

Crop Progress & Condition



NEW ENGLAND
Agricultural
Statistics



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Volume 32, Number 7

(Issued weekly on the Internet, May – October)

June 11, 2012 – 4 pm

For week ending 6/10/12

Saturated Soils Need Warm, Dry Weather

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending June 10, 2012, there were 4.3 days available for fieldwork across New England. Pasture condition was rated 5 percent poor, 18 percent fair, 48 percent good, and 29 percent excellent. The week began cloudy and rainy, with very cool daytime temperatures in the 50s and 60s. Flooding was recorded in Maine and New Hampshire. Below average temperatures and showers persisted until Friday, when isolated thunderstorms moved across the region, bringing hail to parts of western Maine. Temperatures returned to average levels during the sunny weekend. Total precipitation for the week ranged from 0.1 to 3.4 inches.

FRUIT: Fruit growers continued to assess the extent of damage from the spring frosts. Some growers also reported apple scab due to cool and wet weather. Strawberry picking was underway and the crop was 10 percent harvested by week's end, ahead of schedule. Most cranberries reached early bloom stage with full bloom observed further from the coast. Some growers were anticipating an earlier than normal highbush blueberry crop with strong yields. Fruit growers were busy monitoring for pests, applying fungicides, mowing orchard floors, and weed spraying under trees.

VEGETABLES: Planting of vegetables was limited due to soggy fields from heavy rains. Some producers in the wettest regions of New England had crops submerged. When conditions allowed, farmers harvested asparagus, beets, cucumbers, greens, herbs, radishes, rhubarb, scallions, spinach, and greenhouse tomatoes. Growers were also busy fertilizing fields, cultivating weeds, scouting for pests, and spraying if needed.

FIELD CROPS: Heavy rains had waterlogged the fields and prevented much fieldwork. As a result of floods, some fields needed to be replanted. Growers who had not yet planted corn were held back further by wet field conditions. Many farmers found hay fields too wet for harvest. Re-growth of hay after first cut was vigorous with some fields ready for a second cut. Field corn was growing well but some fields suffered from excessive rain. There were a few reports of corn sustaining armyworm injuries. All small grains in northeastern Maine were emerged by week's end, well ahead of last year and normal. Potato growers were hilling and cultivating their fields. Farmers were also cultivating fields to dry them out and spraying a protective fungicide spray on the crops to prevent disease. Pastures were in good condition and growing well.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	2	1	4
Adequate	68	61	71
Surplus	30	38	25
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	1	0	6
Adequate	68	68	69
Surplus	31	32	25

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Set	Fruit Size	Condition
	2012	2011	5-yr Avg			
Apples	-	-	-	Avg/Below	Average	Good/Fair
Peaches	-	-	-	Avg/Below	Average	Good/Fair
Pears	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Blueberries						
Highbush				Average	Average	Good
Wild	-	-	-	Abv/Avg	N/A	Exc/Good
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-			Good
Strawberries	10	0	5	Average	Average	Good

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2012	2011	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Planted --				
Barley, ME	100	99	99	
Oats, ME	100	95	99	
Potatoes				
Maine	100	95	99	
Mass	100	99	100	
Rhode Island	100	100	100	
Silage Corn	85	75	90	
Sweet Corn	75	70	80	
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	55	60	60	Good/Fair
Shade	85	100	100	Good
-- Percent Emerged --				
Barley	100	65	80	Excellent/Good
Oats	100	50	75	Excellent/Good
Potatoes				
Maine	80	25	35	Good/Excellent
Mass	100	80	85	Good
Rhode Island	100	85	95	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	70	45	65	Good
Sweet Corn	50	55	60	Good/Fair
Dry Hay	-- Percent Harvested --			
First Cut	30	30	40	Good/Fair

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday June 4, 2012
 To: Sunday June 10, 2012

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	---	---	---	---	---	---
MAINE														
Augusta_State_A	45	75	55	-8	442	+137	89	+43	2.33	+1.56	5	7.63	+4.35	15
Bangor_Intl_Arp	42	75	55	-6	399	+148	70	+41	2.58	+1.81	5	5.26	+2.08	16
Bethel	43	73	55	-7	380	+114	69	+34	2.78	+1.86	5	10.63	+7.14	19
Caribou_Municip	44	71	56	-4	293	+99	47	+29	0.59	-0.04	3	2.93	+0.21	12
Dover-Foxcroft	42	73	53	-7	276	+77	35	+18	2.65	+1.81	6	4.89	+1.59	18
Frenchville	43	67	54	-5	235	+73	45	+38	0.86	+0.16	4	2.86	+0.03	14
Houlton	43	70	54	-6	271	+73	34	+15	0.22	-0.55	4	1.83	-1.25	12
Livermore_Falls	40	73	54	-6	371	+169	61	+44	3.15	+2.17	6	10.33	+6.72	19
Moosehead	40	69	51	-6	191	+55	15	+12	3.38	+2.47	4	5.60	+2.29	13
Portland_ME	47	77	56	-6	417	+182	72	+52	2.45	+1.61	5	10.25	+7.07	15
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	40	74	55	-6	368	+89	66	+27	1.13	+0.22	5	6.73	+3.38	15
Berlin_AG	43	74	55	-6	388	+130	74	+39	1.65	+0.69	5	6.31	+2.80	13
Concord	45	79	57	-6	589	+259	163	+103	0.72	-0.01	6	4.89	+2.02	15
First_Conn_Lake	41	72	53	-4	261	+131	40	+40	0.69	-0.36	3	4.80	+0.87	11
Keene_AG	49	79	60	-5	570	+150	158	+60	0.54	-0.30	6	7.45	+4.02	18
North_Conway	47	74	55	-7	418	+123	84	+37	2.35	+1.41	6	10.60	+6.94	20
Rochester	47	82	59	-5	568	+196	163	+88	1.46	+0.62	6	6.22	+2.84	13
VERMONT														
Bennington_AP	43	78	58	-3	587	+299	162	+117	0.30	-0.81	5	3.29	-0.97	16
Burlington_Intl	48	78	61	-3	661	+275	216	+130	0.65	-0.12	4	2.42	-0.53	13
Island_Pond	40	72	55	-4	367	+175	68	+48	0.72	-0.26	6	6.47	+2.78	20
Montpelier	44	73	56	-5	451	+178	99	+59	1.29	+0.45	6	4.01	+0.81	16
Rochester	45	75	57	-4	420	+164	94	+58	0.57	-0.34	6	3.69	-0.12	17
Rutland_AG	46	74	59	-6	507	+75	123	+16	1.19	+0.35	3	4.23	+0.96	10
Springfield_VT	47	79	59	-3	619	+313	182	+131	0.51	-0.40	6	4.93	+1.23	17
Sutton	45	72	55	-3	374	+184	72	+52	0.61	-0.37	6	3.46	-0.17	14
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	50	79	60	-7	696	+235	197	+101	0.61	-0.16	5	3.17	+0.29	13
Fitchburg	48	81	60	-2	762	+483	253	+214	0.88	+0.04	6	4.46	+1.18	15
Greenfield	49	80	60	-6	645	+184	196	+88	0.89	-0.02	6	5.79	+2.17	19
New_Bedford	41	77	59	-7	613	+158	159	+69	0.67	-0.21	4	3.43	+0.07	12
Otis_AFB	41	75	57	-6	487	+192	103	+64	0.60	-0.17	5	3.29	+0.07	12
Plymouth	43	79	58	-5	620	+296	171	+120	0.57	-0.27	4	3.32	-0.11	11
Walpole	46	82	60	-4	683	+310	209	+139	0.83	-0.02	5	3.38	+0.18	13
Chicopee/Westov	45	83	60	-8	713	+145	231	+78	0.43	-0.55	4	3.93	+0.10	15
Worthington	40	77	57	-5	474	+188	106	+64	1.32	+0.41	6	6.42	+2.47	19
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	48	76	60	-5	684	+268	193	+111	1.13	+0.36	5	4.30	+1.04	11
Woonsocket	47	77	59	-5	703	+335	214	+154	0.88	-0.07	5	3.76	+0.08	13
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	51	80	65	-2	740	+265	205	+89	0.40	-0.41	3	3.51	+0.11	12
Hartford/Bradle	47	84	62	-5	812	+280	280	+137	0.32	-0.59	6	3.22	-0.49	15
Norfolk	44	75	57	-5	510	+229	118	+79	0.45	-0.66	4	4.15	-0.10	16
Thomaston_Dam	46	82	62	-2	699	+311	217	+141	0.29	-0.69	5	3.37	-0.55	18
Willimantic	49	80	62	-2	763	+372	253	+178	0.42	-0.45	6	3.09	-0.54	13

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, June 10, 2012

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	35	77	54	-6	0.22	3.85
NH	28	82	55	-6	0.13	2.35
VT	36	80	57	-4	0.09	1.29
MA	37	84	59	-5	0.09	1.63
RI	46	77	59	-5	0.88	1.13
CT	44	84	62	-4	0.10	0.54

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

CONNECTICUT – Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield: Second cut grass is ready to harvest - even though a lot of first cut grass hasn't been harvested yet. Rain and wet field conditions have slowed haylage harvest to a crawl. Corn is not growing at its normal pace. Downy mildew is showing up on crops it doesn't usually bother. We need some sunshine to bring crops along. **Ann McCard (FSA), New London:** Scattered thunderstorms made it a difficult week to get any hay in. Some first cutting not completed, as the second cutting is ready. A lot of corn planted, but some fields are still too wet to work, so there's corn still waiting to be planted. Farm stands are busy, with early season produce and strawberries. This year's asparagus season is ending soon. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Cool, wet, then sunny and warm. Army worm issues in hay and corn. Still planting. Early vegetables at farmers markets. Cutting scapes off garlic.

MAINE – Marcia Hall (FSA), Androscoggin/Oxford/Sagadahoc: Saturated soils need warm, dry weather! The Rumford – Canton area got over 7 inches of rain in one day and over 10 inches in a week. The Fryeburg area has gotten over 8 inches in a week's time. Many producers currently have crops under water (some from standing water and some from flooded river water). Some crops so saturated that rot has become an issue. Hay fields too wet to harvest. Producers have reported that they may not be able to replant at all. Friday night we received a very heavy thunder and lightning storm that brought heavy driving rain, hail and wind, which were reported throughout Oxford, Androscoggin and Sagadahoc Counties. There are also a lot of producers that have not planted yet and now they have no idea when the fields will be in good enough shape to plant. **Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook:** A very nice growing season so far. Two warm sunny days followed a timely rain on Friday. You can almost see things growing. Most grain is at boot stage or above. The potato crop seems to have above average stands. Pastures and hay fields are looking great. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Some cutworms in the area. **Don Audibert, (FSA) Northern Aroostook:** Farmers are all done planting their crops. Had some rain this week and crops are emerging well. Farmers are mounting potato cultivators on their tractors and will start cultivating soon. Looks like it will be a nice week this week to do work on the farm. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** The rains have finally let up a little, although parts of Cumberland County were hit with heavy rain and hail on Friday. Nice weather over the weekend. Farmers are reseeding, re-fertilizing and applying fungicide after all the rain. The fields are wet. Some haying is being attempted on the better drained land. Strawberries are starting to be picked a couple of weeks earlier than normal. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Because of flooding last week some fields will need to be replanted. A few that have not planted were held back by wet field conditions. Hay is heading out and first cut needs to be harvested now. It was a great weekend! Some "dry" hay should get harvested early this week. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis/Penobscot:** Nice weekend, weather prompted some farmers to try cutting hay. There were a few spotty showers, but nothing like last weekend's rains. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** Heavy rains have waterlogged the fields and prevented much fieldwork. Hopefully, the sun this week will green up yellowed, waterlogged crops and allow folks into their fields to get needed work done. **Elaine S Moceus (FSA), Somerset:** Rain during the current week after 3+ inches of rain over the previous weekend has saturated the ground and slowed field work. Sun and warmth over the weekend dried things out a bit so this will be a catch up week for haying. There are reports of corn losses due to the excess rainfall. Blueberries and strawberries are developing well at this time. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Lots of rain...no sun...unhappy farmers.

MASSACHUSETTS – Russell Norton (Ext), Barnstable: The week of June 3 started cool, windy and rainy but improved all week. Farmers markets are in full swing with greens and strawberries. Sweet corn is growing slowly. **Debra Senger (FSA), Berkshire:** The

weather has been good for our producers...starting to cut their first hay... **Heather Baylis (FSA) Franklin:** Another week starting cool and warming through the week. The rain hit the county in brief episodes throughout the work week. Strawberries are being harvested. Harvesting of greens, spinach, and rhubarb continued. The bee hives are gone and the blueberries are showing a good fruit set. Early raspberries are coming along well and look to have a good crop. Corn is knee high and potatoes are hilled. Shade and broadleaf farmers are planting fields. Farmers continue to plant summer crops such as vine crops, tomatoes, and peppers. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Last week was very rainy and cool. All crop fields are saturated from the 3+ inches of rain from last week. Crop farmers are cultivating their fields to dry them out and spraying a protective fungicide spray on the crops to prevent disease from setting in. Hardly any hay was made because of the wet conditions. Also, the planting of corn silage and vegetables was limited due to the water logged fields. Harvesting beets, strawberries, asparagus, spinach, greens, radishes, and rhubarb. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Bloom is upon us, with open blooms in most beds, full bloom in the most inland beds. Beehives are still arriving. Pollination weather has been excellent so far. Scattered thunderstorms last Thursday afternoon resulted in an epicenter of hail in the Lakeville area. Damage was minimal from the reports I've gotten. Fungicides are being applied for fruit rot control and insecticides for numerous insect pests, although levels have not been outlandish so far. New growth is excellent and beds look exceptional at this point.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Donna Juneau (FSA) Belknap/Merrimack: There was rainfall every day from Sunday, June 3 through Friday, June 8 with a total of about three-quarters of an inch reported. No reports of significant flood damage in our area as the result of the heavy rain event on Saturday, June 2. Additional reports have trickled in from the Hillsborough County area regarding impact to crops from the record March warm temperature, which resulted in early bloom, followed by freeze/frost events in April and May; and the hail event of Tuesday, June 23. Rainy weather last week kept most producers off the fields for planting vegetables and/or harvesting hay. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** At least one shower - some of them pretty substantial - every day through Friday, then a warm, sunny, rain-free weekend. Field corn growing well, though seeing some isolated spots with armyworm injury. Early planted fields now around 6-leaf stage. Regrowth on harvested hay crops is doing well, but farms are chomping at the bit to start mowing dry hay while grass is very mature. Strawberries making an appearance along with greens, etc. at farm stands, along with first high tunnel tomatoes. Some growers anticipating an earlier than normal blueberry crop with yields looking strong so far. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Scattered fast-moving rainstorms make haylage harvest problematic, although drier than last week. Grasses look to be headed out a bit earlier this year. Corn growing well, but some ponding in low-lying fields along river. Concern for nitrogen loss from heavy rains. Better conditions later in week spurred field activities. Finishing up corn planting; herbicide applications as possible. Spraying for curculio in orchards, looks like a good fruit set on apples and especially highbush blueberries. Some dieback on raspberry canes. Black bears growling about. Green tomatoes on earliest planted in high-tunnels. Soybeans on trial field of several acres emerging well at first true-leaf stage. Seems to be a little more field corn in this year. Buttercups flowering in meadows, a pretty year for lupines. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending June 9th, we received varying amounts of rain. Some areas reported over three inches, while other areas reported as little as 1.5 inches. Rain showers during the first three days of the week shut down some field activities. The rain showers on Friday had minimal impact. Farmers are still harvesting haylage and anyone trying to make dry hay is finding it more difficult. Most of the field corn has been planted and has emerged. Vegetable growers are finishing up

their first plantings. Some farm stands are already open and offering a limited seasonal mix of produce as crops begin to come in. Army worms have made an early appearance this year. Several localized reports of infestation have been received. Be on the lookout for these and call if you see any problems or have questions. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Strawberries were being picked during of the week and strawberry PYO operations open over the weekend. Fruit growers monitoring pest and crop development and applying cover sprays for pest. Mowing orchard floor and weed spraying under trees. Seeing peach leaf curl disease problem on peach trees and apple scab is being notice on apple trees. Field Crops: Most farmers are trying to finish-up planting and weed spraying corn fields. Farmers are trying to make haylage and baled hay between showers. Vegetables: Harvesting greens, spinach, scallions, radishes, cucumbers, greenhouse tomatoes, rhubarb, and lettuce. Continued making successive planting of various vegetable crops. Growers 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. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** A challenging field work week with rain and showers for at least five days with limited sun and finally dry weather on the week-end. Some fields are soaked with water. Diseases on vegetables and small fruits are being noticed and spraying protective fungicides has been almost impossible. PYO strawberries were almost impossible. Harvesting spinach, greens, lettuce and herbs. **Jenn Zaleski (FSA), Sullivan:** Rain showers fell on and off all throughout the week hindering field work. Showers were beneficial for re-growth on hay fields that were cut and harvested the week prior. Field and sweet corn are growing nicely. A beautiful weekend provided ample sunshine for producers to catch up on haying and planting activities.

RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties: Strawberries are in full swing of picking. Most of the early berries are 80% picked and the late berries should be coming in late this week or next week. The sizes are real nice on the late berries. The planting of vegetables is still going on and will be for a couple more weeks.

Sweet corn looks good and we will probably be picking it before the 4th of July. Silage corn; a lot has been planted in the last week. Still quite a bit more to go. A lot of hay was mowed down last Saturday in hopes to get picked up before rain on Wednesday of this week. Livestock looks good, not a lot of grass out on the pasture, but it's green.

VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison: Started mowing hay again toward end of week. Still chopping haylage first cut and some windrows for bales rolled up today. Soil too wet for corn planting, some spraying for weeds, some manure spread on cut hay fields. Poor seed beds and wet conditions after corn planting has damaged many fields. Dead areas where standing water sat in fields. New seeding hay fields have good growth, but also many weeds. Regrowth after first cut haylage is vigorous. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Some wet weather at beginning of the week held up manure spreading, however, dry enough the end of the week to continue in Franklin County. Still some haylage harvest going on and now seeing a lot more dry hay for first cut. Yields are being reported as excellent giving us the much needed rebound we were all looking for. Corn is pretty much planted and emerged. Cool temps kept growth at bay, however, we are off to a great start. Gardens are doing really well with some bounty being harvested in the form of greens and lettuce. **Heather Mateja (FSA), Lamoille/Washington:** Good week for harvesting green chop. Pastures are still in great shape and the hay that has not been harvested is high and thick. Corn is up and ahead of past years. Veggie growers are planting and harvesting many early crops. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** We had a really nice stretch of fair weather this past week. This allowed farmers to harvest some really nice first crop. Yields for first crop look to be normal. The grasses are maturing fast which may affect the quality of the crop. All corn has been planted and most has emerged. Emergence looks to be even and the young plants look green and healthy. Pastures are doing well. We have had enough moisture, but not excessive amounts to allow pasture regrowth. Overall, a good start to this year's cropping season.

MAY SUMMARY: The month of May brought monthly average temperatures ranging from 1 to 6 degrees above normal. Precipitation for the month was generally average to above average, ranging from 3 to 6 inches throughout most of New England. The first week began cold and rainy with scattered frost. Nighttime temperatures were cool on May 7 in northern New England, with some locations experiencing below-freezing temperatures. Rainfall of greater than an inch fell in most locations from May 8 to May 10. Temperatures rapidly warmed up by the end of the second week, providing favorable fieldwork conditions. The third week had a good balance of rainy and sunny days. The fourth week was dry and very warm, favorable for fieldwork and crop development. The end of the month was marked by a severe storm outbreak bringing torrential rain, large-sized hail, and heavy winds to affected regions in New Hampshire and Vermont. Fruit crop development throughout New England was ahead of schedule, allowing early assessments of frost damage to berries and tree fruits. Damage to berries was variable as some growers were able to protect their crops with nighttime irrigation. The earliest strawberries were picked by the end of the month, well ahead of schedule. The wild blueberry crop in Maine enjoyed excellent pollination weather and experienced minimal winter injury. Cool soil temperatures kept some vegetable plants in greenhouses until soil temperatures became warm enough for transplanting later in May. Warm, sunny weather during the second half of May promoted good vegetable growth. Farmers planted and harvested a wide assortment of vegetables. Dry hay recovered well from lack of rainfall in April and was actively harvested during the second half of May. Planting of corn was in full swing once soil temperatures warmed up during the middle of May. There were reports of insect, disease, and weed problems in corn fields. Emergence of potatoes and grains were ahead of schedule as a result of early planting. Pastures throughout New England responded well to precipitation and warmth.

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