



# New England Agricultural Statistics



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## Crop Weather

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June 5, 2006 – 4 pm

For week ending 6/4/06

### Two Different Fronts

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:** For the week ending June 4, 2006, there were 4.6 days available for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture was rated 6% short, 33% adequate, 61% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 6% short, 54% adequate, 40% surplus. Pasture condition was rated as 16% fair, 48% good, 36% excellent. Most of the region ended the month warm and dry after a wet May except in Vermont where rain prevailed for most of the week. Early in the week, farmers took advantage of warm, humid days to enhance planting progress. By Thursday, rain arrived and major thunder storms were scattered throughout New England. Most areas had heavy rains on Saturday, which caused minor flooding along low lying streams and rivers and brought field work to a halt for the weekend.

**FRUIT:** Warm, sunny days early in the week allowed fruit growers to work in fields and orchards and apply sprays. Strawberry growers were busy preparing beds as harvest season is slowly approaching and conditions were rated good. All tree fruits have reached petal fall stage for development in the region and were rated in good to fair conditions. Maine wild blueberry fields in the mid-coast region had more damage than downeast fields due to monilinia and botrytis blight disease. Massachusetts cranberry growers continued to monitor pests and the growing season has started bad for insects. Cranberry bloom should be approaching shortly.

#### SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
<b>Topsoil</b>			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	6	0	1
Adequate	33	45	57
Surplus	61	55	42
<b>Subsoil</b>			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	6	0	2
Adequate	54	61	70
Surplus	40	39	28

**FIELD CROPS:** Early in the week, warm, sunny conditions were great for crop emergence and growth. Farmers took advantage of the dry weather to plant and harvest crops. By the weekend, most farmers were out of the saturated fields. Both Massachusetts and Rhode Island potato growers completed plantings at week's end. Warm weather enhanced conditions for Maine potato growers and the 2006 crop plantings close to finish. Small grain growers in Maine were able to finish planting oats and barley with warm weather early in the week. Farmers continued to plant corn silage and a quarter of the crop remains to be seed. Corn fields that recently were under water are still saturated and may not get planted this year. Tobacco growers along the Connecticut River Valley were in full swing planting broadleaf and shade tobacco. First cutting of haylage started strong early in the week but came to a halt on Thursday when rain arrived for the rest of the week. Hay fields are starting to over mature and dry days are needed to allow farmers to harvest grass; otherwise hay quality will be poor.

#### FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Stage	Fruit Set	Condition
Apples	Petal Fall	Average	Good/Fair
Peaches	Petal Fall	Average	Good/Fair
Pears	Petal Fall	Average	Good/Fair
Blueberries			
Highbush	EB/FB	Average	Good/Fair
Wild, ME	FB/PF	Average	Good
Cranberries,	Bud Stage		Good
Strawberries	FB/PF	Avg/Above Avg	Good

EB = Early Bloom, FB = Full Bloom, PF = Petal Fall,

**VEGETABLES:** Warm, humid days early in the week enhanced field conditions and crop growth. Growers were busy planting and replanting sweet corn in dry soils as the crop remained unchanged from previous week. Recent rains caused sweet corn planted early to become yellow. Recent wet weather caused delays for vegetable growers from planting but ideal conditions early in the week allowed them to plant an array of vegetable crops. Vegetable growers were busy harvesting asparagus, greens, rhubarb, and spinach, weeding, and applying fertilizer. Growers have spotted flea beetle, striped cucumber beetles, and seed maggot damage on crops. Humid conditions early in the week caused greenhouses to open up ends to cool down. Another weekend of rain hindered sales at greenhouses and nurseries.

#### FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2006	2005	5-yr Avg	Emerged	Condition
-- Percent Planted --				<b>Percent</b>	
Barley, ME	100	85	95	90	Excellent/Good
Oats, ME	100	85	95	90	Excellent/Good
Potatoes					
Maine	95	65	90	45	Good/Excellent
Mass	100	99	99	60	Good
Rhode Isl	100	99	99	100	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	75	75	75	45	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	50	55	65	25	Fair
Tobacco					
Broadleaf	25	25	30	--	Fair/Good
Shade	70	99	85	--	Fair/Good
Dry Hay	-- Percent Harvested --				
First Cut	10	15	15		Good

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

For the Period: Monday May 29, 2006  
To: Sunday June 4, 2006

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				CUM SINCE MAR 1 GROWING DEGREE DAYS				1-WEEK PRECIP			4-WEEK CUM PRECIP		
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	BASE-TOT	-50F DFN	BASE-TOT	-60F DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS
<b>MAINE</b>														
Augusta State A	52	85	66	+7	292	+71	65	+39	2.58	+1.75	3	6.03	+2.65	17
Bangor Intl_Arp	53	86	66	+8	287	+111	56	+41	1.53	+0.72	3	4.32	+1.07	15
Bethel	49	87	66	+8	249	+60	59	+39	1.30	+0.41	1	6.24	+2.88	13
Caribou Municip	42	78	62	+6	231	+98	33	+22	0.04	-0.65	2	4.28	+1.49	15
Dover-Foxcroft	48	83	63	+6	153	+16	28	+18	0.77	-0.07	3	3.57	+0.31	14
Frenchville	43	78	61	+6	197	+92	20	+20	0.21	-0.49	3	3.43	+0.60	15
Houlton	41	80	62	+6	230	+94	36	+24	0.48	-0.29	3	4.53	+1.45	15
Livermore Falls	52	87	67	+10	256	+118	55	+45	1.49	+0.56	2	5.58	+2.11	14
Moosehead	43	85	62	+8	128	+42	25	+25	1.15	+0.31	4	4.60	+1.43	18
Portland_ME	53	84	65	+7	258	+95	50	+42	3.04	+2.27	4	11.29	+8.11	18
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>														
Benton	51	85	65	+7	234	+27	54	+29	1.22	+0.38	4	7.28	+4.08	16
Berlin AG	44	88	66	+8	228	+43	51	+30	1.72	+0.81	2	6.39	+3.07	14
Concord	53	89	69	+9	368	+125	106	+69	2.96	+2.23	3	9.41	+6.57	14
Diamond Pond	48	82	62	+9	125	+39	33	+33	1.43	+0.42	4	6.98	+3.26	20
Keene AP	53	84	67	+5	323	+3	89	+24	1.82	+0.97	4	6.58	+3.15	15
North Conway	51	88	68	+9	301	+87	81	+52	1.34	+0.43	3	7.65	+4.02	16
Rochester	52	87	66	+5	311	+33	69	+21	2.09	+1.25	3	14.29	+10.84	15
<b>VERMONT</b>														
Burlington Intl	53	85	69	+8	413	+121	123	+66	1.21	+0.44	6	6.96	+4.08	21
Island Pond	51	84	66	+10	228	+93	56	+43	1.29	+0.33	4	6.75	+3.25	18
Montpelier	52	85	67	+10	323	+121	82	+56	0.06	-0.77	5	5.25	+2.19	18
Pownal	50	87	66	+8	289	+75	65	+34	2.49	+1.44	5	7.84	+3.69	19
Rochester	47	88	66	+9	246	+60	65	+43	2.48	+1.54	5	7.93	+4.05	17
Rutland AG	53	86	68	+6	310	-23	80	+5	1.85	+1.04	4	5.15	+1.95	15
Springfield_VT	52	84	67	+8	317	+91	81	+47	1.67	+0.73	7	9.34	+5.64	19
Sutton	48	82	64	+9	211	+78	45	+32	1.13	+0.19	5	6.36	+2.94	19
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>														
Boston/Logan_In	52	89	67	+4	401	+50	104	+49	2.86	+2.15	3	14.16	+11.28	15
Fitchburg	53	86	69	+11	404	+203	122	+100	2.00	+1.19	3	8.95	+5.74	16
Greenfield	52	88	68	+5	347	-7	91	+22	1.98	+1.07	5	7.76	+4.21	17
New Bedford	51	81	67	+4	344	-6	77	+25	1.65	+0.81	2	7.88	+4.56	16
Otis AFB	52	77	66	+8	331	+120	73	+54	1.66	+0.88	3	5.25	+1.96	14
Plymouth	51	86	66	+6	322	+89	74	+48	1.26	+0.42	3	7.60	+4.10	15
Walpole	52	84	67	+6	360	+80	92	+51	2.50	+1.69	4	8.93	+5.81	17
Chicopee/Westov	53	86	69	+5	407	-41	106	+3	2.49	+1.51	4	7.30	+3.54	17
Worthington	51	85	67	+9	253	+43	69	+42	3.13	+2.17	4	8.46	+4.37	18
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>														
Providence	53	87	68	+7	461	+148	108	+62	1.76	+0.95	3	7.71	+4.38	14
Woonsocket	51	89	67	+6	363	+87	89	+55	2.84	+1.93	4	9.53	+5.89	16
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>														
Bridgeport/Siko	56	81	68	+5	462	+96	95	+19	2.05	+1.21	3	8.24	+4.74	14
Hartford/Bradle	55	90	71	+7	499	+83	143	+47	2.03	+1.12	3	9.27	+5.54	15
Norfolk	51	84	68	+10	304	+99	87	+63	1.71	+0.66	3	8.59	+4.45	16
Thomaston_Dam	54	86	69	+8	388	+92	97	+48	1.64	+0.66	3	6.87	+2.90	17
Willimantic	54	87	70	+9	428	+131	111	+63	2.56	+1.65	3	7.73	+3.99	16

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, June 4, 2006

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	L	HI	AV	DF	LO	HI
ME	34	89	64	+7	0.04	3.75
NH	34	92	66	+8	0.71	4.38
VT	41	91	66	+8	0.06	3.76
MA	47	90	67	+6	0.56	3.88
RI	51	89	66	+6	0.90	2.84
CT	51	92	69	+7	1.47	3.55

**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:** Severe thunderstorms Thursday. Temperatures unseasonably warm. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Drier and warmer weather made fields more workable (up to Thursday pm). While some were struggling to plant corn on wet soils others were replanting wet spots. Tomato and peppers are still in greenhouses where soils are too wet to plant. Plastic and row cover being taken off early sweet corn to allow side dressing of nitrogen. Previous rains making turf grass grow where more than frequent mowing is increasing fuel usage and costs. **Frank Himmelstein (Ext), New London:** Grass hay- Some hay chopped at the expense of rutting up wetter areas of the fields early in the week. A few growers baled hay, but was not dry enough for feed for horses. Others that mowed hay did not pick it up before heavy rains arrived later in the week. Now it will be only good for mulch. The coming week's weather report does not bode well for hay harvests even if fields were dry enough to work. Corn silage- Corn has emerged well in well drained field areas from earlier planted fields. Corn will need to be replanted in water logged sections if they should ever dry out. My guess is that they will not for some time. Many fields that were harrowed before the first heavy rains but not planted last month are waterlogged again. Some work was done on fields that had not previously been worked but heavy rains this week stopped any further progress. What started out as an early growing season has been reversed by the past few weeks' weather. Many fields still not planted and still too wet to work. Some growers cutting back on planned corn fields to be planted compared to last year, due to the weather, rising costs of fuel and fertilizer and no market for excess silage. Poor milk prices combined with growing conditions have led some growers to sell out their milk herds. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Continuing heavy rain makes it difficult to harvest grass. Fields are just too wet. Poor seed germination for corn. Lots of skips in the rows. Strawberries looking good. We need some continuous sunny days and warm weather soon. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Warmer, sun, haying, planting, field corn up. Thunderstorms with heavy wind and some hail. Corn looks good with some weed concerns. Strawberries almost ready for pick your own. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** The warm weather has really helped the corn jump ahead. Some dry hay has been harvested and looks good at this point. A lot of vegetables have been planted and the warm weather has helped with growth. It got very hot in the greenhouses this week and a lot of growers have had to open up the ends to cool them down. Rain at the end of the week was welcome. **Joyce Meader (Ext), Windham:** Some hay farmers just getting the baler out if they have timothy grass. The orchardgrass hay is mostly cut, baled and stored away for excellent eating. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Dry weather early in week saw some hay being made and the final field corn planting over most of the area. Thunderstorms Thursday with rain lasting thru Sunday quickly ended the field work for the week. Corn is emerging slowly and is yellow due to the amount of rain.

**MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Just about everyone has completed planting potatoes and small grains. Some growers seeding alternative cover crops. Growers busy spraying herbicides. Some hilling has begun. Most small grains have emerged along with a lot of the potatoes. Have found some rotten seed in earlier planted potatoes. Too early to determine to what extent it will affect potato stands. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** Rain slowing work. Corn emerging. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Most of the farmers are getting done planting with some herbicide sprays being applied. **Amanda May (Ext), Penobscot:** The wet weather has made it difficult to get into the fields. A good stretch of sunshine would make everyone happy. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Lots of rain over the weekend will stop first cutting hay harvest for a few days. Corn is mostly planted, but wet conditions are slowing growth. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Pollination is complete in blueberry fields. Greens and lettuce are ready at farmstands. The ground was dry enough early in the week to plant more silage corn. Three to five inches of rain over the weekend curtailed all outdoor work for farmers and hurt business at farmstands. Vegetable planting is falling behind due to the wet ground. No hay harvested yet due to weather conditions. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Fields in mid-coast have a considerable damage from monilinia and botrytis blight disease, but fields downeast have much less injury. Crop pollination done in mid-coast area and is progressing well in downeast fields. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** The weather continues to give what farmers do not need; rain and cool weather. The area received another 3+ inches of rain over the weekend. Fields and pastures are wet. The hay is ready to cut, but the fields are too wet to harvest. **Elaine S. Moceus (FSA), Franklin:** Early in the week the hot weather was great for grass growth and planting

conditions were good. Lots of field work done. Thursday, we saw a mid day rain storm with lots of wind. Friday was mild; Saturday was a total wash out for field work, seeing pouring rain for most of the day. Strawberry producer has picked his first small quantity earlier this week and feels his plants are doing well. In another week or so his berries will be ready for harvest, but still needs a reasonable amount of sunlight and heat. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Oxford County has received more rain in the past week. Fields are very wet and some crop fields have standing water. Pastures are green but muddy. Oxford County is in need of SUN and warmer weather for the crops. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** With rain most of last week farmers found it difficult to finish planting their crops. Hopefully, this week all farmers will finish planting all crops.

**MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire:** Hazy, hot and humid, topped off by severe late day thunderstorms was the story last week. The storms scattered throughout the county carried severe winds and more rain which caused some lowland flash flooding on saturated ground. It seems we had a burst of July. Some farmers were able to make hay last week. We ended with a cold (50 degrees) rainy Saturday which did no good for farmer's markets. There is great concern over the affects of forest tent caterpillars among timber and maple syrup producers who have been treating for the caterpillars. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Vines greening up nicely with new upright growth. Insect populations continue to soar, with many caterpillars feeding on foliage, cranberry weevils off-bog in blueberry fields, black-headed fireworm doing damage. It will and already is a bad year for insects. Some hook showing in the more advanced beds. Bloom is not far away (maybe end of the week). Another good dose of rain over the weekend. Weeds are growing well, but few dodder seedlings found to date. A quiet week for frost, as temperatures overnight remained warm. **Jason Otto (FSA), Bristol:** This week was a little dryer than last. Hot and muggy conditions. Heavy rains expected over the weekend. Three to five inches expected in Bristol County area. Corn silage planting is still underway. Peach crop is looking good. Peaches are about the size of a dime, plums had a great bloom but fruit set was fair. Apples are decent. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Franklin/Hampshire/Hampden:** The week started up with nice, hot, sunny days which dried out the fields for plantings. Dairy farmers were planting corn and harvesting haylage. Vegetable farmers finished planting potatoes and started planting tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, and summer squash. Shade and field tobacco being planted. Early potatoes are being tilled up. The row cover on sweet corn was removed. Lettuce, asparagus, rhubarb, and spinach were harvested. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** What started off as a good week weather wise ended with yet another deluge of water, over an inch here followed by cool sweatshirt temps once again-hey it's June already! All transplanted crops took a beating and early sweet corn on hillsides got washed out or in low areas drowned. Yet another retail weekend in the sewer, but a good four days during the week sure did help.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap:** Field prep and planting continue. Many warm season vegetable crops are now transplanted and seeded. Strawberries are in bloom. Growers are monitoring pests and putting preventative sprays on fruit crops. Fungal diseases starting to show up on fruit crops. Garden centers are hoping for sunny weekends. **Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll:** We did not need more rain over the week-end! Rainfall amounts vary by location with southern parts of Carroll County receiving more than the north. Already burdened streams and lakes full to the brim again. No wide spread flooding or road damage evident, but water logged fields are difficult to work and planting is delayed in several areas. Hay that was not chopped for silage is down in the field and maturing rapidly. Some early reports of fungal diseases on blueberries, I believe this is just the tip of the iceberg. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Hot & muggy for much of the week, then overcast and rainy towards the end. Field corn is all planted and mostly emerged - good conditions for growth for several days. Orchardgrass getting over-mature, and a few brome and reed canarygrass heads starting to poke out here and there. Re-growth on harvested fields is excellent, but poor drying conditions have made harvesting challenging, especially for dry hay. Wet conditions are also causing delays on vegetable operations, both in planting and plant growth. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Haylage harvest begins at good pace though hampered at week's end by wet weather. Most fieldcorn now in however, heavy rains at times have delayed planting on some low lying fields. Concerns of emergence on sodden fields. Kentucky blue and orchardgrass heading out. Cattle having hard time staying ahead of rapidly growing pastures. Spraying apple trees for plum curculios as weather permits. Garden centers doing brisk business. Scattered deluges of "frog drowning rain". **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Corn planting finishing up. Hay and haylage harvest constitutes as weather

permits. Crops growing well. Moisture is plentiful at this point with wetter soils too wet to get equipment on. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** We had a few days of sun and warmer weather this past week. Farmers were haying and chopping grass as fast as they could. Heavier soils are still not accessible, but most of the better drained sites are done. Most of the corn is in and much of that has emerged. There will still be some fields that are too wet to plant, especially after the weather we had this weekend. We received nearly two inches of rain last week in some areas. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Vegetables: Transplanting tomato and pepper plants, and making successive planting vegetable crops, but came to a stop at the end of the week. Harvesting spinach, asparagus and rhubarb. Flea beetle, striped cucumber beetles, and seed maggot damage have been seen. With all the cool rainy cloudy weather prior to the past week sweet corn plantings and many other crops are yellow and not growing very well. Fruit: Fruit growers monitoring pest and crop development and applying cover sprays for pest control. Orchardists wondering if they should be applying thinning sprays to apple orchards. Mowing orchard floor and weed spraying under trees. Blueberries and most strawberries were at petal fall during week. Field Crops: Planting and weed spraying corn fields. Farmers started trying to make haylage, but with flooding rain they had to stop at end of the week. **Sadie Puglisi (Ext), Merrimack:** More rain this past weekend added to the frustrations of trying to find time to plant. Other than that, good reports across the county as far as stage of development and quality of growth so far. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Half the week was very hot and sunny and the other half was cold and rainy. In need of more dry, warm, sunny days in a row. Continued planting vegetables and sweet corn. Weeding and monitoring pests in vegetable fields. Strawberry season will be late this year. Blueberry crop looks good so far. Monitoring pests in apple orchards and spraying protective fungicides. Doing some haying. Pasture looks good. Spreading manure, fertilizer and planting field corn. Garden centers this week-end were not as busy as last week because of the cool, rainy weather. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** It was nice at the beginning of the week. However rain showers at the end of the week slowed down field activities. Grass in hayfields has grown very well but producers have not been able to cut the hay due to wet field conditions. Fruit growers were busy applying fruit thinning products and protective fungal sprays. Vegetable growers were busy doing successive plantings of sweet corn.

Others were preparing fields and planting pumpkins. Some were harvesting cool season crops such as lettuce. The last two weeks before the rains came last weekend were busy for greenhouses and nurseries. Customers came in large numbers due fine weather. Rain showers at the end of the week slowed down sales at most operations. Growers were also trying to get ready for planting fall mums.

**RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport:** Field crops are really jumping out of the ground. Between some great sun and heat at the beginning of the week and rain at the end you can almost hear them growing. Pastures look good, however if this hard rain continues we could have some trouble spots. Cole crops look great and potatoes are good. Some decent spray weather at the beginning of the week and some fungicides were applied. Roadside stands full and just waiting for a dry sunny weekend.

**VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille:** More unneeded rain last week slowed fieldwork or prevented progress. Hail and high winds early in the week appeared to spare planted crops. Some folks are having a hard time harvesting haylage and it has been impossible to dry grass for hay. If the weather doesn't change in a hurry we'll be looking at some significant quality problems. Weed control in corn is going to be an issue this year. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** A lot of rain again this week has slowed harvest of first cut hay. The hay yields look good but it has matured fast. The orchard grass has headed out. Quality may be a problem if it is not harvested soon. The fields are very wet and what hay has been harvested you can see a lot of mud ruts in the field. Some landowners are still trying to plant corn, a real challenge with the weather. The corn that has emerged looks good. The germination looked even and the corn is several inches tall. Great weather for pastures. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** All winter rye plowed under for year. Peas all planted. Summer squash beginning to show in the rows. Fertilizing early sweet corn. Rain for the week .402 inches. Several nice showers and hot 80° weather made for humid conditions. All small vegetable crops beginning to grow. Asparagus and rhubarb in full production with good crops. Early small vegetable crops will be ready soon. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Too much rain!!

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