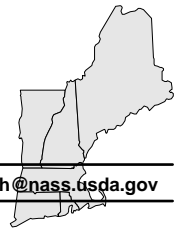




New England Agricultural Statistics



Gary R. Keough, Director

Phone: 603-224-9639

Fax: 603-225-1434

www.nass.usda.gov

nass-nh@nass.usda.gov

53 Pleasant Street
Concord, NH 03301

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

Volume 26, Number 18

(Issued weekly on the internet, May – October)

August 28, 2006 – 4 pm

For week ending 8/27/06

Crop Weather

Fall is Definitely in the Air

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending August 27, 2006, there were 5.8 days available for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture: 2% short, 89% adequate, 9% surplus. Subsoil moisture: 2% short, 87% adequate, 11% surplus. Pasture condition: 1% poor, 25% fair, 61% good, 13% excellent. In southern New England, clear to partly cloudy days dominated the week. By Friday, rain moved in and remained through the weekend. In northern areas, rain and clouds limited outside activities on Monday but fair to partly cloudy conditions moved into the region on Tuesday and remained through Saturday. On Sunday, more rain hindered fieldwork.

FRUIT: Cooler temperatures arrived into the region and highbush blueberry and Maine wild blueberry harvest started to wind down. Early apple harvest was in full swing with Paula Reds, Ginger Golds, and Honeycrisp varieties. At week's end, peach harvest was over half completed and condition was rated good. Pear harvest continued ahead of last year's pace and the crop condition was rated good. Massachusetts cranberry growers were busy preparing equipment and maintaining the bogs for the upcoming harvest. In addition, fruit tree growers were busy monitoring pest, summer pruning, mowing orchard floors, and moving bins into the orchards. Strawberry growers continued to cultivate, weed, and fertilize strawberry beds.

VEGETABLES: Cool weather hindered sweet corn development as warmer, sunnier days are needed for the crop to reach full potential. Vegetable growers continued harvesting an array of vegetables. Local farm stands and farmers' markets were stocked full of vegetables. Pumpkin and squash growers were dealing with stem rot due to recent weather. Greenhouses and garden centers were starting to sell fall mums. Corn mazes were starting to open up but were delayed due to a late growing season.

FIELD CROPS: Cool temperatures limited crop development and ideal weather for re-growth of grass for hay. Recent rain showers have limited farmers from finishing baling first cutting of hay due to a lack of drying days. Some farmers were able to take advantage between rains and made steady stride with second and third cutting. Cool, wet conditions have hindered tobacco harvest due to a lack of maturity in the leaves. More warm, sunny days are needed to enhance corn silage. Farmers are hoping for a long growing season to enhance the crop to reach full potential. In Connecticut, farmers have started to chop corn silage in fields planted early and not affected from spring showers. Maine oats and barley harvest continued with quality of grain was high but yields were low due to growing conditions that hindered full potential. Maine potato growers continued preparing for the upcoming harvest desiccating potato vines and spraying fields. Rhode Island potato growers were busy harvesting and at week's end had harvested a quarter of the crop. Massachusetts potato growers were in full swing harvesting with ten percent picked.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	0	10
Short	2	4	41
Adequate	89	84	49
Surplus	9	12	0
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	0	10
Short	2	2	28
Adequate	87	86	60
Surplus	11	12	2

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	- Percent Harvested -			Fruit Size	Condition
	2006	2005	5-yr Avg		
Apples	10	10	10	Average	Good
Peaches	60	60	65	Average	Good
Pears	10	5	5	Average	Good
Blueberries					
Highbush	95	90	90	Avg/Above Avg	Good/Excellent
Wild, ME	95	95	90	Above Avg/ Avg	Good
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-	Average	Good/Excellent

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2006	2005	5-yr Avg	Condition
	--Percent Harvested--			
Barley, ME	75	30	35	Good/Excellent
Oats, ME	40	25	20	Good/Excellent
Potatoes				
Maine	-	-	<5	Good/Excellent
Mass	10	15	25	Good
Rhode Island	25	25	40	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	-	-	-	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	65	65	65	Good/Excellent
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	75	80	80	Good/Fair
Shade	80	80	80	Good/Fair
Dry Hay				
First Cut	99	99	99	Good/Fair
Second Cut	80	80	80	Good/Excellent
Third Cut	20	20	30	Good/Excellent

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

For the Period: Monday August 21, 2006
To: Sunday August 27, 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		
MAINE															
Augusta_State_A	50	80	63	-4	1893	+199	852	+188	0.85	+0.11	3	3.80	+0.78	14	
Bangor_Intl_Arp	43	80	61	-5	1835	+288	793	+236	0.83	+0.06	3	3.17	+0.16	12	
Bethel	46	77	60	-5	1668	+130	683	+143	0.78	-0.13	2	2.83	-0.78	9	
Caribou_Municip	35	75	56	-6	1544	+284	571	+214	0.27	-0.64	2	2.75	-0.95	13	
Dover-Foxcroft	40	78	56	-8	1390	+40	507	+88	0.10	-0.74	2	1.77	-1.51	8	
Frenchville	39	74	56	-5	1423	+252	493	+188	0.00	-0.91	0	1.97	-1.75	10	
Houlton	34	77	57	-6	1569	+253	606	+208	0.41	-0.50	2	2.40	-1.29	13	
Livermore_Falls	44	81	61	-2	1716	+386	717	+318	0.88	-0.07	2	2.73	-0.95	12	
Moosehead	37	76	56	-6	1318	+193	462	+173	0.92	+0.08	3	4.88	+1.49	11	
Portland_ME	50	82	64	-3	1858	+305	831	+260	0.40	-0.27	2	1.71	-0.85	9	
NEW HAMPSHIRE															
Benton	45	78	60	-3	1580	+158	629	+191	0.83	-0.08	1	2.92	-0.70	10	
Berlin_AG	44	75	58	-5	1575	+142	617	+156	1.48	+0.50	1	6.03	+2.12	10	
Concord	50	83	64	-2	2066	+352	981	+313	0.34	-0.38	3	3.05	+0.02	13	
Diamond_Pond	39	67	54	-6	1133	+164	355	+163	0.80	-0.33	2	7.63	+3.00	12	
Keene_AP	55	81	65	-3	1939	+35	889	+79	0.35	-0.49	2	2.68	-0.86	6	
North_Conway	47	79	62	-3	1822	+225	789	+207	0.45	-0.46	1	3.26	-0.38	10	
RocheSter	49	81	63	-5	1938	+118	883	+130	0.57	-0.20	2	2.30	-0.94	8	
VERMONT															
Burlington_Intl	48	78	64	-3	2133	+301	1023	+263	1.03	+0.12	2	3.91	+0.24	11	
Island_Pond	41	74	57	-4	1499	+323	565	+267	0.41	-0.66	1	3.63	-0.77	9	
Montpelier	48	78	61	-2	1800	+356	752	+287	0.75	-0.11	3	2.52	-0.95	15	
Pownal	52	78	64	+0	1760	+263	740	+244	0.13	-0.85	2	4.51	+0.64	10	
Rochester	47	80	63	-1	1647	+231	660	+210	0.65	-0.40	1	2.68	-1.47	10	
Rutland_AG	49	82	64	-4	1821	-65	785	-4	0.10	-0.84	2	2.07	-1.73	10	
Springfield_VT	54	81	64	+0	1923	+366	866	+326	0.52	-0.39	4	3.16	-0.44	14	
Sutton	44	72	58	-3	1447	+254	525	+213	0.57	-0.47	1	5.05	+0.74	9	
MASSACHUSETTS															
Boston/Logan_In	58	84	68	-3	2359	+204	1233	+216	1.08	+0.31	3	2.55	-0.36	9	
Fitchburg	54	83	67	+3	2271	+717	1164	+616	1.45	+0.68	3	3.47	+0.27	10	
Greenfield	55	83	67	-2	2069	+38	984	+78	1.08	+0.25	5	3.35	+0.00	13	
New_Bedford	47	83	67	-6	2101	-66	1011	-17	0.44	-0.54	2	2.52	-1.26	8	
Otis_AFB	54	81	67	-2	2024	+260	940	+207	0.51	-0.28	3	2.85	-0.20	10	
Plymouth	50	83	66	-3	2109	+283	1042	+263	1.49	+0.55	4	2.58	-0.98	9	
Walpole	52	83	67	-1	2198	+337	1108	+324	1.14	+0.23	3	3.65	+0.12	12	
Chicopee/Westov	50	87	67	-5	2188	-134	1058	-78	1.26	+0.42	4	3.17	+0.01	9	
Worthington	50	80	63	-2	1747	+229	758	+247	0.71	-0.20	3	3.82	+0.04	10	
RHODE ISLAND															
Providence	57	87	70	+0	2468	+415	1280	+335	0.79	-0.05	2	2.61	-0.65	10	
Woonsocket	54	85	67	+0	2199	+369	1102	+355	1.69	+0.78	3	4.13	+0.49	9	
CONNECTICUT															
Bridgeport/Siko	62	89	72	+0	2479	+276	1273	+202	0.97	+0.27	2	1.98	-0.99	6	
Hartford/Bradle	54	88	70	+0	2500	+266	1309	+236	0.68	-0.16	1	3.07	-0.17	8	
Norfolk	53	79	65	+1	1876	+353	859	+342	0.72	-0.33	2	3.74	-0.35	9	
Thomaston_Dam	55	85	68	+2	2194	+385	1071	+346	0.92	-0.06	4	3.15	-0.68	11	
Willimantic	55	84	68	+1	2286	+443	1136	+381	0.80	-0.08	2	2.38	-1.19	10	

Summary based on NWS data.
DFN = Departure from Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

STATE WEATHER SUMMARY

For the Week Ending Sunday, August 27, 2006

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 or call toll free at 1-888-798-9955.

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	L	HI	AV	DF	LO	HI
ME	33	83	59	-5	0.00	1.38
NH	32	86	61	-3	0.16	3.46
VT	38	83	61	-3	0.07	1.54
MA	46	87	66	-2	0.39	1.55
RI	54	87	69	+0	0.47	1.69
CT	52	89	69	+0	0.31	1.08

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

CONNECTICUT - Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland: Cooler temperatures this week resulted in slower crop development particularly in shade tobacco where harvest was delayed on Friday and Saturday to let leaves mature before picking. Broadleaf has been coming in heavy and even areas previously under water in the early season are looking great. Vegetable harvest continues on all crops. Peaches and blueberries are winding down. **Frank Himmelstein (Ext), New London:** Fall like weather good for hay re-growth but will hurt later plantings of corn that need every heat unit possible to mature. Heavy rains coming in to part of the state this weekend will do more harm than good in isolated areas. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Producers are just beginning to harvest silage corn fields. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Heavy showers this week. Corn chopping has started. Haying continues whenever possible. Spreading manure on fresh cut hay fields. Weeds have been aggressive with all the moisture. Dairy farmers appreciate Connecticut's help with low milk prices, but many are not sure how to make ends meet as low milk prices continue. Fruit and vegetable crops doing well, some small and hail damaged crops are hurting apple sales. Sweet corn continues to be good at markets. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** Nice weather most of the week. Cool night time temperatures feel like fall is almost here. Warm sunny days have helped all of the crops continue to mature. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Finishing up third cutting. Some farms reporting soybeans are at the perfect stage to be deer food. Several reports of deer standing in fields of soybeans in late morning eating without a care in the world. Most farms getting equipment serviced and wear parts stockpiled for the coming corn harvest.

MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook: Potatoes and small grains: Growers continuing to desiccate potato vines, spraying protectant on the rest of their crop. Harvesting small grains and windrowing canola. Also doing some fall tillage and continuing to get harvest equipment and storage ready. Small grain yields lower than average, but the quality is good. Some rain would be welcomed to help potatoes to size up. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Potato crop is in great shape. Quality of barley and oat crops is good, but the yield is down due to the weather. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** A week of almost dry weather. A few showers messed up haymaking during the week. Cool weather has slowed the progress of corn which is already far behind normal. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Blueberry harvest is complete. Time to apply herbicides to weeds. Sweet corn and silage corn need more summer weather. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries; Harvest is still winding down on the blueberry barrens. Harvest continues in the coastal fields but is expected to be done before Labor Day. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Fall temperatures arrived last week. Hopefully, warm weather will return to help silage mature. Apples are starting to be picked and are at the markets. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Androscoggin/Franklin:** Lots of harvesting going on. Hopefully the frost holds off so

corn can finish well. Time to do the firewood! **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Oxford County producers had a good week to harvest produce and get a little more hay harvested. Field corn looks good in places and poorly in other areas of the county.

MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: Beautiful fall like weather, 70's and low 80's, cool nights continue. An inch and a half of rain over the week and sunny days kept things maturing. More hay was harvested. There are lots of weeds this year despite treatments. FAV farmers are selling summer veggies and worried about full development on their winter squashes and pumpkins. Orchards are looking good, apple season has started off on a good note. Folks are hoping for a long fall. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: The calm before the storm. Growers are resting up for the upcoming harvest. Equipment is getting prepared, ditches being dug out, weeds getting clipped. There is a crop out there better than the USDA's forecast I believe. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Franklin/Hampshire/Hampden:** Another week with nice, mild weather during the week and rain on the weekend. Farmers starting to harvest winter squash and pumpkins. They are also continuing to harvest sweet corn, potatoes, cabbage, parsnips, blueberries and apples. Farmers continue applying fungicides to control diseases in vine crops and potatoes. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** Fall definitely in the air! Mums appearing at genuine farmstands and at wannabees. Cool, wet weather has slowed crop development and increased fungi presence in fall crops. Summer crops starting to show their age and harvest totals beginning to go down. Fall fruits (apples, peaches, pears and raspberries) are just beautiful, especially size and color. Fall army worm and ECB are becoming worse as rains making spraying difficult. Second cut hay in fields looking real good. It's been a tough year for most growers.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap: Many vegetables are being harvested. Apples are sizing up nicely. Growers are mowing orchards. Garden centers are offering fall mums for sale. A second cutting of hay is happening in some places. **Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll:** Tough week for second cutting hay, weather man didn't deliver as promised, unscheduled rain showers putting a real damper on things. Pasture grasses re-growing well in the cool wet weather. Early apples are ready, late blueberries still rolling in. Veggies of all kinds piled high at the farm stands. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Cooler weather with a number of cloudy, overcast days. Most corn still managing to look pretty good - hearing a few reports of dented kernels and plans to start chopping soon. Re-growth on hay and pastures is excellent. Vegetable stands still offering a wide array of produce. Orchards starting to offer early varieties - Paula Red, Ginger Golds, etc. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Increasingly cooler weather patterns this week, some sunny weather but still the sudden heavy rains that have plagued hay farmers and other this year. Some fields sodden with ponding in low areas at the beginning of the week from hard rains last weekend. Haying activities - tending to dry out mown day continues as conditions

permit. Field corn ears starting to fill out, yet seem behind compared to last year. Zukes, cucumbers, beans and sweet corn available at small and large farmstands. Fungal disease Ergor common on heads of uncut meadow grasses. Growing degree days in Lancaster station at 1484, roughly 60 days behind last season. Fall asters in bloom. Honeybees busy on sunny days. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Hay and haylage harvests continuing. Third cut alfalfa grass is excellent in quality. Fourth cutting re-growth is looking good to excellent due to timely rains. Corn continues to mature. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Vegetables: Farmers kept busy harvesting an array of vegetable crops, monitoring pest pressures, spraying pesticides for insect and disease control where needed. Fruit: Orchardists harvesting peaches, plums, and finishing Paula Red and Ginger Gold apples and picking first Honeycrisp apples. Highbush blueberry harvest winding down and fall raspberry harvest continued. Orchardists busy monitoring for pests, summer pruning trees, mowing orchard floors, fixing up orchard roads and moving bins into the orchard. Strawberry growers cultivating, weeding and fertilizing strawberry fields. Field Crops: Hay making and chopping forage continued during the week. Corn looks good to excellent and farmers starting to get equipment ready to start chopping in a couple of weeks. **Sadie Puglisi (Ext), Merrimack:** Apples are starting to be picked. Farm stands filled with melons and peaches. Cool weather and cloudy conditions are slowing things down a bit. Corn harvest for silage is beginning.

Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford: Rain showers welcome after a period of dry weather. Fruit growers harvesting few late varieties of blue-berries. Early varieties of apples being harvested and harvesting of peaches is in full gear. Vegetable growers harvesting an array of vegetable crops and sweet corn. Fall mums already being sold at garden centers. Greenhouse and nursery operations trying to evaluate the season.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: Well, we can always irrigate in a dry season, but a wet one is just a bear. Harvesting sweet corn and all summer vegetables, corn mazes are finally open, but late due to the weather. Cool wet nights are irritating tomatoes, peppers and squash. Pumpkins are ok, but farmers are fighting stem rot. The field corn is late as well and showing signs of stress. Heavy rains the end of the week.

VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille: Last week brought good weather for harvesting grass and alfalfa. Some manure being spread on second cut fields. Corn crop progressing nicely toward a decent harvest except in wet areas. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** The days are becoming noticeably shorter and cooler. The corn is starting to develop ears but it still has a long way to go to maturity. Growers are hoping for a late fall. Overall corn stocks are short and thin, this will affect the tonnage harvested. Some farms are beginning to harvest third crop hay. The crop looks good. Pastures are doing well for the time of year.

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**

Gary R. Keough, Director
Travis Averill, Statistician

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
53 PLEASANT STREET
CONCORD, NH 03301

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