

Crop Progress & Condition



NEW ENGLAND
Agricultural
Statistics



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For week ending 5/20/12

Field Activities Progressed As Weather Improved

GENERAL CONDITIONS For the week ending May 20, 2012, there were 5.2 days available for fieldwork across New England. Pasture condition was rated 1 percent poor, 12 percent fair, 60 percent good, and 27 percent excellent. The week began with moderate precipitation and average to above average daytime temperatures in the 60s and 70s. A cold front moved into the region on Wednesday, igniting a series of thunderstorms capable of producing hail. Skies began clearing up on Thursday and Friday, with average daytime temperatures in the 60s and 70s. The remainder of the week was sunny and warm, with temperatures in the 70s and 80s across New England.

FRUIT: Fruit growers continued to assess the full extent of frost injury on apples and peaches. Some growers reported low and sporadic bloom counts on apple trees. Freeze damage was also reported on strawberries, sweet cherries, and plums. Cranberry beds were wet from rain and frost protection activities. Pollination weather was very favorable in coastal Maine, raising the prospects for a good wild blueberry fruit set. Mummyberry infections ended last week. Fruit orchards were monitored for insects and diseases and sprayed with preventative fungicides. Orchardists were also mowing orchard floor and weed spraying under trees.

VEGETABLES: Warm, sunny weather last week was very favorable for vegetable growth. Farmers continued planting a wide arrangement of vegetables, including beets, cole crops, cucumbers, greens, onions, squash, spinach, and sweet corn. They also harvested asparagus, fiddleheads, greens, rhubarb, and spinach. Vegetable growers were also laying plastic mulch and drop irrigation tape.

FIELD CROPS: Abundant sunshine encouraged fieldwork activity across New England. Farmers took advantage of the weather to actively start their first cutting of haylage or dry hay. There were preliminary reports of a below average hay crop volume in some areas due to inadequate heat and moisture earlier in the season. Warm, sunny weather was ideal for corn growth. Soil conditions were good for finishing tillage of seedbeds. Planting of potatoes and grains were ahead of schedule by week's end, resulting in early emergence of the crops. Pastures continued greening up and showed rapid growth. Farmers were also busy plowing and fertilizing fields throughout the week.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	1	0	0
Short	8	6	2
Adequate	76	73	59
Surplus	15	21	39
Subsoil			
Very Short	1	1	0
Short	7	7	1
Adequate	76	80	63
Surplus	16	12	36

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Development	Fruit Set	Condition
Apples	FB/PF	Average	Good
Peaches	FB/PF	Average	Good/Fair
Pears	FB/PF	Average	Good/Fair
Blueberries			
Highbush	FB/PF	Average	Good
Wild	EB/FB		Excellent/Good
Cranberries,	BS		Good
Strawberries	EB/FB	Average	Good/Fair

EB= Early Bloom, FB=Full Bloom, PF=Petal Fall, BS= Bud Stage

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2012	2011	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Planted --				
Barley, ME	75	25	50	
Oats, ME	75	25	50	
Potatoes				
Maine	50	10	35	N/A
Mass	100	60	90	
Rhode Island	99	80	90	
Silage Corn	40	20	40	
Sweet Corn	50	30	40	
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	0	15	5	N/A
Shade	0	5	30	N/A
-- Percent Emerged --				
Barley	35	<5	20	N/A
Oats	35	<5	15	N/A
Potatoes				
Maine	0	0	<5	
Mass	40	<5	30	Good
Rhode Island	80	15	30	Good
Silage Corn	10	<5	5	Good
Sweet Corn	25	15	20	Good/Fair
Dry Hay	-- Percent Harvested --			
First Cut	10	0	<5	Good

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday May 14, 2012
 To: Sunday May 20, 2012

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 INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS
Augusta_State_A	42	79	59	+4	221	+122	35	+30	1.00	+0.16	4	7.91	+4.38	15
Bangor_Intl_Arp	38	79	59	+5	181	+111	21	+21	0.83	+0.00	3	7.29	+4.04	13
Bethel	39	83	58	+4	170	+92	18	+15	1.62	+0.78	4	6.61	+3.30	16
Caribou_Municip	36	72	56	+5	113	+62	8	+8	0.56	-0.14	3	5.53	+2.85	14
Dover-Foxcroft	31	81	56	+4	102	+50	6	+6	0.75	-0.03	4	7.63	+4.37	15
Frenchville	38	68	55	+5	90	+56	8	+8	0.59	-0.11	4	4.24	+1.51	15
Houlton	33	76	55	+4	115	+64	3	+3	0.93	+0.16	4	5.13	+2.22	15
Livermore_Falls	33	82	58	+6	159	+107	12	+12	1.07	+0.23	4	6.84	+3.40	16
Moosehead	30	78	53	+4	62	+37	1	+1	0.54	-0.23	4	5.64	+2.58	15
Portland_ME	39	73	58	+5	199	+134	23	+23	0.82	+0.02	4	8.50	+5.06	16
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	34	80	58	+4	159	+60	18	+7	1.08	+0.31	4	5.23	+2.30	18
Berlin_AG	36	81	58	+6	168	+87	17	+10	0.81	+0.01	3	5.04	+1.88	15
Concord	36	84	61	+6	313	+199	70	+60	1.29	+0.59	3	6.37	+3.57	15
First_Conn_Lake	32	79	56	+8	96	+65	7	+7	1.03	+0.12	4	5.36	+2.03	17
Keene_AG	36	84	61	+3	267	+105	48	+25	1.11	+0.27	3	5.53	+2.24	16
North_Conway	37	81	59	+5	196	+101	27	+19	1.26	+0.36	4	7.33	+3.64	17
Rochester	38	87	62	+5	288	+154	69	+55	1.08	+0.22	4	6.86	+3.17	14
VERMONT														
Bennington_AP	35	81	61	+7	292	+190	51	+38	1.26	+0.21	4	6.11	+1.97	17
Burlington_Intl	39	83	62	+5	324	+178	79	+58	0.70	+0.00	3	5.62	+2.84	18
Island_Pond	31	79	57	+6	151	+94	14	+14	0.92	+0.08	5	4.12	+1.05	18
Montpelier	33	79	58	+4	206	+111	27	+17	0.60	-0.16	4	4.12	+1.38	18
Rochester	34	85	59	+6	179	+95	24	+17	0.97	-0.01	4	5.22	+1.35	18
Rutland_AG	35	83	60	+2	225	+50	30	+0	1.39	+0.61	3	5.25	+2.27	15
Springfield_VT	36	83	61	+7	300	+193	58	+46	1.23	+0.32	4	5.85	+2.21	17
Sutton	36	79	57	+7	156	+102	18	+18	1.09	+0.26	3	5.02	+1.97	19
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	49	80	62	+4	408	+227	96	+86	0.65	-0.05	3	5.18	+2.10	14
Fitchburg	41	85	64	+10	438	+349	122	+119	0.87	+0.08	3	5.49	+2.33	15
Greenfield	39	83	62	+3	319	+136	68	+47	1.58	+0.69	4	6.86	+3.36	15
New_Bedford	41	78	62	+3	319	+135	55	+44	1.70	+0.90	2	6.69	+3.29	13
Otis_AFB	39	75	60	+5	238	+146	33	+33	1.11	+0.27	2	6.11	+2.64	10
Plymouth	40	81	62	+6	335	+231	72	+70	1.34	+0.43	2	6.11	+2.35	14
Walpole	43	84	63	+7	372	+235	88	+79	0.79	+0.02	4	6.63	+3.31	16
Chicopee/Westov	37	84	63	+3	381	+129	88	+51	0.78	-0.13	4	4.78	+1.14	17
Worthington	37	81	59	+6	224	+127	31	+23	1.31	+0.26	4	6.01	+1.85	18
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	45	81	63	+6	366	+209	70	+63	1.35	+0.51	2	6.85	+3.35	13
Woonsocket	43	84	64	+7	389	+256	94	+88	0.89	-0.02	3	7.11	+3.35	13
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	48	79	64	+5	381	+187	52	+27	1.10	+0.19	2	6.44	+2.80	10
Hartford/Bradle	43	84	64	+5	444	+218	111	+76	0.76	-0.22	3	5.62	+1.89	18
Norfolk	38	80	60	+6	246	+153	33	+27	0.70	-0.34	4	4.96	+0.82	18
Thomaston_Dam	37	82	63	+6	343	+192	63	+48	0.76	-0.22	4	5.40	+1.30	16
Willimantic	42	82	63	+7	399	+250	91	+77	0.67	-0.27	2	5.19	+1.31	14

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, May 20, 2012

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	29	83	57	+4	0.47	1.62
NH	24	87	59	+6	0.50	1.90
VT	29	85	59	+5	0.46	1.95
MA	35	85	61	+5	0.44	1.99
RI	43	84	64	+7	0.89	1.35
CT	37	84	62	+5	0.48	1.55

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: Hay is heading out shorter than normal. Orchard grass is ready to cut. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** First cutting of haylage is progressing well. Tonnage is lower than normal. Grass headed out about a third shorter than normal. Tonnage is off 15-20% according to reports. Corn is emerging slowly. It needs some sun and heat which we finally got over the weekend. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** An incredible amount of grass was mowed and chopped, quality varied from just right to too mature. Height varied due to lack of water earlier. Warm, sunny weather last week was great for corn and vegetable growth.

MAINE – Marcia Hall (FSA), Androscoggin/Oxford/Sagadahoc: Reports of a frost and some hail last week. Producers are still going fast and furious to get crops into the ground in-between the rain. Producers are eager to get started on harvesting hay and getting livestock out into pastures. Fiddleheads are being harvested and being marketed. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Rain finally let up on Thursday, allowing farmers to begin planting potatoes. Planting was in full swing throughout the weekend. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Had plenty of rain this week and farmers were not able to plant very much. **Don Audibert, (FSA) Northern Aroostook:** Farmers had a beautiful week for planting. Grains are almost 100% planted and potatoes are around 75% planted. This coming week looks good and most farmers will be done planting their crops. A lot of gardeners working in their gardens. Everything looks good so far! **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Nice weather finally arrived over the weekend. Farmers were busy planting vegetables. The hay is ready to cut and is headed out. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Hay harvest has begun. Soil conditions are very good right now. Barley and oats are planted. Spring wheat has emerged. Bees and insects are now active, but maybe too late to fully help with apple pollination. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** The past week was not too bad overall. Fields were being worked on again and crops starting to be planted. Some are still pretty wet, but high ground is being started. Warm days have allowed the stage of berries and fruit trees to blossom. Fields are nice and green and bees have arrived to begin pollination. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis/Penobscot:** Clear, dry and hot weather at the end of the week enabled a lot of folks to make major progress on planting. Animals are out on pasture enjoying the green grass. **Elaine S. Moceus (FSA), Somerset:** Beautiful weather for field work this week with one rainy night followed by light rain in the morning earlier in the week. Great week to plant silage corn. Strawberries are approximately 10% in bloom with highbush blueberries ready to bloom with the sunshine and warmth. Strawberries were irrigated four times from the end of April to the first weekend of May due to frost and 24 degree temps. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Midcoast fields are in full bloom and the warmer weather is expected to produce full bloom this week on the Downeast fields. Pollination weather is good and the bees are in the fields so fruit set is expected to be good this year. The mummyberry cups have stopped producing spores, so there is no longer a threat of infection from this disease. Some insect outbreaks have been reported, it is expected that the mild winter will mean more insect pressure.

MASSACHUSETTS – Debra Senger (FSA), Berkshire: We have been getting reports that the orchards are hurting due to

the warm weather in March resulting in early budding. The frost at the end of the month has hurt the stone fruit trees. **Heather Baylis (FSA) Franklin:** Rain at the start of the week with some areas receiving strong winds and hail. Then end of the week saw sun and rising temps resulting in a very warm Sunday. Dairy farmers have done their first cutting hay reporting excellent quality. Fruit growers were applying protective fungicide. Plowing and fertilizing fields continued throughout the week. Vegetable producers are planting beets, onions, all types of greens and lettuces, cabbage and spinach. Harvesting asparagus, greens, rhubarb and spinach. One third of potatoes are emerged and most farmers have completed planting their potato fields. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire /Hampden:** The week began rainy and cool. It ended off very warm. Dairy farmers are harvesting hay and planting corn silage. Vegetable growers have started planting summer crops such as tomatoes, squashes, and cucumbers. They are harvesting rhubarb, greens, and asparagus. A few fruit growers reported losses from previous freezes on strawberries, apples, peaches, sweet cherries, and plums. The potato crop looks very good and 55% of the crop is up. Farmers removed plastic this week from their sweet corn and the crop is six inches tall and looks good. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Another good soaking last week, 2-3 inches in most places. Vines continue to assume more general green color. A few fruiting buds can be seen in the warmer, more advanced ditches. Growers were watching the thermometer another three nights, now totaling at least 25 frost or near frost nights - insane. Insect levels have not been outrageous, but root rot areas have expanded during the past two years, necessitating drainage improvements in many beds. By and large, things are looking pretty good at this point, although beds are on the wet side from rain and running the sprinklers for frost protection.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Kelly McAdam (Ext), Belknap: Some apple growers reported low and sporadic bloom counts on apples, possibly an effect of warm temperatures early in the spring and the low temperatures/freezing nights. **Donna Juneau (FSA) Belknap/Merrimack:** There was steady rainfall Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday keeping producers off the fields during the beginning of the week. A total three day accumulation of rain was reported at over one inch in most areas. The end of the week brought warm, sunny days that lasted through the weekend. Producers have indicated that they plan to continue to plant their field corn over the next few weeks; and potentially harvest first cut hay around the Memorial Day weekend, weather permitting. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** A few more rainy days early in the week, then gorgeous bright sunny weather. Most of the field corn is planted, and some of it has begun to emerge. Farms took advantage of sunshine to begin 1st cutting of haylage and even a little dry hay. Planting on vegetable farms right on schedule and some greens. High tunnel crops making it to farmers' markets. Fruit growers still assessing full extent of frost injury on apples and peaches, but it looks like there will still be a crop. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending May 19th, we received just under one inch of rain. Small amounts of rain arrived over a three day period. Sun and warm temperatures during the last three days of the week allowed corn planting and other field work to proceed. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Vegetables: Laying plastic mulch and drip irrigation tape. Making successive planting of vegetable crops. Harvesting spinach, asparagus, rhubarb and all kinds of greens. Fruit: Fruit growers were monitoring pest and crop development and applying cover sprays for pest control. Some orchardists still worried about apple scab. Orchardists to apply or deciding on

thinning sprays to apple orchards. Mowing orchard floors and weed spraying under trees. Fruit crop load is all over the place, from no crop to loaded. Seems to be depended on stage of development when all frost/freeze events occurred. Field Crops: Planting and weed spraying corn fields. Farmers started to make haylage and baled hay. Corn has emerged and new seedings are up and growing. **Dot Perkins (Ext), Merrimack:** The pastures are growing well and getting ahead of the animals that are grazing. I've seen green chop being harvested and many growers were able to take a first cut of hay this past weekend. Potatoes have been planted along with much of the sweet corn. Rain didn't inhibit pollination of strawberries. Soil moisture seems to be adequate. What started out as an early, dry season seems to be turning around and we are getting more normal weather. Let's hope that this trend continues. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Pastures are growing well and are lush and green. Some hay fields are ready to be mowed this week. Fruit orchards are being monitored for insect pests and diseases and sprayed with preventative fungicides. Planting greens and cole crops and warm season crops will be planted soon in the fields. Harvesting asparagus and greens. The first of the week was cloudy and wet, while the second part of the week was sunny and warmer. Mid-week on Wednesday night, we had some strong thundershowers, lightening and hail. **Jenn Zaleski (FSA), Sullivan:** Rainy start to the week. Strong thunderstorms moved through the area late afternoon on Wednesday bringing heavy rains and frequent lightning. Skies cleared up on Thursday. Frost advisories were posted for Friday morning. Temperatures were in the mid-30s overnight. Warm, sunny conditions continued through the weekend and highs were in the low to mid-80s. Producers continued to plant corn during the nice weather. Some Sullivan County dairy farmers report that they are all finished! First cut dry hay harvest began around the area.

RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties: Three days last week were either cloudy or raining. This week predicts 3-4 days of rain. There is no way of making first cut of hay yet. Potato crop looks very good. Same with strawberries, which are

going to be early. The amount of rain we've gotten in the last few weeks has put us well out of drought stage. There is plenty of moisture in the soil, upper and lower. Apples and peaches and other fruits have to be evaluated to see how bad they are in some parts of the state due to frost. Pastures are green, but not a lot of feed there for this time of year. Small crops are being planted this week, such as tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, etc. All high ground is being planted to silage corn wherever they can get into the fields.

VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison: Started first harvest of haylage, no dry bales yet. Hay crop short on volume, harvest on schedule for best quality. Manure spreading on hay fields after harvest. Corn planting proceeding on heavier soils now. Soil conditions good for finish tillage of seedbeds. Some lime spreading on fields. Pasture growth is very good recovery after grazing. New seedings vigorous with nurse crop growth good. **Heather Darby (Ext), Franklin:** Rain early in the week slowed field work. Later in the week, dry and warm weather had many farmers mowing first cut forage. Much of forage was just in boot or heading. Corn is being planted and some corn has emerged. Winter wheat is nearing boot stage. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** What a week in Franklin County. Some rain mid-week slowed planting, however, the rains subsided and field work went crazy. Corn planting and first cut haylage harvest is moving well. Fields are still on the wet side and drying quickly. Grasses are at ideal stage for harvest and are maturing quickly with temps in the 80's to 90's. Pastures are doing great. Apples and fruit bushes are past bloom and will be bearing fruit soon. Strawberries should be on schedule. We are hoping for some good weather this week that will really help get us over the edge and well into our growing and harvest season. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Corn planting and first cut hay harvest was in full swing. The hay crop is maturing fast with the warm temperatures. The orchard grass is starting to head out. A drier week allowed much more field work to occur. Temperatures ranged from 50 degrees on Thursday to 90 degrees on Sunday. Pastures look good and most everybody is grazing now.

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