



New England Agricultural Statistics



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For week ending 8/5/07

A Week of Heat!

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending August 5, 2007, there were 6.3 days suitable for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture was rated 2% very short, 35% short, 60% adequate, and 3% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 2% very short, 24% short, 71% adequate, and 3% surplus. Pasture condition was rated 11% poor, 31% fair, 52% good, and 6% excellent. Hot and humid conditions dominated weather patterns this week. Daytime high temperatures ranged in the 80s and 90s while overnight lows remained above 60 degrees all week. Cooler and drier air arrived on Sunday, but not before several areas reported heat wave conditions between Thursday and Saturday. On Friday night, scattered severe thunderstorms brought heavy rain, hail, and tornado like winds to many areas, causing damage to potato fields in northern Maine, tobacco fields in Massachusetts, and apple orchards, corn fields, and vegetable fields across the region. However, a few reporters noted that the storms passed by them completely, leaving some locations without any precipitation for the week. The general shortage of rainfall has started to show effects on pasture condition and some crops, although heavy morning dews have provided some relief.

FRUIT: Wild blueberry harvest began in Maine's mid-coast region this week. Uneven rainfall across the region has wild blueberry yields varying widely. Cranberries in Massachusetts continued to gain size this week. Cranberry growers are using Roundup to control taller weeds and irrigating where rain has not fallen. Harvest of peaches, highbush blueberries, and raspberries continued this week along with some very early varieties of apples. The condition of apples deteriorated this week due to extreme heat and damage from the week's storms. Orchardists kept busy monitoring for pests, spraying as needed, and mowing orchard floors.

VEGETABLES: Farm stands were full of a wide variety of vegetables this week as the high demand for local produce at farmers markets and farm stands continued. Sweet corn harvest continued this week, with most areas reporting an excellent crop. Some operators are noting high numbers of corn earworm and European corn borers caught in traps during the week. Several vegetable growers irrigated this week due the lack of rain. Farmers kept busy cultivating, hoeing weeds, monitoring pest pressures, spraying pesticides for insects and diseases.

FIELD CROPS: The week's hot and dry weather provided ideal conditions for harvesting and making dry hay across the region. Re-growth of grass is reported to be slow due to the lack of moisture. Field corn ranged widely in quality across the region this week. While some operators are reporting field corn was tasseled and beginning to silk at a good height, others are noting leaf curl and signs of drought stress. In southern states, potato farmers began top killing potatoes and harvesting early reds. In northern Maine, farmers continue to spray for pests and monitor their crop for late blight. In the Connecticut River Valley, broadleaf tobacco harvest began in earnest. However, blue mold was confirmed on shade tobacco in two fields in Westfield, Massachusetts this week.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	2	2	0
Short	35	24	6
Adequate	60	68	79
Surplus	3	6	15
Subsoil			
Very Short	2	2	0
Short	24	20	5
Adequate	71	73	83
Surplus	3	5	12

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Set	Fruit Size	Condition
	2007	2006	5-yr Avg			
Apples	-	-	-	Average	Avg/Above	Good/Fair
Peaches	20	20	25	Average	Average	Good
Pears	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Blueberries						
Highbush	50	60	50	Average	Average	Good
Wild, ME	5	15	5	Average	Avg/Below	Good
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good/Excellent

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2007	2006	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Harvested --				
Barley, ME	-	-	-	Good
Oats, ME	-	-	-	Good
Potatoes				
Maine	-	-	-	Good
Mass	-	-	-	Good
Rhode Island	15	0	5	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	-	-	-	Good/Excellent
Sweet Corn	35	20	25	Good
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	20	5	15	Good
Shade	30	25	30	Good
Dry Hay				
First Cut	99	95	95	Good
Second Cut	60	45	55	Good/Fair
Third Cut	5	0	5	Good

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics
Prepared By AWIS, Inc.

For the Period: Monday July 30, 2007
To: Sunday August 5, 2007

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	59	93	76	+8	1433	+130	620	+129	0.00	-0.74	0	1.51	-1.38	12
Bangor Intl_Arp	55	91	75	+7	1326	+146	537	+130	0.60	-0.10	1	3.16	+0.22	10
Bethel	56	93	73	+5	1184	-2	434	+30	0.90	+0.03	2	2.62	-0.63	11
Caribou Municip	52	90	70	+5	1114	+138	398	+125	1.36	+0.38	4	4.11	+0.34	14
Dover-Foxcroft	54	91	72	+6	1051	+22	330	+21	0.29	-0.48	1	1.37	-1.80	11
Frenchville	51	87	68	+4	1012	+108	333	+99	2.26	+1.35	4	6.40	+2.87	13
Houlton	49	89	70	+5	1088	+75	387	+86	0.56	-0.35	6	4.06	+0.57	16
Livermore Falls	50	95	74	+9	1186	+166	452	+155	0.53	-0.32	2	3.05	-0.11	10
Moosehead	50	90	68	+4	903	+51	247	+34	0.68	-0.20	2	5.34	+1.73	14
Portland_ME	62	90	75	+6	1385	+214	571	+165	0.00	-0.63	0	3.89	+1.21	8
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	53	88	71	+5	1159	+49	405	+74	0.00	-0.88	0	4.27	+1.04	12
Berlin AG	52	90	71	+6	1134	+18	392	+41	0.00	-0.95	0	2.70	-0.79	9
Concord	52	94	75	+6	1569	+240	716	+212	0.21	-0.56	1	5.10	+2.13	10
Diamond Pond	45	89	66	+5	790	+46	193	+57	0.76	-0.36	1	5.86	+1.62	10
Keene AP	50	91	74	+4	1499	+8	665	+49	0.09	-0.78	2	3.26	-0.08	12
North Conway	51	92	72	+5	1229	-14	466	+22	0.36	-0.55	1	3.70	+0.27	11
Rochester	58	95	76	+7	1445	+33	640	+76	0.20	-0.62	1	4.88	+1.70	9
VERMONT														
Burlington Intl	51	94	75	+6	1615	+179	764	+181	0.00	-0.90	0	4.32	+0.94	11
Island Pond	47	88	68	+5	1058	+150	335	+110	1.19	+0.11	1	7.02	+3.05	14
Montpelier	48	90	71	+5	1321	+194	518	+160	0.00	-0.81	0	6.65	+3.73	11
Pownal	50	88	72	+5	1334	+173	531	+156	0.46	-0.46	3	5.00	+1.35	14
Rochester	48	90	71	+5	1208	+113	440	+101	0.00	-0.99	0	3.82	+0.21	10
Rutland AG	48	88	71	+2	1337	-145	538	-65	0.00	-0.91	0	4.23	+0.67	11
Springfield_VT	51	93	73	+6	1444	+229	628	+217	0.02	-0.84	2	4.88	+1.60	15
Sutton	47	89	69	+6	1101	+177	360	+120	0.00	-1.05	0	3.21	-0.71	13
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	67	95	78	+5	1892	+219	953	+198	1.72	+1.02	2	4.70	+2.10	10
Fitchburg	58	93	77	+9	1790	+586	879	+464	1.66	+0.84	2	5.38	+2.06	13
Greenfield	54	93	74	+3	1540	-53	666	-22	0.72	-0.12	2	5.00	+1.64	11
New Bedford	61	93	77	+3	1645	-17	762	+18	0.21	-0.64	1	0.99	-1.93	8
Otis_AFB	63	88	75	+5	1462	+130	633	+112	2.64	+1.93	2	3.92	+1.28	5
Plymouth	63	91	76	+5	1643	+249	775	+206	2.84	+2.02	2	3.85	+0.72	9
Walpole	60	94	77	+7	1738	+295	841	+254	0.32	-0.51	2	2.35	-0.79	11
Chicopee/Westov	53	93	75	+1	1672	-152	788	-70	0.02	-0.75	1	4.90	+1.72	11
Worthington	52	88	72	+5	1311	+139	504	+123	0.37	-0.61	2	5.14	+1.22	12
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	67	93	79	+7	1927	+343	959	+264	1.51	+0.74	2	2.96	+0.04	7
Woonsocket	61	92	77	+7	1718	+298	807	+249	1.43	+0.52	1	2.75	-0.82	9
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	67	91	78	+4	1902	+206	922	+137	0.13	-0.67	2	2.73	-0.65	8
Hartford/Bradle	59	95	79	+5	1982	+222	1011	+192	0.00	-0.77	0	3.53	+0.66	9
Norfolk	54	88	73	+6	1455	+277	623	+235	0.31	-0.67	1	4.81	+1.02	10
Thomaston Dam	60	91	76	+7	1693	+287	783	+240	0.22	-0.71	3	4.27	+0.50	12
Willimantic	59	92	77	+7	1768	+337	849	+285	0.49	-0.42	2	2.30	-1.45	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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Prepared by AWIS, Inc.

STATE WEATHER SUMMARY

For the week ending Sunday, August 5, 2007

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	L	HI	AV	DF	LO	HI
ME	46	96	72	+5	0.00	2.26
NH	35	95	72	+6	0.00	0.91
VT	45	94	71	+4	0.00	1.19
MA	51	96	76	+5	0.00	2.84
RI	61	93	77	+6	0.12	1.51
CT	53	95	76	+5	0.00	0.76

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

CONNECTICUT - Jude Boucher (Ext), Tolland: This is the first "normal" growing season for weather that I have ever seen...knock-on-wood! Vegetable crops around CT look great. Wholesale prices are very low, but the weekends have been fine for retailing. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Showers early in the week helped the moisture situation. Extreme heat later in the week was difficult to work in and required continued irrigation. Despite the dryness the crops seem to be doing very well. Showers missed our area on Friday night. Many started harvest of broadleaf tobacco while others were still topping. Dryer air replaced the humidity over the weekend. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Producers taking advantage of dry weather harvesting second cutting of hay, picking vegetables and excellent sweet corn. There is some concern in parts of the county with the extended hot, humid weather. Many of the showers in the state have passed over the county to the northwest section. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Dry, despite three inches of rain that came and went quickly at the beginning of the week. Corn is curling up by midday in gravelly soils. Peppers, squash, garlic, early apples, peaches, tomatoes, sweet corn, cucumbers, herbs all in farmstands and have good color and average size. Grapes are within 60 days of harvest and starting to change color with yellow beginning to show. Producers limited on controls for powdery mildew, black rot and other mold related problems due to the heat and humidity during the day and the cool nights. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** HOT, HOT and HOTTER and very humid describes this week. Possible scattered thunderstorms over the weekend might bring some welcome rains to the area. Silage corn looks very good and is tasseling at a good height. Vegetable harvest is progressing nicely. There was a report of damage to cabbage in the southeastern section of New Haven County from the heavy rains last Saturday. **Joyce Meader (Ext), Windham:** Second cut hay came in this weekend, as field after field had a haircut and now look so empty. No thunderstorms to ruin the hay, so all went well with the hot, hot conditions. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Hot and humid conditions did little to slow field work. Cool nights after humid days made a lot of dew to contend with drying hay. Getting complaints that milkweed is taking over a number of hay fields since the weather heated up.

MAINE - Dee Potter (Ext), Northern Aroostook: Heavy showers off and on during the week. The crops look good, oats are ripening. Wrapping up haying, re-growth is good. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Weather stations in the Central Aroostook areas are reporting a five to seven day spray schedule. We have had a lot of variance in rainfall in areas. Recent damage in some crops due to severe thunder showers over Friday and Saturday. Recent damage to some potato fields due to hail on Friday and Saturday in some areas, mostly northern area and some central area. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potato crop is looking good so far, some aphids are showing up and have needed to spray. Late blight is in check for now but still scouting hard for it. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis:** Last weeks rain helped crops a little. Still need rain to improve forage conditions. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** Severe and widespread thunderstorms on Friday delivered needed rain and also power outages and downed trees causing a great deal of damage. Vegetable crops are being harvested and are looking good. **Janet King (FSA), Somerset:** Strong tornado like winds and dime size hail went through Central Somerset on Friday. Apple damage from the hail, many uprooted trees. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Hot weather has helped the warm season crops and the corn is growing well. Spotty thunderstorms...some areas still dry, while others got sufficient rains. Some corn showing drought stress. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Real early varieties of apples just starting to be harvested. Apple harvest will be underway in a couple of weeks. There may have been some blueberry fields affected by hail damage from the storm on 8/3/07, still waiting to hear on this. Harvest of sweet corn in full swing now. Overall crops are looking good, but we could use some beneficial rain. A little rain was received on Saturday. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Crop harvest in mid coast region is average. Recent showers providing

much needed precipitation but is uneven so some fields are well above average and others well below. Harvest to begin on Downeast blueberry barrens this week. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Androscoggin/Franklin:** The big news this week is storm damage and some poor production. Thunderstorms came through with hail and high winds. Some apple orchards were hard hit with hail and some other crops knocked flat. The high bush blueberry production was off by at least 90% in the county. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Oxford County producers have reported lack of rain is hurting the corn crop if no moisture is received in the next few days. Hay is being harvested daily. Small vegetable gardens going strong. Potato crop looking good and producers are getting ready to harvest the first of their crops. Blueberries are being harvested along with raspberries. Strong showers with hail were received in the northern part of Oxford County. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Penobscot:** Shortage of rain is starting to show effect on most crops. Corn is starting to curl and ears are not setting up very good. Apples are almost ready to be harvested but could look a lot better. Producers are trying to water as much as possible but shortage of rain fall is having a huge effect in most of Penobscot County. Hail, heavy winds and spotted showers did damage to corn fields and vegetable gardens on Friday. The extent of damage at this time is unknown.

MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: A sunny, hot week, scattered storms, some severe with one inch hail in north county. We are waiting on reports from the orchards. Other parts of the county are drying out and need water. Heavy dew at night is helping. Summer squash, tomatoes, cukes, herbs, sweet corn, beans, peaches, raspberries and blueberries being harvested. Silage corn looks good. This was a good drying week for hay with a constant dry breeze. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Berries continue to gain size. Pretty good set in most beds. Insect and disease pressures low for the most part. Growers are through with fruitworm applications and are wiping taller weeds with Roundup and irrigating where rain has not fallen. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Franklin/Hampshire/Hampden:** Very hot and humid week with scattered thunderstorms. Friday night 8/3/07 a hail storm with high winds went through Franklin County damaging tobacco, sweet corn, and apples. Blue mold was confirmed in the CT River Valley on one shade field in Westfield and was determined not widespread. Harvesting of all summer crops is in full swing including; potatoes, tobacco, summer squash, tomatoes, peppers and cucumbers.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll: A week of heat! Dry hay cut and put away. Farm stands doing tons of business. Summer in full swing. All veggies available at the farm stand, sweet corn sure tastes good. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Hot temperatures all week, with really muggy weather on Thursday and Friday. Heat is making things a little dry out there, but no widespread drought stress yet. Field corn continues to develop and generally looks really good. Grass has slowed down in the hot weather, but still looks OK. Sweet corn harvest in full swing and lots of other veggies available. PYO berries doing well. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Much of the County's field corn is beginning to tassel. Large quantities of dry hay continue to be cut and baled. Nice green color, very cooperative weather conditions allowing for quick drying once mowed. Barley at about hard dough stage should be ready for combining soon. Farmers planning for summer seedings. Farm stands and markets with wider selection of mid-summer vegetables to include; beans, squash, hi-tunnel tomatoes and peppers and new potatoes. PYO blueberry and raspberry harvest continues. Some spraying for corn borers and earworms. Cucumber and Japanese beetles fairly abundant. Another good week of dry hay, mostly hot weather. Lots getting done. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Hay harvests continuing. Corn growing well but beginning to show moisture stress on drier soil types. Third cut hay quality is excellent. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Vegetables: Great number of corn earworm and European corn borers were caught in traps during the week. Farmers kept busy cultivating, hoeing weeds, monitoring pest pressures, spraying pesticides for insects and diseases - if needed. Growers harvesting an array of vegetables including: beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, cucumbers, greens, lettuce, potatoes, radishes, snap beans, sweet corn, summer squash and first field tomatoes and peppers.

Continues to be a very good demand for local produce at most local farmers' markets and farm stands. Fruit: Peach, blueberry and raspberry harvests continued, along with the first apples. Orchardists busy monitoring for pests, spraying if needed, and mowing orchard floors. Field Crops: Farmers making baled hay. Silage corn is rapid growing. Field corn was tasseled and beginning to silk. Second crop is looking good. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Peach crops looks great and harvest is going well. Blueberry and raspberry harvest in full swing. Apple harvest started with Paula Red variety. Harvesting a whole array of vegetables including sweet corn. Continued haying and pastures look good. Irrigating vegetable fields, monitoring for pests and weeding. The week had several days of mid-ninety degree Fahrenheit and very humid making it very uncomfortable for outdoors work. PYO operations, farmers market, farmstands and garden center remain very busy. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** Another dry and hot week. Producers continued to make second cut for hay and haylage. Vegetable growers harvesting an array of vegetables. Sweet corn and field tomatoes started to be harvested this week. Fruit growers harvesting blue berries and peaches. Harvesting of raspberries is winding down. Some growers continued with renovating the strawberry beds. Mum growers spacing them for better growth, and greenhouse growers continued to plant poinsettia cuttings. Business at garden centers continued to be slow due to the hot weather. we are now by this event with only limited damage on a couple fields. A couple reports of plum curculio hitting highbush blueberries somewhat hard. Increased variety of summer veggies and small fruits at farm stands and markets. Growing degree days at 520, base 50 Lancaster location. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Hay harvest continues. First just about complete, second cut progressing nicely and third cut in the early stages. Corn growing well. So far, little sign of armyworm in corn or hay. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Field Crops: Farmers making baled hay. Second crop is looking good. Silage corn is rapidly growing. Fruit: Peach, blueberry and raspberry harvests continued. Orchardists are getting ready to harvest first apples by starting to move bins into orchard. Strawberry cultivating and weeding newly renovated beds. Orchardists busy monitoring for pests, spraying if needed, and mowing orchard floors. Vegetables: Growers are busy irrigating fields!! Growers harvesting an array of vegetables including: beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, cucumbers,

greens, lettuce, potatoes, radishes, snap beans, summer squash, zucchini, and first (regularly planted) sweet corn. Farmers kept busy cultivating, hoeing weeds, monitoring pest pressures, spraying pesticides for insects and diseases - if needed. Very good demand for produce at most local farmers' markets and farm stands.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: Top killing some potatoes and harvesting early reds. Sweet corn looks great and coming in strong. Field corn is tasseling and also showing some signs of stress. Very little second cut available. Harvesting summer vegetables and finishing up hand hoeing pumpkins and winter squash. No measurable rain here at all and pastures are starting to show signs of stress.

VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille: Last week was arguably the best week of the season for haying and making baled hay. Very hot, dry weather pushed the field corn into the tassel stage and is keeping the crop on track for very good yields. Several veggie growers had to irrigate. Grass growth is now pretty slow until we get some rain and cooler temperatures. Still no army worms reported in this area. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Showers last week made hay harvest a little tricky. The hot humid weather was good for corn growth however. Pastures remain in pretty good shape due to the amount of rainfall we have had. Friday brought some very strong storms and pea sized hail in places. The corn leaves are a little ragged in those areas but it shouldn't hamper its growth. **Jeffrey Carter (Ext), Addison:** Dry Hay harvest continues. Corn crop looks best in years. Weeds growing too. Pasture not so great. **Julie Jacque (FSA), Windham:** Severe showers came through area Friday night. Crops could use a little more water on lighter land. No reports of crop damages. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Another big haying week. Hot with no rain. Humid. Corn is tasseled, some leaves are curled. Spreading manure on hay fields. Reports on west side of state of ergot on late first cut hay. Some animals showing effects. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Spraying potatoes for blight, also vine crops and squash. Early seeding of winter rye doing well. Rain for the week .228 inches. Dry week. A good rain would help a lot. Digging early potato crop, looks good. Mid-season sweet corn in market, also cucumbers and early squash. Peas all done but lots of green and yellow beans, also broccoli, cabbage and cauliflower. Full market of good, green produce. A little rain would be a help now.

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