



# 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

Volume 21, Number 11

(issued weekly on the Internet, May - October)

July 16, 2001 - 4 pm

For week ending 7/15/01

### Armyworms Damage Hay Crops

For the week ending July 15, 2001, there were 4.9 days available for fieldwork across New England. Pasture condition was rated as 3% very poor, 5% poor, 28% fair, 46% good, 18% excellent. Major farm activities included: cultivating potatoes; topdressing and sidedressing fields with fertilizer; cutting hay and chopping haylage; topping tobacco plants; harvesting strawberries, raspberries, highbush blueberries, sweet corn, summer squash, cole crops, peas, zucchini, snap beans, radishes, tomatoes and other vegetables; and spraying for weeds, insects, and fungus.

#### SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	-- Percent --		
	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
<b>Topsoil Moisture</b>			
Very Short	0	2	2
Short	10	15	5
Adequate	84	73	71
Surplus	6	10	22
<b>Subsoil Moisture</b>			
Very Short	0	8	1
Short	20	8	3
Adequate	76	74	82
Surplus	4	10	14

**VEGETABLES:** Farmers continued to harvest radishes, peas, broccoli, zucchini, lettuce, and other vegetables. Most crops were reported in good condition. New England's sweet corn harvest advanced to 10 percent picked as of July 15, on schedule with last year and ahead of normal. The crop is doing exceptionally well at roadside stands and farmers' markets. Fields were actively monitored for weeds and insects and applications were made where necessary.

**FRUIT:** Orchards continued to be mowed and monitored for weeds and pests. Both apple scab and hail damage were detected in orchards throughout the area last week. Growers are gearing up for peach harvest. Strawberry harvest came closer to nearing completion last week, while early highbush blueberry and raspberry harvest continued. Maine wild blueberry fields were monitored for fruit flies and sprayed where necessary. The Massachusetts cranberry crop remained in good to fair condition at week's end, with an average fruit set reported.

#### FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested	Fruit Size	Condition
Apples	--	Avg	Good
Peaches	--	Avg/B.Avg	Good/Fair
Pears	--	Avg	Poor
Strawberries	95	Avg	Good
Cranberries, MA	--	Avg	Good/Fair
Blueberries			
Highbush	15	Avg	Good
Wild, ME	--	B.Avg	Good

**FIELD CROPS:** Last week consisted of warm days followed by cool evenings, with hail and heavy thunderstorms reported at some locations. Most areas received adequate rainfall, which was good for crop growth but provided unfavorable conditions for hay harvest and fieldwork. Severe armyworm infestations have destroyed a significant portion of the region's second crop hay. Growers were trying to control the pests by spraying or harvesting the hay; however, scattered showers interfered with their efforts. Armyworm numbers are expected to start decreasing soon as they complete their lifecycle and turn into moths. Field corn growers topdressed with nitrogen and continued to scout fields for insect damage. New England's shade tobacco crop is ready for harvest, with picking of the first prime just getting underway in Massachusetts.

#### 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/Fair
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	99	Good
Tobacco	-- Percent Planted --			
Shade	100	100	100	Good/Fair
Broadleaf	100	100	100	Good/Fair
Dry Hay	-- Percent Harvested --			
First Cut	95	80	85	Good/Fair
Second Cut	40	20	20	Good/Fair
Third Cut	5	5	<5	Good

For the Week Ending Sunday, July 15, 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			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	BASE-50F		BASE-60F		TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL		DFN	DAYS
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN				INCHES	DFN		
<b>MAINE</b>															
Augusta_ME	53	76	65	-5	1036	+153	399	+118	0.79	+0.09	5	2.50	-0.46	12	
Bangor	52	76	64	-5	998	+214	363	+142	0.38	-0.39	5	1.72	-1.36	12	
Bethel	52	83	64	-5	871	+71	272	+45	1.55	+0.77	5	6.23	+2.81	15	
Cari bou	51	74	63	-3	832	+188	243	+95	0.75	-0.15	6	3.05	-0.13	18	
Dover-Foxcroft	47	76	63	-5	826	+154	246	+84	1.43	+0.59	6	2.55	-0.84	13	
Frenchville	54	73	62	-3	728	+136	185	+66	0.97	+0.13	7	3.96	+0.78	18	
Houlton	46	76	63	-3	805	+143	244	+84	0.62	-0.22	5	1.84	-1.36	13	
Livermore Falls	45	86	65	-2	951	+282	354	+198	2.90	+2.13	6	6.41	+2.97	13	
Moosehead	47	82	61	-4	674	+135	160	+56	1.43	+0.52	5	3.58	-0.12	14	
Portland_ME	53	77	64	-5	979	+209	382	+169	1.03	+0.33	5	2.53	-0.47	13	
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>															
Benton	52	80	63	-4	830	+69	240	+51	1.15	+0.38	5	2.84	-0.45	11	
Berlin_AG	52	82	64	-3	874	+114	269	+69	3.02	+2.18	5	4.98	+1.40	11	
Concord	50	87	66	-4	1058	+147	412	+115	1.07	+0.37	6	3.87	+1.00	16	
Diamond Pond	50	74	59	-5	593	+117	137	+75	2.32	+1.30	7	7.18	-2.94	17	
Keene_AP	50	86	66	-6	1060	+10	396	+11	0.00	-0.79	0	1.13	-2.14	2	
North Conway	54	83	66	-3	1072	+224	422	+163	0.44	-0.40	5	2.23	-1.28	12	
Rochester	52	84	67	-4	1073	+96	440	+102	1.93	+1.16	5	5.23	+2.09	14	
<b>VERMONT</b>															
Burlington_VT	56	82	67	-5	1171	+172	461	+104	0.46	-0.34	5	1.72	-1.55	13	
Island Pond	53	80	62	-3	753	+149	202	+77	1.40	+0.49	7	3.49	-0.38	15	
Montpelier	50	82	64	-4	852	+82	263	+53	0.42	-0.27	5	2.34	-0.59	13	
Pownal	52	83	64	-4	912	+121	279	+63	0.95	+0.04	5	5.45	+1.53	12	
Rochester	49	83	63	-4	826	+86	238	+43	0.71	-0.13	5	2.47	-0.89	13	
Rutland_AG	51	81	64	-7	930	-118	289	-90	1.39	+0.55	7	4.29	+0.93	12	
Sutton	52	81	63	-3	781	+169	219	+83	1.44	+0.53	7	3.17	-0.71	15	
Townshend Lake	52	88	65	-6	916	-50	306	-26	0.18	-0.57	3	2.84	-0.01	13	
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>															
Ashburnham	52	85	66	-3	1037	+220	383	+146	0.55	-0.29	6	6.46	+3.10	17	
Boston	59	79	69	-6	1342	+172	620	+159	0.25	-0.38	4	5.18	+2.51	13	
Greenfield	47	92	68	-4	1086	-45	422	-14	0.30	-0.54	3	3.22	-0.21	13	
New Bedford	52	87	69	-6	1203	+50	498	+58	1.14	+0.50	4	4.27	+1.33	12	
Otis_AFB	57	84	69	-2	1168	+277	502	+215	0.96	+0.33	4	3.09	+0.35	12	
Plymouth	50	87	68	-4	1130	+188	452	+129	0.46	-0.31	3	3.19	+0.11	13	
Walpole	54	88	68	-3	1260	+262	545	+195	0.72	-0.05	5	10.15	+6.86	15	
Westover	55	88	69	-6	1300	-5	564	+17	0.89	+0.05	3	3.98	+0.46	13	
Worthington	44	84	63	-5	866	+68	276	+58	1.16	+0.18	4	3.77	+0.06	13	
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>															
Providence	55	90	70	-3	1335	+235	592	+173	0.54	-0.16	4	4.26	+1.33	13	
Woonsocket	52	91	70	+0	1299	+319	584	+256	1.12	+0.21	5	7.47	+3.81	14	
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>															
Bridgeport	58	89	72	-2	1371	+190	607	+131	0.16	-0.73	1	3.52	+0.16	11	
Hartford_AP	53	91	69	-5	1322	+65	576	+51	0.22	-0.48	3	3.72	+0.61	13	
Norfolk	51	82	67	-1	1006	+205	366	+143	0.42	-0.52	5	3.11	-0.89	16	
Thomaston_Dam	46	88	67	-3	1132	+146	439	+107	0.47	-0.44	5	2.75	-0.90	17	
Willimantic	50	89	68	-3	1319	+322	563	+225	0.31	-0.63	5	5.01	+1.37	15	

**STATE WEATHER SUMMARY**

For the Week Ending Sunday, July 15, 2001

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	86	64	-4	0.09	2.90
NH	37	90	64	-4	0.00	4.29
VT	43	88	64	-4	0.18	4.08
MA	44	92	67	-4	0.15	1.16
RI	52	91	69	-2	0.49	1.12
CT	46	91	68	-4	0.11	0.90

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:** Most of the field corn looks good. Armyworms in many hay fields. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Armyworms are being sprayed in random areas of the county. Pastures have been reported as completely gone, with some producers reporting 2nd cutting of hay totally lost. Sweet corn picking has just begun with good reports. Green beans are not blossoming and some have been replanted. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Field corn is shoulder high in areas, some is looking a bit pale. Week was ok for hay and vegetables. A few thunder showers and small hail affected the poor fruit that was left. Cool nights for summer. **Nancy Welsh/Karen Lockman (FSA), New Haven:** Weather this season has been unpredictable. Days are warm and nights are cool. Silage corn and hay look good. Blueberries are being harvested, things are coming along. **Joyce Meader (Ext), Windham:** Corn looks beautiful. Alfalfa looks great. Its time for a break on some farms. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Armyworm reports dwindling as spraying continues. Some concern that certain pesticides are ineffective. Still seeing a lot of short corn out there... we need some heat.

**MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook:** Potatoes: Rain showers nearly every day. Some of them quite heavy. Some growers having difficulty getting through their fields to spray. Some low spots in fields showing excessive water stress. In spite of this, disease and insect pressure is under control. Poor haying weather. **Erin Chadbourne (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Lots of rain in the County for the past seven days. The northern part of the county seems harder hit by rain than other areas of the County. As far as field activity goes, it is minimal. The only field activity may be a fungicide spray here or an insecticide spray there. Some potato growers in the area are spraying micronutrients, also. **Steve London (Ext), Southern Aroostook:** Corn borers are just about cleaned up but the armyworms are still fairly thick. Their life cycle should start to diminish next week sometime. **Albert Dow (NRCS), Piscataquis:** Over an inch of rain. Haying slowed almost to a stop. **Janet King/Jennifer Zweig (FSA), Somerset:** Have had rain every afternoon for a week which makes it hard to get dry hay harvested. Corn looks good so far. County has experienced extensive damage from armyworms, especially in hay fields. Several fields are completely brown and may not recover. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Fly traps in blueberry fields are being monitored. Armyworms are a problem, but not as bad as other counties. The first sweet corn is in farm stands. **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. Cool weather slowing ripening of fruit. Showers providing uneven but adequate moisture. **Michael Tardy (FSA), Androscoggin:** We have been invaded by armyworms. Many producers have called about the destruction of their hay crop and some have reported some corn damage caused by the "little critters." Other than trying to eradicate them with pesticides, most producers are waiting for them to "grow up," become moths and fly away. We've had a few isolated reports of hail damage to corn; nothing that won't grow back. We have heard of some apple damage caused by hail. Isn't farming fun? **Parker Rand/Jill Littlefield (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Armyworms are still a pest. Apple orchards were hit by hail. Strawberries are almost done for this year. Vegetable growers are happy with the sunny mornings and rainy afternoons. Hay makers are having a hard time between the worms and the weather. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** No hay was harvested this week. There was rain everyday, sometimes severe with hail and high winds. Spraying has also become a concern for apples and potatoes. Some crops are in very saturated soils. Strawberry harvest is complete. First local sweet corn is available.

**MASSACHUSETTS - Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire:** Heavy use of the tedder to get hay dry. Some silage being harvested and put up wetter than normal. Vegetables starting to be harvested. Sweet corn to start the 14<sup>th</sup> for picking. Armyworms, cutworms and potato bugs have consumed their share. **Paul Russell (FSA), Southeast Massachusetts:** All crops look good, vegetable growers are starting to pick sweet corn, and other early crops with good to

excellent yields and quality. Cranberry growers are applying fertilizer and insecticides and irrigating as the fruit starts to size, some insect pressure on the bogs at this time. Shellfish growers are harvesting quahogs and oysters as fast as they can to meet market demand.

**Kip Graham (FSA), Worcester:** Vegetables for the most part are looking OK. Many farmers are concerned and on the lookout for armyworms. Some hayfields completely wiped out, others untouched. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Only the late varieties have blossoms left. Things are setting up nicely. Most areas received rain Tuesday night or Wednesday morning, or both. The storms on Tuesday evening provided lightning displays rarely observed on the Cape. No reports of hail so far. Growers are finishing fungicide applications and continuing with fruitworm treatments. A new material, Provado, was approved on an emergency exemption for the tremendous cranberry weevil populations in an area where Lorsban is no longer effective. **David Rose (FSA), Bristol:** Harvesting of all crops continues, most crops look very good and are in good supply. Armyworm pressure has subsided this week. Hornworms are on tomatoes. Fruit continues to size up and look good. **John Devine (FSA), Franklin:** Forage growers have had a frustrating week trying to harvest hay and fight armyworms. The best defense against the pest has been to cut the hayfields, but scattered showers have delayed baling. Potatoes look excellent with perfect growing conditions. Chip stock harvest should begin pretty soon. Shade tobacco looks excellent, too, and harvest is expected to begin this week. Field tobacco is being "clean topped" for harvest in 21 days. Harvesting summer squash, sweet corn, lettuce, tomatoes, blueberries and raspberries. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Frequent rains, heat and sunshine made this week great for growing crops. Farmers are scouting fields for corn borer, fall armyworm, corn earworm, aphids and Japanese beetles. Growers are also looking out for bacterial leaf spot and angular leaf spot in cucurbits and phytophthora in peppers, tomatoes, eggplant and vine crops. Started to harvest cucumbers, sweet corn, and tomatoes. Early broadleaf tobacco fields are being topped and shade tobacco harvested. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** A great weather week, all crops performing well. Consumers out in droves with native corn leading sales charge. Insect pressure moderate and disease pressure low in vegetable crops. Final planting of sweet corn and transplanting of new strawberry fields completed. Weeds appearing in corn fields as herbicides are breaking down, "over top" applications being applied.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE - Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Cool, rainy week with hail in scattered locations made for drying of later cut hay difficult, some quality loss experienced. Second cut on earlier haylage chopped fields. Topdressing of corn with nitrogen, fields with manure. Spraying of a number of hay and corn fields infested with armyworms. Strawberry harvest winding down, blueberries coloring, early vegetables in good quantities, sweet corn (early varieties) tasseling. Armyworm infestation remains a prominent pest this week especially in grassy hayland and edges of corn fields. Some locations have extremely high levels, much above the threshold for control. Considerable yield loss on some haylands. Hail also a concern with damage on cornfields observed, with reports of damage on apples, potatoes, other vegetables. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Armyworm feeding has slowed somewhat. Mostly damage to grass hay, although some corn is being fed on. Second cutting progressing. Third regrowth is excellent (orchard grass and alfalfa) and has been helped by rain showers. Soil still on the dry side. Corn looks good to excellent. No signs of potato leafhoppers yet. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Field Crops: Farmers busy checking fields for armyworm and spraying if needed. Armyworm infestation is sporadic in the county. Farmers are baling hay or making haylage with drier weather. Grass hay has matured rapidly. With cooler nights, good regrow is seen in hay fields. Fruits: Strawberry harvest is completed, starting to renovate strawberry beds. Starting to harvest blueberries and peaches, and the raspberry harvest continues. Orchardists busy monitoring for pests, spraying if needed, and mowing orchard floor. Some apple scab seen. Vegetables: Continuing successive planting. Growers continued harvesting vegetables such as greens, lettuce, broccoli, radishes, peas, beans and summer squash. Starting to harvest first potatoes. Growers busy sidedressing fields, hoeing weeds, scouting for pests

and spraying if needed. Disease pressure continues to be a concern. Vegetables are growing slowly because of cooler nights, but weeds are growing great! **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** More hail again this week, as well as downpours and on-again, off-again rain. Harvesting an array of vegetables, raspberries and blueberries. Monitoring pests in vegetable fields, orchards and especially on the lookout for armyworms. Sidedressing vegetables, weeding, cultivating and applying pesticides when necessary. **Pam Marvin (FSA), Sullivan:** Armyworms reported throughout, attacking mostly second cut of hay, some corn. Strawberry picking just about done. Blueberries ready for harvesting soon. Strong storms last Tuesday produced hail which damaged some apple crops and shredded silage corn leaves. Monitoring will continue during growth. Second cut of hay and haylage coming along good. Rain spotty. Cooler than normal temperatures.

**RHODE ISLAND - Marilu Soileau (FSA), All Counties:** Isolated heavy showers with some hail and high winds have become almost a daily occurrence in northern and central Rhode Island. The East Bay area could use a little more rain which would benefit the potatoes at this stage of development. Summer squash harvest is doing well in both quality and price throughout the state. Sweet corn sales are winding up with tomatoes and peppers to follow. The blueberry crop is reported to be better than expected. The daily rains have been a detriment to late varieties of strawberries! The hay yield is said to be 50% of what it should be. Armyworm damage reports continue to arrive.

**VERMONT - John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille:** Armyworms were the problem of the week once again. Damage is widespread in the northeast part of the state, yet spotty in nature. Overall effect on corn and grass crops remains to be determined. Visited with large vegetable grower who is having minimal problems with weather and insects so far this growing season. Several farmers have tried large doses of liquid manure as an antidote to the armyworm appetite. Several strawberry growers hit hard by "clipper" with large reductions in yield. Hail storms early in the week caused some damage with a few vegetable growers and a flower operation. **Bill Snow (Ext), Orange:** The number of calls per day on armyworms seems to be decreasing. Most people on farms have them to some degree. Numerous reports of losing most, if not all of the second

grass hay crop. Seems to be worst from Orange county (central Vermont) north. Based on a few sample counts one farm could have as many as 40 million armyworms. We did find a few dying off at one-inch size in southern Vermont. Wild turkeys and other birds are now helping out. Major hail storm on Tuesday did damage to some corn fields and gardens. Probably killed armyworms as ground was white and had one report of being 5 inches deep. Below normal temperatures and spotty showers most of the week. **Larry Hamel (NRCS), Orleans:** Over 75 farmers have reported armyworm damage in Orleans County by the end of the week! Damage has been severe to light in places. Most damage has been in second cut hay fields with several farmers reporting damage to corn, especially no-till corn! Very "misty" weather and cool this past week. Very few farmers were able to harvest quality dry hay. Corn silage crops are looking great with nice green color. **Lynette Hamilton (FSA), Windham:** The armyworms took their toll on the hay fields leaving only the weeds standing. Second cut alfalfa for haylage is in progress with an excellent crop. Sweet corn is being picked in Westminster. Forage corn is pushing eight feet with some tasseling. Raspberry growers are having a great year. Apples are looking really good this year. **Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Armyworms continue to be a widespread problem in grass and corn fields. Harvesting hay crops ahead of schedule to avoid losses. Adequate rain for good regrowth. Some manure spreading on hay fields. Corn beyond nitrogen sidedress, still foliar feeding by air both corn and hay crops. **Richard Noel (FSA), Grand Isle/Franklin:** Boy what a week! Some farmers getting beat by armyworms. Sprayers have done over 4,000 acres, they say that's about 33% of the affected acres. Many farmers trying to cut hay to get ahead of them and second crop yields are very low! Weather this week was cloudy with showers and hail on July 11. Rained 1.44 in., not too good for bringing in hay in any form. But corn looks good in most areas, all we need is sunshine to bring crops around. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Armyworms very widespread, most farms seeing some. Damage is extensive in many locations. Some fields have no grass left that was to be a second cut of hay. Not every field on a farm shows damage. Big rush this week to harvest the second cut of hay in order to get it before the worms do. About 3/4-inch of rain this week at my home. Other places had heavy downpours. Hail as big as golf balls caused severe damage to an ornamental grower and to corn in places. Very unusual events this week.

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