



# New England Agricultural Statistics Service

a field office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service  
United States Department of Agriculture

22 Bridge St. Third Floor  
PO Box 1444  
Concord, NH 03302

Aubrey R. Davis, Director  
www.usda.gov/nass

603-224-9639  
Fax: 603-225-1434  
nass-nh@nass.usda.gov



## Crop Weather

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August 12, 2002 - 4 pm

For week ending 8/11/02

### Still No Significant Rainfall

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:** For the week ending August 11, 2002, there were 6.8 days suitable for field work across New England. Pasture condition was rated as 4% very poor, 14% poor, 31% fair, 41% good, 10% excellent. Throughout most of New England, farmers with irrigation continued to water their crops to give relief from dry conditions. Non-irrigated crops are showing signs of drought stress. Humidity eased up last week to facilitate the making of dry hay. Major farm activities included: harvesting tobacco, potatoes, highbush and lowbush blueberries, apples, peaches and vegetables; weeding, cultivating fields; applying fertilizer; cutting dry hay and chopping haylage; mowing orchards and around fields; irrigating; monitoring for pests and disease; applying fungicides and insecticides.

**FRUIT:** Apples, highbush and wild blueberries, peaches, and raspberries were harvested last week. Renovation of strawberry fields continued. Pear condition remains very poor in Connecticut and good to fair in other states. Maine wild blueberry fields show uneven ripening, with around ten percent of the crop having yet to turn blue. Cranberry size in Massachusetts was rated average to below average last week, the lack of rain is affecting size and stressing vines. Farmers proceed with irrigation, though water supplies are dwindling.

#### FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2002	2001	5-yr Avg	
Apples	5	5	5	Good/Fair
Peaches	60	25	35	Good/Fair
Pears	<5	--	<5	Very Poor
Blueberries				
Highbush	60	50	60	Good
Wild, ME	5	25	35	Good/Excellent
Cranberries, MA	--	--	--	Good/Fair

**VEGETABLES:** Vegetable growers irrigated where possible across New England last week, as crops are showing the effects of the recent dry conditions. Sweet corn harvest progressed to 35 percent complete. Beans, beets, cucumbers, greens, lettuce, melons, peas, peppers, radish, squash, tomatoes and zucchini were also harvested last week.

#### SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
	-- Percent --		
<b>Topsoil Moisture</b>			
Very Short	20	11	38
Short	37	34	37
Adequate	38	50	25
Surplus	5	5	0
<b>Subsoil Moisture</b>			
Very Short	15	9	27
Short	41	30	36
Adequate	42	59	37
Surplus	2	2	0

**FIELD CROPS:** Second and third cuts of dry hay progressed significantly last week, aided by lack of rain and humidity; farmers continue to wrap up the end of the first cut. Corn is tasseling in most areas and some is curling due to lack of moisture. Small grain harvest in Maine should be well underway soon, as should potato harvest. Potato growers in Massachusetts and Rhode Island made good progress with harvest during last week's dry weather. Tobacco harvest in the Connecticut River Valley is full steam ahead; shade and broadleaf harvests both exceeded the half-way point last week.

#### FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2002	2001	5-yr Avg	
Barley, ME	--	5	15	Excellent/Good
Oats, ME	<5	<5	5	Excellent/Good
Potatoes				
Maine	<5	<5	<5	Excellent/Good
Mass	15	5	15	Good
Rhode Isl	30	20	20	Good/Fair
Silage Corn	--	--	--	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	35	40	40	Good/Fair
Tobacco				
Shade	70	50	60	Good/Fair
Broadleaf	65	45	45	Good/Fair
Dry Hay				
First Cut	95	99	95	Good
Second Cut	75	80	65	Good
Third Cut	30	15	10	Good/Fair

For the Week Ending Sunday, August 11, 2002

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	56	88	70	+1	1403	-15	596	+51	0.09	-0.68	1	0.91	-2.04	8	
Bangor	53	88	69	+2	1313	+25	532	+77	0.01	-0.74	1	1.27	-1.66	7	
Bethel	47	86	66	-2	1223	-68	451	+3	0.18	-0.73	1	1.77	-1.59	10	
Cari bou	44	81	64	-1	1008	-56	336	+33	0.19	-0.73	1	1.93	-1.85	14	
Dover-Foxcroft	48	84	66	-1	977	-149	308	-37	0.15	-0.66	1	1.58	-1.57	9	
Frenchville	44	78	63	-2	908	-79	293	+35	0.02	-0.89	2	1.60	-1.99	14	
Houl ton	40	83	64	-2	1049	-57	356	+22	0.79	-0.12	3	3.76	+0.21	15	
Livermore Falls	43	94	67	+2	1283	+169	514	+182	0.06	-0.85	1	1.22	-2.06	9	
Moosehead	44	81	63	-1	922	-14	266	+28	0.08	-0.76	1	1.73	-1.82	10	
Portland_ME	53	90	70	+2	1390	+106	574	+115	0.05	-0.58	1	2.77	+0.15	9	
NEW HAMPSHIRE															
Benton	47	87	66	+0	1248	+44	473	+106	0.07	-0.84	1	1.22	-2.13	8	
Berlin_AG	45	86	64	-3	1187	-25	421	+34	0.28	-0.70	2	3.42	-0.19	12	
Concord	46	91	70	+2	1626	+184	744	+187	0.01	-0.76	1	1.22	-1.81	9	
Diamond Pond	45	81	60	-3	805	-9	219	+65	0.50	-0.67	1	2.70	-1.68	12	
Keene_AP	45	90	68	-3	1604	-7	708	+32	0.00	-0.91	0	2.17	-1.28	6	
North Conway	52	90	69	+2	1475	+126	647	+158	0.03	-0.88	3	1.28	-2.21	15	
Rochester	51	95	71	+1	1563	+31	682	+58	0.00	-0.84	0	0.66	-2.58	3	
VERMONT															
Burlington_VT	51	88	70	+1	1652	+98	762	+122	0.13	-0.78	3	1.21	-2.27	8	
Island Pond	45	85	64	+0	1108	+119	380	+131	0.59	-0.53	3	2.71	-1.44	13	
Montpelier	45	86	65	-2	1317	+94	510	+116	0.37	-0.49	3	1.99	-1.08	12	
Pownal	48	84	65	-3	1375	+114	538	+124	0.16	-0.82	2	4.16	+0.45	10	
Rochester	46	89	65	-1	1285	+94	493	+118	0.46	-0.59	3	2.46	-1.33	10	
Rutland_AG	46	87	66	-5	1393	-208	560	-102	0.10	-0.85	2	3.22	-0.44	8	
Sutton	47	86	64	+1	1150	+143	403	+139	0.76	-0.34	3	3.22	-0.87	12	
Townshend Lake	48	91	68	-2	1519	+9	647	+38	0.03	-0.88	1	1.00	-2.32	5	
MASSACHUSETTS															
Ashburnham	50	90	69	+2	1564	+256	680	+222	0.05	-0.79	1	2.68	-0.64	8	
Boston	63	93	76	+4	2016	+205	1031	+197	0.00	-0.70	0	0.91	-1.75	7	
Greenfield	49	92	70	-2	1756	+36	823	+68	0.00	-0.84	0	4.19	+0.83	8	
New Bedford	52	90	72	-2	1802	-4	826	-2	0.12	-0.81	1	0.55	-2.62	5	
Otis_AFB	55	90	72	+2	1688	+231	756	+169	0.10	-0.67	1	0.75	-2.01	4	
Plymouth	50	92	72	+2	1720	+200	795	+160	0.00	-0.86	0	0.58	-2.63	5	
Walpole	52	92	72	+2	1804	+238	866	+217	0.00	-0.85	0	1.80	-1.41	6	
Westover	48	90	71	-4	1962	-6	983	+41	0.01	-0.76	1	2.67	-0.45	8	
Worthington	47	88	66	-1	1425	+151	588	+165	0.01	-0.97	1	4.86	+0.94	9	
RHODE ISLAND															
Providence	59	93	75	+4	2026	+307	1036	+265	0.00	-0.79	0	0.96	-2.04	4	
Woonsocket	51	92	72	+2	1798	+258	856	+238	0.01	-0.90	1	1.36	-2.21	6	
CONNECTICUT															
Bridgeport	61	89	74	+1	2085	+245	1072	+203	0.00	-0.77	0	1.99	-1.29	4	
Hartford_AP	51	92	72	-2	2078	+180	1070	+173	0.01	-0.76	1	2.82	-0.11	6	
Norfolk	50	91	66	-2	1622	+342	720	+290	0.02	-0.97	1	3.07	-0.76	7	
Thomaston_Dam	48	91	69	-2	1821	+298	863	+264	0.05	-0.88	2	2.50	-1.29	7	
Willimantic	50	88	70	+0	1837	+286	878	+254	0.00	-0.91	0	3.34	-0.39	6	

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, August 11, 2002

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	40	94	66	+0	0.00	1.24
NH	34	96	66	-1	0.00	2.33
VT	40	94	66	-1	0.01	1.32
MA	46	93	71	+1	0.00	1.18
RI	51	93	73	+3	0.00	0.20
CT	48	94	71	-1	0.00	0.16

Prepared by AWIS, Inc.

**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:** Weather has been extremely hot and humid. Field corn looks good. Some vegetable crops need water. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Sweet corn blocks maturing rapidly with hot days. Haying continues. Peaches, blueberries, early apples, tomatoes, and various vegetables being harvested and sold at local farm stands and markets. Field corn has grown by feet with heat and is tasseling. Local organic farmers getting ready for the Garlic Festival. **Nancy Welsh/Karen Lockman (FSA), New Haven:** This week was cool and dry, nights went down into the 50's. Crops are struggling. The ground is so hard that water and fertilizer are not working. Peaches that survived the late frost are good size, sweet and juicy. Sweet corn, depending on the area, is immature. Animals have gotten into producers' crops, wiping out a planting. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Weeds are the only things left green and growing in some areas. Poisonous weeds are a particular problem this time of year as animals look for green forage in brown pastures. Some farms have lost animals to poisonous plants. Check your pastures now! Corn has tasseled - now will it be able to find enough water to ear up? Only time will tell.

**MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook:** Potatoes: Growers continue to apply fungicides and insecticides. Imidacloprid applied at planting time continues to be effective. Growers who did not apply are spraying for Colorado potato beetles. Those who are able have been irrigating. Northern Aroostook is in a drought situation. Early maturing varieties of potatoes are badly stressed. This could have an effect on yields. Rainfall is badly needed. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Early new potatoes being harvested for table stock. Fungicides are still being applied, mostly 5 - 7 day spray schedule. Grain crop is looking excellent. Harvesting of grains should start soon. All crops are looking excellent. **Steve London (Ext), Southern Aroostook:** Potato crop is looking very good, no disease pressure or insect pressure. **Albert Dow (NRCS), Piscataquis:** Second crop hay harvested along with the first crop in some instances due to the frequent showers through the summer. **Donna Lamb (Ext), Piscataquis:** It's been hot and dry. Farmers with irrigation are watering their crops. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Dry weather for two weeks has started to show on the corn crop. Great weather for making dry hay. Pastures are drying up. No rain in sight for this week. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Harvesting is in full swing for most vegetables. Most crop conditions are good, but crops are in need of water. **David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild Blueberries: Fruit is approximately 90% blue, but ripening is very uneven. Crop development is a week or more behind normal. Harvest began on the blueberry barrens on 8/4/02. Fruit quality is good and the blue fruit is very large. **Michael Tardy (FSA), Androscoggin:** The dry weather hasn't let up and some are concerned that we may be slipping back into a drought situation. More farmers are reporting that the corn crop is curling. Whoever has irrigation has had it working full tilt. Plenty of manure has been spread; most of it on the fields. Market gardens are doing fine and the apples look really good. Folks who bale hay have had a great run. We'll keep looking for the raindrops. **Parker Rand (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Irrigated crops are doing well, crops without irrigation are showing the signs of drought. Harvesting hay, sweet corn, blueberries, and all summer vegetables. We need rain! **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Crops are still better off than last year because of early season moisture. We need rain. Good weather is bringing in some third crop hay early this year. **Laura Rand (FSA), Oxford:** Producers are busy cutting hay and harvesting vegetables. Sweet corn appearing at farm stands along with ripe tomatoes and cukes. Soil conditions are very dry and crops are showing signs of stress. Need rain.

**MASSACHUSETTS - Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire:** Lots of haying. Up to third cutting. Not bad quality. Don't know of any problems concerning crop condition. Very hot! Little rain and the ground is really drying up. All corn is hurting from dryness. **Paul**

**Russell (FSA), Southeast Massachusetts:** The drought continues! All crops are affected by the ongoing hot, dry conditions. Cranberries are not sizing despite the efforts of growers to irrigate every other day. Many growers are noticing fruit worm damage which may also be a result of the weather conditions. Vegetable growers are irrigating 24 hours a day in an effort to save some crops, however, the quality and yields are poor. The second cutting of hay is terrible and there will be no third cutting. Shellfish growers are not able to harvest product because demand has dropped of since July 4. This is a concern to growers as the peak demand for shellfish is normally through Labor Day. **Kip Graham (FSA), Worcester:** Rainfall has been sufficient in most areas. Some vegetable farmers are having to irrigate. The corn crop is looking good. Fungicides applied during week. Overall the crops are doing well. Most berry crops have been completely harvested. Vegetable stands are in full swing. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Vines continue to be under stress, with irrigation essential every 3-4 days. Water supplies are dwindling rapidly for some growers who wonder whether there will be any water left for frost protection or water harvest. Lack of rain will result in smaller berries. As if the cranberry industry needed any more depression. **John Devine (FSA), Franklin:** Dry conditions persist in Franklin County. A cool and dry week has allowed the tobacco harvest to continue in high gear. Many farms are planning to finish early this year. Dairy farmers have been taking advantage of the nice weather by cutting either second or third cut hay. They're also very pleased with this year's silage crop, yields should be above normal. Vegetable producers have had to split their time between irrigating and harvesting. A rainy day or two would really be welcome news. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** It's dry again and very hot. Farmers are irrigating their late summer and fall crops. Harvesting of all summer crops continues along with cultivating fall crops and scouting for pests and diseases. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** Corn curling. All crops showing heat/water stress. Local produce selling well with corn main seller. Mare Meadow Reservoir (Fitchburg) has stumps showing in middle (how low is that?!). Perennials still selling well, much to my surprise, and annuals sold out.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE - Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll:** Some relief from the humidity, but still no rain in sight. Irrigated crops doing well if the water holds up. Non-irrigated vegetables fading fast. Plenty of good days to cut and dry hay, if there is any growth to cut! **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Generally dry conditions for the whole week. Good drying conditions for hay. Second cutting hay is going strong, and some have started third cutting. Third cutting haylage is in full swing. Silage corn is maturing nicely - the earliest should be at blister stage before too long. Apples are doing well - harvest of early Macs to start soon. Blueberry harvest still going strong. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Field corn now starting to tassel, late for us. Sweet corn just starting to ripen. Somewhat cooler this week with some rain; still a little first cut hay to be harvested. Nice supply of well-sized highbush blueberries being picked. Good supply of tomatoes becoming available for growers using high tunnels, which have helped with other crops grown this way as well. Difficult year for field grown cucurbits, affected by both cool, wet weather and cucumber beetle feeding. Seeing some bacterial wilt in cucumbers and Japanese beetles are present in fair numbers in many parts of the county, especially noticeable in raspberries. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Corn showing effects of drought. No significant rain in several weeks combined with hot weather. Critical time for moisture with respect to pollination of corn. Third cutting continues. Summer seedings in progress. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Vegetables: Irrigation ponds' water levels are going down. Farmers kept busy cultivating, hoeing weeds, monitoring pest pressures and spraying pesticides for insect and disease control where needed. Harvesting an array of vegetables: beans, beets, cole crops, cucumbers, greens, melons, peas, potatoes, radishes, summer squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, zucchini, and other vegetables. Fruit: Orchardists harvesting early season apple varieties, peaches, and blueberries. Summer raspberry harvest winding down. Started harvesting the

early season apple variety Paula red. Orchardists busy irrigating apples, blueberries, peaches and raspberries; renovating strawberry beds; monitoring for pests - spraying if needed; mowing orchard floors and started moving bins into orchards. Field Crops: Hay cutting continued at a rapid pace during the week with the second cut being made. Silage corn put on rapid growth this past week. Most silage corn is in silking stage. Many hay and silage corn fields showing drought stress. **David Seavey (Ext), Merrimack:** Drought conditions prevail. Vegetable and fruit crops irrigated. Blossom-end rot on tomatoes. Field corn wilting. Some fields were plowed under. Sweet corn and other warm season vegetables harvested. Highbush blueberry and raspberry harvest near finish. A few early apples harvested. Most second cut hay harvested. High humidity contributing to powdery mildew incidence in vine crop foliage. Nursery and turf farms continually irrigating. Weeds controlled on renovated strawberry beds. Rainfall needed. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** A good soaking rain is needed. Pasture, vegetables, small fruits, tree fruits are showing signs of drought stress. Size of peaches, apples, sweet corn harvested from non-irrigated fields are smaller in size. Irrigating small fruits, vegetables, etc. Monitoring for pests, weeding and cultivating. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** We continued to experience very dry weather in Strafford County. Growers continued to irrigate where possible. Harvesting of peaches and different kinds of vegetables continued. Nurseries and greenhouse businesses slowed down due to dry and hot weather.

**RHODE ISLAND - Marilu Soileau (FSA), All Counties:** Hot, humid weather has crops ripening and growing despite lack of rain. Irrigation being used where possible.

**VERMONT - John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille:** There was quite a frenzy of haying over the weekend as we are in the midst of the best stretch of drying weather we've seen yet this summer. Hot weather has been ideal for corn crop to catch up after a cold, wet June. Small grain harvest is over in this area. **Dave Blodgett**

**(NRCS), Orleans:** Dry conditions this past week have allowed farmers to catch up on their hay harvest. Land has dried out a lot. Fields are not getting marked up by equipment. Corn has tasseled in most fields. Quality of corn crop is still quite varied. **Lynette Hamilton (FSA), Windham:** Another dusty week in Windham County. Field corn is starting to show heavy damage from drought. Manure spreading on fields after second cut has been harvested. Pastures are about all dried up with only spotty areas of green and poor feed value. **George Cook (Ext), Lamoille:** Drier week. As dry as many parts of the reporting area are, the North Central region of Vermont fairing very well. Some hay fields still wet enough to get stuck in, without care. Folks haying, chopping, top-dressing. Wide variation in corn quality. **Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Dry hay harvest. Cleaning up fields. Grass regrowth slow; very dry soil. Alfalfa regrowth good. Corn showing drought stress, little ear development. Some summer seeding of hay crops where spring seeding failed or was not possible. **Richard Noel, Grand Isle/Franklin:** A lot of field work going on this week. Haying, seeding down, manure spreading, etc. Sweet corn being harvested, blueberries real nice. Most crops seem to be 3-4 weeks behind. But grass is doing very well. We've had a lot of moisture up here, some crops made out well and some didn't. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Hot week. Some places got heavy afternoon showers a couple of times, some places had a dry week. Corn on lighter soils had curling leaves. Tassels on most silage corn now. Busy week of haying, hot weather and low humidity allowed it to dry fast. Some reports of an abundance of grasshoppers, though not obviously damaging crops. Fog in the valley in the morning. Spreading manure after that second cut of hay. Observed extreme variability of corn in a field - low spots have no plants or stunted plants, higher spots that were not underwater are OK. **Maria Garcia/Chris Benedict (Ext), Chittenden:** Cool and comfortable last week. Started picking early season 'Pristine' apples.

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**Aubrey R. Davis, Director**  
**Statisticians:** Emily McAllister, Robin Helrich

**David Luckenbach, Deputy Director**  
**Stat Assistant:** Wayne Colpitt

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