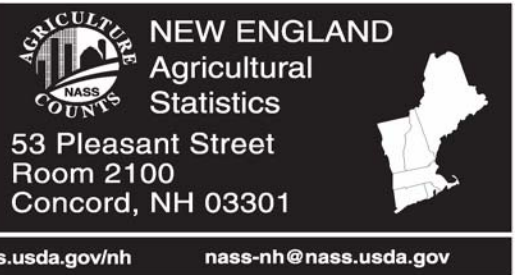


Crop Progress & Condition



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(Issued weekly on the Internet, May – October)

May 18, 2009 – 4 pm

For week ending 5/17/09

Cloudy and Cool

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending May 17, 2009, there were 5.6 days available for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture was rated 1% short, 81% adequate, 18% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 1% short, 83% adequate, 16% surplus. Pasture condition was rated 2% very poor, 1% poor, 11% fair, 73% good, 13% excellent. The past week was cloudy and cool. Daytime temperatures were below average, ranging in the upper 50s to mid-60s. Nighttime temperatures were in the upper 30s to mid-40s, with threats of frost across New England. Temperatures warmed up to average mid-week, ranging in the mid-60s to low 70s. Thunderstorms and wind moved into the area on Thursday, bringing anywhere from 0.08 to 0.58 inches of rain. Heavy rain showers also fell on Saturday, with hail damage in the southern states. Daytime temperatures again fell below average on Sunday, ranging in the upper 50s to low 60s. Total precipitation for the week ranged from 0.77 to 1.31 inches. The drier periods early in the week allowed for fieldwork to be completed, but warmer weather is needed to promote crop growth.

FRUIT: Cranberries were beginning to bloom by week's end. The cool nights forced growers to run their sprinklers to minimize frost damage. Cranberry producers were busy monitoring for pests and applying insecticides and fungicides. Apples, peaches, and pears were in early bloom to full bloom in Maine and full bloom to petal fall in the other five states. Orchardists spent the week pruning trees, spraying insecticides and fungicides, and fertilizing. Highbush blueberries were in early bloom to full bloom, while Maine wild blueberries were in bud stage to early bloom. Blueberry growers were still bringing bees into the fields for pollination and applying fungicides to protect against mummyberry disease. Strawberries began blooming this past week and were rated in good condition.

VEGETABLES: Sweet corn planting was 20% complete at week's end, well ahead of last year and normal. Growers continued planting snap beans, cucumbers, peas, squash, and greens. However, most producers are waiting to plant warm season vegetables until sunnier weather arrives. The asparagus harvest was in full swing and cuttings look good. Producers laid plastic mulch and drip irrigation tape, fertilized, and plowed fields in preparation for planting.

FIELD CROPS: Due to wet fields from the prior two weeks, planting of field corn was slightly behind last year and normal at week's end, coming in at 30% complete. Growers continued to fertilize and plow fields intended for corn planting. Maine grain producers took full advantage of the drier week to seed oats and barley, both 45% planted by the end of the week. Massachusetts potato planting neared completion this past week, with some areas around Hampshire County at 100% complete. Shade tobacco transplanting began this past week, while broadleaf growers were still prepping fields for planting. Pastures and hay fields were greening up nicely and producers were gearing up for the first cutting of hay.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	0	1
Short	1	3	26
Adequate	81	72	67
Surplus	18	25	4
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	0	1
Short	1	3	19
Adequate	83	73	76
Surplus	16	24	4

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Stage of Development	Condition
Apples	Full Bloom/Petal Fall	Good
Peaches	Full Bloom/Petal Fall	Good
Pears	Full Bloom/Petal Fall	Good
Blueberries		
Highbush	Early Bloom/ Full Bloom	Good/Fair
Wild	Bud Stage/Early Bloom	Good
Cranberries, MA	Dormant/Bud Stage	Good
Strawberries	Bud Stage/Early Bloom	Good

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2009	2008	5-yr Avg	Condition
--Percent Planted--				
Barley, ME	45	30	40	
Oats, ME	45	35	40	
Potatoes				
Maine	30	10	20	Good
Mass	80	90	85	
Rhode Island	N/A	75	75	
Silage Corn	30	40	35	
Sweet Corn	30	30	30	
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	0	0	0	
Shade	5	0	15	Good/Fair
--Percent Emerged--				
Barley, ME	15	0	5	Good
Oats, ME	20	0	5	Good
Potatoes				
Maine	0	0	0	
Mass	20	25	20	Good
Rhode Island	N/A	10	15	N/A
Silage Corn	<5	<5	<5	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	20	5	5	Good
-- Percent Harvested --				
Dry Hay				
First Cut	0	0	0	Good/Fair

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday May 11, 2009
 To: Sunday May 17, 2009

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 INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL		DAYS
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN				INCHES	DFN	
MAINE														
Augusta_State_A	39	75	55	+1	159	+85	19	+18	0.73	-0.11	4	4.15	+0.58	14
Bangor_Intl_Arp	34	74	54	+2	126	+75	7	+7	0.51	-0.33	3	4.57	+1.35	13
Bethel	33	75	52	-2	106	+49	6	+6	0.46	-0.35	3	4.30	+0.99	14
Caribou_Municip	31	69	52	+2	73	+37	2	+2	0.54	-0.16	2	4.18	+1.58	12
Dover-Foxcroft	30	74	51	+0	90	+53	7	+7	0.47	-0.30	3	4.51	+1.22	13
Frenchville	30	69	51	+2	51	+29	0	+0	0.79	+0.09	3	3.03	+0.34	13
Houlton	28	71	52	+2	79	+43	3	+3	0.60	-0.17	2	4.32	+1.49	12
Livermore_Falls	32	75	53	+2	112	+75	8	+8	0.81	-0.03	3	4.20	+0.72	13
Moosehead	27	70	48	+1	49	+33	1	+1	0.54	-0.23	3	3.33	+0.28	13
Portland_ME	38	69	54	+2	143	+96	16	+16	0.50	-0.34	3	4.71	+1.15	13
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	34	72	51	-3	110	+34	14	+7	0.76	-0.01	2	4.63	+1.76	12
Berlin_AG	32	71	51	-2	112	+51	11	+8	0.75	-0.02	3	3.69	+0.52	14
Concord	34	79	56	+2	201	+114	42	+36	0.36	-0.34	2	4.20	+1.40	14
Diamond_Pond	29	69	47	+0	54	+32	4	+4	1.78	+0.91	3	6.17	+2.94	14
Keene_AG	35	79	56	-2	184	+57	44	+29	0.84	+0.00	2	3.35	+0.10	14
North_Conway	35	76	54	+1	139	+68	15	+11	0.88	-0.03	2	4.14	+0.40	13
Rochester	37	79	56	+1	180	+77	29	+20	0.42	-0.48	2	4.66	+0.88	11
VERMONT														
Bennington_AP	33	76	54	+1	205	+126	39	+30	1.04	+0.01	2	2.56	-1.58	11
Burlington_Intl	37	75	54	-2	200	+86	34	+20	1.13	+0.43	2	4.34	+1.59	16
Island_Pond	29	67	49	-2	86	+44	10	+10	0.89	+0.07	3	5.51	+2.56	17
Montpelier	31	69	51	-3	156	+83	26	+20	1.14	+0.42	2	4.03	+1.41	17
Rochester	32	73	51	-2	115	+51	18	+15	1.83	+0.85	2	5.00	+1.17	14
Rutland_AG	35	73	54	-3	163	+23	27	+5	0.65	-0.12	3	3.19	+0.30	11
Springfield_VT	34	75	56	+3	197	+115	36	+28	0.70	-0.21	2	2.90	-0.74	14
Sutton	32	68	49	-1	77	+39	11	+11	1.08	+0.29	3	4.64	+1.67	17
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	47	70	59	+2	290	+146	66	+61	0.15	-0.59	2	3.06	-0.10	11
Fitchburg	39	79	59	+6	294	+227	74	+74	0.48	-0.29	2	4.59	+1.42	11
Greenfield	37	77	56	-3	200	+55	40	+27	0.77	-0.08	3	4.08	+0.62	14
New_Bedford	35	69	56	-2	200	+53	25	+19	0.89	+0.05	3	5.83	+2.32	16
Otis_AFB	36	72	58	+5	225	+156	30	+30	0.37	-0.47	4	5.51	+2.00	16
Plymouth	38	75	58	+4	223	+145	38	+38	0.34	-0.57	2	4.55	+0.75	17
Walpole	38	74	57	+1	198	+91	38	+33	0.18	-0.59	2	3.01	-0.43	11
Chicopee/Westov	35	78	57	-4	272	+65	63	+38	0.52	-0.39	2	4.08	+0.44	14
Worthington	35	75	53	-1	143	+69	26	+22	1.26	+0.21	3	4.33	+0.21	15
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	42	71	57	+1	236	+113	36	+33	0.55	-0.29	2	4.99	+1.42	14
Woonsocket	38	78	58	+3	243	+140	54	+52	0.43	-0.48	3	3.74	-0.06	14
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	45	70	58	+0	218	+62	28	+11	0.62	-0.29	2	3.75	+0.11	14
Hartford/Bradle	37	77	58	-2	302	+119	73	+49	0.56	-0.40	2	4.22	+0.53	15
Norfolk	37	72	53	-1	174	+104	41	+39	1.24	+0.24	3	5.21	+1.07	15
Thomaston_Dam	38	75	56	+0	219	+100	45	+35	0.92	-0.08	2	4.86	+0.76	13
Willimantic	39	79	58	+2	285	+168	66	+57	0.77	-0.21	3	4.24	+0.32	14

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, May 17, 2009

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	AIR TEMPERATURES				PRECIPITATION	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	26	79	52	+0	0.19	1.00
NH	17	82	53	+0	0.34	1.78
VT	26	78	52	-2	0.60	2.18
MA	32	79	56	+1	0.10	1.26
RI	38	78	57	+2	0.43	0.59
CT	35	80	57	-1	0.56	1.24

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: Transplanting cabbage, harvesting asparagus and rhubarb. Planting of sweet corn, snap beans, field corn and cucumbers by direct seeding. Some chopping and round bale silage as orchardgrass is heading out. Cattle moved onto pasture and doing well. Showers over weekend produced one half to one inch of rain. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Strawberries are in bloom. Some field corn got planted between rains. Grasses are flowering but height is about 1/3 normal. Requests are coming in to identify weeds we don't usually see - things like henbit and mayweed, not sure if it is weather related yet. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Tuesday one part of the county had about 30-45 minutes of hail. A producer said dime size hail shredded leaves on plants outside of the greenhouses. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** It was a little drier this week but there were still scattered showers to contend with. Silage corn and sweet corn planting continued along with assorted vegetables. Alfalfa hay fields are nearing the time for first cutting. **Jude Boucher (Ext), Tolland:** Early crops have been growing well thus far. There is a frost due tomorrow morning, so things may change. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Conditions are average, not too wet or dry for planting. Corn is up and planting continues. Still pruning peaches, apples and blueberries. Planted fruit trees. Spraying insecticides and fungicides where needed with IPM guidance. Asparagus cuttings are good with variations from warm and cool weather this week. Another week of rain, sun, cool, and warm variations. Sweet corn is up and vegetables are in. Bedding plants are selling well. Starting to chop grass. **Joyce Meader (Ext), Windham:** Cypress spurge and bedstraw running rampant in the pastures. Makes organic farming difficult!

MAINE - Doreen Conlogue (FSA), Aroostook: Growers were able to work most days last week after receiving one to two inches of rain the previous weekend. Planting conditions are good with some emergence of grains in Central and Southern Aroostook County. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** The early crops have been planted. Asparagus is two weeks early this year. Last weeks weather was rainy and cool. Frost is forecasted for tonight. Vegetable producers have been holding off planting the heat loving crops until next weekend. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Farming weather is very good for this time of year. Small grains have emerged and corn planting is well under way. Apple trees are in full blossom and with no rain forecast the bees should be busy this week. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Sunny and warm days have helped fields dry out from all the rain. Fields are greening up good, pastures are nice and green. Farmers have been tilling, fertilizing and planting fields that are dry. Crops that have been planted are corn and mixed vegetables. Apple trees are at bloom stage and look pretty good. Bees are in most blueberry fields and herbicides are being applied. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Most crop plantings are on schedule in this area. We had our first report of silage corn plantings this week. Peas under plastic are up four to five inches. One of our local farm stands has opened offering a variety of greens. Strawberries have not progressed much since last week, we need some warm weather and sunshine, which is anticipated for this week. Full bloom on most blueberry fields should occur this week. Blight is evident in some fields and concerns continue regarding mummyberry spores. Velpar continues to be applied to fields. Blueberry growers are also concerned about frost warnings for this evening. The week started on a wet note and ended the same way. We also experienced unusually high winds on Thursday. Sunshine is forecasted for most of this upcoming

week. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Continuation of plowing, tilling, spreading manure and some planting throughout the county. The pastures are looking great. Overall a good week for field work. **Janet King (FSA), Somerset:** Very cool last week, we need warmer weather for the early summer crops. Planting corn is on schedule. Fields are being plowed for crops. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** More field work last week with rains slowing progress only slightly. Grass growth is good and farmers should be looking to cut haylage soon for optimum quality. Strawberries beginning to flower as are apples and other fruit. Heavy frost predicted for Monday night may cause some damage to early planted crops. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries; Fertilizer and herbicides are being applied to pruned fields. Fungicides are being applied to protect plants against mummyberry disease. Bees are being brought into fields for pollination.

MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: Mostly cool weather with a couple of warmer days. Frost warnings two nights. Orchardists are paying attention as their trees are in full bloom now. Up to two inches of rain countywide from Saturday's thunderstorm. Some rye was cut to dry this week. Transplants going in, field prep and planting of hardier crops continues. **Julie Viveiros (FSA), Essex/Middlesex:** Pasture is normal to wet for this time of year. Soil is adequate to surplus. **Lori Carver (FSA), Franklin:** Mini "tornado" touched down in Sunderland last Saturday and moved a tobacco barn onto the road. It also tore through shade tobacco netting and a field of rye. The rest of the week was nice with cool morning temps. Asparagus harvest is in full swing. Bedding plant sales are going extremely well. Planting of all crops will begin in earnest. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** A rainy and cool. Vegetable growers were harvesting asparagus and rhubarb. Planting sweet corn, peas, squash, potatoes, and greens. Potatoes are 100% planted and look good. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Four nights last week where growers had to run their sprinklers for frost control - long nights too. That means the cranberry beds are even wetter than they would be with the rain we have had during the past two weeks. Insects have appeared on the scene - threshold numbers for cranberry weevil and winter moth have been exceeded in several locations, necessitating insecticide applications. These sprays have been difficult to apply with the weather. Weeds are growing rapidly in this weather, fungal diseases will soon follow as symptoms appear. It has been good for vine planting in renovated beds though. The vines look very good in most locations, although there is the usual patchiness you always see as the vines come out of dormancy.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll: Cool weather has slowed things down a bit, spotty frost reminds us that the danger has not yet passed. Hay fields and pastures are growing well, first cut could start at any time if the weather cooperates. Manure spreading continues and fields are being prepped for corn planting. Garden Center sales and soil test results indicate a huge increase in interest in home gardening. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Generally dry weather, with some good rain late in the week. Field corn planting continues, with some early-planted fields emerging. Grass in pastures and hayfields is growing well, and some may begin mowing first cutting this week. Planting on veggie operations continues, with some harvest of early greens, etc. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Field corn planting has begun with weather cooperating throughout most of the week. Cooler, wetter weather at week's end. Manure spreading and disking fields continued on other operations. More animals now on pasture, grass growing well under ideal conditions

Winter kill observations of both alfalfa and orchardgrass being reported. Looked at an approximately 40 acre field that will have to be plowed under. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Vegetables: Continued early season vegetable (peas, lettuce, greens, cole crops) planting, along with sweet corn and potatoes. Liming, fertilizing, plowing, discing and getting ready to plant fields. Started to lay plastic mulch and drip irrigation tape. Harvesting of asparagus. Fruit: Apple, pear, cherry, peach and plum were at petal fall to fruit set in the Hollis area. Blueberry is at blooming stage. However, late blooming apple varieties are at full bloom to petal fall. Noticing several late flower blossoms on peaches and apples. Seeing more winter injury on peach, raspberry, blueberry, strawberry but very little on apple. Orchardists are fertilizing orchards and are applying protective fungicide sprays on fruit trees and blueberries. Planting fruit trees, raspberries, blueberries and strawberries. Field Crops: Farmers are spreading manure, plowing, disking fertilizing and planting corn.

VERMONT - Jeff Carter, (Ext), Addison: Heavy rains and high winds stopped field work over the weekend. Good progress on field work this past week. Manure spreading, field tillage and planting corn. First corn up a few inches and it looks good. New

seeded fields emerged and vigorous nurse crop growth. Hay fields filled in. No hay or haylage harvest yet. Pastures look good with rain. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Wet weather has struck in Franklin County Bakersfield. We had five inches of rain on Saturday night with some flooding in fields near streams. It seems that this was not county wide, however, rain was wide-spread and heavier in some areas. Pastures are providing ample feed, however, very wet and muddy. Corn planting has gone extremely well this week considering the rains that came last weekend at the same time frame on Saturday night. The soil is becoming more saturated and fields will now take longer to dry out for tillage and planting. Some concern on germination in wet fields. Weather in the next week will be a big player in this concern with moisture and temperature being primary factors. Fruits and apples are full bloom are progressing well. **John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille:** Corn planting and other seedings were in high gear last week. A cool week with a couple of light frosts in many areas had veggie growers looking forward to warmer nights. Manure spreading is slowing until after the first cut of grass. Fence building is winding down as most pastures are ready to accommodate their grazing guests.

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