

Crop Progress & Condition



A field office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service
United States Department of Agriculture

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For week ending 6/2/13

Weekend Heat Wave

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending June 2, 2013 there were 4.3 days suitable for fieldwork across New England. Pasture condition ratings averaged 1% poor, 19% fair, 72% good, and 8% excellent. Temperatures dipped below freezing at the start of the week and ended with weekend highs in the 90's. Regionwide average temperatures ranged from 4 to 6 degrees above normal. Precipitation varied from light showers early to mid-week to thunderstorms accompanied by severe downpours, hail and high winds over the weekend. Damage assessments were underway to evaluate extent of storm damage. Precipitation averages across the six states ranged from 0.39 to 1.06 inches. The mix of sun, heat and rain accelerated crop development at many locations.

FRUIT: Producers were busy monitoring for pests in orchards and spraying protective fungicides, mowing and spraying weeds under trees. Improved pollinating conditions promoted excellent honeybee activity across Maine's wild blueberries fields. Strawberries advanced to petal fall and beyond by week's end, with harvest just getting underway at some southern locations. Strawberries averaged less than 5 percent harvested by week's end, compared with 5 percent last year and less than 5 percent normal.

VEGETABLES: Temperatures warmed up the soils as planting moved into high gear across New England. Growers were active planting sweet corn, tomatoes, peppers, beets, lettuce, cabbage, spinach, peas, greens, onions and other vegetable crops. Crops harvested included greens, radishes, rhubarb, fiddleheads, parsnips, and asparagus. Weekend rains gave crops a great boost.

FIELD CROPS: Planting progress neared completion at many locations this past week as farmers took advantage of the dry days between showers. Specialists report crops responding well to the mix of heat, sun and rain. Shower activity kept all but a few farmers from making dry hay and hay silage this week. Shade tobacco producers had the crop all transplanted by week's end, ahead of last year and normal. Broadleaf tobacco planting made steady progress, ranging from 15 percent planted in Massachusetts to 30 percent planted in Connecticut. Rainfall activity did not take a break in northern Maine this week. Persistent showers and severe thunderstorms dominated the week in Aroostook County, allowing only one day suitable for fieldwork. Maine oats and barley producers still have 5 percent left to plant, unchanged from a week ago. Potato planting slowed to a crawl with fields too wet for equipment entry.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	1	1	1
Adequate	59	49	61
Surplus	40	50	38
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	2	4	0
Adequate	73	65	68
Surplus	25	31	32

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Stage of Development	Fruit Set	Fruit Size	Condition
Apples	PF	Avg	Avg	Good/Fair
Peaches	PF	Avg	Avg	Good/Fair
Pears	PF	Avg	Avg	Good
Blueberries				
Highbush	FB/PF	Avg	Avg	Good
Wild	FB	---	---	Good
Cranberries, MA	BS	---	---	Good
Strawberries	FB/PF	Avg/Below	Avg	Good/Fair

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

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2013	2012	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Planted --				
Barley, ME	95	99	95	
Oats, ME	95	95	95	
Potatoes				
Maine	90	95	90	
Mass	100	100	99	
Rhode Island	100	100	99	
Silage Corn	85	75	75	
Sweet Corn	80	70	65	
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	25	25	30	Good/Fair
Shade	100	65	90	Good/Fair
-- Percent Emerged --				
Barley	90	85	65	Exc/Good
Oats	80	85	65	Exc/Good
Potatoes				
Maine	20	35	15	Good/Fair
Mass	75	80	75	Good
Rhode Island	90	100	80	Good/Exc
Silage Corn	60	50	40	Good/Exc
Sweet Corn	50	45	45	Good
-- Percent Harvested --				
Dry Hay				
First Cut	15	20	25	Good/Fair

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday May 27, 2013
 To: Sunday June 2, 2013

STATION	CUM SINCE MAR 1 TEMPERATURE				1-WEEK PRECIP GROWING DEGREE DAYS				4-WEEK CUM PRECIP			TOTAL		
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	INCHES	DFN	DAYS	INCHES	DFN	DAYS
MAINE														
Augusta_State_A	40	92	64	+5	254	+54	64	+42	0.29	-0.55	3	5.91	+2.50	16
Bangor_Intl_Arp	35	90	61	+3	205	+48	53	+41	0.39	-0.40	4	4.56	+1.31	17
Bethel	35	91	59	+2	210	+41	45	+29	0.02	-0.85	1	6.57	+3.23	12
Caribou_Municip	33	87	59	+4	230	+112	57	+48	1.31	+0.61	4	5.56	+2.76	16
Dover-Foxcroft	32	91	60	+4	211	+90	51	+43	0.70	-0.14	4	5.52	+2.26	16
Frenchville	32	84	57	+3	190	+99	45	+45	1.62	+0.92	5	6.03	+3.20	17
Houlton	29	88	59	+3	212	+92	39	+29	0.92	+0.15	4	5.84	+2.78	17
Livermore_Falls	32	93	61	+5	216	+94	53	+45	0.15	-0.76	2	5.07	+1.64	15
Moosehead	31	89	58	+5	162	+88	34	+34	0.57	-0.27	4	6.35	+3.20	17
Portland_ME	40	92	64	+8	227	+82	54	+48	0.18	-0.59	2	4.57	+1.37	14
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	33	89	61	+4	273	+84	57	+34	0.39	-0.45	4	5.42	+2.26	16
Berlin_AG	32	90	59	+2	296	+129	72	+53	0.19	-0.70	2	5.39	+2.11	14
Concord	32	94	64	+5	364	+143	98	+67	0.20	-0.54	2	4.06	+1.22	13
First_Conn_Lake	33	88	59	+6	215	+139	44	+44	0.44	-0.55	3	7.82	+4.16	18
Keene_AG	35	93	64	+2	330	+36	95	+38	0.49	-0.38	2	5.12	+1.69	13
North_Conway	34	93	61	+3	266	+72	55	+30	0.19	-0.72	3	4.84	+1.21	16
Rochester	36	92	64	+4	292	+38	70	+28	0.35	-0.49	2	4.49	+1.02	13
VERMONT														
Bennington_AP	33	89	65	+7	384	+189	112	+85	1.20	+0.15	3	7.15	+3.01	14
Burlington_Intl	40	91	66	+6	475	+207	166	+115	1.78	+1.02	4	9.83	+6.97	16
Island_Pond	32	88	60	+5	266	+145	47	+36	0.78	-0.16	5	7.64	+4.20	19
Montpelier	30	88	60	+3	297	+113	55	+33	0.54	-0.27	4	4.25	+1.23	17
Rochester	33	90	60	+3	276	+108	67	+48	0.57	-0.39	4	5.38	+1.48	16
Rutland_AG	34	89	62	+1	318	+11	80	+13	0.18	-0.64	3	5.50	+2.31	15
Springfield_VT	32	91	63	+5	348	+142	89	+59	0.37	-0.59	2	4.74	+1.04	12
Sutton	32	87	59	+5	268	+149	61	+50	0.60	-0.32	4	5.99	+2.63	19
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	47	94	69	+7	427	+104	114	+69	0.86	+0.15	3	3.22	+0.32	14
Fitchburg	39	94	68	+11	475	+294	147	+129	0.69	-0.13	2	5.37	+2.17	13
Greenfield	37	93	64	+3	396	+70	113	+54	1.33	+0.42	3	6.74	+3.21	13
New_Bedford	41	89	66	+4	370	+48	101	+57	0.89	+0.05	3	4.48	+1.16	14
Otis_AFB	41	88	64	+6	304	+114	74	+59	0.65	-0.14	2	2.83	-0.48	12
Plymouth	42	91	67	+7	393	+183	122	+102	1.32	+0.48	3	4.25	+0.73	14
Walpole	40	94	69	+9	407	+151	114	+79	1.04	+0.25	2	3.93	+0.82	13
Chicopee/Westov	34	94	67	+3	442	+26	140	+49	1.15	+0.17	3	6.22	+2.48	13
Worthington	36	89	63	+5	269	+79	82	+59	1.19	+0.21	3	6.62	+2.49	14
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	41	92	68	+7	448	+161	134	+96	0.83	+0.02	3	3.02	-0.33	13
Woonsocket	38	90	68	+8	445	+193	145	+117	0.98	+0.07	2	3.41	-0.24	15
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	46	91	68	+6	427	+89	114	+48	0.27	-0.57	1	2.95	-0.57	13
Hartford/Bradle	40	95	69	+6	489	+103	157	+73	1.03	+0.12	2	6.36	+2.63	12
Norfolk	35	89	64	+6	314	+128	99	+79	1.63	+0.58	3	6.95	+2.81	14
Thomaston_Dam	34	93	66	+6	370	+98	119	+76	1.58	+0.60	3	5.58	+1.59	14
Willimantic	36	92	67	+7	453	+180	138	+96	0.85	-0.06	4	3.45	-0.31	16

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, June 2, 2013

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				P R E C I P I T A T I O N				
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	DAYS
ME	29	94	60	+4	0.00	2.07	0.53	-0.27	3
NH	21	95	62	+4	0.16	1.52	0.39	-0.47	3
VT	26	93	62	+5	0.15	1.94	0.66	-0.20	3
MA	33	96	65	+6	0.43	2.07	1.06	+0.21	2
RI	38	92	66	+6	0.20	0.98	0.59	-0.23	2
CT	34	95	66	+5	0.11	1.63	0.83	-0.08	2

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

CONNECTICUT – Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland: Showers and thunder showers early in the week followed by hot and dry days Friday and on the weekend. Isolated thunder showers Friday and Saturday nights. Most finished with planting field corn and sweet corn planting continues. A little dry hay made and chopping of grass silage continues. Farmers markets opened to good weather and first summer squash was great. Broad leaf tobacco planting moving ahead. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Rain for days, then the season's first heat wave. Farms made haylage and even put up dry hay by the end of the week. Several streams left their banks and some farms had some corn acreage flooded in localized areas. Sunday evening into Monday morning brought extremely heavy rain and quarter sized hail. Too early for damage reports - will be checking fields as soon as possible. **Ann McCard (FSA), New London:** The weather did a major turn around from last week's cool and wet weather. The beginning of the week was warm and dry; good weather for field work. Then Friday and Saturday the temperatures were up in the high 90's. The temperatures helped push crops along, and brought a lot of activity at farm stands and markets, after a slower holiday weekend. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Heavy showers, wind, hot humid weather, asparagus finishing, plant sales good, lettuce, spinach, peas etc. ready for farm markets. Baling straw, chopping grass, planting corn, fertilizing and spraying corn, waiting for June drop in apples to assess thinning needs.

MAINE – Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook: Severe storms in the Van Buren area caused extensive damage. On and off rains have kept operations out of the fields. A few operations have needed a couple of days to finish since the middle of May and it just hasn't dried out. Pastures and hay fields are looking excellent. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Be nice if we can have nice weather without rainstorms every day. Got heat, but too much rain. **Don Audibert, (FSA) Northern Aroostook:** St. John Valley had approximately 5 inches of rain this week. Some farmers are done planting, while the others are waiting for the fields to dry up. Had some heavy thunderstorms over the weekend, which cause some damage in fields. Farmers are now getting their sprayers ready to go. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** The weather went from cool and damp to hot and humid in a few days. This was quite a shock to animals and plants! Vegetable growers had to irrigate over the weekend as transplants were wilting in the hot sun. Orchardists are reporting a light set for apples. Raspberry growers are concerned about SWD and are considering eliminating the crop if the infestation turns out as bad as expected. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** We are getting a good mix of sun, heat and rain showers. Hay harvest has begun and the crop looks good. Planting is moving along. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Hot and dry conditions allowed for harvesting of 1st hay crop on dry fields for some. Apples blossoms have fallen in many areas and hopefully pollination was long enough. Blueberries are looking good and pollination is still going on. Herbicides and fungicides are being applied to prevent disease and infections from starting. Report of winter kill on strawberry plants are coming in. Most farmers have finished planting all crops and cultivation and maintaining weed control will be ongoing. **Caragh Fitzgerald (Ext), Kennebec:** Farmers were getting back in the field as soon as they were able, trying to make up for last week's delay. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis/Penobscot:** Weekend rain and wind lodged some standing hay. **Elaine S. Moceus (FSA), Somerset:** Nice week to dry out a little from last week's rain. Field work includes chopping hay and continued planting. Half inch of rain over the week with heat and humidity has really made the grass grow. Berries look good, with lots of blossoms. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Cold rainy weather followed by a hot few days. Transplanted crops with weak roots didn't fair well with the sudden heat and wind! Some

first cutting hay/haylage got in toward the end of the week. Corn struggled to get out of the ground early in the week, but things have probably changed now. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Pollination weather has improved this week so it is expected that the 70,000 honeybee hives imported into Maine this year will provide good pollination for the fields Downeast. The amount of bloom is extensive but since the weather was unfavorable the first week of pollination the bumper crop potential will not be realized. Mummy berry blight symptoms were light as there were few infections periods and most growers were able to protect the crop with a single fungicide application. There was scattered frost and Botrytis blossom blight seen in some locations. **Amanda May (FSA), Washington:** Excellent pollination weekend! Happy bees and happy growers!

MASSACHUSETTS – Russell Norton (Ext), Barnstable: The week started off with cool temperatures highs in the low 60s, lows in the high 40s to low 50s. By the end of the week highs were in mid 80s, lows in 60s. Approximately 1.2 inches of rain fell in two events keeping soil moisture adequate. **Debra Senger (FSA), Berkshire:** Heavy rains on the 29th caused damage in North County with roads washed out and trees down. No reports came into the office on any field damages or to the orchards. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** The week was rainy, hot, and humid. Dairy farmers were harvesting hay and planting corn. Vegetable growers were planting summer crops such as cucumbers, eggplant, peppers, tomatoes, and squash. They were also harvesting greens, spinach, asparagus, and rhubarb. The early potato crop is being filled and 100% planted. Shade and Broadleaf tobacco farmers are planting their crop. The soybean crop is planted and looks very good. A protective fungicide spray is being applied on fruit trees. **Carolyn DeMoranville (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: The week started rainy and ended with a near heat wave. Bogs are beginning to advance through roughneck stage to early hook. Some new plantings inland have a few scattered blooms. Insects are active and weeds are showing up everywhere.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Kelly McAdam (Ext), Belknap: Heavy rain in Belknap County on Sunday evening, but no reports of crop damage. **Donna Juneau (FSA) Belknap/Merrimack:** The week started out with rain and ended with record high heat of 94 degrees in Concord on Saturday. Heavy rain last Saturday, May 25 was followed up by lighter showers on Sunday, and Wednesday, May 26 and May 29. This in combination with high heat on Friday and Saturday, May 31 and June 1, encouraged overall crop growth. Nurseries have reported a good early spring season; and most producers have finished planting their field corn crop. Vegetable producers continue to plant in preparation for the summer season. **Olivia Saunders (Ext), Carroll:** Heavy rains and unseasonably hot weather during the weekend. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Gorgeous weather early in the week, then really hot and muggy for the remainder. Pastures doing well and orchardgrass is completely headed out. Most farms done planting corn, and those that aren't have parked the planter to try and start harvesting 1st cut alfalfa/grass. Veggies doing well - first greens, etc. of the season starting to show up. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Warm humid weather with periods of rain culminating with heavy wind and rains on Sunday. Grass haylage harvested has begun as weather permits, looks like good yield. Some field corn yet to be planted. Lower lying fields wet, and pounding in scattered locations as our main rivers running rather high. Early grasses beginning to head out. Rhubarb just right for pulling. **Heather Bryant (Ext), Grafton:** Heavy thunderstorm on Sunday June 2. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** High temperatures recorded during end of week. Localize frost occurred Monday morning, no farm damage reported. Fruit: Fruit growers monitoring

pest and crop development and applying cover sprays for pest control. Orchardists to apply thinning sprays to apple orchards. Mowing orchard floor and weed spraying under trees. Field Crops: Planting and weed spraying corn fields. Farmers starting to make haylage and baled hay. Corn has emerged and new seedlings are up and growing. Vegetables: Laying plastic mulch and drip irrigation tape. Transplanting tomato and pepper plants in field, and making successive planting vegetable crops. Harvesting spinach, asparagus, rhubarb and greens. Pest Problems: Peach leaf curl seen on nectarines and peaches. Asiatic Garden Beetle Adults showing up. First Squash Vine Borer seen. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Planting tomatoes, sweet corn, and an array of vegetables. Irrigating fields. Flea beetles and three-lined potato beetles active. Harvesting tatsoi, bok choy, greens, microgreens, asparagus and rhubarb. Monitoring pests in orchards, spraying protective fungicides; fireblight disease seen in apple orchards. Planting field corn. Some haying has been done. Some pastures look good. Heat wave from Friday into Sunday. Severe thunderstorms, gusty winds and heavy downpours on Sunday late afternoon into early evening, followed by few evening hours of soaking rain. **Kelly Greenbacker (FSA), Sullivan:** Many finished up corn planting by early this week, and much of the early planted corn is up. A couple producers are concerned they may have to replant after the CT River flooded a few planted fields on May 25-26. At the end of the week, temperatures increased into the 90s. Many began first cut haylage into the weekend. Sunday afternoon brought some severe thunderstorms to the area with heavy rain, wind, and some hail. No reports yet of any damage to crops.

RHODE ISLAND – Heather Faubert (Univ of RI), All Counties: Little bit of everything this week. **Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties:** The week started off hot in the 90s. It made things grow. We had plenty of water and heat, and that is just what was needed. Potatoes look good. Early strawberries look good and they should

start harvesting next week (the early berries). Some hay was baled this weekend. It was nice and green and looks good. A lot of straw was also baled this past week. Apples look good. A lot of small vegetables are being planted right now. Sweet corn is looking good but not as high as it should be as it was planted a little later. Pasture and livestock, the pasture looks good with the heat and rain.

VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison: Rain delay on corn planting. Some hay dropped and chopped. New seedlings coming up, still a little spotty. Pasture and hay regrowth good with this rain. Soil conditions saturated and deep ruts in hay fields cut at end of week. **Daniel Hudson (Ext), Caledonia:** First cut hay quality will be poor due to the dry conditions early. Conditions are favorable for germination and fast emergence of recently planted corn. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Another wet week here in Franklin County. We at least have some heat to go along with the moisture which is creating a very mixed bag. Corn has grown very well and we have escaped the major wash outs that have come to other counties. That under water seems to be surviving and time will tell if the crop has much set back. Much first cut haylage being harvested on wet soils. Yields are looking good; however, quality has dropped off. Fruits seem to be enjoying the hot wet weather. Strawberries will be a real question as to fast growth and moisture that could add to molding problems at harvest time. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** There were a lot of weather changes this past week. It snowed on May 27th, frosted on May 29th and then in the 90's on May 31st. It was drier this past week allowing for more field work. Most all of the corn has now been planted and a lot of it emerged this past week. I have not heard any reports of frost damage from the beginning of the week. A little first cut hay has been harvested but due to the rain and cold weather most are waiting a little longer to get started. Pastures are doing well with all of the moisture and the high temperatures at the end of the week.

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