

Crop Progress & Condition



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For week ending 5/16/10

Heavy Spring Frosts Hit Region

GENERAL CONDITIONS For the week ending May 16, 2010, there were 6.1 days available for field work across New England. Pasture condition was rated 1% poor, 31% fair, 54% good, and 14% excellent. The week began partly cloudy and cool, with daytime temperatures ranging from the mid-40s to upper 50s and nighttime temperatures in the upper 20s and 30s. The weather continued unseasonably cold until Thursday with minimum temperatures reaching the low 20s in some areas. All States reported at least one instance of frost. Precipitation fell on Thursday and Friday with the highest amounts being reported in southern New England. Temperatures warmed up to normal levels by Friday and remained in the 60s and 70s with the exception of the cooler northernmost areas of New Hampshire and Maine. Total rainfall for the week ranged from 0.01 to 0.92 inches.

FRUIT: Fruit trees were mostly in the bloom to petal fall stage by week's end, far ahead of schedule due to the unusually warm weather during the past two months. Heavy frosts were reported throughout New England. Severity of frost damage is yet to be determined. However, some damage to tree fruits and berries is expected. Irrigated fruits were more likely to survive the freezing nights. Cranberry growers reported issues such as insects and lack of rain but did not report significant losses from the dangerous frost. Orchardists were busy irrigating fruits, applying fungicide, herbicide, and insecticide sprays, and mowing orchard floors.

VEGETABLES: Sweet corn, asparagus, and other early vegetables were damaged by frosts. Extent of damage will be assessed in the following weeks. Planting of early vegetables, sweet corn, and transplanting tomato plants in fields continued. Tomatoes in high tunnels were growing well. Vegetable growers were also harvesting asparagus, spinach, rhubarb, and greens. Moths and lily leaf beetles were reported in New Hampshire. Cabbage and onion maggots were found in Massachusetts.

FIELD CROPS: Field preparations and corn planting progressed well last week thanks to dry conditions. The majority of potatoes, oats, and barley were planted by week's end, far ahead of last year and normal. A significant percentage of these crops had already emerged by the end of last week. Growth of pasture and hay slowed last week due to cooler temperatures. A few operators began chopping hay last week which is unusual at this time of the year. Farmers were busy liming, fertilizing, plowing, disking, and applying herbicides.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	2	1	0
Short	19	4	1
Adequate	76	85	81
Surplus	3	10	18
Subsoil			
Very Short	1	1	0
Short	14	4	1
Adequate	80	83	83
Surplus	5	12	16

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Development	Fruit Set	Condition
Apples	FB/PF	Avg/Below	Good/Fair
Peaches	FB/PF	Avg/Below	Fair/Good
Pears	FB/PF	Avg/Below	Fair/Good
Blueberries			
Highbush	EB/PF	Avg	Good/Fair
Wild	EB	Avg	Good
Cranberries,	BS	N/A	Good
Strawberries	BS/PF	Avg	Good/Fair

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

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2010	2009	5-yr Avg	Condition
--Percent Planted--				
Barley, ME	85	40	35	
Oats, ME	80	40	35	
Potatoes				
Maine	60	25	20	
Mass	95	80	80	
Rhode Island	99	75	75	
Silage Corn	25	25	30	
Sweet Corn	35	30	30	
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	0	0	0	N/A
Shade	5	<5	10	Fair/Good
--Percent Emerged--				
Barley, ME	40	15	5	Good/Fair
Oats, ME	40	15	5	Good/Fair
Potatoes				
Maine	<5	0	0	Good/Fair
Mass	25	15	15	Good
Rhode Island	50	5	15	Good
Silage Corn	<5	<5	<5	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	20	15	15	Good/Fair
-- Percent Harvested --				
Dry Hay				
First Cut	<5	0	0	Good/Fair

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday May 10, 2010
 To: Sunday May 16, 2010

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		DFN	DAYS
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN				INCHES	DFN		
MAINE															
Augusta_State_A	31	66	49	-6	191	+123	32	+32	0.00	-0.85	0	1.22	-2.36	14	
Bangor_Intl_Arp	30	69	49	-4	165	+118	28	+28	0.03	-0.81	1	1.65	-1.56	13	
Bethel	29	67	47	-7	135	+83	25	+25	0.07	-0.73	1	3.07	-0.24	12	
Caribou_Municip	32	64	45	-6	94	+61	15	+15	0.11	-0.59	1	2.69	+0.11	15	
Dover-Foxcroft	28	66	45	-6	93	+59	15	+15	0.01	-0.77	1	1.97	-1.33	15	
Frenchville	29	62	42	-7	73	+53	9	+9	0.12	-0.58	1	2.90	+0.22	15	
Houlton	25	64	44	-7	97	+64	19	+19	0.15	-0.62	2	2.23	-0.58	15	
Livermore_Falls	23	66	45	-6	119	+85	17	+17	0.00	-0.84	0	2.60	-0.89	13	
Moosehead	27	67	43	-5	61	+47	7	+7	0.05	-0.72	1	3.16	+0.12	15	
Portland_ME	29	67	50	-3	185	+142	30	+30	0.00	-0.84	0	1.16	-2.42	9	
NEW HAMPSHIRE															
Benton	26	64	45	-9	117	+46	16	+10	0.14	-0.63	3	3.41	+0.56	12	
Berlin_AG	27	62	44	-8	104	+47	16	+14	0.00	-0.77	0	3.33	+0.15	10	
Concord	25	69	49	-6	216	+135	54	+49	0.15	-0.55	1	0.90	-1.90	9	
Diamond_Pond	18	61	37	-12	38	+18	6	+6	0.76	-0.10	3	4.80	+1.60	17	
Keene_AG	27	71	47	-10	172	+53	27	+14	0.17	-0.67	2	1.72	-1.52	12	
North_Conway	26	67	47	-7	151	+85	24	+21	0.01	-0.90	1	2.43	-1.32	13	
Rochester	29	67	51	-6	219	+123	45	+37	0.49	-0.42	1	1.61	-2.20	8	
VERMONT															
Bennington_AP	26	74	48	-6	197	+123	53	+45	0.24	-0.78	2	1.98	-2.16	13	
Burlington_Intl	28	70	49	-7	208	+101	51	+38	0.09	-0.61	2	2.44	-0.30	14	
Island_Pond	24	59	42	-8	97	+58	16	+16	0.34	-0.47	5	2.62	-0.30	18	
Montpelier	26	64	46	-7	159	+91	43	+38	0.25	-0.46	4	3.05	+0.46	15	
Rochester	26	70	46	-7	126	+67	18	+16	0.17	-0.81	3	2.74	-1.08	14	
Rutland_AG	27	72	47	-10	163	+31	34	+14	0.32	-0.45	1	3.49	+0.62	12	
Springfield_VT	28	66	48	-6	201	+125	45	+38	0.42	-0.49	2	2.01	-1.63	13	
Sutton	27	60	44	-7	88	+53	13	+13	0.16	-0.62	4	4.19	+1.24	18	
MASSACHUSETTS															
Boston/Logan_In	40	71	54	-4	344	+208	90	+86	0.47	-0.28	2	2.07	-1.11	12	
Fitchburg	30	75	52	-2	318	+256	80	+80	0.16	-0.61	2	1.79	-1.38	11	
Greenfield	28	70	48	-10	186	+50	31	+20	0.41	-0.43	4	1.84	-1.61	13	
New_Bedford	32	75	52	-6	253	+114	48	+43	0.04	-0.80	2	1.58	-1.95	14	
Otis_AFB	30	70	50	-4	183	+119	24	+24	0.18	-0.66	2	1.64	-1.88	13	
Plymouth	32	73	53	-2	287	+215	70	+70	0.01	-0.90	1	1.90	-1.92	11	
Walpole	34	74	53	-4	282	+182	64	+60	0.08	-0.69	2	1.29	-2.18	11	
Chicopee/Westov	26	77	51	-9	289	+93	77	+54	0.45	-0.46	4	1.79	-1.85	13	
Worthington	29	75	46	-8	162	+93	30	+27	0.57	-0.48	4	2.13	-1.98	15	
RHODE ISLAND															
Providence	38	73	54	-4	351	+236	74	+72	0.09	-0.75	2	2.12	-1.47	12	
Woonsocket	32	73	52	-4	285	+189	60	+59	0.13	-0.78	2	1.46	-2.35	12	
CONNECTICUT															
Bridgeport/Siko	39	74	54	-5	295	+148	50	+35	0.47	-0.44	4	2.88	-0.76	12	
Hartford/Bradle	29	80	52	-7	386	+213	102	+80	0.68	-0.27	4	1.77	-1.91	12	
Norfolk	28	72	46	-8	208	+143	45	+44	1.08	+0.09	4	3.04	-1.10	16	
Thomaston_Dam	31	76	50	-6	258	+146	53	+44	0.73	-0.28	4	2.64	-1.46	13	
Willimantic	29	76	52	-5	298	+188	74	+66	0.45	-0.53	4	1.61	-2.31	12	

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, May 16, 2010

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	AIR TEMPERATURES				PRECIPITATION	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	22	69	46	-6	0.00	0.21
NH	9	73	46	-7	0.00	0.82
VT	17	77	46	-8	0.09	1.21
MA	26	78	50	-6	0.02	0.61
RI	32	73	53	-4	0.09	0.26
CT	28	80	51	-7	0.22	1.08

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: We have had several heavy frosts this past week. To this point, we have had no reports of damage to fruit crops. Hay is growing very fast. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** We were so hoping for a good year. Tuesday morning (5/11) with the perfect conditions of cold and very low dew points, frost and freeze hurt orchards and berries. Some sweet corn and green beans were also hurt. For tree fruit an initially heavy fruit set was thinned by frost and only waiting until the June drop will tell the full impact. Wind machines and smudge pots were operated but varying results. Field corn continued to be planted and grass was chopped for silage or rolled into round bales for silage. Most tobacco producers are still waiting to transplant. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Working to protect crops from frosts and freezes kept everyone busy early in the week. Hard freeze had one silver lining - it did a number on the Japanese Knotweed! Spreading manure and planting corn steadily progressing. Harvesting first cut grass silage may slow down corn planting as farms strive for high quality silage. **Patricia Smith (FSA), New London:** Some parts of the county had temperatures in the 25-28 degree range and sweet corn, silage corn, peaches, apples and grapes were reported damaged. Producers are planting corn, chopping grass and starting to cut grass for hay. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** This was a nice spring-like week with normal temperature ranges and cold nights, with the exception of one night that broke the low temperature record. Silage corn and sweet corn planting continued at a normal pace. **Jude Boucher (Ext), Tolland:** The frost last week damaged sweet corn and other vegetables set out early, in some cases even under row covers. Corn over 8 inches tall was killed, less than 3 inches tall experienced some injury, and spike stage appeared uninjured. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** We had a freeze and two frosts with temperatures colder all week until Saturday. All fruit crops are expected to show damage. Blueberries are in full bloom, peaches are a half inch in size; pears and apples may show frost rings as they grow. Asparagus harvest has slowed in the cold weather. Spraying for scab and bugs that show up in the orchard's after bud drop. Cutting hay and also mowing for grass silage. Corn planting is moving along. Most crops are two weeks ahead of normal for this time of year.

MAINE – Casey Cote (St John Valley Soil & Water Conservation Dist), Northern Aroostook: Drier weather has improved field conditions. Many farmers have been plowing fields and are planting potatoes and grains. **Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook:** Cold windy weather has made planting miserable. Most everyone has started. A few early birds are finished. Hay field and pasture growth has slowed with the dry weather. We escaped most of the frost that fell north and south of us. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Crops are still being planted approximately 70% potatoes are in the ground and approximately 85% of grains are in. The weather has been cool and breezy, but planting has continued. Some grains have emerged. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: fair weather last week a little cool but ok for planting. Hoping for good weather next week. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** A freeze hit the area on Tuesday, and frost on Wednesday and Thursday. Strawberries took a hit, especially if not covered and irrigated. Other crops damage is spotty and farmers are waiting to see what the damage is. Rain is needed after the high winds and missed showers for the last couple of weeks. Hay fields and pastures that haven't been fertilized look very light. Fertilized fields look good. Grass is starting to get harvested. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** First cut of hay is down in the county! We could use some rain. Grass growth is starting to slow down. There was possible frost damage problems with pollination and fruit set last week. Planting is going at full till. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Past week allowed farms to get some manure spread and fields tilled. Planting of potatoes and corn has started. Early frost first part of week caused some damage to blueberries, strawberries and apple trees. Not sure at this point how much damage has been done but the potential of low yields is out there. Cool nights are still holding some farmers from planting to much. Ground could use some moisture. Hay fields are greening up and a possible early crop if weather keeps the way it's been the past few weeks. **Megan McDonough (FSA), Kennebec:** Persistent frost has jeopardized many early bloomers; apples, peaches, blueberries and strawberries may have sustained damages. Warm clear days have proven beneficial to growing lush grass. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Just when things were looking good, a frost struck early Tuesday morning and caused severe damage to the apple crop. Estimates of losses are approximately 85-90%. Strawberries were also hit with an approximate 25% loss of the king berries. Sweet corn was frosted but reports are the core of plant is ok, so this crop should survive. There are no reports of damage to the

blueberry crop as of this date. Many farmers are saying it is still a little early to determine losses of this past week's frost. Almost all silage corn was planted last week. Normal field activities continue but some rain is needed. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** SUNSHINE! Producers are still planting and preparing for hay season. Livestock are out in pastures. Some parts of Oxford County in need of some rain, very dry and dusty. Warm weather is here! Field work will be going strong in the weeks to come. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis/Penobscot:** Plowing, tilling, spraying for weeds, and planting are farm activities this week. Apples are in flower. Hard frosts this week. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** A good week for planting and field work. The frost on three nights last week will probably show mild to moderate to severe damage to apples, strawberries and high bush blueberries. Some early vegetable crops that were a gamble on the early spring were also damaged by the frost. **Elaine Moccus (FSA), Somerset:** The early spring conditions tricked the apples trees and strawberries into blooming early, before the danger of frost passed. Frost hit, leaving a potential for significant damage for apples, strawberries and other early planted crops. Some producers reported blossoms as much as 4 weeks ahead of schedule this year and most apple development this week is reportedly at full bloom; some early varieties have been pollinated. The temperatures were between 28 and 25 degrees on the mornings of 5/10 through 5/12. Although entire orchards and fields may not have been affected by frosts, there are pockets of cold spots throughout the orchards. Another week will determine the extent of losses when and if the strawberry buds open and another few weeks will tell the tale for apples. There is obvious frost damage on tender, young maple leaves that have been damaged by the frost as well as some vegetables that were planted early. The highbush blueberry blossoms do not seem to be affected by the frost at this time, but it also may be too early to tell. Corn is being planted and despite the cooler temperatures, hay fields and pastures are green and growing. Land is dry and we are in need of rain. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Three frosty nights last week has damaged apples, blueberries and strawberries that were in bloom and not protected. Temperatures were 26 degrees for two of those nights. Good weather has helped field crop work with lots of corn being planted. Soil is getting dry. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberry fields had varying degrees of frost injury over three nights. In central Maine low lying fields experienced injury as well as the more northern fields in Washington County. Bees are pollinating the crop state-wide. Mummyberry disease infection periods and sprays have ended but diseases damage is beginning to show (see <http://mainewildblueberries.blogspot.com/>) Fungicide treatments to protect against leaf spot disease are being made on cropping fields and pre-emergence herbicide and fertilizer applications are being made to the non-bearing fields.

MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: We had a hard freeze, mid 20's Monday night into Tuesday. Growers ran sprinklers from midnight till the temperature warmed up the next morning. Losses were reported on tree fruit and strawberries, some highbush blueberries which are ahead of schedule with their bloom. Other than the night of the freeze, there has been a windy, breezy condition all week contributing to the drying out of fields and hindering some spraying. **Elizabeth St Laurent (FSA), Bristol/Norfolk:** Weather has been good for planting. Bristol County area nighttime temperatures were low for this time of year. Mild frost was experienced in some areas. Area farmers report the season is about 2 weeks ahead of schedule. **Lori Carver (FSA), Franklin:** The wind continues to blow and bend the Asparagus and blow the soil from freshly prepared land. Then to add insult to injury a frost on Tuesday!! The frost affected Asparagus, blueberries and early sweet corn. Dairy farmers are starting to get silage corn in the ground. Planting of vegetable crops is going in earnest. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Hampshire & Hampden Counties had below normal temperatures for this time of year, with two days of frost. Growers were very busy preparing for the frost by setting up irrigation and applying row covers. The frost did damage to some berries, tree fruit, asparagus, sweet corn and potatoes. Many dust storms were spotted along the valley from high winds, which caused some abrasions to seedlings and picked up plastic row covers. Harvesting asparagus, spinach, rhubarb, and greens has commenced. Sweet corn is about eight inches tall under plastic and early potatoes are emerging. Cabbage and onion maggots were found under row covers and spinach leaf miners in beets and spinach. Dairy farmers started planting field corn and harvesting hay. Shade tobacco growers also started planting tobacco. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Another week with frost events, one of them a 'dangerous' frost. Thank goodness, we had plenty of water going into the frost season. Rain is needed, as things are getting pretty dry. Insects continue to be the major issue for

growers at present, although Phytophthora root rot seems to be showing up in many beds. Hopefully some cool weather like we had last week will slow down the development of bloom.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – William Lord (Ext), Belknap: A significant frost on May 11 damaged highbush blueberries with losses approaching 60% in some plantings. Most strawberry plantings were irrigated - losses are limited to non-irrigated fields and gaps in coverage in irrigated fields. Damage to apples is spotty, but in some blocks, significant. Fruit plantings on sites elevated relative to surrounding land generally fared reasonably well. A second, but lighter frost on May 13 caused light damage to strawberry blossoms. **Debra Eddison (Ext), Carroll:** Wild strawberries are in flower, crabapples are in full bloom with some petal fall. Lilacs are in full bloom. In the woods, ladies slippers & start flower are coming up. Purple martins have returned to the two nesting colonies in Carroll Co. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Cold nights early in the week led to heavy damages in orchards. For other crops, weather's been ideal for planting, etc. First grass is getting mowed. Corn is emerging. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Frequent frosts throughout the week affecting fruit crops in variable stages of blossom. Temperatures were down into the mid- 20's. Some apples, possibly highbush blueberries have seen damage extent of which is yet being determined. Liming, fertilizing, manure spreading continues on fields. Gearing up for corn planting. Just beginning to see some pest problems, first adult moth caught in black cut worm trap, lily leaf beetles active a little damage on early vegetables from blister beetles. Rather dry and windy this week, apple scab spraying as possible. Grasses growing well making for good pasture conditions. Hi-tunnels are being prepared for planting. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending May 15th, we received just over a quarter inch of rain. Days have been warmer, with cooler conditions or frost in some areas. Grass is growing well on the river bottom fields. Fields with adequate manure and or fertilizer applied are doing very well. Some upland fields remain too wet to access with farm equipment. Some field corn has been planted. Sweet corn and other vegetable crops are also in the ground. Apples were in full bloom last week. There have not been a lot of honey bees visible so far this spring. **Heather Bryant (Ext), Grafton:** A hard frost last week damaged some fruit crops. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Concerns about frost four nights during the week. If growers did not irrigate strawberries during night/morning for frost control, some crop loss has occurred. Minor damage on tree fruit crops due to frost. Sweet corn and asparagus showing frost damage. Fruits: Apples are at petal fall in later blooming areas of the county area and determining to thin in early blooming areas of the county, but it is difficult due to frost occurrences. Strawberries are blooming. Orchardists and fruit growers are applying protective fungicide sprays on fruit trees and blueberries. Finishing up pruning peach trees. Seeing plum curculio damage in orchards. Field Crops: Farmers are plowing, discing, fertilizing, planting corn, and applying herbicides. Pastures and hayfields are starting to look good. Early planted corn has emerged and new seedlings are up and growing. First cutting of haylage started. 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. **Amy Ouellette (Ext), Merrimack:** Low temperatures on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, damaged some fruit crops in lower elevation fields. Irrigating for frost protection saved strawberry crop. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Field preparations are in progress. Planting cool vegetable crops. Tomatoes in high tunnels are growing well with quite a bit of fruit setting. Harvesting greens and asparagus. Pasture and hay continues to grow well. Haying has been done. Pruning raspberries and blueberries and peaches. Planting small fruits. Spraying protective fungicides in orchards. Covering strawberries with straw or floating row covers in anticipation of frost. Running wind machines and overhead irrigation on strawberry beds and peaches on the nights of 5/10 and 5/12 as frost hit many areas. Strawberries flowers, blueberries, peaches, Christmas trees, perennials and ornamental display trees are showing frost damage. Warm and sunny weather brought good traffic to garden centers and greenhouse operations. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** Great weather for field work most of the week. Only a few light showers mid week. Night temperatures were down below freezing several days early in the week. Strawberries sustained extensive frost

damage for most growers in the county. Some apple growers experienced frost damage on some of their apple varieties. Some growers were applying protective fungicides and insecticides as needed, while others were applying herbicides and mowing orchard floors. Vegetable growers were plowing and tilling fields for planting. Others were planting cool season crops. Greenhouse tomatoes and cucumber are doing very well. Garden centers and greenhouse operations had a good week selling plants and other garden supplies.

RHODE ISLAND – Heather Faubert (Univ of RI), All Counties: Frost in many locations on three mornings this week. **Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties:** Potatoes - finished planting last week. Early potatoes are up already. Soil conditions are excellent. You can dig the potato seed out with your hand, the conditions are perfect. Nice white sprouts on the potato seed. Strawberries - these are 2 to 3 weeks ahead of schedule. Providence & Kent County had frost 3 nights last week, but were able to irrigate and save the strawberries and apples. Newport & Bristol County strawberries already have berries on the plants 2 to 3 weeks ahead of schedule. Sweet corn-early corn is under plastic and is up. They are planting almost every day now without cover. Rye for straw is starting to head out and they started mowing it on Friday. This will continue throughout this week. Summer squash is looking good, growing under plastic nice plants. Hoping that we don't get any more frost.

VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison: Corn planting continues on lighter soils with manure spreading and tillage on other fields in preparation. Grasses are growing and alfalfa looks in good shape, seeding new hay fields. Fertilizer spread on hay fields a couple weeks ago showing up with vigorous hay growth. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Cool week, they say it is about 10 degrees cooler than usual. We had frost on 3 or 4 nights, one night in low 20s. Farmers who grow corn are getting the soil ready to plant. Have seen some planters in action and cows are out in pastures. Grass has been growing, but not too much this week. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Awesome weather in Franklin County. Corn is going into the ground and things are moving in good order with the break in the weather. Ground is still on the cool wet side; however, this is improving with the nice sun shiny days. Pastures are also responding very nicely. I have heard of one producer starting on first cut haylage. Yields look good and we need to do a wait and see here for details. Quality will also be in question with very little sunshine the first of May. Apples and any other fruit blossoming species is another story. Franklin County along with many other counties in the State had a hard frost the beginning of the week which has brought to life the worry which all growers had with the early bloom. Time will be the factor here to see what the rate of damage actually is. The nice weather should get folks thinking about getting gardens planted and traditionally planting Memorial Day is right around the corner. **John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille/Washington:** Last week was noteworthy in that we had general frosts four mornings in a row. Corn planting started late in the week and should be in high gear this week. Most cows have finally been put out on pastures which have been craving warmer weather. The next two weeks will be critical to the yield of the first cut of grass. It needs more warmth and moisture. **Terance Bradshaw (Univ of Vt):** Frost damage to blossoms and developing fruit lets from freeze on 5/10-11 was variable with many orchards experiencing damage, especially in low-lying areas. Some blocks appear to have sustained complete losses, others little to none. Fruit set assessments in coming weeks will better reveal extent of injury sustained. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** This past week was a bit drier than the last but still cold at night. We had several overnight frosts last week. Corn growers are starting to get a little behind in planting due to the wet weather. Field grasses are a little behind due to the colder weather. Some farms are considering starting the first cut harvest this week. Pastures are behind as well due to the cold. Small fruit growers are concerned over the frosts during the full bloom stage. It's too early to tell how much effect the frost will have. Activities for the upcoming week will be planting corn and possibly some first cut harvest. **Julie Jacque (FSA), Windham:** Heavy overnight frost during the week lead to reports of apple, blueberry and strawberry damage. Weather allowed for corn planting, and new seeding plantings as well as vegetable crops tolerant to cooler weather conditions. Light rains occurred, but no good saturating rain.

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