

Crop Progress & Condition



A field office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service
United States Department of Agriculture

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June 21, 2010 – 4 pm

For week ending 6/20/10

Warm Weekend Favors Crop Growth

GENERAL CONDITIONS:

For the week ending June 20, 2010, there were 5.8 days available for field work across New England. Pasture condition was rated 3% poor, 15% fair, 68% good, and 14% excellent. The week began cloudy with average to below average daytime temperatures ranging from the upper 60s to upper 70s. Mostly cloudy skies with high humidity and temperatures in the 70s continued until Thursday. Some northern latitudes experienced nighttime temperatures as cool as the mid-30s during the first half of the week. Light precipitation fell Wednesday night throughout the region, with some northern latitudes reporting over half an inch. Weather conditions became summer-like by Friday and continued through the end of the week with temperatures in the 80s. Some areas reported thunderstorms at the end of the week. Nighttime average temperatures for the week ranged from the upper 40s to low 60s. Total rainfall for the week ranged from none to 1.19 inches.

FRUIT:

Strawberry harvest was underway in most areas. Severity of frost damage to the strawberry crop continued to be assessed with some areas reporting a reduction in fruit size and quantity as a result of the May freeze. Peaches, pears, and apples continued to mature throughout New England and were in variable condition in Connecticut. Blueberries reached maturity in some areas, while most cranberries were in full bloom. There were many reports of frost injury. Fruit growers were busy mowing orchard floors, monitoring for pests, applying cover sprays, and weed spraying under trees.

VEGETABLES:

Planting of sweet corn, pumpkins, and late season vegetables continued. Farmers were occupied harvesting early season vegetables including: broccoli, cucumbers, greens, lettuce, peas, radishes, rhubarb, scallions, spinach, summer squash, tomatoes, and zucchini. Early planted sweet corn was starting to tassel out by week's end. Farmers were active cultivating weeds, side dressing fields with fertilizer, and on the lookout for pests such as the stripe cucumber beetle and crows.

FIELD CROPS:

Field corn planting was winding down as 99 percent of the crop was planted by week's end. Corn producers were busy weed spraying and side dressing fields as well as assessing soil nitrogen demands. Harvest of hay continued at a good pace despite intermittent rain showers. Chopped hay's re-growth was vigorous due to warm conditions. Almost all potatoes in New England had emerged by the end of the week. Farmers were busy searching for diseases and pests such as black cutworm and Colorado potato beetles. Farmers were also spreading manure and fertilizers on hay fields, cutting hay for haylage, and topdressing corn and tobacco crops.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	1	0	0
Short	16	12	2
Adequate	76	78	51
Surplus	7	10	47
Subsoil			
Very Short	1	1	0
Short	10	11	2
Adequate	83	80	53
Surplus	6	8	45

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Set	Fruit Size	Condition
	2010	2009	5 yr Avg			
Apples	-	-	-	Avg/Below	Average	Good/Fair
Peaches	-	-	-	Avg/Below	Average	Fair/Good
Pears	-	-	-	Avg/Below	Avg/Below	Good/Fair
Blueberries						
Highbush	<5	0	0	Average	Average	Good
Wild	-	-	-	Avg/Abv Avg	Average	Exc/Good
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-	N/A	N/A	Good
Strawberries	50	20	15	Average	Average	Good/Fair

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2010	2009	5-yr Avg	Condition
--Percent Planted--				
Silage Corn	99	95	95	
Sweet Corn	90	85	85	
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	80	85	85	Good
Shade	100	100	100	Good
--Percent Emerged--				
Barley, ME	100	99	95	Good/Excellent
Oats, ME	100	99	95	Good/Excellent
Potatoes				
Maine	99	85	75	Good/Excellent
Mass	100	100	95	Good
Rhode Island	100	99	100	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	90	90	85	Good
Sweet Corn	80	75	70	Good
-- Percent Harvested --				
Dry Hay				
First Cut	70	50	50	Good
Second Cut	5	<5	0	Good/Excellent

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday June 14, 2010
 To: Sunday June 20, 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 INCHES	DFN	DAYS
MAINE														
Augusta_State_A	48	87	65	+2	636	+204	161	+77	0.29	-0.48	2	1.98	-1.21	9
Bangor_Intl_Arp	46	90	66	+3	595	+226	150	+91	0.44	-0.33	3	2.24	-0.88	11
Bethel	42	85	62	-2	518	+134	113	+48	0.56	-0.38	4	4.12	+0.49	13
Caribou_Municip	42	87	66	+5	476	+186	133	+100	0.06	-0.61	2	3.31	+0.64	10
Dover-Foxcroft	41	86	64	+4	437	+139	100	+67	0.49	-0.42	3	3.86	+0.41	12
Frenchville	42	85	64	+4	396	+143	99	+78	0.00	-0.72	0	2.08	-0.76	8
Houlton	35	86	63	+2	421	+124	110	+75	0.20	-0.57	5	3.90	+0.82	14
Livermore_Falls	37	87	62	+1	482	+179	108	+72	0.98	+0.00	3	2.82	-0.97	11
Moosehead	37	87	61	+2	329	+109	60	+47	0.41	-0.50	4	3.89	+0.40	12
Portland_ME	49	87	64	+2	605	+256	144	+97	0.19	-0.63	3	2.49	-0.73	12
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	40	83	60	-3	468	+81	117	+55	0.45	-0.46	4	2.77	-0.75	17
Berlin_AG	39	83	61	-3	472	+103	105	+45	0.86	-0.12	3	3.84	+0.11	11
Concord	44	88	65	+1	731	+270	250	+149	0.02	-0.75	1	2.74	-0.22	11
Diamond_Pond	32	65	49	-10	161	-39	23	+17	1.16	+0.04	3	5.19	+1.01	11
Keene_AG	45	88	63	-4	671	+106	209	+56	0.07	-0.77	2	3.44	+0.02	12
North_Conway	44	86	62	-3	560	+141	134	+52	0.32	-0.61	3	3.16	-0.55	15
Rochester	46	86	65	-2	700	+190	209	+85	0.05	-0.79	1	3.04	-0.32	9
VERMONT														
Bennington_AP	45	83	63	+1	686	+287	228	+156	0.29	-0.76	4	4.54	+0.27	17
Burlington_Intl	46	84	66	+1	736	+212	257	+122	0.44	-0.40	2	4.21	+1.09	15
Island_Pond	36	81	60	+0	441	+160	103	+66	0.77	-0.27	3	3.68	-0.23	13
Montpelier	40	84	62	+0	566	+184	167	+101	0.39	-0.44	5	3.25	-0.04	19
Rochester	41	86	60	-2	506	+143	131	+70	0.74	-0.12	2	3.62	-0.05	13
Rutland_AG	45	84	63	-4	622	+47	188	+28	0.26	-0.58	2	2.59	-0.74	11
Springfield_VT	45	86	64	+1	692	+268	220	+138	0.15	-0.76	5	2.89	-0.81	19
Sutton	40	83	60	+0	430	+151	97	+61	0.47	-0.56	4	4.87	+1.00	18
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	58	88	69	+2	944	+321	352	+185	0.03	-0.67	2	3.03	+0.13	12
Fitchburg	50	89	69	+6	941	+542	364	+293	0.16	-0.68	1	2.68	-0.65	11
Greenfield	47	85	65	-4	712	+96	239	+66	0.14	-0.77	2	3.38	-0.26	11
New_Bedford	52	87	68	+0	796	+184	257	+102	0.04	-0.80	2	3.38	-0.02	10
Otis_AFB	54	82	66	+2	648	+223	167	+88	0.10	-0.67	1	2.71	-0.42	13
Plymouth	54	89	69	+4	860	+399	309	+211	0.17	-0.62	3	1.71	-1.60	11
Walpole	51	89	68	+3	873	+359	329	+209	0.23	-0.68	4	2.21	-1.17	15
Chicopee/Westov	47	86	66	-4	858	+118	318	+83	0.08	-0.87	1	3.06	-0.83	12
Worthington	46	83	63	+0	619	+218	178	+106	0.39	-0.49	2	3.65	-0.09	10
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	54	85	69	+2	957	+387	341	+195	0.37	-0.40	1	3.17	+0.00	12
Woonsocket	51	88	68	+3	867	+361	307	+200	0.02	-0.95	1	3.22	-0.54	10
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	58	82	70	+2	907	+271	321	+136	0.09	-0.68	1	2.09	-1.15	10
Hartford/Bradle	51	87	69	+0	1024	+324	403	+183	0.00	-0.88	0	3.70	+0.09	10
Norfolk	48	81	64	+1	678	+281	207	+138	0.05	-1.03	1	3.10	-1.21	12
Thomaston_Dam	51	84	67	+2	823	+299	287	+164	0.14	-0.82	2	3.39	-0.51	13
Willimantic	52	86	67	+2	878	+348	322	+198	0.01	-0.83	1	2.25	-1.26	11

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, June 20, 2010

STATE	AIR TEMPERATURES				PRECIPITATION	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	35	90	63	+1	0.00	0.98
NH	32	91	62	-1	0.00	1.55
VT	36	89	62	-1	0.07	2.01
MA	45	89	66	+1	0.03	0.39
RI	51	88	68	+3	0.00	0.37
CT	46	89	67	+0	0.00	0.14

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: Field crops still looking very good, tree fruit crops not good. Strawberries are just about done and blueberries are here. Just a bit of dry hay made due to weather not cooperating. What broadleaf tobacco is set out looks very good. Shade tobacco is being tied up, side-dressed and hoed. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Sweet corn tasseled out. Field corn planting is finished. Top-dressing and PSNT testing on corn fields. We need a good soaking rain, fields are dry. Grass re-growth is slow due to dry soil and high temps grass is going dormant early. **Patricia Smith (FSA), New London:** Good weather for working in the fields. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** Summer weather arrived this week with beautiful hot sunny days. Great weather for field work especially hay making at the end of the week. Some scattered thunderstorms brought rain on Sunday which helped settle the dust. Vegetables are coming along well. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** A sunny humid week; thinning peaches, planting pumpkins, potting mums, some heavy passing showers, crops are growing well, hay progress slow, some second cutting chopped, corn is from just planted to over knee high. Strawberries range from poor to good in size and quality. Grape growers working with IPM management weekly, various stages from shot berries on St. Croix, finishing flowering on Vignole, concerns with lost to frost on Traminette.

MAINE – Casey Cote (St John Valley Soil & Water Conservation Dist), Northern Aroostook: Region received some needed rain but could use more. Crops continue to emerge and look good. **Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook:** Dry weather caught most farmers up on cultivation and spraying. Showers yesterday afternoon dropped 0.5 to 1.5 inches. A few are cutting dry hay, reports range from light on high ground to excellent in the low areas. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Growers continue to apply herbicides. Initial fungicides applied end of week. Crops continue to emerge and grow with adequate sun and rain. Hay is being cut. Crops are looking great with adequate sun and rain. **Jill Tibbetts (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Farmers are happy!!!! Crops are looking great. Strawberries are the best they have been for several years. Early salad crops are being picked and other early crops are coming on fast. The weekend's heat was a huge boost to the corn crops and we should be enjoying fresh sweet corn as soon as tassels have appeared. Summertime is here!!! **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Nice week for field work. Fertilizer being applied to fields were 1st crop of hay has been removed. First crop of hay looks good. Strawberries are being harvested and crop looks pretty good. Apples and vegetables are coming; great warm days have done a good job on growth. Farm stands will be opening up shortly. Blueberries are starting to have fruit setting, crop looks pretty good due to late frost but still to early to tell. Herbicides are still being applied. Need more rain, ground is still short of moisture. **Megan McDonough (FSA), Kennebec:** I'm happy to report that we are experiencing an early strawberry season! Corn is in and up. We have heard quite a few reports of damage from crows and some necessary replanting taking place. Weather has provided mostly favorable conditions; we experienced one storm last week which brought about an inch of rain. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Wow! Another great week in the mid-coast area for field work. Crops are growing well and conditions are (do we dare say) nearly IDEAL!!! The strawberry harvest has started with lots of fresh berries being sold at road side stands. The crop is anticipated to be light due to the May frost. Peas are being picked, and cucumbers and summer squash are also being harvested. Most farm stands are now opened in these counties. The apple crop is still questionable, only time will tell how this crop will fair. Another incredible week is forecasted with plenty of sun and some moisture as well. This is the way farming should be in the great State of Maine. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Oxford County producers have reported that first crop hay is very low yield. Strawberries are now being sold and looking good. Hay is being harvested between showers. Corn is

emerging and looking good in many areas. Pastures are being maintained by livestock! **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** Good haying week. The corn is up and doing well in the heat. We need continued rain for good development. Strawberry harvest has commenced with a few producers not conducting pick-your-own but instead selling on the stand only. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis/Penobscot:** Farmers have been able to fit in some haying activities around the rain storms. Scouting for insect pests and disease in high value crops. Strawberry picking has started. **Elaine Moceus (FSA), Somerset:** Scattered thunderstorms and showers over the past weekend provided much needed rain for this area. The ground soaked it up fast, and more rain is needed. Strawberries are ready for harvest, and a short season is predicted. Highbush blueberries look good and an early harvest season is predicted, some berries are already starting to ripen. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries; Fruit set appears to be good on many fields, berries mostly white but beginning to see a few blue berries. Fly traps are being put out to monitor for fruit fly. Soil conditions very dry, irrigation being applied to fields.

MASSACHUSETTS – Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: Strawberry season in full swing with the freeze in May cutting down on size and quantity of berries. Stone fruit suffered from the freeze also with the extent of losses to cherries, peaches and pears evident. Field corn is in good shape and ahead of schedule. Farmers are harvesting greens and spring veggies. It is still on the dry side which has allowed for timely crop treatments. **Lori Carver (FSA), Franklin:** Great weekend for P-Y-O Strawberries. Summer squash is starting to come in; producers continue to harvest radishes and various greens. Hay is being made while the sun is shining. Cultivating and top-dressing continues. Tobacco planting is almost finished. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** It was a cool and rainy week. Harvesting of greens, strawberries, radishes, lettuce, beets, green house tomatoes, summer squash and spinach continues. Protective fungicide sprays were being applied to prevent crop diseases on fruits and vegetables. Late blight was confirmed in corn on June 17th. Potatoes are in the flowering and tuber set stage and growers are scouting for the potato leafhopper. The tobacco crop looks strong as it is being top-dressed and cultivated. All growers continue top-dressing and hoeing their vegetable crops. Overall crops are looking good. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: All cranberry beds are in bloom, with most in or approaching full bloom. Honey bee activity has been very good, which means fruit should be setting up nicely. Bumblebees have been fairly numerous as well. Although rain has been in the area, most rainfall has been minimal and we could use a good soaking. There appears to be a fair amount of Phytophthora root rot showing up in many beds, and fairy ring is showing up prominently. Insect pressure is on the low side. There are many reports of frost injury from May, in some cases due to equipment failure.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire: Generally warm sunny weather most of the week, apart from a little rain mid-week and Sunday AM. Field corn is growing very well, much of it knee-high or better. Enough sunny weather for harvesting some dry hay, with strong re-growth on harvested fields. Vegetable crops are doing well, with variety of greens, radishes, beets, and high tunnel tomatoes showing up. P-Y-O strawberries are peaking. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Warm weather, heavy rainstorms making haying tricky. Dry baled hay is coming in good quantities at weeks end, looks like good quality. Red and white clovers are now in blossom. Field corn look exceptional in many locations, 4 leaf stage to almost knee high on earliest planted. Most haylage 1st cut in; manure spreading following. Seeing some black cutworms in late seeded corn land now beginning to cut plants. Garden centers continue to do active business as sunny weather bringing out customers. Peas are flowering. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending

June 19th, we had rain showers during five days. Total rain fall only amounted to slightly more than a half of an inch for the week. The corn crop looks good. The second cut hay crop is re-growing slowly on some soils. Some hay stands appear to be a little thin. Concern over damage to the apple crop remains high. Vegetable operations are doing ok. Those with drip systems and under plastic are doing particularly well. The sweet corn crop looks good. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Strawberries were being picked during of the week (70% harvest), and Strawberry Pick-Your-Own operations open over the weekend. Sweet cherry harvest is under way and some ripening fruit is cracking with the rain showers that occurring during the week. Fruit growers are monitoring pest and crop development and applying cover sprays for pest. Mowing orchard floors and spraying weeds under trees. Field Crops: Most farmers are finishing-up planting and weed spraying in corn fields. Farmers are trying to make haylage and baled hay between showers. Soil nitrate test for field corn to determine nitrogen fertilizer needs and side-dressing fields. Vegetables: Harvesting greens, spinach, scallions, radishes, cucumbers, greenhouse tomatoes, rhubarb, lettuce and summer squash. Continue making successive planting of various vegetable crops. Growers are busy side-dressing fields with fertilizer, cultivating weeds, scouting for pests and spraying if needed. **Amy Ouellette (Ext), Merrimack:** Growers are monitoring for insects and plant disease. Most everything has been planted. Topsoil is dry in most places. No significant weather events to report. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** It's been dry and very hot with threat of thunderstorms. Growers are irrigating and weeding. Harvesting cukes, zucchini, broccoli and greens. Strawberry picking in full swing. Blueberry and raspberry picking will start at the end of the month (about 2 weeks earlier). Monitoring for pests, striped cucumber beetles and Colorado potato beetles are very active. A good soaking rain is needed. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** Warm and dry weather most of the week. Grass in pastures and hay fields are growing well. Producers were busy making hay and haylage. Tree fruit growers were mowing and weeding orchard floors. Small fruit growers were busy picking strawberries and pick-your-own operations were busy with customers. Vegetable growers were harvesting an array of vegetable crops and also continued with planting other crops like squash and pumpkins. Growers were also busy weeding and irrigating their crops. Greenhouse operations were busy planting fall mums.

RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties: This has been

a good average week, we had some fog and some rain, but able to work every day. Holding back on hay cutting, we haven't had 3 good days in a row. All early potatoes are in full bloom right now, farmers think they will be harvesting by the third week of July. That is almost a month ahead of time. Strawberries are still picking heavy. Livestock still has good pasture. RI's grocery list: You can pick strawberries, plenty of green and yellow summer squash, peas are being picked, and native lettuces are being picked as well (red and green etc.). Early sweet corn is starting to tassel out. Everything is improved over last year.

VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison: Some rain storms slowed progress. Most soil conditions dry enough to spread manure and fertilizer on hay fields and spray weed control on corn fields. Side-dressing Nitrogen on earliest planted corn. Some corn still being planted on low wet fields and on green sod after a first cut taken. New seeded hay fields look vigorous. Hay re-growth good with intermittent rain showers. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Moisture and some heat at the end of the week are pushing growth along in Franklin County. This should bring the strawberries into harvest mode. Have not heard what the yields are at this point. Corn is doing well and Nitrogen side-dress will be in full swing this week. Things are a little moist in the fields and may delay this activity; however, there is plenty of time. Much catch up on Roundup applications for Round up Ready corn with good results. Very tough getting first cut hay dry for baling. We will begin to see some 2nd cut haylage being harvested soon. Gardens are still doing very well. **John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille/Washington:** Last week marked the appearance of summer like weather. Had enough dry weather to make some haying possible. Corn crop put on some significant growth but grass growth started slowing with the hotter temperatures. Had a report of crow damage in some sweet corn starts. Some areas had torrential downpours on Sunday but some went dry. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Almost all of first cut has been harvested and some second cut is ready. The second cut looks good with the rain that we have gotten. The fields are a little soft now making harvesting a bit of a challenge. Most all corn has emerged and is looking good. Stocks are 6-8 inches high in most places and the color is pretty good. Pastures are a bit wet but there is a lot of feed. Strawberries are just starting to be ready to pick and looks like it will be about an average crop. The blueberries look a lot better then a few weeks ago and the apples are coming along now as well. Most of the activity this past week was spreading manure and harvesting first and second crop hay.

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