



# New England Agricultural Statistics



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For week ending 8/12/07

## Rainfall Welcomed

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:** For the week ending August 12, 2007, there were 5.9 days suitable for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture was rated 5% very short, 23% short, 69% adequate, and 3% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 4% very short, 19% short, 73% adequate, and 4% surplus. Pasture condition was rated 11% poor, 39% fair, 42% good, and 8% excellent. Rainfall in the beginning of the week brought much needed moisture to dry fields. Temperatures were average with highs in the upper 70s to mid 80s and lows in the 50s and 60s. Heavy thunderstorms and hail fell on Wednesday, damaging orchards, vegetable fields, and potato and grain crops across New England. Friday also brought significant rain to the southern states. Total rainfall for the week ranged from one to two inches across the region. The weekend boasted warm, dry weather, perfect for working in the fields and drying hay. Although the rain was very beneficial to dry areas, some growers reported crops showing signs of drought.

**FRUIT:** Both wild and highbush blueberry harvests were well underway. Highbush blueberry harvest was complete in some areas. An average to better than average harvest is expected, though some winter injury and weed pressure is keeping yields down in Maine and blueberry maggots were reported in Massachusetts. The rain was very beneficial to the cranberry crop, increasing fruit size and decreasing pest populations. Cranberry harvest should begin in September. Raspberry harvest continued and growers reported the crop in good condition. Peach and apple harvests progressed this week as well. Pick-your-own apple operations should open this coming weekend. Orchardists were busy monitoring for pests, mowing orchard floors, and pruning trees. Strawberry growers were busy cultivating and weeding recently renovated beds.

**VEGETABLES:** Farmers' markets and roadside stands were very busy this past week. The sweet corn harvest continued and the produce was reported in good condition and quite tasty. Growers reported experiencing corn earworm and corn borer infestations and also bird damage in some fields. Despite the heavy rain mid-week, vegetable growers were still irrigating sweet corn, tomatoes, and other vegetable fields at week's end. Vegetable producers harvested a wide array of summer vegetables including tomatoes, sweet corn, peppers, beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, lettuce, and squash. Growers were busy spraying pesticides and fungicides as high insect and disease pressure have been reported.

**FIELD CROPS:** Hay producers continued to harvest first, second, and third cuts of dry hay and haylage. Growers reported the second and third cuts have lower yields due to the drier weather limiting regrowth. Weed pressure has also been a significant factor in lower yields. Field corn was reported in good condition as tasselling and silking were progressing well. However, some reporters are concerned the dry weather may hinder ear development. The heavy thunderstorms brought hail damage to potato and grain crops in Northern Maine and leafhopper and aphid populations were on the rise last week. Potato harvesting continued in Rhode Island and Massachusetts. All potato crops were reported in good to excellent condition at week's end. Both shade and broadleaf tobacco harvests were in full swing and both crops were reported in good condition. The broadleaf harvest ranged from 25 percent picked in Connecticut to 60 percent in Massachusetts. Farmers were busy preparing equipment for harvesting field corn, scouting for pests, weeding, spreading manure, and applying lime and fertilizers.

### SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
<b>Topsoil</b>			
Very Short	5	2	0
Short	23	35	9
Adequate	69	60	77
Surplus	3	3	14
<b>Subsoil</b>			
Very Short	4	2	0
Short	19	24	5
Adequate	73	71	82
Surplus	4	3	13

### FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Size	Condition
	2007	2006	5-yr Avg		
Apples	5	<5	<5	Avg/Above	Good/Fair
Peaches	40	30	35	Average	Good
Pears	-	-	-	Average	Good
Blueberries					
Highbush	70	70	65	Average	Good
Wild, ME	25	35	20	Average	Good
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-	Average	Good/Excellent

### FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2007	2006	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Harvested --				
Barley, ME	-	20	<5	Good
Oats, ME	-	10	<5	Good
Potatoes				
Maine	-	-	-	Good/Excellent
Mass	<5	<5	10	Good
Rhode Island	20	-	5	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	-	-	-	Good/Excellent
Sweet Corn	45	30	35	Good
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	40	30	35	Good
Shade	50	40	45	Good
Dry Hay				
First Cut	99	95	95	Good
Second Cut	70	60	60	Good
Third Cut	10	<5	15	Good

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

For the Period: Monday August 6, 2007  
To: Sunday August 12, 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	55	84	68	-2	1563	+126	680	+126	1.22	+0.45	3	2.04	-0.92	10
Bangor Intl_Arp	49	84	66	-3	1442	+136	583	+120	0.94	+0.18	3	3.81	+0.88	10
Bethel	47	83	64	-4	1283	-25	468	+13	1.28	+0.37	3	3.26	-0.12	11
Caribou Municip	46	82	63	-3	1206	+128	422	+115	0.64	-0.27	2	3.61	-0.17	12
Dover-Foxcroft	47	84	63	-4	1139	-3	348	-3	0.26	-0.56	2	0.97	-2.18	9
Frenchville	48	77	61	-3	1093	+93	350	+88	1.10	+0.19	2	6.26	+2.66	10
Houlton	42	83	64	-3	1184	+63	416	+77	0.98	+0.07	3	4.09	+0.53	15
Livermore Falls	45	83	65	-2	1292	+163	488	+151	1.95	+1.04	3	4.11	+0.81	9
Moosehead	44	78	61	-3	985	+36	260	+18	1.44	+0.60	2	5.09	+1.55	11
Portland_ME	53	84	68	+0	1514	+212	630	+163	2.86	+2.23	3	5.37	+2.76	8
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>														
Benton	49	81	64	-2	1260	+41	436	+64	1.51	+0.60	3	3.09	-0.28	10
Berlin AG	45	82	63	-3	1229	+2	421	+28	1.37	+0.39	3	2.56	-1.07	8
Concord	47	88	69	+0	1701	+241	779	+214	0.68	-0.09	4	3.32	+0.28	12
Diamond Pond	46	76	61	-2	865	+40	207	+50	2.97	+1.79	3	6.14	+1.74	9
Keene AP	48	90	69	-2	1632	+1	731	+45	0.64	-0.27	5	3.18	-0.28	14
North Conway	50	83	65	-3	1335	-31	504	+8	1.68	+0.77	3	3.36	-0.14	10
Rochester	50	83	67	-3	1568	+17	693	+60	1.18	+0.34	3	5.36	+2.11	10
<b>VERMONT</b>														
Burlington Intl	54	85	70	+0	1754	+181	833	+184	0.64	-0.27	4	1.50	-1.99	8
Island Pond	48	80	63	+0	1153	+151	360	+107	2.26	+1.14	4	5.25	+1.07	11
Montpelier	51	84	67	+2	1439	+201	566	+167	0.78	-0.09	3	3.29	+0.19	10
Pownal	47	83	65	-2	1441	+164	574	+154	1.07	+0.09	3	4.74	+1.02	15
Rochester	47	84	65	-1	1316	+110	478	+97	1.15	+0.10	5	3.35	-0.47	10
Rutland AG	48	84	67	-3	1457	-163	588	-83	0.29	-0.67	2	2.45	-1.23	7
Springfield_VT	48	88	69	+3	1577	+244	692	+232	1.04	+0.13	4	3.73	+0.32	14
Sutton	47	81	63	-1	1193	+173	384	+116	1.61	+0.50	3	3.29	-0.83	9
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>														
Boston/Logan_In	56	91	70	-3	2036	+202	1027	+180	0.68	-0.02	4	5.07	+2.40	11
Fitchburg	49	89	71	+4	1936	+611	958	+493	0.88	+0.04	4	5.31	+1.99	13
Greenfield	47	87	67	-5	1658	-83	719	-47	0.87	+0.03	3	4.01	+0.65	11
New Bedford	51	88	71	-4	1790	-40	839	-3	0.75	-0.19	3	1.69	-1.53	8
Otis_AFB	55	81	69	-3	1593	+116	695	+98	0.68	-0.09	2	4.59	+1.81	6
Plymouth	51	87	69	-3	1778	+238	842	+197	0.30	-0.57	4	3.88	+0.65	11
Walpole	48	91	70	-1	1882	+296	919	+260	0.53	-0.33	4	1.46	-1.77	11
Chicopee/Westov	45	91	70	-5	1811	-180	863	-93	1.13	+0.36	4	5.02	+1.91	12
Worthington	43	85	65	-2	1420	+129	552	+122	1.43	+0.45	4	5.23	+1.31	13
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>														
Providence	54	91	74	+2	2093	+352	1055	+272	0.92	+0.12	3	3.88	+0.86	10
Woonsocket	49	90	71	+1	1866	+306	889	+262	0.51	-0.40	5	2.98	-0.59	11
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>														
Bridgeport/Siko	55	95	74	+0	2073	+209	1023	+140	1.63	+0.86	5	4.22	+0.96	12
Hartford/Bradle	49	95	73	+0	2144	+224	1106	+196	0.76	-0.02	4	3.85	+0.90	11
Norfolk	50	85	68	+2	1585	+288	685	+248	1.21	+0.21	4	4.51	+0.66	12
Thomaston Dam	50	90	71	+2	1843	+301	865	+257	1.52	+0.58	4	4.93	+1.13	14
Willimantic	48	92	71	+2	1919	+348	934	+301	1.25	+0.34	3	3.49	-0.23	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, August 12, 2007

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	L	HI	AV	DF	LO	HI
ME	41	87	64	-3	0.26	2.86
NH	36	91	66	-1	0.00	3.50
VT	43	88	66	-1	0.29	2.26
MA	41	92	69	-1	0.12	1.50
RI	49	91	72	+0	0.51	1.40
CT	44	95	72	+0	0.76	2.44

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

**CONNECTICUT - Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Some rain on Tuesday and Friday. Irrigation continued on sweet corn, tomatoes, and other vegetable crops. Some hay was taken in, but yields are light. Shade and broadleaf tobacco harvest continued. Blue mold was reported on shade in Suffield August 6th by the CT Ag Experiment Station. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Harvesting of fruits and vegetables continue. All crops, especially field corn, looking great. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** A nice steady one and a half inches fell all day Friday, the crops needed this gentle soaking. Field corn is looking good, tall, nice ear development. Some deer damage. Sweet corn is delicious when fresh. Vegetable crops doing well. Second and third cutting of hay taking place. Getting equipment ready to start chopping corn soon. Blueberries good with picking ending at a few orchards and going strong at others. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** This was a nice warm week. The sweet corn continued to be harvested and it is delicious. Field corn for silage looks great at this point. Vegetables are in abundance and are very nice. **Joyce Meader (Ext), Windham:** Milkweed in the hayfields. Needs more intensive mowing schedule and additional seeding to fill in the bare spots. 'May' hay seedings are in trouble. Weeds are doing well, but new seedlings have died due to the drought. April would have been better?? **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Field Corn is tasseling. Farmers are worried how well it will ear out given the dry conditions. Third cutting haylage/hay is coming off with some skipped acreage due to lack of re-growth. Scouting fields for rootworm adults is ongoing with no reports of significant numbers.

**MAINE - Dee Potter (Ext), Northern Aroostook:** Crops are looking good. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Severe weather last week damaged some crops (potato and grains) due to heavy thunderstorms with high winds and hail. Farmers applying fungicides on a five-day spray schedule for central Aroostook area. Some hail damage to local crops in this area. Crops continue to grow rapidly. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Aphid and leafhopper populations are increasing in the area with some seed growers treating for them. Potato crop looking good to this point. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis:** Sweet corn harvest has started. Off and on rain has helped crops. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** Heavy rainstorms with hail damaged some crops. Vegetables being picked and blueberries available especially as pick your own. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Dry weather continues, although again, some areas have received some beneficial rains. Winter and spring grains are mature and being harvested. Corn crop is coming along, although some areas show some drought stress. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Some much needed rain fell this week. Blueberry yields are down from what was anticipated. There was some winter injury to the crop and weeds are a major problem during the harvest of the blueberry crop. Farm stands in the area are very busy with all the fresh vegetables and fruits that are now available. Apple harvest will start early next week but our one major grower in Lincoln County was hit with hail early in the season which has seriously effected his crop. Grass is being cut, dry hay harvested as weather permits. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Crop harvest progressing well Downeast. Rain is helping to keep berry weight up so that an average or better than average crop is expected. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Beautiful weather this week for harvesting. Hay is being harvested as fast as possible. Everyone could use some rain. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Androscoggin/Franklin:** Most areas received a good mix of sun and rain. There is a lot of sweet corn on the dinner tables now. Corn, grass and hay are all growing well. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Oxford County producers are still in need of a few days of steady rain. Small vegetable gardens are doing well. Potato crop still looking good and harvest time is near. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Penobscot:** Much needed precipitation received in the county. Producers are starting to harvest sweet corn, blueberries, apples and all other crops. Sweet

corn needs to ear out a little more but looks pretty good. Apples have started to be picked and blueberries have started to be raked. Production looks pretty good for both. Some early potatoes have been dug and look pretty good. Hay fields are coming back slowly but we still have a few more weeks to go before second cutting will be done.

**MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire:** Hot weather and a good soaking rain on Friday. Two inches throughout the county for the week. Pasture condition is excellent for this time of year when things usually start to brown up. More hay was made. Summer vegetables are of excellent quality. Berry crops doing well overall. Started picking apples. Farmers markets are well attended. First agricultural fair of the summer last weekend with good attendance. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Nice soaking rain on Friday should help keep the vines healthy and happy and size up the fruit. There are some very good crops out there, and I have seen good size of Early Black and Ben Lear berries in some beds. Insect and disease pressure are less than usual, for the most part. Growers are in a lull at present, getting some relaxation in before harvest starts in a month. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Franklin/Hampshire/Hampden:** Another hot and humid week with scattered rain showers. All types of summer vegetable crops are being harvested along with tobacco. Overall all crops look good.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap:** Farmers are harvesting summer vegetables like tomatoes, sweet corn, peppers and many more. Highbush blueberry harvest has been good this year. Crops would benefit from some rain. **Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll:** Relief! A cooler dryer week, forecast is predicting several dry days in a row, time to make hay while the sun shines! Cooler weather making life a bit more comfortable, vegetables growing well and farm stands doing a brisk business in all types of crops. Highbush blueberry harvest continues, with little or no reports of significant mummyberry disease, plenty of blueberry maggot though! Tree fruit crops coming along nicely, looks like we'll have peaches in Carroll County again this year! **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Hot, muggy weather broke mid-week, with some welcome rain on Wednesday and Friday and some bright sun on Thursday and Saturday. Ears on field corn developing nicely. Haying and haylage/baylage harvest continues as weather conditions allow. Most veggies and fruit crops seem to be doing well. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Most field corn now tasseling, generally at the blister stage. Barley at harvestable stage, some lodging from strong winds we've been experiencing. Haying as possible conditions permit. Good re-growth on previously harvested fields, hoping for better haying weather later in the year. Preparing for summer seedings-forages. Many summer vegetable types, minus sweet corn, now available at farm stands/markets. Just a slower season this year, all crops seem behind whatever normal may be. Cooler, wetter weather this week. Mums starting to crack color. Golden rod now out for honeybees. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Corn continues to tassel, silk and grow well. Hay harvests continuing throughout the week. Soil moisture seems to be supporting growth along with timely rainfall. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Vegetables: Growers harvesting an array of vegetables: beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, cucumbers, greens, lettuce, potatoes, radishes, snap beans, summer squash, sweet corn and other vegetables. Busy irrigating crops. High disease and insect pressure, so farmers kept busy spraying pesticides for insects (especially corn earworm and European corn borer) and diseases. Very good demand for produce at most local farmers' markets and farm stands. More growers are reporting damage on sweet corn caused by birds. Organic grown potatoes severely damaged by potato leaf hopper. Fruit: Orchardists harvesting peaches and Vista Belle and Jersey Mac apples. Blueberry and raspberry harvests continued. Orchardists busy monitoring for pests, mowing orchard floors, moving bins into orchards and fixing up orchard roads. Apple growers busy summer pruning trees. Cultivating and weeding newly renovated strawberry beds. Field Crops: Hay making and cutting haylage continued during

the week with the second cut. The remaining first cutting is only good for mulch hay. Silage corn is rapidly growing with much of it tasseling and silking. **Dorothy Perkins (Ext), Merrimack:** Blueberry picking is in full swing with growers reporting bumper crops. Sweet corn harvest has begun with good full ears. Rain has been more than adequate to sustain fields that have no irrigation. All second cut hay has been harvested and some growers are anticipating a third cut. Raspberry harvest is at the middle to the end and growers are pleased with their yields also. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Raspberry harvest almost done. Still picking blueberries and a whole array of vegetables including sweet corn. Harvesting some early apple varieties and PYO apple operations will be opening this coming week-end. Hay and haylage is being done. Despite some thundershowers and some rain in the middle of the week, fields need a good soaking rain. Field work continues: weeding, irrigating, monitoring pests. Farmers markets, farmstands and PYO operations remain very busy. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** Much needed rain showers this week. Grass in pastures and hayfields doing well after this week's rains. Vegetable growers harvesting an array of different vegetable crops. Farm stands and farmers markets were full with different kinds of vegetables and cut flowers. Fruit growers monitoring for pests and spraying where needed and harvesting blueberries, peaches and raspberries for the farm stands. Pick your own fruit operations offering blueberries, peaches and raspberries.

**RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport:** Some generous rain fell midweek and helped most field crops. Field corn perked up some as did sweet corn. It didn't help harvesting of potatoes much though, but the affects of top kill are evident. Some second cut late in the week was thin. Pastures look a little better. Harvesting great summer vegetables, sweet corn etc. Farmers markets and roadside stands are brimming.

**JULY CROP WEATHER SUMMARY:** Early July temperatures were cool with daytime highs in the 70's. Thunderstorms mid-week brought heavy rain and hail to many areas, causing damage to tree fruit and vegetable crops. Despite the rain, most growers reported that fields remained fairly dry. Warmer temperatures and rain showers arrived mid-month, and some areas received over three inches of rain. Rainfall amounts were extremely variable, and crop conditions ranged from flood damage in Vermont to drought stress in Connecticut. Heavy rains in the third week improved pasture conditions and very dry areas, but some tree fruit and vegetable growers reported crops showing signs of over-saturation. Warm, dry weather returned the last week of July and provided ideal conditions for drying hay and working in the fields. Heavy rain storms dominated over the weekend, with some areas receiving as much as three to five inches of rainfall. However, by month's end, growers in most areas reported the rain was not sufficient to saturate dry fields and all crops would benefit from more rain. Vegetable producers continued to harvest early season vegetables throughout the month. Sweet corn harvest began the first week of July with 25 percent picked by the end of the month, ahead of last year and normal. Strawberry harvest was complete by July 22 and producers reported an abundant, high quality crop. Highbush blueberry harvest began the first week of July and was 35 percent complete at month's end. Both highbush and wild blueberries were reported in good condition. Harvesting of potatoes in Rhode Island was underway the last week of July, about a week ahead of schedule. The potato crops in Maine, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island were all rated in good to excellent condition throughout July, reporting rapid growth in response to adequate heat and moisture. Potato blight was identified at one location in Aroostook County at the end of the month, and Maine growers were on high alert to control its spread. Barley and oats in Maine were reported in good condition at month's end. Field corn was rated in good to excellent condition, but sustained hail damage from storms during the month at some locations. Shade tobacco harvest began the third week of July and was 25 percent complete at the end of the month, ahead of last year and normal. Broadleaf tobacco harvest was just getting underway, with five percent hung in the barns at month's end. Both tobacco crops were rated in good condition. The first cut for dry hay was 95 percent complete at the end of the month, the second cut was 50 percent complete, and the third cut had just begun.

**VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille:** Last week started with some much needed rain that lingered into the middle of the week. This gave a big boost to all crops especially corn which seemed to jump a foot and all the later planted fields are now tasseled. Grass growth started to pick up again last week but third cut is looking light right now unless we get cooler wetter weather. Fair season is providing an excuse to get away from the farm for the day. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Last week gave us some sunny hot weather with a couple of strong rain showers mixed in. The corn has tasseled and in most places looks good. There are a few corn fields that are struggling. These seemed to primarily be on heavy soils. Second cut hay is complete for the most part. I have heard that overall it was a good crop however the quantity was lower than normal. Third cut hay seems to be growing fast. Pastures are still holding out pretty well. The moisture levels have probably helped that out. **Jeffrey Carter (Ext), Addison:** Corn crop maturing nicely. Best corn at County Fair in 23 years. Tall with full ears. Soil moisture adequate, hay crop responding with good re-growth. Continued dry hay harvest, some manure spreading on hay fields. Lime applications and fertilizer applied. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** A couple of showery days yielded an inch of rain here, more in places. More haying, corn coming along, manure going onto hayed ground. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Spraying for blight on potatoes and for bugs on vine crops. Set looks good on winter squash and pumpkins. Seeding rye on harvested fields. Rain for the week .883 inches, it was needed for all crops. Came in showers last of week. Market garden full of good, green produce. Mid-season sweet corn, early red and white potatoes, summer squash, cukes, carrots and a full market of good, green vegetables from eggplant to cauliflower, all in abundance. It is the season for the market garden!

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