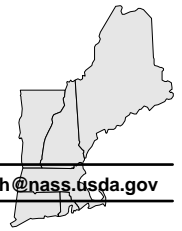




New England Agricultural Statistics



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July 30, 2007 – 4 pm

For week ending 7/29/07

Bring on the Rain

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending July 29, 2007, there were 6.0 days suitable for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture was rated 2% very short, 24% short, 68% adequate, and 6% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 2% very short, 20% short, 73% adequate, and 5% surplus. Pasture condition was rated 4% poor, 22% fair, 61% good, and 13% excellent. Warm, dry weather this past week provided ideal conditions for drying hay and working in the fields. The week began with scattered rain showers and below average temperatures. The temperatures rose steadily through Friday, spurring development of field corn and ripening of fruit. The weekend brought thundershowers throughout New England, with some areas receiving as much as three to five inches of rainfall. However, growers reported the scattered showers were not sufficient to saturate dry fields. All crops would benefit from more rain.

FRUIT: Highbush blueberry and raspberry harvests were in full swing last week. The crops were reported in good condition and pick-your-own operations were quite busy over the weekend. Maine wild blueberry producers are expected to begin harvesting this coming week. Strawberry harvest wrapped up early in the week and growers were busy cultivating and weeding beds for next season. Tree fruit growers began harvesting peaches and a small amount of apples for farmers' markets and roadside stands. Orchardists kept busy moving bins into the apple fields in preparation for harvest, monitoring for pests, spraying insecticides and herbicides, and mowing orchard floors.

VEGETABLES: The hot, humid weather slowed business at farmers' markets and roadside stands. Sweet corn harvest was well underway in Northern New England and the crop was reported in good to excellent condition. In southern states, the corn was tasseled and development looked good. Farmers were busy harvesting green beans, greenhouse tomatoes, peppers, cabbage, cucumbers, broccoli, sprouts, zucchini, and summer squash. Despite the scattered rain showers, farmers still needed to irrigate fields and were busy moving irrigation pipes to drier areas. Field tomatoes were beginning to ripen and should be ready for harvest soon. Other activities included monitoring for pests and spraying pesticides where needed, cultivating fields, and weeding.

FIELD CROPS: Shade and broadleaf tobacco harvest progressed last week and both crops were reported in good condition. Rhode Island potato farmers began harvesting, while Maine and Massachusetts potatoes were reported in full bloom. Aphids, leafhoppers, and late blight have appeared but seemed to do minimal damage. Field corn was tasseled and beginning to silk. The heat and rain was much needed and crop development advanced rapidly. The hot, dry days in the middle of the week were ideal for baling hay. Most areas had completed the first cut of hay, were mid-way through the second cut, and had started the third cut by week's end. Armyworm damage was reported in some fields, but overall they moved out of the area with relatively little impact. Maine oats and barley were reported in good condition; oats were heading well and barley was in the soft dough stage. Farm activities included fertilizing, spreading manure, spraying herbicides, insecticides, and fungicides, hoeing weeds, and cultivating fields.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	2	1	0
Short	24	10	3
Adequate	68	73	70
Surplus	6	16	27
Subsoil			
Very Short	2	1	0
Short	20	12	1
Adequate	73	71	76
Surplus	5	16	23

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Set	Fruit Size	Condition
	2007	2006	5-yr Avg			
Apples	-	-	-	Avg/Above	Average	Good/Excellent
Peaches	10	10	10	Average	Average	Good
Pears	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good
Blueberries						
Highbush	35	45	35	Average	Average	Good
Wild, ME	-	-	-	Average	Avg/Below	Good
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-	Average	-	Good

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2007	2006	5-yr Avg	Condition
--Percent Emerged--				
Sweet Corn	100	99	100	
-- Percent Harvested --				
Barley, ME	-	-	-	Good
Oats, ME	-	-	-	Good
Potatoes				
Maine	-	-	-	Good
Mass	-	-	-	Good
Rhode Island	5	0	0	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	-	-	-	Good/Excellent
Sweet Corn	25	10	15	Good/Excellent
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	5	0	0	Good
Shade	25	10	15	Good
Dry Hay				
First Cut	95	90	90	Excellent/Fair
Second Cut	50	25	35	Good
Third Cut	5	0	0	Good

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

For the Period: Monday July 23, 2007
To: Sunday July 29, 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
MAINE														
Augusta State_A	57	90	74	+4	1246	+83	503	+82	0.11	-0.64	3	2.16	-0.73	17
Bangor Intl_Arp	53	91	73	+5	1152	+104	433	+87	0.01	-0.69	1	3.01	+0.00	14
Bethel	51	89	70	+2	1025	-35	345	-3	0.03	-0.80	2	1.89	-1.33	11
Caribou Municip	48	90	74	+8	971	+103	325	+91	0.14	-0.84	1	3.51	-0.11	16
Dover-Foxcroft	51	87	68	+2	897	-13	246	-15	0.06	-0.71	1	1.30	-1.94	13
Frenchville	50	86	72	+8	886	+84	277	+78	2.09	+1.18	1	4.94	+1.51	15
Houlton	47	89	73	+6	947	+47	316	+58	1.70	+0.80	1	4.61	+1.21	16
Livermore Falls	52	90	72	+5	1017	+111	353	+99	0.00	-0.77	0	2.78	-0.33	10
Moosehead	50	87	69	+5	775	+26	189	+11	1.06	+0.15	2	5.20	+1.56	18
Portland_ME	57	86	72	+3	1210	+172	466	+123	0.27	-0.38	2	4.64	+1.84	11
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	50	85	69	+3	1014	+16	330	+43	0.16	-0.65	2	5.21	+2.06	16
Berlin AG	50	86	70	+3	984	-14	312	+10	0.42	-0.44	1	3.50	+0.11	13
Concord	55	90	73	+3	1390	+199	607	+170	0.56	-0.21	2	5.33	+2.43	12
Diamond Pond	47	82	66	+4	674	+16	147	+32	0.05	-1.00	1	5.56	+1.39	14
Keene AP	56	88	72	+1	1330	-14	566	+27	0.64	-0.20	2	3.75	+0.48	13
North Conway	53	89	71	+3	1070	-44	377	-8	0.02	-0.82	1	3.73	+0.36	13
Rochester	59	90	73	+2	1261	-7	526	+36	0.19	-0.63	2	5.54	+2.40	11
VERMONT														
Burlington Intl	56	89	74	+4	1438	+145	657	+146	0.00	-0.84	0	6.28	+3.00	15
Island Pond	50	85	70	+6	929	+119	276	+81	0.15	-0.85	1	6.84	+2.98	18
Montpelier	53	87	71	+5	1170	+160	437	+126	0.78	+0.06	2	8.09	+5.28	16
Pownal	53	87	70	+3	1177	+135	444	+118	1.19	+0.28	3	5.46	+1.78	15
Rochester	48	87	69	+3	1063	+85	365	+72	0.00	-0.92	0	4.76	+1.30	15
Rutland AG	51	86	70	-2	1186	-155	457	-76	0.00	-0.91	0	4.78	+1.29	15
Springfield_VT	51	87	71	+3	1282	+192	536	+180	0.82	-0.02	3	5.37	+2.11	16
Sunderland	46	84	65	-6	982	-307	306	-185	0.05	-0.67	1	4.38	+1.65	15
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	63	92	76	+3	1692	+186	823	+166	2.38	+1.74	3	3.34	+0.80	10
Fitchburg	56	90	73	+6	1602	+524	761	+402	1.39	+0.57	2	4.81	+1.47	15
Greenfield	50	87	71	-2	1371	-68	567	-37	1.15	+0.31	2	5.21	+1.83	12
New Bedford	56	87	73	-2	1453	-39	640	-1	0.06	-0.68	2	1.78	-0.99	10
Otis_AFB	61	82	72	+2	1284	+99	525	+81	0.17	-0.50	1	3.10	+0.51	6
Plymouth	59	88	74	+3	1457	+212	659	+172	0.05	-0.72	2	2.13	-0.95	10
Walpole	60	90	74	+3	1546	+250	719	+209	0.13	-0.64	3	2.41	-0.69	12
Chicopee/Westov	57	88	73	-3	1495	-157	681	-74	1.57	+0.80	3	6.65	+3.38	13
Worthington	54	85	68	+0	1159	+110	422	+92	1.11	+0.13	3	7.22	+3.34	13
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	62	87	75	+2	1722	+299	824	+220	0.20	-0.55	2	2.30	-0.55	8
Woonsocket	59	89	73	+3	1527	+253	686	+204	0.21	-0.69	2	2.51	-1.06	11
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	61	84	74	-1	1706	+183	796	+116	0.91	+0.07	2	3.53	+0.11	9
Hartford/Bradle	59	90	74	+0	1780	+187	879	+158	1.46	+0.76	3	4.54	+1.68	12
Norfolk	57	84	69	+2	1295	+242	533	+198	1.48	+0.52	3	5.63	+1.84	12
Thomaston Dam	59	86	72	+2	1512	+246	672	+199	1.64	+0.66	3	5.13	+1.38	12
Willimantic	58	87	73	+3	1577	+289	728	+238	0.25	-0.67	2	3.19	-0.56	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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Prepared by AWIS, Inc.

STATE WEATHER SUMMARY

For the week ending Sunday, July 29, 2007

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	L	HI	AV	DF	LO	HI
ME	43	93	71	+4	0.00	2.56
NH	44	93	70	+3	0.00	0.90
VT	45	89	70	+3	0.00	1.19
MA	50	92	73	+2	0.02	3.67
RI	59	89	74	+2	0.09	0.21
CT	53	90	73	+0	0.09	1.69

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: There were heavy thunderstorms and high winds at the end of the week, however, no crop damage was reported. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Topping broadleaf tobacco and picking shade tobacco. Generally a good week for making hay with some more finishing up first cutting. For veggie crops moving irrigation pipe was top on the list along with harvesting of crops. Peaches and first apples showing up at farmers markets. Scattered showers over the weekend produced some beneficial but brief rain. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Dry, humid week. Excellent blueberries, some orchards irrigated the blueberries, bird control an issue. Peaches just starting. Peppers, squash, and cucumbers marketed. Farmers markets are good; busier, good weekends, and markets are busy on afternoons too. Some farm raised beef at markets. Corn is tasseling, ear development looks good, some uneven growth. Rain is needed for most crops, scattered showers have brought very little moisture but helped perk up second cutting of hay. Sweet corn prices dropping with competition of corn from other states, discouraging to local producers. Fresh sweet corn is awesome. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** Warm and humid weather continued this week. Scattered thunderstorms brought heavy rains to parts of the two county area ranging from two to five inches over the weekend. Vegetables continue to grow nicely and producers are harvesting beautiful summer squash, peppers, cabbage and sweet corn. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Much needed rain fell across the region. Thunderstorms inundated the region with more water than many fields could handle. Hopefully this will allow some drier corn to put on a little more height before tasseling.

MAINE - Dee Potter (Ext), Northern Aroostook: Hot weather all week. Good progress made on forage harvest. Oats are headed out well, potatoes are in full bloom. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Fungicide applications and some insecticide applications being applied. Hay being baled. Broccoli being harvested. The crop is growing rapidly and looks excellent. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Some aphids and leafhoppers have been showing up, a few plants with late blight have also shown up. Crop is looking good at this point. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis:** Hot weather helped farmers make hay. Farms with irrigation have been running their systems to bring water to their dry crops. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** Heat is helping vegetables grow and hay dry, but need more widespread and significant rain. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Some helpful rains last week, but little since. Second cutting of haylage has started. Still need rain, although some corn silage looks real nice. Hot weather has helped crop progress. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Blueberry harvest will start today in this area. A variety of fresh produce is now available at local farm stands and with the addition of sweet corn, farm stands are busier than normal in some areas. Farmers are starting to chop their second crop of grass. Pumpkin and winter squash crops are looking good. Rain is needed in most areas, but other than a chance of showers today no rain is forecasted for this week. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Warm temperatures are providing needed heat units for fruit ripening. Blueberry maggot fly emergence is low this year. Crop harvest is beginning in mid-coast region this week. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Warm weather helped ripen vegetable crops. Sweet corn is a little late this year. Highbush blueberries look good. Hay is being made between threats of showers. Irrigation pumps will be running in most areas. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Androscoggin/Franklin:** Sweet corn and high bush blueberries are hitting the farm stands. With spotty thundershowers, we are still getting enough moisture for an excellent growing season. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Oxford County producers reported very hot and humid weather last week and some spots of Oxford County are in need of water. Sweet corn has begun to be harvested along with other small vegetables. Hay is being put into barns and round bales being

wrapped. Potato crops looking very good and already the size of the potato is larger than what they harvested last crop year. Raspberries are being harvested and looking good. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Penobscot:** Strawberries have all been harvested and production was very good. Lack of rain is starting to show effect on crops. Scattered showers gave very little relief. Vegetables are starting to be harvested and look okay at this time. Second cut of hay is coming slowly due to lack of rain. Corn crops are starting to get some height to it. Blueberries will be starting to be raked in the next few weeks.

MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: July weather; hazy, hot, and humid with evening and overnight thunderstorms. Up to two inches of rain, widely scattered. Hay is tough to dry but silage corn has caught up and some is tasseling. Sweet corn crop available county wide now and is good quality. Blueberry season is here with pick your own operations gaining steam. The demand for floral crops is high this year and the crop is there. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Franklin/Hampshire/Hampden:** Hot and humid week with heavy rain showers at week's end. All types of crops are being harvested; radishes, greens, beets, carrots, cucumbers, tomatoes, sweet corn, and blueberries. Vegetable growers continue to cultivate and scout their crops for disease and insects. Tobacco crop looks good and no outbreak of any crop diseases yet.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap: Raspberries and blueberries are being harvested. Both crops are looking very good this year. The earliest varieties of field tomatoes are ripening now. Greenhouse tomato harvest is well underway. Many vegetables are being picked, including greens, summer squashes, melons, broccoli, cauliflower and the early transplanted sweet corn. The hot and dry weather allowed for lots of work in the hayfields. **Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll:** Hazy, hot and humid, typical summer weather. Enough rain to restart pasture growth and second cutting of hay re-growing well. Blueberry harvest in full swing, very little mummy berry reported. All veggies available at the farm stand, sweet corn just beginning. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** A bright and sunny start to the week, but lots of muggy weather by the end of it. Field corn looks great - much of it tasseled and silked. Last of second cut haylage went in the bunker. More dry hay put up as conditions allow. First of the sweet corn is being harvested, and farm stands are full of produce. PYO blueberries going strong and peaches are being harvested. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Finally some hot, dry weather with about seven straight days of decent hay making conditions. Lots of hay ground being mowed, raked, and baled throughout the county. Second cut haylage as well with some farms finishing this up. Corn growing vigorously now with much sweet corn tasseling. Barley at about soft-dough stage. Armyworm scouting continues but looks like we are now by this event with only limited damage on a couple fields. A couple reports of plum curculio hitting highbush blueberries somewhat hard. Increased variety of summer veggies and small fruits at farm stands and markets. Growing degree days at 520, base 50 Lancaster location. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Hay harvest continues. First just about complete, second cut progressing nicely and third cut in the early stages. Corn growing well. So far, little sign of armyworm in corn or hay. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Field Crops: Farmers making baled hay. Second crop is looking good. Silage corn is rapidly growing. Fruit: Peach, blueberry and raspberry harvests continued. Orchardists are getting ready to harvest first apples by starting to move bins into orchard. Strawberry cultivating and weeding newly renovated beds. Orchardists busy monitoring for pests, spraying if needed, and mowing orchard floors. Vegetables: Growers are busy irrigating fields!! Growers harvesting an array of vegetables including: beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, cucumbers, greens, lettuce, potatoes, radishes, snap beans, summer squash, zucchini, and first (regularly planted) sweet corn. Farmers kept busy cultivating, hoeing weeds, monitoring pest pressures, spraying pesticides for insects and diseases - if needed. Very good demand for produce at most local farmers' markets and farm stands.

Dorothy Perkins (Ext), Merrimack: The humid weather is pushing crops right along. You-pick blueberries are open and the raspberries are starting to produce also. All kinds of vegetables can be found all over the county. Many growers are pulling in second cut hay and some anticipate taking a third. The weather has been favorable for drying if they keep right at it. Pastures are staying lush and young animals not sold this past spring are putting weight on nicely for a fall harvest. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** A hot and dry week. Hay producers busy making second cut. Fruit growers renovating strawberry beds. Pick your own operations busy with customers picking blueberries and raspberries. Harvesting of early peaches also started in some orchards. Vegetable growers busy harvesting an array of vegetable crops and irrigating other crops. Greenhouse operations busy planting poinsettia and pinching mums. Business in garden centers slow due to hot dry weather.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: Spraying apples, potatoes and squashes. Harvesting blueberries, raspberries, tomatoes, cukes, corn, squashes, lettuces and other summer vegetables. Started harvesting some potatoes for stands and markets. Local produce is filling up the road side stands as well as the farmer's markets. Some second cut being done this week, but it's thin. Field and sweet corn look great. Pasture's look a little stressed.

VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille: Unsettled weather made fieldwork tricky last week. Some were

spreading manure on second cut fields while others were working on second cut. Have had no reports of armyworms in this area so far. Veggie producers are reporting no major pest problems that they haven't been able to control. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Despite the weather forecast, it was a very good week for field work. Most of the larger farms have completed second cut hay harvest. The yields are good and I expect the quality will be good as well. The armyworms have run their cycle. There was some damage, however, many farms either harvested their fields or sprayed, so the damage was limited. Corn looks good this year with a few exceptions. On the average the corn is six to seven feet tall and should be flowering soon. Pastures continue to do well for this time of year due to adequate moisture in the soil. Activities over the last week included second cut hay harvest and spreading manure. **Julie Jacque (FSA), Windham:** Additional rain showers this week. Blueberry and raspberry harvesting in full swing. Vegetables also coming in strong for harvest. No complaints of pests or disease. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Hot humid week. A lot of second cut hay was harvested this week. Second cut was variable in yield depending upon moisture. Alfalfa yield was better than grass. Threatened down pours missed us. Some corn tassels visible now. No more local reports of armyworm. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Put nitrogen on last of late corn fields. Spraying for blight on potato and vine crops. Seeding winter rye on early picked fields. Rain for the week, 0.999 inches. with plenty of rain and sun all crops are in good shape. Market's full of sweet corn, green and yellow beans summer squash, beets, carrots and leafy vegetables. Also red and white early potatoes. Sales continue to be very good for the green garden.

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