

Crop Progress & Condition



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

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August 16, 2010 – 4 pm

For week ending 8/15/10

Another Dry Week

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending August 15, 2010, there were 6.5 days available for field work across New England. Pasture condition was rated 3% very poor, 28% poor, 27% fair, 35% good, and 7% excellent. The week began rainy with average to above average temperatures ranging from the upper 70s to mid-90s. Rain showers at the beginning of the week were light in southern States while thunderstorms brought up to an inch of rain in parts of northern New England. Average to above average temperatures mostly in the 80s continued until a cold front passed through the region on Wednesday night. The front brought localized light showers to parts of New England. Temperatures in all 6 States were at average to below average levels throughout the rest of the week, ranging from the mid-70s to low 80s during the day. The week ended cloudy with seasonal temperatures. Average nighttime temperatures during the week ranged from the low 50s to mid-60s. Total precipitation ranged from 0.01 to 1.35 inches.

FRUIT: Wild blueberry harvesting in Maine progressed ahead of average last week, as many high bush blueberry pick your own operations ended across New England. Orchardists continued to harvest early apple varieties including Paulared. Other fruits being harvested included peaches, plums, and raspberries. Cranberry beds without irrigation in Massachusetts remained dry last week. Lower nighttime temperatures also began to affect the cranberry crop. Fruit growers were also kept occupied irrigating, mowing orchard floors, monitoring for pests, spraying as needed, weeding, and moving bins into orchards.

VEGETABLES: As many fields remained dry last week, vegetable growers throughout New England were busy irrigating their crops. Pumpkins and winter squash in Massachusetts continued to ripen ahead of schedule due to warm and dry conditions. Veggies being harvested included beans, beets, cole crops, cucumbers, eggplant, greens, radishes, squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, pepper, zucchini, and other vegetables. Other activities included cultivating, scouting for pests and diseases, and spraying as needed.

FIELD CROPS: Dry soils across New England continued to slow hay regrowth. However, this same dry weather made for excellent fieldwork conditions and many producers were busy cutting and baling last week. Many farmers across the region were on their third cut of haylage. Field corn condition across New England varied last week and was rated 7% poor, 17% fair, 57% good, and 19% excellent. Field corn did well in areas receiving adequate moisture, however, in shallow or sandy soils the crop started to brown. Early potato varieties continued to be harvested in Rhode Island and Massachusetts while farmers in Maine started to dig early whites. The dry weather conditions slowed down the bulking of later potato varieties in Maine. Both shade and broadleaf tobacco were affected by blue mold in Connecticut last week. Farmers also spent their time spreading manure and fertilizer.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	17	14	0
Short	38	33	13
Adequate	42	45	69
Surplus	3	8	18
Subsoil			
Very Short	18	14	0
Short	30	37	9
Adequate	50	47	73
Surplus	2	2	18

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Set	Fruit Size	Condition
	2010	2009	5 -yr Avg			
Apples	5	5	<5	Average	Average	Fair/Good
Peaches	45	50	40	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Pears	<5	5	<5	Avg/Below	Average	Fair/Good
Blueberries						
Highbush	90	70	70	Average	Average	Good
Wild	65	50	50	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-	Avg/Above	Average	Good

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Condition
	2010	2009	5-yr Avg	
-- Percent Harvested --				
Barley, ME	40	5	5	Excellent/Good
Oats, ME	15	10	5	Good/Excellent
Potatoes				
Maine	<5	-	-	Excellent/Good
Mass	5	15	10	Good/Fair
Rhode Island	15	10	10	Good/Fair
Silage Corn	-	-	-	Good
Sweet Corn	65	35	45	Good
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	50	20	40	Fair/Good
Shade	70	40	55	Good/Fair
Dry Hay				
First Cut	100	95	90	
Second Cut	90	55	60	
Third Cut	25	10	10	Good/Fair

Weather Summary for New England Agricultural Statistics

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday August 9, 2010
 To: Sunday August 15, 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	86	70	+2	1841	+349	806	+227	0.28	-0.49	2	1.69	-1.30	9
Bangor_Intl_Arp	49	89	69	+3	1777	+419	772	+288	0.43	-0.34	3	2.05	-0.88	13
Bethel	49	86	67	+0	1602	+244	643	+168	0.48	-0.43	2	3.99	+0.55	10
Caribou_Municip	45	83	66	+3	1483	+364	595	+276	0.17	-0.74	1	1.80	-1.98	11
Dover-Foxcroft	46	85	65	+0	1448	+260	557	+190	0.35	-0.49	2	0.95	-2.21	10
Frenchville	46	81	65	+3	1307	+268	489	+216	0.93	-0.01	2	2.49	-1.17	12
Houlton	42	84	65	+1	1403	+238	550	+196	0.16	-0.76	3	1.46	-2.14	15
Livermore_Falls	48	86	67	+3	1570	+396	639	+287	0.42	-0.49	2	3.04	-0.32	10
Moosehead	43	85	63	-1	1194	+206	395	+141	0.24	-0.60	2	2.62	-0.89	10
Portland_ME	50	89	71	+3	1826	+470	805	+314	0.00	-0.63	0	1.36	-1.22	4
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	51	82	66	+2	1460	+196	568	+181	1.44	+0.53	3	4.63	+1.20	11
Berlin_AG	41	80	64	-2	1474	+202	562	+153	0.66	-0.33	3	4.72	+1.02	11
Concord	50	92	73	+6	2031	+517	992	+403	0.16	-0.61	1	1.68	-1.39	9
Diamond_Pond	44	83	61	+1	706	-152	135	-31	0.71	-0.48	2	4.67	+0.21	12
Keene_AG	54	89	72	+3	1877	+188	859	+145	0.51	-0.40	3	2.11	-1.38	10
North_Conway	49	87	69	+3	1676	+259	690	+173	0.07	-0.84	2	2.03	-1.50	10
Rochester	50	95	73	+4	2098	+490	1047	+387	0.32	-0.52	1	1.92	-1.36	9
VERMONT														
Bennington_AP	55	87	72	+7	1858	+533	846	+408	0.18	-0.80	1	4.01	+0.26	9
Burlington_Intl	57	87	73	+4	2026	+397	988	+313	1.07	+0.14	3	3.12	-0.42	10
Island_Pond	49	80	65	+3	1399	+358	534	+270	1.13	+0.01	3	8.03	+3.79	12
Montpelier	55	83	70	+5	1657	+374	710	+296	0.43	-0.47	4	2.42	-0.77	13
Rochester	46	84	69	+4	1567	+316	641	+245	2.15	+1.10	3	5.28	+1.37	11
Rutland_AG	52	85	70	+2	1770	+93	781	+83	0.70	-0.28	2	3.11	-0.61	9
Springfield_VT	53	88	72	+7	1928	+547	899	+421	0.10	-0.81	2	2.27	-1.20	10
Sutton	50	80	66	+3	1381	+322	509	+230	0.78	-0.34	3	5.28	+1.09	11
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	60	93	73	+0	2446	+545	1294	+410	0.07	-0.63	1	1.64	-1.06	5
Fitchburg	54	93	75	+9	2405	+1030	1268	+783	0.47	-0.34	3	3.40	+0.11	9
Greenfield	51	89	71	+1	1978	+176	946	+149	0.06	-0.78	1	2.07	-1.29	7
New_Bedford	50	89	73	-1	2218	+318	1119	+237	0.03	-0.94	1	2.10	-1.25	6
Otis_AFB	52	84	70	+0	1931	+394	890	+263	0.18	-0.59	1	2.31	-0.53	7
Plymouth	52	92	74	+4	2364	+764	1253	+578	0.23	-0.67	1	1.55	-1.74	7
Walpole	51	93	74	+5	2309	+664	1205	+518	0.20	-0.69	1	1.70	-1.59	6
Chicopee/Westov	53	94	75	+2	2283	+223	1183	+188	0.50	-0.27	1	1.98	-1.10	8
Worthington	50	87	69	+4	1744	+405	747	+299	0.00	-0.96	0	1.46	-2.44	5
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	56	93	75	+4	2476	+669	1300	+481	0.04	-0.79	1	2.05	-1.03	6
Woonsocket	53	92	74	+5	2296	+679	1176	+522	0.25	-0.66	1	2.64	-0.95	8
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	62	88	77	+4	2479	+544	1333	+409	0.01	-0.75	1	3.28	+0.07	7
Hartford/Bradle	54	94	76	+4	2543	+557	1362	+416	0.07	-0.74	1	1.16	-1.85	8
Norfolk	52	85	70	+4	1866	+521	836	+381	0.06	-0.97	1	3.05	-0.86	9
Thomaston_Dam	55	91	74	+6	2221	+622	1125	+490	0.31	-0.66	3	3.71	-0.12	11
Willimantic	53	91	74	+6	2282	+654	1166	+506	0.04	-0.87	1	2.42	-1.27	7

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 Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, August 15, 2010

STATE	AIR TEMPERATURES				PRECIPITATION	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	39	90	67	+1	0.00	0.93
NH	41	95	69	+4	0.07	2.07
VT	46	89	70	+4	0.07	2.15
MA	44	95	72	+3	0.00	1.00
RI	53	93	74	+4	0.01	0.25
CT	50	96	75	+4	0.01	0.31

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: Fields are very dry. We need rain. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Blue mold in both shade tobacco and broad leaf has resulted in some of each being destroyed. Some showers left field corn and hay looking a little better than earlier. Still irrigating vegetable crops. Tobacco harvest continues. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** It is dry! Several growers are saying they are mowing pastures and other normally wet fields for the first time in a generation! Even the weeds are starting to dry up and wither away. The only green spots in lawns in the driest regions of the state are the crabgrass - somehow it can find enough water. Strangely even yellow nutsedge - normally considered a wet area plant - is germinating under dried up lawns. **Ann Marie McCard (FSA), New London:** Another week of hot, dry conditions. Spring levels are dropping. All cropland in need of rain. Pastures are very dry. Fields are drying up. Some silage corn is ready to harvest.

MAINE – Casey Cote (St John Valley Soil & Water Conservation Dist), Northern Aroostook: Rain is needed throughout the region. Growers are on a 5-7 day spray schedule. Grains are being harvested. **Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook:** Dry weather has slowed the bulking of the later potatoes. Several farms have started digging early whites. Barley and oats are mostly cut. Farm stands are full of fresh vegetables. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Growers were on a 7-10 day fungicide sprays. Crops need rain. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Aphids continue to be found in some areas. Crop looks good so far. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Another beautiful week with no rain. Hay producers were finishing their second or third cuts of hay. Manure was being spread on hayland. Farmers with irrigation were using it. Early apples are hitting the farm stands a few weeks ahead of normal. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Good to get rain. The crops were beginning to stress and some cattle operations were beginning to run short on water. Crops are still maturing well ahead of average. The highbush blueberry harvest this year was early and will be extended. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** The weather has been sunny and dry with very little rain. The corn crop is starting to brown and the third cut of hay looks to be smaller than average as a result. Most other crops still look good. The farm stands still have a large variety of veggies to offer. Overall it seems to be a good growing season. **Megan McDonough (FSA), Kennebec:** Weather continues to be excellent for bountiful yields. We have heard from a few folks that markets have been saturated with produce. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** The apple harvest has begun and the blueberry harvest has concluded. Overall the growing season has been excellent, but some crops are wilting due to lack of precipitation. The harvest of sweet corn is approximately 50% complete with a bumper crop reported. Fresh produce is abundant this year which is a welcome change from previous years. We have had perfect weather for making hay this past week. Thus far this has been one of best growing seasons in years in the mid-coast area. The crops are thirsty and some much needed rain is forecasted for early this week with possibly more wet weather later in the week. Another great week in the mid-coast area! **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis/Penobscot:** It has been very dry this week, non-irrigated crops are showing stress. Rain on Monday should help. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** A good rain last Monday helped ease the dry conditions and the beautiful hot, windy weather all week has led to very dry conditions again. Some rain today should help and more would be even more helpful. Vegetables are being harvested and a small amount of hay cut, but most pastures and hayland are going dormant from the heat and dryness. **Elaine S. Moceus (FSA), Somerset:** Second crop hay is mostly harvested at this time - great haying conditions, however the soil conditions are extremely dry. This area needs rain! Producers are reporting that third crop hay may be minimal if we don't get substantial rain soon. The silage corn crop is also at risk due to the lack of rain. The corn

production could suffer if rain is not received soon. This office has received some reports of corn developing without ears. Ears that have developed are drying out and could mean that producers harvest earlier than expected. Early on this season the corn looked great, but the lack of rain is taking its toll. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Despite 1/2 inch of rain last week, things remain very dry. Pastures are not growing and 2nd or 3rd crop grass is not rebounding. Corn looks good except in shallow soils or in sandy soils where it is showing drought stress. Vegetable crops under irrigation look great and vegetable growers are pretty happy. A few cases of late blight, but nothing like last year. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Wild blueberry harvest is about half done and many fields in mid-coast have finished harvesting. Fields Downeast that are usually harvested later in August are being picked to prevent crop loss from dry conditions. Those with irrigation are able to hold the fields for a later harvest. Large fruit size is seen on fields that had good pollination.

MASSACHUSETTS – Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: Seasonal daytime temps. Cool nights. An inch of rain throughout the county. Orchards harvesting stone fruits and starting apples. Tomatoes are good this year. Peppers, beans, sweet corn, squash, greens, eggplant all being harvested. Stress from the dry weather has shown on non-irrigated crops and field corn in south county. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** We had yet another hot, dry, and humid week with scattered thunderstorms. Some areas received two inches of rain while others received none. Many farmers are still irrigating their crops. Some crops, which have gone without irrigation, are seeing signs of plant stress. The conditions have led to some winter squash and pumpkins ripening very early and some peppers have seen some blossom drop because of the severe heat. Late vine crops are vulnerable to downy mildew and should be protected with a fungicide. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: It continues to be very dry, although scattered showers will probably occur today. Growers have been furiously irrigating, as little to no rain has fallen in the region. Cooler nights have begun to blush the topmost cranberries. Due to extreme high humidity for prolonged periods this summer, many renovated beds planted in 2009 have severe leaf spotting and leaf drop due to fungal infection. This is the only disease concern for this growing season, apart from the normal every year occurring diseases. Fruitworm issues persist for many growers, as this pest is getting more difficult to figure out. We'll find out what the crop forecast is tomorrow when the Cranberry Station celebrates its 100th birthday.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire: Dry all week. Field corn maturing well, though some is showing moisture stress. Good conditions for haying, but poor regrowth. Some 3rd cut haylage harvested. Vegetable crops doing well with irrigation. PYO berries winding down. Early varieties of apples are ready. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending August 14th, we had less than an inch of rain. Soils remain generally dry. Grass hay regrowth is showing the effects of dry soil conditions. The field corn crop looks OK. There have been a few fields showing stress due to dry conditions, however most fields are OK. Vegetable operations continue to do well. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Vegetables: Irrigating crops where many ponds are 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, potatoes, radishes, summer squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, pepper, zucchini, and other vegetables. Fall armyworm and corn earworm moth numbers are still increasing. Fruit: Orchardists harvesting peaches, plums, blueberry and summer raspberries. Harvesting Paured apples. Pick-Your-Own blueberries are almost done for the season. Orchardists busy irrigating apples, blueberries, peaches, raspberry, and strawberry beds. Monitoring for pests - spraying if needed, mowing orchard

floors and starting to move bins into orchards. Fall raspberries are being harvested, including the late variety Heritage. Field Crops: Hay cutting continued during the week with the second cut being made. Drought stress is being seen in many hay fields and silage corn fields. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Harvesting potatoes, sweet corn, tomatoes, and a whole array of vegetables. Apples, blueberries, peaches, fall raspberries, and plums being harvested. Fruits sizes harvested from non-irrigated fields are smaller. Weeding, irrigating, and scouting for pests. Haying and haylage being done. Pick-Your-Own operations, farmers markets and farmstands are busy. Some very localized showers helped. Warm days and cooler nights. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** Dry weather all week long. Hay producers were busy cutting and baling hay. Vegetable growers were weeding and irrigating their fields. They were also harvesting an array of vegetable crops including field tomatoes and sweet corn. Fruit growers were harvesting peaches and early apple varieties. Most growers were harvesting the last crop of blueberries. Most pick your own operations had a very busy week with customers picking peaches and blueberries because of nice sunny days with more comfortable temperatures unlike the previous weeks.

RHODE ISLAND – Heather Faubert (Univ of RI), All Counties: Still hoping for rain. **Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties:** It's been very, very dry this week. Some of the irrigation ponds have dried up. We need rain badly. Harvesting early potatoes and they are looking very good. Blueberries and peaches are looking very good. If we don't get much rain this week, it will start to show in the crops, such as tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, corn etc. Pastures are really showing their wear now due to the dry weather. Livestock are looking good, but farmers are starting to feed them now due to the dry pastures.

VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison: Continued weather good for second cut dry hay harvest and finishing first cut bedding hay harvest, also third cut haylage harvest and new seedings harvest. Some manure and fertilizer spread on hay fields but minimal amounts. Corn crop best in years, corn at Field Days best in 26 years. Many happy farmers with good crop year. Hopeful for a good fall harvest weather. Some AerWay tillage on hay fields, but clay soil too hard for good penetration. Pastures look a little better with cooler weather, but still fair to poor. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** A slightly cooler week, but still warm. Some rain early in the week, then a stretch of dry weather that most all farmers used to work on hay- some finishing up a second cut, some taking a third. Corn is looking good, it is looking like a sufficient supply of good quality forages at this point. Have not heard prices yet, but there are some round bales being sold. Weather prediction is for rain on Sunday night and Monday, it would be welcome. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Good week here in Franklin County. A lot of hay harvest and got dry enough to make some dry third cut hay, along with clean up of some left over first and second cut. Corn is doing great; however, weather is still that eluding factor that will play a big role in the next three to four weeks. Yields will take a hit on the fields that did not germinate in the dry time at planting in May. Pastures are still doing fantastic. Just the right blend of moisture and sun to keep growth going for pastures. Many bunks are getting full on the haylage side. A real tough problem to deal with. This could be money in the bank if a dry year were to come along in 2011. "Corn is king" in the garden stands. A great year here and we are at the peak of this season with sweet corn beginning to mature. **Heather Mateja (FSA), Lamoille/Washington:** Good week for weather some rain at night, clearing during the days for fieldwork. Corn looks great, Hay is almost all in. Pastures are starting to slow down, but still in good shape.

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