



New England Agricultural Statistics Service

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United States Department of Agriculture

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Crop Weather

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August 20, 2001 - 4 pm

For week ending 8/19/01

New England Still Needs Rain

For the week ending August 19, 2001, there were 6.6 days available for fieldwork across New England. Pasture condition was rated as 16% very poor, 39% poor, 40% fair, 5% good, 0% excellent. Major farm activities included: spreading manure; cultivating; irrigating; hoeing; cutting hay and chopping haylage; harvesting shade and broadleaf tobacco, oats, barley, potatoes, apples, peaches, raspberries, highbush and lowbush blueberries, sweet corn and other vegetables; and spraying for weeds, disease and insects.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	-- Percent --		
	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
Topsoil Moisture			
Very Short	44	38	1
Short	34	37	12
Adequate	22	25	64
Surplus	0	0	23
Subsoil Moisture			
Very Short	32	27	0
Short	38	36	10
Adequate	30	37	74
Surplus	0	0	16

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2001	2000	5-yr Avg	
Apples	10	10	5	Good
Peaches	40	55	50	Good/Fair
Pears	<5	5	5	Poor
Cranberries, MA	--	--	--	Good
Blueberries				
Highbush	70	80	80	Fair
Wild, ME	60	60	60	Fair

FIELD CROPS: Drought conditions have persisted in New England over the past 3-4 weeks. Growers have been actively irrigating their crops, where possible. Where irrigation has not been available, crops are suffering. Potato harvest continued, with no reports of disease thus far. Hay fields are extremely dry and yields are low. The dry weather has also had a significant impact on silage corn, as growth has slowed and leaves are curled, particularly where there has been no irrigation. Broadleaf and shade tobacco plants have been ripening quickly due to the hot weather.

VEGETABLES: Farmers harvested a wide variety of vegetables last week and irrigated (where available) those left to be harvested. Many vegetable crops have been ripening quickly due to the recent hot, humid weather, but the lack of rain has stunted growth in some. Fields continued to be actively scouted for weeds, insects and disease, and applications were made where necessary. Where sweet corn has not been irrigated, ear size is smaller than normal.

FRUIT: Farmers continued to pick highbush and lowbush blueberries, apples, peaches and raspberries. Pear harvest just got underway. Some apple trees have experienced increased drop due to the lack of moisture. Lack of rain has also caused highbush and lowbush blueberry crops to decrease to fair condition. Maine wild blueberries are being picked at a rapid pace; fruit size is below average due to shrinkage. Cranberries continued to size up nicely in Massachusetts, but the fruit will need some cooler temperatures to gain color.

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2001	2000	5-yr Avg	
Potatoes				
Maine	<5	<5	<5	Good
Mass	20	20	30	Good/Fair
Rhode Isl	35	35	20	Good/Fair
Oats, ME	15	<5	10	Good/Excel
Barley, ME	30	<5	20	Good
Silage Corn	--	--	--	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	45	45	50	Good/Fair
Tobacco				
Shade	60	70	85	Good/Fair
Broadleaf	60	70	70	Good/Fair
Dry Hay				
First Cut	100	95	99	Good/Fair
Second Cut	85	65	65	Fair/Good
Third Cut	25	15	20	Fair/Poor

For the Week Ending Sunday, August 19, 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
-----	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
MAINE														
Augusta_ME	53	83	70	+2	1810	+247	823	+212	0.09	-0.68	2	0.32	-2.71	5
Bangor	48	84	69	+2	1742	+317	758	+246	0.05	-0.72	2	0.80	-2.13	6
Bethel	49	87	68	+2	1542	+120	597	+98	0.07	-0.84	2	0.71	-2.81	11
Cari bou	45	85	67	+5	1473	+303	542	+208	0.11	-0.80	3	1.34	-2.44	7
Dover-Foxcroft	48	81	65	+1	1443	+197	522	+135	0.07	-0.77	1	0.30	-2.90	4
Frenchville	49	84	67	+6	1339	+252	459	+174	0.18	-0.80	4	0.54	-3.17	9
Houlton	43	84	66	+3	1427	+207	527	+156	0.79	-0.17	2	2.37	-1.31	6
Livermore Falls	45	90	68	+4	1652	+422	712	+342	0.38	-0.57	2	1.28	-2.20	8
Moosehead	41	88	65	+3	1250	+213	403	+136	0.25	-0.59	2	0.56	-2.91	6
Portland_ME	52	84	67	-2	1673	+248	727	+206	0.19	-0.44	2	1.44	-1.10	6
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	45	83	67	+4	1477	+157	546	+139	0.16	-0.75	2	0.47	-3.04	5
Berlin_AG	46	85	67	+3	1523	+194	577	+148	0.25	-0.74	1	0.68	-3.10	4
Concord	52	87	70	+3	1801	+218	809	+191	0.21	-0.56	2	1.60	-1.48	6
Diamond Pond	44	77	62	+2	1068	+170	299	+123	0.56	-0.63	4	2.81	-1.73	11
Keene_AP	54	84	71	+2	1814	+50	803	+53	0.06	-0.85	2	3.77	+0.24	7
North Conway	48	88	69	+3	1819	+338	821	+280	0.08	-0.83	1	0.65	-2.92	6
Rochester	53	88	69	+0	1818	+136	838	+144	0.38	-0.44	3	1.83	-1.47	7
VERMONT														
Burlington_VT	50	87	72	+4	1989	+288	935	+228	0.47	-0.47	2	0.74	-2.85	5
Island Pond	44	82	66	+5	1356	+267	471	+195	0.61	-0.51	2	1.62	-2.70	7
Montpelier	44	83	68	+4	1513	+173	587	+153	0.22	-0.69	2	0.55	-2.76	7
Pownal	51	80	68	+3	1557	+171	581	+121	0.93	-0.05	3	4.12	+0.33	10
Rochester	44	85	67	+3	1474	+165	544	+128	0.18	-0.87	2	1.53	-2.48	10
Rutland_AG	47	83	68	-1	1600	-150	617	-114	0.34	-0.64	2	1.29	-2.47	7
Sutton	48	81	66	+4	1402	+295	503	+212	0.46	-0.65	2	1.34	-2.92	11
Townshend Lake	51	86	69	+2	1653	-3	693	+17	0.30	-0.61	2	1.96	-1.52	9
MASSACHUSETTS														
Ashburnham	54	83	69	+4	1777	+338	773	+264	0.50	-0.27	3	1.61	-1.64	9
Boston	60	84	71	-2	2170	+181	1098	+166	1.47	+0.74	3	3.95	+1.18	9
Greenfield	51	88	72	+2	1884	+2	870	+33	0.11	-0.73	1	1.28	-2.08	8
New Bedford	53	82	70	-4	1955	-37	901	-33	1.30	+0.32	3	5.07	+1.56	13
Otis_AFB	55	82	71	+2	1919	+303	903	+238	0.92	+0.15	3	2.72	-0.20	9
Plymouth	52	83	69	+0	1865	+186	840	+127	1.47	+0.56	4	4.27	+0.90	11
Walpole	55	83	69	+0	2054	+333	989	+266	1.15	+0.24	3	2.10	-1.27	8
Westover	57	84	72	-2	2122	-29	1037	-9	1.78	+1.01	4	6.06	+2.98	11
Worthington	50	82	66	+1	1498	+96	565	+93	0.76	-0.16	1	2.27	-1.59	7
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	59	83	71	+0	2174	+282	1081	+217	1.65	+0.81	3	3.26	+0.10	8
Woonsocket	56	87	72	+4	2152	+460	1088	+400	3.20	+2.29	3	4.35	+0.72	8
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport	63	84	74	+2	2261	+234	1147	+171	1.59	+0.87	4	4.06	+0.93	7
Hartford_AP	57	87	73	+2	2191	+119	1095	+103	1.49	+0.65	4	2.38	-0.71	10
Norfolk	55	89	69	+4	1725	+317	737	+258	1.56	+0.51	3	5.56	+1.57	11
Thomaston_Dam	54	86	71	+3	1906	+234	864	+197	2.92	+1.94	4	3.36	-0.47	8
Willimantic	57	83	72	+3	2148	+445	1042	+347	1.23	+0.35	4	2.07	-1.55	9

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, August 19, 2001

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	40	90	67	+2	0.00	0.89
NH	35	90	67	+2	0.05	0.79
VT	40	88	67	+2	0.08	1.05
MA	48	88	70	+1	0.11	2.78
RI	56	87	71	+1	1.04	3.20
CT	54	89	71	+1	0.96	5.70

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: Although some areas of the county have gotten showers, most of the area is very dry. More scattered showers are predicted for this week. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Tobacco harvest for both broadleaf and shade progressing nicely. Vegetable producers finding soft markets this past week. Pest pressure in sweet corn and peppers require closer spray schedules than we have seen all year. Scattered showers have reduced drought stress for crops in most, but not all areas. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Gearing up for major corn chopping. Apples, peaches, raspberries, nectarines and a variety of vegetables are all being marketed now. Hay recovered a bit from drought and third cutting is looking better. Garlic Festival held this weekend in Pawcatuck attracted over 5,000 people. **Nancy Welsh/Karen Lockman (FSA), New Haven:** Heat and humidity have affected crops severely. Sweet corn ears are not fully developed. Peaches and apples are ready for pick-your-own.

MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook: Grain harvest continues. Great weather for harvesting grain. A few insects appearing, mainly green peach aphids which have been spotted in various locations. Growers continue to get equipment ready for potato harvest. Soil continues to get drier. Early maturing varieties suffering from drought stress. Yields have been affected on later varieties. Light showers Friday and Saturday did little to help the situation. **Erin Chadbourne (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Very dry, need rain. Barley/oats continue to be harvested. Some canola is being cut and wind-rowed at this time. Some vine-dessicant applications are being sprayed in potatoes. **Steve London (Ext), Southern Aroostook:** in the Houlton area - we could stand some water. Only a few aphids around, not that bad yet. No disease whatsoever. **Albert Dow (NRCS), Piscataquis:** Pastures are not growing. Some graziers are supplementing pasture feed with hay. Except where they have been irrigated, crops are all stressed due to lack of moisture. **Janet King/Jennifer Zweig (FSA), Somerset:** RAIN RAIN RAIN - we need it badly. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Another week without any significant rainfall. Pastures and second crop hay or third crop hay is drying up. Very little harvest activity due to no growth. Corn is curled in many fields and sweet corn ear size has been significantly reduced on fields without irrigation. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Harvesting of sweet corn and small vegetable crops continues. Crops are wilting in the fields. Substantial rains are desperately needed. Some blueberry barrens will go unharvested due to drought. Farmers are monitoring for armyworm. I am assuming that the apple crop has also been affected by the lack of rain. **David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild Blueberries: The dry and hot weather continues to shrivel fruit from loss of moisture. A number of fields will not be harvested because berry quality is too poor and fruit is not expected to recover. Stems are dying back to the ground in both crop and non-crop fields on sandy soils Downeast. **Michael Tardy (FSA), Androscoggin:** Hot, dry conditions continue. Scattered showers not enough to make a difference for crops. Vegetable growers continue to harvest and irrigate. **Parker Rand (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Dry! Those with irrigation are working steady; otherwise, the corn is curling up, the grass is brown and the apples are dropping from lack of moisture. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** We need rain! **Laura Rand (FSA), Oxford:** Dry, dry, dry!! In addition to regular farming activities, producers are cultivating, spraying, and if available, are irrigating. Promised rain has not arrived in the most needed areas and some rain showers have prevailed along the river corridors. Vegetable growers are noticing that the vegetables are maturing earlier and are smaller. Apple growers are irrigating when possible and have noticed that the earliest fruit is very small. The general consensus is that due to the dry, hot weather, the crops are about 1-2 weeks ahead of

schedule. Hay producers have reported trouble getting a normal second crop and very few are reporting a third crop.

MASSACHUSETTS - Paul Russell (FSA), Southeast Massachusetts: All crops continue to look good. Vegetable growers are harvesting good to excellent yields on most crops. Cranberries continue to size up with some concerns for quality of fresh fruit. Shellfish production continues to be excellent. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: The industry awaits the crop forecast during the annual summer meeting on Tuesday, not that any of the growers care a whole lot. Many are on the brink of going over the edge, especially with meager returns (far below the cost of production) promised for the next five (!!!) years by Ocean Spray management. The berries that are out there are sizing up nicely, but the color is nothing to write home about to date. Those cold nights needed for coloring will come soon enough. **John Devine (FSA), Franklin:** Another week of hot and dry weather has affected harvesting schedules in Franklin County. Broadleaf and shade tobacco producers have been very busy because the remaining fields are ripening much quicker than anticipated. The same may be true with the fall vine crops, some pumpkins are turning color now. Silage corn looks excellent on all acreage except sandy soils. Most of the acreage has already tasseled and is forming ears now. We need rain now. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** Spot thundershowers have dropped 2.5" of rain in some locations (New Braintree), while here (Hubbardston) we have not received any rain whatsoever. Soil, needless to say, is very dry. Pumpkins really coloring up, winter squash sizing up. European Corn Borer in corn low (2%), no Colorado Potato Beetle since late spring. Still harvesting all summer crops. Mums appearing on farm stands and consumers buying. Corn is still the big sales leader, tomatoes not far behind. New plantings of strawberries starting to flower, weed pressure very low, crop looks excellent for next year.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Bruce Clement (Ext), Cheshire: Dry weather continues, although not as hot and humid as last week. Pastures and hayfields very dry. Some new seedings going in. Silage corn still doing well. Apples, peaches, raspberries, blueberries, sweet corn and a full array of vegetables being harvested. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Field corn is in full tassel throughout the county as dry weather continues during the week. Not quite 0.5" of rain from thundershowers. Corn on sandier soils showing drought stress - need a deep soaking rain. Some marginal fields being mowed as farms try to make up for hay losses. Raspberries are done and blueberries are past peak. Good assortment of summer vegetables including local sweet corn at markets. Reports of lots of possible armyworm moths being stirred up in some fields mowed last week. No sightings of European Corn Borer or Earworm problems in sweet corn of note. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Dry weather continues to limit crop growth. Brief showers did little to alleviate drought conditions. Corn maturing slowly with variable results. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** The weather in most of the county is extremely dry. We have only had about two inches of rain since the first of July. Many, if not most of the hay fields are under severe drought stress, or have burned up. Drought stress is evident to some degree on 90% of the corn fields in the county. As you move further north, the corn shows a higher degree of loss. On some of the sandier soils, the corn is completely brown (dead). Most of the fields are uneven and irregular, with ear development being retarded due to drought. Some fields will be a total loss. On the bright side: those who planted their corn real early have stronger stands. Much of the mid-season and later season sweet corn is not shaping up as expected. Pumpkin plantings are wilting on the vine, with reduced running of the vines. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Peach, plum, and fall raspberry harvest

continued. First Paulared apples were harvested on the weekend, most orchardists finishing harvesting Early Macs. The main-season highbush blueberry harvest starting to wind down. Vegetables: Crops growing rapidly if irrigated. Harvesting wide array of vegetables. Farmers kept busy irrigating, monitoring pest pressures, and spraying pesticides for insects and diseases. Successive sweet corn plantings are coming at the same time ready to be harvested due to previous weeks' heat. Field Crops: Hay cutting continued. Farmers making new forage seedings. **David Seavey (Ext), Merrimack:** Vegetable harvest at full tilt. Irrigation systems running during this period of drought. Second cut hay brought in. Other practices include mowing between rows in fruit crops, hoeing weeds and spraying to control insects and disease. Some early apples were harvested. Vine crop diseases prevalent. Brown rot showing up on peaches. Blueberry maggot a problem on some sites. Blueberry crop yields declined due to winter injury. More rain is needed; showers are not sufficient. Overall, a good year for vegetables if irrigated.

RHODE ISLAND - Marilu Soileau (FSA), All Counties: Average hot temperatures over this past week have brought vegetables to peak harvest conditions. Unfortunately, the result is low prices at the wholesaler. One producer reports low sales at retail. He's contemplating not harvesting a couple of fields of sweet corn.

VERMONT - John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille: Small grain harvest finished last week with reasonable yields. Grass still pretty much at a standstill. The few showers we received benefitted corn the most. Some manure being spread. **Larry Hamel (NRCS), Orleans:** Small grain harvest finished last week with reasonable

yields. Grass still pretty much at a standstill. Few showers that we received benefitted corn the most. Some manure being spread. Small grain harvest finished last week with reasonable yields. Grass still pretty much at a standstill. Few showers that we received benefitted corn the most. Some manure being spread. **Lynette Hamilton (FSA), Windham:** Corn down in the sunbelt of Vermont is showing signs of drought on the really light soil, also alfalfa. The apple crop continues to produce another excellent crop. Veggie farmers are worried about their fall crops - with lack of rain there will be no size to produce. **Richard Noel (FSA), Grand Isle/Franklin:** Finally a little bit of rain! On 8/17: Highgate 0.31 in., St. Albans 0.11 in. More showers on 8/20: both Highgate and St. Albans got 0.17 in. But we're far below the amount that's needed to put the ground water back in balance! Corn looks better, but some has barren ears due to poor pollination and some is burnt brown and won't recover. Grass doesn't look much better, needs more rain. Vegetables look shot in short and some will not recover. We're supposed to get more rain this week, here's hoping. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Another hot, dry week. Only 0.5 in. of rain. A number of farmers are low on water and hauling water. Corn still dry, ears are not maturing normally. Grass not growing, legumes are growing some. Getting serious. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Last application for blight on potatoes. Beginning to get early harvested fields ready to seed winter rye. On what few fruit trees we have, the crop looks good: size is good, no scab, not much color, though. "Dryer than a cork." No rain for the week. Corn planted in light soils is suffering and the leaves are rolling, corn in heavy soils is holding on. Vine crops show a lot of stress. Rain promised for today, sure hope it's true.

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