



# New England Agricultural Statistics Service

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

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## Crop Weather

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For week ending 8/10/03

### Wet, Muggy Week in New England

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:** For the week ending August 10, 2003, there were 3.5 days available for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture was rated 0% very short, 1% short, 62% adequate, 37% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 0% very short, 7% short, 74% adequate, 19% surplus. Pasture condition was rated as 0% very poor, 13% poor, 28% fair, 49% good, 10% excellent. Tropical conditions existed in the New England states last week. High humidity and rain showers deterred field activities and harvest, but also increased crop growth rates. Major farm activities included: cutting haylage and making dry hay; harvesting broadleaf and shade tobacco, apples, peaches, highbush blueberries, wild blueberries and vegetables; renovating strawberry beds; spreading manure; mowing; pruning; cultivating; weeding; monitoring fields; applying insecticides and fungicides.

**FRUIT:** Tree fruit crops were rated in good to fair condition last week. Peach and apricot harvest were ongoing, along with some early apple harvesting. Monitoring, mowing and pruning took place between rain showers. Growers continued to harvest highbush blueberries, wild blueberries and raspberries. Highbush blueberry harvest was close to last year and the five-year average. Maine wild blueberry harvest progressed slowly due to last week's inclement weather. Cranberry growers in Massachusetts monitored for diseases and pests, as the recent weather conditions tend to advance such problems. Heat and moisture have promoted good berry size.

#### FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2003	2002	5-yr Avg	
Apples	<5	5	5	Good/Fair
Peaches	35	55	40	Good/Fair
Pears	--	--	--	Good/Fair
Blueberries				
Highbush	55	55	60	Good/Fair
Wild, ME	10	5	30	Good
Cranberries, MA	--	--	--	Good/Fair

**VEGETABLES:** Beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, cucumbers, greens, lettuce, peas, radishes, snap beans and summer squash were harvested between showers. Growers also sprayed for pests and disease last week. Sweet corn harvest progressed to 25 percent complete, compared to 40 percent for the five-year average. Farm stands were full of summer vegetables, with good demand from consumers.

#### SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
	-- Percent --		
<b>Topsoil Moisture</b>			
Very Short	0	0	20
Short	1	20	37
Adequate	62	67	38
Surplus	37	13	5
<b>Subsoil Moisture</b>			
Very Short	0	9	15
Short	7	15	41
Adequate	74	70	42
Surplus	19	6	2

**FIELD CROPS:** Muggy, rainy conditions slowed hay harvest and prevented farmers from accomplishing much field work. Farmers continued to await dry weather so they could finish first crop hay harvest. Second crop harvest reached the half-way mark, and third cutting barley got underway last week. The recent hot, humid weather has improved field corn growth. Potato harvest progressed to five percent complete in southern New England, well behind five-year averages. Maine potatoes remained in good to excellent condition as growers monitored fields and sprayed fungicides between showers. Grain crops in northern Maine were lodged from wind and rain, which might cause uneven ripening. In the Connecticut River Valley, shade and broadleaf tobacco harvests were delayed by rainy weather, and as of August 10, both were well behind normal harvest schedules.

#### FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2003	2002	5-yr Avg	
Barley, ME	--	--	10	Good
Oats, ME	--	<5	5	Good
Potatoes				
Maine	--	--	--	Good/Excellent
Mass	5	10	15	Good
Rhode Isl	5	30	20	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	--	--	--	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	25	35	40	Good/Fair
Tobacco				
Shade	25	65	60	Fair/Good
Broadleaf	20	60	50	Fair/Good
Dry Hay				
First Cut	95	95	95	Good/Fair
Second Cut	50	70	65	Good/Fair
Third Cut	<5	30	15	Good

For the Week Ending Sunday, August 10, 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		
<b>MAINE</b>															
Augusta_State_A	64	80	72	+3	1419	+20	606	+70	0.67	-0.10	5	3.28	+0.34	16	
Bangor_Intl_Arp	64	83	73	+5	1399	+129	593	+146	0.30	-0.44	3	1.67	-1.26	9	
Bethel	60	83	72	+5	1262	-12	490	+49	2.48	+1.57	5	5.78	+2.44	13	
Caribou_Municip	60	80	71	+7	1173	+123	448	+150	1.46	+0.53	7	5.40	+1.62	18	
Dover-Foxcroft	60	80	68	+3	1042	-68	358	+19	0.65	-0.15	6	2.60	-0.55	19	
Frenchville	56	79	68	+5	1068	+94	368	+114	1.34	+0.43	4	4.00	+0.42	14	
Houlton	61	83	71	+6	1220	+129	475	+146	2.38	+1.47	5	5.92	+2.38	17	
Livermore_Falls	60	86	73	+8	1325	+226	559	+232	0.74	-0.16	6	5.23	+1.97	18	
Moosehead	58	82	70	+7	990	+68	327	+93	0.75	-0.09	6	3.34	-0.22	16	
Portland_ME	62	80	70	+1	1361	+95	552	+101	0.75	+0.12	4	2.84	+0.21	10	
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>															
Benton	62	82	73	+9	1254	+65	478	+117	1.96	+1.05	4	6.13	+2.80	14	
Berlin_AG	61	84	73	+8	1288	+92	498	+117	2.73	+1.75	3	5.82	+2.23	12	
Concord	62	86	76	+8	1603	+179	733	+184	3.88	+3.11	7	7.28	+4.26	12	
Diamond_Pond	57	80	69	+8	923	+120	287	+136	1.41	+0.25	7	5.07	+0.71	19	
Keene_AP	64	84	76	+7	1548	-43	660	-6	1.81	+0.90	6	4.84	+1.40	14	
North_Conway	63	84	74	+7	1446	+114	627	+145	4.56	+3.65	6	7.62	+4.14	17	
Rochester	61	82	72	+3	1423	-89	606	-8	1.49	+0.65	7	4.56	+1.33	12	
<b>VERMONT</b>															
Burlington_Intl	64	89	77	+8	1717	+182	771	+140	1.72	+0.81	4	4.60	+1.13	16	
Island_Pond	62	84	74	+11	1191	+215	428	+183	1.25	+0.13	6	4.71	+0.59	19	
Montpelier	62	84	74	+9	1272	+65	475	+87	2.26	+1.41	5	6.21	+3.18	16	
Pownal	64	83	73	+8	1328	+83	477	+69	2.34	+1.37	6	7.55	+3.85	16	
Rochester	64	86	74	+9	1288	+113	486	+117	1.43	+0.39	5	6.30	+2.54	16	
Rutland_AG	64	85	75	+5	1408	-174	565	-88	2.54	+1.60	5	7.85	+4.21	15	
Sutton	61	82	73	+10	1193	+199	425	+165	2.03	+0.94	7	5.58	+1.52	18	
Townshend_Lake	64	84	75	+6	1418	-73	578	-22	2.87	+1.97	7	7.17	+3.87	18	
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>															
Ashburnham	67	83	74	+7	1496	+205	637	+186	1.86	+1.02	6	4.94	+1.62	16	
Boston/Logan_In	67	86	75	+3	1762	-26	835	+14	1.67	+0.97	6	4.39	+1.74	13	
Greenfield	68	84	77	+6	1630	-69	708	-36	3.77	+2.93	7	7.71	+4.35	17	
New_Bedford	69	84	76	+3	1587	-195	709	-105	2.29	+1.37	6	3.45	+0.33	16	
Otis_AFB	72	82	77	+7	1567	+130	718	+142	1.74	+0.98	6	4.54	+1.80	15	
Plymouth	68	85	76	+6	1536	+37	671	+47	3.10	+2.25	6	6.74	+3.55	14	
Walpole	67	84	75	+6	1667	+121	766	+127	3.18	+2.34	7	7.92	+4.73	16	
Chicopee/Westov	68	82	76	+2	1700	-244	758	-170	2.97	+2.20	7	4.64	+1.51	16	
Worthington	63	83	73	+7	1294	+37	477	+61	3.24	+2.26	5	6.10	+2.18	13	
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>															
Providence	69	86	77	+5	1757	+60	817	+58	3.55	+2.77	5	6.86	+3.88	13	
Woonsocket	63	84	75	+6	1618	+98	722	+114	2.48	+1.57	5	6.28	+2.71	14	
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>															
Bridgeport/Siko	71	85	77	+4	1797	-19	849	-6	4.01	+3.24	6	5.20	+1.90	16	
Hartford/Bradle	68	85	77	+4	1858	-17	862	-22	4.15	+3.38	6	6.45	+3.53	16	
Norfolk	64	80	73	+6	1344	+81	505	+82	2.49	+1.51	7	5.20	+1.39	17	
Thomaston_Dam	66	86	77	+8	1693	+189	748	+158	3.65	+2.73	6	6.40	+2.62	16	
Willimantic	69	86	78	+8	1728	+197	796	+182	1.79	+0.88	7	3.99	+0.25	18	

**STATE WEATHER SUMMARY**  
 For the Week Ending Sunday, August 10, 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	56	88	71	+5	0.50	3.39
NH	49	86	73	+7	0.88	6.80
VT	56	92	74	+8	1.25	3.20
MA	55	88	75	+6	1.32	5.73
RI	63	86	76	+5	2.43	3.55
CT	61	87	76	+5	1.79	4.89

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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 - Howard Rood (FSA), Fairfield/Litchfield:** It was a rainy week. Most fields are too wet to work. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Warm and humid week with intermittent showers. Good for crops to grow, however high level of disease with humid conditions. Harvesting vegetable crops, blueberries, peaches and tobacco. Seeding turnips, trying to combine rye. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Still in the soggy weather pattern. Rain heavy at times, most every day, makes it impossible to get dry hay. Corn seems to be flourishing. Vegetables are doing well. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Rainforest-like conditions with sporadic showers, high humidity and little sunshine. Hay difficult to make. Corn is responding and some looks great, still a lot behind. Sweet corn good - ripening rapidly. Squash, tomatoes and such good. Blueberry picking hampered by weather but tasty and plentiful. Spraying as needed. Cleaning out manure pits. Trying different ways to harvest and preserve hay on the moist side. Fairs in full swing. **Nancy Welsh/Karen Vozarik (FSA), New Haven:** Rain and high humidity continues. Fields are washing out and killing squash and cucumbers and many other vegetables. Army worms are plentiful, 50-60 being caught in traps a day. Animals and birds are also causing havoc in the fields. Corn is losing flavor due to rain. Producers are tired of poor weather. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Water, water and more water. Folks are harkening back to '55 around here. Little or no field work possible with all the rain and wet field conditions.

**MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Rainy weather continues. Most fields are soaking wet. Growers having difficulty getting through with their sprayers. Fortunately, there are no severe insect or disease problems. Small grains are badly lodged. This will cause uneven ripening and dark colored grain. Some potatoes have drowned in low areas of the fields. We certainly would like to see some drier weather. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** The rain this week has deterred farmers from working in their fields. Scouting has been minimal since fields are very wet. Hopefully, in the next weeks to come, we will have some sunny weather. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: No late blight showing up yet, our spray schedules need to be tightened up to five days and should be using Super Tin or Curzate. Things are still looking well. We need some sunlight. **Albert Dow (NRCS), Piscataquis:** Rain kept farmers from doing much of any field work. Raspberries molded on the canes. **Donna Lamb (Ext), Piscataquis:** Rain and mist has made field work a challenge. Heavy rains this weekend have saturated many fields. Sweet corn harvested was from early plantings under remay row covers. **Janet King (FSA), Somerset:** The weather has been very humid and wet, making it very difficult to harvest the hay crop. Timely planted corn looks excellent this year! **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Lousy weather for pretty much everything. Periodic heavy rains, humid wet weather. What more could you ask for? Sweet corn is finally coming in. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** The rate of growth of most crops has increased with the damp weather conditions. An insect problem in beans has been reported. Haying is at a stand still until the damp weather clears out. Blueberry crop is appearing to be about average with approximately half the crop harvested. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Cool, wet weather is good for quality of fruit, but is delaying harvest. Some berries are still green - not ripening so well along the coast. If weather continues like this, harvest will continue later. **Michael Tardy (FSA), Androscoggin:** The rain and humidity helped crops grow but played havoc with field work. Between the showers farmers have been able to do some spraying. Market gardens are seeing lots of people grabbing those fresh vegetables. It's great to see the local corn, green beans and squash in the grocery stores. Enjoy these few weeks of local produce. **Parker Rand (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Every day this month has been foggy and humid, and most have been rainy or very hot. Most farm stands are open and selling sweet corn, tomatoes, squash, and all summer vegetables. I believe the drought is over. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Enough moisture already! Gardens are starting to look like jungles. Now we need to watch for jungle rot. Haying is starting to fall way behind. There was no activity last week. **Laura Rand (FSA), Oxford:** Weather conditions have been great for some crops and not so great for others. Humidity reigns for the week. Silage corn has received a boost, sweet corn appearing on the market at most stands, blueberries are being harvested, and early apples are starting to be harvested. Hay producers are waiting for dry weather to start harvest.

**MASSACHUSETTS - Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire:** All week it was either cloudy with showers and only minutes of sunshine. We had around 4 inches of rain this week again. Weather limited time for all yard work. No harvesting of hay this week. All corn looking great and ears starting to form. A few growers are picking sweet corn. Pick your own blueberry season is on. **Paul Russell (FSA), Southeast Massachusetts:** The rain and cool weather continues to slow growth of all crops. Hay producers cannot cut and dry their first cutting of hay, sweet corn continues to mature slowly as well as other vegetables. Cranberries continue to size up and growers are facing tremendous weed and insect pressure. Field corn is growing very slowly, with little time left to catch up. **Kip Graham (FSA), Worcester:** Vegetables catching up. Not the best crop, but overall with how the weather has been, they seem to be catching up. The hay has gotten caught in the rain a few times, but farmers are trying to harvest as best as they can. Trying to stay ahead of the rain! **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: It is hard for me to remember a longer stretch of such high humidity (12 days now), and we will soon see the consequences. There will probably be minimal effects of fruit rot incidence, but leaf spots and other diseases will likely be more prevalent. Growers have certainly not needed to irrigate this week. Moisture at this time is critical for berry sizing, so there is a 'silver lining' to the clouds in this miserable weather. Outbreaks of dodder have been noted in beds that were treated with Casoron this spring, indicating that the rainfall washed much of the active ingredient away. **David Rose (FSA), Bristol:** A very rainy week with about 6" of rain has slowed field work. Harvesting continues and disease pressure mounts. **John Devine (FSA), Franklin:** Most farmers' patience was being pushed to the limit this past week. Heat, heavy rain and humidity made farm activities nearly impossible this week. Disease problems are cropping up in most tree fruit. Farmers are reporting harvest delays with tobacco, cucumbers and blueberries. On the other hand, silage corn looks excellent. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** High humidity and heavy rain showers throughout the week. Producers reported four-plus inches of rainfall during the week. Harvesting of all fruits and vegetables is in full swing. Field conditions are very poor due to the saturating water. Plant debases are a big threat to growers because the plants and soils have been wet for a continuous time. Due to the high humidity and wet conditions growers are concerned with controlling flea beetles, European corn borer, corn earworm and aphids. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** Spraying every night for European corn borer and related pest problems in sweet corn. Harvesting all summer crops finally! Daily rain making disease/insect/field conditions horrible! Herbicides breaking down and mechanical weed control not possible. Excellent consumer demand for locally grown produce and demand still exceeding field production. Real challenging weather for both plants and growers.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE - Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll:** Showers, thundershowers, damp sticky weather. If you got first cutting in late you welcome the rain to help second cutting along. If you got first cutting in on time the rain is holding up second cutting. I guess you can't please them all. Veggies are rolling in all over the county, sweet corn in full swing. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Sopping wet, muggy conditions all week. Most crops seem to be doing pretty well, but weather conditions have limited field operations. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Fairly warm, wet week for beginning of August. Some considerable rainfall at times. Field corn generally now at full tassel and silk - looks good. Hayland and pastures also looking quite lush. Local sweet corn now reaching market, many other summer veggies as well. Raspberry picking continues. Japanese beetles continue to be abundant. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Corn continues to grow well with adequate moisture. Third cut alfalfa and grass ready for harvest but rainfall is slowing harvest. Heavy thunderstorms and rainfall over the weekend stopped all field activities. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** Light showers fell during the evening several times last week. Very heavy rains arrived on Saturday. Top soil moisture is adequate. Corn looks good and is developing well. Grass and alfalfa look good. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Vegetables: Rain! Growers harvesting an array of vegetables between showers: beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, cucumbers, greens, lettuce, peas, potatoes, radishes, snap beans, summer squash, sweet corn and other vegetables. Farmers kept busy spraying pesticides for insects and diseases. Very good demand for produce at most local farmers' markets and farm stands. Fruit: Orchardists harvesting peaches and Jersey Mac apples. Blueberry and raspberry harvests continued. Some blueberry growers are picked out - lack of a crop! Orchardists

busy monitoring for pests, mowing orchard floors and fixing up orchard roads. Apple growers busy summer pruning trees. Field Crops: Rain showers stopped farmers from making dry hay. Silage corn is rapid growing, starting to tassel and silk. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** The rain was welcomed at the beginning of the week despite the downpours. Farm work was done in the rain or between showers. Some fields are very wet and difficult to access. Picking blueberries, raspberries, peaches, apricots and Paula Red apples. Making haylage. Cultivating, weeding and monitoring for pests. **Pam Marvin (FSA), Sullivan:** Enough already! Some parts of the county have received more than enough rain this past week. Hard to do field work with showers most every afternoon. Harvesting of sweet corn and vegetables is ongoing. Keeping an eye out for spot flooding in low lying areas. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** The week was cloudy with rain showers every day. Hay fields and pastures continue to do well. The rains have slowed down the harvesting of hay. Blueberry harvesting continued in the week, although the blueberry yields have been reduced drastically by mummy berry disease. Harvesting of summer vegetables and sweet corn continued in the week. Some vegetable growers are experiencing blossom end rot on tomatoes. Nurseries and garden centers continued to do well on perennials and woody ornamentals.

**RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport:** Harvesting blueberries, trying to renovate strawberries amid the rain. Potatoes and squash being sprayed. Inches and inches of rain fell during midweek, making spraying and field work extremely difficult. Sweet corn being harvested.

**VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille:** Last week we experienced tropical conditions with high humidity and intermittent downpours of rain. These conditions hampered fieldwork especially the harvest of second cut grass. Some of the vegetable crops are enjoying the weather conditions and the sweet corn harvest began last week. Very minor flooding in a few locations on Saturday. Cooler, drier conditions would be welcome! **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** A lot of rain this past week has slowed hay harvest down. Some farms are trying to harvest second cut between the showers but have not been very successful. Corn is showing its tassel. Most of the

corn looks very good right now. The ample moisture and hot, humid weather has helped this crop. Fields are very wet which adds to the difficulties of crop harvest. The major rivers are bank full in places so additional rains may cause some flooding. **Lynette Hamilton/Perley Sparrow (FSA), Windham:** Mother Nature is on a rampage in southern Vermont with heat, humidity and rain. Up to several inches has caused a whole bunch of problems not just for producers but local towns. Produces report mold, mildew, no bees are working and every bug created this past week. Fields are so wet that second and third cut is impossible to harvest without damage to their land. The only crop that is happy is corn. There is some late weeds showing up in corn fields as well as alfalfa crop. Prickly cucumber has started to take over so corn fields with this type of weather conditions. **Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Little field work. Storms every day. Some manure spread on grass fields. some hay harvest. corn tasseling, looking better with warm weather. New seedings filling in good, but late. Fields too wet for corn planting, now too wet for summer seeding. **Eric Winchester (FSA) Orange/Windsor:** This past week has been very wet and muggy. The latter part of the week brought two substantial storms which dumped several inches of rain throughout many parts of the two counties. The sun has only made an occasional (and half-hearted) appearance. No one has made reports of any dramatic flattening of corn fields, despite the heavy rain. The second/third cut grass is very heavy, and so, with all the rain, much of it is lodged and could be difficult to dry. In any case, no one has had enough dry weather to get out onto the fields to make hay or even to chop silage. The hot, humid weather has been the cause of a noticeable decline in milk production for county dairy operations. One of our county committeemen had a chance to observe some of the orchards in southern Windsor County. He stated that the apple crop looks like it may be smaller this year than normal. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Hot and muggy week. Not a thing dried at all. Plus 2-3 inches of rain. Ground, air, and everything else is soaked. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** 2.784 inches of rain - a very wet, soggy week. Daily rain for the entire week. In spite of rain, all crops have done extremely well. Sweet corn - fine crop, both ear size and flavor. Market full of excellent summer vegetables. Spraying for blight on potatoes and squash. Problem to pick beans between showers. A few sunny days would be very helpful. Hope for a sunny, dry week.

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