

Crop Progress & Condition



NEW ENGLAND
Agricultural
Statistics



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June 20, 2011 – 4 pm

For week ending 6/19/11

Mother Nature, Give Us More Sun!

GENERAL CONDITIONS For the week ending June 19, 2011, there were 5.1 days available for fieldwork across New England. Pasture conditions were rated 2 percent poor, 12 percent fair, 59 percent good, and 27 percent excellent. The week began cooler than average with high temperatures in the low 60s and low 70s. Conditions were cloudy with isolated showers across the region. Wednesday, the days started to warm up for New England with temperatures in the 70s and 80s. Temperatures remained high on Thursday and Friday with more rain. Some areas reported the rain as heavy at times with lightning. Morning fog was reported in some areas during the weekend, but for the most part conditions were warm with partly cloudy to partly sunny skies. Light rain was reported in some areas in the north. The weekend's nighttime lows were mostly in the 50s and 60s and mid-40s at select locations. Farmers were spreading manure, cutting hay, planting, harvesting early season vegetables, scouting for pests, and spraying.

FRUIT: The strawberry harvest is beginning for some in the north, while others have already been picking in the southern states. There are concerns that the wet weather will negatively affect strawberry plant quality. Some injury to Maine wild blueberries was reported due to the combination of post emergence herbicide application and the hot, humid weather earlier this month. Damage from flea beetle feeding and Mummyberry disease were also reported by scouts. Overall, wild blueberry plant growth is excellent. Fruit is beginning to appear on trees. Cranberries were well into bloom for early and mid-cultivars and just starting for late cultivars. Cranberry growers were applying fungicides for fruit rot management.

VEGETABLES: Transplants were still being set out by growers in between rain showers. Farmers were scouting for Colorado Potato Beetles, Cucumber Beetles, Potato Leaf Hoppers, and Aphids. Early season vegetable harvesting carried on. The pleasant weather this past weekend brought a lot of activity at farm stands and nurseries.

FIELD CROPS: Many producers were struggling with their corn fields. Rain continued to hinder progress for some farmers trying to complete their initial planting and for some who were trying to replant. Field access still remained difficult for many because of boggy conditions. Many tobacco farmers were waiting for sunny, warm days in order to finish transplanting. In Massachusetts, the potato crop was being hilled and early plantings were in full bloom. Moist conditions continued to delay dry hay harvest activities in many areas.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	0	1
Short	5	4	16
Adequate	82	71	76
Surplus	13	25	7
Subsoil			
Very Short	1	0	1
Short	4	6	10
Adequate	82	69	83
Surplus	13	25	6

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Set	Fruit Size	Condition
	2011	2010	5 -yr Avg			
Apples	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Peaches	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Pears	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good
Blueberries						
Highbush	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good
Wild	-	-	-	Average	N/A	Good/Exc
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-			Good/Exc
Strawberries	35	50	20	Average	Average	Good

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2011	2010	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Planted --				
Barley, ME	100	100	100	
Oats, ME	100	100	100	
Potatoes				
Maine	99	100	100	
Silage Corn	90	99	95	
Sweet Corn	85	90	85	
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	80	75	80	Good/Fair
Shade	100	100	100	Good/Fair
-- Percent Emerged --				
Barley	80	100	95	Good
Oats	70	100	95	Good
Potatoes				
Maine	50	99	80	Good
Mass	100	100	95	Good/Fair
Rhode Island	100	100	99	Good
Silage Corn	70	95	85	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	70	65	60	Good/Fair
Dry Hay				
First Cut	55	70	50	Good/Fair

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday, June 13, 2011
 To: Sunday, June 19, 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	DFN	----
MAINE														
Augusta_State_A	49	82	61	-4	466	+49	126	+47	0.49	-0.28	3	3.05	-0.15	9
Bangor_Intl_Arp	47	81	60	-4	453	+98	100	+45	0.79	+0.02	5	2.15	-0.97	13
Bethel	48	87	62	-2	461	+91	145	+84	0.25	-0.70	3	1.22	-2.40	9
Caribou_Municip	48	77	60	+0	346	+68	74	+43	2.25	+1.59	6	8.09	+5.42	18
Dover-Foxcroft	45	84	59	-3	333	+47	72	+41	0.79	-0.12	4	2.56	-0.88	14
Frenchville	46	75	58	-3	252	+10	41	+22	2.55	+1.84	5	6.94	+4.10	17
Houlton	43	80	59	-3	332	+47	68	+35	3.21	+2.44	5	5.50	+2.42	12
Livermore_Falls	48	87	61	+0	441	+150	128	+95	0.59	-0.39	4	2.35	-1.42	11
Moosehead	45	83	59	-1	269	+59	58	+47	1.46	+0.55	3	5.05	+1.58	10
Portland_ME	50	80	61	-2	453	+118	121	+78	0.88	+0.05	3	2.25	-0.97	9
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
BenTon	40	81	60	-3	437	+63	118	+59	1.05	+0.14	6	2.83	-0.68	15
Berlin_AG	48	82	62	-2	456	+100	134	+77	1.08	+0.10	5	4.98	+1.27	12
Concord	46	88	62	-3	640	+195	221	+125	0.10	-0.67	2	1.71	-1.24	8
Diamond_Pond	40	79	57	-2	299	+108	64	+59	1.19	+0.08	5	6.54	+2.39	13
Keene_AG	48	86	63	-4	623	+75	213	+67	0.48	-0.36	4	3.69	+0.26	13
North_Conway	47	85	61	-4	470	+66	152	+75	0.67	-0.27	5	2.10	-1.61	15
Rochester	50	90	64	-2	664	+170	237	+119	0.82	-0.02	5	2.63	-0.73	9
VERMONT														
Bennington_AP	45	83	62	+0	710	+324	249	+181	0.94	-0.11	4	2.79	-1.48	11
Burlington_Intl	50	86	66	+1	685	+177	241	+112	0.22	-0.62	3	5.36	+2.26	11
Island_Pond	43	83	61	+2	482	+212	144	+109	0.87	-0.16	3	4.64	+0.75	16
Montpelier	49	83	62	+0	560	+191	182	+119	1.03	+0.19	5	7.69	+4.40	15
Rochester	44	84	60	-3	507	+157	156	+98	1.86	+0.99	5	5.01	+1.32	16
Rutland_AG	46	84	61	-5	595	+37	194	+41	1.18	+0.34	5	2.85	-0.48	13
Springfield_VT	49	87	64	+1	704	+294	258	+180	1.17	+0.26	6	3.22	-0.48	18
Sutton	45	83	60	-1	430	+162	115	+81	1.02	+0.00	4	5.46	+1.62	16
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	53	89	66	-3	751	+147	271	+113	0.20	-0.51	4	2.59	-0.31	10
Fitchburg	51	89	65	+2	787	+402	302	+235	0.54	-0.30	4	2.35	-0.98	13
Greenfield	49	83	64	-4	643	+45	211	+46	0.89	-0.02	6	3.17	-0.47	13
New_Bedford	51	84	65	-3	791	+198	262	+115	1.03	+0.19	3	3.03	-0.37	10
Otis_AFB	46	77	61	-4	539	+130	147	+73	0.63	-0.14	4	2.23	-0.91	9
Plymouth	49	86	64	-2	724	+279	241	+149	0.82	+0.02	4	2.57	-0.75	10
Walpole	51	82	64	-3	685	+188	240	+126	0.26	-0.65	4	3.81	+0.45	11
Chicopee/Westov	48	85	65	-4	790	+70	289	+64	0.74	-0.22	5	3.86	-0.03	14
Worthington	48	83	61	-3	539	+152	169	+101	1.41	+0.52	6	4.10	+0.33	16
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	53	86	65	-3	745	+193	249	+111	0.47	-0.30	3	3.46	+0.28	10
Woonsocket	50	87	64	-2	729	+239	255	+154	0.53	-0.45	5	3.09	-0.67	13
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	54	82	67	-1	822	+205	285	+109	1.13	+0.36	4	3.86	+0.61	9
Hartford/Bradley	52	85	67	-2	854	+174	326	+115	1.45	+0.56	6	3.87	+0.25	14
Norfolk	49	79	61	-2	579	+196	182	+117	1.70	+0.61	5	5.15	+0.84	14
Thomaston_Dam	48	84	66	+2	775	+267	289	+172	1.37	+0.40	6	5.11	+1.20	16
Willimantic	52	83	65	-1	792	+278	279	+161	1.64	+0.80	7	5.34	+1.82	16

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, June 19, 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	39	90	60	-3	0.16	3.21
NH	30	90	61	-2	0.10	1.42
VT	38	88	61	-2	0.22	2.55
MA	44	89	63	-3	0.12	1.79
RI	50	87	64	-2	0.47	1.66
CT	48	86	65	-2	0.87	1.86

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: Warm days and cool nights with showers on Tuesday and Friday. Wet fields are still wet. Shade tobacco being tied up and broadleaf continues to be planted. Strawberries are going downhill fast with wet weather. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Harvesting grass - mostly as haylage with no drying weather. The corn that will be planted has pretty much been planted finally. Some weeds really love this weather. Asian bittersweet has been reported by several people to be growing at almost 6 inches per day. Pokeweed is 4-5 feet high with stalks up to 2 inches thick already. **Patricia Smith (FSA), New London:** Thunderstorms producing heavy rainfall have left corn fields with huge puddles and corn underwater. In some cases corn is being replanted for the second time. Greenhouses are conducting sales to move plants. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** This week brought more stormy weather and rain that brought field work to a halt. Crops that have been planted look good, but producers are getting worried about being able to finish planting. **Jude Boucher (Ext), Tolland:** Wet soil conditions brought field work to a stop last week in many places across the state. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Heavy rain and wind last week. Vegetables are growing but need sun and heat. Replanting corn fields and spraying for Armyworm. A strong gust of wind flipped tables over at farmers market as thunderstorms traveled north of Putnam area. Picking rocks; too wet to plant/replant some fields. Trying to bale hay with short window of sun and dry weather. Fields getting past mature. Thinning peaches, including hail damaged fruit. Sunny, pleasant weekend brought people out to farmers markets and let farmers get some hay in.

MAINE – Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook: Cold, wet weather doesn't seem to be affecting plant growth. Storms have caused a lot of erosion. Some have trenches so deep that accessing the field is impossible without grading. Several fields have had water laying on them for so long that drown outs are inevitable. Pastures and hay fields continue to look excellent. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** The weather has still been a factor this week for getting field work done. It has showered/rained 5 out of the 7 days. Fields are very wet with several washout areas. Some crops have emerged throughout the county. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Farmers finishing up herbicide sprays and trying to start cultivating. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Some rain has been received for parts of the area. Some areas are dry and need rain. Strawberry picking is in full swing this week. Farmers are finishing up plantings and harvesting hay. Nice, dry weather has returned. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Rain, rain, rain, it must stop! Fields need to dry so hay can be cut. First cuttings are being done and it's a good crop. Corn and potatoes look good emerging. Fruit is formed on plants and trees, but below average at this stage. Blueberries are slow coming, but sun is much needed. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Field work is going strong and more livestock are enjoying the green grass! Apples are looking good thus far this season in Oxford County but one producer has reported that some of the apples are bearing on the heavy side. Potato and grain corn crops have all been planted in Oxford County. Hay is being harvested all over Oxford County in between rain and thunder showers. June 18, Saturday, we had another strong lightning storm with heavy rain, wind and hail. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** A few warm days were nice this week. Some very cool days still for mid-June are slowing crop development. A heavy thunderstorm with small hail passed through the southern part of the county late Saturday afternoon but didn't do significant damage. Looking forward to a warm sunny week! **Janet King (FSA), Somerset:** With light rain in the beginning of the week, the last half of the week was the best for field work. Most producers have finished planting corn, but several have not finished due to wet conditions. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Periodic rains showers and thunderstorms have been challenging. Almost all silage corn is

planted. Strawberry harvest to begin this week. **Jennifer Geel (FSA), Washington:** Due to cooler than normal temperatures and rain, the blueberry crop is between 1-2 weeks late. Also, due to the cooler temperatures, the bees did not have a lot of pollination time. The fruit is just starting to develop. At this point it is hard to determine if the crop will be poor or excellent. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Injury to post emergence herbicide applications to wild blueberries seen from the hot and humid weather we had earlier this month. Damage from flea beetle feeding and mummyberry disease also reported by scouts. Overall plant growth is excellent from the moisture we have been getting this month.

MASSACHUSETTS – Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: The weather has simmered down a bit, only one pass of T-storms this week. Temps were on the cool side early in the week, but warmed up to the low 80s by week's end. Turnout good at farmers markets and nurseries. Field corn looks good, but a little behind due to slight delays in planting due to wet, cool ground. Dry hay was made this week and the cutting continues. Transplants still being set out by growers. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** The beginning of the week had many rainy days with some farmers reporting up to 4.5 inches from the storms. The week ended with sunny days and temperatures in the 80's. Vegetable growers continued planting tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, collards, pumpkins, and acorn squash. Growers are harvesting strawberries, peas, scallions, summer squash, and asparagus. Farms are scouting for Colorado Potato Beetles, Potato Leaf Hoppers and Aphids. Tobacco crop almost all planted, just need more sunny, warmer days. Potato crop being hilled and early plantings in full bloom. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Well into bloom for early and mid-cultivars; just starting for late cultivars. Bloom looks very good. Bees are being located by the beds and pollination weather has been very good so far. Minimal rain this week, so beds were irrigated toward the end of the week. Insect pressure remains average, with Sparganthis fruitworm being reported in many locations. Growers are applying fungicides for fruit rot management. Dodder is starting to be easily seen and growing fast. By and large, things look very good at this point.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire: Cool and rainy early in the week, then warmer and sunnier from Wednesday on. Lots of dry hay and baleage being harvested, now that there are a few sunny days, and the last of first cutting haylage is being chopped. Re-growth on harvested fields looks good. Corn continues to do well. Most vegetable crops are doing well, though fluctuations in the weather are affecting growth. Farm stands starting to harvest a few other crops beyond greens and radishes. PYO strawberries in full swing. Other berry and fruit crops growing and maturing well. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Generally cooler temperatures, scattered heavy rain storms, hail in spots, not much rainfall accumulation. Most field corn now planted. All grasses now headed out, probably a week to 10 days ahead of typical years. Haylage and baleage coming in at a good pace, some parts of fields too wet to harvest. Spraying for apple scab as conditions permit. Weeds a challenge on vegetable operations. Pastures growing well in cool, wet temperatures, hard to keep up on grazing these. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending June 18th, we received 1.2 inches of rain. Rain showers fell 5 days out of 7. The frequency of showers frustrated those trying to make dry hay. As a general rule, the showers tended to be light, and just enough to wet things down. Field corn is finally coming on. Some fields were just planted due to wet soil conditions. A few scattered fields will probably not get planted this year due to wet soils or flood damage. Vegetable crops are also behind, but are at least planted for the most part. Isolated heavy winds in the central and eastern part of the county damaged trees and power lines. Standing hay in fields around these areas was lodged. Many farmers will be scrambling to get their first cut dry

hay in. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Growers harvesting field grown strawberries. Fruit growers monitoring pest and crop development and applying sprays for pest control, along with mowing orchard floors. Peach leaf curl seen in many peach orchards. San Jose crawlers should be seen soon. Field Crops: Farmers making haylage between showers and have stopped baling hay because of rain. Many hayfield are too wet to cut. Grass hayfields are maturing. Vegetables: Difficult in making successive planting of several different vegetables because of rain showers. Growers continued harvesting early season vegetables such as lettuce, radishes, summer squash and zucchini. Grower's busy side-dressing fields with fertilizer, cultivating weeds, scouting for pests and spraying if needed. Continue seeing damage from Asparagus Beetle, Flea Beetle, Striped Cucumber Beetle, and Colorado Potato Beetle. Rose Chafers starting to be a problem. **Amy Ouellette (Ext), Merrimack:** Field transplanting and seeding of vegetables continues. Farmers had some catching up to do because of a rainy May. Colorado potato beetles and cucumber beetles are out there. Orchardists are monitoring for pests. Good weather for hay this past week. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Haying and haylage was done last week. Pastures are growing. Planting field corn. PYO strawberry operations are busy. Harvesting an array of greens, greenhouse tomatoes, asparagus, garlic scapes, rhubarb, and kohlrabi. Successive plantings of various vegetables. Some fields were irrigated. Monitoring pests in fruit orchards, mowing and spraying protective fungicides. **Jenn Zaleski (FSA), Sullivan:** The week began cool and rainy, with high temperatures in the low 60s. Temperatures jumped up into the 80s by mid-week. Scattered thunderstorms moved through the area Wednesday afternoon and into the evening. Thursday was hot and sunny. Rain fell again on Friday. The weekend was beautiful and sunny. A nice breeze on Sunday helped to dry cut hay. Farmers were busy during the week harvesting hay for silage and dry hay, as well as trying to get the last few acres of field corn in the ground. Recently, farmers have been faced with the hard decision of whether to finish planting corn or get going on their hay harvest. Many have chosen to get started on hay, leaving their corn for a later date.

RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties: We had a couple of good rain storms this week especially Friday night, when as much as an inch and a half fell. Strawberry picking is going along well for the first week. Traveled through a couple of the counties this weekend, and saw some real nice potato fields. They will probably be in bloom in two to three more weeks. Pastures look pretty good for the end of June. Small crops are still being planted. Peppers, sweet and hot, and beans and multicropping. We hope this week the farmers get a big jump on putting in first cutting of hay.

VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison: Continued hay and haylage harvest with good drying weather. Second crop hay and

pasture regrowth good with adequate soil moisture. Newly seeded hay stands germinated well and good stands. Noticeably fewer fields planted to hay crops this year. Continued corn planting on wetter fields, many fields still not tilled or planted. Heavy weed pressure on fallow fields. Corn stands variable with many sections of fields with dead plants from excessive surface water after planting. Manure and fertilizer spreading on hay fields, weed control sprays on corn fields, and some lime was spread. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Nice weather has really got us by the critical stage in Franklin County this week. Figuring about one third of the corn acres in the county have been replanted. Seed corn suppliers have come through with an earlier maturing seed for replant at no cost in many cases. This is a great help. Closing in on the corn planting and now we need to hope for a late frost this fall. First cut is on the tail end with some dry hay made this week. Regrowth is awesome in earlier cut hay fields and pastures. Gardens are really picking up steam and many CSA's are delivering greens and lettuce. Some strawberries are now being picked and hopefully the weather will cooperate and keep the berries in good shape and get people out to pick them. **Heather Mateja (FSA), Lamoille/Washington:** Corn is in, and the hay is looking good with most farmers in full mode of harvesting. Vegetable growers are harvesting lettuces and some other early crops. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Overall, the weather was favorable for harvesting crops. There were a few scattered showers to work around, but a lot of first cut hay was harvested. Some farmers are now able to dry hay as moisture levels have dropped. I am seeing far less mud in the hayfields now as opposed to a few weeks ago. Corn planting is complete and most fields have corn plants 6 to 8 inches tall. The germination was fairly uniform and plant color is a dark green. Regrowth on cut hayfields appears to be quite rapid with the adequate amounts of moisture in the soil. As farmers are catching up from the wet spring the season seems to be going well now. Pastures are doing well with adequate regrowth in the paddocks. Mud is much less of an issue on the cattle lanes. Fruits are continuing to do well. Apples are about the size of a marble. Some trees are loaded with apples, but others are below average. Strawberries are about to ripen. Looks like an average crop this year. **Terence Bradshaw, (UVM):** Apples: Orchards with no scab, determined only after a thorough scouting, can skip fungicide protection until summer diseases become an issue in a few weeks. Internal Lepidoptera (codling moth, lesser apple worm, oriental fruit moth) and obliquebanded leafroller are the primary insect pests in orchards with significant populations. Tree training in young blocks is important now, as trees develop fruit buds at this time for the 2012 crop. Growers should be done applying nitrogen fertilizers by this time, but applications of other materials including magnesium, potassium, and boron could be made if soil or tissue samples indicate their need. **Julie Jacque (FSA), Windham:** Strawberry harvest started; first cutting continued. Pastures look good. Report of poor fruit set on apples.

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