

Crop Progress & Condition



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United States Department of Agriculture

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August 26, 2013 – 4 pm

For week ending 8/25/13

FIELDS GIVEN CHANCE TO DRY OUT

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

GENERAL CONDITIONS: There were 6.4 days suitable for fieldwork across New England for the week ending August 25, 2013. Pasture condition ratings averaged 4 percent poor, 23 percent fair, 56 percent good, and 17 percent excellent. New England experienced another dry week with minimal rainfall throughout most of the region. Precipitation averages across the six states ranged from 0.12 to 0.28 inches with the highest local precipitation total at 2.22 inches reported in Maine. Daytime temperatures were seasonally warm with cool nights late in the week. Average temperatures across the six states ranged from 0 to 3 degrees above normal.

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	3	0	3
Short	14	7	37
Adequate	77	81	59
Surplus	6	12	1
Subsoil			
Very Short	1	1	2
Short	11	3	36
Adequate	81	81	11
Surplus	7	15	1

FRUIT: Fruit crops harvested included apples, apricots, peaches, pears, plums, blackberries, raspberries, highbush blueberries, and wild blueberries. Other activities included mowing orchard floors, moving bins into orchards, pruning trees, monitoring for SWD fruit flies as well as other pests, and spraying if needed. The wild blueberry crop in Maine finished in the Mid-coast area but continued to be harvested in the Downeast region. Dr. David Yarborough, crop specialist, estimated an above average yield. The highbush blueberry season was winding down, with preliminary reports of a good crop. Massachusetts cranberry growers were irrigating on a regular basis due to lack of precipitation. Some pockets of fruit rot were observed but the crop outlook remained positive.

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

VEGETABLES: Vegetables were widely available at farm stands and farmers markets. Crops harvested included beans, beets, cabbage, cucumbers, eggplant, greens, onions, peas, peppers, pumpkins, radishes, squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, and zucchini. Delayed maturity of crops due to cool nights was a concern to farmers. Additionally, many vegetable producers were worried about obstacles that originated from adverse weather earlier this summer. Powdery mildew was observed on pumpkins and squash while downy mildew was seen on cucumbers and melons. Insect pressure was a concern for some growers with corn earworm and fall armyworm trap numbers running high in New Hampshire. Several cases of late blight on tomatoes were reported in Connecticut. Farmers kept busy irrigating fields, hoeing weeds, and spraying pesticides for insect and disease control where needed.

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Set	Fruit Size	Condition
	2013	2012	5-yr Avg			
Apples	10	10	10	Average	Average	Good
Peaches	65	70	70	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Pears	15	10	10	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Blueberries						
Highbush	90	95	90	Average	Average	Good
Wild	80	75	80	Avg/below	AboveAvg	Good/Exc
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good

FIELD CROPS: Wet fields dried considerably thanks to the extended dry weather; however, pasture regrowth also slowed as a result. Hay producers took advantage of the conditions and made up for time lost earlier this summer. There were still a few wet fields that were not yet worked on, but the vast majority of the first cutting of hay was cut as of August 26. Quality was a concern on late cut fields with a few farmers dumping their production. Field corn continued to show irregularity in stage of development and variability in quality. Corn fared better on well drained river bottom soils given these crops were less vulnerable to the effects of heavy rains. Maine potato growers sprayed to kill vines and were getting ready for the harvest season.

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2013	2012	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Harvested --				
Barley	35	80	40	Good/Fair
Oats	10	50	25	Good
Potatoes				
Maine	<5	<5	<5	Exc/Good
Mass	20	20	20	Good
Rhode Island	10	20	20	Good
Field Corn	-	-	<5	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	65	65	65	Good/Fair
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	50	65	65	Good/Fair
Shade	75	90	80	Good/Fair
Dry Hay				
First Cut	99	100	99	Good/Fair
Second Cut	75	85	80	Good/Fair
Third Cut	20	30	25	Good/Fair

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday August 19, 2013
 To: Sunday August 25, 2013

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				CUM SINCE MAR 1 GROWING DEGREE DAYS				1-WEEK PRECIP			4-WEEK CUM PRECIP		
	-----				BASE-50F		BASE-60F		TOTAL	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	INCHES			INCHES		
MAINE														
Augusta_State_A	52	86	70	+4	1786	+123	774	+122	0.00	-0.76	0	4.50	+1.46	10
Bangor_Intl_Arp	45	87	69	+4	1636	+118	670	+123	0.01	-0.76	1	3.10	+0.11	9
Bethel	46	86	67	+2	1552	+42	582	+51	0.00	-0.91	0	6.76	+3.17	9
Caribou_Municip	43	85	66	+5	1437	+198	509	+157	0.90	-0.01	3	5.21	+1.49	18
Dover-Foxcroft	44	86	67	+5	1548	+222	591	+179	2.22	+1.38	1	5.93	+2.67	13
Frenchville	44	85	65	+5	1258	+107	403	+102	0.82	-0.11	3	7.17	+3.45	17
Houlton	39	86	66	+4	1405	+111	491	+99	0.74	-0.18	3	4.41	+0.72	15
Livermore_Falls	42	86	66	+4	1550	+244	593	+200	0.00	-0.97	0	5.45	+1.80	10
Moosehead	40	85	64	+3	1343	+238	448	+163	0.46	-0.38	1	3.21	-0.20	14
Portland_ME	50	89	70	+5	1771	+248	775	+215	0.00	-0.65	0	1.75	-0.79	8
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	44	85	66	+3	1646	+248	635	+204	0.17	-0.74	1	2.78	-0.82	11
Berlin_AG	42	84	65	+2	1621	+212	592	+138	0.16	-0.82	1	2.26	-1.63	11
Concord	42	89	68	+2	1978	+299	890	+233	0.00	-0.74	0	1.48	-1.57	5
First_Conn_Lake	42	83	64	+5	1311	+358	428	+240	0.33	-0.82	1	1.79	-2.83	11
Keene_AG	43	87	67	-1	1898	+28	846	+50	0.10	-0.76	1	3.01	-0.53	6
North_Conway	46	87	67	+3	1642	+73	620	+47	0.00	-0.91	0	3.19	-0.44	10
Rochester	48	87	68	+2	1858	+71	814	+75	0.00	-0.77	0	2.51	-0.75	7
VERMONT														
Bennington_AP	41	84	65	+1	1903	+432	826	+338	0.27	-0.71	1	3.21	-0.64	7
Burlington_Intl	49	88	71	+5	2173	+372	1036	+288	0.74	-0.17	1	2.99	-0.66	10
Island_Pond	41	82	64	+3	1475	+319	521	+227	0.19	-0.90	1	3.28	-1.12	13
Montpelier	45	83	65	+2	1607	+187	600	+142	0.48	-0.40	1	2.26	-1.19	10
Rochester	45	85	66	+3	1601	+211	616	+174	0.14	-0.91	1	3.93	-0.20	9
Rutland_AG	44	83	66	-3	1720	-134	692	-84	0.13	-0.83	1	3.07	-0.73	8
Springfield_VT	44	87	67	+3	1879	+349	815	+283	0.03	-0.88	1	1.63	-1.95	9
Sutton	45	82	64	+4	1468	+295	512	+204	0.11	-0.94	1	3.06	-1.26	12
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	60	89	74	+4	2413	+298	1264	+267	0.00	-0.77	0	2.15	-0.74	5
Fitchburg	52	89	72	+8	2375	+848	1213	+673	0.00	-0.77	0	1.99	-1.21	6
Greenfield	49	87	69	+0	2086	+91	976	+86	0.00	-0.84	0	3.33	-0.03	5
New_Bedford	47	88	70	-3	2173	+48	1066	+60	0.04	-0.94	2	1.67	-2.05	10
Otis_AFB	46	84	69	+1	1988	+260	926	+209	0.22	-0.55	3	1.71	-1.30	11
Plymouth	48	88	70	+3	2223	+433	1113	+349	0.10	-0.82	2	2.07	-1.43	7
Walpole	50	89	71	+4	2263	+436	1130	+360	0.00	-0.91	0	3.22	-0.27	5
Chicopee/Westov	46	88	68	-5	2227	-53	1096	-19	0.07	-0.76	1	3.95	+0.81	6
Worthington	44	83	66	+1	1676	+186	690	+188	0.07	-0.84	1	3.32	-0.48	8
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	55	89	73	+3	2409	+395	1259	+333	0.63	-0.21	1	2.67	-0.57	7
Woonsocket	52	88	71	+4	2299	+502	1163	+430	0.05	-0.86	2	4.10	+0.46	8
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	59	88	73	+0	2447	+287	1297	+248	0.41	-0.29	1	1.38	-1.63	9
Hartford/Bradle	51	88	71	+0	2427	+232	1264	+209	0.08	-0.76	1	5.39	+2.18	8
Norfolk	49	81	66	+2	1801	+306	783	+274	0.00	-1.05	0	5.18	+1.11	8
Thomaston_Dam	46	86	68	+1	2161	+385	1080	+369	0.06	-0.92	2	3.19	-0.64	11
Willimantic	50	87	69	+2	2280	+471	1132	+391	0.06	-0.80	1	1.83	-1.74	8

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 25, 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	38	89	67	+3	0.00	2.22	0.28	-0.53	1
NH	37	90	66	+3	0.00	0.87	0.12	-0.80	1
VT	37	88	66	+2	0.00	0.74	0.20	-0.70	1
MA	42	92	69	+2	0.00	0.40	0.06	-0.77	1
RI	52	89	71	+1	0.00	0.63	0.17	-0.60	1
CT	46	90	70	+0	0.00	0.82	0.17	-0.70	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: Haying continued with second cut being 2/3 done. Corn silage progressing and some curling from lack of rain in recent weeks. Broadleaf tobacco harvest is continuing with some smaller acreage producers completed. Full swing harvest for vegetables and early tree fruit at farmers markets. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Powdery Mildew and downy mildew are continuing to plague vegetable growers. Several cases of late blight on tomatoes. **Jude Boucher (Ext), Tolland:** Many vegetable crops suffering from earlier adverse weather. Some farms have very poor set of summer squash, while the next farm has great summer squash, but no peppers. The next has peppers, but no eggplant, but the one after that has eggplant, and no set on their tomatoes. Some of the larger wholesale farms in the CT River meadows are experiencing skips in their harvest from the three June floods. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Good week for farming with sunny warm dry days, vegetables doing well, catching up on haying, and getting ready to chop corn.

MAINE – Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook: Potatoes are starting to die back. Some of the seed plots have had top kill applied. We had a small window this weekend to harvest hay. Grain is ready to be cut if we can get the weather to cooperate. **Don Audibert, (FSA) Northern Aroostook:** Early variety potatoes are now being sprayed to kill vines and ready for harvest in approximately three weeks from now. Received some rain this week which will help the later variety to bulk up (Russets). Farmers are busy doing repairs and now looking for people to work for the harvest. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Beautiful weather last week. Dare I say it, but Southern Maine actually needs some rain. Irrigation guns were working hard last week. Early apples are being picked. First crop hay is finally being completed. Reports of low tomato production due to weather in June and July and disease on plants now. Low honey production was also reported this summer due to the wet cool weather earlier. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Hay harvest is slowly catching up. Corn is growing well except were stunted by earlier wet conditions. Vegetables have done well. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Hay was harvested most of the week, great weather for it. Corn is growing well. Farm stands are full of vegetables. Blueberry harvest is started. Potatoes are looking good as well. Upcoming weather forecast is rain in areas, which is needed in some areas. **Caragh Fitzgerald (Ext), Kennebec:** A nice week with some needed heat to help crops mature. Great weather for making hay with only scattered showers in the northern part of the county late in the week. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis/Penobscot:** Thursday's down pours were a blessing for some and a challenge for others depending on what you are trying to grow and/or harvest. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** Good week for making hay. Vegetables are widely available. Some squash starting to get powdery mildew. **Elaine S. Moceus (FSA), Somerset:** Great week for harvesting hay, although some producers are indicating the quality may be down. Field corn looks good at this time. Blueberry harvest continues. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Fields are finally drying out and hay producers are taking advantage of these conditions. Many field edges, too wet to harvest earlier are being cut along with second and third harvests. Late Blight found in Central coastal Maine, but drier weather will hopefully limit the spread. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Wild blueberry crop harvest has finished in the mid-coast area but continues to be harvested Downeast. The recent showers and the cooler, drier air have provided for excellent crop quality. It is expected that most growers on the barrens will finish harvest this coming week but a few will continue into next month on Downeast coastal fields if the favorable weather conditions also continue. The crop is expected

to be better than average, although the final crop figure will not be known until the NASS survey figures are released in January of 2014.

MASSACHUSETTS – Russell Norton (Ext), Barnstable: Sunny week with high temps ranging from low 70s to mid 80s, lows mainly in mid to high 60s. Harvest continues. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Hot days with cool nights and a dry week. Growers report the past rainy weather at pollination time has reduced sweet corn and winter squash yields in some fields. With the cool nights and foggy mornings growers are scouting fields for diseases and also applying a protective fungicide spray. These cool nights are also causing peppers and tomatoes to ripen slowly. **Carolyn DeMoranville (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Dry weather continues with irrigation needed. Some pockets of fruit rot are showing up and growers are reporting some damage from Sparganthis and Cranberry Fruitworm. Dry weather is impacting fruit size but the crop still looks good in general.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Donna Juneau (FSA) Belknap/Merrimack: A good dry week for harvesting hay and haylage. Fruit and vegetable producers indicated that crops such as tomatoes and corn that have been slower to ripen are finally starting to move along to the ripe stage. Variable weather of the course of the summer has impacted a variety of vegetable crops and there is currently a limited supply of certain vegetables including cucumbers and squash. Many vegetable producers are concerned about the potential loss of pumpkin crops due to the impact of wet weather on the crop earlier in the season. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Warm sunny weather all week, with a little bit of welcome rain on Sunday night. Great haying weather, especially over the weekend. Other farms are working on or finishing up third cutting haylage. Field corn looking good some may be ready to chop in a week or so. Vegetable crops are looking good. Blueberries just starting to wind down and early varieties of apples are starting to show up. **Patty Matte (FSA), Coos:** Good week for field work and the harvest of dry hay. Sweet corn is just beginning to be picked. Scattered storms Thursday brought some rain. Fields and pastures are beginning to get dry which is slowing regrowth. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week of August 18th, we had sun every day. There were 10 consecutive days of no rain and good weather. Hay producers have been trying to make up for lost time. There are still a number of wet fields and or wet spots in fields that will have to be worked around or attempted at a later time, but most of the first cutting of hay is now in. Quality is a concern on these late cut fields. A few producers stated that the quality was so poor that they had to remove the hay and dump it. Field corn runs the full range from good to poor. On the well drained river bottom soils, corn looks good. On other soils, the affects of too much rain this summer is apparent. Irregularity in stage of development and signs of leaching are prevalent. Sweet corn is finally starting to come on strong. Farm stands are offering a variety of produce, with sweet corn as one of their most desired products. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Orchardists harvesting peaches, plums, and picking Paula red apples. Orchardists busy monitoring for pests, summer pruning trees, mowing orchard floors, fixing up orchard roads and move bins into the orchard. Highbush blueberry harvest over except for those few growers who have late maturing varieties, and fall raspberry harvest continued. Continue monitoring for SWD Fruit Fly. Field Crops: Hay cutting continued during the week with the second and third cuttings being made. Some spreading manure on hay fields. Farmers are delaying new forage seedings until we get some rain. Corn looks good to excellent with good development! Vegetables: Growers are irrigating and are harvesting an array of vegetables: beans, beets, cole crops, cucumbers, greens, peas,

potatoes, pumpkins, radishes, summer squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, winter squash, zucchini, and other vegetables. Powdery mildew can be found on pumpkins and winter squash and downy mildew can be found on cucumbers and melons. Corn Earworm and Fall Armyworm trap numbers went extremely high. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Picking early apple varieties (Paula red, Zestar, Ginger gold), apricots, peaches, plums. Harvesting greens, tomatoes, eggplant, cucurbits, cabbages, greens, sweet corn, blackberries. Blueberry harvest is almost done. Irrigating vegetable fields and weeding. Monitoring pests. Pasture slow growing with lack of rain, and haying. **Kelly Greenbacker (FSA), Sullivan:** Beautiful, sunny weather all week, with just some passing showers on Thursday. Many farmers were out making hay, finishing up 1st cut, and working on 2nd cut. Some were out making 2nd or 3rd cut haylage. Field corn looks good, but it is variable in the wet areas from the rain earlier in the summer. Sweet corn is available at many farmstands now, though many planted late this year due to weather. The blueberry season is winding down, with reports of a good crop. Peaches and early apples are being harvested now.

RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties: The weather hasn't changed much around RI this week. We had one day of heavy rain in some parts of the state. The nights have been too cool. Vegetables are not ripening up as they should be. This week farmers are saying they are picking 60% of what they should be picking, and some less than that. Potatoes, some of the farmers that are digging now say the early potatoes look good. Prices are good too. They are still picking just for orders only. Sweet corn is maturing very slowly because of the cold nights. I know this is August, but we are getting September weather. Any given day, some of our big sweet corn farmers don't have any to pick. That goes the same with the smaller crops such as tomatoes, peppers, summer squash etc. They are just not growing. Pastures are still green, but are starting to show their wear. Some farmers are starting to substitute some feed outside. Animals look good this year. It will be very interesting to see how we end the season this year. We have good quality, but not good quantity. I know the

prices are up on vegetables, but is there enough to make it a profitable year? We shall see.

VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison: Dry hay harvest continues. Manure spreading on hay fields. Early planted corn maturing. Late planted and replanted corn only in vegetative stages. Rain at end of week late. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Another good week in Franklin County with some rains mid week. Heavy rains did not allow for much soaking, however, brought some moisture for continued growth. We are moving to the time of year that growth begins to slow and yet continue at a slower rate. Corn continues to have favorable conditions for maturing and ear development. Sweet corn is showing some sign of getting a bit seedy, however, still very tasty. Apples are doing very well and even seeing some drops on the earlier varieties. Size of fruit looks a little on the small side with very tasty juices. Tomatoes are in full bloom and look very good, surviving the wet conditions and blight. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** It was a good week for putting up dry hay. A lot of second cut hay was harvested. Rainfall has returned to more normal levels and the fields are drying out a little. The corn is maturing and looks better than it did earlier this summer. The yields will still be low on most fields. Fall pasturing is underway. The drier weather has helped dry up the cattle lanes. Saturday morning the temperature was 39 degrees. It is a reminder that fall is not too far away. **Jennifer Gehly (FSA), Windham:** What a week! High temperatures were in the upper 70s to mid-80s all week. Overnight lows were in the 50s for the week, with cooler night time temperatures in the mid-40s for the weekend. Humidity levels were high mid-week, but dropped off significantly for the weekend with the passing of a cold front Thursday night. Approximately a quarter of an inch of rain fell, bringing some relief to vegetable farmers and their dry fields. Dry hay producers took advantage of the dry weather to get their crop in after being seriously behind for much of the season due to excessive moisture earlier on. Blueberries are still available for picking. Plums, peaches, and early varieties of apples are available. Summer vegetables such as summer squashes, eggplant, tomatoes, greens, beets, sweet corn, and cucumbers are still plentiful.

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