



New England Agricultural Statistics



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Crop Weather

(Issued weekly on the internet, May – October)

July 24, 2006 – 4 pm

For week ending 7/23/06

Hazy, Hot and Humid

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending July 23, 2006, there were 5.8 days available for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture: 3% very short, 4% short, 77% adequate, 16% surplus. Subsoil moisture: 82% adequate, 18% surplus. Pasture condition: 2% very poor, 3% poor, 21% fair, 48% good, 26% excellent. Hot and humid weather dominated weather patterns for most of the week, with temperatures rising above the 90 degree mark across most of the region on Monday and Tuesday. Friday and Saturday saw significant rainfall as the remnants of Tropical Storm Beryl caused some heavy downpours and localized flash flooding, high wind, and hail. Skies began to clear on Sunday afternoon. Pasture quality varied, with some areas showing slow regrowth, and others still under water. Soil moisture has helped some crops grow well, but has limited access to many fields.

FRUIT: Strawberry harvest completed this week; growers spent the week renovating strawberry beds. Highbush blueberries, raspberries and cherries continued to be harvested. Growers reported that the blueberry quality was good, with only moderate levels of mummy berry found. Maine wild blueberry harvest is expected to start in mid-coast Maine this week, with a better than average crop expected. Cranberry bloom completed this week; growers applied final insecticides for fruit worm control and fertilizer for fruit sizing. Early apples, peaches, and plums were ready for market in southern parts of the region this week. Some severe storms caused damage to apples and wild blueberries in Maine.

VEGETABLES: Farm stands did a brisk business with summer vegetables this week, including cucumbers, summer squash, beets, radishes, high tunnel tomatoes, spinach, lettuce, and other greens. Sweet corn harvest started this week, but sweet corn production remains behind schedule. Growers expressed concern that the week's high temperatures stressed the already stressed fall vegetable crops. Losses continued to be reported from this spring's cool, wet weather; some growers reported winter squashes were showing few or no blossoms having never germinated at all. Plantings for cool weather fall vegetables continued.

FIELD CROPS: The week's warm humid weather helped improve growth of silage corn. The development stage for field corn ranged across the region from just emerged to tasseling; however, growers in Connecticut report that the tallest corn was only seven feet tall and already tasseling. Hay producers were challenged to make dry hay as weather patterns allowed. The first cut of hay continued where needed, and the second cut began for some. Maine's small grains continued to be in good condition. Potato growers continued to apply fungicides and insecticides. Late blight was reported in Central Maine, as well as in Aroostook County; growers maintained a rigid spray schedule to keep outbreaks under control. Shade and field tobacco growers started to harvest their crop. Blue mold was discovered in Hampshire County, MA on one farm. All growers were asked to follow a strict fungicide spray program.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	3	0	3
Short	4	4	26
Adequate	77	75	67
Surplus	16	21	4
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	0	0	25
Adequate	82	76	71
Surplus	18	24	4

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	- Percent Harvested -			Fruit Size	Condition
	2006	2005	5-yr Avg		
Apples	-	-	-	Average	Good
Peaches	5	15	15	Average	Good/Fair
Pears	-	-	-	Average	Good
Blueberries					
Highbush	35	15	20	Avg/Above Avg	Good/Excellent
Wild, ME	-	-	-	Avg/ BelowAvg	Good
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-		Good/Fair
Strawberries	100	99	99	Average	Good

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2006	2005	5-yr Avg	Condition
--Percent Planted--				
Sweet Corn	100	99	100	Good/Fair
--Percent Emerged--				
Silage Corn	95	99	99	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	95	95	99	Good/Fair
--Percent Harvested--				
Barley, ME	-	-	-	Good/Excellent
Oats, ME	-	-	-	Good/Excellent
Potatoes				
Maine	-	-	-	Good/Excellent
Mass	-	-	-	Good/Excellent
Rhode Island	-	-	-	Good/Excellent
Sweet Corn	5	10	10	
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	-	-	-	Good
Shade	10	15	10	Fair/Good
Dry Hay				
First Cut	90	90	95	Good/Fair
Second Cut	25	35	40	Good/Excellent

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

For the Period: Monday July 17, 2006
To: Sunday July 23, 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														
Albion	52	91	72	+3	1112	+20	465	+78	2.61	+1.83	4	4.77	+1.66	12
Bangor Intl_Arp	56	88	73	+5	1215	+281	513	+221	2.11	+1.35	4	4.53	+1.46	17
Bethel	55	91	72	+4	1101	+153	452	+156	1.93	+1.16	4	6.89	+3.63	15
Caribou Municip	52	85	70	+5	1067	+295	393	+195	0.86	-0.06	4	5.49	+2.06	17
Dover-Foxcroft	53	89	70	+4	925	+117	350	+131	0.19	-0.59	4	3.37	+0.07	15
Frenchville	49	86	69	+4	971	+259	337	+170	0.68	-0.20	4	4.98	+1.67	16
Houlton	49	88	71	+5	1074	+276	408	+192	1.19	+0.35	3	3.53	+0.25	17
Livermore Falls	52	91	73	+7	1158	+354	488	+276	1.84	+1.07	4	4.70	+1.48	12
Moosehead	50	91	69	+4	888	+229	327	+180	0.78	-0.13	3	4.93	+1.23	15
Portland_ME	56	93	73	+5	1173	+251	494	+209	2.15	+1.45	4	5.93	+3.02	12
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	55	89	72	+5	1021	+124	405	+160	1.89	+1.12	2	6.70	+3.53	14
Berlin AG	55	90	72	+5	1058	+162	421	+161	1.04	+0.20	3	4.89	+1.46	11
Concord	53	93	75	+5	1361	+290	623	+246	1.68	+0.94	2	5.20	+2.35	10
Diamond Pond	51	83	69	+7	764	+184	247	+156	1.37	+0.32	5	5.98	+1.81	15
Keene AP	59	91	75	+4	1260	+42	554	+81	1.20	+0.36	2	3.89	+0.62	10
North Conway	58	92	73	+5	1204	+204	512	+181	2.39	+1.55	4	7.85	+4.42	16
Rochester	55	93	75	+5	1260	+118	553	+129	1.58	+0.81	2	5.24	+2.14	7
VERMONT														
Burlington Intl	60	92	76	+5	1413	+246	652	+207	0.67	-0.17	2	5.15	+1.88	12
Island Pond	55	88	72	+8	1005	+283	378	+213	0.77	-0.21	4	6.33	+2.49	18
Montpelier	58	90	73	+6	1186	+278	479	+210	1.95	+1.25	3	7.82	+4.99	13
Pownal	58	88	73	+6	1125	+191	448	+169	1.50	+0.59	2	6.72	+2.96	14
Rochester	57	91	72	+6	1058	+182	414	+163	1.45	+0.58	1	8.71	+5.32	11
Rutland AG	59	94	74	+4	1197	-18	502	+35	1.75	+0.84	1	6.21	+2.78	11
Springfield_VT	57	92	74	+6	1251	+269	538	+230	1.92	+1.11	1	9.46	+6.19	12
Sutton	55	90	72	+7	958	+226	352	+175	0.85	-0.13	4	6.56	+2.73	17
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	64	96	76	+3	1496	+134	720	+147	1.93	+1.30	4	4.34	+1.75	11
Fitchburg	57	94	77	+9	1468	+502	711	+403	0.54	-0.30	2	3.13	-0.23	10
Greenfield	60	93	76	+5	1335	+28	599	+67	1.28	+0.44	2	6.22	+2.83	15
New Bedford	64	92	77	+3	1328	-17	588	+36	0.61	-0.09	4	2.29	-0.49	11
Otis_AFB	63	86	74	+4	1282	+223	548	+173	0.73	+0.10	3	2.86	+0.25	10
Plymouth	64	94	76	+6	1331	+218	614	+199	0.48	-0.29	4	2.65	-0.43	12
Walpole	63	96	77	+6	1412	+245	672	+231	1.97	+1.20	4	3.93	+0.77	12
Chicopee/Westov	57	95	77	+3	1412	-90	632	-33	0.34	-0.45	1	4.18	+0.79	10
Worthington	56	91	73	+7	1126	+185	479	+197	0.47	-0.51	1	4.11	+0.29	10
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	65	96	79	+6	1569	+285	731	+208	0.78	+0.08	3	2.91	+0.06	11
Woonsocket	61	96	77	+6	1409	+261	662	+246	1.15	+0.31	4	2.67	-0.90	13
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	69	95	79	+5	1565	+192	709	+119	1.59	+0.75	4	3.97	+0.55	12
Hartford/Bradle	62	96	80	+6	1633	+184	792	+155	0.45	-0.25	2	3.38	+0.43	10
Norfolk	58	91	74	+7	1191	+246	521	+234	0.81	-0.10	2	4.89	+1.05	12
Thomaston Dam	63	94	77	+7	1409	+263	636	+224	1.16	+0.20	4	4.42	+0.73	13
Willimantic	62	95	78	+8	1497	+335	697	+273	1.31	+0.33	3	3.48	-0.27	13

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 23, 2006

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	L	HI	AV	DF	LO	HI
ME	47	95	71	+4	0.19	3.15
NH	45	97	73	+6	0.69	4.19
VT	49	96	73	+6	0.39	1.95
MA	53	96	75	+5	0.78	2.99
RI	61	96	77	+6	0.78	1.15
CT	58	97	77	+6	0.35	2.51

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

CONNECTICUT - Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland: Harvesting blueberries, sweet corn, summer squash, peas, garlic, and beans. Spot spraying field corn and topdressing with nitrogen. High heat pushed crops and made up for some of the cool days earlier in the growing season. A good amount of hay made. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Change in weather has permitted the harvesting of hay in previously wet fields. Field corn has really grown this week. Sweet corn ears still small. Everyone just trying to finish up planting & harvesting grass & hay. Some say they will do second & third cutting together. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Good blueberry picking, early apples, peaches, plums, tomatoes, squash, lettuce are ready for market, field corn is in sad state of affairs, the tallest corn is 7' and tasseling so that's it for growth, as late as 7/19 some farmers are still trying to plant for the first, second or third time. Fields with multiple plantings will be difficult to harvest, a lot of hay chopped or baled to be wrapped, too moist for much dry hay but farmers are working hard to get as much as they can in the barn. More heavy rains with high wind and hail hit this week bringing down a lot of trees, with one going into the roof of the Brooklyn Agricultural Center. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** The extremely high temperatures stressed the already stressed vegetable crops causing problems for peppers and summer squash. Still trying to make hay but intermittent showers are challenging producers. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Hay making is still trying to catch up. Field corn is beginning to tassel.

MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook: Potatoes and small grain: Growers continue to apply fungicides and insecticides, starting to bring out harvesting equipment, checking them out and making necessary repairs. No more late blight outbreaks reported. This is mostly due to the diligence of growers maintaining a rigid spray schedule. Soil moisture spotty with some areas having excessive moisture and other a little dry. Crops continue to look good and ahead of normal. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Still some late blight in central Aroostook area. Farmers are spraying accordingly to cover for that. Potato and grain crops look good. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis:** Haying continues. A few early planted corn fields have started to tassel. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Hay harvest was fast and furious as weather patterns allowed. Still some spotty rain caused headaches. Some severe storms caused hail damage to some fruits (apples). The corn crop finally is turning green as warm weather allows for soil mineralization of nitrogen from manure applications. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Haying early in the week came to a halt as thunder showers and heavy rain from Tropical storm "Beryl" soaked the area towards the end of the week. Blueberry harvest for roadside stands have begun but the processors won't begin until this week. We won't have to report about the blueberry crop drying up this year! Tuesday evening's thunder storms did severe damage to some sugar maples in the area. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries; Harvest expected to start in mid-coast this week. A better than average crop is expected. A few fields lost their crop from a severe hail storm. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Androscoggin/Franklin:** Plenty of hay coming in but the quality is going down. There is heavy under story growth. Second cut is excellent. The problem is harvesting between showers. Corn is mixed; good, bad & ugly depending on soil types and planting dates. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Oxford County received scattered showers with heavy winds through out the county last week.

Oxford County had heavy and steady rain on Saturday night. Hay still being harvested throughout the county. Some field corn looking good and some very spotty with poor weed control due to the wet weather. Still have some very wet crop fields. Sweet corn has been available throughout the county at local farm stands along with some cukes! We all welcome the sunshine.

MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: Five good field days with two days of serious rainfall 2-4" in some spots with localized flash flooding. Soil moisture is up again and crops are growing well. Markets suffered with bad weather on Friday and Saturday. Losses still being reported from this spring's cool and wet weather, mostly for winter squashes showing few or no blossoms or having never germinated at all. Summer vegetables are selling well and plantings for cool weather fall vegetables continue. Cherries are being harvested. Side dressing of crops continues. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Except for beds held with a late water flood in April, blossoms have come and gone, leaving set fruit in their places. Fruit set looks very good; the challenge now is for those berries to achieve good size, something that didn't happen in 2005. Growers are applying final insecticide for fruit worm control and fertilizers for fruit sizing. Dodder is beginning to go to flower, and other weeds are flourishing. Overall, as the bee hives depart, the weather for pollination was decent. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Franklin/Hampshire/Hampden:** The week was mostly very dry and humid and some farmers started to irrigate their crops. Then on the weekend we received heavy rains which most farmers were happy to see for the dry conditions. Shade and field tobacco growers started to harvest their crop and overall the crop looks good. Blue mold was discovered in Hampshire County on one farm. All growers are asked to follow a strict fungicide, spray program. Vegetable growers are harvesting summer squash, sweet corn, blueberries, greens, cabbage, beets, peas, cukes, radishes and beans. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** Nice hot week for corn, and insects too! Spraying for broad range insect coverage, and fungicide applications as well. Fall vine crops not looking too good right now, but there's time for catch-up but not much. That cool wet spring, really showing effects now. Many flower places having big sales to try and move all the inventory. Still harvesting summer crops (not corn yet), but the blueberries are delicious! 1st cut hay completed, welcome rain on Saturday.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap: Sweet corn harvest started this week. Blueberries, raspberries and all sorts of vegetables are being harvested. Lots of squash bugs and Japanese beetles around. Strawberry crops being renovated, now is the time for cyclamen mite control. Many calls about foliar diseases in ornamental crops. **Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll:** Hazy, Hot and Humid. A few good days to put hay into the barn, first cut continues where needed and second cut has begun for a lucky few. Blueberries look good, moderate levels of mummy berry found. Strawberry harvest was short and sweet! Farm stands doing a brisk business in Cukes, Summer squash, beets, radishes, High Tunnel tomatoes, spinach, lettuces, and other greens. Sweet corn behind schedule. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Hot and muggy most of the week, with some locally heavy rain over the weekend and clearing skies on Sunday afternoon. Field corn has begun to tassel and silk; looks pretty good overall. Second cutting continues; some progress on haylage/baleage, but it's still difficult making dry hay. First sweet corn of the season made it onto farm stands. Berry picking continues, with pretty good yields overall. A few

peaches being harvested here and there. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Growing degree days edge past the 1000 mark at Lancaster Station. Still rather hot and humid weather this week interspersed with heavy downpours throughout. Some dry hay going in however of not best quality. Meadows re-growing well. Field corn also looking better, just the beginning of tassels on earliest planted. High tunnel tomatoes start to ripen. Fungi diseases encouraged by wet conditions. Mosquitoes. High bush blueberries look good this year. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Weather continues to make drying hay difficult. Re-growth after second cut looks good due to rainfall. First and second cut hay still continuing where field access is not a problem. Heavy rains late in the week stopped much field work. Corn looks good in many fields but is very variable due to wetness. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** The week of July 16th was another wet one. We received nearly three inches of rain in one day. Total for some areas was over four inches for the week. Soils continue to be too wet to allow access on many fields. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Vegetables: Farmers kept busy harvesting, cultivating, hoeing weeds, monitoring pest pressures, spraying pesticides for insects and diseases - if needed. There is a very good demand for produce at most local farmers' markets and farm stands. Corn earworm and fall armyworm were caught in traps during the week. Growers harvesting an array of vegetables including: beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, cucumbers, greens, lettuce, potatoes, radishes, snap beans, summer squash and first sweet corn. Fruit: Blueberry harvest continued. First Peaches and raspberries were harvested. Orchardists are busy monitoring for pests, spraying if needed, and mowing orchard floors. Field Crops: Farmers making baled hay between showers. Silage corn is rapid growing. Second crop is looking good. **Sadie Puglisi (Ext), Merrimack:** Rain

this weekend didn't help the PYO Farms or those still trying to get in hay. Cool temperatures came in this weekend too. Some sweet corn will be ready to pick in a few days. Farm stands.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: A combination of weather that included rain, hail, gale force winds, 97 degree temperatures and humidity. In between this mess farmers did catch up on some field work, harvesting corn, beans, squash and summer vegetables. Some spraying is being done and some hay being picked up. Pastures are green but soggy and still some areas under water.

VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille: Last weeks weather was great for haying and gave a boost to most crops. The corn producers that applied nitrogen are seeing a growth spurt in their crops. Second cut of grass is looking very good. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Drier and hot weather has helped push corn growth. The corn is looking much better these days both in height and color. Germination was a little spotty which will effect overall yields. Almost all first cut hay has been harvested. The crop was high in yields but low in quality. Most farms have begun second cut hay. The crop looks good right now. The fields are drier as well, making harvest easier. Pastures are doing well for the time of year. Re-growth has slowed, beginning the mid summer slump. **Heather Darby (Ext), Franklin:** Corn has really perked up over the last week. The warm, humid weather was needed. Although some corn was showing signs of water stress at the end of the week. Corn is in all development stages from just emerged to tasseling. The rain over the weekend was well needed. Second cut has started over the last week. Small grains look good and should be harvest in the next few weeks. Pastures are holding on well. The plentiful moisture has kept them growing.

To receive this report every Monday evening, send an e-mail message to listserv@newsbox.usda.gov and in the body, type **subscribe usda-new-eng-crop-weather**

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