

Crop Progress & Condition



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

53 Pleasant Street
Room 2100
Concord, NH 03301

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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For week ending 7/15/12

Another Hot, Dry, Humid Week

GENERAL CONDITIONS For the week ending July 15, 2012, there were 6.9 days available for fieldwork across New England. Pasture condition was rated 12 percent poor, 38 percent fair, 43 percent good, and 7 percent excellent. The week was hot and humid with minimal precipitation. Weekly average temperature ranged from 2 degrees above normal in northern New England to 5 degrees above normal in the southern States. Spotty rain showers moved across the region on Sunday night, but weekly precipitation totals were well below normal at all reporting stations.

FRUIT: Peaches were being harvested in New Hampshire ahead of normal while the harvest of early season apple varieties was gearing up. Wild blueberries in Maine were turning blue. The size of the berries was variable due to the uneven pollination this spring. The crop was also reportedly in need of rain. The harvest of highbush blueberries and raspberries continued in most areas while the strawberry harvest was essentially complete. The cranberry fruit set in Massachusetts was reportedly better than average. Pest levels were normal while dodder was reported on many beds. Fruit flies were being caught on traps and insecticides were being applied for control. Fruit growers were busy irrigating their crops and renovating strawberry beds.

VEGETABLES: Farm stands were open with local produce available. The vegetable crop quality was good in most areas despite the dry conditions, but rain was needed. Some farmers in New Hampshire and Vermont started harvesting their first sweet corn while others were expected to begin harvesting sweet corn next week. Meanwhile, the harvest of sweet corn in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island was in full swing. Other vegetables being harvested in New England last week included squash, cucumbers, beets, radishes, green beans, cole crops, greens, peas, potatoes, tomatoes, zucchini, and other vegetables. Farmers were also cultivating, irrigating, hoeing, monitoring pests, and spraying for insects and diseases.

FIELD CROPS: The hot, dry weather provided excellent conditions for making dry hay. The prolonged dry spell allowed some producers to wrap up cutting and baling of first crop hay and others to begin harvesting second and third crop hay. The heat boosted corn development across the region. However, the lack of rainfall had some plants showing signs of stress by week's end. Early planted field corn was beginning to tassel across the region. There were reports of late corn plantings in Maine. Potatoes were blossoming in some Maine fields and the crop was reportedly off to a good start. Producers were also busy cultivating and spraying their crops.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	7	2	2
Short	57	24	26
Adequate	35	68	67
Surplus	1	6	5
Subsoil			
Very Short	4	1	2
Short	47	21	20
Adequate	46	68	76
Surplus	3	10	2

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	10	0	<5	Avg/Below	Average	Good/Fair
Pears	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Blueberries						
Highbush	20	10	10	Avg/Above	Average	Good
Wild	-	-	-	Avg/Above	Avg/Above	Good
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-	Average	Avg/Above	Good
Strawberries	95	90	95			

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2012	2011	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Planted --				
Silage Corn	100	100	100	
Sweet Corn	99	99	99	
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	100	100	100	Good
-- Percent Emerged --				
Silage Corn	99	99	100	Good
Sweet Corn	95	95	95	
-- Percent Harvested --				
Barley	-	-	-	Excellent/Good
Oats	-	-	-	Excellent/Good
Potatoes				
Maine	-	-	-	Excellent/Good
Mass	-	-	-	Good
Rhode Island	<5	0	0	Good/Excellent
Sweet Corn	10	<5	5	Good
Tobacco				
Shade	40	10	5	Good
Dry Hay				
First Cut	95	90	90	
Second Cut	45	15	25	Good
Third Cut	<5	0	0	Good

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday July 9, 2012
 To: Sunday July 15, 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	56	90	72	+3	1116	+213	417	+126	0.00	-0.70	0	2.95	+0.00	10
Bangor_Intl_Arp	52	91	71	+3	1024	+222	350	+121	0.01	-0.76	1	4.08	+1.00	13
Bethel	46	90	68	+0	985	+167	326	+91	0.00	-0.77	0	3.52	+0.12	8
Caribou_Municip	50	86	68	+3	857	+197	271	+117	0.05	-0.86	1	5.87	+2.66	11
Dover-Foxcroft	47	93	68	+2	828	+139	254	+85	0.00	-0.84	0	5.70	+2.32	14
Frenchville	46	80	65	+2	728	+121	206	+81	0.05	-0.79	1	5.19	+1.99	13
Houlton	40	88	67	+2	811	+132	243	+76	0.00	-0.84	0	11.26	+8.05	11
Livermore_Falls	45	90	68	+3	973	+288	320	+157	0.44	-0.33	1	4.30	+0.89	10
Moosehead	43	90	64	+0	636	+82	146	+37	0.01	-0.90	1	4.37	+0.67	11
Portland_ME	52	90	72	+4	1095	+306	408	+186	0.00	-0.70	0	1.71	-1.27	10
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	45	89	67	+1	915	+137	285	+89	0.00	-0.77	0	2.87	-0.40	9
Berlin_AG	46	89	67	+1	976	+199	313	+106	0.00	-0.84	0	2.92	-0.64	12
Concord	46	92	72	+3	1289	+358	513	+206	0.00	-0.70	0	1.82	-1.04	6
First_Conn_Lake	43	89	65	+3	765	+276	219	+154	0.05	-0.97	1	3.07	-1.16	10
Keene_AG	46	93	71	+0	1244	+173	483	+87	0.00	-0.80	0	2.09	-1.18	9
North_Conway	48	90	69	+1	1036	+169	355	+87	0.00	-0.84	0	2.18	-1.32	11
Rochester	48	94	73	+4	1308	+311	556	+208	0.00	-0.77	0	1.23	-1.90	7
VERMONT														
Bennington_AP	46	90	71	+5	1257	+449	484	+261	0.00	-0.91	0	0.92	-2.98	6
Burlington_Intl	51	93	72	+2	1442	+422	648	+280	0.00	-0.81	0	3.64	+0.37	8
Island_Pond	43	90	64	+1	912	+294	279	+149	0.00	-0.92	0	4.66	+0.80	12
Montpelier	44	88	66	-2	1035	+248	343	+126	0.00	-0.69	0	3.58	+0.67	9
Rochester	44	91	67	+1	1009	+252	337	+135	0.00	-0.84	0	1.45	-1.91	9
Rutland_AG	46	90	69	-2	1140	+72	412	+22	0.00	-0.84	0	2.28	-1.08	9
Springfield_VT	48	95	72	+5	1343	+487	556	+304	0.00	-0.77	0	0.80	-2.57	9
Sutton	45	87	66	+2	925	+298	283	+142	0.00	-0.91	0	2.45	-1.41	10
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	65	91	77	+4	1523	+329	676	+201	0.00	-0.63	0	2.39	-0.27	7
Fitchburg	52	95	77	+9	1580	+745	721	+476	0.00	-0.84	0	1.15	-2.21	7
Greenfield	52	92	73	+2	1389	+236	590	+142	0.14	-0.70	2	0.86	-2.56	9
New_Bedford	56	91	74	+1	1362	+185	562	+108	0.00	-0.63	0	1.00	-1.91	7
Otis_AFB	55	84	72	+2	1169	+257	449	+151	0.00	-0.63	0	1.21	-1.51	8
Plymouth	57	94	74	+4	1358	+395	569	+235	0.00	-0.77	0	2.12	-0.96	9
Walpole	55	91	75	+5	1448	+429	617	+256	0.00	-0.77	0	2.48	-0.79	7
Chicopee/Westov	52	92	74	-1	1476	+147	644	+83	0.14	-0.70	1	1.20	-2.31	8
Worthington	46	88	69	+2	1087	+272	372	+146	0.34	-0.64	1	0.81	-2.92	5
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	63	92	76	+5	1484	+361	643	+211	0.00	-0.70	0	2.41	-0.51	7
Woonsocket	57	90	75	+5	1477	+476	638	+299	0.00	-0.91	0	2.82	-0.83	9
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	68	89	78	+5	1624	+419	739	+249	0.03	-0.87	1	1.54	-1.84	7
Hartford/Bradle	58	92	76	+3	1657	+376	775	+236	0.00	-0.70	0	1.87	-1.22	6
Norfolk	52	87	71	+3	1159	+340	420	+189	0.04	-0.89	1	1.76	-2.22	10
Thomaston_Dam	54	91	74	+5	1464	+458	632	+290	0.02	-0.89	1	1.79	-1.85	8
Willimantic	59	91	75	+5	1543	+526	683	+335	0.01	-0.94	1	3.20	-0.46	9

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, July 15, 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	40	95	68	+2	0.00	0.44
NH	37	94	70	+2	0.00	0.05
VT	43	95	68	+2	0.00	0.15
MA	46	95	73	+4	0.00	0.34
RI	57	92	75	+5	0.00	0.00
CT	52	92	75	+4	0.00	0.04

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: Very hot at the end of the week. We need rain. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** More heat and little rain make for droughty conditions. Irrigating taking place on many crops where water is available. Sweet corn, summer squash, cucumbers, green beans and blueberries being harvested. Field corn is tasseling and silking, but needs water on light soils. A good week for making dry hay. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Dry! Not much else to say. Corn looks like pineapple with all the leaves pointing to the sky begging for moisture. Grass is dormant in crop fields and browned out in lawns. Even the weeds are wilting due to the hot dry weather. **Jude Boucher (Ext), Tolland:** Late blight on tomatoes may be breaking out all over. We are waiting for samples to arrive at the lab for confirmation. Southern blight, which doesn't usually occur where the ground freezes in the winter, is destroying acres of tomatoes and peppers on one farm. Did the ground freeze last winter? Everyone is running their irrigation. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Blueberry picking and early peaches are two weeks early. We need rain. Corn is up to 9 feet tall. Vegetables are doing well. Picking a lot of vegetables and keeping up with weeding.

MAINE – Marcia Hall (FSA), Androscoggin/Oxford/Sagadahoc: Last week brought very hot and humid weather. Many producers are looking for rain as the hot temps have dried up some of the soils that were previously over saturated. First crop hay harvesting is finally well underway (late this year due to excessive rain in June) and some are starting second crop. Harvesting of highbush blueberries and raspberries has begun. Several late plantings of corn have been reported throughout the counties with hopes that it will all mature by the harvest date. **Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook:** Plants are starting to show signs of heat stress after a very warm weekend. Rain fell very unfairly the past 2 days with some getting showers and others nothing. An excellent crop of strawberries and first cut hay was harvested the prior week. Most crops still a week ahead of average. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Cultivation and spraying is caught up. **Don Audibert, (FSA) Northern Aroostook:** Hot, humid, week (80 to 90 degrees). Ground is dry and needs some rain. Excellent week for making hay. Most farmers are done harvesting and baling their first cut of hay. Finally got a little rain Sunday and some areas reported some hail. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Nice summer weather has arrived, if you like it sunny and hot. Soils have dried out and irrigation guns were going strong all week. Farm stands have opened up with local produce available. The best week for drying hay all season. Sunday night a 1/2 inch of rain fell, more is needed to keep everything green and growing. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** The heat has stimulated corn growth. There is still good soil moisture so most crops are growing well. Some mummyberry problems have been reported in highbush blueberries. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Great week for field work. Hay is finally being harvested in full swing. Crops look pretty good overall. Strawberries are totally harvested and overall crop was okay. Multiple losses reported due to winter kill on early varieties. Hot, humid week helped the corn really take off. Potatoes are blossomed in areas and look good. Cultivation and spraying is underway for all crops. Blueberry crop is looking great and harvest may be a week early. Fruit flies are being caught on traps and insecticides are being applied for control. Hopefully we get a little rain since the soils are starting to dry out in areas. **Elaine S Moceus (FSA), Somerset:** Very hot and humid week with lots of hay baled. Producers are reporting the quantity of hay is good, but feel the quality is lacking. This is a difficult year to predict for corn production, since producers planted late due to wet conditions in some areas, while at this time conditions are dry. Blueberries are beginning to ripen and early varieties are ready to harvest. Rain showers over the last two evenings were a welcomed relief for crops. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Hot, dry weather...what a change. Some pastures actually getting dry and showing some

summer slump. Highbush blueberry harvest has started. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Fruit are turning blue! There are a lot of large blue berries that are mixed with many small white berries, indicating an uneven pollination. Size is good, but moisture is limiting since we have only had a few scattered showers so far this month, so we are in need of rain. Wild blueberry maggot flies have been caught and insecticide applications are being made for control. NO spotted wing Drosophila have been caught to date in wild blueberry fields.

MASSACHUSETTS – Heather Baylis (FSA) Franklin: The hot, humid week without measurable rainfall is not what farmers wanted. Crops are good but without water will soon start to fail. Irrigated fields are doing well. Pest control and sprays are still forefront in protecting crops from pests and diseases. Harvesting just started for blueberries and raspberries. Farmers continued to harvest squash, cucumbers, beets, and radishes. The sweet corn is excellent! **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Another hot, dry, humid week. Crop fields get drier and drier by the day without rain. If you have irrigation equipment it is being used daily. Vegetable crop quality is still very good, but rain is greatly needed. Harvesting blueberries, raspberries, summer squash, cucumbers, beets, radishes, sweet corn, and greenhouse tomatoes. Protective sprays are still being applied to ward off diseases from entering. Starting to top the broadleaf tobacco crop. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: A very hot and dry week with irrigation a constant issue for growers. Scattered showers overnight only fell in certain locations and amounts were minimal. Final fruit rot fungicides were applied and second and third fruitworm insecticide applications will be done this week. Fruit set appears to be excellent, not as good as last year, but above average in many beds. The first fruit rot showed up in the unsprayed controls on State Bog last week. Pest levels have been typical and dodder has exploded on many beds. Roundup applications are being made to kill woody perennials.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Kelly McAdam (Ext), Belknap: Soil conditions are very dry, and growers have had to irrigate crops. Early sweet corn has begun to be harvested at some farms this week. Blueberries are now ready for picking in the county. **Donna Juneau (FSA) Belknap/Merrimack:** Another warm, dry week with some much needed rainfall on Sunday night. Between ¼ and ½ inch of rain reported in the Concord area. Producers were continuing to harvest hay last week and planting vegetable crops (e.g., corn and beans). Blueberries and raspberries continued to be harvested. The first of the NH sweet corn is expected to be picked this week. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Hot and sunny all week and continuing to look pretty dry out there. Field corn looks pretty good overall - earliest planted fields actually starting to tassel. Some fields on dry sites showing some moisture stress. Second cutting haylage about done, dry hay and balage being harvested at a steady pace. Veggie crops doing well with first sweet corn starting to show up in farm stands. PYO blueberries and raspberries in full swing. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos** Hot, dry weather helped farms finish up first cut hay, a quite good crop overall. Others have begun next harvest of hay land previous taken for first cut haylage. Field corn doing well with this kind of weather, seeing a few sweet corn plots tasseling. Soils a little dry on sandy sites, beginning to show signs of moisture stress. Could use a good soaking rain soon. Robins in the ripening blueberries. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending July 14th, weather conditions are dry! Heat and dry conditions have begun to take a toll on hay and other crops in the county. Some of the well drained soils are showing drought stress on hay and corn. On some fields the corn had curled. Some producers have expressed concern over the impact of dry conditions on their crops. The eastern side of the county seems to be more adversely affected by dry conditions than the Connecticut River Valley. Damage reports from the July 4th storm event continue to come in slowly. Reports include trees blown down or snapped off and other wind related

damages. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Orchardists harvesting peaches, blueberries and summer raspberries. Started harvesting the early season apple varieties. Orchardists busy irrigating apples, blueberries, peaches, raspberries and renovated strawberry beds. Monitoring for pests - spraying if needed. Training young trees and mowing orchard floors. Field Crops: Hay cutting continued at a rapid pace during the week with the second cut being made. Silage corn put on rapid growth this past week. Many hay fields and silage corn fields showing drought stress. Vegetables: Irrigating crops where irrigation ponds' water levels are going down. Farmers kept busy cultivating, hoeing weeds, monitoring pest pressures and spraying pesticides for insect and disease control where needed. Harvesting an array of vegetables: beans, beets, cole crops, cucumbers, greens, melons, peas, potatoes, radishes, summer squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, zucchini, and other vegetables. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** A very hot and humid week. Rain needed badly. Sunday evening steady rain was welcome. Non-irrigated crops showing drought signs. Harvesting an array of vegetables; including field tomatoes, sweet corn, blueberries, raspberries, gooseberries, and cut flowers. Weeding, cultivating, irrigating vegetable fields as well as new planted small fruits fields. Renovating strawberry beds. Monitoring pests in veggie fields and fruit orchards. Slow growing of forage corn because of the very dry weather. Most pastures still looking green. Haying been done. Farmers markets and farm stands very busy. More steady rain needed badly. **Jenn Zaleski (FSA), Sullivan:** This past week was dry, hazy, hot and humid with highs in the mid-90s across Sullivan County. Much needed rain finally fell Sunday evening. Rainfall totals ranged from half an inch to an inch. Crops were in dire need of a good soak. Early planted field corn has begun to tassel. First cut dry hay is complete with producers making good progress on second cut. Blueberry harvest has begun and so has the peach harvest; weeks ahead of schedule.

RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties: The eastern part of Newport County hasn't seen rain in 5 weeks. Doing a lot of

heavy irrigating. Sweet corn is in full swing. Plenty of corn around and prices are good. Been a little hot and dry last week. We're hoping to see some rain on Wednesday to break the dry spell. Pastures are starting to show wear now. A lot of brown spots from lack of rain and heat. Livestock looks good. Small vegetables are doing well.

VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison: With dry soil conditions, harvesting hay in fields that normally can't get to. Second cut regrowth of hay crop is fair to good. New hay crop seedings harvesting nurse crop or clipping, many weeds. Corn crop variable from just spike to tassel in early fields. Quite a few fields still not planted. Soybeans up and growing but many skips in fields. **Daniel Hudson (Ext), Caledonia:** High temperatures in general have slowed the growth of cool-season grasses. It is dry, but the corn is not rolling yet. The area received rain on July 15, but it was spotty. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** A hot, dry week in Franklin County. Pastures have really shown most of the heat stress. Corn is still growing with low organic matter soils showing some curling with the dry weather. Getting very close to tassel in most fields. Dry second cut hay has been an easy harvest with great drying weather. Grass has virtually stopped growing. Franklin County still in good shape on hay harvest with great first cut yields and good quality second and third cuts even though yields are down. Sweet corn is showing up in vegetable stands and the harvest looks real good so far. This will help bring in customers to take in other veggie and fruit bounties. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Hazy, hot and humid this past week with no rain. Conditions are getting a bit dry out there. Pastures have slowed down a lot and the third crop growth is slower due to the lack of moisture. The corn still looks good. The last of second cut was harvested during the past week. **Julie Jacque (FSA), Windham:** River valley lands are extremely dry. Irrigation systems set up and running, irrigation occurring for vegetable crops. Pastures appear to be stable at this point but need rain. Hayfields drying out, but producers are happy with quality of their crop and hoping for showers to boost regrowth.

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Gary R. Keough, Director
Hernán Ortiz, Statistician

Ty Kalous, Deputy Director
Deirdre Davis, Stat Assistant