GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending August 7, 2005, there were 6.5 days suitable for fieldwork. Topsoil moisture: 8% very short, 28% short, 61% adequate, 3% surplus. Subsoil moisture: 5% very short, 28% short, 64% adequate, 3% surplus. Pasture condition: 1% very poor, 5% poor, 33% fair, 55% good, and 6% excellent. The blistering heat created drought-like conditions in the southern part of the region and threatened to damage crops. Scattered thunderstorms at the beginning and end of the week left a few fields soaked while others turned to irrigation. High winds on Friday caused field damage in southern New England. Disease has become a problem in pumpkin fields. Major farm activities included cultivating, hoeing weeds, monitoring pests and diseases, spraying pesticides, mowing orchards, cultivating, weeding, and monitoring for pests region wide.

FRUIT: With an occasional thunderstorm to quell humidity, pick your own berry operations had nice weather for the continuation of highbush blueberry and raspberry harvest. Scattered rain left some cranberry bogs very dry and others soaked. Cranberries need more consistent rainfall to enhance berry growth; growers continued to irrigate, monitor for pests and apply pesticides and fungicides. Early peach harvest continued in southern New England. Maine wild blueberry development remained behind schedule as crop yields in the mid-coast region were below average. Apple condition in Maine and Vermont ranged from good to excellent, elsewhere conditions ranged from fair to good. Orchardists continued monitoring for pests, applied pesticides and mowed orchard floors.

VEGETABLES: Demand for locally grown vegetables kept farm stands and farmer’s markets continuously harvesting fresh supplies. A very dry week had left some vegetables to wither in the heat, reducing crop yields. Scattered thunderstorms did not provide enough moisture either for the crops or to replenish water supplies as heavy irrigation continued. Sweet corn condition was rated good to fair. Blight and other diseases were spotted in winter squash and pumpkin fields. Growers harvested an array of vegetables including: beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, cucumbers, greens, lettuce, peas, potatoes, radishes, snap beans, squash, sweet corn, and tomatoes. Also vegetable growers were busy cultivating, weeding, and monitoring for pests region wide.

Too Hot, Too Dry

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Soil Rating</th>
<th>This Week</th>
<th>Last Week</th>
<th>Last Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Topsoil</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very Short</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adequate</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surplus</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subsoil</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very Short</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adequate</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surplus</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FIELD CROPS: Dry heat provided excellent hay making conditions. Northern parts of the region finished up first cutting of hay and began second cutting. Some, in southern New England, were harvesting third cutting. Thunderstorms made timing harvests difficult but provided needed moisture to some areas. But overall, dry conditions slowed grass growth. Silage corn development was progressing well amidst the heat and occasional rain. A little combining of barley began. Maine potato conditions were good to excellent but need more moisture to ensure good size development. No blight was reported in Aroostook County as growers continued on a five-day spray schedule. Broadleaf tobacco harvest advanced to one-third of the crop picked, well ahead of last year and above the five year average. Shade tobacco harvest continued progression ahead of last year. Massachusetts crop specialists report no additional outbreaks of blue mold during the first week of August.

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crop</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>5-yr Avg</th>
<th>Percent Harvested</th>
<th>Condition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barley, ME</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>Good/Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oats, ME</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>Good/Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potatoes</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>Good/Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maine</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhode Isl.</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Fair/Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweet Corn</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>Good/Fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tobacco</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Fair/Fair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shade</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Good</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dry hay, 1st cut</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dry hay, 2nd cut</td>
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<td>55</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Good</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dry hay, 3rd cut</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Good/Excellent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics

**Prepared By AWIS, Inc.**

For the Period: **Monday August 1, 2005**

To: **Sunday August 7, 2005**

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATION</th>
<th>AIR TEMPERATURE</th>
<th>CUM SINCE MAR 1</th>
<th>1-WEEK PRECIP</th>
<th>4-WEEK CUM PRECIP</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LO</td>
<td>HI</td>
<td>AVG</td>
<td>DFN</td>
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<tr>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>-----</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>STATE WEATHER SUMMARY</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>For the Week Ending Sunday, August 7, 2005</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>HI</th>
<th>AV</th>
<th>DF</th>
<th>LO</th>
<th>HI</th>
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<td>91</td>
<td>66</td>
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<td>+2</td>
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<tr>
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<td>1.47</td>
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<tr>
<td>RI</td>
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<td>99</td>
<td>75</td>
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<td>0.24</td>
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<tr>
<td>CT</td>
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<td>97</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>+5</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>2.15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**STATE WEATHER SUMMARY**

**For the Week Ending Sunday, August 7, 2005**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Air Temperatures</th>
<th>Precipitation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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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For detailed ag weather forecasts and data visit the AWIS home page at www.awis.com or call toll free at 1-888-798-9955.
CONNECTICUT - Howard Rood (FSA), Fairfield/Litchfield: Weather continues hot and humid. We need some rain. Jude Boucher (Ext), Tolland: We need some rain in the next week or there will be some serious crop damage on unirrigated land. Some pumpkins finally are showing fruit. We may have a problem with the high degree days, concerns about poor grain set in corn and losses in tonnage and quality of corn, irrigating blueberries, one farmer pumping water eight hours a day on vegetables and sweet corn, abundant squash production, field corn is tasseling, some of the early planted corn is flowering, losses in many areas of the beds. Frank Himmelstein (Ext), New London: New London County missing the bad storms this week but also missing any significant rain. Ear formation progressing on the early planted corn but size will be small in typically drier fields. Yields will definitely be down on the earliest planted fields where water has been lacking at a critical time. Later planted fields still have a chance if timely rains occur soon. Hay- Second cut grass chopped in most places this week. Good quality but low yields. Dry hay still a struggle to put in with high humidity and some light spotty showers. Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham: Drought like conditions, no rain the entire month of July for towns along the Rhode Island border, other areas had over an inch of very scattered showers. We have measured 12 inches of rain in July! Some towns in Franklin County have had even more rain. Loss adjusters were busy appraising rain and hail damage this week. Silage corn seems to be thriving in the heat and humidity. Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden: Another hot and humid week with scattered rain showers. Some are irrigating due to the dry conditions. All types of summer crops are being harvested and they are growing very fast due to the 90 degree days. Gary Guida, Worcester: Will someone please turn on the water? Getting real dry here as scattered showers missed this part of the county. Some corn rolling seen in fields. Melons starting to net up, pumpkin fruit set and size heavy, harvesting wide array of summer crops. Blueberry crop this year is a bumper crop and u-pickers have had ideal weekend weather. Farm stand trade now bordering on a feeding frenzy as local growers attempt to keep up with demand. Locally grown sweet corn is just excellent. Perennial plant sales strong again this weekend. Just great looking produce coming in from the fields. Early peach harvest underway.

MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook: Potatoes and small grains: Growers getting harvesting equipment out and checking them for repairs and servicing. Checking fields for insect and disease pressure. Spraying fungicides faithfully. Haven't received sufficient rainfall to do much good. Really need some moisture as potatoes are starting to bulk up. Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook: Growers are starting to combine barley. We had one day of very scattered showers. We have a five day spray schedule. Steve London, Southern Aroostook: Potatoes and small grains: Some disease pressure of light blight. Growers continue a five day spray schedule. Albert Dow (NRCS), Piscataquis: Three and a quarter inches of rain fell in two evenings of thunder storms. Fields are so wet, some hay had to be left unharvested. Corn has been delayed and harvested in late in development of FAV's which are fueling the farmers markets. Warm sunny days with relatively high humidity have encouraged early development of FAV's which are fueling the farmers markets. Paul Russell (FSA), Southeast Massachusetts: Weather was conducive to field work and crop development. Warm sunny days with relatively high humidity have encouraged early development of FAV's which are fueling the farmers markets. Very dry. Corn reaching for rain. Weed control delayed because of the cool wet spring. Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth: Cranberries: Fruit set is variable, depending on the bed and the location. Still some lagging blossoms remaining on the later cultivars. Growers are finished with sprays. Roundup wiping continues. Irrigation is imperative, as rainfall has been scarce and very spotty. We really need a good soaking in order to size up the berries. Some drought stress is showing up in the higher, drier areas of the beds. Jason Otto (FSA), Bristol: Hot Dry weather has made the irrigation come out in full force. Some water holes getting a little low. Silage corn is showing signs of stress. Some rain is needed. John Devine (FSA), Franklin: Farms in the Valley are still recovering from the effects of heavy rain during July. In southern towns we received sufficient rainfall to do much good. We've measured over one inch of rain in a single shower and some locations measured 12 inches of rain in July! Some towns in Franklin County have had even more rain. Loss adjusters were busy appraising rain and hail damage this week. Silage corn seems to be thriving in the heat and humidity. Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden: Another hot and humid week with scattered rain showers. Some are irrigating due to the dry conditions. All types of summer crops are being harvested and they are growing very fast due to the 90 degree days. Gary Guida, Worcester: Will someone please turn on the water? Getting real dry here as scattered showers missed this part of the county. Some corn rolling seen in fields. Melons starting to net up, pumpkin fruit set and size heavy, harvesting wide array of summer crops. Blueberry crop this year is a bumper crop and u-pickers have had ideal weekend weather. Farm stand trade now bordering on a feeding frenzy as local growers attempt to keep up with demand. Locally grown sweet corn is just excellent. Perennial plant sales strong again this weekend. Just great looking produce coming in from the fields. Early peach harvest underway.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll: We're moving right along now! Farm stands are fully stocked, cabbage, tomatoes, sweet corn, cucumbers, everything you could want. Blueberry harvest going quite well. Little to no mummy berry problems. Hay was made and orchardists are happy with their fruit crops. Some drought stress is showing up in the higher, drier areas of the beds. Jason Otto (FSA), Bristol: Hot Dry weather has made the irrigation come out in full force. Some water holes getting a little low. Silage corn is showing signs of stress. Some rain is needed. John Devine (FSA), Franklin: Farms in the Valley are still recovering from the effects of heavy rain during July. In southern towns we received sufficient rainfall to do much good. We've measured over one inch of rain in a single shower and some locations measured 12 inches of rain in July! Some towns in Franklin County have had even more rain. Loss adjusters were busy appraising rain and hail damage this week. Silage corn seems to be thriving in the heat and humidity. Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden: Another hot and humid week with scattered rain showers. Some are irrigating due to the dry conditions. All types of summer crops are being harvested and they are growing very fast due to the 90 degree days. Gary Guida, Worcester: Will someone please turn on the water? Getting real dry here as scattered showers missed this part of the county. Some corn rolling seen in fields. Melons starting to net up, pumpkin fruit set and size heavy, harvesting wide array of summer crops. Blueberry crop this year is a bumper crop and u-pickers have had ideal weekend weather. Farm stand trade now bordering on a feeding frenzy as local growers attempt to keep up with demand. Locally grown sweet corn is just excellent. Perennial plant sales strong again this weekend. Just great looking produce coming in from the fields. Early peach harvest underway.
and insect pressure, so farmers kept busy spraying pesticides for insects and diseases. Seeing more diseases show up in pumpkin and winter squash fields. Early bight, septoria leaf blight and leaf mold diseases are seen in tomato fields. Some growers have serve damage on sweet corn cause by birds. Sadie Puglisi (Ext), Merrimack: Raspberries finishing and blueberry picking in full gear. Great weather this week. Stands and markets are full. Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford: A hot and humid week. Producers busy making hay and haylage. Fruit growers busy harvesting blueberries and raspberries. It was a strong week for pick your own blueberry and raspberry operations. Growers also mowing the orchard floor and monitoring for pests in fruit trees. Vegetable growers harvesting different kinds of vegetables including corn. Growers also monitoring for pests and diseases and weeding vegetable crops. Greenhouse and nursery operators monitoring the growth of fall mums and poinsettia crops. Mums are doing well for most growers and early varieties are already showing color. Woody ornamentals and perennials continue to sell at the garden centers.

**RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport:** The lack of rain is taking its toll. Irrigating potatoes and summer vegetables. Harvesting corn, tomatoes, squashes, peppers and a variety of lettuces. Melissa Turrisi: After several weeks without significant rain, dry conditions are having a definite impact on crops affecting both growth and harvest. Second cutting hay fields are drying up and vegetable plants are burnt and wilted by the hot sun. Producers are irrigating as much as possible but are now battling quickly decreasing water supplies. Farmers are harvesting those summer vegetables that are available to fill their stands.

**VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille:** Another week of boringly fantastic weather for crops and fieldwork. Grass growth in general has slowed until cooler wetter weather returns. Combining of the barley crop started last week which is a little earlier than normal. Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans: It was another great week for harvesting hay. The hot dry weather has made it possible to put up some excellent quality hay this year. Also the fields are drying out from the rains earlier in the season. The corn continues to do well. In some fields the corn is over 10 feet tall. The corn has tasseled and the ears are starting to form. The pastures still remain in pretty good shape for this stage of the season. Perley Sparrow (FSA), Windham: Pretty good week for field work. Things are starting to dry out and in some locations rain is needed. Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia: Hot week, some heavy thundershowers. Haying, spreading manure after the harvest. Corn coming along, mostly tasseled. Sherwin Williams, Rutland: Regular spraying of potatoes and vine crops for blight. Showery weather great for crops but hard to put up dry hay. 0.550 inches of rain for week, came in nice showers. Great all around growing weather for week. Started digging early potatoes, all cole crops in the market, good crop of sweet corn, green beans, summer squash and cucumbers. Full market of summer vegetables.

**July 2005 Crop Weather Summary:** The month of July began warm and sunny, but a cool and cloudy front arrived to the region the second week. Humidity hit New England with hot temperatures and some scattered rain and thunderstorms. By the end of July, the humidity finally disappeared and cooler conditions arrived. Crop development and growth were enhanced greatly with almost 28 days suitable for fieldwork during the month. At the beginning of the month, second cutting of hay was just underway and close to the halfway point at month’s end whereas, first cutting neared completion. At month’s end, strawberry harvest was finished and growers were busy renovating beds. Highbush blueberry harvest started late due to a cold, wet spring but warm, humid days enhanced crop development and was on schedule at month’s end in good to excellent condition. Unfavorable spring conditions delayed peach harvest although crop was rated good to fair at month’s end. Shade tobacco harvest began in early July ahead of schedule and at month’s end was more than a quarter completed and condition was rated good. By mid-July broadleaf tobacco harvest began ahead of schedule due to recent warm weather that enhanced crop development. Early sweet corn harvest began in mid-July in southern New England and was in full swing throughout the region at month’s end. Apple growers were busy mowing orchard floors and spraying as necessary and harvest season approaches. Pear conditions were rated fair to good at month’s end. Cranberry bed reached full bloom and growers continued to irrigate, monitor for pests, and apply pesticides and fungicides as crop condition was rated good to fair at the end of July. The warm, dry conditions in southern New England caused drought like concerns whereas, other areas in the region received heavy rains that influenced crop conditions. However, field corn development remains good to excellent in the region. Oats and barley in Maine continued to develop as both were rated good to excellent at the end of July. By month’s end, Massachusetts potato grower’s were in full swing with harvest as crop was rated good as Rhode Island grower’s were gearing up for harvest. Maine potato grower’s continued on a five-day spray schedule. The crop remained behind normal due to late planting but potato condition was rated good.

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Aubrey R. Davis, Director  Gerald Tillman, Deputy Director
Carrie Ross, Student Intern  Deirdre Davis, Stat Assistant