

Crop Progress & Condition



NEW ENGLAND
Agricultural
Statistics



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For week ending 7/24/11

Heat Wave

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending July 24, 2011, there were 6.7 days available for fieldwork across New England. Pasture conditions were rated 3 percent very poor, 11 percent poor, 41 percent fair, 37 percent good, and 8 percent excellent. New Englanders experienced an extremely warm week. Every day, most locations had temperatures that were above the average. Monday and Tuesday were partly cloudy with few isolated showers. Temperatures were in the low to upper 80s. Wednesday and Thursday the wind picked up, the sun was out, and temperatures climbed steadily into the 80s and 90s. Friday was blistering as temperatures reached the mid-90s to low 100s with record high temperatures at some locations. Conditions were partly cloudy to sunny across the region. The weekend was slightly cooler with temperatures in the mid-80s to mid-90s and some rain showers were experienced Sunday morning.

FRUIT: Some cranberry producers reported that temperatures in bogs exceeded 100 degrees several days this past week. Irrigation in the early morning hours was important to keep the uprights and attached fruit from desiccating. Apples that were not hit with hail from the July 4th storm were reported in good condition. Most fruit were in need of rain. Blueberries were starting to show where there was poor pollination. Maine wild blueberry harvesting began on fields in the Union area. Elsewhere, highbush blueberry PYO operations were open, but customers were few and far between due to the heat. Raspberries also continued to be picked.

VEGETABLES: Sweet corn flourished with the warm sunny conditions last week. Vegetable growers were irrigating when it was available. They harvested beets, beans, cabbage, lettuce, parsley, peas, radishes, zucchini, summer squash, and sweet corn as well as other vegetables. Operators were also busy cultivating, hoeing weeds, monitoring pest pressure, and spraying. Farm stands were full of summer vegetables.

FIELD CROPS: In some areas, field corn began to tassel this week and in fields where soils were drier, corn was curling. Farmers were pumping water to irrigate tobacco. Shade tobacco harvest continued while broadleaf is still a couple weeks away from harvest. All tobacco growers are on the lookout for blue mold after a sighting in Hampden County. Producers were concentrating on the second hay cutting where there was enough re-growth. For some, hay cutting was difficult because of intermittent showers. Potato farmers were on a 5 day spray schedule due to locating late blight in Aroostook County, Maine. In southern Maine, some potatoes have blossomed.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	11	2	4
Short	47	26	24
Adequate	42	67	63
Surplus	0	5	9
Subsoil			
Very Short	13	2	3
Short	33	20	24
Adequate	54	76	67
Surplus	0	2	6

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Set	Fruit Size	Condition
	2011	2010	5-yr Avg			
Apples	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good
Peaches	10	10	10	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Pears	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good
Blueberries						
Highbush	25	35	25	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Wild	-	-	-	Average	Avg/Below	Fair/Good
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-	Avg/Above	Average	Good/Exc
Strawberries	90	99	99			

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2011	2010	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Planted --				
Sweet Corn	99	100	100	
-- Percent Emerged --				
Silage Corn	100	100	99	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	99	100	99	
-- Percent Harvested --				
Barley				Good
Oats				Good/Fair
Potatoes				
Maine				Good/Fair
Mass	<5	0	0	Good/Fair
Rhode Island	<5	0	<5	Good/Fair
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	0	5	<5	Good/Fair
Shade	20	20	15	Good
Sweet Corn	15	20	10	Good/Fair
Dry Hay				
First Cut	95	95	90	
Second Cut	30	55	30	Good/Fair

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday, July 18, 2011
 To: Sunday, July 24, 2011

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														
Augusta_State_A	59	95	79	+9	1178	+115	496	+125	0.00	-0.70	0	1.46	-1.41	8
Bangor_Intl_Arp	54	97	78	+10	1142	+189	442	+141	0.00	-0.75	0	1.48	-1.58	5
Bethel	56	93	75	+8	1085	+118	434	+129	0.06	-0.72	1	1.71	-1.54	9
Caribou_Municip	49	87	70	+5	935	+147	322	+118	2.97	+2.04	5	8.40	+4.93	15
Dover-Foxcroft	50	92	73	+7	920	+95	323	+97	0.00	-0.77	0	1.27	-2.02	8
Frenchville	47	83	67	+2	743	+16	207	+34	2.31	+1.42	5	7.38	+4.05	15
Houlton	45	88	71	+4	910	+95	307	+84	1.17	+0.32	4	3.26	-0.04	12
Livermore_Falls	54	94	76	+9	1089	+268	438	+219	0.05	-0.72	1	2.46	-0.74	10
Moosehead	50	91	71	+7	761	+87	225	+72	0.02	-0.89	1	1.97	-1.72	11
Portland_ME	60	100	80	+11	1184	+243	512	+218	0.03	-0.67	1	1.05	-1.85	7
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	56	93	74	+8	1034	+120	382	+130	0.16	-0.61	3	1.22	-1.94	10
Berlin_AG	53	91	73	+7	1026	+113	366	+99	0.07	-0.77	1	2.55	-0.87	9
Concord	56	100	79	+10	1379	+288	617	+230	0.19	-0.56	3	0.83	-2.03	7
Diamond_Pond	53	83	68	+6	730	+137	198	+103	0.12	-0.93	2	3.62	-0.55	13
Keene_AG	56	98	76	+6	1317	+78	560	+76	0.20	-0.64	2	1.27	-2.00	8
North_Conway	57	98	77	+9	1129	+110	475	+135	0.03	-0.81	1	1.25	-2.17	8
Rochester	58	104	81	+10	1486	+323	715	+280	0.13	-0.64	2	1.22	-1.88	9
VERMONT														
Bennington_AP	57	94	76	+9	1393	+441	582	+295	0.15	-0.76	2	1.36	-2.38	6
Burlington_Intl	61	97	79	+9	1465	+277	671	+215	0.63	-0.21	4	3.41	+0.14	12
Island_Pond	54	89	73	+9	1054	+317	378	+208	0.48	-0.50	3	1.75	-2.09	13
Montpelier	57	92	75	+9	1205	+280	484	+208	0.10	-0.60	2	2.00	-0.82	12
Rochester	54	92	73	+7	1106	+213	412	+154	0.59	-0.29	2	3.48	+0.08	10
Rutland_AG	58	94	76	+6	1283	+47	533	+55	1.23	+0.32	2	2.94	-0.50	6
Springfield_VT	58	97	79	+11	1452	+452	660	+344	0.49	-0.33	3	2.26	-1.00	8
Sutton	55	91	74	+9	1003	+256	351	+169	0.24	-0.74	5	2.78	-1.05	16
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	70	103	84	+11	1649	+263	821	+234	0.12	-0.51	1	1.91	-0.67	6
Fitchburg	61	103	82	+15	1642	+657	810	+493	0.16	-0.68	1	0.58	-2.78	6
Greenfield	58	96	77	+5	1347	+18	568	+24	0.10	-0.74	1	0.95	-2.44	6
New_Bedford	63	102	80	+7	1654	+285	775	+209	0.17	-0.53	2	3.36	+0.59	7
Otis_AFB	64	91	76	+6	1267	+187	525	+139	0.14	-0.49	2	3.29	+0.69	6
Plymouth	63	101	80	+9	1546	+411	713	+286	0.34	-0.43	2	4.66	+1.58	6
Walpole	62	102	80	+9	1530	+341	730	+277	0.65	-0.12	2	1.99	-1.16	6
Chicopee/Westov	58	101	81	+6	1589	+62	738	+58	0.01	-0.77	1	0.90	-2.47	6
Worthington	57	92	75	+8	1172	+213	457	+167	0.12	-0.86	3	1.63	-2.20	8
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	65	101	81	+9	1616	+309	770	+234	0.10	-0.60	1	3.22	+0.38	7
Woonsocket	62	101	80	+10	1548	+379	724	+297	0.00	-0.85	0	1.64	-1.93	4
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	71	103	83	+9	1736	+338	849	+244	0.45	-0.39	1	1.55	-1.87	6
Hartford/Bradle	64	103	83	+9	1724	+251	846	+195	0.01	-0.69	1	0.98	-1.95	6
Norfolk	60	98	78	+10	1264	+301	519	+224	0.10	-0.81	1	1.60	-2.22	5
Thomaston_Dam	61	100	80	+10	1570	+404	734	+311	0.08	-0.89	2	0.72	-2.98	6
Willimantic	61	100	80	+10	1617	+434	754	+319	0.00	-0.97	0	2.45	-1.30	6

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, July 24, 2011

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	45	101	74	+7	0.00	2.97
NH	44	104	75	+8	0.00	0.50
VT	52	97	75	+8	0.08	1.23
MA	56	103	79	+8	0.00	0.65
RI	62	101	79	+8	0.00	0.10
CT	60	103	80	+8	0.00	0.45

REPORTERS' COMMENTS, By County: *Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), or other knowledgeable individuals.*

CONNECTICUT – Howard Rood (FSA), Fairfield/Litchfield: Heat wave at the end of the week. Field and sweet corn on light soils is starting to curl. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** A very hot week, all time record high of 103 degrees on Friday at Bradley Airport in Windsor Locks. Five day heat wave was tough on people, crops, and animals. Farmers pumping water to irrigate tobacco, vegetables, and fruit. Shade tobacco harvest continues while broadleaf is a couple weeks away from harvest. Farmers markets still strong despite the heat. **Patricia Smith (FSA), New London:** Extreme heat this past week took its toll on animals and people, although the corn flourished. Producers concentrating on second cutting, vegetables look good. Really could use some rain. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** Very hot and humid this week. Things are getting dry out there. Irrigation has begun to be used wherever possible. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** HOT and HUMID! Corn shot up and is tasseling, with some corn on the short side. Making hay. Blueberry picking was slow due to the heat. Some farms started days earlier to get work done in the field, taking off the middle of the day to avoid worker heat stress. Peaches and blueberries are down on production due to hail damage from a spring storm in northern part of the county. Crops are getting dry; irrigating where possible.

MAINE – Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook: High winds and rain Friday and Saturday caused a little damage to crops. Hay has been hard to make with showers moving in and out of the area. Garden crops look excellent. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Farmers are on a 5-day spray schedule for applying fungicides. Crops are continuing to grow rapidly. Some farm markets are selling "new potatoes". These "new potatoes" are sized well and look very good. **Don Audibert, (FSA) Northern Aroostook:** It was hard for producers haying, due to scattered showers during the week. Potato farmers are now on a 5-day spray schedule due to locating late blight in Aroostook County. Had heavy rain and high winds on Friday and Saturday. Some farmers are calling the office to report some hail damage to their crop from storms. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Spraying for blight and done spraying for corn borers. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** The soil has turned to dust in the area. Farmers with irrigation have the guns going daily. Early sweet corn started under cover has started to reach the stores. Second crop hay has dried up. Silage corn is curled on the drier soils. Highbush blueberries and raspberries are being picked. Everyone is praying for rain. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Crops are still doing well. We do need rain because grass growth has slowed to a minimum. Highbush blueberry harvest is about to begin. The corn was happy with the high temps. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Extremely dry and crops are starting to see strain. Apples are looking pretty good for the ones not hit with hail from July 4th storm. Blueberries are really in need of rain and some areas hit hard with poor pollination which are starting to show. Vegetables are plentiful at farm stands. Hay looks great for first crop and farmers are in hopes for a good 2nd crop. Rain is in the upcoming forecast but we really need more than one day or down pours. Potatoes have blossomed and look good. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis/Penobscot:** Hot, dry weather. Farm stands are well stocked with local fresh produce. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** A very warm week and now some rain would really help maturing crops. **Elaine Moceus (FSA), Somerset:** We need rain! Crop producers are beginning to get nervous over the lack of rainfall in this area. The last periods of significant rain occurred during the first half of July, totaling approximately 1.9 inches so far this month. Due to the lack of rainfall over the last two months, combined with heat wave temperatures in the 90's over a three day period during this reporting week, conditions are very dry. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Dry, hot weather continued and corn that had adequate moisture responded with some great growth. Corn on dry ground is suffering from drought stress. Pastures are

drying up quickly. Need some rain! **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Fly traps are being monitored for the blueberry fruit fly and insecticides are being applied when traps reach threshold. Harvest is beginning on fields in the Union area.

MASSACHUSETTS – Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: The "heat dome" hit the county this week. Temperatures in the 90's and humid. Pastures are showing the lack of moisture despite heavy dew at night. Solanaceous vegetables are thriving. Irrigation continues where available. The corn crop loves the heat but will suffer without some precip. More dry hay was made. The Berkshire tourist season is in full bloom benefiting farmers markets and stands. Pick your own berry operations were busy, but the heat is keeping some pickers home. **Lori Carver (FSA), Franklin:** Wow the week ended with record hot temps! Field work was done early in the mornings, if possible. Topping of tobacco continued. Producers are working on getting the second cut of hay in during the hot dry spell. Blueberry crop looks good. Peaches will be ready soon. Vegetable growers are irrigating crops, we could use a rainy day or two! **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** A very hot, humid, and dry week. Vegetable and fruit growers were irrigating due to the dry soil conditions. Vegetable and fruit growers were harvesting beets, beans, blueberries, cabbage, lettuce, parsley, peas, radishes, summer squash, and sweet corn. Some early potatoes have been vine killed. All tobacco growers are on the lookout for blue mold since it has been confirmed in Hampden County. The shade tobacco harvest has begun and looks good. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: A hot and humid week, with temperatures on the bog exceeding 100 degrees several days. Irrigating in the early morning hours was important to keep the uprights and attached fruit from desiccating. Showers were very widespread during the week; no reports of hail so far. Most areas received no measurable precipitation. Fruit set is very impressive and berries are sizing up nicely so far. Minimal fruit worm and fruit rot issues at this point.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Donna Juneau (FSA) Belknap/Merrimack: Good growing weather with warm sunny days and scattered rain showers early in the week. Temperatures were well above normal and high into the 90s at the end of the week. Rainfall has been below normal. Producers have been in the field harvesting hay. Corn generally looks good. Vegetable producers are harvesting raspberries, blueberries, summer squash, and greens. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Hot weather most of the week, with pretty much no rain - it's pretty dry out there. Hayfields and pastures still doing ok, but regrowth is slow. Field corn starting to tassel in some spots, also starting to curl here and there from moisture stress. Vegetable crops with irrigation doing well - wide variety of crops available and first sweet corn of the season is showing up in stands. PYO blueberries and raspberries are in full swing. **Mike Harrington (NRCS), Coos:** The week started with low humidity and ended with high temperatures and very high humidity. Mostly dry with a few scattered storms. Second cut hay/haylage being taken. Early planted corn starting to tassel, some on sandier soils showing spots of drought. Potatoes starting to flower. Pumpkins and winter squash beginning to run and flower. Summer fruits and vegetables widely available. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** We have gone from wet, rainy conditions earlier in the growing season to hot and dry in July. In July, we have had very little rain and plenty of hot weather. Top soil conditions are dry. Second cut hay needs a good soaking rain to bring it along. Some fields and the drier sites are turning brown. The corn crop on some of the sandy soils looks as though it is in need of some rain. Late planted/re-planted sites have curled up and turned color. The majority of the rest of the corn has developed a better root system and is handling the dry conditions. Some corn fields still have a long way to go to catch up. The alfalfa crop is not affected by the dry conditions. Reeds Canary grass also appears to be unaffected by the dry conditions. The blue berry crop looks good. Vegetable growers are providing irrigation or

supplemental water as needed. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Very hot dry weather - IRRIGATING CROPS first priority. Fruit: Peach, blueberry and raspberry harvests continued. Strawberry cultivating and weeding newly renovated beds. Orchardists were busy monitoring for pests, spraying if needed, and mowing orchard floors. Field Crops: Farmers making baled hay. Second crop of hay is looking good, but drier fields showing drought. Silage corn is rapid growing and starting to show drought. Vegetables: Farmers kept busy harvesting, cultivating, hoeing weeds, monitoring pest pressures, and spraying pesticides for insects and diseases. Growers harvesting an array of vegetables including: beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, cucumbers, greens, lettuce, potatoes, radishes, snap beans, summer squash and zukes. Field sweet corn harvest and field grown tomatoes. Very few corn earworms were caught in traps and high numbers of squash vine borers still being caught during the week. **Amy Ouellette (Ext), Merrimack:** Warm, sunny weather pushed ripening of vegetable crops. Blueberries and raspberries are being harvested. Peaches and sweet corn are anxiously awaited. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Very hot and humid week with several days' temperatures reaching high 90s into the 100 degrees. Very dry and a soaking rain in need. Moving irrigation pipes from field to fields and pumps working almost continuously. Harvesting an array of vegetables including: sweet corn and potatoes. Monitoring pests. Cultivating. Some crops showing signs of wilt. **Jenn Zaleski (FSA), Sullivan:** Early morning showers and thunderstorms began the week with rainfall totals averaging half an inch. Temperatures quickly turned hot and humid with highs reaching into the upper 90s during most of the week. Nighttime lows remained warm and sticky in the upper 70s. Scattered showers passed through the county Saturday morning, but totals were minimal. The week ended sunny and less humid with temperatures in the mid-80s. Farmers were able to finish harvesting first cut dry hay during the week as clear skies and windy conditions helped with drying. Farmers who were able to harvest first cut early were busy harvesting second cut, but many farmers now have to wait for re-growth. Early planted field began to tassel this week and much of the crop looks great, but height differences are still noticeable in fields that were wetter during planting season.

RHODE ISLAND – Paul Heather Faubert (URI), All Counties:

Last week's heat was tough on everything. So glad to see cooler temperatures!! **Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties:** We had a couple of days over 100 degrees this week on Thursday and Friday. There was a little bit of irrigating going on, especially on the new plantings such as cabbage and kale. Had anywhere from 1/4 to 1/2 of rain this Saturday. Blueberries are a good crop and they are being picked right now. Started harvesting sweet corn last week, and it's in full swing right now. Plenty of it around and the price is high at the wholesale price. No tomatoes yet other than what are grown in

greenhouses, but we should see them in the next week or two. Squash, both yellow and green, and string beans are good and prices are good. It's been tough haying and farmers are still trying to get in the first cutting. Some second cutting is being done. Animals look good for this time of the year. The week ahead looks like rain on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, so no haying.

VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison: Corn growth good with warmer and dry weather. Side-dress N on corn, some manure spread on hay fields. Started second haylage cut. First crop dry hay done. Some bedding left to cut in low fields. Soybeans growing rapid. Pasture regrowth slow. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Fantastic week in Franklin County for corn growth. Hot weather has made everyone else uncomfortable except for the corn. Record heat overnight is another thing pushing the corn. Starting to get a little dry on the surface, which is slowing the pasture and grass growth. Alfalfa still doing well. Much second cut harvested and hearing yields all over the board, some good and some not so good. Quality is excellent which will fit with the bumper first cut yields on grasses. Blueberries are a bumper crop, so head out and get filled up on this great tasting fruit. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Another hot and humid week with very little rain. Aside from a few scattered storms, most places did not receive any rain. Fields and pastures are getting pretty dry. You can see the grasses turning brown on some of the well drained soils. Farmers were harvesting second cut hay. A lot of this cut is going in the barn as dry hay due to the favorable weather conditions. Corn is a little bit spotty. There are portions of the fields that are bare due to the standing water this spring. The corn that is growing ranges from poor, about 12 inches high to good, or about 36 inches or higher. Fortunately the majority of the fields look good. Pastures have really dried out and you can see brown spots in some paddocks. I'm sure this will be resolved with some rainfall. Strawberry season is essentially complete. I think over all it was a good harvest for the few growers we have up here. The highbush blueberries are ripe and harvest is in full swing. **Terence Bradshaw, (UVM):** The heat wave last week may have stressed some trees, especially those on lighter soils without irrigation. Soil moisture should be assessed and water supplied during this period if expected rains are insufficient. Pests of concern include codling moth and other leps, apple maggot in problem areas, sooty blotch and flyspeck, and summer rots. Growers should also consider foliar calcium applications at this time to improve fruit quality. **Julie Jacque (FSA), Windham:** Extreme heat and humidity this week allowed for haying to continue. Producers report finishing up 1st and 2nd crops, and irrigation systems turned on if available. Topsoil is pretty dry. Corn is looking healthy and growing well in humid conditions; but could use some water. Crops like summer, zucchini squashes and cucumbers are doing really well this year quantity-wise. Tomatoes starting to come in now.

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