

Crop Progress & Condition



NEW ENGLAND
Agricultural
Statistics



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For week ending 6/12/11

Rainy Days Upon Us Again

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending June 12, 2011, there were 5.2 days available for fieldwork across New England. Pasture conditions were rated 2 percent poor, 11 percent fair, 60 percent good, and 27 percent excellent. The past week started out much warmer than average throughout New England. Temperatures were in the 70s through 90s. Record high temperatures were met and broken in a few locations. Conditions were partly cloudy until Thursday afternoon when a strong cold front brushed across the region causing severe thunderstorms. These thunderstorms produced frequent dangerous lightning, large hail, wind gusts over 50 miles per hour, and very heavy downpours. After the storms, temperatures began to drop. Friday, the region experienced average temperatures in the mid-70 to low 80s and partly cloudy conditions. The weekend began with light rain on and off all day with temperatures mostly in the mid-60s, with a few locations reaching 70 degrees. Sunday was even cooler in the mid-50s to mid-60s with more light, scattered rain. Farmers were spreading manure, cutting hay, planting, harvesting early season vegetables, and spraying.

FRUIT: Severe thunderstorms with hail caused damage to some fruit. Strawberries were being harvested and available at farm stands, farm markets, and Pick-Your-Own operations, but the weather kept pickers away over the weekend. Almost all fruit tree blossoms had fallen and fruit was setting. Some are concerned about the set of fruit because of the wet conditions that have been experienced this season. Orchardists were mowing orchard floors and herbicides and pesticides were being applied.

VEGETABLES: Early sweet corn was showing tassel and silk. Vegetable crops were behind due to the cool weather in Maine. Asparagus harvest was winding down while harvesting continued for early lettuce, high tunnel tomatoes, greens, radishes, and other early crops. Some peppers and tomatoes have yet to be planted.

FIELD CROPS: Severe thunderstorms with hail caused damage to standing hay crops. Hay harvest was in full swing during the early part of last week, but was struggling after Thursday's storm and the weekend's steady showers. Field corn was mostly planted and conditions were rated at good to fair. Some producers had to replant several acres of corn due to the wet conditions, while others were trying finish their first plantings. Many farmers delayed the last of their corn planting so that they could harvest hay.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	4	7	12
Adequate	71	72	78
Surplus	25	21	10
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	0	1
Short	6	4	11
Adequate	69	73	80
Surplus	25	23	8

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	Avg/Below	Good/Fair
Cranberries,	BS		Good/Excellent
Strawberries	PF	Average	Good

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	99	100	100	
Oats, ME	95	100	99	
Potatoes				
Maine	95	100	99	
Mass	100	100	100	
Silage Corn	80	95	90	
Sweet Corn	75	85	80	
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	65	60	65	Good/Fair
Shade	100	100	99	Good/Fair
-- Percent Emerged --				
Barley	80	100	90	Good/Fair
Oats	60	100	90	Good/Fair
Potatoes				
Maine	30	85	45	Good/Fair
Mass	85	100	85	Good/Fair
Rhode Island	100	100	95	Good
Silage Corn	50	80	75	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	60	70	60	Good/Fair
Dry Hay	-- Percent Harvested --			
First Cut	35	60	40	Good

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday, June 6, 2011
 To: Sunday, June 12, 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	48	89	66	+4	388	+70	99	+50	1.96	+1.19	2	5.72	+2.45	11
Bangor_Intl_Arp	46	87	65	+5	380	+117	82	+50	0.63	-0.14	3	2.95	-0.22	13
Bethel	44	89	65	+5	378	+100	112	+74	0.20	-0.73	2	4.44	+0.93	13
Caribou_Municip	42	83	63	+5	272	+68	56	+37	4.04	+3.41	2	6.16	+3.45	15
Dover-Foxcroft	42	86	63	+5	272	+63	60	+42	0.51	-0.34	2	3.57	+0.25	17
Frenchville	40	80	60	+2	192	+21	27	+19	1.89	+1.19	2	4.93	+2.10	16
Houlton	38	83	62	+3	268	+60	53	+33	1.18	+0.41	1	3.71	+0.63	12
Livermore_Falls	46	89	66	+7	361	+149	98	+79	0.65	-0.33	2	4.26	+0.63	14
Moosehead	43	86	62	+5	207	+63	42	+38	0.77	-0.14	3	5.25	+1.92	14
Portland_ME	47	92	65	+5	372	+125	96	+74	1.01	+0.17	3	4.64	+1.46	12
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
BenTon	48	82	62	+2	375	+85	103	+62	0.98	+0.07	3	5.31	+1.94	18
Berlin_AG	41	86	64	+4	374	+105	110	+73	0.77	-0.20	2	5.69	+2.15	13
Concord	47	93	68	+6	552	+209	191	+127	1.26	+0.52	3	4.96	+2.08	13
Diamond_Pond	44	82	60	+4	247	+110	52	+52	0.90	-0.15	3	6.52	+2.57	12
Keene_AG	41	91	67	+3	531	+96	181	+78	2.31	+1.47	4	5.65	+2.22	14
North_Conway	46	90	66	+5	394	+86	125	+75	0.92	-0.03	3	4.20	+0.53	17
Rochester	46	97	70	+7	565	+179	196	+116	1.05	+0.21	2	4.81	+1.44	11
VERMONT														
Bennington_AP	48	89	67	+7	621	+322	222	+175	1.59	+0.47	3	4.49	+0.22	13
Burlington_Intl	51	91	68	+5	574	+174	199	+108	1.74	+0.97	3	7.62	+4.66	14
Island_Pond	44	88	64	+6	403	+202	122	+101	0.97	-0.01	3	5.50	+1.79	18
Montpelier	48	89	65	+6	476	+192	156	+114	1.35	+0.51	4	8.71	+5.49	17
Rochester	43	88	64	+4	434	+167	140	+102	1.57	+0.66	4	5.89	+2.09	18
Rutland_AG	46	89	66	+3	514	+67	176	+64	1.35	+0.51	4	3.53	+0.25	15
Springfield_VT	50	94	69	+8	607	+289	223	+169	1.84	+0.93	5	4.50	+0.80	17
Sutton	46	85	63	+6	363	+164	97	+76	0.90	-0.08	4	6.83	+3.17	18
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	54	92	69	+3	639	+161	224	+121	1.55	+0.78	3	3.96	+1.07	11
Fitchburg	51	93	71	+10	679	+388	257	+215	1.44	+0.60	5	3.55	+0.26	15
Greenfield	41	90	67	+2	545	+68	175	+61	1.54	+0.63	4	6.24	+2.61	14
New_Bedford	50	92	71	+6	685	+214	224	+128	1.69	+0.81	4	5.16	+1.80	12
Otis_AFB	48	84	66	+4	462	+154	124	+81	1.38	+0.61	3	3.20	-0.01	10
Plymouth	51	90	69	+6	625	+287	205	+150	1.44	+0.60	3	3.37	-0.05	12
Walpole	52	92	69	+6	588	+200	206	+131	1.83	+0.97	3	5.52	+2.30	13
Chicopee/Westov	52	92	69	+2	682	+96	247	+86	1.32	+0.34	4	6.30	+2.46	14
Worthington	46	88	66	+5	462	+164	150	+105	1.48	+0.57	4	6.09	+2.16	17
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	53	92	70	+5	637	+205	207	+119	2.62	+1.85	5	5.01	+1.76	12
Woonsocket	52	92	70	+7	627	+245	216	+152	2.21	+1.25	5	4.26	+0.57	13
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	56	89	71	+6	698	+206	230	+107	1.85	+1.05	3	6.51	+3.13	11
Hartford/Bradley	53	93	71	+5	735	+185	276	+125	1.88	+0.97	4	5.51	+1.81	13
Norfolk	50	87	66	+6	498	+205	161	+119	2.33	+1.21	4	7.02	+2.75	16
Thomaston_Dam	50	91	70	+7	659	+257	242	+162	2.25	+1.27	5	6.46	+2.54	17
Willimantic	53	91	70	+7	683	+277	238	+158	3.02	+2.16	4	7.40	+3.79	16

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, June 12, 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	35	92	64	+5	0.08	4.04
NH	34	97	65	+5	0.40	2.80
VT	38	94	65	+5	0.57	2.94
MA	41	94	68	+5	0.78	2.15
RI	52	92	69	+6	1.44	2.62
CT	45	94	70	+5	0.93	3.02

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: Severe thunderstorms with hail caused damage to standing hay crops and some fruit crops. There was also some field and farm roadway erosion. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Early sweet corn showing tassel and silk. Squash and other vine crops look good. Strawberries are being harvested and available at farm stands, farm markets and PYO. Some peppers and tomatoes yet to be planted. Field corn mostly planted and growing well. Monday and Tuesday good for haying, but showers after that prevented anymore dry hay from being put in. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Rain and cooler temps slowed things down toward the end of the week. Hay harvest is struggling with daily showers. Corn planting still waiting on hay harvest so it can be finished. Strawberries are in, but weather kept pickers away over the weekend. **Ann Marie McCard (FSA), New London:** Crop conditions were improving at the beginning of last week with some dry weather. Fields were drying out nicely. A lot of hay cut and corn planted by mid-week. The latter part of the week was very hot with thunderstorms, some quite severe which made field conditions too wet to work again. Hay can't be cut even though it's ready because the fields are too wet. There's some corn in standing water. Reports of corn that has to be replanted due to army worms and wet conditions received. Vegetable farmers are reporting no problems, though they continually monitor and manage for changing weather and crop conditions. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Three days of record breaking heat, then thunderstorms, hail, and brief flash flooding. Trees down in fields and farms, also power lines down. Cleaning up. Peaches, apples, and vegetables damaged by hail. Grapes have some shredding on leaves, just starting to blossom - plan to spray for downy mildew. Storm damage mostly affected north and central part of the county. Corn responding well to the heat. First cutting and chopping of hay is good. Farmers markets have begun.

MAINE – Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook: Rain today will probably push the few operations that haven't finished back to the end of the week. Violent storms last week washed a lot of fields leaving mud and potato seed in the ditches and in some cases the road. Pastures and hay fields are the only crops thriving in this cold wet weather. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Most of the farmers in the Central Aroostook area are finished planting except for a few. The weather has still been a factor with thundershowers on Wednesday and Thursday late afternoon. Fields are wet and some have low spots that were washed out. Heavy rains reported in Caribou area and surrounding areas. Flooding reported in north and central areas. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Spraying herbicides. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Cool, drizzly weather over the weekend. Rain was needed in most areas, however, some areas only received 0.5 inch of rain over the weekend. Strawberries are being picked with a good crop reported. Hay is being harvested. Many farmers have delayed corn planting so they can harvest hay. Vegetable crops are behind due to the cool weather. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** It was a good week to get some hay in and finish up planting. We dodged a lot of severe thunderstorm activity in our area. Pastures are lush. First cut hay yield is well above average. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Great week for finishing up planting and spreading of manure. First cut of hay is underway and looks pretty good. Green chop is good. Blossoms have fallen and fruit is setting. Herbicides and pesticides are being applied. Cold, damp weather forecast for the upcoming week. Hopefully some sun will appear to help with growing. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Oxford County producers had a good week except for the weekend showers. Cool temperatures are slowing growth of seedlings. Livestock are enjoying the very green grass and then some are still waiting to be let out into the pastures due to the wet start. Harvesting of hay has begun in places throughout Oxford County. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis/Penobscot:** A few warm, sunny days helped farmers get more seed in the ground. Haying

has been a challenge with periodic rains. **Elaine Moceus (FSA), Somerset:** Overall, it's been a good week for field work. Some producers have had to replant a few acres of corn due to the wet conditions and are trying to get caught up with planting. There are a few producers who have switched gears and are chopping first crop hay, which is predicted by some to be abundant this year. Strawberries look good and could be ready to pick by the end of this month or early July. Although warmer weather is sporadic, cool temperatures seem to prevail. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Better weather allowed for hay and haylage harvests, although spotty storms fouled some farmer's plans and harvests. A majority of corn silage is in the ground, although some farms traded mowers for planters to get grass harvested. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Pollination is complete in most fields and bees are being moved out. Fruit set not as good in mid-coast region because of cool and wet weather during bloom in that area, but Downeast pollination is excellent, so it appears we will have a better than average crop. Plant development is still delayed. Post emergence herbicide applications are being applied to control weeds not controlled by the earlier pre-emergence applications.

MASSACHUSETTS – Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: We had more wicked weather with severe T-storms, scattered hail and high winds in midweek before a cold front ended the high heat and humidity. The week ended with 1 1/2 inch rainfall on Saturday. There was hail damage reported in some orchards. Strawberries seemed to survive and picking has started. Both haylage and dry hay was made last week. The office is assessing damage to timber over the last couple of weeks. **Lori Carver (FSA), Franklin:** Another storm on Thursday brought high winds and heavy rains to parts of Franklin County. No damage was reported. Strawberry harvest has started. Asparagus harvest is winding down. Farmers are taking advantage of the sunny days to get the first crop of hay into the barn. Apple producers are reporting some problems with fruit set due to the wet spring. Also reports of scab on some apples. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Rainy and wet week with hardly any planting or harvesting of hay. Harvesting strawberries, early lettuce, and radishes. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: The dry spell is over, with rain falling four days this week. Good soaking occurred in all areas at some point. There are scattered reports of hail on Wednesday and Thursday, but no damage to my knowledge. Vines were getting stressed prior to the rainfall, but irrigation won't be necessary for awhile. Bloom is starting in the earlier cultivars. Honeybee and bumblebee hives are being located by the cranberry beds. By and large, it hasn't been a hellacious spring for insect damage. Growers will start applying fungicides for fruit rot management this week. Hopefully, good pollination weather will kick in soon - the next two days will be cool and cloudy.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire: Warm, sunny weather all week, apart from brief heavy thunderstorm Thursday afternoon and some showers over the weekend. Farms have started to harvest dry hay, though haylage/balage harvest has been going on for some time and progressing well. Corn is growing rapidly with heat. First high tunnel tomatoes are showing up in farm stands along with more greens and other early crops. First strawberries of the season are ready. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Fairly dry week to start, allowing for most remaining corn land to be planted. Earlier planted field corn now at about 5-leaf stage. Annual weeds in these locations at white-root stage. Weather also permitted some haylage harvest even a bit of dry baled hay. Timothy at boot stage, which is early for typical years, pasturing occurs in many locations. Grass growth is good. Yellow-rattle weed now in flower throughout Coos County, even in northern meadows. This noxious weed seen in abundant amounts where it has gotten a foothold. Concerns about yield loss in these areas. Latter part of the week brought heavy rains, returning to fairly saturated soils and limited the ability to do

field work as week begins anew. Spectacular lupines this spring!

Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton: For the week ending June 11, we received nearly an inch of rain at our Orford location. Some areas received more to the north. Rain showers came and went over 5 days, just hampering haying activities. Many farmers could still chop haylage. Production of dry hay was more challenging. Some wet fields and/or wet sags in corn fields still need to be planted. Some corn that had already been planted has been damaged or destroyed by flooding in the Ct River Valley. (If you were adversely affected by the weather and have crop insurance, call your crop insurance agent). Soil conditions improved at the beginning of the week, but became wet again toward the end. The warm drying conditions earlier in the week helped producers with planting and cropping.

George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough: Fruit: First strawberries were being picked during the week and strawberry PYO operations opened over the weekend. Fruit growers monitoring pest and crop development and applying cover sprays for pests. Mowing orchard floors and weed spraying under trees. Also, hand thinning peaches. Field Crops: Most farmers are finishing-up planting and weed spraying corn fields. Farmers are trying to make haylage and baled hay between showers. Grasses maturing, especially orchard grass. Vegetables: Harvesting spinach, greens, asparagus and rhubarb. Finishing most transplanting of tomato and pepper plants and continued making successive planting of various vegetable crops. Seeing Asparagus Beetle, Flea Beetle, seed Corn Maggot, Striped Cucumber Beetle, and Colorado Potato Beetle. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Busy week planting, weeding, monitoring for pests, harvesting greens, rhubarb, and asparagus. Planting vegetables and haying. Pastures growing well. Spreading manure. PYO strawberry operations are open. Weather: gusty winds (50 mph), severe thundershowers and localized hail on Thursday late afternoon. Some 90+ degree temps during the week. Steady rain was welcomed on Saturday. **Jenn Zaleski (FSA), Sullivan:** It was a nice start to the week. Temperatures turned hot mid-week, bringing thunderstorms to the county Wednesday night through Thursday. Farmers were able to plant more field corn during the first part of the week. Many farmers are done, but a few acres remain to be planted. Farmers were also busy cutting hay for silage. A few bales of first cut dry hay were put up before the rain. Friday was seasonable and partly cloudy. A rainy weekend halted field work, but replenished some of the drier soils.

RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties: We had a couple of days of rain toward the weekend which was needed after the hot weather. Some of the farmers started irrigating, especially strawberries, they didn't want them to get burnt from the hot sun. Strawberries are in full picking and that started this week. The berries look to be good sized and plentiful. First cut of hay looks very good and we had 4 nice days at the beginning of the week to cut hay. Still putting in haylage. Pastures look very good for June. It's been a cold, wet spring, so farmers are about 2 weeks behind in planting. They are catching up fast though.

VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison: First dry hay harvested this week. Continued haylage harvest and some manure spread on fields. Most fields still very wet. Corn planting resumed first part of

the week. Ended week with rain again. Emerged corn is good, but many places in fields dead from standing water, some replanting of corn. Many fields fallow with prevented planting from wet soils. Grass weeds covering fallow fields. New seeded hay fields emerging, nurse crop evident, solid stands. Pasture damage from livestock traffic in wet soils. Good forage re-growth. **Daniel Hudson (Ext), Caledonia:** Weather has been cool, cloudy, and wet. Wet regions of some fields will require replanting or abandonment for the season due to poor emergence, particularly in organic fields. We had a good run of a few days where haylage was harvested, but much remains to be harvested and the quality is poor by now. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Good week in Franklin County. We are crossing the "bridge of critical" with good weather allowing to harvest haylage and continue planting corn, moving us to the not so critical stage. Still hearing reports of massive first cut yields and one report of a green forage analysis with good protein and high fiber. The fiber we can live with, many of our rations do not have enough fiber. This first cut yield can supplement the corn if it does not have the mid summer heat to catch up. Many acres of early planted corn have had to be replanted along with many acres planted for the first time this week. Getting caught up on manure spreading with the haylage harvest giving us more acres to spread on. Gardens are still behind and still hearing reports of the "bug" problems. It will be hard to get a handle on specific insect problems with the wet weather playing host to so many of these insects. The jury is still out on the strawberries. We are entering the fruit stage and if wet weather persists, rot will be a problem. Pastures continue to do well, however, clipping is a must with the heavy growth. **Heather Mateja (FSA), Lamoille /Washington:** Good week for planting and harvesting hay. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Nice, sunny weather in the first half of the week gave farmers the opportunity to harvest a lot of first cut hay. While the quantity is very good the quality is not, due to the delay in harvest. Most grasses have headed out so the expectation is lower quality. Overall though, not bad considering the wet spring. Corn planting is complete and most has germinated. Germination appears to be even in most fields although I have heard about farmers having to replant some acreage due to poor germination. Sweet corn has been planted and germination seems to be even. Plant height for both feed and sweet corn is averaging 4 to 6 inches right now. Pastures are in good shape due to adequate levels of moisture. Fruits are coming along. Strawberries should be ready soon. I have a couple of reports that fruit set on apples was less than average due to poor pollination, but have had other reports of good fruit set. Overall I would say it is average. **Terence Bradshaw, (UVM):** Insect pest management remains important in orchards with plum curculio and codling moth active in particular. Orchards should be scouted for presence of scab lesions to determine if fungicide protection can be reduced. Many growers are reporting moderate-good fruit set, with some orchards reportedly seeing fair-poor set in mid-bloom season varieties. **Julie Jacque (FSA), Windham:** Strawberries just started coming in mid-week. First cutting primarily being put into haylage production-some dry hay. Most corn fields are planted with larger farms replanting certain wetter areas that did not germinate. Pastures look healthy and lush.

MAY - Daytime temperatures in May were mostly average ranging from mid-60s to low 70s. The month's low temperatures were above average in the mid-40s to low 50s. May was a very wet month across New England. In the north, rainfall was significantly above average, especially in Burlington, Vermont, coming in at 9.41 inches for the month. For most, the rain subsided during the last week of May so that substantial field work could be completed. Mumberry cups were present on some Maine wild blueberries on the mid-coast until the end of May. Because much of the month experienced rainfall, orchardists were concerned about pollination. Some vegetables were able to be started under cover. All crops ran slightly to extremely behind schedule for planting from south to north, respectively. Because of cool, damp conditions, potatoes in Maine were 55 percent planted by month's end when the State was usually 85 percent complete at that time. Field corn was also difficult to get into the ground. Many farmers got to the point that they planted around the pools of water in their fields.

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