

Crop Progress & Condition



NEW ENGLAND
Agricultural
Statistics



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July 23, 2012 – 4 pm

For week ending 7/22/12

Dry Weather Continues

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending July 22, 2012, there were 6.5 days available for fieldwork across New England. Pasture condition was rated 2 percent very poor, 24 percent poor, 42 percent fair, 31 percent good, and 1 percent excellent. The week was hot and dry and temperatures reached the triple digits in parts of Connecticut. Extended dry conditions have placed western Massachusetts in a moderate drought status. There were scattered showers and thunderstorms throughout the week. A severe storm system brought damaging winds and moderate precipitation to northern New England on Tuesday. Hail was reported during scattered mid-week storms. Average temperatures for the week ranged from 1 degree above normal in Maine to 4 degrees above normal in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Total precipitation for the week ranged from 0 to 4.4 inches with most reporting-stations across the region recording less than 1.0 inch.

FRUIT: Peaches and the first early season apple varieties were harvested. Harvest of fresh pack wild blueberries was underway in Maine's mid-coast region. The crop began to show signs of stress, prompting growers to irrigate. Harvest of highbush blueberries and raspberries continued while the strawberry harvest was nearly finished by week's end. Some raspberry producers reported a loss in yield due to winterkill and spring frosts. Cranberries in Massachusetts were sizing up well in response to light rains and continued grower irrigation efforts. Fruit growers were also busy irrigating, monitoring for pests, training young trees, and renovating strawberry beds.

VEGETABLES: Farms stands were busy marketing the wide selection of produce. There were reports of late blight in southern New England, putting vegetable producers on high alert. Hot, dry weather forced farmers to irrigate fields parched from prolonged lack of moisture. The harvest of sweet corn began in Maine and is now underway in all New England States. Other vegetables harvested in New England last week included green beans, beets, broccoli, carrots, cole crops, cucumbers, garlic, greens, peppers, radishes, squash, tomatoes, and other crops. Farmers were also cultivating, irrigating, monitoring pests, and spraying for insects and diseases.

FIELD CROPS: The hot, dry weather provided favorable conditions for making dry hay in most areas. However, some hay fields showed signs of stress and grew slowly due to inadequate moisture. Pastures grew slowly and their quality deteriorated further from lack of rain. Corn fields in drier areas also showed signs of stress and began curling while other fields were tasseling and growing well. Maine's potato crop was rated in excellent to good condition by week's end, however some potato plants had begun to wilt from lack of moisture. Although late blight has been reported in southern and central Maine, there have been no reports of late blight in Aroostook County. Blue mold was confirmed in the Connecticut River Valley and tobacco growers are on high alert to control its spread. Producers were also busy cultivating and spraying fields.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

| Soil Rating | This Week | Last Week | Last Year |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| -- Percent -- | | | |
| Topsoil | | | |
| Very Short | 16 | 7 | 11 |
| Short | 58 | 57 | 47 |
| Adequate | 26 | 35 | 42 |
| Surplus | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Subsoil | | | |
| Very Short | 8 | 4 | 13 |
| Short | 50 | 47 | 33 |
| Adequate | 42 | 46 | 54 |
| Surplus | 0 | 3 | 0 |

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

| Crop | Percent Harvested | | | Fruit Set | Fruit Size | Condition |
|-----------------|-------------------|------|----------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| | 2012 | 2011 | 5-yr Avg | | | |
| Apples | <5 | 0 | 0 | Avg/Below | Average | Good/Fair |
| Peaches | 15 | 5 | 5 | | Average | Good/Fair |
| Pears | - | - | - | Avg/Below | Average | Good/Fair |
| Blueberries | | | | | | |
| Highbush | 30 | 20 | 20 | | Average | Good |
| Wild | <5 | 0 | 0 | Above/Avg | Above/Avg | Exc/Good |
| Cranberries, MA | - | - | - | Average | Avg/Above | Good |
| Strawberries | 99 | 90 | 95 | | | |

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

| Crop | 2012 | 2011 | 5-yr Avg | Condition |
|-------------------------|------|------|----------|----------------|
| -- Percent Planted -- | | | | |
| Sweet Corn | 100 | 99 | 100 | |
| -- Percent Emerged -- | | | | |
| Silage Corn | 100 | 100 | 100 | Good |
| Sweet Corn | 99 | 95 | 99 | |
| -- Percent Harvested -- | | | | |
| Barley | - | - | - | Excellent/Good |
| Oats | - | - | - | Excellent/Good |
| Potatoes | | | | |
| Maine | - | - | - | Excellent/Good |
| Mass | <5 | <5 | 0 | Good |
| Rhode Island | 5 | <5 | 0 | Good/Excellent |
| Sweet Corn | 20 | 10 | 10 | Good/Fair |
| Tobacco | | | | |
| Broadleaf | - | - | - | Good |
| Shade | 45 | 20 | 15 | Good |
| Dry Hay | | | | |
| First | 95 | 90 | 90 | |
| Second | 55 | 25 | 35 | Good/Fair |
| Third | 5 | 0 | <5 | Good/Fair |

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday July 16, 2012
 To: Sunday July 22, 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 | 54 | 87 | 71 | +2 | 1266 | +223 | 497 | +136 | 0.26 | -0.44 | 2 | 1.61 | -1.27 | 11 |
| Bangor_Intl_Arp | 50 | 87 | 70 | +2 | 1167 | +233 | 423 | +131 | 0.10 | -0.66 | 1 | 2.98 | -0.09 | 11 |
| Bethel | 47 | 88 | 69 | +1 | 1120 | +172 | 391 | +95 | 0.73 | -0.04 | 2 | 4.03 | +0.77 | 9 |
| Caribou_Municip | 47 | 86 | 66 | +1 | 974 | +202 | 318 | +120 | 0.84 | -0.08 | 2 | 4.82 | +1.39 | 11 |
| Dover-Foxcroft | 47 | 88 | 68 | +1 | 953 | +145 | 309 | +90 | 0.40 | -0.38 | 3 | 4.72 | +1.42 | 13 |
| Frenchville | 46 | 90 | 65 | +0 | 836 | +124 | 246 | +79 | 0.50 | -0.38 | 3 | 3.72 | +0.41 | 13 |
| Houlton | 44 | 86 | 67 | +0 | 934 | +136 | 296 | +80 | 0.25 | -0.59 | 2 | 5.80 | +2.52 | 10 |
| Livermore_Falls | 44 | 89 | 69 | +3 | 1106 | +302 | 384 | +172 | 0.31 | -0.46 | 2 | 3.95 | +0.73 | 11 |
| Moosehead | 41 | 85 | 63 | -3 | 730 | +71 | 178 | +31 | 1.14 | +0.23 | 3 | 3.25 | -0.45 | 12 |
| Portland_ME | 54 | 86 | 71 | +3 | 1246 | +324 | 489 | +204 | 0.37 | -0.33 | 2 | 1.85 | -1.06 | 10 |
| NEW HAMPSHIRE | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Benton | 45 | 89 | 68 | +2 | 1041 | +144 | 343 | +98 | 0.68 | -0.09 | 3 | 3.24 | +0.07 | 11 |
| Berlin_AG | 45 | 89 | 67 | +0 | 1099 | +203 | 367 | +107 | 0.60 | -0.24 | 2 | 3.31 | -0.12 | 13 |
| Concord | 49 | 95 | 72 | +3 | 1445 | +374 | 599 | +222 | 0.75 | +0.01 | 3 | 2.53 | +0.32 | 8 |
| First_Conn_Lake | 45 | 88 | 66 | +4 | 879 | +299 | 265 | +174 | 0.75 | -0.30 | 3 | 3.51 | -0.66 | 12 |
| Keene_AG | 50 | 94 | 72 | +2 | 1399 | +181 | 568 | +95 | 0.30 | -0.54 | 1 | 1.82 | -1.45 | 9 |
| North_Conway | 49 | 91 | 71 | +3 | 1187 | +187 | 436 | +105 | 0.13 | -0.71 | 2 | 2.06 | -1.37 | 12 |
| Rochester | 51 | 95 | 75 | +5 | 1483 | +341 | 661 | +237 | 0.33 | -0.44 | 3 | 1.16 | -1.94 | 9 |
| VERMONT | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bennington_AP | 51 | 94 | 72 | +5 | 1411 | +477 | 568 | +289 | 0.75 | -0.16 | 2 | 1.60 | -2.16 | 7 |
| Burlington_Intl | 52 | 93 | 73 | +3 | 1606 | +439 | 742 | +297 | 0.86 | +0.02 | 2 | 4.50 | +1.23 | 10 |
| Island_Pond | 43 | 86 | 66 | +3 | 1033 | +311 | 334 | +169 | 0.71 | -0.27 | 3 | 5.27 | +1.43 | 14 |
| Montpelier | 46 | 90 | 68 | +1 | 1163 | +255 | 402 | +133 | 1.13 | +0.43 | 3 | 4.71 | +1.88 | 12 |
| Rochester | 49 | 90 | 68 | +2 | 1137 | +261 | 395 | +144 | 1.17 | +0.30 | 2 | 2.56 | -0.83 | 11 |
| Rutland_AG | 51 | 91 | 70 | -2 | 1279 | +64 | 481 | +14 | 0.45 | -0.46 | 3 | 2.73 | -0.70 | 12 |
| Springfield_VT | 53 | 97 | 74 | +6 | 1513 | +531 | 656 | +348 | 0.29 | -0.52 | 3 | 1.08 | -2.19 | 11 |
| Sutton | 47 | 87 | 66 | +2 | 1042 | +310 | 332 | +155 | 1.02 | +0.04 | 2 | 3.40 | -0.43 | 11 |
| MASSACHUSETTS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Boston/Logan_In | 61 | 97 | 76 | +3 | 1707 | +345 | 790 | +217 | 1.80 | +1.17 | 1 | 2.98 | +0.39 | 6 |
| Fitchburg | 51 | 96 | 77 | +9 | 1771 | +805 | 842 | +534 | 0.03 | -0.81 | 1 | 1.17 | -2.19 | 7 |
| Greenfield | 54 | 96 | 75 | +4 | 1565 | +258 | 696 | +164 | 0.11 | -0.73 | 2 | 0.62 | -2.77 | 10 |
| New_Bedford | 50 | 98 | 75 | +1 | 1538 | +193 | 668 | +116 | 0.50 | -0.20 | 5 | 1.37 | -1.41 | 10 |
| Otis_AFB | 50 | 90 | 73 | +3 | 1331 | +272 | 541 | +166 | 0.44 | -0.19 | 4 | 1.63 | -0.98 | 10 |
| Plymouth | 53 | 95 | 75 | +4 | 1533 | +420 | 674 | +259 | 0.41 | -0.36 | 2 | 1.49 | -1.59 | 9 |
| Walpole | 52 | 96 | 76 | +5 | 1631 | +464 | 730 | +289 | 0.13 | -0.64 | 2 | 1.93 | -1.23 | 7 |
| Chicopee/Westov | 51 | 98 | 75 | +2 | 1654 | +152 | 752 | +87 | 0.04 | -0.75 | 1 | 1.03 | -2.36 | 7 |
| Worthington | 49 | 90 | 71 | +4 | 1233 | +292 | 453 | +171 | 0.15 | -0.83 | 1 | 0.95 | -2.87 | 5 |
| RHODE ISLAND | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Providence | 58 | 96 | 77 | +4 | 1671 | +387 | 760 | +237 | 0.90 | +0.20 | 4 | 2.54 | -0.31 | 10 |
| Woonsocket | 54 | 94 | 75 | +5 | 1655 | +507 | 746 | +330 | 0.60 | -0.24 | 3 | 3.17 | -0.40 | 10 |
| CONNECTICUT | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bridgeport/Siko | 61 | 95 | 76 | +3 | 1810 | +437 | 855 | +265 | 1.42 | +0.58 | 3 | 2.60 | -0.82 | 9 |
| Hartford/Bradley | 58 | 100 | 77 | +3 | 1847 | +398 | 895 | +258 | 0.91 | +0.21 | 4 | 2.41 | -0.54 | 9 |
| Norfolk | 55 | 91 | 71 | +4 | 1308 | +363 | 500 | +213 | 1.00 | +0.09 | 4 | 2.50 | -1.34 | 12 |
| Thomaston_Dam | 54 | 100 | 75 | +5 | 1639 | +493 | 737 | +325 | 0.65 | -0.31 | 4 | 1.88 | -1.81 | 11 |
| Willimantic | 56 | 98 | 75 | +6 | 1722 | +560 | 792 | +368 | 0.72 | -0.26 | 4 | 2.27 | -1.48 | 12 |

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, July 22, 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 | 94 | 68 | +1 | 0.08 | 1.86 |
| NH | 37 | 97 | 70 | +3 | 0.01 | 1.35 |
| VT | 43 | 97 | 69 | +2 | 0.29 | 1.78 |
| MA | 44 | 100 | 74 | +4 | 0.01 | 1.80 |
| RI | 54 | 96 | 75 | +4 | 0.25 | 0.90 |
| CT | 53 | 100 | 75 | +3 | 0.51 | 4.40 |

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 and humid early in the week. Later, thunderstorms, wind, rain and hail. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Another very hot week but some scattered showers came through on Wednesday afternoon with some areas picking up over an inch while other places got none. Friday also had more wide spread showers on the light side, but all got some rain. The weekend was great for farm stand and farmer markets sales. Shade tobacco continues to be harvested and broadleaf tobacco continues to grow and be topped. A lot of deer damage to pumpkins and other crops. Garlic has made local news as yield/bulb size is yielding very heavy. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Finally some much needed rain. Just over an inch in most areas but at least the corn perked up and looks like it will pollinate. Corn is tasseling out short - less than 10 feet tall in most areas. Yields will be down - how much depends on pollination and ear fill. Blueberry picking is slow at the PYOs due to very hot weather - but the berries are plentiful and plump. **Ann McCard (FSA), New London:** In the beginning of the week crops were stressed from the continued dry weather and the excessive heat from the previous week. Streams were drying up and vegetables needed irrigation. Reports of field corn 11'+ high and tasseled, just waiting for rain to help develop ears. Thunderstorms and heavy showers on Wednesday brought 1+ inches of desperately needed rain. Friday brought more rain. **Jude Boucher (Ext), Tolland:** A half inch of rain on Friday helped a lot. It came slow and steady most of the day, so every drop soaked in. Vegetables on most farms around the state look good. Three organic farms with late blight. Hopefully, growers have changed to the more effective late blight fungicides.

MAINE – Marcia Hall (FSA), Androscoggin/Oxford/Sagadahoc: Hot and humid most of last week. Hay harvesting was in full swing. Irrigation was up and running all last week in potato fields and corn fields. Cultivation and spraying is underway for all crops. It is being reported rain is needed in most areas, especially after the last three weeks of very hot weather. Late planted crops are now up but in need of rain. **Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook:** Very hot and dry last week. Plenty of dry hay has been made the last two weeks. It looks to be some of the best in years. Broccoli harvest began last week. Average to below average yields are being reported. Potatoes are beginning to wilt in the afternoon. We need a good soaking rain. **Don Audibert, (FSA) Northern Aroostook:** It's been a beautiful hot, sunny week. Farmers have been busy harvesting and picking up their hay. It's dry at the moment and need some rain. Due to dry conditions, no signs of any blight so far in the St. John Valley. Looks like we will be getting some rain this week which will be much appreciated. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** A hot and dry week has the irrigation guns running full time. Some irrigation ponds are starting to run out of water. Those who are watering are picking a variety of vegetables. Hay is being harvested. Pastures and hayfields are going dormant from lack of water. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Corn growth has taken off, but stands are uneven because of early season excessive rainfall. Most crops are growing well. Insects and weeds are plentiful! Some showers this week would be welcome. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock /Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Another hot and humid week which was good for crop/ground work but we really need some rain. Cultivating and spraying of crops is heavily underway. Farm stands are in full swing. Some sweet corn and early potatoes are ready. Second cutting of hay is underway and looks good. Harvest of blueberries looks like it could be about a week early this year in areas. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis/Penobscot:** Sweet corn should be starting to be picked the end of the week. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** Dry conditions in the county. Need some rain. **Elaine S Moceus (FSA), Somerset:** Producers are reporting their corn in some areas has shriveled due to the dry conditions. At this time during the month of July, less than an inch of rain has fallen, well below the average of 2 1/4 inches. Now that we have the sunshine, we need rain! **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Dry conditions

continue to stress plants. Harvest has begun for fresh pack berries in the mid-coast region around Union. Crop expected to be better than average, but could be reduced if we do not get adequate rainfall. Irrigation is being applied to all fields with systems.

MASSACHUSETTS – Julie Viveiros (FSA), Bristol/Norfolk: Last Wednesday's storm brought much needed rain to Bristol County; however, it brought hail along with it to certain areas of the county. Areas of Norfolk County were not as fortunate and did not receive the rain and relief from the dry conditions they have been experiencing. **Heather Baylis (FSA) Franklin:** The continuation of dry conditions is affecting crops without irrigation. Hopefully we will get significant rain this week to help relieve the drought conditions that have put Western Massachusetts in a moderate drought status. Forage quality is quickly decreasing. The late blight in Franklin County has put producers on alert. The heat level is expected to affect the tomato crop reducing pollination and causing problems as the tomatoes develop. In general, mid-summer crops are flooding the farmer's markets. Vegetable growers are harvesting sweet corn, cucumbers, beets, carrots, summer squash, greens, raspberries, and blueberries. Tobacco growers are now top dressing their crops. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire /Hampden:** Rain is greatly needed due to the hot and dry conditions. The irrigation pumps have been running all 7 days this week and temperatures were in the 90s. Producers are seeing crop yields reduced from the dry conditions, but the quality is still looking very good. Harvesting blueberries, raspberries, peaches, sweet corn, cucumbers, summer squash, beets, Swiss chard, and potatoes. Blue mold was confirmed in the Connecticut River Valley and tobacco growers continue to top their crops. Scouting in both tomato and potato fields continues for late and early blight. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Only a few blooms remain; fruit are sizing up nicely so far. There are some very good crops out there. Fruit rot and fruitworm applications should be done. Growers are now wiping weeds with Roundup and putting on post-bloom fertilizers. Some scald occurred during July 9 and 10 when dew points were especially low. Irrigation on a regular basis continues. However, much of the cranberry growing area (excluding Cape Cod and Nantucket) received at least an inch of rain last Wednesday. There was a little hail in Halifax and Duxbury, but it did not do any damage.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Kelly McAdam (Ext), Belknap: Very dry conditions are having an impact on crops, particularly sweet corn. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Dry weather continues - we could really use some rain. Many hayfields and pastures very dry and regrowth isn't as strong as it should be. Field corn on droughty sites is showing moisture stress. Veggie crops doing OK as long as there's irrigation - wide variety of crops available at markets and farm stands. PYO raspberries and blueberries doing well. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Cooler temperatures somewhat, perhaps an inch or so of rain. Grass meadows and field corn both growing well. Farmers back on first cut haylage fields for another crop. Nice crop of highbush blueberries; high-tunnel tomatoes coming in. Farm markets busy with wider selection of veggies and fruit. Could use some soaking rains, beginning to see some moisture stress on lighter soils. Cucumber beetles and Japanese beetles a bit of a problem, as are CP beetles. Nice crop of quality hay and haylage, pastures likewise. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending July 21st, conditions remained dry. Scattered showers provided some moisture in the central western area of the county, however, conditions remain dry. Some corn fields are curling. The hay crop on some sandy soils is not showing signs of recovery, while on other soils the hay is doing a little better. The effects of the dry conditions vary significantly based on soils and location. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Orchardists were harvesting peaches, blueberry, summer raspberry and early season apple varieties. Orchardists were busy irrigating apples, blueberries, peaches, raspberry 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 between thundershowers. Silage corn put on rapid growth this past week. Many hay fields and silage corn fields showing drought stress. Vegetables: Irrigating crops, however, rain is needed. 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, peas, potatoes, radishes, summer squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, zucchini, and other vegetables. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Picking sweet corn, tomatoes, potatoes, garlic, greens, cucurbits and a whole array of vegetables. **Summer** raspberries, black raspberries, blueberries, currants and gooseberries were also being picked. Bird pressure seen in blueberry fields as well as Oriental and Japanese beetles. Monitoring pests in the fields. Cultivating, fertilizing and irrigating fields. Haying and haylage had been done. Localized showers in certain areas on Tuesday evening with gusty winds and downpours. Several hot days. Rain is needed. **Jenn Zaleski (FSA), Sullivan:** The week began hot and humid across Sullivan County. Scattered thunderstorms moved through the area Tuesday evening. Some towns received up to a half an inch of rain while others received none. Temperatures cooled down at the start of the weekend with overnight lows in the 50s, bringing a welcomed break to the heat and humidity. Temperatures warmed back up for the weekend and were in the mid to upper 90s with little humidity. Farmers were busy harvesting second cut dry hay and haylage. Despite the dry conditions field corn looks very good; leaves are green, tassels are forming, and there is very little curling and discoloring. Many summer vegetables such as sweet corn, bell peppers, greens, radishes, and tomatoes were available in farmer's markets and farm stands. Blueberry picking continued in earnest throughout the week. Raspberry producers have reported low yields this year as a result of winterkill and spring frosts. Overall, crops are faring well in Sullivan County, but a good soaking rain is needed.

RHODE ISLAND – We got rainfall last week, but it varied all over the state. Newport County got the least amount of rain. Sweet corn is picking heavy. The rain did help a lot of the small crops this week. We're picking yellow and green summer squash, beans, potatoes and a few tomatoes, corn etc. We have a good selection of fresh vegetables now. The pastures are showing their wear from the heat. Some farmers are starting to feed cows that are out in pasture. Livestock itself looks good.

VERMONT – Daniel Hudson (Ext), Caledonia: It is very dry by Caledonia county standards, but nothing dire yet in most fields. However, we do need rain soon. Overgrazed pastures are not recovering well. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Still dry this week in Franklin County. Pastures still taking the brunt of the dry weather. Corn seems to be moving to reproductive 1 stage with tassel and silt on about one half of the corn. The high demand for moisture needed for corn growth is slowing as we move to this stage of growth. Hay harvest continues, however, we are getting caught up to the no growth fields and will need some moisture to get things in line for a third cut on most fields. Sweet corn is in full bloom and the garden harvest is swelling with all kinds of berries, cucumbers and squashes. Apples seem to be withstanding the dry weather with much fruit beginning to show. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Another week with very little rain. The corn crop is starting to show some early signs of drought. Third cutting hay crop is pretty short right now. Most people are done their second crop hay. Yields are mixed depending on when the crop was harvested. Pastures have really dried up as well. We could use a little rain to get crops growing again. **Julie Jacque (FSA), Windham:** Crops continue to struggle in dry conditions; pastures and cut hay fields need moisture for regeneration. Crops being harvested: beets, summer and zucchini squash, sweet corn, cucumbers, tomatoes, basil and other herbs, blueberries, raspberries, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, greens, peas, peppers, and potatoes.

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