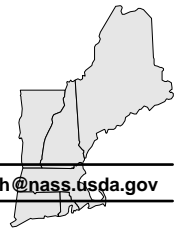




# New England Agricultural Statistics



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May 14, 2007 – 4 pm

For week ending 5/13/07

## Spring Has Sprung!

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:** For the week ending May 13, 2007, there were 6.5 days suitable for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture was rated 19% short, 73% adequate, and 8% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 6% short, 79% adequate, and 15% surplus. Pasture condition was rated 3% very poor, 4% poor, 38% fair, 44% good, and 11% excellent. Sunny skies and warmer temperatures helped push along the development of leaves, fruit blossoms and grasses this week. Temperatures in the first part of the week were well above normal across the region, with some locations in northern states seeing highs in the mid-to-upper 80s on Wednesday and Thursday. Showers arrived on Friday to all six states, cooling the air and bringing up to a half inch of rain to some areas. Skies cleared and temperatures remained in the 60s and low 70s throughout the weekend, making for brisk business at nurseries, greenhouses and garden centers. Some producers noted that the drier weather coupled with wind this week dried out topsoil, resulting in dusty conditions in some areas. More livestock were turned out to pasture this week.

**FRUIT:** Tree fruit producers made sure pollinators were in orchards this week, as the dry, sunny weather came in conjunction with many fruit trees coming into bloom. However, cooler nighttime temperatures have growers concerned about the potential for frost damage. Fruit growers spent time this week planting trees and berries while also keeping busy pruning trees and applying protective fungicide sprays. Wild blueberry producers mowed and burned fields for pruning. Cranberry growers continued to get renovation projects ready for vine planting, cleaned out ditches, repaired dikes and flumes and irrigated for frost protection.

**VEGETABLES:** Early season vegetables continue to be planted, including peas, lettuce, greens, cabbage, carrots, parsnips, and cole crops. Some producers harvested asparagus, parsnips, chives, and spinach this week. Sweet corn planting continued in some locations, while producers in Connecticut reported early sweet corn emerging and lifting row cover. Vegetable producers kept busy this week laying plastic mulch and drip irrigation tape, liming, fertilizing, plowing, disking and getting ready to plant fields.

**FIELD CROPS:** Field corn planting progressed across the region this week in drier fields. Producers in northern states and in areas still recovering from the spring rains continued to prepare fields for planting. Farmers in northern Maine started to plant potatoes and small grains where fields were dry enough to hold heavy equipment. Most reporters indicated that grass in hay fields and pastures is looking good thanks to the week's warm dry weather, but acknowledged some rain would be welcome to enhance growth. Farmers kept busy seeding grass, spreading lime, manure and fertilizer, plowing and disking fields, and repairing fences.

### SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
<b>Topsoil</b>			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	19	5	7
Adequate	73	70	65
Surplus	8	25	28
<b>Subsoil</b>			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	6	3	7
Adequate	79	65	71
Surplus	15	32	22

### FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Fruit Size	Condition
Apples	EB/FB	Good/Fair
Peaches	EB/FB	Good/Fair
Pears	EB/FB	Good/Fair
Blueberries		
Highbush	BS/EB	Good/Fair
Wild	BS	Good/Excellent
Cranberries, MA	Dormant/BS	Good
Strawberries	BS/EB	Good/Fair

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

### FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2007	2006	5-yr Avg	Condition
--Percent Planted--				
Barley, ME	<5	70	30	N/A
Oats, ME	<5	70	30	N/A
Potatoes				
Maine	<5	30	10	N/A
Mass	85	80	65	
Rhode Island	65	70	60	
Silage Corn	20	25	20	
Sweet Corn	30	20	20	
--Percent Emerged--				
Potatoes				
Mass	20	10	5	Good
Rhode Island	25	20	10	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	<5	<5	<5	Fair/Good
Sweet Corn	5	10	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 7, 2007  
To: Sunday May 13, 2007

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	35	86	59	+7	115	+62	33	+33	0.43	-0.45	1	5.14	+1.54	10
Bangor Intl_Arp	31	87	58	+7	87	+52	29	+29	0.36	-0.48	1	4.74	+1.56	10
Bethel	30	86	59	+8	82	+42	23	+23	0.16	-0.63	1	5.59	+2.28	9
Caribou Municip	29	84	57	+9	71	+47	18	+18	0.33	-0.37	1	1.29	-1.23	7
Dover-Foxcroft	33	86	57	+8	64	+39	17	+17	0.20	-0.61	1	3.69	+0.36	8
Frenchville	34	81	57	+11	68	+54	18	+18	0.01	-0.69	1	0.75	-1.89	8
Houlton	27	87	57	+8	78	+54	24	+24	0.20	-0.56	1	2.03	-0.72	9
Livermore Falls	27	86	57	+8	68	+43	17	+17	0.12	-0.72	1	5.54	+2.02	9
Moosehead	24	83	53	+8	45	+36	5	+5	0.34	-0.43	1	3.18	+0.17	8
Portland_ME	35	81	58	+7	110	+78	25	+25	0.33	-0.51	1	6.64	+3.00	9
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>														
Benton	31	83	58	+7	89	+32	27	+24	0.05	-0.70	1	4.07	+1.28	8
Berlin AG	31	86	58	+9	80	+35	25	+25	0.05	-0.72	1	5.28	+2.07	8
Bethlehem	33	87	59	+8	100	+45	24	+21	0.07	-0.63	1	3.85	+1.05	10
Concord	30	90	62	+10	165	+101	50	+48	0.63	-0.07	2	5.86	+3.06	11
Diamond Pond	28	81	53	+7	42	+28	10	+10	0.54	-0.30	2	5.49	+2.37	11
Keene AP	28	88	60	+5	125	+29	44	+34	0.56	-0.28	2	4.30	+1.09	12
North Conway	32	87	59	+8	83	+32	22	+22	0.12	-0.79	1	6.19	+2.41	10
Rochester	31	89	60	+7	131	+54	40	+35	0.77	-0.14	1	8.52	+4.65	10
<b>VERMONT</b>														
Burlington Intl	33	89	62	+8	139	+53	50	+40	0.01	-0.69	1	2.13	-0.58	8
Island Pond	27	84	56	+8	69	+39	19	+19	0.20	-0.58	2	1.59	-1.24	10
Montpelier	29	86	59	+8	104	+50	29	+27	0.05	-0.65	1	2.08	-0.44	8
Pownal	35	85	60	+8	114	+55	33	+28	0.54	-0.45	1	3.87	-0.26	11
Rochester	29	86	57	+7	76	+29	18	+18	0.10	-0.88	1	2.86	-0.92	10
Rutland AG	29	85	57	+3	93	-16	25	+11	0.71	-0.06	2	2.33	-0.48	9
Springfield_VT	29	87	59	+8	111	+50	37	+33	0.60	-0.31	2	3.99	+0.35	12
Sutton	28	85	57	+9	69	+43	19	+19	0.22	-0.55	2	3.61	+0.70	9
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>														
Boston/Logan_In	42	86	63	+7	216	+104	59	+58	0.07	-0.70	1	4.45	+1.22	11
Fitchburg	35	89	64	+13	206	+158	66	+66	0.44	-0.33	1	5.43	+2.26	12
Greenfield	34	86	62	+6	145	+33	40	+32	0.60	-0.24	1	5.08	+1.63	10
New Bedford	28	78	57	+2	132	+17	19	+17	0.05	-0.79	1	5.90	+2.31	13
Otis AFB	30	73	54	+3	91	+41	8	+8	0.09	-0.75	2	5.97	+2.42	12
Plymouth	29	82	58	+5	135	+78	31	+31	0.00	-0.91	0	5.68	+1.81	12
Walpole	31	87	62	+8	182	+101	53	+52	0.09	-0.68	2	5.46	+1.88	14
Chicopee/Westov	30	86	61	+4	157	-9	45	+28	0.15	-0.76	2	4.06	+0.42	10
Worthington	30	84	59	+7	107	+52	25	+25	0.50	-0.55	2	6.66	+2.59	13
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>														
Providence	34	83	60	+6	215	+121	44	+44	0.08	-0.77	2	5.14	+1.49	11
Woonsocket	31	86	61	+7	181	+104	47	+47	0.02	-0.89	1	5.36	+1.52	10
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>														
Bridgeport/Siko	40	77	59	+4	195	+73	27	+17	0.16	-0.75	3	5.46	+1.82	11
Hartford/Bradle	33	87	64	+6	229	+84	61	+45	1.84	+0.92	1	7.09	+3.44	10
Norfolk	32	83	60	+8	123	+72	31	+31	0.53	-0.48	3	6.40	+2.24	13
Thomaston Dam	34	83	60	+6	154	+62	31	+25	0.47	-0.57	3	7.49	+3.39	13
Willimantic	32	83	61	+7	173	+84	43	+38	0.12	-0.86	2	5.61	+1.69	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, May 13, 2007

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	L	HI	AV	DF	LO	HI
ME	24	91	57	+7	0.00	1.29
NH	20	90	58	+8	0.00	0.77
VT	24	89	58	+7	0.01	1.66
MA	24	89	59	+6	0.00	1.02
RI	31	86	58	+5	0.00	0.08
CT	30	88	60	+5	0.04	1.84

**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:** We had a week of beautiful weather. Farmers were busy spreading fertilizer on hay land and pastures and mending pasture fences. Some farmers are beginning to plow their lighter soils, getting ready for field corn planting. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Planting of vegetables and preparing land for more planting. Field corn planting continues but some farmers still occasionally getting stuck in the mud. Early sweet corn emerged is lifting row cover. Strawberries under row cover at full bloom. Hay coming along but many fields will not see nitrogen this spring due to high prices. A beautiful Mother's Day weekend to keep garden centers and green houses parking lots full. **Sherry Roy (FSA), Windham:** Farming Activities: This past week farmers were busy seeding grass and spreading manure. Corn has not yet been planted. Fields are still wet due to rainy weather. Some areas have reported frost early in the week. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** This was a beautiful and warm week. Scattered showers at the end of the week brought a half inch of rain in some parts of the two county areas. Vegetables continued to be planted. Field corn ground has been prepared for planting. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** One day of rain midweek didn't slow the pace of corn planting much at all. Higher than normal temperatures have things greening up and flowers popping up to a month early in some areas.

**MAINE – Dee Potter (Ext), Aroostook:** Field work and prep just got underway. Pastures are turning green but too early to put cattle out. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Farmers are on the ground planting oats and barley and some potatoes. The fields are in good shape with only a few wet holes. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis:** What a difference a little heat makes. The grass is growing, the leaves are emerging from the trees, and wild cherries have started to bloom as well as the forsythia. Farmers are emptying their manure storages by spreading on the fields followed by tillage operations to incorporate the manure. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** Pastures greening up and livestock out. Manure being spread and some field work commencing. **Janet King (FSA), Somerset:** What a beautiful week, many farmers are planting their crops. We could use some rain. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Good weather with just a couple of moist days (one half inch of rain) has helped producers get fields ready for planting. Have some corn going in on the drier fields. Strawberries under Remy are beginning to bloom. Anticipating a frost on May 14. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Blueberries: Fields being mowed and burned for pruning. Herbicide and fertilizer being applied to pruned fields. Fungicide application made last week in Downeast area and a second application were made in Union area. No bloom occurring yet. Noted some winter injury but overall buds look good, so there is a potential for a good crop. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Summer weather earlier in the week. Cool weekend with the threat of frosts reminded everyone that it is still spring. Farmers are busy preparing the soil for planting. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Androscoggin/Franklin:** The season caught up in one week! The sun is shining, grass growing, and manure spreading, tractors cultivating and planting. It doesn't get any better than this! **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Oxford County producers have been busy in the crop fields this past week. Some farmers have started to cultivate and some sweet corn has been planted. Potato farmers have started to plant where fields are dry enough to get heavy equipment into. Fence repair is well underway throughout the county. Producers have reported in some areas they are in need of rain. **Guy Piper (FSA), Kennebec:** Farmers are starting to work the land, doing seeding and land preparation for sweet corn, silage corn, and some livestock in pastures. Pasture and hay land seem to be getting a good start. **Valerie Porter (Ext), Penobscot:** At this time some producers have planted potatoes and corn. Some fields have been plowed and hay fields have been fertilized. Strawberries look pretty good with not much winter damage. Hay fields are turning nice and green due to the sunny days and no rain for the past week. Apples trees are budding out. Producers have been burning Blueberry fields, still a little to early to tell if they sustained much winter damage.

**MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire:** This was a beautiful sunny, breezy week, a little on the hot side, but ending cool after thunderstorms and a rainy day on Friday with possible frost warnings for Sunday night. Rainfall is down by about an inch from normal. Field conditions are good for all types of work. Pastures are in excellent shape. Sweet and silage corn, vegetable transplants and direct seeding going on for summer and fall vegetables. Orchards are coming along nicely but watching those low temps at night and bee activity. We had reports of bee loss over the winter. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Vines continue to come out of dormancy, greening up more every day. The frost tolerances move upward as well. May has now had seven nights when at least some growers were running their sprinklers for frost protection. Growers continue to get renovation projects ready for vine planting, are cleaning out ditches, repairing dikes and flumes and getting ready to start scouting for insects. Pre-emergent herbicide and fungicide applications (for upright dieback) are also being done by some growers. **Emily Tchorz (FSA), Bristol:** Passing showers late last week combined with warm sunny weather to really bring out the bloom on fruit trees. Field work is in full swing with planting of many crops already underway. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Franklin/Hampshire /Hampden:** It was a dry and warm week with a scattered thunderstorm. Harvesting asparagus, fiddleheads, parsnips and spinach. Planting field corn, cabbage, sweet corn, potatoes, carrots, parsnips, lettuce, spinach and greens. Orchardists are applying a protective spray, fertilizing and mowing under trees. Farm stands opened for Mother's Day and were busy selling flowers, shrubs, trees and early vegetables.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap:** After the flooding we had last month, it's hard to believe that we could use some rain. Many of the early vegetable crops have been planted in the field. Apple trees are blooming. The weekend's weather was fantastic for garden center sales. **Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll:** Spring has sprung! Warm temperatures are pushing development of leaves, fruit blossoms and grasses. Forsythia is beginning to go by in the southern part of the county, lilac beginning to bloom as well. Pasture grasses are growing well, fertilizer lime and manure being spread everywhere. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Bright sunny weather all week. A bit of rain on Friday, but we could have used more. It's getting a little dusty out there. Farms have started planting field corn; others continue to work on field prep. Hayfields doing well and farmers are beginning to turn animals out into the pastures. Apple trees have taken off; few buds early in the week, but lots of places nearly in full bloom by weekend. Planting continues on vegetable operations. Great weather made for brisk business at garden centers. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Unseasonably hot sunny days to quite cold in the morning, spring time in Coos County. A dry week makes it ideal conditions for readying fields for planting. Manure being hauled and spread some lighter soil pieces worked up for corn seeding. Hay and pasture land greening up considerably. Fertilizer is being spread. Great opening day weather for Mother's Day greenhouses and nursery businesses. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Field preparation and corn planting continued. Windy weather has dried out the surface couple of inches resulting in dusty conditions. Hay growth is progressing normally so far. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruits: Orchardists made sure bees were in apple orchards. Cherry, peach and plum were at full bloom to petal fall. Apple and pear are at king bloom to full bloom in the Hollis area. Blueberry is at pink bud stage. Orchardists are fertilizing orchards and are applying protective fungicide sprays on fruit trees and blueberries. Planting fruit trees, raspberries, blueberries and strawberries. Finishing up pruning blueberries and starting to prune peach trees. Field Crops: Farmers are fertilizing hayfields; spreading manure, plowing, discing fertilizing, planting corn, and applying herbicides. Vegetables: Continue early season vegetables (peas, lettuce, greens, cole crops) planting, along with sweet corn and potatoes. Liming, fertilizing, plowing, discing and getting ready plant fields. Laying plastic mulch and drip irrigation tape. Harvesting asparagus.

**Dorothy Perkins (Ext), Merrimack:** Apples all over the county have developed to early bloom rather quickly with all the high

temperatures we had the last 10 days. Cherries in the valleys have past bloom and pears are also blooming now. Pollinators are out in force. Many folks reporting lost hives have received their new colonies in the mail. Strawberries seem to have overwintered well. I've seen many fields harrowed up and a couple planted this past week to field corn. Peas have started to emerge and all the weeds have started to overtake bare fields that haven't been worked yet.

**Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** A warmer and dryer week with the exception of thundershowers and heavy wind on Friday. Good week to work in the fields and get ready for sales at garden centers, and greenhouse operations for the sales of transplants and bedding plants, nursery stock, etc.... Apples and pear trees in full bloom, some strawberry plants in bloom (some blooms were hit by frost earlier in the week). Planting blueberries, raspberries, strawberries, and fruit trees. Preparing vegetable field for planting, successive planting of sweet corn. Planting early vegetables, harvesting chives, and green leaves vegetables. Spreading manure, plowing and discing and planting forage corn. Pasture fields look good.

**Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** Good weather for field work. Grass in pastures and hay fields are growing very well. Rain showers on Thursday were welcome. It has been quite dry. Vegetable growers busy planting cool season crops. Fruit growers applying protective fungicides and insecticides where needed. Garden centers and greenhouses had a busy week with customers due good weather.

**RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport:** Lots of field work being done, spraying of potatoes and Christmas trees. Some

fungicides are being applied. Fruit trees and strawberries look great. Planting field corn, potatoes, some squashes. Cole crops look great. Very little rain this week and we are just a little dry. All animals are grazing and enjoying the weather.

**VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille:** Another great week for fieldwork. Corn planting was progressing nicely along with forage seeding and cool weather veggie crops. Many are still spreading manure and getting pasture fences ready. Grass could use some moisture as there has been virtually no rain the first half of the month.

**Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Last week was great for crop work. The ground is a little dry at this time. Landowners a spreading manure and discing crop fields. We are still getting frost at night so planting has not begun. We are starting to see the grazing farms putting their cows on pasture.

**Terence Bradshaw, Univ of Vermont:** Dry, moderate, sunny weather looks good for pollination as apples come into bloom this week. Potential for fire blight infections on early open blooms last week had some growers applying streptomycin sprays. Scab season looks to be mild this year but rains expected Wednesday May 16 should trigger a strong infection period.

**Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Plowing and planting early corn and pea fields. Early fields with light soil ready to plant. Fields had a good crop of winter rye to plow under. Our bee man brought three new bee hives for pollination. Finally some warm weather. Have planted early sweet corn and pea fields. Asparagus finally woke up and we started cutting May 9<sup>th</sup>. Season has been late because of cold dry spring. Have a good week.

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

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