

# Crop Progress & Condition



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

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For week ending 8/11/13

## Another Nice Week

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:** There were 5.1 days suitable for fieldwork across New England for the week ending August 11, 2013. Pasture condition ratings averaged 4 percent poor, 20 percent fair, 58 percent good, and 18 percent excellent. The week was generally cool with the majority of New England reporting nighttime temperatures dipping below 50 degrees. Average temperatures across the six states ranged from 3 to 4 degree below normal. Precipitation averages across the six states ranged from 1.09 to 1.92 inches with the highest local precipitation total at 5.13 inches. A large percentage of precipitation fell on Friday, August 9.

**FRUIT:** Fruit crops harvested included apples, peaches, pears, plums, blackberries, raspberries, highbush blueberries, and wild blueberries. Other activities included mowing orchard floors, irrigating fruit crops, renovating strawberry beds, monitoring for pests, and spraying if needed. Harvest of wild blueberries in Maine accelerated, bringing percent harvested to average levels. Massachusetts cranberry growers welcomed Friday's heavy rains after the very dry days earlier in the week. Despite pockets of fruit rot in poorly drained areas, the crop continued to look promising.

**VEGETABLES:** Farm stands were busy marketing sweet corn and a wide variety of summer vegetables. Some farmers in southern New England were observing below average yields and stunted growth for sweet corn and various other vegetable crops with extreme summer weather to blame. Some of these farmers struggled to meet consumer demand. Vegetable crops harvested included beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cucumbers, early potatoes, egg plants, greens, onions, peas, peppers, radishes, summer squash, tomatoes, and zucchini. Other activities included planting fall crops, fertilizing, cultivating, hoeing weeds, monitoring pest pressures and spraying pesticides for insect and disease control where needed.

**FIELD CROPS:** The relatively cool, dry start of the week provided favorable conditions for field work. Hay producers were able to harvest some dry hay and haylage early in the week prior to widespread precipitation on Friday. Some areas received several inches of rain late in the week, resulting in water-logged fields. Corn conditions remained variable as improved conditions were observed in some regions while growers in other areas reported slow development and/or significant loss. Hail fell on broadleaf tobacco fields in Tolland County, Connecticut. Maine potato growers continued their 5-day fungicide spray schedule as frequent rain events created ideal conditions for the spread of potato late blight. Nevertheless, late blight was limited to two farms and field aphid populations have been significantly lower than previous year.

### SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
<b>Topsoil</b>			
Very Short	0	0	3
Short	2	5	31
Adequate	69	68	62
Surplus	29	27	4
<b>Subsoil</b>			
Very Short	0	0	3
Short	0	2	32
Adequate	70	70	62
Surplus	30	28	3

### FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Set	Fruit Size	Condition
	2013	2012	5-yr Avg			
Apples	<5	<5	<5	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Peaches	30	40	40	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Pears	5	<5	<5	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Blueberries						
Highbush	60	75	70	Average	Average	Good
Wild	30	40	30	Avg/below	Average	Good/Exc
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good

### FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2013	2012	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Harvested --				
Barley	-	0	5	Good
Oats	-	5	<5	Good/ Exc
Potatoes				
Maine	-	<5	0	Exc/Good
Mass	15	10	10	Good
Rhode Island	5	10	5	Good/Exc
Field Corn	-	-	-	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	40	45	40	Good/Fair
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	20	35	25	Good/Fair
Shade	40	80	55	Good/Fair
Dry Hay				
First Cut	95	99	95	Good/Fair
Second Cut	50	75	65	Good/Fair
Third Cut	5	15	10	Good

**Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics**

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday August 05, 2013  
 To: Sunday August 11, 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
<b>MAINE</b>														
Augusta_State_A	52	78	66	-4	1528	+110	656	+111	3.50	+2.73	4	6.00	+3.05	18
Bangor_Intl_Arp	49	78	66	-3	1393	+105	567	+112	1.55	+0.80	2	5.27	+2.34	16
Bethel	46	76	63	-5	1345	+54	515	+67	4.25	+3.34	4	7.98	+4.62	13
Caribou_Municip	47	79	62	-4	1232	+168	440	+137	1.83	+0.91	4	9.89	+6.11	17
Dover-Foxcroft	45	79	62	-5	1333	+207	515	+170	1.65	+0.84	4	5.49	+2.34	14
Frenchville	47	77	61	-4	1076	+89	352	+94	2.09	+1.18	4	7.07	+3.48	15
Houlton	44	81	62	-4	1198	+92	415	+81	2.52	+1.61	4	9.36	+5.81	17
Livermore_Falls	43	79	62	-5	1350	+236	529	+197	3.59	+2.68	4	8.02	+4.74	18
Moosehead	44	78	62	-2	1166	+230	402	+164	1.45	+0.61	5	3.85	+0.30	17
Portland_ME	49	81	66	-3	1516	+232	660	+201	0.93	+0.30	4	3.01	+0.39	13
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>														
Benton	44	80	64	-2	1448	+244	573	+206	1.29	+0.38	3	4.82	+1.47	14
Berlin_AG	41	80	62	-5	1441	+229	547	+160	1.51	+0.53	4	3.77	+0.16	17
Concord	44	84	67	-3	1749	+307	801	+244	0.66	-0.11	2	5.78	+2.75	12
First_Conn_Lake	43	77	61	-2	1145	+331	388	+234	0.51	-0.66	4	2.16	-2.22	16
Keene_AG	44	84	66	-5	1680	+69	768	+92	1.87	+0.96	2	5.41	+1.96	6
North_Conway	47	79	64	-5	1433	+84	551	+62	1.46	+0.55	4	4.55	+1.06	16
Rochester	47	80	66	-5	1624	+92	720	+96	1.49	+0.65	3	4.31	+1.07	12
<b>VERMONT</b>														
Bennington_AP	44	83	67	+1	1708	+447	765	+351	0.63	-0.35	3	4.01	+0.30	9
Burlington_Intl	51	85	69	-1	1912	+358	914	+274	1.02	+0.11	3	2.78	-0.70	12
Island_Pond	43	77	63	-2	1305	+316	479	+230	1.98	+0.86	4	5.33	+1.18	17
Montpelier	44	82	64	-3	1421	+198	545	+151	0.73	-0.13	3	3.49	+0.42	14
Rochester	45	85	64	-3	1410	+219	558	+183	2.48	+1.43	3	6.50	+2.71	12
Rutland_AG	46	83	65	-6	1528	-73	633	-29	2.00	+1.05	3	4.04	+0.38	10
Springfield_VT	44	83	66	-2	1669	+352	742	+289	0.18	-0.73	3	3.04	-0.35	12
Sutton	45	77	61	-3	1291	+284	466	+202	1.26	+0.16	3	5.68	+1.59	15
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>														
Boston/Logan_In	59	85	72	-2	2096	+285	1087	+253	1.69	+0.99	2	5.21	+2.55	12
Fitchburg	50	83	70	+3	2085	+777	1063	+605	1.28	+0.44	3	4.08	+0.76	9
Greenfield	48	82	68	-5	1852	+132	882	+127	1.81	+0.97	3	6.40	+3.04	7
New_Bedford	46	84	69	-6	1911	+105	944	+116	1.01	+0.08	3	2.51	-0.66	15
Otis_AFB	48	82	68	-4	1738	+281	815	+228	0.72	-0.05	2	2.29	-0.47	12
Plymouth	48	84	69	-2	1958	+438	988	+353	1.19	+0.33	1	3.55	+0.34	10
Walpole	49	82	69	-2	1980	+414	987	+338	2.42	+1.57	2	6.22	+3.01	11
Chicopee/Westov	46	83	68	-6	1989	+21	998	+56	3.14	+2.37	3	5.92	+2.80	8
Worthington	44	79	64	-4	1486	+212	636	+213	1.91	+0.93	4	5.81	+1.89	10
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>														
Providence	54	84	71	-3	2116	+397	1106	+335	1.76	+0.97	2	3.46	+0.46	12
Woonsocket	50	83	68	-3	2027	+487	1031	+413	2.44	+1.53	3	6.15	+2.58	10
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>														
Bridgeport/Siko	59	85	72	-3	2142	+302	1132	+263	0.34	-0.43	3	1.71	-1.57	11
Hartford/Bradle	51	85	71	-3	2151	+253	1128	+231	3.94	+3.17	4	6.59	+3.66	11
Norfolk	48	79	65	-3	1596	+316	715	+285	3.81	+2.82	4	6.58	+2.75	12
Thomaston_Dam	48	86	68	-2	1927	+404	986	+387	2.21	+1.28	4	4.41	+0.62	14
Willimantic	49	82	68	-2	2025	+474	1017	+393	0.95	+0.04	3	3.65	-0.08	11

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 Weather Summary**

For the Week Ending Sunday, August 11, 2013

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	42	81	63	-4	0.52	4.25	1.92	+1.11	4
NH	31	84	64	-3	0.25	5.13	1.41	+0.55	3
VT	38	87	64	-3	0.10	2.91	1.09	+0.20	3
MA	44	85	68	-3	0.25	3.24	1.61	+0.79	3
RI	50	84	70	-3	0.35	2.44	1.23	+0.50	2
CT	46	86	69	-3	0.20	4.77	1.64	+0.80	3

**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:** Little of rain until Friday when 3.5 inches fell in the Windsor Locks section of Hartford County. Other areas got up to 2 inches. The weekend was great for haying but fields a little soggy still. Sweet corn moving fast at farmers markets and stands. Some hail on broad leaf tobacco early in the week in Tolland County. **Jude Boucher (Ext), Tolland:** Another 4-5 inches of rain during the last two weeks in Eastern CT. Most growers have experienced all kinds of problems with sweet corn ear development due to extreme weather earlier in the summer. Problems range from no ears at all, tiny ears, poor pollination with skipped kernels, poor kernel development down one side of the ear, poor tip fill and curved cobs. Many large farms have walked by many fields which have led to a shortage of corn in the market. I don't ever remember a sweet corn shortage in mid-August. Fields just coming into harvest are looking better. Tomatoes are very slow to ripen. Yields low on many crops due to flower drop during July heat wave and low fertility due to June rains. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Cool weather with night temperatures in the 50's reducing growing degree days a concern for late planted crops; blueberry picking, and sweet corn good. Mowing hay.

**MAINE – Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook:** Almost constant rains have made it a challenge to keep fungicide coverage. No major outbreaks of blight so far. Most hay operations have been stuck at 75% finished for weeks. Broccoli harvest lately has been reported as below average. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Some farmers have been spraying for late blight. **Don Audibert, (FSA) Northern Aroostook:** Showers slowed down haying. Have had showers most of the week. Potato crop and grain crop looking good. Weather forecast looks promising weather for harvesting some hay this week. Farmers are doing all the repairs on their machinery and getting ready for harvest. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Looks like a good period for hay harvest. There will be some real poor quality hay out there this year. Second cut is excellent and third looks good. Everything else is growing well, at least on well drained soils. **Caragh Fitzgerald (Ext), Kennebec:** Kennebec got walloped on Friday with 3-4 inches of rain in places. Silage corn had been looking better. We'll see how it looks after this. Some 2nd cut haylage starting to be cut. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis/Penobscot:** Sweet corn is coming on fast. Farm stands are full of vegetables. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** More rain at the end of the week made hay harvesting difficult. Sweet corn is being harvested and new potatoes and other vegetables are available at roadside stands and farmers markets. **Elaine S. Moccus (FSA), Somerset:** Field work and hay production was halted by the rain during the later part of the week. The weekend weather allowed field work to continue. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Weather looked like it was finally going to be dry for a while, but the rain on Friday (2.7 inches) took care of that. Still some hayfields have not even had first crop harvested due to wet soils. Pastures never suffered a summer slump this year! Highbush blueberry harvest coming to an end. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Wild Blueberry harvest continues Downeast, berry size and quality good with the ample rainfall and cool night temperatures.

**MASSACHUSETTS – Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Heavy rains on Friday, farmers reported 3.5 plus inches and fields are water-logged. Farmers are harvesting an array of fruits and vegetables and tobacco. **Carolyn DeMoranville (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Growers report very good crops in some locations. Rain on Friday was very welcome after the very dry days early in the week. Some reports of pockets of fruit rot in poorly drained areas within beds.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE – Donna Juneau (FSA) Belknap/Merrimack:** A mostly warm and sunny week with cooler evenings in the 40s mid-week. Rain on Friday with over 1/2-inch reported in Concord. Producers have indicated that in general the corn crop is bouncing back from this season's earlier wet weather but the cooler nights this week have slowed down growth a bit. Most producers have reported that they are continuing to have problems harvesting hay and haylage and overall quality is down. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Mostly sunny all week, but some substantial rains on Friday. Regrowth on pastures and hayfields continues to look good, though soil is a little wet in spots to permit equipment. Field corn looks good, kernels starting to fill. Vegetable crops continue to do well, with a wide variety available everywhere. PYO blueberries still going strong and first apples starting to show up here and there. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Somewhat cooler, drier, breezy, weather at either ends of week allows some second cut dry hay to come in but still chancy with heavy rains, and thunderstorms in region. Overall tough year to harvest hay. Rivers are running fairly high. Fragrance of corn pollen as most field and sweet corn now tasseling, some yet a little ways to grow yet. Grain oats about ready to combine, can use some drier weather. Soybean pods are just beginning to fill out. Nice weather for NH Dairy Breed Show, held at Lancaster Fairgrounds earlier this week! **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending August 10th, we had rain early in the week and heavy rain on Friday. Four good days from the 5th through the 8th allowed many farms to mow and put up hay on their drier fields. Many fields with poorer drained soils are badly rutted, and will need some work to get them back in condition for the next time around. Sloping fields with highly erodible soils will be more at risk from some of the damages observed. Some fields still have not had first cutting taken off, due to the saturated soils. Some areas of the county received as little as 2.5 inches of rain last week, while other areas reported over 3 inches. Some sweet corn growers are struggling to meet demand. The unusual weather has resulted in plantings that have not ripened on time. Several growers have reported that some of their sweet corn plantings are all ripening at the same time. When it finally is ready for the stand, there will be plenty of sweet corn available. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Orchardists harvesting peaches, plums, blueberries, blackberries, and summer raspberries. Also started harvesting Jersey Mac and Ginger Gold apples. Orchardists busy irrigating apples, blueberries, peaches, raspberries and strawberry beds. Monitoring for pests - spraying if needed, mowing orchard floors and starting to move bins into orchards. Field Crops: Hay cutting continued during the week with the second cut being made. Vegetables: Harvesting an array of vegetables: beans, beets, cole crops, cucumbers, greens, melons, potatoes, radishes, summer squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, pepper, zucchini, and other vegetables. Farmers kept busy irrigating, fertilizing, cultivating, hoeing weeds, monitoring pest pressures and spraying pesticides for insect and disease control where needed. Fall armyworm and corn earworm moth numbers are increasing. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** A nice sunny week, however with cold nights and heavy rain on Friday. Picking a whole array of vegetables, blueberries, raspberries, blackberries, peaches, and cut flowers. Sidedressing vegetables fields, weeding and monitoring for pests. Mowing orchards and monitoring pests. Haying continues, and pastures are growing.

**RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties:** We started harvesting early potatoes this week. Sweet corn is a little bit short on the picking. A lot of the farmers are saying the crop is not there. The quality is excellent, but no quantity. They are saying that they are picking about 100 bags per acre, where they should be picking between 200-250 bags. That is the same story for a lot of the

vegetables, especially string beans. Nice plants, but they are not producing very heavy. This week, from now on, there should be vegetables every week, such as peppers, tomatoes, string beans, squash, egg plant and etc. Pastures are still green, with the abundance of rain we have had. Cows look good on pasture, very little feed being fed to them right now. I would say most of the 1st and 2nd cutting of hay put together is about finished up. There are some patches here and there to be cut. They are predicting rain on Tuesday of this week, but the rest of the week looks awful nice.

**VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Dry hay harvest resumed. Chopping haylage and spreading manure. Mostly over mature hay mixed first with second growth coming into bottom. New seedlings damaged from wet July. Much dead alfalfa reported. Leaf diseases are widespread in grasses. Corn crop continues to look poor overall with 25% loss or no plant. A little ground worked for summer seedlings. Wheat and barley harvest. **Daniel Hudson (Ext), Caledonia:** Corn is very late; much is not even tasseled yet. In general, the yields will be lower. I expect that ear development will not be very advanced on much of the corn before the first frost. Apples are abundant but very small. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Franklin County is making a rebound this week. Corn is looking much better with great weather for pollination and ear development. Still some shorter corn, however, this prime reproductive stage will make up for a lot of lost corn due to wet spring and summer conditions. Sweet corn is doing really

well with these conditions and making for some tasty kernels. Apples are maturing nicely with the jury still out on size of fruit. The hay harvest is making up for some lost ground with much hay going into dry bales this week. Third cut is progressing well with good growth. Manure is going out with some wetter than usual pits due to the heavy rains. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Almost all of the second cut has been harvested. There are some fields that have been so wet this year that they have been left fallow up to this point. Not sure if the farmer will try to hay or bushhog them later on or just leave them. Pastures are doing okay for the time of year. Corn has tasseled. The color looks much better now but a lot of it is really short. At least the quantity of the corn crop will be below average. **Jennifer Gehly (FSA), Windham:** The week began cool and clear with overnight lows in the mid-40s. Humidity crept back in Thursday bringing thunderstorms that night. Heavy rain continued through Friday. Areas picked up roughly an inch and a half of rain. Humidity levels dropped for the weekend with high temperatures in the upper 70s. Farmers were busy during the week harvesting summer vegetables including sweet corn, peppers, greens, beans, beets, and summer squashes. Vegetable producers were also busy planting second plantings. Hay producers were still working on the first cut of dry hay crop while also getting going on the second cut. Much of the 3rd cut haylage crop is done. Field corn is looking better than earlier in the year. Raspberries and blueberries were available for picking and purchase. Peaches are now available as well.

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