

Crop Progress & Condition



NEW ENGLAND
Agricultural
Statistics



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August 13, 2012 – 4 pm

For week ending 8/12/12

Heavy Downpours Provided Some Relief

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending August 12, 2012, there were 5.1 days available for fieldwork across New England. Pasture condition was rated 1 percent very poor, 19 percent poor, 34 percent fair, 45 percent good, and 1 percent excellent. It was a hot, humid week in New England with widespread precipitation during the latter half of the week. Strong storms during August 10 and 11 brought high winds and welcomed heavy downpours. A few areas received an overabundance of rain over a short period of time, resulting in saturated soils. Average temperatures for the week ranged from 4 degrees above normal in Maine to 6 degrees above normal in Rhode Island. Total precipitation for the week ranged from 0.3 to 5.2 inches.

FRUIT: Fruit growers continued harvesting highbush blueberries, peaches, raspberries, blackberries, plums, and early season apple varieties last week. Growers in Connecticut began picking pears. The Maine wild blueberry harvest was wrapping up in the mid-coast region while harvest continued elsewhere in eastern Maine. Recent rains alleviated plant stress, but the crop was in need of additional moisture. Heavy rains in eastern Massachusetts helped size up the cranberry fruit and keep vines healthy. There were concerns of an increase in the number of SWD fruit flies as a result of recent wet weather in New England. Orchardists were busy irrigating, monitoring for pests, renovating strawberry beds, and preparing orchards for picking.

VEGETABLES: Vegetable crops were growing well thanks to abundant precipitation. However, late blight was reported in some tomato fields in Maine. Farmers irrigated their crops when necessary and harvested an array of vegetables including sweet corn, green beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, cucumbers, greens, melons, peppers, radishes, squash, tomatoes, zucchini, and other vegetables. Farmers were also hoeing weeds, monitoring for pests, and spraying for insects and diseases.

FIELD CROPS: Harvest of hay continued as weather permitted during the week. The crop benefited from rain as the dry July weather had slowed re-growth on many fields. Some corn fields showed drought stress, even after heavy showers during the week. Crop development was uneven due to variable germination. Harvest of potatoes and small grains in Aroostook County, Maine continued. The crops were in good condition, but stressed by dry weather and pests. Late blight was spotted in Aroostook County, Maine. Pastures responded favorably to rain as 46 percent were rated in good to excellent condition throughout New England, compared to 34 percent on August 5. Producers were also busy cultivating and spraying fields.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	3	5	4
Short	31	48	28
Adequate	62	47	63
Surplus	4	0	5
Subsoil			
Very Short	3	3	4
Short	32	41	35
Adequate	62	56	60
Surplus	3	0	1

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Set	Fruit Size	Condition
	2012	2011	5-yr Avg			
Apples	<5	<5	<5	Average	Average	Fair/Good
Peaches	40	50	45		Average	Good/Fair
Pears	<5	0	<5		Average	Good/Fair
Blueberries						
Highbush	80	65	70			
Wild	40	30	30		Average	Exc/Good
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-	Avg/Above	Avg/Above	Good
Strawberries	100	100	100			

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2012	2011	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Harvested --				
Barley	20	0	5	Excellent/Good
Oats	5	0	<5	Excellent/Good
Potatoes				
Maine	<5	0	0	Good/Excellent
Mass	10	10	5	Good
Rhode Island	10	5	10	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	-	-	-	Good
Sweet Corn	45	40	45	Good/Fair
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	40	15	30	Good/Fair
Shade	85	55	50	
Dry Hay				
First	99	99	95	
Second	80	65	65	
Third	15	5	10	Fair/Good

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday August 6, 2012
 To: Sunday August 12, 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	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS
	---	---	---	---	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	INCHES	---	---	INCHES	---	---
MAINE														
Augusta_State_A	58	87	72	+4	1734	+278	755	+192	1.03	+0.26	3	2.35	-0.62	12
Bangor_Intl_Arp	52	87	71	+4	1616	+292	662	+192	0.25	-0.52	2	1.18	-1.75	9
Bethel	51	87	70	+3	1546	+221	607	+145	2.51	+1.60	4	5.37	+1.97	13
Caribou_Municip	52	89	70	+6	1405	+313	539	+228	1.12	+0.21	5	2.85	-0.93	10
Dover-Foxcroft	50	87	69	+4	1376	+218	522	+165	1.08	+0.25	3	1.75	-1.40	11
Frenchville	53	89	68	+5	1233	+220	433	+167	1.60	+0.68	4	2.67	-0.95	11
Houlton	48	86	70	+6	1370	+234	522	+178	0.27	-0.64	3	0.95	-2.62	9
Livermore_Falls	50	86	70	+5	1540	+396	608	+266	1.75	+0.84	4	3.20	-0.12	14
Moosehead	46	84	66	+3	1091	+129	330	+84	0.41	-0.43	3	1.78	-1.75	11
Portland_ME	58	85	73	+5	1716	+396	749	+274	2.74	+2.11	3	6.55	+3.95	12
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	50	83	69	+4	1431	+197	523	+146	3.30	+2.39	4	5.37	+1.98	15
Berlin_AG	51	86	70	+5	1512	+270	570	+171	3.36	+2.38	4	5.68	+2.03	10
Concord	53	92	74	+6	1944	+466	888	+315	4.72	+3.95	4	6.58	+3.53	15
First_Conn_Lake	49	85	68	+7	1222	+386	405	+245	2.88	+1.69	5	4.57	+0.15	11
Keene_AG	53	91	73	+4	1884	+233	843	+147	3.65	+2.74	3	4.82	+1.35	11
North_Conway	53	86	70	+4	1618	+235	657	+154	4.29	+3.38	4	6.39	+2.88	15
Rochester	55	93	75	+6	1993	+423	961	+319	2.44	+1.60	3	4.28	+1.02	12
VERMONT														
Bennington_AP	51	88	71	+6	1891	+598	838	+412	1.64	+0.66	3	4.46	+0.73	12
Burlington_Intl	56	87	73	+5	2131	+539	1057	+399	2.31	+1.40	4	4.79	+1.29	10
Island_Pond	51	82	69	+7	1437	+422	528	+271	3.16	+2.04	4	5.24	+1.04	13
Montpelier	51	84	69	+4	1593	+340	622	+218	2.26	+1.38	5	5.05	+1.92	13
Rochester	53	87	70	+4	1561	+340	609	+223	2.19	+1.14	4	4.96	+1.11	13
Rutland_AG	52	86	70	+1	1718	+79	710	+30	2.23	+1.26	3	5.10	+1.40	15
Springfield_VT	54	91	74	+8	2021	+672	954	+488	1.57	+0.66	3	4.56	+1.13	15
Sutton	50	82	68	+5	1434	+401	515	+243	1.60	+0.48	4	4.33	+0.18	11
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	66	88	76	+4	2233	+376	1106	+246	1.26	+0.56	3	5.80	+3.12	11
Fitchburg	58	92	77	+10	2331	+989	1192	+720	1.83	+1.00	3	3.35	+0.04	12
Greenfield	57	90	74	+4	2069	+307	990	+213	2.22	+1.38	3	4.04	+0.68	14
New_Bedford	58	87	76	+3	2063	+209	983	+127	0.96	+0.01	3	4.93	+1.66	13
Otis_AFB	61	84	75	+5	1822	+325	822	+215	1.74	+0.97	3	4.90	+2.10	15
Plymouth	59	88	77	+7	2061	+501	992	+337	1.69	+0.81	2	4.95	+1.70	10
Walpole	59	90	77	+7	2180	+574	1065	+396	0.79	-0.08	3	4.69	+1.44	11
Chicopee/Westov	55	92	76	+3	2199	+185	1087	+118	2.59	+1.82	4	3.93	+0.83	11
Worthington	51	87	70	+4	1668	+361	678	+242	1.80	+0.82	3	3.84	-0.08	12
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	61	88	76	+5	2214	+451	1093	+298	2.35	+1.54	3	4.84	+1.80	13
Woonsocket	58	89	77	+8	2207	+628	1088	+452	0.71	-0.20	3	5.27	+1.70	13
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	65	88	79	+5	2398	+510	1233	+336	2.59	+1.82	3	6.62	+3.38	9
Hartford/Bradley	59	92	78	+6	2426	+484	1264	+342	1.60	+0.81	2	5.22	+2.25	12
Norfolk	54	87	72	+6	1760	+447	742	+299	3.38	+2.37	3	6.74	+2.87	14
Thomaston_Dam	54	91	75	+7	2171	+610	1059	+442	2.28	+1.33	3	5.16	+1.35	16
Willimantic	58	89	77	+9	2275	+685	1135	+493	1.20	+0.29	3	3.57	-0.14	14

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, August 12, 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	44	91	70	+4	0.25	3.46
NH	42	93	71	+5	1.01	5.23
VT	49	91	70	+5	0.58	3.16
MA	51	93	75	+5	0.74	3.78
RI	58	89	76	+6	0.71	2.35
CT	53	92	76	+5	0.79	3.38

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

CONNECTICUT – Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield: Making hay and prepping equipment for corn harvest. Early planted corn looks like it will be ready in another couple of weeks. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Heavy rain, wind on Friday. Farmers Markets busy. Vegetables growing well. Peaches on the smaller side. Third cutting hay started.

MAINE – Marcia Hall (FSA), Androscoggin/Oxford/Sagadahoc: Farm stands are in full swing and busy! Crops are in need of water as the past hot, humid weather is taking its toll. Sweet corn is being harvested, but seems to be on the smaller size thus far. Some tomato blight has been reported. Harvesting of hay is ongoing as weather permits. **Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook:** Welcome rain came on Friday with the whole county receiving about 0.5 inches. Broccoli harvest continues with disappointing yields. Barley harvest is in full swing with above average test weights and yields. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Some aphids still being found. Need some rain! **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Spotty thunderstorms have supplied some areas with too much rain last week. Other areas received enough rain and are looking for some dry weather. Corn growth is very uneven in the area, some corn fields are very short and have many missing spots and other fields look normal. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Ahh, rain at last; the grass is starting to grow again. The corn crop is going to be very uneven no matter what. Vine crops are looking good. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis/Penobscot:** Weekend widespread rains have helped crops. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** Received some welcome rain over the weekend. **Elaine S Moceus (FSA), Somerset:** Much needed more than one inch of rain over the weekend has helped the crops significantly. Some hay fields that were cut in July may not recover this year due to the continued dry conditions this summer. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Despite cloudy weather, we have received very little rain. Corn crops on sandy soils are curled, even with spotty showers. Hornworms and late blight abound! **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: The mid-coast region is finishing up harvesting this week, but harvest continues Downeast. Berry size has been smaller due to the lack of rain. The recent rain over the weekend will help alleviate some stress, but was not enough to wet the lower levels of the soil so the underlying soil is still very dry. We are still expected to have a better than average crop, how much better depends on how much more rain we receive this month.

MASSACHUSETTS – Heather Baylis (FSA) Franklin: Hot and humid weather during the week gave way to strong rains on Friday and Saturday bringing much needed moisture to the county. An outstanding tomato crop is currently being harvested. Potatoes and onions for storage are being harvested. Cucurbits are producing heavily with growers picking their second plantings of squashes. Fall crops are growing and this weather will assist with germination. Early season apple varieties are coming in and the peach crop looks to be exceptionally good. Farmers are hoping this solid rain will boost the growth rate for second cutting hay which is lagging way behind. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** The week began dry, hot and humid and ended with heavy rains of four plus inches. These rains will greatly help the fall season crops. Harvesting apples, peaches, blueberries, sweet corn, potatoes, squash, tomatoes and cucumbers. Growers continue hoeing and cultivating, monitoring for pests, and spraying for diseases and insects. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Wonderful

soaking rains on Friday and Sunday can only help to continue sizing up the fruit and keep the vines happy and healthy. They might have had a bit too much rain too fast in the Taunton area on Friday with possible hail. The crop looks better and better, but some fruit rot is becoming an issue in some beds. Many growers are taking time off, as there's not much to do, and staying off the beds is the best thing you can do.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Donna Juneau (FSA) Belknap/Merrimack: Most areas in Belknap and Merrimack Counties received rain last week. Rainfall was light on August 5, 9 and 12; and heavy on the August 10 and 11. Two and a half inches of rain was reported in Concord on August 10 and one and a half inches were reported on August 11. Producers are reporting that field corn is generally doing well; and the first cut and early second cut of hay were better than average. Late second cuts of hay have reportedly been below average due to lack of rain. Some producers are reporting having to irrigate their sweet corn due to lack of rain but the overall quality has been good and sales are strong. Sales at farm stands and farmers markets are generally doing well. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Warm and muggy most of the week, and some rain and thunderstorms Friday and Saturday. Crops doing better overall. Farms finishing up last of third cutting for haylage; dry hay harvest continues as conditions allow. Kernels filling out on field corn. Vegetable crops doing well, though non-irrigated land is still showing lack of moisture. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Varying amounts of rain throughout the county during the week, over one inch or more, generally making for good conditions for ear filling of field corn and regrowth of pastures and hay meadows. Fields being prepared for summer seedings. Sweet corn and tomatoes at farm markets. White cabbage moths seem plentiful this summer. Aphids on soybeans being well attended by many ladybeetles and their larvae. Powdery mildew showing up on cucurbits. Perfect weather for NH Dairy Breed Show at the fairgrounds in Lancaster. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending August 11th, we received 2.6 inches of rain. Hard rains on the 9th and 10 caused streams and rivers to run full. Localized flash runoff was a concern. One storm event dropped nearly an inch of rain in less than one hour. Overall, the corn crop is doing OK. Projections are that the crop may be down a little from normal. Producers will only know for certain in the fall. Late cut hay is beginning to green up since the recent rains. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Corn earworm moth numbers are increasing. Fall armyworm very low numbers. Second generation European Corn Borer looks like it has peaked. SWD Fruit Fly is increasing in numbers slowly. However, with the wet conditions and increasing numbers there is some concern that the SWD population can explode at any time. Fruit: Orchardists harvesting peaches, plums, blueberries and raspberries. Started harvesting Paulared apples. Orchardists busy irrigating apples, blueberries, peaches, raspberry and strawberry beds. Monitoring for pests - spraying if needed, mowing orchard floors and starting to move bins into orchards. Field Crops: Hay cutting continued during the week with the second cut being made. Drought stress is being seen in many silage corn fields, do not think the rains will help some fields - it was too late. Vegetables: Irrigating crops but rain on the weekend helped. Harvesting an array of vegetables: beans, beets, cole crops, cucumbers, greens, melons, potatoes, radishes, summer squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, pepper, zucchini, and other vegetables. Farmers kept busy monitoring pest pressures and spraying pesticides for insect and disease control where needed. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Irrigating fields during the week. Late Friday

afternoon and during the weekend we had severe down-pouring rain and gusty winds. Growers assessing possible soil erosion. Harvesting apples, peaches, blueberries, raspberries, blackberries and a whole array of vegetables. Haying continued and field corn growing. Monitoring pests and spraying if needed. Farmers markets, farm stands and PYO operations were very busy. Most apple orchards will open at the end of the week. **Jenn Zaleski (FSA), Sullivan:** The week began comfortable and dry with highs in the upper 70s to low 80s. Conditions became hot and humid by Thursday with highs in the low 90s. Scattered thunderstorms rolled through during the afternoon. Areas hit received roughly a tenth of an inch of rain. The humidity continued through the weekend but highs were only in the low 80s with lows in the upper 60s. Heavy widespread rain showers fell Friday afternoon. Saturday also brought steady rain to many areas. Precipitation totals for the weekend were anywhere from 0.90 to close to three inches. Farmers were busy chopping and baling hay during the week. The weekend rain was welcomed and will help with re-growth. Field corn looks great. We haven't seen or heard of anyone chopping yet. Summer veggies and sweet corn are abundant in farmer's markets and farm stands. Peaches and highbush blueberries are still being picked throughout the county.

RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties: We had heavy rains Friday night and Sunday morning. This caused some minor washouts in the field. Potato digging is in full swing with early potatoes. It is a good looking crop so far. Silage corn looks good. Enough rain each week to help it grow. Sweet corn, I think it's been the best season in a long time. Small vegetables are great right now. There has been enough rain that they have a nice color and size and the taste is good too. Pastures for the second week in August are excellent as far as being green. Livestock looks good. Still second cutting hay is being made when it is not raining. I still don't think there will be much third cutting.

VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison: Corn variable from two feet to almost mature. Much variability within fields due to uneven germination in the beginning. Some side-dress still going on, others ready to fly on rye cover crop. Hay harvest has been very light for second and third cut haylage. With the recent rain there is hope for a good fourth cut. Dry hay harvest yields good, but low quality when delayed harvest for higher yield. Soybeans vigorous with pods formed and seed set. Pasture in good rotation sequence looks vigorous and continuous pasture looks very poor. New seedings mostly cleaned off and regrowth is vigorous with recent rains. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Welcome rain in Franklin County this week. Still hot and muggy, however, the air is much less drying. The moisture will help very much with ear development in field corn and growth in grass. Still some farms with water trouble for their herds, however, still manageable. Gardens are on the tail end with some trouble getting the tomatoes to ripen with some reports of dry rot. This is pointing to some dry weather problems, however, still persistent where people have watered, not the same as rain from Mother Nature. Most third cut off and waiting to see if a fourth cut is in the wind. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Some showers this past week have helped with the dry conditions. The corn has tasseled and most fields look good. Some third cut hay was harvested last week. Yields are a little low due to the dry weather. The pastures are struggling to keep up, also due to the dry weather. **Terence Bradshaw, (UVM):** Early harvest has commenced with Paulared, Ginger Gold, and other early varieties picking this week. The ripening season is about 10 days early, as expected from the early bloom. Growers are generally happy with the crop in Vermont, with some loss from spring frost but overall, estimates are around 80% of a normal crop. Growers have begun applications of ReTain to delay fruit drop and maturity to help manage harvest windows and improve fruit quality. Welcome rains in the past couple of weeks have improved the soil moisture situation and are helping to increase fruit size.

JULY SUMMARY: The month of July brought monthly average temperatures ranging from 1 degree below normal to 4 degrees above normal. Precipitation for the month was generally below average, ranging from 0.6 inches in northern Maine to 4.4 inches in southwestern Connecticut. The month began warm with severe thunderstorms in northern New England on July 4, with strong winds, heavy rain, and hail at some locations. The second week of July was hot and humid with minimal precipitation. Dry, hot weather continued through the third week with some locations reporting triple digit temperatures. Scattered storms in mid-July brought much-needed precipitation to northern New England. Strong storms moved into the area during the fourth week, providing some relief to most of New England with the exception of northern Maine. Fruit development throughout New England was ahead of schedule, with the harvest of peaches and highbush blueberries underway by the first week of July. The first apples and Maine wild blueberries were picked by the end of the third week. The wild blueberry crop was reported in excellent to good condition with above average fruit set and size. Cranberries finished blooming by the first week of the month and showed potential of a good crop. Picking of strawberries was wrapped up by the end of the month, one week ahead of schedule. Fruit growers were busy irrigating and spraying for pests such as SWD fruit flies. Harvest of sweet corn was 30 percent complete by the end of the month, ahead of last year and normal. Vegetable crops showed signs of stress in late July due to lack of moisture. Late blight in tomatoes spread to several Counties in southern and central New England. Vegetable growers harvested an array of vegetables and sprayed for insects and diseases. Warm weather increased fieldwork and accelerated crop development early in July. However, lack of significant precipitation later in the month stressed crops and slowed re-growth of hay and pasture fields. Blue mold on tobacco was detected and producers were working to control its spread. Potatoes and grains in Aroostook County, Maine were ready for harvest at the end of the month and were in good condition, but stressed by dry weather and pests. Pastures conditions deteriorated from 87 to 37 percent good to excellent during the course of the month.

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