

Crop Progress & Condition



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

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For week ending 7/21/13

Hazy, Hot, and Humid

GENERAL CONDITIONS: There were of 6.4 days suitable for fieldwork across New England for the week ending July 21, 2013. Pasture condition ratings averaged 3% poor, 24% fair, 65% good, and 9% excellent. Hazy, hot, and humid conditions prevailed throughout the week with high temperatures in the 90s across most of New England. Average temperatures ranged from 9 to 11 degrees above normal. Most areas received some precipitation during the week but amounts varied. Precipitation averages across the six states ranged from 0.10 to 0.88 inches but the highest local precipitation total was 5.04 inches.

FRUIT: The peach harvested picked up with the hot weather pushing maturity. Other fruit crops harvested included sweet cherries, black currants, raspberries, high bush blueberries, and the last of the strawberries. Other activities included mowing orchard floors, renovating strawberry beds, monitoring for pests, and spraying if needed. Maine wild blueberry growers continued to monitor for both blueberry fruit fly and Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD). Massachusetts cranberry growers scouted for cranberry fruitworm eggs. Precipitation was minimal so supplemental irrigation was needed in most locations.

VEGETABLES: Farms stands were busy marketing a wide variety of produce. Vegetable crops harvested included beans, beets, broccoli, green onions, peas, carrots, radishes, greens, tomatoes, sweet corn, summer squash, and zucchini. Farmers were also cultivating, irrigating, monitoring pests, and spraying for insects and diseases.

FIELD CROPS: The corn crop responded well to last week's hot and humid conditions. The crop is extremely variable. Early planted corn is tasseling while later plantings may be less than a foot high. Also, corn on poorly drained soils was stunted by the excessive moisture received in June and early July. Last week's weather was favorable for making first and second crop hay in most areas though some areas received scatter showers and thunderstorms that slowed drying. First crop hay harvest is about two weeks behind normal with much of it being over mature. Some producers have left first crop hay standing and moved onto second crop hay on better drained soils. Connecticut Valley tobacco growers started first priming of shade tobacco and broad leaf growers are topping and applying sucker control. Maine potato growers sprayed for pests and scouted for potato late blight. Much of Maine's potato acreage received timely rains last week as Aroostook County didn't receive the same amount of rainfall in late June and early July as the rest of New England.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	0	16
Short	6	5	58
Adequate	77	58	26
Surplus	17	37	0
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	0	8
Short	6	3	50
Adequate	66	52	42
Surplus	28	45	0

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Set	Fruit Size	Condition
	2013	2012	5-yr Avg			
Apples	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good
Peaches	15	10	5	--	Average	Good/Fair
Pears	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good
Blueberries						
Highbush	20	30	20	--	Average	Good
Wild	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good
Strawberries	95	99	95	--	Average	Good/Fair

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2013	2012	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Emerged --				
Silage Corn	100	100	100	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	100	99	99	
-- Percent Harvested --				
Barley	-	-	-	Good/Exc
Oats	-	-	-	Good/Exc
Potatoes				
Maine	-	-	-	Good/Exc
Mass	-	-	-	Good
Rhode Island	-	-	-	Good/Exc
Sweet Corn	10	20	10	Good
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	-	-	-	Good/Fair
Shade	10	40	15	Good
Dry Hay				
First Cut	80	95	90	Good/Fair
Second Cut	25	55	40	Good
Third Cut	0	5	<5	Fair/Good

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday July 15, 2013
 To: Sunday July 21, 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	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS
	---	---	---	---	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	INCHES	---	---	INCHES	---	---
MAINE														
Augusta_State_A	62	92	78	+9	1162	+159	500	+159	0.36	-0.34	4	5.12	+2.22	18
Bangor_Intl_Arp	60	92	76	+8	1041	+145	425	+151	0.32	-0.45	4	3.42	+0.34	15
Bethel	58	91	76	+8	1032	+122	412	+134	0.44	-0.33	3	6.98	+3.68	18
Caribou_Municip	50	94	73	+8	953	+213	363	+177	5.04	+4.13	4	7.52	+4.16	14
Dover-Foxcroft	54	92	76	+9	1020	+246	409	+205	0.33	-0.47	2	3.24	-0.08	16
Frenchville	48	91	72	+7	822	+140	296	+141	0.50	-0.36	2	3.81	+0.54	9
Houlton	50	93	72	+6	911	+147	329	+127	3.20	+2.36	4	4.44	+1.18	15
Livermore_Falls	57	91	76	+10	1042	+272	427	+229	0.88	+0.11	5	6.70	+3.44	20
Moosehead	49	91	73	+9	882	+253	321	+186	0.64	-0.27	3	4.56	+0.86	14
Portland_ME	63	95	79	+10	1145	+261	499	+232	0.15	-0.55	1	5.43	+2.50	13
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	59	91	76	+10	1127	+264	459	+228	1.28	+0.51	4	8.90	+5.71	22
Berlin_AG	58	89	75	+9	1147	+285	455	+211	1.06	+0.22	4	5.53	+2.07	20
Concord	61	95	79	+10	1361	+330	623	+266	1.53	+0.81	3	5.73	+2.90	15
First_Conn_Lake	54	89	73	+11	909	+355	342	+259	1.04	-0.01	4	5.16	+0.98	20
Keene_AG	59	95	78	+8	1304	+128	602	+151	0.00	-0.84	0	5.95	+2.68	10
North_Conway	59	89	76	+8	1111	+149	438	+125	0.87	+0.03	4	6.69	+3.24	19
Rochester	62	94	79	+9	1252	+152	558	+156	0.43	-0.34	2	5.24	+2.14	15
VERMONT														
Bennington_AP	57	92	77	+9	1344	+446	609	+346	0.24	-0.67	2	4.41	+0.61	16
Burlington_Intl	59	98	80	+10	1501	+376	712	+289	0.20	-0.64	4	8.21	+4.94	21
Island_Pond	53	89	74	+10	1013	+321	381	+226	1.73	+0.76	5	8.53	+4.69	23
Montpelier	58	90	75	+9	1115	+242	439	+185	0.66	-0.04	4	7.54	+4.69	20
Rochester	59	90	75	+9	1096	+254	450	+213	1.43	+0.58	4	10.37	+7.00	21
Rutland_AG	60	91	76	+7	1202	+29	512	+67	0.13	-0.76	2	6.22	+2.81	16
Springfield_VT	60	94	78	+10	1302	+356	583	+291	0.60	-0.19	3	5.44	+2.15	17
Sutton	54	89	74	+10	1012	+310	379	+212	1.93	+0.97	4	9.85	+6.02	22
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	73	99	85	+12	1620	+306	821	+276	0.01	-0.62	1	1.26	-1.35	10
Fitchburg	66	97	83	+16	1631	+703	819	+529	0.00	-0.84	0	2.33	-1.03	8
Greenfield	62	96	80	+9	1442	+179	682	+174	0.00	-0.84	0	4.33	+0.94	9
New_Bedford	67	93	82	+8	1466	+169	709	+185	0.04	-0.64	2	2.55	-0.26	11
Otis_AFB	66	90	79	+9	1306	+289	593	+240	0.10	-0.53	2	2.48	-0.15	12
Plymouth	68	97	82	+11	1510	+441	750	+359	0.16	-0.61	1	2.43	-0.65	11
Walpole	68	97	83	+12	1532	+408	749	+332	0.01	-0.76	1	1.74	-1.44	12
Chicopee/Westov	64	97	81	+8	1555	+103	774	+139	0.00	-0.81	0	2.84	-0.59	10
Worthington	60	90	76	+9	1161	+256	519	+253	0.01	-0.97	1	4.21	+0.41	13
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	69	98	85	+12	1638	+400	838	+341	0.18	-0.52	1	1.74	-1.13	9
Woonsocket	67	97	83	+12	1582	+476	796	+402	0.09	-0.77	1	1.46	-2.13	11
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	73	95	85	+12	1646	+321	846	+286	0.01	-0.85	1	1.29	-2.13	11
Hartford/Bradle	67	97	84	+10	1685	+284	872	+263	0.16	-0.54	1	4.59	+1.60	11
Norfolk	60	90	77	+10	1250	+341	578	+307	0.81	-0.10	2	5.35	+1.47	15
Thomaston_Dam	64	97	81	+12	1494	+388	763	+371	0.04	-0.90	1	5.83	+2.16	14
Willimantic	68	97	83	+13	1592	+472	794	+392	0.02	-0.96	1	1.19	-2.54	14

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, July 21, 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	47	95	75	+9	0.01	5.04	0.88	-0.10	3
NH	43	98	77	+10	0.00	3.02	0.69	-0.11	2
VT	50	98	76	+9	0.00	1.93	0.82	-0.01	3
MA	57	99	80	+10	0.00	0.96	0.07	-0.70	1
RI	67	98	82	+11	0.00	0.18	0.10	-0.59	1
CT	60	97	82	+11	0.00	0.81	0.15	-0.66	1

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: Hazy, hot and humid for the whole week. Despite the brutal working conditions there was much crop progress as several completed haying, or close to it. Sweet corn is now showing up at more farm stands and farmers markets. Harvesting of snap beans, summer squash, cucumbers, and greens. Started first priming of shade tobacco and broad leaf growers are topping and applying sucker control. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Strawberries are finished, but the blueberries are ready. Field corn is tasseling, too early and too short. Some fields tasseling at 5 to 7 feet rather than the normal 10 to 12. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** HOT week, bright sun, high humidity. Mowing and baling hay, spreading manure on hay fields. Humidity and heat requiring close watch on fungus and pest issues in orchards. IPM practices in place. Blueberry picking is excellent.

MAINE – Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook: The first cut of hay has produced the highest yields and quality in recent memory. Timely rains have helped the potato crop to fill the rows. Some early planted barley is starting to ripen off. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Growers still on a 7-day spray schedule. The recent rain in all areas was very welcomed. Broccoli fields continue to be harvested. Crops finally received rain in all areas. Crops will continue to grow rapidly now after receiving much needed water. **Don Audibert, (FSA) Northern Aroostook:** Hot and humid. Had some showers on Wednesday and over the weekend. St John Valley only received approximately half an inch. Other places in Aroostook County got over five inches. We need more rain in the St. John Valley area. Farmers are taking advantage of this nice weather and harvesting hay at a fast pace. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Relief from the hot, humid weather finally arrived on Sunday. Vegetables are being picked and arriving at the farm stands. Hay producers cut as much as possible last week. First cut was interrupted by wet weather earlier in the season, resulting in poor quality for the remaining first cut hay. Second cut has started. The weather has made it difficult to make dry hay. Most grass is being wrapped. Vegetable producers are reporting a wide variety of insects. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Pop up showers is still making hay harvest a pain. Most crops are growing well on well drained soils. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Hot and humid conditions all week with spotty showers that was heavy in areas. Crops are looking okay still but farmers need some dry and less humid conditions to get second cutting of hay done. Farmers are applying fertilizer and spraying fungicides to dry ground, as well as monitoring for pests and irrigating crops. Farm stands are busy with veggies. Strawberry harvest has completed and crop is lower than normal due to heavy rains and winter kill. Apples and blueberries are looking okay but still a little too early to tell what the season will bring. Some cranberry producers are reporting a little winter kill in areas of bogs. Potatoes and silage corn is looking good for the most part. Drier and cooler week is expected. **Caragh Fitzgerald (Ext), Kennebec:** Thunderstorms Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, some very heavy on Saturday. They brought welcome relief to the heat and humidity. Some first cut hay still coming in. **Elaine S. Moceus (FSA), Somerset:** Hot and humid weather with thunderstorms and heavy rain and wind during most evenings this week. It's been difficult to harvest dry hay bales with the evening rain. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Hot and dry weather helped corn crops. Intermittent thunderstorms made it difficult for dry hay harvest. Highbush blueberries are being harvested. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: More Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD) have been captured in the coastal growing area. Nine flies were captured this past week in a Warren field and continued single SWD detections have been found in Union and Lincolnville. However, despite the number of fields where this pest has been captured in traps there are still SEVERAL fields in this area that have not detected SWD.

The first capture Downeast was in Marshfield last week, but as of today no other occurrences have been reported. It APPEARS that recent applications of insecticide to control blueberry maggot fly might be controlling SWD as fields that we had found SWD in earlier and that were sprayed have had few if any subsequent captures. This is just a guess, because it could also be that the hot weather we had last week was detrimental to SWD as well. It has been reported that SWD does not tolerate extremely high temperatures. Growers are continuing to monitor for both blueberry fruit fly and SWD.

MASSACHUSETTS – Debra Senger (FSA), Berkshire: Temps have been in the 90s and very humid. Producers are having a hard time getting into the fields for their 2nd cutting of hay. Strawberries have come to a close, now onto the berries! **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Very hot and humid with temperatures in the high 90s. This weather is for making hay. Vegetable farmers are harvesting tomatoes, broccoli, cabbage, beets, radishes, sweet corn, carrots, and many more vegetables. Irrigation pumps are running again because some fields are getting dry. **Carolyn DeMoranville (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Temperatures were very warm; days were sunny and clear and little rain fell in the last week. Supplemental irrigation was needed in most locations. Fruit are in the early stages of sizing. Growers are scouting for cranberry fruitworm eggs and managing these populations as needed.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Donna Juneau (FSA) Belknap/Merrimack: A welcome stretch of dry weather this week but unfortunately a little too late for some crops. Producers who reported saturated fields over the last few weeks indicated at this point it is too late to plant or replant field corn. Some producers reported that they are still trying to finish up their first cut of hay. Many had been waiting for a four to five day stretch of dry weather to dry out both fields and crops before cutting. Hay quality is reportedly way down due to late cutting. Some producers have reported that they have lost a planting of low growing vegetable crops including cucumbers, squash and pumpkins. Higher fruit crops including blueberries are in good shape. **Olivia Saunders (Ext), Carroll:** Excessive heat leads way to excessive lightning and rain storms. High winds and over an inch of rain on 7/17. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Very hot and very muggy all week, but no rain. We could actually use a little rain, but no real signs of moisture stress out there. Field corn looks great, with a few tassels peeking out here and there. Grass growth is good, even if drying and wilting conditions are less than optimal. Vegetable crops doing well overall and a wide variety is available at farm stands and CSA's. PYO blueberries and raspberries in full swing, and peaches are ripe. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Mix of weather, high winds, and heavy rains at times, but generally better than some weeks we've seen this summer. Earliest planted field corn just beginning to tassel, soybeans start flowering, grain oats filling out. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** Thunderstorms hail and high winds hit the county in the middle of the week. Some areas reported over an inch of rain in one hour. Flash flooding resulted in, stopping field work at a number of locations. Small rain events over the following two days served to frustrate farmers, but did not add significantly to the total for the week. Poorly drained upland soils remain saturated, and access with farm machinery is difficult. Many producers have had to leave first cut hay and move onto better drained soils for second cutting. The lack of quality due to late cut hay is a significant concern for some farms. The corn crop improved with the heat. Fields are looking better, although there is a great deal of irregularity on some fields. The wet spots still are apparent. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Growers are renovating strawberry beds. Blueberry and raspberries harvest continued along with the first peaches. Orchardists busy monitoring for pests, spraying if needed, and mowing orchard floors. Scab continues to be seen in

some orchards. Field Crops: Farmers making baled hay between showers, still tricky drying conditions for dry hay. Silage corn is rapidly growing. Second hay crop is looking good. Vegetables: Very good demand for produce at most local farmers' markets and farm stands. Farmers kept busy harvesting, cultivating, hoeing weeds, monitoring pest pressures, spraying pesticides for insects and diseases. Growers harvesting an array of vegetables including: beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, cucumbers, greens, lettuce, potatoes, radishes, snap beans, summer squash and first sweet corn. High numbers of squash vine borers were caught during week. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** A very hot week (90+ degree F. and very humid week. Some isolated showers and thunderstorms on Thursday late afternoon. Gusty winds (reported by weather channel at 40 + mph) and severe thundershowers on Friday night. Some communities reported trees and electrical power down. Harvesting an array of vegetables, blueberries, raspberries, black currant, and cut flowers. Light sandy vegetable fields were drying. Cultivating and weeding. Pastures look ok. Catching up with the first cut of hay. Farmers markets and farm stands busy and PYO clients harvesting very early in the morning.

RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties: Monday through Saturday, the week was all in the upper 90s and it was hot. Took a big chunk of the 1st hay cut out and a lot of bales were baled this week. Strawberry season is about over for most places. Blueberries are coming in, they are a little bit late, but they had a good week. They needed the heat and sun. Sweet corn is in full swing. The ears look nice and the crop is good. Small vegetables are being picked such as summer squash, cucumbers and beans. They are coming along now seeing they were planted late. Early potatoes are looking good, late potatoes as well. Believe it or not, the pastures are not drying up and are still green. Cows took the heat in stride by staying in the shade. This week doesn't look good as far as rain and haying. They are saying showers all week long.

VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison: Field work resumed, spraying corn weed control, sidedress N fertilizer on corn, Dry hay and haylage harvest, and manure spreading on hay fields. Harvesting new seeded hay fields, and started harvesting cereal grains. Pasture growth good, extensive damage to fields and pasture from wet soils. Now Clay soils cracking already and very dry at surface. Still very wet below surface. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Heat is the word for Franklin County this week. THIS IS CORN WEATHER, and we have seen great growth in that category with some tassels showing. Jury is still out on how well the stunted corn will catch up before we see tassels there and whether the good corn can make up for the bad in yield. Much baled dry hay has gone into the barns this week along with catch up on haylage harvest. Seeing very low forage tests on protein in second cut and we hope that we can make up the difference with third to mix better feed with poor feed. Seeing a little sweet corn at the farms stands. I am hearing some evidence of tomato blight and we have prime conditions for this. Keep an eye on the plants and pick early if a little red is showing. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** It was a little drier this past week. There were several consecutive days without rain that helped to dry things out a bit. Most of the week was very hot and humid. First crop is now complete. Yields were pretty good but the quality really suffered due to the hay being over mature when harvested. Second cut yields look a bit above average too. The second crop is not as over mature as the first crop so quality should be much better especially if it can be harvested soon. A lot of fields are getting marked up when harvested due to the wet conditions. Some of the corn is rebounding with the recent hot weather. It's still no better than average but compared to some of the corn crop it looks pretty good. Some of the crop really suffered with all of the rain. It is yellow and very stunted. Pastures remain good and are drying out a little.

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