

Crop Progress & Condition



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

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For week ending 8/4/13

Best Week of the Season?

GENERAL CONDITIONS: There were 5.3 days suitable for fieldwork across New England for the week ending August 4, 2013. Pasture condition ratings averaged 2 percent poor, 19 percent fair, 61 percent good, and 17 percent excellent. The week was drier and cooler than the previous week. Average temperatures across the six states ranged from 1 degree below normal to 1 degree above normal. Precipitation averages across the six states ranged from 0.55 to 1.40 inches with the highest local precipitation total was 3.46 inches.

FRUIT: Fruit crops harvested included peaches, blackberries, raspberries, highbush blueberries, and wild blueberries. Other activities included mowing orchard floors, renovating strawberry beds, monitoring for pests, and spraying if needed. Most Massachusetts cranberry growers needed to irrigate due to the drier conditions and the berries are beginning to size.

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, potatoes, summer squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, and zucchini. Farmers were also cultivating, weeding, monitoring pests, and spraying for insects and diseases.

FIELD CROPS: The relatively dry week allowed corn conditions to improve especially in areas with wet soil but condition and development remains variable throughout New England. Hay producers were able to harvest some dry hay and haylage but progress was slowed by showers and thunderstorms. The broadleaf tobacco harvest and shade tobacco harvest continued. Maine potato growers are on a 5-day fungicide spray schedule as potato late blight had been reported in the southern Aroostook County.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	0	5
Short	5	2	48
Adequate	68	68	47
Surplus	27	30	0
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	0	3
Short	2	2	41
Adequate	70	70	56
Surplus	28	28	0

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Set	Fruit Size	Condition
	2013	2012	5-yr Avg			
Apples	<5	<5	<5	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Peaches	20	25	20		Average	Good/Fair
Pears	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Blueberries						
Highbush	45	55	45	--	Average	Good
Wild	<5	20	10	Avg/below	Average	Good/Exc
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2013	2012	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Harvested --				
Barley	-	-	-	Good/Exc
Oats	-	-	-	Exc/Good
Potatoes				
Maine	-	-	-	Good/Exc
Mass	<5	5	5	Good
Rhode Island	5	5	5	Good/Exc
Field Corn	-	-	-	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	30	35	25	Good/Fair
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	10	5	10	Good/Fair
Shade	25	65	35	Good/Fair
Dry Hay				
First Cut	95	99	95	Good/Fair
Second Cut	50	70	55	Good/Fair
Third Cut	5	10	5	Good

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday July 29, 2013
 To: Sunday August 4, 2013

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				CUM SINCE MAR 1 GROWING DEGREE DAYS				1-WEEK PRECIP			4-WEEK CUM PRECIP		
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	BASE-50F TOT	BASE-60F DFN	BASE-50F TOT	BASE-60F DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS
MAINE														
Augusta_State_A	58	80	69	-2	1413	+130	611	+130	0.94	+0.20	5	3.29	+0.41	18
Bangor_Intl_Arp	54	81	68	-2	1283	+121	527	+128	1.19	+0.49	5	4.27	+1.32	17
Bethel	53	79	66	-3	1253	+85	493	+97	1.94	+1.08	4	5.41	+2.17	14
Caribou_Municip	51	81	65	-1	1147	+186	419	+151	1.19	+0.21	6	8.08	+4.33	15
Dover-Foxcroft	52	82	67	-1	1244	+232	493	+190	1.43	+0.66	5	4.10	+0.92	14
Frenchville	51	79	63	-2	999	+109	337	+108	3.41	+2.50	6	4.98	+1.46	11
Houlton	48	82	66	-1	1110	+113	392	+97	0.84	-0.07	5	7.26	+3.78	15
Livermore_Falls	51	80	67	+0	1264	+260	509	+218	1.25	+0.42	5	5.77	+2.63	18
Moosehead	49	80	65	+1	1077	+239	377	+169	1.18	+0.29	6	2.57	-1.05	15
Portland_ME	55	82	68	-2	1400	+248	614	+217	0.82	+0.19	4	2.54	-0.15	13
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	53	79	67	+1	1352	+258	544	+219	0.90	+0.03	5	5.40	+2.19	16
Berlin_AG	51	78	65	-2	1356	+256	524	+180	0.44	-0.50	5	3.54	+0.07	18
Concord	51	84	69	+0	1631	+321	753	+258	0.82	+0.05	3	5.97	+3.01	13
First_Conn_Lake	48	77	65	+3	1095	+363	395	+262	1.17	+0.06	5	3.20	-1.03	16
Keene_AG	51	85	69	-3	1569	+99	727	+122	0.30	-0.56	1	5.73	+2.41	6
North_Conway	53	80	67	-2	1334	+109	521	+85	0.69	-0.21	4	5.17	+1.75	17
Rochester	55	81	69	-3	1511	+119	677	+123	0.81	-0.01	3	4.02	+0.85	13
VERMONT														
Bennington_AP	49	78	66	-2	1589	+445	714	+346	0.39	-0.52	2	4.67	+1.03	9
Burlington_Intl	57	83	71	+2	1778	+362	850	+277	0.75	-0.14	3	2.02	-1.34	13
Island_Pond	49	79	65	+2	1215	+321	450	+229	1.04	-0.03	6	5.52	+1.58	18
Montpelier	51	78	65	-2	1325	+214	512	+160	0.78	-0.02	4	3.94	+1.04	15
Rochester	53	80	66	-2	1309	+230	525	+192	1.04	+0.06	3	5.90	+2.32	13
Rutland_AG	53	79	66	-5	1425	-37	598	+5	0.39	-0.52	2	4.70	+1.15	11
Springfield_VT	51	83	68	+1	1554	+356	695	+291	0.45	-0.40	3	3.35	+0.08	13
Sutton	52	77	65	+1	1212	+302	446	+210	1.53	+0.48	5	6.61	+2.71	17
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	65	85	74	-1	1940	+290	1001	+260	0.46	-0.24	3	3.71	+1.12	13
Fitchburg	56	87	72	+5	1943	+757	991	+584	0.65	-0.16	2	3.05	-0.27	8
Greenfield	55	85	70	-3	1728	+157	828	+152	0.88	+0.04	1	4.77	+1.41	6
New_Bedford	56	84	71	-4	1779	+141	882	+152	0.58	-0.25	4	2.71	-0.18	16
Otis_AFB	57	81	71	-1	1612	+301	759	+249	0.64	-0.06	4	1.97	-0.65	14
Plymouth	57	84	72	+0	1824	+451	924	+366	0.76	-0.05	3	3.59	+0.47	13
Walpole	57	83	71	+0	1845	+423	922	+346	0.89	+0.07	3	4.81	+1.68	16
Chicopee/Westov	52	87	70	-5	1859	+59	938	+94	0.33	-0.44	1	3.19	+0.00	9
Worthington	52	80	66	-3	1388	+233	606	+232	0.99	+0.01	2	4.29	+0.37	11
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	57	84	73	+0	1971	+410	1031	+349	0.24	-0.53	3	2.27	-0.64	14
Woonsocket	56	87	72	+2	1898	+498	972	+424	1.59	+0.68	2	4.36	+0.79	11
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	61	86	74	-2	1983	+311	1043	+273	0.42	-0.39	3	1.77	-1.62	12
Hartford/Bradle	56	88	72	-2	2005	+268	1052	+247	1.12	+0.36	2	4.02	+1.16	12
Norfolk	52	80	67	-2	1489	+328	677	+296	0.84	-0.14	3	3.83	+0.04	13
Thomaston_Dam	54	86	71	+1	1796	+410	925	+392	0.73	-0.21	4	5.39	+1.62	15
Willimantic	56	85	71	+1	1894	+483	956	+402	0.72	-0.19	3	3.11	-0.64	13

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, August 4, 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	45	83	66	-1	0.25	3.41	1.40	+0.61	5
NH	39	86	67	+0	0.15	1.83	0.74	-0.12	3
VT	44	83	66	-1	0.36	3.46	0.91	+0.03	3
MA	50	87	70	-1	0.13	2.13	0.71	-0.07	2
RI	56	87	72	+1	0.24	1.59	0.72	-0.04	2
CT	52	88	71	-1	0.11	1.12	0.55	-0.30	3

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:

Humid during the work week and then dryer air over the weekend. Some heavy thunderstorms on the weekend caused very little damage. Broadleaf tobacco harvest going ahead and shade harvest continues. Sweet corn, green beans, cucumber, summer squash, peppers and some tomatoes are coming to market.

MAINE – Steve London, Southern Aroostook:

Potatoes and small grains: There has been some late blight found in southern Aroostook area. Growers should be scouting their fields regularly. **Don Audibert, (FSA), Northern Aroostook:** Had some much needed rain over the weekend. Hail was reported in some places in the St. John Valley. Crop is looking good and farmers are doing all the repairs needed on their harvesting equipment. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Cool weather has arrived! Producers made some dry hay last week between the rainy days. Vegetables are being picked. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** All plant growth is staying green this summer. Corn growth is looking much better. There are lots of vegetables and high bush blueberries available. It's still tough to harvest hay with showers and wet topsoil conditions. The rain has also leached out some nutrients from the soil. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis /Penobscot:** Periodic rains have helped the corn crop. Sweet Corn harvest has begun. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** BB sized hail in the southern part of the county didn't cause major issues Friday afternoon. Daily heavy thundershowers continue to challenge farmers. **Elaine S. Moceus (FSA), Somerset:** Difficult conditions to harvest hay with afternoon rain showers this week, due to ground and grass moisture. Berries are doing well in most areas. Apples are now showing signs of some minor frost damage that occurred early in the year. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Unsettled weather continues to be a problem. Corn silage crops are finally looking a little better. Blueberry harvest is in full swing. Sweet corn crop is in full harvest. Some winter grains being harvested. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: As last week, trap captures of spotted wing drosophila continue to occur throughout the state. There have only been a few fields at this point where multiple flies are being caught. Most fields either have had NO trap captures yet OR just one or two SWD. We have identified SWD larvae in fresh fruit from Coastal Maine, but fruit still appear to be free of larvae in the Downeast region. Harvest is beginning on the wild blueberry barrens Downeast fields this week. Berry size and quality is good with the moisture and cool night temperatures.

MASSACHUSETTS – Debra Senger (FSA), Berkshire:

Producers are still picking blueberries and raspberries, and sweet corn. Some of the producers are finishing up their 2nd cutting of hay. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire /Hampden:** A sunny and dry week. Harvesting tomatoes, potatoes, peppers, sweet corn, eggplant, radishes, and many more summer fruits and vegetables. Some growers reported that the past rainy weather caused poor pollination which reduced crop yields for their sweet corn, melon, and cucumbers. Vegetable growers are watching out for late

blight and cucurbit downy mildew because these diseases were reported in surrounding counties. **Carolyn DeMoranville (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Fruit are beginning to size. Growers continue to manage weeds and scout for cranberry fruitworm. Most growers have needed to irrigate this week. Some reports of fruit rot/scald have come in.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Kelly McAdam (Ext), Belknap:

Belknap County received pebble-sized hail Monday evening, no reports from growers on crop damage. Peach harvest began this week for some in Strafford County. **Donna Juneau (FSA) Belknap/Merrimack:** A drier week with only moderate rainfall on Thursday and Friday in some areas. Producers are still reporting difficulty accessing some fields due to continued wet conditions. As a result when they can harvest they are generally harvesting hay and hay forage with reduced nutritional value. Conditions have improved for fruit and vegetable producers. Crop sales at local farm stands are reportedly picking up. **Olivia Saunders (Ext), Carroll:** Some blueberries not as flavorful due to rain, field tomatoes experiencing cracking and lower quality due to the weather during fruit development. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Sunny most of the week, with cooler temperatures. Field corn in silk in most locations. Good weather for haying, and re-growth on hayfields and pastures looks good. Vegetable crops generally doing well. PYO blueberries and raspberries still going strong. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Frequent often heavy rains keeping soil conditions rather wet, difficult for equipment use in places, making hay/haylage harvesting difficult. Generally cooling temperature prevailing. Powdery mildew showing up on squash and pumpkins. Japanese beetles quite common problem this summer. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending August 3rd, we had 3 days with some rain. Total rain fall was just over one inch in some areas, and more than 2 inches in other areas. Soils remain saturated in some fields, frustrating hay harvesting. Other well drained river bottom soils are in better shape. Some fields still have not had first cut taken off yet. Many producers have gone on to take second cut on their better drained soils. The corn crop has improved with the sun and heat. Some fields however will have yield losses at the end of the season, due to the wet conditions. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Peach, blueberry and raspberry harvests continued. Orchardists busy irrigating where they need to, monitoring for pests, spraying if needed, and mowing orchard floors. SWD fruit fly numbers starting to increase. Field Crops: Farmers making baled hay. Silage corn is rapid growing. Field corn was tasseled and beginning to silk. Second crop of hay is looking good. Vegetables: Farmers kept busy irrigating, cultivating, hoeing weeds, monitoring pest pressures, spraying pesticides for insects and diseases - if needed. Growers harvesting an array of vegetables including: beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, cucumbers, greens, lettuce, potatoes, radishes, snap beans, sweet corn, summer squash and first field tomatoes and peppers. Continue to be a mixed demand for local produce at local farmers' markets and farm stands from very good to steady sales. Crops are off in production.

Summer squash and zucchini is off 20% to 40% yield; sweet corn ripening unevenly; tomatoes are slow to ripen; beans yield are off, etc. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Crops are growing well. Harvesting blueberries, raspberries, peaches and a whole array of summer vegetables. Fertilizing, weeding and irrigating some vegetable fields. Pest monitoring continues. Hay and haylage are being done.

RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties: This is the second week in a row where no hay was made. It was either raining or damp and cloudy weather. Early potatoes look real good. Farmers are getting their harvests ready and will start harvesting either late this week or early next week. We will see what the crop looks like. Pastures for the first week of August are still nice and green with the amount of rain we've had. Animals look good. We're right in the middle of blueberry season. Started a little late but they look awful nice. Vegetables: Tomatoes are coming in this week. They've been picking beans, squash, cucumbers, etc. As far as sweet corn, this past weekend, it was a little bit short. A lot of people were almost out of sweet corn. That had to do with the heavier rains during the spring and the corn couldn't be planted on time, so it would come in week after week. Should be corrected this week and we will have an

abundance of corn for the stands before the week's end. We're hoping with a few good days this week, so they say, we will finish first cutting of hay; first and second together.

VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison: Corn much better, tassel short. Still very poor or not planted 25%. Hay and haylage harvest continuing, and manure spreading. Wheat and barley harvest. New seeding oats past prime, mostly not cut yet. **Daniel Hudson (Ext), Caledonia:** While much of the corn is tasseled, it looks like yields will be reduced. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Good week for dry hay second cut in Franklin County. Good weather in the beginning of the week allowed for drying hay. Corn continues to tassel and silt with good weather. Sweet corn is showing up even more on the road sides. Gardens have hit their growth peak and apples seem to be fairing very well. Blueberries have filled the gap on what was lost with the strawberry crop. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Last week was a little drier than the past weeks this summer. Fields are still really wet. Most of the second cut has been harvested. Yield and quality are about average. The drier days have made it a little easier to harvest. The corn has started to tassel. The fields are very uneven. Some corn is only about 3 feet tall other areas are 6-8 feet. The color of the corn plants are a much better shade of green than earlier this summer. Pastures are still pretty wet for grazing.

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