

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, State Statistician, New England Phone: 603-224-9639 Fax: 603-225-1434 www.nass.usda.gov/nh nass-nh@nass.usda.gov

Volume 33, Number 11 (Issued weekly on the Internet, May – October) July 8, 2013 – 4 pm

For week ending 7/07/13

Hot and Humid

GENERAL CONDITIONS: There were 4.2 days suitable for fieldwork across New England for the week ending July 7, 2013. Pasture condition ratings averaged 8% poor, 25% fair, 55% good, and 12% excellent. Severe weather occurred early in the week with a tornado in Connecticut causing damage to a few shade and broadleaf tobacco fields. Heavy rains caused flash flooding in southwestern New Hampshire. Hot, humid weather continued for the rest of the week with showers and thunderstorms occurring almost daily in most areas of New England except in northern Maine which received minimal precipitation. Average temperatures ranged from 6 degrees above normal north to 9 degrees above normal south. Precipitation averages across the six states ranged from 0.25 to 2.21 inches. Some areas received almost 6 inches of precipitation.

FRUIT: Producers were busy monitoring for pests in orchards and spraying protective fungicides. Maine wild blueberry growers were active placing traps to monitor blueberry maggot fly and spotted wing drosophila. Massachusetts cranberries progressed to 40% in full bloom and 60% in petal fall by week's end. Cranberry growers were applying the final fruit rot fungicides and scouting for fruitworm. The strawberry harvest continued in all six New England states but is winding down in southern areas. Sweet cherries, high bush blueberries, and raspberries were being harvested.

VEGETABLES: Vegetable growers were weeding, top-dressing with fertilizer, monitoring pests, spraying protective fungicides, and irrigating vegetable fields last week. The hot and humid conditions helped summer vegetables but are also promoted crop diseases and insect problems. Some of the pests out there are spotted wing drosophila, striped cucumber, potato flea, Colorado potato, and Mexican bean beetles. Farmers replanted sweet corn, pumpkins, and other vegetables in drowned out areas. Vegetables harvested included cabbage, summer squash, zucchini, beets, greens, peas, radishes, green onions, and spinach.

FIELD CROPS: Some field activities were able to pick up last week. Farmers planted/replanted previously flooded fields, applied fertilizer, sprayed, and cultivated. Field corn condition improved from the hot, humid weather, however, the humid weather limited making first crop dry hay. Second crop hay growth is good with higher quality expected. Tobacco growers in the Connecticut River Valley almost finished setting out broadleaf tobacco transplants. Maine potato growers were able to finish hilling.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	1	0	2
Short	3	0	24
Adequate	51	46	68
Surplus	45	54	6
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	0	1
Short	2	0	21
Adequate	55	46	68
Surplus	43	54	10

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Set	Fruit Size	Condition
	2013	2012	5-yr Avg			
Apples	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good
Peaches	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good
Pears	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good
Blueberries						
Highbush	<5	5	5	Average	Average	Good
Wild	-	-	-	Below Avg	Average	Good/Fair
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-	Average		Good
Strawberries	85	90	85	Average	Average	Good/Fair

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2013	2012	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Planted --				
Silage Corn	99	100	100	
Sweet Corn	99	99	99	
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	99	99	100	Good/Fair
-- Percent Emerged --				
Silage Corn	99	99	99	Fair/Good
Sweet Corn	95	90	95	Good/Fair
-- Percent Harvested --				
Barley	-	-	-	Exc/Good
Oats	-	-	-	Good
Potatoes				
Maine	-	-	-	Good
Mass	-	-	-	Good
Rhode Island	-	-	-	Good/Exc
Sweet Corn	<5	<5	<5	Good/Fair
Dry Hay				
First Cut	65	90	80	Good/Fair
Second Cut	10	35	20	Fair/Good

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday July 1, 2013
 To: Sunday July 7, 2013

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				CUM SINCE MAR 1 GROWING DEGREE DAYS				1-WEEK PRECIP			4-WEEK CUM PRECIP		
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	BASE-50F TOT	BASE-60F DFN	BASE-50F TOT	BASE-60F DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS
MAINE														
Augusta_State_A	57	90	73	+6	826	+100	304	+100	0.95	+0.20	5	5.83	+2.79	17
Bangor_Intl_Arp	57	89	72	+6	721	+81	245	+88	0.46	-0.31	3	4.27	+1.19	14
Bethel	56	89	72	+6	719	+63	239	+76	1.88	+1.04	4	6.63	+3.01	16
Caribou_Municip	56	89	72	+8	658	+138	208	+108	0.01	-0.81	1	3.58	+0.69	15
Dover-Foxcroft	55	90	72	+7	706	+167	235	+127	0.66	-0.18	3	4.00	+0.55	16
Frenchville	49	85	70	+7	554	+81	168	+89	0.01	-0.79	1	4.05	+1.03	13
Houlton	50	88	72	+7	634	+100	192	+84	0.03	-0.78	2	3.04	-0.08	15
Livermore_Falls	56	89	71	+7	724	+183	249	+142	1.05	+0.24	5	6.70	+3.02	18
Moosehead	55	88	70	+8	599	+173	178	+114	0.19	-0.73	2	5.50	+1.80	13
Portland_ME	56	93	73	+7	804	+182	298	+153	1.35	+0.59	3	6.27	+3.11	14
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	61	88	73	+9	795	+162	267	+128	2.85	+2.04	6	7.97	+4.52	20
Berlin_AG	58	87	71	+6	837	+212	285	+141	2.17	+1.31	5	4.56	+0.82	17
Concord	61	95	76	+8	992	+235	394	+172	1.50	+0.79	3	5.28	+2.33	15
First_Conn_Lake	58	86	70	+9	656	+279	202	+164	1.30	+0.25	6	4.94	+0.63	20
Keene_AG	63	91	77	+8	935	+50	373	+74	1.44	+0.63	3	6.38	+3.05	13
North_Conway	58	91	72	+5	794	+94	261	+70	1.80	+0.94	3	5.51	+1.86	16
Rochester	61	91	76	+7	894	+77	340	+82	1.44	+0.65	3	5.96	+2.74	17
VERMONT														
Bennington_AP	62	90	77	+11	983	+328	388	+228	1.15	+0.19	4	5.63	+1.52	18
Burlington_Intl	59	90	75	+7	1111	+275	462	+188	3.35	+2.54	6	10.93	+7.64	19
Island_Pond	57	85	71	+8	705	+213	213	+123	1.52	+0.54	6	7.17	+3.19	20
Montpelier	59	86	72	+7	788	+154	252	+98	2.43	+1.73	5	8.56	+5.46	19
Rochester	61	88	72	+7	771	+161	265	+123	3.93	+3.09	6	9.88	+6.46	20
Rutland_AG	61	88	74	+5	863	-25	310	+11	1.28	+0.44	3	5.36	+2.00	18
Springfield_VT	63	92	76	+10	938	+244	359	+179	2.09	+1.25	4	6.42	+2.89	17
Sutton	61	85	70	+7	708	+214	215	+119	2.85	+1.87	6	8.07	+4.09	18
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	61	95	81	+10	1196	+213	537	+183	0.14	-0.51	2	6.19	+3.40	13
Fitchburg	62	94	80	+14	1210	+537	538	+365	1.06	+0.22	2	6.90	+3.54	11
Greenfield	66	93	78	+8	1053	+98	433	+93	0.85	-0.02	3	9.02	+5.51	13
New_Bedford	69	91	77	+6	1063	+97	446	+112	0.35	-0.35	2	4.83	+1.65	11
Otis_AFB	68	86	75	+7	933	+205	360	+155	0.15	-0.52	2	5.70	+2.80	12
Plymouth	70	93	79	+10	1108	+332	488	+250	0.17	-0.60	2	4.78	+1.64	12
Walpole	64	94	80	+11	1131	+300	488	+224	0.16	-0.64	2	6.53	+3.09	11
Chicopee/Westov	68	93	79	+7	1145	+32	504	+69	1.03	+0.16	1	6.21	+2.53	11
Worthington	63	89	75	+9	819	+157	317	+155	1.04	+0.11	3	8.56	+4.93	13
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	71	93	80	+10	1203	+285	543	+225	0.41	-0.30	2	5.42	+2.41	10
Woonsocket	71	94	80	+11	1166	+349	520	+275	0.15	-0.76	2	5.40	+1.66	13
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	73	92	80	+8	1202	+208	542	+173	0.23	-0.61	2	4.32	+1.09	12
Hartford/Bradle	72	93	81	+9	1247	+180	574	+159	1.29	+0.52	1	7.49	+4.14	10
Norfolk	66	88	76	+10	900	+239	368	+205	0.81	-0.17	4	9.91	+5.72	15
Thomaston_Dam	68	93	79	+12	1088	+261	497	+244	0.71	-0.20	3	8.91	+5.18	13
Willimantic	71	92	79	+10	1169	+332	511	+253	0.16	-0.75	3	5.66	+2.13	14

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, July 7, 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.
 Copyright 2013. AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.
 For detailed ag weather forecasts and data visit the AWIS
 home page at www.awis.com or call toll free at 1-888-798-9955

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	49	93	71	+6	0.00	2.36	0.72	-0.05	3
NH	50	95	74	+8	0.56	5.95	1.98	+1.17	4
VT	53	92	73	+8	0.50	5.75	2.21	+1.41	4
MA	58	95	78	+9	0.10	2.59	0.57	-0.22	2
RI	67	94	77	+8	0.05	0.43	0.25	-0.44	2
CT	66	95	78	+9	0.03	1.29	0.46	-0.32	2

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: A very hot and humid week with scattered thunderstorms. Sweet corn showing up at stands for the 4th of July picnics. No break in sight to get dryer air and cooler temps. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Hazy, hot, humid, glorious sunshine. Baling first cutting and chopping second cutting of hay, applying topdress of urea to cornfields. Samples tested call for 100+ lbs due to N applied at planting lost with all the rain. Spraying weeds a second time. Corn ranges from just planted to over 5' high. Short season grain corn has begun to tassel. Blueberry picking.

MAINE – Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook: Dry hot weather has really started things growing. Dry hay harvest started this week with crops being reported as above average yields and quality. Potatoes are starting to fill the rows. Broccoli planting will end this week. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: There have been some ECB egg masses found and peak flight of the moths should be this week. **Don Audibert, (FSA) Northern Aroostook:** Dry, hot, sunny, humid weather all week. Temperatures range from 84 to 88 degrees. Farmers are finishing up their last hilling on potato crop. Can now see a lot of damage in potato fields due to above normal rainfall in June. Could use some rain this week. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Corn is finally starting to gain growth with the heat. Lots of hay out there but quality is dropping. Second crop has a great start, where the first crop is not still standing. We need a good dry hot spell. Spring strawberry harvest is wrapping up. Peas, broccoli, and greens are becoming available. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Corn has improved with high temps and sunny days. Harvest of hay is well under way. Spraying of crops continued over the weekend. Potatoes are looking great, as well as most vegetables. Farmstands are open and crop harvest is underway in many areas. Blueberries are looking good. Scattered showers in the upcoming week will help with dryer conditions in areas. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Too much rain saturated soils and plants are in desperate need of sunshine. Producers are reporting that crop fields are muddy and some standing water. Hay harvest was at a standstill due to too much rain. Hot sunny humid days (end of last week) but with showers in most areas made drying hay impossible. Strawberry harvest is almost done. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis/Penobscot:** A lot of haying. Very humid and hot. Spotting rains made haying a challenge. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** Too much rain, too much heat, we could use some average. Strawberries are good but PYO was slowed by rain as was haying. Silage corn looks good on sandy ground and is yellowed and stunted on wet ground. **Elaine S. Moceus (FSA), Somerset:** Hot and humid 90 degree temperatures during the week with scattered rain and thunderstorms dropping approximately 1.5" of rain. Silage corn varies in height from only a few inches to about 2 feet tall. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Hotter and drier, but intermittent showers still causing issues with hay producers. Many fields still wet and many farmers are struggling to get post emergence herbicide applications on corn. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: A male spotted wing drosophila was captured in Dresden and in Whitefield on July 3rd in the southern coastal blueberry growing region. On Saturday, July 6th, a male SWD was captured in a Winterport blueberry field but we have NOT had a recent SWD capture Downeast yet. Only a slight proportion of ripe (blue) berries (< 0.5 % or so) so it is still too early to spray for this pest. Blueberry maggot fly captures have already exceeded the threshold (10 cumulative flies/trap in many fields, so border sprays of insecticide are being applied to prevent the fruit from being infested. **Michael Look (Grower), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Unusually weedy due to excess moisture in spring.

MASSACHUSETTS – Russell Norton (Ext), Barnstable: This week's weather was hot, highs in the low 80s to low 90s, nighttime

lows in low to high 70s. Humidity has been high. Strawberries are finished, raspberries and blueberry harvest is beginning. Recent warm weather has given needed boost to heat loving crops. Dry conditions are allowing growers to catch up on weed control. **Debra Senger (FSA), Berkshire:** The weather in the Berkshire has been raining with producers not able to get into the fields for their first hay cuttings. Strawberries are in full swing and the rain hasn't stopped the buyers from picking. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Week started off with heavy rains some farmers reported 1.25 inches in one hour. The rest of the week was very hot and humid with scattered thunderstorms. Growers continued to cultivate their fields to dry them out and eliminate weeds, sidedressing fields with nitrogen. Due to the very saturated hay fields very little was harvested as dried hay or haylage. The hot and humid conditions are causing crop diseases and farmers are combating them with fungicides. Also, the very hot humid conditions are causing insect problems to crops. Some of the pests out there are spotted wing drosophila and striped cucumber, potato flea, Colorado potato, Mexican bean beetles. But with all these problems growers are still harvesting a great crop of beets, radishes, summer and zucchini squash, greens, peas, sweet corn, and cabbage. Tobacco farmers are hoeing and sidedressing their crop. **Carolyn DeMoranville (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Passing showers at the beginning and end of the week kept soil moisture adequate. However, some irrigation was needed late in the week due to temperatures soaring above 90. Bee activity is good and fruit is setting. Growers are applying final fruit rot fungicides. Cranberry fruitworm scouting and management is in full swing. The heat wave has broken but humidity remains high making outdoor work possible if not pleasant.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Donna Juneau (FSA) Belknap/Merrimack: Severe rain on Monday and Tuesday, July 1 and 2 has impacted area producers. There have been many reports of saturated fields; some reports of possibly lost field corn crops; and one report of a severely flooded hay field. Some producers have been waiting the last few weeks for fields to dry out to plant or replant field corn but have indicated that at this point replanting is unlikely. Several producers have reported that they had difficulty obtaining field corn seed earlier this year and had to travel to New York to find seed for their first plantings. They indicated that seed corn will likely be even harder to come by at this point in the season; therefore a second planting may be impossible. **Olivia Saunders (Ext), Carroll:** Many fields still drying out. It's been difficult to find a window of time to cut hay. Excessive heat has made field work challenging. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** More hot and muggy weather all week, with local flash flooding mid week. Challenging drying conditions for dry hay, but corn is growing great. Greater variety of veggies showing up in stands, and first sweet corn is tasseling. Strawberries are all done, and raspberries and blueberries just starting. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Rainy weather, heavy at times still the dominant story up here, delaying harvest of haylands, contributing to future weed problems. All grasses now headed out with equipment parked ready to go. Rivers running high, lots of wet spots in low lying fields. Some better conditions towards week's end but more rain Sunday night. Harvested grasslands growing back well, blueberries filling out nicely. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending July 6th, we received close to 3 inches of rain. Rain was received to some extent on 6 days out of 7. Soil conditions remain saturated with standing water on less well drained soils. River bottom soils are a little better off, then some fields with corn crop is beginning to show stress related to excess moisture. Some hay fields with a significant component of clover in the understory are exhibiting mould/mildew due to wet conditions. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Fruit growers monitoring pest and crop development and applying sprays for pest. Sweet cherry harvest is underway. Strawberry harvest is ending and growers are getting ready to renovate harvested beds. Most pick-your-own operations seeing few customers because of hot weather and fruit are turning

soft and fruit is small sized. First blueberry and raspberry fruit picked. Field Crops: Farmers making haylage between showers, hard to bale hay because of rain showers. Growers are sidedressing fertilizer to field corn, if needed, and to hay fields. Vegetables: Growers continued harvesting early season vegetables such as lettuce, greens, radishes, and zucchini. Growers are sidedressing fields with fertilizer, cultivating and hand-hoeing weeds, scouting for pests and spraying if needed. Very high number of squash vine borer. Potato leafhopper is very active. Saw first case of bacterial canker and early blight on tomatoes. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** A very hot and humid week with some cloudy days that ended with severe and isolated thundershowers on Sunday afternoon and more rain in the evening. Picking a whole array of vegetables, greenhouse tomatoes, sweet corn, sweet onions, garlic bulbs, garlic scapes, leeks and many cut flowers. Weeding, topdressing with fertilizer, monitoring pests and spraying protective fungicides and irrigating vegetable fields. Blueberries and red raspberries "Pick-Your-Own" operations very busy offering customers a great crop. Strawberry harvest done and strawberry beds are being renovated. Fruit growers busy mowing orchard floors and monitoring pests haying and haylage are being done. Another hot and humid weather is predicted for the upcoming week.

RHODE ISLAND –Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties: Most farmers this week were back out in the fields working, trying to finish up planting sweet corn, silage corn, and vegetables. Made some hay this week. Strawberries are winding down. It's been a very good season. The weather from Wednesday through Sunday has been very hot, in the 90's. Some parts of the state had no rain this week. The northern part of the state got thundershowers. We expect thundershowers every day this week due to the weather being so warm. Pastures are still nice and green. The animals are doing well even with the heat. The early potatoes are coming into full bloom.

VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison: Very little haylage harvest between rain storms. No dry hay harvest, no corn planting. Most field work stopped. Estimate 20% of corn crop prevented from planting. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Not many weeks in June to report over 2 to 3 days for field work here in Franklin County. Looking into the recent archives, it is a blessing that we had the two weeks in early May to get corn planted when everyone was thinking of a dry summer. The one week we had in mid June also gave us a little catch up on first cut. Still much first cut in the fields, which will be worked in with the second cut harvest at this point. Strawberries have gone by their peak season and were a mixed bag. Mostly a wet soggy fruit to deal with. Even if one could get the picking done there had to be hasty use and freezing. Have not seen any sweet corn in stands, which we sometimes see around the Fourth of July. Looks like it will be a while yet and the yields will be sparse. Apples are now a question mark with some heavy dropping of early fruit due to the rains. Potatoes will be in the question category with wet soils that can contribute to rot. We need to hang in there as we still have some time to deal with before our major fall crops come to maturity. **Jennifer Gehly (FSA), Windham:** It was a rainy start to the week. Heavy rain fell in parts of the county during the overnight hours of July 2. No serious damage was reported, but pooling in lower lying areas was apparent. The other side of the river didn't fare as well, with damage reported in Alstead, Gilsum, Walpole, and Westmoreland New Hampshire. Skies cleared up for the rest of the week and hazy, hot and humid conditions were present every day. Field corn likes this hot weather and looks good. Producers were able to make some progress on the first cut dry hay harvest during the weekend. Regrowth of the first cut taken off earlier in the season looks good with some producers reporting second cut silage is ready to harvest. Blueberries and raspberries were available this weekend.

To receive this report every Monday evening, send an e-mail message to listserv@newsbox.usda.gov and in the body, type **subscribe usda-new-eng-crop-weather**

Gary R. Keough, State Statistician

Robin Helrich, Statistician

Lynne Arsenault, Stat Assistant