



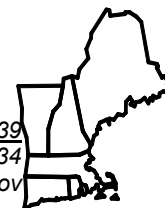
New England Agricultural Statistics Service

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

22 Bridge St, Third Floor
PO Box 1444
Concord, NH 03302

Aubrey R. Davis, Director
www.usda.gov/nass

603-224-9639
Fax: 603-225-1434
nass-nh@nass.usda.gov



Crop Weather

Volume 23, Number 15

(issued weekly on the Internet, May - October)

August 4, 2003 - 4 pm

For week ending 8/3/03

Mix of Sun and Rain

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending August 3, 2003, there were 5.5 days available for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture was rated 0% very short, 20% short, 67% adequate, 13% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 9% very short, 15% short, 70% adequate, 6% surplus. Pasture condition was rated as 0% very poor, 12% poor, 42% fair, 42% good, 4% excellent. New England experienced a mix of sun and rain last week, with slightly below normal temperatures and high humidity toward the weekend. The moisture continued to replenish ground water levels, and growers reported that most crops responded well to the weather. Major farm activities included: cutting haylage and making dry hay; topping off broadleaf tobacco; harvesting broadleaf and shade tobacco, highbush blueberries, wild blueberries and vegetables; renovating strawberry beds; spreading manure; mowing; pruning; cultivating; weeding; monitoring fields; applying insecticides.

FRUIT: Tree fruit continued to size and color with last week's rain and below normal temperatures. Peach harvest got off to a quick start last week, with ten percent picked. Growers still have some catching up to do, as the five-year average for peach harvest is 25 percent. Strawberry bed renovations continued in preparation for next year's crop. Growers harvested highbush blueberries and raspberries last week. Moisture and cool night temperatures improved Maine wild blueberry quality just in time for harvest. Growers continued to irrigate cranberries in dry areas of Massachusetts; reports of fruit rot, frost damage and poor pollination have surfaced. Cranberry size was rated average last week.

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2003	2002	5-yr Avg	
Apples	--	<5	<5	Good/Fair
Peaches	10	40	25	Fair/Good
Pears	--	--	--	Good/Fair
Blueberries				
Highbush	30	35	45	Good/Fair
Wild, ME	5	--	10	Good
Cranberries, MA	--	--	--	Good

VEGETABLES: Vegetables such as beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cucumbers, greens, lettuce, onions, peas, peppers, radishes, snap beans, summer squash, Swiss chard, tomatoes and zucchini were harvested last week. Farm stands and farmers' markets experienced steady business. Sweet corn harvest was well underway, the crop showing up at many farm stands across the region.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
	-- Percent --		
Topsoil Moisture			
Very Short	0	6	11
Short	20	18	34
Adequate	67	69	50
Surplus	13	7	5
Subsoil Moisture			
Very Short	9	3	9
Short	15	26	30
Adequate	70	63	59
Surplus	6	8	2

FIELD CROPS: Dry hay making proved difficult with last week's rainy and sometimes humid weather. First crop hay harvest continued to wind down, with second crop cutting progressing to just under half harvested. Only a small number of growers have started the third cutting. Field corn has improved with the recent arrival of rain. Potato harvest barely started in southern New England states. Potatoes, oats and barley in Maine were rated in good to excellent condition last week. Broadleaf tobacco harvest got underway last week with five percent harvested as of August 3. Late planted broadleaf tobacco fields continued to be topped. Shade tobacco harvest progressed to 20 percent, well behind the five-year average.

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2003	2002	5-yr Avg	
Barley, ME	--	--	<5	Good/Excellent
Oats, ME	--	--	--	Good/Excellent
Potatoes				
Maine	--	--	--	Good/Excellent
Mass	<5	5	10	Good
Rhode Isl	<5	15	10	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	--	--	--	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	15	30	30	Good
Tobacco				
Shade	20	35	40	Fair/Good
Broadleaf	5	25	25	Good/Fair
Dry Hay				
First Cut	95	95	95	Good/Fair
Second Cut	45	60	55	Good/Fair
Third Cut	--	10	5	Good/Fair

For the Week Ending Sunday, August 3, 2003

All 86 stations appear on the Internet and in e-mail subscriptions.
 Due to space restrictions, only 41 stations appear below. These stations are well distributed across the region.

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		
MAINE															
Augusta_State_A	56	84	68	-3	1264	+1	521	+50	1.49	+0.75	3	2.99	+0.12	13	
Bangor_Intl_Arp	53	83	68	-2	1237	+94	501	+110	0.95	+0.25	3	1.64	-1.32	7	
Bethel	53	85	66	-3	1109	-41	407	+19	0.91	+0.06	3	4.43	+1.20	12	
Caribou_Municip	51	79	65	-1	1027	+81	372	+109	0.46	-0.52	2	4.69	+0.96	14	
Dover-Foxcroft	50	83	63	-5	912	-83	298	+2	0.60	-0.17	5	2.55	-0.64	16	
Frenchville	53	77	63	-2	939	+63	309	+85	0.48	-0.43	2	3.35	-0.16	13	
Houlton	47	80	65	-2	1071	+90	396	+107	0.92	+0.01	4	4.08	+0.61	15	
Livermore_Falls	49	88	66	+0	1163	+175	467	+182	1.67	+0.85	4	5.32	+2.19	17	
Moosehead	46	84	62	-3	850	+26	257	+54	0.38	-0.52	3	3.29	-0.34	13	
Portland_ME	55	84	67	-3	1222	+89	483	+95	1.10	+0.47	2	2.56	-0.14	9	
NEW HAMPSHIRE															
Benton	50	83	65	-3	1089	+11	383	+64	1.47	+0.61	4	4.99	+1.80	13	
Berlin_AG	53	82	65	-2	1123	+40	403	+66	0.61	-0.32	2	4.90	+1.45	13	
Concord	52	88	70	+0	1419	+128	619	+133	2.01	+1.24	1	3.94	+0.99	10	
Diamond_Pond	49	79	61	-2	790	+70	224	+94	0.79	-0.31	5	5.01	+0.79	16	
Keene_AP	54	84	69	-2	1363	-86	545	-49	1.55	+0.70	2	3.16	-0.14	9	
North_Conway	52	85	67	-2	1276	+69	527	+99	1.58	+0.69	3	3.59	+0.18	15	
Rochester	54	84	69	-3	1266	-106	519	-25	1.78	+0.96	1	3.79	+0.63	8	
VERMONT															
Burlington_Intl	53	85	69	-2	1526	+130	650	+87	0.76	-0.12	3	3.63	+0.29	15	
Island_Pond	50	83	63	-2	1024	+144	331	+114	0.90	-0.16	4	4.44	+0.52	18	
Montpelier	50	83	65	-2	1104	+9	377	+31	0.65	-0.14	4	5.01	+2.13	15	
Pownal	51	82	66	-2	1162	+35	381	+20	3.31	+2.40	3	6.95	+3.31	14	
Rochester	50	85	66	-2	1119	+56	387	+60	0.96	-0.01	3	6.69	+3.13	15	
Rutland_AG	50	84	67	-5	1234	-208	461	-122	1.54	+0.63	3	6.23	+2.69	12	
Sutton	49	82	63	-2	1030	+134	332	+100	1.06	+0.02	3	4.60	+0.71	14	
Townshend_Lake	53	85	68	-3	1245	-109	475	-58	1.82	+0.98	4	5.49	+2.36	15	
MASSACHUSETTS															
Ashburnham	56	84	69	+2	1329	+161	540	+141	1.60	+0.80	4	3.69	+0.37	13	
Boston/Logan_In	60	89	71	-4	1583	-43	726	-1	0.90	+0.21	1	3.02	+0.44	9	
Greenfield	56	87	70	-2	1442	-107	590	-74	1.93	+1.09	3	4.51	+1.15	13	
New_Bedford	52	86	73	-3	1403	-211	595	-121	0.52	-0.29	5	2.56	-0.30	12	
Otis_AFB	57	82	73	+2	1378	+88	599	+100	1.21	+0.51	5	3.13	+0.52	11	
Plymouth	53	86	71	-2	1352	+0	557	+10	1.21	+0.41	4	5.27	+2.16	10	
Walpole	57	87	72	+0	1487	+86	656	+91	1.46	+0.65	4	5.13	+2.01	11	
Chicopee/Westov	57	88	72	+4	1518	-258	646	-184	0.80	+0.03	3	2.56	-0.64	13	
Worthington	50	83	66	-2	1129	-9	382	+15	1.09	+0.11	2	3.39	-0.53	11	
RHODE ISLAND															
Providence	58	87	74	+1	1566	+28	696	+27	1.37	+0.60	3	4.32	+1.42	11	
Woonsocket	58	85	71	+1	1443	+64	617	+80	1.28	+0.37	4	4.61	+1.04	11	
CONNECTICUT															
Bridgeport/Siko	64	88	75	+0	1608	-40	730	-25	0.38	-0.44	4	2.29	-1.11	14	
Hartford/Bradle	57	89	73	-1	1669	-44	743	-48	0.85	+0.10	3	3.39	+0.53	14	
Norfolk	54	82	69	+2	1186	+43	417	+43	0.61	-0.37	3	3.30	-0.49	14	
Thomaston_Dam	55	88	72	+2	1504	+138	629	+106	0.52	-0.43	3	3.57	-0.20	14	
Willimantic	57	88	74	+5	1534	+143	672	+128	0.76	-0.15	3	2.91	-0.84	13	

STATE WEATHER SUMMARY
 For the Week Ending Sunday, August 3, 2003

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.

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	LO	HI	AV	DFN	LO	HI
ME	44	88	65	-3	0.08	2.72
NH	37	92	66	-2	0.13	2.54
VT	44	90	66	-2	0.46	3.59
MA	46	89	71	-1	0.19	1.99
RI	56	87	72	+1	0.46	1.37
CT	54	89	72	+0	0.38	1.32

Copyright 2003: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.
 For detailed ag weather forecasts and data visit the AWIS home page at www.awis.com or call toll free at 1-888-798-9955.

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 - Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland: Harvesting sweet corn, beans, cabbage, summer squash, peppers, cukes, blueberries and peaches. A lot of hay was put in the barn and those who chopped second cutting put that in the silo. Early planted field corn that survived is tasseling. Shade tobacco harvest is continuing and broadleaf tobacco harvest began. Some started to irrigate on light soils. Showers on Friday yielded over an inch in many areas with hit and miss showers over the weekend. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Harvesting vegetables. Corn height not uniform. Producers feel there will be some surprises when they start to harvest. Worms reported in some corn fields. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Light crop of pears. Many acres of prevented planted corn and vegetables. Hail damage apparent in northern county corn fields. Deer damage too. Funky corn growth with various heights from 8" to 8', some corn tasseling. Many crops are inconsistent. Hay is a sad story with rain, wet fields. Brown first cutting growth stifling a green second cutting that can't be obtained. Trying hard to get things done ASAP. Corn seed sales reported as late as July 20th. Bright side - blueberries are abundant and tasty. Farmers' markets providing quality squash, tomatoes, lettuce and more at great prices. **Nancy Welsh/Karen Vozarik (FSA), New Haven:** The rains are back with extreme humidity. A lot of sweet corn coming all at the same time since they were the only fields plantable. Plants are growing spotty. Clingstone peaches are available. Silage corn is just starting to tassel. **Joyce Meader (Ext), Windham:** Field corn in sandy flood plains was seven feet tall this week. Corn in wet fields, four feet tall. As always, the quality of corn land is seen during adverse weather pattern. If we can keep houses from being grown on the good crop land, it will be a miracle, as they also grow the best on the well drained, non-rocky soils. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Haymaking was fast and furious this week. Rain came as predicted on Friday with plenty of warning.

MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook: Potatoes and small grains: A real busy weekend in Aroostook County with all 60,000 plus Phish Phans having arrived. The population of Aroostook County nearly doubled. Growers trying to get back on a regular spray schedule but wet fields are making this difficult. However, adequate moisture and warm temperatures are causing crops to grow rapidly. Grain crops have suffered some lodging from the wind and rain but no real problems from either insects or disease. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Barley is maturing; canola is in mid-seed filling. Potato crop is looking excellent. Fungicides are continuing to be applied. Soil moisture is adequate with some areas in surplus. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Potatoes are looking well. Corn borers are about gone. Everything looks good at this time. **Albert Dow (NRCS), Piscataquis:** Showers and overcast weather kept farmers from harvesting any dry hay. **Donna Lamb (Ext), Piscataquis:** Farmers are still trying to bring in the first cut hay between rain storms. Most row crops are very late. Some field corn was only three feet tall. Need lots of warm, sunny weather. Strawberry fields are being renovated in preparation for next year's crop. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Some great hay making weather earlier in the week, with wet weather coming in for Friday and the weekend. Corn crops continue to look poor and are very late in maturity. Most silage corn has not yet shown a tassel. The corn crop needs some heat, but none is in sight. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Over an inch of much needed rain fell on Friday, August 1. This will be very beneficial to many crops as the harvest of blueberries is now in full swing. Sweet corn is also being harvested now. Pasture conditions should improve as well as the hay crop. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Crop harvest began in the mid-cost region this week. Showers and cool night temperatures continue to improve the crop quality. **Michael Tardy (FSA), Androscoggin:** What a great week. After the rain, some humidity and heat helped the crops perk up. Some silage corn producers are still concerned about the dry conditions of the soil. Spot showers assisted some areas while other areas saw the rain go around them. Sweet corn is hitting the markets along with many other fresh vegetables. We see much more green than we have in the past few weeks. The coming week sounds wet, which will be helpful. Everyone seems to be enjoying those local vegetables. Eat up! **Parker Rand (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Several inches of rain fell last week and when it wasn't raining it was very hot and humid. Not good for harvest, but good for crop growth. Most crops are still a little behind but are generally looking good. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Getting hay in between showers is getting trickier all the time. Vegetables are growing super. Berry crops in this area are terrible. Lots of winter kill. **Laura Rand (FSA), Oxford:** Summer squash, zucchini, cucumbers, peppers, beet greens, Swiss chard, onions, and carrots are being harvested. Silage corn looks good. This past week's rain was a blessing.

MASSACHUSETTS - Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire: Local corn is sweet! Harvesting of everything is going on. Blueberries are being picked. We had one report of a crop failure probably due to poor pollination of otherwise healthy plants in one of the hill towns. Some small grains being harvested. The weekend was quite a washout.

Central county received four inches of rain Friday through Sunday. Our earliest agricultural fair took place this weekend. Monday through Thursday was very muggy, tropical feeling. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Only scattered showers in the region this week. Growers have been irrigating. Fruit has set up nicely in most beds, but there are some beds that had poor pollination or that got hit by frost in April. It looks like there will be a fair amount of cranberry fruitworm around, and Sparganothis fruitworm outbreaks are scattered as well. First fruit rot observed last week in the experimental plots. Some weeds in the beds have many leaf spots, due to the incredibly wet weather in June. **John Devine (FSA), Franklin:** Cooler and drier air allowed for a really nice work week. Silage corn is starting to tassel, sweet corn is delicious and plentiful and tobacco harvest has begun on most farms. In general, crop conditions are a little dry but very good. Fruit growers are reporting that this year's peach crop looks very promising. The same is true for the apple and blueberry crops. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** The beginning of the week was warm and sunny. Irrigation systems were turned on due to the dry conditions. By the weekend we had high humidity and thunder storms with isolated downpours. Crops are growing well with a very good supply of all summer vegetables at the markets. Broadleaf tobacco is being harvested and crop looks good. The later planted fields are being topped. Potato harvest began and the crop looks good. No big problems with insects or diseases reported this week. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** Heavy rains finally! Most of rain in previous weeks had skipped us here in Northern Worcester County. Crops were under stress but not anymore. Consumer demand for locally grown crops are exceeding field production. Perennial plant sales still strong. The corn I planted in late April / early May still isn't ripe! This week will finally start to pick sweet corn.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap: Harvesting sweet corn grown under row cover, beets, broccoli, cucumbers, summer squash and more. Weed control and irrigation are keeping growers busy. Raspberries and blueberries are being harvested. Unfortunately, there's a lot of mummy berry out there. Some second cut hay is getting done. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Lots of sun for the first part of the week, then rainy, very humid conditions set in. A few isolated patches of field corn showing some moisture stress, but most of it looks great - about 50% is tasseled and silking. Good drying conditions for hay early in the week, second cutting haylage and baleage finishing up. Lots of veggies available at farm stands and farmers' markets; sweet corn growers doing a brisk business. Blueberry harvest continues. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Trend now towards somewhat cooler, wetter weather. Field corn beginning to tassel, looks good after rain we've had. Second cut hay just starting as weather permits. Nice regrowth on pastures. Vegetables coming in well now, sweet corn should be available sometime in the coming week. Wild blueberries picked locally showing up at farm stands. Honey coming off supers, mid-summer has arrived. Pheromone traps for leek moth monitoring have been put up with NHDA, making certain this pest afflicting alliums has not moved south from Canada. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Corn continues to grow well with the adequate moisture we've been getting. Lack of good drying weather still slowing second cut. Corn continues to tassel and silk, and looks good. Regrowth on hay (3rd cut) also looks good especially on alfalfa grass stands. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Vegetables: Relief - rain! Growers harvesting an array of vegetables: beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, cucumbers, greens, lettuce, peas, potatoes, radishes, snap beans, summer squash, sweet corn and other vegetables. Farmers kept busy cultivating, hoeing weeds, monitoring pest pressures, spraying pesticides for insects and diseases - if needed. Very good demand for produce at most local farmers' markets and farm stands. Fruit: Orchardists harvesting peaches and Vista Belle apples. Blueberry and raspberry harvests continued. Orchardists busy monitoring for pests, spraying if needed, and mowing orchard floors. Apple growers busy summer pruning trees. Field Crops: Rain showers stopped farmers from making dry hay. Silage corn is rapid growing, with rain storms and the humid weather. **David Seavey (Ext), Merrimack:** Corn earworm moths were found in monitoring traps in Canterbury and Allenstown and farmers are spraying. Farmers are spraying for blueberry maggot, cabbage looper and other pests. Japanese beetles a problem on ornamental trees and shrubs. Farmers are harvesting sweet corn, cukes, greens, summer squash, blueberries and raspberries. Second cut hay brought in. Irrigation systems running earlier in the week as corn and other vegetables were wilting. Much needed rain arrived at the end of the week. The blueberry crop yield has been cut in half on some sites while there is a bumper crop on others. Some sweet corn plantings look great while others look poor due to earlier wet conditions and repeat planting. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Finishing the renovation for strawberry beds. Monitoring pests in fruit orchards and vegetable fields. Cultivating and weeding. Mummy berry seen in blueberries and armyworm also reported in sweet corn field. Harvesting blueberries, raspberries, vegetables, sweet corn, tomatoes. Hay making continued between rain showers. Rain and severe thundershowers and wind on Friday and on the weekend. **Pam Marvin (FSA), Sullivan:** Most of second cut dry hay completed after which

manure is being applied. The rain showers are going to help the 3rd cutting along. Third cutting of alfalfa is just about ready. Sweet corn is being harvested with good results. Many summer vegetables are being harvested and helped along also with the rain. Much different than a year ago. Raspberry and blueberry harvesting is continuing. Blueberry crop took a big hit due to terrible weather the month of May as well as mummy berry. Many silage corn fields tasseling with nice color and good height. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** The last few weeks brought much needed rain showers. Hay harvest delayed by the rains. Hay crop regrowth in the second cut fields looking good. Vegetable crops and sweet corn looking good. Vegetable growers continued to harvest a wide array of vegetable crops including sweet corn. Blueberry and raspberry harvest continued through the week. Strawberry growers continued to renovate strawberry beds. Apple growers monitored pests and sprayed where needed, and mowed orchard floors. Nurseries and garden centers had strong sales for perennials .

VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille: We are just in awe at the progress of the corn crop to date. With continued hot weather the crop could be the best in recent memory. Not much for haying activity last week with the unsettled humid weather. Grass growth has been increasing lately. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Rain this week has put an end to any dry areas we had. Some fields are very wet and farmers need to be careful not to track them while cropping. Corn looks good in most places now. Some corn is 8 feet tall. **Lynette Hamilton/Perley Sparrow (FSA), Windham:** Field corn is about as good as it can get weather-wise. Very good ear development and with the hot weather and rain the grain to stalk ratio will be high. Third cut alfalfa has gotten a fast start. Sweet corn

growers are reporting an excellent crop with a good market. **Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Corn looks better, starting to tassel some. Violent wind storm cut path through Addison County up New Haven River, corn flattened but later stood back up. Trees uprooted and broken off. Hay crop good, some potato leafhopper damage, new seedlings starting to fill in. Some late planted corn less than one foot high. **Eric Winchester (FSA) Orange/Windsor:** This week was a mixture of rain and sun. Week ended with very high humidity. Field corn is reported to be excellent everywhere. It is ten feet high in many locations and tasseled out. Sweet corn is now being harvested and sold. One farm reported cutting some of its sweet corn into silage because of a glut of this crop. Many farmers are finishing up second cutting of grass and will soon be on a third. It is good and heavy at most locations. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Summer really allowing crops to grow well. One farmer told me that this is the year they will be catching up on forage inventory following army worm and drought in 2001. Some early birds have started on a third cut. Most are finishing up a second cut of hay. Corn looking good. Nice combination of sun, heat, and rain. **Heather Darby (Ext), Franklin:** Hot and humid weather last week. Second cut hay was mowed however, a number of these fields were rained on. Many corn fields are tasseling. Northern and western corn root worm adults have emerged. Starting to see some corn lodging from root worm larvae damage. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Picking good crop of early sweet corn. Mid-season and late varieties of sweet corn doing extremely well after our rain and warm weather. Digging early potatoes. Cole crops also responded to good weather, lots of cabbage, broccoli and cauliflower in the market. Vine crops covering the ground. 0.734 inches rain. Over all, Mother Nature is doing a great job. Have a happy week.

July 2003 Crop Weather Summary: Hot, sunny weather dominated most of the month of July in New England, providing crops with much needed sunshine and heat, but also drying up soil moisture supplies. Growers throughout the region irrigated where available. Many crops were planted and emerged by the start of July, while others were behind schedule due to the late spring start. First cut hay harvest was nearing completion as August approached, and reports surfaced that growers had a high-yielding crop this year. Rain was needed to improve the second hay crop; dry conditions earlier in the season were expected to decrease quality and yields. Growers were preparing for third crop cutting at month's end. Silage corn remained in good to fair condition throughout the month of July, the late-month rain aiding crop growth. Potato harvest had not yet begun by month's end; growers in the southern states were gearing up for harvest. Maine potato condition was reported as excellent to good during the month, despite high counts of European corn borers in fields. Crop specialists also rated oat and barley crops in Maine in excellent to good condition. Shade tobacco harvest started late, and only ten percent was harvested as of July 27. Farmers had yet to begin cutting broadleaf tobacco at the end of the month, when normally ten percent would have been harvested. Growers sprayed to control blue mold and brown spot. Sweet corn harvest trailed the five-year average by ten percent as the month came to a close. Fruit crops ranged from good to fair condition throughout the month of July. Rain received in late July helped to accelerate fruit growth and improved condition. Growers had yet to begin peach harvest as of July 27, placing them at least one week behind schedule. New England's late-starting strawberry season came to an close by the end of the month, on schedule with the five-year average. Irrigation was active in cranberry bogs in Massachusetts to help size up the berries; this year's crop remained in good condition throughout the month. Maine wild blueberry growers prepared for harvest, which was expected to start during the week of July 28.

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**

Aubrey R. Davis, Director
Statisticians: Emily McAllister, Robin Helrich

Joe Samson, Deputy Director
Stat Assistant: Wayne Colpitt

PERMIT NO. G-38
 USDA
 POSTAGE & FEES PAID
 FIRST CLASS
 PRESORTED

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
 NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
 POST OFFICE BOX 1444
 CONCORD NH 03302-1444
 ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED