



# New England Agricultural Statistics



Gary R. Keough, Director

Phone: 603-224-9639

Fax: 603-225-1434

www.nass.usda.gov

nass-nh@nass.usda.gov

22 Bridge St. 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
P.O. Box 1444  
Concord, NH 03302

A field office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service  
United States Department of Agriculture

Volume 26, Number 14

## Crop Weather

(Issued weekly on the internet, May – October)

July 31, 2006 – 4 pm

For week ending 7/30/06

### We're having a Heat Wave

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:** For the week ending July 30, 2006, there were 5.7 days available for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture: 3% very short, 70% adequate, 27% surplus. Subsoil moisture: 1% short, 76% adequate, 23% surplus. Pasture condition: 1% poor, 25% fair, 63% good, 11% excellent. The week began with ideal weather conditions across the region with no humidity and cooler temperatures. However it was short lived as warmer temperatures crept back in on Tuesday returning with higher humidity levels. As the temperatures continued to rise during the week scattered thunderstorms swept across the six states. In some locations trees and power lines were downed as a result of the storms and flash flooding. The week ended as it had began with blue skies, cooler temperatures, and little to no humidity on Sunday.

**FRUIT:** Blueberry harvest is in full swing and growers report a nice crop of Highbush blueberries are being picked. Peach harvest has made significant gains during the week. The crop is 15 percent harvested, right in line with the 5 year average. The condition of the crop remains good. Maine wild blueberry harvest is expected to start in mid-coast Maine this week, with a better than average crop expected. The hot humid weather has Cranberry growers wishing for more rain, as many growers are irrigating to aid in sizing and color. Apple scab was reported in some orchards, growers are spraying to protect the crop. Orchardists were busy monitoring for pests, spraying if needed and mowing orchard floors. Early apple varieties, red and black raspberries, and blackberries were also harvested during the week.

**VEGETABLES:** Demand remains high at local farm stands and markets for produce. Growers were active during the week fertilizing fields, weeding, and harvested an array of vegetables including beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage cucumbers, garlic, greens, lettuce, onions, potatoes, radishes, snap beans, summer squash, sweet corn, and tomatoes. There have been reports of pepper maggot in Epping.

**FIELD CROPS:** Operators had a tough time making hay during the week due to the scattered storms. The quality of hay in some locations have been reported as far below normal. The humid conditions continued to improve field corn growth. Maine's small grains remain in good condition and are nearly ready to harvest. Potato tubers are sizing up well though late blight has continued to spread. The warm temperatures and showers have provided optimum conditions for the spread of late blight. The late blight in Central Maine is reportedly under control and has not moved beyond the field in which it was found. Shade tobacco harvest has picked up with 15 percent of the crop in. Blue mold was confirmed from Shade tobacco in Windsor Connecticut last week. Additional fields with Blue mold have been discovered in Massachusetts in the vicinity of the first fine. Disease levels have been reported as light.

#### SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
<b>Topsoil</b>			
Very Short	0	3	6
Short	3	4	20
Adequate	70	77	68
Surplus	27	16	6
<b>Subsoil</b>			
Very Short	0	0	1
Short	1	0	26
Adequate	76	82	65
Surplus	23	18	8

#### FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	- Percent Harvested -			Fruit Size	Condition
	2006	2005	5-yr Avg		
Apples	-	-	-	Average	Good
Peaches	15	20	15	Average	Good
Pears	-	-	-	Average	Good
Blueberries					
Highbush	45	35	35	Average	Good/Excellent
Wild, ME	-	-	-	Avg/Above Avg	Good/Excellent
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-		Good/Fair
Strawberries	100	100	100	Average	Good

#### FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2006	2005	5-yr Avg	Condition
--Percent Emerged--				
Silage Corn	99	100	100	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	99	100	100	Good/Fair
--Percent Harvested--				
Barley, ME	-	-	-	Good/Excellent
Oats, ME	-	-	-	Good/Excellent
Potatoes				
Maine	-	-	-	Good/Excellent
Mass	-	5	5	Good
Rhode Island	-	-	<5	Good/Excellent
Sweet Corn	10	15	20	
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	-	10	10	Good
Shade	15	25	20	Fair/Good
Dry Hay				
First Cut	90	90	95	Fair
Second Cut	25	45	45	Good

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

For the Period: Monday July 24, 2006  
To: Sunday July 30, 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 INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES		DFN	DAYS
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN				INCHES	DFN		
<b>MAINE</b>															
Augusta State A	59	88	74	+4	1400	+217	638	+207	1.61	+0.85	2	5.36	+2.47	10	
Bangor Intl Arp	60	88	73	+4	1375	+308	603	+248	2.64	+1.94	3	6.24	+3.24	13	
Bethel	54	85	71	+3	1252	+174	533	+177	1.74	+0.90	1	6.14	+2.92	10	
Caribou Municip	54	84	69	+4	1203	+319	459	+219	0.59	-0.39	6	4.27	+0.62	18	
Dover-Foxcroft	55	82	67	+1	1048	+121	403	+135	0.88	+0.11	5	2.90	-0.33	15	
Frenchville	54	82	69	+4	1102	+285	398	+194	1.67	+0.76	6	5.31	+1.86	17	
Houlton	53	87	70	+4	1215	+298	479	+214	1.54	+0.63	5	4.49	+1.07	16	
Livermore Falls	53	88	72	+5	1309	+386	569	+308	2.19	+1.41	3	4.95	+1.84	9	
Moosehead	51	83	67	+3	1008	+244	377	+194	0.79	-0.12	6	4.31	+0.67	15	
Portland ME	61	89	74	+5	1342	+285	593	+241	0.44	-0.20	2	5.62	+2.84	11	
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>															
Benton	51	85	70	+5	1167	+153	481	+187	1.62	+0.80	3	6.04	+2.89	11	
Berlin AG	53	85	70	+4	1201	+186	494	+185	1.20	+0.33	4	3.47	+0.08	10	
Bethlehem	54	89	72	+6	1264	+250	553	+258	1.54	+0.61	4	4.75	+1.19	11	
Concord	53	90	75	+6	1537	+326	729	+282	0.33	-0.44	2	4.16	+1.25	8	
Diamond Pond	48	79	67	+5	882	+211	295	+177	1.97	+0.91	6	4.94	+0.76	15	
Keene AP	55	88	73	+3	1422	+57	646	+96	0.52	-0.32	1	3.08	-0.19	7	
North Conway	55	88	73	+5	1369	+236	607	+213	0.63	-0.22	2	5.60	+2.23	12	
Rochester	59	90	75	+5	1439	+150	662	+161	0.23	-0.60	2	4.87	+1.73	7	
<b>VERMONT</b>															
Burlington Intl	57	89	76	+6	1595	+281	764	+242	0.27	-0.57	3	2.67	-0.61	8	
Island Pond	51	83	69	+5	1139	+315	443	+243	0.68	-0.33	5	2.62	-1.25	16	
Montpelier	54	85	71	+5	1337	+310	560	+242	1.14	+0.41	4	5.39	+2.57	10	
Pownal	52	88	73	+6	1287	+228	540	+207	0.83	-0.08	5	5.18	+1.51	14	
Rochester	51	87	70	+4	1201	+206	487	+187	1.21	+0.28	3	5.10	+1.62	7	
Rutland AG	53	85	72	+2	1353	-8	588	+45	1.11	+0.20	2	4.84	+1.34	6	
Springfield VT	54	87	73	+6	1414	+306	631	+267	0.09	-0.75	4	5.21	+1.95	11	
Sutton	50	85	69	+4	1090	+253	417	+205	0.51	-0.49	4	3.01	-0.84	14	
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>															
Boston/Logan In	63	92	79	+6	1701	+171	855	+184	0.29	-0.36	1	3.58	+1.04	9	
Fitchburg	58	90	76	+9	1655	+559	828	+461	0.25	-0.56	2	2.19	-1.14	9	
Greenfield	55	89	74	+3	1505	+44	699	+83	0.86	+0.02	6	4.46	+1.09	16	
New Bedford	61	90	76	+2	1511	-6	701	+45	0.11	-0.64	2	2.06	-0.72	10	
Otis AFB	61	82	74	+4	1453	+247	649	+194	0.00	-0.68	0	2.39	-0.20	7	
Plymouth	61	89	77	+6	1520	+253	733	+234	0.37	-0.40	1	1.99	-1.09	10	
Walpole	59	90	76	+6	1596	+279	786	+265	0.50	-0.27	1	3.46	+0.37	10	
Chicopee/Westov	53	91	76	+1	1591	-86	741	-29	0.40	-0.37	2	2.17	-1.08	8	
Worthington	52	86	72	+5	1278	+211	561	+223	1.35	+0.37	3	3.00	-0.89	8	
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>															
Providence	63	91	78	+5	1766	+320	858	+241	0.18	-0.58	2	2.05	-0.81	10	
Woonsocket	58	90	76	+6	1592	+297	775	+282	0.36	-0.55	2	2.12	-1.45	11	
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>															
Bridgeport/Siko	63	91	78	+4	1763	+215	837	+142	0.36	-0.48	1	3.87	+0.45	10	
Hartford/Bradle	56	93	78	+4	1829	+212	918	+183	0.90	+0.19	2	2.14	-0.72	8	
Norfolk	55	88	74	+6	1358	+287	618	+275	0.46	-0.51	3	2.06	-1.73	10	
Thomaston Dam	57	89	75	+5	1587	+301	744	+261	0.36	-0.62	2	2.43	-1.33	10	
Willimantic	58	88	76	+6	1678	+369	808	+307	0.46	-0.45	1	2.32	-1.43	11	

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.

Copyright 2006. AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

For detailed ag weather forecasts and data visit the AWIS home page at [www.awis.com](http://www.awis.com) or call toll free at 1-888-798-9955.

**STATE WEATHER SUMMARY**

For the Week Ending Sunday, July 30, 2006

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	L	HI	AV	DF	LO	HI
ME	49	90	71	+4	0.13	3.59
NH	41	92	72	+5	0.22	2.92
VT	48	90	71	+4	0.08	1.66
MA	52	92	75	+5	0.00	1.61
RI	58	91	76	+5	0.18	0.36
CT	53	93	76	+4	0.09	1.06

**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:** Weather has been hot and humid with afternoon thunderstorms - perfect for growing field corn, but nearly impossible for making dry hay. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Nice weather end of the week for making dry hay but brutally hot to work in. Nearly all summer vegetable crops are being harvested now. Some started to harvest broadleaf tobacco while shade harvest is progressing. With this heat some will need to start irrigating. **Frank Himmelstein (Ext), New London:** Corn Silage- Growers have finally finished planting corn. It's been a tough year with many growers replanting 15-20 percent of their total acreage. Most of the acreage replanted was the May planted corn. Over 25 inches of rain fell in some parts of the state in May and June alone. A severe thunderstorm this week sent trees crashing to the ground and may have damaged corn in some parts of the state. With the extreme heat and plentiful moisture supply, the late planted corn is doing well and growing rapidly. Weeds overtook corn in many fields where herbicides could not be sprayed. I have recommended all growers to plant glyphosate resistant corn in order to have more post-emergence options for weed control. I hope after this year they will follow my recommendations. Hay-Some dry hay harvested this week between the humidity and the thunderstorms. Mostly first cut still being harvested. Some second cut harvested for dry hay but most second cutting was chopped as well. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Hazy, hot, humid week for baling hay. Picking vegetables and PYO blueberries. Watching corn grow and spreading manure. Bees are not putting honey away as well as they should. Farmers' markets have good selection and many customers. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** Producers are still seeing the results of prior rains with waterlogged vegetables that are being rejected by wholesale buyers. There are reports of disease problems in peppers. Dry hay is of such poor quality that it will likely have to be sold as mulch hay rather than used for feed for animals. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Scattered afternoon showers, high humidity and heavy morning dew are still creating challenges for haying. Hay is taking more time to dry, increasing the odds of having it rained on.

**MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Growers continue to apply fungicides and in some cases insecticides. Most growers are on a five day spray schedule with the threat of late blight present. Potato tubers are sizing up rapidly, small grains nearly ready to harvest. Also working to get harvesting equipment ready. Parts of Northern Aroostook got hammered again with heavy downpours washing out already eroded fields. No active late blight reported in the area. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Farmers are still on a five day spray schedule. Fungicides continuing to be sprayed, the crop looks very good, potatoes are sizing up excellent. Barley and oats are starting to mature. Canola is in late flowing stage. Crops are looking excellent, sizing up, maturing and flowering. Potato blossoms are beautiful. **Janet King (FSA), Somerset:** Late harvest of first crop hay is ongoing. Several thundershowers this week dropped a significant amount of rain in some areas of the county. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Periodic heavy thunderstorms have dumped copious amounts of water in many fields. Timing for hay production has been difficult. Sweet corn is finally being harvested in early planted fields. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries; Harvest starting on blueberry barrens this week. Cool evening temperatures and showers improving fruit size and quality. Crop expected to be much better than average. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Warm summer weather has helped fill the

vegetable stands. Sweet corn is just coming on the market. Hay producers have been working hard to try and get first crop harvested which is very poor quality. **Amanda May, (Ext), Penobscot:** Producers working diligently around wet weather to harvest hay. Some early planted corn tasseling out.

**MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire:** Hot and humid with some scattered heavy rainstorms dumping two to four inches across the county. There were some worries about drought for a few days but things seem to have normalized for the moment. Crops are growing well and summer vegetables are being harvested and sold to local restaurants, residents and tourists. Sweet corn has been late coming but is now in full season. There are good reports about the blueberry crop but a couple of large producers experienced some insect and bird damage despite protective measures. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Franklin/Hampshire/Hampden:** Hazy, hot and humid week with scattered storms. This heat wave pushed the growth of all crops. All growers are following strict fungicide spray programs to prevent the spread of disease. Field tobacco growers are harvesting their crop and the growers are harvesting blueberries, raspberries, early apples, sweet corn, cabbage, beets, peas, cukes, beans and summer squash. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** We're hav'n a heat wave! Great week for crops, scattered storms and that heat! Later plantings of sweet corn really looking good now. Sweet corn coming to markets as "local" are small ears and rather questionable quality. Same with produce in markets-effects of lousy spring very evident, hopefully with this weather quality will improve. Growers busy harvesting summer crops and spraying for ECB. Flower sales dead.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap:** Harvesting many veggies including sweet corn, tomatoes, cucumbers, leafy greens, onions and garlic. Raspberries are finished for now but blueberry harvest is in full swing. Growers are tending to tree fruit and fall mum crops. Irrigation was necessary in many fields during the week. **Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll:** Another fine week! Hazy, hot and humid afternoon thunderstorms make haying tough, but not impossible. Second cut coming in where possible. Blueberries doing well, not as much mummy berry as expected, good crop and large berries. All vegetables available except for sweet corn. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** A couple of nice days, but still lots of humidity and daily rain showers. Most field corn doing well, though plantings on wetter fields are a little behind. Re-growth on hayfields is excellent, but not too many rain-free windows to allow harvesting. Conditions are also lowering yields in vegetable crops. On a brighter note, blueberries continue to do quite well. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Trending cooler, still the occasional downpours to hamper crop operations. Hay/haylage as weather permits. Re-growth doing well in this weather. Field corn really stretching. More veggies becoming available, squash, pumpkins, setting fruit. Nice crop of highbush blueberries being picked. Apple scab a problem in some orchards, spraying to protect crop. Apple maggot flies starting to show up in traps. Leaf hoppers in potatoes, what other pests are blown in by all these storms? **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** More rain last week. Some areas of the county received nearly four inches of rain for the week. Other areas received less than that. Soil conditions in many areas remain too wet to access. However, other areas are now being hayed for the first time this year. They are still rutting up some of these fields, but the need to get some kind of crop in is now the driving force behind some decisions to go on these fields. Hay quality on a large number of farms is far below normal. Yields on the late cut

pieces are also down in total yield. A number of producers have called mentioning that they have concerns about enough feed for the coming winter based on current feed production losses.

**George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Vegetables: Corn Earworm and Fall Armyworm caught 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. Farmers kept busy 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. Fruit: Peach, blueberry and raspberry harvests continued. Orchardists busy monitoring for pests, spraying if needed and mowing orchard floors. Field Crops: Farmers making baled hay. Second crop is looking good. Silage corn is rapid growing.

**Sadie Puglisi (Ext), Merrimack:** Blueberries are still looking great and raspberries are finishing up. Peaches are beginning to show up at farm stands, as are tomatoes and corn. The warm, humid weather continues. Seeing more fungus on turf this year than normal.

**Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Harvesting sweet corn, tomatoes, early apple varieties, red and black raspberries, blackberries and a whole array of vegetables. Hay being cut. Pasture in some areas looks good. Mowing orchards and monitoring pests. Fertilizing vegetables, fields and weeding. Pepper maggot damaging peppers in the Epping area. Monitoring other pests. More thundershowers and strong winds on Friday.

**RHODE ISLAND** - Corn is coming in better than expected. Planting cabbage and some cole crops, winter squash and pumpkins are finally starting to run and look OK. Field corn is still

recovering from too much rain, but the sun and some extra fertilizer has helped. Some great haying weather this week. Second run of beans looks better. Blueberries are going great guns and the harvest looks good.

**VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille:** Another hot and humid week with scattered showers made haying touch and go. Corn and soybean crops seem to be thriving in these conditions. Weed problems appear to be less than we anticipated a month ago.

**Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** We had a very nice week for cropping. Dry and hot. A lot of second crop hay was harvested. The crop looks good and the fields are finally dry enough to harvest. Pastures are doing well for the time of year. Corn is looking a lot better but there are some fields that probably will not mature. The good corn is around waist high. The poor corn is as low as six inches. In all fields there are spots where the corn did not germinate.

**Terence Bradshaw, Univ of Vermont:** Apples: Below average crop of somewhat larger fruit. Color is starting to develop, will improve with summer pruning. Apple Maggot Fly is active. Isolated hail earlier in the month has damaged some of the crop.

**Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Poor corn crop, varies from just emerged to tassel (less than 10%). At least 20% of fields not planted at all. 25% replanted after first planting was killed by too wet conditions. Most corn nitrogen deficient with excess weed competition. First crop hay late cut and poor quality. Second cut re-growth good, but can't harvest due to excess rain. New seeded alfalfa/grass heavy weed competition, oats maturing before can harvest. Some good dry hay harvested between rains, most hay over mature. Excess soil compaction showing problems in corn fields where manure was spread this spring before planting.

To receive this report every Monday evening, send an e-mail message to [listserv@newsbox.usda.gov](mailto:listserv@newsbox.usda.gov) and in the body, type **subscribe usda-new-eng-crop-weather**

**Gary R. Keough, Director**  
**Dianne Johnson, Statistician**

**Gerald D. Tillman, Deputy Director**  
**Deirdre Davis, Stat Assistant**

PERMIT NO. G-38  
 USDA  
 POSTAGE & FEES PAID  
 FIRST CLASS  
 PRESORTED

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
 NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE  
 POST OFFICE BOX 1444  
 CONCORD, NH 03302-1444