



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 8/12/01

Drought-Like Conditions Persist

For the week ending August 12, 2001, there were 6.6 days available for fieldwork across New England. Pasture condition was rated as 6% very poor, 38% poor, 42% fair, 13% good, 1% excellent. Major farm activities included: spreading manure; 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	38	19	1
Short	37	47	20
Adequate	25	34	56
Surplus	0	0	23
Subsoil Moisture			
Very Short	27	15	0
Short	36	42	18
Adequate	37	43	62
Surplus	0	0	20

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2001	2000	5-yr Avg	
Apples	5	5	5	Good
Peaches	30	35	35	Good/Fair
Pears	--	<5	<5	Poor
Cranberries, MA	--	--	--	Good
Blueberries				
Highbush	55	60	60	Good/Fair
Wild, ME	25	35	35	Fair/Good

FIELD CROPS: Persistent dry weather and high heat has caused drought-like conditions throughout most of the region. Though some areas received rain near week's end, precipitation levels remain below average and crop growth has slowed. In many fields, leaves have turned brown and fruits have shriveled. Irrigation took place, where available, to alleviate the dry conditions and aid growth. Potatoes were harvested amidst the almost unbearable high temperatures. The harvest of oat and barley fields just got underway in Maine, and both crops are in excellent to good condition. Tobacco plants thrived in last week's hot, humid weather as harvest continued.

VEGETABLES: Farmers harvested 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 fields were irrigated, where available. In general, most crops remained in need of moisture as the hot, dry weather persisted throughout most of the week.

FRUIT: Highbush blueberries, apples, peaches and raspberries continued to be picked. Pears are in good to fair condition in both Massachusetts and New Hampshire, but are in very poor condition in Connecticut. Maine wild blueberry quality has suffered from the lack of rain, and though some fields are looking great, others will not be harvested because of the damage. Cranberries in Massachusetts showed some signs of stress from last week's high temperatures; large concentrations of fruitworm were detected in some beds.

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2001	2000	5-yr Avg	
Potatoes				
Maine	<5	<5	<5	Excel/Good
Mass	5	15	20	Good
Rhode Isl	20	30	20	Good/Fair
Oats, ME	<5	<5	5	Excel/Good
Barley, ME	5	<5	<5	Excel/Good
Silage Corn	--	--	--	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	40	35	40	Good/Fair
Tobacco				
Shade	55	40	70	Good/Fair
Broadleaf	45	30	55	Good/Fair
Dry Hay				
First Cut	99	95	95	Fair/Good
Second Cut	80	50	55	Fair/Good
Third Cut	15	10	10	Fair

For the Week Ending Sunday, August 12, 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	58	97	78	+9	1672	+235	755	+201	0.00	-0.77	0	1.89	-1.07	6	
Bangor	52	94	76	+9	1610	+304	696	+233	0.68	-0.08	3	2.08	-0.85	8	
Bethel	53	93	74	+7	1417	+109	542	+87	0.26	-0.65	4	1.20	-2.18	10	
Cari bou	50	91	73	+9	1351	+273	490	+183	0.01	-0.90	1	3.61	-0.17	7	
Dover-Foxcroft	48	89	72	+6	1334	+192	483	+132	0.11	-0.71	2	0.81	-2.34	7	
Frenchville	51	91	72	+9	1217	+217	407	+145	0.07	-0.84	2	1.64	-1.96	9	
Houlton	46	93	72	+7	1311	+190	481	+142	0.04	-0.87	1	2.16	-1.40	7	
Livermore Falls	50	98	75	+10	1524	+395	654	+317	0.05	-0.86	2	1.15	-2.15	10	
Moosehead	47	93	71	+8	1143	+194	366	+124	0.06	-0.78	2	0.59	-2.95	8	
Portland_ME	58	95	75	+8	1555	+253	679	+212	0.24	-0.39	1	1.42	-1.19	8	
NEW HAMPSHIRE															
Benton	53	94	74	+10	1354	+135	493	+121	0.12	-0.79	2	1.00	-2.37	5	
Berlin_AG	52	94	74	+9	1403	+176	527	+134	0.09	-0.89	1	1.55	-2.08	6	
Concord	56	98	78	+10	1663	+203	741	+176	0.21	-0.56	1	1.79	-1.25	6	
Diamond Pond	46	84	67	+6	980	+155	278	+121	0.70	-0.48	3	2.79	-1.61	11	
Keene_AP	61	97	78	+8	1669	+38	728	+42	2.03	+1.12	1	3.71	+0.25	5	
North Conway	58	100	77	+10	1687	+321	759	+263	0.01	-0.90	1	0.77	-2.73	8	
Rochester	58	95	77	+8	1685	+134	775	+142	0.00	-0.84	0	2.54	-0.71	7	
VERMONT															
Burlington_VT	56	99	80	+11	1834	+261	850	+201	0.26	-0.65	2	0.30	-3.19	4	
Island Pond	48	91	72	+9	1240	+238	425	+172	0.67	-0.45	4	1.74	-2.44	7	
Montpelier	51	92	75	+10	1388	+150	532	+133	0.27	-0.60	2	0.52	-2.58	8	
Pownal	54	92	74	+8	1432	+155	526	+106	1.07	+0.09	2	3.66	-0.06	9	
Rochester	52	94	74	+9	1356	+150	496	+115	0.24	-0.81	3	1.57	-2.25	10	
Rutland_AG	53	91	75	+6	1472	-148	559	-112	0.01	-0.95	1	1.23	-2.45	7	
Sutton	50	92	73	+10	1289	+269	460	+192	0.26	-0.85	2	1.32	-2.80	12	
Townshend Lake	57	98	77	+8	1518	-11	628	+10	0.33	-0.58	2	1.94	-1.40	9	
MASSACHUSETTS															
Ashburnham	62	96	78	+11	1641	+316	707	+242	0.23	-0.61	2	1.68	-1.64	8	
Boston	65	97	80	+8	2020	+186	1018	+171	0.66	-0.04	2	2.79	+0.12	8	
Greenfield	55	101	79	+8	1733	-8	789	+23	0.09	-0.75	2	1.69	-1.67	9	
New Bedford	66	95	79	+6	1814	-16	830	-12	0.22	-0.72	4	3.85	+0.63	14	
Otis_AFB	68	91	78	+8	1770	+293	824	+227	0.17	-0.60	2	1.83	-0.95	7	
Plymouth	65	96	78	+8	1727	+187	772	+127	0.19	-0.68	3	2.90	-0.33	11	
Walpole	64	99	80	+11	1917	+331	922	+263	0.45	-0.41	2	1.09	-2.14	7	
Westover	64	97	80	+7	1970	-21	955	-1	0.38	-0.39	3	4.50	+1.39	9	
Worthington	54	93	74	+8	1382	+91	519	+89	0.02	-0.96	1	1.83	-2.09	8	
RHODE ISLAND															
Providence	67	100	81	+9	2024	+283	1001	+218	0.35	-0.45	1	1.69	-1.33	7	
Woonsocket	65	102	82	+13	1997	+437	1003	+376	0.78	-0.13	2	1.34	-2.23	7	
CONNECTICUT															
Bridgeport	71	100	82	+9	2090	+226	1046	+163	1.66	+0.89	1	2.60	-0.66	4	
Hartford_AP	63	102	82	+10	2030	+110	1004	+94	0.26	-0.52	2	0.98	-1.97	8	
Norfolk	62	93	76	+9	1592	+295	674	+237	1.17	+0.17	4	4.10	+0.25	9	
Thomaston_Dam	64	100	80	+11	1760	+218	788	+180	0.01	-0.93	1	0.62	-3.18	6	
Willimantic	67	101	81	+12	1995	+424	959	+326	0.15	-0.76	2	0.96	-2.76	8	

STATE WEATHER SUMMARY
For the Week Ending Sunday, August 12, 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	42	100	74	+8	0.00	0.68
NH	42	102	74	+9	0.00	2.03
VT	44	99	75	+9	0.00	1.12
MA	53	101	78	+8	0.02	1.28
RI	65	102	80	+9	0.35	0.78
CT	59	103	80	+10	0.01	1.66

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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 - Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland: Everything suffered from the heat wave... livestock, crops and people. Ice cream sales were good! Most things came back to life after the rains this past weekend. Several crops were stunted, or at the very least set back with the high heat of last week. Dry tip will be the rule for non-irrigated sweet corn for a while. Field corn and hay crops were really suffering from drought stress. Broadleaf tobacco harvest progressed well with the hot weather. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Silage corn varies from excellent to poor, but as of late this week, just starting to show signs of drought stress, with no measurable rain predicted for several days. Pastures are browning. Finishing second cutting of hay with varied armyworm damage. Sweet corn is in full swing, as are most vegetables. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** Extreme heat and dryness has delayed crops for harvest. Temperatures reached the 100-degree mark this week. Humidity was extreme. Rain came in severe storms on Friday. Rain, drizzle was spotty throughout the area through the weekend. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Dry weather has crops gasping. Corn fields look like pineapple fields, pumpkins aren't sending out runners, even weeds are shriveling in hay fields. Some rain showers over the weekend may help, but we really need a 3-day soaker.

MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook: Potatoes: Not much change from last week. Activities included spraying, harvesting grain and getting equipment ready for harvest. Those able to are irrigating potato crop. Drought conditions prevail. Early maturing varieties are badly hurt, but later varieties still have a chance if rains come soon; however, no amount of rain has been forecast in the near future. **Dee Potter (Ext), Northern Aroostook:** Hot and dry all week. Pastures are starting to shut down. Small grains are ripening. Spray schedules continue on potatoes. **Erin Chadbourne (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Fungicide and insecticide applications continue, along with broccoli and barley harvest. Some potatoes are being harvested as either new potatoes or green for immediate processing. **Steve London (Ext), Southern Aroostook:** Where farmers are able to irrigate, potatoes are green and growing well, but where there is no moisture the early maturing varieties are yellowing off. **Albert Dow (NRCS), Piscataquis:** Still no rain. **Donna Lamb (Ext), Piscataquis:** Corn on light textured or shallow soils is penciling and beyond recovery. Pastures are very dry, livestock keepers are feeding their animals stored hay. The few showers that fell didn't help the crops much. **Janet King/Jennifer Zweig (FSA), Somerset:** Somerset County is in need of rain for all crops. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Dry weather continues to be a problem. Some areas received spotty thunder showers, while some areas remained dry. Corn is curling in many areas and second and third crops of grass are just not growing. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Lack of rain and high temperatures are hurting the blueberry crop remaining on the vine. Second crop hay not growing. **David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild Blueberries: Mid-coast fields doing well, on these fields we expect a near-record harvest. But in the remainder of the State the continued dry and hot weather is resulting in fruit shriveling from loss of moisture. A number of fields will not be harvested because berry quality is too poor and fruit is not expected to recover. Stems are dying back to the ground in both crop and non-crop fields on sandy soils Downeast. **Michael Tardy (FSA), Androscoggin:** Hay harvest continues. Dry conditions have slowed down hay growth. Need rain for both corn and hay crops. Field corn showing signs of stress from lack of rain. Leaves are starting to curl. **Parker Rand (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Roadside stands have all summer crops in abundance. Very hot and very dry - praying for rain! **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** This area has been lucky to have more moisture than most others. Corn and soybeans look good. Grass has pretty much stopped

growing. **Laura Rand (FSA), Oxford:** Dry, hot conditions persist. Pastures and hay fields are dry, the corn is curling. Fruit, berries and vegetables are small due to lack of moisture.

MASSACHUSETTS - Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire: Making a lot of hay. First and second cutting, maybe until the end of the week. A welcome rain of about 1.5 inches. **Paul Russell (FSA), Southeast Massachusetts:** We have received some much needed rain and hot weather. This will push the corn crop. All crops look good, cranberries continue to size with ideal weather conditions. Shellfish growers continue to harvest quahogs and oysters and are receiving above average prices. **Kip Graham (FSA), Worcester:** Hot and humid most of the week. Rain was a welcomed sight toward the end of the week. Fungicide applications still being applied. Crop producers busy in the fields spraying, cultivating and irrigating. Summer squash, tomatoes, peppers, sweet corn and seasonal crops are being harvested. In some areas, the first crop of corn already completed. Blueberries almost finished being picked. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Last week's extreme heat put some stress on the vines in the middle of the day. Sprinklers were run in the morning to prevent damage to the developing berries. Good dose of rain over the weekend in most places will help things out for awhile. There are some bad pockets of cranberry fruitworm in some beds. Fruit rot has not been too bad so far, but we are holding our breath. **David Rose (FSA), Bristol:** Harvest of all crops continues. Unbearable heat and humidity this past week really made crops grow. Peaches are being harvested, apples and pears look good. **John Devine (FSA), Franklin:** Producers are "reeling" from the hot and dry conditions. Irrigation has been used wherever possible to save crops. Many of the vine crops and some of the forage crops are showing signs of heat and drought stress. All crops are ripening quickly, but field crews can't compete with 100+ heat. A cool front Friday brought relief from the record warmth, but very little rain. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Weather conditions were great for the week with lots of heat, sunshine and rain. Some crops are maturing very fast because of the excessive heat mixed with the rain showers. Harvesting apples, peaches, raspberries, blueberries, tobacco and many other summertime fruits and vegetables. All crops look good. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** Harvesting all summer crops. New strawberry plantings doing well with ample water and heat. European Corn Borer populations in corn at 2%. Very hot temperatures made field work almost unbearable. Corn still driving consumer market and, surprisingly, perennial plants are doing extremely well; however, the sales leader (in volume) has been tomatoes. Fall crops looking to be the best I've had in a couple of years - pumpkins size 20 lb. with heavy set on sugar pumpkins and fall squash. Local peaches, although less in number, are large, flavorful, juicy, and in big demand.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Bruce Clement (Ext), Cheshire: Hot, humid, and dry weather prevailed this week. Crops, animals and people all suffered from the heat. Drought conditions now exist throughout the county. Pastures and hayfields are drying up. Silage corn still looks good. Commercial vegetable growers are irrigating. Blueberry and raspberry harvest continues. Plums and early apples being picked. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Third cut on alfalfa continues. Grasses suffering from dryness. Still no significant rainfall. Very dry even in the subsoil. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Vegetables: Crops growing rapidly if irrigated. Harvesting an array of vegetables - beans, beets, cole crops, cucumbers, greens, potatoes, radishes, summer squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, zucchini, and other vegetables. Farmers kept busy irrigating, cultivating, hoeing weeds, monitoring pest pressures, spraying pesticides for insects and disease control where needed. Fruit: Orchardists harvesting first apples along with

peaches, blueberries and raspberries. Continued to move bins into orchards. Field Crops: Hay cutting continued at a rapid pace during the week, with both the first and second cut being made. Rains on Friday and the weekend helped relieve dry, drought-like weather. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Very hot week for field work and pick-your-own customers. Harvesting sweet corn, blueberries, raspberries and a whole array of vegetables. Red-winged blackbirds are feeding on sweet corn ears ready to be picked. Irrigating vegetable fields, small fruits and fruit crops. Sunday morning rain was helpful. **Pam Marvin (FSA), Sullivan:** Rain was spotty this past week. Vegetable crops are being harvested and are looking good. The hazy, hot and humid weather helped the corn crop along, but the crop was starting to curl due to lack of water. Lots of haying being done. Waiting to see if armyworms will make a return. Loads of good looking sweet corn can be found all around the county. Blueberry and raspberry picking in full swing, with a good crop of both.

RHODE ISLAND - Robert Swanson (FSA), All Counties: The start of the week was very hot and dry. We received some much needed rain on 8/12, so hopefully this will help to improve crop conditions.

VERMONT - John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille: Hot and dry weather dominated the week with some rain at week's end. Grass growth still at a standstill, but rain helped to keep most cornfields looking good. Harvest was completed on small grain crops. Sweet corn harvest looks good, especially compared to last year. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Weather conditions are very dry.

Orleans county received very little rain over the week. Corn has tasseled and ears are forming. Starting to see some leaf curl on corn due to dry conditions. Regrowth on hay fields is slow and stunted. So far we have not had reports of farm water supplies drying up; however, there is some concern over this. **Lynette Hamilton (FSA), Windham:** Paula Reds apple are being pick with excellent color and average size. Sweet corn market is flat after last week's heat wave. Third cutting alfalfa has started. The rain this past Sunday was just a tease - we need a lot more. We got about 0.25 inches in Windham County. **Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Alfalfa blooming, no grass regrowth. Some manure spreading on hay fields. New seeded fields being clipped or harvested. Some stands thin with weeds. Corn crop is showing some moisture stress and firing of lower leaves. Pasture regrowth stopped. Very dry soil conditions. **Richard Noel (FSA), Grand Isle/Franklin:** Where's the rain? Nothing but a little spit this week in Franklin County. Corn, alfalfa, vegetables and grass showing a lot of stress. Rain is needed badly, some of the corn may not pollinate well! Some is turning brown. Well over 6 inches below normal for our area. Some farmers talking about chopping corn that has no ears, just to save the fodder. Hope it rains this week! **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Another very hot, very dry week. No grass growth this week. Significant rolling on corn leaves. Soil is powder dry. We did receive 0.6 inch of rain but it was no help. One farmer commented that he has lost more feed from dry conditions than from armyworm. Weather report today said we would need 6 inches of rain to get up to a normal year's precipitation. Some word of farmers hauling water.

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