Rain Covers New England

For the week ending June 3, 2001, there were 4.6 days available for field work across New England. Pasture condition was rated as 1% very poor, 11% poor, 40% fair, 42% good, 6% excellent. Major farm activities included: planting row crops and vegetables, plowing, transplanting, laying plastic, cutting haylage, and spraying for weeds, insects, and fungus.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Soil Rating</th>
<th>This Week</th>
<th>Last Week</th>
<th>Last Year</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Topsoil Moisture</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>Very Short</td>
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<tr>
<td>Short</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>34</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adequate</td>
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<td>53</td>
<td>74</td>
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<tr>
<td>Surplus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Subsoil Moisture</td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very Short</td>
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<td>32</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adequate</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surplus</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>6</td>
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VEGETABLES: Farmers planted broccoli, sweet corn, onions, cucumbers, squash, eggplant, peas, peppers and other vegetables. Cole crops were in good condition. Asparagus and rhubarb harvesting continued. Some farmers are still hesitant to plant certain vegetables until weather becomes more favorable. Fungicide applications were made this past week. Most roadside stands noticed a slight decrease in business over the weekend due to the rainy weather.

FRUIT: Growers continued to spray fruit crops for weeds and insects between showers. Once again, frost wreaked havoc with the fruit tree crops in some parts of New England. Harvest, particularly in southern New England, is expected to be below average. Bees were being their busy selves, actively pollinating fruit crops. Strawberry and highbush blueberry crops reached petal fall stage, with wild blueberries not far behind. In Massachusetts, black-headed fireworm and cranberry weevil infestations have been detected in cranberries.

FIELD CROPS: The ground received plenty of much needed moisture last week, so farmers’ concerns shifted from the lack of rain to the cooler than normal temperatures. Low temperatures continued to inhibit crop growth. Weather permitting, potato planting should be completed this next week. Oat and barley crops were mostly planted. The planting of both silage and sweet corn was ahead of last year and the five-year average. Tobacco transplanting was right in line with the five-year average. In spite of slow hay growth, some farmers chopped haylage this past week when the weather allowed.
For the Week Ending Sunday, June 3, 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.

### AIR TEMPERATURE
- **STATE**
- **STATION**
- **LO**
- **HI**
- **AVG**
- **DFN**

### CUM SINCE MAR 1
- **BASE-50F**
- **TOTAL**
- **DFN INCHES**
- **DFN DAYS**

### 1-WEEK PRECIP
- **TOTAL INCHES**
- **DFN DAYS**

### 4-WEEK CUM PRECIP
- **TOTAL INCHES**
- **DFN DAYS**

### TOT TEMPERATURE GROWING DEGREE DAYS
- **CUM SINCE MAR 1**
- **1-WEEK PRECIP**
- **4-WEEK CUM PRECIP**

#### Normal Period)
- **Inches**
- **Days**
- **More**

### 1-WEEK PRECIP
- **Inches**
- **Days**

### 4-WEEK CUM PRECIP
- **Inches**
- **Days**

### STATE WEATHER SUMMARY
For the Week Ending Sunday, June 3, 2001

#### Air Temperatures
- **State**
- **Air Temperatures**
- **Precipitation**
- **State**
- **Precipitation**

#### Summary based on NWS data.
- **DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normal Period).**
- **Precipitation (rain or melted snowice) in inches.**
- **Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.**
- **Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.**

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CONNECTICUT - Howard Rood (FSA), Fairfield/Litchfield: Planting of field corn, sweet corn, squash and cucumbers and other direct seeded crops. Chopping first cut grass. Rain from the last two weeks ranges from just enough to too much. Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham: A terrific week for cropping. Temperatures were a bit low, but moisture is no longer a concern. Farmers continue to be in full swing with fields planted to corn as quickly as they are harvested. Vegetables being set at a rapid pace. Bedding plants being adopted by happy home owners. Still a sad story on fruit, but some hope. Short hay this spring. Nancy Welsh/Karen Lockman (FSA), New Haven: Producers still scouting frost damage. Crops are growing slowly due to cool weather earlier in the week. By the weekend, heavy rains and humidity were promoting disease. Native strawberries starting to be seen at stands. Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative: Cool temperatures are slowing the growth of just about everything. Late frosts have damaged crops in some areas. No insect or disease problems are evident yet.

MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook: Potatoes: Nearly all growers have completed planting their crops. Final completion delayed due to rainy weather. Herbicides are being applied. Potatoes beginning to emerge. Only one day this past week without showers or rain. When it starts to rain, it doesn’t seem to want to stop; however, because the fields have been so dry, all this water is not going to be a problem. Dee Potter (Ext), Northern Aroostook: Most farms have wrapped up planting. Sweet corn crops are performing well. Fries between rain showers were responding well to rain during the week. Erin Chadbourn (Ext), Central Aroostook: Potato planting is beginning to wind down. Broccoli, barley and oat planting is finishing up. Herbicide applications are now being made across the county. Steve London (Ext), Southern Aroostook: Field Crops: Planting and finishing up. Potatoes and other vegetables are being applied. Potato sprays being applied. Potatoes beginning to emerge. Only one day this past week without showers or rain. Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln: Fertilizer is being applied on blueberry fields. Heavy rains over the weekend was welcome, but kept customers away from farm stands. David Yarborough (Ext), Oxford: Herbicides have alleviated crop stress. Noted a lot of native bee activity. Very little blight symptoms seen because of early dry weather conditions resulted in little infection. Some spanworn and strawberry rootworm have been found and treated with insecticides. Michael Tardy (FSA), Androscoggin: Planting of a few fields has just about been completed. Some spotty showers this week were helpful, but more moisture is needed. Parker Rand (FSA), Cumberland/York: Corn is mostly planted and up. Producers have started cutting haylage, but the crop is very light. Until this year rain has been normal to above normal. Laura Rand (FSA), Oxford: Cool weather persists. The area received about 2.5 inches of rain over the weekend. Donna Lamb (Ext), Piscataquis: Two inches of rain fell over the weekend. Donna Lamb (Ext), Piscataquis: During the week many farmers worked on finishing their planting. Weekend rains were a very welcome break from spring planting. Albert Dow (NRCS), Piscataquis: Two inches of rain fell over the weekend. Donna Lamb (Ext), Piscataquis: During the week many farmers worked on finishing their planting. Weekend rains were a very welcome break from spring planting.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: Planting of all crops has just about been completed. Corn has just about been planted. Labor supply has just about rung out. This insect has become an insect problem in those areas. It rained off and on throughout the week. The area received about 2.5 inches of rain over the weekend. Laura Rand (FSA), Oxford: Cool weather persists. The area received about 2.5 inches of rain over the weekend. Donna Lamb (Ext), Piscataquis: Two inches of rain fell over the weekend. Donna Lamb (Ext), Piscataquis: During the week many farmers worked on finishing their planting. Weekend rains were a very welcome break from spring planting. Albert Dow (NRCS), Piscataquis: Two inches of rain fell over the weekend. Donna Lamb (Ext), Piscataquis: During the week many farmers worked on finishing their planting. Weekend rains were a very welcome break from spring planting. Albert Dow (NRCS), Piscataquis: Two inches of rain fell over the weekend. Donna Lamb (Ext), Piscataquis: During the week many farmers worked on finishing their planting. Weekend rains were a very welcome break from spring planting.
May 2001 Crop Weather Summary: Dry weather conditions prevailed during the month of May, providing farmers with plenty of opportunity to get crops in the ground, but insufficient moisture for crop growth. As of mid-May, planting progress for most crops was ahead of last year and normal. Hot and dry conditions early in the month were followed by unseasonably cool, dry conditions, and growers were forced to irrigate and protect from frost at many locations. Hardest hit by near-drought conditions were the southernmost states, where crop condition ratings hovered between fair and good for most of the month. Even though rains appeared in most areas of the six-state region by May 27, the northern states and most parts of southern New England still held a below-average status for precipitation for the month. First cut hay crop yields were expected to be lower than usual, with lack of moisture stunting crop growth. Rain at the end of the month was expected to improve first crop growth in northern areas, and provide much needed moisture for second crop growth in all states. Although the extended dry weather provided good pollinating conditions for most fruit tree crops this spring, a severe frost hit the second week in May when many trees from southern NH and south were in full bloom. Tree fruit crops, particularly in the southern New England states, suffered heavy losses. Potato planting progress was at or ahead of the five-year average by the end of May in Maine, Massachusetts and Rhode Island. The potato crop was rated in good condition by month's end in all states. Growers were active planting field corn and setting out shade tobacco during the month, and progress had passed the halfway mark by the end of May in the region. Broadscale growers were just starting to set out seedlings at the end of the month. Cranberry plants were nearing the early bloom stage by month's end, and had passed the halfway mark by the end of May in the region. Broadleaf growers continued to work in the fields during May, with many growing crops looking good to excellent. Weed control good. Pasture regrowth is fair to good, deferred pasture is still light in apparent yield. New England Agricultural Statistics Service, NASS, USDA