in scattered spots last week. This should be the earliest sweet corn harvest since 1991.

MAINE – Casey Cote (St John Valley Soil & Water Conservation Dist), Northern Aroostook: Crops are emerging and look good. **Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook:** Timely rains led to a nice week of sun and average temperatures. Farmers caught up on spraying, rock picking, and cultivating. Most all potatoes have emerged and look excellent. A few low areas are yellow from water laying to long but seemingly will survive. First dry hay is being cut about 10-14 days ahead of schedule. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Growers are applying herbicides. Initial cultivation is taking place. Crops continued to emerge and are looking great. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Strawberries are starting to be picked. Cool weather has slowed the growth of vegetables. The grass has greened up after significant rains last week. Hay harvest has been slowed by almost daily fog. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Projected rain did not fall this weekend. We could use a shower and then some sun. Strawberries are for sale and there is a lot of hay in the barn already. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Good warm days really made crops emerge and get some good growth started. Spraying of herbicides is underway. Hay crop looks good as well as most other crops due to moisture and good sunny days. More rain is needed. Ground is starting to get real dry again. Spotty showers are forecasted but a good steady rain is much needed. Fungicides will start to be applied to prevent fruit rot. Blueberries, strawberries and apples are starting to get fruit but crop will probably be down due to the frosts in May. Producers are in hopes for some recovery but time will tell. **Megan McDonough (FSA), Kennebec:** Favorable conditions have allowed folks to get corn planted and hay cut. The weather has been great for field work. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** It was a pretty good week for farm activities in the mid-coast area. The soil has been satisfied with some much needed rain and most crops are a bit ahead of schedule and looking good. There have been reports in some areas of heavy slug populations. Most farm stands will open shortly with plenty of fresh vegetables available. Pea harvest will start early next week and baby red potatoes are ready for harvest. The blueberry crop is looking good although there continues to be problems with clusters of blight in some fields. Blueberry fields are being scouted and post emergence herbicide is now being applied. Some later varieties of sweet corn are being planted. No reports of changes to the strawberry and apple crops which were hit with frost the week of May 11-13th. Some sunshine is needed, but all and all we are in good shape here. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Oxford County received the rain that was much needed for all the crops. First cut hay has been reported by several producers to be light. Field work is being done between rain showers. Farm stands have been busy with flowers and spring seedlings. Warm weather is on the way and really warm temps expected for this coming week. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis /Penobscot:** Nice week to put up hay. After hay is taken off, fertilizer is being spread. Weeds are starting to come up in row crops. **Janet King (FSA), Somerset:** The strawberries will be ready to pick next week! Ten days after the 3 consecutive frosty mornings hit in early May, many blossoms appeared and helped to compensate for those blossoms lost. There still could be as much as a 15 to 20% loss on strawberries due to the early frost. Highbush

blueberries seem to be doing great with no evidence of frost damage at this time. Apples in this county seem to have escaped a huge disaster from the early frost, although it's still too early to determine completely at this point. There could still be as much as a 25% loss in some orchards. Most of the corn has been planted, and producers are commenting how much easier this year has been than last year getting on the fields. Most of 1st crop hay has been harvested; some producers were finished with 1st crop by the end of May this year, which was unusually early. The rain last week has helped, but conditions are still considered very dry and crops could use more rain. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Some good rain last weekend, but could still use some more. Almost all corn planted and lots of hay/haylage has been harvested. Strawberries may be in short supply due to frost damage in May. Some orchards have significant damage. **Amanda May (FSA), Washington:** A good majority of blueberries have been pollinated. Veggie gardens are coming along nicely with lots of green poking out of the ground. Producers have been able to work fairly steadily in the field. Now we could use a little rain. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: The last of the hives are being removed from the field's Downeast. We had excellent weather for pollination and it appears we have a good fruit set. Berries are still small and green. The crop is still one to two weeks early. Fungicides are being applied to nonbearing fields to prevent leaf-spot.

MASSACHUSETTS – Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: Cool, breezy with rain showers on and off all week. Strawberries are smaller and showing the effects of the freeze in May, but taste great. Pick your own operations will open this week. Heavy rain on the weekend stopped all field work and slowed business at markets which are selling greens, annuals and transplants. **Lori Carver (FSA), Franklin:** A rainy week was just what was needed! Unless you are a Pick-Your-Own strawberry producer, rains kept people away on the weekend. Tobacco planting continues. Dairy farmers will be continuing to harvest the first hay crop. Cultivation and pest controls on vegetable crops continue. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** The week was cloudy, cool and rainy. Vegetable growers were planting tomatoes, peppers, cabbage, cucumbers, squash, pumpkins and greens. Scouting for diseases and insects continues. Harvesting strawberries, spinach, greens and radishes. Planting tobacco continues and crop looks good. Orchardists are mowing orchards and applying fertilizers and fungicides. Rains were greatly needed, but now sunshine is needed for all crops. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: We are well into bloom, with many beds (especially ones sanded in January) at full bloom, unheard of for June 14! Many growers will be finished applying fungicides for fruit rot before July 1. Bloom is very good, but some growers as of Friday had still not received their bee hives. Bee activity was excellent so far. Insect populations have dropped off, and weather has not been conducive for fungal diseases as it was last year. Growers had to watch for frost last week - it has been a very odd growing season thus far. Renovations are nearly complete, with the last planting of plugs still ongoing.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire: A few nice sunny days this week, and a bit of rain too. Field corn growing great, good re-growth on harvested hay crops. Tricky haying weather, but 1st cut haylage is done on many farms. Veggies are growing nicely. Strawberries and high tunnel tomatoes showing up in farm stands, etc. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Mixed weather this week with rain making it tricky to get hay/haylage in towards weeks end. Timothy heading out, seems early. Corn at 5 to 6 leaf stage on many fields, orchard grass well headed out. Manure spreading on recently harvested meadows. Corn herbicide spraying is on going; weeds growing fast. Seeing some early black cutworm damage on corn. Flea beetles seem active in vegetable farms. Crows busy in corn fields, seems constant problem now. Crops in general growing well in what has been good weather compared to last couple of years. Farmers markets getting going with spinach and other greens in nice quality/quantity. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending June 12, we had some level of precipitation during six out of seven days. Most of those rain events were of minor significance. The rain we did receive was needed, and has helped second cut grass. Most producers are looking to make up their shortfall on first cut hay during the subsequent cuttings. The haying season did start out earlier than normal, and may have contributed to the reduction in the initial yield. Other factors may also have contributed. Field corn is up and looks good. Significant concerns about the apple crop still

remain. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Vegetables: Harvesting greens, spinach, scallions, radishes, cucumbers, greenhouse tomatoes, rhubarb, lettuce and summer squash. Continue making successive planting of various vegetable crops. Growers are busy side-dressing fields with fertilizer, cultivating weeds, scouting for pests and spraying if needed. Seeing asparagus beetle, flea beetle, seed corn maggot, striped cucumber beetle, and first squash vine borer. Fruit: Strawberries were being picked during the week and strawberry Pick-Your-Own operations open over the weekend. Fruit growers monitoring pest and crop development and applying cover sprays for pest. Mowing orchards floor and weed spraying under trees. Seeing disease problems on plum trees in some orchards. Field Crops: Most farmers are finishing-up planting and weed spraying corn fields. Farmers are trying to make haylage and baled hay between showers. Starting to take soil nitrate test for field corn to determine nitrogen fertilizer needs. **Amy Ouellette (Ext), Merrimack:** Weather was overcast and drizzly all weekend. Several reports of poor germination of peas and beans. The strawberry harvest is well underway. Farmers are harvesting lettuce, several greens, radish and a few of the earliest peas. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Harvesting an array of vegetables and strawberries. Planting successive vegetables. Top dressing with fertilizers, weeding, and irrigating. Mowing orchards and monitoring pests. Spraying protective fungicides. Pastures are growing ok. Haying has been done. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** Mild temperatures with rain showers the second half of the week. Grass in pastures and hay fields are growing very well. The rain showers put a halt to haying and haylage making for producers. Tree fruit growers were spraying protective fungicides before the rains. Strawberry growers started picking strawberries and Pick-Your-Own operations opened their fields for picking by customers. Greenhouse growers were preparing themselves for planting fall mums. Vegetable growers were harvesting an array of early vegetable crops including greenhouse tomatoes and cucumber.

RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties: Good week this week, kind of foggy and wet. Small vegetables and sweet corn are still being planted. Potatoes are looking very good. Strawberry picking is heavy. It's been a little on the cool side in the 70's. Livestock has plenty of pasture. A lot of first cut hay is being cut for silage. Small crops being picked is mostly summer squash right now.

VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison: Soil conditions wet after rain showers. Most corn planting delayed, some harvest of haylage

continues, but dry hay harvest on hold. Manure ponds being stirred for spreading on hay crops. Grass hay re-growth very good, the rain was welcome for plant growth. Pastures look a little better with cooler and wetter conditions, still over-grazed early. Corn looks excellent, some over 12" and side-dress Nitrogen applications on lighter soils. Some fields not planted yet, wet soils. Soybeans up and stands look uniform. New seedings a little uneven and lots of weed pressure. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Kind of a wet week even though it did not rain that much. An inch of rain on the Sunday at the start of the week started us off wet. Hardly saw the sun until the end of the week. Could use some sun and heat to get corn growing. Grass is headed out; the folks who got their first cut done in mid-May are looking forward to an early second cut. Other farmers are waiting for some dry weather to continue, or in some cases, to start that first cut. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Continuing rains in Franklin County have made drying first cut hay and finishing up of corn planting very difficult. Manure has been spread this week on the later cut "first cut" haylage fields. This was good timing because the rains have kept the nitrogen losses at a minimum. Have found some late germinating corn during scouting, mostly due to the dry weather at planting. Seeds were not deep enough to capture the moisture that was available deeper in the root zone. Seeds should have been at 1.5" to 2" and those not germinated were at 1". Hearing some vibrations of some strawberries being ready for picking. Still too early to see what yields are going to do, should be in full swing for the July 4th holiday. Gardens are doing great, however, could pick up some blight if the cool wet weather continues. **John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille/Washington:** Last week wasn't a very good week for cropping. Except for grass, most other crops were at a standstill waiting for sunny and dry weather. Conditions were ideal for the slug and snail explosion that happened last week and that won't be making veggie producers very happy. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Over all, the week was fairly wet with several days of showers and rain. Some first cut haying was done between the showers. You can see some tracks being made in the fields now with the rains we have been getting. Corn is looking good. Germination looks very even and the plants are 3 to 6" tall. Color of the seedlings looks good as well. Manure spreading was the dominate activity this past week. Pastures are looking a lot better with the recent rain. Grazing is now in full swing. **Julie Jacque (FSA), Windham:** Showers through the week were welcome. Strawberries are beginning to be harvested. 1st cutting of hay is wrapping up. Finishing rye harvest (straw). Threat of violent storms but none really coming to pass or cause damage.

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