

Crop Progress & Condition



NEW ENGLAND
Agricultural
Statistics



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For week ending 5/1/11

It's Wet Out There

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending May 1, 2011, there were 3.1 days available for field work across New England. Pasture condition was rated 1% very poor, 22% poor, 32% fair, 41% good, and 4% excellent. The first part of the week brought above normal temperatures and frequent precipitation to most areas. Precipitation levels were particularly high in Vermont and New Hampshire. The rains subsided by Thursday and temperatures fell to normal levels by the weekend. For the week, nighttime temperatures ranged from as low as 22 degrees in New Hampshire to 38 degrees in Rhode Island while daytime temperatures ranged from as high as 78 degrees in Maine and Rhode Island to 85 degrees in Massachusetts and Vermont. Average temperatures during the week ranged from 6 degrees above normal in Maine to 10 degrees above normal in Connecticut and Massachusetts. The highest rainfall total for the week was 4.07 inches recorded in northwestern Vermont. Cumulative growing degree days since March 1 (Base – 50 F) were above normal across New England. A few notable locations and their departure from normal include: Plymouth, Massachusetts, 117 days above normal, Fitchburg, Massachusetts, 106 days above normal, and Willimantic, Connecticut, 97 days above normal.

FRUIT: Apples and other fruit seem to have made it through the winter well, and by the end of the week fruit tree buds were appearing. Strawberry beds were being planted. Cranberries wintered well, with significant sanding and good snow cover keeping injury to a minimum. Early varieties of cranberries are greening up rapidly, but later varieties are still dormant red with very little growth so far. Maine wild blueberries sustained multiple mummy berry infection periods in Lincoln, Knox, Waldo, and Hancock counties the past week, and growers are on high alert to protect the crop.

VEGETABLES: Vegetable growers are sub soiling, plowing, disking, and spreading lime. They are planting peas, sweet corn, lettuce, and greens. Farmers are planting a limited number of cool-season crops in New Hampshire. In southern New England States farmers are beginning to plant potatoes. In Maine, potato producers are waiting for dry fields for planting.

FIELD CROPS: Hay fields are greening up nicely, but farmers are waiting for dry fields in order to spread manure or till. Corn planting has also been delayed due to wet soil conditions. Flooding is present along the Connecticut River Valley and major tributaries. Some small grains were planted in Maine.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	-	1
Short	0	-	5
Adequate	49	-	85
Surplus	51	-	9
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	-	1
Short	2	-	4
Adequate	46	-	86
Surplus	52	-	9

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Stage of Development	Condition
Apples	Dormant/Bud Stage	Good/Fair
Peaches	Bud Stage/Early Bloom	Good/Fair
Pears	Bud Stage/Early Bloom	Good/Fair
Blueberries		
Highbush	Dormant/Bud Stage	Good/Fair
Wild	Dormant	Good/Excellent
Cranberries, MA	Dormant	Good
Strawberries	Dormant/Bud Stage	Good/Fair

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2011	2010	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Planted --				
Barley, ME	0	20	5	N/A
Oats, ME	0	5	<5	N/A
Potatoes				
Maine	0	10	<5	N/A
Mass	<5	65	40	Fair
Rhode Island	10	40	25	Good
Silage Corn	<5	5	<5	Fair/Good
Sweet Corn	5	15	10	Good/Fair
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	0	0	0	N/A
Shade	0	0	0	N/A
-- Percent Emerged --				
Sweet Corn	<5	10	<5	
-- Percent Harvested --				
Dry Hay				
First Cut	0	0	0	Good/Poor

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday April 25, 2011
 To: Sunday May 1, 2011

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				CUM SINCE MAR 1 GROWING DEGREE DAYS				1-WEEK PRECIP			4-WEEK CUM PRECIP		
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS
	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	INCHES	---	---	INCHES	---	---
MAINE														
Augusta_State_A	40	69	54	+7	36	+23	0	+0	0.30	-0.61	4	3.55	+0.04	13
Bangor_Intl_Arp	36	72	53	+8	33	+26	0	+0	0.58	-0.21	4	4.08	+0.98	14
Bethel	31	73	52	+6	26	+19	1	+1	0.99	+0.15	5	5.52	+2.16	14
Caribou_Municip	29	67	47	+4	10	+5	0	+0	0.53	-0.09	3	2.19	-0.11	13
Dover-Foxcroft	29	70	49	+5	12	+7	0	+0	0.78	-0.06	5	4.13	+0.82	14
Frenchville	28	62	43	+2	1	+1	0	+0	0.62	-0.02	3	2.16	-0.24	13
Houlton	27	70	48	+5	21	+16	1	+1	0.68	+0.00	5	2.59	+0.13	15
Livermore_Falls	30	71	53	+9	28	+23	0	+0	0.94	+0.03	5	5.55	+1.91	15
Moosehead	26	66	45	+5	1	+1	0	+0	1.01	+0.24	4	3.17	+0.26	13
Portland_ME	42	67	53	+7	42	+36	0	+0	0.29	-0.62	3	5.28	+1.46	14
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	31	78	51	+5	24	+6	5	+5	1.57	+0.87	5	4.37	+1.77	19
Berlin_AG	30	79	53	+8	28	+15	4	+4	0.74	-0.07	3	4.67	+1.47	14
Concord	29	81	57	+9	76	+58	19	+19	0.38	-0.32	3	3.87	+1.13	13
Diamond_Pond	27	70	48	+8	8	+7	0	+0	1.79	+1.02	5	5.55	+2.65	15
Keene_AG	32	79	56	+6	64	+33	13	+13	0.78	+0.00	4	3.34	+0.37	14
North_Conway	33	77	53	+7	28	+15	2	+2	1.55	+0.59	5	6.60	+2.75	17
Rochester	33	79	58	+9	79	+56	12	+12	0.45	-0.53	3	5.16	+1.18	13
VERMONT														
Bennington_AP	31	83	58	+12	97	+78	32	+32	1.02	-0.03	4	3.30	-0.77	16
Burlington_Intl	37	82	57	+8	67	+38	13	+13	4.07	+3.38	4	7.74	+5.14	17
Island_Pond	28	77	51	+8	26	+18	7	+7	2.17	+1.47	4	5.44	+2.90	15
Montpelier	31	80	54	+9	41	+25	12	+12	1.65	+1.02	5	5.85	+3.55	20
Rochester	31	82	53	+7	33	+20	7	+7	2.41	+1.47	4	6.25	+2.72	16
Rutland_AG	32	80	55	+5	54	+13	11	+9	2.26	+1.56	4	5.60	+3.08	16
Springfield_VT	33	81	57	+10	73	+56	18	+18	1.00	+0.09	3	4.59	+1.03	16
Sutton	33	76	50	+7	15	+10	2	+2	2.56	+1.86	5	7.25	+4.53	17
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	46	78	60	+8	129	+86	28	+28	0.04	-0.79	2	3.58	+0.23	12
Fitchburg	38	80	60	+13	119	+106	28	+28	0.28	-0.54	4	4.11	+0.94	15
Greenfield	35	77	58	+7	70	+30	13	+13	0.68	-0.23	6	5.11	+1.67	17
New_Bedford	37	76	61	+10	133	+87	20	+20	0.64	-0.27	3	5.03	+1.20	11
Otis_AFB	39	70	58	+10	73	+58	6	+6	0.27	-0.64	2	5.30	+1.67	9
Plymouth	38	76	61	+13	133	+117	26	+26	0.87	-0.11	5	4.88	+0.93	14
Walpole	38	78	58	+9	84	+57	9	+9	0.08	-0.85	3	4.07	+0.14	12
Chicopee/Westov	33	83	61	+7	117	+43	32	+30	0.32	-0.59	3	4.67	+1.05	14
Worthington	35	80	57	+10	63	+46	16	+16	0.80	-0.22	5	5.68	+1.90	19
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	41	78	62	+11	120	+86	22	+22	0.59	-0.32	3	5.00	+1.17	12
Woonsocket	38	75	61	+11	106	+83	20	+20	0.17	-0.80	4	4.72	+0.84	13
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	43	76	59	+8	104	+56	12	+12	0.23	-0.68	2	4.33	+0.81	12
Hartford/Bradley	42	83	62	+9	122	+63	31	+29	0.24	-0.67	3	5.25	+1.63	12
Norfolk	37	82	58	+11	67	+53	19	+19	1.08	+0.03	5	5.93	+1.75	16
Thomaston_Dam	38	82	62	+12	103	+71	32	+32	0.43	-0.62	4	4.80	+0.81	16
Willimantic	35	82	62	+12	126	+97	28	+28	0.15	-0.83	3	4.65	+0.73	12

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, May 1, 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	25	78	50	+6	0.26	1.52
NH	22	82	54	+8	0.07	2.07
VT	28	85	54	+8	1.00	4.07
MA	30	85	59	+10	0.04	1.57
RI	38	78	59	+9	0.17	0.73
CT	34	83	60	+10	0.15	1.08

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: It has been a very wet spring. Farmers estimate that they are about two weeks behind normal planting schedule. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** After a very long winter spring has been slow to show continued warm up. Rains continue to keep farmers looking for places to spread manure without getting stuck. Hay and pasture fields are slow to come on this spring. Fields along the Connecticut River continue to flood as rains and melting snow from the north flow towards Long Island Sound. Everyone from greenhouse operations to livestock operations are struggling with high cost of fuel, fertilizer and just about everything else that is associated with producing food and feed. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** We are struggling to get manure spread. With rain every few days the fields just get dry enough to move in and the rain comes back. We usually have one or two farms with corn planted by the end of April - but not this year! Too cold and too wet! **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** Rain mid-week finally cleared up and the end of the week brought sunny, warmer, and more spring like weather. Wet fields have kept planters idle. Alfalfa fields are coming along nicely with heavy growth. Easter flower sales were strong, high hopes for sales of Mother's Day flowers. **Jude Boucher (Ext), Tolland:** A "normal" spring...how can that be? **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Rainy week ending with sunshine and warming; spreading manure and finishing pruning. Asparagus is ready. Planting corn and checking for damage in vineyards. Grass and hay greening up nicely.

MAINE – Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook: A few operations are breaking ground this morning. Some small grains will be drilled today. There is still some snow in the woods and along fence lines. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Some may plant grain next week if their fields are dry. Snow is still present for some. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** This spring is quite a bit different than last year. It's been a long slow spring and perennial crops are a bit behind. Farmers are tilling fields and spreading manure. The only plantings I've seen are under plastic. The grass has just greened up and is not quite tall enough for pasturing. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** We had one of the best seasons for maple syrup production in recent years. The snow just finished melting last week. There is still some in the mountains. Because the frost is just coming out of the ground, field work began in earnest at the end of this week. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Wet ground has kept most farmers waiting to get their spreading done. Rainy days ahead will keep things at a standstill again. Farmers really need a good week of dry weather to be able to get going on plantings and ground prep. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Field work has begun in some areas of Oxford County. Some fields are still very wet and equipment unable to get on the land. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis/Penobscot:** Managed hay fields are starting to green up. Fields are too wet to spread manure or till. The rainless weekend will help dry out fields. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** Rain and warm weather over the weekend is greening up pastures. Some field work is beginning. **Janet King (FSA), Somerset:** Producers are reporting that conditions are about two weeks behind last year, due to the late spring snow storms. The grass is just now starting to green up and most fields are too wet and soft to spread manure, due to snow melt. Slightly warmer weather and rain in some areas. Field work is minimal at this time - some manure spreading on the high and dry areas has been done. There were reports of snow and hail storms in some areas on April 20th. Flooding was a concern during the last week of April due to snow melt and runoff with spring rains. Temperatures have overall been cooler than normal; warm May weather is needed to get the grass growing. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Some manure spreading on drier ground. Things are just starting to dry out, but the week ahead looks wet. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Wet conditions and a late spring snowstorm have delayed pruning in many fields. Fields are being pruned by mowing and burning. Pre-emergence herbicide and fertilizer

applications are being made. The Mummy Berry blight forecast blog on www.wildblueberries.maine.edu has indicated multiple mummy berry infection periods have occurred in Lincoln, Knox, Waldo, and Hancock Counties since Monday. Downeast in northern Hancock, Washington Counties, some cups have been found and some fields are at the susceptible stage. If plants were NOT protected during one of the recent infection periods, the growers should apply fungicides within 72 hours of the start of an infection period in their area.

MASSACHUSETTS – Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: Berkshire is back! Reports of the maple sugaring season are very good this year with high production reported. The strongest T-storms passed northwest of us but still dumped 1-2 inches of rain and all fields are too wet for work. Manure was spread before the rain came. Pastures are really lush but muddy. Apricots are in bloom early, asparagus is up and we are watching temps in the 30's overnight. Farmers markets start up this week. No field corn planted yet. **Lori Carver (FSA), Franklin:** Rain, rain go away (for a while anyway)! Ground is saturated making it very difficult to get on the fields. Onion planting is approximately 2 weeks behind schedule. Asparagus is starting to emerge, but could use a few warm sunny days. Two inches of snow reported in the hills the day before Easter. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Field conditions are very wet due to recent rains. Dairy farmers are spreading manure, lime, repairing fences, and seeding new hay fields. Vegetable growers are sub soiling, plowing, and spreading lime. They are also planting peas, sweet corn, potatoes, lettuce, and strawberry plants. Sweet corn is up under the plastic. Spinach and parsnips are being harvested. Orchardists are pruning and applying fertilizer and protective fungicide sprays. Greenhouse growers are planting vegetables and nurseries are harvesting their crops for sale. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Cranberries wintered well for the most part, with good snow and ice cover during the coldest times. Significant sanding occurred and there is very little winter injury. Early varieties are greening up rapidly, but later varieties are still dormant red. Very little growth so far. There have been a few significant frost nights already, but there is plenty of water for sprinkler use. April was a wet month. Growers are applying pre-emergent herbicides and pre-bloom fungicides for upright dieback and root rot. Insecticides are being applied for winter moth control. Ditches are being dug of silt and renovation projects have been started or are being completed and readied for planting. Fortunately, this has been a normal phenological spring, unlike last year when we were 2-3 weeks ahead at this point.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire: A slower start to spring this year - snow sticking around well into April. A bit of a warm-up mid-month, but then a couple weeks of cooler, wet weather has resulted in some delays for field activities. So far farms have put in a few forage seedings and have been spreading manure, but not much tillage and no corn planted. Vegetable operations planting a limited amount of cool-season crops. Apple orchards and berry operations seem to have made it through the winter nicely and trees/bushes are doing well - no real hard freezes. **Jenn Zaleski (FSA), Sullivan:** Rain at the beginning of the week hindered field work. Once the rain subsided, low lying areas of fields were left wet and unworkable. Despite the seasonably warm and sunny conditions during the weekend, fields remain flooded. The rain has, however, been helping to green up pastures and hay fields. The Connecticut River remains very high due to spring melting and heavy rains up north. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Spring flooded conditions throughout the county. Most low-lying corn land inundated, somewhat more so than usual. Tributaries also running strong. Fields greening up now as grasses start to grow. Quite sodden soils allowing for little farm activities. Trees beginning to bud out, some apples at silvertip stage. Yellow-rattle weed showing first true leaves. **Heather Bryant (Ext), Grafton:** There is some flooding

on the western side of the county. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending April 30, 2011, we received just over 2 inches of rain. Field conditions remain wet on most fields. Some limited manure spreading has been done on better drained soils. Hay fields are greening up rapidly. Flooding along the CT River and major tributaries is still evident. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Apples are at tight cluster stage. Peaches are at pink stage. Blueberries are at bud swell stage. Pruning last blueberry bushes and raspberry patches. Orchardists are chopping brush in orchards or push pruning out of the orchards. Fertilizing orchards. Protective fungicide sprays applied on fruit trees. Vegetables: Transplanting tomatoes into high tunnels. Early season vegetables (peas, lettuce, greens) are being planted. Liming, fertilizing, plowing, disking (fields that are not too wet to work) and getting ready to plant fields. Field Crops: Liming and fertilizing hayfields. Spreading manure, plowing, disking, fertilizing, and getting ready to plant corn. Fixing pasture fences. Also, getting ready to make new pasture and hayfield seedings. **Amy Ouellette (Ext), Merrimack:** Early apples are at green tip. It's a "normal" spring so far. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Planting greens, lettuce, tree fruit, and small fruits. Transplanting tomatoes in high-tunnels. Finishing up fruit pruning. Spraying protective fungicides in orchards. Tilling fields, spreading manure and fertilizer. Grass in pastures and hay fields doing well. Garden centers getting ready for Mother's Day week-end and some farmers markets will open this week-end too.

RHODE ISLAND – Heather Faubert (Univ of RI), All Counties:

The season is as close to 'normal' as I've seen in a long time! Nice! **Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties:** What's going on in Rhode Island is all the strawberry beds have been planted in the last week or so. Potatoes are just starting to be planted, really it's the early varieties. There is some sweet corn planted under plastic and the same with some summer squash. Peas have been in for a couple of weeks in some places. The weather for the last two weeks we have had an abundance of rain, to the point that the fields are a little wet too plant.

Our last frost was last Saturday night the 23rd, a hard freeze and frost. The rest of the time the nights have been mild.

VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison: Very wet soil condition preventing tillage and corn planting. Manure spreading on grass hay and corn fields. Some incorporation with aeration tillage, no plow or harrow tillage to date. Fertilizer on hay fields as grass greens up. Alfalfa hay growth good up to 4", grass hay and pasture growth good. **Daniel Hudson (Ext), Caledonia:** Most of the snow is gone. A couple of warm days have initiated grass and legume growth. Many livestock producers are at the end of their stored hay/haylage and many are having to buy it wherever they can find it. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** One word sums up the first crop report for the season in Franklin County, WET. We have had heavy rains and flooding so far this spring. This has delayed everything from manure spreading to garden work. Grasses are even delayed out of the gate with the cool temps that have come with the rains. Some warmer temperature have brought about some growth on grasses; however, we need some dryer weather to really get things going. We can only hope that May will bring some better conditions for catch up. **Heather Mateja (FSA), Lamoille/Washington:** Flooding in the county this week. Water level was at 100 yr flood stage. **Terence Bradshaw, Univ of Vermont:** Extreme rainfall last week has hampered orchard activities including spraying and tree planting. Many orchards, especially those on heavy soils, report difficulty accessing fields due to soil moisture conditions. McIntosh apples are at half inch green tip to tight cluster bud stage development. A significant apple scab infection period last week with ascospores rapidly emerging required fungicide protection. Continuing rains expected this week will require further fungicide application. **Julie Jacque (FSA), Windham:** Cool, wet weather continues through the week. Many are behind spreading manure, which results in about 2 weeks behind planting schedule. End of the week resulted in grasses taking a growing leap and fruit tree buds appearing.

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