

Crop Weather



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For week ending 6/15/08

More Rain Needed

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending June 15, 2008, there were 6.0 days available for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture was rated 1% very short, 14% short, 83% adequate, and 1% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 2% very short, 14% short, 83% adequate, and 1% surplus. Pasture condition was rated as 1% poor, 31% fair, 60% good, and 8% excellent. The beginning of the week was very hot and humid, with several locations breaking record highs again this week. Temperatures were well above average, ranging in the upper-80s to over 100 degrees. Tuesday and Wednesday brought heavy thunderstorms, hail, and strong winds to the area. No major damage was reported as yet, but several reporters stated damage assessment will continue for the next several weeks. Temperatures fell back into the average range mid-week and remained there throughout the weekend. Highs were in the mid-70s to mid-80s and lows ranged in the upper-40s to low-60s. Heavy rainfall moved into the area again over the weekend, causing flash flooding and over saturating some fields. Total rain accumulation for the week ranged from 0.30 inches to 3.35 inches. Between rainstorms, conditions were ideal for field work, allowing farmers to complete planting and continue to bale hay. Despite the large amount of rainfall, some areas remained dry and irrigation was necessary in vegetable fields and orchards.

FRUIT Orchardists were busy this past week hand thinning fruit trees, monitoring for pests, mowing orchard floors, and spraying for weeds. Both highbush and wild blueberry crops were in petal fall by week's end. Growers continued applying weed control measures on non-bearing acreage. Cranberries were still reported in bud stage to early bloom, slightly behind last year. Producers kept busy with pollination activities and completing planting in renovated beds. Early varieties of strawberries were harvested and began appearing in farmer's markets over the weekend.

VEGETABLES: Producers harvested a wide array of early season vegetables this week including spinach, lettuce, asparagus, rhubarb, as well as greenhouse tomatoes and cucumbers. Most vegetable crops were reported in good to excellent condition. More rain would help development as some of the drier areas were still forced to irrigate. Farmers continued to transplant tomato and pepper plants and make successive plantings of various vegetable crops. Sweet corn planting was on par with normal by the end of the week and the crop was reported in good condition. Despite the rainy weather over the weekend, greenhouses, garden centers, and farmers' markets were full of activity.

FIELD CROPS: The break from rain mid-week allowed farmers in northern Maine to finish planting potatoes, oats, and barley. Grain producers were busy applying herbicides and prepping for the first applications of fungicides. Farmers were busy this week chopping grass for dry hay and haylage between rain showers. Reporters were more optimistic about yields from the later hay cuttings, but poor quality was still an issue. The warm temperatures in the beginning of the week were ideal for field corn development. Growers continued to plant the last of the corn crop and spray for weeds.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil Moisture			
Very Short	1	6	1
Short	14	12	17
Adequate	82	78	78
Surplus	3	4	4
Subsoil Moisture			
Very Short	2	2	0
Short	14	16	12
Adequate	83	80	84
Surplus	1	2	4

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Development	Set	Condition
Apples	PF	Average	Good
Peaches	PF	Average	Good
Pears	PF	Average	Good
Blueberries			
Highbush	PF	Average	Good
Wild	PF	Average	Good
Cranberries, MA	BS/EB		Good
Strawberries	PF	Average	Good

BS = Bud Stage, EB = Early Bloom, FB = Full Bloom, PF = Petal Fall

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2008	2007	5-yr Avg	Condition
--Percent Planted--				
Barley, ME	100	99	100	
Oats, ME	100	99	99	
Potatoes				
Maine	100	100	99	
Mass	100	100	100	
Rhode Island	100	100	100	
Silage Corn	95	95	90	
Sweet Corn	80	90	80	
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	80	70	70	Good/Fair
Shade	100	100	99	Good
--Percent Emerged--				
Barley, ME	95	80	90	Good
Oats, ME	95	85	90	Good
Potatoes				
Maine	70	40	40	Good
Mass	90	95	90	Good
Rhode Island	95	100	90	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	80	80	70	Good
Sweet Corn	65	70	60	Good
-- Percent Harvested --				
Dry Hay				
First Cut	50	45	35	Good/Fair

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

For the Period: Monday June 9, 2008
To: Sunday June 15, 2008

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	
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN				INCHES	DFN		
MAINE															
Augusta_State_A	51	90	70	+7	451	+78	112	+47	0.36	-0.41	2	1.37	-1.86	14	
Bangor_Intl_Arp	44	90	68	+6	385	+71	81	+37	0.29	-0.48	1	3.27	+0.14	12	
Bethel	50	91	70	+8	346	+17	91	+41	2.31	+1.34	2	4.23	+0.64	13	
Caribou_Municip	41	82	64	+4	226	-19	38	+13	0.92	+0.29	4	3.32	+0.65	13	
Dover-Foxcroft	41	90	66	+7	282	+31	57	+32	1.26	+0.37	2	3.81	+0.41	13	
Frenchville	41	76	62	+3	181	-29	28	+15	1.31	+0.61	4	3.16	+0.33	15	
Houlton	35	87	63	+3	212	-38	39	+12	1.59	+0.82	4	3.41	+0.33	14	
Livermore_Falls	39	92	68	+9	359	+104	92	+65	0.90	-0.08	2	2.26	-1.45	13	
Moosehead	41	90	64	+6	179	-1	40	+32	2.32	+1.41	4	4.27	+0.86	16	
Portland_ME	49	87	68	+7	412	+116	98	+65	0.39	-0.45	2	1.20	-2.00	8	
NEW HAMPSHIRE															
Benton	43	92	68	+7	348	+11	77	+27	0.77	-0.14	2	2.04	-1.41	14	
Berlin_AG	44	92	69	+8	369	+52	91	+43	2.22	+1.24	3	4.15	+0.50	14	
Concord	42	98	73	+10	520	+120	169	+88	1.77	+1.00	3	2.51	-0.41	9	
Diamond_Pond	41	87	64	+7	213	+46	51	+49	2.86	+1.78	4	6.75	+2.69	18	
Keene_AP	43	97	72	+10	485	+126	155	+93	1.29	+0.52	2	2.21	-1.09	8	
North_Conway	46	94	70	+8	414	+52	102	+37	1.44	+0.47	3	2.73	-0.98	15	
Rochester	46	100	72	+9	520	+74	165	+65	2.11	+1.27	2	3.43	+0.07	6	
VERMONT															
Burlington_Intl	50	93	74	+10	583	+123	188	+77	1.44	+0.63	2	4.16	+1.12	12	
Island_Pond	41	90	68	+10	307	+68	78	+49	1.80	+0.80	4	5.31	+1.50	17	
Montpelier	44	93	70	+10	429	+98	115	+61	2.03	+1.19	2	4.41	+1.15	16	
Pownal	46	94	72	+11	497	+150	144	+85	1.21	+0.13	3	3.30	-0.97	16	
Rochester	42	91	69	+8	350	+37	81	+32	1.80	+0.90	3	4.44	+0.69	14	
Rutland_AG	43	93	71	+6	444	-65	132	-3	3.60	+2.76	2	5.44	+2.12	12	
Springfield_VT	44	96	72	+10	499	+130	152	+86	0.85	-0.06	3	2.00	-1.70	11	
Sutton	43	90	68	+9	305	+68	76	+48	1.39	+0.40	6	4.76	+1.01	19	
MASSACHUSETTS															
Boston/Logan_In	60	95	76	+9	653	+105	252	+119	0.00	-0.74	0	2.12	-0.78	7	
Fitchburg	48	99	76	+14	647	+304	237	+182	0.87	+0.03	2	2.17	-1.16	11	
Greenfield	45	95	72	+6	538	-7	147	+5	0.90	-0.01	2	2.04	-1.60	11	
New_Bedford	45	95	73	+7	489	-50	165	+41	0.15	-0.71	1	1.26	-2.12	9	
Otis_AFB	55	88	72	+9	397	+33	117	+58	0.16	-0.61	2	1.61	-1.56	10	
Plymouth	49	95	73	+9	491	+94	166	+91	0.00	-0.83	0	0.99	-2.38	9	
Walpole	48	96	75	+10	568	+119	195	+99	0.05	-0.85	1	1.32	-1.98	13	
Chicopee/Westov	43	97	73	+5	591	-70	192	-4	0.58	-0.40	2	2.88	-1.00	12	
Worthington	43	92	69	+8	413	+65	102	+45	1.21	+0.30	3	3.42	-0.43	14	
RHODE ISLAND															
Providence	56	97	78	+12	695	+196	249	+134	0.05	-0.72	1	0.93	-2.28	10	
Woonsocket	48	97	75	+11	574	+132	191	+107	0.10	-0.88	1	0.73	-3.00	8	
CONNECTICUT															
Bridgeport/Siko	58	97	77	+11	711	+149	262	+110	0.59	-0.18	3	2.36	-0.94	12	
Hartford/Bradle	49	98	76	+9	722	+99	265	+81	0.59	-0.32	3	3.36	-0.30	13	
Norfolk	48	92	71	+10	456	+113	132	+78	3.47	+2.35	3	6.24	+1.93	15	
Thomaston_Dam	50	95	75	+11	579	+118	181	+81	2.44	+1.46	3	4.22	+0.30	14	
Willimantic	47	96	75	+11	632	+166	203	+103	0.72	-0.12	3	2.51	-1.04	14	

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, June 15, 2008

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	L	HI	AV	DF	LO	HI
ME	34	98	67	+7	0.00	3.17
NH	33	101	70	+9	0.46	3.12
VT	39	96	70	+9	0.62	3.60
MA	41	102	72	+9	0.00	2.03
RI	48	97	76	+11	0.01	0.10
CT	45	98	75	+10	0.03	3.47

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

CONNECTICUT - Howard Rood (FSA), Fairfield/Litchfield: The northern area of the county had thunderstorms with very strong winds and lightning Tuesday night into Wednesday. The first cutting of hay was flattened by the strong winds. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Producers reporting field corn emergence is coming at the same time. The hot dry days and cool nights have produced the early planted corn, in some cases to be at the same stage as the recently planted corn. This could prove bothersome at harvest for not only field corn but sweet corn. Hay in some areas lighter than expected, but overall good to excellent first cutting. Vegetables doing great and strawberries are plentiful and sweet. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** First cutting that was chopped is all done, good quality and production. Baled hay a bit light, but good. Hot beginning of week, it's getting a little dry. Some apple pruning continues and planting vegetables. Farmers markets start this week with spinach, lettuce, Swiss chard, greenhouse tomatoes and greenhouse cucumbers ready. Corn is just peeking out of the ground to a foot tall. Hay prices are about \$5.00/bale. Cost of inputs all around are up. **Jude Boucher (Ext), Tolland:** Early sweet corn in the pre-tassel stage. Plenty of moisture and heat. Everything is growing well. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Scouting corn and harvesting haylage were the major activities for the week. The thunderstorm on Saturday produced hail one inch in diameter. We will be out assessing the extent of the hail damage in a lot of these same fields.

MAINE - Pam Hickey (Ext), Aroostook: Farmers are awaiting emergence of potatoes that are planted, approximately 90% have emerged so far. Early haylage being harvested. **Steve London, Aroostook:** Most of the herbicides have been applied for grain and potatoes. Farmers are getting ready for cultivation and the first fungicide applications. Crops are looking good so far. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** The week featured very nice weather. Sunday one half to two inches of beneficial rain fell, just what the doctor ordered. Strawberries are starting to be picked. The crop looks very good. Dry hay was starting to be made before the rain came. There are reports of germination problems with corn. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Early strawberry varieties are now available at some local farm stands. Strawberry harvest gets underway in earnest this week. Much needed rain fell yesterday, with part of the upcoming week predicted to be wet. This is good news for farmers as crops are in much need of rain. With ideal weather conditions last week, farmers were out chopping grass, cutting their first crop of dry hay, and planting. Peas should be ready to be picked this week. The apple crop looks good with a heavy fruit set. The blueberry crop continues to look good with weed control measures occurring on the non-bearing crop this past week. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Good weather for producers to finish up planting and some are cutting first crop hay. Some areas received heavy rains with hail during a thunderstorm. Still in need of rain, areas are very dry. Sweet corn has been seen "popping its ears" out of the ground and is looking good but in need of rain. **Laura Rand (FSA), Penobscot:** Weather has been hot and humid with intermittent showers. Haylage being cut and crops showing emergence. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Lots of dry hay put up last week when we had three excellent drying days in a row. Strawberry season is just starting.

MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: Humid with temps in 80's and 90's first half of the week with severe storms through the county on Tuesday with hail, high winds and serious lightning. More storms at week's end with one to three inches rain and flash flooding. Last of field corn planted and more hay was cut. Pastures are good and strawberries look promising. Farmer's markets doing well. Nitrogen is available but outrageously priced. **Janice Barnes, Franklin:** Weather generally good in area. Field corn looking very good. Gardens looking good, could use some moisture. First cut of hay well under way. **Tom Monahan (NRCS), Hampden/Worcester:** Apple crop really lightened up with the June drop. Some of this was because of cool weather during bloom and

or frost damage. Strawberry crop is fantastic. Sweet corn coming around, some growers could be harvesting first week of July. Veggies are off to a good start with a lot of peppers and tomatoes going in. Summer squash looks good with a harvest expected soon. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Early Black and Ben Lear beds are moving seriously into bloom and the other cultivars aren't far behind. Migratory hives are being located at the different beds and bumblebee hives as well. Pollination weather hasn't been the best so far, but will hopefully improve soon. Growers will be applying their first fungicides for fruit rot. Thus far, the most prominent insect problem has been cranberry weevil. Most of the renovated beds have been planted at this point. A good soaking would be appreciated, although some rain fell late Saturday into Sunday.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap: Light rains have eased the drought pressure a little. Spring heat instigated some crop diseases. Fruit growers are having a busy spring with spraying. Garden center sales are lower than usual in many places. **Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll:** Some needed moisture has finally arrived. Hayfields have responded with enough growth to make cutting worth the fuel. Apples and pears doing well, looks like a good crop. Blueberries doing very well. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** A hot, muggy start to the week with a little rain and cooler conditions later on. Soil moisture situation is better, but some places are still on the dry side. Field corn growing rapidly - much of it at five to six leaf stage. First cutting for haylage is done, more baleage and dry hay getting harvested, though drying conditions aren't great. First strawberries appearing in farm stands along with greens and radishes. Other crops growing slowly due to lack of moisture. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Cooler weather with periodic rain storms, severe at times. Quite strong winds early in the week knocking down trees interrupting power. No reports of damaged crops received. First cut haylage going at a good pace as weather permits. Looks like good re-growth with adequate soil moisture. Field corn also doing well. Vegetable crop seeding germinating quickly, nice moisture for transplants. Tomatoes forming up on some early planted high tunnel operations. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: First strawberries were being picked during the week and strawberry pick-your-own operations opened over the weekend. Fruit growers monitoring pest and crop development and applying cover sprays for pest. Mowing orchard floor and weed spraying under trees. Also hand thinning peaches. Field Crops: Most farmers are finishing up planting and weed spraying corn fields. Farmers are trying to make haylage and baled hay. Grasses maturing, especially orchard grass. Vegetables: Harvesting spinach, greens, asparagus and rhubarb. Transplanting tomato and pepper plants almost complete, and continue successive planting of various vegetable crops. We are seeing asparagus beetle, flea beetle, corn maggot, striped cucumber beetle, and Colorado potato beetle. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** The beginning of the week was highlighted with 95+ degree F temperatures. Crops are in need of rain. Saturday evening rain came but in need for much more. Strawberry picking started. Irrigating vegetables and fruits. Weeding and cultivating fields. Successive vegetable planting continues. Monitoring pests. Harvesting asparagus, rhubarb, and leafy greens. Pastures are drying up. Farmers are making hay. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** Much welcome rain for the end of the week. Grass and pastures and hay fields are doing well. Producers continue to make first cut of hay and haylage. Fruit growers were busy thinning fruit on apples and peaches and applying protective fungicides as needed. Others were weeding young strawberry plantings. Some growers starting to harvest other varieties of strawberries. Vegetable growers continued planting of various crops, weeding others, and harvesting. Greenhouses and garden centers continue to enjoy good customer flow and most of them are also busy planting fall mums.

VERMONT - Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia: Great week for haying. Yield is higher now than two weeks ago, but quality declined. Some corn up to six inches high. Hot early in week, also

severe thunderstorms and wind. Several beautiful days for haying. Rain on Saturday night. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Starting to see some corn disappearing in wet areas of the fields and very pale green in those fields that are poorly drained. Bumper crop of first cut. May cut grass testing at 19 and 20 % protein with good energy values. Not as much of this type of haylage with yields not as good as what is being harvested now. We had a good four day stretch and much haylage was harvested. No reports as to feed quality of this last harvest. Ten inches of rain here since 6/1/2008. It has come fairly easily so no flooding and this makes us see why we are seeing the corn disappear in the wet spots of the fields. **John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille:** Last week brought an end to the hot weather with some severe storms that had little or no effect on crops in this area. Some nice drying weather later in the week finally allowed some folks to make some dry bales. Most crops are doing very well at this point in the growing season. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Land dry

first of week but then came rain. Cultivating, fertilizing and weed control going on with all crops as needed. Dry weather has helped to control weeds. Strawberries ready by week's end. Rain for the week 1.780 inches, two good rains put new life in all crops. A lot of dry, cold weather has slowed growth of all vegetable crops, but with rain and warm weather crops will catch up. Asparagus, rhubarb, scallions, and radishes in the market, more vegetables will follow soon. We're thankful for the rain. Have a good week! **Julie Jacque (FSA), Windham:** Sweltering heat caused some strawberries to rot while in maturity stages and in some green berries. Hay crop continues to be reported as somewhat light. Irrigation systems in place and were being used, others without irrigation were happy to see rains. Corn crop looks stressed, it is yellowed in color and in some shallower fields the leaves are "pineappling" due to lack of moisture. Corn stands are not very uniform at this time - low spots, yellowing, and multiple varying heights.

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