

Crop Progress & Condition



NEW ENGLAND
Agricultural
Statistics



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Volume 31, Number 15

(Issued weekly on the Internet, May – October)

August 8, 2011 – 4 pm

For week ending 8/7/11

Spotty Showers and Cloudy Skies

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending August 7, 2011, there were 5.9 days available for fieldwork across New England. Pasture conditions were rated 1 percent very poor, 20 percent poor, 45 percent fair, 31 percent good, and 3 percent excellent. Most of the week was cloudy with temperatures in the mid-70s to high 80s. Hail storms hit western Massachusetts and Connecticut on Monday. Farmers are still accessing damage from some golf ball-sized hail. Throughout most of the week, spotty showers were experienced across the region. Friday was the one day that no rain was seen and the sun broke through the clouds. Saturday turned mostly cloudy with evening showers for most. Sunday, southern New England observed heavy rain and downpours producing from 0.39 to 1.42 inches of rain in Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Massachusetts. The week's total rainfall for New England locations ranged from 0.10 to 4.19 inches.

FRUIT: In Maine, wild blueberries were being harvested slowly. This year's crop is in fair to good condition due to inadequate precipitation in both June and early July. Some plants had leaf burn and leaf drop caused by the lack of rainfall. Blueberry and raspberry pick-your-own operations were a busy. Harvesting of peaches was picking up. Orchardists were mowing, moving bins into orchards, and fixing orchard roads. Some Massachusetts cranberries had a heavy fruit set which was contributing to slow fruit growth. The two inches of rain this week helped with soil moisture for cranberries.

VEGETABLES: The weekend rain in southern New England was welcomed and allowed vegetable producers to take a break from irrigating. Some growers were concerned that pumpkins were late blooming and hope that they will mature in time for the harvest season. Farmers markets were doing well and vegetables were in good condition. Sweet corn, cucumbers, greens, beans, yellow squash, and zucchini were harvested by many vegetable producers. Still no sweet corn harvest in some areas in northern New England.

FIELD CROPS: Tobacco producers were irrigating until rains came Saturday evening and Sunday. Hay fields were greening up slowly. Third cuts of hay began and yields were questionable because of the lack of moisture. Some corn was curling and field crop conditions were declining for many due to the lack of moisture. An exception to the rule was potatoes in Maine that were reported to be in good to excellent condition.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	3	7	14
Short	43	30	33
Adequate	51	62	45
Surplus	3	1	8
Subsoil			
Very Short	7	11	14
Short	45	25	37
Adequate	45	64	47
Surplus	3	0	2

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/Fair
Peaches	35	25	30	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Pears	<5	<5	<5	Average	Average	Good
Blueberries						
Highbush	50	70	60	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Wild	5	30	20	Avg/Below	Avg/Below	Fair/Good
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-	Avg/Above	Average	Good/Exc
Strawberries	100	100	100			

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2011	2010	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Emerged --				
Silage Corn	100	100	100	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	100	100	100	
-- Percent Harvested --				
Barley	0	<5	<5	Good
Oats	0	<5	<5	Good
Potatoes				
Maine				Good/Exc
Mass	<5	<5	<5	Good/Fair
Rhode Island	5	5	5	Good/Fair
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	10	25	20	Good/Fair
Shade	45	45	35	Good
Sweet Corn	35	45	30	Good/Fair
Dry Hay				
First Cut	99	99	95	
Second Cut	55	80	50	Good/Fair
Third	<5	15	5	Fair/Good

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday, August 1, 2011
 To: Sunday, August 7, 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	86	70	+1	1458	+116	636	+127	0.19	-0.55	3	1.36	-1.55	9
Bangor_Intl_Arp	54	84	70	+2	1411	+195	571	+148	1.73	+1.02	4	2.65	-0.28	8
Bethel	54	85	69	+2	1331	+109	540	+120	0.14	-0.75	2	2.09	-1.19	8
Caribou_Municip	54	84	68	+3	1168	+162	415	+132	2.04	+1.08	4	7.24	+3.46	17
Dover-Foxcroft	53	85	68	+2	1155	+93	418	+97	1.31	+0.54	3	2.59	-0.56	8
Frenchville	53	81	65	+1	946	+14	272	+30	1.66	+0.75	4	7.21	+3.66	15
Houlton	51	84	67	+2	1131	+86	388	+75	0.77	-0.14	4	4.79	+1.28	16
Livermore_Falls	54	87	69	+4	1342	+290	551	+242	0.64	-0.23	4	2.45	-0.75	9
Moosehead	49	85	65	+2	956	+76	282	+60	1.92	+1.06	5	4.47	+0.88	13
Portland_ME	58	82	70	+1	1467	+258	655	+231	0.41	-0.22	3	4.36	+1.70	8
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
BenTon	53	83	68	+3	1277	+135	481	+138	0.32	-0.58	1	2.20	-1.07	9
Berlin_AG	53	86	68	+2	1262	+114	462	+99	0.55	-0.42	3	2.82	-0.71	10
Concord	52	89	72	+3	1673	+306	771	+249	0.82	+0.05	2	1.78	-1.21	9
Diamond_Pond	50	80	65	+4	910	+142	244	+102	0.15	-0.98	1	1.44	-2.83	8
Keene_AG	54	88	72	+2	1612	+81	715	+79	1.88	+0.99	2	3.70	+0.32	8
North_Conway	53	89	69	+2	1391	+112	597	+137	0.31	-0.60	3	0.95	-2.50	8
Rochester	55	94	74	+5	1807	+355	896	+312	0.82	+0.00	1	2.93	-0.27	8
VERMONT														
Bennington_AP	51	85	71	+5	1689	+494	738	+349	0.50	-0.44	1	2.19	-1.48	6
Burlington_Intl	56	92	73	+4	1770	+294	836	+233	0.04	-0.87	1	1.84	-1.58	10
Island_Pond	52	84	68	+5	1281	+345	466	+233	0.25	-0.85	3	2.12	-1.91	13
Montpelier	52	86	70	+4	1463	+304	602	+232	0.01	-0.82	1	0.98	-1.98	9
Rochester	53	86	70	+4	1362	+235	528	+177	0.24	-0.77	1	3.69	+0.02	8
Rutland_AG	52	89	71	+1	1562	+40	672	+49	0.57	-0.34	2	4.22	+0.64	7
Springfield_VT	54	86	73	+6	1761	+512	829	+404	0.30	-0.58	1	2.64	-0.67	8
Sutton	53	84	67	+4	1222	+270	430	+182	0.20	-0.86	2	2.84	-1.13	12
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	65	93	77	+4	2008	+289	1040	+258	0.72	+0.02	2	2.32	-0.30	8
Fitchburg	57	90	75	+8	1984	+744	1012	+582	0.33	-0.51	2	1.20	-2.12	7
Greenfield	53	85	70	-2	1620	-16	701	-10	0.31	-0.53	3	1.50	-1.86	9
New_Bedford	61	91	76	+2	2006	+296	987	+215	0.77	-0.11	2	2.18	-0.81	7
Otis_AFB	61	86	72	+1	1566	+192	684	+141	0.65	-0.08	2	2.00	-0.68	8
Plymouth	61	90	74	+4	1877	+441	904	+313	0.31	-0.53	2	3.43	+0.28	9
Walpole	59	91	74	+4	1858	+373	918	+309	0.40	-0.44	2	2.12	-1.04	8
Chicopee/Westov	54	90	74	+1	1923	+51	932	+46	1.06	+0.29	1	2.65	-0.51	6
Worthington	51	85	70	+4	1444	+238	589	+194	0.40	-0.58	2	1.78	-2.14	8
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	64	91	77	+4	1973	+343	987	+266	0.69	-0.08	1	1.51	-1.43	7
Woonsocket	60	91	75	+5	1880	+420	916	+338	0.66	-0.25	2	1.81	-1.76	6
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	68	92	78	+4	2119	+375	1092	+279	0.84	+0.06	3	2.32	-1.04	9
Hartford/Bradley	59	92	76	+4	2082	+276	1064	+219	2.33	+1.56	3	3.28	+0.39	8
Norfolk	56	87	72	+5	1549	+337	664	+262	1.18	+0.20	3	2.98	-0.81	8
Thomaston_Dam	55	91	75	+6	1907	+461	931	+368	2.16	+1.25	3	3.23	-0.54	10
Willimantic	59	88	75	+5	1957	+486	954	+370	2.09	+1.18	1	3.41	-0.34	6

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, August 7, 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	37	90	68	+1	0.14	2.04
NH	41	94	70	+3	0.05	2.02
VT	48	92	70	+4	0.01	1.10
MA	51	93	73	+3	0.15	1.33
RI	60	91	75	+4	0.20	0.69
CT	55	92	75	+3	0.25	2.33

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:

This has been a week of mixed weather across the county. Some areas have remained dry, while others have seen heavy downpours with some hail damage. Other areas have had only very light rain. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford /Tolland:** Harvest of broadleaf tobacco began while shade tobacco harvest continued. The week was mostly dry with vegetable and tobacco producers irrigating, however, heavy rains Saturday night and Sunday yielded 2-3 inches of rain. Harvest of snap beans, sweet corn and most other vegetables continued. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Grey leaf seems to have stopped spreading. Several farms report no grey leaf on BMR corn. Growers are complaining about pumpkins being late blooming and are wondering if they will be ready for harvest season. Farmers markets are brimming with produce and quality is excellent. Rain over the weekend was welcomed with relief. Should help the field corn ear well. **Ann Marie McCard (FSA), New London:** Heavy rains (2"+/-) over the weekend provided much needed moisture to field corn, vegetables, fruits, hay and pastures after a week of hot, dry weather. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** Severe thunderstorm early in the week brought damaging hail to the Wallingford and Woodbridge areas of New Haven County. Other areas are getting very dry. Vegetable harvest is continuing at a normal pace. Sweet corn is abundant. Early peaches are being picked.

MAINE – Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:

Again this week shower activity has been frequent. It has been hard to scout fields with the wet weather. Farmers are still on a 5-day spray schedule with applying fungicides. Broccoli harvest continued. New potatoes harvested for farmers markets and road stands. Crops are still growing rapidly and look excellent. The warm temperatures and abundant water have created excellent growing conditions. **Don Audibert, (FSA) Northern Aroostook:** Rain and thunderstorms most of the week. Farmers couldn't make any hay this week and running out of time. Potatoes are looking good with all the rain we've been getting, but will need some sunshine and dry weather soon to keep the blight in control. Vegetable stands are now selling string beans, no sweet corn yet. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Spraying potatoes for aphids and late blight. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Fairly good week with some much needed rain. Sunday was a great day for showers, which was much needed. Hay fields are greening up again and pastures are starting to recover. Corn crop is looking good, as well as late harvested vegetables. Farm stands are in full swing with lots of veggies. Blueberries are being harvested slowly, but crop is average due to poor pollination in areas and cold temperatures in May and June. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Monday afternoon, some people saw quarter-sized hail. All crops that are not irrigated need rain. Even after Sunday's rain, it's still needed badly. All corn is crinkling. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** Showers have helped some growers but those who missed the showers are in desperate need. **Elaine S Moceus (FSA), Somerset:** We received the much needed rain. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Dry weather for most of the week with a few showers mixed in. Good soaking rain on 8/7 will help the corn crop considerably. Blueberry (high and low) harvest is in full swing. Hopefully second and third cutting haylage will respond to the rain with a decent yield. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Harvest has started in most fields in the state. Rainfall was inadequate in both June and early July and has resulted in plants with leaf burn and having leaf drop caused by

the lack of rainfall. The showers in early August have helped and if we do get adequate moisture for the remainder of the summer the crop in Maine could be slightly below average at 75 to 80 million pounds.

MASSACHUSETTS – Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: We had a seasonal week ending with a rainy Saturday of which the county received up to 3/4 inch of rain. This was much needed as crops and pastures were very dry and the orchards were looking for rain. Hay was made early in the week and more sweet corn, tomatoes, cukes, yellow squash, zucchini, berries, and peaches were harvested. **Lori Carver (FSA), Franklin:** Some hail reported in the southern end of the county on Monday. Needed rain fell in very isolated areas. Producers continued to irrigate crops. Fleck reported in some tobacco as harvesting continues. Silage corn crop is coming along, after a rough start in the spring. Vegetable crops seem to be doing well. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** A warm growing week with scattered thunderstorms and mixed in hail. Growers continued to scout for diseases and insects. Vegetable and fruit growers are harvesting an array of summer season crops. Rye crop was also being harvested along with a good tobacco crop. **Carolyn DeMoranville (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Heavy fruit set is contributing to slow fruit sizing. Almost 2 inches of rain on Aug. 7 has increased soil moisture substantially.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Russell Norton (Ext), Carroll:

Temperatures were near average with high humidity, several spotty showers late in the week. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** A few brief showers here and there, but otherwise fairly dry all week. Field corn continuing to mature nicely. A few good days for harvesting dry hay, but regrowth is still slow in pastures and hayfields. Farms working on third cutting alfalfa/grass for haylage. Vegetable crops continue to do well despite drier weather. PYO blueberries going strong, peaches still in peak, and early varieties of apples might be ready before too long. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Heavy rainstorms in mid-week punctuated by a severe hailstorm of marble to golf ball size hail by some reports, still accessing damage. Seems variable depending on location. Most field corn now tasseling, earliest planted has ears and at blister stage. Drought signs on some lighter soils could use a soaking rain in some places. Goldenrod and Joe Pye-weed now blossoming well. Later summer vegetable now reaching markets. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Localized storms which produced hail - minimal damage reported so far!! Pick-Your-Own operations were busy. Fruit: Orchardists harvesting peaches and Vista Belle and Jersey Mac apples. Blueberry and raspberry harvests continued. Orchardists were busy monitoring for pests, mowing orchard floors, moving bins into orchards and fixing up orchard roads. Apple growers were busy summer pruning trees. Cultivating and weeding newly renovated strawberry beds. Field Crops: Hay making and cutting haylage continued at a rapid pace due to dry weather! Silage corn is rapidly growing, with much of it tasseling and silking. Hopefully the rain showers will be enough water for the corn. Vegetables: Growers are harvesting an array of vegetables between rain showers: beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, cucumbers, greens, lettuce, peas, potatoes, radishes, snap beans, summer squash, sweet corn and other vegetables. Growers are reporting damage on sweet corn cause by birds. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Continued harvesting an array of vegetables including sweet corn, tomatoes, potatoes, garlic, greens and root crops. Peaches and very early apple varieties were harvested. Blueberry and raspberry PYO

operations had a busy week. Besides harvesting and selling produce, irrigation and moving irrigation pipes are still a daily chore. Hay making between showers. Pastures are growing slowly because of lack of rain. Tuesday afternoon had some localized thundershowers and hail. **Jenn Zaleski (FSA), Sullivan:** The week began with scattered and severe thunderstorms which produced strong winds and pea to marble sized hail. No damage from these storms has been reported. Wednesday through Saturday was dry with highs in the low 80s and lows in mid to upper 50s. Scattered showers were present Saturday night through most of the day on Sunday. Despite the recent rains, soils remain on the dry side. The weather has been great for field corn growth and most of the crop has tasseled. Only the areas that were replanted in early July remain behind schedule. Dry hay harvest has been tricky recently with the scattered rains and poor drying conditions. Many farmers are still waiting for re-growth due to the late harvest of first cut. Third cut hay for haylage has begun.

RHODE ISLAND – Heather Faubert (URI), All Counties:

Finally a day of rain 8/7/11! **Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties:** First tomatoes field planted were starting to be picked this week. They look good in size and color. Farmers are irrigating this week pretty heavy. All the small crops are doing well. Hardly any haying was done this week due to cloudy weather. Livestock and pasture are holding up well for August. We started to harvest the first potatoes this week. They look good in size and the price is way up.

VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:

Continued dry now, some rain at end of week. Dry hay and haylage harvest with manure spreading on fields after cut. Oats in newly seeded fields have strong weed pressure. Side-dressing nitrogen on corn. Some summer seeding of new hay fields that didn't get seeded in spring. Soybeans vigorous. Pasture regrowth good on intensive rotated fields, continuous pasture very poor regrowth.

Daniel Hudson (Ext), Caledonia: Dry in places. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Getting dryer in Franklin County. Getting heavy spot rains, however, no widespread soaking showers. Pastures and regrowth for third cut are taking the worst of the dry weather. Corn seems to be holding its own, however, more curling is being observed. Much second cut dry hay done this week. Regrowth is at a standstill until we get some soaking showers. Ground water seems to be holding its own. Our wet spring is a savoir here. Sweet corn is showing up at more and more roadside stands and this crop seems to have matured before the brunt of the dry weather hit. Blueberries have done fantastic this year. I am hearing reports of poor wild blackberry yields which could be driving the birds to the garden berries. This seems to be more of a problem this year than usual. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** The dry weather continued last week. Crops are starting to show the effects of the dry conditions. A lot of brown in the pastures where the grass has dried up. Second crop hay is average but regrowth on harvested fields is slow to come. Corn is also behind now. Some corn has started to tassel, but stocks are shorter than normal. At this point it looks like corn yields will be below average. Early apples are beginning to ripen but I haven't heard of any harvest yet. Blueberries are being harvested now. Yields are average as well as fruit size. Some rain would be good right now to green things back up again. **Terence Bradshaw, (UVM):** Dry conditions leave many orchards wanting for rain or irrigation. With fruit sizing up it is important to provide adequate water if possible. Ripening periods look 'normal' this year with most early varieties ready for mid-August harvest. Keep an eye out for apple maggot and late generation codling moth. **Julie Jacque (FSA), Windham:** Reports of low pasture regrowth resonates the need for some rain. Vegetables and fruit production remain good. Zucchini, summer squash and cucumbers appear to be quite a bumper crop this year.

JULY- Most of the first week in July had ideal conditions for fieldwork and Independence Day festivities. Skies were partly cloudy with temperatures ranging from the upper 70s to low 90s. Some brief thunderstorms were reported the evening of Wednesday, July 6, in Vermont, Maine, and New Hampshire. Several counties in Maine experienced power outages and some crop damage. Wednesday, July 13, a storm front moved through New England 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 80s. Temperatures increased significantly during the third week. Friday, July 22, temperatures reached the mid-90s to low 100s with record high temperatures in some locations and little relief with nighttime lows in the 70s and 80s for many. Temperatures cooled over the weekend and Monday, July 25, high temperatures were down to the mid-70s. That same week, isolated rain showers were observed in the region on Monday, Tuesday, and Friday which left most farmers hoping for more rain. During the beginning of the month, highbush blueberry harvesting commenced while strawberry harvesting was drawing to a close. Late fall crops, such as acorn squash, collards, and cabbage were being planted. First cut hay quality was lower than average in some areas as wet spring conditions prevented producers from harvesting at the most favorable stage of development. Some reported that second cut hay yields were low due to hard soils and less rainfall. Some potato fields in central Aroostook County, Maine experienced damage from hail and heavy rain on July 6. A variety of vegetables were available at farms stands across New England. Sweet corn was being harvested in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island during the second week of July. Field corn stands varied greatly from field to field depending on the planting date and soil type. Some cranberry producers reported that temperatures in bogs exceeded 100 degrees for several days during the third week. Irrigation in the early morning hours was important to keep the uprights and attached fruit from desiccating. Sweet corn growth flourished in the warm, sunny conditions. Throughout the later part of the month, vegetable growers were irrigating when it was available. In southern Maine, some potatoes blossomed. Apple and peach harvesting activities began during the last week in a few locations.

To receive this report every Monday evening, send an e-mail message to listserv@newsbox.usda.gov and in the body, type **subscribe usda-new-eng-crop-weather**

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