

Crop Progress & Condition



NEW ENGLAND
Agricultural
Statistics



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August 16, 2011 – 4 pm

For week ending 8/14/11

Some Got Rain and Some Didn't

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending August 14, 2011, there were 5.3 days available for fieldwork across New England. Pasture conditions were rated 13 percent poor, 39 percent fair, 38 percent good, and 10 percent excellent. The week began with clouds, fog, showers, and some thunderstorms with temperatures in the low to high 80s. Tuesday, temperatures were cooler, in the high 70s to low 80s. Through Saturday, conditions remained mostly mild. Skies were partly cloudy, temperatures were in the mid-70s to low 80s, and there were very few isolated showers. Nighttime low temperatures were cool in the 50s and 60s. Rain was experienced by southern States Sunday. Elsewhere, conditions were partly to mostly cloudy and temperatures ranged from the low 70s to low 80s. The week's total rainfall for New England locations ranged from 0.40 to 3.21 inches.

FRUIT: Highbush blueberries, peaches, pears, plums, and raspberries were being picked in the south. Some Pick-Your-Own apple operations opened this past weekend in Massachusetts. Showers and cool temperatures improved the wild blueberry crop quality in Maine. Still, some producers reported crop reductions of 30 to 50 percent due to poor pollination. Strawberry producers were cultivating and weeding newly renovated beds.

VEGETABLES: Vegetable harvesting was in full swing and farmers markets were busy over the weekend, even during showers on Sunday. Many vegetables such as sweet corn, peppers, eggplant, and tomatoes were reported in good condition. In western Connecticut, vegetable crops were suffering from too much moisture.

FIELD CROPS: Some fields in Connecticut and Massachusetts saw flooding while other areas of New England still did not get rain and corn fields were in distress. Haying was done in between showers in some areas. Re-growth for second and third cuts of hay occurred slowly due to a lack of rainfall in much of the region. Potato fields were being sprayed with protective fungicides in several areas of Aroostook County, Maine after late blight was observed. Also in Maine, small grains were getting close to maturity.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

| Soil Rating | This Week | Last Week | Last Year |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| -- Percent -- | | | |
| Topsoil | | | |
| Very Short | 4 | 3 | 17 |
| Short | 28 | 43 | 38 |
| Adequate | 63 | 51 | 42 |
| Surplus | 5 | 3 | 3 |
| Subsoil | | | |
| Very Short | 4 | 7 | 18 |
| Short | 35 | 45 | 30 |
| Adequate | 60 | 45 | 50 |
| Surplus | 1 | 3 | 2 |

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

| Crop | Percent Harvested | | | Fruit Set | Fruit Size | Condition |
|-----------------|-------------------|------|----------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| | 2011 | 2010 | 5-yr Avg | | | |
| Apples | <5 | 5 | 5 | Average | Average | Good/Fair |
| Peaches | 50 | 40 | 40 | Average | Average | Good/Fair |
| Pears | <5 | <5 | <5 | Average | Average | Good |
| Blueberries | | | | | | |
| Highbush | 70 | 85 | 75 | | | |
| Wild | 40 | 60 | 45 | Avg/Below | Avg/Above | Fair/Good |
| Cranberries, MA | - | - | - | Avg/Above | Average | Good/Exc |

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

| Crop | 2011 | 2010 | 5-yr Avg | Condition |
|-------------------------|------|------|----------|-----------|
| -- Percent Harvested -- | | | | |
| Barley | 0 | 40 | 15 | Good/Fair |
| Oats | 0 | 15 | 5 | Good/Fair |
| Potatoes | | | | |
| Maine | 0 | <5 | <5 | Good |
| Mass | 10 | 5 | 5 | Good/Fair |
| Rhode Island | 5 | 15 | 10 | Good/Fair |
| Tobacco | | | | |
| Broadleaf | 20 | 50 | 35 | Good/Fair |
| Shade | 60 | 65 | 55 | Good/Fair |
| Silage Corn | - | - | - | Good/Fair |
| Sweet Corn | 45 | 60 | 45 | Good/Fair |
| Dry Hay | | | | |
| First Cut | 99 | 100 | 95 | |
| Second Cut | 65 | 90 | 60 | |
| Third Cut | 10 | 25 | 10 | Good/Fair |

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday, August 8, 2011
 To: Sunday, August 14, 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 | 56 | 83 | 67 | -2 | 1582 | +108 | 690 | +119 | 0.61 | -0.16 | 3 | 1.52 | -1.46 | 9 |
| Bangor_Intl_Arp | 53 | 83 | 66 | -2 | 1529 | +188 | 619 | +142 | 0.97 | +0.20 | 5 | 3.31 | +0.38 | 12 |
| Bethel | 53 | 79 | 68 | +2 | 1459 | +117 | 598 | +129 | 0.30 | -0.61 | 3 | 1.81 | -1.61 | 9 |
| Caribou_Municip | 53 | 80 | 65 | +2 | 1276 | +170 | 453 | +138 | 1.77 | +0.86 | 5 | 8.25 | +4.47 | 19 |
| Dover-Foxcroft | 49 | 81 | 65 | -2 | 1259 | +86 | 452 | +90 | 0.56 | -0.28 | 4 | 2.76 | -0.39 | 11 |
| Frenchville | 50 | 78 | 63 | -1 | 1038 | +12 | 295 | +25 | 1.59 | +0.66 | 5 | 6.74 | +3.10 | 18 |
| Houlton | 50 | 80 | 65 | +1 | 1241 | +90 | 428 | +79 | 0.88 | -0.03 | 5 | 4.29 | +0.71 | 18 |
| Livermore_Falls | 49 | 84 | 66 | +2 | 1458 | +299 | 597 | +250 | 0.34 | -0.57 | 2 | 2.27 | -1.07 | 9 |
| Moosehead | 47 | 79 | 63 | -1 | 1047 | +72 | 306 | +56 | 1.18 | +0.34 | 6 | 4.99 | +1.47 | 16 |
| Portland_ME | 55 | 83 | 68 | +0 | 1596 | +258 | 714 | +231 | 0.48 | -0.15 | 4 | 4.36 | +1.77 | 11 |
| NEW HAMPSHIRE | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Benton | 49 | 81 | 66 | +1 | 1377 | +128 | 511 | +129 | 0.76 | -0.15 | 4 | 2.88 | -0.53 | 11 |
| Berlin_AG | 50 | 80 | 66 | +0 | 1376 | +119 | 506 | +102 | 0.17 | -0.81 | 2 | 1.41 | -2.26 | 9 |
| Concord | 50 | 88 | 70 | +3 | 1817 | +321 | 845 | +264 | 0.27 | -0.50 | 3 | 2.01 | -1.05 | 11 |
| Diamond_Pond | 50 | 75 | 62 | +1 | 994 | +147 | 261 | +98 | 1.36 | +0.17 | 6 | 2.35 | -2.09 | 11 |
| Keene_AG | 50 | 87 | 69 | -1 | 1748 | +78 | 781 | +76 | 0.64 | -0.27 | 4 | 4.02 | +0.54 | 11 |
| North_Conway | 52 | 82 | 67 | +0 | 1511 | +111 | 647 | +137 | 0.60 | -0.31 | 3 | 1.47 | -2.05 | 10 |
| Rochester | 54 | 86 | 72 | +3 | 1964 | +375 | 983 | +332 | 0.79 | -0.05 | 3 | 3.19 | -0.08 | 9 |
| VERMONT | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bennington_AP | 49 | 84 | 70 | +4 | 1827 | +518 | 806 | +374 | 0.46 | -0.52 | 3 | 2.65 | -1.09 | 9 |
| Burlington_Intl | 57 | 83 | 72 | +4 | 1926 | +315 | 922 | +255 | 1.13 | +0.21 | 3 | 2.13 | -1.39 | 11 |
| Island_Pond | 51 | 80 | 66 | +4 | 1398 | +370 | 513 | +252 | 1.13 | +0.01 | 6 | 2.95 | -1.27 | 16 |
| Montpelier | 51 | 81 | 68 | +3 | 1588 | +320 | 657 | +248 | 1.26 | +0.37 | 4 | 1.76 | -1.40 | 10 |
| Rochester | 52 | 83 | 67 | +2 | 1484 | +248 | 580 | +189 | 2.24 | +1.19 | 4 | 5.67 | +1.79 | 10 |
| Rutland_AG | 52 | 82 | 69 | -1 | 1698 | +40 | 738 | +49 | 1.72 | +0.74 | 2 | 5.67 | +1.96 | 8 |
| Springfield_VT | 52 | 86 | 71 | +5 | 1908 | +543 | 906 | +434 | 0.74 | -0.17 | 3 | 2.73 | -0.72 | 10 |
| Sutton | 52 | 80 | 65 | +3 | 1333 | +287 | 471 | +195 | 1.42 | +0.30 | 6 | 2.56 | -1.61 | 15 |
| MASSACHUSETTS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Boston/Logan_In | 64 | 83 | 74 | +2 | 2175 | +296 | 1137 | +265 | 3.19 | +2.49 | 4 | 4.34 | +1.65 | 11 |
| Fitchburg | 58 | 88 | 73 | +7 | 2148 | +789 | 1106 | +627 | 1.87 | +1.05 | 2 | 3.06 | -0.24 | 8 |
| Greenfield | 50 | 84 | 66 | -5 | 1735 | -47 | 746 | -41 | 0.63 | -0.21 | 4 | 2.08 | -1.28 | 12 |
| New_Bedford | 53 | 89 | 73 | -2 | 2170 | +293 | 1081 | +212 | 1.69 | +0.73 | 3 | 2.81 | -0.50 | 9 |
| Otis_AFB | 55 | 81 | 71 | +1 | 1714 | +197 | 762 | +145 | 1.25 | +0.48 | 2 | 2.18 | -0.64 | 9 |
| Plymouth | 55 | 84 | 73 | +3 | 2038 | +458 | 995 | +330 | 1.00 | +0.11 | 4 | 1.97 | -1.30 | 12 |
| Walpole | 56 | 85 | 72 | +3 | 2011 | +385 | 1001 | +323 | 3.80 | +2.92 | 5 | 5.37 | +2.10 | 12 |
| Chicopee/Westov | 51 | 88 | 72 | -2 | 2081 | +44 | 1020 | +38 | 0.53 | -0.24 | 4 | 3.18 | +0.09 | 10 |
| Worthington | 48 | 85 | 68 | +2 | 1571 | +248 | 646 | +204 | 0.74 | -0.23 | 3 | 2.52 | -1.39 | 11 |
| RHODE ISLAND | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Providence | 59 | 89 | 75 | +3 | 2148 | +363 | 1092 | +285 | 2.38 | +1.56 | 4 | 3.35 | +0.29 | 9 |
| Woonsocket | 55 | 87 | 74 | +5 | 2047 | +449 | 1013 | +368 | 1.92 | +1.01 | 4 | 3.41 | -0.17 | 9 |
| CONNECTICUT | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bridgeport/Siko | 61 | 90 | 77 | +3 | 2306 | +394 | 1209 | +298 | 2.70 | +1.93 | 3 | 5.00 | +1.77 | 11 |
| Hartford/Bradley | 56 | 89 | 74 | +2 | 2254 | +290 | 1166 | +232 | 1.72 | +0.92 | 4 | 5.00 | +2.01 | 12 |
| Norfolk | 50 | 81 | 68 | +2 | 1679 | +350 | 724 | +275 | 0.34 | -0.68 | 3 | 3.32 | -0.57 | 11 |
| Thomaston_Dam | 50 | 90 | 71 | +3 | 2060 | +480 | 1014 | +388 | 1.13 | +0.17 | 3 | 4.26 | +0.44 | 12 |
| Willimantic | 54 | 88 | 74 | +5 | 2123 | +514 | 1050 | +399 | 2.55 | +1.64 | 3 | 5.95 | +2.25 | 8 |

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, August 14, 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 | 46 | 87 | 65 | -1 | 0.21 | 2.98 |
| NH | 42 | 88 | 68 | +2 | 0.17 | 1.64 |
| VT | 48 | 88 | 68 | +2 | 0.23 | 2.24 |
| MA | 48 | 91 | 71 | +2 | 0.48 | 3.80 |
| RI | 55 | 89 | 74 | +4 | 1.01 | 2.38 |
| CT | 50 | 90 | 73 | +2 | 0.34 | 3.04 |

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:

Several days of rain helped field crops which were suffering from lack of water. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Showers on Tuesday and Wednesday netted about 1.5 inches of rain. Dry hay was made Friday and Saturday. Farmers markets busy over the weekend, even during showers on Sunday. Harvesting all veggie crops and mums starting to color up. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Field corn is earing up. Picking blueberries, plums, peaches and vegetables. Excessive rain has flooded fields in some areas. Too early to know how much damage has been done. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** Vegetable crops are suffering from excess rain in some areas. Heavy rains over the weekend caused and are causing flooding conditions in New Haven County. **Jude Boucher (Ext), Tolland:** We went from a little dry 2 weeks back to too much water again for the last 2 weeks. Many farms picked up 3 to 4 inches of rain on the 6th and 7th and more during the following week, while other farms only picked up an inch or two. NOAA reported only 0.08 inches at Bradley Airport on the 14th, but the rain started in the evening of the 13th for much of the state and it hasn't stopped yet. So far, the vegetables still look good, but I expect the tomatoes to start cracking if this keeps up. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Nice showers alleviated the dry crops. Blueberry crop is good with lots of pick your own action. Peaches, sweet corn, peppers, eggplant, and tomatoes doing well. Raspberries are abundant. Haying continues. Most corn looking much better with some trying to catch up in height. Good sunny warmth, but not too hot weather this week.

MAINE – Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook:

Almost daily rains have caused blight problems in the potato crop. Dry hay has been impossible to make. Fertilizer leaching is evident in a lot of the crops. Barley and oats are starting to ripen. **Don Audibert, (FSA) Northern Aroostook:** Showers and thunderstorms every day this week. July has gone down in the record books as the wettest July ever in northern Maine. The National Weather Service said Caribou got 7.93 inches of rain in July, breaking the old record of 6.83 inches set in 1957. June was also a record-setter, with 9.03 inches. Late blight has been found in central Aroostook. Fields are being sprayed with protective fungicides. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Potato farmers spraying for late blight and aphids. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Cooler temperatures and periodic rain last week. Late blight has been reported in the area, producers are applying preventative sprays. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Winter wheat is harvested. Small grains are getting close to mature. Grass crops have bounced back nicely with recent rainfalls. Corn is finally showing some good growth. It is time to go visit an ag fair! **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Much needed rain during the past week. Soils still need more but what was received was great. Farmers are spraying and harvesting what they can for farm stands. Blueberry harvest yield is 50/50 depending where you are in Hancock County. Expected yield is below for some. Farmers are doing 2nd cut of hay in most areas and hope for a good crop. **Laurie Thiboutot (FSA), Oxford:** Many areas in the county desperately need rain. The few showers and downpours we've had have been spotty throughout the county. Some fields of potatoes are looking great while others are suffering. Field corn and sweet corn growth is stunted and areas that have not received rain have resulted in dry, crispy plants including many hand harvested vegetables. It rained steadily in some areas of the county this weekend and the possibility of a wet Monday area-wide has things looking up!

Elaine S Moceus (FSA), Somerset: Conditions are still dry and the water levels in streams seem to be very low. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Rain has helped green up pastures and hayfields. Corn crop has responded as well. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Recent showers and cooler temperatures have improved crop quality and yield. Mid coast fields that had poor pollination are reporting crops reductions from 30 to 50%. Crops Downeast are variable with some well above average and others below average.

MASSACHUSETTS – Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: This seasonal week ended with rain. This was good for fields and pastures where the dryness was most visible. Summer veggies and fruits are being harvested. No reports of late blight this year. South county farmers started 3rd cutting on hay this week. **Lori Carver (FSA), Franklin:** The vegetable crop continues to look very good. Some spotty rain during the week. Tobacco harvest continues. Peach crop looks good. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** It was a very warm week with four days of scattered thunderstorms. Some areas received up to three plus inches of rain. Vegetable and fruit growers continue harvesting an array of summer crops.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Donna Juneau (FSA)

Belknap/Merrimack: The vegetable crop continues to look very good. Some spotty rain during the week. Tobacco harvest continues. Peach crop looks good. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** A little muggy early in the week, then 3 days of sunny, dry weather, then finally a little rain on Sunday. Many producers bringing in remaining 2nd cutting and some 3rd cutting hay, and hayfields and pastures perking up a little with moisture. Field corn continues to mature nicely. Veggie offerings are at their peak. Blueberries wrapping up, but first PYO apples ready over the weekend. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Intermittent rain showers during the week getting in the way of hay-making activities, but not of much accumulation. Second cut haying progresses, about time for third cut alfalfa/grass as beginning to bud. Field corn growing OK in warm temperatures, nearly all but late planted tasseled out, some further along. Could still use a good soaking rain in most parts of county. Last week's hail seemed localized in damage to Lancaster areas where most affected probably blueberries. Typical later summer pest noticeable, Japanese beetles, powdery mildew and corn borer. Local grown sweet corn now reaching markets. Wide range of other summer veggies, bush beans, squash, and tomatoes available. Blueberry and raspberry picking finishing up. OK weather generally for Dairy Breed Show at Lancaster Fairgrounds! **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending August 13th, we had just over an inch of rain. Soils remain on the dry side. The hay crop is coming in, but at a slower than normal rate of regrowth. The corn crop looks good on some fields but is not doing as well on the fields that were affected by the wet conditions earlier in the growing season. Vegetable growers are up and running with a good selection. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Highbush blueberry and raspberry harvest continues. Orchardists harvesting peaches, plums, and Jersey Mac apples. Orchardists busy monitoring for pests, summer pruning trees, mowing orchard floors, fixing up orchard roads and moving bins into orchards. Cultivating and weeding newly strawberry renovated beds. Field Crops: Hay making and cutting haylage continued with some second cut being made. Growth has been good to excellent. Corn growth looks good. Vegetables: Farmers kept busy harvesting an array of vegetable crops, monitoring pest

pressures, spraying pesticides for insect and disease control where needed. Also, birds are continuing to damage sweet corn. **Amy Ouellette (Ext), Merrimack:** Harvesting sweet corn, peaches, mid to late season blueberries, earliest apples and all vegetables. Farmers looking forward to getting some rain. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Harvesting peaches, apples, pears, blueberries and some raspberries. Sweet corn, potatoes, tomatoes, root crops, a whole array of vegetables, and cut flowers abound at farmers markets and farm stands. Monitoring for pests. Some fields still beeing irrigated. Haying and haylage being done. Localized hail on Monday afternoon with severe thundershowers. **Jenn Zaleski (FSA), Sullivan:** High temperatures ranged between the mid-70s and low 80s during the week, with lows in the low 50s to low 60s. Rain fell Tuesday and Sunday, with total weekly precipitation amounts ranging from 0.5 to 0.75 inches. The rest of the week was either sunny or partly cloudy and breezy. Soils remain on the dry side even after the rain showers. Field and sweet corn look great. The hay crop is doing well. Farmers still need to wait a little longer for re-growth. Vegetables are plentiful at farmers markets and farm stands.

RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties: Summer is now here and you can go to the farm stands and get native RI vegetables. The list this week is tomatoes, peppers, corn, cucumbers, beans, squash both yellow and green, potatoes and several others. For dessert there are peaches and blueberries, it's a great time of the year! Livestock and pastures look good for the second week in August. Haying, they are doing their best to

finish first harvest and get the second in. Today is Monday and it is pouring rain. We'll see how this week goes. That's the list for this week, so let's go to the farm stands to buy our fruit and vegetables!

VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison: Corn growth is fast with adequate rain. Most corn very immature but gaining height and leaves. Starting ear development on best fields, very poor stand with vegetative in late planted fields. Hay crop good with rain after warm temperatures. New seeded hay fields have moderate growth, summer seedings being planted now. Soybean plants look good, but still variable vigor in fields. Worst display of entered corn plants at county fair in 27 years. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Yet another dry week in Franklin County. This must be approaching the same amount of weeks reported as "yet another wet week" in May and June. More water supply concerns starting to show up, especially in spring supplies. Ground water still not at the critical stage. Field corn is still doing well and most is at the tassel and silt stage. Replanted corn is well behind first planted and will need a late fall to mature. Sweet corn is now king at the garden stands and is bringing out the farm stand visits. Much third cut being harvested now with moderate yields due to dry weather. Great quality which will fit in well with the low quality high yield first cut. Nice rain here now and we hope it will continue for a couple of days. **Heather Mateja (FSA), Lamoille/Washington:** Hot and dry weather has been great for the corn and haying, but need some rain. Rivers and streams are low. Grass has really slowed down and the trees are starting to turn.

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

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