



# New England Agricultural Statistics Service

a field office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service  
United States Department of Agriculture

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## Crop Weather

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For week ending 7/8/01

### Armyworms Invade New England!

For the week ending July 8, 2001, there were 5.9 days available for fieldwork across New England. Pasture condition was rated as 0% very poor, 3% poor, 28% fair, 52% good, 17% excellent. Major farm activities included: planting sweet corn; cultivating and hilling potatoes; testing soils for nitrate; sidedressing fields with fertilizer; cutting hay and chopping haylage; harvesting strawberries, raspberries, highbush blueberries, sweet corn, summer squash, cole crops, peas, zucchini, snap beans, radishes, and other vegetables; and spraying for weeds, insects, and fungus.

#### FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested	Fruit Size	Condition
Apples	--	Avg	Good
Peaches	--	Avg/B.Avg	Good/Fair
Pears	--	Avg	V.Poor/Poor
Strawberries	85	Avg	Good
Cranberries, MA	--	Avg	Good/Fair
Blueberries			
Highbush	5	Avg	Fair
Wild, ME	--	B.Avg	Good

#### SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	-- Percent --		
	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
<b>Topsoil Moisture</b>			
Very Short	2	1	0
Short	15	21	9
Adequate	73	69	79
Surplus	10	9	12
<b>Subsoil Moisture</b>			
Very Short	8	10	0
Short	8	11	6
Adequate	74	69	84
Surplus	10	10	10

**FIELD CROPS:** Cooler temperatures, along with below average precipitation, arrived in New England last week after the previous week's hot, humid trend. Conditions were favorable for fieldwork, but rain will be needed soon to help crop growth. Armyworms continued to wreak havoc with corn and hay crops at locations throughout New England. Potatoes were blossoming as farmers continued to hill and cultivate their crops. Field corn height is variable throughout the six-state region and farmers are keeping a close eye on their fields for armyworm damage. Shade and broadleaf tobacco crops were reported in good to fair condition. The harvesting of both first and second cut hay continued ahead of normal, with farmers trying to keep ahead of the armyworm damage.

**VEGETABLES:** The harvesting of radishes, peas, broccoli, zucchini, lettuce, and other vegetables proceeded, with most crops reported in good condition. Sweet corn harvest got underway in New England, with 5% of the harvest complete. Armyworms have been detected in various sweet corn fields. Fields were monitored and growers made fungicide and insecticide applications where necessary. Soil nitrate levels continued to be tested and fields were sidedressed with fertilizer.

**FRUIT:** Orchards were mowed and monitored for weeds and pests. Apples have been reported in poor condition in both Connecticut and Rhode Island, and conditions ranged from fair to excellent elsewhere. New England's pear crop has seen better days; it is currently in very poor to poor condition. Strawberry harvest was 85% complete in New England last week and was being wrapped up in both Connecticut and Massachusetts. Highbush blueberry harvesting continued and raspberry harvesting began. Maine wild blueberry growers actively sprayed their crops for fruit flies; berries are starting to turn blue. Most of the Massachusetts cranberry crop is currently in Petal Fall Stage, with an average reported fruit set.

#### FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2001	2000	5-yr Avg	Condition
Potatoes	-- Percent Emerged --			
Maine	100	100	100	Excel/Good
Mass	100	100	100	Good
Rhode Isl	100	100	100	Good
Oats, ME	100	100	100	Excel/Good
Barley, ME	100	100	100	Excel/Good
Silage Corn	99	95	99	Good/Excel
Sweet Corn	95	95	95	Good
Tobacco	-- Percent Planted --			
Shade	100	100	100	Good/Fair
Broadleaf	100	100	99	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	99	99	99	Good
Dry Hay	-- Percent Harvested --			
First Cut	85	75	75	Good/Fair
Second Cut	20	5	10	Good

For the Week Ending Sunday, July 8, 2001

The 41 stations shown below are limited by space but are well distributed across the region.  
All 86 stations appear on the Internet and in e-mail subscriptions.

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				CUM SINCE MAR 1 GROWING DEGREE DAYS				1-WEEK PRECIP			4-WEEK CUM PRECIP		
	-----				BASE-50F		BASE-60F		-----			-----		
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS
-----	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
<b>MAINE</b>														
Augusta_ME	50	84	66	-3	927	+182	360	+147	0.89	+0.15	4	2.50	-0.53	10
Bangor	47	87	66	-2	901	+243	336	+171	0.65	-0.12	4	1.39	-1.69	9
Bethel	45	82	61	-7	773	+99	244	+73	2.17	+1.33	4	4.97	+1.36	12
Cari bou	46	79	63	-3	736	+201	217	+111	1.11	+0.28	6	2.44	-0.48	13
Dover-Foxcroft	48	84	62	-4	735	+180	225	+111	0.44	-0.40	4	1.27	-2.18	9
Frenchville	44	74	61	-4	642	+155	169	+85	0.79	-0.02	6	3.04	+0.00	13
Houlton	40	85	63	-3	711	+161	220	+106	0.57	-0.25	4	1.44	-1.69	9
Livermore_Falls	43	88	65	-1	844	+287	317	+204	1.24	+0.44	4	4.14	+0.49	10
Moosehead	42	78	61	-4	594	+154	145	+76	0.82	-0.09	4	2.15	-1.55	9
Portland_ME	49	88	66	-2	877	+237	350	+197	0.51	-0.24	3	2.72	-0.42	9
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>														
Benton	44	77	61	-6	738	+89	217	+72	0.62	-0.18	3	1.87	-1.56	7
Berlin_AG	44	80	61	-6	773	+132	238	+87	0.42	-0.43	3	1.96	-1.76	6
Concord	43	86	66	-4	943	+167	367	+136	0.79	+0.09	4	4.32	+1.38	13
Diamond_Pond	39	79	58	-5	530	+141	131	+90	1.11	+0.06	5	4.94	+0.63	12
Keene_AP	43	84	65	-6	948	+43	354	+45	0.00	-0.80	0	3.11	-0.21	4
North_Conway	47	88	64	-4	960	+242	380	+181	0.98	+0.13	4	2.10	-1.53	8
Rochester	44	84	65	-5	957	+120	393	+125	0.57	-0.21	4	4.41	+1.20	10
<b>VERMONT</b>														
Burlington_VT	50	80	66	-5	1052	+196	412	+128	0.28	-0.52	2	2.03	-1.26	11
Island_Pond	41	76	59	-5	671	+165	188	+94	1.35	+0.38	4	2.91	-1.06	9
Montpelier	44	77	61	-6	756	+105	236	+75	0.77	+0.07	3	2.11	-0.97	10
Pownal	45	80	61	-6	814	+142	251	+84	2.44	+1.49	3	5.73	+1.65	9
Rochester	43	78	60	-6	732	+106	213	+65	0.94	+0.10	4	2.44	-0.97	10
Rutland_AG	45	78	62	-8	830	-78	259	-50	2.26	+1.42	3	5.25	+1.89	7
Sutton	42	77	59	-6	692	+184	198	+97	0.96	-0.01	3	2.19	-1.78	11
Townshend_Lake	46	82	63	-7	809	-17	268	+6	1.46	+0.76	4	3.84	+1.00	12
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>														
Ashburnham	45	81	63	-4	924	+233	340	+159	2.02	+1.18	4	7.37	+4.01	13
Boston	57	88	70	-3	1210	+204	558	+191	1.33	+0.69	4	5.47	+2.70	10
Greenfield	44	87	64	-8	959	-18	365	+13	1.39	+0.53	4	3.67	+0.17	11
New_Bedford	47	85	67	-6	1072	+83	437	+90	0.63	-0.07	4	5.61	+2.46	10
Otis_AFB	52	82	68	-2	1031	+283	435	+220	0.86	+0.20	2	3.42	+0.54	9
Plymouth	45	85	66	-5	1004	+208	396	+148	0.66	-0.11	5	4.06	+0.93	11
Walpole	48	86	67	-4	1131	+280	486	+212	1.22	+0.43	5	10.51	+7.08	11
Westover	48	88	68	-6	1164	+27	498	+49	0.52	-0.34	4	3.49	-0.17	12
Worthington	41	82	61	-7	775	+96	252	+83	0.59	-0.35	4	3.23	-0.41	11
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>														
Providence	51	87	68	-4	1195	+255	522	+192	0.58	-0.12	5	5.74	+2.74	10
Woonsocket	48	89	68	-2	1158	+321	513	+258	0.85	-0.06	4	6.92	+3.19	10
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>														
Bridgeport	53	87	70	-3	1217	+200	523	+141	0.77	-0.07	5	3.82	+0.58	15
Hartford_AP	45	89	68	-5	1185	+95	509	+81	0.35	-0.41	3	3.91	+0.59	12
Norfolk	43	82	64	-3	885	+207	315	+145	0.43	-0.55	4	4.39	+0.22	13
Thomaston_Dam	43	88	64	-5	1013	+167	390	+128	0.81	-0.10	5	6.26	+2.54	15
Willimantic	47	89	68	-3	1190	+333	504	+236	0.56	-0.35	5	5.52	+1.98	11

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 WEATHER SUMMARY**

For the Week Ending Sunday, July 8, 2001

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	38	88	63	-4	0.00	2.17
NH	24	88	61	-6	0.00	1.87
VT	31	84	61	-6	0.28	2.44
MA	41	91	66	-4	0.50	2.71
RI	48	89	68	-3	0.58	0.85
CT	42	92	67	-5	0.28	1.63

Prepared by AWIS, Inc.

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

**CONNECTICUT - Howard Rood (FSA), Fairfield/Litchfield:** Farmers are seeing some erosion from heavy rains. Armyworms have ruined some pastures and hay fields. No report of damage in corn fields yet. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Outbreaks of armyworms (common) throughout the area munching on grass, field corn, and turf. Sweet corn harvest in the valley is moving along with strong prices to those who have it. Cabbage, lettuce and peas being harvested. Areas still have water standing or a high water table which is affecting crop growth. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Joyce Meader got it right last week, we have been severely invaded by armyworms. What was recently beautiful hayfields awaiting second cutting has been diminished to scraps of hay with weeds as the worms munch through acres and acres in just days. Frantic calls have been coming into FSA and Extension regarding what to do, can we help with loss, and whether to spray with Sevin or Warrior or not to spray and cut what's left on the field, and hope the armyworms are going to be done soon. Are they true armyworms, will they be back in the fall? We've never experienced this type of destruction of hay and with a poor first cutting - not good at all. Strawberry production is about over, the harvest went well with the season compressed a little due to heat. Corn is in various stages of very good to quite poor, ranging in height from chest high to just a few inches, weed control good to poor as well. Markdowns on bedding plants and perennials at garden centers. **Joyce Meader (Ext), Windham:** Armyworm invasion continues, the hayfields and pastures are found stripped of grass. Pesticide dealers are not spraying if larvae are over 1.5 inches since pupation is about to start, and there is a waiting list for crop spraying. Otherwise, crop growing conditions are excellent, and the grass roots should be healthy for the next regrowth. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Armyworms are everywhere! They are decimating hay fields and home lawns... few reports of damage to corn. Hundreds if not thousands of acres affected. Crops without worms look good... we could use some heat to speed growth.

**MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook:** Potatoes: Applying fungicides and insecticides. Final hilling just about completed. Crops growing rapidly with perfect conditions. Adequate moisture and sun. A few European corn borer egg masses located in one area. **Erin Chadbourne (Ext), Central Aroostook:** The activity in the region is mostly cultivation and fungicide applications. Potatoes are blooming with color now. **Albert Dow (NRCS), Piscataquis:** Almost a half-inch of rain in all. Farmers still haying first crop. Calls coming in daily about armyworms. Four farms have been attacked in masses. **Donna Lamb (Ext), Piscataquis:** Armyworms have attacked several more hay and corn fields. **Janet King/Jennifer Zweig (FSA), Somerset:** Armyworms are everywhere. Corn that is not damaged by armyworms looks good. Some highbush blueberries are coming back after winter damage. Strawberries are good this year. Hay is also very good. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Armyworm damage and continued dry weather has made this year a very interesting one. Armyworms have eaten a large percentage of early second crop hay and have done some severe damage to young corn in many areas. Scattered showers have helped, but dry weather will hinder third crop hay if significant rains don't occur soon. Strawberry harvest is coming to an early conclusion. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Strawberry harvest will conclude this week. Yields have been good to excellent. Quality has also been good. Some summer squash, peas and new potatoes harvested this past week. Sweet corn harvest will start this week. Crops are looking good. It was another good week for haying. Armyworms destroyed 25 acres of second crop hay in Lincoln County. Scattered reports of damage. They have been found in sweet corn, but not nearly as severe as in other counties. We should have minimal damage from worms. Received needed rainfall Sunday. **David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild Blueberries: Insecticides being sprayed for blueberry fruit fly control. High proportion of blue fruit (20-30%) noted because of warm weather in June. **Michael Tardy (FSA), Androscoggin:** There is widespread infestation of armyworms. Many farmers report their second crop of grass has been completely devoured by the small critters. There are also reports of damage to the corn crop by the worms. Still too early to tell extent of damage.

**Parker Rand (FSA), Cumberland/York:** The perfect growing conditions seem to favor armyworms, many second crop hay fields are experiencing major problems. Corn can still be sprayed, but grass is gone in some fields leaving some clover and alfalfa. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** We have been invaded! We are suffering our first major armyworm infestation since 1978. Almost all the hay in some hayfields and pastures has been eaten. Some major corn destruction. Thank goodness we had a large first cut. Farmers are trying to harvest ahead of the worms and are spraying. **Laura Rand (FSA), Oxford:** Producers are busy mowing hay, cultivating, and spraying for insects. Some second crop hay being cut. Reports are being received of armyworms. Peas, summer squash, and strawberries are all being harvested. Apple producers are reporting that the apple crop looks good.

**MASSACHUSETTS - Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire:** Baling and chopping first cutting, chopping second cutting. Sidedressing corn ground with nitrogen. Armyworms arrived! Some infestations of armyworm (*pseudaletia unipuncta*) in silage corn, alfalfa and grass. One farmer had it sprayed. High wind flattened acres of corn. **Kip Graham (FSA), Worcester:** Second cutting of hay is looking better if the armyworms don't get to it first. Armyworms seem to be a developing problem in both hay and corn fields. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Some beds are out of bloom; fruit is sizing up as usual. Continued good pollination weather. Not much rain over the weekend. Weeds and insects continue to be problematic. Floods have destroyed bloom in numerous beds. Bees will be leaving soon. **David Rose (FSA), Bristol:** Beginning to harvest sweet corn, a few field tomatoes and some peppers. Harvest of squash and lettuce continues. Hay making continues. Blueberries and raspberries are being picked. Armyworms are causing problems for corn growers and hay producers. We have had many calls this past week concerning this pest. These pesky creatures even made the 6:00 p.m. news. **John Devine (FSA), Franklin:** Forage producers are monitoring their crops closely for armyworm this week. Hay and alfalfa seem to be the primary target of this pest, but corn acreage has also been affected. Published reports are blaming tropical storm Allison for the infestation. Many farms are harvesting second cut hay and haylage before treating the fields. Other field activities this week included weed control and fungal spraying. Crops seem to be responding well to the heat and humidity, but weather conditions have been strange the season. Hot spells are followed by severe storms then cool and windy conditions. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Crops are growing well with this week's heat and rain. Cultivating, hoeing, topdressing, fertilizing and spraying protective fungicides. Outbreak of armyworms in some parts of the county. Harvesting summer squash, cabbage, radishes, sweet corn and many other summer vegetables. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** Weed and insect control primary farm work for this week. Cucumber, squash and Colorado Potato Beetle appearing in fields AGAIN. Harvesting a wide array of summer produce. Imported corn still good quality, but bedding plants and perennials are still in high demand by consumers and are leading in sales. Some producers renovating strawberry fields while we are fitting field for new plants.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE - Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Still good haying weather, occasional heavy showers encouraging growth in hay, corn and other crops. Some nitrogen top dress on corn will probably occur during week. Manure on hay. Early vegetables and strawberries available at farm stands and markets. Early sweet corn starting to tassel. Armyworms present in various locations throughout county in still standing hay, some are moving from grassy fields into edges of corn fields. Observed some incredible numbers on regrowth of earlier cut hayland (nearly all grass consumed on new growth), on clovers as well, in a few locations. So far heaviest number in southern part of Coos. Farmers evaluating control options on cornfield edges. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruits: Strawberry harvest starting to wind down (95% harvest), raspberry harvest has started. Blueberries starting to turn blue; the start of harvest is around the corner. Orchardists busy monitoring for pests, spraying and mowing orchard floor. Tree training young trees. Vegetables: Growers continued harvesting early season vegetables such as: lettuce, greens, radishes, peas

and summer squash. Growers busy trying to sidedress fields with fertilizer, cultivating, mowing weeds, scouting for pests and spraying. Disease pressure continues to concern growers. Field Crops: Common armyworm damage seen in many hay fields across the county. Farmers continued to bale hay or make haylage at a faster rate. Grass hay is maturing rapidly between showers. Sidedressing fertilizer to field corn and harvested hayfields. **David Seavey (Ext), Merrimack:** Strawberries and raspberries being harvested. Blueberries starting to show color. Farmers cutting hay and spot spraying perennial weeds. Hayfields are sprayed for armyworms. Damage from armyworm also reported in field and sweet corn and home lawns. Diseases beginning to appear as early vegetables are maturing. Some early sweet corn varieties were harvested along with summer squash, radishes, broccoli and lettuce. Some apple scab is reported, but less than last year. Weather conditions this year have favored vegetable production. Timely rainfall and warm weather is mostly responsible. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Good weather for picking raspberries and blueberries. Strawberry harvest is done. Some strawberry beds being renovated. Harvesting vegetables and sweet corn planted under plastic. Weeding, irrigating and monitoring pest in vegetable fields and orchards. Some field corn devastated by armyworms was replanted. Lawns are being infested by armyworms. Lily leaf beetles devastating lily fields. Had very heavy, strong showers on Tuesday afternoon and rain on Sunday morning.

**RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport:** Farmers on the lookout for armyworm, some reports in other parts of the state have hay producers worried. Spraying for potatoes, both insecticides and fungicides being applied. Harvesting of summer crops beginning. Some second cut hay being done. Sweet corn looking good. **Marilu Soileau (FSA), All Counties:** Armyworms are marching across the state! Damage reports are coming in daily. Hay & corn are both affected. Rains overnight last week made early morning mowing and harvesting of berries and vegetables difficult. Blueberry harvest has begun. There is plenty of moisture in the ground at this time.

**VERMONT - John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille:** Armyworms are showing up in good numbers and are helping themselves to good portions of potential second cut grass and young corn plants. They seem to be fairly widespread in Lamoille and Caledonia counties.

With the exception of these visitors, crop conditions are quite good. **Bill Snow (Ext), Orange:** Hard to fill out this report because the phone keeps ringing with concerns about armyworms. At least half of the towns in the area have reported infestations of armyworms. Worst report so far is 25 per square foot and a loss of 60 acres of second cut (hay) on one farm. The list keeps growing. Attacking grass hayland and pasture first, then corn and maybe other crops. **Larry Hamel (NRCS), Orleans:** Cool weather this past week and many farmers are working on second cut haylage and hay. Farmers are sidedressing corn and spreading manure. Several farms are spraying for armyworm control. About a dozen farms have reported severe armyworm infestations with more farms reporting in each day about damage. Towns of Holland, Morgan, Charleston, Newport, Troy, Craftsbury, Irasburg and Coventry have reported armyworm damage! **Lynette Hamilton (FSA), Windham:** Look Out! The armyworms are marching across Windham County. Summer squash is being harvested commercially and other summer veggie production has been good this year, with rain falling when needed. **George Cook (Ext), Lamoille:** Hot, dry weather. Soil moisture is low. Nice hay drying conditions, plenty of excellent hay in barns. Armyworms spotted in Morrisville over the weekend. **Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Corn crop is growing excellent, some late planted corn still being sprayed and sidedressed with nitrogen. Larger corn is fully shading the ground. Hay crop regrowth is good, still see residual alfalfa stand damage. Some clipping of weeds in newly seeded fields, no harvest yet. Dry hay is of poor quality before baled. Haylage continues with high quality. Pasture regrowth is good. **Richard Noel (FSA), Grand Isle/Franklin:** Crops still look good. Nitrogen being applied to corn, a lot of second cut haylage being put up a little early because of armyworms, but tonnage is good. Manure being spread on grass ground. Small rain showers on and off, but not enough to stop chopping hay! Early Monday morning shower 0.88 inches in Highgate, only 0.20 inches in St Albans. Ground water not as good as you might think, crops are sucking up all the moisture! No shortages yet, but no excess either! **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Starting to get pretty dry. Only a half-inch of rain early in the week, plus some scattered light showers. Not as hot as it has been either. Armyworm problems surfaced, they took the second cut of hay in some fields. Some damage in corn fields. Sounds like a problem in a number of scattered areas.

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