

# Crop Progress & Condition



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July 19, 2010 – 4 pm

For week ending 7/18/10

## Soaking Rain Needed

### GENERAL CONDITIONS:

For the week ending July 18, 2010, there were 5.8 days available for field work across New England. Pasture condition was rated 1% very poor, 10% poor, 33% fair, 49% good, and 7% excellent. The week began hot with daytime temperatures ranging from the upper 70s to low 90s. A storm system moved into the area on Tuesday, dumping anywhere from 0.10 to 2.09 inches across New England. During the first half of the week, daytime temperatures were mostly in the 80s with nighttime temperatures above average ranging from the low 60s to the mid-70s. Warmth continued during the following days with temperatures peaking in the mid-80s to mid-90s on Saturday. Scattered areas of New England reported light rainfall during the latter days of the week while the rest of the region enjoyed partly sunny skies. Nighttime average temperatures for the week ranged from the low 60s to low 70s. Total precipitation ranged from 0.11 to 2.10 inches.

### FRUIT:

The strawberry season came to a close last week with some producers reporting yield losses due to frosts in May. Harvesting of highbush blueberries and raspberries continued throughout New England. Wild blueberries in Maine continued to develop well. Harvest has reportedly begun in some areas, about a week earlier than normal. Apple growers assessed crop development and began to predict crop losses due to early frosts and localized hail, while orchardists in New Hampshire began harvesting early apple varieties last week. Cranberries had less than optimal fruit size and beds were stressed in areas that did not receive enough precipitation. Dodder also persisted to prove problematic on many beds. Growers were occupied last week irrigating, monitoring for pests, and applying fungicides and pesticides as needed.

### VEGETABLES:

Sweet corn continued to be harvested and sold at farm stands across the region last week. Farmers were harvesting other vegetables including beans, beets, cole crops, cucumbers, greens, early green peppers, peas, radishes, summer squash, tomatoes, and zucchini. Farmers were also busy irrigating, cultivating, monitoring for pests such as the Japanese beetle in Vermont, and spraying for insects and diseases as needed.

### FIELD CROPS:

Field corn tassled out last week throughout New England and was reported to be of decent height. Potatoes in Maine reached full bloom, despite lack of optimal soil moisture conditions in some areas, with some early varieties being sold at farm stands. Many farmers finished the second cut of dry hay which was reportedly of higher quality and yield than the first cut. Much needed rain showers during the middle of the week made dry hay cutting difficult in some areas. Fields that did not receive adequate rain last week continued to display signs of drought stress. Farmers kept busy last week irrigating as needed, baling straw, applying manure, and scouting for pests.

### SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

| Soil Rating    | This Week     | Last Week | Last Year |
|----------------|---------------|-----------|-----------|
|                | -- Percent -- |           |           |
| <b>Topsoil</b> |               |           |           |
| Very Short     | 12            | 10        | 0         |
| Short          | 33            | 31        | 2         |
| Adequate       | 53            | 59        | 50        |
| Surplus        | 2             | 0         | 48        |
| <b>Subsoil</b> |               |           |           |
| Very Short     | 8             | 5         | 0         |
| Short          | 30            | 30        | 0         |
| Adequate       | 60            | 65        | 57        |
| Surplus        | 2             | 0         | 43        |

### 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      | 5                 | 5    | <5       | Average   | Average    | Good      |
| Pears        | -                 | -    | -        | Avg/Below | Average    | Good/Fair |
| Blueberries  |                   |      |          |           |            |           |
| Highbush     | 20                | 15   | 15       | Average   | Average    | Good      |
| Wild         | -                 | -    | -        | Average   | Average    | Good      |
| Cranberries  |                   |      |          |           |            |           |
| Mass         | -                 | -    | -        | Average   | Average    | Good      |
| Strawberries | 99                | 95   | 95       | Average   | Average    |           |

### FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

| Crop         | 2010                    | 2009 | 5-yr Avg | Condition       |
|--------------|-------------------------|------|----------|-----------------|
|              | --Percent Emerged--     |      |          |                 |
| Sweet Corn   | 99                      | 95   | 95       |                 |
|              | -- Percent Harvested -- |      |          |                 |
| Barley, ME   | -                       | -    | -        | Excellent/ Good |
| Oats, ME     | -                       | -    | -        | Excellent/ Good |
| Potatoes     |                         |      |          |                 |
| Maine        | 0                       | 0    | 0        | Excellent/ Good |
| Mass         | -                       | -    | -        | Good/Fair       |
| Rhode Island | -                       | -    | -        | Good/Excellent  |
| Silage Corn  | -                       | -    | -        | Good            |
| Sweet Corn   | 10                      | <5   | 5        | Good            |
| Tobacco      |                         |      |          |                 |
| Broadleaf    | -                       | -    | -        | Good            |
| Shade        | 15                      | 0    | 5        | Good            |
| Dry Hay      |                         |      |          |                 |
| First Cut    | 95                      | 80   | 85       |                 |
| Second Cut   | 50                      | 20   | 20       | Good            |
| Third Cut    | <5                      | 0    | 0        | Good/Fair       |

2 – Crop Weather, July 19, 2010

New England Agricultural Statistics, NASS, USDA

Weather Summary for New England Agricultural Statistics

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday July 12, 2010  
 To: Sunday July 18, 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 |
|                      |                 |    |     |     | TOT                                 | DFN  | TOT      | DFN  |               |       |      | INCHES            | DFN   |     |      |
| <b>MAINE</b>         |                 |    |     |     |                                     |      |          |      |               |       |      |                   |       |     |      |
| Augusta_State_A      | 63              | 88 | 74  | +6  | 1263                                | +320 | 508      | +197 | 0.41          | -0.29 | 2    | 2.81              | -0.12 | 9   |      |
| Bangor_Intl_Arp      | 63              | 90 | 75  | +7  | 1205                                | +366 | 480      | +233 | 0.60          | -0.17 | 3    | 3.16              | +0.08 | 14  |      |
| Bethel               | 60              | 87 | 73  | +6  | 1095                                | +241 | 415      | +164 | 0.73          | -0.04 | 3    | 3.94              | +0.58 | 10  |      |
| Caribou_Municip      | 57              | 86 | 74  | +9  | 1012                                | +320 | 400      | +234 | 2.72          | +1.81 | 4    | 7.37              | +4.10 | 18  |      |
| Dover-Foxcroft       | 60              | 87 | 74  | +7  | 993                                 | +270 | 379      | +196 | 0.41          | -0.42 | 4    | 3.88              | +0.53 | 11  |      |
| Frenchville          | 56              | 84 | 72  | +8  | 872                                 | +235 | 327      | +190 | 0.25          | -0.59 | 3    | 6.04              | +2.82 | 16  |      |
| Houlton              | 53              | 88 | 74  | +8  | 944                                 | +231 | 362      | +181 | 0.72          | -0.12 | 5    | 2.61              | -0.62 | 15  |      |
| Livermore_Falls      | 58              | 90 | 74  | +8  | 1074                                | +355 | 423      | +246 | 0.37          | -0.40 | 2    | 2.27              | -1.08 | 9   |      |
| Moosehead            | 53              | 85 | 70  | +7  | 814                                 | +230 | 275      | +156 | 0.14          | -0.77 | 3    | 2.92              | -0.78 | 16  |      |
| Portland_ME          | 63              | 90 | 74  | +6  | 1231                                | +404 | 490      | +250 | 2.28          | +1.58 | 2    | 3.74              | +0.78 | 8   |      |
| <b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b> |                 |    |     |     |                                     |      |          |      |               |       |      |                   |       |     |      |
| Benton               | 60              | 84 | 72  | +7  | 993                                 | +181 | 373      | +163 | 0.71          | -0.06 | 4    | 4.15              | +0.92 | 13  |      |
| Berlin_AG            | 60              | 86 | 73  | +7  | 1030                                | +219 | 389      | +168 | 1.15          | +0.31 | 5    | 4.46              | +0.94 | 15  |      |
| Concord              | 64              | 94 | 78  | +9  | 1414                                | +443 | 655      | +328 | 0.15          | -0.55 | 3    | 0.63              | -2.21 | 8   |      |
| Diament_Pond         | 52              | 87 | 71  | +9  | 673                                 | +158 | 234      | +163 | 0.70          | -0.33 | 3    | 4.09              | -0.12 | 15  |      |
| Keene_AG             | 63              | 92 | 77  | +7  | 1306                                | +193 | 568      | +150 | 1.76          | +0.94 | 4    | 2.84              | -0.43 | 8   |      |
| North_Conway         | 60              | 88 | 73  | +5  | 1149                                | +244 | 443      | +157 | 0.91          | +0.07 | 5    | 3.48              | +0.00 | 13  |      |
| Rochester            | 61              | 94 | 76  | +7  | 1443                                | +406 | 672      | +303 | 1.74          | +0.97 | 5    | 3.01              | -0.10 | 9   |      |
| <b>VERMONT</b>       |                 |    |     |     |                                     |      |          |      |               |       |      |                   |       |     |      |
| Bennington_AP        | 60              | 87 | 75  | +8  | 1285                                | +441 | 553      | +314 | 1.63          | +0.72 | 4    | 4.11              | +0.25 | 12  |      |
| Burlington_Intl      | 65              | 90 | 77  | +7  | 1414                                | +352 | 656      | +266 | 0.23          | -0.60 | 3    | 3.30              | +0.03 | 13  |      |
| Island_Pond          | 59              | 87 | 73  | +9  | 967                                 | +320 | 363      | +223 | 0.41          | -0.53 | 3    | 2.75              | -1.09 | 15  |      |
| Montpelier           | 61              | 85 | 74  | +7  | 1144                                | +323 | 470      | +239 | 0.25          | -0.44 | 5    | 4.19              | +1.31 | 15  |      |
| Rochester            | 60              | 88 | 73  | +7  | 1053                                | +262 | 402      | +186 | 0.72          | -0.12 | 3    | 5.34              | +1.98 | 11  |      |
| Rutland_AG           | 61              | 88 | 75  | +5  | 1221                                | +111 | 511      | +99  | 1.42          | +0.56 | 4    | 4.10              | +0.72 | 12  |      |
| Springfield_VT       | 63              | 90 | 77  | +10 | 1335                                | +443 | 586      | +318 | 0.55          | -0.22 | 3    | 2.11              | -1.22 | 11  |      |
| Sutton               | 59              | 85 | 72  | +8  | 944                                 | +287 | 340      | +189 | 0.28          | -0.65 | 2    | 3.22              | -0.62 | 14  |      |
| <b>MASSACHUSETTS</b> |                 |    |     |     |                                     |      |          |      |               |       |      |                   |       |     |      |
| Boston/Logan_In      | 65              | 93 | 78  | +5  | 1720                                | +478 | 848      | +345 | 0.43          | -0.20 | 5    | 2.34              | -0.30 | 9   |      |
| Fitchburg            | 66              | 92 | 79  | +11 | 1702                                | +831 | 845      | +582 | 0.95          | +0.11 | 3    | 2.43              | -0.93 | 6   |      |
| Greenfield           | 63              | 92 | 77  | +6  | 1370                                | +173 | 618      | +146 | 1.35          | +0.51 | 5    | 3.14              | -0.26 | 10  |      |
| New_Bedford          | 69              | 90 | 79  | +6  | 1533                                | +308 | 714      | +232 | 1.21          | +0.56 | 3    | 1.82              | -1.05 | 7   |      |
| Otis_AFB             | 68              | 86 | 76  | +5  | 1314                                | +360 | 553      | +233 | 1.04          | +0.41 | 3    | 1.92              | -0.76 | 8   |      |
| Plymouth             | 69              | 92 | 79  | +9  | 1647                                | +642 | 816      | +460 | 2.86          | +2.09 | 2    | 4.04              | +0.96 | 5   |      |
| Walpole              | 65              | 91 | 78  | +8  | 1619                                | +558 | 795      | +412 | 0.48          | -0.29 | 3    | 1.71              | -1.52 | 8   |      |
| Chicopee/Westov      | 64              | 95 | 79  | +5  | 1590                                | +213 | 770      | +180 | 0.48          | -0.36 | 4    | 0.79              | -2.70 | 7   |      |
| Worthington          | 57              | 89 | 74  | +7  | 1204                                | +353 | 487      | +245 | 0.53          | -0.45 | 4    | 0.89              | -2.88 | 6   |      |
| <b>RHODE ISLAND</b>  |                 |    |     |     |                                     |      |          |      |               |       |      |                   |       |     |      |
| Providence           | 68              | 92 | 79  | +7  | 1745                                | +576 | 849      | +391 | 1.31          | +0.61 | 2    | 2.92              | +0.02 | 5   |      |
| Woonsocket           | 66              | 91 | 79  | +9  | 1614                                | +571 | 774      | +413 | 0.73          | -0.16 | 2    | 1.40              | -2.22 | 7   |      |
| <b>CONNECTICUT</b>   |                 |    |     |     |                                     |      |          |      |               |       |      |                   |       |     |      |
| Bridgeport/Siko      | 72              | 91 | 80  | +6  | 1708                                | +455 | 842      | +324 | 1.58          | +0.69 | 3    | 3.13              | -0.27 | 6   |      |
| Hartford/Bradle      | 67              | 93 | 80  | +7  | 1804                                | +475 | 903      | +336 | 1.84          | +1.14 | 4    | 3.19              | +0.14 | 7   |      |
| Norfolk              | 62              | 88 | 74  | +7  | 1298                                | +443 | 548      | +301 | 1.37          | +0.46 | 4    | 3.10              | -0.84 | 10  |      |
| Thomaston_Dam        | 65              | 90 | 78  | +9  | 1544                                | +498 | 728      | +366 | 1.69          | +0.78 | 3    | 2.81              | -0.83 | 9   |      |
| Willimantic          | 66              | 90 | 78  | +8  | 1607                                | +550 | 771      | +402 | 0.98          | +0.01 | 4    | 2.04              | -1.66 | 9   |      |

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, July 18, 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    | 53               | 92 | 73  | +7  | 0.10          | 2.72 |
| NH    | 48               | 94 | 74  | +8  | 0.11          | 3.39 |
| VT    | 54               | 90 | 74  | +7  | 0.07          | 2.36 |
| MA    | 57               | 95 | 77  | +7  | 0.25          | 2.86 |
| RI    | 66               | 92 | 78  | +7  | 0.73          | 1.31 |
| CT    | 60               | 95 | 78  | +7  | 0.34          | 2.00 |

**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:** Farmers are harvesting a variety of crops including summer squash, sweet corn and blueberries. Field corn received some much needed rain this week. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Dry what else is there to say. Corn is tasseling but it is only 5 - 8 feet tall not the 12 - 14 feet you want for good tonnage. Grass is brown. Blueberries are wasting on the shrubs as it is too hot for P-Y-O goes. Thundershowers and storm aren't really helping as the water just runs off, very little is actually making it into the soil! **Ann Marie McCard (FSA), New London:** Another week of hot, humid weather. A few isolated showers mid-week and over the weekend did little to alleviate the dry conditions in some areas. Some third cutting hay is being made. The grapes are looking very good. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** This was another week of hot summer weather with the threat of thunderstorms almost daily, which didn't happen. We had one day of nice soft rain mid-week which helped ease the dry conditions, however, it was still necessary to irrigate the crops. One producer reported the total loss of a sweet corn field due to the drought and heat. Most vegetables are doing well and we are seeing harvesting of summer squash, cucumbers, early green peppers and green beans. Peaches are small and need rain to size up. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Combining wheat and baling the straw. The timber market is strongest since 2004. Heavy rain with 3.5" from Windham to Brooklyn to Pomfret, 1/10th of an inch in Thompson, Woodstock, Plainfield and Sterling. Frost damage showing up in rings and spots on apples, hail damage on apples also visible. Most of the corn looks good, tassling at good height. Grapes are doing well. Heat continues with over 90 degree days. Heat advisories were issued.

**MAINE – Casey Cote (St John Valley Soil & Water Conservation Dist), Northern Aroostook:** It was another hot and humid week. Some areas received severe storms with strong winds and heavy rains. Growers are following a 7-day fungicide spray schedule. **Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook:** Strong thundershowers have caused damage in isolated areas. Late blight has been found across the border from Bridgewater. Raspberries and blueberries are ripening. Showers every couple of days has made getting dry hay difficult. Overall crops still look excellent. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Growers are on a 5-day spray schedule for this week. Growers are applying fungicides as well as insecticides. Crops are still looking excellent. All potatoes are in full blossom, beautiful color variations in blooms for various varieties. Small roadside stands selling new potatoes, peas and other vegetables. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Farmers are still spraying for corn borers and late blight. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Another hot, humid week. Luckily rain showers have fallen to keep most soils moist. The silage corn looks very good and tall, vegetables are growing with the heat, and hay is being harvested between the rain showers. Farmers' markets are filled with local produce. Life is good! **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** You can almost see the crops grow when it rains. It was a good week to cultivate and do some top-dressing. Some second cut hay still coming in. We can use a little rain. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Overall crops look great. Strawberry harvest is completed and about 50% below normal production is being reported due to May frost. Raspberries are being harvested and is a great crop. Harvest of blueberries could be starting this week. Fruit flies are heavy in areas but traps are out. Spraying is continuing for pest and fungicide. Corn and potatoes are looking great but need some moisture in ground. First and second hay crop looks great and farmers are busy applying manure on already harvested fields. Vegetable stand are in high swing with multiple crops. Sweet corn should be appearing in stands within the week. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** It was another marvelous week here in the mid-coast area. We did receive a soaking rain to start the week but there was lots of sun and heat as well, and most farming activities continued on or ahead of schedule.

The blueberry harvest will be starting this week which is a week ahead of schedule. It is anticipated the berries are going to go by quickly, with berries dropping in some fields now. It is currently thought that the apple crop will be better than earlier anticipated. The latest report is the crop may be off by 25-30% which is a huge improvement from early projections. Reports are second crop (grass silage) is as good as the first. Crops are thriving with great growing conditions everywhere! **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Second crop of hay is being harvested throughout the County now. The high humidity has made some of the hay harvest difficult for drying. Sweet corn and other summer vegetables are making farm stands very busy these days. Raspberries are available! Another hot and humid week ahead with showers in the forecast. Potato crop is looking great along with field corn. **Janet King (FSA), Somerset:** Everything is growing well, but we need rain. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Hot weather continues to push the corn along. Some rain in places of the county while others are quite dry. We could use some rain. **Amanda May (FSA), Washington:** For the most part this has been one heck of a growing season with a nice mix of rain and sun. This past week brought more of the same. Crops are well ahead of schedule. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Wild blueberry crop harvest has begun in the mid-coast area and is about one week early. Plants are still under stress from warm weather and lack of moisture. Growers who have irrigation are using it.

**MASSACHUSETTS – Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire:** Another hot, muggy week ending with thunderstorms, wind, hail in north county and lightning. Rain from 0.25 to 1.00 inch fell in the county. We could use more. Temperatures stayed in the 90's through the weekend despite the storms. Pastures and crops are showing some heat stress. Folks who have irrigation are using it. **Lori Carver (FSA), Franklin:** Producers are continuing to irrigate as a good soaking rain has not materialized. Tobacco does love this weather and looks great, harvest to begin soon. Second crop of hay is starting to be cut; lack of rain is affecting the quality of this crop. Silage corn looks great and is ahead of schedule. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** It was another hot, humid and dry week with scattered thundershowers at the end of the week. Vegetable growers continue to irrigate. Harvesting of blueberries, raspberries, beets, beans, peas, lettuce, cabbage, sweet corn, broccoli, cucumbers and many more summer crops continues. Crop growers are scouting for the following insects flea and potato beetles, aphids, leafhoppers, and onion thrips. Dry conditions are keeping disease pressure low. Early potatoes are being vine killed. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Bloom is done and the honeybee hives have been removed. Fruit set is good to very good. Berries seem to be sizing well, but the hot, dry conditions are unfavorable for best sizing. Rain was very widely scattered and where it did occur, was less than 1 inch. Many cranberry beds have areas of fried vines, in spite of regular watering. The brutal conditions on July 6 resulted in much of this damage. Cranberry weevil was an issue for many growers during bloom. Fruitworm applications are largely finished. Dodder covers entire sections of several beds, as there are no good materials for its control.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE – William Lord (Ext), Belknap:** A few scattered showers brought up to a half inch of rain to some fields. Significant rain is needed. Irrigation ponds are showing the strains of non-stop activity on vegetable and berry farms. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** More hot weather, but a little rain mid-week provided much needed moisture. Despite dry conditions, crops mostly seem to be growing well. Much field corn is tasseling and silking already. Decent conditions for harvesting hay & haylage, but re-growth is slow. Veggie crops are doing very well and sweet corn widely available now. A pretty wide variety of other crops are showing up at farmers' markets and farm stands. P-Y-O raspberries and blueberries are going strong. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Hot weather

continues, just a bit of rain. Corn growing well, seeing tassels and silk on earliest planted sweet and field corn. Second cut haylage/baleage completed by some. On going efforts of mowing and baling hay. Manure spreading on recently cut dry baled hayfields. Raspberries and blueberries are beginning. Moisture stress on light soils can use a good soaking rain. Crabgrass is a problem this year on operations. More summer veggies are now reaching market, season is ahead from previous year. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending July 17th, we had nearly an inch of rain. Most of the showers fell late in the day or early morning. The corn crop continues to do well. Hay and haylage looks good. First crop is done, and many producers have already completed second cut. In many fields that looked sparse on first cut, the second cut has filled in better. Crops on vegetable operations are looking good. Apple growers will have a difficult time this year. The freeze damage was moderate to severe, depending on where the orchard was located. Some orchards are now confirming over an 80% loss. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Vegetables: Irrigating crops where irrigation ponds' water levels are going down and are pretty much dry. Farmers kept busy cultivating, hoeing weeds, monitoring pest pressures and spraying pesticides for insect and disease control where needed. Harvesting an array of vegetables: beans, beets, cole crops, cucumbers, greens, melons, peas, potatoes, radishes, summer squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, zucchini, and other vegetables. Fruit: Orchardists harvesting peaches, blueberry and summer raspberry. Started harvesting the early season apple varieties. Orchardists busy irrigating apples, blueberries, peaches, raspberry and renovated strawberry beds. Monitoring for pests spraying if needed, training young trees and mowing orchard floors. Field Crops: Hay cutting continued at a rapid pace during the week with the second cut being made. Silage corn put on rapid growth this past week. Many hay fields and silage corn fields showing drought stress. **Amy Ouellette (Ext), Merrimack:** Not much relief from extremely dry conditions. Blueberries and raspberries are being harvested, plus almost every vegetable including sweet corn. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Harvesting an array of vegetables including potatoes, sweet corn, blueberries, raspberries and early apple varieties. Irrigating, weeding and monitoring pests. Potato Colorado beetle, tomato hornworms, Asiatic beetle and blueberry maggots are out in force. Haying is being done. Much needed rain came mid-week and end of week in localized areas. Very humid and hot week.

**RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties:** This week we had rain on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday in different parts of the state. Showers produced as much as one and a half inches of rain at a time. Potatoes are looking very well, and hope to be harvesting some of the early varieties soon. Sweet corn has been

good with help from the needed rain. We are getting more and more small vegetables coming in, such as beans, cucumbers, blueberries and a few early tomatoes. Haying was a short week with 3 days of rain. Pastures are fair. Livestock is looking well, a little tough on the really hot days, when it's above 90. All in all it's been a good year so far, let's hope it stays this way.

**VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Conditions continued good for dry hay harvest. Finished first cuts and now second harvest is progressing. Pastures depleted and slow re-growth, still in fair to good condition. New seeded hay fields are growing rapidly, with oats heading and first clipping starting to take place on some farms. The corn crop has very good growth, but the late planted fields are still only a few inches tall. A wide range of crop progress depending on soil type. Some manure and fertilizer spreading on cut hay fields. Lime applications as well. Soybeans good with little observed problems from insects and diseases. Mostly variable growth due to wet soil areas at planting. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Hot week, some haying, and corn is responding to the heat and growing well. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Quiet week in Franklin County. Rainy weather kept any drying of second cut hay at bay. Second cut haylage is done for the most part with great yields and quality. Pastures are doing great and growing well along with all other crops. Corn has slowed in growth with the cooler temperatures however, still doing great. Root crops are now being harvested in gardens with fantastic yields. Even some new potatoes here and there. Some sweet corn on stands with a good crop waiting in the wings. Blueberries and raspberries are now in full swing with good yields. **Heather Darby (Ext), Franklin:** Very hot weather! Many farmers finished second cutting of forage. Some corn fields starting to tassel in the area. **John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille/Washington:** This was the week that the corn crop started tasseling. Continued hot weather is still pushing growth on warm weather crops with most crops at least a week ahead of normal. Grass growth has slowed to a crawl especially since what rain we received lately has been very spotty. Excellent blueberry crop this year and everyone's favorite pest, the Japanese beetle, is making itself at home in the veggie fields. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Last week was very warm with the occasional rain shower. Corn is doing very well with the heat and moisture of the past few weeks. Some corn is already 6 feet tall and starting to tassel. Yield should be very good this year. Pastures are still doing well with the moisture we have been getting. Growth has slowed some due to the mid- summer slump. Almost all second cut hay has been harvested and a little third crop. Third crop is looking pretty good so far. The strawberry season is essentially over. It appeared to be at least an average season for that crop. The blueberries are ripe and ready to be picked. Fruit looks to be at least average in size and are very sweet.

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