



New England Agricultural Statistics



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A field office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service
United States Department of Agriculture

Volume 26, Number 10

Crop Weather

(Issued weekly on the internet, May – October)

July 3, 2006 – 4 pm

For week ending 7/2/06

Wet Conditions Continue

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending July 2, 2006, there were 4.4 days available for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture: 49% adequate, 51% surplus. Subsoil moisture: 56% adequate, 44% surplus. Pasture condition: 4% poor, 8% fair, 58% good, and 30% excellent. Rainy conditions hindered farm work early in the week as more rain fell on the region. By Saturday, clear skies arrived and remained through the weekend in southern regions. On Sunday, in northern New England, more rain showers limited field work.

FRUIT: Strawberry harvest passed over the midway point at week's end with 55 percent of the crop picked. Some operations were closed due to poor berry and field conditions. Heavy amounts of rainfall have caused strawberry conditions to vary from poor to good in Connecticut, good to excellent in New Hampshire and good to fair elsewhere. Highbush blueberry harvest was underway and earlier than normal with five percent picked. Peach growers were busy preparing orchards for the upcoming harvest. Recent rain and warm conditions have caused concerns for apple growers with scabbing and drops. Cranberry bloom has reached its peak, with most of the crop in full bloom. Heavy rains have supplied plenty of water for reservoirs, but caused high insect pressures.

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	- Percent Harvested -			Fruit Size	Condition
	2006	2005	5-yr Avg		
Apples				Average	Good/Fair
Peaches				Average	Good/Fair
Pears				Average	Good/Fair
Blueberries					
Highbush	5			Average	Good
Wild, ME				Average	Good
Cranberries, MA					Good/Fair
Strawberries	55	60	60	Average	Fair/Good

VEGETABLES: Rainy conditions and wet fields hindered vegetable growers from finishing plantings. However, favorable weekend weather provided ideal conditions for buyers to purchase merchandise from greenhouses and farmstands. Sweet corn conditions varied throughout the region from good to poor in Connecticut to good to fair elsewhere. Crops harvested included: greens, lettuce, peas, radishes, summer squash, and tomatoes. Growers continued to side dress fields with fertilizer, cultivating, mowing weeds, and scouting and monitoring for cabbageworm, cabbage root maggot, cucumber beetles, European corn borer, and flea beetles.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
	-- Percent --		
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	0	5
Short	0	0	14
Adequate	49	60	72
Surplus	51	40	9
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	0	4
Short	0	0	11
Adequate	56	62	75
Surplus	44	38	10

FIELD CROPS: Wet conditions continued to hinder field work. Farmers continued to replant field corn on dry soils. Field corn already planted and emerged continues to grow. First cutting of hay finally reached the halfway point at week's end. Recent heavy rains have caused conditions to vary throughout the region from very poor to good in Vermont, poor to good in Maine, and fair to good elsewhere. Maine oats and barley conditions were both good to excellent. Maine potatoes continued to grow well with warm temperatures and frequent showers, however, some concerns with the impact on nitrogen from the amount of rainfall received. Potato growers in Massachusetts and Rhode Island were busy applying fungicides and insecticides. Broadleaf tobacco growers finished planting at week's end but hail storms in the Connecticut River Valley damaged some of the crop. Shade tobacco conditions were fair in Connecticut and good in Massachusetts.

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2006	2005	5-yr Avg	Condition
	--Percent Planted--			
Silage Corn	95	99	95	Fair/Good
Sweet Corn	90	95	95	Good/Fair
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	100	99	95	Good
	--Percent Emerged--			
Potatoes				
Maine	99	99	99	Good/Excellent
Mass	100	100	100	Good
Silage Corn	85	90	90	
Sweet Corn	85	85	90	
	--Percent Harvested--			
Barley, ME				Good/Excellent
Oats, ME				Good/Excellent
Tobacco				
Shade				Fair/Good
Dry Hay				
First Cut	50	75	75	Fair/Good

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

For the Period: Monday June 26, 2006
To: Sunday July 2, 2006

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				CUM SINCE MAR 1 GROWING DEGREE DAYS				1-WEEK PRECIP			4-WEEK CUM PRECIP		
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	BASE-50F TOT	DFN	BASE-60F TOT	DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS
MAINE														
Augusta_State_A	55	79	69	+2	748	+115	266	+105	1.30	+0.55	6	5.60	+2.54	19
Bangor_Intl_Arp	52	80	68	+3	735	+180	243	+121	0.93	+0.16	7	5.99	+2.91	21
Bethel	55	82	68	+3	658	+87	219	+91	2.49	+1.61	6	7.99	+4.32	19
Caribou_Municip	47	83	69	+5	654	+207	190	+116	1.81	+1.05	5	4.22	+1.48	16
Dover-Foxcroft	49	80	66	+3	517	+56	152	+73	1.35	+0.51	5	5.78	+2.33	16
Frenchville	45	80	66	+4	581	+178	157	+100	1.34	+0.57	5	6.21	+3.27	16
Houlton	48	82	70	+6	659	+201	203	+123	0.58	-0.19	6	4.87	+1.79	18
Livermore_Falls	48	81	69	+5	692	+226	232	+151	1.94	+1.05	6	6.73	+2.92	18
Moosehead	51	81	66	+5	492	+132	141	+97	1.41	+0.44	6	5.58	+1.88	18
Portland_ME	57	82	69	+4	702	+167	233	+124	0.75	-0.02	3	6.19	+2.97	12
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	50	82	67	+3	598	+42	192	+80	2.28	+1.44	6	6.79	+3.26	18
Berlin_AG	53	83	68	+4	631	+86	204	+90	2.62	+1.71	5	6.75	+2.93	19
Concord	50	86	72	+5	869	+205	341	+161	1.37	+0.66	4	5.89	+2.93	16
Diamond_Pond	50	79	64	+4	411	+92	104	+79	3.01	+1.96	6	7.92	+3.61	19
Keene_AP	50	84	71	+2	780	-5	284	+34	1.33	+0.49	4	3.65	+0.29	17
North_Conway	51	84	69	+3	743	+131	261	+108	3.09	+2.18	6	6.88	+3.17	18
Rochester	53	82	70	+3	771	+49	274	+61	0.60	-0.19	2	5.10	+1.83	13
VERMONT														
Burlington_Intl	57	84	71	+4	903	+164	352	+125	2.75	+1.92	7	6.28	+3.01	16
Island_Pond	51	82	67	+6	595	+170	178	+108	4.39	+3.41	7	7.72	+3.74	19
Montpelier	48	83	69	+5	743	+189	246	+123	3.57	+2.83	7	7.51	+4.31	17
Pownal	52	80	68	+4	688	+114	221	+92	2.37	+1.37	5	5.27	+1.05	18
Rochester	49	85	67	+3	631	+99	197	+84	4.82	+3.98	7	8.34	+4.87	19
Rutland_AG	49	85	70	+2	740	-51	255	+2	2.48	+1.64	7	4.19	+0.83	17
Springfield_VT	49	85	70	+5	782	+173	279	+134	4.34	+3.49	5	7.52	+3.94	14
Sutton	50	81	66	+4	553	+128	157	+84	4.06	+3.08	7	7.53	+3.55	21
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	62	85	73	+3	947	+76	381	+89	1.05	+0.35	3	7.25	+4.36	14
Fitchburg	58	84	73	+8	937	+350	390	+253	1.19	+0.35	3	8.05	+4.69	13
Greenfield	53	84	71	+2	836	-14	310	+25	2.62	+1.76	5	5.35	+1.80	20
New_Bedford	56	81	72	+2	824	-31	294	+20	0.34	-0.41	3	9.01	+5.71	15
Otis_AFB	63	79	71	+4	803	+171	279	+119	0.47	-0.23	3	10.33	+7.35	13
Plymouth	56	83	72	+4	813	+136	306	+116	1.03	+0.26	3	10.21	+7.02	16
Walpole	57	84	72	+5	879	+148	349	+134	0.97	+0.13	3	8.44	+4.96	14
Chicopee/Westov	53	84	72	+0	897	-101	327	-43	2.41	+1.50	4	4.06	+0.29	14
Worthington	53	80	69	+4	672	+91	235	+104	2.46	+1.55	5	6.19	+2.58	17
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	62	83	73	+3	1010	+201	382	+122	1.04	+0.29	3	7.50	+4.44	14
Woonsocket	56	84	72	+5	878	+158	341	+143	0.91	+0.00	4	9.04	+5.28	16
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	61	83	73	+3	1013	+131	367	+59	0.46	-0.38	3	3.48	+0.26	12
Hartford/Bradle	58	86	74	+3	1057	+104	426	+75	2.14	+1.34	4	7.13	+3.68	14
Norfolk	54	81	69	+4	719	+141	259	+129	3.29	+2.27	5	6.42	+2.14	14
Thomaston_Dam	56	83	72	+5	890	+158	327	+119	2.35	+1.44	5	7.53	+3.75	17
Willimantic	56	83	73	+5	956	+214	366	+153	1.62	+0.71	3	6.80	+3.29	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, July 2, 2006

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	L	HI	AV	DF	LO	HI
ME	41	84	68	+3	0.49	3.62
NH	39	90	68	+4	0.60	4.61
VT	44	88	68	+4	2.12	5.15
MA	49	86	71	+4	0.26	3.40
RI	56	84	72	+4	0.53	1.04
CT	53	87	72	+3	0.14	3.29

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: The rain never stops. Field corn has died in low spots in the fields. Vegetable farmers are finding it impossible to get their crops in. It is very difficult to make dry hay. **Jude Boucher (Ext), Tolland:** Ten to 12 inches of rain in Tolland last Friday-Monday. Other towns three to five inches. More rain or scattered downpours throughout the week, with up to three inches at a time (i.e. 6/29 Somers, CT). A couple of semi-sunny days to work, if growers could get into the fields (too much mud). Everyone has run out of dry ground to plant. Weeds rule! The vegetable growers say..."it has never been this bad before!" **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Farmers were generally kept out of fields due to wet soil conditions early in the week. Turf and tobacco producers were pumping water off fields. Vegetable farmers were draining fields by hand or any others means to keep water from ponding. Thunder storms came with hail and destroyed broad leaf tobacco in isolated areas on Thursday. Friday thru the weekend it was dry and hot and some fields dried out to start cultivating again. Sweet corn is now being harvested and available at farm stands. Blueberry and peach harvest started. **Frank Himmelstein (Ext), New London:** The sun finally reappeared on Wednesday after soaking rains earlier in the week added to existing waterlogged fields. Corn planted earlier in the week emerged nicely where water was not standing from rains that occurred 24 hours after planting. Some fields are still not planted. With unpredictable weather forecasts this week, the few growers that mowed hay later in the week despite the forecasts, did manage to dry some hay to be made into square and round bales. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Producers are busily trying to catch up - replanting numerous silage corn, sweet corn and vegetables. Planting expenses are up due to additional fertilizer and spraying. First cutting hay is almost non-existent and will be done in combination with second cutting. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Heavy rains again, some fields have little chance of drying to plant or replant to corn in time. One farmer said he'll spray round up when the tide goes out. Hay, what hay(?), tough to dry. Strawberries started late but were great till humid + wet = conditions for mold and mushy berries. Apples are still doing June drop with concerns that production might be lighter. Higher value apples on the light side. Lightning burned out control for irrigation system, a pig hit and killed on another farm. Can't even walk in vegetable beds, mulch plastic edging washed away. Try to re-edge and just sink into fields. Rain measurement from May 9th at 15.5" in southern part of county and 25.5" in northern part of county. Mosquitoes also discourage pick your own and garden work. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** Another rainy weekend, early and mid-week has continued to wreck havoc with the fruit and vegetable crops. Strawberries in particular have suffered badly with the wet weather and the 1st cutting of hay has been ruined. Field corn is showing some improvement but sunny weather would make everything and everyone feel better.

MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook: Potatoes and small grains: Growers busy hilling potatoes, applying fungicides and checking fields for European Corn Borer and Colorado Potato Beetles. All crops continue to grow rapidly, everything appears to be ahead of normal. Some tuber initiation in potato fields. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Hilling and cultivating; fungicide and insecticide applications. The crop appears to be in excellent condition and growing rapidly. No late blight reported. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Farmers trying to finish cultivating. Some corn borer activity and spraying in areas. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis:** Farmers were able to get the rest of their planting in this week. Haying has been a challenge with periodic rains. Heavy rains over the weekend have made many fields too wet to drive in. Some strawberry fields have closed while others still have very good picking. The rain has kept some of the pickers away from the U-Pick berry patches. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Wet weather

continues to curtail any field work. Some haylage was harvested last week, but not much. Very little dry hay is in the barn. Strawberries are rotting in the field due to bad weather. Some corn being replanted. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Row crops are still not entirely planted due to the rain. This area had over ten inches of rainfall during the month of June. Silage corn is finally in the ground. The constant rain has caused heavy weed growth, especially milkweed and even poison ivy. Nitrogen fertilizer has leached out of the soil. Sweet corn had to be re-planted due to poor germination. The weekend was mostly sunny but showers both days. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** The area has had nine days of clear weather in June. Where farmers have cut hay the fields are rutted up. The hay left standing is becoming poor quality. There is a significant amount prevented planting of vegetables and silage corn. Producers are not happy! **Gary Raymond (FSA), Androscoggin/Franklin:** Farmers can do some field work but haying is very difficult because it has been raining almost EVERY day. Row crops will need a boost of fertilizer to make up for leaching of nutrients caused by the excessive rainfall. **Laura Rand (FSA), Androscoggin:** Wet conditions have made it difficult getting into fields to harvest hay resulting in decreased quality. Corn and potatoes coming along. Strawberries and some veggies ready. **Guy Piper (FSA), Kennebec:** On 6-30-2006 an apple orchard in Vassalboro 35+/- acres was hit by hail up to half inch in size. Some apples took up to 5+/- hits. The entire orchard was hit by hail. The producer thinks a 50 % plus loss. He has a few peach trees that were also hit. The producer's apples were coming along good until the hail hit. This is not a good hay year, some farmers still cannot get on their fields it is so wet. On silage corn some farmers still have not been able to plant, some have had to re-plant.

MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: As acreage is being reported, folks have failed plantings and second plantings because of wet conditions. More haylage was made this week, but over mature 1st cut baling is a bust. Farmers cryptically report making "good mulch hay". All field crops are behind. There was a heavy drop of cherries reported due to surplus rain. Strawberry picking season started last week. We finally had a sunny Saturday so farmers markets and stands had some business. Maples are refoliating after the caterpillar invasion. The wet year is actually helping the trees to recoup. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Cranberry bloom is at its peak. Very good bloom everywhere, and pollination weather has been good recently. Growers are applying their second fruit rot fungicides and their first fruitworm insecticides. Insect pressures continue to be high. Dodder started slowly, but has gotten serious in some beds. Some areas received five to six inches of rain last weekend. Plenty of water in the reservoirs. **Jason Otto (FSA), Bristol:** This week was a little better for field work. There is still a lot of unplanted land covered in water. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Franklin/Hampshire/Hampden:** Hot, humid and rainy week. Dairy farmers are having a very difficult time harvesting their hay due to water logged fields and rainy weather. Fungicides and insecticides are being applied to control crop diseases and insects. Vegetable growers are scouting for European Corn Borer, Cabbage Root Maggot, cabbageworm, flea beetles and cucumber beetles. Harvesting strawberries, lettuce, radishes, greens, peas and summer squash. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** And yet another challenging week. Strong winds, pop-up thunderstorms, and high heat and humidity made u-pick strawberry fruit cook or rot on plants. The strawberry season here pretty much over. Fungicide applications on going along with weed control in corn. Corn not even close to knee high, best fields just below. Most of good hay cut this week now mulch due to rains. As a farmer this one very tough year.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap: Apple scab in many places. Spots showing up this week are probably from a

mid-June infection. Blueberry fruit set looks good. Strawberry harvest is going strong. Fruit set and berry size are good. Some people are still waiting for fields to dry enough to get a first cut of hay done. Vegetable fields are a wet mess in many places. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** More rainy days and a little bit of hail, but a few dry, sunny days too. Still seeing lots of standing water in fields, even in places that are pretty well-drained. Field corn looks pretty good overall - plenty of it is knee-high or better...then again, there are plenty spots where you sink up to your ankles. Harvesting hay crops still challenging - very few windows of more than one day without rain. Some farms still working on first cutting haylage, Very little first cutting hay in the barn. Some farms ready for second cutting. PYO strawberries in full swing, and blueberries and raspberries will be ready in another week or two. Farm stands selling high tunnel tomatoes, greens and radishes, but other crops are delayed with weather. Apple crop appears decent, but a little light, many orchards struggling to keep up with diseases. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Rain and more rain. Uncut grasses headed out, some being just cut and removed, not much hay going into storage compared with last year. Going to be difficult to catch up. Manure spreading as possible. Field corn on some earlier planted fields about right time for soil nitrate testing. Flooded corn ground, areas still sodden, not so good. Apple scab common this year. Expecting other fungal problems. Growing degree days at 665. Need sunny weather to get plants growing! **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** The last week of June was another wet one, over four inches of rain came down at my location. There are still some corn fields that are too wet to plant. The heavier soils are still not accessible to haying equipment on a lot of farms. Many farmers are haying around the wet spots. Not much dry hay has been produced. Farmers have generally chopped or made round bale haylage. I saw some fields last week where most of the seed rotted in the ground due to the wet/cool spring conditions. Farmers were still unable to replant these areas due to wet soil conditions. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Vegetables: Growers continued harvesting early season vegetables such as lettuce, greens, radishes, peas. Growers busy trying to side dressing fields with fertilizer, cultivating, mowing weeds, scouting for pests and spraying if needed. Fruit: Fruit growers monitoring pest and crop development and applying sprays for pest control, apple scab can

be seen in most orchards. Also, growers are training young fruit trees along with mowing orchard floor. Strawberry harvest is nearly over (80% harvest) and getting ready to renovate harvested beds. Hot and warm during last week of June ripened strawberry crop quickly and pick-your-own operations needed more customers to keep up with the ripening crop (some crop loss occurred). Sweet cherry harvest is under way. Field Crops: Farmers continued to bale hay or make haylage at a faster rate between showers. Growers are side-dressing fertilizer to field corn if needed. **Sadie Puglisi (Ext), Merrimack:** Strawberries being harvested. PYO operations taking advantage of the nice sunny days. Some high tunnel tomatoes are ripening. Peas, zucchini and summer squash are available at farm stands and farmer's markets. Most have caught up from the rainy spring, but some fields are still drying out.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: Struggling with hay, between the rain, fog and soggy ground it's been more than a chore. Some field corn still under water and the rain has affected some germination. Strawberries have been affected by fog and wet weather, PYO's still in operation. Applying fungicides, weather permitting along with pesticides. Roadside stands are still full of flowers and hoping the holiday week will bring better sales.

VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille: We received 4.5 inches of rain last week with hardly a day that didn't produce at least some rain. This repetitive rain syndrome is creating a lot of ruts in fields where haylage was harvested. The good news is that we do have a fair amount of corn that is knee high. Pea crop is ready for harvest at farm stands. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Another wet week has put farmers further behind. There is still a lot of first cut hay still standing. Reports are that the hay quality is very poor. Our one strawberry producer has reported that the fruit is average in yield but the taste of the berry is not very sweet. Lack of sunlight has probably caused lower sugar content in the berries. The ground is very wet and there was some localized flooding this past week. Most farmers are having trouble with mud trying to harvest. Pastures are doing well but some farmers have stopped grazing due to the mud. The corn is short and yellow in color. In some fields the corn did not germinate. In other corn fields the germination was spotty.

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