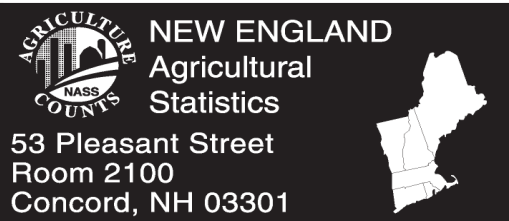


Crop Progress & Condition



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August 9, 2010 – 4 pm

For week ending 8/8/10

Dry Conditions Persist

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending August 8, 2010, there were 5.9 days available for field work across New England. Pasture condition was rated 2% very poor, 18% poor, 34% fair, 40% good, and 6% excellent. The week began with average to below average temperatures ranging from the mid-70s to mid-80s. Northern States reported rainfall during the first two days of the week while southern New England remained dry. Significant precipitation fell on northern New Hampshire and Vermont on Monday and Tuesday; Coos County reported over 2 inches. Temperatures climbed on Wednesday to above average levels in the 80s and 90s during the day and as high as the mid-70s during the night. A cold front moved in on Wednesday night and brought light to moderate precipitation throughout most of New England. Northern New Hampshire again received nearly 2 inches of rainfall. The cold front significantly lowered temperatures in northern States for the rest of the week with many areas experiencing nighttime temperatures in the 40s. In contrast, the cold front's impact was minimal in southern States where temperatures in the mid-80s were observed by week's end. Average nighttime temperature during the week ranged from the mid-50s to mid-60s. Total precipitation ranged from 0.02 to 4.58 inches.

FRUIT: Highbush blueberry harvesting continued last week and was nearing completion in Connecticut and New Hampshire. Berries in Connecticut showed a decreased fruit size due to the lack of precipitation observed of late. In Maine, wild blueberries on fields without sufficient moisture began to shrivel up, while those unaffected by drought conditions and earlier frosts are displaying better than average yields. Fruit growers were also harvesting early apple varieties, peaches, plums, and raspberries. The harvest of Paulared apples began last week in New Hampshire. Cranberry beds in Massachusetts were stressed last week due to insufficient moisture and required irrigation. Fruit growers were also busied last week irrigating, monitoring for pests, applying pesticides as needed, and mowing orchard floors.

VEGETABLES: Vegetable crops displayed signs of heat stress last week due to high temperatures and lack of precipitation in many areas. However, these same conditions also lead to a decrease in disease and pest pressures. Despite the dryness, cucumbers and summer squash in Connecticut did well last week. Pumpkins across New England were ahead of schedule with several ripening in Connecticut last week. Farmers were also harvesting beans, beets, cole crops, cucumbers, greens, peas, radishes, sweet corn, tomatoes, peppers, zucchini, and other vegetables. Other activities included weeding, irrigating, scouting for pests and diseases, and spraying as necessary.

FIELD CROPS: In Rhode Island last week, early variety potatoes were being harvested while later varieties began to display signs of heat stress. Some early variety potatoes were also being harvested in Maine and Massachusetts. Areas that received scattered rain showers throughout the week found making dry hay difficult. Overall, with most fields remaining dry, many farmers were still on their second cut of hay last week as many fields had little regrowth. In Connecticut, some field corn lost lower leaves due to dry soils and nitrogen deficiency. Farmers throughout New England also spent their time irrigating and spreading manure.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	14	15	0
Short	33	34	0
Adequate	45	48	74
Surplus	8	3	26
Subsoil			
Very Short	14	13	0
Short	37	29	0
Adequate	47	55	71
Surplus	2	3	29

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Set	Fruit Size	Condition
	2010	2009	5 yr Avg			
Apples	<5	<5	<5	Avg/Below	Average	Good/Fair
Peaches	25	40	30	Average	Average	Good
Pears	<5	5	<5	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Blueberries						
Highbush	70	60	55	Average	Average	Good
Wild	35	10	15	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-	Avg/Above	Average	Good

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2010	2009	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Harvested --				
Barley, ME	5	-	<5	Excellent/Good
Oats, ME	<5	-	<5	Good/Excellent
Potatoes				
Maine	<5	-	-	Excellent/Good
Mass	<5	10	5	Good/Fair
Rhode Island	5	<5	<5	Good
Silage Corn	-	-	-	Good
Sweet Corn	45	20	30	Good
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	25	10	20	Good/Fair
Shade	45	25	35	Good
Dry Hay				
First Cut	100	95	90	
Second Cut	85	45	55	Good/Fair
Third Cut	15	<5	<5	Good/Fair

Weather Summary for New England Agricultural Statistics

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday August 2, 2010
 To: Sunday August 8, 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	52	89	70	+2	1700	+339	735	+217	0.47	-0.28	4	1.82	-1.10	9
Bangor_Intl_Arp	49	87	70	+2	1641	+407	706	+275	0.38	-0.34	3	2.22	-0.71	13
Bethel	43	87	67	-1	1484	+244	595	+168	1.50	+0.60	3	4.24	+0.94	11
Caribou_Municip	45	85	67	+3	1368	+347	550	+262	0.45	-0.50	3	4.35	+0.57	14
Dover-Foxcroft	40	87	66	-2	1339	+261	518	+191	0.26	-0.52	5	1.01	-2.14	12
Frenchville	43	85	66	+3	1200	+254	451	+205	0.06	-0.85	3	1.81	-1.75	13
Houlton	42	85	67	+2	1294	+233	510	+191	0.52	-0.39	3	2.02	-1.50	17
Livermore_Falls	41	89	68	+3	1449	+381	588	+273	1.67	+0.79	4	2.99	-0.23	10
Moosehead	39	83	64	+0	1102	+208	372	+146	1.46	+0.61	4	2.52	-1.06	11
Portland_ME	49	91	71	+3	1680	+452	729	+296	0.06	-0.57	1	3.64	+0.99	6
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	47	84	67	+2	1344	+186	522	+173	0.12	-0.79	3	3.90	+0.61	12
Berlin_AG	42	84	65	-2	1373	+209	531	+162	2.39	+1.41	3	5.03	+1.48	11
Concord	45	92	72	+3	1869	+483	900	+369	0.45	-0.32	3	1.67	-1.33	11
Diamond_Pond	36	81	62	-1	624	-156	114	-31	2.87	+1.73	4	4.75	+0.45	13
Keene_AG	47	93	70	+0	1724	+173	776	+130	0.91	+0.01	3	3.36	-0.04	11
North_Conway	45	88	67	-1	1543	+246	627	+159	0.50	-0.41	3	2.87	-0.59	13
Rochester	47	94	73	+4	1937	+465	956	+362	0.33	-0.50	2	3.34	+0.13	13
VERMONT														
Bennington_AP	49	87	71	+5	1701	+489	759	+363	1.15	+0.20	3	5.46	+1.78	12
Burlington_Intl	49	89	73	+3	1866	+370	898	+285	1.12	+0.21	2	2.28	-1.16	10
Island_Pond	40	84	65	+2	1289	+339	494	+257	5.33	+4.22	4	7.31	+3.25	12
Montpelier	43	85	69	+3	1519	+344	642	+266	0.63	-0.21	2	2.24	-0.74	14
Rochester	43	86	68	+3	1433	+290	577	+220	0.02	-1.00	2	3.85	+0.15	11
Rutland_AG	47	84	70	+0	1626	+84	707	+74	0.22	-0.70	2	3.83	+0.23	11
Springfield_VT	48	89	71	+4	1769	+503	810	+378	1.63	+0.74	3	2.72	-0.61	11
Sutton	42	84	65	+2	1268	+302	466	+214	3.06	+1.99	3	4.78	+0.78	10
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	62	92	77	+4	2284	+542	1202	+407	0.99	+0.29	1	2.00	-0.63	9
Fitchburg	52	92	75	+8	2226	+969	1159	+722	0.20	-0.64	1	3.88	+0.56	9
Greenfield	50	91	72	+1	1827	+170	865	+143	0.94	+0.10	2	3.52	+0.16	11
New_Bedford	50	89	73	-2	2055	+321	1026	+240	0.03	-0.86	1	3.28	+0.25	8
Otis_AFB	50	84	71	+1	1789	+394	818	+264	0.38	-0.36	1	3.17	+0.47	9
Plymouth	55	89	75	+5	2195	+738	1154	+552	0.32	-0.52	1	4.18	+1.02	8
Walpole	55	89	75	+5	2139	+633	1105	+486	0.56	-0.28	1	1.97	-1.20	8
Chicopee/Westov	53	93	75	+1	2105	+209	1075	+175	0.51	-0.26	2	1.96	-1.19	11
Worthington	46	88	69	+3	1606	+383	679	+277	0.18	-0.80	1	1.99	-1.93	9
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	59	89	75	+3	2296	+643	1190	+456	0.00	-0.77	0	3.32	+0.37	7
Woonsocket	55	90	74	+5	2128	+648	1078	+490	0.97	+0.06	1	3.12	-0.45	9
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	64	93	78	+5	2292	+524	1216	+389	0.00	-0.77	0	4.85	+1.51	9
Hartford/Bradle	58	91	77	+4	2358	+529	1247	+389	0.33	-0.44	2	2.93	+0.03	11
Norfolk	53	84	70	+4	1722	+493	762	+353	0.95	-0.03	2	4.36	+0.57	12
Thomaston_Dam	56	88	74	+5	2052	+586	1026	+454	1.20	+0.29	2	5.09	+1.32	11
Willimantic	54	87	73	+3	2109	+618	1063	+469	0.07	-0.84	1	3.36	-0.39	10

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, August 8, 2010

STATE	AIR TEMPERATURES				PRECIPITATION	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	37	91	67	+1	0.00	1.78
NH	30	95	69	+2	0.08	4.23
VT	40	90	68	+2	0.00	5.33
MA	46	94	73	+3	0.03	1.84
RI	55	90	74	+3	0.00	0.97
CT	51	93	75	+4	0.00	1.20

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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REPORTERS COMMENTS, By County: *Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS), or other knowledgeable individuals.*

CONNECTICUT – Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield: Conditions are still way too dry. Field corn is firing off lower leaves as soils dry and moisture and nitrogen become deficient. Several reports of pumpkins ripening in the field already. Growers are looking for ways to slow ripening or we may have to move Halloween into September this year! **Ann Marie McCard (FSA), New London:** Hot weather continued throughout the week. Several heavy showers on Thursday provided much needed moisture to all crops. Silage corn, pastures and field crops on heavier soils are looking good, but need more rain. Crops on lighter soils are showing some signs of the lack of moisture, and definitely could use more rain. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** Some areas of the counties are missing out on the scattered showers and crops are suffering from the heat and dryness. Other parts of the counties reported more than two inches of rain mid-week. Most crops look good. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Heat and humidity again, pretty dry. Crops look good but there is stress with hay not regrowing well. Fruit on the small side and blueberries winding down quicker than anticipated. Corn fields vary in conditions from short, thin stalks to tall and developing ears. Cucumbers and summer squash don't seem to mind the dryness; they are producing abundantly.

MAINE – Casey Cote (St John Valley Soil & Water Conservation Dist), Northern Aroostook: It was sunny and dry weather for the most part this week. There were a few sporadic showers here and there. Most of the region could use more rain. Growers were on a 7-day fungicide spray schedule. Overall, crops are in good condition. **Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook:** Monday and Tuesday brought 1.5 to 2 inches of rain. This filled out most of the early planted round whites. Many will start top killing this week. A few of the early birds will start harvest. Grain harvest will be in full swing this week. Everything continues to be a week to two weeks ahead. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Broccoli being harvested. Grains are being harvested. Early potato harvest for a couple of growers in the area. Some areas were a 5-day fungicide spray schedule; while areas with less rainfall were a 7-day spray schedule. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Green peach aphids starting to show up, farmers preparing to spray. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** This area has missed all of the rain showers. The soil has become very dry and irrigation is being used to keep crops from drying up. Silage corn looks good for now. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Thank goodness for showers. There does not seem to be much rain in sight. Crops are still looking good. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Rain is much needed. Corn crop is starting to really get yellow and starting to look wilted. Most other crops are looking pretty good and being harvested steadily. Farm stands are in full swing with lots of fresh vegetables. Blueberries are being harvest and crops is looking okay even with late frost in May. Apples are getting better but frost in May still has caused some concern on yields. Over all harvesting is about three weeks ahead of schedule for most crops. **Megan McDonough (FSA), Kennebec:** Beautiful weather has continued. Last week provided a few sporadic showers. We could still use a bit more rain; otherwise this summer has provided a wonderful growing season across the board. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** The harvest continues to go well here in Mid-Coast Maine. Mid-week we experienced a couple of gray and lowery days, and intermittent showers have provided more moisture along the coast than in other areas of the state. The blueberry harvest has nearly concluded here with an estimated average yield of between 2700/2800 lbs. per acre, which is a little below the state average. The harvest of early varieties of apples (MacIntosh and Paulared) will either start this week or early next week. There is no lack of fresh produce in this area with farm stands and local markets packed with Maine grown crops. Hay continues to be harvested and grass chopped. Most grass farmers will be able to take three cuts of grass this year. The grass yield will be a lower than normal, but the quality will be good. Reports are pumpkins and winter squash are

looking great as well. Much needed rain is forecasted for parts of today and tomorrow, with super weather predicted from mid-week on. We continue to be ahead of schedule with the harvest of most crops. Mother Nature continues to smile down upon us this year and we are very grateful. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Hay is being harvested where weather permits. Very humid weather made drying hay very difficult in some areas. Summer is going along smoothly. Potato crop and field corn are looking great. Sweet corn is a very hot item in food markets and roadside stands along with other veggies. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis/Penobscot:** Weather has been hot and dry. Crops under irrigation are doing great. Many grasses have gone into dormancy. Sweet corn season started early and is continuing. Minimal rain has fallen, we need a daylong easy rain that will soak into the ground. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** Crops continue to ripen. Scattered showers have helped some crops and more rain would be helpful. **Janet King (FSA), Somerset:** RAIN is needed. Very dry in most areas, some corn has been chopped, no ears due to lack of rain. Pastures are looking dry, and hayfields with little growth this past week. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** One rain storm has helped, but we need more! Corn uncurled and has stated curling again on sandy soils. Third crop grass and legume hayfields are at a standstill and pastures are dry. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Wild Blueberry harvest continuing statewide. Scattered showers resulting in good quality on some fields but those not receiving rain under stress and fruit is beginning to shrivel up. Those fields not affected by the frost and that had showers have better than average yields, but others with frost damage have significantly reduced yields.

MASSACHUSETTS – Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: Another dry week, though cooler with a breeze and less humid. Great turnout at farmers markets selling all summer veggies and fruit. More hay was cut, yield is low. Field corn has slowed down. County wide we still need rain. Temps hit the 40's overnight a couple of times this week. **Lori Carver (FSA), Franklin:** We still need rain - crops are really starting to show signs of stress. Also crops are ripening too fast in the heat. Fall crops such as winter squash and pumpkins may be ready too early. Silage corn will also be ready to harvest much earlier than usual. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** It was another hot, dry and humid week. Harvesting all types of summer crops. Many farmers are irrigating their crops due to the dry conditions. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Conditions are very dry in cranberryland. Very few beds have gotten rain in the past week, and amounts have been less than one inch when rain has occurred. Consequently, growers are furiously irrigating to maintain the fruit. There is a very good crop out there. Extensive high humidity in the past month has resulted in significant fungal infection of leaves in two year-old beds with a lot of leaf drop. Fruit worm and fruit rot levels are normal at this point.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos: Cooling weather trend with heavy soaking rains in the week. Field corn generally all tasseling, blister stage corn kernels on many. Baled hay continues to come in as weather permits, decent drying weather at the end of the week. Sweet corn becoming more widely available, excellent selection of summer vegetables at local markets. Powdery mildew becoming more apparent. Mums as nursery/greenhouse operations growing well, beginning to bud out early. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending August 7th, we received nearly 3/4 of an inch of rain. Most of the rain fell early in the week, followed by scattered showers with very low rain fall amounts throughout the week. The scattered precipitation made making dry hay a challenge. The corn crop looks good. Sweet corn and vegetable operations have been doing well. Hail damage from the July 21st event was isolated to a few farms, but damage in these areas is very significant. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Vegetables: Irrigating crops where irrigation ponds water levels are going down and some ponds 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, pepper, zucchini, and other vegetables. Fall armyworm and corn earworm moth numbers are increasing. Fruit: Orchardists harvesting peaches, plums, blueberry and summer raspberry. Harvesting Jersey Mac and starting to harvest Paulared apples. Many blueberry growers are done for the season. 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 during the week with the second cut being made. Many hay fields and silage corn fields showing drought stress. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** Dry weather continued most of the week except one day the last half of the week. Vegetable growers were weeding and irrigating their crops. Many crops were showing heat stress. There was less disease and pest pressure. Growers continued to scout for pests and applying pesticides as needed. An array of vegetables crops continued to be harvested and growers were selling their produce at farm stands and farmers markets. Fruit growers were irrigating where they can, monitoring for pests and applying pesticides as needed. Some growers were harvesting day neutral strawberries.

RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties: Had a couple of heavy showers in the northern and southern parts of the state. The middle got very little. They are harvesting early potatoes right now. They look very good and prices are good. Late potatoes are showing heat stress a little bit. Blueberries are being harvested as well as peaches and they look very good. Sweet corn is going to be a little bit short this week due to the good weather, it all matured at the same time. Next week's should be coming in soon, with just a little gap in the crop right now. As usual, all the small crops

are doing well. Beans, squash, tomatoes and cukes etc. Pastures are showing their wear due to the season. The season is progressing in a positive way in RI.

VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison: Good weather, corn growth excellent. Hay harvest for haylage and dry hay continuing. Some rain, but not too much delay. Some manure spreading on hay fields. Soybeans look much better. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Heavy rain midweek, two to four inches and more in spots. Corn all tasseled now, grass continues to grow. Spreading manure. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Weather has gone from the tip of drought to wet and soggy this week in Franklin County. Heavy rains mid-week caused some flooding in low areas. Waters have receded rapidly and will not cause a lot of crop damage. The wet weather has shut down harvest of haylage and hay. Some activity had resumed the end of the week, however, pretty wet soils in the fields. Corn is still progressing great. Weather is going to be a key player, as always, for finishing ear development. Sweet corn is in full swing and roadside stands are popping up everywhere. This is the draw for getting people to the vegetable stands where other goodies are purchased along with the corn. Pastures are fantastic. Regrowth is super and should be in good shape for the rest of the August dog days. **Heather Darby (Ext), Franklin:** Nice to see some rain last week. A little too much in some areas with totals well over six inches in 48 hours. Some flooding of field crops reported along the rivers. Third cut in progress, fair to good yields being reported. Pastures really needed moisture as they were following behind in productivity. Wheat harvest mostly completed with good yields reported and low DON numbers. **Heather Mateja (FSA), Lamoille/Washington:** We received much needed rain which created some flooding, with no crop damage. Late Blight appeared in a home garden in the county. Crops and pastures are in good condition. **Julie Jacque (FSA), Windham:** Passing showers not enough moisture to saturate ground. Crops still struggling without irrigation. Hay crops good quality but light.

JULY 2010 CROP WEATHER SUMMARY: Weather conditions during the month were relatively hot and sunny with variable precipitation. Average high temperatures ranged from the low to upper 80s and low temperatures ranged from the upper 50s to upper 60s. The month began cool in the 60s and 70s and gradually warmed up by the Fourth of July weekend due to a major warm front that brought record-breaking temperatures to all 6 States. Temperatures peaked in the 90s with some areas hitting three digits during July 5-7. The heat wave persisted until a cold front brought showers and thunderstorms to all 6 States on July 10. Warmer than average temperatures, mostly in the 80s, returned afterwards and persisted until mid-July. A storm system moved into the area on July 13, dumping anywhere from 0.10 to 2.09 inches across New England. Scattered thunderstorms on July 19 left over an inch of precipitation in parts of the region. Severe weather made an appearance two days later, bringing funnel clouds, tornadoes, damaging winds, flash floods, and hail to parts of New England. The days following July 21 saw scattered rain showers and variable temperatures throughout the region. The last week of July began hot with temperatures in the 80s and 90s everywhere but the northernmost latitudes. A cold front entered the area on July 28, bringing cool, dry air to all of New England at month's end. Total rainfall for July ranged from 1.00 to 5.84 inches. The strawberry harvest came to a close by mid-July with some producers reporting yield losses due to frosts in May. The Highbush blueberry harvest picked up its pace at the beginning of July and was halfway done by month's end, well ahead of last year and normal. The picking of wild blueberries in Maine became active during the last week of July. Fruit growers began harvesting apples and pears near the end of the month while a fifth of the peaches were already picked by month's end. Orchardists were busy irrigating, monitoring for pests, applying cover sprays, and mowing orchard floors. Vegetable growers were harvesting beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, cucumbers, eggplant, greens, lettuce, peas, radishes, rhubarb, scallions, spinach, summer squash, tomatoes, and zucchini. The planting and emergence of sweet corn was completed slightly ahead of schedule. Sweet corn appeared at farm stands during the first week of July and more than a third of the crop was harvested by month's end, well ahead of last year and normal. Field corn height ranged from 5 to 14 feet and showed signs of stress due to inadequate rain by the end of July. Potatoes were ahead of schedule in development and began being harvested by the end of the month in Maine, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island. Hay growth was vigorous during most of July and harvest continued significantly ahead of schedule with two thirds of the second cutting done by month's end and some farmers progressing to their third cut. The tobacco harvest began early and was ahead of schedule throughout the month. Farmers kept busy irrigating as needed, spreading manure and fertilizer, applying fungicides and insecticides, and scouting for pests and diseases.

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