



# New England Agricultural Statistics



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July 25, 2005 – 4 pm

For week ending 7/24/05

## Crop Weather

### Another Hot, Humid Week

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:** For the week ending July 24, 2005, there were 6.5 days suitable for fieldwork. Topsoil moisture: 3% very short, 26% short, 67% adequate, 4% surplus. Subsoil moisture: 25% short, 71% adequate, 4% surplus. Pasture condition: 1% poor, 20% fair, 58% good, and 21% excellent. The hot, humid weather that characterized last weekend continued into the beginning of the week. Thunderstorms moved across the region on Tuesday afternoon. Hot, humid conditions with scattered showers continued throughout the week until the sun cleared the sky for a fair weekend. Humidity and rain made it another tough week to bale hay, although lower humidity later in the week and partly sunny skies helped in some parts of the region. Scattered rain has left some fields needing moisture and promoting growth in others. Major farm activities included cultivating, hoeing weeds, monitoring pests and diseases, spraying pesticides, mowing orchards, haying, harvesting an array of vegetables and early sweet corn, harvesting blueberries and raspberries.

**FRUIT:** A warm, sunny weekend provided great conditions for pick your own berry operations. Strawberry harvest was complete in all states except Maine, where picking should be finished at week's end. Highbush blueberry harvest season had a late start but now is in full swing, with crop condition rated good to excellent region wide. Maine wild blueberry growers reported that some fields are under stress from a lack of moisture and due to a light crop, some fields will not be harvested. Fly traps were placed in wild blueberries fields in Maine to monitor for fruit flies. Pick your own raspberry harvest was active in the region. Peach harvest was just getting underway in the southern New England states at week's end. Orchardists continued monitoring pests, applied pesticides, and mowed orchard floors. Cranberry growers were active irrigating, applying pesticides and fungicides, and removing bees from beds.

#### FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	- Percent Harvested -			Fruit Size	Condition
	2005	2004	5-yr Avg		
Apples	-	-	-	Avg/Above	Good
Peaches	5	-	<5	Avg	Good
Pears	-	-	-	Avg	Good/Fair
Blueberries					
Highbush	15	35	20	Avg/Above	Good/Excel
Wild, ME	-	-	-	Avg/Below	Fair
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-	Avg	Good/Fair
Strawberries	99	99	99	Avg/Above	Good

**VEGETABLES:** Farmers' markets and roadside stands were bustling with fresh vegetable sales during the week. Humidity and warm days have enhanced crop growth; however some crops are now under stress due to a lack of rainfall. Sweet corn harvest gaining momentum in New England, with picking underway in all states except Maine by week's end. Growers harvested an array of vegetables including: beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, cucumbers, greens, lettuce, radishes, snap beans, summer squash, and tomatoes. Vegetable growers were also busy cultivating, weeding, monitoring for pests regionwide.

#### SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
<b>Topsoil</b>			
Very Short	3	3	0
Short	26	22	19
Adequate	67	70	70
Surplus	4	5	11
<b>Subsoil</b>			
Very Short	0	2	1
Short	25	13	17
Adequate	71	78	75
Surplus	4	7	7

**FIELD CROPS:** High humidity and warm temperatures enhanced crop development. Early planted corn silage started to reach pre-tassel or tassel stage. Some farmer's reported negative effects on growth due to recent limited rainfall. Great haying weather arrived for the weekend, since humidity levels hindered drying conditions earlier in the week. First cutting of hay near completion and second cutting was close to the halfway point. In southern New England, some farmers had third cutting of hay underway. Massachusetts potato harvest was underway by July 24, ahead of last year and normal. Maine potatoes moved into full bloom in Aroostook County, with warm temperatures promoting rapid growth. Moisture supplies for northernmost areas growing short; however dry conditions have held diseases in check. Broadleaf tobacco harvest was just getting underway in the Connecticut River Valley this past week. Shade tobacco harvest advanced to 15 percent picked, ahead of last year's progress. Area crop specialists rated the condition of both tobacco types as good. Tobacco growers have intensified fungicide applications to control the spread of disease.

#### FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2005	2004	5-yr Avg	Condition
Silage Corn	99	100	100	Good/Excellent
Sweet Corn	95	100	99	Good
-- Percent Harvested --				
Barley, ME	--	--	--	Good/Excellent
Oats, ME	--	--	--	Good/Excellent
Potatoes				
Maine	--	--	--	Good
Mass.	5	10	<5	Good
Rhode Isl.	--	--	--	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	10	10	10	Good
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	<5	--	--	Good
Shade	15	10	10	Good
Dry hay, 1 <sup>st</sup> cut	90	90	95	Good/Fair
Dry hay, 2 <sup>nd</sup> cut	40	30	40	Good/Excellent

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics  
Prepared By AWIS, Inc.

For the Period: Monday July 18, 2005  
To: Sunday July 24, 2005

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				CUM SINCE MAR 1 GROWING DEGREE DAYS				1-WEEK PRECIP			4-WEEK CUM PRECIP		
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	BASE-50F TOT	DFN	BASE-60F TOT	DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS
<b>MAINE</b>														
Augusta State_A	56	88	75	+5	1047	-16	481	+110	0.24	-0.46	1	2.15	-0.72	10
Bangor Intl_Arp	56	90	75	+7	1064	+111	471	+170	0.34	-0.41	2	1.22	-1.84	9
Bethel	50	88	73	+5	990	+23	431	+126	0.59	-0.19	2	3.16	-0.09	11
Caribou Municip	54	90	72	+7	931	+143	403	+199	0.38	-0.55	1	3.97	+0.50	7
Dover-Foxcroft	57	88	71	+5	844	+19	352	+126	0.38	-0.39	3	3.78	+0.49	12
Frenchville	53	87	71	+6	910	+183	392	+219	1.16	+0.27	3	3.54	+0.21	8
Houlton	50	89	72	+6	904	+89	382	+159	0.97	+0.12	3	4.06	+0.76	14
Livermore Falls	48	91	74	+8	1018	+197	474	+255	0.11	-0.66	2	2.00	-1.20	8
Moosehead	49	90	70	+6	792	+118	318	+165	1.63	+0.72	3	3.97	+0.28	11
Portland_ME	55	89	74	+5	1002	+61	444	+150	0.51	-0.19	3	3.78	+0.88	13
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>														
Benton	47	88	71	+5	1009	+95	441	+189	0.72	-0.05	3	2.87	-0.29	11
Berlin_AG	49	87	72	+5	1025	+112	457	+190	0.42	-0.42	2	3.46	+0.04	9
Concord	49	89	74	+5	1240	+149	595	+208	0.25	-0.50	2	3.43	+0.57	10
Diamond Pond	44	83	68	+5	787	+194	311	+216	0.55	-0.50	3	5.95	+1.78	12
Keene_AF	52	90	74	+4	1246	+7	593	+109	1.05	+0.21	3	6.07	+2.80	11
North_Conway	50	90	73	+5	1084	+65	498	+158	3.34	+2.50	4	5.27	+1.85	12
Rochester	52	93	75	+4	1090	-73	496	+61	1.23	+0.46	1	5.19	+2.09	11
<b>VERMONT</b>														
Burlington Intl	54	90	76	+6	1402	+214	711	+255	0.96	+0.12	3	3.75	+0.48	9
Island Pond	46	86	70	+7	1005	+268	449	+279	0.92	-0.06	2	4.10	+0.26	10
Montpelier	52	87	73	+6	1168	+243	544	+268	0.51	-0.19	1	3.62	+0.80	13
Pownal	54	89	74	+7	1182	+230	528	+241	1.09	+0.18	4	6.15	+2.41	14
Rochester	52	88	73	+6	1126	+233	521	+263	0.50	-0.38	4	3.19	-0.21	13
Rutland_AG	54	89	74	+4	1216	-20	584	+106	1.20	+0.29	4	4.19	+0.75	14
Sutton	48	88	71	+6	997	+250	446	+264	0.85	-0.13	4	4.34	+0.51	15
Townshend_Lake	53	91	73	+3	1192	+40	559	+129	0.27	-0.50	1	4.98	+2.04	13
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>														
Ashburnham	56	89	74	+6	1201	+216	557	+240	1.60	+0.76	4	5.91	+2.55	15
Boston/Logan_In	66	93	80	+6	1325	-61	657	+70	0.18	-0.45	2	3.57	+0.99	7
Greenfield	55	90	75	+3	1304	-25	626	+82	2.43	+1.59	4	8.36	+4.97	14
New_Bedford	53	92	76	+2	1165	-204	505	-61	0.03	-0.67	2	1.68	-1.09	12
Otis_AFB	59	90	77	+7	1389	+309	676	+290	0.12	-0.51	2	2.24	-0.36	9
Plymouth	56	92	76	+5	1166	+31	551	+124	0.03	-0.74	2	1.52	-1.56	10
Walpole	57	92	77	+6	1314	+125	630	+177	0.15	-0.62	2	2.50	-0.65	9
Chicopee/Westov	54	90	76	+2	1491	-36	732	+52	1.40	+0.62	4	4.03	+0.66	12
Worthington	50	89	71	+4	1112	+153	486	+196	0.13	-0.85	4	4.95	+1.12	15
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>														
Providence	60	94	78	+6	1399	+92	674	+138	0.19	-0.51	3	1.05	-1.79	10
Woonsocket	55	91	76	+5	1318	+149	618	+191	0.51	-0.34	3	2.76	-0.81	12
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>														
Bridgeport/Siko	66	91	79	+5	1488	+90	690	+85	0.48	-0.36	1	4.32	+0.90	11
Hartford/Bradle	56	97	77	+3	1561	+88	779	+128	0.71	+0.01	4	8.51	+5.58	14
Norfolk	53	85	72	+4	1143	+180	492	+197	1.65	+0.74	3	4.80	+0.98	13
Thomaston_Dam	57	90	76	+6	1356	+190	640	+217	2.11	+1.14	4	6.68	+2.98	16
Willimantic	54	91	76	+6	1365	+182	632	+197	0.48	-0.49	4	2.46	-1.29	12

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, July 24, 2005

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	L	HI	AV	DF	LO	HI
ME	42	91	72	+5	0.00	2.05
NH	37	98	72	+5	0.15	3.34
VT	46	92	72	+5	0.14	1.20
MA	50	95	75	+5	0.00	2.60
RI	55	94	76	+5	0.01	0.51
CT	52	97	76	+4	0.08	2.99

**REPORTERS COMMENTS, By County:** *Reporters are from extension Service (Ext), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), or other knowledgeable individuals.*

**CONNECTICUT - Jude Boucher (Ext), Tolland:** Thunderstorms and rain has been spotty. Some fields have more than enough, while some didn't get any. **Frank Himmelstein (Ext), New London:** The corn crop is at tassel stage on fields planted before mid-May. Despite all the heat and humidity, lack of widespread rains may have a negative effect on crop growth in typically drier fields. Scouting for weeds like burcucumber at this time is so important to avoid problems at harvest and prevent new outbreaks in the future. Grass hay- Some dry hay finally baled over the weekend. Some growers that cut dry hay to sell seemed to have wrapped up the first cut after a difficult month to make hay with all the humidity. Second cut will be short in the county unless we receive more rain soon. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Corn is looking great, finishing up second cutting. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Corn looks terrific from 29 inches to over six feet tall, some hay has gone by, cutting between rainstorms, 2nd cutting coming up nice, some mold and disease problems with frequent brief showers affecting vegetables and blueberries, no rust yet on tomatoes, good crop of pickling cukes and summer squash, farmers' markets have abundant vegetables and fruits for sale, as well as cut flowers, peaches and apricots are beginning.

**MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Dry weather continues. Rain is needed for crops to gain some growth. On the positive side no late blight has been found either in Maine or New Brunswick. Growers continue to apply fungicides. Most are on a five day schedule. Most potato fields are in full blossom. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Growers are still on a five day spray schedule for fungicides. Some herbicides and insecticides being sprayed. Potato fields are blossoming and look excellent. Growers are finishing up hilling of potatoes. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Most of the farmers will finish cultivation this week. The crop was behind some due to late plant but with some of the warm temperatures and moisture and with the rapid growth of the plants the crop has caught up. **Albert Dow (NRCS), Piscataquis:** Thunder showers challenged those trying to dry hay. Constant heat gave many crops a boost. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** Hot weather welcome after a cold spring but a bit too hot and humid. More haying this week and vegetables are growing along with the weeds. **Donald Burke (FSA), Waldo:** Haying continues. Some farmers ready to start second crop. Fly traps are out on blueberry fields to monitor fruit flies. Gardens and blueberry fields need rain. Some blueberry fields will not be raked this year because the crop is so light. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Haying continues with dry weather all week. Farmers' markets bustling with activity. Vegetable growers and blueberry producers need rain! After the wet spring who would have thought the ground would ever dry out? The blueberry crop looks poor to fair, with some fields not worth raking. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Growers indicated that crop on coastal fields was poor and on barrens only fair to good. Berry size is small because of delay in growth and lack of moisture. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Things seem to average out. Now, we could use some showers! Good growing conditions but it looks like corn will need a long growing season to catch up. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Oxford County producers are very busy harvesting hay. Crops are looking good to date but now in need of some rain. Oxford County has had reports of severe Thunderstorms with high winds throughout the county. Raspberries are being harvested along with other vegetables.

**MASSACHUSETTS - Paul Russell (FSA), Southeast Massachusetts:** Conditions continue to be dry, cranberries are sizing up as growers are irrigating, applying insecticides and fungicides. Growers continue to make hay with reports of excellent quality and production. Shellfish growers are harvesting now that

the red tide has subsided with reports of excellent growth. Vegetables continue to lag behind with most sweet corn growers starting harvest this week which is at least two weeks behind, demand for fresh produce is strong and prices are firm. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Coming out of bloom; beehives are being removed from the beds. Fruit set is variable; poor in some Early Black and Stevens beds, while the Howes beds have fantastic set so far. The week of cloudy, drizzly weather when those earlier varieties were in full bloom took its toll, with poor bee activity. Growers have finished fungicide applications, with the final fruitworm applications going on this week. Roundup is being applied to taller weeds. Some sprayer of dodder with soap solutions to kill it prior to flowering. Most beds look very good at this point. **John Devine (FSA), Franklin:** Heavy rains on 7/18 saturated sections of Franklin County. Producers reported as much as 8 inches of rain and high winds during the storm! These conditions caused road closings, power outages and (in some cases) town-declared states of emergency. Many farmers called to report that they were unable to get to their fields because the farm roads were washed away. Other farmers called to say that water was ponding on all field hollows. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Heat and humidity all week long. All crops are growing very fast. Harvesting summer squash, radishes, greens, beets, cucumbers, tomatoes, sweet corn, and blueberries. Tobacco harvest has started and the crop looks good. All growers are initiating fungicide applications to protect against crop diseases. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** Harvesting typical assortment of summer crops. Picture perfect weekend and many area farm stands sold out of picked corn. Just terrific citizen response to locally grown produce. Flower sales slowing a bit. Spraying for European Corn Borer in corn but not many other insect pressure. Fungicide programs in effect for rest of the crop year. Given the spring all crops doing remarkably well. Bicep failure in many corn fields - I swear they changed the formula!

**NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap:** There were lots of calls for plant disease diagnosis this week. Most problems were fungal in nature. Harvesting raspberries and blueberries, as well as many vegetables. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Hot and muggy for much of the week, with a couple bright, sunny days towards the end. Most corn at pre-tassel stage, with some tasseled and silking in warmer spots. Second cutting haylage/baylage continues. A few good drying days for making dry hay, but some fields are still wet and producers risk damaging sod. Sweet corn has started to appear at farm stands, along with a variety of other vegetables. PYO blueberries and raspberries continue - looks like a great crop for the blueberries. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Hot humid weather at beginning of week, giving way to cooler temperatures by week's end. Field corn looking very good, some rain showers helping out on areas of lighter soils. Sweet corn beginning to tassel and silk on earlier varieties. Hay making continues in what has been generally good conditions, any on which first cut hasn't yet been taken now well headed out. Biophenometer sited at Lancaster passes 1000+ growing degree days this week. One of the best years for growing warm-season loving veggies - cucumbers, squashes, tomatoes, etc. in a number of years. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Hay harvest (1st and 2nd) continuing. Some thundershowers have provided moisture, with slight damage to some crops due to high winds (localized). Corn continues to grow well, tasseling and silking is common place. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** Several days of low humidity and no rain were just what many farmers needed. Some areas still have not been able to get at their first cut hay, due to wet soil conditions. But if conditions remain relatively dry, with low humidity, these areas should be hayable. Field corn looks good as a general rule. Some late planted pieces due to wet soil conditions will have a hard time making it unless we get a warm dry fall like

we had last year. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Vegetables: Farmers kept busy harvesting, 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. Corn earworm in traps during the week. Growers harvesting an array of vegetables including: beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, cucumbers, greens, lettuce, potatoes, radishes, snap beans, summer squash and first (regularly planted) sweet corn. Fruit: Blueberry and raspberry harvests continued. First Peaches were harvested. Orchardists busy monitoring for pests, spraying if needed, and mowing orchard floors. Field Crops: Farmers making baled hay between showers. Silage corn is rapid growing. Second crop is looking good. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Harvesting, sweet corn, high tunnel tomatoes and cherry tomatoes, blueberries, raspberries and whole array of vegetables. Monitoring pests in fruit orchards. Weeding and cultivating in vegetable fields. Irrigating vegetables. Hay being made. Great weekend weather for PYO. **Pam Marvin (FSA), Sullivan:** Silage corn is starting to tassel in many areas. Humidity and spot showers have helped to make this a good crop this year. Second crop of dry hay coming in followed by topdressing of manure. Many alfalfa fields will be reseeded near end of summer after a crop of corn is taken off. Humidity is also advancing the

maturity of summer vegetables at a fast pace. First sign of sweet corn being harvested and sold at farm stands this week.

**RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport:** Lots of sun and heat this week. Blueberry picking is going well, just starting to harvest sweet corn, lots of summer vegetables coming in. Spraying sweet corn and potatoes. Field corn has finally taken a jump. Roadside stands are busy along with local Farmers Markets. We could use some rain.

**VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille:** Classic summer weather has been great for most crops. Could use a rainy day as rainfall has been generally light. Sweet corn harvest has begun. Second cut of grass is well underway with favorable weather. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Landowners are harvesting their second hay crop around the rain showers. Rain has been frequent enough to keep adequate or surplus moisture in the ground. Pastures are holding up pretty good with the rain and hot weather. So far second crop yields appear to be good but not a record breaker. **Perley Sparrow (FSA), Windham:** Humid weather continues but haying continued also with the sunshine.

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