



# New England Agricultural Statistics Service

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

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August 2, 2004 - 4 pm

For week ending 8/01/04

### Humid Conditions Continued During Week

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:** For the week ending August 1, 2004, there were 5.2 days available for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture was rated one percent very short, six percent short, 73 percent adequate, 20 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated one percent very short, seven percent short, 79 percent adequate, 13 percent surplus. Pasture condition was rated four percent poor, 24 percent fair, 62 percent good, 10 percent excellent. Cool, wet conditions at the beginning of the week gave way to hot, humid weather by week's end, making dry hay harvest difficult for many farmers. Major farm activities included: mowing orchards; spreading manure; cultivating; weeding, monitoring fields; applying pesticides, cutting and baling hay; harvesting highbush blueberries, peaches, broadleaf and shade tobacco.

#### SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
<b>Topsoil Moisture</b>			
Very Short	1	0	6
Short	6	19	20
Adequate	73	70	67
Surplus	20	11	13
<b>Subsoil Moisture</b>			
Very Short	1	1	9
Short	7	17	15
Adequate	79	75	70
Surplus	13	7	6

**FRUIT:** Peach harvest began last week with 10 percent of the crop picked. Some apple growers reported dying trees in orchards due to last winter's bitter temperatures. Berry growers continued harvesting raspberry and highbush blueberries. Wild blueberry harvest has begun in the mid-coast region of Maine. Cranberries have finished blooming and the crop condition was reported as good.

**FIELD CROPS:** The hot, humid temperatures provided excellent growing conditions for field corn. Some growers reported the crop has begun to tassel while early planted corn has reached the silk stage. Some operators were trying to finish their first cut of hay between showers while others began their third cut. Maine potato growers applied fungicides and insecticides as necessary as they scouted fields for disease and insect pressure. Late blight and European Corn Borer egg masses were active in some fields. Broadleaf tobacco harvest was underway during the week and Shade tobacco harvest progressed to 20 percent complete.

#### FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2004	2003	5-yr Avg	
Apples	--	--	--	Good/Fair
Peaches	10	10	20	Fair/Good
Pears	--	--	--	Good
Blueberries				
Highbush	65	30	35	Good/Fair
Wild, ME	--	5	5	Fair/Poor
Cranberries, MA	--	--	--	Good

**VEGETABLES:** Sweet corn harvest was well underway and has been in great demand at farm stands and local markets. A variety of vegetables, such as beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, cucumbers, lettuce, peas, potatoes, radishes, snap beans and summer squash, were flowing through markets as sales have been brisk. Growers also reported a good fruit set on pumpkins.

#### FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2004	2003	5-yr Avg	
-- Percent Harvested --				
Barley, ME	--	--	--	Good/Excellent
Oats, ME	--	--	--	Good/Excellent
Potatoes:				
Maine	--	--	--	Excellent/Good
Mass	10	<5	5	Good/Fair
Rhode Isl	--	<5	10	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	--	--	--	Good
Sweet Corn	20	15	25	Good/Excellent
Tobacco:				
Shade	20	20	25	Good
Broadleaf	<5	5	15	Good
Dry Hay:				
First Cut	90	95	95	Good/Fair
Second Cut	35	45	50	Good
Third Cut	<5	--	5	Good/Fair

For the Week Ending Sunday, August 1, 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 GROWING DEGREE DAYS				1-WEEK PRECIP			4-WEEK CUM PRECIP		
	-----				-----				-----			-----		
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS
<b>MAINE</b>														
Augusta_State_A	57	83	69	-2	1146	-97	396	-65	1.00	+0.25	3	2.60	-0.27	15
Bangor_Intl_Arp	56	84	69	+0	1078	-46	366	-16	0.50	-0.20	3	1.97	-1.00	13
Bethel	47	86	67	-2	1077	-55	340	-40	0.55	-0.29	2	5.39	+2.17	14
Caribou_Municip	46	85	68	+3	856	-75	261	+3	0.75	-0.23	2	3.07	-0.64	14
Dover-Foxcroft	52	82	67	-1	825	-153	225	-64	0.06	-0.71	1	1.25	-1.95	10
Frenchville	51	84	68	+4	782	-80	219	+0	1.14	+0.23	2	4.94	+1.44	13
Houlton	45	86	68	+2	853	-112	268	-15	0.31	-0.60	1	2.19	-1.27	12
Livermore_Falls	52	87	69	+3	1107	+135	389	+110	0.48	-0.33	2	4.02	+0.90	15
Moosehead	45	83	65	+0	749	-60	168	-30	0.30	-0.61	1	4.67	+1.03	15
Portland_ME	57	82	69	-1	1103	-11	378	-1	0.43	-0.20	3	3.85	+1.13	14
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>														
Benton	51	82	66	-1	1045	-17	317	+4	0.89	+0.04	2	6.05	+2.88	11
Berlin_AG	53	85	67	+1	1067	+1	344	+14	1.30	+0.39	2	4.34	+0.91	10
Concord	55	87	70	+1	1435	+164	582	+105	1.36	+0.59	3	4.01	+1.07	15
Diamond_Pond	46	77	62	+0	677	-31	121	-6	0.53	-0.56	3	5.15	+0.94	17
Keene_AP	55	86	70	-2	1361	-67	506	-77	1.29	+0.45	2	3.47	+0.19	11
North_Conway	52	86	69	+0	1225	+36	456	+36	0.88	+0.00	3	6.12	+2.72	16
Rochester	55	85	68	-3	1228	-124	454	-80	0.84	+0.02	3	4.62	+1.47	12
<b>VERMONT</b>														
Burlington_Intl	58	84	70	-1	1454	+78	617	+64	0.51	-0.36	4	6.90	+3.58	18
Island_Pond	49	82	66	+2	946	+80	277	+64	0.48	-0.56	4	4.82	+0.92	17
Montpelier	55	82	68	+2	1160	+82	404	+65	1.21	+0.44	5	4.32	+1.46	21
Pownal	54	82	67	-1	1212	+102	386	+32	2.85	+1.94	4	7.30	+3.66	15
Rochester	50	84	66	-1	1143	+97	379	+58	2.03	+1.07	4	6.96	+3.42	16
Rutland_AG	57	84	68	-4	1230	-192	420	-153	1.40	+0.49	5	4.90	+1.37	16
Sutton	50	83	65	+1	950	+68	277	+50	0.77	-0.26	4	4.85	+0.97	17
Townshend_Lake	55	84	67	-3	1248	-86	430	-93	2.11	+1.27	4	4.68	+1.57	17
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>														
Ashburnham	55	85	69	+0	1335	+185	499	+108	0.95	+0.15	3	4.19	+0.87	16
Boston/Logan_In	59	89	71	-4	1606	+4	714	+1	0.27	-0.41	2	3.08	+0.51	10
Greenfield	58	87	70	-3	1465	-62	585	-67	1.22	+0.38	3	4.47	+1.11	14
New_Bedford	50	85	70	-5	1448	-142	577	-124	0.92	+0.12	2	2.06	-0.78	10
Otis_AFB	57	84	70	-2	1372	+103	551	+63	0.50	-0.20	2	1.42	-1.18	6
Plymouth	52	85	69	-3	1384	+53	560	+25	0.96	+0.17	3	2.08	-1.02	11
Walpole	55	87	70	-2	1527	+147	636	+82	0.14	-0.66	2	3.35	+0.24	9
Chicopee/Westov	59	84	71	-5	1687	-65	743	-72	1.05	+0.28	3	4.24	+1.03	11
Worthington	52	84	67	-2	1182	+61	383	+23	1.00	+0.02	3	4.31	+0.39	16
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>														
Providence	58	86	72	-2	1645	+130	719	+63	0.72	-0.05	2	2.95	+0.06	9
Woonsocket	54	86	70	-2	1498	+140	616	+90	0.11	-0.80	3	2.76	-0.81	12
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>														
Bridgeport/Siko	62	85	73	-3	1749	+126	796	+56	0.83	+0.00	2	4.68	+1.27	9
Hartford/Bradle	59	89	73	-1	1755	+66	801	+24	0.75	+0.01	2	3.72	+0.86	12
Norfolk	56	81	68	-1	1289	+164	455	+88	1.77	+0.79	4	4.21	+0.42	15
Thomaston_Dam	57	90	72	+2	1671	+325	730	+217	0.97	+0.01	3	4.88	+1.11	14
Willimantic	55	85	71	+1	1574	+203	655	+121	1.09	+0.18	2	3.09	-0.66	13

**STATE WEATHER SUMMARY**  
For the Week Ending Sunday, August 1, 2004

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	42	87	67	-1	0.01	1.95
NH	43	88	67	-1	0.53	3.86
VT	46	86	67	+0	0.11	2.85
MA	50	90	70	-2	0.14	2.54
RI	54	86	70	-3	0.11	0.95
CT	54	90	71	-2	0.07	2.02

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 - Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Shade tobacco harvest continues. Topping broadleaf tobacco and applying sucker control. Sweet corn and other vegetable harvest continues. Tough to make second cut hay with frequent showers. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Hazy, hot and humid. Hard to dry hay. Corn growing well. Farmers' markets busy with vegetables, peaches, early apples and flower bouquet sales. Local sweet corn tasty. Blueberry picking is great. Some crop losses evident in apples, peaches and corn. **MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Growers applying fungicides and insecticides when necessary. Scouting fields for disease and insect pressure. A few starting to check over harvesting equipment and make necessary repairs. Sufficient moisture and warm temperatures with sunny weather is bringing crops along at a rapid pace. Barley is starting to ripen. Some Colorado Potato Beetles appearing along with a few aphids. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Fungicides are being applied at a 5-day spray schedule. Some insecticides applied to control European Corn Borer. Growers are scouting fields for insects and disease. Crops are looking excellent. Sizing of potatoes is also excellent. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Some European Corn Borer activity still in the area and with some late blight in Canada. Farmers are shortening their spray schedule. No late blight in this area. **Albert Dow (NRCS), Piscataquis:** Some hay has been baled. Few have finished haying first crop. Blueberry crop is poor. **Donna Lamb (Ext), Piscataquis:** Wet weather has helped pastures grow. The recent hot weather has helped the corn start to show some promising growth. Farmers are still trying to get in their first cut hay although it is over mature and will be of poor quality when cut. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** The odd weather is still causing problems for hay and corn crops. Sweet corn harvest has finally started. Heavy rains on Sunday - one to two inches in about a half an hour. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Blueberry harvest has started. Local sweet corn is available at roadside stands. We finally had sun at the end of the week. The sunny conditions are beneficial to the maturing and drying of crops. **Michael Tardy (FSA), Androscoggin:** Another week of fighting the showers to "make hay". We had a few good days that allowed farmers to cut the grass, let it dry and bale it before the next shower. Market garden folks are selling cukes, beet greens, new potatoes, summer squash and zucchini. Sweet corn has hit the shelves, barely drying off from the wetness of the field before someone has claimed it for the evening meal. The warm, humid weather has been good for many crops. Silage and grain corn have really perked up and look much greener. Apple growers are still seeing the effects of those cold, "snowless" winter days. Trees are still dying; some have lots of green but no apples. The apple people tell us that these symptoms will continue through the season, and will probably creep into next year. **Jill Littlefield (FSA), Cumberland/York:** The heat finally visited this area by the end of the week. Farmers are still finding it impossible to make dry hay. Summer vegetables are starting to come along. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Finally some heat!!! This weeks corn growth spurt was the biggest of the summer. Hay harvest and quality continue to falter because of shower activity. **Laura Rand (FSA), Oxford:** Producers are still haying when weather permits. Sweet corn is starting to be harvested in this county. Blueberries are being harvested. Very hot and humid weather over the weekend left some farmers with wet hay as Saturday night brought very heavy rains. Apple producers are still reporting dying apple trees due to winter weather. Some maple producers have reported winter damage to their trees in Oxford County.

**MASSACHUSETTS - Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire:** Farmers were very busy haying, top-dressing crops, replanting and checking for bugs. No disease or insect problems yet. Veggie growers are busy harvesting and marketing a good crop. Up to three inches of rain has been reported this week. Rain water has pooled in low areas. **David Rose (FSA), Bristol:** Crops continue to look good as harvesting moves along. Heat and humidity have pushed crops causing corn and beans to bunch up as several

plantings mature at once. Fruit crops look good. Peach harvest should begin this week. **John Devine (FSA), Franklin:** Hot and muggy weather signaled the beginning of field tobacco harvest in Franklin County. Producers have said that this year's tobacco crop looks excellent right now. Harvesting of cucumbers, sweet corn, beans and greens has kept producers busy all week. Heavy thundershowers Sunday morning brought at least half an inch of rain in less than an hour. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Continuing to spray to control bacterial diseases and powdery mildew. Producers trying to harvest hay in between the afternoon showers. Tobacco harvest will be in full swing soon. It was hot and humid all week. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** Finally - heat! Corn really "popping" now! Now we need rain. Never satisfied, but this is best corn crop I've had in years. Insect pressure low but "varmit" pressure high. Excellent fruit set on pumpkins and winter squash. Disease seems to be in check right now.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap:** Harvesting beans, lettuce, beats, tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, summer squash, zucchini, potatoes, carrots, broccoli, cauliflower, raspberries, blueberries, and early sweet corn grown under row cover. Farm activities include cutting and baling hay, mowing orchards, scouting and spraying for pests and harvesting. Pastures are in good condition. Garden center sales to Lakes Region customers remain brisk. **Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll:** A few sunny days at the end of the week allowed for some haying. Lots of fungal diseases on pumpkin and tomato as well as on home lawn, trees and shrubs. We really need some sunny warm weather to get vegetables growing. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Warm, moist weather most of the week. A few late-planted cornfields are chest-high, while tassels and silks have emerged on the rest. Moisture has been good for regrowth on harvested hayfields, but weather conditions have not been conducive to making dry hay. Second cutting grass/alfalfa haylage is wrapping up. Lack of sunshine has kept field tomatoes from ripening, but sweet corn widely available, along with a wide variety of other veggies. PYO berries continues. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Corn now beginning to tassel. Haying continues amidst periodic rain which is hampering efforts. Good regrowth on meadows already harvested for hay or haylage. Manure spreading on some of these fields. Midsummer veggies starting to trickle into markets. PYO blueberries now open. Honey being taken off by beekeepers. Cool, wet season continues to have its effects. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Second and third cutting of hay continued as weather permits. Corn continues to tassel. Cool weather and rain encourages regrowth of hay, but slowing corn growth. Warmer weather late in the week encouraged corn growth. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Vegetables: 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 Lodi apples. Blueberry and raspberry harvests continued. Orchardists busy monitoring for pests, mowing orchard floors and fixing up orchard roads. Apple growers busy pruning trees. Continue to monitor Blueberry mummy berry disease in blueberry plantings and fire blight strikes in apple and pear orchards. Field Crops: Silage corn is rapidly growing, starting to tassel and early planted corn is starting to silk. Farmers making baled hay between showers. **John Porter (Ext), Merrimack:** Adequate rain, very little need for irrigation. Vegetable crops growing well, but some disease problems. Field corn needs more heat units, farmers are expecting late maturity. Sweet corn harvest well underway and a good crop. Blueberries are large and yielding well, but some growers are experiencing disease. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Continue picking raspberries and blueberries. Berries are good to excellent. Mummyberry noticed around the county. Harvesting sweet corn, potatoes and a whole array of vegetables. Mowing orchard fields. Haying between showers.

Farm stand, farmers' markets and garden centers remain busy. **Pam Marvin (FSA), Sullivan:** Sporadic rain has helped to keep field crops watered. Silage corn is tasseling with some of the crop being over 10 feet tall. PYO blueberry and raspberry farms report brisk sales. Sweet corn is abundant these days at roadside stands. Many summer vegetables are mature and ready to pick. Harvesting of dry hay has been tricky between rain showers. Third cut of alfalfa is beginning in some areas. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** Light showers in the first half of the week and hot and humid the other half of the week. Because of adequate rains, pastures and hay fields are in good condition. Corn is growing well - most of it in pre-tassel stage; early sweet corn varieties ready for harvest. Vegetable growers harvesting an array of vegetables including early corn varieties. Farmers busy cultivating and hoeing weeds. Also monitoring for insect pests and diseases and applying pesticides if needed. PYO fruit operations busy with raspberry and blueberry harvesting. Apples looking good and growers busy monitoring for pests and spraying if needed. Farmers markets busy with an assortment of vegetables and cut flowers. Fall mums growing well and some growers busy pinching, monitoring for pests and applying pesticides if needed.

**RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport:** A hot muggy week included some rain and some sunshine. Field work and spraying being done. Still picking blueberries. Corn getting ready for picking along with summer vegetables. **Marilu Soileau (FSA), All Counties:** Intermittent, heavy rains temporarily held up field work in some areas. Small fruit and vegetable harvest is in full

swing. Sweet corn and summer squash are ripe for harvest. Field corn is growing fast in the hot, humid weather.

**VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille:** Last week brought another inch of rain, none of which we really needed. Humid conditions are still plaguing anyone trying to dry grass for bales. Corn crop is still doing very well along with the barley crop which is maturing and nearing harvest. Some reports of blossom end rot in some of the vegetable crops. **Perley Sparrow (FSA), Windham:** Apple picking will start this week with Early Macs and then Paula Reds. Producers are reporting some apple maggot showing up but say they are controllable. Drying hay has become a big problem with all the showers this past week. Haylage is the crop this year. Field corn is earing out fast. Third cutting should be better than in past years because of all the sunshine. **Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Corn growth excellent, silk and good ear development. Little weeds in controlled fields. Hay crop ready for harvest, wet soils slow field work. A little manure spread on grass hay fields. Pasture regrowth good. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Getting early planted fields ready to seed winter rye. All crops need sun and warm weather. Mold appearing on beans. Plenty of European Corn Borers seen. This week was rainy and cloudy (2.489 inches). Pea harvest all over, it was a good crop. Lots of beans on the market. Early varieties of sweet corn doing well. Broccoli and cabbage doing well and beets and carrots in good supply. Hope for sun and warm weather.

To receive this report every Monday evening, send an e-mail message to [listserv@newsbox.usda.gov](mailto:listserv@newsbox.usda.gov) and in the body, type **subscribe usda-new-eng-crop-weather**

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