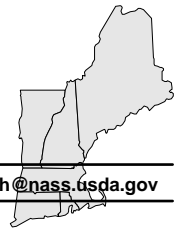




New England Agricultural Statistics



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August 20, 2007 – 4 pm

For week ending 8/19/07

Warm Beginning, Cool End to Week

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending August 19, 2007, there were 6.1 days suitable for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture was rated 4% very short, 30% short, 64% adequate, and 2% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 3% very short, 18% short, 78% adequate, and 1% surplus. Pasture condition was rated 10% poor, 25% fair, 57% good, and 8% excellent. Last week began with rain on Monday and average temperatures, with highs in the 80s and lows in the 60s. The middle of the week also boasted average temperatures, with sporadic rain showers in the northern states. Heavy rain fell on Friday across New England, improving pasture and hay conditions. However, several areas reported significant hail and wind damage, particularly in orchards and vegetable fields. The weekend's temperatures were well below normal, with frost warnings across New England. The cool weather hindered field corn development, but was very beneficial to both wild and highbush blueberry fields, keeping the fruit firm for harvest. Although most areas received a half inch to one inch of rain over the week, many fields were still very dry and crops were showing signs of drought stress.

FRUIT: Harvesting of early apple varieties began in earnest this week. The cool nights helped to bring good color to the fruit. Peaches, pears, and apples were all rated in good to fair condition and pick-your-own operations were very busy over the dry weekend. Several orchards across New England were hit fairly hard by the hail storm on Friday. Orchardists were busy scouting for pests, mowing orchard floors, fixing orchard rows, pruning trees, and mowing orchard floors. The wild and highbush blueberry harvests continued this week and were 70-80 percent complete by week's end. The rain throughout the week helped to keep the berry weights up and the cool weather was beneficial to keeping the berries firm. The harvest quantity is down this year, with reports of heavier winter injury than was previously observed. Cranberries were reported in good condition, though some root rot has been discovered. Also, record dodder growth has been reported in many cranberry beds.

VEGETABLES: Despite the rainfall throughout the week, vegetable fields were very dry and growers were irrigating fields where necessary. Tomatoes were particularly vulnerable to the lack of rain and cracking has been an issue. The rainstorms on Friday also caused hail damage to vegetable fields. Farmers continued to harvest sweet corn, summer squash, field and greenhouse tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, garlic and many other varieties of summer vegetables. The dry weekend kept vegetable stands and farmers' markets very busy. A mildew-like substance has been discovered on cucumbers, pumpkins, and winter squash.

FIELD CROPS: The first cutting of dry hay was 99% complete by week's end and was reported in good to fair condition. The second and third cuttings progressed throughout the week. The rain was beneficial to pasture to regrowth, but both quality and quantity are down. The dry, cool weather hindered field corn development and caused the stalks dry and leaves to curl. Field corn was reported in the silking stage in most areas and harvest should begin in the next couple of weeks. All potato crops were reported in good condition at week's end. Growers were busy vine killing in the fields and scouting for aphids and flea beetles; farmers were on a seven-day spray schedule. The tobacco harvests were well underway as well, with 30 percent of broadleaf picked in Connecticut and 80 percent in Massachusetts. Oats and barley harvesting began in Maine. Farmers were busy getting livestock ready for fairs, seeding pasture and hayfields, weeding, spreading manure, and applying pesticides and fertilizers.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	4	5	0
Short	30	23	4
Adequate	64	69	84
Surplus	2	3	12
Subsoil			
Very Short	3	4	0
Short	18	19	2
Adequate	78	73	86
Surplus	1	4	12

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Size	Condition
	2007	2006	5-yr Avg		
Apples	5	5	5	Average	Good/Fair
Peaches	45	40	45	Average	Good
Pears	-	5	5	Average	Good/Fair
Blueberries					
Highbush	85	80	80	Average	Good
Wild, ME	70	80	60	Average/Above	Good/Fair
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-	Average	Good/Excellent

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2007	2006	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Harvested --				
Barley, ME	<5	25	10	Good
Oats, ME	<5	20	5	Good
Potatoes				
Maine	-	-	-	Good
Mass	10	<5	10	Good/Fair
Rhode Island	20	10	15	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	-	-	-	Good
Sweet Corn	60	50	55	Good
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	50	55	55	Good
Shade	65	65	65	Good
Dry Hay				
First Cut	99	99	95	Good/Fair
Second Cut	75	60	65	Good/Fair
Third Cut	20	10	20	Good

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

For the Period: Monday August 13, 2007
To: Sunday August 19, 2007

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				CUM SINCE MAR 1 GROWING DEGREE DAYS				1-WEEK PRECIP			4-WEEK CUM PRECIP		
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	BASE-50F TOT	BASE-60F DFN	BASE-50F TOT	BASE-60F DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS
MAINE														
Augusta State_A	53	86	66	-2	1680	+117	727	+116	0.84	+0.07	6	2.17	-0.86	12
Bangor Intl_Arp	48	85	65	-3	1546	+121	619	+107	0.51	-0.26	5	2.06	-0.87	10
Bethel	48	85	64	-3	1380	-42	497	-2	0.33	-0.58	2	2.54	-0.98	9
Caribou Municip	43	81	60	-4	1276	+106	436	+102	0.11	-0.80	5	2.25	-1.53	12
Dover-Foxcroft	48	82	62	-3	1225	-21	367	-20	0.52	-0.32	4	1.88	-1.32	9
Frenchville	43	77	59	-5	1156	+69	358	+73	0.37	-0.61	4	5.82	+2.11	11
Houlton	43	82	60	-4	1258	+38	433	+62	0.26	-0.70	4	3.50	-0.18	14
Livermore Falls	41	87	63	-3	1382	+152	516	+146	1.24	+0.29	5	3.72	+0.24	10
Moosehead	41	78	59	-5	1047	+10	266	-1	0.70	-0.14	6	3.88	+0.41	12
Portland_ME	50	82	67	+0	1638	+213	684	+163	0.29	-0.34	3	3.42	+0.88	8
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	41	82	62	-3	1349	+29	464	+57	0.37	-0.54	5	2.04	-1.47	10
Berlin AG	42	83	62	-3	1315	-14	445	+16	1.11	+0.12	3	2.90	-0.88	7
Concord	46	87	68	+0	1826	+243	836	+218	1.01	+0.24	1	2.46	-0.62	8
Diamond Pond	40	78	57	-4	919	+21	214	+38	0.73	-0.46	4	4.51	-0.03	9
Keene AP	43	84	66	-3	1747	-17	779	+29	0.62	-0.29	3	1.99	-1.54	12
North Conway	44	85	64	-3	1433	-48	538	-3	0.64	-0.27	4	2.70	-0.87	9
Rochester	51	86	67	-2	1692	+10	747	+53	1.29	+0.47	2	2.86	-0.44	8
VERMONT														
Burlington Intl	48	88	68	+0	1883	+182	894	+187	0.64	-0.30	3	1.28	-2.31	7
Island Pond	42	82	61	-2	1230	+141	378	+102	0.80	-0.32	5	4.40	+0.08	11
Montpelier	43	86	64	-1	1541	+201	605	+171	0.94	+0.03	4	2.50	-0.81	9
Pownal	46	84	65	-2	1547	+161	612	+152	0.50	-0.48	4	3.22	-0.57	13
Rochester	44	84	64	-2	1417	+108	513	+97	0.53	-0.52	3	1.68	-2.33	8
Rutland AG	48	84	65	-4	1567	-183	631	-100	1.06	+0.08	3	1.35	-2.41	5
Springfield_VT	46	86	67	+2	1698	+255	745	+243	0.07	-0.84	5	1.95	-1.57	14
Sutton	42	83	62	-1	1279	+172	408	+117	0.77	-0.34	5	2.43	-1.83	9
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	57	89	74	+2	2203	+214	1124	+192	0.04	-0.69	1	4.82	+2.05	10
Fitchburg	48	86	70	+4	2074	+635	1026	+517	0.37	-0.40	4	4.30	+1.05	12
Greenfield	46	85	65	-6	1767	-115	760	-77	0.13	-0.71	2	2.87	-0.49	9
New Bedford	43	86	70	-4	1930	-62	910	-24	0.45	-0.53	2	1.47	-2.04	8
Otis_AFB	50	81	69	-1	1729	+113	761	+96	0.01	-0.76	1	3.50	+0.58	6
Plymouth	46	85	69	+0	1915	+236	909	+196	0.16	-0.75	1	3.35	-0.02	9
Walpole	47	88	70	+2	2023	+302	990	+267	0.38	-0.53	2	1.36	-2.01	11
Chicopee/Westov	44	87	69	-5	1947	-204	930	-116	0.46	-0.31	1	3.18	+0.10	9
Worthington	41	82	64	-3	1519	+117	586	+114	0.02	-0.90	2	2.93	-0.93	11
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	51	91	72	+1	2251	+359	1143	+279	0.15	-0.69	2	2.78	-0.38	9
Woonsocket	47	87	70	+2	2007	+315	960	+272	0.33	-0.58	3	2.48	-1.15	11
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	57	86	73	-1	2237	+210	1117	+141	0.15	-0.57	2	2.82	-0.31	11
Hartford/Bradle	50	88	71	-1	2295	+223	1187	+195	0.19	-0.65	3	2.41	-0.68	10
Norfolk	46	82	65	-2	1693	+285	728	+249	0.41	-0.64	2	3.41	-0.58	10
Thomaston Dam	50	85	69	+1	1978	+306	930	+263	0.59	-0.39	4	3.97	+0.14	14
Willimantic	48	86	69	+0	2055	+352	1000	+305	0.38	-0.50	2	2.37	-1.25	9

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 19, 2007

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	L	HI	AV	DF	LO	HI
ME	35	88	62	-3	0.07	2.47
NH	29	90	64	-2	0.00	1.29
VT	39	88	63	-2	0.07	2.89
MA	39	89	69	-1	0.01	1.17
RI	47	91	71	+0	0.15	0.59
CT	44	90	70	-1	0.15	0.64

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

CONNECTICUT - Jude Boucher (Ext), Tolland: Weather conditions last week combined to produce severe ozone injury on most cucurbit vegetable crops throughout CT. A combination of high soil moisture, high UV light levels and high NO2 levels from vehicles were responsible. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Predictions of showers and thunderstorms did not materialize leaving soils very dry and crops without irrigation suffering. Some second cutting dry hay was baled but yields are low. Field corn is curling and ear development is questionable. Field tomatoes are cracking due to drought stress. Tobacco harvest is progressing for both shade and broadleaf. Cucumbers are going down due to effects of some type of mildew. Recharge of ponds and streams are non-existent in areas. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Producers are taking advantage of dry weather harvesting second cutting hay. One of the county's producers commented, "We need rain, haven't had enough for the corn in some areas, but we've had too much rain for hay." Plans are for some commercial corn harvesters to begin chopping next week. Vegetables are plentiful with little damage to any one crop. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Crops look good. Some moisture challenged corn fields drying stalks and leaves from bottom up. Peaches, peppers, cabbage, squash, herbs, garlic, tomatoes, etc. doing well. Good week with cool nights bringing on color in the apples. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Field work took a back seat to primping and grooming as fair season opened up in the county. Farmers were busy getting livestock fitted out and moved to the fair.

MAINE - Dee Potter (Ext), Northern Aroostook: Excellent growing conditions, crops are looking good. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Farmers vine killing in potato fields and are on a seven-day spray schedule. Some grain being harvested. Harvesting hay. Weather a little bit dry. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Rain has been spotty, cool at the end of the week. Potato crop looks great, some aphids and flea beetle in some areas. Farmers spraying and scouting. Barley crop looks good, yielding 65-75 bushels per acre. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Rain has improved pasture and hay conditions considerably. Second and third crop hay/haylage harvests are underway. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Blueberry harvest is close to being finished in this area. There was more winter injury to the crop than originally thought which will contribute to average yields. Apple harvest is underway in earnest this week. Not much grass was cut this week but we did receive some beneficial rains. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Crop harvest is about two thirds complete. Showers are helping to keep berry weight up and cool temperatures are keeping the fruit firm so that fruit quality is excellent. **Jill Littlefield (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Great week for farming. Cooler temps with low humidity made hay making go faster than expected. Vegetable farmers want the heat back and soon to keep the crops growing. Irrigation pumps got a brief break but are running again. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Oxford County received showers last week briefly during a couple of days. Sweet corn is being harvested along with

market garden vegetables. Potato crop has started to be harvested. Hay and blueberry harvesting well on its way. Had several cool nights last week and warm days. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Penobscot:** Crops are looking good due to receiving some moisture but still could use a little more. Apples are being harvested as well as blueberries. Blueberries are average and quantity is down. Second cutting is looking better but quality is down. Corn looks average and is starting to be harvested

MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: Precipitation variable throughout the county from dry to 1/2 inch. Sunny, breezy days in the 70s, unseasonably cool nights in the 40's. Large crop of veggies - summer squash, tomatoes, peppers and cucumbers, garlic. Peaches are small but overall good quality, first crop of apples being harvested. Many varieties of sweet corn are being sold. Signs of foliage turn already on some maples. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** More good reports of good set and size coming, especially in Ben Lear and Stevens, with Early Black looking good as well. This is surprising, since so much of the industry acreage was sanded in January and February. Sanding usually reduces the crop the following growing season. Some beds have fruit rot showing up, but insect pressure continues to be low. It was a banner year for dodder, as it literally covers some beds from end to end. We'll find out what the crop estimate is tomorrow at the annual summer meeting. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Franklin/Hampshire/Hampden:** A warm and dry week. Growers are irrigating later summer and fall crops this week. Harvesting potatoes, sweet corn, beans, cabbage, beets, cucumbers, peppers, tomatoes and peaches. Tobacco growers are reporting that the crop is drying down nicely in the barns. On harvested fields a rye cover is being applied. Potato harvest is in full swing with reports of an average yield. Apple harvest is just starting by picking JerseyMacs and Paula Reds.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll: Clear, cold dry weather has moved in, risk of frost in a few locations. Hay cutting continues, with decent second crop mostly done. Infrequent showers making it dry in some areas, but mostly things looking good for all crops. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** A warm start to the week, but much cooler by the end. Field corn continues to look good. Farms still working on 2nd/3rd cut hay/baylage/haylage. Vegetable stands are doing well, with lots of sweet corn available now. PYO blueberries continues and the very first apples (Paula Red, Ginger Gold) are ready for harvest. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Cooler, somewhat wetter weather this week with frost warnings for Sunday night. All field corn silking, can use some hot weather if it's going to mature this year. A little sweet corn starting to be picked. Barley harvest along the Connecticut River being done. Farm stands selling a good array of summer veggies, raspberries, and blueberries are about all finished. Apples starting to color up. Japanese beetles continue to be a persistent problem this year. Snow on Mount Washington? **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Corn growing well. Cooler weather at the end of the week slowed growth. Haylage harvest continuing, quality good to excellent. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** The corn crop looks good overall. Much of the third cut hay looks good and third cut alfalfa is coming right along.

It has been a very good year for blueberries. Some apple orchards were hit hard by hail damage and in one orchard there was severe damage. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Highbush blueberry harvest continues and fall raspberry harvest continued. Orchardists harvesting peaches, plums, and JerseyMac apples. Orchardists busy monitoring for pests, summer pruning trees, mowing orchard floors, fixing up orchard roads and moving bins into orchards. Cultivating and weeding newly renovated strawberry beds. Vegetables: Growers are irrigating fields due to dry weather. Farmers kept busy harvesting an array of vegetable crops, monitoring pest pressures, spraying pesticides for insect and disease control where needed. Seeing several out-breaks of powdery mildew on pumpkins and winter squash. Also, bird damage on sweet corn being seen. Field Crops: Hay making and cutting haylage continued during the week with the second cut and some third cutting being made. Growth has been good to excellent. The remaining first cutting is only good for mulch hay. Farmers make new seeding for pasture and hayfields. Corn growth looks good to excellent. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** JerseyMac, Ginger Gold and Paulared apple varieties now being harvested. Peaches, blueberries and a whole array of vegetables also harvested, including field and greenhouse tomatoes and sweet corn. Fall raspberries will be ready soon. Second hay cut taking place as well as haylage. Pastures look good. Some vegetable fields are being irrigated. Monitoring pests. We had some warm days and some fairly cold nights. Thursday evening was highlighted with damaging gusty winds, heavy downpours and hail storms in several towns damaging fruits and crops. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** A pleasant week for pick your own customers. Pick your own peaches and blueberry operations had a very busy week.

Fruit growers were harvesting an array of different vegetable crops including sweet corn and field tomatoes. Farm stands and farmers' markets were full of different vegetables and cut flowers. Grass in pastures and hayfields is growing well due to the recent rain showers and warm weather.

VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille: Week ended with a cold front that brought severe storms to many areas. This area was fortunate that the hail and high winds caused minimal damage to field crops. The corn crop is still on target for an above average year for yields. Cooler temps and moisture will help third cut yields that had been looking a little short. **Jeffrey Carter (Ext), Addison:** Corn ears filling out, harvest not started yet. Continued dry hay harvest finished first cut, bedding, second cut. Haylage harvest third crop, re-growth moderate. Manure spreading on hay fields. Pasture re-growth poor. **Julie Jacque (FSA), Windham:** Crops could use a little more water. Storms passed through with little to no damage reported. Farmers reported corn chopping should start within a week or two. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Bad storm on Thursday night, locally severe winds and hail. About a half inch of rain for the week, warm temperatures, soil is drying out. Some farmers done with the third cut of hay, yields have been good. Silage corn coming along well. Reports of scattered light frost this morning, 8/20. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Early corn and pea fields harvested and seeded down to winter rye. Some fields not planted, cut and baled for mulch. Rain for the week 0.37 inches. Light on rain, but some late showers helped. Excellent mid-season sweet corn in the market. An abundance of all vegetables on the market. Cole crops doing well, lots of beans, cukes and summer squash. All summer vegetables at their peak now. Early potatoes, both red and white available now.

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