



# New England Agricultural Statistics Service

a field office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service  
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## Crop Weather

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June 28, 2004 - 4 pm

For week ending 6/27/04

### Warm, Sunny Week

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:** For the week ending June 27, 2004, there were 5.7 days available for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture was rated four percent very short, 13 percent short, 80 percent adequate, three percent surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated three percent very short, 12 percent short, 78 percent adequate, seven percent surplus. Pasture condition was rated three percent poor, 11 percent fair, 71 percent good, 15 percent excellent. A week of warm temperatures mixed with scattered showers enabled farmers to step up planting progress to near completion levels. Despite showers, growers in some areas were forced to irrigate where fields were too dry. Crop growth and development continue to improve, but more sunshine is needed. Major farm activities included: planting vegetables, sweet corn, field corn, tobacco; harvesting strawberries and early vegetables; making hay and haylage; mowing orchards; cultivating weeds; irrigating dry fields; scouting fields for pests and disease; applying fungicides, herbicides and insecticides.

**FRUIT:** Growers continued monitoring pests, applying pesticides as needed, and mowing orchards. The last of the bees were removed from Wild Blueberry fields. Cranberries growers applied fungicides as they kept an eye out for fruit rot. By the end of the week, all varieties were in full bloom and the fruit set was rated average. Strawberries harvest was in full swing as 45 percent of the crop has been harvested. Producers are reporting a good season as berries are in high demand.

#### SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
	-- Percent --		
<b>Topsoil Moisture</b>			
Very Short	4	0	2
Short	13	12	19
Adequate	80	81	68
Surplus	3	7	11
<b>Subsoil Moisture</b>			
Very Short	3	0	3
Short	12	6	14
Adequate	78	84	76
Surplus	7	10	7

**FIELD CROPS:** Weather conditions were excellent for haying last week in most locations as first cut hay advanced 15 percentage points from the previous week. Some farmers are getting ready to start on their second cutting of hay, while others are struggling to finish their first cut due to wet fields. Corn silage planting was nearly complete during the week with crop condition reported as good. Maine potato emergence is up to 90 percent complete, slightly behind last year and average. Maine oat and barley crops were rated in good or excellent condition. Broadleaf tobacco transplanting advanced to 95 percent during the week, still ahead of last year and normal.

#### FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Fruit Size	Condition
	2004	2003	5-yr Avg		
Apples	--	--	--	Avg	Good/Fair
Peaches	--	--	--	Avg	Fair/Good
Pears	--	--	--	Avg	Good/Fair
Blueberries					
Highbush	--	--	--	Avg	Fair/Good
Wild, ME	--	--	--	Avg	Poor/Fair
Cranberries, MA					Fair/Good
Strawberries	45	25	45	Avg	Good/Fair

**VEGETABLES:** Planting continued for cabbage, cucumbers, beans, tobacco and sweet corn. Additional sunshine and warmer temperatures would help with corn growth. Roadside stands are filled with early vegetables as farmers have harvested beets, lettuce, peas, radishes, spinach, and summer squash.

#### FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2004	2003	5-yr Avg	Condition
	-- Percent Emerged --			
Barley, ME	100	100	100	Good/Excel
Oats, ME	100	100	100	Excel/Good
Potatoes				
Maine	90	99	95	Excel/Good
Mass	100	100	100	Good
Rhode Isl	100	100	100	Good/Excel
Silage Corn	95	75	85	Good
Sweet Corn	90	75	85	Good/Excel
	-- Percent Planted --			
Silage Corn	99	95	95	Good
Sweet Corn	95	90	95	Good/Excel
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	95	80	90	Good
	-- Percent Harvested --			
Dry Hay				
First Cut	75	60	65	Good/Fair
Second Cut	<5	<5	5	Good/Excel

For the Week Ending Sunday, June 27, 2004

The 41 stations shown below were limited by space but were well distributed across the region. All 86 stations appear on the Internet and in e-mail subscriptions.

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				CUM SINCE MAR 1 GROWI NG DEGREE DAYS				1-WEEK PRECIP			4-WEEK CUM PRECIP		
	-----				-----				-----			-----		
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS
<b>MAI NE</b>														
Augusta_State_A	49	79	62	-5	525	-37	125	-6	0.63	-0.14	4	1.72	-1.39	10
Bangor_Intl_Arp	47	81	62	-4	480	-10	117	+19	0.63	-0.14	3	1.74	-1.38	7
Bethel	45	79	60	-5	509	+3	121	+17	0.38	-0.53	2	1.19	-2.51	11
Cari bou_Muni cip	43	74	57	-6	322	-69	60	+3	0.69	-0.03	5	3.13	+0.44	14
Dover-Foxcroft	45	73	59	-5	319	-84	57	-3	0.20	-0.64	3	1.61	-1.84	9
Frenchville	46	72	56	-7	275	-75	38	-4	1.02	+0.25	4	4.16	+1.26	16
Houlton	41	77	57	-7	332	-69	69	+7	0.74	-0.03	6	2.30	-0.78	14
Livermore_Falls	41	79	61	-3	496	+87	128	+65	0.69	-0.24	4	2.02	-1.83	10
Moosehead	40	75	58	-4	303	-7	43	+12	0.45	-0.49	4	2.18	-1.45	11
Portland_ME	47	80	62	-4	499	+30	124	+40	0.86	+0.09	3	2.00	-1.22	12
<b>NEW_HAMPSHI RE</b>														
Benton	42	78	59	-6	506	+10	124	+32	0.53	-0.31	4	1.95	-1.58	13
Berlin_AG	44	78	61	-4	505	+22	130	+37	0.26	-0.68	3	1.48	-2.34	10
Concord	43	81	63	-4	759	+166	256	+106	0.61	-0.11	4	1.95	-1.00	14
Diamond_Pond	41	74	55	-6	289	+13	37	+20	0.49	-0.59	3	4.38	+0.08	12
Keene_AP	43	82	63	-6	722	+13	216	+2	0.26	-0.58	3	1.58	-1.79	10
North_Conway	44	80	62	-4	594	+50	175	+49	0.77	-0.14	4	1.95	-1.76	15
Rochester	46	81	64	-5	611	-38	187	+6	0.50	-0.27	3	1.77	-1.52	10
<b>VERMONT</b>														
Burlington_Intl	46	83	63	-6	753	+89	266	+73	0.99	+0.15	5	3.33	+0.09	13
Island_Pond	39	78	58	-5	419	+45	85	+27	0.48	-0.50	5	3.89	-0.09	14
Montpelier	42	80	60	-5	571	+78	164	+63	0.47	-0.30	5	2.38	-0.89	12
Pownal	45	79	60	-5	644	+131	167	+60	1.03	-0.01	4	2.36	-1.90	12
Rochester	42	83	61	-4	561	+89	144	+51	0.54	-0.30	3	3.17	-0.35	11
Rutland_AG	43	81	61	-8	615	-101	154	-65	0.40	-0.44	4	3.51	+0.18	11
Sutton	42	79	59	-4	427	+54	97	+39	0.61	-0.37	5	2.70	-1.27	13
Townshend_Lake	43	79	61	-7	645	+9	176	+1	0.73	+0.03	4	2.62	-0.32	13
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>														
Ashburnham	46	81	64	-3	681	+160	195	+83	0.80	-0.04	3	2.31	-1.02	13
Boston/Logan_In	58	84	69	-2	855	+70	313	+67	0.70	+0.00	2	1.95	-0.94	9
Greenfield	45	84	65	-5	787	+18	257	+13	0.51	-0.33	3	2.43	-1.14	13
New_Bedford	46	83	67	-4	735	-35	214	-16	0.09	-0.71	2	1.38	-1.98	9
Otis_AFB	55	79	67	+1	660	+101	189	+60	0.06	-0.65	1	1.80	-1.23	8
Plymouth	45	83	67	-2	691	+90	217	+61	0.33	-0.44	2	1.70	-1.53	11
Walpole	48	85	67	-1	803	+148	262	+82	0.47	-0.38	2	2.24	-1.24	10
Chillicoet/Westov	52	82	67	-5	956	+47	362	+40	0.22	-0.69	3	1.28	-2.53	11
Worthington	42	81	61	-4	609	+91	159	+51	0.62	-0.29	3	3.28	-0.35	13
<b>RHODE_I SLAND</b>														
Providence	53	84	69	-2	873	+147	297	+79	0.14	-0.63	2	1.36	-1.76	9
Woonsocket	49	83	67	-1	797	+152	265	+101	0.00	-0.91	0	1.25	-2.51	8
<b>CONNECTI CUT</b>														
Bridgport/Siko	52	81	69	-2	933	+137	330	+67	0.18	-0.65	2	1.28	-1.94	11
Hartford/Bradle	49	85	68	-4	977	+112	373	+69	1.17	+0.33	2	2.20	-1.33	12
Norfolk	45	78	62	-3	694	+180	210	+104	1.05	+0.00	3	3.80	-0.51	13
Thomaston_Dam	41	82	66	-2	934	+275	343	+167	0.04	-0.87	2	1.41	-2.41	12
Willimantic	45	82	66	-2	865	+196	296	+115	0.18	-0.73	2	2.03	-1.48	12

**STATE WEATHER SUMMARY**  
For the Week Ending Sunday, June 27, 2004

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	LO	HI	AV	DF	LO	HI
ME	34	81	60	-5	0.08	2.04
NH	32	83	60	-5	0.14	1.17
VT	36	85	60	-6	0.22	1.57
MA	41	87	65	-2	0.06	1.52
RI	49	84	67	-1	0.00	0.37
CT	41	85	66	-4	0.00	1.17

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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**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:** Excellent haying weather this past week. Rain on Friday. Hay and field corn crops look good. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** A lot of hay made, some chopping second cutting. Subsequent plantings of sweet corn, beans, summer squash, and cabbage. Those who have the ability to irrigate are doing so. Wide range of rain, from 0.1 to 1.4 inches fell Friday night. Clipping pastures. Strawberry harvest has been very good this year. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Ready to start second cutting of hay. Strawberries were plentiful and tasty. Final picking being done. We really do need some rain. Fields are getting very dry. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Bright blue sky type of week with brief showers. Corn growing rapidly. Weeds trying to catch up to the corn. Mature hay harvesting. Still some planting, Farm Weed and Seed field day well attended. Fixing equipment and reporting crop acres to USDA. Blueberries just beginning as strawberries are finishing. **Karen Vozarik (FSA), New Haven:** Spotty but severe rain storms went through on Friday. Ground is rock hard. We need rain. Producers are irrigating. Picking green beans, squash, lettuce. Quality of hay depends on the area. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Still struggling with weather to finish first cut hay. No drying weather, wet fields and evening showers playing havoc with harvest schedules.

**MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Constant showers throughout the week have made doing any field work difficult. Soils too wet and heavy to do any hilling, but with good weather and the equipment growers have, they will be able to catch up. First fungicide sprays being applied. With adequate moisture and warmer temperatures we should see some rapid growth with crops. Crop appearance much improved. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Cultivation and initial fungicide applications beginning. Some early insecticides being applied as well. The potato crop is 90 percent emerged and the remainder is expected to emerge this week. The crop looks excellent, with the rain providing plenty of water. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: All crops are looking and growing good at this time. **Albert Dow (NRCS), Piscataquis:** Farmers have mowed hay, but there has not been enough drying to bale it. Green chopping continues. Pastures look good. Potatoes look excellent. **Donna Lamb (Ext), Piscataquis:** Not enough rain to really make a difference with the growing crops, just enough to delay hay making. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Still no heat to make the corn grow. Knee high by the fourth of July will be a tough one for many growers to realize. No good hay-making weather either. Strawberry harvest has started, but is coming slow. Scattered armyworm reports. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Peas are ready. Sweet corn looking good. Strawberries and greens for sale. Hay being cut when the weather is good. An inch of rain on Saturday in the Mid-Coast kept gardens from drying out. Several days of fog during the week. Sunday was a keeper. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Last of bees taken out of Downeast fields. **Michael Tardy (FSA), Androscoggin:** Another good week but we are still missing heat. These crops need that warm sun and more warm nights. Summer is taking its time giving up its full warmth, but it will be here. Apple producers are still concerned about the winter kill. They see trees continuing to die and expect to see this trend continue through harvest. Many of the folks who lost alfalfa, and even grass for some, have replanted and are keeping fingers crossed. Many farmers changed their planting plans because of the harsh winter and the cool spring. **Jill Littlefield (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Good week for Crops. PYO strawberries have opened for picking. Other crops are growing but are delayed due to weather. Silage corn is finally about all planted. Sweet corn looks excellent. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** First cut hay is down about a third from last year, winter kill is the culprit. Very little alfalfa made it through the winter here. Apple set is not good, especially for some varieties. Winter damage and an early bloom with poor pollination are the causes. Apple production will be down this year. **Laura Rand (FSA), Oxford:** Lots of wrapped bales are showing up all over the county. Corn is looking green and potatoes are being cultivated. Strawberries are being picked, however ripening at different rates.

**MASSACHUSETTS - Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire:** Hay is

being harvested with high yields, some was rained on by slight showers. Still waiting for a good run of dry weather that lasts more than two days. Be nice to have an old fashioned week of real hot and dry weather. PYO crops are doing real business, good crop. **Paul Russell (FSA), Southeast Massachusetts:** Cranberries are in full bloom and starting to set, conditions for the set are excellent as we are experiencing warm days and cool night. Vegetable crops and sweet corn are improving daily, first cutting of hay has excellent quality as a result of good hay-making weather. Growers are wrapping up planting, cultivating and side-dressing field crops, cranberry growers are applying insecticides and fungicides and irrigating. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: All varieties in bloom. Bloom appears to be very good, but some beds did not have their bee hives in place. Fungicides being applied for fruit rot control. Dodder beginning to take hold in some spots. Growers irrigating because rain has been very spotty and infrequent. Those beds that showed winter injury look much better, although crop will be reduced there. **David Rose (FSA), Bristol:** We are still looking for a good rain as farmers have been irrigating regularly. Summer squash and zucchini now being harvested as well as beets, peas, lettuce and spinach. Tree fruit looks good. Still harvesting first cut hay. Disease pressure is low because of the dry weather. **John Devine (FSA), Franklin:** Hot weather and the lack of substantial rainfall forced many farmers to irrigate this week. Forage corn will certainly be "knee high by the 4th of July" on most fields. All farmers are side-dressing and cultivating this week. Some hay fields are getting overripe and should be cut soon. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** The week was warm and sunny with a few well-needed weekend rain showers. Growers continued to plant tobacco, sweet corn, cabbage, greens, beans, cucumbers. Harvesting summer squash, zucchini, peas, beets, beans, radishes, strawberries and lettuce. Mostly all crops look very good. Growers are top-dressing crops, cultivating, hoeing, irrigating dry fields, scouting for insects, and applying fungicides if needed. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** Top-dressing and side-dressing corn and vegetable crops. Working the crowds at u-pick strawberry fields. Strawberries are best in all my years of growing them. Rain on Saturday morning just the right amount for crops here. Sweet corn easily knee high already. Fall crops all look great. Plant sales still going strong.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap:** Picking rhubarb, summer squash, zucchini, peas, beet greens, lettuce, spinach, and strawberries. Most of the first hay is cut and baled. Fruit growers are monitoring pests and mowing. Apple fruit set looks good. Garden centers are busy selling ornamental plants to second home owners on the lakes. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Corn continues to do well; producers are taking pre side-dressed nitrogen tests and side-dressing, finishing up post-emergence herbicide applications. First cutting for haylage is starting to wind down. Lots of folks out making hay - generally great drying conditions most of the week. Strawberries are almost done. Vegetable crops continue to grow well. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** First cutting continues as weather permits. Quality is lower as plants mature. Second cutting in full swing. Quality good to excellent. Corn continues to grow well despite cool weather. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** So far, for the month of June, we have received 1.67 inches of rain. Last week we received 0.56 inches. We had four days of dry weather last week. We are getting reports of shallow wells and springs that have either gone dry, or are having trouble keeping up with demand. Some small streams have started to dwindle down to a trickle. Ground water appears to be more limited than it would appear to the casual observer. Corn is generally a little behind due to cooler temperatures, and in some cases was planted later than was customary for some of the farms in the area. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Strawberry harvest is in full swing. Sweet cherry harvest started. Fruit growers monitoring pest and crop development. Applying sprays for pest control and mowing orchard grass. Growers were hand-thinning peaches and some apple varieties where necessary. Training newly planted trees. Fire Blight seen in orchards on varieties more susceptible to blight. Some apple scab seen. Field Crops: With drier weather during week, farmers continued to bale hay or make haylage at a faster rate. Grass hay is maturing rapidly. Finished planting silage corn and post-emergence weed spraying in corn fields. Side-dressing fertilizer to field corn and

spreading manure on harvested hayfields. Vegetables: Continuing successive planting. Growers continue to harvest early season vegetables such as lettuce, greens, radishes, summer squash. Growers busy trying to side-dress fields with fertilizer, cultivating, mowing weeds, scouting for pests and spraying if needed. Cutworms and striped cucumber beetle are busy! **John Porter (Ext), Merrimack:** Silage corn is looking good, but could use more heat. Weather has allowed some opportunities for hay harvest. Vegetables growing well, but need more heat. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Successive planting of vegetables. Top-dressing with fertilizer, weeding, and monitoring for pests and spraying accordingly. Harvesting greenhouse and high-tunnel tomatoes, zucchinis, leafy vegetables. Asparagus harvest almost done. Still picking strawberries. Haying and fertilizing. Some fields are still too wet after the steady rain and some torrential rain that happened on Saturday. **Pam Marvin (FSA), Sullivan:** PYO Strawberries are in full swing with excellent reports coming out of the fields. Reports of one to two repeat plantings of cucumbers and squash due to turkeys feeding on young growth. Lots of first cutting of hay still being done. Second cutting of alfalfa should start soon. Good weather has helped with periodic showers. Could use more rain soon. The silage corn crop is coming up very healthy, except for some spots due to excess rain after planting. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** Good week for field work with rains at the weekend. Farmers continued making haylage. Regrowth on the fields looking good. Strawberry continued very well through the week. PYO strawberry operations were very busy. Apples, raspberries and blueberries are looking good. Some blueberry farms are seeing some signs of mummyberry infection. Fruit growers mowing orchards and scouting for pests and spraying accordingly. Vegetable growers harvesting early season vegetables, continuing with successive planting of several vegetable crops, and weeding other crops. Nurseries busy starting on mum crop for fall sales. Shrub and tree sales continued strong through the week for most nurseries.

**RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport:** Spraying potatoes, round-up applied to corn and some starting to prune Christmas Trees. The strawberry season looks like a good one, lots of pickers and plenty of berries. First cut hay looks good. Roadside stands are filling with lots of early vegetables, seasonal flowers still readily available.

**VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille:** Corn generally doing well. Some already knee high and would be growing faster if the nights were warmer. The rain we've had on a regular basis has helped most vegetables. First cut of grass is winding down but conditions have been poor for making dry hay bales. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Rain Showers this week delayed hay harvest. Most of the haylage has been harvested. Some farmers are trying to dry some of their first cut. Farmers are reporting high yields for first cut hay, I haven't heard about the quality yet. Corn looks good but not excellent at this point. There needs to be some hot weather to push the corn along. Adequate moisture has kept the pastures in good shape for grazing. **Perley Sparrow (FSA), Windham:** First cut is just about over, every producer is reporting a better than average crop. Second cut alfalfa is almost ready. Newly seeded alfalfa is ready also. Prickly cucumber is being controlled with second application of chemicals. Some producers are burning it with propane torches on back-packs. Strawberries producers are reporting a good season with excellent demand for berries. **Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Harvested last of first cut hay. Good regrowth on hay fields. Corn is mostly vigorous. Some poorer performing fields were planted during rainy period in June. Early planted corn excellent. Some manure spreading on hay land. Nitrogen fertilizer side-dressing on corn fields. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Last of sweet corn planted. Nitrogen put on fields as they are ready. Potatoes all hilled and looking good; sprayed vine crops for cucumber beatles. One day of cloudy, light rain (0.366 inches ) helped a lot. Good picking of peas. Asparagus all done. Small vegetables filling the market. Early sweet corn starting to tassel. Have a good week.

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