

Crop Progress & Condition



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

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For week ending 6/9/13

Rain, Sun, Rain

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending June 9, 2013 there were 4.2 days suitable for fieldwork across New England. Pasture condition ratings averaged 21% fair, 66% good, and 13% excellent. Temperatures were more seasonal throughout the week. Regionwide average temperatures ranged from 2 degrees below average to 1 degree above normal. Precipitation varied from severe downpours early in the week to more rainfall over the week-end. Precipitation averages across the six states ranged from 1.70 to 4.63 inches.

FRUIT: Producers were busy monitoring for pests in orchards and spraying protective fungicides, mowing and spraying weeds under trees. Apple orchardists are waiting to see the effectiveness of their thinning sprays. The recent weather limited honeybee activity across Maine's wild blueberries fields. Strawberries advanced to petal fall and beyond by week's end, with harvest just getting underway. Strawberries averaged less than 5 percent harvested by week's end, compared with 10 percent last year and 5 percent normal.

VEGETABLES: The saturated vegetable fields need warm, dry weather to promote crop growth. Growers applied protective fungicide sprays. Farmers planted warm season crops such as pumpkins, squash, peppers, eggplant, and tomatoes, and harvested beets, peas, strawberries, asparagus, spinach, greens, radishes, and rhubarb.

FIELD CROPS: Planting progress slowed this past week but farmers took advantage of the available dry days. Only a few corn fields remain to be planted. Some emerged corn fields have been sprayed. Farmers made limited amount of dry hay and hay silage. Broadleaf tobacco planting progressed to about half planted in both Connecticut and Massachusetts. Potato growers in Massachusetts and Rhode Island hilled while growers in northern Maine waited for potato fields to dry so they can finish planting and start spraying. Producers are already reporting losses on their potato crop due to submerged potato fields in low spots and seed pieces washed away.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	0	1	2
Adequate	58	59	68
Surplus	42	40	30
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	2	2	1
Adequate	64	73	68
Surplus	34	25	31

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

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

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	99	100	100	
Oats, ME	99	100	99	
Potatoes				
Maine	95	100	99	
Mass	100	100	99	
Rhode Island	100	100	100	
Silage Corn	95	85	85	
Sweet Corn	85	75	75	
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	50	50	55	Good/Fair
Shade	100	85	95	Good/Fair
-- Percent Emerged --				
Barley	95	99	80	Exc/Good
Oats	90	99	80	Exc/Good
Potatoes				
Maine	45	75	40	Good/Fair
Mass	85	99	85	Good
Rhode Island	100	100	90	Good
Silage Corn	80	65	65	Good
Sweet Corn	65	50	55	Good
-- Percent Harvested --				
Dry Hay				
First Cut	25	30	40	Good

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday June 3, 2013
 To: Sunday June 9, 2013

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 INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS
MAINE														
Augusta_State_A	46	85	62	+1	338	+59	86	+46	1.64	+0.86	3	6.09	+2.79	16
Bangor_Intl_Arp	42	85	60	+0	278	+50	68	+43	1.67	+0.88	4	5.63	+2.43	17
Bethel	43	89	60	-2	281	+39	63	+33	1.95	+1.04	4	7.38	+3.93	13
Caribou_Municip	38	81	58	+0	287	+112	69	+53	2.42	+1.78	4	7.43	+4.69	17
Dover-Foxcroft	40	91	60	+2	280	+100	69	+54	2.06	+1.22	5	6.57	+3.29	18
Frenchville	36	75	55	-4	228	+84	51	+46	1.36	+0.66	4	6.55	+3.72	18
Houlton	35	84	58	+0	272	+93	54	+37	1.92	+1.15	5	7.34	+4.26	20
Livermore_Falls	39	90	60	+3	288	+106	72	+57	1.32	+0.34	3	5.17	+1.60	14
Moosehead	39	87	58	+2	219	+99	49	+48	1.98	+1.09	4	7.86	+4.59	18
Portland_ME	47	79	62	+2	309	+96	74	+58	2.40	+1.58	4	5.95	+2.77	14
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	41	87	59	-1	337	+80	70	+35	1.86	+0.97	4	6.41	+3.10	16
Berlin_AG	43	92	61	+2	369	+133	92	+61	1.48	+0.54	4	5.95	+2.50	15
Concord	43	93	62	+1	453	+149	128	+76	2.96	+2.25	4	6.45	+3.60	13
First_Conn_Lake	34	84	55	+0	255	+139	54	+54	1.11	+0.06	4	7.11	+3.24	18
Keene_AG	42	89	62	-3	412	+22	117	+29	2.33	+1.49	4	6.66	+3.23	13
North_Conway	45	91	62	+1	348	+77	79	+38	2.18	+1.26	5	5.31	+1.67	17
Rochester	45	89	62	-2	377	+33	95	+28	2.18	+1.34	4	5.78	+2.38	13
VERMONT														
Bennington_AP	44	87	61	+2	460	+194	130	+89	2.81	+1.72	3	9.46	+5.22	13
Burlington_Intl	46	88	61	-2	557	+199	185	+108	0.93	+0.16	4	10.31	+7.38	17
Island_Pond	36	83	56	-2	312	+138	58	+40	1.53	+0.55	4	8.07	+4.42	19
Montpelier	39	84	57	-3	349	+98	65	+29	2.03	+1.19	4	6.08	+2.92	17
Rochester	41	83	58	-2	332	+97	76	+44	1.66	+0.75	3	5.69	+1.86	15
Rutland_AG	41	85	59	-5	387	-15	95	-2	1.85	+1.02	3	6.06	+2.81	14
Springfield_VT	42	88	60	-1	422	+140	106	+61	2.00	+1.09	3	5.75	+2.05	12
Sutton	40	83	56	-2	313	+141	70	+52	1.61	+0.63	4	7.12	+3.55	19
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	55	88	66	+1	538	+110	159	+76	4.34	+3.59	4	6.49	+3.61	14
Fitchburg	48	92	65	+5	581	+326	188	+155	2.67	+1.84	4	7.00	+3.74	13
Greenfield	45	87	63	-3	485	+56	137	+41	2.81	+1.90	4	7.59	+3.99	14
New_Bedford	45	77	63	-3	462	+39	125	+47	5.08	+4.22	4	8.11	+4.77	14
Otis_AFB	48	77	62	+2	393	+124	96	+63	4.71	+3.94	4	6.56	+3.32	14
Plymouth	46	83	64	+2	494	+198	154	+111	5.68	+4.84	4	8.74	+5.29	14
Walpole	47	81	63	+0	499	+154	140	+79	4.58	+3.74	5	7.57	+4.40	14
Chicopee/Westov	45	87	63	-4	537	+5	171	+34	4.38	+3.40	4	9.89	+6.08	13
Worthington	42	86	60	-2	337	+74	97	+60	3.38	+2.47	3	8.29	+4.30	13
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	50	87	65	+1	553	+168	171	+101	4.89	+4.10	4	7.13	+3.85	13
Woonsocket	47	87	64	+2	545	+205	177	+125	5.58	+4.65	4	8.24	+4.58	15
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	55	81	66	+1	537	+94	155	+51	5.39	+4.56	4	7.35	+3.91	13
Hartford/Bradle	50	87	65	-2	593	+95	195	+66	4.76	+3.85	4	10.27	+6.54	12
Norfolk	44	85	60	-1	385	+127	114	+80	4.28	+3.19	4	10.51	+6.30	14
Thomaston_Dam	45	90	64	+2	469	+109	152	+84	4.05	+3.07	4	8.79	+4.87	14
Willimantic	47	86	64	+2	553	+190	171	+104	4.52	+3.63	4	6.73	+3.06	16

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, June 9, 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	35	93	59	+0	0.00	3.90	1.70	+0.89	4
NH	25	93	60	+0	0.72	4.03	2.26	+1.39	4
VT	32	90	59	-2	0.34	3.00	1.77	+0.89	3
MA	42	92	63	+0	1.49	5.68	3.50	+2.64	4
RI	47	87	63	+1	3.62	5.58	4.63	+3.82	4
CT	44	90	64	+0	2.84	5.49	4.53	+3.64	4

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

CONNECTICUT – Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield: Rain continues to slow field work and damage crops. Corn in wet spots has died. Fields in flood prone areas are under water. Soil is so wet you can't get into fields with vehicles. Strawberries were the only bright spot this week as several PYO operations opened to picking this week. **Ann McCard (FSA), New London:** Beginning of the week brought daytime temps in the 70's and nights in the 50's. Rain started on Friday afternoon, and became very heavy into Friday night, dropping around 5-6". Some first cutting hay done prior to rains; and some corn still being planted. Strawberries ripening and will be ready for PYO this week. Apples had good pollination; peaches growing nicely. Beets and greens (kale, swiss chard, lettuce) being picked. **Jude Boucher (Ext), Tolland:** From no rain to way too much (same old story, but it keeps getting more extreme). One grower in northwest CT reported 20 inches of rain in the last two weeks. Last week the thunderstorms were just lining up over his farm and he picked up 6 inches in one night. He really needs another 2.5 inches today and tomorrow! **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Most of the corn planting is done, some sprayed for army worm/corn borer, height from just planted to past knee high, some under water for a short spell with 6" of rain in one day, water levels are recharged. First cutting haylage is done. Pumpkins planted, tomatoes in, sweet corn staggered in three batches. Apples, peaches look good despite light frost. Strawberries are starting.

MAINE – Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook: A few operations still trying to finish potatoes. Another inch of rain this weekend will push field work back a couple of days. Pastures and hay fields continue to fill in nicely. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Rain, rain and more rain... farmers in area still need a couple of days to finish planting potatoes. Broccoli also still being planted. Some cultivation and rock picking in area. Some potato plants have emerged in fields planted in area. Grains planted have emerged. Broccoli has also emerged. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Looking forward to some sunny weather. **Don Audibert, (FSA) Northern Aroostook:** Again, another week of above normal rain fall. Sprayers are ready to go, but farmers are waiting for fields to dry up so they can spray their fields. Producers are already reporting losses on their potato crop, due to submerged potato fields in low spots and seed pieces being washed away. Hoping for sunny days, but weather forecast is for more rain this week! **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** So far, a good mix of rain and sun with maybe a little too much rain lately. Field work is progressing slowly. We need more sun to make some hay. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Farmers were out chopping the first cutting of hay and the crop is being reported as good. Planting of crops is completed at most locations and spraying fungicides, mowing and maintaining weed control is ongoing now. Berries are starting to form and are being reported as smaller than normal or expected. Some strawberry plant winterkill has been reported in the county. We really need some sun to dry things out and help with the growing season. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis/Penobscot:** Periodic rain throughout the week made farming challenging. A lot of corn has started to come up along with weeds. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** Good week for agriculture. **Elaine S. Moccus (FSA), Somerset:** Most areas have plenty of moisture, receiving showers over the weekend. This was a good week for field work as producers harvest first crop hay, and continued planting crops. Farmers markets are now selling greens and seedlings. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Some dry days mid week helped to get some first cutting planted and some haylage cut and chopped. Some heavy rains over Friday/Saturday will make going a little bit tougher since the fields are pretty soft now. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Bees are being moved out of fields in mid-coast areas. Pollination continues in fields Downeast. Fertilization of plants is finishing up. There was a lot of Botrytis blossom damage seen in the coastal fields from the previous cold and wet weather. Although the bloom is very large

with the potential for a bumper crop, the lack of good pollination weather and disease will reduce the potential for a large crop.

MASSACHUSETTS – Russell Norton (Ext), Barnstable: The week started off cool, lows in the high 40s, highs in the 60s warmer conditions at end of the week the lows in the high 50s, highs in the 70s. Rainfall was abundant, 4.2 inches of rain recorded. The first strawberries are being harvested. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** The saturated crop fields need warm, dry weather. Friday's heavy rains didn't help at all. Vegetable and fruit growers are applying a protective fungicide spray. Tobacco growers are planting their crop between rain storms. Potato fields are being hilled up and some early ones are flowering. Warm season crops such as pumpkins, squash, peppers, eggplant, and tomatoes have been planted in dryer fields. Harvesting hay, straw, beets, peas, strawberries, asparagus, spinach, greens, radishes, and rhubarb. After rains are over farmers talking about side dressing with nitrogen. Growers are on the alert for late blight and downy mildew. Some early sweet corn has tasseled. **Carolyn DeMoranville (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Very heavy rain on June 7-8 saturated some cranberry bogs. A few had water up into the vines. Most bogs are at or close to the early bloom stage and growers are scheduling fungicide applications between rain events. The forecast for fruit keeping quality is poor so growers will be using a stringent fungicide program this season. Bumble bee hive boxes have arrived and are being distributed on some bogs.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Donna Juneau (FSA) Belknap/Merrimack: Sunday June 2 and Friday June 7 each brought us over an inch of rain. High temperatures in the 90s over the weekend of June 1-2 made way to more moderate temperatures for most of the week. Rain has delayed planting field corn somewhat but most producers have been out completing the first cut of their hay crop. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Bright sunny weather for most of the week, with heavy rain on Friday. Pastures and hayfields growing well, and first cut is in full swing - great drying conditions for dry hay early on. Field corn doing well, late planted fields emerging quickly. Most veggie crops doing well, starting to deal with early pests like flea beetle, etc. First strawberries ripening, PYO should be going pretty soon. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Haylage harvest continues as conditions allow, still a little corn yet to be planted as wet field conditions slow farming activities. Orchard grass is heading out. Lupines are in bloom. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending June 8th, we received 1.75 inches of rain at our Orford location. Some areas reported significantly higher levels of rain. Soils remain saturated on some of the less well drained fields. Other soil types are in better shape. Top soil moisture is abundant at this time. Corn planting is nearly complete. Some of the lower flood plain fields along the Ct River were inundated by flooding for a few days, and may need to be replanted. First cut haying will resume as weather conditions allow. Production of haylage has been less of a challenge. Some reports of winter kill have been filtering in. The lack of snow cover this past winter appears to be the reason for the winter kill. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: First strawberries harvested. Fruit growers monitoring pest and crop development and applying cover sprays for pest control. Apple orchardists are waiting to see what their thinning sprays did to the apple crop. Mowing orchard floor and weed spraying under trees. Field Crops: Planting and weed spraying corn fields. Farmers starting to make haylage. First baled hay made. Vegetables: Transplanting tomato and pepper plants in field, and making successive planting vegetable crops. Harvesting early season vegetables such as greens, spinach, asparagus and rhubarb. Pests: Colorado Potato Beetle and Striped Cucumber Beetle are around. Apple scab can be found in apple orchards. **Dot Perkins (Ext), Merrimack:** Three days of hot dry weather gave some growers the opportunity to get some first cut hay in. Others are putting up baleage now. All silage corn is in the ground now and most has emerged. Overall it's been

a good start to the season for all commodities. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Growers busy planting an array of vegetables in the fields. Monitoring pests in small fruit orchards. Adult Tortoise beetles active. Spraying protective fungicides and mowing fields. Harvesting strawberries, greens, asparagus, rhubarb and strand. Rain on Friday. The week has seen warm weather.

RHODE ISLAND – Heather Faubert (Univ of RI), All Counties: I measured 5.25 inches of rain in Charlestown, RI, from Andrea rainfall on June 6, 2013. **Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties:** We got a lot of rain on Friday and Saturday. We had to average over 5 inches across the state. Most of the straw has now been baled. They had a good beginning of the week, and made a lot of bales out of first cut hay. Everything that is planted looks real good. There is very little flooding in the fields due to the rain on Saturday. The ground seemed to soak up most of the water. The fields are wet, but there are no puddles on top. Potatoes were hilled before the rain, and they look real good. A lot of cultivating was done on corn and vegetables before the rain. Rain is forecasted for this week, and with last week's rain it will probably be a slow week on planting more fields or making any hay this week. With the rain and heat, the pastures are looking good for livestock. We started picking strawberries on Friday!! The berries look real nice, even though it was raining.

VERMONT – Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin: Yet, another wet week in Franklin County. Some first cut haylage harvested early in the week with reports of very high moistures. Good management will be needed at feed out to keep risk of Mycotoxins down.

Gardens are very wet and soggy with very little growth and the same applies to the big gardens with corn growth at a standstill. Pastures have plenty of growth, however, the wet weather is keeping grazing on the high parts of the fields. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** A lot of acres of first cut hay was harvested in the beginning of the week however by mid to late week the wet weather had returned. The early grasses have started to become mature which will affect the quality. Quantity of the yield so far is about average. We still could use some warmer temperatures and more sun. Most of the corn is up and looks pretty good. Pastures have plenty of feed but are a little wet right now. **Terence Bradshaw, (UVM):** Finally the rains have broken a bit, but regular showers are keeping heavy soils from drying out in some areas. Apple scab primary inoculum should have been released statewide with the last round of showers. Growers should inspect trees for active lesions before backing off management for the disease. Plum curculio are still active but winding down, and codling moth are waiting in the wings to hatch in a week or so. Growers should have completed nitrogen fertilizer applications by now, and can tend to tree training and trellis work. **Jennifer Zaleski (FSA), Windham:** The week began warm and sunny with highs in upper 60s to low 70s and lows in the mid-40s to mid-50s. Rain began falling in Windham County during the evening hours Thursday and continued through early Saturday morning. Areas picked up about 2 inches of rain. Skies cleared for the weekend. Farmers were busy most of the week planting remaining field corn and managing vegetable fields. The dry hay harvest has been slow going with the periodic showers, but first cut silage hay is pretty much done.

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