

Crop Progress & Condition



NEW ENGLAND
Agricultural
Statistics



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For week ending 7/17/11

Favorable Weather Boosts Crop Development

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending July 17, 2011, there were 6.5 days available for fieldwork across New England. Pasture conditions were rated 7 percent poor, 32 percent fair, 47 percent good, and 14 percent excellent. The week began with average to above average temperatures with highs ranging from the mid-80s in the north to the low 90s in the south. A storm front moved through New England on Wednesday bringing varying amounts of precipitation to most areas. After the system passed, cooler temperatures prevailed across the region with high temperatures in the low 70s to the low 80's on Thursday. However, the week ended with daytime temperatures in the mid-80s to low 90s and mostly sunny skies.

FRUIT: Blueberries continued to ripen behind the average pace in Maine due to the cool spring and early summer temperatures. Cranberries in Massachusetts had nearly completed blooming by week's end and fruit set was reportedly very good, providing a favorable outlook for this year's crop. Producers were also busy harvesting raspberries and early blueberries, monitoring fly traps, and renovating strawberry beds.

VEGETABLES: A variety of vegetables were available at farms stands across New England this week, including beans, squash, cucumbers, cabbage, lettuce, and other greens. Demand for produce was reportedly strong at many locations. Sweet corn was being harvested in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island but was just beginning to silk in Maine. Other activities included planting, cultivating, monitoring for pests, and spraying for insects and diseases.

FIELD CROPS: The mostly dry, warm weather provided another good week for cutting and baling hay. Some producers were still finishing their first cut while many were working on their second cutting. Most were hoping the second hay harvest will be more timely than the first, which was delayed by rains and wet soils. The warm temperatures were also reportedly beneficial to the field corn and potato crops, which have been progressing a week to two weeks behind normal due to delayed planting and cool early season temperatures. However, corn stands varied greatly from field to field depending on the planting date and soil type. Some areas reported drought stressed corn on sandier soils.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
	-- Percent --		
Topsoil			
Very Short	2	3	12
Short	26	11	33
Adequate	67	80	53
Surplus	5	6	2
Subsoil			
Very Short	2	2	8
Short	20	8	30
Adequate	76	83	60
Surplus	2	7	2

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Set	Fruit Size	Condition
	2011	2010	5-yr Avg			
Apples	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good
Peaches	<5	5	5	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Pears	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good
Blueberries						
Highbush	10	20	15	Average	Average	Good
Wild	-	-	-	Average	Avg/Below	Good/Exc
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-	Avg/Above	Average	Good
Strawberries	90	99	95	Average	Average	Good/Fair

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2011	2010	5-yr Avg	Condition
	-- Percent Planted --			
Sweet Corn	99	100	100	
	-- Percent Emerged --			
Silage Corn	99	100	99	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	95	99	95	Good
	-- Percent Harvested --			
Barley				Good
Oats				Good
Potatoes				
Maine				Good
Mass				Good/Fair
Rhode Island				Good
Tobacco				
Broadleaf				Good/Fair
Shade	15	15	5	Good
Sweet Corn	5	10	5	Good
Dry Hay				
First Cut	90	95	85	
Second Cut	20	50	20	Good/Fair

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday, July 11, 2011
 To: Sunday, July 17, 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	55	87	72	+4	976	+53	364	+63	0.45	-0.25	3	2.13	-0.81	12
Bangor_Intl_Arp	49	88	71	+4	946	+126	316	+78	0.31	-0.46	1	2.46	-0.62	7
Bethel	51	89	70	+2	905	+69	324	+81	0.58	-0.19	2	3.68	+0.30	11
Caribou_Municip	48	86	69	+4	792	+116	249	+89	0.76	-0.15	3	6.15	+2.91	12
Dover-Foxcroft	46	88	69	+3	757	+51	230	+54	0.39	-0.45	1	1.81	-1.56	10
Frenchville	45	82	66	+2	624	+2	158	+27	2.06	+1.22	2	5.20	+1.99	12
Houlton	45	86	67	+2	764	+68	231	+57	1.38	+0.54	3	2.83	-0.39	11
Livermore_Falls	51	88	71	+6	909	+207	328	+158	0.52	-0.25	2	3.47	+0.09	13
Moosehead	45	87	66	+2	612	+43	146	+32	0.66	-0.25	3	2.63	-1.07	12
Portland_ME	56	86	73	+5	973	+165	371	+140	0.48	-0.22	1	2.70	-0.27	10
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	49	86	69	+3	864	+69	282	+79	0.06	-0.71	2	1.66	-1.59	11
Berlin_AG	48	86	68	+2	861	+67	271	+57	1.58	+0.74	3	3.37	-0.17	12
Concord	52	92	73	+4	1176	+225	484	+167	0.04	-0.66	1	2.85	+0.00	7
Diamond_Pond	44	84	65	+3	600	+98	138	+70	0.45	-0.57	3	4.30	+0.08	15
Keene_AG	51	90	70	-2	1129	+37	442	+35	0.32	-0.49	1	3.84	+0.57	10
North_Conway	53	89	70	+2	940	+54	356	+79	0.08	-0.76	1	3.10	-0.39	11
Rochester	55	96	76	+7	1269	+252	568	+210	0.53	-0.24	2	2.30	-0.82	11
VERMONT														
Bennington_AP	50	88	70	+3	1209	+383	468	+237	0.00	-0.91	0	3.34	-0.54	8
Burlington_Intl	55	89	73	+3	1260	+219	536	+157	0.84	+0.02	2	3.85	+0.58	12
Island_Pond	48	86	67	+4	891	+259	285	+150	0.30	-0.63	3	2.44	-1.41	14
Montpelier	50	86	69	+3	1026	+222	375	+151	0.48	-0.21	3	3.69	+0.80	14
Rochester	48	87	68	+3	944	+170	320	+111	0.26	-0.58	2	5.98	+2.62	12
Rutland_AG	52	88	70	-1	1098	+9	418	+17	0.27	-0.58	1	3.35	-0.02	8
Springfield_VT	52	91	72	+5	1251	+377	529	+269	0.65	-0.12	1	3.91	+0.56	9
Sutton	52	86	68	+4	836	+194	254	+108	1.70	+0.78	3	3.57	-0.28	15
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	63	95	77	+4	1411	+193	653	+164	1.17	+0.54	1	4.06	+1.41	9
Fitchburg	59	93	77	+9	1414	+561	652	+398	0.01	-0.83	1	3.86	+0.50	9
Greenfield	53	90	71	-2	1160	-15	451	-9	0.05	-0.79	1	4.67	+1.26	9
New_Bedford	57	93	75	+2	1439	+238	630	+162	1.06	+0.42	1	4.35	+1.46	9
Otis_AFB	54	84	71	+1	1086	+153	414	+105	1.07	+0.44	1	4.46	+1.76	6
Plymouth	57	92	74	+4	1337	+353	574	+229	2.46	+1.69	1	5.26	+2.18	8
Walpole	57	92	75	+5	1318	+278	588	+216	0.55	-0.22	1	3.00	-0.25	8
Chicopee/Westov	51	92	73	-1	1373	+20	592	+17	0.00	-0.84	0	3.21	-0.29	9
Worthington	51	87	69	+2	995	+162	350	+116	0.00	-0.98	0	4.08	+0.33	9
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	60	92	75	+3	1395	+249	619	+174	0.54	-0.16	2	4.05	+1.14	9
Woonsocket	57	91	74	+4	1338	+316	584	+234	0.32	-0.58	1	4.01	+0.38	8
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	63	95	78	+4	1507	+278	690	+186	0.02	-0.88	1	4.10	+0.71	7
Hartford/Bradley	56	92	76	+3	1489	+184	681	+128	0.00	-0.70	0	4.16	+1.09	10
Norfolk	55	86	70	+3	1070	+233	395	+156	0.00	-0.92	0	3.61	-0.35	8
Thomaston_Dam	54	93	74	+5	1359	+333	593	+241	0.10	-0.81	1	3.08	-0.56	8
Willimantic	56	91	74	+4	1404	+367	611	+253	0.01	-0.95	1	3.27	-0.41	11

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, July 17, 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	43	94	70	+3	0.01	2.06
NH	38	96	70	+3	0.01	1.80
VT	45	91	69	+3	0.00	1.70
MA	49	95	73	+3	0.00	2.46
RI	57	92	74	+4	0.32	0.55
CT	53	95	74	+3	0.00	0.57

REPORTERS' COMMENTS, By County: *Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), or other knowledgeable individuals.*

CONNECTICUT – Howard Rood (FSA), Fairfield/Litchfield: Good week for field work. Most field crops are about 2 weeks later than normal. Second cutting of hay looks good. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** A very nice week for making hay, both first and second cutting. Sweet corn, beans, squash, cukes, cabbage, lettuce and other greens showing up at farm stands, farmers markets and the regional market. Some field corn showed drought stress on gravel soils. **Ann Marie McCard (FSA), New London:** The week brought hot, humid weather with a few isolated showers. Farmers are hoping this weather will help push corn to maturity, especially the late planted and replanted fields. First cutting hay still being harvested, while second cutting is also ready. Farm stands featuring a full array of local vegetable and fruits. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** Nice week weather-wise. Some areas of the counties got a rainstorm in mid-week that ruined haymaking that day. Dry hay making is still a challenge and the quality of what has been made is suffering. Vegetable planting and replanting continues. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** A hot, dry week. Corn is growing well. Crops on gravelly soils need water. Blueberries and raspberries are doing good. Local sweet corn just starting.

MAINE – Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook: Four days of sunshine and heat gave all the crops a boost. By Thursday, mowing machines were on the move. First cut hay is excellent. Potatoes are starting to fill the rows and many fields have blossomed. The potato and grain crops are a week or two behind normal. **Don Audibert, (FSA) Northern Aroostook:** Farmers took advantage of a warmer and dry week finishing up their potato cultivation and spraying. With dry weather and temperatures in the 80's, it was an excellent week for haying. Pastures also look in excellent condition for grazing. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Spraying for corn borers. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland /York:** Very warm summer weather has arrived! The current problem is the lack of rain. Rain is needed and some of the irrigation ponds are drying up. Blueberries and raspberries are ready to pick. Summer squash is coming on strong. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** We are finally getting some good, hot weather for corn. Some damage from earlier hail storms is showing up on apples. The apples are showing nicks now that they are of a larger size. Hay is a bumper crop so far. Storms have been hit or miss. Some areas are starting to get dry. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock /Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Great week for farmers to get some hay done and spraying. Corn and potato crops are looking good. Cultivating is underway on most fields. Strawberry harvest is completed and was a pretty good crop. Raspberries are being picked and lots of vegetables are ready and at farm stands. Another good week coming, but really need some rain in most areas. Heavy thunderstorms for Monday are predicted, but no crop damage from last couple of storms so hopefully this won't do any damage as well. Some structure damage was reported in the Dover-Foxcroft area from the last storm and an evaluation is being conducted. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Spotty showers have caused some areas to become dryer than normal, while other areas are flourishing. Last week, cucumbers, beans, tomatoes, and zucchini were harvested for the first time. Overall, crops look good. Farmers were busy harvesting their first crop of dry hay this past week as well. It was a near perfect weather week for all crop activities. The harvest of low bush blueberries is about one week away. Time will tell how this crop fares this season with many reports of serious pollination problems this spring in this area. Another good week to look forward to although thunderstorms in some areas could cause a problem. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis/Penobscot:** A hot, dry week allowed farmers to get in a lot of hay. **Elaine Moceus (FSA), Somerset:** What a week for the crops! **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Hard to believe, but we could use some rain. Some corn starting to show a little drought stress in sandy soils. Warm weather has improved the corn crop substantially. Dry weather has slowed 2nd cutting of hay/haylage. Highbush blueberries starting to ripen.

Local sweet corn is silking. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Fly traps are being monitored for the blueberry fruit fly and insecticides are being applied when traps reach threshold and berries are beyond 10% blue. The cool weather is continuing to delay ripening; crop is estimated to be 1 week behind average in ripening.

MASSACHUSETTS – Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: This was a hot, dry breezy week. We had a quick trace of rain in parts of the county midweek. There was no affect on haying which is in full swing. Folks are now irrigating in places. Pastures showing some dryness. The county's first sweet corn was available this week. Raspberries, early blueberries, currants, green beans, lettuce, chard, potatoes, garlic, and zucchini are being harvested. **Julie Viveiros (FSA), Bristol & Norfolk:** Hazy, hot and humid. **Lori Carver (FSA), Franklin:** Producers continue to play catch up with fertilizing and planting. Blueberry harvest has begun. Tobacco producers are beginning to top and apply sucker control. The crop looks good, so far. Blight has been spotted in a few potato fields. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** A sunny, warm, and dry week. Many vegetable and fruit growers have started to irrigate due to the drier soil conditions. Vegetable and fruit growers are harvesting beets, beans, blueberries, cabbage, lettuce, parsley, peas, radishes, and summer squash. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Bloom is nearly over. Most bee hives have been removed from the beds. Fruit set looks very good so far, with a very good crop coming. Some fruit rot has shown up in a few beds. Growers are in the middle of applications for fruit worm and wiping taller weeds with Round-up. Those growers that couldn't use Quinstar have horrible dodder infestations, more than I've ever seen. Nice soaking rain on Wednesday evening has helped to size the berries.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Donna Juneau (FSA) Belknap/Merrimack: Warm, sunny days with rain in the evenings and overnight. Temperatures have been average to above average. Rainfall below average. Dairy producers have planted the last of their field corn. Growing conditions are reported good for field corn and sweet corn. Producers have been in the fields harvesting hay and making haylage. Annual vegetable producers are continuing to transplant crops and plant sweet corn. Harvest has included raspberries, lettuce, Swiss chard, garlic scapes, peas, cucumbers, summer squash, baby spinach, beet greens, and rhubarb. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Heavy rains at beginning of the week, then quite hot and humid with scattered showers. Haying continued at a good pace, nice regrowth on earlier harvested meadows. Corn growing quite rapidly under these weather conditions. Wider range of summer veggies now at market. Garlic harvesting. Keeping up with summer weeds is on-going. Crow/blackbird problems being talked about in corn. Blueberries ripening! **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending July 16th, we received a half inch of rain. Soils have dried out considerably due to hot temperatures, low humidity and lots of sunshine. Some hay on the sandy Adams series soils is in need of some rain. Most of the other soils are doing OK. The corn crop is still behind, and is quite variable, depending on location and whether or not it was re-planted due to wet conditions earlier in the season. A weekend look at the progress of the corn crop showed fields that were only 12 to 14 inches high and others that were 4 feet. Some areas appeared to need a shot of nitrogen. Much of the dry hay that was cut late due to wet soils was not good quality. Farmers are hoping for a more timely, better quality second cut. Some farmers noted that the quality of their haylage also suffered due to delayed harvest caused by wet conditions earlier in the year. Vegetable growers appear to be doing OK. The delays in planting that some experienced are still being felt. Some stands are open, others are still catching up. Army worms are on the move in some areas and activity appears to be localized. Fields of hay are there one day and gone the next. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Growers are renovating strawberry beds. Blueberry and

raspberry harvests continued along with the first peaches. Orchardists busy monitoring for pests, spraying if needed, and mowing orchard floors. Trapped high numbers of Blueberry Fruit Fly. Seeing increase of Oriental fruit moths in traps. Field Crops: Farmers making baled hay between showers, still tricky drying conditions for dry hay. Silage corn is rapidly growing. Second hay crop is looking good. Vegetables: Very good demand for produce at most local farmers' markets and farm stands. Farmers kept busy harvesting, cultivating, hoeing weeds, monitoring pest pressures, spraying pesticides for insects and diseases. Growers harvesting an array of vegetables including: beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, cucumbers, greens, lettuce, potatoes, radishes, snap beans, and summer squash. High numbers of squash vine borers were caught during week. **Amy Ouellette (Ext), Merrimack:** The early blueberry and raspberry crops are looking very good. Harvesting cherry tomatoes, zucchini, greens of all types, broccoli, cucumbers in the field, plus everything tunnel-grown. Hot, sunny weather is speeding up ripening of many crops. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Very hot week. Dry and rain is needed. Renovating strawberry beds. Picking blueberries and raspberries and an array of veggies. Haying was done. Irrigating, cultivating and monitoring pests. **Jenn Zaleski (FSA), Sullivan:** The week began hot with highs reaching into the low 90s. Overnight lows were in the mid-60s. Showers and thunderstorms moved through the area during the afternoon and into the evening on Wednesday, bringing roughly 0.50 inches of rain to the dry soils. Thursday morning's temperatures were much cooler and comfortable in the low 50s. The rest of the week and through the weekend was dry and hot with highs reaching up into the low 90s on Sunday. Field corn planting is complete in Sullivan County. Due to the wet spring, many fields required replanting ranging from a few spots to entire fields. Replanting continued through the first part of July. Other farmers had to abandon fields, leaving them fallow until the fall when new seedings will be planted. With the recent spells of dry weather, dry hay making occurred in earnest. Silage hay was also harvested during the week, and many farmers are done with their second cutting.

RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties: We had a couple evenings of rain this week, keeping the soil moist. Sweet corn is being picked and so far the corn looks good. The potato crop looks excellent. They are getting a sufficient amount of water. Strawberry season has ended. It was a good year and lasted about 5 weeks. The berries weren't huge, but they were sweet. Hay crop is still coming along. First cutting is almost done. The second cutting is a little bit late, but starting to be cut. As far as vegetables go, there is plenty of summer squash, both yellow and green. Sting beans are being picked. Really no tomatoes yet in the field, but they should be here very soon. As far as small crops go, they look very good. Pastures, with the amount of rain we keep getting each week, really

have no dry spots yet. They are growing slow, but there is still feed out there.

VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison: Continued clean-up of first cut dry hay, some maybe bedding. Second cut haylage ready to start harvest. Corn crop continues to suffer with very spotty and poor fields widespread. Pasture regrowth is poor now that it is hot and rain is negligible. Soybeans and early planted corn look the best. **Daniel Hudson (Ext), Caledonia:** Very hot. The last couple of rain events we received were so intense that much of it ran off rather than being absorbed by the soil, so we are still drier than we would like in some areas. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Great week in Franklin County. Now in full catch up mode from the late and wet spring activities and growth. Corn has responded superbly to the 7 days with no rain and hot weather. Jury is still out on the replanted corn. Sod ground beginning to show some signs of dry soil. Never thought that we would be saying this a month ago. This tells the story that the trick is how to hang on to that water in the soil. Potatoes seem to be enjoying this weather in the gardens. Still a rough start and some never got a chance to enjoy this weather. Berries are now on the downhill slide and they have done very well. Strawberries were spared with the some dryer weather during the heart of the harvest. Pastures beginning to show signs of dry weather, however, still enough moisture to keep things going. Much fantastic second cut going in dry hay and haylage. Manure applications still going. **Heather Mateja (FSA), Lamoille /Washington:** The hot weather is making the corn grow. Everyone was busy this week, haying, and harvesting veggies. The pastures are slowing down, but still in pretty good shape. A little rain would be welcomed. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Hazy, hot and humid this week. Especially the end of it. With the exception of a few showers on Wednesday it was dry. Most farmers are harvesting second crop now. Yields look pretty good. The last of first crop was also harvested as dry hay. A lot of dry square bales went in the barn this past week. Corn looks good in most fields. Average height is 36" and the color is good. Pastures are really slowing down with the dry weather. In some areas soil moisture is short. Strawberries have pretty much gone by now. Overall the crop appears to be average in yield and above average in quality. Fruit was very sweet. Highbush blueberries are ripening and harvest will begin soon. Yields should be at least average and the fruit has good flavor. Other farm activities include some fertilizer spreading on recently harvested hayfield as well as some manure spreading. **Julie Jacque (FSA), Windham:** Good stretch of weather allowed hay producers to continue with the end of first cut and some working on second cut. With little rain showers, irrigation pipe is set out where available-just in case. Vegetable and fruit crops continue to be in high demand with harvest coming on slow but steady.

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