

Crop Progress & Condition



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

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May 28, 2013 – 4 pm

For week ending 5/26/13

Wet, Wet, Wet

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending May 26, 2013 there were 2.4 days available for fieldwork across New England. Pasture condition ratings improved from last week to 26% fair, 60% good, and 14% excellent. Cool and wet conditions persisted for most of the week as many areas received precipitation on 5 or more days. Statewide precipitation averages ranged from 1.34 to 4.46 inches. Statewide average temperatures ranged from 53 to 62 degrees. Some areas of Vermont and New Hampshire received snow on the night of the 25th. Field work slowed significantly due to the wet weather.

FRUIT: The cool and wet weather has some orchardists concerned about pollination. Some small fruit growers needed to irrigate their crop to protect from frost damage a few mornings when temperatures dropped below 32 degrees. Orchardists were active pruning, monitoring for pests, fertilizing and applying protective fungicide sprays. Peach growers were hand thinning. Cranberries are in bud stage. Growers were applying spring fertilizers and conducting post-emergence weed management.

VEGETABLES: Planting was delayed for many vegetable crops due to the wet soil conditions. In areas where field entry was possible growers planted sweet corn and an array of vegetable crops including beets, lettuce, cabbage, spinach, peas, greens and onions. Growers in southern areas have begun to plant tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, and cucumbers. Crops harvested included greens, radishes, rhubarb, fiddleheads, parsnips, and asparagus.

FIELD CROPS: Planting progress slowed this week for all major New England field crops. Field corn seeding ranged from about 40 percent north to close to 80 percent south. Emergence ranged from 15 to 50 percent north to south. Small grain seeding is nearly complete in Aroostook County, Maine. Potato planting slowed in the County as the cold, wet weather kept machinery out of the fields. Most Massachusetts and Rhode Island potato growers are finished planting. Some dry hay and hay silage was made early in the week.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	1	1
Short	1	28	7
Adequate	49	68	87
Surplus	50	3	5
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	2	1
Short	4	30	5
Adequate	65	65	85
Surplus	31	3	9

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Stage of Development	Fruit Set	Condition
Apples	PF	Avg	Good/Fair
Peaches	PF	Avg	Good/Fair
Pears	PF	Avg	Good
Blueberries			
Highbush	FB/PF	Avg	Good
Wild	FB	---	Good
Cranberries, MA	BS	---	Good
Strawberries	EB/FB/PF	Avg	Good

BS=Bud Stage, EB=Early Bloom, FB- Full Bloom, PF= Petal Fall

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2013	2012	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Planted --				
Barley, ME	95	90	80	
Oats, ME	95	90	80	
Potatoes				
Maine	85	85	70	
Mass	100	100	95	
Rhode Island	99	100	99	
Silage Corn	70	60	60	
Sweet Corn	65	60	50	
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	10	20	10	Fair
Shade	70	35	60	Fair/Good
-- Percent Emerged --				
Barley	85	65	45	Good/Exc
Oats	65	60	40	Good/Exc
Potatoes				
Maine	15	10	5	Good
Mass	45	60	55	Good
Rhode Island	85	95	60	Good/Exc
Silage Corn	30	30	20	Good/Exc
Sweet Corn	35	35	30	Good
-- Percent Harvested --				
Dry Hay				
First Cut	10	10	10	Good/Fair

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday May 20, 2013
 To: Sunday May 26, 2013

STATION	AIR				CUM SINCE MAR 1 TEMPERATURE				1-WEEK PRECIP GROWING DEGREE DAYS				4-WEEK CUM PRECIP		
					BASE-50F		BASE-60F		TOTAL			TOTAL			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	INCHES	DFN	DAYS	INCHES	DFN	DAYS	
MAINE															
Augusta_State_A	43	71	55	-3	154	+18	13	+3	3.85	+3.01	7	5.62	+2.14	13	
Bangor_Intl_Arp	44	65	54	-2	123	+22	12	+7	3.19	+2.41	7	4.17	+0.92	13	
Bethel	38	73	54	-4	135	+24	7	-1	5.28	+4.44	7	6.55	+3.24	11	
Caribou_Municip	41	65	52	-3	156	+82	29	+27	2.94	+2.24	6	4.25	+1.50	12	
Dover-Foxcroft	42	68	53	-2	129	+53	12	+11	3.43	+2.60	7	4.82	+1.56	12	
Frenchville	39	61	49	-4	126	+73	25	+25	2.91	+2.18	6	4.41	+1.60	12	
Houlton	42	68	53	-1	140	+65	13	+10	4.16	+3.39	7	4.92	+1.93	13	
Livermore_Falls	43	74	55	+2	134	+58	11	+10	3.25	+2.41	7	4.92	+1.53	13	
Moosehead	40	67	52	+0	92	+51	5	+5	4.72	+3.95	7	5.78	+2.72	13	
Portland_ME	45	70	55	-2	122	+29	4	+4	3.15	+2.38	6	4.39	+1.06	12	
NEW HAMPSHIRE															
Benton	35	74	56	+0	188	+56	17	+1	4.02	+3.21	7	5.03	+2.01	12	
Berlin_AG	26	71	53	-3	216	+104	33	+21	4.07	+3.23	7	5.20	+2.03	12	
Concord	34	78	59	+2	259	+106	45	+28	3.20	+2.50	6	3.86	+1.06	11	
First_Conn_Lake	36	71	53	+3	140	+94	11	+11	5.21	+4.27	7	7.38	+3.92	15	
Keene_AG	37	88	61	+2	229	+17	44	+10	3.79	+2.91	6	4.63	+1.25	11	
North_Conway	39	70	54	-4	181	+50	12	-1	2.83	+1.92	7	4.65	+1.01	13	
Rochester	38	76	57	-2	191	+12	21	-3	3.15	+2.31	6	4.14	+0.55	11	
VERMONT															
Bennington_AP	39	86	60	+5	275	+139	55	+37	5.39	+4.34	6	6.00	+1.86	12	
Burlington_Intl	42	79	60	+1	356	+164	101	+70	7.53	+6.83	7	8.05	+5.27	12	
Island_Pond	33	73	53	-1	185	+105	14	+10	5.56	+4.67	7	6.86	+3.64	14	
Montpelier	34	76	55	-1	212	+84	19	+4	3.44	+2.67	7	3.71	+0.86	13	
Rochester	35	81	58	+4	195	+80	28	+16	3.38	+2.40	7	4.81	+0.89	12	
Rutland_AG	38	77	58	-3	225	-1	35	-9	3.93	+3.10	7	5.32	+2.24	12	
Springfield_VT	38	85	60	+3	248	+104	41	+24	3.26	+2.34	6	4.37	+0.72	10	
Sutton	32	71	54	+1	189	+112	22	+18	4.62	+3.76	7	5.39	+2.22	15	
MASSACHUSETTS															
Boston/Logan_In	41	82	60	-2	292	+58	43	+22	1.26	+0.56	6	2.36	-0.62	11	
Fitchburg	40	85	63	+7	345	+223	74	+66	3.55	+2.71	6	4.68	+1.52	11	
Greenfield	39	89	62	+2	287	+50	58	+24	3.39	+2.48	5	5.41	+1.91	10	
New_Bedford	42	82	62	+2	256	+20	46	+25	2.12	+1.30	5	3.59	+0.24	11	
Otis_AFB	41	77	60	+4	204	+77	31	+26	1.15	+0.31	5	2.18	-1.24	10	
Plymouth	40	85	63	+6	274	+132	61	+54	1.68	+0.82	5	2.94	-0.72	12	
Walpole	38	87	61	+3	283	+102	42	+25	1.88	+1.11	5	2.89	-0.30	11	
Chicopee/Westov	41	90	64	+2	318	+3	72	+17	4.31	+3.37	5	5.07	+1.40	10	
Worthington	37	87	59	+3	172	+41	34	+21	3.60	+2.55	6	5.43	+1.23	11	
RHODE ISLAND															
Providence	42	88	64	+5	321	+116	68	+52	1.39	+0.55	5	2.19	-1.26	10	
Woonsocket	41	89	64	+6	319	+142	77	+65	1.64	+0.73	7	2.43	-1.28	13	
CONNECTICUT															
Bridgeport/Siko	45	84	62	+2	300	+51	53	+14	1.64	+0.78	5	2.69	-0.90	13	
Hartford/Bradle	44	91	64	+3	352	+64	79	+27	4.45	+3.52	5	5.33	+1.60	10	
Norfolk	38	86	59	+3	205	+78	44	+33	4.56	+3.51	5	5.32	+1.18	11	
Thomaston_Dam	41	91	63	+5	254	+57	58	+33	3.11	+2.13	4	4.00	-0.06	11	
Willimantic	43	87	64	+6	328	+132	70	+46	1.26	+0.35	6	2.60	-1.23	12	

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, May 26, 2013

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				P R E C I P I T A T I O N				
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	DAYS
ME	27	77	53	-2	2.75	5.28	3.60	+2.80	6
NH	21	88	57	+1	2.82	5.21	3.84	+2.97	7
VT	26	86	57	+1	2.99	9.31	4.46	+3.56	7
MA	35	92	61	+3	1.15	4.50	2.71	+1.84	5
RI	41	89	61	+4	1.10	1.64	1.34	+0.51	5
CT	38	91	62	+3	0.75	4.56	2.49	+1.54	5

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: Two or more inches of rain in the area helped out crops and reduced the need for irrigation. Cold mornings but little frost. Field work slowed as planted field corn approached 90%. Grass chopped as silage but little dry hay made yet. Row cover on sweet corn and summer squash has helped push crops ahead of bare ground plantings. Sun and breeze on Memorial Day made for great weather to support parades and honor those who protect our freedom. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** A month's worth of rain in 3-4 days brought us back to normal for the year, but made field work impossible for most of the week. Some hay/haylage harvested early in the week. Hail and high winds accompanied the rain but no reports of major crop damage. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** A wet week with daily storm and warmer weather. Disease pressure on fruit crops. Some mowing and chopping of grass. The rain and now heat is helping hayfields grow. Frost again.

MAINE – Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook: Not much accomplished in the county this week. Cold and rain all week kept operations out of the field. Most operations are finished; a few have a day or two. Pastures and hay fields are greening up, but are growing slowly. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Wet, looking forward to some sunshine. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Rainy, cold weather has kept outside crops very slow growing. Some cold spots reported slight frosts the last two nights. Mid-season strawberries are in full bloom. There were some rainless periods last week, so it is believed the bees were able to pollinate apples. The grass is really growing after all that rain. Summer is forecasted to finally arrive at the end of the week! **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Rain is making the hay grow fast but has slowed up planting. Heat is on the way, hopefully spring activities can resume. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Excessive rain in the past week didn't allow for much field work. Most farmers cleaned equipment and did necessary maintenance to be prepared for upcoming week. Looks like some sun for the upcoming week and should dry out nicely. Some apple blossoms have fallen due to wind over the weekend. Pollinating should be underway for berries and fruit trees. **Caragh Fitzgerald (Ext), Kennebec:** Glad to see the rain has stopped for a couple of days. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** Plenty of rain last week and some standing water in wet fields. A warm-up this week should help crops. **Elaine S. Moceus (FSA), Somerset:** Three and a half inches of rain fell this week, halting most field work. So far for the month of May, this area has received approximately 4.75 inches of rain. Some producers who were able to get their corn and other crops in before the rain are concerned with the pooling of surface water in their fields. According to the Somerset Regional Communications Center, the flood warning continues for the Kennebec River at Skowhegan until late Monday May 27. Minor flooding is occurring and minor flooding is forecast. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Rain and cold weather slowed field work to a standstill. Grass crops are starting to go by but fields may be too wet to harvest. Apples and blueberries are in bloom, but pollination may be off due to rain and cold. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Bees were still being moved into fields Downeast last week. The cold, wet, windy weather has prevented pollination. The cool temperatures are also allowing the blossoms to persist longer, so there is still an opportunity for some good pollination in the coming week. An estimated 70,000 hives have been brought

into the State for wild blueberry pollination. There was also an alert for Botrytis blight, growers were instructed to scout their fields and be sure they have the proper symptoms before applying fungicides.

MASSACHUSETTS – Russell Norton (Ext), Barnstable: The week started with good temperatures and workable weather high in lower 70s, lows in 60s. The week ended with 3 days of cool wet weather. Temperatures remained in the 50s and nearly 2 inches of rain fell. **Debra Senger (FSA), Berkshire:** Over the Memorial Day weekend we had a down pour of rain and just above freezing nights. So far Berkshire County has had about 4 inches of rain for May. The season is early and we have more months to go. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/ Hampden:** This week brought many days of heavy rain. Some farmers reported five plus inches. All fields are fully saturated. Also, many small fruit growers needed to irrigate their crop from frost damage a few mornings when temperatures dropped below 32 degrees. Many vegetable crops were delayed from being planted due to the wet soil conditions. Growers are harvesting greens, asparagus, radishes, and rhubarb. Dairy farmers started harvesting hay and alfalfa. **Carolyn DeMoranville (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Most sites have reached roughneck stage (1/2 inch new growth) and growers are applying spring fertilizers. Post-emergence weed management is underway on some bogs. Insect pressure has been light so far but warm weather this week may change that.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Kelly McAdam (Ext), Belknap: Belknap County received snow Saturday night. No reports yet of freeze damage to tender crops. **Donna Juneau (FSA) Belknap/ Merrimack:** Much needed rain fell each day this past week May 18-25. Field work was limited in some areas by the heavy rainfall mid-week and on the weekend. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Warm for the first half of the week, then rainy for the remainder. We seem to be caught up on moisture for the time being. Forage crops growing well - grasses, etc. ready to harvest, but weather kept farms from mowing. Many farms finished planting corn, the rest should catch up this week, and earliest planted corn now at 2-3 leaf stage. Rain may have delayed operations for some vegetable growers, but things should resume this week. Fruit crops still looking OK - initial reports of only light injury with late frosts. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Cold and quite rainy weather slows crop activities. Light snow cover and frosts towards end of the week. Rivers and tributaries running high and muddy. Earliest planted corn now emerging. Pastures quite wet for grazing. First cut haylage about ready to chop. **Heather Bryant (Ext), Grafton:** About half the county received between a dusting and 4 inches of snow on Saturday, May 25th. Some reports of frost and flooding from heavy rains. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** What a difference in a week! Much needed rainfall has arrived. Concerns about constant cloudy-wet weather that is occurring. Many growers/orchardists are worried about pollination of all fruit crops that are blooming. Other farmers cannot get into fields to plant crops. Fruits: Apples are at petal fall and growers determining what they should use to thin apples and apply. Blueberry is at full bloom. Strawberry is starting to bloom to full bloom. Orchardists are applying protective fungicide sprays on fruit trees and blueberries. Growers are starting to hand thin peaches. Field Crops: Farmers are plowing, disking, fertilizing, planting corn, and applying herbicides to fields dry enough to get on.

Pastures and hayfields starting to look good. Early planted corn has emerged and new seedlings are up and growing. Vegetables: Continued planting vegetables, along with successive planting of sweet corn in dried fields. Laying plastic mulch and drip irrigation tape. Harvesting spinach, asparagus, rhubarb and all kinds of greens. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Snow showers on Saturday evening! Freezing temperature by week-end on two consecutive nights. Rain, heavy thundershowers, gusty winds, cloudy week and week-end. Sales slow at garden centers on Memorial Day week-end. Anticipated sunny day on Monday Memorial Day. Planting continued when weather permitted as well as soil conditions. Heavy soils are showing standing water. Some planted vegetable seeds rotten as poor growth due to cold weather. Plant growth is slow in general. Spraying, between showers, protective fungicides in fruit orchards and blueberry and raspberry patches. Planting field corn and haying. Pastures are green. Harvesting garlic scallions, lettuce, leeks, radishes, Swiss chard, radishes, escarole and radichio. **Kelly Greenbacker (FSA), Sullivan:** Most farmers in Sullivan County were busy wrapping up field corn planting this week after a long stretch of sunny weather. Hay fields and pastures are looking good for first cut. Much needed rain came this week which should boost growth. Seven day totals were up to 3 inches in some locations by Monday morning. The area experienced some cold, rainy, windy weather over the holiday weekend which brought temperatures down to the low 30s at night, and even some snow at high elevations. No reports yet of any frost damage that may have occurred.

RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties: The rain started on Friday May 24 afternoon, with very cool 40's to 50's. That extended into Saturday and Sunday, with significant rainfall. This weather put crops back about a week. Potatoes are not quite done being planted. They should be finished by this week. The weather just held them back and it couldn't be finished this week. The early potatoes are all up and looking good and some of the late potatoes are breaking ground. Silage corn should be finished by now, but it's not. It should be finished by the end of this week. Small vegetables are being planted, such as tomatoes, peppers, eggplants cukes etc, but at a slower rate. I think this week's hot weather will get them going in the right direction. A lot of rye was mowed down this past week, but not a bale made. Hope this week's weather helps to get it off of the ground. Then the ground can be plowed and planted to vegetables. The early strawberries are

looking really good. They are planning on starting to pick around June 6th. Heifers and cows are doing good on pasture, and so is beef.

VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison: Rain has stopped planting and field work this week. The planted corn and new seeded hay field's emergence is excellent. Some hay harvest before rain, now regrowth excellent. New seeded hay fields a little spotty emergence during the dry spell in previous weeks. Pasture growth good. Hay fields full seed heads on orchard grass, no alfalfa blooms yet. Lilac blooms mostly done and wild parsnip up to a foot tall. **Heather Darby (Ext), Franklin:** Very wet week. Not too much work being done in the fields. Most corn was planted a week prior and some first cut started. Corn that is up is at 2 leaf stage. First cut yields have been low but quality good. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Franklin County has come to a standstill in the growth area and field work this week due to heavy rains. Flooding damage was at a minimum; however, much soil loss and erosion with lots of exposed soil from corn planting. Lots of corn under water in fields and time under water will now be a huge factor. Haylage harvest is at a standstill and not a lot had been done before the rains. Cooler temps along with the rain have slowed the flowering fruits and no one is braving garden work at this point. **Heather Mateja (FSA), Lamoille/Washington:** Almost 5 inches of rain this week. Fields were flooded, new seedlings and annuals were under water for over 48 hrs, however the water went down slow and we are not seeing a lot of erosion. First cut looks like it will be short this year. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Field activities came to a halt this week with all of the rain. There was some localized flooding on all of the rivers in the county. Some parts of the county also saw some snow cover on Saturday as well as widespread frost on Monday. Temperatures have recovered and the sun is out so hopefully field activities will begin again. There is plenty of moisture now for crops to grow if we get some sun and heat. **Jennifer Zaleski (FSA), Windham:** What a wet week! Over three inches of rain fell across the county in the form of scattered thunderstorms mid-week with a wash out on Saturday. Conditions were hot and humid during the week but temperatures were cooler during the rainy weekend. Lows dipped down into the upper 30s and there were even reports of scattered snow showers mixed in with the rain on Saturday. Farmers kept busy between rain showers planting vegetables and field corn.

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