



New England Agricultural Statistics Service

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United States Department of Agriculture

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Crop Weather

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August 30, 2004 - 4 pm

For week ending 8/29/04

EXCELLENT HAYMAKING CONDITIONS

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending August 29, 2004, there were 6.1 days available for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture was rated 9% short, 71% adequate, 20% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 8% short, 77% adequate, 15% surplus. Pasture condition was rated 11% poor, 23% fair, 45% good, 21% excellent. A week of warm temperatures with plenty of sunshine finally arrived for farmers to work the fields. Heavy showers and thunderstorms interrupted harvest over the weekend at most locations. Major farm activities included: mowing orchards; pruning trees; spreading manure; monitoring fields; applying pesticides; cutting and baling hay; cultivating and weeding renovated strawberry beds; harvesting apples, peaches, pears, highbush and wild blueberries, potatoes, sweet corn and other vegetables, barley, oats, and broadleaf and shade tobacco.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil Moisture			
Very Short	0	0	5
Short	9	0	16
Adequate	71	62	73
Surplus	20	38	6
Subsoil Moisture			
Very Short	0	0	5
Short	8	0	15
Adequate	77	73	77
Surplus	15	27	3

FRUIT: Wild blueberry harvest winding down with 90 percent picked by the end of August. Wild blueberry fruit size was reported above average due to sufficient moisture, however production is expected to fall well short of last year due to poor fruit set. Early pear harvest is just getting underway, with fruit size generally average to small in Connecticut and average elsewhere in the region. Pear conditions in Connecticut and Massachusetts continue to range from very poor to good in the two-state region. Early apple harvest gained momentum across New England, with growers picking Ginger Gold, Jersey Mac, Paula Red and Lodi varieties. Massachusetts cranberry sizing continued to improve, and cool nights enhanced cranberry color.

harvest moved into high gear with 20 percent of the oat crop and 40 percent of the barley crop combined by week's end. Hay producers put the longest stretch of dry days this summer to good use, and second crop progress moved back on schedule with normal. Third crop harvest is just getting underway, with good to excellent condition reported. Last week's sun improved corn silage condition and harvest is expected to begin in a week. Maine potato growers continued to apply fungicides on a five-day spray schedule to keep late blight in check. Vine dessication has begun in Aroostook County, and early varieties were harvested green for delivery to processors. Harvest of shade tobacco was active in the Connecticut River Valley, with reports of excellent yield and quality. Broadleaf tobacco harvest proceeded at a fast pace with the arrival of excellent harvest conditions, however progress still trails last year and normal.

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2004	2003	5-yr Avg	
Apples	10	15	10	Good/Fair
Peaches	75	65	65	Good/Fair
Pears	5	10	15	Poor/Good
Blueberries				
Highbush	90	90	90	
Wild, ME	90	95	90	Good
Cranberries, MA	--	--	--	Good/Fair

VEGETABLES: Sunny days provided excellent harvest conditions, however cold nights early in the week slowed ripening of vegetable crops in the region. Producers applied protective sprays to combat Phytophthora, mildew, and insects. Sweet corn growers are monitoring a small amount of damage from corn ear worm. Rhode Island reported sweet corn blown down from Hurricane Charley and significant damage on tomatoes, winter squash, and pumpkins from rains and humidity. New England producers harvested an array of vegetables, including beans, cole crops, cucumbers, eggplant, peppers, potatoes, pumpkins, summer squash, sweet corn, tomatoes and winter squash.

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2004	2003	5-yr Avg	
Barley, ME	40	60	45	Good/Fair
Oats, ME	20	30	30	Good/Excellent
Potatoes:				
Maine	<5	5	5	Good/Fair
Mass	30	25	30	Good
Rhode Isl	45	50	45	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	--	--	<5	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	65	70	65	Good/Excellent
Tobacco:				
Shade	80	85	90	Good
Broadleaf	70	85	90	Good
Dry Hay:				
First Cut	95	99	100	
Second Cut	80	85	80	Good/Fair
Third Cut	20	35	40	Good/Excellent

FIELD CROPS: Last week's long stretch of warm, dry weather provided excellent conditions for fieldwork. Maine small grain

For the Week Ending Sunday, August 29, 2004

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

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				CUM SINCE MAR 1				1-WEEK PRECIP			4-WEEK CUM PRECIP			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	GROWING DEGREE DAYS		BASE -60F		TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL		DFN	DAYS
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN				INCHES	DFN		
MAINE															
Augusta_State_A	49	89	66	+0	1650	-89	620	-60	0.32	-0.39	2	6.28	+3.27	15	
Bangor_Intl_Arp	45	88	66	+2	1574	-14	584	+13	0.30	-0.47	2	4.39	+1.35	13	
Bethel	43	89	65	+2	1518	-59	507	-45	0.38	-0.53	2	5.49	+1.85	14	
Caribou_Municip	40	84	62	+3	1252	-37	401	+38	0.04	-0.87	2	3.01	-0.66	10	
Dover-Foxcroft	41	84	62	-1	1239	-145	368	-60	0.17	-0.69	2	3.95	+0.62	12	
Frenchville	40	83	61	+3	1165	-33	346	+35	0.20	-0.71	1	4.53	+0.81	9	
Houlton	37	87	63	+2	1266	-81	420	+14	0.00	-0.91	0	2.91	-0.78	12	
Livermore_Falls	41	91	65	+4	1583	+220	593	+185	1.59	+0.67	2	5.32	+1.61	13	
Moosehead	40	85	61	+2	1104	-49	269	-26	0.00	-0.84	0	3.50	+0.14	13	
Portland_ME	49	89	66	+2	1613	+16	608	+22	0.00	-0.70	0	5.78	+3.19	11	
NEW HAMPSHIRE															
Benton	41	82	63	+1	1437	-19	457	+10	0.57	-0.33	2	4.24	+0.61	15	
Berlin_AG	42	84	64	+2	1470	+3	486	+16	0.18	-0.77	2	4.72	+0.82	13	
Concord	44	90	67	+3	1967	+215	835	+152	0.00	-0.70	0	3.58	+0.58	12	
Diamond_Pond	40	79	59	+2	954	-38	182	-14	0.32	-0.80	2	6.12	+1.49	12	
Keene_AP	48	88	66	-1	1855	-97	726	-103	0.00	-0.83	0	2.14	-1.39	11	
North_Conway	47	86	66	+3	1690	+54	650	+56	0.24	-0.66	2	5.01	+1.38	15	
Rochester	47	87	66	-2	1738	-129	684	-87	0.00	-0.77	0	5.78	+2.55	9	
VERMONT															
Burlington_Intl	47	85	69	+4	1942	+66	833	+57	1.09	+0.18	3	4.69	+1.02	15	
Island_Pond	41	81	64	+4	1321	+117	403	+99	0.51	-0.52	2	5.23	+0.85	16	
Montpelier	43	85	66	+4	1592	+113	573	+99	0.37	-0.47	3	5.40	+1.91	19	
Pownal	48	84	65	+3	1673	+138	570	+62	0.03	-0.95	1	5.96	+2.06	16	
Rochester	45	84	66	+4	1576	+124	547	+87	0.16	-0.87	2	5.76	+1.60	12	
Rutland_AG	44	86	66	-1	1671	-262	602	-205	0.06	-0.85	2	6.18	+2.38	15	
Sutton	42	84	63	+4	1316	+95	388	+70	0.57	-0.44	2	4.44	+0.16	16	
Townshend_Lake	47	87	65	-2	1701	-132	607	-139	0.03	-0.86	2	3.64	+0.04	15	
MASSACHUSETTS															
Ashburnham	48	88	67	+4	1835	+242	721	+161	0.08	-0.68	2	5.87	+2.70	16	
Boston/Logan_In	56	91	70	+0	2214	+0	1042	-3	0.00	-0.77	0	4.03	+1.09	8	
Greenfield	49	90	68	+0	1978	-105	819	-109	0.02	-0.78	1	3.60	+0.28	14	
New_Bedford	43	85	66	-6	1997	-232	849	-210	0.00	-0.96	0	5.30	+1.48	9	
Otis_AFB	45	82	66	-3	1918	+103	822	+68	0.00	-0.79	0	3.15	+0.07	9	
Plymouth	46	87	66	-2	1926	+49	826	+26	0.00	-0.97	0	4.97	+1.34	10	
Walpole	48	90	68	+2	2092	+183	921	+118	0.00	-0.91	0	4.71	+1.15	10	
Chicopee/Westov	50	91	69	-2	2239	-143	1018	-147	0.00	-0.84	0	4.12	+0.93	11	
Worthington	44	86	64	+1	1611	+54	544	+21	0.03	-0.88	1	7.05	+3.30	14	
RHODE ISLAND															
Providence	51	88	69	+0	2240	+130	1034	+62	0.00	-0.84	0	5.97	+2.68	9	
Woonsocket	47	89	67	+1	2054	+176	892	+127	0.00	-0.91	0	7.02	+3.38	8	
CONNECTICUT															
Bridgeport/Siko	58	88	72	+1	2393	+127	1160	+57	0.00	-0.70	0	5.21	+2.29	9	
Hartford/Bradle	49	92	70	+1	2358	+67	1124	+25	0.00	-0.87	0	4.25	+0.95	13	
Norfolk	50	83	66	+3	1750	+188	639	+110	0.00	-1.05	0	8.03	+3.91	14	
Thomaston_Dam	48	91	68	+2	2228	+371	1007	+264	0.00	-0.98	0	4.82	+0.97	12	
Willimantic	47	88	67	+1	2122	+230	924	+150	0.00	-0.91	0	5.28	+1.71	12	

STATE WEATHER SUMMARY
For the Week Ending Sunday, August 29, 2004

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	35	91	63	+0	0.00	1.59
NH	36	91	64	+2	0.00	0.91
VT	34	90	65	+2	0.01	1.60
MA	38	92	67	+0	0.00	0.31
RI	47	89	68	-1	0.00	0.32
CT	45	92	68	+1	0.00	0.01

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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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: Dry weather all week. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** A great week for making dry hay. Dry, mostly sunny and turning from crisp, warm air to the dog days of summer by the weekend. Harvesting of all vegetable crops, peaches and early apples during the week. Broadleaf tobacco harvest picked up pace. Field corn needs more heat to mature. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Awesome week to bale hay. Big round bales and their rectangular cousins dot the fields and pass on the way to the barn. Corn looks great. Vegetables look good too. **Karen Vozarik (FSA), New Haven:** Cold nights are delaying the ripening of vegetables. Tomatoes are plentiful but are still green on the vine. Plenty of flowers on the eggplant but little fruit. Peaches are doing well and early apple varieties, Paula Red and Gingergolds are being harvested. High humidity, sunny days and cool nights characterized the weather for the week. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Scouting corn for rootworm adults. Corn in late milk to early dough stage. Farmers intend to start harvest in a week to 10 days.

MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook: Potatoes and small grains: Growers continue to prepare harvesting equipment and spraying crops. Some fields have been desiccated. Small grains are being harvested and a few acres have been harvested green for delivery to processors. Late blight continues to be a concern for growers but, for the most part they have done an admirable job controlling its spread. Size and quality of the potato crop looks very good. Grain crop also looks very good. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Growers are working on equipment in preparation for harvesting in a couple of weeks. Growers are still employing a 5-day fungicide spray schedule. Initial vine dessication has begun. Harvesting of grains has begun. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Potato crop is looking good. Growers are applying MH-30 for sprout control on later planted crop. Some seed growers on earlier planted varieties are starting to kill vines. About two percent of the Atlantic varieties have been harvested. No oats have been harvested. 35 percent of the barley crop has been harvested. **Albert Dow (NRCS), Piscataquis:** Good weather throughout the week allowed farmers to make hay. Some good second crop hay went into storage. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Some nice weather finally allowed for dry hay making. Lots of activity to finish first, second and third cuttings. Corn continues to grow, but could use some more heat. Some fields too wet for manure spreading with heavy trucks. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Crop harvest continues with good berry size but poor yields. It is expected that harvest will be complete by the end of next week. **Michael Tardy (FSA), Androscoggin:** This was the week that keeps farmers on the farm. What great weather to do outdoor work; bale hay and soak up sunshine. Market garden producers are getting those vegetables to the local. Apples are starting to show up in stores, at the farm stand and in "pick your own" operations. Silage corn spotty in places, some very short with little stalk. If we have more of these steamy days and evenings, that silage corn will improve before harvest. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Farmers finally received the weather needed to make dry hay. Some areas are still too wet to cut. Other areas have been cut two or three times. We could use more of this weather before the leaves start turning! **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** An awesome week for plant growth. Highbush blueberries are very large thanks to all the moisture. Hay producers still bothered by showers. **Laura Rand (FSA), Oxford:** What a glorious week! This week's warmth was needed to give the corn a big boost. Hay making activities were fast and furious - squash, potatoes, tomatoes, and other assorted vegetables are prominent on the farm stands.

MASSACHUSETTS - Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire: With the first good weather in a while for drying, large plots were being hayed. There was damage reported in a small area of the county from a severe thunderstorm with high winds and hail associated

with a freak tornado classified as an 'F0' last week. Fall vine crops and some fruit trees were damaged. Also there was a report of blossom drop due to low pollination in our cool, wet, early summer causing a 60% failure of a large pumpkin crop in another area. More sugar maples are showing very early color. Weekend fairs were well attended thanks to hot, humid weather. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Berries continue to size and color. Coloring was enhanced greatly this week with very cool nights. Some growers turned on their sprinklers to protect from possible frost; some beds went to 32 degrees. Most activities revolve around getting ready for the coming harvest. Very little fruit rot so far (knocking on wood). **David Rose (FSA), Bristol:** A great week for making hay. Everywhere you went farmers were mowing and baling. The harvest of winter squash began; the crop looks good. All other crops continue to be harvested. Disease and insect pressure, except for corn ear worm, remains low. **John Devine (FSA), Franklin:** A great week of weather allowed farmers to harvest acres of second-cut hay. Tobacco harvest (field and shade) is winding down. Shade producers have said that this has been an excellent year for yield and quality and are harvesting fifth and sixth primes. Some field tobacco growers have had a difficult season with blue mold and fleck. Vine crop growers have been busy protecting against phytophthora and mildews. Early blight has been observed in several potato fields but yield should not be seriously affected. One more week of warm, dry weather would be perfect. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Beautiful, hot, sunny week; all farmers are smiling and harvesting an array of crops such as tobacco, sweet corn, beans, hay, cukes, peppers and winter squashes. With last week's heavy rains in the area, farmers are applying protective sprays to ward off disease and insects. All crops look good. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** The road is "temporarily" open!! Retail sales of sweet corn and mums are good. Sales counters are loaded with summer produce. Sweet corn condition and flavor are by far the best I've had in years. European Corn Borer damage at three percent. Second planting of squashes and beans coming on strong. Sugar pumpkins orange and large pumpkins are half way to prime color. Real good fall crops. Awfully hot this weekend.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire: Six days in a row with no rain! Most of the week featured dry, sunny weather, and haying proceeded at a furious pace. Third cutting alfalfa/grass for haylage continued. Corn continues to mature; a few kernels starting to dent here and there and a few producers are gearing up to start chopping. Veggies doing well, though vine crops and tomatoes starting to wind down at some places. Early apple varieties ready for PYO and starting to make an appearance at farm stands. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Third cut continuing as weather permits. Corn continues to mature slowly. Later planted corn still quite immature. Plenty of moisture at this point but need some heat. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Orchardists harvesting peaches, first pears, plums, and apples (finishing Paula Red, starting Ginger Gold and McIntosh). Highbush blueberry harvest winding down, and fall raspberry harvest continued. Cultivating and weeding newly renovated strawberry beds. Vegetables: Farmers kept busy irrigating, harvesting crops, monitoring pest pressures, spraying pesticides for insect and disease control where needed. Harvesting an array of vegetables, including pumpkin and some winter squash. Field Crops: With drier weather, hay making and cutting haylage continued during the week with the second cut and some third cutting being made. Farmers have newly seeded pasture and hayfields; in many fields, seedlings started to emerge. **John Porter (Ext), Merrimack:** Still need time for corn to mature. Concern that good quality hay will be in short supply. Vegetables are lush with ideal moisture conditions, but a lot of blight and diseases. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Picking apples, blueberries, and whole array of vegetables. Weekend heat and humidity was high. Need some rain. PYO apple and blueberry operations are busy. Growers are busy weeding, cultivating and irrigating. Some damage on apples and other crops due to high

wind and localized hail 10 days ago are now showing. Brown rot in peaches also being noticed. **Pam Marvin (FSA), Sullivan:** Great weather for haying. Dry days last week helped with all types of field work and harvesting. Scattered storms over the weekend with small hail in spots. Early PYO apple harvest underway with blueberry harvest just about finished. Reports of mummyberry by some producers. A good crop of sweet corn still readily available. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** A hot and humid week. Growth for second cut hay looked good on most hay fields. Field corn growing well. Vegetable growers harvesting sweet corn and an array of vegetables. Monitoring and spraying for corn ear worm and other vegetable insect pests. Last of blueberry harvesting for most fruit growers. Started harvesting early apple varieties. Fall garden mums growing well. Greenhouse and garden centers already selling early mums. Poinsettia crop looking good. Growers applying pesticides against white flies.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: The weather this week allowed for every farm activity imaginable. Spraying, cultivating, watering and harvesting. Lots of great sweet corn. Potatoes look super. Hard squash and pumpkins coming along well. Summer tomatoes, cukes, beans and cole crops are the best. Farm stands filled with every vegetable around. Could use just a tad of rain. **Marilu Soileau (FSA), All Counties:** Sweet corn was blown down by Hurricane Charley in the eastern part of the State. Significant crop losses in tomatoes, winter squash and pumpkins due to heavy rains and humidity in various areas throughout the State. Crops for livestock are generally in excellent shape.

VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille: Lots of activity centered around haying. Producers were able to catch up thanks to a record run of dry weather. Excess moisture is resulting in lower yields for some vegetables. Nice week ended with heavy weekend rains. Just what we didn't need!! **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** A lot of hay was harvested this past week due to the longest stretch of dry weather this summer. The fields are still very wet which made harvesting a little tricky. Heavy rain on Sunday night has not helped the abundant moisture problems. Corn crop is starting to mature but the cool, wet weather has delayed this. Hopefully the corn will mature in time to be harvested. **Perley Sparrow (FSA), Windham:** Hot, humid weather finished off the week with field corn showing signs of maturing. Haying was the order of the day this past week with the best drying days we have had all summer. Veggie producers have had their problems with blight and insects. Apple producers are beginning to see an excellent crop this year; with good size and color. **Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Baling dry hay to finish second cut. Some manure spread on cut hay fields. Finally, dry weather, then severe local thunderstorms to wash out roads on Saturday. Some localized flooding of fields. Getting ready for corn and third cut haylage harvest. **George Cook (FSA) Lamoille:** Heavy rainfall continues to keep hay land waterlogged and impassible in many places. Sunday, received another 2.35 inches, bringing the August total to 10.5 inches on top of a wet July (7.6 inches); over 18 inches for the two month period. More rain forecast for Sunday. Corn shows obvious signs of cold, wet weather. **Chris Benedict (Ext), Chittenden:** Cool nights and sunny days have added a nice touch to the apple season this year. Yields look good and conditions have been somewhat beneficial for a good crop.

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