



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 12, 2004 - 4 pm

For week ending 7/11/04

Rain Variable Across New England

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending July 11, 2004, there were 5.3 days available for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture was rated four percent very short, 14 percent short, 77 percent adequate, five percent surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated three percent very short, 20 percent short, 74 percent adequate, three percent surplus. Pasture condition was rated one percent very poor, six percent poor, 19 percent fair, 60 percent good, 14 percent excellent. Rain in the northern New England States limited days suitable for fieldwork, but improved crop conditions. Dry weather continued in the southern States permitting fieldwork most days, but crop conditions declined from the lack of rain. Isolated thunderstorms brought heavy rainfall to some areas. Major farm activities included: cutting haylage, making dry hay; harvesting early sweet corn; spreading manure; mowing; cultivating; hilling potatoes; irrigating; monitoring fields; applying herbicides, insecticides, and fungicides.

FRUIT: Orchardists monitored tree blocks and sprayed as necessary. Maine wild blueberries continue to mature slowly due to prolonged cool, wet conditions. Excellent cranberry pollinating conditions prevailed during the week in Massachusetts, with fruit set rated mostly average statewide. Strawberry harvest neared completion in all states except Maine by the end of the week, and operators were busy renovating beds. Highbush blueberries and raspberries were available at PYO and farmer's markets.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
	-- Percent --		
Topsoil Moisture			
Very Short	4	4	9
Short	14	14	25
Adequate	77	78	62
Surplus	5	4	4
Subsoil Moisture			
Very Short	3	4	9
Short	20	14	23
Adequate	74	78	67
Surplus	3	4	1

FIELD CROPS: Farmers continued to bale hay or make haylage during the week as weather permitted; localized shower activity made haying difficult at many locations. Second cut hay harvest has begun, with crop condition rated good to excellent by week's end. Crop specialists report generally good hay quality but yields lower than expected. Corn silage growth made good gains where there was heat and sunshine. Maine potato growers active finishing up final hilling. Most crops were in good to excellent condition as of mid July in the six state region.

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2004	2003	5-yr Avg	
Apples	--	--	--	Good/Fair
Peaches	--	--	--	Fair/Good
Pears	--	--	--	Good/Fair
Blueberries				
Highbush	--	5	5	Fair/Good
Wild, ME	--	--	--	Fair/Poor
Cranberries, MA	--	--	--	Good/Fair
Strawberries	90	85	85	Good/Fair

VEGETABLES: Early sweet corn harvest was just getting underway in southern New England, with less than five percent picked by July 11, 2004. Vegetable growers harvested beets, beans, greenhouse tomatoes, cabbage, summer squash, peas, spinach, lettuce and radishes between showers.

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2004	2003	5-yr Avg	Condition
	-- Percent Emerged --			
Silage Corn	99	90	95	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	99	95	95	Good/Excellent
	-- Percent Harvested --			
Barley, ME	--	--	--	Good/Excellent
Oats, ME	--	--	--	Good/Excellent
Potatoes:				
Maine	--	--	--	Good/Excellent
Mass	--	--	--	Good
Rhode Isl	--	--	--	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	--	--	--	Good
Sweet Corn	--	--	--	Good/Excellent
Tobacco:				
Shade	5	--	--	Good
Broadleaf	--	--	--	Good/Fair
Dry Hay:				
First Cut	85	80	85	Good/Fair
Second Cut	15	10	20	Good

For the Week Ending Sunday, July 11, 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	56	79	65	-5	746	-77	206	-45	0.86	+0.16	4	2.36	-0.63	13	
Bangor_Intl_Arp	50	80	64	-4	680	-50	177	-20	0.60	-0.17	3	3.08	+0.00	12	
Bethel	51	85	65	-4	712	-34	184	-19	1.19	+0.38	4	2.57	-0.93	13	
Caribou_Municip	45	76	63	-4	485	-111	97	-33	0.58	-0.29	4	4.00	+0.93	18	
Dover-Foxcroft	45	81	62	-5	485	-136	92	-49	0.24	-0.60	2	2.82	-0.60	12	
Frenchville	46	76	61	-4	423	-124	67	-37	2.34	+1.50	4	7.68	+4.56	18	
Houlton	41	78	62	-5	486	-128	104	-35	0.56	-0.28	4	2.99	-0.18	19	
Livermore_Falls	48	87	66	+0	711	+90	203	+66	1.13	+0.36	4	2.96	-0.57	13	
Moosehead	44	80	60	-4	436	-60	58	-31	1.40	+0.49	4	4.05	+0.35	15	
Portland_ME	56	78	66	-3	720	+7	205	+19	1.59	+0.88	4	2.71	-0.35	13	
NEW HAMPSHIRE															
Benton	49	80	64	-3	693	-20	173	+4	3.47	+2.70	4	5.38	+2.03	15	
Berlin_AG	48	82	65	-2	701	-8	187	+8	1.80	+0.96	4	3.23	-0.41	12	
Concord	53	84	70	+1	1011	+159	368	+101	1.18	+0.48	3	2.27	-0.63	12	
Diamond_Pond	45	76	60	-4	410	-27	50	-3	2.37	+1.34	6	5.24	+0.96	15	
Keene_AP	46	82	68	-3	947	-40	302	-50	0.86	+0.09	4	1.85	-1.43	10	
North_Conway	54	84	67	-2	820	+29	261	+29	3.24	+2.40	5	4.90	+1.35	17	
Rochester	56	80	67	-3	838	-79	274	-34	1.95	+1.18	2	3.11	-0.06	9	
VERMONT															
Burlington_Intl	51	85	71	+0	1010	+74	383	+59	1.44	+0.67	6	4.05	+0.78	18	
Island_Pond	47	80	65	+2	590	+28	129	+19	2.68	+1.75	5	5.25	+1.32	16	
Montpelier	46	82	67	+0	776	+57	229	+40	0.77	+0.07	7	2.89	-0.11	18	
Pownal	53	81	67	-1	849	+109	233	+38	1.32	+0.41	4	3.92	-0.06	13	
Rochester	47	86	66	+0	765	+75	211	+37	1.61	+0.77	4	3.16	-0.21	13	
Rutland_AG	47	86	68	-3	832	-156	231	-118	1.55	+0.71	4	3.20	-0.16	13	
Sutton	47	83	64	-1	607	+40	141	+20	2.01	+1.08	5	4.07	+0.14	17	
Townshend_Lake	51	84	67	-3	862	-44	254	-48	0.68	-0.04	4	2.44	-0.38	15	
MASSACHUSETTS															
Ashburnham	55	83	69	+2	927	+164	301	+88	1.24	+0.40	4	3.11	-0.25	14	
Boston/Logan_In	61	83	70	-3	1150	+52	468	+49	0.94	+0.31	2	2.82	+0.12	8	
Greenfield	53	84	69	-4	1035	-30	365	-35	1.25	+0.41	3	2.17	-1.29	9	
New_Bedford	59	84	71	-3	1009	-72	348	-51	0.47	-0.20	3	1.31	-1.72	11	
Otis_AFB	63	81	71	+2	936	+108	325	+70	0.42	-0.21	1	1.25	-1.55	7	
Plymouth	57	80	71	+0	958	+79	344	+54	0.41	-0.36	1	1.58	-1.51	9	
Walpole	57	84	71	+1	1085	+150	404	+87	1.46	+0.69	1	2.64	-0.71	7	
Chicopee/Westov	55	86	71	-4	1238	+5	504	-1	1.35	+0.51	2	2.19	-1.39	9	
Worthington	49	84	67	+0	821	+74	232	+35	1.71	+0.73	5	3.23	-0.45	13	
RHODE ISLAND															
Providence	60	86	72	+1	1180	+149	464	+84	0.71	+0.01	1	1.65	-1.31	8	
Woonsocket	56	84	70	+0	1067	+150	395	+100	1.58	+0.67	3	2.77	-0.92	9	
CONNECTICUT															
Bridgeport/Siko	60	85	74	+2	1255	+146	512	+78	0.45	-0.41	1	1.01	-2.29	7	
Hartford/Bradle	56	87	72	-2	1273	+88	529	+46	1.13	+0.41	3	3.33	+0.13	10	
Norfolk	54	84	67	+0	918	+171	294	+95	1.01	+0.04	4	3.80	-0.28	14	
Thomaston_Dam	52	90	70	+1	1203	+277	472	+170	1.19	+0.28	3	1.75	-1.93	11	
Willimantic	55	84	70	+0	1129	+192	420	+112	0.22	-0.69	3	1.79	-1.79	9	

STATE WEATHER SUMMARY
For the Week Ending Sunday, July 11, 2004

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	41	87	63	-4	0.00	3.48
NH	39	88	66	-1	0.63	3.47
VT	43	91	67	-1	0.15	3.55
MA	49	87	70	+0	0.03	2.34
RI	56	86	71	+0	0.36	1.58
CT	52	90	70	-1	0.19	1.45

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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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: Some areas of the county are dry, with farmers irrigating vegetable crops. Field corn looks good. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Picking sweet corn, cukes, summer squash, and blueberries. Strawberries are winding down, over all a very good crop. Picking shade tobacco. A lot of hay made. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Crops looking good. Need some rain. A lot of haying being done. Blueberries are very plentiful. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** A bit dry, hay showing some stress. Corn looks good. Fruits and vegetables okay. Blueberry picking has begun. **Karen Vozarik (FSA), New Haven:** Most of hay is cut. It is not drying due to the humidity and passing showers. The past weekend some areas of the county received one to three inches of rain where others did not receive a drop. Vegetables look nice, though producers are still irrigating. Blueberries and raspberries are ready. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Top-dressing corn. Strawberries for sale signs finally showing up. Night time rain storms made scheduling field work tricky. Warmer temperatures are finally pulling the corn taller this week.

MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook: Potatoes and small grains: Growers busy applying fungicides and competing with the rainy weather to finish final hilling. Crops growing rapidly with plenty of moisture and proper temperatures. Growers appear to have any insect and disease problems under control. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Recent showers all week have prevented field work. Crops are growing rapidly and looking excellent. Emergence is 100 percent - crops are growing rapidly with showers this past week. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Corn borer moths in the area, looking for them to hatch next week. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Lots of cool, wet weather makes good pastures, but poor corn. Strawberry harvest is going well. Still no heat to make the corn jump. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Fly traps are being placed in blueberry fields. Urea is now being applied to corn fields. Need some dry weather so the first crop of hay can be harvested. Wet weather is slowing down farm activities. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Crop is slow in maturing because of cold, wet weather conditions. A few berries are beginning to turn blue! **Michael Tardy (FSA), Androscoggin:** Field activities were somewhat curtailed due to rainfall during the past week. A struggle to get hay into the barn between baling and the next shower. Strawberries will have a short season because lots of plants were winter-killed. **Jill Littlefield (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Much needed rain arrived this week. Crops are coming along nicely. Still difficult to make dry hay due to frequent showers. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** July still seems to be an extension of June. Poor hay harvest weather but we did receive some needed rain. Crops need more heat and sun to get growing.

MASSACHUSETTS - Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire: Lots of haying. Growers are side-dressing corn. Second cutting hay looking good. Orchardist are spraying for bugs. Strawberries are gone, maybe some berries later? **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Pollination weather continues to be excellent, and bees have been doing the job they were paid to do. Fruit set appears to be very good to excellent so far in the early varieties. Final fruit rot fungicide applications will be going on this week. Fruitworm applications going on everywhere. Sparganthis fruit worm is showing up in selected beds. Second cranberry weevil generation should be around soon; hopefully, there will be an emergency insecticide to replace Avaunt that is effective only against the first generation. **David Rose (FSA), Bristol:** Sweet corn harvest has begun. Everything looks real good at this time. Also picking squash, peas, tomatoes, lettuce, cabbage, beets. **John Devine (FSA), Franklin:** Everything looks great and rain has arrived when it has been needed. Everyone is cultivating and side-dressing. Shade tobacco harvesting began this past weekend and field tobacco is starting to be topped. Mechanical harvesting of cucumbers also began this weekend. Roadside stands were very busy with sweet corn sales. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA),**

Hampshire/Hampden: The week was warm and sunny with very cool nights. Soil moisture is good with off and on showers throughout the week. Growers are scouting for diseases and insects. The harvest season began for sweet corn, cucumbers, blueberries, cabbage, and shade tobacco. Top-dressing, cultivating and hoeing continues on all farms. Mostly all crops look very good. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** Just another perfect week except for micro burst we had on Thursday. Some corn flattened, some on angle. Not too much serious damage. Harvesting most summer crops, spraying corn, renovating strawberry fields. As a side bar I'm a vegetable grower and the town I live in has closed the road on both ends of my farm stand for culvert replacement so I'm out of business for at least a month - maybe more. No warning or notice - just one day you wake up and wow! Road closed. Nice, huh?

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll: Second cutting begun even as first wraps up. Week-end weather allowed for more hay to go into the barn. Warmer weather has accelerated the growth of all crops. Blueberries showing some mummyberry; isolated operations reporting up to 30 percent losses. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Generally a dry, sunny week. No drought stress apparent yet, but some rain would be nice. Field corn looks great and is growing rapidly. Second cut hay continues, and second cut alfalfa and grass for haylage is in full swing. PYO blueberries and raspberries has started. Sweet corn continues to tassel and silk. Farms stands and farmer markets featuring greens, beets, carrots, peas, and summer squash. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Dry hay operations finally getting just enough weather to make a few good bales. Some second crop haylage being cut. Larger variety of fruits and vegetables showing up at farmer's markets and farm stands. Shearing activities in Christmas trees. Ideal growing weather for hay crops. Corn has responded to warm days and a couple of warm nights. More heat would definitely help silage corn. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Corn continues to grow well. Heavy rains halted haying operations late in the week. Third cutting in the early stages. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** Last week, the weather made it a little difficult for getting in any dry hay. We had light rains or showers five days out of seven. The total rain fall for the week was less than one inch. The corn is starting to look a little better, but still has some catching up to do. Almost all the first cut is in, with the exceptions being those who normally only cut one time per year. Second cut is doing well. Those who took an early first cut will be ahead of the rest on second cut. Second cut should continue to do well if adequate top soil moisture is available. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Strawberry harvest is over and most growers have renovated harvested beds. Orchardists are monitoring pests and crop development and apply sprays for pest control, if needed. Also, growers are training young fruit trees along with mowing orchard floor. Blueberry harvest continues and first raspberries being harvested. Some damage on young fruit trees caused by potato leaf hopper. Field Crops: Farmers continued to bale hay or make haylage at a faster rate. Vegetables: Growers concerned about irrigating crops. Growers continued harvesting beans, beets, broccoli, greens, lettuce, peas, potatoes, radishes, summer squash, and first sweet corn. Growers busy trying to side-dress fields with fertilizer, cultivating, mowing weeds, scouting for pests and spraying if needed. Continuing successive planting. Potato leaf hopper seen damaging crops. **John Porter (Ext), Merrimack:** Showers during the week were much needed. Moisture levels are adequate again. Second crop is being harvested on early cut hay crop silage fields. Most field corn made "foot high by the fourth of July" and a lot was chest high. Almost perfect conditions for vegetable crops, some insect problems. Early sweet corn will be ready soon. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Strawberry picking almost done. Starting renovating strawberry beds. Some blueberry and raspberry farms opened this week. The season looks very promising. Some fields affected with mummyberry disease. Continue monitoring fruit pests and spraying accordingly. Haying continues. Picking a whole array of vegetables. **Pam Marvin (FSA), Sullivan:** Received much needed rain showers

every couple of days. Some silage corn is four to five feet tall and looking very good. Second cut of alfalfa is underway. Sweet corn is tasseled and looks to be a great crop. Almost all of first cut of hay is done with second cut coming up nicely with spot showers and top-dressing. With fresh vegetables becoming available, the farmer's markets are doing a great job. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** A nice sunny week with some showers in the middle of the week. A nice week for field work. Farmers continued with hay making from first cut. Vegetable growers continue to harvest early and cool season vegetable crops. Cultivating between rows for weed control and monitoring for pests and diseases. Strawberry harvesting is almost over. Blueberry and raspberry harvesting just started. Growers noticing signs of mummyberry disease in blueberries. Apples are doing well and growers are busy scouting for pests and spraying accordingly. Fall mums all planted and doing well.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: Blueberries are open for PYO and the crop looks great, some strawberries still lingering if you look hard. First cut hay going strong, spraying herbicides and pesticides. Potatoes are flowering and such a beautiful sight.

VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille: Last week was a rough week for harvesting grass. Corn is doing reasonably well but could use a little more heat and a little less water. Vegetable producers are marketing summer squash, beets, greens and having good luck keeping the insects under control. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** The cool weather is having an effect on the corn crop. I've seen some fairly poor looking corn around the county. Other corn fields look good. Not much hay was harvested this past week due to rain showers. The weather has made it nearly impossible to dry hay. We need some hot and

humid weather to help crop yields here. **Perley Sparrow (FSA), Windham:** Blueberry producers are seeing lower production because of last winter's damage. Second cut alfalfa yields are above average this year. Sweet corn is starting to show up at local produce stands along with other veggies. Pastures are being trimmed. Fertilizer being applied to some cropland. Field corn is well over seven feet **Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Some dry hay harvest. new seeded fields ready to clip. Corn side-dressed with nitrogen. Corn varies from one inch to four feet. A little manure on hay fields. Severe thunderstorms delayed field work. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Several good doses of rain plus some sun and heat allowed corn to make some headway. Corn canopy has grown to cover all of the soil now. Early farmers nearly done with second cut of grass, quite pleased with the yields. Turning into summer now. **Chris Benedict (Ext), Chittenden:** Due to the consistent amount of moisture that we find every week, apples are sizing up accordingly. Arthropod pressure has been slow, but the regular players are present but in low numbers. Disease pressure this year is solid, with scab being prevalent even in heavily managed blocks. **Heather Darby (Ext), Franklin:** Second cut has started: reports from some farmers are high quality but lower yields. Field corn is being side-dressed. Corn anywhere from one-two-leaf stage to just emerging. Weather nice last week and showers helped replenish soil moisture. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Sprayed potatoes for blight and bugs for a second time. Putting nitrogen on all crops as needed. Cultivated and fertilized all vine crops. Harvesting good crop of peas. Bean growth slow, need more warm weather. An inch of rain on Wednesday (1.548 inches for the week) did wonders for all crops. Potatoes in full bloom, a beautiful sight. Lots of produce in the market: beets, carrots, turnips, and leafy vegetables. Early sweet corn silking out. This last rainfall will give it a big jump.

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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