



New England Agricultural Statistics



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

Volume 26, Number 15

(Issued weekly on the internet, May – October)

August 7, 2006 – 4 pm

For week ending 8/6/06

Opressive Heat and Thunderstorms

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending August 6, 2006, there were 6.1 days available for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture: 6% short, 79% adequate, 15% surplus. Subsoil moisture: 5% short, 83% adequate, 12% surplus. Pasture condition: 2% poor, 16% fair, 67% good, 15% excellent. Most of the work week was dominated by hot days and humid nights. High temperatures peaked above the ninety degree mark across most of the region, affecting humans and livestock alike. In Connecticut, humid conditions sparked numerous reports of powdery mildew on crops and ornamentals, and excessive heat caused fall vegetables to suffer. Scattered thunderstorms in the middle of the week brought nearly two inches of rain in some areas, although few reported damage to crops. Rain Thursday evening and Friday morning gave way to cooler and drier weather for the weekend, helping bring customers to farmers markets and pick-your-own operations.

FRUIT: Wild blueberry harvest in Maine was in full swing this week except on some eastern coastal fields. Cool evening temperatures and showers improved fruit size and quality, but the heat has caused berries to ripen quickly. Cranberry producers in Massachusetts continued to spray to control for fruitworm and weeds. Growers reported fruit set was good, but rain is needed for sizing the fruit. Highbush blueberry, raspberry and peach harvests continued. Apples in Southern New England were reported to be sizing nicely and starting to turn color, with some early apples picked this week. Orchardists were busy mowing orchard floors, monitoring for pests and spraying as needed.

VEGETABLES: Harvest of small vegetables and sweet corn progressed this week. Local farm stands and farmers' markets were full of a variety of vegetables, including beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, cucumbers, eggplant, greens, lettuce, parsnips, peas, potatoes, radishes, snap beans, summer squash, sunflowers, and sweet corn. Vegetable producers also spent the week nursing their fall crops, spraying pumpkins and winter squash. Field tomatoes started to ripen. Growers in Connecticut reported that vegetable crops continued to suffer from disease due to the humidity. Farmers kept busy cultivating, hoeing weeds, monitoring pest pressures, and spraying pesticides for insects and diseases as needed.

FIELD CROPS: Warm conditions early in the week helped silage corn grow rapidly, with much of it tasseling and silking. Producers expressed concern that this year's short stalk size and small ears will lead to low yields. Heavy rains early in the week frustrated hay producers, but the weekend's weather provided good conditions for haymaking. Growers continued to report low quality for the first cut of hay, although the second crop is looking better. Small grain harvest began this week in Maine. Potato late blight finds increased this week in Maine, with the geographical range becoming more widespread. Potato growers continued spraying fungicides and insecticides, most on a five-day spray schedule. Harvesting of broadleaf and shade tobacco continued.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	0	8
Short	6	3	28
Adequate	79	70	61
Surplus	15	27	3
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	0	5
Short	5	1	28
Adequate	83	76	64
Surplus	12	23	3

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	- Percent Harvested -			Fruit Size	Condition
	2006	2005	5-yr Avg		
Apples	-	-	-	Avg/Above Avg	Good/Fair
Peaches	20	25	25	Average	Good
Pears	-	-	-	Average	Good
Blueberries					
Highbush	60	45	45	Average	Good/Excellent
Wild, ME	15	<5	5	Above Avg/Avg	Good
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-	-	Good/Fair

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
--Percent Harvested--				
Barley, ME	5	-	-	Good/Excellent
Oats, ME	5	-	-	Good/Excellent
Potatoes				
Maine	-	-	-	Good
Mass	<5	10	5	Good
Rhode Island	-	-	10	Good/Excellent
Sweet Corn	25	25	25	
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	5	30	25	Good/Fair
Shade	25	35	35	Good/Fair
Dry Hay				
First Cut	95	95	95	Fair
Second Cut	50	55	60	Good/Excellent

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

For the Period: Monday July 31, 2006
To: Sunday August 6, 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		
MAINE														
Augusta State A	52	91	72	+3	1552	+229	720	+220	0.65	-0.09	5	5.98	+3.08	14
Bangor Intl Arp	50	90	71	+3	1521	+323	679	+264	1.22	+0.52	4	7.11	+4.18	15
Bethel	49	87	69	+2	1390	+186	601	+189	1.30	+0.42	4	6.29	+3.03	12
Caribou Municip	48	81	67	+3	1324	+333	511	+233	0.43	-0.54	2	4.15	+0.37	17
Dover-Foxcroft	47	84	67	+1	1172	+126	458	+143	0.93	+0.16	3	2.91	-0.25	15
Frenchville	48	78	66	+2	1214	+296	442	+204	0.29	-0.62	2	4.07	+0.53	16
Houlton	44	87	68	+3	1342	+313	537	+230	0.70	-0.21	4	4.57	+1.07	17
Livermore Falls	47	90	70	+4	1449	+413	640	+337	0.66	-0.20	4	4.61	+1.43	13
Moosehead	48	86	66	+2	1122	+256	421	+203	3.12	+2.25	4	6.05	+2.45	17
Portland ME	52	95	73	+4	1503	+313	684	+269	0.43	-0.20	4	6.00	+3.33	14
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	48	89	70	+5	1310	+184	554	+217	0.85	-0.04	4	6.50	+3.25	13
Berlin AG	47	88	69	+3	1332	+200	555	+198	3.07	+2.11	4	6.48	+2.97	13
Concord	49	97	76	+7	1718	+370	840	+327	1.05	+0.28	5	5.21	+2.23	13
Diamond Pond	46	80	65	+3	985	+229	334	+195	2.90	+1.78	4	7.07	+2.82	17
Keene AP	48	95	75	+5	1597	+86	751	+125	0.15	-0.73	1	3.19	-0.17	7
North Conway	51	93	71	+4	1520	+259	688	+236	2.03	+1.12	4	7.57	+4.13	15
Rocheſter	52	95	73	+4	1600	+168	753	+179	0.58	-0.24	2	5.45	+2.26	9
VERMONT														
Burlington Intl	53	94	74	+5	1767	+311	866	+273	1.38	+0.47	4	3.30	-0.10	11
Island Pond	47	89	69	+5	1272	+350	506	+277	1.79	+0.70	4	3.78	-0.22	16
Montpelier	48	91	73	+7	1496	+353	649	+285	0.87	+0.05	5	6.26	+3.32	15
Pownal	51	91	74	+7	1453	+275	636	+254	1.42	+0.49	3	5.39	+1.73	15
Rochester	49	91	72	+6	1358	+247	574	+229	0.98	-0.02	4	5.98	+2.34	10
Rutland AG	49	95	73	+4	1514	+12	679	+66	0.55	-0.36	4	5.39	+1.82	10
Springfield VT	49	94	75	+8	1590	+358	737	+319	1.26	+0.39	4	6.43	+3.14	14
Sutton	47	87	68	+4	1217	+279	474	+230	2.22	+1.17	4	4.66	+0.72	16
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan In	64	98	80	+7	1908	+212	992	+223	0.33	-0.37	2	3.76	+1.15	10
Fitchburg	54	100	79	+12	1862	+640	965	+542	0.81	-0.02	1	2.98	-0.34	8
Greenfield	53	96	76	+5	1692	+77	816	+116	0.37	-0.47	2	4.56	+1.20	15
New Bedford	60	98	78	+4	1709	+23	829	+71	0.53	-0.34	3	1.92	-1.03	11
Otiſ AFB	61	93	76	+6	1634	+281	760	+228	0.73	+0.01	3	1.79	-0.87	8
Plymouth	57	99	78	+7	1718	+303	861	+281	0.07	-0.76	2	1.63	-1.51	9
Walpole	57	97	78	+8	1792	+328	912	+314	0.15	-0.69	3	3.10	-0.05	10
Chicopee/Westov	52	100	78	+4	1789	-59	869	-3	0.15	-0.62	2	2.07	-1.10	8
Worthington	50	92	74	+7	1445	+256	658	+270	0.54	-0.44	3	3.52	-0.40	10
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	63	100	82	+9	1990	+383	1012	+304	0.36	-0.41	4	1.89	-1.04	11
Woonsocket	58	97	78	+8	1792	+352	905	+337	0.06	-0.85	2	1.80	-1.77	10
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	66	97	82	+8	1988	+268	992	+193	0.00	-0.79	0	2.99	-0.38	8
Hartford/Bradle	58	100	81	+8	2048	+265	1067	+235	0.29	-0.48	2	2.20	-0.68	8
Norfolk	56	92	76	+9	1545	+350	735	+340	0.26	-0.72	2	1.82	-1.97	10
Thomaston Dam	60	96	79	+10	1790	+364	877	+324	0.38	-0.54	2	2.49	-1.28	10
Willimantĭc	58	96	78	+8	1877	+426	937	+363	0.10	-0.81	2	2.06	-1.69	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, August 6, 2006

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	L	HI	AV	DF	LO	HI
ME	42	95	69	+2	0.01	3.50
NH	39	99	72	+5	0.15	3.40
VT	43	97	72	+6	0.47	2.99
MA	50	100	77	+7	0.02	1.31
RI	58	100	80	+9	0.00	0.36
CT	54	100	79	+8	0.00	1.11

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: Earlier in the season we had a problem with too much rain. Now the problem is the excessive heat. Vegetable crops are wilting in the fields. There should be a break in the heat wave next week. **Jude Boucher (Ext), Tolland:** Weather was hot with wild thunderstorms in some places. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Crop harvest continues with summer vegetables and blueberries, peaches and raspberries. Some hay done each end of the week. Most all harvesting broad leaf tobacco and shade harvest continues. Scattered showers Wednesday p.m. broke the heat wave but the air did not change until Friday. **Frank Himmelstein (Ext), New London:** Corn Silage-With moisture plentiful in the county extreme temperatures pushed the corn crop along. The later planted corn benefited most from this weather. The earliest planted corn tasseled out with short stalks and small ears due to all the poor growing conditions in May and part of June. Tonnage will be low in most places. Quality is still yet to be determined in the coming weeks. Dry Hay- First cut tended to be finished for most growers this week. Second cut was taken in as well. High humidity made drying hay difficult during the week. More round bales being made. Supply of squares bales will be tight this winter. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Extreme heat again. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** 100+ degrees for a couple of days, corn liked it but it is still far behind normal height. Dairy cows have dropped dramatically in production, just too hot and humid for them. More intense thunderstorms with wind damage, hail and heavy rains. Some corn fields are a few feet tall and rutted with tracks of standing water from trying to put nitrogen on. Tomatoes, lettuce, squash, cucumbers and such at farm markets along with early apples, peaches, pears and blueberries. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** Extremely hot and humid weather this week. Some scattered thunderstorms brought rain to parts of New Haven and Middlesex Counties. Vegetable crops continue to suffer from disease due to the humidity. Blueberries are very good and the sweet corn is nice and sweet, though not as plentiful as it should be this time of year. **Joyce Meader (Ext), Windham:** Replanted corn has emerged. Hoping for hot fall weather. First cut hay being baled with 2nd cut for energy savings! Some corn growing with weeds when second weed control application was cancelled due to wet corn fields. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** HOT HOT HOT...temperature/humidity was oppressive for humans and livestock alike! Milk production dropped markedly, with some farms reporting as much as 10 pounds per cow. After the heat wave broke day time conditions were perfect for haymaking. Some dew in the early morning but not enough to slow drying by more than an hour or so. Humid conditions sparked numerous reports of powdery mildew on crops and ornamentals.

MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook: Potatoes and small grains: Growers continue spraying fungicides and insecticides, most on a five-day spray schedule. Still no more reports of late blight in Northern Aroostook. Noted one grower has already desiccated part of his acreage. He has a sufficient tuber size. Some barley has been harvested, yield is better than expected. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Harvesting grains this past week. Farmers are also continuing to hay. The spray schedule is till five days. Crop is sizing up and looking excellent. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: There is still some late blight being found on potatoes. Farmers are dealing with it accordingly with sprays. Small grain harvest started this week, but yields so far are looking a little light. They may be better next week, we'll have to see. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Some spells of dry weather has helped some farms get some second cutting haylage in the silo. Some small grains being harvested. Still wet in many areas as some locations got almost two inches of rain last week in spotty thunderstorms. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Harvesting of most vegetable crops is going really well. These crops have

needed moisture and sun. Blueberry crop harvest is approximately 50% complete. Crops will be average. Berries are ripening very fast due to heat. It appears bees worked top of blueberry vines, but did not touch lower parts of the plants. Harvesting of hay/grass still way behind. Many fields remain too wet to harvest. Reports are there are a lot of skips in silage corn, especially corn planted early. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries; Harvest is underway on most fields except some eastern coastal fields. Cool evening temperatures and showers improving fruit size and quality. Crop expected to be much better than average. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Beautiful summer weather for the most part. The vegetable stands are full of products to sell. The sweet corn that survived the flooding is being marketed. Prices are high due to the short supply. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Androscoggin/Franklin:** The heat has pushed corn growth nicely. Showers continue to plague the hay harvest. Growing conditions are excellent. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Oxford county producers are seeing scattered heavy showers through out the county. Some crop fields have standing water in them and crops are showing signs of wet weather. Hay is being harvested. Raspberry crop still being harvested. Small vegetables are being harvested now and marketed in local farm stands. First crop hay has very low quality.

MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: A scorcher early in the week, temperatures moderated by the weekend. Temperature records were set and heat index numbers were 100-115. Solanaceous crops had a good week. Fresh tomatoes are a gift. Some storms rattled through dropping one to two inches on the county lending some moisture with no reports of damage. Growers are busy harvesting summer veggies and nursing fall ones. More hay was made and crop treatments continue. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: There appears to be a very good fruit set throughout the industry. Some beds have high levels of fruitworm injury, and growers have applied a third insecticide to stop further damage from occurring. Growers are wiping weeds with Roundup and maintaining the ditches. Rain is needed at this point for sizing the fruit accordingly. Showers have been very spotty. **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 a strict fungicide spray program to prevent the spears of disease. Harvesting tobacco, blueberries, raspberries, peaches, early apples, sweet corn, cabbage, beets, peas, cukes, beans, summer squash and parsnips. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** Another tough week for growers heat-wise but veggies are loving it. Sweet corn harvest in full swing. Local produce being marketed showing improving quality. Growers spraying for ECB and fungal sprays as well. Heavy thunderstorms on Thursday. AM pretty much washed right off fields due to downpours. Field water content holding ok but some growers have been irrigating. First sign of approaching fall? Sound of crickets at night and first cool night of season (Sat) -what a tough short year! Let's hope for a long fall.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll: Hazy and hot, scattered thunderstorms, haying continues. The corn is in! Farm stands and farmers markets going full bore. Wide variety of vegetables available, tomatoes in but looking a little rough, customers don't seem to mind. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** A few oppressively hot and muggy days midweek, but the rest of the week actually quite pleasant. Early field corn in later blister stage, late planted fields tasseling and silking. Second cutting haylage/baleage finishing up and cooler and drier conditions at the end of the week have been good for dry hay. Field tomatoes just starting to ripen, and farm stands and farmers' markets filled with all kinds of veggies. Blueberry bushes loaded with fruit. Orchards are reporting a decent crop, starting to look towards fall. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Much cooler temps now, some nights down

into mid 40's. Rain and heavy at times still an issue for those trying to get in dry hay... a little more going in when possible. Good re-growth, hope we can get it in later. Lots more field corn tasseling, should see first of sweet corn come in by next week. More veggies now available, apples beginning to color up. Garlic harvest about done. Powdery mildew on pumpkins, squash becoming more apparent. Japanese beetles in good supply on raspberries and other pants. Big bluestem - warm season grass heading out. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Hay harvest continuing as weather permits. Corn continuing to grow and mature, with most tasseling and silking. Some corn borer noted in various areas. Wetter fields are still suffering. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending August 5, we again had periods of heavy rain in many areas which frustrated haying efforts. Many fields are still too wet to access. The warm dry weather at the end of the week did bring some opportunities to get onto some fields for the first time this year. There are still a lot of rutting and access problems for the hill side farms. Some farmers are concerned about feed shortages for this coming winter. Several have sold or are selling animals to get by with less feed. The corn looks better than expected. It is tasseled out and doing alright given the weather that we had this year. The corn that was planted by May 15th is doing very well. Corn that was planted later due to wet soils has some catching up to do. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Vegetables: Corn earworm and Fall Armyworm caught in traps during the week. Farmers kept busy cultivating, hoeing weeds, monitoring pest pressures, spraying pesticides for insects and diseases - if needed. 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. Continues to be a very good demand for local 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. Silage corn is rapid growing. Second crop is looking good. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Excellent week-end for pick- your-own blueberries and raspberries. Harvesting an array of vegetables, high-tunnel tomatoes and sweet corn. Picking early apple varieties and peaches. Cut flowers being harvested too. Hay

being cut. Successive planting of beans. Weeding, fertilizing and monitoring vegetable fields. Localized hail storm happened late afternoon into evening on Wednesday August 2. **Sadie Puglisi (Ext), Merrimack:** Oppressive heat and thunderstorms around the county last week didn't seem to slow down the customers too much. Farm stand and PYO berry operations were well visited. Peaches look and taste great this year. There seem to be plenty to go around. Corn and tomatoes are at just about all the stands now.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: Getting fungicides down on potatoes, pumpkins and winter squash. Some hail caused some damage early in the week, still waiting to see about the results. Harvesting beans, cukes, corn, eggplant and sunflowers. Looking forward to some tomatoes. Peppers don't look good and still out there with first cut hay. The heat and humidity this week was unbearable.

VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille: Another great week weather-wise with the hot conditions pushing the growth of the corn crop. Have also seen some great looking soybeans in parts of the county. Second cut of forage is progressing nicely with much better results than first cut. Pastures holding up quite well with all the moisture in the ground. Sweet corn harvest just getting underway. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Last week overall was a good cropping week. Heavy rains Tuesday night brought the water table back up. Some fields are wet again. A lot of second cut hay went in last week. The quality of this hay should be really good. The corn is beginning to tassel. A lot of the corn is still shorter than normal but it now has that healthy dark green color. Pastures are holding out well due to the moist soils and warm sunny weather. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Spraying potatoes for blight and bugs, also squash and cucumbers for blight. Started planting winter rye early harvested sweet corn and pea fields. Too much damp weather hurt early cole crops, but late plantings doing better. Pumpkins and squash look good and bees doing their job pollinating. Rain for the week 1.924 inches. Plenty of warm weather and rain made a great week for crops to grow. Lots of early varieties of sweet corn and some great early potatoes. Peas gone but green, yellow and shell bean taking over now. Also beets and swiss chard. Market full of good fresh vegetables.

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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