



New England Agricultural Statistics Service

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United States Department of Agriculture

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Crop Weather

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For week ending 8/5/01

Dry Conditions Continue

For the week ending August 5, 2001, there were 6.8 days available for fieldwork across New England. Pasture condition was rated as 2% very poor, 24% poor, 52% fair, 21% good, 1% excellent. Major farm activities included: topdressing fields with fertilizer; cultivating; irrigating; hoeing; cutting hay and chopping haylage; harvesting shade and broadleaf tobacco, peaches, raspberries, highbush and lowbush blueberries, sweet corn, cole crops, tomatoes and other vegetables; and spraying for weeds, insects, and fungus.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	-- Percent --		
	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
Topsoil Moisture			
Very Short	19	1	1
Short	47	33	5
Adequate	34	65	80
Surplus	0	1	14
Subsoil Moisture			
Very Short	15	0	0
Short	42	32	7
Adequate	43	67	83
Surplus	0	1	10

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2001	2000	5-yr Avg	
Apples	<5	<5	<5	Good
Peaches	10	10	20	Good/Fair
Pears	--	--	<5	Fair
Cranberries, MA	--	--	--	Good
Blueberries				
Highbush	30	30	45	Fair
Wild, ME	10	<5	10	Fair/Good

FIELD CROPS: Dry conditions continued throughout the region last week, with most areas reporting some degree of crop stress due to the lack of moisture. Growth of hay and corn crops slowed a bit and the parched leaves began to curl. Reports of armyworms have dwindled and worries are now centered around the low moisture levels. Potato fields showed some insect activity, but growers have not yet reported any late blight. Both shade and broadleaf tobacco harvest are well underway and ahead of last year's harvest.

VEGETABLES: Farmers harvested peas, broccoli, zucchini, cucumbers, sweet corn, beets, tomatoes, lettuce, peppers, radishes, summer squash, beans, and other vegetables last week. Growers scouted their fields for weeds and insects and applications were made where necessary. Sweet corn ears showed signs of stunted growth due to inadequate moisture levels; however, most vegetable crops seemed to be weathering the dry conditions well so far. Significant rainfall will be needed soon to help crops grow. One bonus to the continued hot and humid weather is business has remained steady at roadside stands and farmers' markets.

FRUIT: Apple harvest began in New England last week and orchards were actively mowed and monitored. Highbush blueberries, peaches and raspberries continued to be picked. Wild blueberry picking proceeded last week in Maine. It was reported that berry crops across the six-state region are appearing slightly shriveled due to the lack of rain. Massachusetts was the only New England state to receive significant rainfall last week, and the state's cranberry crop welcomed the much needed moisture.

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2001	2000	5-yr Avg	
Potatoes				
Maine	<5	--	--	Excel/Good
Mass	5	5	10	Good
Rhode Isl	10	10	10	Good
Oats, ME	--	<5	<5	Excel/Good
Barley, ME	--	<5	5	Excel/Good
Silage Corn	--	--	--	Good
Sweet Corn	25	20	25	Good
Tobacco				
Shade	40	10	45	Good
Broadleaf	35	<5	25	Good/Fair
Dry Hay				
First Cut	99	95	95	Fair/Good
Second Cut	80	45	50	Good/Fair
Third Cut	10	5	5	Fair

For the Week Ending Sunday, August 5, 2001

The 41 stations shown below are limited by space but are well distributed across the region.
All 86 stations appear on the Internet and in e-mail subscriptions.

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		DFN	DAYS
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN				INCHES	DFN		
MAINE															
Augusta_ME	53	91	73	+4	1476	+173	629	+138	0.00	-0.74	0	2.68	-0.21	11	
Bangor	52	93	73	+5	1424	+244	580	+173	0.00	-0.70	0	1.78	-1.16	10	
Bethel	47	93	71	+3	1249	+63	444	+40	0.30	-0.57	3	2.49	-0.76	11	
Cari bou	50	88	69	+4	1190	+214	399	+126	0.00	-0.98	0	4.35	+0.58	12	
Dover-Foxcroft	51	88	68	+2	1180	+151	399	+90	0.00	-0.77	0	2.13	-1.04	11	
Frenchville	51	89	68	+4	1060	+156	320	+86	0.00	-0.91	0	2.54	-0.99	14	
Houlton	44	90	68	+3	1157	+144	397	+96	0.00	-0.91	0	2.74	-0.75	11	
Livermore Falls	46	92	71	+6	1344	+324	544	+247	0.01	-0.84	1	4.00	+0.84	14	
Moosehead	48	92	68	+4	994	+142	287	+74	0.00	-0.88	0	1.96	-1.65	11	
Portland_ME	50	87	70	+1	1375	+204	569	+163	0.64	+0.01	1	2.21	-0.47	12	
NEW HAMPSHIRE															
Benton	52	89	69	+3	1184	+74	393	+62	0.00	-0.88	0	2.03	-1.20	8	
Berlin_AG	50	90	69	+4	1236	+120	430	+79	0.16	-0.79	1	4.48	+0.99	10	
Concord	46	92	71	+2	1470	+141	618	+114	0.15	-0.62	1	2.65	-0.32	11	
Diamond Pond	48	83	66	+4	857	+113	225	+89	0.42	-0.70	3	4.41	+0.17	15	
Keene_AP	46	90	71	+0	1473	-18	602	-14	1.18	+0.31	3	1.68	-1.66	4	
North Conway	52	90	71	+4	1497	+254	639	+195	0.15	-0.76	2	1.20	-2.23	12	
Rochester	50	90	71	+2	1495	+83	655	+91	0.72	-0.10	2	4.47	+1.29	12	
VERMONT															
Burlington_VT	57	93	75	+5	1625	+189	711	+128	0.01	-0.89	1	0.50	-2.88	7	
Island Pond	50	88	69	+5	1084	+176	339	+114	0.00	-1.08	0	2.47	-1.50	10	
Montpelier	52	89	70	+4	1212	+85	426	+68	0.02	-0.79	2	0.67	-2.25	11	
Pownal	49	86	68	+0	1263	+102	427	+52	0.96	+0.04	2	3.54	-0.11	12	
Rochester	47	88	69	+3	1185	+90	395	+56	0.62	-0.37	3	2.04	-1.57	12	
Rutland_AG	54	87	70	-1	1295	-187	452	-151	0.44	-0.47	3	2.61	-0.95	13	
Sutton	50	89	69	+5	1129	+205	370	+130	0.22	-0.83	4	2.50	-1.42	17	
Townshend Lake	51	97	71	+2	1328	-66	508	-45	0.17	-0.68	3	1.79	-1.39	10	
MASSACHUSETTS															
Ashburnham	52	91	71	+4	1445	+241	581	+166	0.33	-0.49	2	2.00	-1.32	12	
Boston	59	92	73	-1	1806	+133	874	+119	1.61	+0.91	2	2.38	-0.22	10	
Greenfield	46	95	73	+1	1531	-62	657	-31	0.23	-0.61	3	1.96	-1.40	11	
New Bedford	49	87	70	-5	1611	-51	697	-47	0.67	-0.18	4	4.77	+1.85	14	
Otis_AFB	54	82	71	+0	1576	+244	700	+179	0.50	-0.21	2	2.62	-0.02	9	
Plymouth	51	89	71	-1	1533	+139	648	+79	1.23	+0.41	2	3.17	+0.04	11	
Walpole	50	92	73	+2	1705	+262	780	+193	0.17	-0.66	2	1.36	-1.78	10	
Westover	48	95	72	-4	1755	-69	810	-48	3.31	+2.54	2	5.01	+1.83	9	
Worthington	44	88	68	+0	1212	+40	419	+38	0.68	-0.30	3	2.97	-0.95	11	
RHODE ISLAND															
Providence	56	92	73	+0	1805	+221	852	+157	0.55	-0.22	2	1.88	-1.04	10	
Woonsocket	49	96	74	+4	1771	+351	847	+289	0.25	-0.66	2	1.68	-1.89	10	
CONNECTICUT															
Bridgeport	60	88	74	-2	1866	+170	892	+107	0.00	-0.80	0	1.10	-2.28	4	
Hartford_AP	51	94	74	+0	1801	+41	845	+26	0.30	-0.47	2	0.94	-1.93	9	
Norfolk	50	87	70	+3	1411	+233	563	+175	2.37	+1.39	2	3.35	-0.44	10	
Thomaston_Dam	48	91	71	+1	1549	+143	647	+104	0.10	-0.83	2	1.08	-2.69	10	
Willimantic	50	92	73	+3	1778	+347	812	+248	0.40	-0.51	2	1.12	-2.63	11	

STATE WEATHER SUMMARY
For the Week Ending Sunday, August 5, 2001

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.

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	43	94	70	+3	0.00	0.64
NH	38	94	68	+2	0.00	1.49
VT	45	97	70	+3	0.00	1.35
MA	43	95	71	+0	0.09	3.31
RI	49	96	72	+1	0.25	0.55
CT	47	94	72	0	0.00	2.37

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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: It has been very hot and dry. We need rain badly. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Pitiful curling of parched corn. Hayfields and pastures gasping for water. Vegetables and fruits holding on. Weather hot and sunny - great for the beach, but not for the fields. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Rain over the weekend was too little too late. Fields are so dry the milkweed is shriveling! Third cutting is slow to regrow due to dry conditions. Humidity is causing fungus according to some pumpkin growers.

MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook: Potatoes: Growers applying fungicides, very little pressure from insects. Some early blight detected, but the condition is far from being serious. No late blight has been found anywhere. Where has all the water gone from previous rains? The fields are seriously dry with some crop stress observed. Tubers have good size for this time of the growing season. **Dee Potter (Ext), Northern Aroostook:** Hot and dry all week. Most of first cut hay is completed. Potatoes looking good. Still some blossoms around. Fungicide applications ongoing. **Erin Chadbourne (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Broccoli harvest continues. Fungicide applications continue. Growers are scouting fields for any sign of activities. **Steve London (Ext), Southern Aroostook:** Very short on water in the Houlton area. Starting to see a few potato aphids where imidaclepid was not used. **Albert Dow (NRCS), Piscataquis:** No rain at all this week. Pastures and hay fields with shallow soils are showing brown. **Donna Lamb (Ext), Piscataquis:** Very hot, dry weather has caused a lot of stress on crops. Some corn has been penciling in the dry weather. **Janet King/Jennifer Zweig (FSA), Somerset:** Somerset County needs rain. Sweet corn is being harvested. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Dry, hot weather continues to cause problems. Hay crops have stopped growing and corn is starting to curl in many places. The armyworm damage is magnified by the dry weather. Armyworm moths continue to fly. Pastures are getting very dry. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Blueberry crop yield could be a little off from earlier reports due to dry weather conditions this past week. Sweet corn is weedy in places due to a lack of rain to activate herbicides. Pasture conditions are poor. **David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild Blueberries: Continued dry and hot weather resulting in fruit shriveling from loss of moisture which is reducing the quality. Most areas of the state, except some coastal fields, have begun harvest. Crop is expected to be less than the predicted 108 million pounds. **Michael Tardy (FSA), Androscoggin:** Where is the rain? We in the Agricultural business are never happy! We have had great haying weather and now we are complaining about the dry, hot weather. We haven't had any reports of crops in trouble, but many have told us that they are concerned. The weatherman isn't predicting any "wet stuff" until Friday. What can we do? Let's hope the plants are strong enough to make it through. **Parker Rand (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Foggy mornings and hot, humid afternoons make it hard to dry hay. The corn crop is starting to wither; pastures and hay fields are turning brown - we need rain and the forecast is saying more heat and humidity. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** The intense heat and sun are starting to dry things out. May need to irrigate potatoes soon. **Laura Rand (FSA), Oxford:** Dry, hot conditions persist. This past week's weather has created very dry conditions. Storms have been around but only in spots and have not provided any relief from the dryness. Sweet corn ears are small and other vegetables are suffering from lack of water. Producers are busy cultivating, spraying, and irrigating.

MASSACHUSETTS - Kip Graham (FSA), Worcester: Spraying for potato bugs on a regular basis. The humidity gave all plants a jump start this past week. The rain was a welcomed sight also. Some blight observed on foliage - trying to control it by spraying regularly. Armyworms are slowly departing ways, hearing less and less on them. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Only the latest varieties and beds held under late water in the spring still have blossoms. Everything else has set up pretty nicely and berries are sizing up well so far. Reasonable dose of rain over the weekend. Many beds are low maintenance and they look it, primarily due to weed pressures. **John Devine (FSA), Franklin:**

Tobacco being harvested, as well as potatoes and sweet corn. Crop conditions are good. Received an inch of much needed rain Friday night. Water supplies are currently adequate. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** The week was very dry and hot, in the mid 90's. Farmers were irrigating constantly. Then at week's end we had a million dollar rain storm. Insect and disease pressure was low for the week. Growers are harvesting all types of fruits and vegetables. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** Harvesting all summer crops. Much needed rain came on Friday and Saturday as crops were showing signs of stress. Topdressing corn as heavy downpours continued to leach nitrogen and erode herbicide in fields, some soil erosion noted. New planting of strawberries doing very well. Fall crops doing exceptionally well. Excellent set on pumpkins (many now at 12-15 lbs); good vine vigor and no disease yet. Consumers still want local or native products with very heavy demand for corn and peaches.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Bruce Clement (Ext), Cheshire: Things are starting to get dry. Pastures and hayfields recovering slowly from armyworm damage. Silage corn looks good. Sweet corn harvest has begun. Field tomatoes, peppers and other seasonal vegetables being harvested. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Quite hot and dry this week, interrupted briefly by a short shower. Field corn now beginning to tassel. Corn on lighter, sandy soils showing signs of drought stress, grass regrowth slow, could use a good soaking rain. Highbush blueberries nearing their peak, birds enjoying them, too. Summer vegetables in good quantities available at local markets. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Waiting for next crop of hay to grow. Not much regrowth now. Conditions are very dry. Corn is curly. No regrowth of pastures in some areas. Drought stress not as noticeable in alfalfa. Armyworm is pretty much played out. Weather has been beautiful, but dry conditions are affecting all crops. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Field Crops: Hay cutting continued at a rapid pace during the week with both the first and second cut being made. Fruit: Orchardists harvested peaches, blueberries and raspberries. Early apple harvest began. Apple growers continued to move bins into orchards, getting ready for harvest. Irrigated renovated strawberry beds, raspberries, blueberries and peaches. Vegetables: Irrigating crops is a high priority. Harvesting an array of vegetables: beans, beets, cole crops, cucumbers, greens, peas, potatoes, radishes, summer squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, zucchini, and other vegetables. First regular sweet corn plantings are very spotty in ripening, yields are low. Farmers kept busy cultivating, hoeing weeds, monitoring pest pressures and spraying pesticides for insect and disease control where needed. High demand for produce at most local farmers' markets. **David Seavey (Ext), Merrimack:** Farmers are fertilizing hayfields to stimulate regrowth after cutting or damage from armyworms. Some sweet corn harvested along with other vegetables. Blueberries are being harvested, but yields are down due to winter injury. Hay harvest continues. Several vine crop diseases appearing during humid weather. Spraying continues for insects and disease organisms. Friday's rain was greatly needed. **Pam Marvin (FSA), Sullivan:** Another dry week. Sweet corn harvesting in full swing. Blueberry and raspberry picking starting to pick up. Could use some much needed rain. Silage corn looking healthy with the humid weather we've been getting. Alfalfa fields getting their third cutting done. There is lots of hay being baled on the dry days. Lots of fresh vegetables being picked and sold around the county. Crops look good.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: Rain midweek gave a nice soaking. Tomatoes coming along nicely, sweet corn, summer squash, beans, peppers, etc. being harvested. Some haying. Harvesting potatoes (superiors), still spraying for beetles and applying fungicides. Field corn looks great along with all field crops. **Marilu Soileau (FSA), All Counties:** Farmers markets and farm stands are in full swing. Summer squash, tomatoes, and all sorts of garden produce is available. Haying is going on everywhere. Silage corn seems to be doing ok, though a little rain would help. Irrigation is being used where available on turf and vegetables.

VERMONT - John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille: Moderate drought conditions continued with corn showing signs of heat stress and grass growth at a standstill. The upside has been great haying weather for those putting up dry hay. Heat-loving vegetables look great and sweet corn is looking good. **Bill Snow (Ext), Orange:** In a moderate drought situation. Some farms did receive some showers on Friday, but most did not get any significant rainfall. Forecast for the next five days says hot and dry. Corn is in tassel and ear formation stage. Height is variable depending on moisture in most cases. **Larry Hamel (NRCS), Orleans:** Looking very dry right now! Surprisingly, a lot of silage corn crops are looking pretty good despite the lack of moisture. But soils are getting very dry! The corn crops are showing it on sandy soils. Third crop hay looks very poor. Really need some substantial moisture soon! **Lynette Hamilton (FSA), Windham:** Windham County received about 0.75 inches of rain on August 4th. Some corn on light soil was curling. Some third cut alfalfa is almost ready to cut. Veggie growers are having a good year and apple producers are

reporting a good apple crop. Size and color will depend on how much rain and sun we have over the next few weeks. **George Cook (Ext), Lamoille:** Extremely dry and parched. Keep scattered showers, SEND rain. **Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Continuing harvest of alfalfa for third crop. Grasses slow to no growth. Very dry. Second crop finished. Corn tasseled and looks good. Harvesting cereal grains. Very dry in southwest. **Richard Noel (FSA), Grand Isle/Franklin:** Crops starting to suffer from lack of rain. Corn is rolling and grass is burned. Some third cut alfalfa being mowed. Highgate has had no rain since July 24th and St. Albans since July 17th! Some farmers starting to run out of water for their cattle, ponds are drying up forcing cows to drink in barn, which is putting more strain on the wells and springs. We're hoping things change soon, but weather reports don't look good for this week. Hope the experts are wrong! **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Very dry. Some corn leaves are rolled. Hot. No sign of armyworms. People checking on water supplies, seem OK so far.

July 2001 Crop Weather Summary: *The month of July started out with hot, humid weather, which accelerated crop growth and allowed farmers to work in the fields. Second crop hay growth was excellent early in the month in response to timely rains, and yields were expected to be better than the short first cut. A severe armyworm infestation occurred mid-month, however, which brought significant damage to the second crop hay. At some locations entire fields were destroyed. Hay condition ranged from good to fair at most locations by the end of the month, as armyworm attacks subsided, first crop hay was winding down and second crop harvest had passed the halfway mark. Moisture levels were variable throughout the region during July, and most crops were in need of rain by the end of the month. Silage corn was rated in good to excellent condition, spared from severe armyworm destruction, but in need of moisture. Potato harvest was just getting underway the last week of July in Maine, ahead of schedule due to early planting and excellent growing conditions. By late July, Maine oat and barley crops were rated in excellent to good condition. The harvest of both shade and broadleaf tobacco was gaining momentum by the end of the month. Lack of significant rainfall was expected to reduce tobacco yields, but helped keep blue mold under control. A severe hail storm hit mid-month in Massachusetts, completely destroying broadleaf acreage at some locations. Throughout July, tree fruit crops in Connecticut and Rhode Island continued to recover from a severe frost which hit at peak bloom in mid-May; yields in most areas were expected to be down. New England's strawberry harvest neared completion by mid-July. Cranberries in Massachusetts were sprayed for pests and disease throughout the month as the berries began to size up; irrigation took place where available, due to low moisture levels. Maine's wild blueberry crop was rated in good condition by the end of July, and growers were gearing up to harvest a high yielding crop.*

To receive this report every Monday evening, send an e-mail message to listserv@newsbox.usda.gov and in the body, type **subscribe usda-new-eng-crop-weather**

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