

Crop Progress & Condition



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

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For week ending 8/18/13

DRIER WEATHER IMPROVES SOIL MOISTURE LEVELS

GENERAL CONDITIONS: There were 5.7 days suitable for fieldwork across New England for the week ending August 18, 2013. Pasture condition ratings averaged 4 percent poor, 15 percent fair, 62 percent good, and 19 percent excellent. The week was generally cool with daytime temperatures failing to reach the 80s throughout a large portion of New England. Average temperatures across the six states ranged from 3 to 5 degrees below normal. Precipitation averages across the six states ranged from 0.15 to 0.35 inches with the highest local precipitation total at 2.08 inches.

FRUIT: Fruit crops harvested included apples, peaches, pears, plums, blackberries, raspberries, highbush blueberries, and wild blueberries. Other activities included mowing orchard floors, moving bins into orchards, monitoring for pests, and spraying if needed. The majority of wild blueberries in Maine were harvested by week's end, limiting potential damage from the increasing numbers of Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD). Massachusetts cranberry growers needed to irrigate on a regular basis due to lack of precipitation. Most growers were optimistic about their crop.

VEGETABLES: The cooler weather delayed crop maturity but farm stands were busy marketing a variety of vegetables. Crops harvested included beans, beets, cabbage, cucumbers, greens, onions, peas, peppers, pumpkins, radishes, squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, and zucchini. Powdery mildew was discovered on pumpkins and winter squash. Insect pressure was a concern for some growers. Farmers kept busy hoeing weeds and spraying pesticides for insect and disease control where needed.

FIELD CROPS: Overall, soil moisture levels improved thanks to the recent dry weather. Plentiful sunshine helped farmers make good progress in haying operations but some hay fields still need additional dry weather. Some farmers were still struggling to finish their first cutting of hay. Field corn made substantial progress during the week. However, conditions and maturity levels remained highly variable. The first blue mold occurrence of the year was discovered in shade tobacco but the infestation was limited. Maine potato growers continued their 5-day fungicide spray schedule as weather conditions were conducive for the spread of potato late blight. Nevertheless, new findings of potato late blight were minimal.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	0	1
Short	7	2	23
Adequate	81	69	72
Surplus	12	29	4
Subsoil			
Very Short	1	0	2
Short	3	0	28
Adequate	81	70	71
Surplus	15	30	7

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	45	40	40	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Pears	5	<5	<5	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Blueberries						
Highbush	80	75	70	Average	Average	Good
Wild	60	40	30	Avg/below	AboveAvg	Good/Exc
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2013	2012	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Harvested --				
Barley	10	55	25	Good
Oats	<5	20	10	Good
Potatoes				
Maine	<5	<5	<5	Exc/Good
Mass	15	15	15	Good
Rhode Island	5	15	15	Good
Field Corn	-	-	-	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	55	50	55	Good/Fair
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	35	55	45	Good/Fair
Shade	60	85	70	Good/Fair
Dry Hay				
First Cut	95	99	95	Good/Fair
Second Cut	60	80	70	Good/Fair
Third Cut	10	20	15	Good

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday August 12, 2013
 To: Sunday August 18, 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	52	79	66	-3	1643	+97	701	+98	0.06	-0.71	1	5.70	+2.68	15
Bangor_Intl_Arp	49	80	66	-2	1505	+96	609	+104	0.35	-0.42	1	5.30	+2.37	13
Bethel	47	80	63	-5	1434	+28	534	+41	0.57	-0.34	1	8.11	+4.61	11
Caribou_Municip	49	76	62	-2	1320	+162	458	+127	1.29	+0.38	5	6.14	+2.36	18
Dover-Foxcroft	46	79	63	-3	1426	+194	538	+156	0.63	-0.21	3	5.79	+2.60	15
Frenchville	48	74	60	-3	1149	+74	358	+76	0.85	-0.12	4	7.42	+3.72	17
Houlton	42	79	63	-2	1290	+83	439	+72	0.31	-0.64	3	6.47	+2.81	16
Livermore_Falls	42	79	62	-3	1436	+220	547	+181	0.62	-0.32	1	7.76	+4.31	14
Moosehead	42	78	61	-3	1244	+219	412	+148	0.12	-0.72	2	3.33	-0.15	16
Portland_ME	50	78	66	-3	1628	+220	702	+188	0.00	-0.63	0	2.86	+0.31	12
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	46	77	62	-3	1532	+226	590	+188	0.42	-0.49	2	3.96	+0.47	12
Berlin_AG	46	75	61	-5	1517	+202	556	+132	0.15	-0.84	1	2.86	-0.90	14
Concord	45	81	64	-4	1851	+285	833	+222	0.00	-0.77	0	4.25	+1.17	9
First_Conn_Lake	39	74	59	-2	1212	+324	395	+221	0.09	-1.10	1	1.82	-2.70	13
Keene_AG	47	83	64	-6	1777	+31	795	+54	0.74	-0.17	2	6.15	+2.63	8
North_Conway	49	77	62	-5	1521	+56	569	+34	1.04	+0.13	2	4.72	+1.16	14
Rochester	50	79	65	-5	1728	+64	754	+68	0.21	-0.62	1	4.09	+0.79	11
VERMONT														
Bennington_AP	45	78	63	-3	1798	+427	789	+334	1.92	+0.94	1	5.69	+1.91	8
Burlington_Intl	50	79	66	-3	2028	+345	961	+262	0.48	-0.46	3	3.06	-0.52	11
Island_Pond	43	74	60	-3	1377	+300	489	+216	0.07	-1.05	2	3.67	-0.63	14
Montpelier	45	75	61	-5	1501	+175	561	+132	0.27	-0.64	2	3.10	-0.18	12
Rochester	42	79	61	-5	1488	+193	572	+161	0.27	-0.78	2	5.34	+1.35	10
Rutland_AG	44	78	62	-8	1611	-121	651	-72	0.55	-0.43	2	4.46	+0.71	10
Springfield_VT	44	80	63	-4	1758	+330	764	+268	0.97	+0.06	2	3.41	-0.10	11
Sutton	46	76	60	-3	1365	+270	476	+188	0.16	-0.96	3	3.91	-0.34	14
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	60	84	71	-2	2242	+275	1163	+243	0.00	-0.72	0	5.20	+2.45	11
Fitchburg	54	83	69	+3	2217	+794	1125	+622	0.06	-0.72	1	4.14	+0.88	10
Greenfield	49	81	65	-6	1955	+93	915	+88	0.64	-0.20	1	7.04	+3.68	8
New_Bedford	50	82	67	-7	2030	+61	993	+72	0.04	-0.94	1	2.51	-0.96	14
Otis_AFB	54	77	66	-4	1853	+256	860	+204	0.13	-0.64	2	2.32	-0.58	12
Plymouth	52	82	67	-4	2079	+419	1039	+335	0.02	-0.89	1	3.41	+0.06	10
Walpole	52	83	68	-2	2113	+411	1050	+336	0.01	-0.90	1	6.22	+2.87	11
Chicopee/Westov	45	83	66	-8	2100	-29	1039	+5	0.41	-0.36	1	6.33	+3.25	9
Worthington	45	78	61	-6	1566	+179	650	+184	0.35	-0.58	1	6.15	+2.28	10
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	55	82	69	-3	2250	+379	1170	+317	0.04	-0.80	1	3.32	+0.18	12
Woonsocket	51	83	67	-2	2151	+477	1085	+405	0.02	-0.89	1	5.97	+2.35	10
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	56	80	70	-4	2287	+283	1207	+244	0.21	-0.52	2	1.91	-1.24	12
Hartford/Bradle	52	83	68	-4	2281	+230	1188	+207	0.25	-0.59	1	6.68	+3.61	11
Norfolk	47	77	63	-4	1687	+294	739	+266	0.53	-0.52	1	6.30	+2.33	11
Thomaston_Dam	46	82	65	-5	2034	+380	1023	+364	0.19	-0.79	1	4.56	+0.73	14
Willimantic	49	81	67	-3	2144	+459	1066	+379	0.10	-0.79	1	3.73	+0.09	11

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 Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, August 18, 2013

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	38	82	63	-3	0.00	1.43	0.35	-0.46	2
NH	34	83	63	-4	0.00	1.06	0.34	-0.54	1
VT	40	81	62	-5	0.00	1.92	0.52	-0.39	2
MA	44	84	66	-4	0.00	2.08	0.25	-0.57	1
RI	51	83	68	-3	0.01	0.54	0.15	-0.66	2
CT	46	83	67	-4	0.05	0.53	0.19	-0.63	1

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: A great weather week for making dry hay. Corn silage progressing nicely with silk darkening up. Full assortment of summer vegetables, peaches and blueberries at farmers markets and farm stands. First blue mold found in Windsor on shade tobacco but limited infestation. Some field corn is showing blight. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Corn is maturing with a wide variation in each field. Every little change in moisture level has a different maturity. Scheduling harvest is going to be a juggling act this year. Trying to determine the average maturity will be next to impossible. We expect to see a lot of silage leachate running this year. Several reports of pumpkins being hit hard with powdery mildew. **Ann McCard (FSA), New London:** This week brought sunny, dry days and cool nights--a good week for catching up on getting hay in. Some farmers were working on first and second cutting together, while others were getting the 3rd cutting of haylage in. Corn looks good--in a couple of weeks some corn planted early this spring will be ready for harvest. This summer has been a challenge for vegetables, with all the rains (heavy downpours, daily showers), many days with temperatures of 90+ degrees and/or high humidity. Summer fruits, including early apples, peaches, plums and blueberries are ready for our enjoyment. **Jude Boucher (Ext), Tolland:** Sweet corn ear developmental problems are disappearing. Blocks being harvested now look good. Large wholesale growers in the CT River Meadows are experiencing some skips in their harvesting schedules due to flooding that took place earlier. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Picking early apples, farm stands and markets have a good variety of vegetables, melons are tasty. The cool weather has allowed sweet corn producers to pick more of their blocks before moving on; flavor is good. Baling hay.

MAINE – Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook: Hay operations resumed this weekend. Most of the hay fields are a bit soft. Because of the excessive rain many of the grain fields have the underseeding growing up through the grain, making harvest difficult. Potatoes still look excellent. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Some aphids and flea beetles are showing up in some areas. Farmers are on a 5 day spray for early and late blight. **Don Audibert, (FSA) Northern Aroostook:** Finally had three nice days at the end of the week to make hay. Harvesting of potatoes or grain hasn't started yet. Might have some starting grain harvest next week. Crop looks good. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Corn is growing well. Hay harvest is progressing. Buyers will need to beware. There will be some very low quality hay out there. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Hay crops are struggling in areas due to rain showers, but other areas crop looks good. Blueberry harvest is well under way, over all crop is pretty good. Apple harvest has started on early varieties. Farm stands are in full swing with most crops. Corn silage crop is looking great in areas and okay and other areas. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis/Penobscot:** Some hayfields have wet areas that are hard to travel over. Farm stands are full of vegetables. **Elaine S. Moceus (FSA), Somerset:** Nice week for field work, one afternoon and evening of rain during the week. Hay harvest continues; some fields are wet. Berry harvest continues to be very good at this time. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Some decent weather for making some 1st, 2nd and 3rd cuttings...depending on the farm! HB Blueberries almost done. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Trap captures of spotted wing drosophila (SWD) continue to occur throughout the state, but appear to have jumped up a bit. There are still some fields that have not had trap captures and many have had just the 1 or 2 SWD. However, late last week in southern Maine, trap captures jumped quickly with one small fruit field in Bowdoinham having over 200 SWD in a trap! In Jonesboro we were finding 2-15 flies/

trap in fields that a week ago just had either no captures or 1 SWD in a trap. Therefore, this is evidence that SWD are beginning to multiply in blueberries. The infestation is still very low. Fruit samples taken in the fields that had increasing SWD trap captures still did not have larvae in the fruit, so the infestation is most likely spotty in the fields and at very low levels. However, from last year it became apparent that SWD can build up very rapidly. Growers continue to monitor and protect your fruit if necessary. Early harvesting that has been taking place all over the state will certainly pay dividends this year if we can get much of the crop in before significant damage starts to be detected.

MASSACHUSETTS – Russell Norton (Ext), Barnstable: Temperatures for the last week were normal highs in the mid-70s and lows in the high 50s. Less than a quarter inch of rain fell in Barnstable, heavy dew every morning. Just about every vegetable is available at this time. Growers are trying to keep late season diseases at bay. McIntosh is showing some good color. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** With cooler temperatures this week farmers report crops are also maturing slower. Harvesting tomatoes, potatoes, cucumbers, squash, beet, radishes, cabbage, blueberries, and peaches. Blue mold was discovered on a shade tobacco farm. Vegetable and fruit growers are applying a protective spray on their crops due to past rains. **Carolyn DeMoranville (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Weather continues dry for the most part with growers having to irrigate regularly. The window for managing cranberry fruitworm and fruit rot is past and most growers are concentrating on end of season weed management, edge mowing and beginning of preparations for harvest. Most growers are reporting good to excellent crops.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire: Gorgeous, sunny weather all week. Great weather for haying, while other farms working on 3rd cutting haylage. Field corn looks good, with ears maturing nicely. Most vegetable crops continuing to do well. PYO blueberries starting to wind down a bit, but early varieties of apples are ready. **Mike Harrington (NRCS), Coos:** Good week for field work moderate temperature and humidity, some rain mid-week. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending August 17th, we received just over a half inch of rain. Most of the rain arrived early in the week, leaving sun and moderate temperatures for the later half of the week. Several days of no rain has helped to improve soil moisture conditions. However many upland soils and soils with poorer drainage still have a surplus of moisture. There are still a significant number of fields that have not yet had first cut hay taken, due to wet soil conditions. Damage to a number of hillside hay fields due to rutting caused by excess moisture and farm equipment is significant. The potential for damaging erosion on some of these fields is a real concern. The corn crop remains quite variable. Corn ranges from very good (along the river bottom) to poor on some other soils. The sweet corn crop has been in short supply due to the wet conditions. A few growers are now beginning to get some on the stands. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Orchardists harvesting peaches, plums, and starting to pick Paula Red apples. Orchardists busy monitoring for pests, summer pruning trees, mowing orchard floors, fixing up orchard roads and moving bins into the orchard. Highbush blueberry harvest over except for those few growers who have late maturing varieties, and fall raspberry harvest continued. SWD Fruit Fly is being trapped at higher numbers in almost all small fruit plantings. Field Crops: Hay cutting continued during the week with the first, second and third cuttings being made. Some farmers are spreading manure on hay fields. Farmers are starting to get ready to make new forage seedings. Vegetables: Growers are irrigating unharvested crops and are harvesting an array of vegetables: beans, beets, cole crops, cucumbers, greens, peas, potatoes, pumpkins, radishes, summer

squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, winter squash, zucchini, and other vegetables. Powdery mildew can be found on pumpkins and winter squash and downy mildew can be found on cucurbit crops. Corn Earworm and Fall Armyworm are being caught. **Dot Perkins (Ext), Merrimack:** Vegetable production is stable but slow due to cool nights. Bacterial blights and fungal diseases are problematic. Insect pressure has been high. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** A sunny week. Localized drizzling rain on Tuesday evening (even though forecast was calling for heavy rain and flooding). Harvesting peaches, early apple varieties, and plums, a whole array of vegetables including greens, and cabbage. Picking also blueberries, red and black raspberries, garlic, onions, leeks, sugar snap peas, herbs and cut flowers. The ripening of some tomatoes varieties, sweet corn and some warm season crops is set back because of cooler nights. Fertilizing vegetables, weeding and irrigating fields. Mowing grass in fruit orchards. Pastures are thirsty. Haying, finishing first crop hay and working on the 2nd one. Farmers markets, farm stands and PYO operations are busy.

RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties: They started harvesting potatoes last week. Shipped out a couple of trailer loads here and there. They are only harvesting for orders only. The early potatoes look really good. Far from excellent, but good. I visited a couple of apple orchards last week and that is about the only crop that is excellent. I have never seen so many apples on the trees. They are worried about the nights in August being too cool. It seems more like September weather to the apples. That will bring them in earlier than wanted. Farmers are still saying that they have nice crops, but not the quantity they expected. One farmer said he planted double the amount of summer squash this year and only got the crop and didn't gain a thing for his work. That is what I am hearing from most vegetables. Sweet corn is

the same thing. Two of my biggest producers in RI some days have no corn to pick, which is very unusual. The quality is excellent. Pastures still look good for the end of August due to the sufficient amount of rain.

VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison: Good weather for harvesting dry hay. Still some first cut being harvested. Some manure spreading on hay fields. Evident leaf diseases. Corn crop looks better, but still widespread poor crop after long stretch of rainy weather. Prevented planting fields full of weeds. A little summer seeding of new hay crops. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** More of the same in Franklin County this week. The same is great weather for corn maturing and hay harvest. Hay harvest is becoming a mixed bag between knowing what cut is happening. Some are still getting first off in wet areas in hopes of another harvest there. Others are taking up to a fourth cut on what fields did get done in late May. Corn continues to make up height loss with ear development. Ears are filling excellent and will make for some high ear to stalk ratios boosting feed value. Pastures are doing fantastic in the typical slump season. Weeds are very prolific due to the fact that weather conditions are favoring them too. Gardens are making a grand exit as we look to the end of growing season in this arena. Sweet Corn is holding into September with the later growing season. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** The ground is drying out a little the past few weeks. Nice weather last week allowed farmers to put up some really nice dry second cut. A little 3rd cut has started to be harvested as well. The yields for both second and third crops have varied some from average to below average. Corn has improved over the past month but yields will be low. The corn has tasseled and the ears are forming. Hopefully it will be a warm sunny fall to allow the crop to mature.

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