



New England Agricultural Statistics Service

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United States Department of Agriculture

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Crop Weather

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July 30, 2001 - 4 pm

For week ending 7/29/01

Crops Need Rain

For the week ending July 29, 2001, there were 6.6 days available for fieldwork across New England. Pasture condition was rated as 0% very poor, 7% poor, 36% fair, 51% good, 6% excellent. Major farm activities: applying fertilizer; cultivating; irrigating; hoeing; spreading manure; cutting hay and chopping haylage; harvesting shade and broadleaf tobacco, peaches, raspberries, highbush and lowbush blueberries, potatoes, sweet corn, cole crops, tomatoes and other 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	2	1
Short	33	19	5
Adequate	65	77	80
Surplus	1	2	14
Subsoil Moisture			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	32	26	7
Adequate	67	70	83
Surplus	1	4	10

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2001	2000	5-yr Avg	
Apples	--	<5	<5	Good/Fair
Peaches	5	10	10	Good/Fair
Pears	--	--	--	Poor/Fair
Cranberries, MA	--	--	--	Good
Blueberries				
Highbush	25	30	35	Good/Fair
Wild, ME	<5	<5	5	Good

FIELD CROPS: Cool conditions followed a period of extremely hot and humid weather. One day of showers failed to alleviate dry soil conditions and crops are in need of rain. Most crops remained in good condition or better, and hay and corn crops continued to recover from significant damage caused by the massive armyworm attacks which took place in early to mid-July. The first cut of hay is nearing completion in New England. Maine potato harvest continued ahead of normal, and potatoes in Massachusetts and Rhode Island just started to be picked. Broadleaf tobacco harvest also began last week; both shade and broadleaf tobacco were 15 percent harvested by week's end.

VEGETABLES: Farmers harvested peas, zucchini, cucumbers, sweet corn, beets, tomatoes, lettuce, snap beans, radishes, and other vegetables last week; most crops were reported in good condition. Some hail damage to tomatoes was reported in Connecticut. Sweet corn harvest is going well and the crop remains in good condition. Fields were actively monitored for weeds and insects and applications were made where necessary.

FRUIT: Farmers were actively mowing their orchards and monitoring for weeds and pests. Apple harvest is behind normal this year and reports of damage from hail have come in from parts of the region. As peach harvest is getting underway the crop is in good to fair condition. Highbush blueberry harvest is about a week behind normal. Maine wild blueberry picking has begun and the crop is currently in good condition. Massachusetts' cranberry crop benefited from the hot weather last week, as the berries continued to size up.

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2001	2000	5-yr Avg	
Potatoes				
Maine	5	--	--	Excel/Good
Mass	<5	5	5	Good
Rhode Isl	10	5	5	Good
Oats, ME	--	<5	<5	Excel/Good
Barley, ME	--	<5	<5	Excel/Good
Silage Corn	--	--	--	Good/Excel
Sweet Corn	20	20	20	Good
Tobacco				
Shade	15	10	30	Good
Broadleaf	15	<5	10	Good/Fair
Dry Hay				
First Cut	95	95	95	Fair/Good
Second Cut	65	40	40	Good/Fair
Third Cut	10	5	5	Good/Fair

For the Week Ending Sunday, July 29, 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			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	BASE-50F		BASE-60F		TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL		DFN	DAYS
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN				INCHES	DFN		
MAINE															
Augusta_ME	50	92	70	+0	1311	+148	534	+113	0.23	-0.52	3	3.57	+0.68	15	
Bangor	44	93	70	+2	1263	+215	489	+143	0.07	-0.63	1	2.43	-0.58	14	
Bethel	44	92	68	-2	1104	+44	369	+21	0.08	-0.75	2	4.36	+1.14	12	
Cari bou	44	87	65	-2	1059	+191	338	+104	1.22	+0.24	3	5.46	+1.84	18	
Dover-Foxcroft	44	89	67	+0	1050	+140	339	+78	0.12	-0.65	1	2.57	-0.67	15	
Frenchville	47	85	64	-2	933	+131	263	+64	0.29	-0.62	3	3.33	-0.10	20	
Houlton	39	88	65	-2	1030	+130	340	+82	1.54	+0.64	3	3.31	-0.09	15	
Livermore_Falls	40	95	69	+2	1195	+289	465	+211	0.84	+0.07	3	5.23	+2.12	17	
Moosehead	39	88	64	-1	866	+117	229	+51	0.25	-0.66	2	2.78	-0.86	15	
Portland_ME	47	93	70	+2	1238	+200	502	+159	0.37	-0.28	2	2.08	-0.72	14	
NEW HAMPSHIRE															
Benton	41	89	66	-1	1050	+52	329	+42	0.19	-0.62	1	2.65	-0.50	11	
Berlin_AG	42	91	67	+0	1099	+101	363	+61	0.18	-0.68	1	4.74	+1.35	12	
Concord	42	93	70	+0	1320	+129	538	+101	1.03	+0.26	2	3.29	+0.39	14	
Diamond_Pond	38	82	60	-3	746	+88	184	+69	1.13	+0.08	1	5.10	+0.93	17	
Keene_AP	43	93	70	-2	1325	-19	524	-15	0.50	-0.34	1	0.50	-2.77	1	
North_Conway	43	96	71	+2	1345	+231	557	+172	0.41	-0.43	2	2.03	-1.34	14	
Rochester	46	94	71	+0	1343	+75	573	+83	0.73	-0.09	2	4.32	+1.18	14	
VERMONT															
Burlington_VT	45	91	69	-3	1449	+156	605	+94	0.00	-0.84	0	0.77	-2.51	8	
Island_Pond	39	88	64	-1	949	+139	274	+79	0.34	-0.66	1	3.82	-0.04	14	
Montpelier	39	88	66	-2	1071	+61	355	+44	0.04	-0.68	1	1.42	-1.39	12	
Pownal	44	89	67	-2	1137	+95	371	+45	1.16	+0.25	3	5.02	+1.34	13	
Rochester	41	90	66	-2	1051	+73	331	+38	0.49	-0.43	2	2.36	-1.10	13	
Rutland_AG	42	87	66	-5	1156	-185	383	-150	0.50	-0.41	1	4.43	+0.94	13	
Sutton	40	89	66	+1	993	+171	304	+97	0.40	-0.59	3	3.24	-0.60	16	
Townshend_Lake	47	94	70	-1	1181	-73	431	-52	1.16	+0.35	2	3.08	+0.05	11	
MASSACHUSETTS															
Ashburnham	47	89	69	+2	1297	+219	503	+144	0.55	-0.27	2	3.69	+0.35	14	
Boston	56	95	74	+0	1641	+135	779	+122	0.21	-0.43	2	2.10	-0.44	12	
Greenfield	44	96	71	-2	1372	-67	568	-36	0.85	+0.01	2	3.12	-0.26	12	
New_Bedford	48	92	70	-5	1468	-24	624	-17	2.88	+2.14	2	4.73	+1.96	14	
Otis_AFB	54	88	70	-2	1428	+243	622	+178	1.13	+0.46	2	2.98	+0.39	9	
Plymouth	48	95	70	-2	1385	+140	570	+83	1.38	+0.61	2	2.60	-0.48	14	
Walpole	48	96	72	+2	1545	+249	690	+180	0.33	-0.44	1	2.41	-0.69	13	
Westover	46	97	73	-3	1600	-52	725	-30	0.59	-0.18	2	2.22	-1.05	11	
Worthington	42	90	67	-1	1086	+37	363	+33	0.81	-0.17	2	2.88	-1.00	12	
RHODE ISLAND															
Providence	53	96	73	+0	1640	+217	757	+153	0.71	-0.04	2	1.91	-0.94	13	
Woonsocket	48	96	73	+3	1603	+329	749	+267	0.12	-0.78	1	2.28	-1.29	12	
CONNECTICUT															
Bridgeport	55	93	74	-1	1697	+174	793	+113	0.81	-0.03	2	1.87	-1.55	9	
Hartford_AP	48	98	74	-1	1632	+39	746	+25	0.33	-0.37	2	0.99	-1.87	10	
Norfolk	45	90	71	+3	1269	+216	491	+156	0.46	-0.50	2	1.41	-2.38	12	
Thomaston_Dam	46	95	71	+0	1406	+140	574	+101	0.33	-0.65	1	1.79	-1.96	13	
Willimantic	48	97	73	+3	1618	+330	722	+232	0.29	-0.63	1	1.28	-2.47	14	

STATE WEATHER SUMMARY

For the Week Ending Sunday, July 29, 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.

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State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	35	95	67	-1	0.00	1.60
NH	30	96	67	-1	0.06	1.49
VT	34	96	67	-2	0.00	1.20
MA	42	97	70	-1	0.21	2.88
RI	48	96	72	-1	0.12	2.50
CT	44	98	72	-1	0.13	1.60

Prepared by AWIS, Inc.

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: Producers were anxiously awaiting rain. Field corn and sweet corn had begun to curl in some areas of the county. Harvesting vegetables and the harvest of peaches and plums has just begun. Finishing second cutting of hay. Rain on Thursday ranged from 1.5" to 2.2" which was a welcome relief from high humidity and excessive heat. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Rainfall is two inches below normal. Blueberry harvest is dramatically lower in some areas due to freeze effects. Peaches, garlic and other vegetables are being harvested. Farmers' markets are busy. Hay harvest continues. Hail damage evident on apples and tomatoes. Heavy June drop in some varieties of apples. Corn looks good. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** One day of rain varied from light showers to downpours. Second cutting of hay was good to poor due to armyworms. Tomatoes and peppers are a week and a half late. Abnormally cool temperatures both day and night delayed crops from ripening.

MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook: Potatoes: Great week for working in the fields. Most growers back on regular spray schedule, most going on a five day schedule. Crop continues to grow rapidly with adequate moisture and sunlight, some early blight detected in older foliage on the plants. Growers are spraying to control it. Some isolated cases of armyworms in potatoes, but they are mostly being found in grain fields. Most growers applying insecticides to control them. **Erin Chadbourne (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Barley is looking very good for the most part. There's been some wind damage and some armyworm damage which is why there's a 2% good rating. For last week, 5% good in barley was a bit exaggerated on my part. It's been more like 2% good and 98% excellent. Forgive me. It's such a large county. Barley is maturing fast. Oats look excellent. For the most part, potatoes look 100% excellent when you consider minimal insect activity and no late blight reported in the area. Potatoes have been excellent throughout the season. There seems to be some fields with planter skips more than others, but overall, the actual potato crop looks excellent. **Steve London (Ext), Southern Aroostook:** Crops are looking good with no pest pressure at this time. **Albert Dow (NRCS), Piscataquis:** Second crop forage came back well. Fields where armyworms had attacked recovered well. No rain this week. Corn is tasseled. **Janet King/Jennifer Zweig (FSA), Somerset:** Thunderstorms with severe winds came through the county on Tuesday. There have been some reports of corn down. Some locations received up to two inches of rain. Otherwise, the week was good weather for harvesting dry hay. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Dry weather continued, with sporadic hit-or-miss rain showers. Strawberry renovation is complete. Sweet corn harvest begins with decent looking crop. Forage yields are beginning to return after armyworm damage. Second generation moths are beginning to fly! **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Blueberry harvest is underway. Reports are that the crop is looking good. Armyworm problems have subsided. Crops are looking good. Great week for field work. Second crop hay being harvested. **David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild Blueberries: Harvest beginning in mid-coast fields, fruit only 70% ripe. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Growing conditions have been excellent for the past two weeks. **Laura Rand (FSA), Oxford:** Hot, humid weather the first of the week turned to cool nights and drier air at the end of the week. Producers busy harvesting sweet corn, blueberries, and small vegetables. Oats are starting to turn and field corn looks good. Haying activities are still ongoing.

MASSACHUSETTS - Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire: Busy making hay; first, second and third cutting. Most hay ground has rebounded well. Some spraying of sweet corn for worms, etc. Most corn (field and sweet) is looking real good. Very few if any picking of Berkshire grown corn. Vegetable producers are busy picking crops. **Paul Russell (FSA), Southeast Massachusetts:** Conditions for all crops continue to be good, steady rain on Wednesday was just what the crops needed. Second crop of hay

is excellent, sweet corn harvest continues with excellent production and quality, other vegetable crops also excellent. Cranberries are sizing up - some heavy insect pressure was reported. Shellfish harvest continues with good growth and strong demand. **Kip Graham (FSA), Worcester:** Vegetable growers are continuing to spray crops on a regular basis. Fields are drying a bit after a few thundershowers. Some fertilizer applications being given. Fungicide and insecticide applications continued as routine. Armyworms calming down a bit. Crops drinking up the few days of rain, some more than others. The weather has been cooperative this past week. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Hot weather moved berry development along, then two inches of rain received Thursday should further help those berries size up. Moving into a quiet period, with pesticide applications complete, some weed wiping occurring, along with ditch maintenance. Some pockets of significant insect-caused injury. **David Rose (FSA), Bristol:** Harvesting of all vegetables continues. The extreme heat and humidity at the beginning of the week took its toll on some crops. The rain on Thursday brought everything back to life. The first peaches of the season are being picked. **John Devine (FSA), Franklin:** Hot weather has given crops the extra push they needed after sidedressing and final cultivation. Tobacco harvest, both shade and broadleaf, is in full swing this week with growers reporting a good crop. All producers are watching their fields closely for signs of blue mold. The potato crop looks very good and producers are reporting that the crop is sizing up well. Chip stock harvest is expected to start this week. Third cut hay is also expected to be harvested this week. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Record breaking temperatures in the low 40's and high 90's and it still produced an excellent week for all crop growth. Farmers are in full swing harvesting tobacco, blueberries, cucumbers, and sweet corn. Early potato and tomato harvest started this week. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** Hosted a Medieval Faire the past two weekends on this farm. Harvesting all summer crops. Insect pressure is high in summer squash and zucchini. Fall squash and pumpkins setting fruit. Weed pressure in corn still prevalent. Consumer support very strong for local produce and plants.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Bruce Clement (Ext), Cheshire: Nice rain on Thursday helped crops along. Pastures and hayfields starting to recover from armyworms. Fertilizing and manure spreading going on to stimulate regrowth. Raspberry and blueberry harvest in full swing, both crops look real good. Wide array of vegetables being harvested. Spraying and mowing of orchards going on. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Sunny days yet cold nights down into the 30-degree range during the week. Better hay drying weather, corn looking very good. A bit dry, could use some rain. Early sweet corn ears starting to fill out. All summer vegetables starting to show up at markets: tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, etc. Highbush blueberries and raspberries being picked. Seeing some animal damage in berry crops; highbush blueberries were especially hard hit by black bears. Armyworms done for now. Farmers still calling to assess damage and prospects for repeat appearance this year. Have seen evidence of parasitism on caterpillars. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Vegetables: Harvesting an array of vegetables: beans, beets, cole crops, cucumbers, greens, peas, potatoes, radishes, summer squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, zucchini, and other vegetables. First regular sweet corn planting is very spotty in ripening, yields are low. Farmers kept busy cultivating, hoeing weeds, monitoring pest pressures, spraying pesticides for insects and disease control where needed. Fruit: Orchardists harvesting peaches, blueberries and raspberries. Getting ready to harvest first apples. Starting to move bins into orchard. Field Crops: Hay cutting continued at a rapid pace during the week with both the first and second cut being made. **David Seavey (Ext), Merrimack:** Farmers are cutting and baling hay. Some sweet corn is being harvested. Strawberry beds are renovated. Raspberries and blueberries are harvested. Timely rainfall has accelerated grass regrowth and the need for frequent mowing in fruit crops. Vegetables receiving sidedressing fertilizer. Pockets of armyworm infestations appearing in different regions of Merrimack County. Blueberry

growers and orchardists are spraying for maggot. Tunnel tomatoes and other warm season field vegetables are being harvested. More disease is prevalent on ornamentals and vegetable crops. Second crop hay quality is very good. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Good weather this week, with rain on Thursday morning helpful for the growth of crops. Harvesting a whole array of vegetables and peaches. Blueberries and raspberries are also being harvested. The crop looks good. Second cutting of hay is underway. Renovating strawberry beds, weeding, irrigating, and monitoring for pests in orchards and vegetable fields. **Pam Marvin (FSA), Sullivan:** Received much needed rain and humidity this week. Sweet corn being harvested and looks good. Blueberry and raspberry picking on the move and looking real good. Finishing second cut of hay and some third and fourth cut of alfalfa being done.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: Seems as though the birds have been so busy eating armyworms, they are leaving blueberries and corn alone. Some damage from the worms on young sweet corn and hay crops. A good rain mid-week was appreciated. Harvesting sweet corn, spraying for potato beetle and fungicides being applied. Harvesting summer squash, tomatoes, lettuce and cucumbers. Crops look good. **Marilu Soileau (FSA), All Counties:** Tassels are showing on about 50% of silage corn. Summer squash, sweet corn, tomatoes available at farm stands. Potatoes especially need rain to size up. Top soil is dry, but normal for this time of year; farmers irrigating where possible. Armyworms seem to have moved on for the time-being.

VERMONT - John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille: Farmers have had delightful conditions for fieldwork. Second cut has progressed nicely and most corn has now tasseled. Armyworms have generally pupated with everyone nervous about their lingering effects. Generally dry conditions prevailed with scattered livestock water problems reported. **Bill Snow (Ext), Orange:** A quick shower early in the week helped keep the dust down. If we don't get any rain in the next two days it will be the second driest July on record. Hopes for a decent third cutting of hay are decreasing. Some corn showing drought stress. Need at least an inch of rain per week for ear development. **Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Corn looks great with tassels showing; some in poor condition, mostly on wet spots planted late. Hay crop growth good for alfalfa, grasses slow to dormant. Oats maturing for harvest. Pastures slow to recover. **Richard Noel (FSA), Grand Isle/Franklin:** Crops look good for the most part in Franklin County. Grass beginning to look burnt in some areas. Lake water is down, rivers are three to four feet down from banks. On July 24 - scattered showers; Highgate: 0.20 in., Sheldon: 0.50 in., Enosburg: 0.75 in., St Albans and Grand Isle: 0.0 in. This isn't helping the water table much, crops are taking up all the moisture! Some parts of the county are starting to have water problems. Reports coming in on springs starting to fail and some farmers hauling water. Rain is badly needed! **Maria Garcia (Ext), Chittenden:** Within the last week we have seen no rain and ground moisture conditions are falling short. If irrigation can be used, crop weather is still good with low wind, moderate to warm temperatures, and good sunshine.

To receive this report every Monday evening, send an e-mail message to listserv@newsbox.usda.gov and in the body, type **subscribe usda-new-eng-crop-weather**

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