

Crop Progress & Condition



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

Gary R. Keough, State Statistician, New England Phone: 603-224-9639 Fax: 603-225-1434 www.nass.usda.gov/nh nass-nh@nass.usda.gov

Volume 33, Number 9 (Issued weekly on the Internet, May – October) June 24, 2013 – 4 pm

For week ending 6/23/13

Sunshine Returns at Last

GENERAL CONDITIONS: There were of 5.5 days suitable for fieldwork across New England for the week ending June 23, 2013. Pasture condition ratings averaged 1% very poor, 1% poor, 18% fair, 67% good, and 13% excellent. Precipitation early in the week gave way to sunny skies which lasted until thunderstorms arrived over the weekend. Precipitation averages across the six states ranged from 0.60 to 2.36 inches. The 4 to 5 day stretch of warm, clear weather helped dry out fields with well drained soils. Fields in low areas flooded from earlier storms were replanted at some locations. Average weekly temperatures across the region ranged from 3 degrees above normal south, to 3 degrees below normal north.

FRUIT: Producers were busy monitoring for pests in orchards and spraying protective fungicides. Specialists report that apple scab is now evident. Maine wild blueberry growers were active applying fertilizers. Excessive moisture at peak bloom has resulted in increased incidence of Botrytis blossom blight for many Downeast growers. A week of warm weather advanced more Massachusetts cranberries into bloom, with 70% in early bloom and 30% in full bloom by week's end. The strawberry harvest is now underway across all six New England States, ranging from 10% picked in Maine to 75% picked in Massachusetts. Strawberry producers in New Hampshire and Vermont report a rough season thus far due to losses from frost earlier in the season and excessive moisture at harvest.

VEGETABLES: Vegetable producers welcomed the stretch of clear dry weather to continue successive planting of vegetables and harvest early season crops. Excessive rainfall from earlier storms depleted nitrogen in soils and created an explosion of weeds. Farmers were active sidedressing with fertilizer, cultivating, spraying and scouting for insects. Growers continue to transplant tomato and pepper plants, and plant sweet corn, pumpkins, squash, and eggplant. Farmers in southern states replanted sweet corn, pumpkins and other vegetables in drowned out areas. Vegetables harvested included summer squash, zucchini, beets, greens, peas, radishes, and spinach.

FIELD CROPS: New England farmers put the dry weather to good use getting the last of the field corn planted. Recent heat and sun helped dry out saturated soils with excess standing water, and growers replanted and sidedressed with nitrogen where possible. Dairy producers were out in full force making hay and haylage. Harvest of first crop hay pushed past the halfway mark by week's end, but still trails last year and normal. Crop growth on second crop is good, with higher quality expected. Broadleaf tobacco transplants were set out in the Connecticut River Valley. Growers replanted previously flooded fields and applied fertilizer to combat nitrogen deficiencies. Maine potatoes are all planted and growing well, but showing stress from earlier excessive moisture. Growers were active hilling, cultivating and applying extra fertilizer to combat nitrogen loss. Potato acreage losses are expected in Maine and Rhode Island from flooding and wash-outs, however the extent of damage is unknown. Quality on remaining crop is excellent in response to recent heat and sunshine.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	3	0	28
Adequate	64	50	66
Surplus	33	50	6
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	0	0	19
Adequate	66	50	64
Surplus	34	50	17

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Set	Fruit Size	Condition
	2013	2012	5-yr Avg			
Apples	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good
Peaches	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good
Pears	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good
Blueberries						
Highbush	0	<5	<5	Average	Average	Good
Wild	-	-	-	N/A	N/A	Good/Fair
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-			Good
Strawberries	35	65	45	Average	Average	Good/Fair

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2013	2012	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Planted --				
Barley, ME	100	100	100	
Oats, ME	100	100	100	
Potatoes				
Maine	100	100	100	
Silage Corn	99	99	95	
Sweet Corn	95	90	90	
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	80	85	90	Fair/ Good
Shade	100	100	100	Good/Fair
-- Percent Emerged --				
Barley	99	100	95	Exc/Good
Oats	99	100	95	Good
Potatoes				
Maine	95	99	90	Good/Exc
Mass	100	100	100	Good
Rhode Island	100	100	100	Good
Silage Corn	95	90	90	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	90	70	75	Good/Fair
-- Percent Harvested --				
Dry Hay				
First Cut	55	75	65	Good/Fair
Second Cut	<5	20	5	Good

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday June 17, 2013
 To: Sunday June 23, 2013

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
MAINE														
Augusta_State_A	49	80	65	+0	522	+43	140	+40	0.67	-0.10	3	3.79	+0.63	13
Bangor_Intl_Arp	44	80	63	-2	438	+25	101	+29	0.06	-0.71	3	3.78	+0.66	14
Bethel	43	81	62	-3	430	+2	89	+11	0.77	-0.14	3	3.74	+0.08	11
Caribou_Municip	43	76	59	-4	411	+85	86	+45	0.46	-0.24	3	4.85	+2.18	15
Dover-Foxcroft	42	81	62	+0	434	+98	100	+58	0.14	-0.74	3	4.11	+0.66	15
Frenchville	41	76	57	-4	338	+50	66	+39	0.41	-0.34	2	3.72	+0.87	15
Houlton	37	77	58	-5	378	+44	63	+19	0.36	-0.41	3	5.06	+1.98	15
Livermore_Falls	40	81	62	+0	440	+99	103	+58	0.40	-0.58	3	3.38	-0.47	11
Moosehead	39	79	59	-2	343	+91	60	+41	0.35	-0.56	2	4.30	+0.75	13
Portland_ME	50	83	66	+3	496	+104	129	+70	0.18	-0.61	2	4.03	+0.81	12
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	41	81	62	-2	484	+58	96	+24	0.82	-0.07	4	4.47	+0.94	15
Berlin_AG	42	79	63	-1	550	+140	141	+70	0.64	-0.34	3	3.04	-0.75	12
Concord	43	86	66	+0	643	+134	185	+67	0.21	-0.56	3	5.09	+2.10	12
First_Conn_Lake	40	76	60	+2	379	+152	65	+56	0.74	-0.38	3	3.12	-1.12	15
Keene_AG	42	85	63	-5	575	-43	153	-21	0.28	-0.56	2	5.44	+2.05	11
North_Conway	45	80	63	-2	505	+41	112	+15	0.72	-0.19	4	4.14	+0.43	14
Rochester	46	83	65	-2	558	-3	144	+0	0.47	-0.35	3	4.88	+1.54	14
VERMONT														
Bennington_AP	41	83	64	+1	630	+190	175	+91	0.12	-0.93	3	6.76	+2.49	13
Burlington_Intl	46	84	65	-2	757	+182	248	+93	0.54	-0.30	3	5.89	+2.71	14
Island_Pond	38	79	59	-3	424	+110	72	+29	1.09	+0.07	3	4.85	+0.91	16
Montpelier	39	80	61	-3	485	+63	89	+11	0.82	+0.02	4	5.43	+2.14	15
Rochester	40	82	60	-3	458	+56	92	+20	0.59	-0.25	4	5.05	+1.44	14
Rutland_AG	40	81	61	-6	535	-91	122	-59	0.65	-0.19	4	3.96	+0.63	14
Springfield_VT	40	83	63	-2	587	+120	148	+53	0.58	-0.33	4	4.44	+0.75	12
Sutton	42	79	59	-2	434	+122	81	+38	1.09	+0.06	2	4.55	+0.63	13
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	58	87	70	+2	790	+108	271	+76	1.06	+0.36	2	10.33	+7.43	14
Fitchburg	49	85	69	+6	813	+370	281	+196	1.49	+0.65	2	8.18	+4.85	11
Greenfield	45	85	65	-4	668	-4	188	-10	1.14	+0.25	2	8.93	+5.31	12
New_Bedford	50	83	68	-1	690	+21	213	+32	0.08	-0.76	2	9.50	+6.10	13
Otis_AFB	50	79	66	+1	592	+119	159	+63	0.30	-0.46	2	9.08	+5.99	12
Plymouth	52	84	69	+3	721	+209	241	+123	0.14	-0.63	2	10.74	+7.46	13
Walpole	51	90	70	+4	733	+168	230	+89	1.60	+0.70	2	11.33	+7.90	13
Chicopee/Westov	44	86	68	-3	746	-56	245	-21	0.56	-0.36	2	9.31	+5.45	12
Worthington	41	82	63	+0	489	+46	127	+43	0.27	-0.61	2	9.32	+5.64	12
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	53	84	70	+2	801	+174	281	+110	0.33	-0.44	2	10.15	+7.01	13
Woonsocket	50	85	69	+3	769	+212	263	+136	0.60	-0.34	2	11.24	+7.48	13
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	56	84	71	+3	799	+105	279	+67	0.49	-0.29	2	9.10	+5.88	11
Hartford/Bradle	48	87	70	+1	830	+70	297	+47	0.46	-0.39	2	10.22	+6.64	11
Norfolk	45	80	65	+2	555	+116	163	+82	2.36	+1.31	2	12.34	+8.03	14
Thomaston_Dam	45	86	67	+2	685	+112	234	+93	0.46	-0.47	1	11.82	+7.95	12
Willimantic	49	84	68	+2	772	+191	254	+110	0.87	+0.00	2	10.27	+6.76	14

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, June 23, 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.
 Copyright 2013. AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.
 For detailed ag weather forecasts and data visit the AWIS home page at www.awis.com or call toll free at 1-888-798-9955

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	37	85	62	-2	0.05	1.13	0.37	-0.44	2
NH	33	86	63	-1	0.06	1.62	0.58	-0.29	3
VT	36	93	61	-3	0.12	1.36	0.60	-0.25	3
MA	41	90	67	+1	0.03	1.60	0.69	-0.15	2
RI	50	85	69	+3	0.10	0.60	0.24	-0.51	2
CT	44	87	68	+1	0.03	2.36	0.77	-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 – Howard Rood (FSA), Fairfield/Litchfield:

Several days of sunshine and warm temperatures have dried out fields. Farmers are finishing up planting field corn. Corn was yellow, because of all the rain. A few days of sunny weather have helped to turn the corn green again. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** The rivers went below flood stage with many fields too wet to get into. Harrowing flooded crops to restart planting, while others are still waiting for fields to dry out. Replanting field corn, sweet corn, and broadleaf tobacco. Dry and sunny Wednesday thru Sunday allowed for some to make dry hay. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** The rain finally stopped for a while! Anyone who had fields dry enough was making hay this week. So far farmers are reporting 60-70 acres of corn lost to flooding and ponding of water. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Replanting corn fields, vegetables and pumpkins delayed planted, crops look stressed, and water was pouring out of some fields. Good weekend for haying, dry sunny three days of fast and furious activity. Strawberry picking good with good flavor. Farmers markets with nice variety of lettuce, peas, cabbage, beets, etc. High tunnels helping get crops for market.

MAINE – Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook:

Potatoes are growing well, but are showing the effects of too much rain. There are a lot of spots that have drowned out. Most operations are spinning on extra fertilizer to make up for leaching. Dry hay will start in a week or two and should be an amazing crop. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Farmers applying herbicides. Initial fungicides being applied. Potato hilling and cultivation taking place. Crops are looking excellent. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Four days of work this week-looking for sunny weather. Everything looking well so far, but substantial Nitrogen loss on all crops at this point due to wet weather this spring. **Don Audibert, (FSA) Northern Aroostook:** Nice sunshine and wind dried out the fields. Farmers took advantage of this nice weather to cultivate and spray their potato crop. Some are also picking rocks. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Thunderstorms on Sunday hit some of the area with heavy rain and hail. Some washing occurred on crop fields. Strawberry harvest has begun, most of the vegetables look pretty good at this time. Peas are being harvested. Farmers are trying to get the weed control and spraying in when possible. The heat is coming! **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Showers and thundershowers are making hay harvest tricky. Most crops are growing very well. Peas are blossomed and some leafy vegetables are ready to pick. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot /Piscataquis:** Overall crops are looking pretty good. First cutting of hay is underway and manure is being spread on fields where first cutting has been completed. Cultivation of fields is underway for potatoes and corn is being sprayed. Fruit trees are coming nicely. Strawberries are being picked in areas and some farm stands are selling early crops. Scattered showers for upcoming week are much needed. Some areas have seen showers in the past few days as well. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis/Penobscot:** A lot of dry hay was made. There were a few showers to work around. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** A warm week helped crop development. Some hay was harvested. Strawberries are appearing on roadside stands. Corn is up and growing. **Elaine S. Moceus (FSA), Somerset:** Strawberry picking has begun! Apples are looking good, although it's too early to forecast the harvest at this time. Corn is doing well in some areas, where rainy weather has stressed corn and depleted nitrogen in other areas. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Finally some dry weather to get the last of the corn in the ground and the first cutting of hay in the silo. Strawberry harvest has started. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Pollination is complete and the last of the hives have been removed for fields Downeast. Growers have been reporting seeing much more Botrytis blossom blight this year. The early dry

conditions this spring reduced the infection periods for mummy berry disease but the wet weather at the peak of bloom resulted in unprecedented blossom blight. **Michael L. Look (Grower), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Spent the entire week applying fertilizer to wild blueberries. On the poor side in my area: Poor pollination-wet during bloom-almost a foot of rain mid-May to mid-June. Honeybees need 70° to pollinate and couldn't do their job. Wetness caused fungus disease Botrytis, and blossoms fell off.

MASSACHUSETTS – Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire

/Hampden: Early in the week we received a few rain showers but by mid week skies cleared and crop fields started to dry out. Many growers started to cultivate, topdress, spray, and harvest their crops. Harvesting greens, strawberries, radishes, beets, summer squash, and peas. Planting eggplant, tomatoes, winter squash, pumpkins, cabbage, and sweet corn. Tobacco growers are finishing their plantings and adding fertilizer. Dairy farmers are topdressing corn fields and starting to harvest hay again. **Carolyn DeMoranville (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Nice warm week has advanced bloom. With no rain, some irrigation was needed. Growers are applying fungicides and bloom fertilizers. Scouting for percent out of bloom has begun for timing of cranberry fruitworm applications.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Donna Juneau (FSA) Belknap/Merrimack:

We had a relatively dry week with seasonal temperatures which allowed producers to catch up on field work including harvesting hay and haylage and planting corn and other vegetables. Farm stands are reporting good early season sales of crops including strawberries and the first of the season's tomatoes. **Olivia Saunders (Ext), Carroll:** Heavy rains and areas of hail late Sunday, just as June berries are becoming ripe. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** More rain early in the week, but bright sunny weather midweek, and warm and muggy by the end. Crops in general seem to be responding well to the heat and sun. Pastures growing well, and there was a lot of dry hay being put up this week. Field corn is growing nicely - early planted fields now a foot tall. Farm stands now showing wide variety of greens, plus summer squash and a few peas. PYO strawberries in full swing. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** A somewhat drier week gets dry baled hay and haylage activities into full gear; scattered rain keeps things challenging and some hay caught in the field. Wet areas still remain in low-lying areas. Field corn probably mostly all in and in varying stages of growth which reflects delays in planting this year. Farmers are assessing stands, weed pressures, herbicide effectiveness, etc. Corn certainly behind when compared with last year. Report of Black Cutworm problem on county border, will scout for this as well. Soybeans are being tried in a few locations this season, just showing first true leaves. **Heather Bryant (Ext), Grafton:** Evening heavy rains and thunderstorms over the weekend. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending June 22, we had two days of rain, totaling 1.25 inches. From Tuesday through the end of the week, weather remained favorable for hay production and other field activities. Farmers put up haylage and hay and finished planting activities. The field corn crop is still behind for this time of year, but has plenty of time to get caught up before the fall. Vegetable operations are offering a seasonal selection of vegetables as they come in. Fresh greens and leaf lettuce are readily available. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Strawberry harvest continues, it has been a tough harvest season for growers. Sweet Cherry harvest will soon be under way. Fruit growers mowing on orchard floor, monitoring pest and crop development and apply sprays for pest control. Some Apple Scab being seen. Field Crops: Farmers making haylage between showers. Farmers are sidedressing fertilizer to field corn, if needed, and to hay fields. Pastures and hay fields are growing well. Vegetables: Growers continued harvesting early

season vegetables such as lettuce, greens, radishes, summer squash, and zucchini. Weeds are plaguing growers. Farmers are sidedressing fields with fertilizer, cultivating and hand-hoeing weeds, scouting for pests and spraying. Striped Cucumber beetle, Potato leaf hopper is here and Squash vine borer has been caught! **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Harvesting greens, cukes, zucchinis. Vegetables planting continues; vegetable fields topdressed with fertilizers and weed cultivation; pick-your-own strawberry operations very busy this weekend. Mowing small fruits and orchard floors and monitoring pests. Haying and haylage continues. Field corn is growing. Severe thunderstorm and severe gusty wind hit Rockingham County Monday mid-afternoon. Localized hail occurred too. Portsmouth city saw even stronger winds that afternoon. **Kelly Greenbacker (FSA), Sullivan:** Fields had a chance to dry out slightly in the middle of the week. Into the weekend, some anticipated to plant the last of their corn that either needed replanting or the fields have been too wet until now. Some were able to get some dry hay made at the end of the week, but the ground is still quite saturated from scattered showers and storms throughout the week. Many are concerned with the quality of their first cut this year. Scattered thunderstorms brought heavy rain to some areas Sunday evening. Strawberries and early season vegetables are being harvested throughout the county.

RHODE ISLAND – Heather Faubert (Univ of RI), All Counties:

Let the sun shine. **Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties:** Even though we had no rain this week, it took most of the week for the water to drain out of the soil. They are just getting back to cultivating and spraying crops. We're still assessing the damage from the 9 inches of rain with the water staying on top of the ground. We are going to have some loss in potatoes, but nothing like we expected. Some of the plants are coming back pretty good. A lot of your sweet corn, silage corn and small crops turned a little yellow instead of dead green. I think they will come back. It's going to take a little bit of fertilizer, but they should be all right. This week they should be back to planting corn and vegetables that they missed last week. They should be back on the hay fields to mow this week. Things have been real wet on the surface. The nights have not been too warm, down to the 50's and 60's which is cool

for this time of year. We need heat to make these plants grow. One bright spot is strawberries. They are having a real good season. They are a good size and color, and are in abundance to be picked. Pastures are doing well with all this water, and the grass is green and growing with the cooler weather.

VERMONT – Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin: Finally got a break from the rains this week and every baler and chopper in Franklin County was moving. Good catch up week in all aspects of crops including gardens. Strawberries still a concern with mold and picking. Last week has helped but not enough dry weather to keep mold at bay. Huge hay crop even if quality is on the down side. Regrowth has been tremendous and if we get some good drying weather we will have good quality second cut to put with the volume of the first cut. Corn is looking rather pale and tough to get on to fields with any Nitrogen and even if we can there is a huge risk of losing the N with the wet weather and impacting the environment. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** We got our longest string of sunny weather in June this past week. A few people were able to dry some hay on their drier fields. The end of the week turned back to humid and showery. The rain totals haven't been high but it rains enough to make harvesting hay a challenge. The hay crop is pretty heavy with all of the moisture. Corn is coming good but could use a little more sun. **Terence Bradshaw, (UVM):** Excessive rains continue to make orchard work difficult, especially on heavy soils. Apples appear to be handling the weather well, however, although apple scab has been problematic, and spraying difficult with the frequent rains. Fire blight has begun to show up in orchards which have a history of the disease and growers are pruning out diseased tissue. Codling moth is the insect pest of the moment. Growers should have their red sticky traps out by now to monitor for apple maggot, which will require management soon. **Heather Darby (Ext), Franklin:** Still very wet after about 30 days of almost non-stop rain. Corn is very yellow as are most crops. Nitrogen sidedress tests are being performed and coming back very low to medium. Farmers are still working on first cut harvest while some are starting second cut. Corn is being replanted where needed.

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**

Gary R. Keough, State Statistician

Robin Helrich, Statistician

Lynne Arsenault, Stat Assistant