



New England Agricultural Statistics Service

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Crop Weather

Volume 22, Number 8

(issued weekly on the Internet, May - October)

June 17, 2002 - 4 pm

For week ending 6/16/02

Field Activities Hindered by Wet Conditions

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending June 16, 2002, there were 3.3 days suitable for field work across New England. Pasture condition was rated as 0% very poor, 1% poor, 13% fair, 64% good, 22% excellent. Cool, wet weather continued in the six-state region, hindering planting and harvesting activities. Crop growth has slowed and fruit bloom has been extended due to the below normal temperatures. Major farm activities included: planting field corn, vegetables, sweet corn and tobacco; finishing planting potatoes, oats and barley; harvesting strawberries and early vegetables; cutting dry hay and chopping haylage; thinning fruit; cultivating weeds; side dressing fields with fertilizer; applying fungicides, herbicides and insecticides.

FRUIT: The strawberry crop remains just under ten percent harvested; harvest has been delayed by wet weather, and some of the berries have started to rot in the field. Orchardists continued to apply thinning sprays last week and monitored for disease and pests. Maine wild blueberry bloom has been extended from the recent cool temperatures, and growers continue to treat for mummy berry disease. Massachusetts cranberry growers applied the first fungicides as the beds progressed into early bloom.

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Stage	Fruit Set	Fruit Size	Condition
Apples	PF	Avg/B.Avg	Avg/B.Avg	Fair/Good
Peaches	PF	Avg/B.Avg	Avg/B.Avg	Fair
Pears	PF	B.Avg/Avg	B.Avg/Avg	Fair/Poor
Blueberries				
Highbush	PF	Avg	Avg/A.Avg	Good/Fair
Wild, ME	PF/FB	Avg	--	Fair/Good
Cranberries, MA	Bud/EB	Avg	--	Good
Strawberries	PF	Avg	Avg/B.Avg	Fair/Good

* PF = Petal Fall, FB = Full Bloom, EB = Early Bloom

VEGETABLES: Crop growth is slow throughout New England due to the prolonged cool, wet weather. The rainy conditions also caused the planting of some vegetable crops to be further delayed last week. When weather allowed, farmers planted sweet corn, tomatoes, pumpkins, squash, peppers and other vegetables. Early sweet corn is tasseling and as of June 16, seventy percent of the crop had emerged. Farmers harvested asparagus, radish, lettuce and rhubarb last week.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
	-- Percent --		
Topsoil Moisture			
Very Short	0	4	9
Short	7	10	6
Adequate	49	68	71
Surplus	44	18	14
Subsoil Moisture			
Very Short	0	7	8
Short	17	22	7
Adequate	71	65	77
Surplus	12	6	8

FIELD CROPS: Less than optimum weather conditions have made baling dry hay difficult due to the wet weather, so most of the harvest has been for haylage. Maine farmers wrapped up the planting of potatoes, oats and barley last week, and the latter two crops are almost completely emerged. A few farmers in Massachusetts have yet to finish planting their potatoes; the task should be done next week if dry weather arrives. Rhode Island potatoes have all emerged. The rainy weather caused field corn planting to halt last week. Shade tobacco planting is now complete in Massachusetts and still progressing in Connecticut. Planting progress for both shade and broadleaf tobacco remains well behind last year and normal.

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2002	2001	5-yr Avg	Condition
	-- Percent Emerged --			
Barley, ME	99	99	90	Fair/Good
Oats, ME	95	99	90	Fair/Good
Potatoes				
Maine	30	75	65	Excellent/Good
Mass	85	99	95	Good
Rhode Isl	100	95	95	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	70	90	80	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	70	75	70	Good/Fair
	-- Percent Planted --			
Silage Corn	85	99	90	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	85	85	85	Good/Fair
Tobacco				
Shade	85	99	100	Good
Broadleaf	65	80	75	Good/Fair
Dry Hay				
First Cut	35	50	45	Good

For the Week Ending Sunday, June 16, 2002

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	47	82	57	-7	310	-63	53	-12	2.52	+1.75	5	3.62	+0.39	11	
Bangor	45	79	58	-6	262	-52	30	-14	1.54	+0.77	4	3.05	-0.08	11	
Bethel	45	78	56	-7	272	-57	41	-9	3.67	+2.70	4	4.99	+1.40	10	
Cari bou	37	70	55	-6	178	-67	21	-4	0.31	-0.32	3	1.74	-0.93	16	
Dover-Foxcroft	42	72	54	-7	152	-99	6	-19	1.15	+0.26	5	1.75	-1.65	12	
Frenchville	39	67	54	-6	139	-71	20	+7	0.37	-0.33	3	2.39	-0.44	15	
Houl ton	31	71	54	-7	212	-38	29	+2	1.06	+0.29	4	2.59	-0.49	14	
Livermore_Falls	43	83	58	-4	270	+15	44	+17	2.52	+1.54	4	4.10	+0.39	11	
Moosehead	37	74	54	-5	151	-29	8	+0	1.11	+0.20	3	2.94	-0.47	11	
Portland_ME	48	83	58	-5	310	+14	46	+13	2.17	+1.33	4	4.31	+1.11	11	
NEW HAMPSHIRE															
Benton	44	77	58	-5	319	-18	72	+22	2.62	+1.71	4	4.20	+0.75	17	
Berlin_AG	44	77	55	-7	271	-46	42	-6	5.65	+4.67	4	7.51	+3.86	13	
Concord	47	84	60	-5	486	+86	152	+71	1.54	+0.77	5	3.84	+0.92	15	
Di amond_Pond	39	69	51	-7	137	-30	10	+8	2.62	+1.54	4	7.66	+3.60	15	
Keene_AP	46	90	60	-6	491	-7	147	+20	0.66	-0.18	5	3.34	-0.09	15	
North_Conway	45	83	58	-6	361	-1	87	+22	3.06	+2.09	5	4.38	+0.67	13	
Rochester	47	82	59	-7	435	-11	108	+8	2.66	+1.82	5	5.27	+1.91	14	
VERMONT															
Burlington_VT	47	82	61	-5	473	+13	143	+32	3.08	+2.27	5	5.12	+2.08	12	
Island_Pond	41	73	55	-5	258	+19	47	+18	4.54	+3.54	4	8.26	+4.45	17	
Montpelier	45	77	58	-5	363	+32	92	+38	3.59	+2.75	5	5.24	+1.98	15	
Pownal	45	84	60	-2	387	+40	96	+37	0.68	-0.40	5	7.38	+3.11	17	
Rochester	44	83	60	-2	334	+21	85	+36	2.88	+1.98	4	4.66	+0.91	12	
Rutland_AG	47	84	60	-6	388	-121	102	-33	1.78	+0.94	4	4.32	+1.00	11	
Sutton	45	75	56	-4	263	+26	47	+19	4.76	+3.77	5	7.98	+4.23	15	
Townshend_Lake	45	90	60	-5	435	+0	118	+19	2.00	+1.25	4	4.61	+1.55	13	
MASSACHUSETTS															
Ashburnham	47	86	60	-4	448	+105	116	+61	1.05	+0.21	3	3.95	+0.62	12	
Boston	50	89	62	-6	618	+70	189	+56	1.18	+0.44	4	3.86	+0.96	11	
Greenfield	44	91	62	-5	526	-19	147	+5	0.63	-0.28	5	4.96	+1.32	18	
New_Bedford	47	79	60	-7	545	+6	129	+5	0.66	-0.20	3	4.60	+1.22	10	
Otis_AFB	48	75	59	-5	460	+96	88	+29	0.97	+0.20	3	4.10	+0.93	10	
Plymouth	48	82	60	-5	492	+95	125	+50	0.88	+0.05	3	4.17	+0.80	11	
Walpole	48	89	60	-5	545	+96	164	+68	0.75	-0.15	4	4.25	+0.95	13	
Westover	48	91	63	-7	644	-17	224	+28	0.50	-0.48	4	3.31	-0.57	15	
Worthington	45	86	60	-3	398	+50	106	+49	0.90	-0.01	3	5.63	+1.78	16	
RHODE ISLAND															
Providence	50	86	62	-5	603	+104	173	+58	0.56	-0.21	3	3.28	+0.07	11	
Woonsocket	48	87	60	-5	548	+106	165	+81	0.61	-0.37	3	3.91	+0.18	10	
CONNECTICUT															
Bridgeport	54	84	66	-2	646	+84	193	+41	1.24	+0.47	4	4.19	+0.89	11	
Hartford_AP	50	91	64	-5	695	+72	247	+63	1.93	+1.02	3	6.17	+2.51	13	
Norfolk	45	85	62	-1	486	+143	138	+84	1.37	+0.25	3	5.64	+1.33	12	
Thomaston_Dam	50	91	65	+2	587	+126	189	+89	0.69	-0.29	4	4.81	+0.89	13	
Willimantic	49	86	62	-3	587	+121	187	+87	1.20	+0.36	3	4.08	+0.53	12	

STATE WEATHER SUMMARY
For the Week Ending Sunday, June 16, 2002

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	29	85	56	-6	0.10	3.67
NH	24	90	57	-6	0.66	5.65
VT	36	90	59	-4	0.68	5.34
MA	44	91	60	-5	0.50	2.02
RI	48	87	60	-5	0.00	0.61
CT	45	91	63	-3	0.55	1.93

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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: It was a very rainy week. Many fields are too wet to work. Hail fell in some areas of the county on Friday and Saturday. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Early in the week hay and green rye straw were baled. Planting of tobacco continued. Mid-week rains put a halt to all field work as several towns received two inches of rain. DEP called off the drought advisory on Monday. It appears as though a lot of sweet corn will be maturing at the same time in July as the cool soil temperatures. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Weather continues to be cold and wet. Strawberries delayed with picking conditions poor. Asparagus cutting is winding down. Farmers markets have begun with early vegetables. Corn is pale green and motionless, awaiting needed sunshine and heat. Weed control is poor, spray rigs can't get into the slick fields. Over mature hay also awaits dry weather to be harvested; demand for dry hay is good, but difficult to provide at present. **Nancy Welsh/Karen Lockman (FSA), New Haven:** Producers discouraged with excess rain. Rotting lettuce and disease on plants in field. Not good haying weather. Corn looks good. Filling in the fields. **Joyce Meader (Ext), Windham:** Angry hay farmers are cursing the sun when it is supposed to be raining, and cursing the rain that keeps appearing. It's tough to call the time to mow. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Nitrate testing and spreading urea on corn. Trying to cut hay/haylage, but multiple days of rain hampering hay harvest.

MAINE - Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook: Farmers are finishing up planting of grains and potatoes. The weather has been cold and wet. Emergence has been slow. Some herbicides are being applied. Some cultivation being done. **Steve London (Ext), Southern Aroostook:** Potato crop looks good, but is growing slow due to cool temperatures. **Albert Dow (NRCS), Piscataquis:** Farmers have been harvesting green chop. Some seed potatoes that were to be hand planted haven't been yet. **Donna Lamb (Ext), Piscataquis:** Cool, wet weather has delayed crop growth. Most of the grass harvest has been for haylage since on-and-off rain has made dry hay harvesting too difficult. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Wet, cold weather continues to slow crop progress and hay harvest. Fields are now extremely wet with standing water in some corn fields. Very few armyworm moths captured in monitoring traps. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Too wet to do much farming this past week. Crop harvest predicted to be later than normal due to lack of degree days. **David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild Blueberries: Primary blight symptoms of mummy berry disease wide-spread, secondary infection occurring. Cool temperatures are extending bloom. A very uneven ripening in the crop is expected. **Michael Tardy (FSA), Androscoggin:** A damp week. Cool weather persists. Need sunshine and heat for crops. **Parker Rand (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Hay crop is looking good if you can find the weather to harvest. It is still very cold and rainy. Planting is mostly done and rhubarb, asparagus, and some greens are being harvested. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Cattle are smiling as they stand deep in belly high hay! We need sun to harvest hay and have some fun. It is so cool that the black flies and mosquitoes have disappeared. **Laura Rand (FSA), Oxford:** Farmers have been busy between the rain drops! Wet weather has prevailed during the week, however, crop activities continue. Potatoes are being cultivated and look good at this point. Corn silage and sweet corn are in the ground and have emerged. First crop hay looks to be abundant, if only producers can get it harvested.

MASSACHUSETTS - Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire: Some hay was made Monday and Tuesday this week. Wet weather the rest of the week. Tough getting haying equipment ready in the rain. Still have corn to be planted yet. Not good for some chemicals being used in the rain. Another wet week, over three inches of rain. Strawberry crop rotting on the vine, too wet to pick. **Paul Russell**

(FSA), Southeast Massachusetts: Cool, wet weather continues. Vegetable growers have slowed their planting until it warms up. Hay growers are struggling to make first cutting between showers. Cranberry growers continue to apply first fungicide as bogs head into bloom, cool damp weather will reduce keeping quality of fresh cranberries. Shellfish growers are harvesting and reporting excellent growth and stable market. **Kip Graham (FSA), Worcester:** Herbicide - planted more corn. Fungicide applied for more tender crops, fungus control, cucumbers, squash, raspberries. Reapplied nitrogen to corn - it was looking a little pale. Appearance of fruits and vegetables look ok just now, as far as disease, insect problems, rate of growth and weather effects. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Early Black and Ben Lear beds will explode with blossoms this week; Stevens and Howes already have some open blooms, too. Bees began arriving at the end of last week. Ample rainfall has occurred on a regular basis. Cranberry weevil resistance to Lorsban has expanded its geographic area. Very high counts of black-headed fireworm continue to be reported. First fruit rot fungicides have been applied in many early varieties, although the weather has been far from cooperative. Due to the cool weather, we are almost back on a "normal" phenological schedule. **David Rose (FSA), Bristol:** Another week of lousy weather has put field work farther behind. Hay crop quality is deteriorating due to over maturity. Fruit crop is smaller than normal. Pick-your-own strawberry operations not doing well. **John Devine (FSA), Franklin:** Heavy rains and cool temperatures have slowed plant growth on most crops in the Valley. These conditions have also caused Phytophthora problems in onions and armyworm problems in forage crops. Potatoes are the only crop that are doing well in these conditions. Some of the early fields were starting to flower this week. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Cloudy, rainy and a very cool week. Overall, crops look good but need lots of heat and sunshine. Started harvesting lettuce and strawberries. Early potatoes are being hilled up and early sweet corn starting to tassel. Planting of all summer crops in full swing. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** Still plowing and planting sweet corn. Plant sales at farm stands strong this weekend despite miserable weather. Last of summer crops transplanted and beginning of fall transplants has started. About two weeks behind now in field work.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos: A wet, cold week hampering most farm activities. Very heavy rain in mid-week. Three plus inches results in flooding of low lying corn and meadowlands along the Connecticut River and other waterways. Some newly planted and early stage corn under water for two or more days. Difficult weather has put season behind. Concerns for survival of flooded corn. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Showers and rain have hampered haying. Heavy rains in the north caused flooding along the Connecticut River. Much of the river bottom under water for several days. Finally going down over the weekend. Corn is growing, but slowly due to wet, cool weather. Early planted corn looks best. Regrowth on grass and alfalfa is good to excellent. Cool weather has pushed grass regrowth. New seedings are coming along, but slowly. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Fruit growers monitoring pest and crop development and applying sprays for pest control. Apple scab is seen in some orchards. They are harvesting strawberry fruit this week with rainy weather dampening customers at pick-your-own operations. Field Crops: Between rain showers, farmers are continuing trying to make haylage and baled hay, also trying to finish planting and weed spraying corn fields. Vegetables: Continuing successive plantings and finishing transplanting peppers. Growers continued harvesting early season vegetables such as lettuce and radishes. Asparagus harvest winding down. Growers busy side dressing fields with fertilizer, cultivating weeds, scouting for pests and spraying if needed. The year of the insect pest: Asparagus beetle, cabbage maggot, Colorado potato beetle, cut worms, cucumber beetle, four-lined plant bug, flea beetle, and

tortoise beetle have all been seen. **David Seavey (Ext), Merrimack:** Farmers are still planting muddy fields. Orchardists are spraying between showers. Some strawberries were harvested. Garden center sales affected by bad weather. Haylage being made. Mowing between rows of tree fruits and small fruits. Spraying for black cutworm in sweet corn. Crops are growing slowly due to cold wet soils. Botrytis showing up in tunnel tomatoes. Tomato yields expected to be less than normal this year due to loss of lower clusters. The rain has benefitted high bush blueberries with large sized berries and shoots. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** The temperatures were still below average for this time of the year. Most vegetable produces were busy transplanting field vegetable crops. Most growers were using slitted row covers and reemay to protect the plants from cold nights. Fruit growers were busy with fruit thinning.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: A rainy, damp week led to some ruined hay and delay in field work. Hilling potatoes, cultivating, planting field and still some sweet corn, also pumpkins and hard squash being planted. Lots of fungicides being applied. **Marilu Soileau (FSA), All Counties:** Cranberries are about 15% in bloom - about two weeks behind schedule. Rain has been welcomed and has nearly brought us back to normal precipitation for this time of year, though periodically slows planting and makes drying hay difficult. Still, word about dry soils down deep are a concern. Lakes and ponds are mostly all at normal levels. Farmers are wrapping up plantings, trying to make hay, and starting strawberry harvest.

VERMONT - John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille: Just when crop conditions were starting to perk up, Mother Nature decided we needed a big dose of rain. Flooding occurred in all the usual places and grass fields were ruined. The jury is still out on exactly how much corn may need to be replanted. Lack of post event drying weather and weekend showers have only made conditions worse. Last week's wet conditions will give weeds the upper hand

everywhere. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** A very wet week in Orleans county. The county received 4.5 inches of rain on Wednesday which caused widespread flooding. Many acres of hay and corn were destroyed by this flood. Some landowners have been able to start the cleanup process; however, many fields still have standing water in them. A lot of fields have debris and silt deposits from the flooding. **Lynette Hamilton (FSA), Windham:** STOP the rain and turn up the heat! We have had enough rain, the fields are too wet to harvest crops. The strawberries are spoiling on the plants, too wet to pick. We need warmer and dryer weather. **Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Some hay harvest, some chopping for first cut haylage. Spraying corn that is already planted; little corn planting, fields too wet. Little manure spreading. Some insect reports. **Richard Noel, Grand Isle/Franklin:** Will it ever stop raining? Franklin/Grand Isle looks pretty soggy. The area looks like a soggy dog shortly after a bath. The lake level is higher than it was in April. Corn is not growing, at least 25% isn't even planted, and hay isn't being harvested because of the bad weather. Many farmers are beginning to wonder what they are going to have for crops? Quality is slowly going downhill. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Rain. Four to seven inches. Some destructive flooding along Passumpsic and Connecticut Rivers. Dozens of homes and businesses damaged. Some mown first cut hay swept away, some that was standing has flood debris. Corn was up two to four inches, most appears OK - will have to see what some sunshine does, it was under water less than 24 hours. Some corn fields with gullies from the force of the water. Localized damage along these rivers. Have not heard of damage to upland fields. Crop work at a standstill. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Soil heavy in some fields, but still workable. Started cultivating small vegetable crops. Asparagus still cutting good. Surplus rhubarb. 2.01 inches of rainfall; plenty of rain at present time. Peas in blossom, early peas starting to pod. Last week's showers made big improvements on all vegetable crops. Radishes, scallions, asparagus, rhubarb in the market. Early green beans looking good.

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