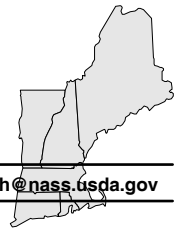




New England Agricultural Statistics



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August 21, 2006 – 4 pm

For week ending 8/20/06

A Dry Work Week, A Wet Weekend

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending August 20, 2006, there were 5.9 days available for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture: 4% short, 84% adequate, 12% surplus. Subsoil moisture: 2% short, 86% adequate, 12% surplus. Pasture condition: 1% poor, 23% fair, 59% good, 17% excellent. Morning showers early in the week gave way to drier, moderate weather through Friday. Farmers took full advantage of the week's dry conditions to harvest summer vegetable crops and make hay. Overcast and humid conditions returned by the weekend; showers and thunderstorms brought as much as four inches of rain to some areas on Saturday and Sunday. Although pastures and drier fields welcomed the weekend's wet weather, field work across most of the region came to a halt.

FRUIT: More highbush blueberries, raspberries, peaches, plums, and early apple varieties were harvested this week. Orchardists kept busy monitoring for pests, summer pruning trees, mowing orchard floors, fixing up orchard roads and moving bins into orchards. Strawberry producers cultivated and weeded newly renovated strawberry beds. Cranberry producers reported that the crop looks good in most areas, but some growers noticed spotty drought stress in vines from July's excessive heat. Maine's Wild Blueberry harvest is winding down in most areas of the state. Fruit size was reported to be very large on many fields because of the precipitation in August.

VEGETABLES: Fall vegetable producers reported that the rainy summer weather has taken its toll. Pollination is down considerably, and there were reports of outbreaks of mildew and fungus in both pumpkins and summer squash. Pepper producers in Connecticut and Rhode Island also saw some damage from disease. Growers kept busy monitoring pest pressures, irrigating where necessary, spraying pesticides for insect and disease control where needed. Farm stands across the region were full of a wide variety of vegetables this week including sweet corn, tomatoes, cucumbers, eggplant, beans, beets, carrots, and some peppers.

FIELD CROPS: This week's drier conditions kept hay producers busy this week, although morning dew and weekend rains were a challenge to those making dry hay. Second cutting was in full swing, with some producers starting a third cutting. First cut was nearly complete this week, with much of what remained going to mulch hay. Field corn continued to grow and mature with the quality ranging widely across the region. Many producers expressed concern that wetter areas of many fields will not recover from the wet spring conditions. Other growers noted that some early planted corn, as well as varieties planted in June, looks better. Tobacco harvest progressed well for both broadleaf and shade varieties, and Rhode Island potato producers began to harvest this week. Maine potato growers started to desiccate vines, and continued spraying to keep late blight under control. Small grain harvest in Northern Maine also continued this week.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	0	11
Short	4	9	49
Adequate	84	77	45
Surplus	12	14	0
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	0	8
Short	2	5	35
Adequate	86	82	55
Surplus	12	13	2

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	- Percent Harvested -			Fruit Size	Condition
	2006	2005	5-yr Avg		
Apples	5	<5	5	Average	Good/Fair
Peaches	40	45	50	Average	Good/Fair
Pears	5	5	<5	Average	Good/Fair
Blueberries					
Highbush	85	75	80	Avg/Above Avg	Good/Excellent
Wild, ME	90	75	65	Above Avg/ Avg	Good
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-	Average	Good

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	--Percent Harvested--			Condition
	2006	2005	5-yr Avg	
Barley, ME	25	-	10	Good/Excellent
Oats, ME	25	-	5	Good/Excellent
Potatoes				
Maine	-	-	-	Good/Excellent
Mass	<5	15	20	Good
Rhode Island	15	10	25	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	-	-	-	Fair/Good
Sweet Corn	55	55	50	Good/Excellent
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	60	65	60	Good/Fair
Shade	70	65	65	Good/Fair
Dry Hay				
First Cut	99	99	99	Poor/Fair
Second Cut	65	70	70	Good
Third Cut	10	20	20	Good

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

For the Period: Monday August 14, 2006
To: Sunday August 20, 2006

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				CUM SINCE MAR 1 GROWING DEGREE DAYS				1-WEEK PRECIP			4-WEEK CUM PRECIP		
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	BASE-50F		BASE-60F		TOTAL	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	INCHES			INCHES		
MAINE														
Albion	41	82	65	-5	1592	-41	678	+27	0.50	-0.34	2	6.32	+2.95	13
Bangor Intl_Arp	45	81	68	+2	1754	+313	775	+257	0.76	-0.01	2	4.98	+2.04	12
Bethel	44	83	66	-1	1593	+156	672	+167	0.31	-0.60	1	3.79	+0.25	8
Caribou Municip	47	80	64	+2	1502	+320	566	+229	0.94	+0.03	4	3.07	-0.70	17
Dover-Foxcroft	43	79	63	-3	1345	+85	503	+111	0.72	-0.12	2	2.55	-0.66	11
Frenchville	50	78	63	+2	1379	+281	487	+199	0.34	-0.64	4	3.64	-0.08	16
Houlton	43	81	64	+0	1518	+285	596	+221	0.59	-0.37	3	3.53	-0.16	16
Livermore Falls	41	83	65	+2	1641	+398	707	+333	0.59	-0.37	2	3.04	-0.47	13
Moosehead	42	84	61	-2	1275	+226	457	+187	0.27	-0.57	1	4.75	+1.29	14
Portland_ME	49	82	69	+2	1762	+320	803	+275	0.77	+0.14	2	1.75	-0.78	9
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	45	82	65	+1	1505	+171	619	+208	0.86	-0.05	2	3.71	+0.18	12
Berlin AG	45	81	64	-1	1517	+174	614	+180	0.79	-0.20	2	5.75	+1.95	13
Concord	45	84	69	+2	1966	+366	951	+326	1.42	+0.65	2	3.04	-0.04	12
Diamond Pond	44	75	61	+0	1108	+200	355	+177	3.15	+1.96	2	8.80	+4.24	16
Keene AP	46	82	68	-2	1834	+52	853	+95	2.07	+1.16	2	2.85	-0.69	5
North Conway	47	83	67	+1	1734	+238	770	+223	0.38	-0.53	2	3.44	-0.14	11
Rochester	48	84	68	+0	1847	+147	861	+159	0.81	+0.00	2	1.96	-1.34	8
VERMONT														
Burlington Intl	53	85	71	+4	2036	+318	996	+282	1.18	+0.24	2	3.15	-0.45	12
Island Pond	43	81	64	+2	1445	+344	562	+283	0.69	-0.43	2	3.90	-0.44	13
Montpelier	46	82	67	+4	1719	+365	739	+301	0.52	-0.39	3	2.91	-0.43	16
Pownal	45	81	66	+1	1663	+262	713	+248	2.34	+1.36	2	5.21	+1.41	13
Rochester	45	83	65	+1	1557	+234	639	+218	0.56	-0.49	2	3.24	-0.79	12
Rutland AG	46	84	66	-3	1723	-45	757	+18	1.17	+0.19	2	3.08	-0.69	10
Springfield_VT	45	83	68	+3	1822	+364	835	+328	1.02	+0.11	3	2.73	-0.80	14
Sutton	45	81	64	+2	1391	+272	525	+231	0.63	-0.47	2	4.99	+0.72	12
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	60	86	74	+2	2229	+219	1173	+230	1.10	+0.36	3	1.76	-1.03	7
Fitchburg	53	85	72	+7	2151	+697	1114	+599	0.92	+0.15	3	2.27	-0.97	9
Greenfield	48	86	69	-2	1951	+50	936	+90	1.38	+0.54	2	3.13	-0.23	14
New Bedford	50	84	69	-4	1983	-32	963	+16	0.68	-0.30	2	2.19	-1.36	8
Otis_AFB	54	79	69	-1	1904	+269	890	+216	0.20	-0.57	3	2.34	-0.60	7
Plymouth	49	84	70	+0	1994	+296	997	+275	0.91	+0.00	2	1.46	-1.93	6
Walpole	51	84	71	+3	2077	+338	1057	+326	1.99	+1.08	3	3.01	-0.38	10
Chicopee/Westov	46	89	71	-3	2066	-107	1006	-52	1.76	+0.98	3	2.31	-0.78	7
Worthington	45	82	66	+0	1652	+235	732	+255	2.31	+1.40	3	4.46	+0.61	10
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	59	85	74	+3	2323	+410	1205	+330	0.96	+0.12	2	2.00	-1.18	10
Woonsocket	51	84	70	+2	2076	+366	1049	+353	1.25	+0.34	3	2.80	-0.84	8
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	59	84	74	+2	2322	+272	1186	+197	0.98	+0.27	2	1.37	-1.74	5
Hartford/Bradle	53	86	73	+2	2359	+266	1238	+235	2.05	+1.21	3	3.29	+0.18	9
Norfolk	51	81	67	+2	1772	+349	824	+340	2.22	+1.17	3	3.48	-0.53	10
Thomaston Dam	51	84	70	+2	2066	+376	1013	+338	1.79	+0.81	3	2.59	-1.24	9
Willimantic	50	84	71	+3	2158	+437	1078	+375	1.36	+0.49	3	2.04	-1.56	9

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 20, 2006

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	L	HI	AV	DF	LO	HI
ME	37	85	65	+0	0.06	1.72
NH	37	86	66	+1	0.38	3.15
VT	26	85	66	+1	0.47	2.97
MA	45	89	70	+0	0.13	2.31
RI	51	85	72	+2	0.57	1.25
CT	45	86	70	+0	0.78	2.22

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: Scattered showers, late in the week, helped vegetable crops in need of water. **Jude Boucher (Ext), Tolland:** Nice rain on Monday. We'll take another just like it next week please. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Vegetable harvest is in full swing with farm stands and farmers markets seeing good sales. Tobacco harvest is progressing nicely for both broadleaf and shade. Nice second cut hay put up last week. **Frank Himmelstein (Ext), New London:** One of the nicer weeks for making hay, although weekend rain and clouds cut short the drying period. Despite the better haying weather, early morning dews and partly cloudy skies called for extra tedding of the hay in order to dry it out. Easier to cut green chop hay this week. Corn growth continues with the June planted corn looking the most promising in terms of yield and quality. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Seeing severe deer damage while picking sweet corn. Ears have been bitten in half. Sun scald on Tomatoes from heat wave. Pumpkins are looking great. Silage corn is looking good. Second cutting of hay is poor. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** A lot of hay went in, corn is striving to do its' best, vegetables, especially tomatoes are doing well and selling for \$2.00/lb at farmers markets, down from \$3.00. Heavy rains one day slowed farm field work. Added to previous rains, heavy soils have not dried out for nearly the whole summer. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** Producers are continuing to report disease issues with peppers, but vegetable crops that survived the rainy weather early on and the extremely hot weather a few weeks ago are being harvested and are very flavorful. Even though the yields are lower than they would normally expect in mid August. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Finishing up hay and getting ready for fairs. Our fair season got underway and it seems everyone is either coming back from, or getting ready to go to, a fair.

MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook: Potatoes and small grains: Growers starting to desiccate potato vines. Spraying protectants on the rest of the potato crop. Doing an excellent job in keeping late blight under control. Harvesting small grains, beginning fall tillage. Potato crop looks real good, but soils could use some more moisture. Early mature varieties sizing up well. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Farmers are still maintaining a five-day spray schedule. Some vine desiccation and insecticide applications. Still harvesting grains; broccoli harvest continuing. All crops still look excellent. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Finally a dry stretch and fields and pastures actually look like they could use a little moisture (which we got on August 20). Second cutting is in full swing. Lots of corn still has a lot of growing to do before it will even come close to being ready for silage. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Blueberry harvest is winding down. Most fields have been raked. Sweet corn harvest continues as does haying. Fungus has affected all squash, zucchini, and pumpkins in this area - possibly due to excessive moisture. Rain on Sunday (one to two inches) brought all farming activity to a halt. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Harvest is winding down on the blueberry barrens. Harvest continues in the coastal fields. Fruit size is very large on many fields because of the precipitation in August. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Androscoggin/Franklin:** This has been a great week for field work. Oats are being harvested as well as some third crop hay. Sweet corn and other vegetables and berries are in abundance at local markets. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Oxford county producers had another good week for harvesting hay. Blueberry crops are still being harvested. In all it was a good week.

MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: A beautiful week with four inches of soaking rain to end it. The nights were on the cool side however. Crops will make good use of the moisture as things were looking dry. Field corn in some parts of the north county looks fair to poor

never having recuperated from the excessive spring rains. More hay was made while summer squash varieties, tomatoes, peppers, cukes, fresh beans, beets, and carrots are being picked. Blueberries and the earliest apple varieties are being harvested. Livestock looks good and some is being shown off at the fairs which have started for the season. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: The ample rainfall provided in most locations during the week, but irrigation continues where it is needed. Crops look good in most beds. USDA estimate for Massachusetts cranberries is 1.8 million barrels, a very good crop if the berries size up. There is spotty drought/heat stress in vines that occurred two weeks ago during the extreme heat. Temperatures on some beds on August 2 reached 120 degrees. Except for spot Roundup applications and insecticide applications for flea beetle, the chemical applications should be done. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Franklin/Hampshire/Hampden:** Saturday 8/19, 1.75 inches of rain alleviated drought conditions. Farmers are continuing to harvest a wide array of crops such as tobacco, blueberries, peaches, and sweet corn. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** Much needed rain has alleviated dry conditions. Growers still spraying for ECB and fungicides applications. Harvesting all summer crops and sweet corn looks very good now. Fall crops coming on now. Apple harvest of early varieties starting, peaches are large and real sweet. Raspberries had ideal weather and it shows, large and plentiful.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll: A great week, plenty of sunshine, second cutting being put up with no trouble. Potato harvest beginning, sweet corn is excellent! Early apples are coming in as well. Pastures looking a bit played out, the rain on Sunday August 20 will certainly perk them up. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Heavy rains this weekend. Five inches of rain in my gauge this Monday morning in Lancaster. Still hay coming in with occasionally okay weather for this. Field corn well tasseled out, late for this. Earlier planted corn starting to fill out ears. Sweet corn readily available along with all other summer vegetables. Pumpkins are coloring up. Wet season encouraging fungal problems. Fall webworm apparent. Nice crop of corn earworms on unsprayed sweet corn. No reports of field flooding yet, but no doubt we'll hear of some soon with so much rainfall. Goldenrod in full bloom; honeybees are into that. Starting to see some color in the mountains. Fall is on its way. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Hay harvest continuing as weather permits. Corn continues to grow and mature. Wetter areas of many fields will probably not recover. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** We had a much needed dry period for the last several days. Farmers took full advantage of it. The weekend however did dump more rain around the county. Rain fall levels varied, with a little more than an inch in one area, to as much as four inches in other areas. As a result, some fields are still too wet to harvest for hay. As a result, both hay yield, and quality will be considerably poorer on these wetter fields. On the bright side, the better drained river bottom land is looking good. The early planted corn looks very good. Some farmers have already taken three cuttings of mixed grass hay on the well drained sites, and will probably take a fourth cut. The rainy weather had taken a toll on pumpkin growers. Pollination is down considerably. The same holds true for winter squash. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Orchardists harvesting peaches, plums, and Jersey Mac and Paul Red apples. Orchardists busy monitoring for pests, summer pruning trees, mowing orchard floors, fixing up orchard roads and move bins into orchard. Highbush blueberry harvest continues, and fall raspberry harvest continued. Cultivating and weeding newly strawberry renovated beds. Vegetables: Farmers kept busy harvesting array of vegetable crops, monitoring pest pressures, spraying pesticides for insect and disease control where needed. Major out break of mildew in pumpkins and some winter squash. Field Crops: Hay making and cutting haylage continued at a during the week

with the second cut and some third cutting being made. Growth has been good to excellent. The remaining first cutting is only good for mulch hay. Farmers make new seeding for pasture and hayfields. Corn growth looks good to excellent. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Still harvesting peaches, plums, blueberries, raspberries, apples, sweet corn, tomatoes, and a whole array of vegetables. Weeding and monitoring pests in vegetable fields. Some fields are very wet due to the rain on Sunday.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: Harvesting potatoes and considering the weather they look pretty good, still harvesting summer vegetables, corn, tomatoes, cukes, eggplant etc. The pepper crop isn't faring up well with the weather and some of the tomatoes have taken a hit as well. The cool nights have been good and pasture is looking OK. A lot of haying being done this week. Roadside stands are full of local produce.

VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille: Received almost two inches of rain on Sunday August 20, which was the first real rainfall since August 4th. Before the rain on Sunday lots of nice hay and haylage was

harvested as second and third cut. Corn crop is looking strong except for low spots where nutrient leaching took place. It was dry enough that irrigation of vegetables was necessary last week. Some manure being spread on second cut grass ground. **Jeffrey Carter (Ext), Addison :** Hay harvest continuing. Second cut looks good. Corn crop still way behind. Ears developing on short plants. Some fields being fitted for summer seedings of hay crop. **David Blodgett (NCRS), Orleans:** Many farms finished second cut hay last week. The yield and quality are very good. Third crop hay is coming along. The corn has tasseled and looks fairly good in most areas. There are some fields that will have a very poor crop but overall it will not be as bad as it appeared in June. Pastures are holding out well with the ample moisture. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Spraying for blight on potatoes and summer squash. Farmers seeding with winter rye on early harvested crops. Too much rain hurt early cole crops, late plantings going better. Lots of green tomatoes, but are ripening slow. Rain for the week is 0.477. Mid season sweet corn is doing well with good flavor and size. Early potatoes will soon be ready for market. Soon lots of fresh vegetables in the market. Now beets, carrots, broccoli, green and yellow beans in good supply, have a good week.

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