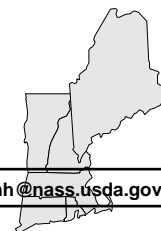




New England Agricultural Statistics



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July 18, 2005 – 4 pm

For week ending 7/17/05

Hot and Humid Week

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending July 17, 2005, there were 6.1 days suitable for fieldwork. Topsoil moisture: 3% very short, 22% short, 70% adequate, 5% surplus. Subsoil moisture: 2% very short, 13% short, 78% adequate, 7% surplus. Pasture condition: 2% very poor, 1% poor, 10% fair, 65% good, and 22% excellent. An abundance of sunshine early in the week gave way to scattered showers and windy conditions by mid-week. Heavy dew and fog created unfavorable drying conditions for farmers to bale hay throughout New England. By Friday, hazy, hot, and humid conditions arrived and lasted through the weekend. Some crops are showing signs of stress due to an extended period of time without moisture. Major farm activities included harvesting strawberries, blueberries, raspberries, sweet corn, and early vegetables, renovating strawberry beds, mowing orchard floors, baling hay and chopping haylage, cultivating and hilling tobacco, applying fertilizer, fungicides, nitrogen and pesticides to crops, and monitoring pests and disease.

FRUIT: Strawberry harvest has wound down for most growers, and most operations are working to renovate strawberry beds. High bush blueberry and raspberry harvest has begun at pink-you-own operations. High bush blueberry condition was generally good to excellent region wide, however some areas in New Hampshire and Massachusetts now showing signs of stress from lack of moisture. Maine's wild blueberry crop development remained up to two weeks behind normal as of mid-July, with the crop now stressed due to lack of moisture. Fruit set ranged from average to above average in most area. Some areas showing below average fruit set: a high percentage of wild blueberry blossoms were not pollinated during the wet spring. Most cranberry beds have advanced to the petal fall stage. Cranberry growers applied final fungicides to control fruit rot and had begun to apply herbicides for weed control. Orchardists report apples sizing up in response to recent moisture. Growers also active thinning peaches and monitoring pests.

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	- Percent Harvested -			Fruit Size	Condition
	2005	2004	5-yr Avg		
Apples	-	-	-	Avg	Good
Peaches	-	-	-	Avg	Good/Fair
Pears	-	-	-	Avg	Fair/Good
Blueberries					
Highbush	10	15	15	Avg/Above	Good/Excel
Wild, ME	-	-	-	Avg	Fair/Poor
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-	Avg	Good
Strawberries	95	95	95	Avg/Below	Good

VEGETABLES: Season turning around for growers as lots of hot and humid weather contributed to very good, rapid growth. Growers harvested early sweet corn, green beans, cabbage, early lettuce, cucumbers, peas, and summer squash. Pepper plants in Connecticut dying from disease due to heavy rains and humidity. Elsewhere squash plants said to nearly triple in size and blossom overnight. A few Massachusetts growers reported phytothora in their vine crops. Pumpkins and winter squash all planted. Growers sprayed fungicides and insecticides as necessary. Cuke beetle no longer an apparent problem. Growers kept busy cultivating, weeding, monitoring for pests and spraying pesticides for insects and diseases when needed. Very good demand for produce at most local farmer's markets and farm stands.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
	-- Percent --		
Topsoil			
Very Short	3	3	0
Short	22	9	24
Adequate	70	77	65
Surplus	5	11	11
Subsoil			
Very Short	2	3	0
Short	13	9	23
Adequate	78	78	71
Surplus	7	10	6

FIELD CROPS: Harvesting dry hay was tricky due to humidity and sporadic showers, a result of the remnants of Hurricane Dennis passing through the region. First cut hay nearly finished save those fields that are not dry enough to avoid creating ruts. It was a successful weekend for haying because of hot sunny conditions despite humidity. Trying to make up for lost time, a lot of hay has been made. Manure was spread on harvested fields. Second cutting for haylage underway, poor drying conditions hindered second cutting of dry hay. Re-growth after cut is doing well. Field corn is growing well in various stages with uneven growth throughout the area due to scattered showers. Tobacco growers identified blue mold on shade tobacco in Southwick, Massachusetts on July 15. While only a few lesions were found, indicating the pathogen may have only been introduced last week, all growers in the Valley region should consider their fields potentially exposed. Growers busy cultivating, hilling and topping tobacco. Fungicide applications were necessary due to rain during the previous week. In Aroostook country growers sprayed for European Corn Borer and Colorado Potato Beetle. Most potatoes are set and some started blossoming.

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2005	2004	5-yr Avg	Condition
	-- Percent Emerged --			
Silage Corn	95	100	99	Good/Excellent
Sweet Corn	95	100	99	Good/Excellent
	-- Percent Harvested --			
Barley, ME	--	--	--	Excellent/Good
Oats, ME	--	--	--	Excellent/Fair
Potatoes				
Maine	--	--	--	Excellent/Good
Mass.	--	--	--	Good/Fair
Rhode Isl.	--	--	--	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	5	0	5	Good/Excellent
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	--	--	--	Good/Fair
Shade	10	5	5	Good
Dry hay, 1 st cut	85	90	90	Good/Fair
Dry hay, 2 nd cut	20	20	30	Good/Excellent

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics
Prepared By AWIS, Inc.

For the Period: Monday July 11, 2005
To: Sunday July 17, 2005

AIR STATION	CUM SINCE MAR 1 TEMPERATURE				1-WEEK GROWING DEGREE DAYS				4-WEEK CUM PRECIP					
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	BASE-50F		BASE-60F		TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL		
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN				INCHES	DFN	DAYS
MAINE														
Augusta_State_A	58	88	72	+3	872	-51	376	+75	0.08	-0.62	1	2.05	-0.89	11
Bangor_Intl_Arp	55	88	71	+4	890	+70	367	+129	0.31	-0.46	2	0.88	-2.20	7
Bethel	56	86	71	+3	827	-9	338	+95	0.64	-0.13	2	2.67	-0.71	10
Caribou_Municip	50	84	68	+2	772	+96	314	+154	2.07	+1.16	4	3.60	+0.36	7
Dover-Foxcroft	53	82	68	+2	697	-9	275	+99	0.46	-0.38	4	3.40	+0.03	9
Frenchville	52	81	68	+4	760	+138	312	+181	0.44	-0.40	2	2.60	-0.61	7
Houlton	45	83	67	+1	747	+51	295	+121	2.15	+1.31	5	3.18	-0.04	13
Livermore_Falls	54	89	72	+6	846	+144	372	+202	0.29	-0.48	1	2.10	-1.28	7
Moosehead	49	83	67	+4	650	+81	246	+132	0.59	-0.32	2	2.46	-1.24	10
Portland_ME	57	89	71	+3	833	+25	345	+114	0.15	-0.55	1	3.54	+0.57	12
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	55	85	72	+6	858	+63	360	+157	0.24	-0.53	1	2.36	-0.89	9
Berlin_AG	53	86	71	+5	874	+80	376	+162	0.97	+0.13	1	3.19	-0.35	8
Concord	57	90	74	+5	1071	+120	496	+179	0.37	-0.33	1	3.37	+0.52	9
Diamond_Pond	51	81	67	+5	662	+160	253	+185	1.99	+0.97	2	5.69	+1.47	11
Keene_AP	55	88	75	+5	1076	-16	493	+86	0.52	-0.29	1	5.02	+1.75	8
North_Conway	57	88	73	+5	919	+33	403	+126	0.07	-0.77	1	2.13	-1.36	9
Rochester	57	87	72	+3	916	-101	392	+34	0.15	-0.62	2	4.21	+1.09	11
VERMONT														
Burlington_Intl	60	90	77	+7	1221	+180	600	+221	0.06	-0.76	1	3.00	-0.27	7
Island_Pond	51	86	71	+8	862	+230	376	+241	0.18	-0.75	2	3.76	-0.09	9
Montpelier	54	87	74	+8	1009	+205	455	+231	0.25	-0.44	4	3.39	+0.50	14
Pownal	60	87	74	+7	1016	+190	432	+201	0.67	-0.24	3	5.06	+1.18	10
Rochester	57	88	73	+8	969	+195	434	+225	0.47	-0.37	3	2.84	-0.52	10
Rutland_AG	59	90	76	+6	1046	-43	484	+83	0.32	-0.53	3	3.03	-0.34	11
Sutton	54	86	71	+7	847	+205	366	+220	0.62	-0.30	3	3.68	-0.17	12
Townshend_Lake	57	88	73	+4	1026	+20	463	+110	0.46	-0.31	3	5.02	+2.15	14
MASSACHUSETTS														
Ashburnham	60	86	74	+7	1030	+177	456	+202	0.36	-0.48	2	4.32	+0.96	12
Boston/Logan_In	62	92	76	+3	1116	-102	518	+29	0.00	-0.63	0	3.42	+0.77	6
Greenfield	61	90	75	+4	1129	-46	521	+61	0.30	-0.54	2	6.00	+2.59	12
New_Bedford	59	91	74	+0	984	-217	394	-74	0.04	-0.60	1	1.72	-1.17	11
Otis_AFB	61	97	78	+8	1199	+266	556	+247	0.00	-0.63	0	2.18	-0.52	8
Plymouth	59	91	73	+3	980	-4	435	+90	0.00	-0.77	0	1.52	-1.56	10
Walpole	61	90	75	+5	1122	+82	508	+136	0.00	-0.77	0	2.42	-0.83	8
Chicopee/Westov	63	95	78	+4	1309	-44	620	+45	0.05	-0.79	1	2.69	-0.81	9
Worthington	58	86	73	+6	960	+127	404	+170	0.26	-0.72	3	4.84	+1.09	12
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	62	93	76	+4	1198	+52	543	+98	0.00	-0.70	0	0.96	-1.95	8
Woonsocket	60	91	75	+5	1138	+116	508	+158	0.00	-0.90	0	2.30	-1.33	10
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	66	92	77	+4	1287	+58	559	+55	0.10	-0.80	2	4.12	+0.73	11
Hartford/Bradle	63	92	77	+4	1368	+63	656	+103	3.33	+2.63	2	7.87	+4.80	11
Norfolk	57	83	72	+4	990	+153	409	+170	0.29	-0.63	1	3.15	-0.81	10
Thomaston_Dam	62	89	75	+6	1175	+149	529	+177	0.18	-0.73	2	4.70	+1.06	13
Willimantic	61	90	75	+5	1185	+148	522	+164	0.27	-0.69	1	2.03	-1.65	10

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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STATE WEATHER SUMMARY

For the Week Ending Sunday, July 17, 2005

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	L	HI	AV	DF	LO	HI
ME	45	90	69	+3	0.00	2.21
NH	44	96	72	+6	0.01	3.18
VT	48	91	73	+7	0.01	0.76
MA	55	97	74	+4	0.00	3.19
RI	48	93	73	+3	0.00	0.00
CT	57	92	75	+3	0.00	3.33

REPORTERS COMMENTS, By County: *Reporters are from extension Service (Ext), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), or other knowledgeable individuals.*

CONNECTICUT - Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland: Scattered showers left from zero to three inches of rain on Friday. Field corn looks very good with some early varieties tasseling. Harvesting sweet corn, green beans, cabbage, lettuce, cucumbers, green and yellow squash. More first cut hay made and some looking at weather for second cutting. Blue mold identified on shade tobacco on July 15 in the valley. **Frank Himmelstein (Ext), New London:** Field Corn-Overall most fields look good. Lack of sunshine and moisture in certain areas will hamper crop growth particularly the later planted fields. Spraying primarily for burcucumber and ragweed post emergence continues. Difficult to know when rain showers would pop up this week effecting herbicide applications. Hay- Almost impossible to make any baled hay for most of the week. Lack of widespread rain effecting second cut growth in many areas. Some hay was chopped earlier in the week. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Blueberry picking begins, sweet corn just ready to harvest, field corn growing well in various stages with uneven growth in fields due to varying soil types, scattered showers delayed haying but greened up the fields with new growth, summer squash and early lettuce doing well. **Karen Vozarik (FSA), New Haven:** Pepper plants are dying due to high humidity and heavy rains causing disease. Rains still spotty, some areas still getting more rain than others. Summer squash is being picked and starting to rot immediately. Cabbage is also rotting from the inside out. So far tomatoes are good.

MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook: Potatoes and small grains: Growers spraying fungicides and insecticides as necessary. Most have had to spray for European Corn Borer in potato fields. Most have finished hilling up potatoes. Starting to see some potato blossoms. Showers first of the week although spotty supplied much needed moisture for crops and they are growing rapidly. No reports of late blight as of yet. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Growers are applying fungicides and insecticides - five day spray schedules. Cultivating of crops in continuing. Crops are looking excellent, growing rapidly. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Some corn borer activity. Spraying for European Corn Borer and Colorado Potato Beetle. **Albert Dow (NRCS), Piscataquis:** Farmers are waiting to hay certain fields when the fields are dry enough to avoid creating ruts. Otherwise first cut haying is nearly finished. **Gleason Gray (Ext), Penobscot:** Raspberries being harvested, Strawberry harvest winding down for most growers. **Janet King (FSA), Somerset:** Many farmers still playing "catch up". The spring's excessive rains are still having an effect. Many corn acres planted late, thus 1st crop hay is being harvested late and is showing to be reduced quality. Some fields are still too wet to handle equipment. It's been a tough year so far. **Donald Burke (FSA), Waldo:** Haying continues under sunny skies, but the quality is going downhill. Still feeling the effects of a rainy spring: crops are two weeks late, black root rot in strawberry fields, monilinia, botrytis in blueberry fields, prevented planting and failing corn acres in silage corn and rotted hay fields. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Spraying has begun for blueberry fruit fly. More vegetables available at farm markets. Haying continues with beautiful summer weather. Appears now that a high percent of blueberry blossoms did not get pollinated during the wet spring. Most crops are still two weeks behind. Some silage corn fields being reported as "prevented planting". **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Crop under stress from lack of moisture. Insecticides being applied for fruit fly control. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Farmers are trying to make hay, but the humidity, showers and wet areas in fields are making it very difficult. Vegetable producers are still waiting for most crops to ripen. Sweet Corn may start next weekend. Irrigation pumps are running in some areas. **Elaine Moccus (FSA), Franklin:** Despite a heavy downpour during the week in some areas, a lot of hay has been harvested. Another successful weekend for haying - lots of sunshine. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Oxford County producers have been busy finishing up plantings. Hay is being harvested when weather permits. Strawberries and peas are being harvested. Pastures are still looking good. **Laura Rand (FSA), Androscoggin:** A hot and humid week. A lot of hay has been made. It's been a very busy week trying to make up for lost time. Pick-your-own season for

strawberries continues. Fresh vegetables beginning to show up at farm stands.

MASSACHUSETTS - Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire: Average week for field work. Temperatures and rainfall are higher and greater than normal. Haymaking is slow going with the humidity and sporadic rain from the remnants of Hurricane Dennis passing through the region. The weather has been ideal for cucurbits. Squash plants literally tripled in size and blossomed overnight. Local sweet corn is beginning to be picked. All crops are going well. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Most cranberry beds are coming out of bloom; late varieties are just past full bloom. Growers are applying final fungicides for fruit rot control, getting ready to apply second insecticides for fruit worm control. Round-up applications for weeds have begun. Post-bloom fertilization applications are going on as well. Fruit set is only average in the early varieties, due to that miserable week of weather two weeks ago. Set should be much better in the later varieties. Not much drought stress showing up to date. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Lots of heat and humidity. Crops are growing very fast. Harvesting greens, radishes. Beets, cucumbers, cabbage, sweet corn, blueberries and summer squash. Cultivating, hilling and topping tobacco. Fungicide applications being applied due to last week's heavy rains. A few growers reported phytotohara in their vine crops. Overall most crops looking very good. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** Scattered showers brought some relief but is it ever humid! Fungicide programs in full swing. Cuke beetle for now is no longer a problem, corn borer spraying on 3 day schedule in sweet corn. Great consumer response at local farm stands, plants and local produce in demand. Japanese beetles on ornamentals seen. Side dressing pumpkins and fall squash.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap: Strawberries finished up this week. Raspberry, bean, cabbage and broccoli harvests have begun, plus more zucchini, summer squash, chard and lettuce are available. Some garden centers have excess annuals hanging around because of rainy weekends in the spring. **Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll:** Hazy, thundershowers, not too hot. Good conditions for plant growth. Strawberry harvest in full swing, blueberries about to begin. Some second cutting starting up, especially for silage due to short drying time. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Another week of hot, muggy weather. Corn continues to grow by leaps and bounds. Second cutting for haylage/baylage well underway. Second cutting for dry hay just beginning, with slow progress due to poor drying conditions. Pastures are beginning to slow down with heat, but are still doing well with plenty of moisture. Sweet corn is silked and tasseled, some places looking to harvest in a couple weeks, and farm stands featuring a variety of produce. PYO blueberries and raspberries have begun. Orchards report apples to be sizing up well. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** A week of generally hot and humid weather with a scattered downpour or two to make hay drying interesting. Some late top-dress nitrogen on field corn and post-emergence herbicide applications. Good looking corn overall. Nurse crops being chopped off new seedings, nice regrowth of hay and pastures in response to earlier rain this month. Lack of moisture not a concern this month. Small fruits ripening, sweet corn planted early starting to tassel. Squash and cukes starting to run, beginning to blossom, so far so good. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Haying (first and second cutting) continues. Corn continues to grow well with the heat and intermittent moisture. Regrowth after first and second cut is doing well depending on species. Orchard grass and Reed Canary grass regrowth is good to excellent. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** Some fields are still too wet to get onto, for first cutting hay. The river bottom fields are all done for first cut, and much of second cut. Corn looks good for those who planted during the early window. Those who missed the earlier planting and were delayed by the rains, have seen most of this corn make good progress. During the month of June we received almost 4.5 inches of rain. July has been a bit dryer so far. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit; Fruit growers monitoring pest and crop development and apply sprays for pest control, if needed. Also, growers are training young fruit trees along with mowing orchard floor. Strawberry harvest is over and renovating strawberry beds. Blueberries harvest continues. Field Crops Farmers continued to bale hay or make haylage. Vegetables; Continuing successive planting. Growers harvesting an array of vegetables: beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, cucumbers, greens, lettuce, peas, potatoes,

radishes, snap beans, summer squash, sweet corn (grown with plastic & floating row covers) and other vegetables. Farmers kept busy cultivating, hoeing weeds, monitoring pest pressures, spraying pesticides for insects and diseases - if needed. Very good demand for produce at most local farmer's markets and farm stands. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Strawberry picking is done. Renovating strawberry beds. Pick-your-Own blueberries and raspberries operation are open. Harvesting cherries and an array of vegetables. Replanting some sweet corn fields that didn't germinate or were soaked during rains. Thinning peaches and monitoring pests in fruit orchards. Mummyberry disease seen in blueberries; Japanese beetles and rose shafer very active. Haylage being done.

Pam Marvin (FSA), Sullivan: Lots of second cut hay being done between showers. Humidity has advance corn and vegetable crops. Good year for all. Fertilizing with manure is ongoing after cuts of hay. Farmers markets are thriving with customers looking for those fresh veggies and products. Still waiting to see what effect hail had on the blueberries. PYO are just about ready to open. Strawberry picking is over for this year.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: Blueberries coming in fast and furious. Finished rotovating strawberries and first cut hay. Lots of sun and heat this week. Potatoes closed in. Lots of

early summer vegetables are being harvested, still waiting for some sweet corn. Pumpkins and winter squash all planted. Pasture could use some nice rain. **Melissa Turrisi:** Much needed showers continue to fall sporadically throughout the state. Producers began picking sweet corn and blueberries this week. This year's berry crop looks good. Farm stands are getting busier as the summer harvest begins. In some areas, producers have started in on their second cutting hay. Sunny and dry weather is expected later in the week making for perfect haying conditions.

VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille: The hot, humid and dry weather has suppressed some of the pasture and grass growth. Corn crop is outstanding for this time of year. Some manure being spread on first cut fields. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** It was another hot, hazy and humid week. Scattered showers made cropping as little tricky this past week. Most farms have started second cut hay. Corn looks real good in most cases.

Sherwin Williams, Rutland: Cultivating vine crops, using rototiller on cole crops, tomato and pepper, mandate using on potatoes for blight. 2.491 rain for week. Will do a lot of good for all crops. Picking good crop of peas and summer squash. Just about all kinds of vegetables in the market now.

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