

Crop Progress & Condition



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United States Department of Agriculture

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July 6, 2010 – 4 pm

For week ending 7/4/10

Great Week for Haying

GENERAL CONDITIONS:

For the week ending July 4, 2010, there were 6.4 days available for field work across New England. Pasture condition was rated 1% very poor, 10% poor, 27% fair, 46% good, and 16% excellent. The week began hot and humid with some areas reporting rain showers and thunderstorms. Daytime temperatures were as high as 94 degrees on Monday. Conditions remained partly cloudy for the rest of the week. Temperatures cooled down to normal levels on Tuesday and continued dropping over the next 2 days. Below average daytime temperatures on Thursday ranged from the mid-60s to mid-70s. Seasonal warmth returned on Saturday and the week ended warmer than average with daytime temperatures ranging from 4 to 12 degrees above normal. For the week, nighttime temperatures ranged from the low 50s to mid-60s. Total precipitation for the week ranged from 0 to 1.04 inches.

FRUIT:

Strawberry season was winding down last week ahead of normal due to the early start of harvest. There were widespread reports of lower than average strawberry yields as a consequence of the May frosts. Raspberries and highbush blueberries were ripening and ready to be picked by week's end with many operations already underway. Sweet cherries continued to be harvested in New Hampshire and Massachusetts. Cranberries were in petal fall stage except for late cultivars. The crop benefited from excellent pollination weather and strong bee activity. However, dry conditions were beginning to be a major concern for cranberry growers. Fruit growers were busy monitoring pest and crop development, applying cover sprays, and mowing orchard floors last week.

VEGETABLES:

Sweet corn development was ahead of schedule last week, hitting farm stands early in areas where weather permitted harvesting. Farmers were harvesting other vegetables including beets, broccoli, cabbage, cucumbers, greens, lettuce, peas, radishes, rhubarb, scallions, spinach, summer squash, tomatoes, and zucchini. Farmers were also occupied irrigating fields, applying fertilizer and fungicides, mowing weeds, and searching for pests such as asparagus beetles, squash vine borer, and squash bugs.

FIELD CROPS:

Field corn reached thigh high last week in Massachusetts, and grew well on many fields as high temperatures gave corn and grasses a good growing boost. Potatoes continued to come along nicely, with some early varieties being harvested and sold at farm stands while other varieties were being hilled. Hot temperatures and dry air last week were favorable conditions for dry hay and haylage production. Farmers also spent their time last week irrigating fields, applying fertilizer and fungicides, weeding, and continuing to scout for pests and diseases.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	10	2	0
Short	23	21	0
Adequate	64	69	34
Surplus	3	8	66
Subsoil			
Very Short	5	1	0
Short	20	16	0
Adequate	73	77	39
Surplus	2	6	61

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Set	Fruit Size	Condition
	2010	2009	5 yr Avg			
Apples	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Peaches	-	-	-	Average	Average	Fair/Good
Pears	-	-	-	Average	Average	Fair
Blueberries						
Highbush	10	<5	<5	Average	Average	Good
Wild	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good/Exc
Cranberries						
Mass	-	-	-	N/A	N/A	Good
Strawberries	80	75	70	Average	Average	Good/Fair

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2010	2009	5-yr Avg	Condition
--Percent Planted--				
Sweet Corn	99	95	95	
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	100	100	100	Good/Excellent
Shade	100	100	100	Good/Excellent
--Percent Emerged--				
Silage Corn	100	99	95	Good
Sweet Corn	90	90	90	
-- Percent Harvested --				
Barley, ME	-	-	-	Excellent/ Good
Oats, ME	-	-	-	Excellent/ Good
Potatoes				
Maine	-	-	-	Excellent/ Good
Mass	-	-	-	Good
Rhode Island	-	-	-	Good/Excellent
Dry Hay				
First Cut	85	70	70	
Second Cut	30	5	10	Good
Sweet Corn	<5	0	<5	Good

Weather Summary for New England Agricultural Statistics

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday June 28, 2010
 To: Sunday July 04, 2010

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	52	83	67	-2	892	+223	277	+100	0.86	+0.11	3	2.06	-1.00	11
Bangor_Intl_Arp	47	83	65	-2	833	+244	248	+112	1.16	+0.39	4	3.41	+0.33	15
Bethel	45	86	64	-3	739	+134	199	+57	0.96	+0.10	3	4.80	+1.15	15
Caribou_Municip	44	82	61	-3	656	+181	184	+100	0.90	+0.11	5	4.79	+1.99	13
Dover-Foxcroft	44	83	63	-3	637	+146	163	+73	1.81	+0.97	3	4.50	+1.05	13
Frenchville	42	82	58	-6	545	+114	140	+75	1.54	+0.77	4	4.12	+1.16	10
Houlton	41	81	61	-5	594	+106	152	+62	1.21	+0.43	5	2.59	-0.50	17
Livermore_Falls	45	85	64	-1	705	+209	195	+104	1.01	+0.14	3	3.41	-0.36	12
Moosehead	44	86	62	-1	496	+110	97	+45	2.23	+1.28	5	3.85	+0.15	17
Portland_ME	49	83	66	+0	868	+299	267	+144	0.63	-0.14	2	2.61	-0.59	13
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	42	84	62	-4	663	+77	183	+61	1.20	+0.36	2	4.29	+0.78	16
Berlin_AG	47	84	64	-2	685	+108	184	+58	1.09	+0.20	4	3.78	-0.02	14
Concord	44	89	67	-2	1000	+300	381	+185	0.03	-0.68	1	1.93	-1.03	8
Diamond_Pond	38	75	58	-4	369	+28	70	+41	1.37	+0.32	5	5.07	+0.76	16
Keene_AG	44	89	66	-4	924	+99	326	+57	0.00	-0.84	0	2.93	-0.43	8
North_Conway	47	85	65	-3	797	+151	231	+64	1.15	+0.26	2	3.89	+0.20	16
Rochester	50	92	73	+5	1025	+265	394	+163	0.09	-0.70	1	2.89	-0.36	8
VERMONT														
Bennington_AP	44	84	65	+0	926	+320	334	+193	0.20	-0.78	2	4.11	-0.08	15
Burlington_Intl	53	86	68	-2	1006	+229	388	+143	0.85	+0.02	3	4.48	+1.19	15
Island_Pond	43	84	62	-2	623	+172	159	+81	1.33	+0.35	5	3.99	+0.01	18
Montpelier	50	85	65	-2	787	+201	253	+118	1.98	+1.26	4	4.98	+1.82	19
Rochester	46	86	63	-3	718	+156	207	+83	2.20	+1.36	3	5.44	+1.99	12
Rutland_AG	46	85	65	-5	859	+30	289	+18	0.11	-0.73	2	2.10	-1.26	12
Springfield_VT	46	88	66	-1	946	+303	337	+178	0.37	-0.47	2	2.06	-1.50	17
Sutton	45	83	62	-2	610	+158	146	+65	1.20	+0.22	5	4.43	+0.45	21
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	60	94	74	+3	1304	+389	572	+256	0.00	-0.68	0	1.32	-1.53	9
Fitchburg	54	89	72	+6	1271	+650	554	+403	0.00	-0.84	0	2.01	-1.35	7
Greenfield	46	86	68	-3	987	+95	375	+68	0.00	-0.87	0	3.72	+0.18	9
New_Bedford	48	89	71	+0	1116	+217	437	+139	0.17	-0.56	1	2.29	-0.97	8
Otis_AFB	54	84	69	+2	939	+269	318	+140	0.11	-0.59	1	1.91	-1.05	10
Plymouth	49	96	74	+5	1213	+497	522	+314	0.13	-0.64	1	0.92	-2.25	8
Walpole	51	94	72	+4	1205	+434	521	+287	0.00	-0.83	0	2.00	-1.47	11
Chicopee/Westov	46	89	70	-3	1166	+122	486	+90	0.00	-0.90	0	1.95	-1.79	7
Worthington	43	83	65	-2	858	+245	281	+138	0.00	-0.91	0	2.70	-0.91	7
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	57	95	74	+4	1315	+463	559	+277	0.66	-0.07	1	2.87	-0.17	8
Woonsocket	52	92	72	+4	1195	+437	495	+279	0.21	-0.70	1	1.92	-1.84	7
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	58	90	74	+3	1271	+345	545	+213	0.53	-0.31	1	2.84	-0.38	8
Hartford/Bradle	51	92	72	+0	1361	+363	600	+224	0.00	-0.78	0	2.40	-1.01	6
Norfolk	50	89	67	+2	941	+331	331	+189	0.69	-0.31	1	3.56	-0.69	11
Thomaston_Dam	50	88	70	+3	1136	+366	460	+234	0.11	-0.80	1	3.02	-0.74	11
Willimantic	48	92	70	+3	1191	+411	495	+264	0.02	-0.89	1	2.19	-1.32	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, July 04, 2010

STATE	AIR TEMPERATURES				PRECIPITATION	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	38	86	63	-3	0.05	2.96
NH	33	92	66	-1	0.00	2.06
VT	40	89	64	-3	0.07	2.20
MA	43	96	70	+2	0.00	0.97
RI	52	95	72	+4	0.16	0.66
CT	47	94	71	+2	0.00	0.74

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 excellent weather for making dry hay. Most crops need rain. We are in the beginning days of a heat wave with temperatures in the 90s. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Very dry and increasingly warmer through the week. Great hay weather for those continuing on first cut and also second cutting. Many other crops are enjoying the heat and sun but needing rain. Irrigating vegetable and tobacco crops but not much else. Some folks found blue mold in broadleaf tobacco, harrowed down and replanted. **Patricia Smith (FSA), New London:** Everything on schedule. Hay is being harvested. Everyone is enjoying the fresh vegetables. **Jude Boucher (Ext), Tolland:** With the winds last week and the heat this week, soils are beginning to dry out. Still some moisture underneath, but the corn is starting to curl on some farms without water. Other than the dryness, which is just beginning to set in, the vegetable crops look better than I have seen them in years. There are several diseases present, but most are being held in check by the dry weather. There is a little leafhopper burn on the unprotected beans and potatoes, but even the leafhopper populations have dropped without any storm fronts to bring in new waves of adults from the south. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Blueberry picking is two weeks early, peaches are expected soon, cutting hay all weekend, baling like crazy, great haying weather, corn on sandier soils is getting dry. Strawberries are nearly finished with frost issues and then the heat of last week.

MAINE – Casey Cote (St John Valley Soil & Water Conservation Dist), Northern Aroostook: Crops are growing rapidly and look excellent. Fertilizer and fungicide applications are taking place. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Rain delayed field work the first part of the week. Growers are on a 5-day spray schedule. Roadside stands have "new potatoes" available in the area. Growers are hilling potatoes. Crops are still looking excellent. New potatoes that are available now are excellent in size for an early date. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Spraying for European Corn borers. Moisture is adequate. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Hot dry weather has the irrigation guns working daily. Several dry days helped with the hay harvest, some farmers are working on second crop. The strawberry harvest is over, blueberries and raspberries are starting. Vegetables are starting to be harvested. One day of rain would be much appreciated. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Field corn is a beautiful dark green color and stands are even. The corn looks so much better than the past 3 years. Great corn growing weather with hot days and warm nights. Some farmers are close to completing their second cut of hay! Strawberry season was one of the longest ever. Raspberries are ripe and the highbush blueberries are coming right along. We deserve a good year for a change. **Megan McDonough (FSA), Kennebec:** The weather has been quite cooperative; allowing for a great growing season and favorable conditions for field work. First cut hay has been completed in most areas and crop looks good. No report to date of pest problems etc, no news is good news! **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Very warm temps the past week have pushed the crops ahead. Hilling of potatoes and crop is growing well. All crops are looking good and will need some rain after this next week of very hot temperatures. Harvesting of hay is again in full swing and the fields are buzzing with equipment. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis/Penobscot:** Hot weather has helped farmers finish up hay harvesting, although the humidity can cause some quality issues in the barn. Corn is growing fast. Strawberry harvest is on the downhill slope. **Janet King (FSA), Somerset:** Great week for haying! The hot muggy temperature over the weekend is just what the corn needs to grow, with more of the same predicted for this week. Weather conditions are cooperating very well at this time. The sporadic showers seem to have provided just the right amount of moisture at the right time. Highbush blueberries are starting to turn blue. Vegetable stands are busy now selling greens, cucumbers and peas. Strawberries are still being

harvested and some raspberries are ready. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Hot weather and some timely rains, the corn is growing now. Second cutting of haylage has started and some farms are done. Strawberry harvest is nearing the end. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Fruit flies are being captured in record numbers this year. Applications are being made for control once flies reach threshold numbers. We are seeing some early blue berries and it appears we are still at least a week early in their development. If we get adequate moisture for the remainder of the summer it appears the crop in Maine should be a bit below average at 70 to 80 million pounds.

MASSACHUSETTS – Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: Strawberry season ended with lower yields. More hay was made. South County picked their first sweet corn and field corn is thigh high. Farmers markets are doing a great business with sunny dry weather, temperatures in the 70's with a couple of nights in the 40's. We really need a good soaking rain, fields and pastures are too dry but it looks like hot and dry for the next week. **Lori Carver (FSA), Franklin:** The unusual weather continues, from the 90's at the beginning of the week to the 70's at the end of the week. Morning temperatures were in the 40's in some places. Producers are irrigating due to the lack of rainfall. Silage corn looks great as does the tobacco crop. Harvesting of sweet corn is ahead of schedule. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** It was a very hot and humid week. All crops are ahead of schedule and growing fast. Growers are harvesting blueberries, raspberries, cherries, cabbage, cucumbers, summer squash, beets, sweet corn, radishes and other summer crops. With the dry conditions many farmers are irrigating their crops. Disease pressure is low due to the dry crop conditions. Growers continue to scout for squash bugs, squash vine borer, potato leafhopper, asparagus beetles and corn earworm. The tobacco crop is being cultivated and top-dressed and is in great need for rain. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Bloom is done except for Howes and other late cultivars, although they are mostly done as well. Fruit have set up very nicely. Pollination weather was perfect and bee activity was strong. Things are getting very dry, and rain is badly needed. This is the key time for berry sizing. Fungicides for fruit rot are completed, and second fruit worm sprays have been applied in many beds. Dodder continues to expand big time on certain beds. Some renovated beds are still being planted, although this hot weather is absolutely brutal on those new plugs. Things look good, but precipitation is really needed.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – William Lord (Ext), Belknap: Harvest of highbush blueberries and raspberries is just underway. Harvest of first crop hay complete except for those fields mowed just to "keep them open". **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Sunny weather all week, it's starting to look a little dry out there. Farms took advantage of great haying weather towards the end of the week. Field corn continues to grow well. Strawberries all done, but blueberries and raspberries are beginning this week. Veggie crops all seem to be doing well, with a small amount of sweet corn hitting the stands over the holiday weekend. Sunshine seems to be great for growth and keeping diseases down as long as you've got irrigation. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Hotter weather moving more hay into barns, some rain getting in the way. Corn is growing rapidly. Early summer veggies becoming available, blueberries are starting to color up. Corn about right size for Nitrogen top-dressing, earlier planted past this point. Seeing high presence of a hemi-parasitic broadleaf weed called yellow rattle in grass meadows. Reducing yields significantly in fields managed for dry baled hay production, even good managed affected. Earwigs appear to be in abundance this year. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** The first three days of the week brought almost 2 inches of rain. From Tuesday afternoon on, things remained warm with lots of sun. The field corn crop looks good. Farmers are making hay, and second crop is looking better.

Vegetable crops are doing well. Some isolated cut worm problems exist. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit : Warm weather that occurred during last week of a June ripened strawberry crops quickly where most growers are getting ready to renovate harvested beds. Fruit growers monitoring pest and crop development and applying sprays for pest control. Also, growers are training young fruit trees along with mowing orchard floors. Sweet cherry and raspberries harvest continues along with first blueberries being harvested. Mummyberry disease is showing up on highbush blueberries. Field Crops: Farmers continued to bale hay or make haylage at a faster rate, along with side-dressing fertilizer to field corn if needed. Vegetables: Harvesting greens, spinach, scallions, radishes, cucumbers, greenhouse tomatoes, rhubarb, lettuce, zucchini, summer squash and potatoes. Growers are busy side-dressing fields with fertilizer, cultivating, mowing weeds, scouting for pests and spraying if needed. **Amy Ouellette (Ext), Merrimack:** Harvesting early blueberries, raspberries and cherries. Strawberry harvest is just about finished. Several vegetables are available including greens, radishes, peas, broccoli, cucumbers, summer squash, greenhouse tomatoes and more. Second cutting of hay is in progress throughout central NH. Field conditions are exceptionally dry. Harvest, plant disease, and insect emergence are 10-14 days ahead of schedule. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Very dry, 90+ temperatures several days in a row, rain needed. Irrigating small fruits and vegetable fields as well as new fruit planting. Picking potatoes, and a whole array of vegetables, blueberries, raspberries. Strawberry picking is done, renovating strawberry bed. Weeding, and top-dressing fertilized fields; mowing orchards. Scouting for pests. Haying has been done. Pasture showing drought stress as well as other crops.

RHODE ISLAND – Heather Faubert (Univ of RI), All Counties: Many hot days and very little rain have changed conditions in Rhode Island. **Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties:** For the July 4th weekend, we are still picking some strawberries at the end of the season. Blueberries are starting to be picked this week, and the crop looks good. Sweet corn has begun being picked this week, and it's the first time in a long time that it is picked before 4th of July.

Summer squash, both green and yellow, are plentiful. Potatoes are looking very good. Hay is still being mowed for 1st cutting. Second cutting has begun also. Most of the state has had sufficient rainfall so far. Pastures are still good.

VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison: Week ends with hot and dry weather. Hay harvest for dry bales in full swing to finish first crop. The haylage second cut has good re-growth. New seeded fields have a lot of weed pressure, annual grasses doing very well. Lots of leaf diseases showing on grass plants. Corn crop looks great on light soils, but uneven and some poor on clay soils. Side-dressing Nitrogen on corn and continue to spray for weed control. Noticeably more corn fields with roundup control program. Soybeans are up and uniform stands. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Weather before the weekend of the 4th, was cool and damp. Wet every other day, so could not dry hay. Then the heat arrived, have not seen it like this in 7 years. Lots of hay being put up over the weekend. Corn is responding to the heat, and is now really growing. Hot, humid and breezy. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Good stretch of weather here right at the brink of the turning point in the growing season. This is a great 4th of July celebration for farmers. Not in terms of picnics and fire works, but in terms of growth and harvest. Second cut hay is being harvested as haylage and hay. Soil now getting dried out enough to make dry hay and getting around in fields without to many ruts made. Nitrogen top-dressing is now happening on corn which will give a needed boost in some spots with wetter soils. Gardens are doing great with peas coming into the spot light. Strawberries are winding down with some pretty dismal yields. Blueberries are coming into harvest time and looks like they may have stood up to the May frosts better than the strawberries. **John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille/Washington:** We're in the midst of the biggest heat wave in a couple years which is giving the corn crop a huge boost. Grass growth has slowed but pastures haven't burned up yet. First cut of hay is about over and second cut is proceeding nicely for the early birds. Veggie folks are doing fine especially those with irrigation. No major reports of pests or disease yet.

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