



New England Agricultural Statistics



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Crop Weather

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May 22, 2006 – 4 pm

Too Much Rain

For week ending 5/21/06

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending May 21, 2006, there were 2.7 days available for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture was rated 28% adequate, 72% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 6% short, 48% adequate, 46% surplus. Pasture condition was rated as 1% very poor, 1% poor, 13% fair, 64% good, 21% excellent. The week began with more rain and cool temperatures, putting a halt to all farm activities. By Thursday, a break in the weather arrived and some farmers ventured into their fields that were not too wet. On Friday, more rain arrived and some thunder storms hindered outside activities. Over the weekend, skies were clear except for some scattered light rain showers. On Sunday, in the early evening some areas had severe thunder storms. Continuous days of heavy rain caused rivers and streams to rise above flood levels in New Hampshire and Massachusetts for most of the week. Fields under water will probably have to be re-planted unless warm, sunny days arrive soon. Most farm activities are at a standstill due to saturated field conditions from the recent rains.

FRUIT: Continuous days of rain hindered fruit growers from applying sprays to fruit trees. The recent cool conditions and heavy rains limited bee activity during pollination in orchards and berry fields. Fruit and berry growers were busy applying protective fungicides when the skies were clear of rain. Massachusetts cranberry growers came to a stand still early in the week but were busy scouting for insects, applying pre-emergent herbicides, planting vines, and renovating beds. No major damages reported for fruit trees and berries from hail and wind on Sunday.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	0	7	2
Adequate	28	65	56
Surplus	72	28	42
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	6	7	3
Adequate	48	71	55
Surplus	46	22	42

FIELD CROPS: Most field work has come to a halt as fields are too saturated after another week of rain. Some fields in southern New Hampshire, North shore of Massachusetts, and York County in Maine are still under water. Fields recently underwater will have to be replanted after fertilizer and seeding were washed downstream. Small grain growers are wrapping up plantings as both barley and oats were 85 percent completed and 45 percent emerged at week's end. Some farmers managed to plant corn silage in fields that permitted and were just shy of the halfway point of plantings. The recent flooding might affect the 2006 corn silage crop due to damage and late re-plantings. Maine potato growers continued to plant on drier soils. Massachusetts potato growers were hampered due to unfavorable field conditions. Rhode Island potato growers were able to progress with plantings and not affected by the heavy rains likewise in Massachusetts. After a warm, dry spring and the recent rainfall, pastures and hayfields are lush and full but fields are too wet to access fields with equipment to harvest. With some warm, windy days farmers should be able to start baling and chopping.

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Stage	Condition
Apples	FB/PF	Good/Fair
Peaches	FB/PF	Fair/Good
Pears	FB/PF	Good/Fair
Blueberries		
Highbush	BS/EB	Good/Fair
Wild, ME	EB/FB	Good
Cranberries,	Bud Stage	Good
Strawberries	BS/EB	Good

BS = Bud Stage, EB = Early Bloom, FB = Full Bloom

VEGETABLES: Frequent rains have hindered vegetable growers from planting and harvesting crops. Some reports of low lying fields already planted with sweet corn and an array of vegetables are a complete loss due to flooding. Muddy conditions have limited farmers from accessing fields and waiting for some dry, windy days to arrive to improve fields. Where fields were dry enough, farmers continued to plant sweet corn, and a variety of vegetables. Vegetable growers continued to harvest asparagus, rhubarb, and spinach. Greenhouses and nurseries sales have been slow from the cool, wet weather.

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2006	2005	5-yr Avg	Emerged	Condition
-- Percent Planted --				Percent	
Barley, ME	85	10	50	45	N/A
Oats, ME	85	10	45	45	N/A
Potatoes					
Maine	60	5	40	-	N/A
Mass	90	75	80	25	Good
Rhode Isl	95	70	85	30	Good
Silage Corn	45	35	40	10	Poor/Fair
Sweet Corn	35	30	40	15	Good/Fair
Dry Hay					
-- Percent Harvested --					
First Cut	-	-	-		Good

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

For the Period: Monday May 15, 2006
To: Sunday May 21, 2006

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				CUM SINCE MAR 1 GROWING DEGREE DAYS				1-WEEK PRECIP			4-WEEK CUM PRECIP		
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	BASE-50F TOT	DFN	BASE-60F TOT	DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS
MAINE														
Augusta State_A	42	68	55	-2	128	+29	9	+4	1.62	+0.78	6	4.51	+0.98	16
Bangor_Intl_Arp	38	70	55	+2	126	+56	4	+4	1.68	+0.85	5	4.33	+1.08	16
Bethel	47	65	54	+0	97	+19	2	-1	2.15	+1.31	6	6.24	+2.93	17
Caribou_Municip	41	74	54	+3	107	+56	5	+5	3.58	+2.88	5	4.97	+2.29	17
Dover-Foxcroft	34	65	51	-2	37	-15	0	+0	1.62	+0.84	5	3.54	+0.28	13
Frenchville	42	73	53	+3	91	+57	3	+3	2.91	+2.21	5	4.32	+1.59	15
Houlton	34	74	55	+3	105	+54	4	+4	2.80	+2.03	5	5.29	+2.38	15
Livermore_Falls	32	67	54	+2	102	+50	3	+3	1.57	+0.73	5	4.63	+1.19	16
Moosehead	33	69	51	+2	26	+1	0	+0	1.91	+1.14	5	3.86	+0.80	17
Portland_ME	44	66	54	-1	105	+40	5	+5	2.97	+2.17	6	12.40	+8.96	17
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	44	66	53	-2	91	-8	3	-8	2.99	+2.22	7	7.13	+4.20	16
Berlin_AG	46	65	54	+1	90	+9	2	-5	2.92	+2.12	5	5.18	+2.02	16
Concord	39	76	53	-4	171	+57	17	+7	3.20	+2.50	5	8.77	+5.97	14
Diamond_Pond	39	60	49	+0	23	-8	0	+0	3.53	+2.62	7	5.77	+2.44	18
Keene_AP	39	73	52	-7	143	-19	9	-14	2.26	+1.42	6	6.06	+2.77	12
North_Conway	44	66	53	-3	121	+26	4	-4	2.67	+1.77	7	8.18	+4.49	19
Rochester	40	70	52	-6	137	+3	3	-11	4.81	+3.95	5	15.33	+11.64	16
VERMONT														
Burlington_Intl	47	70	56	-2	224	+78	36	+15	4.10	+3.40	7	6.40	+3.62	17
Island_Pond	43	63	53	+2	85	+28	1	+1	3.90	+3.06	7	5.24	+2.17	17
Montpelier	47	68	54	-1	154	+59	9	-1	2.90	+2.14	7	6.02	+3.28	15
Pownal	42	73	53	-2	130	+28	5	-8	2.49	+1.44	7	6.43	+2.29	17
Rochester	46	74	54	-1	92	+8	7	+0	3.55	+2.57	7	6.23	+2.36	17
Rutland_AG	45	74	54	-5	142	-33	9	-21	2.54	+1.76	7	3.86	+0.88	14
Springfield_VT	41	72	53	-3	143	+36	6	-6	3.94	+3.03	5	9.03	+5.39	13
Sutton	42	61	52	+1	79	+25	1	+1	2.86	+2.03	7	5.85	+2.80	17
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	47	76	56	-4	196	+15	23	+13	4.03	+3.33	5	12.81	+9.73	16
Fitchburg	45	76	54	-2	191	+102	22	+19	3.23	+2.44	6	8.35	+5.19	17
Greenfield	43	75	54	-6	160	-23	10	-11	2.43	+1.54	6	7.74	+4.24	18
New_Bedford	45	71	57	-3	160	-24	8	-3	2.18	+1.38	5	8.71	+5.31	16
Otis_AFB	50	72	58	+3	149	+57	10	+10	1.10	+0.26	5	4.28	+0.81	13
Plymouth	48	72	57	+1	142	+38	7	+5	1.53	+0.62	4	8.08	+4.32	15
Walpole	46	75	55	-3	169	+32	16	+7	2.19	+1.42	5	8.53	+5.21	16
Chicopee/Westov	40	77	54	-7	209	-43	14	-23	2.29	+1.38	6	6.24	+2.60	16
Worthington	37	73	50	-6	90	-7	4	-4	2.25	+1.20	7	6.66	+2.50	17
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	48	74	57	-2	251	+94	21	+14	1.97	+1.13	5	8.56	+5.06	15
Woonsocket	46	75	55	-3	176	+43	14	+8	2.29	+1.38	5	7.98	+4.22	16
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	49	71	58	-2	262	+68	22	-3	2.55	+1.64	4	9.64	+6.00	13
Hartford/Bradle	45	76	56	-6	276	+50	34	-1	2.50	+1.52	5	8.14	+4.41	14
Norfolk	39	71	51	-5	124	+31	5	-1	2.08	+1.04	6	9.02	+4.88	16
Thomaston_Dam	44	74	55	-4	192	+41	10	-5	1.93	+0.95	6	8.27	+4.17	16
Willimantic	42	74	54	-4	218	+69	12	-2	1.38	+0.44	6	6.91	+3.03	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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STATE WEATHER SUMMARY

For the Week Ending Sunday, May 21, 2006

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	L	HI	AV	DF	LO	HI
ME	32	76	53	+0	0.80	3.85
NH	27	80	52	-3	1.97	7.22
VT	31	74	53	-2	1.74	7.15
MA	37	77	55	-2	0.80	4.03
RI	46	75	56	-2	1.97	2.29
CT	39	76	55	-4	1.38	3.02

Prepared by AWIS, Inc.

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: It was a rainy week. Most fields are too wet to work. **Jude Boucher (Ext), Tolland:** Some vegetable plantings on side hills washed away, others in low lying areas are underwater. It could have been worse...like the North Shore of MA or southeastern NH...or here last October! **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Rain continued for most of the week. Planting of sweet corn, field corn, squash and cukes. Some flooded river bottom land will have to be replanted. Grass growing nicely. **Frank Himmelstein (Ext), New London:** Field Corn- An entire week of essentially no field activity due to muddy fields. On and off heavy localized showers continued throughout the week. A severe thunderstorm with hail occurred in parts of the county on Sunday. Some of the corn that was planted before the rains began and will most likely need replanting. Commercial nitrogen spread before the rain will be leached out in many areas. High leaching herbicides such as atrazine and metolachlor applied before the rainy period will be leached out as well. Re-sprays may be needed later in the season. Warmer seasonal temps will not return until later in the week. Dry hay- Wet fields will hamper any early hay harvests. People are searching for hay anywhere they can find it. Some retail stores charging over six dollars a bale. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Heavy rain has put crop conditions behind with the sunnier, drier conditions predicted, producers will be scurrying to catch up. Greenhouse producers' Mother's Day sales are down significantly due to heavy rains. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Another very wet week with about six inches since May began. High winds and thunderstorms on Sunday. Blossoms were swirling in the air. Field corn is coming up. Activity takes place between rains. No haying this week. Sun is coming. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** Rainy, wet and cool weather continued this week. We really need some sun and warm breezes to help dry out our fields and warm up the soil so that seeds that have been planted will sprout and grow. **Joyce Meader (Ext), Windham:** Some April forage seedings on dry land are still not emerging. Delayed moisture may be the problem, and hope is still there. Hay is ready to cut, but fields are too wet. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Rain early in the week, showers during the middle of the week, thunderstorms with hail to end the week. Farmers did nothing in the fields except look at the clouds and wonder when it will end!

MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook: Potatoes and small grains: Rains during most of the week have brought planting to a standstill. Showers forecast for most of next week. Some growers have finished planting, some about half done. A few haven't begun yet. Some concern about seed in saturated soils. A lot of small grains have emerged. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** With the recent rain farmers are waiting to get back to planting their crops. Presque Isle area received 3.2 inches of rain over the week. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Waiting for weather to dry out. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis:** We have had a week of wet weather. The fields really haven't had time to dry out between showers. Field work is delayed. **Janet King (FSA), Somerset:** Conditions have been ideal for grassland. Grass is lush and full. Corn planting is slightly ahead of normal, however this weeks heavy rainfall will set things back. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** We got 1.5-2 inches of rain early last week and it slowed field work considerably. Some corn was being planted by the end of the week, but we had additional rain on Friday. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Herbicide application on blueberry fields has begun when weather permits. Spinach, radishes and potted plants at farmstands. No silage corn planted yet in this area. Cold weather has curtailed fieldwork. Most fields are too soft to get on. Fortunately this area did not get the heavy rainfall that southern Maine and NH received. The weekend was pleasant which was good news for farmstands and greenhouses. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Bees have been moved into most fields for pollination. Rain and windy weather has been hampering pollination. Crop is about one week ahead of normal. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Conditions were too wet to accomplish much last week. Some planted crops went under water but re-emerged fairly soon. The rainy weather could have a major effect on apple blossom pollination. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Oxford County producers have been reporting very wet conditions and that field work has stopped due to rain. Crop fields have standing water and streams have been over flowing. Pastures and HUA's are very muddy and wet. Potato producers have reported some fields have been under water and in need of sunshine. Oxford County received several inches of rain over the past couple of weeks. **Laura Rand (FSA), Androscoggin:** Rain most of the week. Rain has hampered most crop producers in getting crops in during the week. Temperatures have been lower than usual.

MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: County farmers contended with wet fields and periodic heavy rain all week. So planting is at a standstill as farmers are dealing with inaccessible fields and ground too wet to plant. The first hay cutting will be good assuming that we get the dry, sunny weather predicted for this week. There were violent storms in the county on Sunday including hail and high winds. The temperature plunged to 38 degrees in northern Berkshire as the front moved through hopefully bringing this rainy period to an end. No reports yet on crop damage in orchards and strawberry fields from the hail. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: After all was said and done, the cranberry-producing area received between four to six inches of rain, shutting down most field operations for many days. Since Wednesday, growers have resumed scouting for insects, pre-emergent herbicide applications, planting vines in renovated beds and other activities. No frost nights through the week. Water supplies are in good shape now after a drier than usual March and April. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Franklin/Hampshire/Hampden:** Crop fields are still very wet for the second week in a row. Growers are having a very difficult time planting their crops. Harvesting spinach and asparagus. Crops are growing slow due to the cool wet weather. Orchardists are applying a protective fungicide spray to their fruit crops. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** Just shoot me! All this rain, no appreciable field work done and retail sales-well what retail sales.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap: Farms reported complete loss of early sweet corn, pea, carrot and beet crops due to flooding. Orchardists are worried about pollination, as some apple varieties were at full bloom during the heavy rains. Many pastures and haylands are green and lush, others are partly under water. Garden center sales were affected significantly due to wet weather. **Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll:** More rain this week in northern parts of the county, nothing to match the flooding in the south, but enough to keep folks out of the field and concerned about wet conditions. Nurseries and garden centers report brisk sales when the sun shines, which isn't often. Pastures and hay fields growing well. Fruit blossoms seem to be hanging in there despite the rain and wind. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Cloudy and plenty of showers throughout the week, with the sun making a few brief appearances towards the second half of the week. Many early-planted corn fields emerging now, still a few fields remain to be planted. Hayfields and pastures growing very well; orchardgrass heading out and is ready to cut, but field conditions aren't good for mowing just yet. Planting delayed on many veggie operations, but some early crops available. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Rainy cold week makes for different field conditions, limiting farm activities. Several inches of rain; some fields along river showing signs of flooding. Rivers and tributaries running strong. Most field corn now in, a little now up. Grass growing very well under these conditions. Veggies continuing to go in as soil permits; a bit slow at garden centers. No reports of frost. First lily leaf beetle brought in for ID. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Corn planting continued despite the rain. Other field work slowed due to rain and wetness. Alfalfa and grasses growing well. Grasses just beginning to head out. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** After nearly two weeks of wet/ rainy conditions, field work has come to a halt. The few producers who planted corn in that early window are hoping for the best. Most producers are concerned with the loss of fertility through leaching, and some runoff conditions. Apple growers are concerned about the lack of pollination; too wet and cool for the bees to fly. Extremely high rainfall in the eastern town ships and along the southern end of the county has created serious flooding issues and localized damage to land and crops. On some fields, first cutting was lodged and covered with sediment and debris. Rainfall in the southeastern areas was reported at levels in excess of 12 inches. The western side of the county has reports of rainfall reported at less than three inches in some areas, and over nine inches at other sites. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Many rivers flooded farmland through out the county. Super saturated soil conditions and continued rainy weather brought most farming activities to a stand-still. Overall, plant growth slowed down because of cool damp weather. Vegetables: Harvesting asparagus and rhubarb. Growers are trying successive plantings of sweet corn and planting potato and other early season vegetable crops but many could not because of wet soil conditions. Many growers are side-dressing nitrogen to early planted and germinated crops Fruit: Orchardists made sure to have protective fungicide sprays applied with off and on rain showers. Blueberries are blooming, some concerns about rainy conditions preventing pollination. Late blooming apples varieties were at petal fall. Some winterkill seen on raspberries. Field Crops: Grasses and forage crops growing slowly. Some orchardgrass starting to heads. With rainy Mother's Day weekend and conditioned rainy conditions - farmstands, greenhouses and garden centers suffered on

sales. Heavy rains damage bedding plants that were outside. Cloudy wet conditions causing disease problems on blooming bedding planting. **Sadie Puglisi (Ext), Merrimack:** Rain was disastrous around Merrimack County these past couple of weeks. Damage varies from minimal to heavy. Those that already planted their vegetable fields lost their transplants due to flooding and have to start over again with purchased plants or seed. Plastic and row covers were pushed downstream. Some of the corn fields that were planted remained under water for a few continuous days and seeds may be lost. Those that have not planted yet face late planting dates as they wait for the fields to dry out. Pre-plant incorporated fertilizer and soil amendments were lost due to erosion and leaching. Ornamental growers face damage from flooded fields and erosion. The forecast this week calls for sun and wind, which will be greatly appreciated by many. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Many fields (vegetables, fruits, forage, etc.) are still flooded. Some fields are inaccessible to access damages. Fairly new planted fields with sweet corn, field corn will have to be re-planted as seed washed away. Protective fungicide in fruit orchards was difficult to be done as fields were very wet. Wind damaged noticed on field tomatoes. The rain at the end of the week was not needed. Growers are waiting for the fields to dry, access damage and resume work. **Seth Wilner (FSA), Sullivan:** During the heavy rain periods we received four to five inches around the county. This past weekend we also received between one to two inches. No major flooding occurred, but field are extremely wet and soils are saturated. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** Most fields are still saturated. There was very little field work due to the condition of the fields after the excessive amounts of rain received last week. The condition of the fields has delayed planting for most vegetable growers. Fruit growers were busy monitoring their crops for fungal diseases due to the wet cool weather. There was concern among fruit growers about low bee activity which might affect the pollination and fruit set. Greenhouse and nursery operations had low Mother's Day weekend because of the continuous rains through the weekend.

However customers came out in good numbers this past weekend due to the improvement in the weather. Some greenhouse growers were busy preparing space for planting fall mums in the coming weeks.

RHODE ISLAND - Trying hard to get some field work done, but the rain has really put a damper on progress. Did get some harrowing for corn accomplished. Need to get some fungicides on trees and finish up some herbicide applications. This week looks better for some catch up. Road side stands are slow.

VERMONT - Great week for waterfowl!! Six inches of rain kept any cropping activities on hold. Lowland flooding may result in some cornfields needing to be re-planted. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** A lot of rain this past week has slowed planting for farmers. There was some minor flooding. Fields are very wet now. Pastures look good. With all this rain the grass should really take off. **Terence Bradshaw, Univ of Vermont:** Apples: One word that we all know regarding the recent weather...rain! The events of the past week have added up to a major scab infection period. Thankfully there was a decent break on Tuesday, allowing for fungicide coverage, but the amount received afterward may very well have washed off effective residue. Reapplication as soon as possible is warranted. Bloom was moderately heavy with a couple of days of decent pollination weather, but temps for fertilization have been on the low side so we might expect a somewhat lighter set. Petal fall sprays should begin this week when the weather clears up. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Plowing under nice heavy crop of rye before planting. Soil in good condition to plant. First planting of sweet corn showing in rows. Rain - 1.000 inches for the week. Rain came in nice showers, did a lot of good. Very cloudy all week, now we need sunshine. Asparagus doing well, also rhubarb. Peas and other early vegetables came up well, but now need some bright sunny days. Hope for sunshine this week.

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

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