



# New England Agricultural Statistics



Aubrey R. Davis, Director

Phone: 603-224-9639

Fax: 603-225-1434

www.usda.gov/nass

nass-nh@nass.usda.gov

22 Bridge Street  
P.O. Box 1444  
Concord, NH 03302

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August 8, 2005 – 4 pm

For week ending 8/7/05

## Crop Weather

### Too Hot, Too Dry

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:** For the week ending August 7, 2005, there were 6.5 days suitable for fieldwork. Topsoil moisture: 8% very short, 28% short, 61% adequate, 3% surplus. Subsoil moisture: 5% very short, 28% short, 64% adequate, 3% surplus. Pasture condition: 1% very poor, 5% poor, 33% fair, 55% good, and 6% excellent. The blistering heat created drought-like conditions in the southern part of the region and threatened to damage crops. Scattered thunderstorms at the beginning and end of the week left a few fields soaked while others turned to irrigation. High winds on Friday caused field damage in southern New England. Disease has become a problem in pumpkin fields. Major farm activities included cultivating, hoeing weeds, monitoring pests and diseases, spraying pesticides, mowing orchards, pruning trees, haying, spreading manure, harvesting a variety of vegetables, as well as harvesting highbush blueberries, raspberries and peaches.

**FRUIT:** With an occasional thunderstorm to quell humidity, pick your own berry operations had nice weather for the continuation of highbush blueberry and raspberry harvest. Scattered rain left some cranberry bogs very dry and others soaked. Cranberries need more consistent rainfall to enhance berry growth; growers continued to irrigate, monitor for pests and apply pesticides and fungicides. Early peach harvest continued in southern New England. Maine wild blueberry development remained behind schedule as crop yields in the mid-coast region were below average. Apple condition in Maine and Vermont ranged from good to excellent, elsewhere conditions ranged from fair to good. Orchardists continued monitoring for pests, applied pesticides and mowed orchard floors.

sweet corn, and tomatoes. Also vegetable growers were busy cultivating, weeding, and monitoring for pests region wide.

#### SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
<b>Topsoil</b>			
Very Short	8	6	1
Short	28	20	9
Adequate	61	68	74
Surplus	3	6	16
<b>Subsoil</b>			
Very Short	5	1	2
Short	28	26	10
Adequate	64	65	76
Surplus	3	8	12

**FIELD CROPS:** Dry heat provided excellent hay making conditions. Northern parts of the region finished up first cutting of hay and began second cutting. Some, in southern New England, were harvesting third cutting. Thunderstorms made timing harvests difficult but provided needed moisture to some areas. But overall, dry conditions slowed grass growth. Silage corn development was progressing well amidst the heat and occasional rain. A little combining of barley began. Maine potato conditions were good to excellent but need more moisture to ensure good size development. No blight was reported in Aroostook County as growers continued on a five-day spray schedule. Broadleaf tobacco harvest advanced to one-third of the crop picked, well ahead of last year and above the five year average. Shade tobacco harvest continued progression ahead of last year. Massachusetts crop specialists report no additional outbreaks of blue mold during the first week of August.

#### FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	- Percent Harvested -			Fruit Size	Condition
	2005	2004	5-yr Avg		
Apples	-	-	-	Avg	Good/Fair
Peaches	25	25	25	Avg	Good/Fair
Pears	-	-	-	Avg	Fair/Good
Blueberries					
Highbush	50	70	45	Avg	Good/Excel
Wild, ME	5	5	10	Avg/Below	Fair
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-	Avg	Good/Fair

**VEGETABLES:** Demand for locally grown vegetables kept farm stands and farmer's markets continuously harvesting fresh supplies. A very dry week had left some vegetables to wither in the heat, reducing crop yields. Scattered thunderstorms did not provide enough moisture either for the crops or to replenish water supplies as heavy irrigation continued. Sweet corn condition was rated good to fair. Blight and other diseases were spotted in winter squash and pumpkin fields. Growers harvested an array of vegetables including: beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, cucumbers, greens, lettuce, peas, potatoes, radishes, snap beans, squash,

#### FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2005	2004	5-yr Avg	Condition
	-- Percent Harvested --			
Barley, ME	--	--	--	Good/Excellent
Oats, ME	--	--	--	Good/Excellent
Potatoes				
Maine	--	--	--	Good/Excellent
Mass.	10	10	5	Good
Rhode Isl.	--	--	10	Fair/Good
Sweet Corn	25	35	30	Good/Fair
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	30	15	25	Good/Fair
Shade	40	30	30	Good
Dry hay, 1 <sup>st</sup> cut	95	90	95	Good
Dry hay, 2 <sup>nd</sup> cut	55	55	60	Good
Dry hay, 3 <sup>rd</sup> cut	10	5	10	Good/Excellent

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

For the Period: Monday August 1, 2005  
To: Sunday August 7, 2005

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				CUM SINCE MAR 1 GROWING DEGREE DAYS				1-WEEK PRECIP			4-WEEK CUM PRECIP		
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS
<b>MAINE</b>														
Augusta_State_A	54	88	71	+2	1347	+5	641	+132	1.16	+0.42	3	1.63	-1.28	6
Bangor_Intl_Arp	50	83	69	+1	1338	+122	605	+182	1.19	+0.48	3	4.63	+1.70	10
Bethel	50	84	67	-2	1234	+12	535	+115	0.65	-0.24	2	2.08	-1.20	7
Caribou_Municip	48	81	64	-1	1127	+121	463	+180	0.64	-0.32	5	3.22	-0.56	14
Dover-Foxcroft	47	88	65	-2	1054	-8	422	+101	1.83	+1.06	5	3.42	+0.27	14
Frenchville	49	82	64	-1	1102	+170	448	+206	0.76	-0.15	4	2.92	-0.63	11
Houlton	44	81	64	-2	1100	+55	441	+128	0.62	-0.29	3	4.12	+0.61	15
Livermore_Falls	48	90	68	+2	1275	+223	591	+282	0.96	+0.09	3	2.37	-0.83	8
Moosehead	44	80	63	-2	972	+92	362	+140	2.50	+1.64	3	5.94	+2.35	11
Portland_ME	55	91	71	+3	1306	+97	608	+184	0.32	-0.31	2	1.46	-1.20	7
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>														
Benton	50	84	68	+3	1254	+112	546	+203	0.88	-0.02	4	2.60	-0.67	10
Berlin_AG	49	83	67	+0	1260	+112	552	+189	0.43	-0.54	2	2.12	-1.41	6
Concord	53	91	72	+3	1549	+182	764	+242	0.20	-0.57	2	1.10	-1.89	6
Diamond_Pond	48	78	62	+0	953	+185	348	+206	0.59	-0.54	3	4.42	+0.15	12
Keene_AF	54	88	72	+2	1560	+29	767	+131	0.22	-0.67	1	2.64	-0.74	7
North_Conway	54	87	69	+2	1364	+85	638	+178	0.43	-0.48	4	4.38	+0.93	10
Rochester	54	90	71	+1	1384	-68	650	+66	1.30	+0.48	1	2.91	-0.29	5
<b>VERMONT</b>														
Burlington_Intl	56	89	74	+4	1712	+236	881	+278	0.81	-0.10	2	3.30	-0.12	8
Island_Pond	49	80	66	+3	1222	+286	527	+294	1.42	+0.32	4	3.66	-0.37	11
Montpelier	49	86	70	+4	1436	+277	672	+302	0.43	-0.40	4	2.22	-0.74	11
Pownal	54	86	70	+4	1454	+259	660	+271	0.51	-0.43	2	3.32	-0.35	10
Rochester	50	89	70	+4	1392	+265	647	+296	0.14	-0.87	1	1.71	-1.96	11
Rutland_AG	52	88	71	+2	1509	-13	737	+114	0.31	-0.60	3	2.30	-1.28	12
Sutton	50	83	66	+3	1220	+268	529	+281	0.39	-0.67	4	3.34	-0.63	13
Townshend_Lake	54	89	72	+3	1492	+58	719	+146	0.44	-0.43	3	1.69	-1.55	10
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>														
Ashburnham	61	88	72	+5	1510	+270	726	+296	0.75	-0.09	3	3.07	-0.25	10
Boston/Logan_In	64	97	76	+3	1690	-29	882	+100	1.12	+0.42	2	1.30	-1.32	4
Greenfield	57	89	73	+2	1621	-15	803	+92	1.35	+0.51	2	4.17	+0.81	9
New_Bedford	55	94	75	+1	1504	-206	704	-68	0.34	-0.54	2	0.44	-2.55	6
Otis_AFB	57	88	74	+4	1715	+341	862	+319	0.00	-0.73	0	0.24	-2.44	3
Plymouth	57	93	74	+3	1501	+65	746	+155	0.31	-0.53	1	0.34	-2.81	3
Walpole	62	96	76	+6	1675	+190	851	+242	1.21	+0.37	2	1.36	-1.80	4
Chicopee/Westov	59	94	76	+2	1855	-17	956	+70	0.73	-0.04	4	2.29	-0.87	11
Worthington	53	90	72	+5	1397	+191	631	+236	0.09	-0.89	2	0.48	-3.44	9
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>														
Providence	62	99	79	+6	1796	+166	931	+210	0.01	-0.76	1	0.21	-2.73	5
Woonsocket	59	96	75	+6	1671	+211	831	+253	0.24	-0.67	2	0.77	-2.80	6
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>														
Bridgeport/Siko	67	97	79	+5	1881	+137	943	+130	0.24	-0.54	1	1.12	-2.24	5
Hartford/Bradle	61	95	77	+5	1942	+136	1020	+175	0.21	-0.56	2	4.27	+1.38	9
Norfolk	59	91	72	+6	1446	+234	655	+253	2.15	+1.17	3	3.62	-0.17	8
Thomaston_Dam	61	92	76	+7	1706	+260	850	+287	0.32	-0.59	2	2.93	-0.84	9
Willimantic	59	94	75	+6	1711	+240	838	+254	0.25	-0.66	1	1.44	-2.31	7

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, August 7, 2005

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	L	HI	AV	DF	LO	HI
ME	41	91	66	-1	0.21	2.50
NH	41	92	69	+2	0.09	2.37
VT	47	90	70	+4	0.03	1.75
MA	50	97	74	+4	0.00	1.47
RI	52	99	75	+4	0.00	0.24
CT	58	97	76	+5	0.00	2.15

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

**CONNECTICUT - Howard Rood (FSA), Fairfield/Litchfield:** Weather continues hot and humid. We need some rain. **Jude Boucher (Ext), Tolland:** We need some rain in the next week or there will be some serious crop damage on unirrigated land. Some pumpkin fields are already showing signs of injury on the dry knolls. Too hot, too dry. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Hot dry weather early in the week made for good haying. Field corn and vegetable crops were drying out and veggies required extensive irrigation. Cool front Friday PM dumped much needed rain but too fast to sink in. Winds associated with cold front knocked down trees and power lines. Saturday and Sunday had plenty of sunshine and heat but much less humidity. **Frank Himmelstein (Ext), New London:** New London County missing the bad storms this week but also missing any significant rain. Ear formation progressing on the early planted corn but size will be small in typically drier fields. Yields will definitely be down on the earliest planted fields where water has been lacking at a critical time. Later planted fields still have a chance if timely rains occur soon. Hay- Second cut grass chopped in most places this week. Good quality but low yields. Dry hay still a struggle to put in with high humidity and some light spotty showers. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Drought like conditions, no rain the entire month of July for towns along the Rhode Island border, other areas had brief very scattered showers, 19 days of over 90 degrees, concerns about poor grain set in corn and losses in tonnage and quality of corn, irrigating blueberries, one farmer pumping water eight hours a day on vegetables and sweet corn, abundant squash production, field corn is tasseling, some of the field corn looks awesome but needs water soon.

**Joyce Meader (Ext), Windham:** Too much brown on those pastures. Very dry. Corn reaching for rain. Weed control delayed until weeds start growing again on the pastures. Spring seedings are suffering without the deep roots. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Field corn in silk. Began scouting for corn ear worm adults, in most areas. Weed populations in field corn generally look good. Farmers are satisfied with stands. Heights in the eight to 14 foot range in scouted fields. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** This was a very hot and dry week. We did not get any rain or scattered showers in our area. Everything is drying up and needs water. Crops are suffering.

**MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Growers getting harvesting equipment out and checking them for repairs and servicing. Checking fields for insect and disease pressure. Spraying fungicides faithfully. Haven't received sufficient rainfall to do much good. Really need some moisture as potatoes are starting to bulk up. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Growers are starting to combine barley. Cutting and baling hay. Growers are still applying fungicides on a five day spray schedule. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Some disease pressure of light blight. Growers continue a five day spray schedule. **Albert Dow (NRCS), Piscataquis:** Three and a quarter inches of rain fell in two evenings of thunder storms. Fields are so wet, some hay had to be left unharvested. Strong wind accompanied the second evening of showers causing corn to lay over nearly to the ground. **Donna Lamb (Ext), Piscataquis:** Farmers have been challenged by unexpected rains this past week when they have tried to put up the last of the first crop of hay. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** Need more rain than just the scattered thundershowers. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Harvest began in mid-coast fields last week. Crop in these fields are below average. There are problems in getting enough migrant rakers because of the poor crop last year. Machine harvesting of fields has begun on the blueberry barrens down-east. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Beautiful weather for haying. Vegetable stands are full of items for sale. Highbush blueberries and raspberries have good yields. Rain or irrigation is needed for most crops. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Harvesting fruits and vegetables, highbush blueberries look good. Good haying weather. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Haying continues through out Oxford County and some farmers are ready to start on second crop. Vegetable growers need rain. Some Sweet corn is starting to be harvested, while the rest of the crop will be coming in late due to the wet conditions during the planting season. **Laura Rand (FSA), Androscoggin:** A good week for crops. Sweet corn and other vegetables are showing up at farm stands. Potatoes being cultivated, silage corn catching up.

**MASSACHUSETTS - Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire:** Weather was conducive to field work and crop development. Warm sunny days with relatively high humidity have encouraged early development of FAV's which are fueling the farmers markets with a great array of variety. Hay was made and orchardists are happy with their fruit crops. Pick your own operations for cane berries and blueberries are having a good year. **Paul Russell (FSA), Southeast Massachusetts:** Continues to be hot and dry. All field crops are suffering, cranberry and vegetable growers and continue to irrigate around the clock. Vegetable growers are harvesting most crops with average yields but two weeks late because of the cool wet spring. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Fruit set is variable, depending on the bed and the location. Still some lagging blossoms remaining on the later cultivars. Growers are finished with sprays. Roundup wiping continues. Irrigation is imperative, as rainfall has been scarce and very spotty. We really need a good soaking in order to size up the berries. Some drought stress is showing up in the higher, drier areas of the beds. **Jason Otto (FSA), Bristol:** Hot Dry weather has made the irrigation come out in full force. Some water holes getting a little low. Silage corn is showing signs of stress. Some rain is needed. **John Devine (FSA), Franklin:** Farms in the Valley are still recovering from the effects of heavy rain during July. In spite of the drought in many sections of Massachusetts, we measured 12 inches of rain in July! Some towns in Franklin County have had even more rain. Loss adjusters were busy appraising rain and hail damage this week. Silage corn seems to be thriving in the heat and humidity. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Another hot and humid week with scattered rain showers. Some growers are irrigating due to the dry conditions. All types of summer crops are being harvested and they are growing very fast due to the 90 degree days. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** Will someone please turn on the water? Getting real dry here as scattered showers missed this part of the county. Some corn rolling seen in fields. Melons starting to net up, pumpkin fruit set and size heavy, harvesting wide array of summer crops. Blueberry crop this year is a bumper crop and u-pickers have had ideal weekend weather. Farm stand trade now bordering on a feeding frenzy as local growers attempt to keep up with demand. Locally grown sweet corn is just excellent. Perennial plant sales strong again this weekend. Just great looking produce coming in from the fields. Early peach harvest underway.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE - Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll:** We're moving right along now! Farm stands are fully stocked, cabbage, tomatoes, sweet corn, cucumbers, everything you could want. Blueberry harvest going quite well. Little to no mummy berry present. Field corn tasseling, Apples beginning to size up. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Lots of hot weather all week, with hardly any rain. Most field corn looks good, lots of it in the blister stage, but there are still a few spots showing moisture stress. Grass growth is slowing down, but there were good conditions for making dry hay. Vegetable stands selling lots of field corn, and field tomatoes are finally ready. Harvest of blueberries and raspberries still going strong. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Good week for dry hay making, although some heavy downpours in various locations could make that a challenge. Some parts of the county a bit dry, could use a good soaking rain. Field corn looks quite well with most of it now tasseling. Should see sweet corn reaching market this week. Berry picking continues, squash type plants doing well. So far so good, nothing too surprising on pests thus far. Warm-season grass trials in county are Switch grass, Eastern Gamma grass, and Big Bluestem all heading out now. Growing degree days passes the 1200 mark in Lancaster. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Third cut starting as second cutting is finishing up. Crops continue to grow well with scattered showers and thunderstorms providing some moisture. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Orchardists harvesting peaches and Vista Bell apples. Blueberry and raspberry harvests continued. Orchardists busy monitoring for pests, mowing orchard floors and fixing up orchard roads. Apple growers busy summer pruning trees. Field Crops: Silage corn is rapid growing, starting to tassel and the earliest planted corn is starting to silk. Farmers making baled hay. Vegetables: Growers harvesting an array of vegetables: beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, cucumbers, greens, lettuce, peas, potatoes, radishes, snap beans, summer squash, sweet corn and other vegetables. Irrigating crops. High disease

and insect pressure, so farmers kept busy spraying pesticides for insects and diseases. Seeing more diseases show up in pumpkin and winter squash fields. Early blight, septoria leaf blight and leaf mold diseases are seen in tomato fields. Some growers have serve damage on sweet corn cause by birds. **Sadie Puglisi (Ext), Merrimack:** Raspberries finishing and blueberry picking in full gear. Great weather this week. Stands and markets are full. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** A hot and humid week. Producers busy making hay and haylage. Fruit growers busy harvesting blueberries and raspberries. It was a strong week for pick your own blueberry and raspberry operations. Growers also mowing the orchard floor and monitoring for pests in fruit trees. Vegetable growers harvesting different kinds of vegetables including corn. Growers also monitoring for pests and diseases and weeding vegetable crops. Greenhouse and nursery operators monitoring the growth of fall mums and poinsettia crops. Mums are doing well for most growers and early varieties are already showing color. Woody ornamentals and perennials continue to sell at the garden centers.

**RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport:** The lack of rain is taking its toll. Irrigating potatoes and summer vegetables. Harvesting corn, tomatoes, squashes, peppers and a variety of lettuces. **Melissa Turrisi:** After several weeks without significant rain, dry conditions are having a definite impact on crops affecting both growth and harvest. Second cutting hay fields are drying up and vegetable plants are burnt and wilted by the hot sun.

Producers are irrigating as much as possible but are now battling quickly decreasing water supplies. Farmers are harvesting those summer vegetables that are available to fill their stands.

**VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille:** Another week of boringly fantastic weather for crops and fieldwork. Grass growth in general has slowed until cooler wetter weather returns. Combining of the barley crop started last week which is a little earlier than normal. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** It was another great week for harvesting hay. The hot dry weather has made it possible to put up some excellent quality hay this year. Also the fields are drying out from the rains earlier in the season. The corn continues to do well. In some fields the corn is over 10 feet tall. The corn has tasseled and the ears are starting to form. The pastures still remain in pretty good shape for this stage of the season. **Perley Sparrow (FSA), Windham:** Pretty good week for field work. Things are starting to dry out and in some locations rain is needed. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Hot week, some heavy thundershowers. Haying, spreading manure after the harvest. Corn coming along, mostly tasseled. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Regular spraying of potatoes and vine crops for blight. Showery weather great for crops but hard to put up dry hay. 0.550 inches of rain for week, came in nice showers. Great all around growing weather for week. Started digging early potatoes, all cole crops in the market, good crop of sweet corn, green beans, summer squash and cukes. Full market of summer vegetables.

**July 2005 Crop Weather Summary:** The month of July began warm and sunny, but a cool and cloudy front arrived to the region the second week. Humidity hit New England with hot temperatures and some scattered rain and thunderstorms. By the end of July, the humidity finally disappeared and cooler conditions arrived. Crop development and growth were enhanced greatly with almost 28 days suitable for fieldwork during the month. At the beginning of the month, second cutting of hay was just underway and close to the halfway point at month's end whereas, first cutting neared completion. At month's end, strawberry harvest was finished and growers were busy renovating beds. Highbush blueberry harvest started late due to a cold, wet spring but warm, humid days enhanced crop development and was on schedule at month's end in good to excellent condition. Unfavorable spring conditions delayed peach harvest although crop was rated good to fair at month's end. Shade tobacco harvest began in early July ahead of schedule and at month's end was more than a quarter completed and condition was rated good. By mid-July broadleaf tobacco harvest began ahead of schedule due to recent warm weather that enhanced crop development. Early sweet corn harvest began in mid- July in southern New England and was in full swing throughout the region at month's end. Apple growers were busy mowing orchard floors and spraying as necessary as harvest season approaches. Pear conditions were rated fair to good at month's end. Cranberry bed reached full bloom and growers continued to irrigate, monitor for pests, and apply pesticides and fungicides as crop condition was rated good to fair at the end of July. The warm, dry conditions in southern New England caused drought like concerns whereas, other areas in the region received heavy rains that influenced crop conditions. However, field corn development remains good to excellent in the region. Oats and barley in Maine continued to develop as both were rated good to excellent at the end of July. By month's end, Massachusetts potato grower's were in full swing with harvest as crop was rated good as Rhode Island grower's were gearing up for harvest. Maine potato grower's continued on a five-day spray schedule. The crop remained behind normal due to late planting but potato condition was rated good.

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**Aubrey R. Davis, Director**  
**Carrie Ross, Student Intern**

**Gerald Tillman, Deputy Director**  
**Deirdre Davis, Stat Assistant**

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