

Crop Progress & Condition



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

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For week ending 7/28/13

Temperatures Moderated but Showers Still Ongoing

GENERAL CONDITIONS: There were of 5.1 days suitable for fieldwork across New England for the week ending July 28, 2013. Pasture condition ratings averaged 22% fair, 65% good, and 13% excellent. The week was significantly cooler than the previous week with temperatures in parts of New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine dipping into the upper 30s. Average temperatures across the six states ranged from 4 degrees below normal to 1 degree above normal. Numerous rain showers and thunderstorms brought additional unneeded moisture to New England soils. Precipitation averages across the six states ranged from 1.16 to 1.97 inches but the highest local precipitation total was 7.32 inches.

FRUIT: Fruit crops harvested included peaches, blackberries, raspberries, highbush blueberries, and the last of the strawberries. Other activities included mowing orchard floors, renovating strawberry beds, monitoring for pests, and spraying if needed. Maine wild blueberry growers continued to monitor for both blueberry fruit fly and Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD) and are protecting their crop with insecticides. Harvest of wild blueberries began in Maine's mid-coast region.

VEGETABLES: Farms stands were busy marketing sweet corn and a wide variety of summer vegetables. Vegetable crops harvested included beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cucumbers, onions, peas, radishes, greens, summer squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, and zucchini. Farmers were also cultivating, weeding, monitoring pests, and spraying for insects and diseases.

FIELD CROPS: Heavy rains kept pastures healthy and promoted ear development in corn crops. Corn tasseling was becoming more widespread by week's end, no longer being limited to earliest plantings of the crop. Nevertheless, silage corn condition and development remained variable throughout New England. The rainy weather challenged crop management. Progress in hay cuttings was slowed by frequent showers and thunderstorms. A few farmers still have not started haying due to excessively wet soil conditions. In contrast, producers in Vermont made substantial progress with their first and second cuttings of hay. The broadleaf tobacco harvest started and shade tobacco harvest continued. The very first potatoes were harvested in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Maine potato growers are on a 5-day fungicide spray schedule as potato late blight had been reported in the Washburn area of Aroostook County.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	0	5
Short	2	6	47
Adequate	68	77	47
Surplus	30	17	1
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	0	4
Short	2	6	39
Adequate	70	66	57
Surplus	28	28	0

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Set	Fruit Size	Condition
	2013	2012	5-yr Avg			
Apples	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Peaches	15	20	15		Average	Good/Fair
Pears	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Blueberries						
Highbush	20	45	35	--	Average	Good
Wild	<5	<5	<5	Avg/below	Average	Good/Exc
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good
Strawberries	99	100	99	--	Average	Good/Fair

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2013	2012	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Emerged --				
Sweet Corn	100	100	99	
-- Percent Harvested --				
Barley	-	-	-	Good/Exc
Oats	-	-	-	Good/Exc
Potatoes				
Maine	-	-	-	Good/Exc
Mass	<5	<5	<5	Good
Rhode Island	<5	5	<5	Good/Exc
Field Corn	-	-	-	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	20	25	20	Good
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	<5	0	<5	Good/Fair
Shade	15	50	25	Good
Dry Hay				
First Cut	90	99	90	Good/Fair
Second Cut	40	65	45	Good/Fair
Third Cut	<5	10	<5	Fair

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday July 22, 2013
 To: Sunday July 28, 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	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS
	---	---	---	---	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	INCHES	---	---	INCHES	---	---
MAINE														
Augusta_State_A	52	82	67	-5	1280	+137	548	+137	1.20	+0.46	5	3.30	+0.41	18
Bangor_Intl_Arp	50	82	66	-3	1156	+127	470	+133	2.21	+1.50	5	3.54	+0.52	15
Bethel	50	83	65	-5	1138	+96	448	+108	1.35	+0.53	2	5.35	+2.13	14
Caribou_Municip	45	77	63	-4	1042	+190	384	+156	1.83	+0.86	3	6.90	+3.31	10
Dover-Foxcroft	47	81	65	-3	1124	+231	443	+189	2.08	+1.31	3	3.33	+0.08	12
Frenchville	45	76	61	-5	903	+116	310	+116	1.07	+0.16	3	1.58	-1.83	6
Houlton	39	80	63	-5	1000	+117	352	+101	2.80	+1.91	4	6.45	+3.07	12
Livermore_Falls	45	82	65	-3	1144	+255	459	+212	2.31	+1.54	4	5.57	+2.45	18
Moosehead	42	79	62	-3	971	+237	341	+168	0.58	-0.33	3	1.58	-2.07	11
Portland_ME	56	86	68	-2	1275	+256	559	+225	1.11	+0.45	4	3.07	+0.25	12
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	47	81	65	-2	1233	+251	495	+215	1.35	+0.55	2	7.35	+4.20	17
Berlin_AG	51	81	64	-4	1247	+266	485	+190	0.76	-0.09	4	5.27	+1.88	18
Concord	52	83	69	-2	1495	+324	687	+260	2.77	+2.00	4	6.65	+3.75	13
First_Conn_Lake	42	79	61	-2	989	+344	359	+248	0.36	-0.69	3	3.33	-0.84	17
Keene_AG	51	85	69	-3	1438	+115	666	+138	3.24	+2.40	3	6.87	+3.60	8
North_Conway	46	83	65	-5	1216	+121	473	+97	1.53	+0.69	4	6.28	+2.90	16
Rochester	53	83	68	-4	1379	+132	615	+136	1.58	+0.77	4	4.65	+1.51	13
VERMONT														
Bennington_AP	46	84	68	+1	1473	+449	668	+349	2.75	+1.84	2	5.43	+1.74	11
Burlington_Intl	48	84	68	-4	1629	+357	771	+271	0.81	-0.03	2	4.62	+1.34	16
Island_Pond	42	81	63	-2	1106	+310	411	+221	0.58	-0.41	2	6.00	+2.15	18
Montpelier	45	81	64	-4	1216	+223	473	+169	1.32	+0.61	3	5.59	+2.79	16
Rochester	45	82	65	-3	1202	+241	488	+202	1.55	+0.64	2	8.79	+5.35	16
Rutland_AG	45	81	65	-7	1309	-11	552	+30	1.52	+0.61	3	5.59	+2.11	12
Springfield_VT	47	82	68	-1	1428	+356	639	+291	1.81	+0.97	3	4.99	+1.73	14
Sutton	43	79	63	-3	1105	+298	409	+207	0.96	-0.02	3	7.93	+4.10	18
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	61	88	72	-3	1772	+290	903	+260	3.05	+2.42	6	3.39	+0.85	12
Fitchburg	58	88	72	+4	1785	+725	903	+552	2.15	+1.32	4	3.46	+0.11	8
Greenfield	55	85	70	-3	1585	+168	755	+163	3.71	+2.87	3	4.74	+1.35	8
New_Bedford	62	88	73	-2	1628	+161	801	+175	0.88	+0.15	6	2.48	-0.28	14
Otis_AFB	63	86	73	+2	1466	+302	683	+251	0.83	+0.17	4	1.48	-1.11	12
Plymouth	62	88	73	+2	1672	+449	842	+367	1.44	+0.67	5	3.00	-0.08	12
Walpole	58	85	73	+2	1694	+419	841	+342	3.00	+2.23	6	4.08	+0.97	15
Chicopee/Westov	56	89	72	-3	1714	+87	863	+123	2.45	+1.68	4	3.89	+0.60	9
Worthington	49	84	67	-2	1281	+250	569	+247	2.90	+1.92	3	4.34	+0.47	12
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	60	88	74	+1	1807	+407	937	+346	1.28	+0.54	6	2.44	-0.41	13
Woonsocket	58	87	72	+2	1739	+486	883	+412	1.96	+1.07	5	2.85	-0.72	12
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	62	87	74	-2	1816	+318	946	+281	0.94	+0.10	4	1.58	-1.84	11
Hartford/Bradle	58	89	73	-2	1848	+279	965	+258	1.37	+0.67	4	4.19	+1.32	11
Norfolk	53	82	67	-1	1372	+337	630	+303	1.12	+0.17	3	3.80	+0.01	14
Thomaston_Dam	57	88	72	+3	1651	+405	850	+387	1.43	+0.45	5	5.37	+1.63	14
Willimantic	58	87	72	+2	1746	+479	878	+399	1.96	+1.03	4	2.55	-1.20	13

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, July 28, 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	39	86	64	-4	0.35	7.32	1.58	+0.82	3
NH	37	88	66	-2	0.36	3.24	1.56	+0.73	4
VT	38	85	65	-3	0.44	2.75	1.33	+0.51	2
MA	47	89	71	+0	0.67	3.71	1.97	+1.20	4
RI	58	88	73	+1	1.00	1.96	1.16	+0.46	5
CT	53	91	72	+0	0.66	5.71	1.83	+1.04	4

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: This past week saw heavy showers on Thursday and Friday. Nearly everyone had hay down and much got wet. The weather cleared over the weekend and much of that was baled. Vegetable harvest is in full swing with some vine ripened tomatoes now coming in. Broadleaf tobacco harvest started and shade harvest continues. Field corn mostly tasseled with white silk showing. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Biting insects - flies, mosquitoes etc. are plaguing livestock. Several reports of cattle missing tail switches from swatting at biting flies. Sweet corn ears are small and not filled out due to excessive rain followed by extremely hot temperatures. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Rainfall varied from 1.5" to 5.5" in one day with two significant storms this week. With the previous week heat, moisture was welcomed for ear development in corn and for fruits and vegetables. Making hay continues to be a challenge. Reports of excellent haylage. Sweet corn fresh and tasty at farms and markets.

MAINE – Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook: Producers are ducking showers trying to keep fungicide coverage. Broccoli harvest is going well with average to above average yields being reported. First cut hay has been at a standstill for a week. **Don Audibert, (FSA) Northern Aroostook:** Producers are done with their first cut dry hay. Potato farmers are spraying on schedule and no blight in the area at the moment. Did receive some rain which was badly needed in the St John Valley. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Rainy weather every other or every few days continues making haying difficult and management of crops a challenge. Highbush blueberries are being picked. Vegetables are filling up the farm stands. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** The hay harvest continues to be a struggle. There has rarely been more than 2 days in a row without rain for quite some time. Hay quality is sliding down hill. Some fields have been rutted up during harvest because the sod cannot dry out. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** It is very difficult to harvest hay with spotty showers. Vegetable crops are looking great and being harvested. Blueberries are looking pretty good and expecting to start harvesting in the upcoming week. Spraying and fertilizing are ongoing. Potatoes are reported to be in good shape. Showers forecasted for this week are going to put a stand still on the hay harvesting. **Caragh Fitzgerald (Ext), Kennebec:** Weather continuing to stay humid, although temperatures have moderated. Heavy rain in places Wednesday afternoon. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis/Penobscot:** Rains have made haying a challenge. Some fields did get rained on before the hay could be made. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** Blueberry harvest has begun. Crops are ripening and vegetables are on farm stands and at farmers markets. **Elaine S. Moceus (FSA), Somerset:** Producers are reporting silage corn looks good in most areas. Hay production in progress over the weekend with agreeable weather conditions. Highbush blueberry harvesting continues. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Variable weather continues to cause headaches for dry hay harvest. Corn silage crop is very variable depending on weather conditions, time of planting and soil moisture. Blueberry harvest is starting. Winter grains are yet to be harvested. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: More Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD) have been captured in the Downeast growing area on the blueberry barrens. Male SWD were caught and confirmed in a few locations. At the University of Maine Blueberry Hill Farm SWD have been caught in more locations throughout the fields there. So far our fruit sampling (several fields sampled yesterday) has not revealed any SWD larvae in the fruit, but the recent capture of male SWD suggests that reproduction of this pest in blueberry fruit may have commenced. If you are capturing male SWD consider protecting the crop until harvest. Blueberry fruit fly (BFF) appears to be in high densities in many locations throughout the state. Do not forget about monitoring and

managing for this significant pest. Some fields have noticeable BFF attack demonstrated by considerable shrunken berries. Growers continue to be vigilant and are monitoring for BOTH SWD and BFF are protecting their crop with insecticides when SWD trap captures occur. Harvest has begun in the mid-coast sample.

MASSACHUSETTS – Debra Senger (FSA), Berkshire: The heat has broken with cooler nights. Sweet corn ears are small but really good. Producers are still doing their 2nd cutting on their hay. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Growers reported 4 inches of rain Tuesday and took many days to dry out the fields. Harvesting potatoes, blueberries, summer squash, peppers, cukes, sweet corn, and many more summer vegetables. Topping tobacco and applying sucker control. With the added rain it is hard again to bale hay. **Carolyn DeMoranville (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Crop is still progressing as expected. Temperatures were a bit lower last week, which was a good break for fruit sizing as plants were slightly less stressed. Some growers are reporting some decline in fruit quality, but this is very limited at this point; cooler temperatures will help stabilize fruit quality.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Donna Juneau (FSA) Belknap/Merrimack: Another week with more rain than sun. Fields are still wet in many locations making harvesting hay impossible. Quality of hay is poor. Local farm stands have the first pick of sweet corn. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Cooler weather, with a little rain midweek. Better conditions for harvesting dry hay; there's still some first cutting that needs to be brought in. Corn continues to grow well; mostly tasseled and silking along the River. Veggie crops doing well, with sweet corn and lots of other crops available. PYO blueberries and raspberries doing well, though humid conditions seem to be causing higher incidence of gray mold in raspberries. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Heavy rains at beginning of week leaving fields rather wet, turning drier and cooler by week's end. Field corn looking better, more tasseling. Farms are focusing on weed control, August seedlings, hoping for better second cut hay conditions. **Heather Bryant (Ext), Grafton:** Spotted wing drosophila caught in traps in the southern part of the county this week. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** Soil conditions remain on the wet side for many locations. Several days with minimal rain fall have helped drain off some of the excess moisture on some fields. However many fields remain too wet to hay due to excess moisture. A significant number of producers still have not taken first cut on at least some of their fields due to the wet soil conditions. Many producers have expressed the view that there will likely be an abundant supply of poorer quality hay, and a more limited supply of good quality hay. The field corn crop is irregular in stage of development, and varies by field/soil type. Sweet corn is at least two weeks behind. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Growers are harvesting peaches, blueberry, and summer raspberry. Monitoring for pests - spraying if needed, training young trees and mowing orchard floors. Field Crops: Hay cutting continued at a rapid pace during the week with the first and second cut being made between thundershowers. Silage corn put on rapid growth this past week. Silage corn fields are starting to tassel. Vegetables: Irrigating crops however, rain has helped. Farmers kept busy cultivating, hoeing weeds, monitoring pest pressures and spraying pesticides for insect and disease control where needed. Harvesting an array of vegetables: beans, beets, cole crops, cucumbers, greens, melons, peas, potatoes, radishes, summer squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, zucchini, and other vegetables. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Assessing hail damages (7/18/13) on vegetables and the long term effect on fruit trees in Deerfield and its vicinity. Hail size about ice cubes. Deer damage continues in vegetable fields. Growers are finishing erecting electrical fences. Tomato and sweet corn plants are longer than usual and stretching possibly due to the many days in

a row with no sun. Ear corn is smaller in size than in previous years probably due to more rain this season. Fruit rot seen on harvested cucurbits; Spotted Wing Drosophila noted in blueberries and blackberries patches. Birds are feeding on blueberries. Harvesting carrots, sweet onions, herbs, micro greens, sweet corn, an array of vegetables, cabbage, herbs, apricot, peaches, raspberries, blueberries, blackberries and cut flowers. Weeding, and side dressing vegetables fields. Mowing grass in orchards and monitoring pests. Pasture in some areas look good; haying been done between showers. Some fields are wet. The week was relatively cooler than previous weeks.

RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties: Last week was cloudy and rainy most of the week. Absolutely no hay made last week. This type of weather keeps the pastures nice and green and growing. For the end of July, they are in good shape. Sweet corn is being harvested. It seems to be very good as the weather makes for good corn. They are starting to pick some tomatoes and small vegetables. Potatoes look good, and I think in a couple of weeks we will begin harvesting early potatoes. We need some sunshine badly for more than 2 days to get some haying done this week doesn't look any better judging by the forecast.

VERMONT – Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin: Good week in Franklin County. Much dry hay for second cut being baled along with late first cut. Much second cut haylage going in with good yields. Manure is going out on hay fields being harvested providing for some catch up in this arena. Corn is showing stronger signs of early tassel which is reducing chances of stunted corn catching up to the better corn. Much tasseling and silting now happening. Blueberries and raspberries are looking real good. Jury is still out on tomatoes and potatoes. Hearing more and more tales of rotted potatoes and replants have not done well. Sweet corn is showing up more and more at farm stands so stop in and enjoy. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Numerous showers throughout the week have made harvesting a challenge. Fields remain very wet adding to the challenge of getting the hay off. Despite this some hay was harvested both as haylage and dry hay. First cut is complete and most of the larger farms have completed second cut. Yields are fairly average so far. Corn has recovered some but there is still a lot of poor quality. Pastures are in the summer slump despite all of the good weather. It just hasn't slumped as much as usual

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