

Crop Progress & Condition



NEW ENGLAND
Agricultural
Statistics



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For week ending 7/31/11

Keep the Rain Coming

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending July 31, 2011, there were 6.2 days available for fieldwork across New England. Pasture conditions were rated 16 percent poor, 30 percent fair, 38 percent good, and 16 percent excellent. Monday was cooler than average with temperatures in the mid-70s. Light to heavy rain was observed across the region. Tuesday and Wednesday were slightly warmer in the upper 70s to low 80s with a few thunderstorms in the south on Tuesday. Thursday was cloudy for most of the region with temperatures in the mid-70s to low 80s. Friday turned rainy for a good portion of New England, but the temperatures remained steady in the mid-70s to low 80s. The weekend was warmer in the low 80s and low 90s with partly cloudy to sunny skies. The week's total rainfall ranged from 0.12 to 3.08 inches across the region.

FRUIT: Connecticut grape vineyards were sprayed for fungus issues brought on by storms. Harvest of apples and peaches began in some locations, while plum and highbush blueberry harvest continued this week. Raspberry harvest was newly finished in some areas. Orchardists were busy monitoring for pests, spraying if needed, and mowing orchard floors. Strawberry producers continued to renovate strawberry beds.

VEGETABLES: Bird damage was reported in sweet corn in select locations. Harvest of sweet corn, radishes, summer squash, greens, cucumbers, beans, carrots, beets, zucchini, herbs, and peppers continued this week. In general, vegetable crops are reported to be in good condition. Farmers also kept busy cultivating, hoeing weeds, monitoring pest pressure, spraying pesticides for insects and diseases.

FIELD CROPS: Many reporters said that field crops needed water. Weather conditions were favorable over the weekend for cutting dry hay and spreading manure. Some hay was growing back slowly due to the lack of moisture. Field corn was starting to tassel in fields that were planted on-time in the spring.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	7	11	15
Short	30	47	34
Adequate	62	42	48
Surplus	1	0	3
Subsoil			
Very Short	11	13	13
Short	25	33	29
Adequate	64	54	55
Surplus	0	0	3

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Set	Fruit Size	Condition
	2011	2010	5-yr Avg			
Apples	<5	<5	<5	Average	Average	Good
Peaches	15	15	15	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Pears	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good
Blueberries						
Highbush	40	50	40	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Wild	-	10	5	Average	Avg/Below	Fair/Good
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-	Avg/Above	Average	Good/Exc
Strawberries	95	100	100			

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

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

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday, July 25 2011
 To: Sunday, July 31, 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	56	85	69	-2	1312	+109	560	+119	0.72	-0.05	3	1.63	-1.26	9
Bangor_Intl_Arp	51	85	68	-1	1272	+186	502	+138	0.61	-0.09	3	2.08	-0.91	7
Bethel	53	82	66	-3	1198	+102	477	+113	1.31	+0.47	3	2.77	-0.45	9
Caribou_Municip	51	79	65	-1	1045	+145	362	+116	1.47	+0.49	5	7.96	+4.29	17
Dover-Foxcroft	47	82	65	-2	1030	+86	363	+88	0.89	+0.12	4	1.93	-1.29	10
Frenchville	49	77	63	-2	838	+6	234	+25	1.18	+0.27	4	6.44	+2.97	16
Houlton	46	78	64	-3	1010	+77	337	+66	1.47	+0.56	5	4.61	+1.17	15
Livermore_Falls	49	83	66	-1	1204	+265	483	+216	1.29	+0.50	3	2.60	-0.51	10
Moosehead	46	79	62	-3	847	+68	243	+55	1.87	+0.96	4	3.44	-0.20	12
Portland_ME	59	85	70	+2	1327	+251	585	+224	3.44	+2.81	3	4.40	+1.64	8
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
BenTon	51	80	65	-2	1147	+117	421	+121	1.66	+0.83	3	2.65	-0.50	11
Berlin_AG	50	81	65	-3	1134	+102	404	+88	0.62	-0.26	3	3.13	-0.27	10
Concord	52	85	69	-2	1516	+285	684	+227	0.73	-0.04	3	1.22	-1.70	9
Diamond_Pond	48	74	61	-3	804	+121	208	+87	0.72	-0.35	2	3.34	-0.85	10
Keene_AG	56	86	70	-2	1456	+70	629	+68	1.30	+0.46	3	2.29	-0.98	10
North_Conway	53	83	68	-2	1255	+103	531	+128	0.53	-0.33	3	1.69	-1.69	9
Rochester	55	88	71	+0	1636	+326	795	+283	1.45	+0.61	3	2.50	-0.65	11
VERMONT														
Bennington_AP	53	84	70	+4	1537	+461	656	+316	1.54	+0.63	3	2.52	-1.14	8
Burlington_Intl	56	85	70	-1	1606	+271	742	+209	0.33	-0.52	3	3.29	+0.00	11
Island_Pond	47	84	65	+0	1157	+319	412	+208	1.09	+0.07	4	2.57	-1.31	13
Montpelier	51	83	67	-1	1325	+281	534	+209	0.39	-0.35	3	2.29	-0.54	11
Rochester	53	85	67	-1	1224	+212	460	+153	2.60	+1.66	3	5.97	+2.47	10
Rutland_AG	53	84	68	-3	1413	+32	593	+40	2.15	+1.24	2	4.88	+1.37	7
Springfield_VT	56	85	71	+3	1598	+472	736	+364	1.20	+0.36	3	3.20	-0.06	10
Sutton	50	86	65	+1	1098	+246	376	+159	0.75	-0.26	3	3.05	-0.81	13
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	63	89	74	+0	1819	+265	921	+236	0.31	-0.35	4	2.04	-0.51	9
Fitchburg	58	90	74	+6	1808	+694	906	+531	0.70	-0.10	3	1.04	-2.28	8
Greenfield	50	85	68	-4	1476	-7	627	-1	1.04	+0.20	4	1.58	-1.78	9
New_Bedford	60	91	74	+0	1825	+284	876	+205	0.18	-0.59	2	3.48	+0.68	8
Otis_AFB	59	86	71	-1	1412	+185	600	+134	0.14	-0.55	3	3.40	+0.81	8
Plymouth	60	89	73	+2	1705	+417	802	+291	0.32	-0.45	4	4.94	+1.86	9
Walpole	59	89	73	+2	1689	+351	819	+287	0.52	-0.26	3	2.48	-0.61	8
Chicopee/Westov	56	89	73	-3	1751	+49	830	+45	1.58	+0.81	4	1.98	-1.25	9
Worthington	53	83	68	+1	1299	+214	514	+169	1.26	+0.28	3	2.59	-1.31	10
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	64	89	74	+1	1787	+318	871	+241	0.18	-0.59	3	3.33	+0.46	8
Woonsocket	60	86	73	+2	1706	+390	812	+308	0.83	-0.08	3	2.47	-1.10	7
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	66	91	77	+3	1925	+352	968	+258	1.01	+0.17	4	2.00	-1.42	9
Hartford/Bradley	61	89	74	+1	1896	+255	948	+199	0.94	+0.22	4	1.72	-1.14	9
Norfolk	55	83	69	+2	1396	+307	581	+230	1.70	+0.72	4	2.74	-1.05	8
Thomaston_Dam	57	88	73	+3	1732	+426	826	+333	0.89	-0.09	4	1.55	-2.22	9
Willimantic	60	88	73	+4	1781	+451	848	+336	1.31	+0.40	4	3.64	-0.11	8

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, July 31, 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	44	86	66	-2	0.38	3.44
NH	42	88	67	-1	0.40	3.10
VT	44	88	68	+0	0.15	2.60
MA	50	91	71	+1	0.10	1.58
RI	60	89	73	+2	0.17	0.83
CT	55	91	73	+1	0.36	1.70

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: Very hot weather toward the end of the week. Field crops need water. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Temperatures got back to normal after the previous heat wave. Vegetable and tobacco farmers kept irrigating where water was available. A lot of bird damage in sweet corn was reported by many growers. Vegetable harvest is in full swing, although field tomatoes are still green. Nice weekend for making dry hay. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Second cutting hay progressing well. Weeds - particularly bedstraw, ironweed and milkweed are lowering hay quality dramatically this summer. Harvesting zucchini, peppers, plums and blueberries this week. Field corn is tasseling out - at least the fields planted on time this spring. A lot of fields are still barely knee or waist high. We could use a good soaking rain. **Patricia Smith (FSA), New London:** Producers finishing second cutting. Corn is growing fast and looking good. Vegetables are being harvested and farmer's markets are very busy. Need rain as pastures, hay fields, etc. are very dry. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** Some areas received scattered showers this week, but it is getting very dry in most parts of the counties. Vegetables are being harvested, but some blossom end rot is being reported on the tomato crop. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Corn from 2 feet to 10 feet tall. Vineyards spraying grapes for fungus issues brought in on storms. Peppers and tomatoes late to ripen. Early peaches are small with some hail damage now visible. Blueberry picking is good especially if irrigated. Chopping second cut hay and spreading liquid manure leaving a strong hint of country in the air. Baling hay, cultivating and hand weeding vegetables. Getting crops to farmers markets and farm stands and encouraging more customers to buy local grown.

MAINE – Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook: Blueberry and strawberry harvest is ongoing. Most reporting better than average size and yields. Random showers have made harvesting quality dry hay challenging. Potatoes are about ten days behind, just past the full bloom stage. Grain fields are heading out, but look thin and uneven. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Farmers are still on a 5-day fungicide spray schedule. Seed growers encouraged to apply aphicide also. Several scattered showers around the area. Hail in some areas also. Broccoli harvest started in Central Aroostook area. **Don Audibert, (FSA) Northern Aroostook:** Producers have finished their last cultivation for their potatoes. They are now on a 5-day spray schedule. Had heavy rain, showers, and sun most of the week. Potatoes and grains are looking good and growing fast with the good weather conditions we have been getting. Lots of hay baled and waiting to get picked up in the fields. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Much needed and appreciated rain fell on Friday night, 1.25" at my house. Crops are plentiful now at the farm stands. We could use another shot of rain later this week to get the grass growing. Farmers are busy trying to finish up first cut and spreading manure. Highbush blueberries are producing well this year. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Rain came just in time. Vegetable crops are producing well. The grass crops have begun a new growth spurt. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis/Penobscot:** We got a little relief from the drought with rain and thunderstorms. **Elaine S. Moceus (FSA), Somerset:** Corn and soybeans have really grown this past week with the heat and humidity; rain is still needed, even though most areas received about an inch of rain last week. Farm stands are going strong with greens, cukes, blueberries, beans, carrots, beets and herbs. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Despite a little bit of rain, things remain very dry. Pastures are slow to recover and corn is still curled in many locations. Raspberry harvest is over. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Harvest is delayed in most areas at least a week. Showers are helping relieve some of the plant stress but moisture levels are still low and more rain is needed to insure a good harvest. There has been some damage to plants, especially on shallow soils. It is anticipated if we do not get sufficient moisture we will have a less than average crop.

MASSACHUSETTS – Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: There was more wild weather this week with heavy wind, hail, lightning, and rain on Tuesday. Orchards reported the hot, dry weather had slowed things down a bit and they needed some rain. We've had about two inches of rain this month. Peaches, plums and apricots are being picked, as are last summer raspberries, blueberries, sweet corn, tomatoes, melons, cukes, beans, and zucchini. Hay 2nd cutting is mostly finished. **Lori Carver (FSA), Franklin:** Producers continue to irrigate crops due to a lack of rainfall. Vegetable crops do look good. Peach harvest has begun. Tobacco and potato harvest will begin soon. Second crop of hay looks really good. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** A nice, warm growing week with a few showers. These cooler temperatures and rain showers have boosted the crop back into good shape. Growers continue scouting for diseases and insects. Farmers are harvesting peaches, blueberries, raspberries, beans, beets, cabbage, lettuce, parsley, peas, potatoes, radishes, summer squash, sweet corn, and tobacco. All crops look good.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Russell Norton (Ext), Carroll: Blueberry and raspberry harvests are in full swing. Some sweet corn being harvested. Near average temperatures all week with high humidity. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Warm all week, with a few showers during the week and some great haying weather over the weekend. Lots of field corn tasseled and silking and looking pretty good in general. Hayfields and pastures still growing back a little slowly, but they're still green. Wide array of vegetable crops available at farm stands and farmers' markets. PYO blueberries and raspberries continue to be strong, and peaches are ready to enjoy. **Mike Harrington (NRCS), Coos:** First cut is done and second cut is in full swing. Some rain and thunderstorms provided needed moisture. Slow re-growth of hay due to dry weather. All silage corn looks tasseled. Veggies are doing good. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending July 30, we received just over one inch of rain. This rain was certainly needed. The corn along route 10 looks good. The late planted fields still have a long way to go to catch up with where they should be for this time of year. There are corn fields that are only 2 to 3 feet high. Last week was a good one for producers making dry hay. Second cut is coming along. The blueberry crop looks good. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Peach, blueberry and raspberry harvests continued, along with the early season apples. Orchardists busy monitoring for pests, spraying if needed, and mowing orchard floors. Field Crops: For farmers making baled hay, it was more difficult because of rain showers. Silage corn is rapidly growing. Second crop of hay is looking good. Vegetables: Even with rain showers grower's first priority was irrigating crops and harvesting. Also farmers kept busy 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, sweet corn, summer squash, field tomatoes and peppers. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Rain was welcomed during the week. Harvesting a whole array of vegetables, blueberries, raspberries, and peaches. Renovating strawberry beds. Irrigating, weeding and cultivating vegetable fields. Monitoring pests. Haying and haylage was done. **Jenn Zaleski (FSA), Sullivan:** The week began wet, with heavy rain and scattered thunderstorms Monday and Tuesday evening. Mornings were cool and foggy, with daytime temperatures reaching into the mid to upper 80s all week. Rain fell Friday evening, but cleared up for the weekend. The week ended with partly cloudy skies, a nice breeze, and warm seasonable temperatures. Last week's rain was much needed as soils were getting on the dry side. Field corn has been loving the summer weather. Ears have begun to develop on early planted stalks. Sweet corn has been plentiful and tasty. Orchardists have begun to pick peaches. Early specialty varieties of apples were ready for picking at week's end. You-pick blueberries and raspberries are still available.

RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties: Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday were cloudy days not good hay making days. We had very little rain this week. Farmers are still irrigating crops and new plantings. We should be just about done plantings of cabbage and kale. Blueberries are still being picked and plentiful. Sweet corn is coming in very good and plenty of it. No tomatoes yet, everybody is looking for tomatoes. Small crops are still plentiful such as squash, string beans and cucumbers which are beginning to come in now. Livestock and pastures look good for the first week of August. There is enough moisture that they still look green. This week ahead looks to be pretty good and better than last week.

VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison: Corn growth excelled with the warm weather. Poor growth areas are not recovering very well from earlier wet soils. Corn on lighter soils is tasseled and really gaining height growth. One day of rain helped without any field delays. Continued to clean-up hay harvest and haylage. Manure spread, side-dressed corn with Nitrogen and manure spreading on hay ground.

Pastures slow regrowth. New seeded hay fields with strong weed competition. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Getting dry in Franklin County. Not at the critical stage, however, we are moving closer with crops. Not too much word on ground water problems and hopefully some showers will come our way to head this off. Not something we would have been reporting in mid June. Sweet corn is well under way at the veggie booths and it looks like this will bring us over the bridge with the vegetable gardens and not be affected by the dry weather. Field corn is starting to curl in the lighter soils, however, huge amounts of tassel and silting. Some maybe on the early side for this stage with the late planting, a welcome site for some ear development in case of an early frost this fall. Second cut is on the finishing side and will need some rains to bounce back growth for third and possible fourth cuts. **Heather Mateja (FSA), Lamoille/Washington:** Good weather, but dry. Corn has taken off and the pastures are slowing down. Veggie production is in full swing.

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