

Crop Progress & Condition



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For week ending 8/22/10

Week Ending Scattered Rains Benefit Crops

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending August 22, 2010, there were 6.4 days available for field work across New England. Pasture condition was rated 3% very poor, 26% poor, 22% fair, 41% good, and 8% excellent. The week began with localized light showers and seasonal temperatures ranging from the mid-60s in Maine to the mid-80s elsewhere. Average to above average temperatures continued throughout the region until two consecutive cold fronts passed through New England on Thursday and Friday. These cold fronts failed to provide adequate precipitation to the increasingly drier New England soils. However, a major system of rain clouds moved into the area Saturday evening into Sunday; all States but Maine received much needed precipitation. Temperatures over the weekend were significantly below average ranging from the upper 60s to upper 70s. Average nighttime temperatures during the week ranged from the mid-50s to mid-60s. Total precipitation ranged from 0.01 to nearly 2 inches.

FRUIT: Wild blueberry harvesting continued ahead of normal last week in Maine, with berry size reportedly smaller due to lack of precipitation on non-irrigated fields. Apple harvesting began last week in Massachusetts, about two weeks ahead of normal. Peach, plum, Paulared apple, and early fall raspberry harvesting also occurred throughout the region while highbush blueberry operations were coming to a close. Scattered rain showers in Massachusetts relieved drought conditions on cranberry beds while fruit rot and flea beetle injury were observed last week. Cranberry fruit set was rated at average to above average. Orchardists were also occupied scouting for pests and diseases, mowing orchard floors, moving bins into orchards, weeding, and pruning trees.

VEGETABLES Drought conditions in Rhode Island and Connecticut began to adversely impact some vegetable crops including peppers, squash, and cucumbers last week. Sweet corn progress varied with amount of precipitation received. Pumpkins and winter squash continued to mature ahead of normal throughout New England and reached harvesting stage in Connecticut. Powdery mildew has been identified on pumpkins and winter squash, while downy mildew was found on cucumbers and melons in New Hampshire. Dry conditions in New Hampshire have also led to cracking and blossom end rot on tomatoes. Vegetable growers were also busied irrigating crops as water supplies continued to diminish.

FIELD CROPS: Across New England, dry conditions slowed grass regrowth and curled corn fields. In Connecticut, some silage corn was chopped where it was burning from drought conditions. Many farmers were on their third cut of haylage by week's end. In Maine, potatoes were browning while early whites continued to be harvested. Lack of adequate moisture was still problematic to field crops in Maine last week. Farmers were busy spreading manure, cutting hay, irrigating, harvesting grains, and desiccating potato vines.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	30	17	0
Short	28	38	20
Adequate	42	42	66
Surplus	0	3	14
Subsoil			
Very Short	26	18	0
Short	29	30	14
Adequate	44	50	71
Surplus	1	2	15

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Size	Condition
	2010	2009	5 -yr Avg		
Apples	10	10	10	Average	Fair/Good
Peaches	70	55	55	Average	Good/Fair
Pears	20	5	5	Average	Fair/Good
Blueberries					
Highbush	95	80	85		
Wild	85	75	80		
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-	Average	Good

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Condition
	2010	2009	5-yr Avg	
-- Percent Harvested --				
Barley, ME	45	15	15	Good
Oats, ME	35	20	10	Good
Potatoes				
Maine	5	-	-	Good
Mass	10	25	15	Good/Fair
Rhode Island	15	15	20	Good/Fair
Silage Corn	<5	-	-	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	70	55	60	
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	75	45	60	
Shade	80	60	70	
Dry Hay				
First Cut	100	95	99	
Second Cut	95	70	70	
Third Cut	30	15	15	Fair

Weather Summary for New England Agricultural Statistics

For the Period: Monday August 16, 2010
 To: Sunday August 22, 2010

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				CUM SINCE MAR 1 GROWING DEGREE DAYS				1-WEEK PRECIP			4-WEEK CUM PRECIP		
	-----				BASE-50F		BASE-60F		-----			-----		
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS
MAINE														
Augusta_State_A	52	84	70	+3	1979	+365	874	+242	0.17	-0.60	2	1.09	-1.96	9
Bangor_Intl_Arp	48	87	70	+4	1915	+442	840	+310	0.06	-0.71	3	0.90	-2.06	10
Bethel	47	84	65	-1	1706	+239	677	+161	0.17	-0.74	4	2.25	-1.31	10
Caribou_Municip	46	82	65	+4	1592	+386	635	+292	0.15	-0.76	2	1.00	-2.75	9
Dover-Foxcroft	44	83	65	+2	1556	+269	597	+197	0.28	-0.56	3	0.89	-2.34	10
Frenchville	47	80	63	+2	1404	+284	520	+226	0.03	-0.93	3	1.26	-2.46	10
Houlton	40	82	64	+2	1505	+247	585	+202	0.47	-0.48	2	1.44	-2.25	12
Livermore_Falls	43	86	66	+3	1684	+415	684	+302	0.28	-0.70	3	2.53	-1.04	10
Moosehead	44	83	63	+1	1285	+213	418	+142	0.59	-0.25	3	2.29	-1.15	9
Portland_ME	52	84	69	+3	1960	+485	869	+327	0.15	-0.48	2	0.25	-2.27	4
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	43	81	64	+0	1558	+198	602	+183	1.17	+0.26	2	3.46	-0.11	9
Berlin_AG	44	80	63	-2	1566	+196	590	+148	0.40	-0.58	3	3.84	+0.00	11
Concord	44	90	71	+5	2179	+547	1070	+431	0.16	-0.61	2	0.96	-2.12	8
Diamond_Pond	37	80	58	-3	772	-154	151	-31	1.06	-0.12	4	4.85	+0.26	12
Keene_AG	45	88	69	+1	2010	+192	922	+148	0.10	-0.79	1	1.50	-2.04	8
North_Conway	48	86	66	+2	1793	+267	737	+179	0.26	-0.65	2	1.06	-2.54	8
Rochester	48	90	71	+4	2247	+511	1126	+408	0.04	-0.75	1	0.84	-2.45	6
VERMONT														
Bennington_AP	46	84	69	+4	1989	+560	907	+432	0.48	-0.50	4	1.92	-1.90	10
Burlington_Intl	49	85	69	+2	2159	+407	1051	+323	0.44	-0.48	2	2.70	-0.92	8
Island_Pond	44	79	62	+1	1488	+365	559	+274	1.06	-0.06	4	7.56	+3.18	12
Montpelier	44	82	65	+2	1764	+383	750	+304	0.48	-0.43	3	2.07	-1.33	11
Rochester	44	84	64	+0	1666	+315	675	+245	0.38	-0.67	3	4.10	+0.03	10
Rutland_AG	45	83	66	-3	1885	+82	827	+72	1.28	+0.30	3	3.49	-0.30	8
Springfield_VT	45	88	69	+5	2064	+576	965	+448	0.20	-0.71	3	2.03	-1.52	9
Sutton	44	80	62	+1	1467	+326	533	+233	0.66	-0.42	4	4.50	+0.21	10
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	62	92	75	+4	2621	+569	1399	+434	0.21	-0.55	1	1.31	-1.52	4
Fitchburg	50	90	73	+9	2569	+1085	1362	+837	0.10	-0.67	2	0.78	-2.44	7
Greenfield	47	87	69	-2	2110	+171	1008	+144	0.32	-0.52	3	1.32	-2.04	6
New_Bedford	53	87	74	+2	2385	+326	1216	+245	0.61	-0.37	2	0.67	-2.96	4
Otis_AFB	57	82	72	+3	2084	+411	973	+281	0.28	-0.49	2	0.89	-2.09	5
Plymouth	54	90	75	+6	2537	+801	1356	+616	0.13	-0.78	2	0.69	-2.74	5
Walpole	51	90	72	+4	2466	+691	1292	+545	0.14	-0.77	3	0.96	-2.47	6
Chicopee/Westov	48	89	72	-1	2439	+222	1269	+187	1.40	+0.60	3	2.67	-0.44	7
Worthington	46	84	66	+1	1856	+409	789	+302	1.29	+0.38	3	1.47	-2.36	4
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	59	89	75	+5	2653	+699	1407	+511	0.08	-0.76	1	0.15	-3.06	3
Woonsocket	52	89	72	+4	2451	+705	1261	+549	0.40	-0.51	2	1.67	-1.97	6
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	63	87	75	+4	2658	+564	1442	+429	0.63	-0.07	2	0.69	-2.38	5
Hartford/Bradle	53	92	74	+3	2713	+578	1462	+437	0.17	-0.67	3	0.63	-2.52	8
Norfolk	51	83	68	+4	1995	+542	895	+401	0.79	-0.26	4	2.23	-1.81	10
Thomaston_Dam	53	87	71	+4	2372	+647	1206	+516	0.63	-0.35	3	2.27	-1.56	10
Willimantic	50	89	72	+5	2440	+683	1254	+535	0.49	-0.36	4	0.62	-2.96	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 22, 2010

STATE	AIR TEMPERATURES				PRECIPITATION	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	38	89	65	+1	0.00	1.00
NH	37	91	67	+2	0.04	1.17
VT	39	88	65	+1	0.15	1.38
MA	43	93	71	+3	0.01	1.40
RI	52	89	74	+4	0.08	0.40
CT	50	92	72	+3	0.17	1.38

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: Many crops are showing signs of stress. We need rain. Rain is forecast for Sunday. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Rain finally showed up on Sunday 8/22 with amounts ranging from 1.5 to 3.0". The rain was badly needed but for some crops it might be too late. Dairy farmers started chopping corn silage as the crop was burning up from drought. Harvest of summer vegetables continues and reports of winter squash, pumpkins, and gourds being mature for harvest already. Third cutting of hay was very light. Harvest of both shade and broadleaf tobacco continues with some crops plowed down for blue mold. Irrigated sweet corn producing well, but market is very weak. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Third cutting is coming in extremely light. Drought conditions had grass growth down to nothing. A good soaking rain moved in on Sunday. Too early to know how long it will last. Field corn is within a week or two of harvest so rain shouldn't do much there except slow dry down. Grass will make a quick comeback. Other crops response will depend on where they are in their development. **Ann McCard (FSA), New London:** Another week of hot, dry weather. All crops could use rain. Early apples are being harvested. Crops are up to two weeks ahead of normal. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** It has become very dry throughout the New Haven and Middlesex County areas. There has been a state wide drought advisory posted. Calls are coming in from producers reporting problems with peppers, summer squash, and cucumbers. Sweet corn is doing fine and is still plentiful. Silage corn is nearing harvest time. Heavy rains at the end of the weekend should help ease the dry conditions.

MAINE – Casey Cote (St John Valley Soil & Water Conservation Dist), Northern Aroostook: Growers are on 7-10 day fungicide sprays. Another dry week has taken its toll on crops. Potatoes are browning at an exponential rate. Grains are continuing to be cut. Early white potatoes are also being harvested. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Grains continuing to be harvested in the area. Crops could use some rain - very dry here in Central Aroostook. Growers were on a 10-14 day spray schedule for fungicides for the week. Vine desiccation is occurring. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Crops are starting to suffer due to lack of rain. Drought conditions are being seen in Penobscot/Piscataquis Counties. Corn is turning yellow/brown and shows severe signs of stress. Crop will be early and farmers are worried about quantity and quality now. Apples are being harvested while blueberry harvest is just about complete. Crops overall look pretty good. Farm stands are loaded with multi crops and they look great. Hay fields are not developing for the availability of 3rd crop. Pasture land is very low due to no rain. The forecast doesn't show much relief in the up-coming week either. **Megan McDonough (FSA), Kennebec:** Great hay, great corn, great produce! While this summer has had an abundance of sunshine; at this point in the season Kennebec County could certainly use rain. Without a good soaking rain, remaining yields could be lower than anticipated. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Lots of dry hay was harvested throughout last week with gorgeous weather for most of the week. Rain is needed as more and more crops are showing signs of stress. The pumpkin crop is nearly ready for harvest with winter squash not too far behind. It is anticipated the silage corn harvest will start in 2 1/2 to 3 weeks. The apple harvest will be in full swing around Labor Day. All and all we are doing o.k. here compared to other areas of the state that have not had the occasional showers which have occurred in the mid-coast area. Our farmers are still smiling. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis/Penobscot:** Sporadic rains have not provided enough moisture for crops. Non-irrigated crops continue to show drought stress. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** Rain last Monday was welcomed and more is needed in this area. Dry conditions are slowing vegetable harvests and silage corn is drying, curling, and browning. **Elaine Moceus (FSA), Somerset:** The apple harvest is anywhere between 8 and 10 days early, with early apples being harvested as of the first week of

August. In years like this of dry weather during the growing season and with too much rain during harvest, the apples stand a chance of absorbing water too quickly and growing very fast, which could affect the storage term. Some producers have lost approximately one third of their crop due to the frost in early spring, but what apples are there seem to be of good size with good color. Strawberries and blueberries in some areas did very well, and other areas saw losses, primarily due to the frost in early May. Lots of hay still being harvested – weather conditions are still very dry. Scattered showers during the day and some night rains have helped somewhat, but we still need rain. At this time, approximately 1.5 inches of rain have fallen this month, which is less than half of the average amount of 3.5 for August. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Dry weather continues and is severely impacting corn growth in many locations in Central Maine. Grasses have dried up. We need rain for pastures and hay crops to recover. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Wild blueberry harvest is about three quarters done and most mid-coast fields have finished harvesting. Dry conditions continue to shrink berry size on fields without irrigation. Overall harvest will be down compared to last year because of early frost damage and dry conditions.

MASSACHUSETTS – Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: The week began and ended with some much needed rain. In between it was partly sunny, breezy with some humidity mid-week. Apple harvest is beginning two weeks early. Sweet corn, melons, peppers, tomatoes, summer squash, eggplant, peaches, blueberries, and early fall raspberries are being harvested. Growers are happy with their field corn. **Lori Carver (FSA), Franklin:** Rain on Sunday was a welcome sight. Tobacco harvest is wrapping up. Silage corn is starting to show stress from the lack of rain. Third cutting of hay crops will be short. Fall crops are ripening very early. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Harvesting of all vegetable crops continues. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Rain occurred on Tuesday and Sunday into Monday to alleviate the drought conditions. Growers had been regularly irrigating even after Tuesday, as the developing fruit demands the water. The crop forecast is 1.95 million barrels for Massachusetts, which would be our second biggest crop ever. There are some exceptional crops out there, and berry size in some beds is very impressive. Color is coming along nicely too, in spite of the nights not being very cool. Fruit rot is showing up in several beds, and this is a concern since it is still many weeks from harvest. Flea beetle injury is now showing up as well. Many growers are taking time off to get ready for the long harvest period. On Tuesday, the Cranberry Station celebrated 100 years' service to the Massachusetts cranberry industry. More than 500 people attended and the weather cooperated nicely for all activities.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire: More dry weather all week, with some much-needed rain on Sunday. Field corn maturing well, but producers reporting that yields will be lower from lack of moisture. Farms finishing harvest of 3rd cut haylage, baleage, and some dry hay; some farms starting 4th cut haylage. Veggie operations with irrigation doing well - seems to be a bumper crop of the tomatoes and melons that never made it to market last year. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending August 21, we had nearly 3/4 inches of rain. Most of the rain fell at the start of the week. Sunny, dry conditions prevailed for the rest of the week. Soils remained relatively dry with a number of corn fields starting to curl. Many hay fields were very dry, suppressing regrowth. A good soaking rain was needed. Vegetable growers with rows under plastic or with drip irrigation are doing well. Sweet corn is doing OK, with the exception of a few pieces that were damaged by hail and wind a few weeks ago. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Very dry! Looks like a good soaking rain is coming next week. Vegetables: Growers are IRRIGATING to try to save unharvested crops. They are harvesting an array of vegetables: beans, beets, cole crops, cucumbers, greens, potatoes, pumpkins, radishes

summer squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, winter squash, zucchini, and other vegetables. Powdery mildew can be found on pumpkins and winter squash and downy mildew can be found on cucumbers and melons. Corn Earworm and Fall Armyworm trap numbers went extremely high. Fruit: Orchardists harvesting peaches, plums, and picking Paulared apples. Orchardists busy monitoring for pests, summer pruning trees, mowing orchard floors, fixing up orchard roads and moved bins into the orchard. Highbush blueberry harvest is over except for those few growers who have late maturing varieties and fall raspberry harvest continued. Field Crops: Hay cutting continued during the week with the second and third cuttings being made. Some spreading manure on hay fields. Farmers are delaying new forage seedings until we get some rain. Corn looks good to poor because of drought symptoms showing in many fields. **Amy Ouellette (Ext), Merrimack:** Very dry conditions causing cracking and blossom end rot in tomatoes. Corn insect populations high this week. Harvesting all sorts of vegetables, peaches, and apples. Many days of rain are needed badly. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Picking blueberries, fall raspberries, peaches, apples, cut flowers, and a whole array of vegetables. Fruit size is smaller in non-irrigated fields. Haying being done. Irrigating, weeding, and monitoring for pests. Farm stands, PYO, farmers markets still busy while traffic at garden centers has been steady. Ponds are getting dry. Rain was welcomed on Sunday evening. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** Dry all week. Good conditions for haying, but poor regrowth. Field corn is doing well, but some is showing moisture stress. Vegetable crops doing well with irrigation. Growers were harvesting sweet corn, tomatoes, and an array of other vegetables crops. Great week for peach harvesting. Early and mid season varieties of apples were being harvested. A lot of produce in farm stands and farmers markets.

RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties: It's been a very dry week. It's really starting to show in the crops. A lot of the irrigation ponds are dry this week. Rain is badly needed. Sweet corn this week will be short. Small vegetables are still doing well price wise but starting to show signs of drought. Hay fields are showing the lack of rain the most. The pastures as well. Farmers with dry pastures are starting to supplement their feeds. Despite the recent weather conditions, it's still looking like a good year for RI Agriculture.

VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison: Started to chop edges of corn fields this week to set up for harvest. Anxious for corn silage since on-farm stores are depleted. Continued dry hay and haylage harvest with good weather and dry soil conditions. Best display of crops at Addison County Field Days that I have seen in 26 years. Excellent crop quality and a record number of entries. All crops are looking very good and farmers are happy with the abundance. Soybeans growing very well and filling pods. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** A dry week until Saturday night, we got nearly two inches of rain on Sunday, a nice soaking rain. Farmers working on hay, corn is looking good. Fair season is here. Cooler nights with fog in the valleys, easy to tell that summer is finishing. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Nice weather week in Franklin County. A lot of dry hay made, second and third cut. Some thoughts of fourth cut are in the wind. Corn is still progressing and the nice weather is moving ear development along. Gardens are still producing well. Some potato patches have not fared well, unsure of reasoning. This may come out later on as the harvest continues. Berries are about done and apples will be picking up the slack here. Pastures continue to do well and the cooler weather is making grazing much easier. **Heather Mateja (FSA), Lamoille/Washington:** Another good week for crops and pasture. Excellent year for sweet corn as is for all vegetables in the county. Second cut of hay is almost all harvested, the quality looks good, but the yields seem to be a little short due to the lack of rain the last two months. The nights are starting to cool and there is a sure sign of fall arriving soon with a change in the leaves in mountains. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Weather continues to be favorable for second and third crop hay harvest. A lot of dry hay was put up last week. Soil moisture remains adequate with occasional rain showers. Over the weekend both days brought a good soaking rain. Corn is for the most part excellent; tall and very green. The corn crop has tasseled and has set ears. This should prove to be a bumper crop for most growers. Pastures remain productive with the moisture and warm temperatures we have had. The blueberry crop was reported as very good and there are still some pick your own places that are allowing picking. The blackberry crop was very heavy. Early apples are starting to be picked. Fruit size is average to a bit small but is very sweet. The nights are starting to get cooler reminding us that autumn is not far away. **Julie Jacque (FSA), Windham:** Dry conditions continue; 3rd cutting reports about half of expected for cutting. Most vegetable growers irrigating still if they have it.

To receive this report every Monday evening, send an e-mail message to listserv@newsbox.usda.gov and in the body, type **subscribe usda-new-eng-crop-weather**

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