



# New England Agricultural Statistics



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## Crop Weather

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May 15, 2006 – 4 pm

For week ending 5/14/06

### Saturated Conditions

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:** For the week ending May 14, 2006, there were 4.4 days available for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture was rated 7% short, 65% adequate, 28% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 7% short, 71% adequate, 22% surplus. Pasture condition was rated as 1% very poor, 1% poor, 10% fair, 71% good, 17% excellent. On Monday, clear skies allowed farmers to continue planting and working the fields. In southern regions, rain arrived on Tuesday and continued through the weekend, causing streams and rivers to rise above flood levels. In northern regions, skies remained clear until Wednesday, and then heavy rains arrived. Rain continued through the weekend in southern New Hampshire, and southern tip of Maine, causing heavy flooding along rivers and streams. Weekend storms bypassed northern New Hampshire and Vermont counties and all but the southernmost areas in Maine.

**FRUIT:** Frequent rain showers limited fruit tree growers from applying sprays in orchards. In addition, wet conditions hindered bee activities in orchards and highbush blueberry fields and thus limited pollination. Second applications of fungicides were applied to wild blueberry fields to prevent mummy berry disease. Strawberry patches continued to blossom, however, heavy rains have increased concerns of disease problems. Massachusetts cranberry growers were busy weeding, cleaning ditches, repairing dikes, planting renovated beds, and scouting for insects.

#### SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
<b>Topsoil</b>			
Very Short	0	2	0
Short	7	28	6
Adequate	65	66	53
Surplus	28	4	41
<b>Subsoil</b>			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	7	20	9
Adequate	71	77	53
Surplus	22	3	38

**FIELD CROPS:** Heavy rains brought field work to a halt in southern New England, and many low lying areas and fields along rivers and streams were under water by week's end. Concern is high for crops already planted, and when fields will be dry enough to continue planting. Fertilizer leaching has been excessive. Farmers continued to plant field corn on dry soils as conditions permitted and a quarter of this year's crop was in the ground by the end of the week. Massachusetts and Rhode Island potato growers have less than a quarter of their crops left to plant, baring no flood damage. Northern Maine potato growers took advantage of a mostly clear week and shifted planting into high gear; progress was well ahead of last year and normal by May 14. Small grain producers in Aroostook County were active planting after some mid-week showers, and progress was also well ahead of schedule. At week's end, Maine's small grains were 75 percent planted. Although most New England pasture ratings were in the good to excellent range, there were reports of winter damage to pastures and hayfields in Maine.

#### FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Stage	Condition
Apples	EB/FB	Good
Peaches	Petal Fall	Good
Pears	FB/PF	Good
Blueberries		
Highbush	Bud Stage/EB	Good/Fair
Wild, ME	EB/FB	Good
Cranberries,	BS	Good
Strawberries	BS/EB	Good

BS = Bud Stage, EB = Early Bloom, FB = Full Bloom

**VEGETABLES:** A week of rain hindered vegetable growers from continuing the previous weeks' fast pace of plantings and harvesting crops. Fields located along streams and rivers in most of the region were under water from the long stretch of rainy days. Vegetable growers continued to harvest asparagus, rhubarb, and spinach. Excessive rains resulted in fewer greenhouse and nursery sales over the Mother's Day weekend. Growers continued planting beets, cabbage, carrots, cucumbers, kale, lettuce, parsnips, and tomatoes as weather permitted.

#### FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2006	2005	5-yr Avg	Emerged	Conditions
-- Percent Planted --					
Barley, ME	75	10	30	10	N/A
Oats, ME	75	10	25	10	N/A
Potatoes					
Maine	35	0	15	-	N/A
Mass	85	55	65	10	Good
Rhode Isl	75	50	70	25	Good
Silage Corn	25	15	25	0	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	25	25	25	10	Good/Fair
Dry Hay	-- Percent Harvested --				
First Cut	-	-	-		Good/Fair

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

For the Period: Monday May 8, 2006  
To: Sunday May 14, 2006

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	36	70	51	-2	93	+35	9	+9	1.56	+0.69	4	2.90	-0.70	11
Bangor Intl_Arp	31	71	53	+2	88	+49	4	+4	0.92	+0.08	4	3.00	-0.19	13
Bethel	30	69	49	-4	65	+21	2	+2	2.73	+1.94	5	4.09	+0.78	11
Caribou Municip	31	73	53	+4	75	+48	3	+3	0.22	-0.48	4	1.56	-0.98	14
Dover-Foxcroft	31	64	47	-4	26	-2	0	+0	0.78	-0.02	3	1.92	-1.40	8
Frenchville	31	72	52	+5	61	+45	0	+0	0.19	-0.51	3	1.54	-1.12	12
Houlton	26	72	51	+2	70	+43	2	+2	0.67	-0.10	3	2.82	+0.05	13
Livermore_Falls	28	70	51	+1	69	+41	3	+3	2.25	+1.41	5	3.06	-0.45	11
Moosehead	25	69	49	+3	19	+9	0	+0	0.70	-0.07	4	2.33	-0.69	14
Portland_ME	35	64	49	-3	75	+40	5	+5	4.90	+4.06	5	9.43	+5.81	11
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>														
Benton	31	72	53	+1	72	+11	3	-1	2.46	+1.70	2	4.36	+1.55	11
Berlin_AG	29	68	50	-2	60	+11	2	+2	1.43	+0.66	5	2.26	-0.94	11
Concord	32	67	52	-3	143	+74	13	+10	3.16	+2.46	4	5.86	+3.06	10
Diamond Pond	28	64	47	+2	19	+3	0	+0	0.64	-0.20	5	2.64	-0.50	14
Keene_AP	34	70	53	-4	124	+21	8	-3	2.28	+1.44	3	3.89	+0.67	7
North_Conway	33	68	51	-2	95	+39	4	+3	3.31	+2.40	5	5.55	+1.78	13
Rochester	35	65	50	-6	112	+29	2	-4	7.12	+6.21	5	10.67	+6.82	12
<b>VERMONT</b>														
Burlington Intl	35	74	59	+5	178	+85	34	+23	1.05	+0.35	3	2.69	-0.03	11
Island Pond	29	69	54	+5	65	+32	1	+1	0.22	-0.57	2	1.68	-1.18	13
Montpelier	31	70	55	+4	124	+66	9	+6	2.03	+1.33	2	3.64	+1.10	11
Pownal	35	70	54	+2	107	+43	4	-2	2.32	+1.32	5	4.42	+0.28	11
Rochester	31	71	52	+2	66	+15	5	+5	1.53	+0.55	4	3.58	-0.22	11
Rutland_AG	33	71	54	-2	109	-7	5	-11	0.45	-0.32	2	1.73	-1.10	8
Springfield_VT	31	69	53	+1	121	+55	5	+0	3.44	+2.53	5	5.35	+1.71	9
Sutton	30	68	52	+4	63	+34	1	+1	1.48	+0.71	3	3.46	+0.54	13
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>														
Boston/Logan_In	46	61	50	-7	149	+29	17	+15	6.89	+6.12	5	8.96	+5.74	13
Fitchburg	38	67	52	-2	157	+105	19	+19	3.34	+2.57	5	5.20	+2.03	12
Greenfield	36	72	54	-4	131	+11	7	-2	2.97	+2.13	4	5.91	+2.46	13
New_Bedford	35	65	54	-4	110	-13	5	+2	3.84	+3.00	5	6.56	+2.99	12
Otis_AFB	36	63	52	-2	91	+37	5	+5	2.25	+1.41	3	3.34	-0.20	10
Plymouth	29	60	50	-4	93	+31	3	+3	4.52	+3.61	5	6.69	+2.83	14
Walpole	37	67	51	-5	131	+44	10	+8	3.80	+3.03	5	6.41	+2.87	13
Chicopee/Westov	38	72	55	-5	176	+0	10	-9	2.11	+1.20	5	4.41	+0.77	11
Worthington	33	67	51	-3	77	+18	4	+3	2.58	+1.53	5	5.16	+1.07	11
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>														
Providence	42	67	55	-2	200	+99	17	+17	3.77	+2.93	4	6.60	+2.97	11
Woonsocket	39	67	52	-4	136	+53	9	+9	3.50	+2.59	5	5.73	+1.90	14
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>														
Bridgeport/Siko	49	63	55	-2	206	+76	17	+6	3.08	+2.17	4	9.18	+5.54	10
Hartford/Bradle	41	71	56	-3	235	+81	28	+10	3.83	+2.90	5	6.44	+2.78	10
Norfolk	39	65	53	+1	107	+52	5	+5	4.18	+3.18	5	8.19	+4.04	11
Thomaston_Dam	40	68	55	+0	158	+60	7	+0	2.75	+1.72	5	7.70	+3.60	11
Willimantic	41	68	55	+0	187	+91	9	+3	3.39	+2.41	5	5.74	+1.82	12

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, May 14, 2006

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	L	HI	AV	DF	LO	HI
ME	24	75	50	-1	0.10	7.17
NH	24	78	51	-2	0.06	7.12
VT	25	76	54	+2	0.22	3.44
MA	28	74	52	-3	1.14	7.87
RI	39	67	53	-2	3.26	3.77
CT	35	77	55	-1	2.54	4.18

**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 rain, five to six inches fell Friday. Many low lying fields were under water. In recently planted field corn and vegetable fields, fertilizer leached out because of the heavy rains. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Very wet week. Some continued to plant field corn, sweet corn, green beans, and cole crops. Some reports of flooding in the normal low places along rivers and streams. Just some more agony for our struggling farmers. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Excessive rain has created ponding in fields where sweet corn and field corn has emerged. Fifteen per cent losses have been reported. Planting was ahead, now behind due to the rain. Grass is ready to be chopped, but fields are too wet. Producers with greenhouses report 25% behind in sales, plants post peak and molding occurring. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Cool, wet weather, light showers to heavy rain six days this week. Asparagus slow to grow. Can't put in hay, slowed field work to a crawl. Concern with moisture related disease problems. Bedding plant sales beginning. Concern with erosion potential on freshly harrowed fields. Pollination activity limited. These showers should have been in April. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** RAIN...Farms planted a little more corn early in the week. Then the rains came again. Orchard grass is heading out, at 12-18 inches not the normal 30-36 inches. First cut tonnage will be low - when we finally dry out enough to get back in the fields to get it!

**MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Good weather most for the week found growers in the fields planting their crops with little lost time with occasional light showers. Soil conditions are very good for planting. Some of the early small grains have emerged. Also some growers moving last year's potato crop to processors. Soil continues to dry out well with very little moisture from showers. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Farmers are continuing to plant grains and potatoes. Hopefully rain holds off this week so that planting can continue. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Farmers busy trying to work with the weather. **Janet King (FSA), Somerset:** Corn is being planted, some of our alfalfa fields were destroyed by winter kill. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Early planted corn is starting to poke through. We avoided all the bad weather and things are actually a little dry for this time of year. Lots of crop work being done. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** More bees placed in blueberry fields this week. A cool, wet week prevented most farm activities. A dry weekend meant good business for greenhouses and farmstands as people were out enjoying the sunny weather. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Second application of fungicide applied to prevent mummy berry disease. Bees being brought into the field for pollination. Crop is about 1 week ahead of normal. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** York County has received 7-12 inches of rain in over the weekend. Fields near streams are flooded. Significant erosion is expected once the water recedes. Early potatoes, sweet corn, and peas may be lost. Strawberries may have disease problems. Orchards are having trouble spraying and are very concerned about pollination. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Farmers in Western Maine report the earliest planting season that they can remember which may be a mixed blessing. Excessive rainfall has now saturated some fields and some plantings have standing water on them. More rain is on the way. The situation will need to be watched closely for damaged land and planting losses. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Oxford County producers have reported that they have received several inches of rain over the past week. Some fields have standing water. Over 500 acres of grain corn has been planted so far and at least 50% of the potato crop has been planted. Pastures are now soggy and wet. Some producers stated that this is the earliest season thus far that they have been able to plant so much of their acreage before May 1st.

**MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire:** The Berkshires had persistent rain for the last half of the week. We now have exceeded last year's total precipitation for the month of May with more predicted for the coming week. Pastures are muddy with areas of standing water. Fields are inaccessible for equipment at the moment but hay fields are looking promising. Below average temperatures and above average rain have orchardists worried about pollination. Farmers markets have

started up with annuals, veggies and herbs. **Jason Otto (FSA), Bristol:** Rain, Rain, Rain. Four-plus inches over the past few days. Field work is at a standstill. Mother's Day weekend was a washout. **Ted Smiarowski (FSA) Franklin/Hampshire/Hampden:** Crop conditions are very wet with the three plus inches of rainfall from Thursday-Sunday. Vegetable growers are harvesting spinach and asparagus. Flowers and vegetable plants are also being sold at roadside stands and farmers markets. Early sweet corn and potatoes are up and out of the ground. Planting dairy farmers are planting fieldcorn and spreading manure. Orchardists are applying a protective fungicide spray to their crop. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** Spring? More like late fall. Cold, wet. Just awful. Hanging basket sales for Mom's Day in the toilet. Worst retail week ever. More applications of corn herbicide going to be required. Only positive news is hay and strawberries like this weather. Cut flower sales strong. **Carolyn DeMoranville, Plymouth:** Cool and cloudy all week. Heavy rain over the weekend, just over four inches by Monday morning with more on the way. **Frank Himmelstein (Ext), New London:** Field work at a standstill. Will be several weeks before field conditions improve to work. Fear of corn planted will need to be re-planted.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap:** Apple trees and blueberries are blooming. Hopefully there will be a break in the rainy weather so pollination can happen. Many early vegetable crops are planted. **Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll:** Rain daily since Tuesday in most parts of the county. Rainfall totals high in southern sections with lesser amounts in the northern sections. Planting and spreading activities continue as weather and soil conditions allow. Most fruit trees at or near full bloom, still not many pollinators evident. Pasture and hay fields are growing well. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Overcast much of the week and a thorough soaking over the weekend, though we've been spared the flooding that hit much of the state. Planting is delayed as all ground is too wet and a number of fields have standing water, but farms able to make a lot of progress planting corn until rain hit. Grass is growing well - just starting to see a few orchardgrass heads peeking out here and there. Vegetable operations able to make good progress with planting, and salad greens and radishes making appearances for opening day of farmers' markets. Apple and blueberries in full bloom. Greenhouses doing a brisk business over the weekend despite the rain. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Some scattered rains but for the most part a generally dry week suitable for most farm activities. We've thankfully missed the heavy storms occurring in southern NH and were able to get much of the field corn in; others worked up land in preparation for planting. Strong winds during the later part of the week. Some early vegetable planting, laying of plastic mulch, high tunnel prep as well. Emerald green meadows growing well, animals being pastured. Quite an early season, especially in comparison to 2005. Ticks the only pest of consequence thus far. Cool, windy, cloudy weather made for less than ideal conditions for Mother's Day openings at garden centers and nurseries. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Corn planting at full throttle all week. Rain late in the week helped improve soil moisture conditions. Grass and alfalfa growing well and should be better with the rainfall. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** We went from one end of the spectrum to the other in terms of soil moisture. Top soil conditions were dry earlier in the week, and are now very wet. There are concerns with flooding and potential problems in fields that were recently planted. Time will tell. Some apple growers are concerned about pollination problems. Some orchards were in full bloom. The bees don't fly in cool rainy conditions. Other growers reported that some varieties in their location had not yet reached full bloom and may do OK if sun and warm weather arrive in time. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Very rainy week causing farmers to slow down planting crops and doing field work. Overall, plant growth slowed down because of cool damp weather. Vegetables: Harvesting asparagus and rhubarb. Growers making successive plantings of sweet corn and planting potato and other early season vegetable crops. Weed spraying planted sweet corn fields. Fruit: Orchardists made sure to have protective fungicide sprays applied with off and on rain showers. Blueberries will soon be blooming. Peaches are well past petal fall stage. Apples were at petal fall. Some winter seen on raspberries. Field Crops: Farmers spreading manure, plowing, disking, fertilizing and planting corn on fields. Grasses and forage crops growing slowly.

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**RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport:** Plenty of rain and not much field work being done. Concerned about lack of bee activity for apples etc. as more than four inches of rain fall. Some minor erosion of fields, nothing to worry about. Field crops look great and thriving. Waiting to get the rest of the summer vegetables in the ground and customers for road side stands.

**VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille:** This area escaped the heavy rains that affected southern New England but we received enough to help grass growth for pastures and 1st cut. Most animals are out on pasture now. Corn planting has been progressing steadily. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Corn planting has begun. It was a good week to work the fields. Most fields are dry enough now for equipment. Starting to see a lot of cows out to pasture as well. The warm temperatures have given the pastures an early push. **Terence Bradshaw, Univ of Vermont:** Very good weather early in the week for pollination of open blossoms. Late blooming trees may have seen some pollen wash after rains arrived Friday 5/12. Good weather for spray coverage on 5/10-11. Wet weather over weekend offered a significant scab infection period with possibility of fungicide residue wash-off locally due to amount of precipitation. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Planting early sweet corn and peas. Plowing under nice crop of winter rye. Finished planting potatoes. Rain 0.1082 inches. We need a good rain. Asparagus doing real good. Small early vegetable crops begin to show in the rows.

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