

Crop Weather



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United States Department of Agriculture

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For week ending 7/13/08

Some Rain, Some Sun, Some Heat

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending July 13, 2008, there were 6.1 days available for field work across New England. Pasture condition was rated 3% poor, 12% fair, 74% good and 11% excellent. The past week finally showed some relief from prolonged showers and thunderstorms, providing good fieldwork and growing conditions. Days were breezy, warm, and overcast throughout the first part of the week. Weekend weather was mostly sunny, increasing traffic at produce stands and farmers' markets. The week began with average to above average daytime temperatures ranging in the mid-80s to low-90s. Daytime temperatures cooled mid-week and remained in the mid-70s to low-80s throughout the weekend. Nighttime temperatures remained above average throughout the week, ranging in the mid-50s to mid-60s. Heavy rain and thunderstorms fell in northern states Wednesday evening; some hail was observed, but no damage was reported. Another large rainstorm occurred in northern states on Sunday. Southern states experienced little to no rainfall for the week. Total precipitation for the week ranged from 0.01 to 2.90 inches. Specialists reported field crops and pastures were beginning to show signs of stress in drier areas and rain was needed to improve crop conditions.

FRUIT: The strawberry harvest was nearly complete at week's end, with 95 percent harvested. The warm temperatures and sunshine greatly improved the crop's condition and allowed growers to start renovating beds. The blueberry and raspberry harvests began in earnest. Both highbush and wild blueberries were rated in good to excellent condition due to abundant, large berries and very few instances of pests or disease. Orchard crops were rated in good to fair condition as bruising from hail damage and apple scab were becoming more evident. Tree fruit producers were busy monitoring for pests and applying sprays as needed, training young fruit trees, and mowing orchard floors.

VEGETABLES: Sweet corn was 5 percent harvested by the end of the week, ahead of last year and normal. The dry weather provided excellent harvesting conditions for squash, peppers, greens, peas, green beans, broccoli, cucumbers, radishes, lettuce, and early tomatoes. Despite spotty hail damage and weed infestations, vegetable crops were reported to be doing well. Growers kept busy hand hoeing applying post-emergence weed control, cultivating fields, spraying pesticides where needed, and making successive plantings of various crops.

FIELD CROPS: The first and second cuttings of hay progressed nicely this week due to the drier, sunnier weather. The quality of the first cutting of hay has varied widely throughout the region due to poor conditions during the growing period. The second cutting of hay looks better, but pastures are beginning to thin in drier areas. Field corn was 100 percent planted and emerged by week's end. The warmer weather spurred growth and improved color. However, reported conditions varied due to areas experiencing hail damage and overly wet or dry soils. Potato growers in Maine were busy applying fungicides and insecticides. A few instances of potato aphids and Colorado potato bugs were noted. Rhode Island potato growers were forced to irrigate due to lack of rain. Field crop growers were busy cultivating, sidedressing fields with nitrogen and fertilizer, and spraying for weeds.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
Percent			
Topsoil Moisture			
Very Short	1	0	1
Short	21	11	21
Adequate	70	73	69
Surplus	8	16	9
Subsoil Moisture			
Very Short	2	0	1
Short	16	9	20
Adequate	78	79	73
Surplus	4	12	6

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
Pears	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Blueberries						
Highbush	10	5	5	Average	Average	Good
Wild, ME	-	-	-	Avg/AboveAvg	Avg/AboveAvg	Good/Excellent
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-			Good
Strawberries	95	90	90	Average	Average	Good

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2008	2007	5-yr Avg	Condition
Percent Planted				
Silage Corn	100	100	99	
Sweet Corn	100	99	99	
Percent Emerged				
Silage Corn	100	100	95	Good
Sweet Corn	95	95	95	
Percent Harvested				
Barley, ME	-	-	-	Good
Oats, ME	-	-	-	Good/Excellent
Potatoes				
Maine	-	-	-	Good/Excellent
Mass	-	-	-	Good
Rhode Island	-	-	-	Good/Excellent
Sweet Corn	5	<5	-	Good
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	-	-	-	Good
Shade	-	-	-	Good/Excellent
Dry Hay				
First Cut	85	90	85	Good/Fair
Second Cut	20	15	15	Good

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

For the Period: Monday July 7, 2008
To: Sunday July 13, 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	DFN	BASE-60F TOT	DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS
MAINE														
Augusta State A	54	89	73	+4	956	+93	343	+72	0.01	-0.69	1	2.52	-0.45	17
Bangor Intl Arp	51	89	72	+5	886	+120	303	+90	0.00	-0.77	0	1.85	-1.23	11
Bethel	52	88	70	+3	777	-5	246	+27	0.15	-0.64	1	3.68	+0.24	15
Caribou Municip	48	87	70	+5	639	+11	181	+39	0.57	-0.32	2	5.16	+2.01	15
Dover-Foxcroft	48	89	70	+5	707	+52	213	+58	0.16	-0.68	1	3.44	+0.04	14
Frenchville	49	84	69	+5	558	-19	151	+37	0.64	-0.20	1	5.88	+2.72	17
Houlton	44	89	71	+5	630	-16	188	+35	0.28	-0.56	1	4.34	+1.15	17
Livermore Falls	49	91	70	+5	815	+162	271	+122	0.16	-0.61	1	3.56	+0.09	15
Moosehead	44	89	67	+4	528	+4	138	+39	0.33	-0.58	1	5.77	+2.07	15
Portland_ME	55	87	72	+4	907	+156	316	+112	0.17	-0.53	1	3.26	+0.24	14
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	50	86	69	+4	776	+31	230	+48	0.59	-0.18	1	4.26	+0.95	11
Berlin AG	47	89	69	+3	801	+58	244	+51	0.52	-0.32	1	3.49	-0.11	14
Concord	52	91	74	+5	1044	+153	414	+127	0.06	-0.64	2	3.20	+0.32	16
Diamond Pond	47	84	65	+3	522	+59	117	+58	0.94	-0.08	2	6.57	+2.32	18
Keene AP	52	88	72	+5	998	+184	390	+156	0.76	-0.01	2	3.39	+0.33	12
North Conway	56	90	71	+4	860	+31	271	+21	0.35	-0.49	1	5.26	+1.74	18
Rochester	56	91	74	+5	1054	+97	422	+94	0.77	+0.00	3	4.34	+1.19	17
VERMONT														
Burlington Intl	58	88	74	+5	1121	+143	446	+100	0.21	-0.58	2	2.93	-0.34	13
Island Pond	49	85	68	+5	707	+117	213	+93	2.07	+1.16	2	4.88	+0.99	16
Montpelier	53	87	70	+5	887	+134	298	+95	0.10	-0.59	1	2.02	-0.93	12
Pownal	53	87	72	+6	1010	+236	379	+170	0.46	-0.45	2	4.77	+0.83	20
Rochester	52	87	70	+4	789	+66	248	+60	0.12	-0.72	2	4.01	+0.65	15
Rutland AG	52	87	70	-1	892	-136	308	-61	0.00	-0.84	0	5.44	+2.08	11
Springfield_VT	52	87	72	+5	994	+174	368	+132	0.39	-0.40	4	5.09	+1.68	18
Sutton	51	87	69	+5	704	+107	202	+71	0.57	-0.34	2	3.89	-0.01	17
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	66	90	77	+4	1275	+129	594	+147	0.05	-0.58	1	3.89	+1.21	11
Fitchburg	58	89	76	+9	1226	+427	536	+307	0.35	-0.49	1	3.74	+0.38	12
Greenfield	55	88	73	+2	1065	-44	394	-30	0.72	-0.12	1	6.04	+2.60	15
New Bedford	54	86	74	+2	1074	-55	471	+45	0.09	-0.56	1	1.75	-1.22	11
Otis_AFB	61	82	73	+3	963	+93	405	+129	0.24	-0.39	1	2.78	+0.02	14
Plymouth	56	87	75	+5	1093	+172	489	+177	0.01	-0.76	1	3.24	+0.16	15
Walpole	58	89	76	+6	1158	+181	507	+168	0.00	-0.77	0	3.77	+0.46	12
Chicopee/Westov	51	90	75	+2	1164	-117	485	-48	0.00	-0.84	0	4.03	+0.49	11
Worthington	49	85	70	+3	870	+89	287	+76	0.66	-0.32	1	5.73	+2.03	13
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	62	90	77	+6	1357	+280	631	+225	0.00	-0.70	0	2.09	-0.85	12
Woonsocket	57	89	75	+5	1157	+198	495	+178	0.23	-0.68	1	3.79	+0.12	13
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	63	89	77	+4	1382	+225	653	+191	0.00	-0.88	0	2.84	-0.50	10
Hartford/Bradle	57	90	77	+4	1362	+129	625	+114	0.01	-0.69	1	5.45	+2.31	12
Norfolk	53	84	71	+4	950	+167	351	+136	0.08	-0.87	1	3.23	-0.79	14
Thomaston Dam	56	87	74	+5	1156	+190	478	+156	0.03	-0.88	1	4.71	+1.05	13
Willimantic	55	87	75	+5	1231	+254	522	+194	0.00	-0.93	0	1.68	-1.94	12

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 13, 2008

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	L	HI	AV	DF	LO	HI
ME	42	92	70	+4	0.00	1.11
NH	39	92	71	+5	0.06	1.10
VT	46	89	70	+4	0.00	2.07
MA	49	91	74	+4	0.00	2.64
RI	57	90	75	+5	0.00	0.23
CT	53	90	75	+4	0.00	0.08

REPORTERS COMMENTS, By County: *Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Farm Service Agency(FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS), or other knowledgeable individuals.*

CONNECTICUT - Marsha Jette (FSA), New London: Farmers taking advantage of dry weather finishing up first cutting and some have started second cutting. Reports of less quantity of first cutting but good quality. Hail damage in northern part of the county with reports of stripped corn and apple crop devastated on one orchard. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Harvesting blueberries. Squash, peppers, greens, and various vegetables doing well. Cutting hay. Corn looks good. A bit dry in areas. A busy week. **Joyce Meader (Ext), Windham:** Lots of bedstraw in the hayfields. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Haymaking got easier this week with warm temperature, less humidity and fewer showers. Field corn is finally growing well as temperatures increase. Color has improved markedly as soils dry and warm allowing microbial breakdown to release needed nutrients to the corn.

MAINE - Pam Hickey (Ext), Aroostook: Activities include applying fungicides and insecticides and haying. Crops are growing nicely and continue to look very good. **Steve London, Aroostook:** There are some increasing numbers of potato and buckthorn aphids along with corn borers and Colorado potato bugs. There have been no reported signs of late blight. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Nice weather allowed farmers to cut dry hay this week. The strawberry harvest is over, but the raspberry and blueberry season is now starting. So far the crops look good, with the exception of those farms hit by hail earlier. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Conditions are dry and rain is needed in this area. Unfortunately rain is not in the immediate forecast. The first cut of hay is being reported short in some areas and good in other areas. The harvest of sweet corn has just started in this area and is now available at local farm stands. The strawberry harvest should conclude for most farmers this week. The blueberry crop is still looking good, but rain is needed. The crop appears to be drying out on shallow, ledgy soils. Normal maintenance of fields continues on bearing and non-bearing fields. The apple crop could also use some rain, but is looking good at the moment. Some beneficial rain is needed in the mid-coast area. **Laura Rand (FSA), Penobscot:** Baled hay being harvested. Strawberries are in the final week of harvest; peas, beet greens, and small vegetables are being harvested. Silage and grain corn looks good. Potatoes are starting to blossom and are being cultivated. Some areas of the county are dry and are in need of rain. **Janet King (FSA), Somerset:** Corn has improved due to the sun and the corn looks good. Strawberries with the help of last week's sun are above average. Should be finished picking this week. Green chop, sweet corn, and vegetable gardens are doing great, but we need some rain. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** A good week for getting dry hay in. Strawberry harvest is good and coming to an end. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Dry weather is starting to show in hay crops and pastures. Strawberries are being renovated. Corn still looks good, although some water stress is evident in dry soils.

MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: Zero to one inch of rain in the county with breezy warm days. Overcast much of the week, ending sunny and hot. Strawberries winding down, raspberries and early blueberries ready. Fruit set is good in orchards. Silage doing well, but still signs of wet fields. All farmers report lousy hay quality though this week was better for baling. Greens, beans, pickling cukes and early tomatoes at the farm stands and markets. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** A hot and humid week. Crop fields have dried out and a few growers have started to irrigate again. Due to all the wet weather and high humidity growers are on a strict spray schedule to prevent diseases from entering their fields. Crop harvest is in full swing and growers are harvesting beans, sweet corn, peas, squash, lettuce, radishes, cabbage, greens, blueberries, and raspberries.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap: The strawberry harvest is winding down. Raspberry picking has begun and highbush blueberries are almost ready. The apple crop looks

good, no hail yet and we're keeping our fingers crossed. Several fields in the Lakes Region were hayed at the end of the week. **Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll:** Drier, cooler weather allowed for the last of first cut to be harvested. Blueberries look fantastic, berries are large and little or no mummyberry is apparent. Lowbush blueberries have abundant large berries. Some reports of heavy crow damage in newly planted corn and some germination problems when the weather was dry, have resulted in re-planting acres of field and sweet corn. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Hot and muggy for the first part of the week, but drier, sunny conditions later on. Field corn generally looks great - most of it chest-high. Second cutting for haylage/baleage in full swing, still tricky drying conditions for dry hay. Wide variety of veggies available, the first sweet corn should be appearing this week. PYO raspberries and blueberries going well. Apples doing well, most orchards have managed to escape heavy hail injury. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Baled hay continues to come in at a good pace despite scattered rain storms. Grasses well headed out at this point so quality is not optimal. Corn is growing rapidly, it has really jumped this week. Some wet areas looking a bit yellow, but generally decent shape for this time of year. Japanese beetles are in abundance. Apple scab is difficult to control considering weather conditions. Post-emergence weeds in corn being evaluated for spray treatments. Potatoes are flowering and vegetable crops are doing well. Keeping up with weeds is a challenge. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending July 18th, we received 0.4 inches of rain. Top soil conditions ranged from adequate to dry, depending on soil type and location. Field crops are doing well. Field corn is good to excellent. Alfalfa is doing exceptionally well. Grass and hay is far more variable. Drier soils and areas that received less rain have seen a depressed yield on the tons per acre hay yield. Pastures are fair to good. Some pasture areas showed yield losses due to dry conditions. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Strawberry harvest is over and growers are renovating strawberry beds. Blueberry and raspberry harvest started. Fruit growers are monitoring pest and crop development and applied 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. With better weather this week, farmers made hay. Vegetables: Growers are harvesting an array of vegetables: beets, broccoli, cucumbers, greens, lettuce, peas, potatoes, radishes, summer squash, and other vegetables. Farmers kept busy cultivating, hoeing weeds, monitoring pest pressures, spraying pesticides for insects and diseases - if needed. Very good demand for produce at most local farmers' markets and farm stands. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Strawberry harvest is done. Strawberry fields are being renovated. Harvesting blueberries, raspberries, greenhouse tomatoes, summer squashes, and greens. Haying been done and pastures are looking ok. Weeding, monitoring pests, side-dressing fertilizer, and irrigating. Bruises are more evident on apples fruits and others fruits from the couple of hail storms that occurred earlier in the season.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: Irrigating potatoes, harvesting green beans, summer squash, some small cukes, blueberries and lettuces. Herbicides applied to field corn this week. Second cut is looking good. Pastures are looking thin and we could use some rain. Roadside stands are really filling up with local produce and farmers markets going strong.

VERMONT - Jeffrey Carter (Ext), Addison: Rainstorms at end of the week ended haying. Corn field excellent only in a few fields of well-drained soils. Mostly uneven stands with lots of poor areas where water is standing in fields. Some applications of side-dress Nitrogen and foliar fertilizer being applied. Weed pressure increasing, spraying for late emerging weeds and roundup applications to corn and soybeans. Pasture and hay crop re-growth good with adequate moisture and cooler temperatures. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Good summery week. Some rain, some sun, some heat. Good growing week. Had a stretch of good weather

that allowed farmers to even dry some hay. Second cut coming along and looking good. Corn is coming along now. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Another great week here in Franklin County. Much hay being dried and baled as dry hay. Second cut yields are very good and have not heard of any analysis results yet for quality. Corn is doing great!!! Getting some nice heat with rains and then clearing. The fruits of our garden's tender labors are beginning to show in the gardens. Strawberries have wound down, however, baby carrots have showed up and we will soon have new potatoes. Sweet corn will be on the later side due to a wet spring, however, should be a good crop. **John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille:** One of the hottest weeks of the summer ended with a much needed soaking rain on Sunday. Last week allowed for some dry hay bales to be put up...a welcome change from June's weather. Corn crop is progressing nicely as well as most veggies that thrive in the heat. Getting closer to having some local sweet corn available. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Most farms finished dry baling the remainder of their first cut hay. A lot of second cut hay was harvested as well. The second

crop looks good. Moisture levels in the soil are still adequate due to the showery weather. Pastures are maintaining well. The corn is starting to really catch up due to the recent warmer weather. Most of the corn looks normal for this time of year. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Still cultivating late crops. Spraying for bugs and blight. asparagus beds fertilized and put to rest after a above normal crop. Strawberry season finished early with an average crop. Rain for the week 0.496 inches. Some good rain and sun have put a big push on all vegetable crops. Asparagus and strawberry season finished, now picking lot of good green crops, lettuce, chard, beet greens, and spinach. Picking early carrots and turnips. Warm weather and rain have given sweet corn a big push. Have a good week! **Julie Jacque (FSA), Windham:** A break from the thunderstorms Wednesday on thru the weekend allowed hay harvest to continue. Corn growth accelerated with this week's humidity and hot weather. Hand hoeing and second plantings of vegetables being put in this week. Some spotty hail with the strong thunderstorms that came through early in the week, but no reports of crop damage to this office.

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