

Crop Progress & Condition



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

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For week ending 7/14/13

Hot and Humid, Again

GENERAL CONDITIONS: There were of 4.5 days suitable for fieldwork across New England for the week ending July 14, 2013. Pasture condition ratings averaged 3% poor, 18% fair, 72% good, and 7% excellent. Average temperatures ranged from 2 degrees above normal north to 6 degrees above normal south. Precipitation averages across the six states ranged from 0.44 to 1.49 inches. Local precipitation totals as high as 3.74 inches. Hot, humid weather continued for another week as scattered showers and thunderstorms occurred almost daily in most areas except northern Maine which received minimal precipitation.

FRUIT: Producers were busy monitoring for pests in orchards and spraying protective fungicides. Also, growers are training young fruit trees along with mowing orchard floors. Sweet cherries, high bush blueberries, raspberries, and in some areas, peaches were harvested. Maine wild blueberry growers continued to trap for blueberry maggot, fruit fly, and spotted wing drosophila. Growing conditions have been good and will contribute to an average crop. Some areas reported that there appears to be "2 crops" meaning some blueberries were pollinated early and some late. The late ones are obviously behind the early ones in ripening. Most Massachusetts cranberries have set fruit with good pollinator activity observed. Some locations still have bloom on late varieties. Dodder infestations are starting to appear on bogs through the region. Growers were applying fruit set fertilizers and managing cranberry fruitworm and weeds this week.

VEGETABLES: Growers kept busy harvesting, cultivating, and monitoring and treating pest pressures. Late blight was identified in Franklin County, MA and Cheshire County, NH. Vegetable crops harvested included cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, summer squash, beets, greens, peas, sweet corn, cucumbers, radishes, and spinach.

FIELD CROPS: The scattered precipitation continued to make it difficult for farmers to bale hay or make haylage. First cutting hay harvest is almost two weeks behind normal. The lateness and over-maturity of the crop lowers the feed quality. The second cutting hay crop is looking good as the weather has promoted regrowth. Field corn in well drained areas responded well to the high humidity and temperatures but corn in poorly drained fields need several days of dry weather. Tobacco growers in the Connecticut River Valley finished setting out broadleaf tobacco transplants. Some broadleaf tobacco plants are flowering prematurely. Shade tobacco was rated in good condition. Maine potato growers were spraying for pests and scouting for potato late blight.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	1	7
Short	5	3	57
Adequate	58	51	35
Surplus	37	45	1
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	0	4
Short	3	2	47
Adequate	52	55	46
Surplus	45	43	3

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	<5	15	15	Average	Average	Good
Wild	-	-	-	Below Avg	Average	Good/Fair
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-	Average		Good
Strawberries	95	95	95	Average	Average	Good/Fair

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2013	2012	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Planted --				
Silage Corn	100	100	100	
Sweet Corn	100	99	99	
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	100	100	100	Good/Fair
-- Percent Emerged --				
Silage Corn	99	100	100	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	99	95	95	Good/Fair
-- Percent Harvested --				
Barley	-	-	-	Good/Exc
Oats	-	-	-	Good
Potatoes				
Maine	-	-	-	Good
Mass	-	-	-	Good
Rhode Island	-	-	-	Good/Exc
Sweet Corn	<5	10	5	Good/Fair
Dry Hay				
First Cut	75	90	85	Good/Fair
Second Cut	15	45	25	Good

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday July 8, 2013
 To: Sunday July 14, 2013

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				CUM SINCE MAR 1 GROWING DEGREE DAYS				1-WEEK PRECIP			4-WEEK CUM PRECIP		
	-----				BASE-50F		BASE-60F		TOTAL	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	INCHES			INCHES		
MAINE														
Augusta_State_A	59	85	69	-1	961	+98	369	+98	0.79	+0.09	4	5.43	+2.46	17
Bangor_Intl_Arp	52	88	69	+2	855	+89	309	+96	0.55	-0.22	3	3.16	+0.08	14
Bethel	55	83	68	+1	848	+66	298	+79	1.68	+0.89	5	7.31	+3.87	18
Caribou_Municip	49	86	68	+4	788	+160	268	+126	0.02	-0.87	2	2.94	-0.21	13
Dover-Foxcroft	50	90	69	+3	840	+185	299	+144	0.26	-0.58	4	3.05	-0.35	17
Frenchville	49	85	66	+3	669	+92	213	+99	0.00	-0.84	0	3.72	+0.56	9
Houlton	44	86	67	+2	756	+110	244	+91	0.42	-0.42	2	1.60	-1.59	14
Livermore_Falls	52	84	69	+4	860	+207	315	+166	1.33	+0.56	4	6.22	+2.75	18
Moosehead	46	86	67	+4	720	+196	229	+130	0.17	-0.74	3	4.27	+0.57	13
Portland_ME	59	88	70	+2	943	+192	367	+163	0.46	-0.24	4	5.46	+2.44	14
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	56	84	71	+5	942	+197	344	+162	1.87	+1.10	5	8.44	+5.13	22
Berlin_AG	51	80	68	+3	968	+225	346	+153	1.28	+0.44	5	5.11	+1.51	19
Concord	58	90	73	+4	1156	+265	488	+201	0.85	+0.15	3	4.41	+1.53	15
First_Conn_Lake	53	81	69	+7	786	+323	262	+203	0.63	-0.39	4	4.71	+0.46	20
Keene_AG	60	91	74	+4	1106	+77	474	+100	2.19	+1.41	2	6.23	+2.96	12
North_Conway	56	82	69	+1	927	+98	324	+74	2.08	+1.24	5	6.54	+3.02	19
Rochester	60	88	72	+3	1049	+92	425	+97	1.20	+0.43	4	5.28	+2.13	16
VERMONT														
Bennington_AP	58	89	75	+8	1157	+383	492	+283	1.29	+0.38	3	4.29	+0.35	17
Burlington_Intl	58	87	75	+5	1286	+308	567	+221	0.26	-0.53	4	8.55	+5.28	20
Island_Pond	51	82	70	+7	846	+256	284	+164	2.17	+1.26	5	7.89	+4.00	21
Montpelier	56	85	71	+5	937	+184	331	+128	1.18	+0.49	4	7.70	+4.75	20
Rochester	56	84	71	+5	918	+195	342	+154	1.88	+1.04	4	9.53	+6.17	21
Rutland_AG	57	84	72	+3	1019	-9	396	+27	2.66	+1.82	4	6.74	+3.38	18
Springfield_VT	58	89	74	+7	1106	+286	457	+221	0.49	-0.30	4	5.42	+2.01	18
Sutton	55	80	69	+5	842	+245	279	+148	2.19	+1.28	5	9.01	+5.11	20
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	65	93	75	+2	1372	+226	643	+196	0.19	-0.44	3	2.31	-0.37	11
Fitchburg	66	93	76	+9	1396	+597	654	+425	0.25	-0.59	2	3.82	+0.46	10
Greenfield	63	90	75	+5	1231	+122	541	+117	0.18	-0.66	2	5.47	+2.03	11
New_Bedford	66	92	76	+3	1245	+116	558	+132	1.21	+0.56	4	2.59	-0.38	11
Otis_AFB	66	90	74	+4	1100	+230	457	+181	0.40	-0.23	4	2.68	-0.08	12
Plymouth	65	94	75	+5	1286	+365	596	+284	1.23	+0.46	4	2.41	-0.67	12
Walpole	65	91	75	+5	1305	+328	592	+253	0.91	+0.14	6	3.33	+0.02	13
Chicopee/Westov	63	92	77	+4	1334	+53	623	+90	0.41	-0.43	4	3.40	-0.14	12
Worthington	59	89	72	+6	975	+194	403	+192	0.39	-0.59	5	4.47	+0.77	14
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	66	95	77	+6	1395	+318	665	+259	0.57	-0.13	4	1.89	-1.05	10
Woonsocket	66	94	76	+7	1351	+392	635	+318	0.65	-0.26	4	1.97	-1.70	12
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	67	93	78	+5	1400	+243	670	+208	0.40	-0.48	4	1.77	-1.57	12
Hartford/Bradle	66	94	78	+6	1448	+215	705	+194	1.37	+0.67	5	4.89	+1.75	12
Norfolk	61	89	72	+6	1058	+275	456	+241	1.06	+0.11	5	6.90	+2.88	15
Thomaston_Dam	64	95	77	+8	1275	+309	614	+292	3.19	+2.28	5	6.25	+2.59	14
Willimantic	66	93	77	+8	1363	+386	635	+307	0.41	-0.52	5	2.04	-1.58	15

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, July 14, 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	44	90	68	+2	0.00	1.70	0.66	-0.10	3
NH	44	92	71	+5	0.30	3.74	1.49	+0.70	3
VT	49	90	72	+6	0.14	3.16	1.34	+0.58	4
MA	58	94	75	+5	0.09	1.84	0.58	-0.19	4
RI	66	95	76	+6	0.19	0.65	0.44	-0.27	4
CT	61	95	76	+6	0.22	3.19	1.32	+0.49	5

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: Tornado touched down in Tolland County this week. No significant crop damage but a pole barn was destroyed. Some broadleaf tobacco starting to flower prematurely. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Picking strawberries and blueberries. Trying to make hay while dodging thunderstorms. **Ann McCard (FSA), New London:** Hot and humid weather last week that brought afternoon showers--some very heavy. Field corn ranges from just being planted to tassel stage and ears forming. With all the afternoon showers, not a good week to make hay. Sweet corn plantings continue, as well as successive plantings of veggies (including beans, peas, squashes, and cukes). Heat and rains affecting some vegetables. Grapes being monitored and sprayed when needed due to the many rainy days.

MAINE – Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook: Growers on a 7-day spray schedule for fungicides. Cultivation and hilling still being done in some fields. Broccoli harvest has started in Fort Fairfield area. Some potato fields have blossomed in area. Roadside stands have begun to sell "new potatoes" in area. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Continuing to spray for ECB this week. **Don Audibert, (FSA) Northern Aroostook:** Hot, sunny, and humid all week. Temperatures reaching up to 90 degrees. Livestock producers taking advantage of this weather too harvest their hay. Potato farmers have done their last hilling and busy spraying. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Rainy days early in the week followed by sun and heat over the weekend. Corn fields have skips in the wet areas. Vegetables are a week late due to the rains. First cut hay is way behind and poor quality at this point. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Tons of hay down. Harvest is late in many cases but hay still looks pretty good, lots of it. Time to go for it. Crops are growing like crazy in the heat. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/ Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Overall a pretty good week for harvesting hay. Vegetable stands are in swing with most early crops and production is good. Potatoes look good and so does the corn. Hot humid days really have given the corn a boost. Some corn is tall and some short, depends on when it got planted. Upcoming week looks hot and humid, but could stand a little moisture. Blueberries are looking okay, some areas have reported capturing blueberry maggot fly and high numbers are being reported. **Caragh Fitzgerald (Ext), Kennebec:** Scattered thunderstorms early in the week led to variable conditions for field work. Farmers are still getting some first-cut hay in this week. Good hay drying weather coming up. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Received more rain last week. Some field road erosion from heavy rain has been reported. Hay harvesting was trying to be done end of last week but where fields are saturated no such luck.... Infestation of potato beetles has been reported in Oxford County. The wet weather is causing havoc with small vegetables as well. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis/Penobscot:** We lost a historic farm to fire over the weekend. The family is fine, most of the beef animals were out to pasture. **Elaine S. Moceus (FSA), Somerset:** The weather over the weekend was great for hay production; silage corn has mostly all been planted and is growing great at this time with all the humidity. Blueberries are just now starting to ripen. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Finally, some dry weather for good haymaking. Wet soils are making it difficult. Strawberry harvest is ending with a poor harvest due to all the rain. Corn crop is highly variable. Nitrogen applications still going on. Blueberries starting to ripen. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Growers continuing to trap for fruit fly and spotted wing drosophila. Insecticides being applied for control. Growing conditions have been good and will contribute to an average crop. **Michael Look (Grower), Washington:** Wild blueberries: There appear to be "2 crops" meaning some blueberries were pollinated early and some late. The late ones are obviously behind the early ones in ripening.

MASSACHUSETTS – Russell Norton (Ext), Barnstable: This past week's weather remained mainly in the 70s with a couple days topping out in the 80s. Spotty showers occurred during the week with just under 3/4 an inch of rain in Barnstable. Significant fog, mist, and drizzle occurred during the week, providing ideal conditions for foliar disease such as Septoria and Early Blight on tomato. First powdery mildew on cucurbits seen in field this week. Peaches and corn harvested started this week. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Another hot humid rainy week. Growers continue to monitor for pests in vegetable fields and orchards and spraying a protective fungicide spray on fruit trees and vegetable fields, vegetable growers are harvesting cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, summer squash, beets, greens, peas, sweet corn, cucumbers, radishes, and spinach. Fruit producers are harvesting sweet cherries, blueberries, and raspberries. Due to the wet conditions very little hay was harvested. The early tobacco crop is budding out. **Carolyn DeMoranville (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Most areas saw showers during the week with very humid conditions. As a result, for the most part, only new plantings have required irrigation. Most varieties have set fruit with good pollinator activity observed. Some locations still have bloom on late varieties. Dodder infestations are starting to appear on bogs through the region. Growers were applying fruit set fertilizers and managing cranberry fruitworm and weeds this week. Fruit rot management is wrapping up as bloom is about finished.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Kelly McAdam (Ext), Belknap: Blueberry picking season began this week. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Still rainy but conditions improving in latter part of the week, hot and humid. Field corn is beginning to look better and going into rapid growth period. Hay crop is a mix of quality depending on success in timing harvest between rain events. Previous cut meadows re-growing well with good soil moisture conditions. **Heather Bryant (Ext), Grafton:** Rain is still causing localized problems and delays. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending on July 13th, we received 2.84 inches of rain. Soil moisture conditions remained "surplus" in most areas. Two days with little or no rainfall toward the end of the week was a "good start", but we need 2 to 3 weeks with no rain to dry many of the saturated areas out enough for harvesting activities to be completed. Haying activities have been at a near standstill for weeks. Some fields still have not had a first cutting taken, and some of the better drained river bottom soils still have not had a second cutting of hay harvested yet. Dairy farmers are frustrated and concerned about the potential for loss of tonnage and quality. The corn crop looks good on the well drained soils that were planted in late April and early May. Fields that were planted later or tend to be problematic during wet conditions are still behind. Corn growing on the lower sags in fields often displays leaching and other issues. A few fields will end up being nearly a total loss due to flooding and wet conditions. Vegetable growers are also feeling the effect of wet conditions and the resulting concerns with diseases and crop delays. The week of July 14th promises to bring some much needed days with no rain. Let's hope the weather man is right! **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Strawberry harvest is over and growers are starting renovating strawberry beds. Blueberry and raspberry harvest continues. Harvesting first peaches are a week away. Fruit growers are monitoring pest and crop development and apply sprays for pest control. Also, growers are training young fruit trees along with mowing orchard floors. Field Crops: It has been tough for farmers to bale hay or make haylage, because of rain showers. Lots of dry hay was made. Quality of first dry bale hay cutting is poor because of lateness and over mature. Second hay crop is looking good. Silage corn is rapid growing. Vegetables: Very good demand for produce at most local farmers markets and farm stands. Farmers kept busy harvesting, cultivating, hoeing weeds, monitoring pest pressures, spraying pesticides for insects and diseases. Growers harvesting an array

of vegetables including: beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, cucumbers, greens, lettuce, potatoes, radishes, snap beans, and summer squash. Continue seeing high numbers of squash vine borers were caught in traps during week. **Dot Perkins (Ext), Merrimack:** Late Blight has been reported in Cheshire County. Squash vine borers are very active now. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** It was another difficult week for haying as several days saw severe thundershowers and or rain. It has been difficult to spray protective fungicides, or control insects because of the wet weather. Strawberry harvest is complete. Strawberry beds renovations difficult as growers were not able to get into the wet fields with equipment. Harvesting an array of vegetables, blueberries, raspberries and black raspberries. Deer damage has been noticed in many fields. **Kelly Greenbacker (FSA), Sullivan:** This past week started with more of the same wet weather as many farms were recovering from heavy rain and flooding that occurred during the 4th of July week. At the middle to the end of the week, skies cleared and sunny weather moved in. Many were eager to finish first cut and/or start second cut hay/haylage. Over the weekend, farmers were making hay despite the humid conditions and some scattered showers on Saturday afternoon. Some fields are still too wet to work in. Everyone is looking forward to a dry stretch of weather. Blueberries and raspberries are now available at farmstands.

RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties: Last week Sunday and Monday were good. The rest of the week we had some rain every day of the week. We had heavy thundershowers. No hay made last week. Strawberries are just about done. Some of the late berries are still producing a little bit. Good size berries for this time of year. We started picking sweet corn on Monday and Tuesday. It is all over the board. Some of it is really nice, and some of it did not mature properly. With all of this rain, the pastures are nice and green. The animals are doing well even with the heat. Potatoes are doing well, especially the early ones. They are in full bloom and if they are on high ground they look really well. Small vegetables, they are picking a lot of summer squash right now both green and yellow. This week is supposed to be hot weather in the 90's. People should finish up planting small vegetables. I know it's late, but they are still trying to plant them as they have the plants. Hoping for a late fall.

VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison: Haylage and dry hay harvest started again end of week. Soil still saturated and machinery wheel damage evident during mowing and harvest. Week started with rain and ended sunny and warm enough for dry hay. Very humid. Corn growth variable from 10% dead plants or prevented, 10 to 20% very poor. Variable growth in all fields from none to shoulder high. Still standing water in some fields. Pasture damage from livestock plugging, walkways damaged. Sidedress nitrogen on corn fields, very low PSNT soil N, spraying weeds to rescue crop. New seeding nurse crop oats all headed out and very

short. Wheat is nearing harvest. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Franklin County is starting its climb out of the monsoons. Second cut dry hay is starting to move and much first cut left in the field going into small squares. This will be great mulch hay and has as much value there as running it through a horse or cow. Still some reports of soggy fields and difficulty harvesting, however, it is much better than watching it rain. Corn is making up for lost time on growth with soils having adequate organic matter looking real good and leaves reaching for the sun. Seeing good response from N topdress. If weather participates, we will see good return on investment in this category. This is a good time to think about some Sorghum, Sudan grass, or Millet to seed in those bare spots in corn big enough to get some machinery on. This will act as a cover crop in those areas and give some needed roughage to help offset lost corn tonnage. Gardens are having difficulty recovering and hearing reports of potatoes that have rotted and this will be a great year for the potato beetles. Focus is heading to the high hanging fruits and looks like they will fare much better than the strawberries. Pastures are headed into the mid-summer slump, however, it seems good for animals to be able to walk in them without being bombarded by rain and hopefully have some shade to beat the heat. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** We had some really nice summer weather over the weekend. A lot of hay has been cut mostly to put up dry. This is really the first decent stretch of good weather since May to dry hay. There are a lot of tracks and ruts in the hay fields though. Some of the corn is starting to rebound from the wet weather while other fields look really poor. In some fields you can still see standing water and the corn is yellow and less than 6 inches tall. Fields with drier light soils the corn is 3 feet or better. Some corn fields will end up being a total loss. Except for the farmers putting up dry hay first cut is complete. Some farms have started second cut. The yields look about average. Pastures are doing well but there is still a lot of mud. This stretch of dry weather is most welcomed. **Jennifer Gehly (FSA), Windham:** It was a hot week in Windham County, Vermont. Highs were in the 80s with night-time lows in the upper 60s. Temperatures cooled down a bit for Saturday and were in the mid-70s. Sunday's temps reached into the 90s in some areas and are forecasted to stay that way for much of the week. Rain fell mid-week in areas bringing approximately one and a half inches of rain. Drier conditions during the weekend saw farmers out in their fields making dry hay and silage. Vegetables farmers were also out planting their remaining crops. The excessive moisture has delayed planting on wetter fields. Tomatoes, wax beans, peas, lettuces, and summer squashes are abundant at farmers markets and farm stands. Strawberries could still be found although in lesser amounts. Raspberries and blueberries are available for picking and it was a good weekend for pick your own operations. Late blight was spotting in Franklin County, MA this past week. Vegetable farmers were taking precautions and spraying fungicides during weekend.

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