

Crop Progress & Condition



NEW ENGLAND
Agricultural
Statistics



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For week ending 7/8/12

Warm Weather Accelerates Crop Development

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending July 8, 2012, there were 6.2 days available for fieldwork across New England. Pasture condition was rated 5 percent poor, 16 percent fair, 63 percent good, and 16 percent excellent. The week began partly cloudy with daytime temperatures ranging from the mid-70s to upper 80s. Some locations received up to a quarter inch of rain on Monday. Severe thunderstorms moved through northern New England on July 4, with strong winds, heavy rain, and hail at some locations. Temperatures ranged from 80s to lower 90s throughout the rest of the week. Average temperatures for the week ranged from 4 degrees above normal in northern States to 6 degrees above normal in southern States. Total precipitation for the week ranged from 0 to 2.4 inches.

FRUIT: The strawberry harvest was winding down across New England while the harvest of highbush blueberries and raspberries was just getting underway. Meanwhile, the wild blueberries in Maine were just starting to turn blue. Cranberries in Massachusetts were just about finished blooming. The crop had reportedly set very well due to good pollination weather and bee activity and development was about seven days ahead of normal. Fruit growers were busy trapping fruit flies, applying insecticides, and renovating strawberry beds.

VEGETABLES: Vegetables responded favorably to the warmer temperatures last week and were growing well across New England. Farm stands were busy across the region as vegetable growers harvested beets, broccoli, carrots, cucumbers, peas, summer squash, sweet corn, and greens. Vegetable growers also irrigating, cultivating, topdressing, and scouting for diseases and insects.

FIELD CROPS: Mostly dry, warm weather last week provided favorable conditions for cutting and drying hay and chopping haylage. Many farmers were working on their second cutting of hay and haylage across southern New England. Some producers in Maine were finally able to make their first cut, while a few farmers in Vermont started their third cutting. The hot, humid conditions also provided a needed boost to the field corn crop. Overall, the corn crop was progressing well across the region, however, some stands were variable depending on the amount of precipitation received and the soil type. Potato growers in Rhode Island had begun to harvest early potatoes, unprecedented this early in the summer. Farmers applied fungicides and insecticides, hilled potatoes, and cultivated their crops.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	2	0	3
Short	24	8	11
Adequate	68	77	80
Surplus	6	15	6
Subsoil			
Very Short	1	0	2
Short	21	7	8
Adequate	68	82	83
Surplus	10	11	7

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	5	0	<5	Avg/Below	Average	Good/Fair
Pears	-	-	-	Average	Average	Fair/Good
Blueberries						
Highbush	10	<5	5	Avg/Above	Average	Good
Wild	-	-	-	Above/Avg	Above/Avg	Exc/Good
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-	Average		Good
Strawberries	90	85	85			

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2012	2011	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Planted --				
Silage Corn	100	99	100	
Sweet Corn	99	95	99	
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	99	100	100	Good
-- Percent Emerged --				
Potatoes				
Maine	100	100	100	Excellent/Good
Silage Corn	99	95	99	Good
Sweet Corn	95	95	95	
-- Percent Harvested --				
Barley	-	-	-	Excellent/Good
Oats	-	-	-	Excellent/Good
Potatoes				
Mass	-	-	-	Good
Rhode Island	<5	-	-	Good/Excellent
Sweet Corn	5	<5	5	Good
Tobacco				
Shade	0	10	5	Good
Dry Hay				
First Cut	90	80	80	
Second Cut	40	5	15	Good
Third Cut	-	-	-	Good

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday July 2, 2012
 To: Sunday July 8, 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	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS
	---	---	---	---	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	INCHES	---	---	INCHES	---	---
MAINE														
Augusta_State_A	61	87	73	+5	962	+198	333	+111	0.24	-0.49	4	3.48	+0.46	12
Bangor_Intl_Arp	56	89	71	+5	879	+203	275	+102	0.20	-0.57	3	4.41	+1.33	13
Bethel	56	87	71	+4	858	+166	269	+90	0.75	-0.09	3	3.98	+0.39	10
Caribou_Municip	54	81	67	+3	727	+177	211	+99	0.05	-0.79	2	6.43	+3.48	11
Dover-Foxcroft	53	85	69	+4	700	+129	196	+76	0.57	-0.27	3	6.14	+2.69	16
Frenchville	53	78	65	+1	618	+116	165	+76	0.22	-0.60	3	5.56	+2.50	13
Houlton	48	84	67	+2	687	+121	188	+68	0.20	-0.63	1	11.49	+8.35	12
Livermore_Falls	55	85	70	+5	846	+273	263	+144	0.44	-0.35	4	4.38	+0.76	11
Moosehead	50	81	65	+2	534	+80	110	+36	0.83	-0.08	4	4.94	+1.24	12
Portland_ME	60	87	73	+7	942	+284	325	+164	1.07	+0.33	4	2.24	-0.88	12
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	52	84	69	+4	797	+132	236	+85	0.84	+0.05	4	3.76	+0.35	11
Berlin_AG	55	83	68	+3	855	+197	262	+104	0.86	+0.02	4	3.44	-0.26	14
Concord	54	91	73	+5	1134	+339	428	+188	1.48	+0.78	3	2.78	-0.15	8
First_Conn_Lake	50	83	67	+5	683	+282	194	+150	0.95	-0.10	4	3.52	-0.79	14
Keene_AG	54	89	72	+2	1096	+171	405	+86	0.78	-0.01	3	2.73	-0.58	11
North_Conway	55	84	70	+3	901	+165	290	+83	0.31	-0.53	5	2.91	-0.70	13
Rochester	59	93	75	+7	1145	+288	463	+185	0.09	-0.68	2	2.18	-1.02	9
VERMONT														
Bennington_AP	52	87	71	+5	1107	+418	404	+230	0.30	-0.64	2	1.84	-2.21	7
Burlington_Intl	57	90	74	+5	1287	+411	563	+269	1.67	+0.88	3	3.96	+0.67	9
Island_Pond	50	83	67	+3	810	+290	242	+144	2.13	+1.17	5	4.97	+1.01	13
Montpelier	53	84	69	+4	924	+256	300	+132	1.00	+0.30	4	3.96	+0.90	10
Rochester	53	84	69	+4	887	+245	285	+131	0.48	-0.36	4	1.90	-1.50	10
Rutland_AG	54	87	70	+0	1005	+77	347	+28	0.88	+0.04	3	3.08	-0.28	10
Springfield_VT	55	90	73	+7	1186	+456	469	+273	0.40	-0.44	3	1.43	-2.08	10
Sutton	51	82	67	+4	812	+290	238	+132	0.91	-0.05	3	2.80	-1.16	12
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	68	91	78	+6	1330	+301	553	+173	0.14	-0.49	2	3.10	+0.35	9
Fitchburg	62	91	77	+10	1392	+683	603	+414	0.56	-0.28	2	1.94	-1.42	9
Greenfield	58	89	74	+4	1225	+226	496	+132	0.19	-0.66	3	1.51	-1.98	9
New_Bedford	59	91	76	+4	1192	+180	462	+102	0.06	-0.64	3	1.56	-1.56	9
Otis_AFB	61	86	74	+5	1015	+247	365	+140	0.08	-0.57	3	1.84	-1.02	10
Plymouth	61	91	75	+5	1186	+370	467	+209	0.11	-0.66	3	2.70	-0.42	12
Walpole	62	89	76	+6	1269	+397	508	+224	0.55	-0.23	3	3.12	-0.29	9
Chicopee/Westov	54	91	75	+2	1310	+149	548	+85	0.42	-0.43	2	1.71	-1.93	9
Worthington	54	86	70	+4	954	+258	309	+133	0.15	-0.80	1	1.35	-2.30	6
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	62	91	77	+6	1299	+337	528	+186	0.21	-0.49	3	2.88	-0.11	9
Woonsocket	61	91	76	+7	1300	+443	531	+266	1.35	+0.44	3	3.52	-0.20	11
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	65	93	80	+8	1427	+387	612	+217	0.29	-0.55	2	3.00	-0.25	8
Hartford/Bradley	61	92	78	+5	1470	+357	658	+217	0.74	-0.01	3	2.89	-0.40	8
Norfolk	56	84	72	+6	1014	+319	345	+168	0.59	-0.39	3	2.43	-1.72	11
Thomaston_Dam	55	91	76	+8	1295	+429	533	+261	0.56	-0.35	3	2.71	-1.00	9
Willimantic	60	91	76	+7	1366	+489	576	+298	0.29	-0.62	3	3.86	+0.31	10

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, July 8, 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	48	89	69	+4	0.05	1.26
NH	40	93	70	+4	0.00	1.48
VT	50	90	70	+4	0.00	2.35
MA	53	92	74	+6	0.02	0.58
RI	61	91	76	+6	0.17	1.35
CT	55	93	76	+6	0.10	0.84

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: Severe weather early in the week - thunderstorms with high winds, heavy rain and hail. Hail caused damage to field corn, vegetable crops and fruit crops. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Strawberries are ending but blueberry patches opened up this week. Haymaking second cut is winding down. The heat has the corn growing well in areas that have gotten the showers. **Jude Boucher (Ext), Tolland:** Very warm with spotty thunderstorms. Some sites with adequate rain, others getting dry. Vegetable crops look good. Insect and disease pressure low.

MAINE – Marcia Hall (FSA), Androscoggin/Oxford/Sagadahoc: Had a great week of weather. Sunny and hot for most of the week. Some showers came through the area bringing heavy rain, wind and hail on July 4th (evening). Livestock for the most part have been put out to pasture. Several producers have reported notice of losses on several different crops and some have reported prevented plantings. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Farmers applied fungicides and insecticides. Some farmers in fields hilling. Crops are looking excellent. Some potato fields are in blossom. Farmers are starting to cut hay. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Farmers are getting caught up on cultivation and spraying. **Don Audibert, (FSA) Northern Aroostook:** Nice week for working on the farm. Cattle farmers were busy cutting hay and getting it bailed. Had a couple of showers that slowed down the process. Potato farmers spraying insecticide and fungicide to prevent their crop from getting blight. Been dry this week and blight is not a problem at the moment. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Good weather overall, rainy afternoons each day early in the week made making hay difficult. Hay fields are being left with many ruts in the wet spots. Corn is growing well if it wasn't planted in the lower wet areas. Vegetable growth is responding to the warmer temperatures. Strawberry picking is winding down. Highbush blueberries are being picked. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** It has been good weather for crop growth and hay harvest. Veggie crops are starting to mature with peas, broccoli and greens being sold. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis/Penobscot:** Many farmers were finally able to finish their first cut this weekend. There were isolated thunderstorms that made field work a challenge in some areas. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** A hot week that helped crops mature. Sporadic and localized rain showers interfered with some field work and harvesting. Farmers markets have produce available. Strawberries are nearly done. **Elaine S Moccus (FSA), Somerset:** Rainy beginning of the week, raising levels of rivers and streams. Some producers have had to leave some first crop hay at this time due to wet conditions in the fields. Apple producers are indicating the size of fruit looks to be about average, where some hail earlier this month caused minimal damage. Corn growers planted later than usual in some areas. The hot and humid conditions of the past week have given the corn a needed growth spurt. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Some dry weather finally arrived, but many fields are too wet to drive on for hay and haylage harvest. Some silage corn still being planted. Strawberry harvest is coming to an end andighbush blueberries are starting to ripen. Late blight reported in the south and north of Waldo County. Let's hope for dry weather. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Beginning to see fruit turn blue, at about 10% blue to date. Fruit flies being caught on traps and insecticides being applied for control.

MASSACHUSETTS – Heather Baylis (FSA) Franklin: Warm weather with just a touch of rain on Tuesday. Farmers are top dressing tobacco. Many are irrigating and cultivating their crops this week. Growers are starting the raspberry and blueberry harvest. Other vegetables such as sweet corn, cucumbers, beets, carrots, green and yellow squash, and greens continue to be harvested. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** It's been sunny, hot, and dry all week long. Vegetable growers are irrigating, cultivating,

topdressing, and scouting for diseases and insects. Harvesting sweet corn, cucumbers, beets, carrots, raspberries, blueberries, summer squash, and greens. The very dry conditions are causing blossoms to drop on some vine crops and peppers. The tobacco crop is showing uneven growth because of the dry conditions. If a producer has irrigation equipment, it was used this past week. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Except for the late cultivars, bloom is approaching its conclusion. Fruit have set up very well, thanks to good pollination weather and good bee activity. Conditions are getting very dry, and growers have needed to regularly irrigate the beds. Post bloom fertilizers, final fruit rot fungicides and fruitworm insecticides are being applied. We are still seven days ahead of normal development.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Kelly McAdam (Ext), Belknap: A midweek storm caused strong winds and heavy rain. No reports of crop injury at this time. **Donna Juneau (FSA) Belknap/Merrimack:** A warm week with temperatures in the 80s. Rain on Monday, July 2; and a severe thunderstorm the evening of Wednesday, July 4. The severe thunderstorm brought torrential rains and high winds to areas of Belknap and Merrimack Counties. A microburst was reported in Tilton area knocking down many trees and power lines. A record rainfall of 1.11 inches was set in Concord. No reports of significant damage to cropland or forestland. Producers are reporting an above average hay crop this year. Many have reporting being out on the fields cutting and baling hay again this week. Vegetable producers are finishing up planting this week. Blueberries and raspberries are being harvested. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Warm and sunny all week, with just a couple of quick showers. No widespread moisture stress evident yet, but we could use a little more rain. Field corn still doing very well, with early planted fields pretty tall. Farms finishing up second cutting of haylage and working on second cutting of dry hay. Veggie crops doing well, early sweet corn plantings tasseled out. PYO raspberries and blueberries beginning. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Late cut hayfields being mowed, some rained on to be tilled. Good weather for top-dressing fertilizer on field corn and grass meadows. Field corn looking exceptional, many well over "knee high". Grasslands taken for first cut haylage also rebounding well, about ready for second cut. Wintered over beetles seem to have survived well, cucumber beetles causing damage, Colorado potato and Japanese are fairly numerous. Crow and blackbird problems in later planted corn, bears about. Rivers running high. Elderberry in full and quite noticeable flowering. Blueberries beginning to ripen. **Heather Bryant (Ext), Grafton:** Some reports of hail this past week, no serious damage reported. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending July 7th, we received light scattered showers during the first half of the week. Heavy rains and severe winds on the evening of the 4th caused some blow down and damage to power lines. Some minor wind damage to farm buildings was also reported. Heavy hail was reported on a couple of farms, with some damage to field crops. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Picking blueberries, raspberries and a whole array of vegetables, herbs and cutflowers. Renovating strawberry beds. Monitoring pests in orchards and mowing weeds. Spraying protective fungicides on field tomatoes for late blight before anticipated rain on Wednesday (late blight was found on Tuesday in Ma). Haying. Stormy 4th of July with gusty winds, heavy downpours, hail and possible erosion.

RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties: We started picking sweet corn this week. It's a nice size and it has good flavor I must say! Started harvesting potatoes, believe it or not in early July, on the early varieties. Strawberries are just about done, on pick your own and harvesting. It was an excellent season for them. In previous years they generally pick 19 days for commercial harvest, or wholesale harvest. This year they picked for 26 days! First cutting hay is a little late but just about done. The weather has been very hot lately with high humidity. As far as vegetables, they are picking

string beans, yellow and green summer squash, and a few tomatoes. Livestock continues to do well. Pastures are fair. They are still green.

VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison: Hay crop harvest continues, dew in mornings, but overall good drying weather. Corn crop variable from very poor in wet sites to excellent on sandy soils. There are a lot of skips from insects and poor stand establishment. Hay crop is light this year. Soybeans planted and up. Pastures are in good condition. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Another great growing week in Franklin County. If this keeps up we will be beating out Jack and the Bean Stalk. Corn is doing fantastic. N top dress is pretty well complete and uptake is still underway with very little loss

to the environment. Second cut hay is on the tail end and looks like a great week to make some dry hay. Some third cut is off and it just keeps growing!!!! Now that the Fourth of July for 2012 is behind us, strawberries will be coming to a close. Sweet corn will be starting soon. Pastures are in great shape for this time of year. We are on the edge of being dry for regrowth, however, some nice rains in the evening and early morning hours have kept us going. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Moisture is on the dry side with all of the nice weather. Second crop is in full swing and yields are pretty good. Armyworms have been reported on a couple of farms so second crop hay is being harvested early. Corn looks really good. Some fields are waist high already. Pastures are on the dry side but still the regrowth isn't too bad.

JUNE SUMMARY: The month of June brought monthly average temperatures ranging from 2 degrees below normal to 2 degrees above normal. Precipitation for the month was widely variable, ranging from 1.5 inches in parts of Vermont to 11.5 inches in Aroostook County, Maine. The month began with heavy rain and very cool temperatures primarily in the 50s and 60s. Most of New England received at least 1 inch with parts of Maine reporting as much as 6 inches. Sunshine and warm temperatures prevailed during much of mid-June, drying out wet fields across New England. A heat wave, brought record breaking temperatures to some locations during June 20-22. Scattered thunderstorms developed on June 22 and June 23, cooling the region, bringing moderate to heavy precipitation, and producing localized hail and severe winds. The last week began cool with significant precipitation, particularly in northern Maine. The month ended with scattered thunderstorms and above average temperatures in the 80s and 90s.

Fruit development throughout New England was ahead of schedule, with the first strawberries ready for picking by the beginning of the month. Some growers reported harvesting raspberries and sweet cherries by mid-month and highbush blueberries by the weekend of June 23. The Maine wild blueberry crop was reported in excellent to good condition and began to show blue color by month's end. Cranberries had favorable pollination weather throughout the month. Planting of vegetables early in the month was limited due to soggy fields. Some vegetables in Maine were reportedly under water. Warm, sunny conditions in late June allowed farmers to plant and harvest a wide assortment of vegetables. A few producers started harvesting sweet corn late in June. Re-growth of hay was vigorous. Abundant sunshine allowed farmers to harvest second crop well ahead of schedule. Corn also grew at a good pace and was 5 feet tall in some areas by month's end. There were reports of armyworms in hay and corn fields. Emergence of potatoes and small grains was generally 2 weeks ahead of schedule as a result of early planting. These crops were reported in excellent to good condition in Maine. Transplanting of shade tobacco was complete by month's end, about two weeks behind schedule. Broadleaf tobacco planting neared completion, on schedule with normal. Pastures were reported in good to fair condition in southern New England and good to excellent condition in the northern States.

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