

Crop Progress & Condition



NEW ENGLAND
Agricultural
Statistics



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August 27, 2012 – 4 pm

For week ending 8/26/12

Dry, Sunny Week

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending August 26, 2012, there were 6.7 days available for fieldwork across New England. Pasture condition was rated 1 percent very poor, 22 percent poor, 29 percent fair, 42 percent good, and 6 percent excellent. It was a sunny week with warm daytime temperatures and pleasantly cool nights. Average temperatures for the week ranged from 1 degree above normal in Connecticut to 3 degrees above normal in New Hampshire and Vermont. Total precipitation for the week ranged from 0 to 0.8 inches, with the majority of reporting stations across the region recording less than one tenth of an inch.

FRUIT: Harvest of apples and pears in New England gained momentum with more producers beginning to pick last week. There have been reports of yield losses from spring frosts. Maine's wild blueberry harvest was active on the Barrens and along the Downeast coast, and conditions remain favorable for an above average crop. Highbush blueberry harvest was winding down towards completion, with 5 percent left to pick by week's end. Both highbush and wild blueberry growers report severe pressure from Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD) fruit flies. Growers were spraying to control insect outbreaks. Cranberries in Massachusetts were in good condition, but in need of additional moisture. Pleasant summer weather boosted pick-your-own sales at several fruit operations. Orchardists also monitored for pests, pruned trees, mowed orchard floors, moved bins into orchards, and harvested peaches, plums, and raspberries.

VEGETABLES: Farm stands were very busy and full of local produce. Vegetables harvested last week included green beans, beans, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cucumbers, greens, onions, peppers, pumpkins, radishes, squash, sweet corn, zucchini, and other vegetables. Vegetable crops were generally doing well despite dry conditions. There were scattered reports of late blight across the region. Growers were busy applying preventive sprays, irrigating, spraying, weeding, and cleaning vegetable fields.

FIELD CROPS: Lack of significant rainfall across New England provided excellent haymaking conditions, pushing second and third cut progress ahead of the 5-year average. Soil moisture levels have been variable across the region. Some pastures were green and showing strong growth while others were dry, making grazing a challenge. After visiting Maine last week, Gary Keough, director of the NASS New England Field Office, reported pastures and second cutting hay responded nicely to the rains from 2 weeks ago combined with recent warm temperatures. Corn conditions remain extremely variable, with crop specialist ratings ranging from poor to excellent depending on local moisture levels. Maturity levels were also highly variable given some late plantings and dry summer conditions. A few farmers began field corn harvest, but most growers were hoping for a little more moisture to bulk up yields. Growers in Aroostook County, Maine took advantage of the warm, dry week to combine grains, and harvest of barley and oats was well ahead of schedule by the weeks' end. Potato growers in Maine have begun to spray to kill vines on round white varieties. Most producers were waiting for rain to size up the russet potatoes.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	3	1	0
Short	37	23	3
Adequate	59	72	71
Surplus	1	4	26
Subsoil			
Very Short	2	2	1
Short	36	28	8
Adequate	61	68	74
Surplus	1	2	17

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Set	Fruit Size	Condition
	2012	2011	5-yr Avg			
Apples	10	15	10		Average	Good/Fair
Peaches	70	75	70			
Pears	10	<5	10		Average	Good/Fair
Blueberries						
Highbush	95	85	90			
Wild	80	80	85			
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-	Avg/Abov	Avg/Abov	Good

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2012	2011	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Harvested --				
Barley	80	15	30	
Oats	55	10	20	Excellent/Good
Potatoes				
Maine	<5	<5	<5	Good/Excellent
Mass	20	30	20	Good
Rhode Island	20	10	25	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	<5	<5	<5	Good
Sweet Corn	65	70	70	
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	65	50	65	
Shade	90	80	80	
Dry Hay				
First	100	99	99	
Second	85	80	80	
Third	35	25	25	Fair/Good

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday August 20, 2012
 To: Sunday August 26, 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	82	68	+3	2012	+318	893	+229	0.02	-0.72	1	4.36	+1.34	12
Bangor_Intl_Arp	49	83	67	+3	1884	+337	790	+233	0.02	-0.75	2	2.43	-0.58	9
Bethel	48	83	65	+1	1782	+244	703	+163	0.02	-0.89	1	6.31	+2.70	12
Caribou_Municip	47	82	65	+5	1655	+395	649	+292	0.04	-0.87	3	1.73	-1.97	13
Dover-Foxcroft	47	81	65	+2	1613	+263	619	+200	0.13	-0.71	2	4.46	+1.18	14
Frenchville	50	78	64	+5	1463	+292	523	+218	0.04	-0.87	2	2.37	-1.35	12
Houlton	44	83	64	+3	1610	+294	622	+224	0.18	-0.73	1	2.77	-0.92	9
Livermore_Falls	49	83	66	+4	1785	+455	713	+314	0.05	-0.90	1	3.72	+0.04	14
Moosehead	46	81	62	+2	1287	+162	387	+98	0.21	-0.63	2	3.33	-0.06	11
Portland_ME	56	84	69	+4	2000	+447	893	+322	0.00	-0.67	0	6.52	+3.96	10
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	46	83	65	+3	1657	+235	610	+172	0.00	-0.91	0	3.99	+0.37	10
Berlin_AG	46	81	64	+1	1737	+304	655	+194	0.01	-0.97	1	5.02	+1.11	9
Concord	50	87	68	+3	2224	+515	1028	+360	0.00	-0.72	0	6.30	+3.27	10
First_Conn_Lake	45	81	64	+5	1432	+463	475	+283	0.23	-0.90	2	4.37	-0.26	11
Keene_AG	48	87	67	+0	2160	+256	979	+169	0.01	-0.83	1	4.68	+1.14	9
North_Conway	50	81	66	+2	1859	+262	758	+176	0.01	-0.90	1	7.40	+3.76	13
Rochester	53	88	69	+3	2285	+465	1113	+360	0.02	-0.75	1	4.35	+1.11	13
VERMONT														
Bennington_AP	46	86	67	+4	2140	+643	947	+451	0.10	-0.88	1	2.19	-1.68	9
Burlington_Intl	52	89	71	+5	2423	+591	1209	+449	0.32	-0.59	2	2.69	-0.98	7
Island_Pond	46	82	64	+4	1649	+473	602	+304	0.05	-1.02	1	3.82	-0.58	10
Montpelier	46	83	65	+2	1810	+366	702	+237	0.12	-0.74	2	2.64	-0.83	9
Rochester	46	85	65	+3	1798	+382	706	+256	0.12	-0.93	1	3.27	-0.88	10
Rutland_AG	47	86	66	-2	1948	+62	801	+12	0.01	-0.93	1	2.59	-1.21	7
Springfield_VT	48	87	69	+6	2305	+748	1098	+558	0.06	-0.85	1	2.57	-1.03	9
Sutton	48	81	64	+4	1651	+458	594	+282	0.08	-0.96	2	1.80	-2.51	10
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	62	87	72	+2	2569	+414	1302	+285	0.00	-0.77	0	3.41	+0.50	7
Fitchburg	55	87	72	+8	2650	+1096	1371	+823	0.00	-0.77	0	4.72	+1.52	10
Greenfield	51	85	69	+1	2359	+328	1140	+234	0.00	-0.83	0	3.78	+0.43	10
New_Bedford	56	86	70	-3	2359	+192	1139	+111	0.00	-0.98	0	3.88	+0.10	7
Otis_AFB	59	82	70	+2	2116	+352	976	+243	0.00	-0.79	0	4.10	+1.05	10
Plymouth	57	84	70	+2	2365	+539	1156	+377	0.00	-0.94	0	4.38	+0.82	8
Walpole	56	87	72	+5	2495	+634	1240	+456	0.01	-0.90	1	3.41	-0.12	9
Chicopee/Westov	50	86	69	-3	2487	+165	1235	+99	0.03	-0.81	1	5.05	+1.89	9
Worthington	47	83	65	+1	1896	+378	766	+255	0.02	-0.89	1	2.87	-0.91	9
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	60	85	72	+2	2532	+479	1271	+326	0.00	-0.84	0	3.92	+0.66	8
Woonsocket	57	87	72	+5	2518	+688	1259	+512	0.00	-0.91	0	2.35	-1.29	10
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	63	85	73	+2	2736	+533	1431	+360	0.00	-0.70	0	3.10	+0.13	7
Hartford/Bradle	54	86	71	+2	2743	+509	1441	+368	0.00	-0.84	0	4.02	+0.78	7
Norfolk	52	85	67	+3	2003	+480	845	+328	0.01	-1.04	1	4.04	-0.05	7
Thomaston_Dam	52	86	69	+2	2454	+645	1202	+477	0.02	-0.96	1	4.47	+0.64	11
Willimantic	55	86	71	+4	2581	+738	1301	+546	0.00	-0.88	0	2.80	-0.77	9

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, August 26, 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	42	85	65	+2	0.00	0.34
NH	41	88	66	+3	0.00	0.23
VT	43	89	66	+3	0.00	0.79
MA	46	88	70	+2	0.00	0.12
RI	57	87	71	+2	0.00	0.00
CT	48	87	70	+1	0.00	0.02

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

CONNECTICUT – Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:

Harvesting of summer vegetables continues with much drier weather for the week. Some phytophthora reported on cucurbits after the rains of the previous week. Broadleaf tobacco harvest over 50% complete. Shade tobacco is more like 85% complete. Silage corn about to be chopped. A good week to make dry hay, both second and third cuttings. Mums looking good, but not flowering yet. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Great haymaking weather. Heavy morning dew didn't slow things too much. So dry even the streams are gone. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Awesome week for making hay, good weather for harvesting vegetables and pick your own peaches and early apples. Corn chopping just beginning. Powdery mildew on squash and fungus/blight hitting tomatoes.

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

Last week brought very hot and sunny days. Hay was being harvested throughout the week. Blight is being reported on several crops now. Report of army worms in Oxford County. Farmstands are very busy and full of locally grown/harvested vegetables. **Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook:** Warm and dry weather made for a busy grain harvest last week. Several operations have finished. We need more rain to size up the russet crop. Vine kill on early varieties will start this week. Hay fields are not coming back, second crops will be light. **Don Audibert, (FSA) Northern Aroostook:** The St. John Valley is in dire need of rain. Round white potatoes growing season is over and have been sprayed to kill the vines for harvest. Farmers are hoping for rain so their russet variety potatoes can bulk up. Harvesting grain is in full swing. Depending on weather, oats and barley should be mostly all harvested. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Beautiful weather last week allowed for haymaking all week. The good weather dried out the well drained soils and irrigation guns were active again by the end of the week. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Corn that has not been too stressed is looking better. Grass is growing well. Vine crops look real nice. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis/Penobscot:** Farmers have been able to work around a few scattered showers to get in their hay. Farm stands and farmers markets are well stocked with a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables. **Elaine S Moceus (FSA), Somerset:** Some scattered early morning and late afternoon showers provided minimal rainfall during the week. Temperatures cooler during the week with less humidity gave way to 90 degree temperatures and humidity towards the weekend. Corn grower's reports vary throughout Somerset County from "too short, not well populated, possible 30% loss" to "good" and indicate losses could be due to weather conditions. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Despite some light rain one day last week, conditions continue to remain very dry. Other parts of the state have seen significant amounts of rain, but not in western Waldo County. Blueberry harvest is almost over with significant damage from SWD. Apple harvest has started with one grower suffering a significant yield loss from late frosts in the spring. Corn crop continues to mature, but yields will be low and variable due to late wet weather, late planting and now significant dry conditions. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Wild blueberry harvest is continuing on the Barrens and along the Downeast Coast. The crop is better than average and is expected to be about 95 million pounds plus or minus 5 million pounds. We have been capturing increasing numbers of Spotted Wing Drosophila flies in our traps and finding infested berries at the processing plants. Insecticide applications have been effective in controlling fly populations.

MASSACHUSETTS – Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:

A dry, sunny week. Harvesting fall raspberries, potatoes, tomatoes, all types of squash, onions, peppers, sweet corn, cabbage and cucumbers. Late Blight preventative sprays are still being applied to the tomato crop. Vegetable growers are on the lookout for cabbage looper, imported and cross-striped cabbageworm and spotted wing drosophila. Vegetable growers are still planting radishes, spinach, kale, lettuce and parsley. It was a great week to harvest hay. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Crop estimate last Tuesday was for 2.1 million barrels in MA. My estimate is 2.2 million barrels, based on what I see. It has been dry, and hopefully rain will fall in the next 36 hours. So far, there has not been much fruit rot, but upright dieback has occurred in many Early Black beds in the past 3 weeks. Sparganthis and cranberry fruit worm has injured fruit in several beds.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Kelly McAdam (Ext), Belknap:

Apples have begun to be harvested this week, this is 2 weeks early according to one grower. Late Blight has been confirmed in Belknap County. The Spotted Wing Drosophila has also been confirmed, causing one blueberry operation to shut down early for the season. Presence of this pest is still being confirmed at other sites in the county. **Donna Juneau (FSA) Belknap/Merrimack:** It was a warm and sunny week in Belknap and Merrimack Counties. Precipitation from the prior 2 weeks improved crop conditions in most areas; however, we did receive one report of significant corn and other vegetable crop losses in Merrimack County as the result of the lack of rain earlier this summer. Field corn appears to generally be doing well throughout the counties. Producers have been in the fields harvesting the second cut of hay and haylage. Apple growers are harvesting 3 to 4 weeks early. Farmers markets are still going strong. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Dry and sunny all week, and once again, it's looking dry out there. Most field corn looks good, though some showing moisture stress. Good haying conditions and farms put up some third and late second cutting hay. Vegetable crops still doing well for the most part. Apple picking, such as there is, should start next week. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos** Scattered downpours about the county, but not amounting to much accumulation. Hay coming in as possible, as farmers work to put up as much as they are able in expectation of high feed prices. Field corn doing well as are summer veggies. Soybean aphids on trial field planting pretty much gone, looks like controlled by ladybeetles that were present in large numbers. Japanese Beetles that have been troublesome this season seem to be declining in numbers. Lancaster Fair begins this week. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending August 25th, the weather was excellent! The conditions for making hay were perfect. No rain, low humidity and plenty of sun. The corn crop is coming along. Some fields are better than others, but overall conditions are OK. Fruit and vegetable operations are moving a good selection of produce, with brisk sales in most areas. Sun and great weather seem to draw the customers out. Some hay ground that was dry, is showing signs of recovery on third cut. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Orchardists harvesting peaches, plums, and apples - final picking of Paulared and Ginger Gold and started picking early McIntosh and Honeycrisp apples. Orchardists busy monitoring for pests, summer pruning trees, mowing orchard floors, fixing up orchard roads and moved bins into orchards. Highbush blueberry harvest over except for those few growers who have late maturing varieties and fall raspberry harvest continued. SWD Fruit Fly is being trapped at higher numbers in almost all

small fruit plantings. Many blueberry growers shut down due to this pest. Orchardists are worried about this new pest on peaches. Field Crops: Hay cutting continued during the week with the second and third cuttings being made. Some spreading manure on hay fields and forage seeding are being made. Farmers starting to get equipment ready to start chopping in a couple of weeks. Vegetables: Growers are harvesting an array of vegetables: beans, beets, cole crops, cucumbers, greens, potatoes, pumpkins, radishes, summer squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, winter squash, zucchini, and other vegetables. Some growers are beginning to irrigate again to try to save unharvested crops. Powdery mildew can be found on pumpkins and winter squash. Corn earworm trap numbers are still extremely high on some farms. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham: Rockingham:** Harvesting an array of vegetables including sweet corn, leafy greens, Brussels sprouts, and potatoes. Apples, peaches, and fall raspberries also have been picked. Blueberry harvest is complete. Weeding, irrigating and cleaning some vegetable fields. Monitoring pests in vegetable fields and orchards. Mowing grass in orchards. Potted mums are now available for sale. Farmers markets, farmstands and PYO fruit operations were busy. It was a dry week with lots of sun and dew in mornings. **Jenn Zaleski (FSA), Sullivan:** It was a hot and dry week in Sullivan County. High temperatures were in the low to mid-80s all week. Nights were on the cooler side in the low to mid-50s with morning fog along the Connecticut River. Conditions were great for making dry hay. Many vegetable producers were irrigating during the week in light of the overly dry conditions. A good soaking rain is needed. Field corn in drier areas was showing yellowing at the base of the stalks. Corn is tall however and ear development looks good. Some producers plan to begin silage harvest this week. Blueberry picking was just about done. Pumpkins were ready and available, nearly 3 weeks ahead of schedule. The current worry is how to store the pumpkins until fall. Small amounts of early apple varieties were available as well; however, many are seeing damage from the late spring frosts.

RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties: Technically, no rain this week, but a lot of heavy fog in the morning. Early potatoes are still being dug. They are a nice size with nice color to them. Sweet corn for the last week of August is still in abundance. Small vegetables are doing well with the weather, and very plentiful. Pastures look good and are green for the last week in August. Livestock looks good. People are trying to get second cutting of hay in, but the fog is giving them a hard time drying it.

VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison: Dry conditions allow continued hay harvest. Corn crop variable with some fields nearly ready for harvest while other fields just starting to tassel. Hay crops yield very low with poor regrowth for both second and third cut haylage. Soybeans look great, but pod fill is late. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** This week in Franklin County has really brought out the dry weather. A shower Thursday evening was a help. We are really starting to count rain drops and getting a taste of what our counterparts are going through in the rest of the nation. Seeing some corn harvest, however, we are still out some distance on prime harvest. Some denting going on and a little shower would add to the yield potential tremendously. Gardens are in need of moisture and the harvest is on the tail end. Tomatoes have come around and red as ever. Apples are still to come and the yield looks great in that arena. Pastures are taking a real hit this week and are in need of a rejuvenating shower. Hay harvest is take it if there is any there to take. We need to be careful from here on in to consider the stress of the grasses for survival of the winter yet to come. **Heather Mateja (FSA), Lamoille/Washington:** Good week for dry hay. Rain this past week helped with the pastures and new hay. Crops look great and should be an early corn harvest. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Aside from some spotty showers it was another dry week. Some third cut hay was harvested. Pastures are pretty dry right now making grazing a real challenge. Corn continues to look good. Some rain would be welcomed.

NASS is currently conducting our annual September surveys on crops. In the first 2 weeks of September, NASS is surveying U.S. small grains growers for final production. The responses will provide the foundation for 2012 production estimates. All participating farmers should respond. Your information matters!

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