

# Crop Progress & Condition



NEW ENGLAND  
Agricultural  
Statistics



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For week ending 7/3/11

## A Great Week for Fieldwork

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:** For the week ending July 3, 2011, there were 5.8 days available for fieldwork across New England. Pasture conditions were rated 2 percent very poor, 7 percent poor, 19 percent fair, 51 percent good, and 21 percent excellent. In general, this past week had excellent conditions for fieldwork. High temperatures remained in the mid-70s to mid-80s all week long with nighttime temperatures in the 50s and 60s. Monday through Saturday, skies were mostly partly cloudy. Scattered rain occurred Monday in the north with morning thunderstorms reported in Burlington, Vermont. The week's total rainfall ranged from 0.15 to 1.17 inches. Farmers were spreading manure, top-dressing fertilizer, cutting hay, planting, harvesting early season vegetables, scouting for pests, and spraying.

**FRUIT:** Cranberries were in the full bloom to petal fall stages this past week. Conditions for pollination were favorable. Strawberry picking continued. Post emergence herbicide was applied to non-cropping wild blueberry fields in Maine. Hillsborough County, New Hampshire reported that the sweet cherry harvest was completed with heavy losses due to fruit crack caused by rainy weather. Cherry harvesting continued elsewhere. Raspberries were also being picked.

**VEGETABLES:** Farmers markets were very busy during the holiday weekend. Vegetables harvested were summer squash, cucumbers, snap beans, cabbage, zucchini, beets, radishes, hothouse tomatoes, lettuce, peas, and sweet corn. Farmers continued planting late fall crops like cabbage and collards. In some areas, vegetable conditions were reported to be poor due to the large amount of rain received prior to this past week. Sweet corn plants were reported to be "knee high" to 6-feet tall.

**FIELD CROPS:** The mostly dry week allowed many farmers to complete their corn planting. A good deal of dry hay was made and second cuttings began for some. Scouting continued for pests and diseases. More rain was reported in scattered location of New England holding up fieldwork. Pooling continues to be a problem in low-lying fields. Tobacco producers were on the lookout for Blue Mold because of wet soil conditions.

### SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
<b>Topsoil</b>			
Very Short	0	0	10
Short	12	5	23
Adequate	70	58	64
Surplus	18	37	3
<b>Subsoil</b>			
Very Short	0	0	5
Short	8	5	20
Adequate	75	62	73
Surplus	17	33	2

### FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Set	Fruit Size	Condition
	2011	2010	5-yr Avg			
Apples	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Peaches	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Pears	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good
Blueberries						
Highbush	<5	10	<5	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Wild	-	-	-	Abv Avg/Avg	Average	Exc/Good
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-			Good/Exc
Strawberries	70	75	70	Average	Average	Good/Fair

### FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2011	2010	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Planted --				
Silage Corn	99	100	99	
Sweet Corn	95	99	95	
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	99	100	99	Good
Shade	100	100	100	Good
-- Percent Emerged --				
Barley	100	100	100	Good
Oats	100	100	100	Good
Potatoes				
Maine	100	100	100	Good/Fair
Mass	100	100	100	Good/Fair
Rhode Island	100	100	100	Good
Silage Corn	90	99	95	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	95	90	90	
-- Percent Harvested --				
Sweet Corn	<5	5	<5	Good/Fair
Dry Hay				
First Cut	75	85	70	Good/Fair
Second Cut	<5	25	5	Good/Fair

**Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics**

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday, June 27, 2011  
 To: Sunday, July 3, 2011

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				CUM SINCE MAR 1 GROWING DEGREE DAYS				1-WEEK PRECIP			4-WEEK CUM PRECIP		
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS
	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	INCHES	---	---	INCHES	---	---
<b>MAINE</b>														
Augusta_State_A	56	81	67	-1	674	+23	202	+33	0.55	-0.20	2	3.67	+0.61	11
Bangor_Intl_Arp	52	83	66	+0	657	+85	167	+38	0.01	-0.76	1	2.41	-0.67	11
Bethel	54	81	66	+0	642	+54	201	+66	0.25	-0.62	3	2.73	-0.93	11
Caribou_Municip	51	81	66	+3	536	+75	133	+54	1.91	+1.13	3	8.92	+6.15	13
Dover-Foxcroft	50	82	64	-1	504	+28	117	+33	0.23	-0.61	2	2.07	-1.38	10
Frenchville	50	80	63	+0	405	-12	74	+13	2.12	+1.35	3	6.69	+3.74	12
Houlton	46	82	66	+3	520	+47	127	+42	0.12	-0.65	2	5.25	+2.17	11
Livermore_Falls	51	83	66	+3	626	+145	187	+101	1.15	+0.27	3	3.45	-0.34	13
Moosehead	47	80	62	-2	406	+33	78	+30	0.40	-0.56	3	3.31	-0.39	11
Portland_ME	56	82	68	+2	663	+111	201	+85	0.09	-0.68	2	3.66	+0.45	12
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>														
Benton	53	81	66	+2	629	+58	179	+62	0.33	-0.51	3	3.22	-0.30	16
Berlin_AG	51	80	65	-2	627	+66	177	+57	0.04	-0.86	2	2.78	-1.03	13
Concord	52	84	69	+2	869	+187	317	+129	0.34	-0.37	1	3.91	+0.95	9
Diamond_Pond	48	76	60	-2	413	+83	82	+55	1.00	-0.05	5	3.89	-0.42	17
Keene_AG	51	87	68	-2	840	+35	293	+34	0.28	-0.56	1	5.84	+2.48	13
North_Conway	55	82	67	+1	670	+41	226	+66	0.09	-0.81	2	3.56	-0.14	14
Rochester	56	87	71	+4	917	+176	357	+135	0.17	-0.62	1	3.25	-0.01	12
<b>VERMONT</b>														
Bennington_AP	49	82	66	+2	936	+346	335	+200	0.38	-0.61	1	5.04	+0.83	12
Burlington_Intl	57	84	70	+2	939	+181	355	+119	0.45	-0.38	4	3.48	+0.20	14
Island_Pond	51	83	65	+3	659	+221	193	+119	0.27	-0.71	4	2.98	-1.00	14
Montpelier	53	81	66	+2	761	+191	250	+121	0.10	-0.63	4	4.27	+1.09	17
Rochester	53	83	66	+1	690	+143	206	+88	0.11	-0.73	3	6.63	+3.17	16
Rutland_AG	53	83	68	-2	821	+11	281	+19	0.21	-0.63	1	4.38	+1.02	14
Springfield_VT	54	84	70	+4	940	+314	358	+206	0.26	-0.58	1	5.41	+1.84	16
Sutton	53	79	64	+2	596	+158	154	+77	0.43	-0.55	5	3.38	-0.60	17
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>														
Boston/Logan_In	65	85	73	+2	1028	+135	410	+106	0.18	-0.51	1	4.20	+1.33	12
Fitchburg	56	85	72	+6	1053	+449	431	+287	0.24	-0.60	1	5.66	+2.30	14
Greenfield	51	83	67	-4	860	-11	291	-5	0.41	-0.46	1	6.66	+3.11	15
New_Bedford	55	86	72	+1	1079	+202	410	+124	0.06	-0.68	1	3.94	+0.66	12
Otis_AFB	55	81	69	+2	781	+130	249	+80	0.03	-0.67	1	3.35	+0.38	10
Plymouth	54	86	71	+3	988	+292	365	+166	0.04	-0.73	1	3.24	+0.06	12
Walpole	55	85	72	+3	958	+207	368	+144	0.03	-0.81	1	3.78	+0.30	12
Chicopee/Westov	49	85	70	-3	1049	+28	408	+25	0.50	-0.41	1	4.88	+1.12	14
Worthington	49	81	66	+1	731	+134	226	+89	0.30	-0.61	1	5.76	+2.15	15
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>														
Providence	57	84	72	+2	1032	+202	396	+125	0.07	-0.67	2	4.09	+1.04	13
Woonsocket	51	85	71	+3	993	+254	379	+172	0.00	-0.91	0	5.11	+1.35	14
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>														
Bridgeport/Siko	59	84	73	+3	1127	+223	450	+130	0.56	-0.28	1	6.54	+3.32	10
Hartford/Bradley	53	85	72	+0	1134	+159	466	+103	0.20	-0.59	1	6.72	+3.29	16
Norfolk	50	81	67	+2	793	+199	258	+122	0.56	-0.45	1	6.70	+2.43	14
Thomaston_Dam	48	88	70	+3	1033	+282	407	+190	0.06	-0.85	1	6.99	+3.22	16
Willimantic	52	84	71	+3	1067	+306	414	+192	0.12	-0.79	2	5.60	+2.09	18

**State Weather Summary**

For the Week Ending Sunday, July 3, 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	44	84	65	+0	0.00	2.12
NH	37	89	66	+1	0.04	2.68
VT	45	87	67	+1	0.02	2.09
MA	48	86	70	+1	0.00	0.60
RI	51	88	71	+3	0.00	0.91
CT	48	88	71	+1	0.00	0.61

**REPORTERS' COMMENTS, By County:** *Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), or other knowledgeable individuals.*

**CONNECTICUT – Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Finally a mostly dry week allowed for planting or replanting final field corn acres. Also, the same stretch of weather allowed dry hay to be made. Some chopping second cutting. Vegetable harvest of summer squash, cukes, and sweet corn becoming more abundant. Farmers markets were very busy before the holiday. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Finally a little hay making weather - even if there are still wet spots in the fields farms were making hay this week. Grey leaf spot showed up in corn fields this week - particularly hard hit are the BMR types. Stink bug damage was also identified in corn fields. Scouting is ongoing to determine the impacts of the damage from both pests. **Patricia Smith (FSA), New London:** The weather has improved allowing producers to get on some of the wet fields to harvest hay and finish planting corn. The fruit producers are reporting a good crop as of now. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** This was the best week of summer weather yet. Warm, sunny days helped dry out fields and allow the final plantings of silage corn and sweet corn. Producers were able to make some dry hay. Reports of some vegetables dying from wet conditions. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Hot, dry and sunny and the crops are growing well. Still a few really wet fields that have not been planted to corn; almost done planting. Sweet corn looking good; will continue to plant till July 10th or so to have corn to sell late in the season. Blueberries just started, size is moderate, and taste good. Early vegetables and hothouse tomatoes at farmers markets. Making hay like crazy. Some fields are past mature. Silage/grain corn varies in height from a few inches to 6 feet tall. Watching and spraying for cutworms where they are a problem. Agriculture represented in Canterbury 4th of July parade with plants, old equipment, and a newer combine.

**MAINE – Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook:** Rain in the amount of 3.8 inches has fallen in the last 5 days in Central Aroostook County. Most of the low areas have drowned. The crops that are coming look surprisingly good. Cultivation and hilling were put on hold for most of the week. The hay crop will be heavy if we are ever able to get into the fields. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Warm temperatures have increased growing conditions along with abundance of water. Crops are growing very rapidly. All areas are reporting a 5-day spray schedule since 18 severity value level was exceeded. Crops are looking excellent and are growing rapidly. Some moderate aphid activity. Colorado potato beetles are emerging; European corn borer moths are at moderate levels. **Don Audibert, (FSA) Northern Aroostook:** Producers are busy cultivating their potato crop before it rains again. Hay fields look good, but will be a challenge to harvest between rain storms. Emergence of potato crop is at least 2 weeks behind schedule. Rain storms of a month ago did a lot of damage in fields which will reduce their crop yields this year. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Spraying fungicides and cultivating. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Nice summer weather has arrived! Occasional thunderstorms have provided some water to the area. Strawberry picking continues and a good crop is reported. Most other vegetables are not available yet due to the cool spring. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock /Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Warmer and dry weather helped this past week. Hay is being chopped all over the county. First crop looks great and above average in areas. Vegetables are being harvested on early crops; cultivation and spraying is underway. Some farmers have had to replant some corn fields due to seed rotting in them and some vegetables as well. Strawberries are being picked and look about average. Some areas are down, but others are up. Blueberries are going to be spotty due to cold, wet weather and uneven pollination. Good weather for the upcoming week will help a lot. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** We experienced a fairly nice week in the mid-coast area. Crop fields were cultivated and fertilized and some dry hay was harvested. Sweet corn and a few other crops are about 10 days behind last year. *Valdensinia* is being discovered in some of the cropping blueberry fields. The affected areas will be burned to prevent the

spread of this disease. Fly traps continue to be monitored on cropping fields, and post emergence herbicide is being applied to non-cropping fields. With a great weather forecast for the upcoming week, it is certain more dry hay will be harvested. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis /Penobscot:** Farmers' markets are in full swing. Strawberries, peas, lettuce, perennials and value-added goods are being sold. Hay farmers have been trying to dodge the rain and get hay made. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** Some early vegetable harvest is beginning. Farmers markets are attracting more customers. Some summer weather will help crop development. **Elaine S. Moceus (FSA), Somerset:** Spotty thundershowers over the holiday weekend provided some rain. Overall, the corn looks good. Apple fruit set and size were reportedly to be in the normal to above average range. Strawberry producers are seeing a bountiful crop this year. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Lots of progress getting hay/haylage harvested. All the corn is planted, but few fields were "knee high". Strawberry harvest seems to be going by quickly. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Post-emergence weed control application continues to be applied this month. Fly traps are being deployed to monitor for the blueberry fruit fly. Green berries are beginning to size up so that the extent of pollination can be determined.

**MASSACHUSETTS – Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire:** Trouble with the strawberries from the rain last week, lots of grey mold from the moisture and light picking pressure. Then it got real hot and berries went to mush. So the season isn't ending on a high note. It was a warm, breezy week so much hay was made. We've had a couple of comments on the quality of first cut being down from the moisture. **Lori Carver (FSA), Franklin:** A great week for field work with only one rainy evening. Producers are trying to finish harvesting the first crop of hay - but some fields are still too wet to get on. Strawberry season is coming to an end. Vegetables, like summer squash and cukes, are starting to come in. Producers are still playing catch up with planting and topdressing. Tobacco producers are on the lookout for Blue Mold. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire /Hampden:** This was a sunny, dry and warm week with only a few scattered showers. Dairy farmers were harvesting hay and topdressing corn fields. Vegetable growers were harvesting strawberries, snap beans, cabbage, zucchini, summer squash, beets, radishes, peas, and lettuce. Only a few growers had sweet corn on their stands for the 4th of July. Vegetable farmers continue planting late fall crops like cabbage and collards. Growers continue scouting for the Colorado potato beetle, cucumber beetle, and leaf hoppers. Fruit, vegetable, and tobacco growers are on high alert for many plant diseases because of the very wet soil and plant conditions. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: All beds in bloom are going out of bloom, with fruit setting up in the earlier cultivars. Pollination weather has been excellent. This is THE best bloom I have seen in 27 growing seasons; some beds are white with bloom! All things considered, there should be a very good crop coming. Growers are applying their third fungicides and getting ready for their first fruitworm insecticide application. Irrigation is required, with no rain during the past week. Fruit set fertilizer applications are going on.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE – Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** A week of dry, sunny weather with just a couple of showers over the holiday weekend. Warm temps are helping corn to grow - some of it chest high. Farms able to catch up on late hay harvest and second cutting will be ready soon. More veggie crops showing up in farms stands, early-planted sweet corn starting to tassel. Strawberry harvest just about done. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Light to heavy rain showers on and off during the week wetting a little mown hay, but no significant accumulation. Corn growing well as temperatures warmed up. Good regrowth of pastures and first cut haylage meadows, some early cut alfalfa. Grass about ready for second cut. Hay-baylage making continues as weather permits. Some spraying

for black cutworms in late planted corn. Japanese beetles made their appearance. Earwigs and slugs seem numerous. Collected disease found on yellow rattle weed, sent to lab for ID, fungal, hope this is a good sign for us with this troublesome weed. June drop of apples. More produce appearing at farmers markets, those is Coos attracting large crowds. First blueberries showing a splash of color. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending July 2nd, we received approximately 1.5 inches of rain at our Orford location. Individual rain events were not out of the ordinary, but did frustrate the production of dry hay. The warmer temperatures have helped the corn crop. The earlier planted fields on the upper terraces of the Connecticut River look to be in good shape. Some of the lower fields or those with less well drained soils have not yet caught up. Some of these corn fields were planted the last week of June. Vegetable growers are doing better. Warmer temperatures have brought the vegetable crop along. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Fruit growers monitoring pest and crop development and applied sprays for pests. Sweet cherry harvest is completed with heavy losses due to fruit crack caused by rainy weather. Strawberry harvest is over and getting ready to renovate harvested beds. Most growers are seeing high losses because of rainy weather followed by hot sun. First raspberry fruit picked. Field Crops: Farmers making haylage between showers and hard to bale hay because of rain. Growers are side-dressing fertilizer to field corn, if needed, and to hay fields. Vegetables: Growers continued harvesting early season vegetables such as lettuce, greens, radishes, and zucchini. Harvesting high tunnel tomatoes. Growers side-dressing fields with fertilizer, cultivating and hand-hoeing weeds, scouting for pests and spraying if needed. Saw bacterial canker and early blight on field tomatoes. Potato Leaf Hopper is very active. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Strawberry season is winding down. Blueberries, raspberries and cherries are now being picked. Greenhouse tomatoes, greens, cukes, zucchinis are being harvested. Haying has been done. Monitoring pests in fruit orchards and spraying. Farmers markets, farm stands and garden centers are busy. **Pam Marvin (FSA), Sullivan:** Silage corn crop has needed various re-planting. Many fields with scattered wet areas and no corn emerging. Second cut of haylage is soon to begin. Strawberry crop turned out to be good considering all the rain. Blueberry crop coming along nicely. Showers and storms have been spotty, but look forward to a dry week coming up.

**RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties:** What a difference a week makes. We've had nice, hot weather and it is supposed to continue this week. This will ease the tension on the potato farmers, because last Wednesday it was confirmed that Long Island has potato blight. When that happened in 2009, it came across to RI from Long Island. With this hot weather, that may hold it at bay. Farmers here have one excellent crop of potatoes so far. All early varieties are in bloom and expected to be harvesting in 2-3 weeks. Sweet corn should be on the market within the next 10 days. This hot weather is going to bring it along. Strawberries are coming to the end of the season. It's been a good (not great) season. This

week apples, peaches and pears were found to not be pollinated fully in parts of RI, especially the peaches and pears. It could be a small crop, depending on where you are in RI. Vegetable crops are looking very good. Still planting late sweet corn, cabbage, summer squash-still planting every 10-20 days. Pastures are starting to show some wear. Up till now, they were doing very well and it won't be much longer till farmers will have to be supplementing there feed.

**VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Continued planting remainder of corn. Very late planted corn and soybean emergence strong with warm soil temperatures. Earlier planted corn showing many poor and variable fields. Minimum 10% replant into standing poor stands. Variable corn plant vigor in wetter areas. Side-dressed some corn fields with Nitrogen and continued weed control spraying. First crop haylage complete, with dry hay harvest nearly complete. Regrowth is fair. Manure spreading on harvested hay fields. Soybean emergence strong with complete stands. **Daniel Hudson (Ext), Caledonia:** The weather was prime for making hay. The quality coming off was poor. In harvested fields, regrowth is looking good. Temperatures and moisture conditions are more optimal for corn growth, but there are concerns about a late harvest or poor ear development. **Heather Darby (Ext), Franklin:** Corn and first cut hay still being completed last week. Some replants of corn continue. Other corn is ready to top-dress. Winter wheat is in the soft dough stage. Spring wheat just starting to flower. Some farms will begin second cut this week. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Great week here in Franklin County. The highlight of the week was the hay harvest of dry first cut. Not the best of quality, however, it is coming off and making way for the second cut. Corn is pretty much planted with most of the replant now up. Some nitrogen going on, however, this needs to be managed with some tremendous variation in corn height. Timing is critical here with having the corn and weather at the most ideal time for N uptake. Some rumbling about starting second cut. Regrowth is great and this will help out with supplementing the first cut with higher protein second and third cuttings. Strawberries are going gang busters and the greens are really in full swing and looking good at the farm stands. **Heather Mateja (FSA), Lamoille/Washington:** Pretty good week, a little rain. Hay is being harvested and all of the corn is in and up. Some fields have spots where the corn seed was washed, but most fields have met the "knee high by the 4th of July". Vegetable farms are harvesting radishes, kale, new potatoes, peas and much more. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** A fair week for crop harvest. We did see some shower activity during the week making dry hay harvest an issue. Most of first cut hay has been completed. Second cut hay harvest will start in the coming week. Regrowth of grass looks pretty good with all of the moisture we have gotten. Corn is looking good on most fields. There are bare areas in a lot of fields from the excessive water this spring. Other than that corn is around 18-24 inches tall and has a good green color. Pastures continue to do well with adequate moisture. Strawberries are ripe and the pick your own operations are in full swing. Fruit varies in size, but flavor is really good.

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