It was another Rainy week!!!

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending May 22, 2005, there were 5.1 days suitable for field work. Topsoil moisture was rated 2% short, 56% adequate, 42% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 3% short, 55% adequate, 42% surplus. Pasture condition was rated 3% poor, 30% fair, 60% good, and 7% excellent. Cool, wet conditions hindered field work progress and crop development in New England throughout the week. Much needed warm, dry days are needed to improve field and crop conditions in the region and the outlook does not look good for the week ahead. Farmers continued to work the fields when weather permitted, Northern Maine still battles for workable weather conditions with less than 2 days suitable for fieldwork last week. Major farm activities included: transplanted vegetables, harvested asparagus and rhubarb, planted early season vegetables, worked in greenhouses, set bees in fields and orchards, applied herbicides and fertilizers to fields, planted grains fields, spread manure, chopped grass silage, plowed and disced fields.

FRUIT: Growers are still concerned to what extent of damage was caused from the frost on May 13th on apples, peaches and strawberries. The cool conditions have caused for an extended apple bloom period. If the wet conditions continue, pollination will be a problem with fruit trees. Bee hives were set in fields and orchards but sunshine is needed to aid bees in pollination. Pre emergence herbicides and fertilizer were applied to nonbearing blueberry fields. Rainy conditions have been conducive in infecting blueberries to mummy berry disease. Cranberries producers have noticed some black headed fireworm and rain has limited the ability to spray. Also, rain has led to the risk of root rot development.

FIELD CROPS: Cool, wet conditions delayed farmers in Northern Maine from planting small grains and potatoes and are behind normal. First cutting of hay is green but lacks growth from limited sunshine. Planted Shade and Broadleaf Tobacco are progressing ahead of the normal. In southern New England, planted field crops are on schedule, whereas, in the northern region, crops have been limited due to wet conditions and are being planted only on well drained soils. Pasture conditions are improving but are still a little too wet to put animals out. Farmers continued to prepare fields by spreading manure and fertilizer, plowing, discing and tilling fields.

VEGETABLES: Vegetable growers started to plant tomatoes, peppers, winter squash, potatoes, and sweet corn where field conditions allowed. Some cold crops, peas, and radishes are up and growing. Greenhouses started to transplant some vegetables. Farmers harvested salad greens, asparagus, and rhubarb. Producers continued to proceed with preparing fields to plant as weather permitted to plow, disc, fertilize and spray fields.
For the Period: Monday May 16, 2005
To: Sunday May 22, 2005

### STATE WEATHER SUMMARY

For the Week Ending Sunday, May 22, 2005

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Summary based on NWS data.

DFN = Departure from Normal (Using 1961-90Normals 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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Connecticut-Howard Rood (FSA), Fairfield/Litchfield: Weather has been cooler than normal. Hay is starting to head out shorter than usual. Farmers predict a light first cutting. Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland: Effects of freeze on 5/13 showing up in apples, peaches and strawberries. Field and sweet corn plantings are progressing nicely. First cut grass has been slow to grow, but some have already been mowed. Lambing has been good. Tobacco is being planted this week. Cornfields, transplanting of cabbage and other cole crops. Frank Himmelstein (Ext), New London: Field corn- growers continue field preparation activities and planted a number of fields this week despite the continued stretch of below than normal temperatures. The cool temperatures continue to plague the region slowing emergence once corn from previous plantings have emerged. The conditions do look much better and depending on the amount of rainfall this week replanting is a likely scenario in wet spots. I’m still concerned with potential crop injury from application of certain herbicides for weed control under these cool wet weather conditions. Marsha Jette, (FSA), New London: Producers are hoping for warmer weather and York. Farmers that Figure to concomitant field rain showers would be welcome at this point. Dawn Pfundel (FSA), Windham: Good week for action, getting a lot of field work done, some showers, wet weather hampering some activities but overall moving along. Karen Vozarik (FSA), New Haven: Sun and some warmth for the week; temperatures are cooler than normal and has slowed crops down. Frost on the May 13th may have done some damage to fruit. The most recent freeze will not delay apple blooming. Cool weather and reports indicate that fields are becoming dry, rain will be needed. Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset: Farmers are spreading manure. Cool weather is causing slow progress. Soil temperature was 45 degrees Fahrenheit early in the week. Donna Lamb (Ext), Piscataquis: Just when the fields were getting dry enough for tillage, we got more rain. A few weeks delayed season here. Ethan Day, (Ext), Penobscot: Still raining some field work done between rain storms. Very wet. Janet King (FSA), Somerset: Is this now the rain report instead of the crop report. Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset: Some sun, plowing, tillage and planting in drier areas this week. Donald Burke (FSA), Waldo: Manure spreading is on going on fields that are not too wet. Bees have been moving for pollination. Some gardens have not been planted yet. Crops that are in need the sun. Bees need sunny days to pollinate blossoms. Everyone is tired of the rain! Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln: Bees have been placed on blueberry fields, hoping for some days suitable for pollination. There has been a shortage of bees has fruit growers scrambling for pollinators. Steve Uhrlau (Ext), Waldo: Conditions continue to be extremely wet and cold. Some field corn in but slow going. Fruit trees and berry crops in full bloom. Field work continues. Most of the field corn is planted, and early planted fields are moving along. Tom Buob (Ext), Aroostook: Crop fields have dried out. Season crops have not emerged. Apple growers have placed their bees into place and reported that the apple stage is in pink. Vegetable growers have started to plant potatoes and corn where the crop fields soils are dry enough. Manure and commercial fertilizer are being spread. Barbara Murphy (Ext), Oxford: Still raining, everything soaked. Laura Rand (FSA), Oxford: Producers are busy getting crops and potatoes planted where possible. Rain continues. Peas, radishes, and cold crops are up and growing. Maine - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook: Potatoes and small grains: Cold temperatures and persistent showers have kept growers out of the fields. Soils are extremely saturated with moisture. There are reports of seed spoilage in the fields already planted. Growers are getting concerned with the late date and such a small portion of the crop planted. When will spring arrive? Steve Londobile, Southern Aroostook: Potatoes and small grains: Cool and wet growing conditions. Cold and wet conditions. Crop conditions remained unchanged from previous week. Albert Dow (NRCS), Piscataquis: Farmers are beginning tillage. Livestock producers are spreading manure. Cool weather is causing slow progress. Soil temperature was 45 degrees Fahrenheit early in the week. Rainbow Davis (Ext), Penobscot: Still raining some field work done between rain storms. Very wet. Janet King (FSA), Somerset: Is this now the rain report instead of the crop report. Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset: Some sun, plowing, tillage and planting in drier areas this week. Donald Burke (FSA), Waldo: Manure spreading is on going on fields that are not too wet. Bees have been moved for pollination. Some gardens have not been planted yet. Crops that are in need the sun. 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Laura Rand (FSA), Oxford: Producers are busy getting crops and potatoes planted where possible. Rain continues. Peas, radishes, and cold crops are up and growing. Massachusetts - Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire: Another very dry, cool week for this time of year. Temperatures are running 10 to 15 degrees below normal. Most farmers can get into the fields this week although conditions are wet from frequent showers. The lack of adequate sunlight is not warming up. Sweet corn and silage are both being planted and optimistically hoping for a warmer time to come. There are complaints from apple producers regarding the cool temperatures and the lack of bees willing to work in the cold. Now is the time to pollinate as most apples are in full bloom and this could be a problem down the road. The latest reports of frost damage from last week. Local nurseries, farmers markets and garden centers are booming with Memorial Day and spring landscaping sales are keeping them busy. Paul Russell (FSA), Southeast Massachusetts: Conditions continue to be extremely wet and cold. Producers are not able to plant and crops that are planted have not emerged. Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth: Cool weather and wet conditions delaying the emergence of crops. Cool weather and soil conditions are causing slow progress. The only insect detected in any notable consequences so far is black-headed fireworm. Growers will be spraying during the coming week, if the weather allows it. Some of the later varieties are still in their dormant red color; they should be fairly green by this point. The low spots in the beds are fairly wet, which may lead to root rot development. Quiet week for frost because it was so overcast. John Devine (FSA), Franklin: Temperatures remained cool throughout the week in Franklin County. Most crops are on schedule as far as planting is concerned but the crops are growing slowly. Fruit growers are reporting that it’s too early to determine the total extent of damage from the recent temperatures. There is a possibility that assessment may change after fruit set. Hay is starting to grow and planted corn and potatoes have finally broken ground. Shade tobacco is being planted this week. Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden: Crop fields have dried out. Season crops have not emerged. Apple growers have placed their bees into place and reported that the apple stage is in pink. Vegetable growers have started to plant potatoes and corn where the crop fields soils are dry enough. Manure and commercial fertilizer are being spread. Barbara Murphy (Ext), Oxford: Still raining, everything soaked. Laura Rand (FSA), Oxford: Producers are busy getting crops and potatoes planted where possible. Rain continues. Peas, radishes, and cold crops are up and growing. New Hampshire - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap: Still cool but dry this week, except for the weekends. Scattered frost May 20. Still haven’t seen first strawberry blossom. Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll: A better week, but don’t get used to it. A few breaks in the clouds allowing fruit growers to put on a spray. Green Pug Moth larva observed in Moultonboro, damaging a few apple blossoms. Rainy weather suppressing plant sales and garden activities. Cool wet weather delaying successive plantings of sweet corn. Shortage of bees has fruit growers scrambling for pollinators. Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire: A bit cool, but good weather for field work. Most of the field corn is planted and early planted fields starting to spike. Grass continues to look good in pastures and hayfields. Vegetable growers setting out transplants, harvesting some sweet corn this week. Tobacco is being planted this week. Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos: Cold and wet weather continues to delay corn and other plantings. Some field corn in but slow going. Manure and fertilizer being top dressed on haylands, grass growing well. Some forage crop seedings also being done. Dandelions blooming in larger numbers, just starting in north part of county. Generally behind on crops for this time of year. Not much action on hay this week, other than a hailstorm in Colebrook area. Effects of cold winter being observed, one field of alfalfa and orchard grass hit pretty hard in central Coos. Bees are keeping pretty close to the hive, maybe the smart ones! Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton: Cool wet weather continues to retard plant growth. Plenty of moisture but no real heat. Field prep and corn planting continues. Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton: Corn and new seedings of grass are being planted. Cool conditions have caused things to start off slowly. "WE" need some warm weather. George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough: Weather: Localize hail storm hit this spring than in the past. Apple growers have placed their bees into place and reported that the apple stage is in pink. Vegetable growers have started to plant potatoes and corn where the crop fields soils are dry enough. Manure and commercial fertilizer are being spread. Barbara Murphy (Ext), Oxford: Still raining, everything soaked. Laura Rand (FSA), Oxford: Producers are busy getting crops and potatoes planted where possible. Rain continues. Peas, radishes, and cold crops are up and growing.
transplants. Overall, plant growth is behind because of cool damp weather. Vegetables: Harvesting asparagus and rhubarb. Growers making successive plantings of sweet corn and planting potato and other early season vegetable crops. Growers were plowing, discing fertilizing and laying down plastic mulch and drip irrigation tape. Weed spraying on planted sweet corn fields. Fruits: Orchardists made sure to have protective fungicide sprays applied with off and on rain showers. Blueberries are blooming and Plasticulture Strawberries starting to bloom. Peaches were in petal fall stage at beginning of the week. Apples were at full bloom during week and earliest bloom varieties were at petal fall by end of week. Green Pug Moth seen in one orchard. Field Crops: Farmers spreading manure, plowing, discing, fertilizing and planting corn on fields. Grasses and forage crops growing slowly. Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham: Some sun, cool weather and wet weekend. Some fields are very wet. Planted early vegetables and forage crops are growing slowly. Warm, sunnier days are needed. Preparing vegetables fields by plowing, discing, fertilizing. Tomatoes in hoop houses growing well. Weeding and cultivating. Spraying protective fungicides in orchards. Preparing forage corn fields by spreading manure, fertilizing, discing. Mulching blueberries. Planting small fruits. Weather forecast for the up coming week does not look promising: greenhouse growers hoping for a warm Memorial weekend to boost the sale of bedding plants. Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford: Most of the week was good for field work. The weekend was wet and cold. Grass in pastures and hayfields is doing well, but more sunlight and warmer temperatures are needed to accelerate growth. Growers planting corn and other vegetables. Fruit growers applying preventative sprays for apple scab and other pests. Greenhouse and nursery sales slow due to bad weather on the weekends.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: Fruit trees are loaded with blossoms, some petal fall. Lots of field work being done, field corn getting ready to plant and the hay is looking good. Potatoes finishing up and some were emerging. Strawberry season looks like a good one. Let's get some sunshine and some heat.

VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille: Another generally cool damp week. Spring plantings are growing but need some serious warmth. First cut of grass starting to fall a little behind. Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans: Wet weather has delayed corn planting in the area. Some of the drier fields have been planted. The cold weather has slowed grass production. Hay fields and pastures are behind in production. Perley Sparrow (FSA), Windham: Cool weather has slowed up corn germination. Planting is going great with only showers hit and miss. Hay crop needs some warmer condition to grow taller still short in some fields. Veggie crop are about the same slow growing. Terence Bradshaw, Univ of Vermont: Cool weather is delaying or extending bloom. Pollination conditions are less than optimal. Bees are in orchards, but in short supply. Scab potential is high.

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