

Crop Weather



NEW ENGLAND
Agricultural
Statistics



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For week ending 7/6/08

Showers Stall Hay Making

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending July 6, 2008, there were 5.7 days available for fieldwork across New England. Pasture condition was rated 3% poor, 14% fair, 76% good and 7% excellent. Scattered showers and thunderstorms were the predominant weather pattern during the week across New England. Some Broadleaf tobacco fields and orchards sustained heavy damage from isolated hail storms. While some areas saw damage and stress from heavy thunderstorms and an abundance of rain, other areas, particularly coastal regions were getting dry. Vegetable crops in these areas were beginning to suffer from the lack of moisture. Total rain accumulation for the week ranged between 0.02 to 2.03 inches with the most rain falling in southern areas. The weather improved by the end of the week as cloudy to partly cloudy conditions moved into the region. High temperatures averaged in the mid-70s to mid-80s with nighttime temperatures ranging from the low-50s to mid-60s. Overall, temperatures for the week were average with areas of the south experiencing below average temperatures towards the end of the week.

FRUIT: Heavy thunderstorms were accompanied by hail at some locations, causing heavy damage to fruit in affected orchard blocks. The strawberry harvest neared completion in southernmost states, and growers made preparations to renovate beds. Cranberry development ranged from full bloom to petal fall by the end of the week, and fruit set looked very good. Cranberry growers were busy monitoring pollination activities, treating for fruit rot and insects, and irrigating. The highbush blueberry harvest is underway in both Connecticut and Vermont. Crop specialists reported berry condition, fruit set and size as good regionwide. Warmer temperatures have begun to ripen Maine's wild blueberry crop.

VEGETABLES: Planting of the sweet corn crop neared completion at week's end. Sweet corn in New Hampshire was beginning to tassle and silk while growers in both Massachusetts and Connecticut had begun harvest. Growers continued harvesting a wide variety of early season vegetables including greens, lettuce, radishes, summer squash, peas, asparagus, greenhouse tomatoes, and early cabbage. Irrigation was necessary for vegetables in southern states due to dry soils. Vegetable growers kept busy assessing fields for hail damage, side dressing fields with fertilizer, cultivating and hand-hoeing weeds, scouting for pests, and spraying as needed.

FIELD CROPS: While wet weather hindered dry hay production in most of New England, some producers in Massachusetts and Vermont were able to make progress with the first cutting. First crop hay quality has suffered from the inability to harvest a dry crop between showers. The second cut is underway with good regrowth reported from adequate moisture. Maine potato growers were busy getting caught up on spraying, cultivating, hoeing and applying fungicides. Oats and barley in Maine were both rated in good condition for the week. Field corn condition was extremely variable regionwide, ranging from fair to excellent in most states. Some areas of Vermont saw total losses from standing water in fields. The transplanting of Broadleaf tobacco was complete at week's end. Although the majority of the crop was rated in good condition, isolated hail storms caused heavy damage in fields in both Connecticut and Massachusetts. Shade tobacco escaped damage from hail and was rated in good condition by week's end.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
Percent			
Topsoil Moisture			
Very Short	0	0	9
Short	11	4	33
Adequate	73	70	57
Surplus	16	26	1
Subsoil Moisture			
Very Short	0	0	7
Short	9	10	32
Adequate	79	74	61
Surplus	12	16	0

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Set	Fruit Size	Condition
	2008	2007	5-yr Avg			
Apples	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good
Peaches	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Pears	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Blueberries						
Highbush	-	<5	<5	Average	Average	Good
Wild, ME	-	-	-	Above Avg	Avg/AboveAvg	Good/Excellent
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-			Good
Strawberries	75	80	70	Average	Average	Good

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2008	2007	5-yr Avg	Condition
Percent Planted				
Silage Corn	99	100	99	
Sweet Corn	99	99	95	
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	100	100	99	Good
Shade	100	100	100	Good
Percent Emerged				
Potatoes				
Maine	100	100	100	Good
Mass	100	100	100	Good
Rhode Island	100	100	100	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	99	99	95	Good
Sweet Corn	95	95	90	Good
Percent Harvested				
Barley, ME	-	-	-	Good
Oats, ME	-	-	-	Good
Dry Hay				
First Cut	75	85	75	Good/Fair
Second Cut	10	10	10	Good

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics
Prepared By AWIS, Inc.

For the Period: Monday June 30, 2008
To: Sunday July 6, 2008

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-60F TOT	BASE-60F DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS
MAINE														
Augusta State A	54	83	69	+1	794	+68	251	+47	0.64	-0.11	4	2.87	-0.17	18
Bangor Intl Arp	50	83	69	+2	727	+87	214	+57	0.44	-0.33	3	2.14	-0.94	12
Bethel	49	82	66	-2	638	-18	177	+14	1.43	+0.59	4	5.84	+2.22	16
Caribou Municip	48	79	65	+0	497	-23	109	+9	0.55	-0.27	3	5.51	+2.62	17
Dover-Foxcroft	48	83	66	+0	563	+24	139	+31	1.07	+0.23	2	4.54	+1.09	15
Frenchville	47	79	63	-1	424	-49	87	+8	1.08	+0.28	3	6.55	+3.53	20
Houlton	45	80	65	-1	484	-50	111	+3	1.54	+0.73	5	5.65	+2.53	20
Livermore Falls	48	83	67	+3	671	+130	197	+90	0.80	-0.01	3	4.30	+0.62	16
Moosehead	43	80	63	-1	405	-21	83	+19	0.42	-0.50	3	7.76	+4.06	18
Portland_ME	54	86	69	+2	750	+128	229	+84	0.25	-0.51	2	3.48	+0.32	15
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	47	79	65	+0	640	+7	164	+25	0.33	-0.48	1	4.44	+0.99	12
Berlin AG	47	83	66	+0	669	+44	182	+38	0.87	+0.01	3	5.19	+1.45	16
Concord	53	86	70	+2	877	+120	317	+95	0.89	+0.18	4	4.91	+1.96	17
Diamond Pond	44	76	60	-2	416	+39	77	+39	0.50	-0.55	3	8.49	+4.18	20
Keene AP	54	84	70	+4	839	+151	301	+123	0.08	-0.69	2	3.92	+0.86	12
North Conway	51	81	67	-2	709	+9	190	-1	1.89	+1.03	4	6.35	+2.70	20
Rochester	56	88	70	+1	883	+66	321	+63	0.54	-0.25	3	5.68	+2.46	16
VERMONT														
Burlington Intl	51	83	69	-2	950	+114	345	+71	0.69	-0.12	2	4.16	+0.87	13
Island Pond	45	79	64	+1	578	+86	153	+63	0.59	-0.39	3	4.61	+0.63	18
Montpelier	46	81	66	+1	742	+108	223	+69	0.00	-0.70	0	3.95	+0.85	13
Pownal	57	84	69	+4	852	+197	291	+131	1.14	+0.18	6	5.52	+1.41	21
Rochester	48	83	66	+1	650	+40	179	+37	0.17	-0.67	2	5.69	+2.27	16
Rutland AG	47	83	66	-4	753	-135	239	-60	0.33	-0.51	2	9.04	+5.68	13
Springfield_VT	52	83	69	+3	839	+145	283	+103	1.32	+0.48	4	5.55	+2.02	17
Sutton	47	78	64	+0	571	+77	139	+43	0.69	-0.29	3	4.71	+0.73	21
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	61	88	72	-1	1084	+101	473	+119	1.16	+0.51	4	3.84	+1.05	10
Fitchburg	58	86	71	+5	1044	+371	424	+251	1.76	+0.92	4	4.26	+0.90	13
Greenfield	55	84	70	-2	904	-51	303	-37	1.51	+0.64	6	6.22	+2.71	16
New Bedford	61	89	73	+2	904	-62	371	+37	0.21	-0.49	3	1.81	-1.37	11
Otis_AFB	61	84	72	+3	799	+71	311	+106	0.67	+0.00	6	2.70	-0.20	15
Plymouth	61	90	73	+4	917	+141	383	+145	0.13	-0.64	4	3.23	+0.09	14
Walpole	59	87	73	+4	974	+143	393	+129	1.31	+0.51	4	3.82	+0.38	13
Chicopee/Westov	59	88	72	-1	987	-126	378	-57	1.25	+0.38	5	4.61	+0.93	13
Worthington	54	85	68	+2	730	+68	217	+55	1.13	+0.20	4	6.28	+2.65	15
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	65	92	76	+5	1164	+246	508	+190	0.32	-0.39	4	2.14	-0.87	13
Woonsocket	61	91	73	+4	981	+164	389	+144	0.57	-0.34	4	3.66	-0.08	13
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	67	90	76	+5	1191	+197	532	+163	0.60	-0.24	4	3.43	+0.20	13
Hartford/Bradle	63	90	74	+3	1174	+107	507	+92	2.49	+1.72	5	6.03	+2.68	14
Norfolk	57	83	69	+3	802	+141	273	+110	0.88	-0.10	5	6.62	+2.43	16
Thomaston Dam	60	86	72	+4	986	+159	378	+125	1.71	+0.80	5	7.12	+3.39	15
Willimantic	58	90	74	+5	1059	+222	420	+162	0.47	-0.44	3	2.40	-1.13	15

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, July 6, 2008

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	L	HI	AV	DF	LO	HI
ME	42	86	66	+0	0.25	2.95
NH	38	89	67	+1	0.08	2.47
VT	34	85	66	+0	0.00	2.25
MA	52	91	71	+3	0.13	2.26
RI	61	92	74	+4	0.22	0.57
CT	55	91	73	+3	0.11	2.55

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: It seems like the rain will never stop. It is nearly impossible to make dry hay. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Summer crops coming along and in good supply at farmers markets. Sweet corn just starting to be harvested. Heavy thunderstorms over the past week have caused isolated damage to crops such as Broadleaf tobacco in isolated areas. Field corn starting to look real good. Hay making has been hampered by frequent showers. **Marsha Jetted (FSA), New London:** Very humid and a lot of intermittent showers have made it difficult to harvest dry hay. Starting second cutting for chopping grass. Vegetables doing well. Silage corn and sweet corn looking great. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Cost of plastic mulch on vegetables tripling. Minimum tillage in vegetable plantings and cultivating to control weeds. Scattered showers bring light rain and no real soaking, just enough to keep hay from drying. Also causing pressure on grapes with mildews being controlled by spray. Spreading manure after first cutting of hay is off. Early blueberries are good. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** Some dry hay was harvested this week in the southern area of New Haven County. The scattered showers are missing this area and soils are drying out. Vegetables are in need of water so irrigation has begun. Peppers, in particular are suffering from the lack of rain. **Jude Boucher (Ext), Tolland:** Regular thunderstorms or downpours for most towns around the state. The on-shore breezes near Long Island Sound prevented the storms from hitting some of the shore communities where it is getting a little dry. Sweet corn harvest started on July 1 or 2 and wholesale prices for the early corn were lower than the last couple of years. How can the price of corn go down if the price of diesel doubled, fertilizer doubled, and plastic went up dramatically? If prices don't rise, net income must shrink. **Joyce Meader (Ext), Windham:** White marshmallows cover the newly harvested hay fields. Fewer square bales being harvested each year. Round bale equipment and operating costs are expensive, custom rate at \$10/bale is probably way too low. Any numbers out there to share?

MAINE - Pam Hickey (Ext), Aroostook: Hoeing, cultivating and applying fungicides. Crop conditions excellent. **Steve London, Aroostook:** Due to weather potato farmers are trying to get caught up on spraying and cultivating. There has been some cutworms and potato aphids found in the area. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** A lot of dry hay was harvested this past week with ideal weather conditions. This week was pretty dry and some rain is needed. Some farmers started irrigating their crops near the end of the week. The strawberry crop has been exceptional with about another week of harvest anticipated. The blueberry crop continues to look good although fruit flies are being found. Spraying to alleviate this problem will occur within the next couple of days. The blueberry harvest is anticipated to begin the last week of July or the first week of August. We are all looking forward to the sweet corn harvest which could occur within the next week or two in some areas of these two counties. Peas, greens, cucumbers and tomatoes are all available at local farm stands. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Due to rain, wind and hail, producers in Oxford County have reported damage to their crops. Spray schedules have been hard to keep on track due to storms. Some drying weather over the weekend, hay producers have been hard at work trying to get what they can before another storm arrives. **Laura Rand (FSA), Penobscot:** It was a glorious week for crops and to celebrate the Fourth of July. Farmers are reporting great set of strawberries and blueberries. Corn is growing strong and looks excellent. Potatoes are starting to blossom, and plenty of hay. It has been difficult to get hay dried but a strong crop is being harvested as haylage. Berry sales have been strong, potato cultivation is ongoing, and many small vegetables are being harvested. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis:** Drier weather has allowed hay farmers an opportunity to cut and bale dry hay. Strawberry harvest is in full swing. **Janet King (FSA), Somerset:** What a 4th of July!! Much needed sun for the week of the 4th. Many corn fields have cutworms and there could be a problem with armyworms. Many hay fields have started to turn to seed. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** Warm, sunny

weather over the weekend has been a welcome change. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Some areas seeing lots of rain and heavy thundershowers last week while other areas made dry hay. Strawberry harvest is coming to an end. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Warmer temperatures are beginning to ripen the fruit and with drier and windy conditions the surface layer of the soil is beginning to dry out. Fruit flies are emerging and some insecticide treatments are being applied. Both fruit quantity and size look good.

MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: The County averaged an inch of rain for the week. Excess soil moisture in south county has caused loss of a seed crop of pumpkins which has been replanted. Soil moistures are high. Also, the quality of the hay crop has suffered from the inability to harvest a dry crop with the sporadic rain. Busy at strawberry operations and farmer's markets with early vegetables. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Another hot, humid and rainy week. Protective sprays being applied on fruits and vegetables and tobacco to prevent the onset of disease. Harvesting sweet corn, greenhouse tomatoes, greens, lettuce, beets, radishes, summer squash and early cabbage. Some tobacco totally destroyed by hail and all other tobacco looks good. Sunshine and dry weather would be greatly appreciated. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: The bloom continues to look fantastic and fruit set looks very good so far. Wild bumblebees are in high numbers in all beds this year. First fruitworm treatments have been applied and the third fungicide applications will be made this week. Growers are regularly irrigating, as rainfall has been sparse. Dodder has exploded on some beds, particularly since we did not have Kerb available to us this spring. All in all, things look very good at this point.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire: More showers most days this week with extreme heavy rain and isolated pockets of hail and heavy winds on Tuesday. Despite a little shredding by hail most corn in the region looks good. Difficult haying conditions continue; a lack of drying conditions means there's still quite a bit of first cutting, very mature by now in the field. Strawberry harvest just about done and raspberry picking just starting. Sweet corn is beginning to tassel and silk. A wide range of veggies available at farmers markets and farm stands. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Dry baled haying as weather permits. Somewhat drier weather than we have had so far but still chances of heavy cloud bursts. Some rutting of hayfields where soil conditions with excessive moisture. Rivers rather high for this time of year. Manure and fertilizer spreading on recent cut haylands. Corn looking good. Farmers evaluating follow-up weed control activities on corn land and vegetable operations. Rose chafers and Japanese beetles making their appearance on raspberries and a wide variety of other plants. Ticks still a problem to those of us walking fields. Hi-tunnel tomatoes starting to size up. Crops doing better with warmer, somewhat sunnier weather. Highbush blueberries beginning to show signs of color. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending July 5th, we had good weather for field work. Those who still had dry hay to put in could not have asked for better weather. First cutting hay reports indicate the dry conditions earlier in the season had negative impacts on the first cut yield in many areas away from the Connecticut River bottom. Reports indicate that the hay was shorter than normal, but of good quality. Corn is doing well, and the sweet corn crop looks good. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** More thunderstorms occurred during the week that produced hail which damaged fruit crops. Continue to assess hail damage to crops, especially fruits. Fruit: Fruit growers monitoring pest and crop development and apply sprays for pests. Sweet cherry harvest is almost completed with all the showers causing fruit to crack. Strawberry harvest continues with end in sight and getting ready to renovate harvested beds after July 4 or the following week. Condition/quality of all fruit is lower due to hail damage. Field Crops: Farmers making haylage between showers and hard to bale hay

because of rain showers. Growers are side-dressing fertilizer to field corn, if needed, and to hay fields. Vegetables: Growers continued harvesting early season vegetables such as lettuce, greens, radishes, and zucchini. Growers side-dressing fields with fertilizer, cultivating and hand-hoeing weeds, scouting for pests and spraying if needed. Saw first case of bacterial canker and early blight on tomatoes. Potato leafhopper is very active. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Vegetable harvest of leafy greens, potatoes and herbs continued. Finishing picking strawberries. Some blueberries and raspberry harvest started over the 4th of July weekend. Irrigating, weeding and monitoring pests. Colorado potato beetles, cucumber striped beetles and other insects are feeding on crops. Powdery mildew was noticed on different crops. Hay and haylage being cut. Pastures are good. Almost every afternoon we had a thundershower but on Thursday afternoon a very strong one that lasted a while producing gusty winds and may have also produced hail.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: Strawberries still being harvested and doing quite well. This may be the final push though. Potatoes and field corn look great. Rain mid week helped along with some sunshine. Winter squash and pumpkins coming along well, harvesting summer squash, lettuces and early crops. Eastern RI has escaped some of the hail that has tormented the rest of the state.

VERMONT - Jeffrey Carter (Ext), Addison: Dry weather, so finally more dry hay being harvested. Hay is very mature. Second growth hay after haylage looks vigorous with so much moisture. New seeded hay fields fair with heavy weed pressure and uneven stands. Pasture re-growth improved with rain. Corn crop looks very poor with some fields at total loss due to wet soils and standing water for past weeks. Some Nitrogen side-dressing. Overall corn crop on heavy soil over 50% severely stunted plants. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** A stretch of dry weather allowed many farmers to

finish that first cut of hay and get started on a second cut. Very warm temperatures at the end of the week. Quite a bit of manure went onto ground right after the first cut was done. Corn looking spotty, but generally OK. Heard one fellow mention armyworm. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Great week weather wise. Nice temperatures and sunshine!! Beginning to get caught up on the hay harvest by finishing up on the first cut left and some were starting on second cut. Great yields on second cut and we hope for continuation of good weather. Corn is starting to look better, still some areas of pale green in wet areas. The nitrogen top-dress is about completed with good timing from the weatherman on this. Pastures are still fantastic with plenty of moisture to keep them going through mid season. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** The end of this week brought perfect hay weather. A lot of dry hay was put up over the weekend. Almost all first cut has been harvested. Yields were good as was the quality. Many farms have started second cut. The second cut grass looks to be above average in quantity and shows of high quality. The corn varies a little but a lot of it has caught up and looks pretty good, dark green in color and over your knees. Other fields of corn are yellow in color and stunted due to all the moisture we have gotten. Pastures remain vigorous due to the moisture. So far it has been a good grazing year. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Cultivating all crops when ready. Spraying potatoes for bugs and blight, also spraying for cucumber beetles. Strawberry season just about over, had an average crop. Rain for the week 3.284 inches. Asparagus cutting finished. Had a very good season because of no frosts. Market garden shops filling fast with peas, spinach, lettuce, beet greens, scallions and carrots. Warmth and rain have been a blessing to all crops. **Julie Jacque (FSA), Windham:** Afternoon thunderstorms and daily showers delayed any hay activities. Blueberry harvest started and strawberries continued although rains damaged the quality of the berries. Lettuces doing well. Corn is yellow still in some areas. Some corn fields affected by wind bursts but seem to be recovering ok.

June 2008 CROP WEATHER SUMMARY: Rain ushered in the month of June. Many areas experienced thunderstorms with heavy winds and below average temperatures ranging from the low-70s to mid-80s. The second week in June was marked by heavy thunderstorms with hail and strong winds and above average temperatures in the upper-80s to over 100 degrees. Several locations broke record highs. Temperatures fell back into the average range mid-week with highs in the mid-70s to mid-80s and lows in the upper-40s to low-60s. Rain with some flash flooding was experienced during the third week in June. Temperatures fell to below average levels during the last week in June with highs in the low-60s to upper 70s and lows in the mid-50s. Rain showers occurred almost every day throughout the rest of the month. Reports of tree fruit, vegetable, and corn crop damage were numerous throughout the month due to the severe storms. Field corn and strawberry crops showed signs of stress due to the abundance of rain. Temperatures throughout the rest of the month were average ranging from the mid-70s to mid-80s with lows in the upper-50s to mid-60s. Total rainfall for June ranged from 2.75 to 7.79 inches throughout New England, well above average in most areas. Strawberry harvest had just passed the half way mark by the end of the month and berries were in good condition. Highbush and Maine wild blueberries reached petal fall mid-month with both in good to excellent condition. Massachusetts cranberries were in early bloom to full bloom by the end of the month with good condition reported. Rhode Island and Massachusetts potatoes were all emerged by the end of June, on schedule with normal. Maine potato emergence averaged 95 percent at month's end with the crop in good to fair condition. Maine barley and oats had all emerged by the end of June with both rated in good condition. Field and sweet corn planting neared completion by the end of June and most of the crop had emerged. Shade tobacco transplants were all set out by first the week of June. Broadleaf tobacco transplanting was nearly complete by the end of the month. Shade tobacco was rated in good to excellent condition while Broadleaf tobacco condition ranged from good to fair. The first cut of grass for dry hay was 60 percent complete at the end of June, behind last year and normal due to the lack of good drying weather; the second cut had just commenced.

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