



# New England Agricultural Statistics



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## Crop Weather

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May 8, 2006 – 4 pm

For week ending 5/7/06

### Planting in Full-Swing

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:** For the week ending May 7, 2006, there were 5.5 days available for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture was rated 2% very short, 28% short, 66% adequate, 4% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 20% short, 77% adequate, 3% surplus. Pasture condition was rated as 16% poor, 21% fair, 53% good, 10% excellent. On Monday, clear skies and warm weather provided ideal conditions for field work. However, rain and colder conditions arrived the next two days. Later in the week, warmer temperatures enhanced crop emergence after recent rains. On Saturday, light rain fell on most of the region. Cool, clear skies finished off the week on Sunday. No major frost damage reported during the week.

**FRUIT:** Recent conditions enhanced fruit development and allowed growers to spray fruit trees on schedule. Orchardists made sure bees were placed in their apple orchards by the end of the week. Fruit growers continued pruning and spraying fertilizer, herbicides, and pesticides. Massachusetts cranberry growers were busy weeding, cleaning ditches, repairing dikes, planting renovated beds, and scouting for insects. Bloom in strawberry patches appears good, however, some reports of crop damage. Some fruit growers planted fruit trees, raspberries, blueberries, and strawberries.

nurseries sales and were also preparing for Mother's Day weekend.

#### SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
<b>Topsoil</b>			
Very Short	2	8	0
Short	28	33	0
Adequate	66	57	51
Surplus	4	2	49
<b>Subsoil</b>			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	20	29	2
Adequate	77	68	54
Surplus	3	1	44

**FIELD CROPS:** Much needed rain fell during the week after a dry, warm spring to date. Maine oats and barley growers are ahead of schedule with planting and 40 percent of the 2006 crop has been planted. Farmers continued to prepare and fertilize corn fields and at week's end, five percent of the season crop was planted. In Maine, potato growers were well underway with five percent of the crop in the ground and ahead of the five year average. Massachusetts potato growers took advantage of the weather and finished the week with 70 percent planted and five percent emerged. Rhode Island potato farmers reached the half-way point with the 2006 plantings. Potato growers continue to cut seed for planting. The warm days and recent rainfall enhanced pasture and hayfield conditions as the grass started to green up.

#### FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Stage	Condition
Apples	BS/EB	Good
Peaches	Full Bloom	Good
Pears	EB/FB	Good
Blueberries		
Highbush	Bud Stage	Good/Fair
Wild, ME	Bud Stage	Excellent/Good
Cranberries,	Dormant/BS	Good
Strawberries	Dormant/BS	Good

BS = Bud Stage, EB = Early Bloom, FB = Full Bloom

**VEGETABLES:** Mixture of warm and rain days provided vegetable growers great condition for planting. Growers continued to fertilize, lime, plow, and disc fields in preparation. Sweet corn growers continued to plant their fields; at week's end 15 percent of the crop was planted and five percent had emerged. Growers started planting beets, cabbage, carrots, cucumbers, kale, lettuce, parsnips, and tomatoes. Some growers are harvesting asparagus and spinach. Recent warm weather enhanced greenhouses and

#### FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2006	2005	5-yr Avg	Emerged	Conditions
-- Percent Planted --					
Barley, ME	40	0	5		N/A
Oats, ME	40	0	5		N/A
Potatoes					
Maine	5	0	<5		N/A
Mass	70	35	35	5	Good
Rhode Isl	50	40	40		Good
Silage Corn	5	5	10		Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	15	10	15	5	Good/Fair
-- Percent Harvested --					
Dry Hay					
First Cut	-	-	-		Good/Fair

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

For the Period: Monday May 1, 2006  
To: Sunday May 7, 2006

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	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	INCHES			INCHES		
<b>MAINE</b>														
Augusta State_A	41	79	56	+6	79	+50	9	+9	0.99	+0.08	3	1.66	-1.91	9
Bangor_Intl_Arp	37	79	56	+8	63	+45	4	+4	1.33	+0.54	3	2.70	-0.42	12
Bethel	30	78	53	+5	59	+39	2	+2	0.94	+0.10	3	1.58	-1.78	7
Caribou Municip	36	72	54	+9	44	+32	3	+3	0.87	+0.20	5	2.09	-0.31	12
Dover-Foxcroft	34	72	52	+6	26	+14	0	+0	0.94	+0.10	4	1.59	-1.77	6
Frenchville	36	69	53	+9	37	+31	0	+0	0.77	+0.07	4	2.09	-0.43	10
Houlton	30	74	55	+9	52	+40	2	+2	1.64	+0.94	4	2.93	+0.35	12
Livermore_Falls	30	78	54	+7	57	+45	3	+3	0.73	-0.12	3	1.01	-2.57	7
Moosehead	26	71	50	+7	15	+12	0	+0	1.04	+0.29	5	2.32	-0.63	13
Portland_ME	37	74	55	+7	68	+52	5	+5	4.06	+3.18	4	4.60	+0.84	8
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>														
Benton	34	74	53	+4	45	+11	2	+2	0.76	+0.06	4	1.94	-0.74	11
Berlin AG	35	75	53	+6	48	+22	2	+2	0.62	-0.16	4	1.16	-2.05	7
Concord	32	80	56	+6	125	+88	13	+13	1.61	+0.91	3	2.72	-0.08	7
Diamond Pond	28	73	49	+7	16	+9	0	+0	0.87	+0.06	2	2.67	-0.33	11
Keene AP	30	77	54	+1	99	+41	8	+4	0.78	-0.06	2	1.61	-1.48	4
North_Conway	32	75	53	+4	70	+42	1	+1	1.44	+0.53	4	2.37	-1.47	10
Rochester	36	77	54	+3	103	+58	2	+2	2.36	+1.42	3	3.59	-0.35	8
<b>VERMONT</b>														
Burlington Intl	35	76	56	+5	112	+59	18	+14	0.90	+0.22	4	1.91	-0.74	9
Island Pond	29	75	52	+7	30	+13	0	+0	0.61	-0.13	4	1.82	-0.88	12
Montpelier	33	77	54	+6	81	+49	6	+6	0.62	-0.04	3	1.62	-0.78	10
Pownal	34	78	54	+5	78	+42	4	+4	0.73	-0.31	3	2.25	-1.87	7
Rochester	28	79	53	+5	42	+15	5	+5	0.78	-0.20	4	2.05	-1.61	7
Rutland AG	32	75	53	+0	72	+2	4	-4	0.72	-0.01	3	1.41	-1.26	8
Springfield_VT	31	79	54	+5	94	+59	5	+5	0.92	+0.01	2	1.92	-1.70	5
Sutton	28	75	52	+7	37	+24	1	+1	0.52	-0.23	3	2.21	-0.62	11
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>														
Boston/Logan_In	44	80	56	+2	141	+68	17	+17	1.18	+0.41	3	2.11	-1.18	10
Fitchburg	35	78	55	+6	142	+115	19	+19	1.07	+0.29	3	1.97	-1.20	9
Greenfield	35	80	55	+2	105	+34	7	+5	1.03	+0.17	4	3.16	-0.29	13
New Bedford	39	79	55	+0	81	+5	5	+5	1.36	+0.51	3	2.82	-0.89	8
Otis_AFB	43	77	54	+4	67	+38	5	+5	0.51	-0.37	2	1.22	-2.39	9
Plymouth	42	79	53	+3	79	+47	3	+3	1.52	+0.56	3	2.26	-1.67	10
Walpole	35	78	54	+2	120	+71	10	+10	1.30	+0.46	3	2.73	-1.07	10
Chicopee/Westov	31	78	55	-2	141	+26	10	+2	0.72	-0.19	3	2.45	-1.19	7
Worthington	34	77	53	+4	67	+34	4	+4	0.39	-0.66	2	2.66	-1.29	8
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>														
Providence	45	81	57	+5	164	+104	17	+17	1.31	+0.40	3	2.91	-0.86	9
Woonsocket	35	82	55	+3	120	+75	9	+9	1.40	+0.43	3	2.32	-1.58	11
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>														
Bridgeport/Siko	42	75	58	+4	169	+89	17	+13	0.31	-0.60	3	6.36	+2.78	8
Hartford/Bradle	37	81	57	+2	191	+95	28	+20	0.46	-0.45	2	2.73	-0.91	7
Norfolk	37	79	54	+5	83	+54	5	+5	0.60	-0.45	2	4.26	+0.06	7
Thomaston Dam	38	78	56	+4	120	+62	7	+7	0.36	-0.69	2	5.21	+1.16	7
Willimantic	37	79	56	+4	148	+93	9	+9	1.24	+0.26	3	2.49	-1.43	9

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, May 7, 2006

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	L	HI	AV	DF	LO	HI
ME	25	81	53	+6	0.39	4.06
NH	13	81	53	+4	0.01	2.38
VT	20	80	53	+5	0.41	1.17
MA	28	83	54	+3	0.39	2.31
RI	35	82	56	+5	0.95	1.40
CT	32	82	57	+4	0.09	1.54

**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:**

There was a good soaking rain on Wednesday. Pastures look very good. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Dairy farmers still spreading manure and plowing. Some have started to plant corn. Sweet corn planting continues and emergence is good. Forage seedings continue. Tobacco land continues to be prepared with lime being applied. More greenhouses opening up with spring sales light with possibility of frost still. Showers on Wednesday and Thursday perked up grass and other crops as well but did hamper bee activity in orchards. **Frank Himmelstein (Ext), New London:** Most of the week good for fieldwork. Still a little dry. Showers are on the way. Preparing fields for planting and spreading manure. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Producers are just beginning silage corn planting in areas of the county with lightly drier soils. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** A cool wet week early then hot and sunny by Friday. Much needed rain fell. Should help get fertilizer working and hay crop growing. Spreading manure, harrowing and getting corn planted. Rain stopped field work for two days. Bedding plant sales beginning. Vegetables planted in black plastic planning for early markets. **Joyce Meader (Ext), Windham:** Windy conditions influencing ability to spray pre-plant herbicides. Great year for no-till corn - dry and soil over 50 degrees. Grubs found in pastures seeded last year. No grass emerging or very slow growth in other pastures that were new or grazed too hard last fall. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Planting field corn progressing rapidly. No delays due to weather. Farms are a week ahead of normal. Most of the increased speed due to not spraying pre or atplant - due to the use of Roundup Ready Corn. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** Rain this week delayed field work but vegetable planting continued with the more hearty types and varieties.

**MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Limited field work, soil still somewhat wet and heavy. Soil temperatures not high enough for planting potatoes. Some small grains have been planted. Very limited acreage planted to potatoes. Weather has been very cooperative for drying out soils.

**Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Farmers pre-cutting seed and planting potatoes. Some showers on Tuesday but warmer and drier weather the rest of the week. Grains being planted and almost all planted. Farmers will be busy planting potatoes in the coming week if weather permits. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Farmers have been planting some gain and have started cutting potato seed to plant. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis:** Fields are greening up. Some livestock have been put onto pasture. A lot of field work: spreading manure, plowing, tilling, etc. **Janet King (FSA), Somerset:** Land being prepare for crops, spreading dressing, tilling, and taking soil tests. Still need rain, land is very dry. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Rain early in the week was helpful, but slowed crop work for several days. Corn planting continues. Winter damage is more and more evident with strawberries not looking very good. Lots of alfalfa damage as well. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Sweet corn and early vegetables being planted under floating row covers. Flowers and potted plants growing in greenhouses. The first rented beehives were placed on blueberry fields over the weekend. Rain early in the week alleviated the fire danger for a while and helped green up pastures. Fungicide being sprayed on blueberry fields to prevent mummyberry (monolinia blight) which was a serious problem last year. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries; Fields being pruned and fertilized and pre-emergence herbicides applied. Plants at green fungicide applications to prevent mummy berry have been applied to most fields, the second applications are beginning. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Much needed rain was received last week and has jump started the grass and flowers. Early crops are being planted and sweet corn under plastic. Nice weather most of the week. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Western Maine got some rain but not enough. Conditions have been great for early

tillage. There should lots of early sweet corn & peas. The dry spring has also made it easy to maintain a good spray schedule on fruit trees. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Oxford County producers are going strong with field activity. Producers are spreading manure and getting crop fields ready. Potato crops are being planted along with some field corn. The hay crop has several acres of winter kill. Still in need of rain throughout Oxford County.

**MASSACHUSETTS - Amy Thayer (FSA), Berkshire:** Heading into May, precipitation levels are running comparable to last year, while rain early in the week (and month) provided only about half as much moisture as it did for this time period last year. Farmers are watching conditions hoping to avoid a dry year. The four days suitable for fieldwork provided average temperatures and pleasant sunny days which allowed for more planting and field prep. Greens have emerged for vegetable farmers and bloom is going well for fruit farmers so far. Spring planting continues. There have been a couple of cold nights but no killing frosts reported. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: First there were five frost nights in succession, then three days of cold, wet miserable days. It wasn't the best week to get things accomplished. Growers are applying Casoron for weed control, cleaning ditches, repairing dikes, planting renovated beds and getting ready to scout for insects. Vines look very good, having survived the winter with minimal windburn. Water supplies are in pretty good shape. Most areas got 2 inches of rain this week. Another frost night last night (Sunday into Monday). **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Franklin/Hampshire/Hampden/:** Crop field conditions are moist due to a one inch plus rainfall during the week. Vegetable growers are harvesting spinach and asparagus. Sweet corn is ten inches tall and under plastic and looks good. Early potatoes are popping out of the ground. Planting continues with sweetcorn, potatoes, lettuce, cabbage, beets, kale, parsnips and carrots. Orchardists are applying a protective fungicide spray. Dairy farmers are spreading manure and starting to plant fieldcorn. An excellent spring so far. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** Finally some rain! But fields still need more moisture. Everyone plowing and planting. Greenhouse plant sales starting to pick up, but rising fuel costs causing citizens to shop locally. Plant costs up substantially. Spotty frost here on Saturday.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap:** Growers have been cultivating, laying plastic and planting very early crops. Fields are in good condition, given that they are not soaked. Weekend garden center sales were excellent thanks to sunny skies. **Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll:** A good bit of rain last week, improved moisture levels, more rain expected mid-week should keep things moving along. Soil dry enough to do early field work. Fruit trees blooming everywhere, not many active pollinators. Temperatures have been warmer than usual, but the over night temperature Sunday in Ossipee was 32 degrees, folks need to remember that the average date of last frost is still weeks away, anything can happen. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Mostly warm & sunny, with a couple rainy days in the first half of the week - good conditions for field work. Field corn planting has begun. Pastures and hayfields growing well, animals are out grazing now. Planting early crops and some sweet corn under plastic on vegetable operations. Early sprays going on for blueberries and apples. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Manure, fertilizer topdressing of haylands starting to green up. Some cornfields worked up in preparation of planting. Last minute soil testing. Seems to be warming up quicker this year than in 2005. First sign of dandelions! Warm days but still frosts at night. Ticks rather abundant. Lancaster growing degree days at 105 (base 50). **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Spring seedings continuing. Corn planting has started and should hit full stride this week. Alfalfa and grass hay look good. Growth reduced some on sandier soils due to low rainfall. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** We received light rains a

a couple of days last week, totaling about one inch of rain. Farmers are planting corn and new grass seedings and taking advantage of soil conditions. Some farmers are almost done with spring planting. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Vegetables: Continue early season vegetables (peas, lettuce, greens, cole crops) planting, along with sweet corn and potatoes. Liming, fertilizing, plowing, discing and getting ready plant fields. Starting to lay plastic mulch and drip irrigation tape. Harvesting asparagus on weekend. Fruit: Orchardists made sure bees were in apple orchards by the week of the week. Cherry, peach and plum were at petal fall. Apple and Pear are at full bloom in the Hollis area. Blueberry is at pink bud stage. Orchardists are fertilizing orchards and are applying protective fungicide sprays on fruit trees and blueberries. Planting fruit trees, raspberries, blueberries and strawberries. Field Crops: Farmers are fertilizing hayfields; spreading manure, plowing, discing fertilizing and planting corn. **Sadie Puglisi (Ext), Merrimack:** We finally got a little rain last week. Everything has come into bloom. Planting continues in the fields. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** The much needed rain was welcomed this week. Preparing vegetable fields, laying black plastic mulch, and seeding early vegetable crops. Planting sweet corn, cucumbers and high tunnels tomatoes. Applying protective fungicide in fruit orchards. Fertilizing grass hay fields. Preparing forage corn filed by applying lime, manure/fertilizer. **Seth Wilner (FSA), Sullivan:** Last week had good temperatures for most crops and most areas of the county received 1.5 inches of rain on Tuesday and Wednesday. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** Much needed rains early in the week. However more is needed. Grass in pastures and hayfields continue to grow well. Fruit growers busy monitoring their orchards for diseases and spraying where

necessary. Others busy pruning raspberries. Strawberry growers irrigating and fertilizing their crops. Vegetable growers busy preparing fields and planting cool season crops. Others were transplanting tomatoes in high tunnels. Greenhouse and nursery operations had good sales through the week, and they were busy getting ready for Mothers Day weekend.

**RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport:** More than two days of rain this week was a welcomed sight. Field work continues on potatoes, sweet corn and field corn. Strawberries are in good bloom and should be a good season. Apples and blueberries coming along well. The soil is working well and cole crops and lettuces are going full tilt.

**VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille:** Spring fieldwork is progressing nicely. Fencing is being built or repaired since pastures are about ready for livestock. Corn planting is just getting underway. Conditions for spring forage plantings have been great. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Farmers are ahead of schedule working the corn fields this spring. Some planting to perennial grasses have occurred. Many cornfields are ready to be seeded. A lot of manure is being spread. Some cows have been let out on pasture. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Plowing under a nice crop of winter rye. Three early corn fields planted. Also several plantings of peas. Dry weather has made it easy to work the land. Strawberry bed's looking good, also rhubarb. Rain for week .642 inches. Has been dry but yesterday, steady rain helped a lot. Four frosts early in week kept asparagus from growing. Strawberry fields showing new life. Everything will come fast with the rain and some warm weather.

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