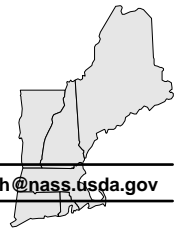




New England Agricultural Statistics



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April 30, 2007 – 4 pm

For week ending 4/29/07

When it Rains, It Pours

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending April 29, 2007, there were 4.8 days available for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture was rated 55% adequate, 45% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 51% adequate, 49% surplus. Pasture condition was rated as 13% very poor, 19% poor, 25% fair, 40% good, 3% excellent. Record high temperatures at the beginning of the week allowed farmers to plow some fields, spread manure, and even begin to plant field and sweet corn, early vegetables, and potatoes. However, most fields were still too wet from earlier heavy rains. By mid-week, seasonal temperatures returned and so did the rain, bringing most field work to a halt. The rain began on Wednesday and continued through Sunday pushing fieldwork progress back another week in an unusually wet Spring. Major farm activities included: plowing, spreading manure and fertilizer, planting field and sweet corn, early vegetables, and potatoes, pruning trees, fertilizing orchards, working in the greenhouses, and repairing fencing and farm roads damaged in the heavy storms over the last couple of weeks.

FRUIT: Despite the wet weather, fruit growers were nearly finished pruning and began to spray insecticides and fungicides. Some areas were preparing the soil for planting new trees. While most fruit trees made it through the winter without much damage, cranberry vines experienced some mild to extensive winter injury. Maine wild blueberry growers were busy pruning and fertilizing, but have not started spraying any fungicides. Some wild blueberry fields experienced winterkill.

VEGETABLES: Growers are reporting to be one to three weeks behind normal schedule. The fields are just now being plowed and plastic being laid in most areas. Sweet corn is starting to be planted, as well as some early vegetables such as cabbage, greens, lettuce, squash, and tomatoes. Growers continued to prepare fields by fertilizing, liming, plowing, discing, and planting fields.

FIELD CROPS: The April snowfalls and heavy rains have hindered farmers from beginning field work this year. In the early part of the week, conditions allowed farmers to spread lime, manure, and fertilizer, plow, and even begin planting fields. The record-high temperatures on Monday and Tuesday dried out some fields fairly quickly. However, on Wednesday more rain brought most field work to an end for the week. The wet spring limited Massachusetts potato farmers and at week's end only 20 percent of the crop was planted. Rhode Island potato growers planted 15 percent of the crop, which is slightly below average. Tobacco beds and greenhouses were seeded, but seedlings are not growing quickly. Pastures were starting to green up, but were still too wet to let the animals out.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

| Soil Rating | This Week | Last Week | Last Year |
|----------------|---------------|-----------|-----------|
| | -- Percent -- | | |
| Topsoil | | | |
| Very Short | 0 | - | 8 |
| Short | 0 | - | 33 |
| Adequate | 55 | - | 57 |
| Surplus | 45 | - | 2 |
| Subsoil | | | |
| Very Short | 0 | - | 0 |
| Short | 0 | - | 29 |
| Adequate | 51 | - | 68 |
| Surplus | 49 | - | 1 |

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

| Crop | Stage | Condition |
|-----------------|------------|-----------|
| Apples | Bud Stage | Good |
| Peaches | Bud Stage | Good |
| Pears | Bud Stage | Good |
| Blueberries | | |
| Highbush | Dormant/BS | Good |
| Wild | Dormant | Good |
| Cranberries, MA | Dormant | Good |
| Strawberries | Dormant/BS | Good |

BS = Bud Stage

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

| Crop | 2007 | 2006 | 5-yr Avg | Condition |
|-------------|-------------------------|------|----------|-----------|
| | -- Percent Planted -- | | | |
| Barley, ME | | | | N/A |
| Oats, ME | | | | N/A |
| Potatoes | | | | |
| Maine | | | | N/A |
| Mass | 20 | 40 | 20 | Good |
| Rhode Isl | 15 | 20 | 20 | Good |
| Silage Corn | 0 | <5 | 0 | N/A |
| Sweet Corn | 5 | <5 | 5 | Good |
| Tobacco | | | | |
| Shade | | | | N/A |
| Broadleaf | | | | N/A |
| Dry Hay | -- Percent Harvested -- | | | |
| First Cut | | | | Good/Fair |

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

For the Period: Monday April 23, 2007
To: Sunday April 29, 2007

| 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 |
| MAINE | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Augusta State A | 38 | 84 | 52 | +6 | 40 | +31 | 10 | +10 | 0.99 | +0.08 | 3 | 6.10 | +2.62 | 11 |
| Bangor Intl Arp | 27 | 83 | 51 | +6 | 25 | +20 | 10 | +10 | 0.26 | -0.52 | 2 | 5.86 | +2.77 | 13 |
| Bethel | 26 | 82 | 48 | +3 | 14 | +9 | 1 | +1 | 0.38 | -0.46 | 2 | 8.72 | +5.36 | 12 |
| Caribou Municip | 26 | 77 | 45 | +4 | 11 | +8 | 0 | +0 | 0.15 | -0.45 | 2 | 3.06 | +0.78 | 12 |
| Dover-Foxcroft | 25 | 81 | 46 | +3 | 9 | +6 | 0 | +0 | 0.26 | -0.58 | 2 | 5.56 | +2.27 | 11 |
| Frenchville | 27 | 71 | 44 | +3 | 6 | +6 | 0 | +0 | 0.28 | -0.35 | 2 | 1.84 | -0.53 | 12 |
| Houlton | 21 | 79 | 47 | +5 | 16 | +13 | 3 | +3 | 0.30 | -0.36 | 2 | 3.48 | +1.06 | 14 |
| Livermore Falls | 23 | 83 | 47 | +3 | 9 | +6 | 0 | +0 | 0.69 | -0.22 | 3 | 7.83 | +4.19 | 12 |
| Moosehead | 21 | 78 | 41 | +2 | 5 | +5 | 0 | +0 | 0.28 | -0.49 | 2 | 5.32 | +2.44 | 11 |
| Portland_ME | 30 | 81 | 52 | +6 | 37 | +33 | 11 | +11 | 0.75 | -0.18 | 3 | 8.41 | +4.59 | 13 |
| NEW HAMPSHIRE | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Benton | 28 | 81 | 49 | +4 | 26 | +12 | 4 | +4 | 0.39 | -0.31 | 2 | 5.68 | +3.12 | 12 |
| Berlin AG | 27 | 81 | 48 | +4 | 14 | +5 | 2 | +2 | 0.25 | -0.57 | 2 | 6.51 | +3.34 | 12 |
| Bethlehem | 31 | 81 | 51 | +6 | 28 | +16 | 0 | +0 | 0.50 | -0.20 | 4 | 5.14 | +2.41 | 18 |
| Concord | 29 | 87 | 55 | +8 | 61 | +47 | 13 | +13 | 1.12 | +0.42 | 3 | 6.91 | +4.19 | 11 |
| Diamond Pond | 20 | 71 | 41 | +2 | 2 | +2 | 0 | +0 | 0.47 | -0.30 | 3 | 6.50 | +3.64 | 16 |
| Keene AP | 34 | 84 | 54 | +5 | 41 | +17 | 13 | +13 | 0.33 | -0.44 | 3 | 4.94 | +2.00 | 13 |
| North Conway | 27 | 83 | 49 | +3 | 14 | +5 | 0 | +0 | 0.53 | -0.45 | 2 | 8.25 | +4.40 | 13 |
| Rochester | 30 | 89 | 53 | +6 | 43 | +26 | 8 | +8 | 1.03 | +0.05 | 3 | 10.34 | +6.37 | 12 |
| VERMONT | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Burlington Intl | 30 | 82 | 55 | +7 | 49 | +26 | 11 | +11 | 0.36 | -0.34 | 4 | 3.60 | +1.02 | 15 |
| Island Pond | 23 | 79 | 46 | +4 | 10 | +4 | 0 | +0 | 0.26 | -0.43 | 3 | 3.11 | +0.61 | 15 |
| Montpelier | 27 | 80 | 51 | +6 | 31 | +19 | 2 | +2 | 0.34 | -0.27 | 3 | 3.75 | +1.49 | 15 |
| Pownal | 32 | 84 | 53 | +8 | 42 | +27 | 6 | +6 | 0.78 | -0.27 | 5 | 5.03 | +0.99 | 15 |
| Rochester | 30 | 81 | 49 | +5 | 18 | +9 | 0 | +0 | 0.24 | -0.68 | 3 | 5.07 | +1.60 | 11 |
| Rutland AG | 30 | 82 | 52 | +3 | 32 | -1 | 5 | +5 | 0.03 | -0.66 | 2 | 3.17 | +0.69 | 16 |
| Springfield_VT | 30 | 83 | 53 | +7 | 33 | +20 | 10 | +10 | 0.19 | -0.72 | 3 | 5.33 | +1.79 | 14 |
| Sutton | 25 | 78 | 47 | +5 | 10 | +7 | 0 | +0 | 0.55 | -0.15 | 3 | 5.64 | +2.94 | 14 |
| MASSACHUSETTS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Boston/Logan_In | 42 | 86 | 56 | +5 | 74 | +39 | 16 | +16 | 1.66 | +0.82 | 4 | 6.63 | +3.27 | 13 |
| Fitchburg | 33 | 86 | 57 | +11 | 78 | +69 | 19 | +19 | 0.75 | -0.08 | 4 | 7.02 | +3.86 | 13 |
| Greenfield | 34 | 85 | 54 | +4 | 43 | +11 | 7 | +7 | 0.88 | -0.02 | 3 | 6.59 | +3.19 | 13 |
| New Bedford | 33 | 76 | 54 | +3 | 44 | +6 | 1 | +1 | 1.77 | +0.86 | 4 | 8.83 | +4.98 | 15 |
| Otis_AFB | 32 | 70 | 52 | +5 | 27 | +16 | 0 | +0 | 1.66 | +0.75 | 3 | 8.63 | +5.02 | 11 |
| Plymouth | 34 | 75 | 55 | +7 | 46 | +34 | 4 | +4 | 1.33 | +0.35 | 4 | 7.97 | +4.02 | 13 |
| Walpole | 35 | 87 | 56 | +7 | 64 | +43 | 13 | +13 | 1.25 | +0.30 | 4 | 7.82 | +3.87 | 15 |
| Chicopee/Westov | 34 | 87 | 56 | +3 | 60 | -3 | 12 | +12 | 0.88 | -0.03 | 3 | 5.89 | +2.29 | 11 |
| Worthington | 30 | 82 | 51 | +5 | 36 | +23 | 5 | +5 | 0.93 | -0.07 | 4 | 8.46 | +4.74 | 15 |
| RHODE ISLAND | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Providence | 40 | 79 | 57 | +7 | 84 | +56 | 13 | +13 | 1.38 | +0.47 | 3 | 7.91 | +4.06 | 11 |
| Woonsocket | 35 | 86 | 56 | +8 | 64 | +47 | 11 | +11 | 1.85 | +0.87 | 4 | 8.06 | +4.19 | 13 |
| CONNECTICUT | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bridgeport/Siko | 43 | 76 | 57 | +6 | 76 | +36 | 9 | +9 | 2.00 | +1.09 | 3 | 7.72 | +4.22 | 11 |
| Hartford/Bradle | 35 | 88 | 58 | +6 | 89 | +40 | 18 | +18 | 1.00 | +0.09 | 4 | 7.53 | +3.93 | 11 |
| Norfolk | 33 | 82 | 52 | +6 | 40 | +30 | 4 | +4 | 0.91 | -0.14 | 4 | 7.99 | +3.83 | 14 |
| Thomaston Dam | 36 | 82 | 55 | +6 | 53 | +27 | 6 | +6 | 1.18 | +0.15 | 4 | 9.46 | +5.50 | 12 |
| Willimantic | 35 | 85 | 57 | +8 | 63 | +40 | 11 | +11 | 1.78 | +0.80 | 4 | 7.81 | +3.91 | 12 |

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, April 29, 2007

| State | Air Temperatures | | | | Precipitation | |
|-------|------------------|----|----|----|---------------|------|
| | L | HI | AV | DF | LO | HI |
| ME | 19 | 85 | 47 | +3 | 0.03 | 0.99 |
| NH | 18 | 89 | 50 | +5 | 0.10 | 1.12 |
| VT | 21 | 84 | 50 | +5 | 0.02 | 1.15 |
| MA | 30 | 88 | 54 | +6 | 0.48 | 1.77 |
| RI | 35 | 86 | 55 | +6 | 1.36 | 1.85 |
| CT | 32 | 88 | 55 | +6 | 0.91 | 2.00 |

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: Farmers are applying commercial fertilizer and manure. Many fields are too wet to work. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Most tree fruit seemed to make it through the winter. A wet April with the Connecticut River still above flood stage in Hartford. Some plowing and planting of sweet corn on earliest land but none emerged. Spreading manure and incorporating it in right away to keep from losing nitrogen. Urea prices quoted between \$500 and \$550 per ton. Tobacco beds and greenhouses seeded but not coming along fast. Pastures and hay fields greening up. **Frank Himmelstein (Ext), New London:** While hay fields are greening up nicely in the county, the April rain storms have left many corn fields too wet to prepare for planting. It's going to take some warm weather with good windy days to dry many typically wet fields enough to work. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Excessive rain and cold temperatures have slowed planting. Producers are spreading manure, harrowing and spreading fertilizer on fields that are accessible. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** Vegetable growers are reporting that they are about a week behind normal in planting progress. Some ground has been plowed and plastic laid down. Some reports of cabbage, lettuce and summer squash being planted. The warm weather early in the week helped dry out fields quickly so they could be worked. Rain late in the week brought things to a halt. Some ground has been plowed to prepare for planting field corn. **Sherry Roy (FSA), Windham:** Soil preparation for planting new fruit trees, weed control spraying, spraying for scab, pruning apples, pruning blueberries. Crop Conditions: Apples are in early tight cluster, peaches beginning to blossom. Warm weather has brought out the bees and other insects. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Spring? What spring? We had rain, mud, cold. Didn't accomplish much this week unless it was inside!

MAINE - Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook: Still getting rid of snow. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Nothing going on. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis:** Last week before the rain, some farmers with lighter textured soils were able to get on the land to do some tillage. Reports of a very small number of acres of sweet corn and some vegetables were planted. Most farmers are still waiting for fields to dry out. Pastures are just starting to green up, but they are too wet to let animals out on them. **Janet King (FSA), Somerset:** Very little field activities, many fields are too wet. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Some field work last week on drier ground. Some seeding of alfalfa and small grains. Manure was spread on some ground, but rain over the weekend will slow progress down with more rain expected on Monday. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Sweet corn and other small vegetables planted this week. Remy put on some crops. Crops have not emerged. Farmers are working in greenhouses. Straw recently raked off strawberry fields. Some blueberry field burning took place although at the first of week burning was halted due to dry conditions. Most spring activities have been delayed due to the Patriot's Day rainfall of over 5 inches which has left most fields too wet to apply manure, etc. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Debris is being picked up from fields from the Patriots Day storm. Field roads also suffered much erosion. Most fields are still too wet and cold for planting. Some manure is being spread. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Androscoggin/Franklin:** There is still snow in the woods, higher elevations and shaded areas. Snow melt has happened moderately in this area creating no large floods. The ground is totally saturated. Grass is just starting to turn green. Some manure was spread before the recent rains. Patience is the current word of wisdom. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Oxford County agricultural producers have reported that crop fields are still very wet and some have debris from the recent flood waters. Hay fields are very soggy and wet. Pastures are muddy and most animals still in barns due to the wet weather. **Guy Piper (FSA), Kennebec:** Most fields are saturated with water with all the rain we have been

getting. Some frost still in ground, edge fields by woods. Limited if any field work.

MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: Hi folks, we had a mild winter through February and then a couple of colder than normal months. The first 10 days of April were colder than the first 10 days of January in the county. All snow that fell in the Berkshires came in about 3 storms. The Nor'easter which hit New England a couple of weeks ago left flood damage and ruined a few fields. The ground is still too wet to work and the weather remains cool. Our precipitation for April (mostly rain) was well above average. Nurseries are selling well but it is still early. Farmer's Markets will begin in the next couple of weeks. We hope everyone has a prosperous season and look forward to communicating. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Cranberry vines experienced some winter injury in those beds that were not flooded or in those corners that are higher than the rest of the bed. Injury is extensive in some beds. Growers are ready for the first frost night, which will occur later than usual. Weather has been cooler than normal, and consequently, the buds of the early cultivars have not advanced much so far. Rainfall has been above average - reservoirs are full. Many renovation projects are being completed, getting the bed ready for planting (including our 10 acres at the Cranberry Station). This is a good sign for the cranberry industry - renovations were few and far between when the price of cranberries was low. **Emily Tchorz (FSA), Bristol:** Fields are being plowed, flowers and trees are starting to bloom, there're signs of spring are everywhere. Soil moisture is looking good so far. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Franklin/Hampshire/Hampden:** Dairy farmers are spreading manure and liming fields. Vegetable growers are planting sweet corn, carrots, parsnips and potatoes. The mulch was removed from strawberry beds and irrigation set up for frost control.

New Hampshire - Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll: Winter snow has all melted in the Southern part of the county. Warm weather a week ago pushed up the daffodils and crocuses. Lilacs are developing leaves and flower buds. Forsythia is in bloom. Hay fields and pastures are greening up and grass is beginning to grow. So far no black flies! Northern parts of the county are a bit behind, some snow piles and patches in the woods remain. Forsythia not in bloom yet, but a warm day or two will fix that. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** An odd winter and a late start to spring, but things have really warmed up in the past week. Most crops seem to have made it through the winter OK. Lots of fields are still wet, but farms are starting to head into the field to spread manure, do early forage seeding, spread fertilizer, transplant some early crops. Many are hoping for a 'normal' season - whatever that is. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Recovering from Nor'easter, wind damage to buildings, downed trees, and fence lines. Flooded fields along the Connecticut & Androscoggin Rivers somewhat higher than usually spring floods. Grass fields starting to green up, manure being moved to strategic locations, pruning of fruit trees being finished up. Seems like a lot of ground nesting bees. Tough year/winter for honey bees, many bee keepers report losing their hives. Garlic is about the only thing growing at this point on vegetable farms. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Many fields are wet or under water due to high river levels. Fields that can be accessed are being prepared for corn, spreading manure and tillage, and new seedlings are being established. Rain late in the week stopped most field work. Grass and alfalfa hay fields are just beginning to grow. Some spring fertilizer has been applied. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** The dry weather of last week allowed some manure spreading on the better drained soil types. Most upland soils are still not very accessible due to saturated soils. In general, most farmers estimate that they are about 3 to 4 weeks behind where they would like to be at this time of year, due to the

wet cool conditions. Corn planting still has not gone into high gear. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Assessing damage causing by flood from rain storm during week of April 18. Farm fields had soil erosion to point of three to five feet gullies forming and farm roads were severely damaged. Field Crops: Liming and fertilizing hayfields; spreading manure, plowing, disking fertilizing and getting ready to plant corn. Fixing pasture fences, also getting ready to make new pasture and hayfield seedings. Vegetables: Transplanting tomatoes into high tunnels. Early season vegetables peas, lettuce, greens are being planted. Liming, fertilizing, plowing, disking (fields that are not too wet to work) and getting ready to plant fields. Fruits: Apples are at tight cluster stage. Peach are at pink stage to first blossoms opening. Blueberry is at bud swell stage. Pruning last blueberry bushes and raspberry patches. Orchardists are chopping brush in orchard or push pruning out of the orchards. Fertilizing orchards. Protective fungicide sprays applied on fruit trees.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: Lots of field work, planting potatoes, lettuces and Cole crops doing just OK, could use a little more sun. Heavy rain the latter part of the week held up some work. Wet fields are making it a little slow but

everyone is glad to see the start of spring.

VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille: Because of record setting April snowstorms, we are running a couple of weeks behind average field conditions. Manure spreading was the main activity last week and if it turns out to be a relatively dry week I believe that we will see the start of corn planting later in the week. **Terence Bradshaw, Univ of Vermont:** Trees appear to be in good health coming out of the winter. Dormancy was held during the April cold snaps so little to no bud damage is evident. Bud stages are progressing at a normal rate, McIntosh are at 1/2 inch green tip now. The first scab infection period of the season occurred over this past weekend, orchards should have been covered with fungicide protection. **Dennis Kauppila, (Ext), Caledonia:** Last week was the first week that farmers were able to get onto fields. They have started spreading manure and fixing fence. Forage supplies are getting short. Late spring, some rain over the weekend really got the grass green. **Jeffery Carter (Ext), Addison:** Grass growth started pastures green only two–three inches. Spreading manure, lime, and fertilizer on fields, and Nitrogen on hay fields. Spring frost-seeding had a good take. Limited tillage, some spring plowing, and disk harrow for new seeding preparation and incorporate manure. Corn planters in yard ready to go.

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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