



New England Agricultural Statistics Service

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United States Department of Agriculture

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Crop Weather

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For week ending 5/30/04

Cool, Wet Week

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending May 30, 2004, there were 3.7 days available for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture was rated one percent short, 67 percent adequate, 32 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated two percent short, 80 percent adequate, 18 percent surplus. Pasture condition was rated as eight percent fair, 70 percent good, 22 percent excellent. Cool, wet conditions prevailed most of the week hindering planting progress, however dry weather on weekend allowed growers an opportunity to continue with planting activities. Major farm activities included: planting vegetables, sweet corn, field corn, tobacco, potatoes, small grains; spreading manure; applying fertilizer, herbicides and fungicides.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
	-- Percent --		
Topsoil Moisture			
Very Short	0	3	0
Short	1	5	1
Adequate	67	65	63
Surplus	32	27	36
Subsoil Moisture			
Very Short	0	3	0
Short	2	4	9
Adequate	80	83	72
Surplus	18	10	19

FRUIT: Frost was reported during the week in some areas. Some apple and peach trees have shown signs of winter injury. Orchardists and small fruit growers were applying protective fungicides and insecticides to fight scab infection in apples and pears. Concerns of Mummyberry disease continued among growers in wild blueberry fields due to prevailing cool, moist conditions. Cranberry growers continued to watch for insects and applied fungicides as needed. They also stayed busy applying fertilizers and maintaining ditches.

FIELD CROPS: Hayfields and pastures have experienced good growth due to the cool, wet conditions. Silage corn plantings continued between showers and advanced to 75 percent planted. Potato plantings in Maine progressed to 95 percent planted. Small grains nearing completion at 95 percent planted. Massachusetts and Rhode Island potato farmers have 95 and 85 percent of their crop planted respectively.

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Stage	Fruit Set	Condition
Apples	PF	Avg	Fair/Good
Peaches	PF	B. Avg/Avg	Fair/Good
Pears	PF	Avg/B. Avg	Good/Fair
Blueberries			
Highbush	Bud/PF	Avg	Fair/Good
Wild, ME	FB/PF	--	Fair/Good
Cranberries, MA	Bud	--	Fair/Good
Strawberries	FB/PF	Avg	Fair/Good

FB - Full Bloom, PF - Petal Fall

VEGETABLES: Growers continued spraying for weeds on sweet corn fields and farmers harvested asparagus, rhubarb, lettuce, radish and spinach were harvested during the week.

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2004	2003	5-yr Avg	Percent Emerged	Condition
	-- Percent Planted --				
Barley, ME	95	85	90	60	Excel/Good
Oats, ME	95	85	90	50	Excel/Good
Potatoes					
Maine	95	85	80	<5	Exce/Good
Mass	95	95	95	70	Good
Rhode Isl	85	100	100	45	Good/Excel
Silage Corn	75	55	65	45	Good/Excel
Sweet Corn	65	55	60	40	Good/Fair
Tobacco					
Shade	90	85	70	--	Good
Broadleaf	--	10	15	--	Good
Dry Hay	-- Percent Harvested --				
First Cut	10	5	10	--	Good/Excel

For the Week Ending Sunday, May 30, 2004

The 41 stations shown below were limited by space but were 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		
MAINE															
Augusta_State_A	42	69	50	-9	220	+40	36	+18	1.55	+0.71	6	4.37	+0.94	16	
Bangor_Intl_Arp	42	66	50	-8	186	+47	26	+16	1.34	+0.57	5	4.43	+1.20	14	
Bethel	40	73	50	-9	219	+68	45	+32	1.60	+0.75	6	4.36	+1.04	16	
Cari bou_Muni ci p	39	66	49	-8	129	+25	27	+20	0.81	+0.11	4	2.25	-0.55	12	
Dover-Foxcroft	34	63	47	-10	123	+16	16	+10	1.15	+0.31	6	3.19	-0.07	15	
Frenchvi lle	37	64	47	-9	112	+33	19	+19	0.64	-0.07	5	2.32	-0.51	14	
Houl ton	38	67	48	-8	134	+28	22	+14	1.25	+0.48	4	2.91	-0.13	12	
Li verm ore_Fal ls	36	73	49	-7	220	+112	44	+38	1.46	+0.57	6	4.18	+0.77	16	
Moosehead	38	69	48	-6	115	+52	16	+16	1.28	+0.46	5	2.65	-0.48	14	
Portl and_ME	39	65	50	-8	204	+75	36	+32	1.53	+0.76	5	4.27	+1.04	13	
NEW_HAMPSHI RE															
Benton	38	71	52	-7	240	+69	54	+33	1.44	+0.60	5	4.89	+1.77	13	
Berli n_AG	37	72	52	-6	230	+80	52	+35	1.54	+0.67	4	5.52	+2.28	10	
Concord	38	74	53	-7	385	+185	119	+92	1.57	+0.83	5	4.56	+1.72	13	
Di amond_Pond	32	68	46	-7	128	+62	15	+15	1.70	+0.72	6	5.05	+1.44	19	
Keene_AP	41	73	57	-6	363	+94	94	+45	2.51	+1.63	6	6.15	+2.73	15	
North_Conway	43	72	52	-8	271	+97	77	+56	1.96	+1.05	6	4.61	+0.98	14	
Rochester	39	67	49	-13	265	+34	70	+34	2.51	+1.67	6	7.01	+3.52	12	
VERMONT															
Burli ngton_Intl	41	74	58	-3	381	+136	125	+80	2.09	+1.35	5	4.97	+2.13	16	
Isl and_Pond	35	70	51	-4	188	+80	35	+26	1.70	+0.78	6	4.48	+1.10	16	
Montpel ier	38	71	54	-4	288	+122	77	+57	2.05	+1.26	5	5.14	+2.17	16	
Pownal	38	75	58	+1	342	+165	83	+59	2.43	+1.38	6	4.90	+0.76	16	
Rochester	37	75	53	-4	270	+118	66	+49	2.35	+1.38	5	5.97	+2.06	15	
Rutl and_AG	36	72	56	-6	295	+12	61	+2	2.72	+1.88	4	7.40	+4.22	14	
Sutton	34	70	49	-6	179	+73	36	+27	2.72	+1.81	6	4.98	+1.67	17	
Townshend_Lake	36	76	56	-4	313	+88	77	+40	2.24	+1.47	6	4.92	+1.71	18	
MASSACHUSETTS															
Ashburnham	43	77	55	-4	318	+155	75	+61	1.93	+1.09	6	4.28	+1.08	18	
Boston/Logan_In	47	64	54	-9	400	+104	119	+82	1.65	+0.94	6	3.08	+0.16	15	
Greenfi eld	40	82	59	-4	384	+85	105	+54	2.81	+1.90	6	5.52	+2.01	18	
New_Bedford	44	78	57	-6	328	+32	61	+25	1.94	+1.10	3	2.75	-0.57	11	
Oti s_AFB	46	75	56	-3	273	+103	50	+39	1.31	+0.51	3	2.63	-0.70	9	
Pl ymouth	40	70	54	-7	304	+115	67	+51	1.71	+0.87	5	2.89	-0.67	16	
Wal pol e	42	72	55	-6	374	+141	89	+60	1.45	+0.68	5	3.81	+0.70	16	
Chi copee/Westov	46	81	60	-4	491	+105	163	+84	2.24	+1.26	5	4.51	+0.79	17	
Worthi ngton	36	79	56	-2	300	+128	63	+44	2.43	+1.43	6	4.17	+0.02	18	
RHODE_I SLAND															
Provi dence	47	75	58	-4	407	+145	97	+67	1.32	+0.51	5	2.47	-0.90	12	
Woonsocket	38	74	56	-6	382	+153	102	+80	1.87	+0.96	5	3.66	-0.01	12	
CONNECTI CUT															
Bri dgeport/Si ko	45	74	60	-3	426	+115	97	+39	1.22	+0.38	5	2.48	-1.06	20	
Hartford/Bradl e	44	82	61	-3	499	+143	163	+89	1.39	+0.48	5	3.15	-0.58	15	
Norfol k	38	77	57	-2	345	+177	86	+69	2.97	+1.92	6	4.55	+0.41	18	
Thomast on_Dam	34	88	61	+2	483	+234	155	+118	1.71	+0.73	5	3.72	-0.29	14	
Wi lli manti c	38	85	59	-2	446	+197	131	+95	1.44	+0.53	5	3.04	-0.74	13	

STATE WEATHER SUMMARY
For the Week Ending Sunday, May 30, 2004

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	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	30	74	49	-8	0.43	2.42
NH	19	80	51	-7	1.44	3.05
VT	24	79	54	-4	1.70	2.86
MA	36	82	56	-5	1.20	3.35
RI	38	75	57	-4	1.18	1.87
CT	34	89	59	-2	1.09	2.97

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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: Heavy frost on Monday damaged peaches and early planted vegetable crops. One orchard reported 85 percent loss of peaches due to frost. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Shade tobacco planting nearly completed, broadleaf planting continues. Field corn planting continues with a few fields still too wet. A lot of grass chopped or made into round baleage. Vegetable crops continue to be planted or set. Very cool (near frost) on Saturday morning. Gas prices still rising. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Wet fields delaying planting of corn. Chopping first cut of grass. Not much haying being done. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Thunderstorms, scattered showers, sunshine and cool, in between times. A lot of field corn and vegetables were planted, haylage chopped, bedding plants sold, a farmer and his self propelled chopper, heading home, took a surprise spot at the end of the Hampton Memorial Day parade on Monday. **Karen Vozarik (FSA), New Haven:** Farmers have started chopping grass for silage. Fields are wet. Getting heavy rains at night leaving planting and cutting hay difficult. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Last Sunday's hail storm resulted in no reports of crop damage. Getting scattered reports of crow damage to field corn. First cut Haylage harvest is winding down. Some corn tall enough to start nitrate testing.

MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook: Potatoes and small grains: Many growers have finished planting their crops. Those who have not finished are having a difficult time to do so as the weather has not been very cooperative. Cool temperatures have slowed emergence and growth. We need some sun and warmer temperatures. **Donna Lamb (Ext), Piscataquis:** Hay and pastures are growing well with cool wet weather. **Janet King (FSA), Somerset:** Very wet week. Corn planting is behind due to moisture. Grass crop looks heavy, moisture has been good for the hay. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** A lot of cold wet weather last week slowed field progress and any emerged corn looks yellow and cold. Grass is ready for harvest, but fields are too wet for much tractor travel. More rain predicted. Many crops in full bloom during the wet weather. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Very little farm activity due to cold wet weather. Weather condition have affected pollination of blueberry and apple crop. **Michael Tardy (FSA), Androscoggin:** Has anyone seen Noah around? This wet, cold weather is depressing everyone involved with agriculture. Planting is slowed down, hay harvest is down. We've had reports of strawberries with insect problems and apples with winter damage. The coming week doesn't hold out much promise. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Some frost Saturday a.m. Hopefully that is the end of that. Soil conditions are excellent on well drained soils. We need some sunshine to heat the soil and make hay. First cut is underway; weather permitting. **Laura Rand (FSA), Oxford:** This week has been cold, damp, and dreary. Farmers are busy putting the final plantings of corn and potatoes. Vegetable growers have been getting sweet corn and other crops planted and are starting to see the beginnings of earlier crops. Grass is green, spring is beautiful regardless of the weather.

MASSACHUSETTS - Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire: Some done planting corn, little time left for planting sweet corn. Vegetables being transplanted. Few operators have cut and chopped early silage and put into plastic, make a great feed. Tent caterpillars has hit hard on any tree in county, stripping leaves. On the 17th of May golf ball size hail hit an area in county that may have killed the strawberry crop, and mark the small apples on the trees. Up to 5 inches of rain for month of May. **Paul Russell (FSA), Southeast Massachusetts:** Cranberry growers are applying fertilizer, fungicide, etc as early varieties of cranberries are starting to move into bloom. Vegetable growers continue to plant between rain showers. Vegetable crops are emerging and look good in spite of the cool wet weather. Hay growers are starting to take the first crop which is good to excellent, making hay in this weather may be a challenge. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Good soaking rain on Friday. Vines are greening up nicely; some hook reported on sanded beds. Insect

populations continue to plague growers. Weeds are beginning to flourish as well. Most growers are applying fertilizers and maintaining ditches. **David Rose (FSA), Bristol:** Some strawberries being harvested, as well as asparagus and rhubarb. Some rain last week slowed field work but was very welcome because it was getting a little dry. Crops continue to look good, no insects or disease problems right now. **John Devine (FSA), Franklin:** Producers have reported that they're making up for lost time in spite of the weather this week. All potatoes have been planted and most grain/dairy farms should finish planting corn soon. Field crops look okay but could use some sun and fertilizer. Dairy farms that could make haylage were busy over the weekend. First cut hay is very spotty. Some fields are heavy and over-ripe while others are thin and late. Frost warnings on Saturday night gave everyone a scare. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** The week was very cool and rainy. This wet weather delayed the plantings of many crops. The weekend had clear skies which brought out the fear of a freeze but, the temperature stayed at the high 30's. Orchardists and small fruit growers were applying a protective spray on their crops due to the wet conditions. All field planted seed crops are up and growing well. Harvesting asparagus, rhubarb, spinach and hay. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** What a great weekend. Farmers (including me) plowing, harrowing, and planting sweet corn. Spraying herbicides. Labor Day corn now all planted. Transplanting to begin in earnest. Vegetable and flower plants big sellers this weekend as consumers came out to support local growers. Annuals big sellers.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire: A cool, rainy week puts an end to the trend of warm spring weather. Any remaining corn to be planted is on wetter ground, so delays continue. Corn continues to emerge - some is at 3 or 4 leaf stage, and a few producers aren't able to get it sprayed as soon as they'd like. Forage crops continue to grow well. Quite a few producers were mowing to harvest as haylage or baleage, even a little bit of dry hay when the sun finally came out. Most orchard grass fields are fully mature. Rain is delaying spraying operations on orchards and berry fields. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Rain at beginning of week, wet fields continue to hamper corn planting, some lower fields along the Connecticut still to be worked up. Some corn spiking that went in early. Kentucky Bluegrass heading out, clovers becoming noticeable. Vegetable plantings beginning, field prep continues. Christmas tree spraying for insects. Quite cold and windy at weeks end, would not be surprised to learn of scattered frosts. Concerns of fruit set on apple trees, bees not very active in cold wet weather during bloom, which is now about done. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Corn planting finishing up. First cutting continues, but has been interrupted by rains. Soil moisture in some fields has interfered with harvest and planting activities. Spring seedings are growing well due to the frequent rains. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the month of May, we received a total of 4.87 inches of precipitation. Most of this fell between the 20th and the 28th. Soil moisture conditions are looking much better than they were earlier in the year. We need some drying weather for a few days. Most farmers are pretty much done with planting. Due to extensive and wide spread winter kill in the central western area of the county, there were a lot of new alfalfa and grass seedings. The rains have done wonders for these new seedings. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Rain was on and off for most of the week along with windy conditions on Saturday. Fruits: With all the rain during week, orchardists making sure to have protective fungicide sprays applied. Moved bees out of orchards. Blueberries and Strawberries are blooming. Continue to see winter injury on apple, peaches, raspberries and blueberries. Mowing orchards. Vegetables: Harvesting asparagus, rhubarb, lettuce, mesclun, radish and spinach. With the rain during week, it was very difficult to do any field work, including making successive plantings of sweet corn and trying to finish potato planting. Planting tomatoes and pepper transplants. Field Crops: Difficult to plant, weed, and spray corn fields with rainy conditions. Some farmers are trying to start to make haylage, difficult to do because of wet weather. **John Porter (Ext), Merrimack:** Rain is hindering crop

work. Corn still to be planted, but some farmers have stopped to put in haylage. Grasses are going by because some land is too wet to harvest. Early hay crop silage is being cut, very little hay has gone in. Some tent caterpillar damage on trees and shrubs. **Pam Marvin (FSA), Sullivan:** Rain and thunderstorms first half of week with sunny and cool but windy days the second half. The break in weather allowed first cut of alfalfa to get underway. Most silage corn planting is done and emerging. With more rain predicted it is getting hard for first cut of dry hay to get done. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** Cool and rainy week. The cool weather slowing down plant growth. The grass in hayland and pastures growing well but slow due to cool weather. Fruit growers applying protective fungicides against scab. Apples are in fruit set and growers are also applying fruit thinners. Blueberries in full bloom and doing well. However there are concerns about mummyberry infections due to prevailing cool moist weather. Peach trees showing signs of succumbing to winter injury. Some growers have lost trees. Vegetable growers planting crops in the field. There is slowed germination due to cool weather and transplants are also slowed down by the weather. Greenhouses and Garden centers have experienced weak plant sales. The beautiful weather through the Memorial weekend boosted plant sales.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: An on again, off again week included clouds, fog, rain, sunshine and clear skies. Fieldwork continues on good days, planting field and sweet corn along with summer vegetables. Pastures are looking good and it looks like a good hay crop. Roadside stands were very busy and full for the holiday weekend. **Marilu Soileau (FSA), All Counties:** Wrapping up corn planting, continuing with planting vegetables. Lots of scab infection in apples and pears. Strawberries looking good, but will need warm dry weather around mid-June to prevent rotting. Weather has been cool and wet, with occasional downpours and thunderstorms.

VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille: Last week got off to a wet start (sound familiar) which delayed most fieldwork. Some started first cut of grass which appears to

have a good yield. Corn crop also looks pretty good so far but a spell of hot weather would be helpful. Custom herbicide applicators were busy over the weekend. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Farmers are wrapping up corn planting. A few have started their first cut hay harvest. The hay crop looks heavy and should be a good. A lot of corn has emerged and looks good. Cold weather over the weekend brought frost to a few areas but no news of any damage. **Perley Sparrow (FSA), Windham:** Windham county had about 3.5 inches of rain last week haying came to a stand still but over the weekend farmers were back at it. Sweet corn will be tasseling by the end of the week. Pumpkins and winter squash haven't been planted yet. Blueberries bloom has been longer because of the cool weather but set of fruit looks great. **Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Heavy rains stalled planting of corn fields. Starting first hay crop harvest at end of week. Grasses headed out, being chopped as haylage. Some manure ponds being stirred, getting ready to spread after hay harvest. Corn plants vigorous in most fields. After rains some areas with ponded water over seedlings and erosion in newly seeded hayfields. Grasses headed out. Pasture growth good, heavy grazing pressure leaving weeds to outgrow grasses. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Some folks have started haying. Many are saying that the recent rains have improved the first cut of hay. Most of the silage corn has been planted, some of it is up. Scattered frosts on Saturday and Sunday nights. It seems like May was backwards, with warm weather in first half of month and cold, wet stuff in second half. **Chris Benedict (Ext), Chittenden:** High amounts of moisture and cooler temperatures have really placed heavy scab pressure on the developing fruit and leaves. As growers move into their first cover sprays, disease pressure has taken precedence over arthropod management. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Putting in regular plantings of mid season sweet corn, also spraying corn for weed control. All fieldwork had to be done dodging showers, slowing things for the week. We had 4.11 inches of rain for week, four very rainy soggy weeks. Peas look real good, corn needs sunshine and warm weather. Small vegetable crops slower because of the cold days, asparagus doing well.

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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