

Crop Progress & Condition



NEW ENGLAND
Agricultural
Statistics



53 Pleasant Street
Room 2100
Concord, NH 03301

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

Gary R. Keough, Director

Phone: 603-224-9639

Fax: 603-225-1434

www.nass.usda.gov/nh

nass-nh@nass.usda.gov

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May 16, 2011 – 4 pm

For week ending 5/15/11

Some Managed to Plant

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending May 15, 2011, there 5.3 days available for fieldwork across New England. Pasture conditions were rated 2% very poor, 7% poor, 14% fair, 56% good, and 21% excellent. Monday through Friday had mostly average temperatures in the mid-50s through low 70s with clouds and some scattered showers on Monday and Tuesday. Thursday afternoon and Friday were partly cloudy to sunny. The weekend turned cooler with temperatures in the low 50s and low 60s. Saturday evening showers set in, which continued through Sunday. The week's rainfall totals were .08 to 2.83 inches across the region. Farmers were spreading manure, liming, fertilizing, plowing, discing, and planting where soils were dry enough for field entry.

FRUIT: Apple orchards are blooming where weather was warm and sunny last week. Some areas in the north were still too cold and wet for orchards to progress out of the dormant stage. In Massachusetts, many cranberry vines are showing new upright growth and vines are losing their dormant color. In the south, some were planting fruit trees, raspberries, blueberries, strawberries, and grapes.

VEGETABLES: Vegetables were being planted where fields were dry enough. Such vegetables include sweet corn, carrots, broccoli, radishes, beets, lettuce, spinach, greens, cabbage, and collards. Some were harvesting asparagus, fiddleheads, spinach, lettuce, peas, cole crops, and rhubarb. High tunnel tomatoes were growing.

FIELD CROPS: For many, planting was able to begin this past week. Field corn was planted where soils were dry enough for field entry. Massachusetts and Rhode Island potato producers were able to continue planting. They were still more than 25 percent behind the average for this time of year. In Maine, very few potatoes were planted. Field preparation also continued for other field crops including tobacco.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	0	2
Short	2	0	19
Adequate	59	67	76
Surplus	39	33	3
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	0	1
Short	1	1	14
Adequate	63	64	80
Surplus	36	35	5

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Stage of Development	Condition
Apples	Early Bloom/Full Bloom	Good/Fair
Peaches	Early Bloom/Full Bloom	Good
Pears	Early Bloom/Full Bloom	Good
Blueberries		
Highbush	Bud Stage/Early Bloom	Good
Wild	Dormant/Early Bloom	Good
Cranberries, MA	Dormant/Bud Stage	Good/Excellent
Strawberries	Bud Stage/Early Bloom	Good/Fair

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2011	2010	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Planted --				
Barley, ME	20	80	45	N/A
Oats, ME	20	80	45	N/A
Potatoes				
Maine	<5	55	25	N/A
Mass	45	95	85	Good
Rhode Island	50	95	75	
Silage Corn	10	25	30	
Sweet Corn	25	35	30	
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	0	0	0	N/A
Shade	0	<5	5	N/A
-- Percent Emerged --				
Potatoes				
Rhode Island	5	45	20	Good
Silage Corn	<5	<5	<5	Good/Poor
Sweet Corn	10	20	15	Good
Dry Hay	-- Percent Harvested --			
First Cut	<5	<5	<5	Good

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday May 9, 2011
 To: Sunday May 15, 2011

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	41	70	53	+0	88	+25	0	+0	0.08	-0.78	1	1.15	-2.44	10
Bangor_Intl_Arp	40	71	54	+3	88	+45	1	+1	1.00	+0.16	3	3.01	-0.19	13
Bethel	40	71	54	+2	68	+20	1	+1	0.63	-0.16	2	3.23	-0.08	12
Caribou_Municip	38	69	50	+1	32	+2	0	+0	0.63	-0.07	3	3.88	+1.32	14
Dover-Foxcroft	34	69	51	+0	29	-2	0	+0	0.80	+0.01	4	4.52	+1.21	16
Frenchville	35	67	49	+2	15	-3	0	+0	0.30	-0.40	2	3.88	+1.21	14
Houlton	31	66	49	-2	41	+11	1	+1	1.82	+1.05	4	4.71	+1.92	18
Livermore_Falls	37	71	53	+3	63	+32	0	+0	0.61	-0.23	2	3.11	-0.39	13
Moosehead	35	69	48	+3	5	-7	0	+0	1.04	+0.27	2	4.68	+1.65	15
Portland_ME	41	66	54	+3	90	+51	0	+0	0.31	-0.53	2	1.54	-2.06	11
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	37	73	54	+2	67	+1	5	+0	0.53	-0.24	1	3.39	+0.56	13
Berlin_AG	35	74	53	+2	60	+7	4	+3	0.50	-0.27	1	3.04	-0.15	12
Concord	38	74	57	+3	163	+88	25	+21	0.20	-0.50	2	1.78	-1.02	11
Diamond_Pond	30	70	50	+4	27	+9	0	+0	0.70	-0.15	1	4.72	+1.55	13
Keene_AG	38	78	56	+1	135	+24	17	+5	0.09	-0.75	1	2.22	-1.01	12
North_Conway	39	73	54	+2	76	+15	2	+0	0.34	-0.57	3	3.80	+0.04	18
Rochester	39	73	56	+2	162	+73	17	+10	0.43	-0.48	3	2.60	-1.23	12
VERMONT														
Bennington_AP	36	76	56	+5	181	+112	37	+30	0.15	-0.86	1	2.83	-1.31	13
Burlington_Intl	41	77	59	+4	159	+59	25	+13	0.93	+0.23	1	8.43	+5.70	13
Island_Pond	31	74	53	+4	65	+29	8	+8	1.21	+0.41	1	5.16	+2.27	14
Montpelier	36	77	55	+4	104	+41	17	+13	0.83	+0.13	1	4.92	+2.36	16
Rochester	35	79	54	+3	84	+29	10	+9	0.35	-0.63	1	4.52	+0.71	14
Rutland_AG	35	75	55	-2	114	-10	14	-4	0.59	-0.18	1	5.12	+2.27	12
Springfield_VT	38	77	58	+5	173	+102	34	+28	0.14	-0.77	1	2.88	-0.76	13
Sutton	36	74	53	+5	56	+24	3	+3	0.73	-0.04	1	5.79	+2.86	15
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	45	68	55	-3	223	+95	35	+32	0.64	-0.12	2	2.01	-1.19	11
Fitchburg	41	75	58	+5	231	+174	45	+45	0.21	-0.56	3	1.70	-1.47	15
Greenfield	42	74	57	+0	152	+24	18	+8	0.06	-0.78	1	2.67	-0.78	16
New_Bedford	46	68	56	-2	223	+92	22	+18	0.09	-0.75	4	1.70	-1.85	12
Otis_AFB	45	57	50	-4	114	+55	6	+6	0.11	-0.73	3	1.27	-2.26	8
Plymouth	41	65	53	-2	205	+138	28	+28	0.16	-0.75	4	2.02	-1.82	14
Walpole	42	68	55	-1	171	+78	20	+17	0.42	-0.35	3	2.29	-1.21	12
Chicopee/Westov	39	74	59	+0	231	+45	49	+28	0.09	-0.82	1	1.96	-1.68	11
Worthington	37	72	55	+3	124	+60	18	+16	0.16	-0.89	1	2.65	-1.45	15
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	42	70	56	+0	202	+94	23	+22	0.14	-0.70	2	1.81	-1.80	12
Woonsocket	42	73	56	+1	196	+107	24	+24	0.19	-0.72	2	1.61	-2.21	13
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	48	73	60	+4	218	+80	18	+5	0.46	-0.45	1	2.31	-1.33	9
Hartford/Bradle	45	74	60	+3	245	+82	46	+26	0.07	-0.87	1	1.44	-2.23	8
Norfolk	41	72	56	+4	137	+77	19	+19	0.05	-0.94	1	2.22	-1.92	11
Thomaston_Dam	41	73	58	+3	197	+92	40	+32	0.18	-0.84	1	2.02	-2.08	12
Willimantic	41	75	58	+3	228	+125	38	+31	0.12	-0.86	2	1.33	-2.59	12

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, May 15, 2011

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	27	74	51	+1	0.08	1.82
NH	23	79	54	+2	0.08	0.94
VT	31	81	55	+3	0.10	1.82
MA	34	76	55	+0	0.06	0.64
RI	42	73	55	+1	0.10	0.19
CT	39	75	58	+3	0.05	0.46

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: Overall a very nice week with warm days and only some showers on Tuesday. Progress made in planting sweet corn and field corn, transplanting cabbage and other cole crops. Tobacco ground plowed and fertilizer being applied. Animals put out to pasture and first cutting progressing with orchard grass heading out. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Favorable weather meant field work could progress rapidly this week. Farmers were feverishly spreading manure and planting corn in the race to get as much planted as possible before the break for haylage harvest. Strawberries are blooming. Orchardgrass is blooming - but it is only 18 inches high due to the cool temperatures and not much sun so far this spring. **Ann Marie McCard (FSA), New London:** This spring continues to be a little cooler than normal. Good week for field work, windy earlier in the week. Dry weather continued throughout the week, with showers coming in on Saturday evening. Field corn and sweet corn being planted. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** This was a beautiful spring week weather wise. Nice, warm sunny days allowed corn planting to begin along with vegetables since the fields dried out. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** A nice, almost dry week to get planting done with temperatures in the 60's to 70's. Apples in mid to full bloom. Planting Corn and vegetables. Grapes look good. Farmers mowing hay. Nights are cold.

MAINE – Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook: Five clear days saw most operations get some grain in. A few potatoes went in last week. Cold temperatures have caused hay fields and pastures to green up slowly. It appears we are in for a late start. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** It was a rainy, wet week in Aroostook County. Farmers were in the field approximately 2 days planting grains. A few areas have planted a few acres of potatoes. It has been a cold, wet spring so far. Let's hope some warm temperatures and much need sun are in the forecast. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Just getting started planting potatoes, looks like it is going to rain from May14-17. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Cool weather is keeping production low on asparagus. The grass is green and growing. Apples are in early bloom. The temperature should hold back the apple blooms until the sun comes out again. I hope we see the sun this week! **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Some vegetables got planted before the rain hit. Fields of oats and barley were planted this last week. Things could come to a standstill this week. There is minor flooding already. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock /Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Rainy start to the week ended with a few good days for farmers to start the spreading and some planting. Apple trees are starting to bud out but very slowly. Pastures and hay fields are greening up and starting to look pretty good. Still waiting for a good week of sunny, warm weather for additional work to be done. Bees have been placed out for blueberries. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** We received approximately 1.5 inches of rain yesterday with rainy, cold weather forecasted for most of the upcoming week. If precipitation persists, blueberry growers could have a serious problem with monolinia blight. Lettuce, greens, peas, and beans have been planted. Manure is being spread on crop fields. All are in agreement that sunshine and warm weather are needed right now. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Last week was good for more field work to be completed (in between the rain showers). Planting of grain corn has begun where land is dry enough to get the equipment onto. Pastures are very green and very wet in most places. Manure spreaders still going strong on land that is dry enough. Black flies are out in full force. Fence work is in progress in several locations throughout the county. Greenhouses are still keeping the fires warm as the nights are still cool. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis/Penobscot:** Soils are still wet and cold. A little manure spreading and tillage going on the better drained soils. Grass is growing great. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** Continued wet conditions are hampering field work. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Poor, unsettled weather continues to be

a problem. Some corn planted on lighter soils. Poor weather for the coming week doesn't improve the spirits. Apples and other fruit crops will be blooming soon. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Fields are being pruned and herbicide and fertilizer applied. Several infection periods occurred last week for mummyberry disease but high wind and rain has hampered applications of fungicides. Flowers are opening and pollination occurring in mid-coast fields. Bees are being moved into the fields Downeast, but there are few flowers open yet.

MASSACHUSETTS – Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: Great weather last week with sunny, seasonal temperatures. Pastures are in spring flush, cover crops came in fast and are being turned in some fields. Corn planting started in earnest. Planting of annual vegetables has begun as fields dry out. Orchards are in full bloom and look good. Bedding plants, asparagus, and transplants are selling at farmers markets. **Julie Viveiros (FSA), Bristol/Norfolk:** The temperature is a little too cool for this time of year in Bristol and Norfolk Counties. Some areas of the counties are also a little on the dry side. **Lori Carver (FSA), Franklin:** A good week for field work. Producers continue to prepare fields and plant crops. Fields are starting to dry out. Asparagus is going strong. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** The week was mostly dry with cool temperatures. Sub-soiling, plowing, spreading manure, and lime continues. Vegetable growers are planting potatoes, sweet corn, radishes, beets, lettuce, spinach, greens, cabbage, and collards. Harvesting fiddleheads, spinach, asparagus, lettuce, and rhubarb. Setting up irrigation pipe in strawberry fields for frost protection. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Miserable cool, raw, windy, and drizzly conditions during much of the week. Hard to get anything done - could not sweep for insects (vines too wet), hard to get herbicides applied or insecticides for winter moth. Most of the work related to ditch cleaning, renovations, or vine planting. Late water floods will be removed soon. Winter moth injury in some cranberry beds, but extreme damage done to a few blueberry fields. The wet, cool weather will likely result in fungal infections in many plants, resulting in symptoms in the next week. This upcoming wet week will only exacerbate the situation. Many cranberry vines are showing new upright growth and vines are losing their dormant color.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire: Dry weather all week - cooler at first, but gorgeous warm sunny days by the end of the week. Pastures and hayfields putting on great growth - orchardgrass starting to head out in warmer locations. Corn planting has begun in earnest, still considerable acreage to go. Planting continues on vegetable operations. Fruit crops seem to be developing nicely. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Corn planting beginning. Many higher ground, lighter soils being manured and prepared as weather has stayed dry and cool throughout most of the week. Grass fields growing well under these conditions. Manuring and fertilizing occurring. Generally no weather issues other than low lying cornfields along river valleys still wet. Some ponding here and there. Black flies are out and busy. Looks like it will be an abundant tick year. Last weekend, Mother's Day, was busy for greenhouse businesses. Many high tunnels being put into production with tomatoes, greens, etc. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending May 14th, we had good weather and no rain. This gave us a much needed break so that fields could dry out. Some fields remained too wet to operate, while other fields had wet sags to work around. Manure spreading was in high gear and some of the well drained soils were planted to corn and other row crops. The grass is coming on and there are very few indications or reports of winter kill. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Cherry, peach and plum trees are at petal fall while apple and pear trees are at full bloom in the Hollis area. Blueberries are at bud stage with the earliest varieties just beginning to bloom. Orchardists are fertilizing orchards and are applying protective fungicide sprays on fruit trees

and blueberries. Planting fruit trees, raspberries, blueberries and strawberries. Vegetables: Continued to plant early season vegetables (peas, lettuce, greens, cole crops), along with sweet corn and potatoes. Liming, fertilizing, plowing, discing, and getting ready to plant fields. Harvesting asparagus. High tunnel tomatoes are growing. Field Crops: Farmers are fertilizing hayfields; spreading manure, plowing, discing, fertilizing, planting corn, and applying herbicides. Saturday - May 7 very strong thunder storm with hail crossed the county. **Amy Ouellette (Ext), Merrimack:** Orchards are beautiful with fruit trees between pink and full bloom. Farmers are preparing fields and transplanting cold tolerant crops. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Planting sweet corn, carrots, potatoes, lettuce, broccoli, strawberries, grapes, blueberries, raspberries, and apples. Preparing fields. Spraying protective fungicides in fruit orchards and small fruits. Pastures look good. Cool and limited sun this week that ended with heavy rain and cold weather on Sunday. **Jenn Zaleski (FSA), Sullivan:** Six straight days of no precipitation allowed dairy producers to catch up on planting field corn. Despite the lack of rain, extreme low lying areas remained wet and unworkable. Steady rain, falling heavy at times began Saturday night and continued through Sunday causing dried out areas to once again flood.

RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties: Potatoes are just about done being planted. As a matter of fact, we will start cultivating the early potatoes this week. Not too much was planted last week as it has been very cool weather. Farmers expect rain all this week, Sunday thru Friday, so they didn't want to plant. A lot of land has been plowed and is waiting for better weather.

VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison: Dry this week, with soaking rains again at end of the week. Very wet soil conditions. Some tillage on lighter soils for seedbed preparation and corn planting started, 2 to 3 weeks late at this point, only 10% done on lighter soils. Clay soils too wet to plant, some primary tillage and manure spreading. Hay fields growing vigorously and farmers have mowers out at same time as corn planters. Manure and fertilizer spreading. Pasture growth good. Some hay field's clover and alfalfa

look thin after long winter. **Daniel Hudson (Ext), Caledonia:** The manure is not all on the fields yet. Field preparation has begun, but recent rains will delay field activities for at least four days after the rain stops. These rains will likely delay the first cutting of hay (for haylage) which may compromise quality. **Heather Darby (Ext), Franklin:** Last week was beautiful weather. Farmers were busy in the fields that are well drained. Manure was spread, soils worked, and some corn planted. Small grains still being seeded as well as new forage seedings. Heavy clay soils still too wet to work. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Finally got a break in the rain this week in Franklin County to get some planting done. Mostly field corn planted and little activity in the gardens. Rain was back over the weekend which brought all field and planting activity back to a halt. Budding activity just got a good start with temps in the 70's on Friday. This has also come to a halt as temps have dropped to the 50's. Leaves have come to bloom with the moisture available. We are now at a crossroad at moving to the critical stage of a wet and cool spring. The low lying fields will really be in trouble as Lake Champlain is still at record levels for high water and this in turn backs up stream and keeps the low lying fields from drying to workable stage. **Terence Bradshaw, Univ of Vermont:** A welcome spell of dry, sunny weather allowed orchards to dry out a bit and growers to complete important tasks such as planting and spraying. Soil moisture continues to be excessive, with rain over the May 14-15 weekend along with continued rain in the forecast for this week will exacerbate the problem. Many orchards have seen more than two inches of rain since the last dry spray window and will need further fungicide coverage during this extended wetting event. Conditions for spraying look good as far as winds are concerned, but poor for good drying of the foliage. Most orchards are entering the bloom period with poor weather for bee flight. The cool, cloudy weather is also setting the trees up for a significant carbohydrate deficit which may reduce fruit set and increase fruit thinner activity. **Julie Jacque (FSA), Windham:** Apples appeared to have bloomed overnight. Good weather this week allowed for field prep and planting to continue at a good pace. Corn acres planted appear to be behind by a fair amount still. Potatoes, lettuces, and peppers being set out. Grass growth has been good so far.

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Gary R. Keough, Director
Rebecca Dubbs, Statistician

Ty Kalaus, Deputy Director
Deirdre Davis, Stat Assistant