



New England Agricultural Statistics Service

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United States Department of Agriculture

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Crop Weather

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July 23, 2001 - 4 pm

For week ending 7/22/01

Armyworm Threat Subsides

For the week ending July 22, 2001, there were 6.3 days available for fieldwork across New England. Pasture condition was rated as 0% very poor, 6% poor, 30% fair, 55% good, 9% excellent. Major farm activities included: topdressing and sidedressing fields with fertilizer; cultivating; irrigating; spreading manure; cutting hay and chopping haylage; topping tobacco plants; harvesting shade tobacco, peaches, strawberries, raspberries, highbush blueberries, sweet corn, summer squash, cole crops, peas, cucumbers, zucchini, snap beans, beets, tomatoes and other vegetables; and spraying for weeds, insects, and fungus.

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2001	2000	5-yr Avg	
Apples	--	--	<5	Good/Fair
Peaches	<5	5	5	Fair
Pears	--	--	--	Poor
Strawberries	100	95	99	Good/Fair
Cranberries, MA	--	--	--	Good
Blueberries				
Highbush	15	20	15	Good/Fair
Wild, ME	--	--	<5	Good

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	-- Percent --		
	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
Topsoil Moisture			
Very Short	2	0	3
Short	19	10	6
Adequate	77	84	80
Surplus	2	6	11
Subsoil Moisture			
Very Short	0	0	1
Short	26	20	5
Adequate	70	76	85
Surplus	4	4	9

FIELD CROPS: Weather was quite variable throughout the six-state region last week; some areas received adequate rainfall, while others remained desperate for moisture. Reports of armyworms have decreased significantly, and growers are hoping the next generation, which will most likely appear in early to mid-August, will not be as large or destructive. Hay crops are recovering from damage caused by the armyworms. Growers assessed the pest's damage to field corn last week as the crop's steady growth continued. Maine potato growers began harvest early this year. Shade tobacco harvest in the Connecticut River Valley also began last week.

VEGETABLES: Farmers harvested peas, broccoli, zucchini, cucumbers, sweet corn, beets, tomatoes, lettuce, and other vegetables last week. Overall, vegetable crops were reported in good condition. Some early blight and leaf spot have been detected on tomato plants. New England sweet corn continued to be a success at roadside stands; harvest was 15 percent complete by week's end. 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. Peach harvest began in New England last week, while strawberry harvest came to a close. Highbush blueberries and raspberries continued to be picked last week. Growers are preparing for both apple and pear harvest. Maine wild blueberry picking will also begin soon; this year's production is expected to be slightly lower than last year's record, but still above normal. Cranberries in Massachusetts were sprayed for pests and disease, and some irrigating took place due to the lack of rain.

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2001	2000	5-yr Avg	
Potatoes				
Maine	<5	--	--	Excel/Good
Mass	--	<5	<5	Good
Rhode Isl	--	--	--	Good/Fair
Oats, ME	--	--	--	Excel/Good
Barley, ME	--	--	--	Excel/Good
Silage Corn	--	--	--	Good/Excel
Sweet Corn	15	10	10	Good
Tobacco				
Shade	10	10	15	Good/Fair
Broadleaf	--	<5	5	Good/Fair
Dry Hay				
First Cut	95	85	90	Fair/Good
Second Cut	55	30	30	Good/Fair
Third Cut	10	5	<5	Fair/Good

For the Week Ending Sunday, July 22, 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 INCHES		DFN DAYS	
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN				INCHES	DFN	DAYS	
MAINE															
Augusta_ME	56	86	68	-3	1167	+144	460	+109	1.66	+0.96	3	3.43	+0.54	13	
Bangor	52	87	68	-2	1123	+208	418	+135	1.33	+0.56	4	2.44	-0.64	14	
Bethel	50	87	65	-4	980	+51	311	+24	0.56	-0.21	1	5.32	+2.04	13	
Cari bou	52	85	67	+2	954	+198	295	+103	2.38	+1.47	3	4.50	+1.11	18	
Dover-Foxcroft	47	83	64	-3	927	+136	280	+69	0.58	-0.21	4	2.95	-0.36	16	
Frenchville	49	83	65	+0	836	+139	226	+65	1.28	+0.41	4	4.08	+0.79	19	
Houlton	46	86	66	-1	921	+140	290	+81	0.58	-0.26	3	2.34	-0.93	15	
Livermore Falls	50	90	66	-2	1064	+277	397	+192	0.25	-0.52	4	5.81	+2.57	15	
Moosehead	47	87	63	-2	767	+123	186	+45	0.28	-0.63	4	2.79	-0.91	15	
Portland_ME	53	82	66	-4	1095	+192	428	+152	0.17	-0.53	4	1.91	-1.01	14	
NEW HAMPSHIRE															
Benton	50	83	65	-3	934	+54	274	+36	0.69	-0.08	2	2.75	-0.43	11	
Berlin_AG	50	84	65	-4	977	+98	302	+50	1.12	+0.28	3	5.11	+1.67	12	
Concord	49	86	67	-4	1178	+127	462	+95	0.40	-0.33	2	2.43	-0.41	14	
Diamond Pond	47	78	61	-2	672	+105	155	+68	0.54	-0.51	4	5.53	+1.36	18	
Keene_AP	52	86	67	-4	1183	-14	449	-13	0.00	-0.84	0	0.02	-3.25	1	
North Conway	52	90	68	-2	1200	+219	480	+158	0.20	-0.64	3	1.73	-1.71	13	
Rochester	52	88	67	-4	1196	+75	493	+80	1.09	+0.32	3	3.91	+0.81	13	
VERMONT															
Burlington_VT	54	88	70	-2	1314	+168	534	+100	0.03	-0.81	1	1.24	-2.03	11	
Island Pond	46	83	64	-2	849	+142	228	+68	0.73	-0.25	2	3.59	-0.25	15	
Montpelier	48	83	65	-4	955	+64	297	+35	0.19	-0.51	3	1.90	-0.94	13	
Pownal	51	82	65	-3	1018	+102	315	+44	0.47	-0.44	2	5.04	+1.26	11	
Rochester	49	85	66	-2	937	+78	279	+35	0.22	-0.64	2	2.49	-0.89	12	
Rutland_AG	49	83	66	-6	1040	-154	329	-127	0.28	-0.62	2	4.36	+0.94	13	
Sutton	49	84	64	-2	883	+166	251	+79	0.44	-0.53	3	3.10	-0.73	14	
Townshend Lake	51	88	68	-4	1040	-70	360	-48	0.28	-0.49	2	1.94	-0.98	10	
MASSACHUSETTS															
Ashburnham	53	86	67	-2	1161	+214	437	+138	0.57	-0.27	2	3.81	+0.45	14	
Boston	59	82	68	-7	1470	+132	678	+119	0.31	-0.32	2	2.50	-0.10	12	
Greenfield	51	89	69	-3	1222	-63	488	-32	0.52	-0.32	2	2.77	-0.62	12	
New Bedford	51	81	67	-8	1326	+5	551	+13	0.08	-0.61	4	2.03	-0.76	14	
Otis_AFB	55	77	67	-5	1290	+252	554	+190	0.03	-0.60	1	1.93	-0.69	9	
Plymouth	51	82	66	-7	1242	+151	494	+91	0.10	-0.67	4	1.57	-1.51	14	
Walpole	52	86	68	-4	1388	+243	603	+174	0.14	-0.63	2	5.34	+2.17	14	
Westover	54	86	69	-6	1436	-41	630	-20	0.22	-0.58	2	2.28	-1.13	10	
Worthington	46	83	64	-5	964	+41	305	+31	0.32	-0.66	2	2.67	-1.14	11	
RHODE ISLAND															
Providence	55	84	70	-4	1474	+213	661	+151	0.08	-0.62	2	1.22	-1.64	12	
Woonsocket	52	88	70	-2	1439	+312	654	+249	0.19	-0.66	2	3.01	-0.57	13	
CONNECTICUT															
Bridgeport	60	84	72	-3	1525	+176	691	+116	0.13	-0.72	1	1.08	-2.34	9	
Hartford_AP	51	89	70	-5	1463	+38	647	+24	0.09	-0.61	2	0.73	-2.24	10	
Norfolk	51	85	66	-2	1123	+196	413	+134	0.10	-0.81	1	1.98	-1.88	12	
Thomaston_Dam	50	86	68	-3	1259	+133	496	+94	0.18	-0.77	2	1.51	-2.17	14	
Willimantic	52	87	70	-2	1459	+318	633	+220	0.12	-0.86	3	1.03	-2.71	14	

STATE WEATHER SUMMARY

For the Week Ending Sunday, July 22, 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	43	90	66	-2	0.00	2.38
NH	40	94	65	-4	0.00	1.20
VT	42	90	65	-3	0.03	0.73
MA	41	89	67	-5	0.03	0.57
RI	52	88	69	-3	0.00	0.31
CT	46	89	69	-3	0.02	0.32

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: Hay on the drier soils is starting to show stress from lack of rain. The problem with armyworms seems to be ending. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Sweet corn harvest looks good so far, mid-summer vegetables are being harvested at all locations. Field grown tomatoes are starting to show up and peppers are soon to follow. Topping broadleaf and picking shade tobacco. Field corn is starting to tassel. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Harvesting of vegetables is underway, with sweet corn in full swing. Farmers are still monitoring armyworms, hoping for a better second cutting. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** A busy week picking blueberries and peaches, summer pruning in the orchards, baling hay, spreading manure, and doing summer projects in preparation for fall harvests. **Nancy Welsh/Karen Lockman (FSA), New Haven:** Weather conditions have been very dry and warm, with some cool days. Blueberry conditions vary from large and sweet to small. Corn is starting to stress where irrigation is not possible. Summer vegetables and cut flowers are being harvested. **Joyce Meader (Ext), Windham:** First and second cut hay bales were being thrown off the fields everywhere you look. Second cut looks beautiful. Bedstraw weed is in a growing number of hayfields, wrapping around the baler, and farmers want it out. Beautiful New England weather for working or playing. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** We need rain! Scattered showers are leaving fields parched. There is still late planted corn struggling to reach knee height. Armyworm reports have dwindled off.

MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook: Potatoes: Growers continue to spray fields on a timely schedule despite fields being quite wet. Some foliar fertilizer being applied. Some damage in the fields due to heavy rain showers. Spotty problems from armyworms in grain fields. Growers applying insecticide to control them. Very little insect pressure in potato fields. **Erin Chadbourne (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Fungicide and insecticide applications continued in the region both by ground and aerially. For the most part, the weather was sunny and warm from last Thursday through Saturday. Then on Sunday, some showers passed through parts of the County. So as of today, fields are a bit wet again, but we are hoping for some drier weather. Potatoes look good for the most part. The barley is maturing and the oats look excellent. **Steve London (Ext), Southern Aroostook:** Armyworms are starting to subside. Potato crop is looking very good at this time. **Albert Dow (NRCS), Piscataquis:** First week of poor weather for haying. Sweet corn is tasseling. Moisture is short despite much showery weather. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Corn crops are responding to last week's rain with some impressive growth. Hayfields beginning to recover from the armyworm damage. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Good weather for Open Farm Days! Haying has been held up due to weather. The armyworm infestation has subsided. Many areas got daily showers throughout the week. **David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild Blueberries: Crop predicted to be 108 million pounds by growers and researchers. Some fields in southern part of state and fresh-pack operations will begin harvesting this week. **Michael Tardy (FSA), Androscoggin:** The weather has been fantastic, but we could use some gentle rain. Corn looks really good, a dark green, healthy color and good height. The market gardens are in full swing and some sweet corn is making its debut. Who doesn't like that fresh vegetable from the local stand? Most of the grasses and corn attacked by the armyworms has started to flourish again. We have had reports of grass that appears to be beyond repair. We'll have to wait and see. Things are looking good overall. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** The weather has finally cooperated for haying. The growing conditions are perfect for well drained soil at this time.

MASSACHUSETTS - Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire: Still making hay, first and second cutting. Some of it going into plastic bags. Armyworms still working in the county, but fields are being harvested when farmers see them in the fields. Crops are looking good. **Paul Russell (FSA), Southeast Massachusetts:** Weather

conditions continue to be good for crop production. There is some insect pressure on cranberry bogs; cranberry weevil and fruit worm are problems in some areas, but all in all the crop looks good. Sweet corn harvest continues with excellent production and quality, and some tomatoes, peppers, green beans are also being harvested. Shellfish harvest continues as market demand increases. **Kip Graham (FSA), Worcester:** Second cutting hay looks OK where the armyworms have not hit. Still receiving many calls about armyworms invading. They appear to attack an entire field at a time, yet still in spotted areas of the county. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Bloom is nearly finished; beehives are departing. Second fruitworm sprays going on; fruit rot fungicide applications will be completed this week. Quiet week weather wise. Growers irrigated due to the lack of appreciable rain. Berries sizing up nicely so far. **David Rose (FSA), Bristol:** Harvesting of all crops continued. Hot and humid weather over the weekend helped push crops. Hay making continues as farmers clean up first cutting and begin second cutting. Blueberry harvest looks good. Overall, everything appears pretty good right now. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Lots of heat and sunshine; crops are growing great. Rain is needed and farmers have started to irrigate at week's end. Harvesting cucumbers, tomatoes, shade tobacco, summer squash, and sweet corn.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Bruce Clement (Ext), Cheshire: Armyworm feeding seems about done. Significant loss of second cutting and pasture. Silage corn looks very good. Strawberry renovation being done. Raspberry and blueberry harvest underway. Both crops look very good. Cool nights have slowed vegetable growth and harvest. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Mixed weather, but drier weekend allowed for better hay-drying conditions. Topdressing of hayland to encourage next crop following armyworm damage. All corn now rapidly growing, beginning to pick early sweet corn. Strawberry renovation begins, blueberries just starting to ripen, raspberries now available along with a good range of early vegetable crops. Armyworm invasion basically done as larva reaches largest caterpillar stage begins pupating. All areas of county hit to varying degrees, some very hard, others negligible. Some grass hayfields on some farms will have considerable yield loss, much less damage overall to corn. Wetter conditions this month will probably affect hay quality, seem to have seen more down, rained on this year. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Second cut continues. Showers early in the week slowed progress and didn't do much for improving the soil moisture conditions. Early corn beginning to tassel. Third cut alfalfa looks good to excellent. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Field Crops: Hay cutting continued at a rapid pace during the week with both the first and second cut being made. Most of the first cutting is only good for mulch hay now. Vegetables: Harvesting an array of vegetables: summer squash, cucumbers, snap beans, peas, greens, beets and other vegetables. Sweet corn harvest began, but is slow to ripen like most warm weather vegetables. Farmers kept busy cultivating, hoeing weeds, monitoring pest pressures, spraying pesticides for insects and diseases, if needed, and irrigating, if needed. The potato crop was beginning to blossom. Starting to see potato leaf hoppers and Asiatic Garden Beetle. Leaf mold seen in some high tunnel tomatoes. Fruit: Orchardists began harvesting peaches. Blueberry and raspberry harvests continued. Blueberry fruit size is excellent. Strawberry growers finishing up renovating beds. Apple orchardists busy monitoring for pests, spraying if needed, and mowing orchard floor.

RHODE ISLAND - Marilu Soileau (FSA), All Counties: Nice weather this week gave producers the opportunity to catch up on multiple tasks. Another round of fertilizer side dressing was taking place at some vegetable operations. Sweet corn is now available in good supply across the state. The early freeze that damaged the apples and peaches didn't hurt the blueberries as severely as was originally feared. Blueberry harvest is well underway and the berries are plentiful and tasty! Farmers continue to report armyworm damage.

VERMONT - John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille: Armyworms seem to be "disappearing" as fast as they appeared. New reports of damage are tapering off. End of week hot weather spells good news for corn and other heat loving crops. Most farmers are busy with second cut and manure spreading. **Bill Snow (Ext), Orange:** Very good week for harvesting first cut hay usually sold as horse hay. Also harvesting second cut, if any was left after the armyworms. Corn looks good, but needs some rain. Finally received some hot weather. Armyworm numbers decreasing, but growers are still finding some small worms. **Larry Hamel (NRCS), Orleans:** First cutting hay is almost done. Most farmers are starting second cut hay. Armyworms have been very active. Many farms have taken second cut early to avoid total crop loss. Corn is looking good. There has been some armyworm damage. Many corn acres have been sprayed for armyworms. Many acres of hay affected by armyworms. Landowners have either sprayed or taken crop early. **Lynette Hamilton (FSA), Windham:** The blueberries have started to ripen and the crop looks excellent. Most farmers reported that the grass is starting to grow after the armyworms did their thing. Field corn has started to tassel and ears are forming. Second cut legume crop survived any worm damage and farmers report a good crop. **George Cook (Ext), Lamoille:** Hot, dry conditions continued. Need rain, ground is getting quite dry.

Regrowth is slow. No interference with crop harvesting, though. Armyworm invasion seems to be subsiding for now. **Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Corn crop looks excellent, some starting to tassel. Mostly done sidedressing later planted fields. Alfalfa hay regrowth excellent, grass hay slower to recover. Finishing second crop haylage, starting on third in some fields. Dry soil conditions prevail. Pasture regrowth good. Armyworm damage was scattered only. **Richard Noel (FSA), Grand Isle/Franklin:** Crops doing well. Corn is tasseling. Growers started picking sweet corn July 16th. Raspberries are ready, tomatoes looking good. A lot of second cut went in this week after July 17th rain of 0.26 in. Armyworms slowing up until next stage! Hopefully stage left! Manure being spread on grass ground and ground conditions and weather are favorable. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Second crop of potato bugs came back. Sprayed for them and also for blight. Final cultivation on vine crops. All vine crops sending lots of runners. Good growth. After 35 years, tied our earliest sweet corn record - July 18. Early planting, good soil conditions and lots of water all helped. Rainfall: 1.02 inches. Started selling sweet corn July 18, supply and quality good. Now picking summer squash, green beans and yellow beans. Early potatoes - very good in both size and quality. No armyworms yet.

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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