Rain and Cool Temperatures Persist

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending June 8, 2003, there were 4.6 days available for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture was rated 2% very short, 7% short, 62% adequate, 29% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 2% very short, 8% short, 73% adequate, 17% surplus. Pasture condition was rated as 0% very poor, 3% poor, 12% fair, 66% good, 19% excellent. Another mostly gray, cool, rainy week for New England. Lack of sun is yellowing corn and continuing to discourage sales. Major farm activities included: planting vegetables, sweet corn, field corn, potatoes and small grains; transplanting broadleaf tobacco; finishing transplanting shade tobacco; spreading manure; mowing; applying herbicides and fungicides.

FRUIT: Orchardists and small fruit growers continued with fungicide applications last week, as fungus and diseases tend to flourish in damp conditions. Strawberries were reported as being up to two weeks behind this year. Mummy berry disease was found thriving in Maine wild blueberry fields due to the cool, damp conditions. Cranberry growers in Massachusetts continued to scout for pests and fungus when weather allowed. Most fruit and berry crops have experienced poor pollination this year because of the unfavorable weather.

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fruit Crop</th>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Condition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apples</td>
<td>Petal Fall</td>
<td>Good/Fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peaches</td>
<td>Petal Fall</td>
<td>Good/Fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pears</td>
<td>Petal Fall</td>
<td>Good/Fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blueberries</td>
<td>Petal Fall</td>
<td>Good/Fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highbush</td>
<td>Petal Fall</td>
<td>Good/Fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wild, ME</td>
<td>Petal Fall</td>
<td>Fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cranberries, MA</td>
<td>Bud</td>
<td>Good/Fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strawberries</td>
<td>Petal Fall</td>
<td>Good/Fair</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* FB = Full Bloom

VEGETABLES: Vegetable planting continued last week when there were pauses in the rain. Due to the consistently moist and cool conditions, some vegetables have started to rot in the ground. Crops are in need of sunshine and heat. The planting of sweet corn progressed to 65 percent, and slow growth was observed in the emerged plants. Farmers harvested asparagus, greens, spinach and rhubarb, and transplanted cucurbits, peppers and tomatoes. The poor weather deterred customers at roadside stands and farmers’ markets.

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field Crop</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2002</th>
<th>5-yr Avg</th>
<th>Percent Emerged</th>
<th>Condition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barley, ME</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oats, ME</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potatoes</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>&lt;5</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maine</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mass</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>Good/Excel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhode Isl</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>Good/Fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silage Corn</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>Good/Fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tobacco</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>Good/Fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shade</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>Good/Fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broadleaf</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>Good/Fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dry Hay</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>Good/Fair</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FIELD CROPS: Mother Nature continued to limit the number of days New England farmers could accomplish field work last week; many farmers are frustrated with the consistently cool, wet weather so far this season. Corn growth is slow and in some areas the plant has yellowed. Farmers have not had much of a chance to catch up on hay cutting, which remained well behind normal last week at ten percent. Rhode Island potato planting is complete, with Massachusetts not far behind. Emergence for both states was moving along nicely last week, though both states are behind normal schedules. Maine potatoes finally began to emerge, well behind the average emergence at this time of year of 35 percent. Growers finished transplanting shade tobacco. Broadleaf tobacco growers had a quarter of their crop transplanted by the week’s end.
### STATE WEATHER SUMMARY

For the Week Ending Sunday, June 8, 2003

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Air Temperatures</th>
<th>Precipitation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LO</td>
<td>HI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ME</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NH</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>80</td>
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<td>VT</td>
<td>29</td>
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<td>MA</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RI</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CT</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Summary based on NWS data.

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90Normals 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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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: Another cool, wet week. We need warm weather and sunshine to make the crops grow. Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland: Another wet, cool week. Surplus soil moisture is becoming a real problem on heavier soils. Some mowed grass to chop but got rained out. Most completed planting field corn but a few still struggling to get crops planted. Some transplanting of tomatoes, peppers and eggplant, yet greenhouses are bursting with crops that should be in the field. Broadleaf tobacco growers who started plants in greenhouses are having problems with fungus on plants. Marsha Jete (FSA), New London: Rain, rain and more rain preventing planting of corn, harvesting of dry hay or green grass. Dawn Pinzell (FSA), Windham: Discouraging, yellowing corn sitting in puddles. Cloudy and cool. Strawberries two weeks behind. Planting continues in the rain, too late to wait for anymore days to get the crops in. Poor milk prices and gray weather not lifting many spirits. The sun will come out tomorrow? Nancy Welsh/Karen Lockman (FSA), New Haven: Vegetable growers 2 weeks behind schedule. Squash, cucumber and tomato plants are rotting in the field. Some producers reporting heavy fruit set while others have average to heavy. Heavy rains have done damage to fields. Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative: Rain continues to plague farmers. Saturated fields and cold soils continue to delay crop development. Grass hay is in full bloom - but no one can harvest due to no drying weather and fields too wet to drive through.

MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook: Potatoes and small grains: Nearly all growers have completed planting their crops. They have begun herbicide applications. Of course there are rocks to pick. Most small grains have emerged and potatoes are just about ready to emerge. Growing conditions are very favorable. Pam Hickery (Ext), Central Aroostook: A few farmers are finishing planting. Overall, most have all the crops in the ground. Now we need the weather to cooperate for our crops to progress. Steve London (Ext), Southern Aroostook: Potatoes and small grains: Things are going well. We could stand to have some heat and sunshine. Albert Dow (NRCS), Piscataquis: Dairymen are harvesting green chow. Potatoes are mostly all planted. Janet King (FSA), Somerset: We need sun for the crops. Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo: Wet weather continues to cause problems. Some very heavy downpours in spotty locations have really set things back. Corn is short, yellow and cold. Not sure how the poor weather has impacted pollination of apples and strawberries. Black flies and mosquitoes are growing well! Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln: Some green chop has been cut but no dry hay yet. Floating row cover still in place on many row crops until the weather improves. Some fields still too wet to plant - we need sun to warm up and dry out the soil. Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington: Wild blueberries: The crop in Maine is delayed about a week because of the cool, wet spring conditions, there is some winter injury evident and a considerable amount of mummyberry disease showing up. We have had a few good days for pollination, but overall it has been poor. The bud development and bloom look good, but with all the problems we are having this spring I would not expect to have any more than a good year. Crop condition is fair to good. The cranberries are progressing well. John Devine (FSA), Franklin: Cranberries: Plant growth progresses slowly but surely. Plenty of water available to growers this year. No frost nights this past week. Insect populations building, but horrible scouting weather continues. It hasn't been the best conditions for applying fungicides or insecticides either. Some hook showing on the most advanced beds, those sanded during the winter. David Rose (FSA), Bristol: More cold and wet weather has hampered field work. Planting and growth of crops is still way behind normal. Michael Tardy (FSA), Oxford: Producers have been busy putting the final touches on planting. Green chop being cut. Cool days and nights, dreary, damp weather.

MASSACHUSETTS - Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire: Corn is growing slowly, slightly longer to germination due to cool soil temperatures and little sun. Fields are wet but hay will be ready and waiting to be cut when the sun comes out. Ongoing harvesting of spring vegetables, greens and rhubarb. Temperatures remain cool, pollination is low according to orchardists. Reports of peach tree winter kill resulting in an expectation of poor crop (if any). Small grains progressing well. One report of a large strawberry producer with crop loss due to pest damage last year. Up to another inch of rain this week, highs in the 60's, lows in the 40's. Farmers’ markets and nurseries doing average business, it would be booming if the sun came out. Kip Graham (FSA), Worcester: Same old story. Rain, too wet. Rain, too wet. Farmers managed to get in the fields between rain drops. Can’t begin harvesting hay until they get a couple of sunny days to dry it. A few areas have begun, but some got taken aback from more rain. The weather continues to delay planting of fruit and vegetables. The vegetables that are in the ground could now use some sun. The ground is still on the cooler side. Can't do much in muddy fields! Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth: Cranberries: Plant growth progresses slowly but surely. Plenty of water available to growers this year. No frost nights this past week. Insect populations building, but horrible scouting weather continues. It hasn’t been the best conditions for applying fungicides or insecticides either. Some hook showing on the most advanced beds, those sanded during the winter. Gary Guida, Worcester: Another wet week and weekend. Retail sales way off for plants this week. With two nice days, growers (including me) hustling to transplant veggie crops and plant more sweet corn. Consumers have had it with weather and growers, too! On a positive note strawberries look awesome this year, just hope it doesn’t rain for PYO.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll: Hoping for a dry weekend. Some first cutting going into the silo or wrapped round bales. As soon as the ground dries enough first cutting can begin in earnest. Northern part of the county has had more dry days than the south, so corn is mostly all planted. Greenhouse plant sales lag behind normal, but should be able to catch up if people believe that summer will really get here! Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire: Finally, the sunny days outnumbered the rainy ones! First cutting grass and alfalfa for haylage and baleage in full swing, still less than ideal weather for making dry hay. Regrowth on many fields is ready. Corn is a decent growth all across the state. Producers have been busy putting the final touches on planting. The rain has improved pasture conditions to excellent. Hay is growing well but only wrapped, chopped and large round bales being harvested due to rain showers. Corn, oats and barley are emerging well. Growth will really take off with some sunshine. Laura Rand (FSA), Oxford: Producers have been busy putting the final touches on planting. Green chop being cut. Cool days and nights, dreary, damp weather.
weather permits. Several good weather days allowed for harvest to move forward. Showers and rain late in the week stopped it. Some fields too wet for harvest equipment. Grasses heading out, especially orchard grass. Corn growing slowly, but looking good.

**George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Fruit growers monitoring pest and crop development and applying sprays for pest control, if needed. Orchardists applying thinning sprays to apple orchards. Mowing orchard floor and weed spraying under trees. Blueberries and strawberries are beyond petal fall. Field Crops: Planting and weed spraying corn fields. Farmers are continuing trying to make haylage and trying to start baled hay between rain showers. Vegetables: Transplanting tomato and pepper plants, and making successive plantings of vegetable crops. Harvesting spinach, greens, asparagus and rhubarb. Flea beetle and seed maggot damage seen, striped cucumber beetles can be found in vine crops and asparagus beetles are all over asparagus. **David Seavey (Ext), Merrimack:** Orchardists are spraying for plum curculio. Fruit growers are spending a great deal of time mowing. Cool weather has extended bloom of blueberries. Very little dry hay or haylage. Tender growth of several crops experiencing some spray injury. Crops such as sweet corn, field corn, vine crops, etc. are growing slowly while hay crops are growing rapidly. Hot, sunny weather needed.

**Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** Another week of rain with some breaks of sunshine. Pastures and hayfields still doing well. Some farmers were busy making the first cut. All the fruit trees have set fruit and growers continue to monitor for diseases and insect pests. Vegetable growers were busy transplanting warm season crops such as tomatoes, peppers and cucurbits. Greenhouse growers continue to battle with fungal diseases due to cool, humid conditions.

**RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport:** Another cool, dark, rainy week kept field work from moving forward. Field corn slowly being planted, potatoes being sprayed and strawberries are late. Summer crops being planted, but holding off on pumpkins and fall gourds. Roadside stands doing well. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Crops: Planting and weed spraying corn fields. Farmers are continuing trying to make haylage and trying to start baled hay. First cut haying has begun but rain showers have slowed the process. Hay crop appears to be heavy this year. **Lynette Hamilton/Perley Sparrow (FSA), Windham:** rainfall we've been getting. Some tomatoes were transplanted in the cold weather. It is tough getting planting done with all the cold and rain.

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

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**Joe Samson, Deputy Director**
**Stat Assistant:** Wayne Colpitt

**VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille:** Corn planting is winding down and farmers are turning their attention to first cut of grass. Crop conditions were generally favorable last week but warmer temperatures and good drying conditions would be beneficial. Pastures are doing well at this point in the season. Vegetables could use some extra warmth.

**Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Landowners have finished planting corn. Most corn has emerged and is about 2 inches tall. First cut haying has begun but rain showers have slowed the process. Hay crop appears to be heavy this year. **Lynette Hamilton/Perley Sparrow (FSA), Windham:** THE RAIN,...