



New England Agricultural Statistics Service

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United States Department of Agriculture

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Crop Weather

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For week ending 6/24/01

Great Weather Conditions Prevail

For the week ending June 24, 2001, there were 5.9 days available for field work across New England. Pasture condition was rated as 0% very poor, 2% poor, 16% fair, 60% good, 22% excellent. Major farm activities included: planting sweet corn and late season vegetables; cultivating and hilling potatoes; spreading manure; transplanting broadleaf tobacco and some vegetables; testing soils for nitrate; sidedressing fields with fertilizer; cutting hay and haylage; harvesting strawberries, summer squash, cole crops, peas, radishes, and other early season vegetables; and spraying for weeds, insects, and fungus.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	-- Percent --		
	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
Topsoil Moisture			
Very Short	1	9	0
Short	15	6	6
Adequate	74	71	70
Surplus	10	14	24
Subsoil Moisture			
Very Short	8	8	0
Short	9	7	4
Adequate	72	77	75
Surplus	11	8	21

VEGETABLES: Sweet corn planting progressed last week with 95% of the crop already in the ground. The harvesting of rhubarb, radish, peas, lettuce, and other early season vegetables proceeded, with most crops remaining in good condition. Growers continued to make fungicide applications and monitor their fields for insects. Soil nitrate levels were tested and fields were sidedressed with fertilizer. The weather continued to be favorable for sales at roadside stands.

FRUIT: Growers mowed orchards and continued to spray fruit crops for weeds and insects. The condition of New England's apple crop was reported as poor in Connecticut and Rhode Island and good to excellent elsewhere. A similar situation is occurring with the peach and pear crops; they were reported in very poor condition in Connecticut and Rhode Island. Thirty-five percent of the strawberry crop has been harvested. Reported fruit size of Maine's wild blueberry crop fell from average to below average last week; the crop remained in good condition. Massachusetts' cranberries were in Full to Early Bloom Stage, quickly approaching Petal Fall. Some growers have flooded their bogs in order to destroy the bloom, after hearing about the marketing order restriction announced by the USDA.

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested	Fruit Set	Fruit Size	Condition
Apples	--	Avg/B.Avg	Avg	Good
Peaches	--	B.Avg/Avg	Avg/B.Avg	Fair
Pears	--	B.Avg/Avg	B.Avg/Avg	V.Poor/Poor
Strawberries	35	Avg	Avg	Good/Excel
Cranberries, MA	--	Avg	--	Good/Fair
Blueberries				
Highbush	--	Avg	Avg	Good/Fair
Wild, ME	--	A.Avg	B.Avg	Good

FIELD CROPS: Another hot, humid week with scattered showers provided excellent growing conditions for most crops throughout New England. Crop growth remains ahead of normal, and the consistently favorable weather has allowed growers ample opportunity for fieldwork. Potato emergence was almost complete last week and farmers stayed busy hilling and cultivating their crops. Flea and Colorado beetles have been detected in some Maine potato fields. If good weather continues on into next week, silage corn planting should be completed. Ten percent of New England's broadleaf tobacco crop had yet to be transplanted; the crop remained slightly ahead of both last year and the five-year average. The harvesting of first cut hay continued, and second cutting has just gotten underway. The second cut crop has been reported in better condition than the first.

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2001	2000	5-yr Avg	Condition
Potatoes				
-- Percent Emerged --				
Maine	95	90	90	Excel/Good
Mass	99	100	100	Good/Excel
Rhode Isl	100	100	100	Good
Oats, ME	100	99	99	Excel/Good
Barley, ME	100	100	99	Excel/Good
Silage Corn	95	70	90	Good/Excel
Sweet Corn	85	70	85	Good
Tobacco				
-- Percent Planted --				
Shade	100	100	100	Good/Fair
Broadleaf	90	80	85	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	95	85	90	Good
Dry Hay				
-- Percent Harvested --				
First Cut	60	45	55	Good
Second Cut	<5	<5	<5	Good/Excel

For the Week Ending Sunday, June 24, 2001

The 41 stations shown below are limited by space but are well distributed across the region.
All 86 stations appear on the Internet and in e-mail subscriptions.

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				CUM SINCE MAR 1 GROWING DEGREE DAYS				1-WEEK PRECIP			4-WEEK CUM PRECIP		
	-----				BASE-50F		BASE-60F		-----			-----		
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS
-----	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
MAINE														
Augusta_ME	56	86	69	+5	649	+154	222	+116	0.73	-0.04	2	4.81	+1.66	11
Bangor	50	88	69	+6	626	+198	200	+123	0.61	-0.16	2	1.79	-1.33	10
Bethel	51	88	67	+3	556	+113	161	+78	1.47	+0.56	3	5.64	+1.97	10
Cari bou	47	77	64	+3	519	+180	131	+87	0.93	+0.23	3	3.92	+1.25	14
Dover-Foxcroft	51	89	67	+6	502	+153	131	+86	0.18	-0.69	1	2.22	-1.23	9
Frenchville	47	76	62	+2	457	+157	108	+78	1.16	+0.40	3	4.26	+1.40	16
Houlton	39	80	65	+3	488	+141	123	+76	0.08	-0.69	1	3.51	+0.43	13
Livermore_Falls	48	87	68	+6	586	+232	194	+146	0.85	-0.12	2	4.99	+1.14	10
Moosehead	43	83	62	+2	401	+138	77	+56	1.07	+0.16	3	3.46	-0.10	12
Portland_ME	56	91	70	+6	586	+179	199	+135	0.79	+0.01	3	5.93	+2.71	13
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	51	87	66	+4	537	+97	146	+70	0.78	-0.10	2	3.51	-0.02	12
Berlin_AG	51	90	66	+3	558	+134	153	+78	0.99	+0.01	2	3.32	-0.49	8
Concord	54	90	70	+5	679	+154	239	+115	1.84	+1.08	4	7.01	+4.02	13
Diamond_Pond	47	82	62	+4	375	+139	89	+79	2.19	+1.07	3	5.97	+1.71	16
Keene_AP	54	90	70	+4	689	+53	230	+48	1.11	+0.27	1	4.39	+1.01	6
Mt_Washington	39	64	50	+5	55	+55	6	+6	1.38	-0.44	4	7.69	+0.37	15
North_Conway	55	91	70	+6	697	+217	255	+153	0.70	-0.21	2	4.27	+0.56	8
Rochester	50	93	68	+3	696	+118	270	+119	2.41	+1.60	4	6.88	+3.55	11
VERMONT														
Burlington_VT	53	89	70	+4	785	+193	285	+123	0.51	-0.33	3	3.04	-0.16	12
Diamond_Pond	47	87	66	+5	489	+163	124	+78	0.63	-0.38	2	4.07	+0.12	13
Montpelier	52	87	67	+5	543	+107	153	+71	0.63	-0.16	3	2.54	-0.75	14
Pownal	52	86	66	+4	597	+143	166	+78	0.88	-0.17	3	4.73	+0.46	11
Rochester	51	88	67	+4	527	+111	137	+61	0.20	-0.64	3	3.28	-0.31	13
Rutland_AG	55	87	69	+3	607	-37	172	-16	0.21	-0.63	1	4.61	+1.28	11
Sutton	52	87	66	+5	507	+183	137	+91	0.51	-0.51	4	3.87	-0.06	17
Townshend_Lake	54	91	68	+2	570	+5	168	+22	1.18	+0.48	5	4.87	+1.89	12
MASSACHUSETTS														
Ashburnham	58	88	70	+6	678	+220	232	+142	3.22	+2.38	5	7.19	+3.86	15
Boston	61	91	74	+5	882	+180	370	+165	2.99	+2.29	3	4.47	+1.57	9
Greenfield	51	90	69	+1	690	-1	236	+29	1.03	+0.15	4	4.90	+1.29	13
New_Bedford	61	84	73	+5	778	+89	283	+93	2.32	+1.48	2	7.58	+4.18	9
Otis_AFB	63	81	73	+8	732	+242	276	+174	1.19	+0.44	4	4.03	+0.96	10
Plymouth	58	87	72	+6	728	+199	258	+133	1.72	+0.95	3	5.40	+2.13	9
Walpole	61	90	73	+7	840	+257	335	+187	4.95	+4.06	3	7.81	+4.37	9
Westover	59	88	71	+2	862	+39	336	+59	1.92	+1.01	5	4.58	+0.73	13
Worthington	50	88	66	+2	556	+98	161	+73	1.42	+0.54	4	5.26	+1.59	11
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	62	87	73	+5	884	+238	351	+171	3.12	+2.35	3	6.92	+3.79	8
Woonsocket	58	94	74	+8	852	+278	347	+213	4.65	+3.72	3	7.02	+3.26	10
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport	61	87	73	+5	885	+171	331	+109	2.57	+1.78	3	4.24	+1.02	13
Hartford_AP	59	91	72	+3	878	+97	341	+81	3.08	+2.24	5	5.33	+1.76	12
Norfolk	55	85	67	+4	626	+172	193	+107	1.23	+0.18	5	5.66	+1.35	13
Thomaston_Dam	55	90	70	+4	744	+154	259	+111	1.42	+0.50	5	6.79	+2.93	14
Willimantic	58	88	72	+7	889	+291	343	+192	4.10	+3.22	4	6.66	+3.15	10

STATE WEATHER SUMMARY

For the Week Ending Sunday, June 24, 2001

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.

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	37	91	66	+4	0.00	3.07
NH	39	94	67	+4	0.54	2.81
VT	43	93	67	+4	0.03	1.74
MA	50	92	71	+5	0.69	4.95
RI	58	94	73	+6	2.16	4.65
CT	54	92	71	+4	1.23	4.79

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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: Heavy rains fell at the end of the week. Two tornadoes touched down, although there were no reports of damage to agricultural areas. Field corn is showing signs of stress in low lying fields. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Severe soil erosion in some crop fields due to heavy rains on Fathers' Day. Dry hot weather early in the week allowed for making of some dry hay. Wednesday night thunder storms produced some hail which affected broadleaf tobacco in East Windsor and surrounding towns. Some harvesting of lettuce and peas. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Humid, cloudy, scattered showers, a very hot week. Tough to do hay and hard to get people to come pick strawberries when it's too hot or wet. Can't believe the local grocery store is running specials on CALIFORNIA strawberries when our own CONNECTICUT GROWN are ready now and are so much better! Crops recovering from flooding brought on by past Sunday's rain. Hay is looking much better. Perennial color is astounding as greenhouses entice summer sales. **Nancy Welsh/Karen Lockman (FSA), New Haven:** Weather conditions have not been at their optimum. Heavy downpours and high humidity has melted the strawberries away. Fields have been washed away in areas. Lack of warm, dry weekends has hurt the bedding plant producers. Planting has been delayed for some crops. I hope the weather straightens out or it will be a long summer.

MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook: Potatoes: Cultivating, applying fungicides and insecticides where necessary. Ideal field conditions for cultivating. Potato crop continues to grow exceptionally well. Stand counts are very high. Found some Colorado beetles and flea beetles in fields where imidacloprid (Admire, etc.) were not used. Small grains, especially barley, advancing very well. **Dee Potter (Ext), Northern Aroostook:** Practices this week included hilling/cultivating potatoes and herbicide applications. Harvesting of hay and silage underway. Pastures are growing well. **Steve London (Ext), Southern Aroostook:** Crops are growing well. We're a little short on water; could use some rain here in the Houlton area. **Albert Dow (NRCS), Piscataquis:** On Sunday received 0.67 inches of rain. Farmers are cutting first crop hay and putting in green chop. **Janet King/Jennifer Zweig (FSA), Somerset:** Rain was welcome due to land still being dry. Corn is looking good, along with grass silage and hay. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Good harvest weather continues. Some rains last night will help all the crops with moisture, but still a little dry. Strawberry harvest has begun. Nitrogen going on corn crops. **Trudy Saucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Strawberry harvest has started in the mid-coast area. First crop of hay also being harvested. All crops are looking good at this point in time. We got a little bit of rain over the weekend. **David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild Blueberries: Many small green berries from excellent pollination. Showers helping to alleviate crop stress. Postemergence herbicides applied for grass control. **Michael Tardy (FSA), Androscoggin:** We had more rain over the weekend. Plants continue to reach for the sun and heat. Some apples are below average, but others are above. All we need to do is keep the hail away. Strawberry growers are welcoming pickers with juicy, red fruit. A few growers have experienced pest problems with their berries. Silage corn and sweet corn are both doing well. The year is looking good! **Parker Rand (FSA), Cumberland/York:** The first signs of strawberry picking appeared last week and the earliest plantings of sweet corn are starting to show silk. The first cutting of hay is off, but second crop is looking excellent. After a very dry spring the season is back to about normal. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** This area received another 2 inches of rain in showers Sunday night. There was some minor flooding and standing water. The hay crop is huge and weeds are growing well. Strawberries are excellent. **Laura Rand (FSA), Oxford:** What a great week for farm activities! Hot, humid weather to make things grow. Haying is well underway with reports of short to average yields. Corn jumped in growth this past week and will surely be knee high by the 4th of July. Warm, humid days and rain at night has certainly helped the growth of grass, vegetables, and corn. Now to keep the hail away and the season will be a beneficial one.

MASSACHUSETTS - Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire: Haying, chopping and watching weeds grow. Extra spraying because of rain. Three-quarters of an inch of rain Wednesday night. Lots of hay wet in windrows. Fields of hayland left with wet areas; either not mowed or left with ruts full of water. **Paul Russell (FSA), Southeast Massachusetts:** The Secretary of Agriculture has spoken, approximately 34% set aside for cranberry growers. Many growers will flood their bogs to kill the bloom now, others will cut back on inputs assuming this will reduce their crop. This is a critical time for cranberries; the vines need fertilizer, the first fungicide sprays and insecticides are needed prior to bloom. Vegetable growers continue to plant late season crops and are harvesting some cucumbers, summer squash, etc. Conditions are good for most vegetable crops. Shellfish growers will increase harvest as demand picks up; crop is good to excellent with stable prices. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: All cranberry beds in bloom; early varieties are in full bloom. Good pollination weather so far and the bees have been doing the job they're being paid to do. Second fruit rot fungicide application and Roundup wiping in progress. There has been some serious defoliation of trees due to gypsy moth caterpillars in the area, which means some beds must have good-sized populations for the grower to contend with. The USDA finally came out with the marketing order which means that only 65% of the crop will be grown. Many growers anticipated this and numerous beds are currently flooded, destroying the blossoms. Of course, the word came far too late for the best farm planning. There is tremendous depression in the industry. **David Rose (FSA), Bristol:** A warm and humid week as harvest of vegetables continues. Summer squash, zucchini and strawberry crops plentiful. Prices quite reasonable. Fruit continues to size up. Cranberries in full bloom. **John Devine (FSA), Franklin:** Heavy rains and wind swamped parts of Franklin County on Saturday, but in general, field conditions are okay. Strawberry growers have said that this year's crop looks very good. Potatoes are in bloom on most valley acreage and first cut hay harvesting is complete. Second cut hay has grown well during the past two weeks of heat and humidity. Top dressing and cultivation were the main activities during the past week. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** A mix of heat and rain are making all crops grow well. Potatoes are being cultivated and hilled up. Growers are scouting for insects and spraying and topdressing fields, if needed, and are cultivating. Harvesting greens, radishes, and strawberries. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** U-pick strawberry sales are high. Farm activities included harvesting summer squash and zucchini.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Bruce Clement (Ext), Cheshire: Sunny weather most of week with evening showers mid-week provided very good growing conditions. Strawberry harvest in full swing. Raspberries and blueberries sizing up. Corn is growing well. Hay and haylage harvest continues. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Manure spreading on first cut hayfields. Some hay still to be harvested. Corn growing rapidly now as warm weather predominates. About time for soil nitrate testing to begin. Farm stands and markets opening as spring vegetables become available. Some strawberries now ripening. White clover in full bloom, a welcome sight to bee-keepers. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Corn looks good to excellent. Second cut hay just beginning. Alfalfa regrowth is excellent, grasses showing effects of dry weather. Very little insect damage so far. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Thunder storms produced gully washers and hail in isolated areas in the county. Damage to orchards, strawberries, blueberries and various vegetable crops observed. Fruits: Strawberry harvest was in full swing and fruit size is off. Growers thinning peaches and some apple varieties. Orchardists monitoring pest and crop development and applying sprays for pest control, also mowing orchards. Apple scab being seen in some orchards. Vegetables: Continuing successive planting and finishing transplanting peppers between rain showers. Growers continued harvesting early season vegetables such as lettuce, greens, radishes, peas and first harvest of summer squash. Asparagus harvest completed. Growers busy trying to sidedress fields with fertilizer, cultivating, mowing weeds, scouting for pests

and spraying. Disease pressure continues to concern growers. Field Crops: Finished planting and weed spraying corn fields. Farmers are continuing trying to make haylage and baled hay between rain showers. Continued to take soil nitrate tests for field corn to determine nitrogen fertilizer needs and to sidedress nitrogen accordingly. **David Seavey (Ext), Merrimack:** Sidedressing corn with nitrogen. First cut hay continues. Farmers finished making haylage. Strawberries are being harvested. Post-emergent weed control materials applied. Warm season vegetables receiving fertilizer sidedressing. More sporadic hail damage in Merrimack county. Rainfall has been timely for most crops. Phosphorus deficiency symptoms on sweet corn appearing on heavy soils with low ph. Some apple scab symptoms now appearing. Apples and blueberries sizing up rather well after recent rainfall. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Farmstands busy selling early vegetables. Good strawberry crop. Pick-your-own operations are busy. Planting sweet corn, beans, cucumbers. Spraying weed killer, insecticides and fungicides in vegetable fields and orchards. Cyclamer mites are active in strawberry fields. Very strong winds and hail on Wednesday.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: Strawberries are at their peak and pickers are busy. Rain over the weekend put a damper on some of the harvesting. Field corn finishing up, some haying being done, pumpkins and winter squash emerging. Spraying and hilling potatoes, staking tomatoes. **Marilu Soileau (FSA), All Counties:** Heavy rains a week ago Sunday - up to 6 inches in Providence County. One farmer reported his strawberries were "floating", but most faired well. Silage corn is taking off. Farmers are trying to make hay between the showers. Scattered hail storms mid-week.

VERMONT - John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille: Good to excellent crop conditions continue to prevail. Manure spreading on first cut fields is keeping many busy. Weekend rain was very beneficial for the dry locations. Vegetable growers generally happy with crop conditions. **Bill Snow (Ext), Orange:** Nice week for harvesting the last part of first cut hay. Corn is quite variable, some is knee high with other fields growing slowly. Weeds more of a problem than some years. Application of fertilizer or manure on fields for second cut hay crop. **Larry Hamel (NRCS), Orleans:** Plenty of rain this weekend on Saturday PM and early Sunday. Rather cool and cloudy weekend. This should be great for second crop hay and haylage. Corn growth is looking excellent. Plenty of warm weather coming this week! **Lynette Hamilton (FSA), Windham:** U-pick strawberries harvest is in full swing. Last week was a poor week for hay drying, but the row crops need the rain. In Windham County most all the corn will be knee deep by the Fourth of July with farmers sidedressing nitrogen. Looks like a good corn crop. **Richard Noel (FSA), Grand Isle/Franklin:** Crops just jumping out of the ground from weekend rain! Swanton: 3.0 in., Highgate: 2.0 in., St. Albans: 1.3 in. Crops look excellent! The early bird farmers are starting to mow 2nd cut. The corn is growing so good, you don't dare straddle it! Will be knee high the 4th of July for sure! **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Nitrogen sidedressed mid-season corn. Fertilizer applied to squash, cucumbers and pumpkins. Hand cultivation on tomatoes and peppers. So far, very little problem with cucumber beetles and potato bugs. Four-tenths of an inch of rain last week helped surface. Early corn showing tassels. Potatoes in full bloom. Picking regular peas and snow peas - a good crop. Berry picking started, a little slow at first. Rhubarb is looking good. Asparagus season about done. Good crop of scallions.

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