

Crop Progress & Condition



NEW ENGLAND
Agricultural
Statistics



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August 6, 2012 – 4 pm

For week ending 8/5/12

Crops in Need of Precipitation

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending August 5, 2012, there were 6.6 days available for field work across New England. Pasture condition was rated 1 percent very poor, 28 percent poor, 37 percent fair, 33 percent good, and 1 percent excellent. It was a hot week in New England with high temperatures consistently in the 80s and 90s as well as above average nighttime temperatures generally in the 60s and 70s across the region. Average temperatures for the week ranged from 3 degrees above normal in Connecticut and Rhode Island to 7 degrees above normal in Vermont. Thunderstorms during the weekend brought the majority of the week's precipitation. Total precipitation for the week ranged from 0 to 2.7 inches with the majority of reporting stations across the region recording less than 1 inch of rain.

FRUIT: Evidence of SWD fruit flies, mold, and hail damage were visible in fruits. Fruit growers continued harvesting early season apple varieties, while more growers in Maine began harvesting wild blueberries last week. The crop was in need of additional moisture. Cranberry growers in Massachusetts continued scouting for fruitworm and applying supplemental fertilizer as needed. The harvest of highbush blueberries and peaches continued at a rapid pace throughout New England. Many highbush blueberry growers were reported having an above average season. Orchardists were busy harvesting plums and raspberries, irrigating, monitoring for pests, renovating strawberry beds, and preparing apple orchards for picking.

VEGETABLES: Vegetable crops were growing well with good color and vigor, but scald and sunburn were observed due to heat. Irrigated vegetable crops handled hot weather better. Pressure from pests and diseases, including late blight in tomatoes, was significant. Farmers were busy harvesting an array of vegetables including sweet corn, green beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cucumbers, greens, melons, peppers, radishes, squash, tomatoes, zucchini, and other crops. Farmers were also cultivating, irrigating, hoeing weeds, monitoring for pests, and spraying for insects and diseases.

FIELD CROPS: Hay re-growth received a small boost from recent rains, but was relatively slow in most areas. Precipitation brought relief to silage corn, but some fields continued showing drought stress. The dry weather did not appear to severely impact maturing process as ear development was observed in many fields. Pastures responded well to showers, but continued growing slowly due to overall inadequate moisture. Potato and grain crops in Aroostook County, Maine were ready for harvest and in good condition, but stressed by dry weather and pests. Tobacco crops were significantly affected by blue mold and a potato virus; producers were actively working to stop their spread. Producers were also busy cultivating and spraying fields.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

| Soil Rating | This Week | Last Week | Last Year |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| -- Percent -- | | | |
| Topsoil | | | |
| Very Short | 5 | 5 | 3 |
| Short | 48 | 47 | 43 |
| Adequate | 47 | 47 | 51 |
| Surplus | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| Subsoil | | | |
| Very Short | 3 | 4 | 7 |
| Short | 41 | 39 | 45 |
| Adequate | 56 | 57 | 45 |
| Surplus | 0 | 0 | 3 |

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

| Crop | Percent Harvested | | | Fruit Set | Fruit Size | Condition |
|-----------------|-------------------|------|----------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| | 2012 | 2011 | 5-yr Avg | | | |
| Apples | <5 | <5 | <5 | Average | Average | Fair/Good |
| Peaches | 30 | 30 | 25 | | Average | Good/Fair |
| Pears | - | - | - | | Average | Good/Fair |
| Blueberries | | | | Avg/Above | | |
| Highbush | 60 | 50 | 50 | | Average | Good |
| Wild | 30 | 5 | 10 | | Above/Avg | Exc/Good |
| Cranberries, MA | - | - | - | Avg/Above | Average | Good |
| Strawberries | 100 | 99 | 100 | | | |

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

| Crop | 2012 | 2011 | 5-yr Avg | Condition |
|-------------------------|------|------|----------|----------------|
| -- Percent Emerged -- | | | | |
| Sweet Corn | 100 | 100 | 100 | |
| -- Percent Harvested -- | | | | |
| Barley | <5 | 0 | 0 | Excellent/Good |
| Oats | <5 | 0 | 0 | Excellent/Good |
| Potatoes | | | | |
| Maine | <5 | 0 | 0 | Excellent/Good |
| Mass | 10 | <5 | <5 | Good/Fair |
| Rhode Island | 5 | <5 | 5 | Good/Excellent |
| Silage Corn | - | - | - | Good |
| Sweet Corn | 40 | 30 | 30 | Good/Fair |
| Tobacco | | | | |
| Broadleaf | 10 | 5 | 15 | Good/Fair |
| Shade | 70 | 40 | 35 | |
| Dry Hay | | | | |
| First | 99 | 95 | 95 | |
| Second | 75 | 50 | 55 | |
| Third | 15 | <5 | 5 | Fair/Good |

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday July 30, 2012
 To: Sunday August 5, 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 | DFN | DAYS | TOTAL | DFN | DAYS |
| | --- | --- | --- | --- | TOT | DFN | TOT | DFN | INCHES | --- | --- | INCHES | --- | --- |
| MAINE | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Augusta_State_A | 60 | 89 | 73 | +4 | 1577 | +254 | 668 | +168 | 0.75 | +0.01 | 3 | 1.32 | -1.58 | 9 |
| Bangor_Intl_Arp | 56 | 87 | 72 | +4 | 1466 | +268 | 582 | +167 | 0.61 | -0.09 | 3 | 0.94 | -1.99 | 8 |
| Bethel | 60 | 89 | 72 | +5 | 1408 | +204 | 539 | +127 | 1.16 | +0.28 | 2 | 2.86 | -0.40 | 9 |
| Caribou_Municip | 55 | 87 | 72 | +8 | 1264 | +273 | 468 | +190 | 0.10 | -0.87 | 2 | 1.78 | -2.00 | 6 |
| Dover-Foxcroft | 54 | 87 | 71 | +5 | 1240 | +194 | 456 | +141 | 0.14 | -0.63 | 3 | 0.67 | -2.49 | 8 |
| Frenchville | 52 | 88 | 71 | +7 | 1104 | +186 | 374 | +136 | 0.02 | -0.89 | 2 | 1.12 | -2.42 | 8 |
| Houlton | 53 | 88 | 73 | +7 | 1226 | +197 | 448 | +141 | 0.28 | -0.63 | 2 | 0.68 | -2.82 | 6 |
| Livermore_Falls | 54 | 88 | 72 | +6 | 1397 | +361 | 535 | +232 | 0.30 | -0.56 | 4 | 2.08 | -1.10 | 11 |
| Moosehead | 54 | 87 | 69 | +5 | 975 | +109 | 283 | +65 | 0.05 | -0.82 | 2 | 1.38 | -2.22 | 9 |
| Portland_ME | 59 | 90 | 72 | +4 | 1556 | +366 | 659 | +244 | 0.96 | +0.33 | 2 | 3.81 | +1.14 | 9 |
| NEW HAMPSHIRE | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Benton | 58 | 89 | 71 | +6 | 1319 | +193 | 481 | +144 | 0.36 | -0.53 | 4 | 2.77 | -0.48 | 11 |
| Berlin_AG | 58 | 87 | 71 | +5 | 1370 | +238 | 498 | +141 | 0.00 | -0.96 | 0 | 2.32 | -1.19 | 6 |
| Concord | 56 | 92 | 74 | +5 | 1774 | +426 | 788 | +275 | 0.22 | -0.55 | 2 | 1.86 | -1.12 | 11 |
| First_Conn_Lake | 53 | 87 | 70 | +8 | 1097 | +341 | 349 | +210 | 0.00 | -1.12 | 0 | 1.74 | -2.51 | 7 |
| Keene_AG | 58 | 94 | 74 | +4 | 1722 | +211 | 751 | +125 | 0.05 | -0.83 | 2 | 1.17 | -2.19 | 8 |
| North_Conway | 59 | 88 | 71 | +4 | 1476 | +215 | 585 | +133 | 0.89 | -0.02 | 3 | 2.10 | -1.34 | 11 |
| Rochester | 57 | 96 | 75 | +5 | 1817 | +385 | 855 | +281 | 0.20 | -0.62 | 3 | 1.84 | -1.35 | 9 |
| VERMONT | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bennington_AP | 59 | 92 | 74 | +7 | 1739 | +561 | 756 | +374 | 0.23 | -0.70 | 2 | 2.82 | -0.84 | 9 |
| Burlington_Intl | 64 | 94 | 78 | +8 | 1967 | +511 | 963 | +370 | 0.00 | -0.91 | 0 | 2.48 | -0.92 | 6 |
| Island_Pond | 54 | 89 | 70 | +7 | 1302 | +380 | 463 | +234 | 0.22 | -0.87 | 2 | 2.08 | -1.92 | 9 |
| Montpelier | 56 | 89 | 72 | +6 | 1455 | +312 | 554 | +190 | 0.05 | -0.77 | 1 | 2.79 | -0.15 | 8 |
| Rochester | 57 | 90 | 73 | +7 | 1423 | +312 | 541 | +196 | 0.44 | -0.56 | 3 | 2.77 | -0.87 | 9 |
| Rutland_AG | 59 | 90 | 73 | +3 | 1575 | +73 | 637 | +24 | 0.35 | -0.56 | 3 | 2.87 | -0.70 | 12 |
| Springfield_VT | 59 | 93 | 74 | +7 | 1854 | +622 | 857 | +439 | 0.81 | -0.06 | 3 | 2.99 | -0.30 | 12 |
| Sutton | 55 | 87 | 71 | +7 | 1307 | +369 | 458 | +214 | 0.05 | -1.00 | 2 | 2.73 | -1.21 | 7 |
| MASSACHUSETTS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Boston/Logan_In | 63 | 92 | 75 | +2 | 2047 | +351 | 990 | +221 | 1.28 | +0.58 | 2 | 4.54 | +1.93 | 8 |
| Fitchburg | 57 | 95 | 76 | +9 | 2141 | +919 | 1072 | +649 | 0.67 | -0.16 | 3 | 1.52 | -1.80 | 9 |
| Greenfield | 60 | 93 | 75 | +4 | 1901 | +286 | 892 | +192 | 0.21 | -0.63 | 2 | 1.87 | -1.49 | 12 |
| New_Bedford | 56 | 89 | 74 | -1 | 1879 | +193 | 869 | +111 | 1.34 | +0.47 | 1 | 3.97 | +1.02 | 10 |
| Otis_AFB | 57 | 86 | 73 | +3 | 1645 | +292 | 715 | +183 | 1.34 | +0.62 | 3 | 3.16 | +0.50 | 12 |
| Plymouth | 58 | 91 | 75 | +4 | 1874 | +459 | 875 | +295 | 1.58 | +0.75 | 2 | 3.26 | +0.12 | 8 |
| Walpole | 58 | 90 | 75 | +5 | 1984 | +520 | 939 | +341 | 1.88 | +1.04 | 2 | 3.90 | +0.75 | 8 |
| Chicopee/Westov | 56 | 94 | 76 | +2 | 2013 | +165 | 971 | +99 | 0.22 | -0.55 | 1 | 1.48 | -1.69 | 8 |
| Worthington | 55 | 90 | 71 | +4 | 1524 | +335 | 604 | +216 | 0.08 | -0.90 | 2 | 2.38 | -1.54 | 10 |
| RHODE ISLAND | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Providence | 61 | 91 | 75 | +3 | 2026 | +419 | 975 | +267 | 0.11 | -0.66 | 1 | 2.49 | -0.44 | 10 |
| Woonsocket | 58 | 93 | 75 | +5 | 2013 | +573 | 964 | +396 | 0.18 | -0.73 | 3 | 4.56 | +0.99 | 10 |
| CONNECTICUT | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bridgeport/Siko | 67 | 91 | 77 | +3 | 2196 | +476 | 1101 | +302 | 0.00 | -0.79 | 0 | 4.06 | +0.69 | 7 |
| Hartford/Bradley | 60 | 94 | 77 | +4 | 2228 | +445 | 1136 | +304 | 0.50 | -0.27 | 2 | 3.62 | +0.74 | 10 |
| Norfolk | 59 | 88 | 72 | +5 | 1605 | +410 | 657 | +262 | 0.05 | -0.93 | 1 | 3.40 | -0.39 | 12 |
| Thomaston_Dam | 61 | 91 | 75 | +6 | 1991 | +565 | 949 | +396 | 0.80 | -0.12 | 3 | 2.90 | -0.87 | 14 |
| Willimantic | 59 | 92 | 75 | +6 | 2081 | +630 | 1011 | +437 | 0.40 | -0.51 | 2 | 2.38 | -1.37 | 12 |

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, August 5, 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 | 47 | 92 | 71 | +5 | 0.00 | 1.75 |
| NH | 48 | 96 | 72 | +5 | 0.00 | 2.68 |
| VT | 51 | 94 | 73 | +7 | 0.00 | 2.22 |
| MA | 53 | 96 | 74 | +4 | 0.00 | 2.44 |
| RI | 58 | 93 | 74 | +3 | 0.11 | 0.26 |
| CT | 57 | 94 | 75 | +3 | 0.00 | 0.80 |

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: A very hot, humid week. Some showers mid week and on Sunday with some strong winds and thunderstorms that led to isolated power outages. Some hay cut and baled dry while others chopped grass. Vegetable harvest continued for most crops while irrigation was used where available. Broadleaf and shade tobacco were diagnosed with a potato virus in the Suffield area and a percentage was harrowed down to prevent spread to unaffected acreage. In other areas broadleaf harvest was underway to just beginning. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Rain showers have saved the majority of the silage corn in the area. Some dry spots will never recover, but most of the crop will ear up. Yield will be off by several tons per acre but things look a lot better out there than they did when temps were in the hundreds. **Jude Boucher (Ext), Tolland:** Late blight remains a threat, especially to tomatoes on organic farms. Downy mildew was found on cucumbers this past week and is wide-spread on basil. Sweet corn "worms" are very light. Recent storms have provided enough rain at most locations. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Hot and humid. Most crops look good, smaller size in early apples and peaches from dry weather. Peppers, eggplant, squash growing well with good color and vigor. Grapes sizing up gradually, evidence of hail damage has created issues with molds and insects, spraying to control where necessary. Silage corn tasseling. Local sweet corn is abundant and delicious. Working on second cutting of hay.

MAINE – Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook: A few timely showers went through on Thursday. Some areas got little or nothing. Potatoes in those areas are wilting badly in the afternoons. First cut hay is just about finished. We will need a lot more rain for a second cut. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Crops are in need of water, there are still some aphids and Colorado potato beetles in places. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** The corn loves the heat, but needs a little more moisture. Hay has been harvested in previously too wet areas. Grass growth is really slow right now especially on excessively well drained soils. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** A good week for farmers in most areas due to showers in the evening and a few on one day. Dry conditions still in areas, but crops are looking better. Farm stands are in full swing. Fertilizer being spread on harvested hay fields in hopes for another cutting. Blueberry crop is looking good and some have started to harvest. They do need some more moisture in areas. Potato crop looks good, producers are spraying and irrigating as much as possible. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** Crops are beginning to show stress from lack of water. Showers have been scattered and light. Sweet corn harvest has begun. **Elaine S Moceus (FSA), Somerset:** It has been a good week for field work, with showers over two or three evenings into early morning, totaling slightly less than one inch for the week in most areas. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Dry weather continued with only a spotty shower here and there. Pastures and hayfields have slowed down growth due to dry weather. Some SWD found in raspberries. Sweet corn harvest begins.

MASSACHUSETTS – Heather Baylis (FSA) Franklin: Spotty showers did little to improve dry conditions. Southern parts of the county are faring better since they received more moisture from last week's storms. This week only brought a hand full of local storms without any appreciable rain. Last week's rain did help increase growth in hayfields. Corn is very uneven, tasseling in some places and others have poor growth. Sweet corn has

mounting pest pressures and farmers need to be alert. Tobacco producers are fighting blue mold and working hard to control its spread. The moisture has increased Late Blight, especially in tomatoes. Producers are on guard to protect against cucurbit downy mildew. Late squash and pumpkin producers are checking fruit set carefully, which can be disrupted by the high temperatures and scanning their crops for powdery mildew. Sunburn and scald are affecting peppers, garlic and onions when curing. Vegetable farmers are busy harvesting a wide array of fruits and vegetables. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** The week began hot, humid and dry and ended off with some very well needed rain showers. Harvesting sweet corn, blueberries, early apples, peaches and an array of summer vegetables. Growers continued scouting for plant diseases and insects. **Carolyn DeMoranville (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Cranberry growers continue to scout for fruitworm and apply supplemental fertilizer as needed. Cranberry crop is looking good with few problems reported.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire: A little bit more rain over the weekend, but it's still dry out there. Most field corn looks good, but dry spots are still showing moisture stress. Regrowth on hayfields and pastures is slow. Irrigated vegetable crops look great. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Good soaker keeps moisture levels at optimum conditions. Most corn now tasseling. Second cut haylage about all in, haying as weather permits. Excellent growing for most crops with pastures and haylands standing up well. More later summer veggies at markets, also blueberries. Little complaints so far this year other than abundance of Japanese beetles on just about everything. Paying attention to Late Blight reports further south. Goldenrod in bloom. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending August 4th, we had no rain. Crop conditions improved slightly from the prior week, due to rains received during the week of July 22nd. Grass/hay crops began to green up and corn began to show relief from the dry conditions. Most of the corn looks to be OK. Some fields are going to have a lower yield, but they should still be able to set ears. The second cutting of grass is below normal, a few sandy fields still show brown and stunted areas. However, timely rain showers should help the third cutting recover. Vegetable growers have a wide variety of produce on their stands. Those with irrigation have not seen any negative impacts. The sweet corn looks good. Quality on the stands is very good. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Hot! Irrigating crops where irrigation ponds, water levels are going down and some ponds are pretty low. Hopefully, the crops will respond to the rain shower. However, many of the showers have missed several farms. Fruit: Orchardists harvesting peaches, plums, blueberries and summer raspberries. Harvesting Jersey Mac apples. Many blueberry growers are having a great season. Orchardists busy irrigating apples, blueberries, peaches, raspberries and renovated strawberry beds. Monitoring for pests - spraying if needed, training young trees and mowing orchard floors. SWD fruit fly remain low and steady, however, a couple of site numbers are starting to increase! Field Crops: Hay cutting continued during the week with the second cut being made. Many hay fields and silage corn fields showing drought stress. Vegetables: Farmers kept busy cultivating, hoeing weeds, monitoring pest pressures and spraying pesticides for insect and disease control where needed. Harvesting an array of vegetables: beans, beets, cole crops, cucumbers, greens, melons, peas, potatoes, radishes, summer squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, pepper, zucchini, and other vegetables. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Harvest of peaches, blueberries,

raspberries and early apple varieties continued. A whole array of vegetables was harvested. PYO operations very busy as well as farmers markets and farm stands. Mowing orchards and monitoring for pests. Strawberry bed renovations are almost done. Cultivating and irrigating vegetable fields and monitoring insect pests and diseases and spraying when and if needed. Haying been done. In some fields, pasture regrowth is slow because of lack of rain. Another hot, humid dry week with some passing showers and thunderstorms and gusty winds at the end of the week. Some short periods of rain happened occasionally which was helpful. **Jenn Zaleski (FSA), Sullivan:** It was a hot week in Sullivan County with highs in the mid-80s to low 90s and overnight lows in the mid-60s. Scattered thunderstorms moved through overnight Tuesday bringing half an inch of rain to the southwestern portion of the county. Other areas remained dry. Another line of thunderstorms moved through Sunday afternoon bringing lightning and winds along with heavy downpours. Rainfall totals were around half an inch. Hay re-growth has been slow due to the dry conditions. Field corn looks good with ears developing nicely. Blueberry picking continued through the week. Vegetables are abundant in farm stands and farmer's markets.

RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties: After traveling around the state a little bit last week, compared to the rest of the country, RI is fairing very well. It's not perfect, but it's very good. These 1/4-1/2 inch rain showers are helping the

crops real well. Silage corn looks good. Some of it that was planted real early are starting to make ears. So far it's a good season for sweet corn. Early potatoes are looking real good. Not digging a lot of them because the price is real low. Small vegetable crops are having a good year. You can buy just about everything in vegetables right now. Pastures with these rains the past couple of weeks have greened up. Livestock looks good. Second crop of hay is coming along pretty good with this rain, but I don't think there will be much of a 3rd cutting at all.

VERMONT – Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin: A very hot week here in Franklin County. Still dry, however, things are still growing with lots of hay and haylage harvested. Much third cut is off and with some moisture we would have a lot of fourth cut that could be harvested. Yields have been good through the season for the hay crop. Corn is headed into R2 stage with some blistering starting to occur. The dry weather does not seem to be harming the maturing process. The veggie stands are over flowing and doing well. Sweet corn is very abundant and keeping the trade active for other goods on sale. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Corn has tasseled and looks very good. Most corn is 7-8 feet tall. Conditions are a bit dry and there wasn't much rain in the past week. Some farmers are harvesting their third crop. Second crop yields were low due to the dry conditions, but farmers had very good weather to harvest. Pastures are not keeping up very well with regrowth due to the dry weather.

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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