

Crop Progress & Condition



NEW ENGLAND
Agricultural
Statistics



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August 22, 2011 – 4 pm

For week ending 8/21/11

Harvesting Between Showers

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending August 22, 2011, there were 5.0 days available for fieldwork across New England. Pasture conditions were rated 12 percent poor, 29 percent fair, 43 percent good, and 16 percent excellent. Monday and Tuesday were cloudy with rain, heavy at times, and temperatures were in the upper 60s to upper 70s. Wednesday and Thursday, skies cleared some and temperatures were warmer ranging from the upper 70s to the mid-80s. Friday, the clouds rolled back in and stayed for the weekend. A few isolated thunderstorms were sighted Friday and Saturday. Most of the region experienced some combination of rain, wind, and/or thunderstorms Sunday afternoon. High temperatures later in the week were in the high 70s to mid-80s. Average nighttime temperatures for the week ranged from the upper 50s to mid-60s, slightly above average. The week's total rainfall ranged from 0.47 to 4.21 inches across the region.

FRUIT: Maine wild blueberries were helped by the rain to maintain the berry size but it also made the fruit softer. Yields were average. Orchardists were harvesting peaches, pears, plums, and some finished harvesting Jersey Mac and were picking Paula Red and Ginger Gold apples.

VEGETABLES: Disease pressure was made worse by the amount precipitation in some areas. Vegetables were reported to be in good condition, in most areas of the region. Farm stands were busy with plenty of produce to sell. Onions were beginning to be harvested in Massachusetts. Some vegetable producers harvested winter squash and pumpkins were starting to color up. Some sweet corn producers in southwest New Hampshire reported that some of their fields were leveled from the high winds Sunday.

FIELD CROPS: Field corn that was planted at normal time was starting to dry down. Ears were filled out, although stalks tended to be short. Late planted corn was short but tasseling. This past week's rain helped to reverse curling in many corn fields that were dry. In Maine, a few farmers had potato vines killed while one potato producer started to harvest. Farmers were also spraying to avoid late blight. Small grain harvesting in Maine has begun. Hay and haylage harvesting continued during the week as conditions allowed. Some farmers were seeding pastures and hay fields.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	2	4	30
Short	11	28	28
Adequate	75	63	42
Surplus	12	5	0
Subsoil			
Very Short	2	4	26
Short	20	35	29
Adequate	71	60	44
Surplus	7	1	1

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Set	Fruit Size	Condition
	2011	2010	5-yr Avg			
Apples	10	10	10	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Peaches	70	65	55			
Pears	<5	15	10	Average	Average	Good
Blueberries						
Highbush	85	90	85			
Wild	65	80	75	Average	Avg/Above	Fair/Good
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-	Above Avg	Average	Good/Exc

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2011	2010	5-yr Avg	Condition
Barley	<5	45	20	Good
Oats	<5	30	15	Good/Fair
Potatoes				
Maine	<5	10	<5	Good/Exc
Mass	25	10	10	Good/Fair
Rhode Island	10	15	20	Good/Fair
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	40	70	55	Good/Fair
Shade	75	80	70	
Silage Corn	-	<5	<5	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	60	70	60	Good/Fair
Dry Hay				
First Cut	99	100	99	
Second Cut	70	95	70	
Third Cut	20	30	15	Good/Fair

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday, August 15, 2011
 To: Sunday, August 21, 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	55	85	69	+2	1720	+123	758	+133	1.47	+0.70	5	2.99	-0.06	14
Bangor_Intl_Arp	53	84	69	+3	1664	+207	684	+160	1.67	+0.90	3	4.98	+2.03	15
Bethel	50	84	67	+2	1581	+129	650	+139	1.90	+0.99	5	3.65	+0.10	13
Caribou_Municip	51	82	68	+6	1402	+208	509	+169	0.95	+0.04	4	6.23	+2.47	18
Dover-Foxcroft	47	84	67	+3	1379	+105	502	+106	1.04	+0.20	3	3.80	+0.58	14
Frenchville	51	81	66	+5	1155	+46	344	+53	0.66	-0.31	4	5.09	+1.37	17
Houlton	46	84	68	+5	1367	+121	486	+107	0.55	-0.41	3	3.67	-0.02	17
Livermore_Falls	48	86	66	+4	1575	+319	646	+268	1.28	+0.31	3	3.55	+0.01	12
Moosehead	46	81	64	+2	1145	+84	337	+64	1.18	+0.34	4	6.15	+2.70	19
Portland_ME	54	82	68	+2	1724	+265	772	+237	1.75	+1.12	4	6.08	+3.56	14
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	51	83	65	+2	1484	+137	551	+136	2.46	+1.55	4	5.18	+1.63	12
Berlin_AG	48	82	65	+0	1479	+122	539	+101	1.54	+0.55	4	2.88	-0.94	12
Concord	52	88	69	+2	1950	+334	908	+276	2.35	+1.58	4	4.17	+1.09	12
Diamond_Pond	47	77	61	+2	1073	+156	281	+101	1.56	+0.37	5	3.79	-0.79	14
Keene_AG	54	86	69	+1	1881	+81	844	+78	2.52	+1.62	4	6.34	+2.80	13
North_Conway	52	84	66	+0	1623	+112	690	+137	2.39	+1.48	6	3.83	+0.24	15
Rochester	54	90	70	+2	2107	+389	1056	+346	1.94	+1.14	3	5.00	+1.70	10
VERMONT														
Bennington_AP	53	82	67	+3	1951	+536	860	+390	2.45	+1.47	4	4.95	+1.14	11
Burlington_Intl	55	85	71	+4	2077	+342	1003	+282	1.22	+0.29	3	2.72	-0.89	10
Island_Pond	49	83	65	+4	1507	+395	553	+271	1.33	+0.21	4	3.80	-0.56	17
Montpelier	52	83	67	+3	1707	+339	706	+264	2.61	+1.70	3	4.27	+0.90	11
Rochester	55	83	67	+4	1605	+268	631	+205	2.57	+1.52	3	7.65	+3.60	11
Rutland_AG	54	83	67	-2	1820	+34	790	+43	3.07	+2.09	4	7.51	+3.73	10
Springfield_VT	54	86	69	+4	2040	+567	968	+456	2.42	+1.51	4	4.66	+1.12	11
Sutton	49	83	65	+4	1438	+308	511	+214	2.75	+1.66	3	5.12	+0.84	14
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	62	88	74	+3	2347	+316	1239	+285	1.47	+0.72	4	5.69	+2.88	14
Fitchburg	60	87	72	+7	2301	+832	1189	+669	2.11	+1.34	3	5.01	+1.78	10
Greenfield	54	84	65	-6	1840	-80	783	-72	3.48	+2.64	3	5.46	+2.10	14
New_Bedford	56	85	71	-2	2321	+284	1162	+203	1.33	+0.35	3	3.97	+0.38	10
Otis_AFB	57	81	71	+2	1861	+207	839	+156	1.52	+0.75	2	3.56	+0.60	9
Plymouth	56	86	73	+4	2201	+484	1088	+357	1.99	+1.08	4	3.62	+0.21	14
Walpole	57	84	70	+2	2155	+398	1075	+336	1.57	+0.66	3	6.29	+2.88	13
Chicopee/Westov	55	87	70	-3	2223	+28	1092	+22	2.79	+2.00	4	5.96	+2.86	13
Worthington	53	82	66	+0	1683	+251	688	+206	3.58	+2.67	4	5.98	+2.14	12
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	60	85	72	+2	2306	+372	1180	+294	2.81	+1.97	3	6.06	+2.86	11
Woonsocket	57	86	72	+4	2203	+475	1099	+395	2.12	+1.21	2	5.53	+1.89	11
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	64	86	74	+2	2477	+405	1310	+309	2.19	+1.49	2	6.74	+3.65	12
Hartford/Bradley	57	87	71	-1	2405	+291	1247	+233	1.66	+0.82	5	6.65	+3.52	16
Norfolk	56	81	66	+1	1794	+356	769	+280	2.87	+1.82	5	6.09	+2.06	15
Thomaston_Dam	55	86	70	+3	2205	+497	1089	+406	6.13	+5.15	5	10.30	+6.47	15
Willimantic	57	85	71	+3	2271	+532	1128	+417	3.07	+2.21	3	9.02	+5.43	11

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, August 21, 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	87	67	+2	0.38	2.49
NH	41	90	66	+2	1.23	4.45
VT	49	87	67	+3	1.22	3.07
MA	51	89	70	+2	1.05	3.58
RI	57	86	72	+2	2.03	2.81
CT	55	89	71	+1	1.21	6.13

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:

More rain fell at the end of the week, but it was spotty across the area. Some towns got heavy rain and others got almost nothing. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** There seemed to be a threat of showers all week long, however, very few materialized. Broadleaf and shade tobacco harvest progressed nicely. Sweet corn, green beans, cabbage, peppers, squash and cucumbers in plentiful supply. Field grown tomatoes seem to be about the only crop in tight supply. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Making hay between thundershowers. Field corn that was planted at normal time is starting to dry down. Ears are filled out nicely, although stalks tend to be short. Late planted corn is short but tasseling now. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** Some heavy rains this week caused problems for vegetable growers. There are reports of major pressure from a variety of diseases which are made worse by so much precipitation. Sweet corn is holding up and the harvest is progressing well. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Some fruits and vegetables are just recovering from the hot, dry spell that shut down production. The cooler weather and rain have brought on tomatoes, peppers, sweet corn, and pumpkin development. Sun scalding is apparent on apples. Deer are eating pumpkins; time to put up electric fencing. Sweet corn is good; skipped fourth block planted because it matured too soon, now onto fifth block of sweet corn. Peaches ripening slowly, no canning peaches yet. Farm stands are busy.

MAINE – Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook: Almost constant rain has made fieldwork difficult. Grains need to be cut, but fields are too wet. There will be a shortage of quality hay this winter. Garden crops seem to be OK. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Early vine desiccation, insecticide and fungicide applications. Small grain harvest/combining. Broccoli harvest continues. Overall, potato crop looks excellent. Random, intense thundershowers have created some significant microclimating. Some potato late blight being found and well under control. **Don Audibert, (FSA) Northern Aroostook:** A lot of rain again this week. A few farmers have some potato vines killed already. They are doing repairs and getting ready for harvest. One producer already started harvest. Farmers are still on a 5-day spray schedule to avoid late blight problems. Haven't heard of any blight problems in the St. John Valley yet. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Wow, we had very heavy rain showers last night. Last week was a very good growing week with some heat and moist soils. Small grain harvest is well underway. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Much needed rain in most areas last week. Overall, crops are looking pretty good. Farm stands are in full swing with most all vegetables. Sweet corn is plentiful. Potatoes are looking good as well as small grains. Corn for silage is good in some spots but stunted due to late planting and moisture needed. Second cutting of hay is in progress in some areas. Fertilizer is being spread on fields. Blueberry crop is down from prior years due to poor pollination in the spring. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Crop conditions are much better than last week due to the ample amount of rain received across the county last week. Most areas have received about 2 inches of rain in the last week which was greatly needed. Crops are recuperating from the dry month of July. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis/Penobscot:** Most corn is tasseled and ears are filling. Roadside stands are filled with vegetables including sweet corn. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** Spotty showers have helped with some crops, but where the storms passed by it is still dry. **Elaine Moceus (FSA), Somerset:** Some light rain during the week with heavy rain in most areas overnight Sunday provided welcomed moisture for crops. Sweet corn and some early apple varieties are now available at farmer's markets, as well as new potatoes, carrots, cukes, and greens. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Rain has surely helped green things up. Some warmer weather late in the week has improved the corn silage crop considerably. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild

blueberries: Rain helping to maintain the berry size but also making the fruit a bit softer. Harvest continues downeast with yields at about average.

MASSACHUSETTS – Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: As I am reporting this, Sunday evening, Berkshire is under a flash flood warning following a tornado warning, some pretty severe wind and a deluge of rain which promises to continue on and off through the night. A trip to south county earlier today showed great progress on field corn, lush vegetable crops and pastures and some great looking soybean fields. Farmers markets and stands have been busy with veggie sales, sweet corn, peaches, berries and melons. FSA encourages Women and Hispanic farmers who feel they have been discriminated against when seeking a loan to visit farmerclaims.gov. **Lori Carver (FSA), Franklin:** Heavy rains at the beginning of the week and the end of the week. Hail was reported on Friday in the western end of the county. Early apples are being harvested. Onions are starting to be harvested. Vegetable crops continue to look good. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** A warm and humid week with many days of scattered thunderstorms. With all the rain, growers are keeping a close eye on crop diseases such as phytophthora capsici on vine crops and peppers. The potato and tomato crops may have other foliar diseases including powdery mildew, leaf spots or mold, and early blight which growers are scouting for. An array of summer crops are being harvested along with a few fall crops like apples, potatoes, and winter squash. The tobacco crop is still being harvested between the rain storms. **Carolyn DeMoranville (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: The set of fruit remains excellent but the trade off is that the size of fruit is hardly average. Conditions remain excellent. The first planned harvests will be in 2-3 weeks.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Donna Juneau (FSA) Belknap/Merrimack: Temperature and rainfall near normal. Harvesting sweet corn, peaches, nectarines, plums, blueberries, tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, beans, squash, melons, potatoes, onions, and beets. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** A good soaking rain Monday, then warm, sunny weather for the remainder of the week. Pastures and hayfields continue to do well, field corn continuing to mature nicely. Vegetable crops going strong, apart from a little higher than normal insect activity in sweet corn. PYO apples starting to increase. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Heavy soaking rains early and then later in the week through much of the county. Field corn looking better, all now tasseling earlier planted much further along. Hay and haylage harvesting continued during the week as conditions allowed. Sweet corn more readily available, pumpkins starting to color up. Some heavy winds in northern part of the county affect corn somewhat. Rains should help alleviate drought stress previously observed. Cooling temperatures, beginning to feel like late summer in the North Country. **Heather Bryant (Ext), Grafton:** Heavy thunderstorms last night (Sun 8/21), no reports of damage so far. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** Rain showers from Monday through Wednesday brought just over 0.75 inches of rain. Grass/hay crops began to show some recovery from the dry weeks preceding. Corn that had been curling in some fields, showed improvement. The alfalfa crop has not been affected by the dry conditions. Vegetable growers are doing well. The use of ground covers and drip irrigation has been a huge benefit to most vegetable growers. Selection at the stands is good. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Very localized thunderstorms produced hail, damaging crops. The larger farms reported no damage. Fruit: Orchardists harvesting peaches, first pears, plums, and finished JerseyMac and now picking Paulared and Ginger Gold apples. Highbush blueberry harvest winding down, and fall raspberry harvest continued. Orchardists busy monitoring for pests, summer pruning trees, mowing orchard floors, fixing up orchard roads and moving bins into the orchard. Cultivating and weeding newly

renovated strawberry beds. Field Crops: Hay making and cutting haylage continued with some second cut being made between showers. Growth has been good to excellent. Farmers seeded pastures and hay fields. Corn looks good and farmers starting to get equipment ready to start chopping in a couple of weeks. Vegetables: Farmers kept busy harvesting array of vegetable crops, monitoring pest pressures, spraying pesticides for insect and disease control where needed. **Amy Ouellette (Ext), Merrimack:** All vegetable crops, peaches and the earliest apples are being harvested. It's been an excellent season for most vegetable crops. Farmers are planting short season fall crops, testing soil and planning for cover crops. Some have completed second cut of hay, many are waiting a bit longer. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Fall raspberry harvest is earlier than usual. Picking peaches, apples, pears and blueberries. Harvesting an array of vegetables. Monitoring pests and spraying accordingly. Haying and haylage has been done. Steady rain on Monday was welcomed. **Jenn Zaleski (FSA), Sullivan:** The week began extremely wet and cool with non-stop steady rain Monday and Tuesday. Roughly 3 inches of rain fell during those 2 days. The rest of the week was warm with high temperatures in the low to mid-80's. Scattered thunderstorms popped up on Friday. Rainfall totals were minimal. Severe thunderstorms with strong, gusty winds, heavy rains, and frequent lightning moved across the county Sunday afternoon. Many are still without power this morning due to downed trees in the Claremont, Cornish, Croydon and Grantham areas. Early reports indicate that some sweet corn fields have been leveled due to the strong winds. Cropping has been going slow with the rain showers every other day. Dry hay harvest varies across Sullivan County. While some fields are on their second cut, others are already on third and will most likely have a fourth. There is still some first cut left out there to pick up. Haylage yields are way up from last year. Silage corn is loving the damp, muggy days we've been having and is growing very well.

RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties: Last Monday we received anywhere from 5 inches of rain in the lower part of the state to 1.5 inches in the other parts. Small vegetables are coming in late but coming in well and plentiful. Peaches are coming in well and blueberries are more than three quarters finished up. Pastures look good for August, they should be all dried up by now, but they are not. We have had sufficient rain to keep them green. We are getting reports in on livestock from 2 weeks ago on the loss of birds from the heat. Large animals are being fed in feedlots and are looking good.

VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison: Dry hay and haylage harvesting. Some manure spread on hay fields. Rain showers at beginning and end of week. Grass regrowth good. Newly seeded hay fields emerging, planted in August after delay from spring, fairly uniform growth. Corn crop continues to be highly variable between fields and within fields. Still lots of ears just starting to silk, hard to envision mature crop in time for harvest in 4 weeks. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Much needed rain arrived in Franklin County this week. Not a lot of inches, however, it came at a nice soaking rate. All crops have responded to the moisture and growth has come back in hopes of a nice finish before our fall kicks in with a nice late frost. Corn is progressing well and needs more time to mature, most is at the R1 stage with tassel and silk. Much third cut grass harvested with yields at par with second cut. With that nice late frost we might be able to get some fourth cuts. Sweet corn is still moving at the farmers markets and berries seem to be holding on with many people out picking blackberries. Pastures have bounced back with the moisture and much more comfortable for the animals to be on them with the cooler weather. **Heather Mateja (FSA), Lamoille/Washington:** Crops are looking good, had some welcomed rain this week. Corn is looking great. Hay is growing, with many farmers working on third cut. Pastures are still producing some quality forage.

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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