

Crop Weather



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May 27, 2008 – 4 pm

For week ending 5/25/08

Cloudy, Cool and Dry Throughout the Region

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending May 25, 2008, there were 6.4 days available for field work across New England. Pasture condition was rated as 5% poor, 18% fair, 66% good, and 11% excellent. The week began cloudy and windy with below average high temperatures across the region ranging from the low 50s to low 60s. Areas of the north experienced 0.45 to 0.60 inches rain. Conditions remained cloudy and cool throughout the week with light scattered rain in some areas. Friday brought average high temperatures in the low 70s to the south with below average lows in the mid to upper 40s. Temperatures throughout the north varied. Some areas experienced below average temperatures in the 50s while other areas had average temperatures in the upper 60s to low 70s. Low temperatures in the north were average in the mid 40s. Friday and Saturday saw cloudy skies and windy conditions. Scattered showers were seen in the north on both days. The weekend ended with widespread partly cloudy skies and average to above average highs in the 70s. Lows remained below average to average ranging from the mid to upper 30s in the north to the upper 40s to low 50s in the south. Conditions remain dry throughout the region and a good soaking rain is needed in many areas.

FRUIT: Fruit development ranged from bud stage to petal fall and beyond across New England. Apples were in early bloom to full bloom in Rhode Island, petal fall in Massachusetts and New Hampshire and full bloom to petal fall elsewhere. Peaches ranged from full bloom to petal fall. Pears ranged from early bloom to petal fall throughout the region. Tree fruit producers were busy applying fertilizers and protective fungicide sprays, pruning peach trees and monitoring for pests. Highbush blueberries were in bud stage to early bloom in Rhode Island and early bloom to petal fall elsewhere. Maine wild blueberries were in full bloom and rated in excellent condition. Both strawberries and cranberries were rated in good condition by week's end.

VEGETABLES: Sweet corn planting reached the half-way mark this past week with areas reporting emergence. Growers continued to harvested early season vegetables such as asparagus, radishes and leafy vegetables. The planting of brassicas, beans, lettuces, onions, tomatoes and root crops continued with tender crops and transplants being set out. Producers laid plastic, mulch and drip irrigation tape and fertilized.

FIELD CROPS: Planting of field corn slowed during the week due to good weather for harvesting first cut hay. Hay was reported in fair to excellent condition. The seeding of Maine's oat and barley crops progressed during the week due to continued dry soil condition, and plantings ranged from 70 to 80 percent seeded by May 25 ahead of last year. Maine potato planting is on par with last year and normal with 55 percent planted at week's end. Potato planting in Massachusetts and Rhode Island is nearing completion with most of the crop seeded by the end of the week. Both shade and broadleaf tobacco started planting this week with 40 percent shade tobacco transplanted and 5 percent broadleaf tobacco transplanted. Transplanting of both crops still remained behind last year and normal.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil Moisture			
Very Short	3	1	0
Short	28	28	0
Adequate	67	67	45
Surplus	2	4	55
Subsoil Moisture			
Very Short	2	1	0
Short	24	19	0
Adequate	72	76	61
Surplus	2	4	39

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Development	Condition
Apples	FB/PF	Fair/Good
Peaches	FB/PF	Good
Pears	FB/PF	Good
Blueberries		
Highbush	EB/FB	Good
Wild	FB	Excellent
Cranberries, MA	BS/EB	Good
Strawberries	EB/FB	Good

BS = Bud Stage, EB = Early Bloom, FB = Full Bloom, PF=Petal Fall

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2008	2007	5-yr Avg	Condition
--Percent Planted--				
Barley, ME	70	65	70	
Oats, ME	80	65	65	
Potatoes				
Maine	55	55	55	Good/Fair
Mass	99	99	90	
Rhode Island	95	90	95	
Silage Corn	65	55	50	
Sweet Corn	50	55	45	
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	5	20	10	Good
Shade	40	80	60	Good/Excellent
--Percent Emerged--				
Barley, ME	5	0	20	Good
Oats, ME	5	0	20	Good
Potatoes				
Maine	0	0	0	
Mass	50	35	30	Excellent
Rhode Island	30	75	35	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	15	10	15	Good
Sweet Corn	30	30	20	Good
-- Percent Harvested --				
Dry Hay				
First Cut	<5	5	<5	Fair/Excellent

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New England Agricultural Statistics, NASS, USDA

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

For the Period: Monday May 19, 2008
To: Sunday May 25, 2008

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				CUM SINCE MAR 1 GROWING DEGREE DAYS				1-WEEK PRECIP			4-WEEK CUM PRECIP			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	BASE-50F		BASE-60F		TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES		DFN	DAYS
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN				INCHES	DFN		
MAINE															
Augusta State A	44	69	55	-3	163	+27	11	+1	0.14	-0.70	4	4.71	+1.23	12	
Bangor_Intl_Arp	38	70	54	-3	127	+26	4	-1	1.13	+0.35	4	5.40	+2.15	12	
Bethel	36	72	52	-5	85	-26	1	-7	0.29	-0.55	4	3.01	-0.30	9	
Caribou_Municip	40	68	51	-3	48	-26	0	-2	1.20	+0.50	4	3.41	+0.66	10	
Dover-Foxcroft	36	70	53	-3	75	-1	0	-1	0.37	-0.46	4	5.21	+1.95	12	
Frenchville	36	65	49	-4	36	-17	0	+0	0.87	+0.14	3	3.64	+0.83	8	
Houlton	31	70	50	-5	45	-30	0	-3	0.90	+0.13	5	2.99	+0.00	11	
Livermore Falls	34	70	52	-3	104	+28	3	+2	0.31	-0.53	4	4.52	+1.13	10	
Moosehead	31	70	49	-3	20	-21	0	+0	0.48	-0.29	5	3.44	+0.38	12	
Portland_ME	43	71	55	-2	128	+35	7	+7	0.01	-0.76	1	4.07	+0.74	8	
NEW HAMPSHIRE															
Benton	30	64	48	-8	95	-37	3	-13	0.53	-0.28	5	3.46	+0.44	13	
Berlin AG	35	66	51	-5	112	+0	2	-10	0.30	-0.54	4	2.54	-0.63	10	
Concord	36	70	53	-5	173	+20	17	+0	0.03	-0.67	2	3.13	+0.33	11	
Diamond Pond	32	61	47	-5	47	+1	0	+0	1.22	+0.28	6	3.77	+0.31	13	
Keene AP	36	66	50	-8	149	+15	10	-3	0.12	-0.78	1	2.75	-0.72	8	
North Conway	39	69	54	-4	131	+0	3	-10	0.16	-0.75	5	4.27	+0.63	12	
Rochester	36	73	56	-3	168	-11	13	-11	0.00	-0.84	0	3.94	+0.35	9	
VERMONT															
Burlington Intl	39	68	52	-7	234	+42	31	+0	0.87	+0.17	4	2.30	-0.48	11	
Island Pond	33	63	48	-6	78	-2	0	-4	1.08	+0.19	4	3.40	+0.18	10	
Montpelier	34	65	50	-7	137	+9	10	-5	0.49	-0.28	5	2.43	-0.42	15	
Pownal	37	67	50	-6	162	+26	7	-11	0.43	-0.62	5	3.56	-0.58	17	
Rochester	35	66	50	-7	94	-21	0	-12	0.76	-0.22	5	3.91	-0.01	12	
Rutland AG	34	65	49	-12	142	-84	14	-30	0.66	-0.17	4	2.33	-0.75	9	
Springfield_VT	36	67	52	-6	165	+21	13	-4	0.13	-0.79	2	2.79	-0.86	8	
Sutton	34	64	48	-6	78	+1	1	-3	0.89	+0.03	5	3.51	+0.34	13	
MASSACHUSETTS															
Boston/Logan_In	45	72	59	-3	240	+6	41	+20	0.33	-0.37	1	3.25	+0.27	12	
Fitchburg	42	70	55	-2	240	+118	32	+24	0.15	-0.69	2	3.76	+0.60	13	
Greenfield	38	69	52	-10	204	-33	11	-23	0.13	-0.78	3	3.35	-0.15	16	
New Bedford	40	72	55	-7	148	-88	14	-7	0.45	-0.37	2	5.06	+1.71	14	
Otis AFB	45	70	54	-4	97	-30	1	-4	0.49	-0.35	3	5.57	+2.15	16	
Plymouth	41	72	55	-3	149	+7	14	+7	0.41	-0.45	3	4.68	+1.02	15	
Walpole	41	72	55	-5	199	+18	21	+4	0.37	-0.40	4	3.76	+0.57	15	
Chicopee/Westov	36	70	52	-11	224	-91	25	-30	0.19	-0.75	3	4.04	+0.37	15	
Worthington	36	65	50	-7	125	-6	3	-10	0.34	-0.71	5	4.68	+0.48	17	
RHODE ISLAND															
Providence	45	73	58	-3	278	+73	36	+20	0.25	-0.59	2	4.20	+0.75	12	
Woonsocket	40	71	54	-6	200	+23	18	+6	0.01	-0.90	1	4.14	+0.43	13	
CONNECTICUT															
Bridgeport/Siko	45	72	57	-4	277	+28	36	-3	0.26	-0.60	2	4.10	+0.51	13	
Hartford/Bradle	40	72	55	-8	300	+12	49	-3	0.37	-0.56	4	3.66	-0.07	15	
Norfolk	34	64	49	-9	133	+6	4	-7	0.61	-0.44	5	4.22	+0.08	15	
Thomaston Dam	38	69	53	-7	206	+9	11	-14	0.19	-0.79	4	3.88	-0.18	15	
Willimantic	37	70	53	-7	255	+59	28	+4	0.37	-0.54	4	3.59	-0.24	15	

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 25, 2008

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	L	HI	AV	DF	LO	HI
ME	31	73	52	-3	0.00	1.20
NH	28	73	51	-6	0.00	1.22
VT	26	75	49	-8	0.09	1.64
MA	32	73	54	-5	0.04	0.76
RI	40	73	56	-4	0.01	0.51
CT	32	75	54	-7	0.19	0.66

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: Both broadleaf and shade tobacco started planting this week. Field corn planting continues nicely. Sunny days at the end of the week allowed some to dry hay for baling while others chopped grass silage. Vegetable planting continues. Could use some rain. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Still some wet fields preventing corn from being planted. Grass chopping continuing although some fields are too wet to get into. Tomatoes and other vegetables are on schedule as to planting. Need some sun to get sweet corn growing. We are back in a cool, unsettled weather pattern. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** A busy week on farms. Some farms taking a break from corn planting to chop grass for best nutrient value. Cool nights with dry, windy and warm days. Farmers markets beginning with nursery and bedding plants, eggs, honey, beef and baked goods. Excellent weekend for field work and plant sales. **Jude Boucher (Ext), Tolland:** Sweet corn plantings emerging/growing slowly and showing nitrogen deficiency (yellow). **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** First cutting of haylage is progressing. Corn planting is on hold or slowed down while first cutting comes in. Manure spreading has ended for most farms in the area. Vegetable transplants are being placed in the field now that the threat of frost is behind us.

MAINE - Pam Hickey (Ext), Aroostook: Growers are still planting crops. If weather cooperates this week farmers should be able to finish planting. We are just finishing up planting crops in Central Aroostook. It shouldn't be too long though before everything will be emerging. Let's hope we have a great summer weather-wise! **Steve London, Aroostook:** Some showers have slowed down the planting for this week. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Significant rain has not fallen for weeks in the area. The soil is very dry for this time of year. Irrigation is running where crops have been planted. Good weather for apple bloom and vegetable planting. Now we need some rain to keep things growing. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** First hay harvest underway! The dust is flying. Tractors are rolling. Crops are being planted. Ah, the smell of manure is in the air! **Maria Granger (FSA), Kennebec:** It has been very dry and seeds are not germinating at the normal rate unless irrigated. Weather has been fair, good working days. The hay grass has grown almost knee high. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** The smell of manure is in the air. Conditions remain ideal in the mid-coast area for farm activities. Planting of crops continues at a steady pace. Off and on rain showers occurred in most areas this past week, although some areas could use rain. Fertilizer and sulfur are being applied on blueberry fields as well as pesticides where needed. Growers seem to be pleased with the bloom which means the bees have been doing their job on blueberry fields. The strawberry crop looks good with normal management practices occurring. There was no updated report on the apple crop this week. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Oxford County producers have been busy in the fields this past week. Believe it or not Oxford County is in need of rain. Producers have been reporting that crop fields are dry. Peas are up and looking good. Apple trees have been blooming. Fire danger has been moderate to high for most parts of Oxford County. **Laura Rand (FSA), Penobscot:** Typical spring weather with sun one minute, showers the next. Producers going full force getting crops in the ground. **Jane Harden (FSA), Sagadahoc:** Overall conditions are good, but we need a soaking rain. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** Lots of field work continuing. Fruit crops are blooming. We could use some rain to keep development moving along. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Bees pollinating the blossoms in fields state-wide. The bloom looks strong and the pollination weather has been good except for a few showers and windy conditions. If good pollination is achieved and we get adequate moisture then a better than average crop is expected.

MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: The County averaged 1/2" of rain. Breezy, sunny days dried things out. Corn is planted and emerging but could use rain. Temps have been

colder than normal and apple blossoms lasted longer finally dropping with this week's wind. Loss of stone fruit has been confirmed as a result of the freeze in April and resultant loss of buds. Nurseries and farmer's markets doing well with huge crowds for the holiday weekend. Vegetable planting continues with tender crops now being set out. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** The week was warm and dry. Many farmers started irrigating their newly seeded crops due to the dry conditions. Growers are harvesting asparagus, rhubarb, hay, straw, and radishes. Planting an array of crops such as tobacco, corn, beets, squash, tomatoes, cucumbers, and greens. Also new beds of strawberries and asparagus are being planted. Potatoes are all planted and 50% are up. Sweet corn looks good and is over 12 inches high. **Barbara Miller (NRCS) Franklin:** Very cool week, frost on several nights, some rain, but not too much. It could start to get dry, but everyone is taking advantage of the conditions to get planting done. First cutting is starting. **Janice Barnes, Franklin:** Rain early in the week. Strong winds on Saturday, drying soil out more quickly. Some of the very small streams seem to be slowing down quite a bit already. Bumblebees working the Baldwin tree blossoms and the blueberry blossoms. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Vines continue to green up and begin upright and runner growth. There were at least five nights last week growers were out on a frost night - most ran their sprinklers at least a portion of each night. Scouting for insects thus far has turned up the usual suspects. Applications have been made for fireworm, fairy ring and upright dieback. Renovation projects can be found all over the area - some were planted weeks ago, some won't be planted for awhile. Renovation is always a good sign for the industry.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap: Soil moisture levels are very low. The dry conditions have led to slow and spotty germination of field seeded crops. Many vegetable transplants were planted over the course of the week, as danger of frost is most likely past. Pleasant sunny weather over Memorial Day weekend was excellent for garden center sales. **Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll:** Cool and dry, we really need some rain. Lawns showing drought stress, pastures and hay fields growing good, but really need some moisture. Garden centers doing good business over the holiday week-end. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Cooler most of the week, with scattered showers but not much substantial rain - it's still a bit dry over here. Good conditions for finishing corn planting and spraying fields. More fields starting to emerge. Pastures and hayfields are doing OK, with a few folks just starting to mow first cutting. Orchardgrass starting to head out. More planting on vegetable operations, with harvesting of early crops to start in a week or two. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** A trace of rain at times but overall a great week for fieldwork. Field prep and corn planting going along at a good pace. Increased activity on vegetable operations. Meadows greening up well, early grasses at boot stage or starting to head out. Could use a good soaking of rain to move grasses a long. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending May 24th, field conditions remained fairly dry in the River Valley. Three separate rain fall events delivered a total of 0.12 inches of rain, barely enough to cut the dust. Well drained river bottom soils remained dry, and are in need of rain. On the flip side, the less well drained sites benefited from the lack of rainfall. Pasture conditions are still a little behind for this time of year. Field work is in full swing, and corn is being planted. Farmers are seeding down hay and alfalfa fields. Some corn is already up. A gentle rain would benefit most farmers right now. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruits: Apples are at full bloom to petal fall in later blooming areas of the county and petal fall in early blooming area of the county. Blueberries are at full bloom. Orchardists are applying protective fungicide sprays on fruit trees and blueberries. Finishing up pruning peach trees. Field Crops: Farmers are plowing, discing, fertilizing, planting corn, and applying herbicides. Pastures and hayfields starting to look good, orchardgrass is head out. Early planted corn has emerged and new seedlings are up and growing. Vegetables: Continued planting vegetables along with successive planting of

sweet corn and transplanting tomato plants in field. Laying plastic mulch and drip irrigation tape. Harvesting asparagus. **Dorothy Perkins (Ext), Merrimack:** Rain would be a good thing to add to the middle of this state. Looks like everyone has been able to get out on their fields and get their crops planted. Fruit stages of development has been moving right along with all the warm weather. First cut hay is ready and lots of growers are cutting haylage. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Dry conditions and rain is in need for seeds to germinate. Preparing vegetable fields. Sweet corn, tomatoes, onions, root crops and whole array of vegetables being planted. Irrigating vegetable fields. Harvesting leafy vegetables, asparagus, and radishes. Monitoring pests in fruit orchards and small fruits patches. Pastures look OK but in need of rain. Slow growth in hay. Planting field corn.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: Strawberries coming along and look great and so do the blueberries. Planting sweet corn and finishing up potatoes and all look pretty good. Planting field corn, brassicas, beans, and lettuces. Lots of field work being done this week. No rain and lots of wind makes for some dry conditions.

VERMONT – Jeffrey Carter (Ext), Addison: Most corn planted. Dry weather has allowed tillage in all fields. Good conditions for weed control spray. Started first harvest of hay as haylage. Very light yields with grasses all headed out, alfalfa starting to flower. Lilacs in full bloom, dandelions and apple trees past bloom. Pasture looks poor with light yields and slow re-growth. Very dry soil conditions.

Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia: Cool, showery week. Farmers were preparing fields for corn planting and planting corn. Lilacs blooming. **Paul Stanley, Franklin:** Some grass mowed in Franklin County. We had gentle rains most of the week which will get the corn sprouting and spiking in many fields and more grass will be mowed this week if the planned good weather holds true. **John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille:** Fieldwork progressed nicely last week despite a few days of scattered showers. A few producers started first cut of grass while others were planting corn. Rainfall for May is likely to be well below average which is evident in many grass fields already heading out short. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Last week was another dry one. We did get a little rain on Sunday and today looks like we may get more. It has been a dry spring so far. This has made it easy on the corn farmers to plant their corn. First cut hay may be a little short due to the drier conditions. Most all corn has been planted and some farmers have begun first crop hay. Pasture look good right now but some rain would help them out. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Plowing is all finished. Plowed under a very good crop of winter rye. Peas all planted also early sweet corn, carrots, radishes, and lettuce. Rain for the week 0.587 inches. Short of rain and cool cloudy days holding back emergence and growth on early planted fields. Hope for warmer weather soon. Have a good week. **Julie Jacque (FSA), Windham:** Cool temps warmed a little this week. Gusty winds are keeping things dried out. First signs of hay harvest seen this week with mowing and tedding. Corn planting continued throughout the county. Cole crops doing well. Rain showers needed, irrigation systems being put in place for veggie growers if they have it.

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