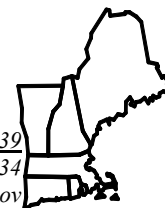




New England Agricultural Statistics Service

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United States Department of Agriculture



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Crop Weather

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July 28, 2003 - 4 pm

For week ending 7/27/03

Rain Arrives in New England

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending July 27, 2003, there were 4.5 days available for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture was rated 6% very short, 18% short, 69% adequate, 7% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 3% very short, 26% short, 63% adequate, 8% surplus. Pasture condition was rated as 0% very poor, 15% poor, 37% fair, 35% good, 13% excellent. Significant rainfall finally arrived in most areas New England, accelerating crop growth, improving general crop conditions and replenishing ground water supplies. A few areas received little to no rain and are anxiously awaiting some relief. Slightly above normal temperatures prevailed throughout the region last week. Major farm activities included: cutting haylage and making dry hay; topping off broadleaf tobacco; harvesting shade tobacco, highbush blueberries and vegetables; finishing harvesting strawberries; renovating strawberry beds; spreading manure; mowing; cultivating; weeding; top-dressing fields with fertilizer; monitoring fields; applying insecticides and fungicides.

FRUIT: Areas that experienced rainfall last week saw noticeable improvement in fruit size. Peach growers made preparations for harvest; the average amount harvested for this time of year is ten percent. Strawberry harvest was completed last week and strawberry bed renovations continued. Highbush blueberry and raspberry harvest continued. Maine wild blueberry harvest is expected to begin next week; the recent moisture improved berry quality. Growers irrigated cranberry bogs in Massachusetts where little rainfall was received.

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2003	2002	5-yr Avg	
Apples	--	--	--	Good/Fair
Peaches	--	20	10	Fair/Good
Pears	--	--	--	Good/Fair
Blueberries				
Highbush	20	20	30	Good/Fair
Wild, ME	--	--	<5	Good
Cranberries, MA	--	--	--	Good
Strawberries	100	100	99	Good/Fair

VEGETABLES: Growers harvested beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, cucumbers, greens, lettuce, peas, radishes, snap beans and summer squash last week. Many varieties were available at roadside stands and farmers' markets. Most vegetable crops benefitted from the rain. Sweet corn harvest advanced to ten percent last week, trailing last year and normal progress.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
	-- Percent --		
Topsoil Moisture			
Very Short	6	11	15
Short	18	31	23
Adequate	69	55	52
Surplus	7	3	10
Subsoil Moisture			
Very Short	3	8	11
Short	26	25	21
Adequate	63	67	66
Surplus	8	0	2

FIELD CROPS: Rain showers discouraged farmers from making dry hay last week. Much of the first crop hay cut last week will be used for mulch hay. Second crop hay progressed to 35 percent harvested and third crop cutting should begin shortly. Field corn started to tassel in northern states. Corn growth was accelerated in areas where much needed moisture was received. Potato farmers welcomed last week's moisture; harvest should get underway soon in southern New England. Harvest remained behind schedule for both broadleaf and shade tobacco; growers sprayed to control blue mold and brown spot.

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2003	2002	5-yr Avg	
Barley, ME	--	--	--	Excellent/Good
Oats, ME	--	--	--	Excellent/Good
Potatoes				
Maine	--	--	--	Excellent/Good
Mass	--	<5	5	Good
Rhode Isl	--	--	<5	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	--	--	--	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	10	20	20	Good
Tobacco				
Shade	10	20	25	Fair/Good
Broadleaf	--	5	10	Good/Fair
Dry Hay				
First Cut	95	95	95	Good/Fair
Second Cut	35	45	45	Good/Fair
Third Cut	--	--	5	Good/Fair

For the Week Ending Sunday, July 27, 2003

All 86 stations appear on the Internet and in e-mail subscriptions.
 Due to space restrictions, only 41 stations appear below. These stations are well distributed across the region.

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_State_A	61	84	73	+3	1137	+14	464	+63	0.85	+0.12	6	1.51	-1.37	11	
Bangor_Intl_Arp	58	87	72	+4	1112	+102	446	+118	0.07	-0.65	2	0.76	-2.27	6	
Bethel	53	83	69	+0	997	-27	365	+33	1.29	+0.48	3	3.56	+0.34	10	
Caribou_Municip	57	77	67	+2	921	+85	336	+114	3.25	+2.29	7	6.46	+2.90	19	
Dover-Foxcroft	48	83	68	+2	817	-59	271	+24	1.27	+0.50	6	2.88	-0.38	15	
Frenchville	56	75	65	-2	843	+71	283	+94	2.15	+1.24	7	4.23	+0.84	17	
Houlton	53	80	69	+3	964	+98	359	+115	2.29	+1.41	6	3.98	+0.62	18	
Livermore_Falls	54	86	72	+5	1048	+176	422	+182	2.05	+1.28	6	3.76	+0.62	15	
Moosehead	52	80	66	+2	761	+42	236	+68	2.17	+1.26	6	5.19	+1.53	16	
Portland_ME	60	86	73	+4	1100	+100	431	+107	0.40	-0.27	3	1.46	-1.38	7	
NEW HAMPSHIRE															
Benton	52	81	68	+3	983	+18	346	+73	1.72	+0.93	4	3.98	+0.83	10	
Berlin_AG	53	80	69	+2	1017	+53	367	+79	1.69	+0.85	5	4.70	+1.31	13	
Concord	55	88	76	+6	1279	+128	549	+132	0.09	-0.68	1	1.98	-0.91	10	
Diamond_Pond	53	75	64	+2	710	+78	204	+97	2.44	+1.39	4	5.64	+1.47	15	
Keene_AP	54	84	72	+2	1227	-75	479	-38	0.96	+0.12	3	1.91	-1.36	10	
North_Conway	57	85	71	+3	1154	+78	475	+108	1.06	+0.22	5	2.15	-1.24	14	
Rochester	58	85	73	+2	1135	-91	458	-10	0.31	-0.49	2	2.01	-1.12	7	
VERMONT															
Burlington_Intl	63	84	73	+2	1387	+136	581	+92	2.00	+1.16	6	3.11	-0.16	13	
Island_Pond	55	80	68	+4	930	+148	304	+119	2.34	+1.36	6	4.24	+0.40	19	
Montpelier	55	79	69	+2	995	+19	337	+40	2.92	+2.22	4	4.51	+1.72	13	
Pownal	52	80	70	+2	1047	+41	336	+25	1.34	+0.43	4	4.04	+0.34	13	
Rochester	52	81	68	+2	1009	+65	346	+67	2.90	+1.99	4	7.71	+4.28	13	
Rutland_AG	56	82	70	-1	1118	-181	415	-96	2.39	+1.48	4	5.59	+2.12	12	
Sutton	55	80	67	+2	936	+144	304	+107	1.87	+0.89	4	4.11	+0.28	15	
Townshend_Lake	57	84	71	+1	1117	-97	417	-46	1.58	+0.79	4	3.77	+0.78	12	
MASSACHUSETTS															
Ashburnham	57	85	72	+4	1192	+150	473	+130	1.05	+0.21	4	2.18	-1.18	12	
Boston/Logan_In	66	88	77	+4	1437	-21	650	+21	1.19	+0.56	4	2.12	-0.43	8	
Greenfield	58	86	73	+1	1297	-98	515	-65	1.25	+0.41	4	2.67	-0.72	12	
New_Bedford	60	86	74	-2	1244	-198	506	-105	0.50	-0.22	3	2.60	-0.16	8	
Otis_AFB	64	84	75	+5	1219	+76	510	+90	1.50	+0.85	3	2.09	-0.50	7	
Plymouth	58	85	74	+3	1206	+5	481	+18	2.32	+1.55	3	4.25	+1.17	8	
Walpole	60	86	75	+4	1335	+81	574	+86	2.01	+1.24	3	3.76	+0.64	9	
Chicopee/Westov	59	88	74	-2	1363	-239	561	-164	0.49	-0.28	3	2.08	-1.23	14	
Worthington	51	83	69	+2	1015	+2	338	+24	1.60	+0.62	4	2.30	-1.56	9	
RHODE ISLAND															
Providence	63	86	75	+3	1397	+20	597	+19	1.63	+0.90	3	3.45	+0.61	10	
Woonsocket	60	85	73	+3	1291	+59	535	+75	1.78	+0.90	3	3.76	+0.19	10	
CONNECTICUT															
Bridgeport/Siko	64	87	76	+2	1433	-40	625	-25	0.68	-0.16	4	1.94	-1.48	12	
Hartford/Bradle	61	89	75	+2	1504	-41	648	-45	0.86	+0.16	4	2.68	-0.20	13	
Norfolk	58	83	70	+3	1052	+35	353	+34	1.69	+0.75	4	3.60	-0.19	13	
Thomaston_Dam	54	86	72	+2	1352	+126	547	+94	2.05	+1.07	4	3.05	-0.68	11	
Willimantic	60	87	74	+5	1361	+115	569	+101	0.70	-0.24	5	2.26	-1.49	12	

STATE WEATHER SUMMARY
 For the Week Ending Sunday, July 27, 2003

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	AV	DFN	LO	HI
ME	48	87	69	+2	0.00	3.60
NH	45	90	69	+2	0.09	3.21
VT	50	86	69	+2	0.75	3.37
MA	51	88	74	+3	0.15	2.32
RI	60	86	73	+2	0.28	1.78
CT	54	89	73	+1	0.68	2.72

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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: Showers on Tuesday ranged from 0.5 to more than 3 inches. Harvesting green and yellow squash, green beans, cabbage, and sweet corn. Field corn looking better but still a long way to grow. Many still working on first cutting hay and some starting on second cut hay. Tobacco has problems with blue mold and brown spot. Some fields destroyed. Topping and sucker control continue to be applied. First priming of shade tobacco is under way. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** First picking of sweet corn. Vegetables are plentiful. Hope the sunny weather will hasten harvesting. Producers taking advantage of sunshine to harvest second cutting of hay which in some areas is a mix of first and second. Blueberry picking began this past week at most locations with a heavy crop expected. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Three to five inches of rain fell on Tuesday and Wednesday. Some hail, high winds, trees snapped. Weed control a problem. Tough to hay. Some fields good and others very poor. Corn is trying to catch up. Blueberries ripening gradually with good flavor. Sweet corn tasty. Squash and tomatoes coming in. **Nancy Welsh/Karen Vozarik (FSA), New Haven:** Summer squash, cucumbers, blueberries and sweet corn have made it to be harvested after a cold, wet spring. Expecting peaches soon. Crops still running late. **Joyce Meader (Ext), Windham:** Many corn fields are still very short for late July. Need some warm, rainy days in August and September to reach harvest stage. Some unplanted corn fields are being seeded to sorghum-sudan forage up until August 1st deadline, to be harvested as silage at the 36"-40" height. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Scattered showers that were more like all day rains slowed down field work. Some hay/haylage went in. A lot of manure being spread on grass. Topdressed late planted corn in some areas.

MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook: Potatoes and small grains: Last week we complained that it was getting a little dry and that we needed some rain. Well, boy did we get some showers or rain nearly every day this past week. We have plenty for now. Growers are having difficulty getting through their fields to apply fungicides. Many are way off their schedule. All crops are thriving with all this moisture and look good except for some small grains which have lodged due to wind and rain. Small grains are turning color every day. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Crops are growing rapidly, with plenty of moisture. Growers and scouts are still carefully monitoring potato fields for European corn borer egg masses. Canola crop is looking excellent. The hay harvest is continuing. Crops are looking excellent. There has been lots of water, with rain everyday over the past week. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Plenty of moisture this week. Very little corn borer activity. Crop looks good. **Albert Dow (NRCS), Piscataquis:** A rainy week slowed down field work. Some farmers aren't finished with their first crop of hay. Crops are looking good despite the fact that they are later than most years. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Cloudy and humid weather last week did not allow much field work except for manure spreading. Strawberry harvest is over and renovation has started. Sweet corn is finally in silk so we should be seeing some harvest soon. Lots of clouds, but not all that much rain. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** The first blueberries are at roadside stands but the main harvest hasn't begun yet. We need rain! Some areas received no rain during the past week, while others got over an inch. Blueberries need an inch per week. Some corn not developing due to drought. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Harvest scheduled to begin in the mid-coast region of Maine the week of July 28. Ripening is very uneven with some fruit blue and others still green. Showers this week have improved crop quality after the lack of rain the first three weeks of July. **Michael Tardy (FSA), Androscoggin:** Rainy week. Good for field corn and market gardens. Not much hay harvested. **Parker Rand (FSA), Cumberland/York:** The strawberry season is over for another year. Blueberries are coming on very strong, pickers are filling buckets with ease. Sweet corn is now ready as farmers fill their stands with cukes, tomatoes, and other small vegetables. We got some more of that much needed rain this week, keeping the irrigation pumps silent. Things are still dry and keeping them down for another week looks doubtful. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** It's been a fairly rainy week - heavy in some areas and spotty in others. Haying has been slow due to the showers. Some fields are wet and barnyards are even wetter. **Laura Rand (FSA), Oxford:** Raspberries are still being harvested and looking good. Oxford County crops are doing better after the rain we had last week. Strawberries are all harvested.

MASSACHUSETTS - Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire: Pretty cloudy and damp week. No sun to dry hay! Several producers had started to pick sweet corn (tasty). Some field corn is over 6 feet high and green. No problems with crop conditions yet. Cloudy with two inches of rain from three days of showers. Friday was the first day of sunshine this week. Veggie crops looking good. **Kip Graham (FSA), Worcester:** First cutting of hay is almost completed. Farmers haven't completed having their first crop cut. Some still standing in fields laying over. Most of the first crop will be used for mulch hay or possible composting. Farmers are already thinking about what they will be doing differently for next year. Raspberries are in full season just now. The rain we have gotten is knocking them off the stems quickly. Blueberries just beginning to turn blue. Customers are out there waiting to pick them. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Bloom is nearly complete, with only a scattering of blossoms remaining. The great majority of bee hives have been removed. Fruit set looks good in most beds. This is the critical time when rain is needed for sizing the fruit. Scattered rain last week; most locations did not receive ample amounts. Irrigation is no problem, with good water supplies this summer. Second fruitworm applications nearly complete; fruit rot fungicide applications are nearly done. **David Rose (FSA), Bristol:** Sweet corn in plentiful supply now as multiple plantings mature at the same time. Also harvesting squash, cukes, beans, cabbage and lettuce. Everything looks good just a little behind normal. **John Devine (FSA), Franklin:** Muggy and overcast weather prevented most farm activities this week. Scattered thundershowers throughout the week gave drenching rains to sections of the county while other areas remain very dry. Mechanical cucumber harvesting started this week and yields are above average. Field tobacco harvest also began this weekend. Silage corn to finally starting to take off. Fields that weren't "knee high by the 4th of July" are now over your head. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** The week began with rain showers and isolated downpours. By the week's end, the temperatures were in the high 90's with high humidity. Rain was forecast but never received. So the irrigation pumps are running again. The heat and moisture are really causing the crops to grow fast. Harvesting blueberries, summer squash, cucumbers, sweet corn, cabbage and many more summer crops. By the weekend broadleaf tobacco harvest started and many growers are topping their tobacco. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** Another good weekend for plant and produce sales. Not picking corn or tomatoes here yet. Strawberry bed renovations complete. Spraying corn and summer crops as cucumber beetles still a problem. Getting real dry.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll: Weather turning drier, second cut going into the silo and the barn. Weeds are doing well in the garden and the corn field. Mummy berry claimed quite a bit of the blueberry crop, several pick-your-own operations will not open for business this year. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Hot, humid and cloudy conditions much of the week. Earliest planted corn is starting to tassel. Strong winds lodged some corn along CT River. Hay crops are growing well, but poor drying conditions are making harvest difficult. PYO raspberry & blueberry harvesting going well. Farm stands and farmers' markets offering a wide selection of veggies, sweet corn is now being sold. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Good soaking rains this week, perhaps two or more inches depending on location, also cooler weather. Field corn putting on substantial growth, much at pre-tassel stage. Early sweet corn varieties now in silk. Haylands and pastures regrowing well now. Second cut haylage coming in. Many vegetable varieties available now from local farms. Pumpkins starting to run. Blueberries ripening. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Second cutting continuing between rain storms. Heavy rain in some areas replenished soil moisture. Corn tasseling and silking. Looks good. Regrowth on alfalfa is good to excellent due to moisture conditions. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Field Crops: Hay cutting continued at a rapid pace during the week with both first and second cutting being made. Most of the first cutting is only good for mulch hay. Silage corn put on rapid growth this past week after thunderstorms occurred along with the humid weather. Vegetables: Growers are irrigating fields! With dry, hot weather, lettuce and other crops are bolting. Harvesting an array of vegetables: beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, cucumbers, greens, lettuce, peas, potatoes, radishes, snap beans, summer squash and other vegetables. Sweet corn harvest began. Farmers kept busy cultivating, hoeing weeds, monitoring pest pressures, spraying pesticides for insects and diseases - if needed. Starting to see potato

leaf hoppers and Asiatic garden beetle has appeared. Very good demand for produce at most local farmers' markets. Fruit: Orchardists began harvesting first peaches and Lodi apples. Blueberry and raspberry harvests continued. Blueberry fruit size is excellent. Strawberry growers finishing renovating beds and irrigating them. Orchardists busy monitoring for pests, spraying if needed, and mowing orchard floors. **David Seavey (Ext), Merrimack:** Blueberry and raspberry harvest going strong. Blueberries sprayed for maggot. Post-emergence weed control spraying in orchards as most of the rain showers missed Merrimack County. All vine crops sprayed with fungicides during humid weather. Strawberry growers renovating beds. Some blueberry growers experiencing losses due to winter injury and for mummy berry disease. Most warm season vegetables harvested, even some sweet corn grown under row covers. Some hay fields were cut. Cabbage looper found in monitoring traps. Growing degree days in Boscawen as of Monday, July 28 is 1095. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Harvesting a whole array of vegetables including sweet corn, tomatoes and potatoes. Good picking conditions for blueberries, raspberries and sour cherries despite the hot and humid weather of few days and the threat of showers by the weather forecast. Crops could use a good soaking rain. Growers busy renovating strawberry beds, monitoring pests in fruit orchards, weeding and cultivating vegetable fields. **Pam Marvin (FSA), Sullivan:** Spot showers this past week has helped the crops along. More reports of a tough blueberry crop due to bad weather in May, as well as mummy berry symptoms. Some silage corn starting to tassel and 3rd cutting of alfalfa looking good. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** Pastures and hayfields still looking good. Some farmers have started to make the second cut. Fruit growers continue to mow orchard floors and to monitor for diseases and pests. Blueberries continue to show mummy berry symptoms. Raspberries continue to be harvested. Vegetable growers continue to harvest different vegetables. Field cut flowers are also being harvested.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: Roadside stands are full of summer vegetables, local corn is now available along with the beginnings of summer squash and a hint of some field grown tomatoes. Spraying of potatoes continues, pruning Christmas trees and general field work is keeping everyone busy.

VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille: Rainy week kept most fieldwork to a minimum. Some manure spreading on second cut fields. Saw some clipping of pastures. Corn silage crop is

progressing to the point where many fields started to tassel last week. The approx. 3.5 inches of cumulative rain last week will help both second and third cut grass crop. Should see some sweet corn harvested this week. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** A very rainy week here has helped to replenish ground water levels. Not much field work was done this past week. The corn is doing well with the hot and humid conditions. Second crop yields are light due to the dry spell but third crop should do well with the recent moisture. **Lynette Hamilton/Perley Sparrow (FSA), Windham:** Windham County saw heavy showers most of the week, poor for haying but good for crops. Local sweet corn being picked along with blueberries. Field corn looking excellent and even the late planted crop is catching up. **Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Hay harvest delayed by rainfall. Severe localized storms with some hail and wind damage. Newly seeded hay fields very late planted, just greened up in fields. Corn germination delayed and uneven in many fields, with 18 inch and 2 inch plants in same row. Replanted corn fields less than 6 inches tall. Hay crop regrowth good. **Eric Winchester (FSA) Orange/Windsor:** This past week has seen some much needed rain showers: a sharp contrast from the dry spell we suffered several weeks ago. Everyone is commenting on the height and good appearance of the corn. If things continue like this, we shall see an excellent field corn crop this year. In southern sections corn has begun to tassel. Most farms are well underway in making their second cut of grass. It generally looks pretty good, especially considering how much the grass had regressed during the last dry spell. Again, the rain has worked wonders. Some are saying the quality of the second cut grass is likely to be down. Some alfalfa went past its prime during the course of the week, and the rain made it impossible to harvest it before it had done so. Pasture has come back very well. Vegetable crops look good. Sweet corn, squash, cucumbers, melons, broccoli, cauliflower and cabbage are all being harvested. Blueberries are not doing well this year, primarily due to the extreme cold of the past winter. Reports of heavy numbers of cabbage loopers, which can have potentially bad effects upon broccoli, cabbage and cauliflower crops. **Chris Benedict (Ext), Chittenden:** Last week gave us 1.65 inches of rain. That is more than double the combined amount that the remainder of July gave us. Apple size almost doubled during the past week. The cooler outlook this week will be a good time to get outside to prepare for early maturing apples. **Heather Darby (Ext), Franklin:** Lots of rain last week which will help recharge soil moisture. Very little action around the farm. Corn growing rapidly. I have seen a few fields tasseling. Second cut hay still being harvested.

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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