



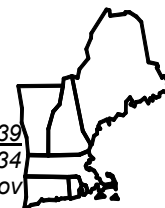
New England Agricultural Statistics Service

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

Volume 23, Number 18

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August 25, 2003 - 4 pm

For week ending 8/24/03

Excellent Hay Making Conditions

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending August 24, 2003, there were 6.2 days available for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture was rated 0% very short, 9% short, 72% adequate, 19% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 0% very short, 14% short, 76% adequate, 10% surplus. Pasture condition was rated as 1% very poor, 10% poor, 24% fair, 47% good, 18% excellent. The week started out hot and humid, but turned cool and dry by the weekend. All in all, it was a great week in New England for field activities and crop harvest. Major farm activities included: cutting haylage and making dry hay; harvesting broadleaf and shade tobacco, potatoes, small grains, apples, peaches, highbush blueberries, wild blueberries and vegetables; desiccating potato vines; spreading manure; mowing; pruning; weeding; monitoring fields; preparing harvest equipment; applying insecticides and fungicides; performing general farm maintenance.

FRUIT: Peaches, plums and apples were harvested last week, and growers just began picking pears. Highbush blueberries, wild blueberries and raspberries were also harvested. Highbush blueberries continued to fare poorly in Maine, while in other areas the crop was rated in good to fair condition. Maine wild blueberry quality decreased slightly due to the previous weeks' hot, damp conditions. Cranberry growers in Massachusetts prepared for the upcoming harvest and continued to spray for disease and insects. Monitoring, mowing and pruning continued throughout the week.

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2003	2002	5-yr Avg	
Apples	5	10	10	Good/Fair
Peaches	40	75	65	Good/Fair
Pears	5	10	10	Good/Fair
Blueberries				
Highbush	80	90	85	Good/Fair
Wild, ME	75	85	80	Fair
Cranberries, MA	--	--	--	Good/Fair

VEGETABLES: Growers harvested beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, cucumbers, greens, lettuce, peas, peppers, radishes, snap beans, summer squash, tomatoes and other vegetables last week. Favorable weather gave growers the chance to catch up to normal progress with sweet corn harvest; crop harvest passed the half-way mark last week. Demand was high for fresh vegetables at markets.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
	-- Percent --		
Topsoil Moisture			
Very Short	0	0	35
Short	9	2	42
Adequate	72	72	23
Surplus	19	26	0
Subsoil Moisture			
Very Short	0	0	32
Short	14	15	41
Adequate	76	64	27
Surplus	10	21	0

FIELD CROPS: Last week's warm, dry weather provided excellent conditions for making hay. Second and third crop hay harvests remained behind schedule due to earlier wet conditions. Field corn continued to improve with last week's hot, humid weather; crop condition was rated as good to excellent, and some are expecting a bumper crop this year. Potato growers in Maine began vine desiccation in preparation for harvest, while harvest progress in the southern states reached 20 percent last week. After fields dried out from approximately four weeks of rain, Maine farmers were able to catch up on grain crop harvest. Shade and broadleaf tobacco harvests both passed the half-way mark by week's end. Blue mold continued to be a problem in Connecticut broadleaf tobacco fields, and over-ripening of the crop was reported in Massachusetts.

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2003	2002	5-yr Avg	
Barley, ME	30	15	30	Good/Fair
Oats, ME	20	10	20	Good/Fair
Potatoes				
Maine	--	5	5	Good/Excellent
Mass	20	30	30	Good
Rhode Isl	20	40	35	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	--	--	--	Good/Excellent
Sweet Corn	60	55	60	Good/Fair
Tobacco				
Shade	60	90	90	Fair/Good
Broadleaf	65	85	80	Fair/Good
Dry Hay				
First Cut	99	99	99	Good/Fair
Second Cut	70	85	80	Good/Fair
Third Cut	20	45	30	Good/Excellent

For the Week Ending Sunday, August 24, 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	50	88	72	+5	1738	+91	785	+139	0.02	-0.75	2	3.06	+0.01	15	
Bangor_Intl_Arp	47	91	72	+7	1718	+215	772	+230	0.00	-0.77	0	1.62	-1.36	7	
Bethel	49	86	69	+4	1547	+51	635	+109	0.26	-0.65	1	4.41	+0.83	13	
Caribou_Municip	43	83	66	+4	1417	+189	559	+210	0.34	-0.57	4	3.53	-0.20	16	
Dover-Foxcroft	45	84	67	+4	1297	-16	477	+69	0.00	-0.84	0	1.75	-1.50	13	
Frenchville	43	82	65	+5	1302	+161	470	+171	0.09	-0.85	2	3.01	-0.71	10	
Houlton	45	85	66	+4	1479	+197	597	+208	0.04	-0.89	1	4.09	+0.40	13	
Livermore_Falls	39	91	69	+7	1624	+330	721	+331	0.00	-0.98	0	2.93	-0.70	14	
Moosehead	42	85	65	+4	1230	+136	434	+152	0.03	-0.81	1	3.30	-0.12	14	
Portland_ME	46	91	72	+6	1676	+169	727	+173	0.01	-0.63	1	2.09	-0.44	10	
NEW HAMPSHIRE															
Benton	44	84	67	+4	1515	+129	602	+175	0.00	-0.91	0	4.63	+1.04	13	
Berlin_AG	42	85	67	+4	1556	+160	629	+179	0.05	-0.93	1	3.63	-0.25	9	
Concord	43	90	72	+6	1937	+273	927	+276	0.15	-0.60	2	6.83	+3.77	14	
Diamond_Pond	38	83	63	+4	1135	+191	369	+183	0.13	-1.03	1	2.79	-1.82	17	
Keene_AP	41	88	70	+3	1872	+19	846	+57	0.13	-0.74	1	3.97	+0.43	13	
North_Conway	51	89	70	+6	1749	+194	790	+222	0.21	-0.70	2	7.28	+3.66	15	
Rochester	47	91	72	+5	1740	-30	783	+51	0.21	-0.56	1	4.17	+0.90	13	
VERMONT															
Burlington_Intl	54	88	72	+6	2058	+273	972	+230	0.00	-0.91	0	2.48	-1.16	7	
Island_Pond	40	85	66	+5	1449	+304	553	+262	0.01	-1.09	1	4.06	-0.34	16	
Montpelier	49	83	68	+5	1554	+147	617	+163	0.05	-0.84	1	4.74	+1.30	13	
Pownal	46	86	70	+6	1619	+162	628	+144	0.30	-0.68	2	7.46	+3.62	15	
Rochester	51	85	69	+6	1584	+207	642	+204	0.25	-0.80	1	3.45	-0.66	14	
Rutland_AG	42	83	68	+1	1699	-138	718	-51	0.14	-0.83	1	4.78	+0.98	14	
Sutton	41	85	67	+6	1457	+294	554	+248	0.19	-0.87	2	5.11	+0.80	17	
Townshend_Lake	45	86	69	+3	1729	-11	749	+38	0.63	-0.28	3	6.76	+3.20	19	
MASSACHUSETTS															
Ashburnham	47	88	71	+6	1819	+306	820	+285	0.99	+0.22	3	5.77	+2.57	16	
Boston/Logan_In	60	93	76	+6	2146	+52	1079	+92	0.03	-0.74	1	2.89	+0.02	12	
Greenfield	47	90	71	+3	1972	-5	910	+28	1.02	+0.18	3	9.53	+6.17	17	
New_Bedford	50	88	72	+0	1932	-171	914	-81	0.52	-0.46	2	4.13	+0.44	17	
Otis_AFB	54	86	73	+5	1917	+207	928	+219	0.69	-0.08	2	5.17	+2.17	18	
Plymouth	47	88	71	+4	1866	+94	861	+105	0.04	-0.87	1	6.12	+2.65	16	
Walpole	49	90	72	+5	2013	+203	972	+209	0.52	-0.39	2	5.48	+2.01	15	
Chicopee/Westov	45	91	71	-1	2044	-215	962	-142	0.23	-0.59	2	4.55	+1.42	15	
Worthington	42	88	67	+3	1579	+103	624	+127	0.24	-0.67	2	5.99	+2.18	13	
RHODE ISLAND															
Providence	57	90	74	+4	2126	+132	1046	+130	0.43	-0.41	2	5.95	+2.72	14	
Woonsocket	47	89	72	+5	1966	+186	930	+204	0.15	-0.76	2	4.41	+0.77	15	
CONNECTICUT															
Bridgeport/Siko	55	90	75	+4	2176	+38	1088	+51	0.89	+0.19	2	5.34	+2.31	13	
Hartford/Bradle	55	92	75	+4	2237	+62	1101	+56	0.60	-0.24	1	5.75	+2.56	13	
Norfolk	50	88	69	+4	1644	+163	665	+161	0.66	-0.39	2	5.03	+0.97	16	
Thomaston_Dam	46	91	71	+4	2037	+278	952	+248	0.80	-0.18	3	5.20	+1.37	15	
Willimantic	47	90	72	+4	2076	+284	1004	+270	0.04	-0.81	2	2.98	-0.59	14	

STATE WEATHER SUMMARY
 For the Week Ending Sunday, August 24, 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	39	93	68	+5	0.00	0.78
NH	24	92	68	+4	0.00	1.21
VT	32	94	68	+5	0.00	2.18
MA	42	93	71	+4	0.00	1.56
RI	47	90	73	+4	0.00	1.26
CT	45	92	72	+3	0.04	1.15

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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: Harvesting of vegetable crops continues although some producers are experiencing gaps in harvest which disrupts marketing. Tobacco harvest continues. Blue mold infestations are now more numerous than earlier. Apple crops are presently looking very good although spray schedules are tight. Scattered thunderstorms Friday evening left flood type rains in some towns while other towns received none. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Picking Paula Reds and blueberries, finished Jersey Mac's. Vegetable production good (not great). Summer pruning in orchards. Crops still 7 to 10 days behind normal, busier all the time. Woodstock Fair here. Field corn has responded to heat and moisture with vigorous growth and tasseling. Haying continues with better days. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Making hay and catching up with needed maintenance issues were the major activities this week. Those not putting up hay seemed to be working on fences or getting silage choppers ready for the coming corn harvest.

MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook: Potatoes and small grains: Fields are finally drying out. Growers able to maintain a regular spray schedule, a limited amount of potatoes have had the vines desiccated. Last of MH30 being applied. Small grains are being harvested. Growers are finding grain yields are lower than normal. Let's hope for dry weather as harvest approaches. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Vine desiccation has started in some varieties. Good set; should be bulking. Anticipating a good yield. Broccoli harvest, grain combining. Canola is awaiting harvest - 1 to 2 weeks away. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: There are a few aphids, flea beetles and leaf hoppers showing up. No late blight, but some early blight. Grain and potato crops are looking good. **Albert Dow (NRCS), Piscataquis:** Farmers finished first cut haying and harvested much of the second cut hay. **Donna Lamb (Ext), Piscataquis:** Huge temperature swing last week. It was in the 90's on Friday and went down to the high 40's by Saturday night. Farmers were hoping for the drenching rain that was supposed to fall on Saturday, but none came. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Some heat and finally some great hay making weather. The warm temperatures helped the corn crop and the dry weather over the weekend allowed for a lot of second crop hay to be harvested. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** The cool, dry weekend weather was a welcome relief from the heat and humidity of the past several weeks. Blueberries are winding down. Apples are ready at some roadside stands. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Quality variable, fruit size larger than expected, crop estimated at slightly above average. **Michael Tardy (FSA), Androscoggin:** Good week for haying. Early apple harvest has begun. Field corn looks good. Harvesting of sweet corn and small vegetable crops continues. High demand for fresh produce at local farmers' market. **Parker Rand (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Early apples are being harvested, as are hay, sweet corn and the last of the blueberries. Insects and diseases are a problem due to humidity and wetness. Drier air blew in by week's end, which should make harvest easier. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Keep those hay wagons rollin', rollin'. Awesome drying weather. Third cut hay started. Some barley harvested. Looks like a bumper corn crop. **Laura Rand (FSA), Oxford:** What a great week to make hay, you know the saying... when the sun shines... The week started with hot, humid weather however, dried out very nicely at the end of the week. Sweet corn appearing everywhere on farm stands, as well as early potatoes and assorted vegetables. Silage corn appears to be tall and lush, oat crop good, and early apples are being harvested. Harvest season is fast approaching.

MASSACHUSETTS - Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire: We've had the first dry weather in a month. The ground is so saturated that mowed hay takes a day longer to dry. Veggie producers are preparing for cover crops which should get a good start on moist ground. Yellow squash producers had an inconsistent harvest. There are reports of bears eating corn. Some combining of small grains and baling of straw. **Paul Russell (FSA), Southeast Massachusetts:** Warm, humid weather arrived in time for harvest. The first real heat wave of the season helped many crops along, however insect damage and poor pollination has greatly reduced yields. Cranberry growers are applying their final sprays and preparing for harvest. Hay producers are struggling to make hay as wet ground and humid conditions slow the drying process. Shellfish production is good, however markets continue to be soft as the southern states are shipping into the markets. **David Rose (FSA), Bristol:** Harvesting continues. Phytophthora crown rot is affecting peppers, squash and pumpkins. **John Devine (FSA), Franklin:** Another week of hot, muggy and wet weather hasn't helped field or crop conditions. Producers are reporting disease or water problems in vine crops, sweet corn, tobacco and peppers. Scattered areas of Franklin County had hail damage on Friday. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Fewer rain showers and cooler temperatures improved field conditions some. The past high temperatures and extreme moisture amounts caused crops to mature very fast. Also, disease and insect pressure is very high because of the wet, damp conditions. All crops are still in good supply and demand is high. Some broadleaf tobacco growers reporting crop is getting over ripe.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap: Sweet corn, tomato and pepper harvests are at their peaks. Many other vegetables are also being picked. Growers have had to work hard to beat fungal diseases and weeds because of the summer's heavy rainfall. Paula Red apple harvest and fall mum sales have begun. Expect corn mazes to open around Labor Day. Pastures look very green but a few people are just getting to a second cut because of wet field conditions. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Generally a hot, humid week, with a couple gorgeous, clear days for the weekend. Field corn looks good - maturity ranges from blister to late milk. Third cutting haylage and baleage in full swing. Lots of dry hay mowed and baled over the weekend. Farm stands still featuring a wide variety of veggies. Blueberries still doing fairly well. PYO apples has started with early varieties. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Hot, humid and dry week, cooling off by weekend. Mid 30's in some locales. Made for good hay drying weather as second cut hay harvest progresses. Field corn looks quite good, now at about milk stage. Sweet corn also, and is in farm stands in quantity. Warm season grasses flowering. Late season raspberries sizing up. Summer veggies in abundance, pumpkins and winter squash coloring. Black bears seem to be a problem this year. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Third cut progressing. Forage quality is good to excellent. Corn looks good and continues to mature slowly. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** The week of August 17th was a good week for field work. If you didn't get your hay in, then you missed out on the weather. The corn is growing fast. Grass is looking good on the fields for third cut. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Vegetables: Growers harvesting an array of vegetables: beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, cucumbers, greens, lettuce, peas, potatoes, radishes, snap beans, summer squash, sweet corn and other vegetables. High disease and insect pressure, so farmers kept busy spraying pesticides for insects and diseases. Fruit: Orchardists harvesting peaches, plums, first pears and Paula Red apples. Many highbush blueberry growers are done harvesting and raspberry harvest continues with fall bearing varieties.

Orchardists busy monitoring for pests, summer pruning trees, mowing orchard floors and fixing up orchard roads. Field Crops: Second and third cut progressing as weather permits. Growth has been good to excellent. Corn looks good to excellent. **David Seavey (Ext), Merrimack:** Fields starting to dry out. Farmers making second cutting of hay. Excellent quality sweet corn being harvested. Orchardists are mowing and harvesting early apples. Sprays are applied for apple maggot and earworm on sweet corn. Warm season vegetables being harvested. Roadside vegetable sales are excellent. Blueberry harvest is almost over. **Pam Marvin (FSA), Sullivan:** Silage corn is looking great in some areas. Good color and good height. A break in the rain was welcomed this past week. Corn harvesting should begin very soon. Third cut of hay is coming along nicely as well as the fourth cutting of alfalfa haylage. Apple picking is just about to begin with early varieties. Sweet corn harvesting is winding down with a good crop this year.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: Lots of good haying weather this week, catch up time!! Harvesting sweet corn, tomatoes, squashes and summer vegetables. Spraying fungicides and top kill on early potatoes. Roadside stands are filling up with mums, vegetables and fruits.

VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille: Great week for fieldwork! Lots of second and third cut grass

harvested. Some small grains harvested. Manure spreading kept many busy. Corn crop still on track for both early harvest and record yields. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** A lot of nice weather last week allowed farmers to catch up on haying. Most of second crop hay harvested. Some farms are cropping third crop hay. The drier weather has made it easier to harvest hay. The ground is drying out so there are less field ruts. Corn is developing ears. Most corn looks really good. This should be a high yield year for corn. **Lynette Hamilton/Perley Sparrow (FSA), Windham:** Another strange week of weather in Windham County. Producers are trying to finish up second cutting of hay but third cutting is ready now. Corn is still growing with some ears in the milk stage but the dry down will be slow. Veggie farmers have started to harvest early potatoes. Sweet corn is still available with slower market demands. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Another hot, sticky week. Lots of haying, corn growing well. It cooled off on Saturday night, many locations with temps in low 40's. **Chris Benedict (Ext), Chittenden:** Apples: Began to harvest early varieties this week. Pristine turned out great, although with some variation in maturity. THE SEASON HAS BEGUN! **Heather Darby (Ext), Franklin:** Nice weather allowed much field work this week. Third cut hay and haylage being made. Most corn has tasseled at this point. Some lodging from corn root worm being reported.

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**

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

Joe Samson, Deputy Director
Stat Assistant: Wayne Colpitt

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