

Crop Progress & Condition



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

53 Pleasant Street
Room 2100
Concord, NH 03301

Gary R. Keough, Director

Phone: 603-224-9639

Fax: 603-225-1434

www.nass.usda.gov/nh

nass-nh@nass.usda.gov

Volume 30, Number 13

(Issued weekly on the Internet, May – October)

July 26, 2010 – 4 pm

For week ending 7/25/10

Rains Ease Dry Conditions

GENERAL CONDITIONS:

For the week ending July 25, 2010, there were 5.5 days available for field work across New England. Pasture condition was rated 1% very poor, 19% poor, 33% fair, 43% good, and 4% excellent. The week began with variable temperatures and scattered thunderstorms leaving over an inch of precipitation in localized areas. Tuesday brought stable weather conditions and average temperatures ranging from the mid-70s to mid-80s. A powerful storm system moved into the region on Wednesday dumping over 3 inches of rain in some areas. Funnel clouds, tornadoes, damaging winds, and hail were reported in parts of New England during the severe weather. Temperatures continued varying throughout New England for the rest of the week. Rain showers on Friday left 0.27 to 0.77 inches in southern States. Rainy conditions continued throughout the weekend, with precipitation amounts ranging from a trace to over an inch throughout New England. The week ended with above average temperatures in southern States and variable temperatures in northern New England. Nighttime average temperatures for the week ranged from the mid-50s to 70 degrees. Total precipitation ranged from 0.30 to well over 3 inches.

FRUIT:

Wild and highbush blueberry operations continued last week throughout New England while early variety peaches began to be picked in Connecticut and New Hampshire. Raspberries, red currents, and some early variety apples were also being harvested. Rain showers last week improved crop conditions in parts of the region bringing relief to dry soils, while more precipitation is still needed in other areas. However, in Connecticut there were reports of fruit damage due to localized strong winds and hail. Cranberry beds in Massachusetts welcomed rain last week. However, some beds remained threatened by the strong presence of Dodder. Fruit growers were occupied irrigating as needed, monitoring for pests and spraying as needed, mowing orchard floors, weeding, and renovating strawberry beds.

VEGETABLES:

Localized damage to vegetable crops from hail and strong winds occurred last week. In Vermont, some crops such as onions and beets began to fail in areas that did not receive enough rainfall. Pumpkins and winter squash in parts of New Hampshire began to flower last week. Late blight has been confirmed in Hadley Massachusetts and Waldoboro Maine. Farmers were busy harvesting vegetables including beans, beets, cole crops, cucumbers, eggplant, greens, peas, radishes, summer squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, and zucchini. Other activities included irrigating in areas that did not receive adequate rainfall, weeding, monitoring for pests and disease, and spraying as needed.

FIELD CROPS:

Field corn did well in most areas last week. The crop was tasseling out at six to eight feet in Connecticut. Hay producers continued to make hay and haylage where weather permitted and was of good quality. Rain showers that slowed hay making were beneficial to soils near or at drought stage. Many farmers were on or finishing up their second cutting of hay by the end of the week. Potatoes in Maine were in full bloom stage by week's end while potatoes in Rhode Island were doing well. In Maine and New Hampshire, potato crops showed signs of leaf hopper damage. The broadleaf tobacco harvest began last week in Connecticut while the harvesting of shade tobacco continued.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	4	12	0
Short	24	33	0
Adequate	63	53	51
Surplus	9	2	49
Subsoil			
Very Short	3	8	0
Short	24	30	0
Adequate	67	60	54
Surplus	6	2	46

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	10	15	10	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Pears	-	-	-	Avg/Below	Average	Fair/Good
Blueberries						
Highbush	35	20	25	Average	Average	Good
Wild	<5	0	0	Average	Average	Good
Cranberries						
Mass	-	-	-	Avg/Below	Average	Good
Strawberries	100	95	99			

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2010	2009	5-yr Avg	Condition
--Percent Emerged--				
Sweet Corn	100	100	99	
-- Percent Harvested --				
Barley, ME	-	-	-	Excellent/ Good
Oats, ME	-	-	-	Excellent/ Good
Potatoes				
Maine	0	0	0	Excellent/ Good
Mass	0	0	<5	Good/Fair
Rhode Island	0	0	0	Good
Silage Corn	-	-	-	Good
Sweet Corn	25	<5	10	Good
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	5	0	<5	Good/Fair
Shade	25	<5	15	Good
Dry Hay				
First Cut	99	85	90	
Second Cut	60	25	35	Good/Fair
Third Cut	5	0	<5	Fair/Good

2 – Crop Weather, July 26, 2010

New England Agricultural Statistics, NASS, USDA

Weather Summary for New England Agricultural Statistics

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday July 19, 2010
 To: Sunday July 25, 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	
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN				INCHES	DFN		
MAINE															
Augusta_State_A	62	84	71	+2	1412	+329	587	+206	0.77	+0.06	2	2.99	+0.12	8	
Bangor_Intl_Arp	55	87	71	+3	1354	+382	559	+249	1.21	+0.47	6	3.19	+0.14	15	
Bethel	59	82	71	+3	1243	+257	493	+179	1.91	+1.12	4	3.95	+0.71	11	
Caribou_Municip	55	80	68	+2	1141	+337	459	+249	0.95	+0.01	4	4.94	+1.44	17	
Dover-Foxcroft	52	83	67	+1	1115	+273	431	+198	0.34	-0.43	3	2.75	-0.53	11	
Frenchville	53	79	66	+1	989	+247	374	+195	1.26	+0.36	5	5.01	+1.66	17	
Houlton	49	84	68	+1	1070	+238	418	+188	0.49	-0.37	5	2.47	-0.85	16	
Livermore_Falls	54	86	70	+4	1214	+376	493	+267	0.79	+0.02	3	2.47	-0.71	9	
Moosehead	47	84	64	-2	917	+228	308	+150	0.92	+0.01	4	3.35	-0.33	14	
Portland_ME	59	88	72	+4	1390	+430	579	+275	1.26	+0.57	2	4.57	+1.69	7	
NEW HAMPSHIRE															
Benton	55	86	69	+3	1129	+198	439	+180	2.34	+1.57	4	4.91	+1.76	12	
Berlin_AG	53	83	69	+2	1164	+234	453	+179	1.28	+0.44	3	4.91	+1.50	12	
Concord	54	90	74	+4	1582	+471	753	+356	0.88	+0.12	3	1.15	-1.72	9	
Diamond_Pond	43	64	54	-10	700	+94	234	+135	0.88	-0.17	4	3.70	-0.47	14	
Keene_AG	56	91	72	+2	1462	+202	654	+159	0.43	-0.41	2	2.50	-0.77	8	
North_Conway	56	85	70	+2	1295	+257	519	+170	1.23	+0.39	4	3.92	+0.51	12	
Rochester	57	92	75	+5	1621	+437	780	+334	1.12	+0.34	4	3.35	+0.24	11	
VERMONT															
Bennington_AP	57	86	71	+4	1437	+467	635	+340	2.57	+1.66	3	5.95	+2.23	12	
Burlington_Intl	58	88	73	+2	1576	+367	748	+281	0.86	+0.02	4	2.87	-0.40	12	
Island_Pond	49	81	68	+4	1094	+342	420	+245	1.53	+0.55	4	3.57	-0.27	13	
Montpelier	54	87	70	+3	1286	+344	542	+259	0.83	+0.13	5	3.71	+0.90	16	
Rochester	56	88	71	+5	1201	+291	480	+215	1.56	+0.67	4	5.80	+2.39	12	
Rutland_AG	57	85	71	+1	1373	+116	593	+104	0.90	-0.01	4	4.17	+0.72	12	
Springfield_VT	57	89	73	+5	1496	+478	677	+353	0.44	-0.39	4	2.10	-1.16	11	
Sutton	54	82	68	+3	1069	+307	395	+208	1.44	+0.46	5	3.66	-0.17	14	
MASSACHUSETTS															
Boston/Logan_In	65	91	77	+4	1910	+500	968	+367	0.54	-0.09	2	2.62	+0.05	8	
Fitchburg	62	89	76	+8	1886	+882	959	+633	2.72	+1.88	4	4.29	+0.93	8	
Greenfield	59	87	73	+0	1529	+178	707	+151	1.07	+0.23	4	3.33	-0.06	11	
New_Bedford	61	92	77	+4	1727	+334	838	+257	2.04	+1.34	4	3.54	+0.78	10	
Otis_AFB	63	86	75	+4	1490	+389	659	+262	1.70	+1.07	4	3.22	+0.63	9	
Plymouth	61	93	78	+7	1845	+688	944	+505	0.99	+0.22	4	4.94	+1.86	8	
Walpole	61	90	76	+5	1803	+592	909	+444	0.88	+0.11	3	1.62	-1.52	8	
Chicopee/Westov	61	92	76	+2	1777	+225	887	+192	0.71	-0.06	4	1.31	-2.04	9	
Worthington	56	86	71	+4	1354	+377	567	+269	1.28	+0.30	4	1.97	-1.87	9	
RHODE ISLAND															
Providence	66	91	78	+5	1942	+611	976	+426	1.98	+1.27	4	4.31	+1.47	8	
Woonsocket	61	91	76	+5	1794	+604	884	+446	1.37	+0.51	4	2.43	-1.14	9	
CONNECTICUT															
Bridgeport/Siko	67	95	79	+5	1911	+488	975	+355	3.22	+2.38	4	5.33	+1.91	8	
Hartford/Bradle	66	90	78	+4	2001	+504	1030	+365	0.70	+0.00	3	3.23	+0.32	8	
Norfolk	59	85	72	+5	1453	+472	633	+330	1.61	+0.69	3	3.99	+0.18	9	
Thomaston_Dam	64	91	77	+7	1733	+547	847	+414	2.07	+1.09	4	4.20	+0.49	10	
Willimantic	61	90	76	+6	1790	+586	884	+438	2.29	+1.33	4	3.32	-0.43	10	

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, July 25, 2010

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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STATE	AIR TEMPERATURES				PRECIPITATION	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	47	88	69	+2	0.34	4.24
NH	42	93	70	+3	0.25	3.26
VT	49	90	71	+3	0.44	2.57
MA	56	93	75	+4	0.40	2.72
RI	61	91	77	+6	1.37	1.98
CT	59	95	77	+6	0.70	3.22

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: Showers this past week improved field corn and second cutting of hay. Some of the showers were accompanied by strong wind and hail which damaged fruit crops. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Some periods of light rain mixed with several thunderstorms added little to moderate rain to dry soils and crops. Vegetables continue to be harvested and field corn making ears. Grass is dormant and brown in hay fields and pastures. Broadleaf tobacco harvest began and shade tobacco harvest continues. Tornado confirmed in Bristol did not affect any crops or farms. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Tornadoes, hail, heavy rain, then finally a good soaking rain for half a day brings some relief to severely stressed crops in the area. Some localized hail damage to vegetables and fruit crops. Over all the area got lucky, the storms brought down trees and some buildings, but didn't hurt people. Minor crop damage and some cleanup of windblown branches and debris were the most common effects on farms. Corn is basically tasseled out. Too early to know if the storms affected pollination. **Ann Marie McCard (FSA), New London:** Hot, humid weather continued throughout the week. Several days of scattered showers helped relieve dry conditions in fields and pastures. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** Another very hot and humid week. Some scattered showers from thunderstorms, and one day with nice gentle rainfall helped ease the dry conditions a little. Very hot weather at the end of the week. Field corn is tasseling out at 6 to 8 feet. Vegetables are doing well.

MAINE – Casey Cote (St John Valley Soil and Water Conservation Dist), Northern Aroostook: This week strong storms have caused damage in isolated areas. Growers are on a 5-day spray schedule applying fungicides as well as insecticides. Overall, crops are still looking excellent. Many potatoes are in full bloom. **Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook:** Another week of near perfect growing conditions. Most crops are still 1-2 weeks ahead. No reports of blight yet on this side of the border, but most farmers are spraying every 5 days. Blueberries and raspberries are being picked. Most people are reporting excellent crops. Showers are coming every few days has made it difficult to get dry hay. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Growers in the area are on a 5-day fungicide spray schedule. Broccoli harvest continues. Buck thorn & potato aphids were found in our scouting area, along with potato leafhoppers. A mix of adult Colorado potato beetles and small larvae found in many fields. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** The weather is fine. Corn crop looks awesome and fine, fresh vegetables can be had. Hay harvest has been the easiest in years. **Megan McDonough (FSA), Kennebec:** Weather has provided an excellent growing season. Folks are reporting the bulk of second crop hay has been cut. Quantity and quality for both hay and corn silage has been reported as great. Raspberries have had an excellent year and blueberries are ahead of schedule. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Oxford County received a lightning and thunderstorm last Wednesday night that brought down trees, and several inches of rain fell. Erosion in parts of the county has been reported. Sweet Corn is now being harvested in several areas around the county. Field corn and potato crops are doing very well. Hay is being harvested between rain showers. Farm stands are now very busy with all the summer crops being harvested. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** Corn is growing very well. Crops are ripening and we need some steadier rain to fill out vegetables and fruits. Scattered showers helped, but a bit more is necessary. **Janet King (FSA), Somerset:** We still need rain. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Silage Corn progress is remarkable. Hot weather has brought about a flush of harvest of fruits and vegetables. Some much needed rain has helped the sandy soils. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Crop harvest continues. Yields are lower than expected, reduction from frost and shortened pollination period. Recent rains are helping with reducing plant stress and improving fruit quality.

MASSACHUSETTS – Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: Some soaking rain 2" or better across the county, also some downed trees and hail, but we'll take the rain however almost anyway we can get it. Farmers harvesting tomatoes, cucumbers, beans, greens, summer squashes, eggplant, red currants, peaches, blueberries and sweet corn. Pasture quality is better. **Lori Carver (FSA), Franklin:** Spotty high winds and hail on Wednesday damaged crops. Rain on Friday was needed. Tobacco harvest is getting underway, the crop looks great. Producers are busy harvesting crops. Even with the lack of rain the production looks to be good. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** It was another very hot, humid, and muggy week with temperatures in the 90's. On Friday, July 23rd, the valley received over one and a half inches of rain which was greatly needed. Late blight was confirmed in a tomato field and it is highly recommended that all growers apply a preventative spray on their tomato and potato crop. Harvesting of tobacco, peaches, blueberries, raspberries and an array of summer vegetables continues. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: The dry weather period was broken by rains on Monday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday in the region. Most areas received rain on multiple days and adequate amounts each time. This eliminated irrigation for many days; rainfall is always better than irrigation. Berries will hopefully respond with some nice sizing. The crop looks very good with no issues of fruit rot or fruit worm so far. Callisto has done a very nice job on many of the problematic weeds, but dodder must be raked where it is very thick over the vines. Roundup wiping has begun on perennial woody weeds.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire: Warm temperatures most of the week, with a little rain to provide enough moisture for the fewer crops showing moisture stress. Field corn is doing great. Less than ideal conditions for haying, but re-growth on harvested fields is ok. Most veggie crops continue to do well. P-Y-O berries are still going strong. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Continuing warm and humid weather with an inch or two of rain depending on location. Rain is slowing down those finishing up dry haymaking. Second cut haylage on going, nice re-growth on earlier harvested fields. Decent pasture for this time of summer. Pumpkins and winter squash starting to run flower. Rain has helped spotty dry conditions some. Corn is looking quite well. Looking at some crow damaged fields, where corn has been replanted a couple of times. Seems to be increasing damage by these pests each year. Wide range of summer veggies now on the market, blueberries and raspberries are being picked. Garlic is being dug in mid-summer! **Heather Bryant (Ext), Grafton:** There were strong winds in several towns here last week, causing some lodging particularly in sweet corn. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Orchardists harvesting peaches, blueberry, summer raspberry and early season apple varieties. Orchardists are busy irrigating apples, blueberries, peaches, and raspberry. Renovating strawberry beds. Monitoring for pests and spraying if needed, training young trees and mowing orchard floors. Vegetables: Irrigating crops however, rain has helped. Farmers are kept busy cultivating, hoeing weeds, monitoring pest pressures and spraying pesticides for insect and disease control where needed. Harvesting an array of vegetables: beans, beets, cole crops, cucumbers, greens, melons, peas, potatoes, radishes, summer squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, zucchini, and other vegetables. Field Crops: Hay cutting continued at a rapid pace during the week with the second cut being made between thundershowers. Silage corn put on rapid growth this past week. Many hay fields and silage corn fields are showing drought stress, however rain showers are helping to relieve some drought symptoms. **Amy Ouellette (Ext), Merrimack:** Warnings of late blight in other New England States have caused concern about tomato and potato crops throughout NH. On tomato, early blight, Septoria, powdery mildew, blossom end rot, tomato horn worm and heat stress found but no late blight. Many potato crops have leaf hopper damage. Blueberry, raspberry and peach harvests are well

underway. Still hoping for rain. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Picking peaches, apples, raspberries, blue-berries, an array of vegetables and cut flowers. A great selection at farmers' markets and farm stands. Pick Your Own operations were also very busy. Renovating strawberry beds. Scouting for pests. Irrigating and weeding. Pastures are growing ok. Haying has been done. Localized rain showers were helpful. Some gusty winds and down pour rain were noted in some areas. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** Very warm week with a few rain showers in the middle of the week. Hay producers continued to make hay and haylage. Vegetable growers were weeding and irrigating their crops. They were also harvesting an array of vegetable crops. Growers also have started to harvest early varieties of sweet corn that had an early start under row covers. Fruit growers were harvesting blueberries. Strawberry harvesting was winding down and early peaches started to be harvested the last half of the week. Fall mums were doing well at most greenhouse operations.

RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties: This week we had a couple of heavy rain storms producing more than an inch of rain. Sweet corn is excellent. Early potatoes are looking very good and should be harvested shortly. Blueberries are good; some peaches are starting to be picked. All our vegetable crops are starting to come in very nicely, such as beans, squash, tomatoes and a variety of others. Good quality and good size. Pastures are showing their wear due the season.

VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison: Continued with some dry

hay harvest and haylage chopping early in week. Heavy rains stopped field work mid-week. Some severe damage to corn crop from high winds, torrential rains and hail. Some fertilizer was being spread on corn before rain. Hay crops are responding to rainfall and cooler temperatures. Soybeans starting to blossom, corn is starting to tassel, oats, barley wheat starting to get ready for harvest. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Warm week, with over 2 inches of rain. This really encouraged plants to grow, but did not encourage harvest. Silage corn is about a third tasseled or so. Hearing about late blight south of here. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** No room for any 2nd cut dry hay harvest in Franklin County this week. Many producers would like to put up some dry bales of second cut and the weather does not cooperate. Second cut that's left is still in good shape, however maturing rapidly. Third cut growth is also doing great, and maybe ready before some producers can get all their second cut off. Corn is doing great. This hot, humid and rainy weather is really agreeing with corn growth. Good share of the corn is now tasseled and in the R1 stage. Gardens are still doing great with raspberries and blueberries picking up the void left by the poor strawberry crop from the May frost damage. More and more sweet corn is showing up with a great crop so far. The jury is still out on the apple crop, however, we are moving very close to the deciding stage as to the yields ahead. Keep in mind that August can be a very tricky month for crops. **Julie Jacque (FSA), Windham:** Limited and spotty rain showers this week allowed for a little moisture on the crops. Reports of non-irrigated onions and beets failing due to lack of moisture. Hay crop reported as light, but good quality. Livestock heat stress is still a factor for production, particularly dairy cattle.

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Gary R. Keough, Director
Heidi Gleich, Intern and Hernan Ortiz, Statistician

Ty Kalaus, Deputy Director
Lynne Arsenault, Stat Assistant