

Crop Progress & Condition



NEW ENGLAND
Agricultural
Statistics



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June 4, 2012 – 4 pm

For week ending 6/3/12

Fieldwork Interrupted By Heavy Rains

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending June 3, 2012, there were 4.5 days available for fieldwork across New England. Pasture condition was rated 1 percent poor, 19 percent fair, 47 percent good, and 33 percent excellent. The week began with very warm daytime temperatures primarily in the 70s and 80s. A severe storm outbreak in the northeast reached northern New England on Tuesday, bringing torrential rain, large-sized hail, and heavy winds. There were reports of up to 8 inches of rain in southwestern New Hampshire. A brief period of drier conditions and warm temperatures during the middle of the week followed the storms. A rainstorm moved through the region over the weekend, bringing below average temperatures and significant precipitation. Much of Maine and parts of New Hampshire were issued flood warnings, with several locations reporting close to 6 inches of rain.

FRUIT: Hail damage was reported with extensive injury to fruit crops in southwestern New Hampshire. Apple growers expressed concerns of below average fruit set as a result of frost damage. There were reports of apple scab due to cool and wet weather. Strawberries were 5 percent picked by week's end, well ahead of schedule; some early blossoms were lost to frost. Cranberry fields had begun to bloom in Massachusetts. While pollination of most wild blueberries in Maine was complete by week's end. Fruit growers were monitoring pests and crop development, applying cover sprays, mowing orchard floors, and weed spraying under trees.

VEGETABLES: Heavy rains slowed vegetable planting. Some vegetables in Maine were underwater and at risk of rot. Farmers continued planting a wide assortment of summer vegetables in between showers, including cucumbers, eggplant, peppers, radishes, scallions, sweet corn, squash, and tomatoes. They also harvested asparagus, carrots, greens, radishes, rhubarb, and spinach. Some farmers were transplanting tomato and pepper plants.

FIELD CROPS: Abundant precipitation left soils saturated. Much of Maine experienced extreme rainfall amounts, leaving fields with standing water. Haylage harvest and corn planting continued last week, but at a slower pace because of heavy rain. Farmers in wetter regions found it challenging to make dry hay. Some hay fields became lodged, making harvest difficult. There were reports of insect, disease, and weed problems in corn fields. Potato growers in southern New England finished planting and began hilling. Mostly dry weather in northeastern Maine allowed growers to wrap up planting potatoes and grains. Pastures were green and growing well thanks to heavy precipitation during the week. Farmers were also busy weeding and spreading manure.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	1	0
Short	1	7	7
Adequate	61	87	72
Surplus	38	5	21
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	1	0
Short	0	5	4
Adequate	68	85	73
Surplus	32	9	23

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Development	Fruit Set	Fruit size	Condition
Apples	PF	Avg/Below		Fair/Good
Peaches	PF	Avg/Below		Good/Fair
Pears	PF	Average		Good/Fair
Blueberries				
Highbush	PF	Average		Good
Wild	PF	Abv Avg /Avg		Exc/Good
Cranberries, MA	BS			Good
Strawberries	PF	Average	Average	Good

EB= Early Bloom, FB=Full Bloom, PF=Petal Fall, BS= Bud Stage

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2012	2011	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Planted --				
Barley, ME	99	55	80	
Oats, ME	95	85	95	
Potatoes				
Maine	95	80	90	
Mass	100	99	99	
Rhode Island	100	99	99	
Silage Corn	75	55	80	
Sweet Corn	75	60	65	
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	25	30	35	Good/Fair
Shade	70	95	95	Good
-- Percent Emerged --				
Barley	90	30	55	Excellent
Oats	85	25	60	Excellent
Potatoes				
Maine	40	10	20	Good
Mass	85	60	70	Good
Rhode Island	100	35	80	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	50	25	45	Good
Sweet Corn	45	40	45	Good
Dry Hay	-- Percent Harvested --			
First Cut	25	20	25	Good

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday May 28, 2012
 To: Sunday June 3, 2012

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 INCHES	DFN	DAYS
	---	---	---	---	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	---	---	---	---	---	---
MAINE														
Augusta_State_A	48	78	61	+1	402	+181	86	+60	3.99	+3.16	4	7.18	+3.80	13
Bangor_Intl_Arp	47	74	60	+2	361	+185	70	+55	1.48	+0.67	5	4.74	+1.49	14
Bethel	43	77	60	+2	349	+160	68	+48	5.96	+5.07	6	8.86	+5.50	17
Caribou_Municip	40	72	54	-3	253	+120	45	+34	0.98	+0.29	4	3.97	+1.18	14
Dover-Foxcroft	40	74	58	+2	251	+114	35	+25	1.35	+0.51	5	4.27	+1.01	16
Frenchville	39	67	51	-5	209	+104	45	+45	0.73	+0.03	4	3.46	+0.63	14
Houlton	35	70	55	-3	241	+105	33	+21	0.65	-0.12	3	3.35	+0.27	12
Livermore_Falls	41	77	61	+4	338	+200	61	+51	5.57	+4.64	5	8.66	+5.19	16
Moosehead	38	73	54	+0	174	+88	15	+15	1.63	+0.79	4	3.64	+0.47	13
Portland_ME	52	77	61	+4	375	+212	68	+60	6.82	+6.05	3	9.85	+6.67	13
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	44	78	61	+3	343	+136	71	+46	4.71	+3.87	5	7.42	+4.22	16
Berlin_AG	42	76	61	+3	352	+167	73	+52	3.72	+2.81	4	5.76	+2.44	12
Concord	47	82	64	+4	536	+293	157	+120	2.55	+1.82	3	5.73	+2.89	13
First_Conn_Lake	35	77	58	+5	242	+156	40	+40	3.08	+2.07	4	5.88	+2.16	11
Keene_AG	47	87	66	+4	498	+178	144	+79	5.71	+4.86	4	8.31	+4.88	16
North_Conway	45	79	61	+2	380	+166	83	+54	6.60	+5.69	6	9.79	+6.16	18
Rochester	49	84	64	+3	506	+228	152	+104	3.38	+2.54	2	6.54	+3.09	10
VERMONT														
Bennington_AP	45	90	66	+8	531	+317	155	+124	1.21	+0.16	4	5.56	+1.41	15
Burlington_Intl	46	88	66	+5	581	+289	200	+143	0.77	+0.00	4	3.63	+0.75	14
Island_Pond	41	76	61	+5	334	+199	69	+56	2.95	+1.99	6	5.18	+1.68	18
Montpelier	41	82	62	+4	407	+205	99	+73	2.08	+1.25	5	3.67	+0.61	14
Rochester	42	86	61	+4	370	+184	92	+70	1.97	+1.03	5	4.43	+0.55	15
Rutland_AG	45	87	64	+2	445	+112	118	+43	1.63	+0.82	3	4.79	+1.59	11
Springfield_VT	47	85	67	+8	551	+325	172	+138	2.77	+1.83	3	5.87	+2.17	15
Sutton	42	76	60	+4	336	+203	72	+59	1.70	+0.76	4	4.21	+0.79	13
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	55	83	66	+3	627	+276	177	+122	1.31	+0.60	3	3.83	+0.95	12
Fitchburg	53	84	68	+9	691	+490	235	+213	2.16	+1.35	4	4.57	+1.36	13
Greenfield	51	92	67	+4	567	+213	181	+112	3.06	+2.15	4	7.12	+3.57	17
New_Bedford	54	85	68	+6	549	+199	145	+93	0.52	-0.32	3	4.48	+1.16	11
Otis_AFB	54	81	65	+7	437	+226	93	+74	1.12	+0.34	3	5.85	+2.56	10
Plymouth	54	83	66	+6	561	+328	158	+132	0.67	-0.17	3	4.98	+1.48	11
Walpole	53	83	67	+6	608	+328	185	+144	1.07	+0.26	2	4.17	+1.05	12
Chicopee/Westov	47	93	69	+4	641	+193	214	+111	2.55	+1.57	4	4.66	+0.90	15
Worthington	45	90	65	+6	426	+216	101	+74	2.83	+1.87	4	6.53	+2.44	17
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	56	87	69	+7	611	+298	175	+129	1.22	+0.41	2	4.66	+1.33	9
Woonsocket	54	87	69	+8	632	+356	199	+165	1.51	+0.60	2	4.77	+1.13	11
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	57	85	71	+7	636	+270	167	+91	1.51	+0.67	4	4.66	+1.16	11
Hartford/Bradley	52	93	70	+6	724	+308	253	+157	1.93	+1.02	3	4.12	+0.39	13
Norfolk	48	89	66	+8	459	+254	110	+86	2.26	+1.21	4	4.72	+0.58	16
Thomaston_Dam	48	91	70	+9	616	+320	196	+147	1.36	+0.38	4	4.81	+0.84	17
Willimantic	54	91	70	+9	674	+377	226	+178	1.48	+0.57	2	3.88	+0.14	11

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, June 3, 2012

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	35	80	58	+1	0.65	6.95
NH	31	87	62	+4	1.58	6.60
VT	38	95	63	+5	0.77	3.44
MA	45	93	67	+6	0.43	3.06
RI	54	87	68	+7	0.82	1.51
CT	48	93	69	+7	0.69	2.26

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: Good week for chopping grass silage although some did risk making dry hay and got away without any rain. Most are done planting corn for silage. Sweet corn has some tassels showing in whorl and planting continues. Saturday rain resulted in a washout for stand sales and farmers markets as some locations received up to two inches. Sunday was great for stands and farmers markets. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Almost daily showers are still slowing hay and haylage harvest. Corn planting is pretty well wrapped up. Only a few fields need to be planted yet. A report of a corn field infested with army worms late in the week sent everyone scrambling to scout fields. No new reports so it looks like the one field was an isolated incident. **Mary Concklin (Ext), Tolland:** Strawberry harvest is just beginning even in fields that lost early blossoms to the freeze. Apple chemical thinning is over. Crop is good in most locations, some locations light to none from the freeze. Peaches and nectarines are being hand-thinned. Blueberry crop looks to be very good, sizing well already. Early raspberry varieties appear to have a heavy crop load. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Strawberry picking, with fruit of smaller size; earlier blossoms lost to frost/freeze. Early blueberries beginning to ripen. Corn planting continued, some fields over a foot tall. Warm weather and heavy rain this week. Grapes doing better with some damage to first buds and vines from frost/freeze. A challenge to make dry hay.

MAINE – Marcia Hall (FSA), Androscoggin/Oxford/Sagadahoc: Rain, rain go away.... producers had reported the hay crop was ready to be harvested and looking good, but now that we have received over six inches of rain over the weekend; some fields totally under water while others have standing water. Also reports of several fields having lodged hay. We have flooding from water going over the river banks along with just too much rain fall. Corn, potato, beans, hay, small vegetables, sod and wheat crops have all been reported as being under water and producers are waiting to see if some crops rot due to moisture. Apple crop has been reported to having scab issue due to cool and wet weather. Producers who haven't planted as of last Friday, (June 1st) are now concerned about not being able to plant timely so that the crops would mature in time for harvest. **Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook:** Mostly dry weather last week allowed most operations to finish planting. Rock picking and herbicide application will be ongoing this week. Potatoes and grain emerging. Sets look good so far. Pastures are really greening up. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Southern Maine was hit with 5-7" of rain over the weekend, with more rain and drizzle forecast thru Wednesday. Fields are very wet, some with standing water. Strawberries are just starting to be picked. Crops were ahead; this weather will delay things 1-2 weeks. Vegetable farmers will have missed plantings until things dry out. I continue to hear that the apple crop will be very light this year between the light bloom and frost damage. Some varieties have no crop at all. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Things were going too good. The flood has come. Some fields will need to be replanted. Some will be planted for the third time! Too much water; there are fields submerged and water standing pools all over. One report this morning says 5.5 inches so far. The lush hay crop is becoming lodged and in some places covered by silt and debris. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Memorial Weekend brought great sunny days and planting just about complete for most. Some field corn still being completed on isolated fields. Hay crop is looking great for first crop. Pollination seems to have been pretty good for all berries and fruit crops. Producers are watching for diseases and infections in hopes of preventing any outburst. Warmer days and nights are sprouting crops in early. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis/Penobscot:** Crops that were planted before the rains are germinating and off to a good start. Some hay fields are starting to lodge and will make harvest more of a challenge. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** What a weather

week. Frost on Friday in the northern part of the county and heavy rain for three days has put the river at flood stage with some low lying fields flooding. Farmers markets have early vegetables. Some baleage has been put up and we are looking for some sun this week. **Elaine S Moceus (FSA), Somerset:** With rain showers during the week and a washout of rain on Sunday, some areas have received 3+ inches of rain. There is a flood warning in effect for southern Somerset County until late Monday afternoon. The forecast is calling for 50% chance of more rain each day for the remainder of the current week until Friday. Planting corn and harvesting hay have come to a standstill. Strawberries and blueberries are looking good at this time. Apple producers expressed concerns that the fruit set may not be plentiful in some areas, although difficult to predict at this time. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Rain, rain and more rain has caused lots of problems with corn, corn planting and haylage harvesting. Early strawberries will be coming soon. Heavy fruit set on high bush blueberries. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Pollination is complete in mid-coast fields and bees are being moved out. Downeast, most fields have completed pollination except for those close to the ocean which are about one week behind. Pollination looks good on most sites so a good crop is expected if we have adequate moisture this summer.

MASSACHUSETTS – Russell Norton (Ext), Barnstable: Decent weather all week, rain on the weekend, temperatures averaging in the mid to high 60s. High humidity and fog most of the week. GDD base 50 568 as of 6/3. **Heather Baylis (FSA) Franklin:** Hot and humid start to the week, but temperatures dropped considerably once the front came through. Producers are continuing to harvest rhubarb, asparagus, early greens, radishes and carrots. Potatoes are almost ready for hilling and the early sweet corn is growing well. Farmers are planting many summer vegetables including vine crops, peppers and tomatoes. Strawberries are almost ready to start harvesting. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** The week was rainy and hot. Dairy farmers harvested hay and planted silage corn. Vegetable growers planted summer crops such as cucumbers, eggplant, peppers, tomatoes and squashes. They harvested greens, spinach, asparagus, strawberries and rhubarb. Also, some very early sweet corn under plastic is in tassel stage. The early potato crop is being hilled and 100% planted. Shade and broadleaf tobacco farmers are planting their crop. The soybean crop is planted and looks very good. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Bloom has begun, particularly in early cultivars away from the coast. First fruit rot fungicide applications went on Friday, but weather has prevented any since then, between rain and wind. The same goes for insecticide applications for weevil and other Lep pests. The next several days don't look good for getting these sprays on either. An inch of rain on Saturday certainly helped the vine health. Beehives are slowly arriving. Bumblebee hives were put in place last week.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Donna Juneau (FSA) Belknap/Merrimack: The week was sandwiched by rain with over one-half inch reported on Tuesday, May 29 and almost two inches reported on Saturday, June 2. Significant thunderstorm activity, heavy rain, and hail were reported during the evening hours on Tuesday, May 29. The northwestern portion of Hillsborough County including Hancock, Antrim and Bennington on Tuesday evening were hardest hit. Hail damage reported by at least one orchard in the area. We are currently following up on potential flooding as the result of Saturday's storm. Most producers have reported planting field corn with a good percentage emerging; fruit and vegetable producers have reported planting some crops and expect to complete most plantings in the next couple of weeks. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Severe storms early in the week with very heavy rain and hail; isolated field washouts, and extensive injury to some tree fruit and strawberries. Field corn doing OK, almost everything planted.

Farms making good progress on first cutting, though grass and alfalfa is ahead of schedule. Planting pretty much on schedule for vegetable operations. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Midweek sunny weather had haylage and haying in full gear as most farms have finished up corn planting. Field corn is far along, 5-leaf stage on early in locations. Grass growing rapidly with Kentucky bluegrass headed out and brome grass beginning to head out. Apples and blueberries forming up well. Some reports of hail at end of the week. Heavy rains put an end to fieldwork. Season for most growing things seems to be ahead of schedule this year. Good sales reports at garden centers/nurseries over Memorial Day weekend. Lupines beginning to color over the weekend. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending June 2nd, we received nearly three inches of rain. Rain fall began on the 28th and it showered or rained every day through Saturday. Soils remain well saturated and some upland fields are excessively wet. Grass is growing well on most fields. Most of the corn is planted and most of what has been planted has emerged. During the last week we had several reports of large hail with hail stones of up to one inch in diameter. None of those reporting hail could be certain if there was any hail damage to their crops. Farmers had been chopping haylage until the rains shut them down. First cut haylage is a few days further along than normal and appears to be good both in terms of quantity and quality. The only notable exception to this is alfalfa producers; most of them lost most of their alfalfa crop to winter kill. Most of these winter killed fields have been plowed down/planted to a different crop. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Strawberries were being picked during the week and strawberry pick-your-own operations opened over the weekend. Fruit growers are monitoring pest and crop development and applying cover sprays for pests. Mowing orchard floors and weed spraying under trees, also hand thinning peaches. Field Crops: Most farmers were finishing-up planting and weed spraying corn fields. Farmers were trying to make haylage and baled hay between showers. Grasses maturing, especially orchard grass. Vegetables: Harvesting spinach, greens, asparagus and rhubarb. Finishing transplanting of tomato and pepper plants, and continued making successive planting of various vegetable crops. **Dot Perkins (Ext), Merrimack:** Soggy soils have made it impossible to harvest hay and do field work this past week. First cut quality has declined considerably. All the corn planting has been delayed. On a good note, we are not in a drought anymore. Hard to get fungicides on all trees and shrubs, ornamental or fruit. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Asparagus, rhubarb, scallions, radishes and greens harvest continued. Strawberry picking season is two weeks early and PYO operations were open with almost no picking on Saturday with the torrential rain all day. Successive planting of vegetables, tomatoes, and sweet corn. Fertilizing fields, weeding and cultivating. Haying and planting field corn. Pastures are green. Monitoring pest and spraying protective fungicides in fruit orchards and blueberry fields. Mowing orchard floors. **Jenn Zaleski (FSA), Sullivan:** Severe storms moved through the southern portion of the county Tuesday late afternoon bringing high winds, hail, frequent lightning and heavy rain. Post-storm assessments showed

that Sullivan County made out better than Cheshire. There were reports of minor flooding to cropland, mostly confined to low lying areas of fields prone to water retention as well as blow down in hay fields. Field work was able to continue Thursday and Friday where hay was cut and corn was planted. Heavy rains fell all day on Saturday totaling an inch to an inch and a half. Sunday turned nice, but minimal field work was accomplished due to wet soils.

RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties: Potatoes look real good. We are waiting to see how they develop. Strawberry picking is in full swing and we could use a little bit more sun. Many acres of plants have been planted such as tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, cucumbers, etc. More are being planted. Sweet corn looks good and it is still being planted in two week intervals for the next month. There was no way to make dry hay with this weather. This week we are expected to get rain through Friday. No dry hay this week either. A lot of straw is down, we just need heat to dry it. Pastures are green with plenty of water, but need sun to make it grow faster. Silage corn is probably 50-60 % planted now. It's not too late, it's the time of the year it should be planted.

VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison: Week ended with very wet conditions in fields again. Week activities included haylage harvest, corn planting, and manure spreading. Some corn plant damage from surface pooling of water, reports of insect and disease problems to investigate. Hay crop is light for first cut, second crop regrowth is very good, especially where manure applied. **Daniel Hudson (Ext), Caledonia:** Wet conditions have delayed much of the first cutting of haylage and will lead to quality issues, delayed second cutting, all of which will not help the low feed inventory that exists on many farms. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** The wet returns to Franklin County. Haylage harvest and corn planting have continued this week, however, at a much slower pace than last week because of the rains. Planted corn is growing like gang busters with much of the first planted at the four to 6 leaf stage. Re-growth grass ground is also doing great with some of the first cut haylage looking like it could be cut again soon. Gardens are well under way and strawberries will soon be making their way to bearing fruit in time for the 4th of July celebration. Cool temps are slowing growth some, however, the moisture seems to keep things going. **Heather Mateja (FSA), Lamoille/Washington:** Flash flooding on May 30th hit some fields in the county. Damage was mostly in the north. Field crops are looking good and everything seems to be a bit ahead for the season. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Overall, a hard week to do field work. On Tuesday we had some very violent storms with high winds, marble size hail and a lot of rain. The grass in some hay fields is laid over but the corn survived with very little damage. The fact that the corn is only about two inches tall helped. Corn is mostly all planted now and most farmers have started their first cut hay. The grasses have already matured with all the moisture we have had. Pastures are doing well. There is a little bit of mud in the pastures from cattle movement, but not bad yet.

Coming soon – NASS's annual June surveys on crops and livestock. In the first two weeks of June, NASS will survey about 140,000 U.S. producers and visit 42,000 tracts of farm land to collect information. Responses to these surveys provide the foundation for estimates in the upcoming growing year and will first be released in the *Acreage* and other reports on June 29. Watch for the survey and be sure to respond. Your information matters!

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