

Crop Progress & Condition



NEW ENGLAND
Agricultural
Statistics



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June 25, 2012 – 4 pm

For week ending 6/24/12

Record High Temperatures

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending June 24, 2012, there were 6.2 days available for fieldwork across New England. Pasture condition was rated 9 percent fair, 60 percent good, and 31 percent excellent. The week began partly cloudy, with below average daytime temperatures ranging from the mid-60s to mid-70s. A heat wave from Wednesday through Friday brought daytime temperatures in the 80s and 90s and overnight lows in the 60s and 70s. Many locations experienced record-breaking temperatures for at least one day of the week. Scattered thunderstorms developed on Friday and Saturday, cooling the region and bringing moderate to heavy precipitation. Thunderstorms were accompanied by high winds and hail at some locations. Total precipitation for the week ranged from none in parts of Vermont to 5.7 inches in northeastern Maine, and flooding was reported at some locations.

FRUIT: Apple producers assessed damage from hail storms and wet weather. Maine's wild blueberry crop was at green stage with berries beginning to enlarge. Recent rains have increased pressure from weeds in wild blueberry fields. Cranberries were at full bloom to petal fall stage by week's end and good pollinating conditions prevailed for most of the week. Cranberry growers irrigated to keep vines cool and applied protective sprays against fruit rot and fruit worms. Strawberry picking ranged from peak harvest north to winding down south. Highbush blueberries were just beginning to show color. A few Pick-Your-Own blueberry operations were open by the weekend in southern locations. Fruit growers also harvested raspberries and sweet cherries. Orchardists were busy mowing grass, thinning peaches, monitoring and applying cover sprays for pests, and weed spraying under trees.

VEGETABLES: The first local sweet corn of the season appeared at farmer's markets this week. Growers harvested an array of vegetables, including beets, broccoli, carrots, cucumbers, greens, herbs, kale, radishes, rhubarb, scallions, spinach, summer squash, zucchini, and greenhouse tomatoes. Growers were also busy making successive plantings of vegetable crops, applying fertilizer, cultivating, scouting for pests, and irrigating and spraying if needed.

FIELD CROPS: A long stretch of dry weather provided excellent conditions for making hay and haylage. First crop hay harvest was winding down in most areas, with progress on second crop well ahead of schedule by week's end. Most field corn acreage was planted and nearly all emerged by the end of the week. Corn growers were soil nitrate testing to determine fertilizer needs. Rhode Island potatoes were in bloom, earlier than usual due to the stretch of hot weather. Many tobacco farmers finished setting out their crop this past week. Pastures were reported in good to excellent condition throughout New England; weekend rains provided needed relief from earlier dry weather. Farmers were active applying protective sprays, weeding, and fertilizing fields.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	28	18	5
Adequate	66	74	58
Surplus	6	8	37
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	19	3	5
Adequate	64	79	62
Surplus	17	18	33

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	<5	0	0	Average	Average	Good
Wild	-	-	-	Abv/Avg	Abv/Avg	Exc/Good
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-	Average		Good
Strawberries	70	45	40	Average	Average	Good/Fair

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2012	2011	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Planted --				
Potatoes				
Maine	100	100	100	
Silage Corn	99	95	99	
Sweet Corn	90	90	90	
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	85	90	90	Good
Shade	100	100	100	Good
-- Percent Emerged --				
Barley	100	95	99	Excellent
Oats	100	90	95	Excellent
Potatoes				
Maine	100	75	95	Excellent/Good
Mass	100	100	100	Good
Rhode Island	100	100	100	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	95	80	90	Good
Sweet Corn	75	80	80	Good
Dry Hay				
-- Percent Harvested --				
First Cut	75	60	65	Good
Second Cut	25	0	5	Good

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday June 18, 2012
 To: Sunday June 24, 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	48	92	70	+5	667	+156	178	+66	1.60	+0.83	1	8.45	+5.31	12
Bangor_Intl_Arp	48	92	67	+4	603	+160	139	+57	1.20	+0.43	3	5.60	+2.48	14
Bethel	46	92	69	+5	597	+139	148	+60	0.22	-0.69	1	9.42	+5.74	14
Caribou_Municip	49	85	68	+7	501	+149	124	+77	1.89	+1.19	2	4.07	+1.40	10
Dover-Foxcroft	41	90	66	+4	456	+94	92	+44	1.38	+0.52	4	5.82	+2.37	17
Frenchville	49	81	66	+5	419	+107	103	+70	1.97	+1.20	3	3.98	+1.11	12
Houlton	46	90	67	+6	466	+106	103	+53	5.71	+4.94	3	6.81	+3.73	11
Livermore_Falls	43	90	68	+6	583	+216	140	+89	0.85	-0.11	2	10.09	+6.24	15
Moosehead	42	85	64	+3	344	+70	55	+32	2.26	+1.35	2	7.82	+4.25	12
Portland_ME	50	93	69	+6	634	+212	157	+88	0.23	-0.54	2	10.03	+6.81	12
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	48	91	68	+6	594	+140	152	+72	0.36	-0.51	2	7.11	+3.58	14
Berlin_AG	49	89	70	+6	619	+181	166	+87	0.21	-0.76	1	6.10	+2.28	12
Concord	49	96	71	+6	845	+303	279	+149	0.04	-0.71	1	4.27	+1.29	12
First_Conn_Lake	50	89	69	+10	477	+231	123	+112	0.54	-0.57	2	4.84	+0.57	11
Keene_AG	51	95	71	+4	825	+171	273	+83	0.57	-0.27	1	7.46	+4.09	13
North_Conway	51	91	70	+6	650	+154	177	+69	0.25	-0.66	1	9.93	+6.22	15
Rochester	48	97	73	+7	830	+235	288	+130	0.40	-0.40	1	6.19	+2.87	11
VERMONT														
Bennington_AP	49	91	70	+7	846	+378	281	+189	0.07	-0.98	1	2.50	-1.77	11
Burlington_Intl	52	97	75	+9	977	+367	392	+223	0.00	-0.84	0	1.74	-1.47	9
Island_Pond	50	88	68	+8	593	+255	160	+111	0.10	-0.90	1	4.91	+0.95	13
Montpelier	48	89	69	+6	685	+235	198	+112	0.00	-0.78	0	3.75	+0.46	12
Rochester	48	90	69	+6	654	+224	188	+108	0.00	-0.84	0	2.99	-0.58	12
Rutland_AG	52	92	70	+4	759	+97	235	+40	0.00	-0.84	0	3.62	+0.29	7
Springfield_VT	53	95	72	+9	892	+395	315	+210	0.01	-0.90	1	3.92	+0.25	11
Sutton	50	87	68	+7	599	+263	158	+109	0.07	-0.94	1	2.73	-1.21	13
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	55	97	74	+6	968	+246	331	+116	1.21	+0.51	2	3.84	+0.94	12
Fitchburg	52	98	75	+11	1047	+574	398	+303	0.01	-0.83	1	3.84	+0.51	13
Greenfield	54	95	72	+4	921	+211	332	+116	0.35	-0.52	1	5.09	+1.49	13
New_Bedford	45	95	72	+4	857	+148	267	+67	0.13	-0.70	2	1.88	-1.51	11
Otis_AFB	48	93	70	+4	702	+195	192	+84	0.02	-0.72	2	2.37	-0.69	12
Plymouth	44	96	72	+5	858	+311	279	+147	1.04	+0.27	2	2.86	-0.40	12
Walpole	47	95	72	+6	938	+337	317	+161	0.68	-0.20	2	3.22	-0.23	11
Chicopee/Westov	50	97	73	+3	988	+144	366	+78	0.21	-0.70	2	3.84	+0.00	12
Worthington	46	91	69	+5	695	+222	188	+95	0.01	-0.88	1	5.04	+1.38	13
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	50	94	73	+5	948	+282	317	+128	0.77	+0.00	1	3.59	+0.47	10
Woonsocket	51	95	73	+7	963	+372	334	+193	0.25	-0.67	2	3.36	-0.40	11
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	59	96	75	+6	1041	+307	366	+134	0.36	-0.44	1	3.76	+0.54	10
Hartford/Bradley	56	97	74	+5	1111	+309	439	+168	0.37	-0.47	1	3.64	+0.08	12
Norfolk	48	89	69	+5	741	+272	209	+118	0.26	-0.79	2	3.68	-0.63	12
Thomaston_Dam	50	95	72	+6	977	+370	355	+200	0.56	-0.35	1	3.15	-0.70	12
Willimantic	52	96	72	+6	1031	+416	381	+223	1.65	+0.76	1	4.22	+0.71	11

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, June 24, 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	41	95	68	+5	0.10	5.71
NH	41	99	70	+7	0.04	1.32
VT	45	97	70	+7	0.00	0.67
MA	40	98	72	+6	0.00	1.21
RI	48	95	72	+6	0.15	0.77
CT	48	98	72	+5	0.15	1.65

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:

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday saw temperatures in the high 90s. Friday we had severe thunderstorms with high winds, heavy rain and hail. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Heavy showers on Friday afternoon yielded up to 3 inches of rain in the Hartford area. The past week saw the first heat wave of the summer. A lot of dry hay made with some done first cutting. First local sweet corn of the season showed up at farmers markets. Many tobacco producers completed tobacco planting this week. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** A good week to make hay! Farms alternated between making first and second cut as they finally were able to get into all of their fields. Farm stands are filling up as vegetable harvests get underway. CSA's were holding their first distribution days this week. Thunderstorms Friday into Saturday flooded some low lying areas - but no hail, and no damage to crops reported. **Mary Concklin (Ext), Tolland:** Blueberry and raspberry harvests are underway, strawberry harvest is winding down. Cherry harvest is mid-way through. Hail struck portions of CT late Friday afternoon causing some damage to fruit, the extent has not yet been determined. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Hot and sunny, good growing weather with 90 degree days. Tough getting hay in, but all week busy doing just that; baling a lot of first cutting hay and starting to chop second cutting. Shearing Christmas trees, thinning peaches, and doing a lot of weeding in vegetables. Deer and turkeys are damaging vegetable plantings. Strawberries are sweet and winding down. Lettuce, cucumbers, and summer squash doing well.

MAINE – Marcia Hall (FSA), Androscoggin/Oxford/Sagadahoc:

Hay is being harvested on fields that were able to get equipment into without making ruts. Some crops have been replanted due to the wet weather but some will not be replanted at all. Apple producers are waiting on the "June Drop" to report how bad the frost and wet weather has affected the yields. A lot of late plantings have been reported with hopes the crops will mature in time for harvest. Severe thundershowers over the weekend brought heavy rains and wind. More rain in the forecast for this week...We need warm sunny days!!! **Don Audibert, (FSA) Northern Aroostook:** Was in the 80's Monday through Thursday, a big thunderstorm on Friday. Forecast is for a lot of rain this coming week. Crops in fields look good so far. Farmer's started spraying their crops. Some farmers are doing haylage, but no hay harvested to date. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Thunderstorms Friday and Saturday hit some areas with too much rain. The apple crop was about 30-40% below average, before any additional hail damage in York County on Saturday. Earlier in the week, farmers were busy haying and finishing planting corn. Strawberries are plentiful right now, size is reported to be small. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** A very hot week with more heavy rain on Saturday. Strawberries are on the stand and pick your own is open. Early vegetables are appearing at farmers markets. Some dry hay on dry ground put up midweek. **Elaine S Moceus (FSA), Somerset:** Early this week, hot and humid with scattered thunderstorms Friday afternoon and rain over the weekend that halted field work in most areas. Good hay weather the first of the week. Reports that field conditions are better than expected with all the rain earlier this month; however, producers near the rivers may see some flooding due to the rain over the weekend. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Some progress towards finishing first cutting hay and haylage. Some areas suffering from torrential downpours on Friday night. Still some corn to get into the ground. Armyworm damage has been spotty. Strawberry harvest in full swing with hot weather last week. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Fruit is at green stage and beginning to enlarge. Growers putting out traps for fruit fly and this year beginning to monitor for a new pest, the Spotted Wing Drosophila. Moisture conditions good for plant growth so there is plenty of weed pressure. **Amanda May (FSA), Washington:** A little rain is exactly what the doctor ordered. Blueberry crop is looking great!

MASSACHUSETTS – Russell Norton (Ext), Barnstable: Excellent weather, week ending with several days around 90F. Hot, sunny days provided perfect opportunity for good weed control using cultivation. Strawberries wrapping up, blueberries showing some color, potatoes flowering. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Very hot and dry week. Many farmers started to irrigate their crops. Harvesting summer and zucchini squash, cukes, beets, carrots, broccoli and lettuce. Great week for haying and dairy farmers continue side-dressing corn fields. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Good week weather wise for bloom and pollination, although brutally hot for three days. Berries are setting up so far and bloom is excellent - not quite as good as 2011 but close. Fruit rot and fruitworm sprays are being applied and irrigation and vine cooling were important for those hot days. Earlier in the week, there were actually two nights that temperatures in the bogs got close to 32 degrees! Thunderstorms were widespread on Friday and Saturday, some areas getting a good soaking while other areas got nothing. It wouldn't surprise me if some beds got hit with hail and high winds. Things look good at this point.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Donna Juneau (FSA) Belknap/Merrimack:

A hot, dry week with little to no rain. Temperatures in the 70s the first part of the week and in the 90s the latter half of the week. The dry weather made for a good, but hot week to harvest hay and haylage. Producers have reported that June strawberry harvests were down due to frost/freeze events in April and May. Most field corn has been planted and emerged. Vegetable producers have reported that they have planted most crops, but will continue to plant over the next few weeks. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Haying and haylage activities dominated the week as excellent drying weather - best I've seen in many years at this time of the year - helps farmers bring in a high quality crop. Field corn growing well, some about a foot tall and about right for soil nitrate testing to determine top-dress needed. Herbicide applications on Round-up Ready corn. Seeing a little drought-stress on corn in lighter textured soils, should be corrected now with heavy soaking rain on Sunday. Yellow Rattle weed generally past peak bloom stage and beginning to set seeds. Farmer's markets picking up in activity with a wider range of early season veggies becoming available. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** This has been one of the best stretches of weather for making hay that I have seen in many years. There were over 10 days with no rain. Farmers were mowing hay and putting up dry bales with little worry over the weather. Some of the sandy loam soils were showing a little stress due to dry conditions. Isolated hail was reported in the Woodsville area over the weekend, causing damage to cars and potentially some crops. There were even a few people who reported cuts and bruises from hail stones. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Strawberries were being picked during of the week (85% harvest), and strawberry PYO operations open over the weekend. Some growers are reporting the strawberry crop is off 65-75% of a normal crop. Blueberries starting to turn color and the crop looks to be a bumper crop. First raspberries are being harvested. Sweet cherry harvest continues - almost completed. Fruit growers monitoring pest and crop development and applying cover sprays for pests. Mowing orchard floors and weed spraying under trees. Evaluating hail damage from an isolated storm that occurred on June 8. Field Crops: Most farmers finishing-up planting and weed spraying corn fields. Farmers made haylage and baled hay. Soil nitrate testing for field corn to determine nitrogen fertilizer needs and side-dressing fields. European Chafer surprisingly seen in fields with sandy soils near wooded areas - the larva can damage grass plants. Vegetables: Irrigating all crops during hot weather that occurred! Harvested greens, spinach, scallions, radishes, cucumbers, greenhouse tomatoes, rhubarb, lettuce, zucchini, summer squash and first potatoes. Continued making successive planting of various vegetable crops. Growers were busy side dressing fields with fertilizer, cultivating weeds, scouting for pests and spraying if

needed. Asiatic Garden Beetle, Potato Leaf Hoppers and Striped Cucumber Beetles are here in many fields. Squash vine borer has been caught at very high numbers this weekend! **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Blueberries ripening the third week of June and some PYO blueberry operations were open this weekend. Strawberry picking is in full swing to almost done and the ripening of strawberries coming all together with the three day heat wave. Red raspberries will be ready for picking this week. Harvesting cherries, zucchini, greenhouse tomatoes, kale, Swiss chard, spinach, beets, onion, herbs, and cut flowers. Pastures look good. Planting field corn and haying. Mowing grass in orchards and monitoring pests, cultivating, weeding and irrigating fields. **Jenn Zaleski (FSA), Sullivan:** The week began clear with highs in the mid-70s and lows in the low 50s. Temperatures warmed up quickly by mid-week and were in the upper 90s with warm overnight lows in the upper 60s. Record high temperatures were broken and conditions were stifling, hazy, hot, and humid. Temperatures cooled down slightly on Saturday after a line of showers and thunderstorms passed through the region in the afternoon. Rainfall amounts varied and were about 0.25 inches. The week ended warm, but comfortable with highs in the mid-80s. Producers were busy planting the last bit of field and sweet corn as well as chopping and bailing hay.

RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties: We had a real hot week this week with three days over 90 degrees. We had a lot of hay made this week, mostly all first cutting. Strawberries are doing well, the late berries are large sized. It looks like they will be done picking in about two weeks. Sweet corn looks good and we will probably be picking some at the end of this week or next week. Just about all the silage corn is planted. Potato crop

looks good and the early potato blossoms are falling. The late potatoes are blooming a little early due to the three days of hot weather last week. We will have to watch and see how they mature. Starting to pick some greenhouse tomatoes and there is yellow and green summer squash being picked this week. Livestock did well during the hot weather. This week looks like it will be quite cooler.

VERMONT – Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin: Hot, dry week in Franklin County has really slowed growth this week. Pastures really felt the impact. Nice rain last evening helped tremendously. Some corn curling on well drained soils, however, still good growth especially on first and second year corn after a sod crop with some organic matter to hold moisture. Gardens are doing very well even without much attention due to the heat keeping people in out of the sun. Some Nitrogen being applied to corn for top dress, however, limited due to the dry weather. Strawberries still in full swing and prime for the usual Fourth of July celebration. **Heather Mateja (FSA), Lamoille/Washington:** Hot, dry week; need some rain to get the crops growing, but really things are looking good. Corn is excellent. Dry hay is almost all harvested for first cut. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Another week with no rain. A lot of hay was harvested this past week. Mostly dry bales of first cut and some second cut. The ground is getting a bit dry, however, so a little rain would be welcome. There have been some reports of army worm activity, but with the early harvest of second cut hay this should be minimized. Corn is about knee high in most places. Some moisture will help push corn growth. Pastures are running a bit thin with the dry weather.

To receive this report every Monday evening, send an e-mail message to listserv@newsbox.usda.gov and in the body, type **subscribe usda-new-eng-crop-weather**

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