



New England Agricultural Statistics Service

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Crop Weather

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August 9, 2004 - 4 pm

For week ending 8/08/04

More Sun Needed

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending August 8, 2004, there were 5.7 days available for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture was rated one percent very short, nine percent short, 74 percent adequate, 16 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated two percent very short, 10 percent short, 76 percent adequate, 12 percent surplus. Pasture condition was rated one percent very poor, eight percent poor, 21 percent fair, 53 percent good, 17 percent excellent. The week began hot and humid. Cooler, drier weather arrived by mid-week, creating for optimal growing and harvesting conditions. Major farm activities included: mowing orchards; pruning trees; spreading manure; weeding; monitoring fields; applying pesticides; cutting and baling hay; harvesting highbush and wild blueberries, peaches, potatoes, other vegetables, broadleaf and shade tobacco.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil Moisture			
Very Short	1	1	0
Short	9	6	1
Adequate	74	73	62
Surplus	16	20	37
Subsoil Moisture			
Very Short	2	1	0
Short	10	7	7
Adequate	76	79	74
Surplus	12	13	19

FRUIT: Peach harvest continued with 25 percent of the crop was completed. Orchardist were busy monitoring for pests. Berry growers continued with raspberry and blueberry harvest. Highbush blueberry harvest advanced to 70 percent complete. Wild blueberry harvest has begun with five percent of the berries harvested. Blueberry growers reported this year's yields were below average. Cranberries continued to size as growers applied fungicides and insecticides. Cranberries condition was reported as good to fair.

FIELD CROPS: The hot, dry week provided excellent growing conditions for all crops. Field corn has begun to tassel while early planted corn reached the silk stage. Some growers reported silage corn was late in maturing. Some operators continue to struggle with dry hay harvest due to frequent showers. Maine potato growers reported some instances of aphid and late blight. Growers applied fungicides and insecticides as necessary to control disease and insect pressure. Broadleaf tobacco harvest advanced to 15 percent while 30 percent of Shade tobacco harvest was complete. Blue mold was confirmed in some tobacco fields in Massachusetts

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2004	2003	5-yr Avg	
Apples	--	<5	<5	Good/Fair
Peaches	25	35	35	Fair/Good
Pears	--	--	--	Good
Blueberries				
Highbush	70	55	50	Good/Fair
Wild, ME	5	10	15	Fair/Poor
Cranberries, MA	--	--	--	Good/Fair

VEGETABLES: Vegetable growers harvest continues with excellent yields and quality. Some growers reported a need for warmer temperatures for vegetables to come into full production. Wet weather has caused powdery mildew on vine crops. Sweet corn reached 35 percent complete with crop condition reported as good to excellent. Growers harvested an array of vegetables, such as beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, cucumbers, greens, lettuce, peas, potatoes, radishes, snap beans, summer squash, tomatoes, small onions and garlic, which are available at local markets. Growers also reported lots of blossoms on squash, pumpkins and gourd vines.

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2004	2003	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Harvested --				
Barley, ME	--	--	--	Good/Excellent
Oats, ME	--	--	--	Good/Excellent
Potatoes:				
Maine	--	--	--	Good/Excellent
Mass	10	5	10	Good
Rhode Isl	--	5	15	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	--	--	--	Good
Sweet Corn	35	25	30	Good/Excellent
Tobacco:				
Shade	30	25	40	Good
Broadleaf	15	25	35	Good
Dry Hay:				
First Cut	90	95	95	Good/Fair
Second Cut	55	50	60	Good/Excellent
Third Cut	10	<5	10	Good/Excellent

For the Week Ending Sunday, August 8, 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	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS
MAINE														
Augusta_State_A	51	86	69	-2	1279	-101	459	-68	1.05	+0.29	4	2.79	-0.14	15
Bangor_Intl_Arp	52	86	69	+2	1213	-39	431	-8	1.01	+0.28	3	2.38	-0.55	13
Bethel	46	88	66	-3	1187	-70	381	-53	0.53	-0.38	3	4.73	+1.41	13
Caribou_Municip	47	83	65	+0	959	-77	296	+3	0.07	-0.87	1	2.56	-1.22	11
Dover-Foxcroft	50	83	66	-1	936	-158	266	-67	0.70	-0.09	4	1.71	-1.44	12
Frenchville	48	81	64	-1	877	-83	247	-3	0.02	-0.89	1	2.62	-0.95	10
Houlton	46	85	65	-1	961	-115	307	-17	0.23	-0.68	2	1.86	-1.67	10
Livermore_Falls	43	90	68	+3	1233	+149	445	+124	0.51	-0.38	3	3.40	+0.16	14
Moosehead	43	83	63	-2	839	-69	194	-36	0.82	-0.02	4	4.09	+0.52	15
Portland_ME	54	84	69	+1	1240	-7	445	+3	0.30	-0.33	2	2.56	-0.08	12
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	43	82	63	-4	1136	-38	350	-5	0.34	-0.57	2	2.92	-0.39	9
Berlin_AG	44	84	64	-3	1169	-11	381	+6	0.79	-0.19	2	3.33	-0.24	8
Concord	46	90	69	-1	1568	+163	645	+105	0.09	-0.68	3	2.92	-0.09	15
Diamond_Pond	43	78	59	-4	742	-50	139	-9	1.54	+0.39	2	4.32	-0.01	13
Keene_AP	45	88	67	-4	1482	-89	562	-94	0.04	-0.87	2	2.65	-0.77	9
North_Conway	46	84	65	-3	1335	+20	499	+24	0.67	-0.24	4	3.55	+0.08	15
Rochester	50	89	69	-2	1363	-129	519	-85	0.10	-0.74	1	2.77	-0.45	11
VERMONT														
Burlington_Intl	48	87	66	-5	1565	+49	660	+38	1.33	+0.42	3	6.79	+3.33	15
Island_Pond	43	82	62	-2	1035	+72	305	+64	0.96	-0.16	4	3.10	-0.99	16
Montpelier	43	83	64	-3	1256	+65	439	+57	0.86	+0.02	5	4.41	+1.41	19
Pownal	47	83	65	-2	1321	+92	428	+26	1.46	+0.50	5	7.44	+3.75	16
Rochester	44	86	64	-3	1242	+83	417	+54	0.88	-0.15	1	6.23	+2.50	13
Rutland_AG	44	82	65	-6	1335	-227	462	-181	0.72	-0.21	3	4.07	+0.45	15
Sutton	44	83	63	-2	1038	+58	304	+48	1.02	-0.06	4	3.86	-0.17	16
Townshend_Lake	47	88	67	-4	1367	-105	482	-109	0.14	-0.75	2	4.14	+0.86	15
MASSACHUSETTS														
Ashburnham	48	87	68	+0	1460	+186	556	+112	0.80	-0.04	4	3.75	+0.43	16
Boston/Logan_In	57	90	71	-3	1753	-12	791	-17	0.34	-0.36	1	2.48	-0.16	9
Greenfield	48	90	67	-5	1588	-90	639	-94	0.68	-0.16	3	3.90	+0.54	14
New_Bedford	49	86	69	-6	1583	-175	643	-157	0.95	+0.05	3	2.54	-0.53	10
Otis_AFB	52	84	69	-3	1504	+88	615	+50	0.31	-0.44	3	1.31	-1.41	8
Plymouth	51	84	68	-4	1514	+36	621	+8	0.68	-0.16	4	2.35	-0.82	14
Walpole	49	88	70	-1	1668	+142	707	+78	0.62	-0.22	3	2.51	-0.67	11
Chicopee/Westov	45	86	68	-7	1817	-103	806	-108	1.14	+0.37	2	4.03	+0.89	11
Worthington	44	86	65	-3	1292	+52	428	+19	0.95	-0.03	4	3.55	-0.37	15
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	54	87	71	-2	1796	+121	800	+53	2.25	+1.48	3	4.49	+1.53	11
Woonsocket	49	88	70	+0	1639	+139	687	+89	1.52	+0.61	2	2.70	-0.87	11
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	56	84	72	-3	1905	+113	882	+41	1.63	+0.86	3	5.86	+2.54	11
Hartford/Bradle	50	89	71	-3	1904	+52	880	+9	1.38	+0.61	4	3.97	+1.06	13
Norfolk	49	83	66	-2	1405	+159	503	+87	1.37	+0.39	4	4.57	+0.77	15
Thomaston_Dam	45	90	70	+2	1814	+329	803	+222	0.68	-0.23	2	4.37	+0.60	13
Willimantic	48	85	69	-2	1712	+201	723	+119	2.67	+1.76	3	5.54	+1.79	13

STATE WEATHER SUMMARY
For the Week Ending Sunday, August 8, 2004

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	41	90	66	-1	0.00	2.11
NH	32	91	65	-3	0.02	1.74
VT	40	89	64	-3	0.00	1.99
MA	44	91	68	-3	0.11	1.69
RI	49	88	70	-2	1.28	2.25
CT	45	90	70	-2	0.26	3.23

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 - Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland: Wednesday night showers ended the muggy weather for a preview of fall - cool dry air for the second half of the week. Broadleaf tobacco being cut. Shade harvest continues. Sweet corn, squash, peppers, snap beans, and cukes being picked. Peaches, blueberries and raspberries being picked. Pear psylla showing up in center of trees with no products found to control them yet. Field corn silking in many areas. Hay made in early week and on weekend. Rye combining about complete. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Corn tasseling. Field demos planned. Haying, a bit of a problem with unpredictable rain, continues. Awesome weather for most crops. Produce is abundant; great looking and delicious. End of season bedding plant sales popular with home gardeners.

MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook: Potatoes and small grains: A couple of instances of late blight has been reported. Growers are very conscious of keeping a strict spray schedule. Everything seems to be under control. Some insecticides being applied. All crops look very good. Potato tuber growth is right on schedule. Small grains and canola look very good. Starting to ripen quite rapidly. There is minimal lodging in the grain crops. Growing conditions to date have been nearly perfect. **Albert Dow (NRCS), Piscataquis:** Farmers were able to make good progress on harvesting first crop hay, but thunder showers made getting it dry difficult. **Donna Lamb (Ext), Piscataquis:** Wet, cool weather has resulted in several hay fields that were cut but not harvested. The rest of the first cut hay has second growth starting. Hay that was made is of poorer quality and at risk of molding. Sweet corn harvest just started this weekend with corn that was started under remay. Not sure if forage corn has enough time to set ears before harvest. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** It appears that blueberry harvest may be 50 percent off from normal yield. Growers are about half way through the harvest. Other crops are far behind due to earlier weather conditions. Winter squash and pumpkins are drastically affected by weather conditions in some areas. Silage corn appears to be a little behind normal but looks good. All road side stands now have sweet corn available. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Crop harvest to begin this week on the blueberry barrens. Some fields better than expected but crop on most fields is poor. **Michael Tardy (FSA), Androscoggin:** Weather conditions have been good. Hot summer week. No significant rain. Hay cutting continued at a rapid pace during the week. Very good demand for produce at most local farmers markets. **Jill Littlefield (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Southern York County received showers this week. The rest of the area is starting to dry out. The irrigation is being used for turf and vegetable farms. Every day still has a chance for a pop-up shower. Dry hay still hard to make. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** There will be a shortage of quality square bale hay this year. It has been almost impossible to get two days in row without showers. Vegetable growth has also been mixed. Just not enough sunshine. Some silage corn is still very late maturing.

MASSACHUSETTS - Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire: Some haying: first, second and third cutting. Third cut mostly for haylage. Lots of sweet corn being picked (young and good). Veggies arriving in great supply. **Paul Russell (FSA), Southeast Massachusetts:** Growing conditions continue to be excellent for all crops. Vegetable growers are harvesting most crops with excellent yields and quality. Hay producers continue to make second cutting with excellent yields and field corn is progressing. Cranberries continue to size as growers are applying fungicide and insecticide spray, mowing around the bogs, and performing annual maintenance on their harvest equipment. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Whereas the rest of New England seems to have had plenty of rainfall in the past month, southeast Massachusetts is having a mini-drought. We have had rain, but below-normal levels. Growers are irrigating on a regular basis. All pesticide applications are nearly complete, except for scattered fruit worm treatments. Weeds are being treated with Roundup and ditch/dike maintenance is ongoing. This is the 'calm before the storm' as growers take some needed time off before things get busy again with the upcoming harvest. The crop looks very good, with berries sizing up and the first blushes of color now evident. **David Rose (FSA), Bristol:** Another good week as harvesting continues. All vegetables in good supply. Corn earworm is here in full force. Fruit crops look good. **John**

Devine (FSA), Franklin: The threat of blue mold, late blight, or phytophthora has all producers scouting their crops closely this week. Cooler and drier weather has allowed the last of the first cut hay to be harvested. Better late than never. Silage corn has grown in leaps and bounds during the past two weeks. All crops look good at this time. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** The week began hot and humid and by weekend we had excellent summer days. All crops are being harvested in full force. A few showers during the week kept all fields moist. Blue mold was confirmed in shade tobacco in Hadley on Tuesday. The disease was not widespread in the field, but all growers should consider their fields potentially exposed. Overall, all crops, including tobacco, look very good.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap: Summer is here. Harvesting sweet corn, blueberries, beans, squash, cucumbers, potatoes, field and greenhouse tomatoes, greens, broccoli, cabbage and onions. The cooler than normal weather held off harvests but now they're here and they're big. Leafhoppers on mums, beans and strawberries. Peppers have had their challenges this year due to cool temps. Fire blight is present in some orchards throughout the state. Garden center sales are very good. Most have the second harvest of hay in the barn. **Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll:** A few warm days, not nearly enough! Vegetables need warmer temps to come into full production. Powdery mildew on pumpkins and grapes. Early blight on tomatoes. A little warmer, drier weather could only help. Some local sweet corn finally hitting the farm stands. Hay cutting continues when two dry days can be strung together. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Finally starting to see some bright sun and drier air. Field corn continues to do well, with more fields tasseling and silking. Good ear development on earlier planted fields. Excellent regrowth on grass and alfalfa (no summer dry spells!). Good drying conditions at the end of the week have helped with second cutting of dry hay. A couple farms working on late summer forage seedings. Wet weather causing havoc with vegetable diseases, especially powdery mildew on vine crops. PYO berries still going strong, some orchards advertising apples ready by the end of the month. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Mostly sunny this week and cooler, dry hay still coming into barns between rainstorms. Nice regrowth on meadows. Tasseling corn quite abundant and growing well now. Blueberry, raspberry picking continues. More mid-summer veggie showing up on stands and markets. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Rain slowed haying operations this week. Cool weather has slowed the corn growth rate. Corn continues to tassel. Most has reached this stage, although some corn is quite immature for this time of year. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Orchardists harvesting peaches and Jersey Mac apples. Blueberry and raspberry harvest continued. Orchardists busy monitoring for pests, mowing orchard floors and fixing up orchard roads. Apple growers busy summer pruning trees. Field Crops: Silage corn is rapid growing, starting to tassel and the earliest planted corn is starting to silk. Farmers making baled hay between showers. Vegetables: 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. Irrigating crops. High disease and insect pressure, so farmers kept busy spraying for insects and diseases. Very good demand for produce at most local farmers' markets and farm stands. **John Porter (Ext), Merrimack:** A week of sunshine accelerated vegetable growth. Sweet corn, summer squash, greenhouse tomatoes, cucumbers, beans, small onions and garlic are at all the markets. PYO raspberries coming to an end, blueberries still going strong. Apple growers are monitoring pests and spraying accordingly. Weeds are enjoying the sunshine. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** Farmers making baled hay. Field corn growing well and most of it starting to silk. Sweet corn harvest well underway. Growers spraying against ear worm and other insect pests. Vegetable growers harvesting an array of vegetable crops and monitoring for pests and spraying if needed. Continued picking of raspberries and blueberries. Orchardists busy mowing orchard fields and spraying insecticides where needed. Fall mum crop growing well at most greenhouse and garden centers.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: A midweek storm added some rain and slowed field work. Renovation of

strawberry beds complete. Harvesting some local corn. Summer vegetables coming in strong. Spraying corn and potatoes. The cool, low temperatures make the area look and feel like fall.

VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille: Despite on/off again rain, producers were able to get some field work accomplished. Manure was being spread on second cut fields. Some third cut grass harvest took place. The first of the barley crop was combined. Sweet corn harvest started and despite the rain, the corn silage crop should have a high yield. Conditions have made it all but impossible to dry grass into traditional baled hay. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Rain has caused severe problems in harvesting second crop hay. Many fields are too wet to support the haying equipment. The quality of the hay crop appears to be really good. Corn growth is varied. On the wet fields the corn is still only knee high. In some of the drier fields it is over six feet. I have seen some corn start to tassel this past week. The farmers are wishing for some hot, dry weather to catch up on their field work. **Perley Sparrow (FSA), Windham:** Not much news this week from Windham County. Farmers are still fighting with the weather to get crops in. Corn ears are beginning to bend over. Pumpkins and winter squash crop looks good and the size should be bigger than in the past. **Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Harvesting second cut haylage. Some dry hay bales but, most is wet due to rain. Some manure spreading on harvested hay land. Corn tasseled. Late for

most side-dress Nitrogen. Pasture regrowth still good with rain showers. Newly seeded hay fields strong with good alfalfa regrowth after clipping. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Some heat this week, but not enough. Prediction was for 'fall weather' this weekend and that is what we received. Most of the corn tasseled here, but not south of here. Really need more heat to move that crop along. Scattered showers allowed haying here, but in southern VT rain has really meant a generally poor quality crop. **Chris Benedict (Ext), Chittenden:** Wet and cool temperatures has resulted in a slowed development of apples and pears. Additionally, these conditions have contributed to late-season disease pressure, but slowed late-season arthropod damage. **Heather Darby (Ext), Franklin:** More showers and cool weather has slowed haying and corn growth. Soils are wet in most places. It has been difficult to harvest second cut hay and haylage. Some standing water in fields. Some corn is flowering and in other fields just waist height. Pastures are growing exceptionally well. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Seeded winter rye to early harvested fields. Continual spraying of potatoes, tomatoes and peppers for blight. Hot, damp weather brings mold to beans. Hard weather to put up dry hay. This week saw 1.003 inches of rain. Lots of showers all week. Corn borer problem in early corn. Lots of good mid-season corn in the market now. All cole crops doing well. Lots of blossoms on squash, pumpkin and gourd vines. Have a good week.

July 2004 Crop Weather Summary: Warm, sunny temperatures at the end of June continued into July. The warm temperatures were ideal for hay making, beneficial to crop growth and development, and allowed farmers to make good progress toward final stages of vegetable planting. Most crops were planted and fully emerged by the beginning of the month. First cut hay harvest was winding down with the crop in good to fair condition. Second crop harvest was about a third complete by month's end, with third crop cutting just beginning. The much welcomed warmth and sunshine soon gave way to hot and humid conditions toward the end of the month. The hot and humid weather was beneficial for field corn growth as early fields began to tassel. The condition of the corn crop remained in good to fair condition month long. Potato harvest in Massachusetts began in late July, and Rhode Island growers were still gearing up for harvest. Late blight and European Borer egg masses were active in some Northern Maine potato fields. Growers were urged to use preventive sprays. Oats and barley in Maine were rated in excellent to good condition by month's end. Shade tobacco harvest was underway with ten percent of the crop harvested as of July 25. New England's fruit crop condition ranged from good to fair in July. At month's end, strawberry harvest was complete and producers reported the crop as being one of the best ever. Massachusetts cranberries were nearly out of bloom and fruit set was reported as good. Growers irrigated throughout the month to relieve dry conditions. Fruit worm injury was reported in some beds. Maine's wild blueberry harvest had not begun by July 25; the crop was expected to be delayed a week due to the cool, wet conditions during the spring and early summer.

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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