



# New England Agricultural Statistics



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For week ending 7/8/07

## Just Enough Rain to Keep Crops Growing

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:** For the week ending July 8, 2007, there were 6.1 days suitable for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture was rated 9% very short, 33% short, 57% adequate, and 1% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 7% very short, 32% short, and 61% adequate. Pasture condition was rated 13% poor, 24% fair, 50% good, and 13% excellent. Cooler temperatures prevailed during the first part of the week, with daytime highs remaining in the 70s through Wednesday. Showers on Wednesday evening and Thursday morning brought some relief to drier areas. On Friday, thunderstorms brought heavy rain and hail to many areas causing damage to tree fruit, corn, and vegetable crops. Warmer conditions returned for the weekend along with scattered shower activity. Despite the week's wetter weather, most growers reported that fields remain fairly dry.

**FRUIT:** Harvest of summer raspberries and highbush blueberries began this week while strawberry harvest began to wind down across the region. Pollination of the cranberry crop in Massachusetts continued as blossoms were in full bloom to petal fall. Cranberry growers continued to apply fungicides and insecticides to protect the crop from fruit rot and fruit worm. Wild blueberries in mid-coast Maine began turning color this week. Growers expressed concern about the dry weather conditions but welcomed what rain was received. Tree fruit growers spent the week assessing damage from hail and fire blight disease in orchards, monitoring pests and crop development, and applying sprays for pest control as needed.

**VEGETABLES:** While most vegetable crops benefited from the week's scattered showers, heavy rains and hail in New Hampshire on Friday caused damage to sweet corn and vegetables. For the most part, growers reported that crops look good, but irrigation remains necessary. Some early sweet corn was harvested in western states this week; however, most producers expect a later harvest due to the lack of warm weather. Farmers markets and roadside stands were filled with early season vegetables, including lettuce, cole crops, peas, radishes, summer squash, carrots, greenhouse tomatoes, and cucumbers. Vegetable growers kept busy irrigating, side dressing fields with fertilizer, cultivating, mowing weeds, scouting for pests, and spraying as needed.

**FIELD CROPS:** Farmers in northern Maine reported that potato and small grain crops continue to look good. Growers there kept busy cultivating, hilling, and spraying their crops. First and second cutting of dry hay continued across the region. Some producers reported the week's spotty shower activity and cooler temperatures made haying difficult. Field corn growth continues, although growers in parts of Vermont noted that the corn crop is showing signs of stress due to the lack of rain. Growers spent the week sidedressing fertilizer to field corn as needed and spreading manure on harvested hay fields.

### SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
<b>Topsoil</b>			
Very Short	9	14	0
Short	33	35	2
Adequate	57	51	61
Surplus	1	0	37
<b>Subsoil</b>			
Very Short	7	12	0
Short	32	30	0
Adequate	61	58	62
Surplus	0	0	38

### FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Set	Fruit Size	Condition
	2007	2006	5-yr Avg			
Apples	-	-	-	Avg/Above	Average	Good
Peaches	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good
Pears	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good
Blueberries						
Highbush	<5	<5	10	Avg/Above	Average	Good
Wild, ME	-	-	-	Average	Avg/Below Avg	Good
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-	Average	-	Good
Strawberries	85	85	75	Avg/Above	Average	Good/Excellent

### FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2007	2006	5-yr Avg	Condition
--Percent Planted--				
Sweet Corn	99	95	95	
--Percent Emerged--				
Sweet Corn	95	90	90	
-- Percent Harvested --				
Barley, ME	-	-	-	Excellent
Oats, ME	-	-	-	Good
Potatoes				
Maine	-	-	-	Good/Excellent
Mass	-	-	-	Good
Rhode Island	-	-	-	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	-	-	-	Good
Sweet Corn	-	-	-	Good/Excellent
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	-	-	-	Good
Shade	-	-	-	Good
Dry Hay				
First Cut	90	60	75	Good
Second Cut	10	<5	10	Good/Fair

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

For the Period: Monday July 2, 2007  
To: Sunday July 8, 2007

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 INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS
<b>MAINE</b>														
Augusta State_A	50	82	66	-4	843	+98	310	+97	0.65	-0.09	5	1.08	-1.95	10
Bangor Intl_Arp	44	81	64	-4	757	+99	248	+83	0.45	-0.32	5	1.12	-1.96	11
Bethel	47	79	63	-5	682	+8	208	+37	0.17	-0.67	2	1.18	-2.43	7
Caribou Municip	40	77	60	-6	602	+67	162	+56	0.76	-0.07	6	2.23	-0.69	16
Dover-Foxcroft	44	78	61	-5	591	+36	143	+29	0.22	-0.62	3	1.16	-2.29	8
Frenchville	43	73	59	-5	540	+53	135	+51	0.80	-0.01	6	4.04	+1.00	15
Houlton	37	77	59	-7	580	+30	155	+41	1.11	+0.29	6	3.35	+0.22	18
Livermore Falls	39	82	62	-3	659	+102	203	+90	0.26	-0.54	2	0.63	-3.02	7
Moosehead	39	75	57	-7	481	+41	95	+26	0.54	-0.37	6	1.83	-1.87	13
Portland_ME	49	79	65	-3	815	+175	281	+128	0.75	+0.00	3	0.90	-2.24	7
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>														
Benton	44	77	61	-5	674	+25	200	+55	0.94	+0.14	4	2.60	-0.83	14
Berlin AG	41	78	61	-6	649	+8	186	+35	0.80	-0.05	4	1.99	-1.73	9
Bethlehem	39	78	60	-7	695	+46	201	+54	0.85	-0.05	5	2.25	-1.49	16
Concord	42	85	66	-3	950	+174	377	+146	0.44	-0.26	3	1.27	-1.67	12
Diamond Pond	39	71	55	-7	414	+25	79	+38	0.46	-0.59	5	1.80	-2.51	13
Keene AP	43	82	65	-6	885	-20	331	+22	0.58	-0.22	3	1.57	-1.75	11
North Conway	44	82	63	-5	714	-4	230	+31	0.39	-0.46	3	0.89	-2.74	11
Rochester	45	82	66	-4	851	+14	326	+58	0.86	+0.08	3	1.59	-1.62	7
<b>VERMONT</b>														
Burlington Intl	48	79	66	-5	1008	+152	437	+153	1.96	+1.16	4	2.80	-0.49	13
Island Pond	40	76	58	-6	614	+108	168	+74	1.01	+0.04	5	3.16	-0.81	16
Montpelier	43	77	62	-5	799	+148	276	+115	1.44	+0.74	5	2.38	-0.70	14
Pownal	45	77	62	-5	799	+127	276	+109	0.92	-0.03	4	2.84	-1.24	12
Rochester	45	78	63	-4	713	+87	225	+77	0.94	+0.10	5	4.39	+0.98	15
Rutland AG	49	78	63	-7	801	-107	282	-27	0.55	-0.29	4	2.59	-0.77	12
Springfield_VT	45	82	64	-3	874	+162	338	+150	0.51	-0.33	3	1.78	-1.74	15
Sunderland	40	79	61	-8	681	-188	214	-67	0.84	+0.15	3	2.62	-0.31	12
Sutton	43	76	60	-5	634	+126	173	+72	0.60	-0.37	5	3.73	-0.24	19
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>														
Boston/Logan_In	56	85	71	-2	1180	+174	521	+154	0.36	-0.28	2	0.97	-1.80	10
Fitchburg	50	85	69	+2	1119	+428	488	+307	1.09	+0.25	4	1.80	-1.56	10
Greenfield	41	81	64	-8	955	-22	361	+9	0.93	+0.07	3	2.08	-1.42	14
New Bedford	45	85	67	-6	956	-33	353	+6	1.00	+0.30	3	1.51	-1.64	11
Otis_AFB	50	79	66	-4	808	+60	259	+44	1.82	+1.16	3	2.39	-0.49	10
Plymouth	46	84	68	-3	956	+160	368	+120	1.12	+0.35	3	1.78	-1.35	11
Walpole	47	84	68	-2	1047	+196	430	+156	0.38	-0.41	3	1.75	-1.68	9
Chicopee/Westov	43	86	67	-7	1021	-116	417	-32	1.77	+0.91	3	2.57	-1.09	9
Worthington	46	80	63	-4	786	+107	259	+90	2.45	+1.51	3	3.97	+0.33	12
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>														
Providence	54	85	70	-2	1190	+250	502	+172	0.85	+0.15	3	1.98	-1.02	9
Woonsocket	49	83	67	-3	1037	+200	406	+151	1.19	+0.28	3	2.97	-0.76	11
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>														
Bridgeport/Siko	56	87	70	-3	1189	+172	489	+107	0.93	+0.09	3	2.81	-0.43	12
Hartford/Bradle	49	87	70	-3	1253	+163	562	+134	1.01	+0.25	3	1.46	-1.86	10
Norfolk	48	79	64	-3	879	+201	327	+157	1.13	+0.15	3	1.66	-2.51	9
Thomaston Dam	48	82	67	-3	1042	+196	412	+150	1.08	+0.17	3	2.72	-1.00	14
Willimantic	47	83	68	-2	1082	+225	443	+175	1.38	+0.47	3	1.70	-1.84	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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Prepared by AWIS, Inc.

**STATE WEATHER SUMMARY**

For the week ending Sunday, July 8, 2007

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	L	HI	AV	DF	LO	HI
ME	37	84	62	-5	0.16	1.81
NH	31	88	62	-5	0.31	1.25
VT	39	82	61	-5	0.37	2.71
MA	40	87	67	-3	0.33	2.45
RI	49	85	68	-3	0.85	1.21
CT	45	87	68	-4	0.55	1.69

**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:** Rain fell at the end of the week, slowing the hay harvest. Field corn looks good. Wire worms found in some fields. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Another mostly dry week. Showers on Thursday and Friday yielded half to three quarters of an inch of rain, but soil conditions still remain dry. Sweet corn and blueberry harvest started on more farms. More hay baled over the weekend. Field corn looks good but could use a drink of water. Pumpkins are starting to come along. **Jude Boucher (Ext), Tolland:** Most of the state picked up a much needed 0.6 to 0.8 inches of rain early last week. We could use a little more about now. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Rain came just in time. Vegetables are great - will start picking sweet corn next week. Best strawberry harvest in years. Second cut of grass coming along. Silage corn is growing fast. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Scattered showers brought about one inch of rain over two days, crops were happy to get it; corn, hay, vegetables and fruits looking good, ongoing mowing, maintaining, pruning, fertilizing, organizing people to help with vegetable and hay harvests. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** Heavy thunderstorms started mid-week and dropped a lot of rain and small hail in some areas. Hot and sunny over the weekend dried things up some. Early vegetables are being harvested and are delicious.

**MAINE - Dee Potter (Ext), Northern Aroostook:** Potato and small grain crops are looking good; field work includes hilling and spraying. Pastures are holding up well; continue to work on harvesting first cut. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Fungicide applications, cultivating and mowing headlands. The crop is growing rapidly and looks excellent. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Cultivation continues, potatoes are looking good and growing fast. European corn borer moths are being found with some egg masses probably will need to spray in seven-ten days. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** Scattered showers relieved some of the dryness but we still need widespread rain. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Lots of spotty showers with some beneficial amounts in certain areas, but some locations received very little. Cool nights have not helped corn grow very much lately. Strawberry harvest is nearly over. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Some dry hay was harvested earlier in the week. Peas, lettuce, summer squash, carrots, etc. are all being harvested. Tomatoes and cucumbers are being harvested from greenhouses. Reports are the strawberry crop is great this year and harvest continues in most areas. Sweet corn will be harvested a little later than expected as some warm weather is needed for the crop to mature. Farmers are hoping harvest will begin around July 20. Blueberry fields are turning blue and harvest should start around July 30th in this area. Growers were concerned about the dry weather conditions but rain this past week should help the blueberry crop. Rain was scattered throughout the area with some areas receiving half an inch and other areas receiving over an inch over the past week. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Traps beginning to capture blueberry fruit flies. Crop development delayed because of cool temperatures so there are few blue fruit for the flies to lay their eggs. Showers helping to alleviate some of the lack of moisture but are very uneven and have not provided adequate precipitation. Soil is still very dry. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Rain finally arrived for most areas on Friday. Unfortunately, some places received hail. So far, the summer has been cool and dry. Vegetables could use some heat. Rain threatening every day has put an end to haying harvest for now. However, most had finished the first hay crop. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Androscoggin/Franklin:** Much needed showers have occurred. We now need some of the heat and sunshine passing to the south. Crops still look good. Pasture and second crop hay growth have slowed. More rain would help. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Oxford county producers reported cool, windy and scattered showers throughout the county last week. Sweet corn is looking good along with other field crops. Haying going strong and strawberries are being harvested. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Penobscot:** Farmers have done first cut of grass silage/haylage and crop is good quality and quantity in most areas. Strawberries have started to be picked and look good. Apples are setting and size is average. Blueberries are setting. We need some rain ground is pretty dry at this point. Scattered showers this week have hit some areas but others still need moisture. Potatoes look good but need moisture. Farmers have

been spreading fertilizer on hay fields for second crop. Most crops have emerged the ground and look pretty good, but moisture is desperately needed.

**MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire:** We got two inches of county wide soaking rain toward the end of the week. This was much needed and has curtailed the dryness. All crops seem to be back on track. Second cutting of hay was made early in the week with excellent drying conditions. Strawberry season ended with a good crop and good turnouts. The holiday in mid-week brought in more farm stand business for a weekday and markets were good. Orchards will have cherries this week or next. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Weather has been very good for pollination so far, and the bees are getting the job done. Some pretty decent sets on some beds. Rain has come to several locations; the area received an inch plus last Thursday and Friday. Growers will be putting on that critical 'fruit set' fertilizer application. Fungicide applications for fruit rot and insecticide applications for fruit worm continue. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Franklin/Hampshire/Hampden:** A million dollar rain. The three counties got more than 1.5 inches plus of rain Thursday and Friday which made all farmers smiling. Harvesting carrots, beets, lettuce, sweet corn, radishes, cukes, summer squash, blueberries, and raspberries. All crops look good.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap:** This was a good year for strawberries in central NH. The early varieties of highbush blueberries are just beginning to ripen. Vegetable crops look good, though farmers have needed to set up irrigation in many fields. **Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll:** Cool temperatures, hit or miss showers make haying difficult, some dry hay still making into the barn. Field crops are doing well, just enough rain to keep crops growing. Sweet corn could use some warm weather. Strawberries are in full swing, blueberries will be ready soon. We could still use a good soaking rain. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Dry, sunny weather early in the week, with rain starting midweek. Field corn is doing great in most places. Haying conditions for second and remaining first cuttings is so-so, but re-growth is strong. PYO strawberries winding down, but raspberries have begun with blueberries soon to follow. Lots of vegetables for sale at farm stand, etc. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Cool wet weather throughout the week; good for watering in top dress fertilizer applications but not much else. Some early planted corn on lighter soils over knee-high by the fourth of July but the rest can surely use sun and heat. Assessing weed control. Fairly good re-growth on first cut haylage fields. Any dry hay fields not harvested by now will past prime feed qualities and stemmy. Pastures look good, wet in some areas. Hard to keep up with growth. Nice fruit fill of apples and blueberries. Generally just early greens etc. showing up at farm markets a good year to have high tunnels. Growing degree days reading hasn't moved much since last week, at 355 for base 50 in Lancaster. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** First and second hay cutting continuing. Scattered thunderstorms with hail did some damage to corn and other vegetables. Field corn is growing well. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Weather: Thunderstorms that produced hail, damaged crops in a localize areas through the state on Friday afternoon. Fruit: Growers monitoring pest and crop development and applying sprays for pest control, if needed. Continue to assess hail damage and fire blight disease in orchards. Also, growers are training young fruit trees along with mowing orchard floor. Strawberry harvest is nearly over (99% harvest) and getting to renovate harvested beds. First blueberries harvested during the end of the week. Field Crops: Farmers continued to bale hay or make haylage at a faster rate until week's end then stopped due to scattered rain showers. Growers are side dressing fertilizer to field corn if needed and spreading manure on harvested hayfields. Vegetables: Continuing successive planting. Growers continued harvesting early season vegetables such as lettuce, peas, greens, radishes, and summer squash. Growers busy irrigating, side dressing fields with fertilizer, cultivating, mowing weeds, scouting for pests and spraying if needed. Potato Leafhopper and Squash Vine Borer seen or trap during week. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Strawberry picking winding down. Now starting to pick raspberry and blueberry. Still picking cherry and a whole array of vegetables including leafy greens greenhouse tomatoes, cucumber, zucchini, broccoli. Continue monitoring pests in fruit orchards and mowing grass. Hay and haylage being done. Some gusty winds and heavy rain, and hail storm in some areas around the fourth of July. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** Welcome rain showers after many weeks of dry weather.

However more rain is needed because it has been too dry. Vegetable growers are harvesting an array of vegetable crops as well as weeding and cultivating the fields. Fruit growers continued to harvest strawberries this week, and mowing orchard floors and spraying for pests where needed. Garden centers and nurseries had slow week with most of them marking down prices and putting some of their products on summer sale. Fall mums are doing well for most producers.

**RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport:** Hand hoeing vegetables, harvesting lettuces and cole crops. Strawberries finishing up and the crop were pretty good. Spraying potatoes, sweet corn and summer vegetables. Scouting for insects. A welcome mid week rain helped some pastures and field crops. We could use more.

**VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille:** Frequent showers and the likely chance of rain made haying

problematic last week. The moisture did help to end the dry spell that had been holding back grass growth. Corn and vegetable crops also enjoyed a nice drink of water. Crops are still looking quite good. **Jeffrey Carter (Ext), Addison:** Very dry soil needs rain. Corn growth still looks good, but hay re-growth slow to none. Second cut hay looks poor, pastures looking poor. Most corn side dress Nitrogen finished, some follow-up weed control applications. Manure spreading on harvested hay crop fields. **Julie Jacque (FSA), Windham:** Early week showed evidence of rainfall shortages. Corn crop on some ground started showing signs of stress. Many completed first cut hay in clear weather. Vegetables looking good for now but could use rain if not being irrigated. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Several days of showers and some rain have given one and a half inches of much needed rain. Should be getting plants growing again. Haying and spreading manure after haying were this week's major tasks. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Showers came and did a lot of good. Market going into green season now with lettuce, beet greens, swiss chard, scallions, spinach and peas. Early sweet corn tassled out and looking good. Have a good week.

**June 2007 Crop Weather Summary:** The first week of June was very wet with below average temperatures, prompting frost warnings in some areas. Cool temperatures continued during the second week, hindering crop development. Growers in northern areas reported crops showing signs of stress due to the lack of rain. Dry, cold conditions continued the third week hindering crop development even further, with some areas starting to show signs of drought. Warmer temperatures arrived on June 25, but thunderstorms in the middle of the week brought cool temperatures back for the following weekend. By month's end, most areas remained very dry despite scattered shower activity, forcing farmers to irrigate where possible. Growers reported the scattered thunderstorms during the first and last weeks of June brought hail damage to orchards, vegetables, and hay fields. Vegetable producers harvested early season vegetables throughout the month and transplanted tomatoes and peppers. Strawberries were 65% harvested by the end of the month and were reported in good to excellent condition. Highbush and wild blueberries reached petal fall mid-month; highbush blueberries were starting to ripen by the end of the month. Berry growers and orchardists reported the dry, cool weather throughout the month delayed crop maturation. Potatoes in Rhode Island were reported 100% emerged by the first week of June, with Massachusetts following the next week, and Maine potatoes catching up by the end of the month. The potato crop was rated in good to excellent condition and growers kept busy hilling and scouting for pests. Barley and oats in Maine were 100% emerged by the third week of June and both were in excellent condition. Field and sweet corn planting was near complete by the end of the month and most of the crop had emerged. Farmers reported the dry weather hindered crop development and some areas experienced bindweed and cutworm infestations. Shade tobacco transplanting was complete the first week of June and Broadleaf transplanting was nearly complete by the end of the month. Both crops were rated in good condition. The first cut of grass for dry hay and haylage was 70% complete at the end of the month and the second cut had commenced. Hay growers were busy harvesting, spreading manure, and topdressing fields with nitrogen.

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