

Crop Progress & Condition



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August 2, 2010 – 4 pm

For week ending 8/1/10

Sunny, Dry Week

GENERAL CONDITIONS:

For the week ending August 1, 2010, there were 6.8 days available for field work across New England. Pasture condition was rated 1% very poor, 15% poor, 28% fair, 50% good, and 6% excellent. The week began hot and windy, with temperatures mostly in the 80s. Average to above average temperatures ranging in the upper 70s to low 90s continued until a cold front entered the region on Wednesday night. The cold front brought less than half of an inch of precipitation throughout the region. All States experienced a break from the persistent warmth and humidity by Friday and enjoyed a relatively cool weekend with daytime temperatures ranging from the low 70s to low 80s. Nighttime temperatures during the weekend were below average and mainly in the 40s and 50s with a few areas reporting record-breaking low temperatures. Total precipitation ranged from none to 0.39 inches.

FRUIT:

Pick-Your-Own high bush blueberry operations continued last week and began to wind down in Connecticut and New Hampshire. The peach, raspberry, and early apple variety such as Jersey Mac harvest progressed last week. Plums in New Hampshire and blackberries in Vermont were available last week. Wild blueberries in Maine affected by May frosts began to display a decreased yield. In Connecticut, peaches and early apples had smaller than normal fruit size. Early variety cranberries in Massachusetts showed a developed fruit size, while growers continued to irrigate the crop. Fruit growers were kept occupied irrigating, mowing orchard floors, renovating and planting new strawberry beds, and monitoring for diseases and pests while applying sprays as necessary.

VEGETABLES:

Irrigation in areas that did not receive adequate rainfall was a high priority for vegetable growers throughout the region last week. Farmers were busy harvesting vegetables including beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, cucumbers, eggplant, greens, peppers, radishes, summer squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, and zucchini. Other activities included cultivating, scouting for pests and diseases, and spraying as needed.

FIELD CROPS:

Field corn continued to do well however, areas with shallow soils are beginning to show yellowing and curling. Height ranges from 5 to 14 feet. Warm and dry conditions last week made hay making an ongoing activity last week, with many hay producers on their second cut or progressing to their third. Many hay and corn fields across the region are reportedly showing signs of drought stress. Regrowth of hay fields and pastures was slowed last week due to unfavorable weather conditions. Farmers were occupied last week irrigating, spreading manure and fertilizer, and watching for diseases.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	15	4	0
Short	34	24	0
Adequate	48	63	46
Surplus	3	9	54
Subsoil			
Very Short	13	3	0
Short	29	24	1
Adequate	55	67	47
Surplus	3	6	52

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Set	Fruit Size	Condition
	2010	2009	5 yr Avg			
Apples	<5	<5	-	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Peaches	20	30	20	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Pears	<5	-	-	Avg/Below	Avg/Below	Fair/Good
Blueberries						
Highbush	55	35	40	Average	Average	Good
Wild	15	<5	<5	Average	Average	Good
Cranberries						
Mass	-	-	-	Avg/Above	Average	Good

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2010	2009	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Harvested --				
Barley, ME	<5	-	-	Excellent/ Good
Oats, ME	-	-	-	Excellent/ Good
Potatoes				
Maine	<5	-	-	Excellent/ Good
Mass	<5	5	<5	Good/Fair
Rhode Island	5	<5	<5	Good
Silage Corn	-	-	-	Good
Sweet Corn	40	10	20	Good
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	15	<5	10	Good/Fair
Shade	35	10	25	Good
Dry Hay				
First Cut	99	85	90	
Second Cut	70	35	45	Good/Fair
Third Cut	5	-	<5	Good/Fair

Weather Summary for New England Agricultural Statistics

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday July 26, 2010
 To: Sunday August 1, 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	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS
	---	---	---	---	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	INCHES	---	---	INCHES	---	---
MAINE														
Augusta_State_A	51	90	70	+1	1555	+332	660	+209	0.17	-0.59	1	2.30	-0.58	6
Bangor_Intl_Arp	53	89	71	+3	1501	+396	636	+263	0.03	-0.67	1	2.06	-0.92	12
Bethel	47	86	67	-3	1362	+248	542	+170	0.10	-0.74	1	3.09	-0.13	9
Caribou_Municip	49	85	65	-2	1247	+331	496	+244	0.23	-0.75	3	4.27	+0.58	15
Dover-Foxcroft	46	87	66	-2	1225	+264	471	+189	0.00	-0.77	0	0.94	-2.27	8
Frenchville	48	83	63	-2	1084	+237	400	+186	0.24	-0.67	2	3.71	+0.22	15
Houlton	42	87	65	-3	1173	+224	455	+178	0.29	-0.62	4	1.55	-1.90	15
Livermore_Falls	44	89	67	+1	1333	+377	543	+270	0.16	-0.64	1	1.61	-1.50	7
Moosehead	42	87	62	-4	1001	+207	330	+137	0.00	-0.91	0	1.12	-2.52	9
Portland_ME	51	87	70	+2	1533	+438	652	+282	0.04	-0.59	1	3.98	+1.24	6
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	43	82	63	-4	1224	+178	470	+163	0.73	-0.11	1	4.44	+1.29	11
Berlin_AG	45	83	65	-3	1267	+218	489	+166	0.39	-0.50	2	4.21	+0.80	10
Concord	44	91	69	-2	1716	+465	817	+350	0.19	-0.58	2	1.31	-1.62	10
Diamond_Pond	36	85	61	-2	801	+105	271	+147	0.21	-0.87	2	2.54	-1.66	11
Keene_AG	45	90	67	-5	1581	+174	703	+131	0.26	-0.58	2	2.76	-0.51	10
North_Conway	47	87	67	-2	1419	+248	573	+161	0.23	-0.64	1	3.00	-0.39	11
Rochester	46	94	71	+1	1773	+442	862	+339	0.15	-0.68	2	3.41	+0.26	12
VERMONT														
Bennington_AP	44	85	66	-2	1552	+459	680	+333	0.11	-0.80	2	5.86	+2.21	12
Burlington_Intl	48	89	68	-3	1705	+349	807	+264	0.07	-0.79	1	2.09	-1.21	10
Island_Pond	42	83	62	-3	1179	+327	444	+235	0.04	-0.99	1	2.28	-1.61	9
Montpelier	43	84	64	-4	1386	+325	576	+244	0.53	-0.22	2	2.26	-0.58	14
Rochester	43	85	64	-3	1303	+274	514	+200	1.55	+0.60	2	5.15	+1.63	11
Rutland_AG	44	85	66	-6	1483	+81	634	+71	1.29	+0.38	1	5.35	+1.83	11
Springfield_VT	44	89	68	+0	1622	+478	733	+353	0.10	-0.74	1	1.83	-1.43	10
Sutton	45	83	63	-3	1160	+293	421	+199	0.00	-1.02	0	2.46	-1.41	9
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	61	92	76	+3	2095	+517	1083	+384	0.04	-0.63	1	2.66	+0.10	9
Fitchburg	54	90	73	+5	2047	+915	1050	+667	0.01	-0.79	1	4.30	+0.98	9
Greenfield	49	89	69	-4	1663	+158	771	+131	0.00	-0.84	0	3.33	-0.03	11
New_Bedford	51	91	73	-2	1889	+323	930	+244	0.00	-0.79	0	3.37	+0.55	9
Otis_AFB	54	86	71	+0	1639	+391	738	+261	0.05	-0.65	1	3.16	+0.57	9
Plymouth	55	93	75	+4	2019	+709	1048	+525	0.01	-0.77	1	4.82	+1.73	8
Walpole	54	90	73	+2	1963	+604	999	+456	0.06	-0.73	1	1.67	-1.43	9
Chicopee/Westov	52	91	72	-4	1930	+203	970	+170	0.26	-0.51	1	1.57	-1.65	10
Worthington	48	85	66	-2	1469	+366	612	+259	0.00	-0.98	0	1.97	-1.94	9
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	59	90	75	+2	2118	+626	1082	+439	0.03	-0.74	1	3.68	+0.80	8
Woonsocket	54	89	73	+3	1957	+620	977	+462	0.05	-0.86	2	2.27	-1.30	10
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	62	88	76	+1	2092	+494	1086	+361	0.05	-0.79	2	4.85	+1.43	9
Hartford/Bradle	56	90	74	+0	2171	+506	1130	+367	0.06	-0.67	2	3.29	+0.43	10
Norfolk	51	83	68	-1	1578	+471	688	+329	0.43	-0.55	3	3.73	-0.06	11
Thomaston_Dam	54	87	72	+2	1886	+560	930	+427	0.13	-0.84	2	4.22	+0.45	11
Willimantic	55	88	72	+2	1946	+595	970	+447	0.02	-0.89	1	3.32	-0.43	10

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, August 1, 2010

Summary based on NWS data.

DFN = Departure from Normal (Using 1971-2000 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	42	90	66	-2	0.00	0.46
NH	33	94	67	-1	0.00	0.73
VT	40	90	65	-3	0.00	1.83
MA	47	93	71	+0	0.00	0.29
RI	54	90	74	+3	0.00	0.05
CT	50	91	73	+1	0.00	0.43

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: Another dry week. Irrigation was the top project for many this past week. Harvest continues on sweet corn and other summer vegetables. More broadleaf tobacco producers started to harvest and shade tobacco producers continued to harvest. Field corn looks good except for gravelly knolls. Pastures had greened up a little from showers a couple of weeks ago but now are very dry again. Dry hay made over the weekend. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Blueberry season is all but over. Field corn is tasseled out. Some growers are saying that ears are not filling out like they should due to no water. Heights are all over the place, 5-14' seems to be the range this year. There seems to be a bumper crop of summer squash. Every stand and market seems bursting with zucchini and yellow squash! **Ann Marie McCard (FSA), New London:** Need more rain. Third cutting of grass underway. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** This was a nice warm summer week of weather. Some light rain fell mid-week but things are still pretty dry. Field corn is growing well and so is sweet corn though some damage to tips from birds is being reported. Vegetables are plentiful and tasty. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Some really good weather to bale hay. Bright sunny days with cooler nights this weekend. Silage corn looks good. Vegetables are doing well, still a bit dry in areas. Greenhouse and nursery growers having summer sales to clear out stock. Peaches and early apples are smaller.

MAINE – Casey Cote (St John Valley Soil & Water Conservation Dist), Northern Aroostook: This was a good week for growing conditions. Growers remain on a 5-day fungicide spray schedule. Insecticides continue to be applied. Most growers are reporting excellent crops. **Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook:** Sunny and dry this week. The potatoes are in the middle of bulking and could use steady rain. Heavy dews are keeping everyone on edge looking for blight. Dry hay people have enjoyed not having to deal with the almost daily showers that have been the norm the last month. Raspberries and blueberries are being harvested. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Growers were on a 7-day spray schedule. Broccoli continued being harvested. Crops in excellent condition. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Warm weather has advanced crops three weeks ahead of time. There is plenty of corn and vegetables for sale right now. The past few cool nights have slowed up ripening a little, which is a good thing for vegetable farmers who are loaded with product. Preventative spraying is being done for late blight and powdery mildew. Rain is needed. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Dry, we need rain. Grass growth has come to a near standstill. Vegetable growers have begun to irrigate. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Overall crops look great around the area. Farmers are busy with harvest of vegetables, barley and oats. Farm stands are well stocked. Much needed rain since ground is dry in most areas. Corn is starting to yellow in areas. Fungicides and insecticides are being applied on a 5-day spray schedule. Blueberry harvest down a little due to May frost but overall crops are doing pretty good. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Crops continue to do well in the mid-coast area. With an abundance of crops, markets are now extremely competitive. We did receive some showers this week which have been beneficial to all crops. The pumpkin and squash crops look great. There was some late blight reported on tomatoes and potatoes which was cause for concern, but is now under control. Two-thirds of the blueberry crop has been harvested and yields vary from 500 lbs. to 6000 lbs. per acre. It appears some of the lower lying fields may have been hit by frost and other fields had blight problems. Rumors are the price per pound may double from last year's price as the surplus has dwindled, which has blueberry growers smiling. We had a good week for making hay. Lots of grass continues to be chopped. What a summer! How sweet it is in Mid-Coast Maine. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Another great week of weather and the crops are looking great in most areas. Hay harvesting is still going strong. Wide range

of summer veggies are now available in local farm stands and farm markets. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** A good week for haying but scattered showers have missed much of the area. Corn on sandy ground is showing moderate to severe signs of drought. **Janet King (FSA), Somerset:** Rain is needed! This area of Maine has only received less than an inch of rain in the entire month of July, where southern Maine has received more than four inches in the same time frame. Rainfall totals this year have consistently been less than average each month. Blueberry harvest is going strong. Ideal haying conditions, since we're in a weather pattern of receiving cool northern air with less humidity. Great for haying, but the corn could use more humidity and lots more rain. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Very dry conditions. Corn is curled in many locations on sandy soils. Sweet corn harvest in full swing. We need some rain! **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Harvest beginning this week on the blueberry Downeast barrens. In some fields the harvest is similar to two years ago but others with frost damage have significantly reduced yields.

MASSACHUSETTS – Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: Second cutting of hay is ongoing. Growers say the crop was adversely affected by lack of water. Strawberry beds are renovated. A cool front moderated temps this week making field work more comfortable. Farmers markets are doing well with all summer veggies peaches and blueberries. No sign of widespread late blight. **Lori Carver (FSA), Franklin:** Producers continue to irrigate fields if possible. Tobacco harvest is continuing, the crop looks great - so far. All vegetable and fruit crops are in good condition despite the need for a couple of days of good soaking rain. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Another, hot humid and dry week. Potato, tomato, eggplant and melon harvest began. All other summer crops are being harvested in great quantities and very good quality. Tobacco harvest continues and looks good. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Cooler weather, but very dry, so growers are back to regular irrigation again. Fruit has sized up significantly for the early varieties. Fruit rot and fruit worm injury is out there but not significant amounts so far. Growers are wiping weeds with Round-up, maintaining ditches and trying to keep the vines happy. There is a very good crop out there.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire: Hot early in the week, cooler towards the end, but no rain at all last week. Most field corn doing well - kernels starting to fill in the ear, but some corn is showing moisture stress. Regrowth on hay fields and pastures is slow. Veggie operations - at least those with irrigation - are doing well; lots of sweet corn and a wide array of other produce available. PYO berries starting to wind down. Local peaches and plums are available. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Warm weather during daytime continued but much cooler at night, upper 30's in some locations. Hay, haylage activities on-going. Much field corn now tasseling, growing well. Wide-range of vegetables now available at local farmers markets thanks to earlier favorable weather conditions, first sweet corn of season. Spraying for apple maggot scab. Japanese beetles ever present. Growers on the alert for Late Blight. Fungicide being applied as a preventative measure. A little dry, could use a soaking rain. Nice size blueberries for PYO operations this year. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Many of the thundershowers and storms have traveled south and north of Hillsborough County. Most growers and farmers are seeing drought stress on all crops. Many ponds have been pumped dry because of irrigation needs. Vegetables: Farmers kept busy irrigating, cultivating, hoeing weeds, monitoring pest pressures, spraying pesticides for insects and diseases - if needed. Growers harvesting an array of vegetables including: beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, cucumbers, greens, lettuce, potatoes, radishes, snap beans, sweet corn, summer squash and first field tomatoes and peppers. Continue to be a mixed demand for local produce at local farmers' markets and farm stands from very good to weak sales. Fruit:

Peach, blueberry and raspberry harvests continued, along with the Jersey Mac apples. Orchardists busy irrigating where they can, monitoring for pests, spraying if needed, and mowing orchard floors. Field Crops: Farmers making baled hay. Silage corn is rapid growing. Field corn was tasseled and beginning to silk. Second crop of hay is looking good. Many hay fields and corn fields are showing signs of drought. **Amy Ouellette (Ext), Merrimack:** Very dry conditions continue. Earliest apple varieties are ready for picking. Peaches, blueberries, raspberries and many summer vegetables are being harvested. Tomato crops are showing heat stress but little fungal disease except for isolated cases. Leaf hopper burn on potatoes, tarnished plant bugs on strawberries. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Harvesting peaches, early apple varieties, summer raspberries, blueberries and an array of vegetables. Renovating strawberry beds and planting new beds. Haying and some haylage being done. Some pastures look yellow. Scouting for pests. Localized rain showers were helpful. Rain is needed. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** Warm and dry weather throughout the week. Hay producers were busy making hay. Vegetable growers were weeding and irrigating their crops. They were also harvesting an array of vegetable crops for farm stands and farmers markets. Fruit growers were busy harvesting blueberries and peaches. Early varieties of apples (Jersey Marc) were also starting to be ready for picking by the end of the week. Fall mums were growing well and most growers were busy spacing them.

RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties: Had a light shower Thursday morning. Some of the best sweet corn is being picked right now. A couple of the potato farmers started harvesting this week. The first potatoes looked good they have a heavy set. Blueberries are good; some peaches are starting to be picked. The small vegetables are coming in, and the crop is good, such as

beans, squash, tomatoes, and cukes. Good quality and good size. Pastures are still showing their wear due to the season. So far it's an excellent season, with good prices and it is hoped that it continues that way.

VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison: Corn tasseled, soybeans flowered, wheat berries, and hay regrowth is good. Nice weather but one day it poured a bit. Fertilizer and manure spreading on hay fields, some corn sidedress on short corn. Some late corn only a foot tall this late in year. Corn crop looks much better than past couple years. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Great week in Franklin County with lots of second cut dry hay harvest and many acres of third cut haylage done with great yields. Producers got the break being looked for in the weather with super drying breezes and low humidity for putting up dry hay. Water table seems to be holding up, however, I am hearing of some wells starting to be short. Corn still doing great with most tasseled and ears developing. Sweet corn is in full swing with roadside stands showing up to sell their fruits of labor. Blueberries and raspberries are on the tale end and blackberries are now in abundance. **John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille/Washington:** Coming off a great stretch of weather for fieldwork. Lots of second cut square bales were made. Some manure being spread on fresh cut hayfields. Headed for a bumper crop of corn. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** The area hasn't seen a lot of rain over the past two weeks. Top soil is getting very dry even in the wet areas of the field. Second crop hay harvest is complete. A lot of dry square bales were put up over the past two weeks. Some third cut has been harvested. Yields on third cut are about average. Most field corn has tasseled and stands six to ten feet. Leaves look very green and healthy. Pastures have really hit a slump with the dry weather. A day of soaking rain would be welcomed.

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