

Crop Progress & Condition



NEW ENGLAND
Agricultural
Statistics



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June 6, 2011 – 4 pm

For week ending 6/5/11

Tornadoes and Hail

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending June 5, 2011, there were 5.8 days available for fieldwork across New England. Pasture conditions were rated 2 percent very poor, 4 percent poor, 15 percent fair, 49 percent good, and 30 percent excellent. Monday, temperatures were warmer than average, in the mid-70s to upper 80s, and cloudy with a light rain in some areas. Tuesday, skies cleared but hot temperatures continued in the 70s and 80s. Deadly tornadoes tore across western Massachusetts Wednesday afternoon. The tornadoes struck Worcester and Hampden counties, with at least two separate tornadoes striking in Springfield and surrounding towns. Farm buildings and fences were damaged. Livestock losses were reported, but no crop losses reported at this time. Elsewhere, conditions were cloudy with scattered thunderstorms and some hail. High temperatures persisted in the 70s and in a few locations 90s. Thursday turned cooler with temperatures in the high 60s to lower 70s with windy conditions for most locations. The rest of the week was partly cloudy to cloudy with temperatures in the 60s and 70s. Nighttime temperatures over the weekend were mostly below average, in the mid-30s and low 50s. The week's total rainfall ranged from 0 to 1.38 inches.

FRUIT: Some started picking strawberries last week in the south while northern areas were starting to see fruit. In some areas, fruit growers had to irrigate for frost control. In wild blueberries, evidence of mummyberry disease from earlier infections was evident on plants that did not receive fungicide protection. Fertilizer was being applied on non-bearing wild blueberry fields and bearing fields were being scouted for insects. Some berry fields and orchard blocks sustained damage from hailstorms midweek.

VEGETABLES: Vegetable crops continued to be planted and side dressed. Crops such as lettuce, asparagus, rhubarb, spinach, and radishes were being harvested. Planting continued for cucumbers, peppers, pumpkins, winter squash, and tomatoes. Growers were being vigilant about taking precautions against late blight.

FIELD CROPS: Shade tobacco planting was nearly complete and broadleaf planting progressed nicely. The first of the dry hay went into barns this week. Producers were busy planting corn, potatoes, and harvesting grass in the fields that were wet until this past week. Some areas of the region were still dealing with saturated field conditions.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	0	1
Short	7	0	10
Adequate	72	55	76
Surplus	21	45	13
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	0	1
Short	4	0	11
Adequate	73	50	79
Surplus	23	50	9

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Development	Fruit Set	Condition
Apples	PF	Average	Good
Peaches	PF	Average	Good
Pears	PF	Average	Good
Blueberries			
Highbush	FB/PF	Average	Good
Wild	FB/PF	Average	Good
Cranberries,	BS		Good/Excellent
Strawberries	FB/PF	Average	Good/Fair

BS= Bud Stage, EB= Early Bloom, FB=Full Bloom, PF=Petal Fall

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2011	2010	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Planted --				
Barley, ME	95	100	99	
Oats, ME	90	100	99	
Potatoes				
Maine	90	100	95	
Mass	95	100	100	
Rhode Island	100	100	100	
Silage Corn	60	90	85	
Sweet Corn	65	85	70	
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	35	40	40	Good/Fair
Shade	99	100	95	Good/Fair
-- Percent Emerged --				
Barley	35	99	75	Good/Fair
Oats	30	95	75	Good/Fair
Potatoes				
Maine	10	50	20	Good/Fair
Mass	65	100	70	Good/Fair
Rhode Island	40	100	90	Good
Silage Corn	30	65	55	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	45	55	50	Good/Fair
Dry Hay	-- Percent Harvested --			
First Cut	20	50	30	Good/Fair

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday, May 30, 2011
 To: Sunday, June 5, 2011

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	44	83	62	+3	277	+45	55	+27	0.56	-0.26	2	3.84	+0.48	10
Bangor Intl Arp	39	82	61	+2	273	+87	45	+28	0.58	-0.23	2	3.32	+0.08	13
Bethel	39	84	63	+4	271	+72	69	+47	0.57	-0.33	2	4.87	+1.50	13
Caribou Municip	41	81	58	+3	178	+37	26	+14	0.79	+0.11	4	2.75	-0.03	16
Dover-Foxcroft	36	79	59	+3	178	+33	32	+21	0.58	-0.26	2	3.86	+0.60	19
Frenchville	41	82	56	+0	122	+10	13	+12	1.28	+0.58	4	3.34	+0.51	16
Houlton	37	77	58	+2	185	+41	26	+13	0.17	-0.60	1	4.35	+1.27	15
Livermore Falls	38	82	61	+4	249	+103	54	+43	0.79	-0.15	2	4.27	+0.78	14
Moosehead	36	81	57	+3	123	+31	21	+21	0.25	-0.60	1	5.52	+2.33	13
Portland ME	42	86	64	+5	267	+95	53	+44	0.00	-0.78	0	3.94	+0.76	11
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	39	83	63	+5	289	+72	78	+51	0.11	-0.74	3	4.86	+1.63	16
Berlin AG	39	83	62	+4	277	+82	73	+50	1.13	+0.22	3	5.42	+2.08	12
Concord	36	90	66	+6	423	+168	127	+87	0.01	-0.71	1	3.90	+1.06	12
Diamond Pond	38	82	58	+5	181	+89	35	+35	0.48	-0.54	3	6.32	+2.57	10
Keene AG	38	88	65	+3	414	+81	127	+58	0.63	-0.22	2	3.43	+0.00	11
North-Conway	42	86	64	+5	282	+57	75	+44	0.10	-0.81	2	3.62	-0.01	17
Rochester	40	92	67	+6	427	+136	125	+74	0.00	-0.84	0	4.19	+0.75	12
VERMONT														
Bennington AP	38	87	66	+8	498	+274	166	+133	0.10	-0.95	1	3.05	-1.11	11
Burlington Intl	43	90	66	+5	448	+143	142	+81	0.57	-0.20	2	6.81	+3.92	12
Island Pond	35	85	61	+6	305	+163	87	+73	0.40	-0.57	4	5.74	+2.21	16
Montpelier	39	85	63	+5	368	+157	112	+84	0.74	-0.10	2	8.19	+5.11	14
Rochester	37	87	64	+6	335	+140	101	+77	0.11	-0.82	2	4.67	+0.80	15
Rutland AG	38	87	65	+3	399	+53	125	+46	0.09	-0.72	1	2.77	-0.44	12
Springfield VT	38	89	67	+7	475	+238	157	+121	0.03	-0.90	3	2.80	-0.90	13
Sutton	42	83	61	+6	269	+129	62	+48	0.45	-0.50	3	6.93	+3.48	15
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan In	49	87	69	+6	508	+142	161	+101	0.56	-0.16	1	3.05	+0.17	10
Fitchburg	43	91	68	+9	530	+319	175	+151	0.10	-0.71	1	2.32	-0.90	13
Greenfield	41	87	66	+3	426	+58	120	+46	0.63	-0.28	1	4.76	+1.20	11
New Bedford	42	87	67	+5	539	+175	148	+91	0.02	-0.82	1	3.56	+0.24	12
Otis AFB	41	82	64	+4	351	+129	77	+56	0.02	-0.76	1	1.93	-1.35	10
Plymouth	42	85	66	+6	492	+247	141	+112	0.15	-0.69	1	2.09	-1.40	13
Walpole	42	87	66	+5	452	+160	134	+89	1.22	+0.40	1	4.11	+0.98	13
Chicopee/Westov	40	88	67	+2	548	+84	180	+71	1.55	+0.57	2	5.07	+1.30	11
Worthington	40	87	64	+6	348	+128	97	+68	0.67	-0.28	2	4.77	+0.70	14
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	46	86	68	+6	496	+169	134	+84	0.00	-0.81	0	2.53	-0.79	9
Woonsocket	43	87	67	+6	486	+198	142	+105	0.00	-0.91	0	2.24	-1.40	10
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	53	87	71	+8	548	+167	150	+69	0.33	-0.51	1	5.12	+1.63	9
Hartford/Bradle	46	89	69	+5	583	+151	192	+90	0.36	-0.55	2	3.70	-0.03	10
Norfolk	43	87	65	+7	381	+166	108	+82	0.95	-0.10	3	4.74	+0.60	13
Thomaston Dam	43	90	68	+7	518	+210	169	+117	0.32	-0.66	2	4.39	+0.43	13
Willimantic	43	86	67	+6	539	+229	162	+111	0.28	-0.63	2	4.50	+0.77	14

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, June 5, 2011

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	34	89	60	+3	0.00	1.28
NH	26	92	63	+5	0.00	1.63
VT	33	93	64	+6	0.00	1.35
MA	35	91	66	+5	0.00	1.90
RI	43	87	67	+6	0.00	0.16
CT	40	90	68	+6	0.05	1.06

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: Fields dried out allowing planting of crops and harvesting grass silage and dry hay. Tobacco planting for shade was completed and broadleaf progressed nicely. Vegetable crops continue to be planted and sidedressed. Farmers markets opened up over the weekend. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Thunderstorms brought hail and heavy rains to the area early in the week. No significant crop damage has been found. The first dry hay went into barns this week. Still a little corn waiting for grass harvest to finish before it will get planted. Started picking strawberries this week. **Patricia Smith (FSA), New London:** Producers are very busy finishing up planting corn and harvesting grass in the fields that were wet. The greenhouse producers are reporting that after a slow start due to the cold, wet spring earlier, business is flourishing now that it has turned warm and sunny. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** This was a very nice week weather wise. Moderately warm temperatures. The vegetables are looking good, as well as field and sweet corn. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Awesome sunny, warm weather to keep planting corn and replanting corn fields where it was too wet. Mowing, baling, and chopping hay. Planting vegetables. Windy and drier.

MAINE – Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook: Weather has finally cleared. Many operations finished potatoes and are finishing up grain on sections that were skipped because of wet ground. Roadside gardens are coming nicely. Pastures and hay fields are looking excellent. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Farmers were busy planting crops. Crops are approximately 90% planted. The weekend weather being sunny and warmer helped tremendously. Farmers should be able to finish planting within the next week. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Farmers have started to herbicide now. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** The weather has been dry and cool with the exception of one day with severe thunderstorms for some areas. I hate to say it, but we could use some rain, without the hail or high winds. Crops are being planted, generally things are 1.5 weeks behind schedule. Apple pollination is reported good. However, poor pollination has been reported on the early blooming varieties. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** The buttercups are in bloom. It is time to make some hay as fast as you can. The orchard grass is ready. Some corn is being replanted because of cold, wet soils. The weather has taken a turn for the better and everybody is very busy. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Finally, a good week to work in the fields. A sunny day with some rain, winds and hail in some areas on Wednesday. Blossoms are falling off apple trees and strawberries are in full bloom. Some signs of root weevil have been reported but minimum damage so far. Spraying is ongoing with blueberries. Multi-veggie growers are in full swing planting crops. Some green chop being done on dry fields, hay is looking great but getting close to going back to seed. Corn planted in dry fields as well. This week is looking good for doing final planting and harvesting hay. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** We just experienced one of the better weeks of the growing season even though we had a mid-week thunderstorm and tornado warnings. We are thankful that no crop damage has been reported to this office due to the severe thunderstorm. Fields dried out well and quite a few crops were planted, i.e. pumpkins, winter squash, more potatoes, and sweet and silage corn. Strawberry crop is anticipated to be smaller than normal as there are not many king berries. Fertilizer is being applied on non-bearing blueberry fields and bearing fields are being scouted for insects. Crops seem to be growing well and another great week of weather is forecasted. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** A great week of weather for producers. Tractors were very busy with field work where the fields have dried out and spreading of manure continued. Some small veggie farmers are busy transplanting and keeping flowers stocked for retail. Tornado was reported in Oxford County on June first. Hail, heavy rain, and strong winds were reported. The damage from the tornado is unknown at this time. Some producers

have reported that they are still unable to get onto crop fields due to saturated soils from the wet spring that we have had. Farmers have reported that some crops are behind schedule and will be harvested later than normal. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis/Penobscot:** A great week for field work. Showers and hail early in the week shifted to warm days and cool nights. Strawberry growers had to irrigate twice for frost control. Planting is underway. Some folks have been able to hay. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** Mostly a good week for field work. A tornado touched down in Embden and damaged trees, vehicles and some outbuildings. Planting, spraying and some hay harvesting has continued. This week, it sounds like summer will be arriving. **Janet King (FSA), Somerset:** Wednesday of last week, the National Weather Service confirmed an EF1 Tornado that touched down for a period of what looked to be approximately 200 yards in Embden, causing very little structural damage but knocked down and uprooted several trees. There were no reports of agricultural damage, and producers in the area experienced strong winds and heavy rains. Wet fields have started to dry out, especially over the weekend allowing producers to continue field work. If the saying 'A cold, wet May means a barn full of hay' is correct, this could be a very good year for hay. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Finally a good week to plant and begin grass silage and hay harvests. Strawberries and blueberries are in full bloom. Early planted corn that sat through a lot of rain doesn't look too good. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Cool weather is extending bloom. Most pollination has finished in Knox and Lincoln counties but continues Downeast. The crop development is at least a week behind normal. Evidence of mummyberry disease from earlier infections is evident on plants that did not receive fungicide protection.

MASSACHUSETTS – Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: Massachusetts saw some wild weather this week. Berkshire suffered some hail showers and high winds which took down trees. No crop or structural damage was reported from producers to date. However, there was some field flooding. The cool, damp weather this spring provided the conditions for an outbreak of European brown rot on cherries. Folks are watching for this disease on other stone fruits. Also, growers are being vigilant and taking precautions against late blight. **Lori Carver (FSA), Franklin:** Franklin County was lucky and reports no damage due to Wednesday's weather, just some minor hail was reported. Tobacco planting is continuing. Weather has been great for getting the first cutting of hay - if the fields are dry enough. The last of the silage corn is going into the ground. Early crops such as lettuce and radishes are being harvested. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Getting pretty dry, as minimal rain fell last week. No frost nights (although some close calls), so growers have needed to irrigate the vines. There were some scattered reports of hail last Wednesday, but we were spared the severe weather the state experienced that day. Nothing out of the ordinary for insect numbers so far. Several beds where *Phytophthora* root rot has increased in severity due to wet conditions during the past two growing seasons. Early cultivars are showing pink blossoms to be with hook occurring in the warmer spots. Blossoms will most definitely open this week, requiring fungicide applications for fruit rot management soon. Everything looks good at this point.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire: Plenty of sun and warm temperatures during the week, but some strong T-storms and hail Wed. Pastures and hayfields are doing well - hay is quite mature, many farms working on chopping or round baling first cutting. Corn is all planted and much of it is growing quickly. Vegetable crops doing well, more items available at farmers' markets, and some CSA's starting their distributions. Some areas of hail damage to some orchards and berry growers. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Somewhat drier week, yet still threats of rainstorms, some hail and windy conditions. Field corn planting, field prep as

soil permits, some still quite wet from previous week's weather. Corn that has emerged at about 2-3 leaf stage. Farmers trying some cuts of hayland. Rivers and tributaries running fairly high. Early grasses headed out. Weather makes spraying problematic. Seeing some gullies forming in prepared corn land from heavy rains. Pockmarked funnel plastic where hail has occurred. Apple blossom losses on hail hit orchards. Should be a year for mosquitoes! Good weekend weather probably a help for garden center greenhouses. Green tomatoes forming in earliest planted hi-tunnels still could use some drier weather. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending June 4th, we had rain or showers three days. Total rain fall was less than a half inch in some areas up to several inches in other spots. The Connecticut River and some of its tributaries again flooded out of its banks. Low lying fields that were planted were again inundated. Some areas that had just been planted were washed out, and will need to be repaired or replanted/re-fertilized. Toward the end of the week, soils again dried down, and restoration and re-planting commenced. Chopping of first cut haylage began in earnest. They are several weeks behind normal, but progress is now being made. Some fields remain too wet to operate, but a few days with heat and no rain should begin to improve the situation. Some fields on which first cut had not been removed were ruined due to the flooding. Much of this was chopped onto the ground due to mud and silt adhering to the hay. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Scattered thunderstorms occurred during the week and very localized hail occurred. Fruit: Fruit growers monitoring pest and crop development and applying cover sprays for pest control. Orchardists wondering if they should be applying thinning sprays to apple orchards. Mowing orchard floors and weed spraying under trees. Field Crops: Planting and weed spraying corn fields. Farmers starting to make haylage. First baled hay made! Vegetables: Transplanting tomato and pepper plants in fields and making successive planting of vegetable crops. Harvesting spinach, asparagus, greens, and rhubarb. **Amy Ouellette (Ext), Merrimack:** All vegetable crops are being field planted. Harvesting early greens and short season crops grown in high tunnels. Apple fruit set is not great in some places due to rain during bloom time. Earliest strawberries are taking shape. Hay harvest coming along nicely. Sweet corn seeding continues. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Warm weather and colder nights by the end of the week. Hurricane watch on Wednesday brought gusty winds and hail in some areas. Planting an array of vegetables, sweet corn, field corn, hay fields and seeding pastures. Spreading manure. Spraying protective fungicides and monitoring pests in orchards and berry fruit patches. Greens are being harvested. **Jenn Zaleski (FSA), Sullivan:** The week began hot, with above average temperatures Monday and Tuesday. Severe thunderstorms rolled through on Wednesday. While Southern Cheshire County was hard hit with heavy rains, frequent lightning, and hail, most of Sullivan County remained dry. Much cooler air followed and the rest of the week was mostly sunny and comfortable. Farmers were able to work their fields most of the week. Corn was planted on areas that dried out, but extreme low-lying spots remain soft from the wet spring. Corn that had been planted early is up and growing well. Farmers were also able to get a start on cutting hay for silage. Farmers also kept busy spraying corn fields and spreading manure.

RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties: Very good week, all 7 days were warm and a lot of planting is going on right

now. Strawberries look like they will be picked by next week. Farmers are putting in silage corn right now with no problems. Pastures are still very good.

VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison: Finally started haylage harvest first crop. Late start with grasses fully headed out. Last half of the week 30% was mowed. Soil conditions allow continuing of corn planting, still less than one third planted. Many fields not tilled and still have surface water. New seeding hay crop starting to grow, very few fields seeded down. Pasture looks good with strong re-growth. **Daniel Hudson (Ext), Caledonia:** Damage from the last storm has prevented or greatly delayed some farmers from farming because access roads and driveways were washed out. This will cause extreme reductions in yield and/or quality of crops on these farms if not resolved soon. **Heather Darby (Ext), Franklin:** Last week brought some actual sunshine. A good deal of field work started towards mid-week and into the weekend as fields started to dry out. First cut well under way with the nice weather, however, most of the fields have headed out. High yields being reported but only good to fair quality. Corn still being planted throughout the region. Corn that has emerged is in the 1 to 3 leaf stage. Some fields have poor stands due to flooding and ponding. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Things are moving in Franklin County. Just had a great weekend for our annual Vermont Dairy Festival in Enosburg and as we cross over to the critical period in crops we get a fantastic week. Producers, thankfully, have moved priority to haylage harvest. This is the right decision because of the fantastic yield that first cut haylage is providing. Have not heard of any quality reports, however, the yields will make up the difference and offset the corn risk we have with the late plantings. Gardens are being planted and there seems to be more optimism with garden work. Strawberries will begin to enter the tender time of fruit and if wet soils persist the risk of fruit rot will be on the high side. Apples and other high hanging fruit seem to be under way and will have the advantage of being high and dry. We will need to be on the defense of fungus and insect diseases as these are ideal conditions for these problems in all our crops including the forests and maples. Pastures have dried out some, however, clipping will be essential because of the maturity of the grasses. **Heather Mateja (FSA), Lamoille/Washington:** Still wet, but corn is in the ground and hay is being harvested. Livestock is on pasture and gaining. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** The weather improved vastly over this past week and a lot of hard work was done to catch up. Corn planting is almost complete and has emerged in some fields. Emergence looks pretty even on fields that I have seen. First cut hay harvest is in full swing now. Yields look very good but the fields are still very wet. I am seeing a lot of mud tracts in the fields. Pastures are doing well and the drier weather has reduced the amount of mud on the cattle lanes. Fruit crops have improved with the sun and warm temperatures. Strawberries have set fruit and looks like it will be a decent harvest. **Terence Bradshaw, (UVM):** Apples: A break in the rain has allowed growers to get into orchards and mow, fertilize, and apply petal fall and thinning sprays. Fruit set looks good, but cloudy weather pre-bloom has contributed to carbohydrate deficits that will make thinners more active this year. Insects of note include plum curculio, which should continue ovipositing for another week or so, as well as European apple sawfly and codling moth, whose trap captures increased last week.

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