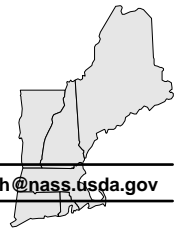




New England Agricultural Statistics



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May 7, 2007 – 4 pm

For week ending 5/6/07

April Showers Bring May Flowers

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending May 6, 2007, there were 6.3 days available for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture was rated 5% short, 70% adequate, 25% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 3% short, 65% adequate, 32% surplus. Pasture condition was rated as 4% very poor, 12% poor, 45% fair, 35% good, 4% excellent. It's starting to look a lot like Spring around New England. Trees and flowers are blooming everywhere and farmers were able to get out into the fields this week. This is a great thing since many farmers are reporting being two to three weeks behind of their normal Spring schedule. Most of the week saw partly cloudy skies and average high temperatures. The evenings were still cold, with frost occurring over most of the region. The winds were higher than normal most of the week which helped to dry out a lot of the fields from the prior two weeks of rain. Some moderate rain showers occurred on Monday and Tuesday and again on Saturday and Sunday. Major farm activities included: spreading manure, fertilizer, fungicides, and herbicides, planting corn, early vegetables, and potatoes, plowing and harrowing fields, pruning trees, and repairing fence damage from the heavy snows of this winter.

FRUIT: Fruit activities were in full swing this week. Fertilizer and fungicide were being spread on most orchards. Apples are in late tight clusters to pink, peaches are in bloom, and pears are at white bud or bloom stage. Many insect traps are being set and experiencing some minor activity. Blueberry growers were busy burning fields and spraying fungicide for mummyberry. Herbicide and fertilizer was applied to pruned fields. Cranberry producers applied pre-emergent herbicides and reported that some vines were progressing. The bees were out pollinating and new hives are being started around New England. However, some apiarists are reporting lost hives and some winter damage.

VEGETABLES: The field preparation of the last week allowed many vegetables to be planted this week. Farmers were continuing to plant greens, lettuce, squash, and corn. Several producers even reported the pea crop emerging in Maine. Cabbage was transplanted into fields and tomatoes were transplanted into high tunnels. Vegetable trays were also being seeded for later transplanting. Asparagus harvesting began this week. Several farmers' markets opened this weekend to good success. Greenhouses are seeing much more activity and are anticipating doing well for Mother's Day.

FIELD CROPS: The warmer, drier weather this week allowed field work to truly begin for the Spring. Farmers were busy tilling fields, spreading manure and fertilizer, and planting sweet and field corn. Potatoes were being planted in Connecticut and Rhode Island, where 25% of the crop has been planted. The pastures are really starting to green up and farmers have put dry cows, heifers, and ewes out into the fields. Massachusetts potato harvest remained behind schedule due to the late start with planting in the spring, and the lack of warm weather to bring the crop to maturity in the summer.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
	-- Percent --		
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	0	2
Short	5	0	28
Adequate	70	55	66
Surplus	25	45	4
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	3	0	20
Adequate	65	51	77
Surplus	32	49	3

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Stage	Condition
Apples	Bud/Early Bloom	Good
Peaches	Bud/Early Bloom	Good
Pears	Bud	Good
Blueberries		
Highbush	Dormant/Bud	Good
Wild	Bud	Good/Excellent
Cranberries, MA	Dormant	Good
Strawberries	Dormant/Bud	Good

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2007	2006	5-yr Avg	Condition
	--Percent Planted--			
Barley, ME	<5	35	10	N/A
Oats, ME	<5	35	10	N/A
Potatoes				
Maine	0	<5	0	N/A
Mass	45	65	40	Good
Rhode Island	25	45	40	Good
Silage Corn	<5	5	5	Good
Sweet Corn	15	10	10	Good
Tobacco				
Broadleaf				N/A
Shade				N/A
Dry Hay	-- Percent Harvested --			
First Cut				Fair/Good

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

For the Period: Monday April 30, 2007
To: Sunday May 6, 2007

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				CUM SINCE MAR 1 GROWING DEGREE DAYS				1-WEEK PRECIP			4-WEEK CUM PRECIP		
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS
MAINE														
Augusta State_A	37	62	49	-2	44	+18	10	+10	0.45	-0.46	3	5.36	+1.80	10
Bangor Intl_Arp	35	61	47	-2	25	+9	10	+10	0.62	-0.17	3	4.95	+1.84	11
Bethel	34	61	47	-3	14	-3	1	+1	0.48	-0.36	3	6.94	+3.58	10
Caribou Municip	31	54	41	-6	11	+1	0	+0	0.29	-0.37	2	1.78	-0.60	9
Dover-Foxcroft	32	59	44	-3	9	-1	0	+0	0.62	-0.22	2	4.54	+1.18	8
Frenchville	30	51	40	-5	6	+1	0	+0	0.26	-0.43	3	1.22	-1.28	10
Houlton	29	54	41	-5	16	+6	3	+3	0.26	-0.44	3	2.55	-0.01	12
Livermore Falls	27	61	46	-2	9	-1	0	+0	0.38	-0.48	2	6.35	+2.76	9
Moosehead	28	55	40	-4	5	+3	0	+0	0.54	-0.21	2	4.02	+1.08	9
Portland_ME	37	65	50	+2	48	+34	11	+11	0.24	-0.65	1	7.05	+3.27	9
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	31	60	45	-4	26	-5	4	+4	0.42	-0.28	2	4.81	+2.14	10
Berlin AG	33	58	46	-3	14	-9	2	+2	0.75	-0.03	2	6.17	+2.96	9
Bethlehem	32	61	48	-1	31	+2	0	+0	0.55	-0.15	2	4.73	+1.93	13
Concord	31	69	52	+2	78	+45	13	+13	0.39	-0.31	3	5.96	+3.17	10
Diamond Pond	28	50	39	-5	2	-4	0	+0	1.29	+0.49	3	5.85	+2.87	12
Keene AP	28	68	49	-5	48	-5	13	+10	0.16	-0.67	3	4.33	+1.26	12
North Conway	32	64	47	-3	14	-11	0	+0	0.45	-0.46	3	6.97	+3.12	11
Rochester	31	65	50	-2	53	+12	8	+8	0.39	-0.56	2	8.60	+4.65	10
VERMONT														
Burlington Intl	32	63	47	-5	50	+2	11	+8	0.19	-0.49	1	2.89	+0.25	11
Island Pond	28	57	42	-4	10	-5	0	+0	0.47	-0.26	3	1.89	-0.78	12
Montpelier	29	60	47	-3	32	+3	2	+2	0.15	-0.50	2	2.76	+0.38	12
Pownal	32	63	49	-1	43	+10	6	+6	0.24	-0.81	2	4.12	+0.00	14
Rochester	28	62	46	-2	18	-6	0	+0	0.27	-0.71	3	4.04	+0.40	11
Rutland AG	29	62	46	-7	32	-32	5	-2	0.15	-0.57	2	2.26	-0.38	13
Springfield_VT	30	65	49	-1	39	+8	10	+10	0.35	-0.56	3	4.32	+0.71	13
Sutton	28	58	43	-3	10	-1	0	+0	0.57	-0.17	2	4.44	+1.63	11
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	43	71	56	+3	123	+56	16	+16	0.16	-0.62	2	5.25	+1.95	11
Fitchburg	35	71	53	+4	103	+79	19	+19	0.20	-0.58	3	5.89	+2.72	12
Greenfield	35	69	52	-3	59	-6	7	+6	0.19	-0.68	2	5.37	+1.92	11
New Bedford	34	74	53	-1	69	-1	1	+1	0.25	-0.61	3	7.33	+3.60	14
Otis AFB	37	68	52	+2	47	+21	0	+0	0.23	-0.66	3	7.38	+3.76	11
Plymouth	32	71	52	+2	65	+36	4	+4	0.27	-0.70	4	6.81	+2.87	13
Walpole	35	70	54	+3	92	+47	13	+13	0.20	-0.66	4	6.21	+2.38	14
Chicopee/Westov	30	70	51	-6	72	-35	12	+5	0.16	-0.75	2	5.03	+1.39	10
Worthington	32	65	49	-1	40	+10	5	+5	0.21	-0.84	3	7.31	+3.38	14
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	38	75	57	+5	136	+81	15	+15	0.24	-0.67	3	6.46	+2.68	11
Woonsocket	36	72	54	+3	94	+53	11	+11	0.01	-0.96	1	6.19	+2.28	10
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	43	79	57	+4	130	+56	11	+8	0.10	-0.81	2	6.75	+3.18	11
Hartford/Bradle	37	75	56	+1	130	+41	18	+11	0.22	-0.69	2	6.53	+2.89	11
Norfolk	33	67	49	+0	47	+21	4	+4	0.25	-0.80	2	7.11	+2.91	13
Thomaston Dam	35	73	53	+1	77	+24	6	+6	0.22	-0.83	3	8.42	+4.38	13
Willimantic	34	74	54	+2	90	+40	11	+11	0.32	-0.66	4	6.63	+2.71	13

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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1-888-798-9955.

STATE WEATHER SUMMARY

For the Week Ending Sunday, May 6, 2007

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	L	HI	AV	DF	LO	HI
ME	25	67	44	-3	0.22	1.45
NH	15	71	46	-2	0.09	1.51
VT	22	65	45	-4	0.10	0.69
MA	28	74	52	+1	0.09	0.36
RI	36	75	55	+4	0.01	0.27
CT	31	79	54	+1	0.08	0.35

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: What a difference a week makes. Dry sunshine with light to moderate breeze has helped to dry many fields out. Heavy tillage for corn, vegetables, and tobacco progressing well. Planting of sweet corn and field corn. Cabbage being transplanted. Still good frosts Thursday through Monday morning. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Producers are emptying manure pits and harrowing in preparation for planting. The latest forecasts of seven days of sunshine have producers anxious to get on their dry fields and begin planting. Greenhouse growers are hoping for good sales for Mother's Day. **Joyce Meader (Ext), Windham:** Tree fruit development in most locations, peaches are in bloom, pears at white bud or bloom, apples late tight cluster to pink. Apple bloom soon in warmer locations!! Insect update-Traps are up for tarnished plant bug (low, white sticky traps), apple blotch leaf miners (low, red sticky traps) and European apple sawfly (high, white sticky traps). As of yesterday, I had not seen any sawflies and tarnished plant bug captures have been very low. Leaf miners started to emerge this week and were quite high in one location. Apple Scab Status – I now have weather stations at seven orchard locations throughout the state. Note that the “accelerated” phase of apple scab occurs between approximately 300 to 700 degree days (DD). This is the time when most of the apple scab ascospores mature; therefore the critical time for scab treatments. We are at or approaching 300 DD at all of these locations. Bottom Line it's a critical time for apple scab. Luckily, the weather looks dry for quite awhile. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Finally fields are dry enough to work. Farmers were frantically spreading manure and planting corn after a long winter away from the fields. Most are saying they are two - three weeks behind the pace of a normal year.

MAINE - Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook: Farmers not doing much of anything. Still too much frost and too wet. In another week planting will be happening all over the place. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Weather just starting to cooperate. Some grain in ground. Nothing else going on. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis:** Fields are just starting to dry out and green up. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** Good weather predicted this week should kick start season. **Janet King (FSA), Somerset:** With a late spring and maybe an early summer. Farmers were able to work their fields last week. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Dry weather has helped to get fields ready for field work. Some small grains planted along with some sweet corn. Manure for corn silage fields is being spread. Looks like good weather ahead. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Fertilizer spread on apple crop. Manure spread on some working fields this week. Some fields have been plowed up in preparation of planting. Pea crop has emerged. Some cole crops set out this week. Fungicide sprayed for mummyberry on blueberry fields. Burning of blueberry fields continued last week. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Fields being mowed and burned for pruning. Herbicide and fertilizer being applied to pruned fields. Fungicide application made last week in Union area and applications are anticipated down east this week if we get enough precipitation for an infection period. Note some winter injury but overall buds look good, so there is a potential for a good crop. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Some early crops are being planted. Windy, dry weather is drying out the fields. Grass has turned green and is starting to grow. Frost was widespread over the area this morning. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Androscoggin/Franklin:** Good spring cleanup weather. Manure is being spread and some land being cultivated. We may need some rain soon to get pasture growth moving. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Oxford County Producers have started field work where possible as some fields are still very wet. Sunny weather is a welcome sight for all in the county. **Guy Piper (FSA), Kennebec:** Starting to see livestock in pastures. It is good to see green pastures and hay fields. **Valerie Porter (Ext), Penobscot:** Fields are still pretty wet and very few farmers have been able to access the fields due to heavy rains in April. Farmers have not been able to access the fields in order to start cultivating, spreading of fertilizer at this time. If dry weather holds off some may be able to start applying some fertilizer.

MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: Daily

temps in the high 50's to 70's dropping to the 30's at night with some warnings for hard frosts. Farmers have been doing field prep and some corn is planted. Prep this year includes some cleanup of debris from earlier rain events. The week ended with sunny breezy days and fields are drying nicely. Orchards look healthy and nurseries and greenhouses are doing a booming business. Farmers' markets opened with good turnouts for the first weekend and a wide variety of goods. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: After an April with no frost nights (a real rarity), so far we've had four (including a real long one last-night unday). Vines advanced quite a lot in development last week, with the early varieties really greening up with buds swelling. Growers are cleaning ditches, cleaning up dikes, and applying pre-emergent herbicides. Weed growth has begun, but it's too early to sweep for insects. Winter moth larvae, however, have been found in one cranberry bed. Things look pretty good, for the most part. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Franklin/Hampshire/Hampden:** Farmers planting potatoes, cabbage, parsnips, strawberries, lettuce, new hay seedings, spinach and sweet corn. All crops look good and some farmers started to irrigate their onions and strawberries. Dairy farmers are spreading manure and fixing fence. Orchardists are applying a protective spray.

New Hampshire - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap: The low-lying fields are still too wet for field work in some locations. Spun bond row covers over early sweet corn can be seen in at a few farms. Peas and radishes have been planted. Farmers are seeding many vegetable crops in trays for transplanting later in the fields. Pastures are greening up nicely. **Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll:** Dry, windy weather has dried things out pretty well. Fields are dry enough for equipment, so spreading manure and other field work has begun. Pastures and hay fields are growing well. Southern parts of the county, as usual, are much further along than northern portions, but the black flies have emerged in both areas. Can the mosquitoes be far behind? **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** A bright and sunny week, but temperatures kind of on the cool side. Grass in pastures and hayfields doing well. Farms still topdressing fields with fertilizer, spreading manure on corn ground, but no one doing much tillage or planting yet. Vegetable operations are doing some field prep and planting of early crops. Farmers' markets opening over the weekend, lots of bedding plants, etc. on display. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Flooded fields beginning to dry out, manure being hauled to strategic locations. Hay land starting to green up well, animals being pastured. Fences are being repaired. Still frosts most nights with temperatures into the 20's. First growing degree days (GDDS) taken for the year, for base of 50 = 10. Beekeepers assessing damage to bees after cold winter, new hives are being started. Cool soils, slow so far. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Field prep rapidly advanced all week. Manure and fertilizer applications, new seedings, and tillage were main activities. Corn planting is just beginning. Windy conditions all week dried out some of the soils and allowed for better access. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** The soil is starting to dry out and is getting to a workable condition. Temperatures are still cool for this time of year. Some Corn is being planted, but most farmers feel they are behind by more than three weeks. Manure is still being spread on most farms, on corn fields, or top dressing hay pieces. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Farmers repairing roads that were severely damaged and fields that had gully soil erosion caused by recent flooding in April. Fruits: Orchardists made sure bees were in tree fruit orchards. Cherry, peach, pear and plum were at blooming over May 5-6 weekend. Apples are at pre-pink to pink stage in the Hollis area. Blueberry is at pink bud stage. Orchardists are fertilizing orchards and are applying protective fungicide sprays on fruit trees and blueberries. Planting fruit trees, raspberries, blueberries and strawberries. Field Crops: Farmers are fertilizing hayfields, spreading manure, plowing, discing fertilizing and planting corn. Vegetables: Continue early season vegetables (peas, lettuce, greens, cole crops) planting, along with sweet corn and potatoes. Transplanting tomatoes into high tunnels. Liming, fertilizing, plowing, discing and getting ready plant fields. Harvesting asparagus. **Dot Perkins (Ext), Merrimack:** Daffodils are out, the sun has been shining regularly this past week and the ewes are in the fields with some young at their sides. Looks like spring has finally come. The alfalfa hay is 4 inches in some of the valleys. The apples are in green tip in some

of the higher elevations and a bit farther along in the lowlands. The same is true for the peaches and cherries. The raspberries are showing good leaf development and the winterkill seems minimal in them as well as blueberries. There have been reports of large numbers of Solitary bee colonies in the area, which might help with pollination this year. Many honeybee keepers are reporting lost hives. Growers are spreading manure on any fields that aren't still too wet to tread. Greenhouse tomatoes that were planted in early March have their first sets of flowers now. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Some fields are still water saturated due to rain. Spreading manure. Planting very early vegetables in the field and tomatoes in high tunnels. Garden centers busy this week selling bedding plants and getting ready for Mothers' day week. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** After a long winter and a late start to spring things have really warmed up in the last two weeks. The sunny weather in the last week has been great for the growth of the grass in fields. This past week has been a good week for field work. Hay producers were busy liming and fertilizing fields. Vegetable growers are transplanting tomatoes into high tunnels and planting cool crops such as peas and lettuce. Apples were at tight cluster tree and growers were busy applying protective fungicide sprays. Greenhouse operations and garden centers were starting to receive more customers as temperatures continue to warm up.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: All fruits are starting to bud out and most trees look pretty good. Some movement on strawberries. Lots of field work this week and getting ready to plant. Lots of potatoes being planted and the ground is

working pretty well. Roadside stands are filling up and look great.

VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille: Great week for fieldwork! Many fields are being prepared for corn planting, lots of manure being spread, and saw a lot of fences being fixed prior to letting the bovines loose. This week will see some serious corn planting being done. **Jeffrey Carter (Ext), Addison:** Continued spreading manure and tilled for seedbed preparation. New seedlings of hay are going in this week. Fields are drying out nicely. Grass is up and very green. No noticed winter injury to alfalfa or grass. Topdressing hay fields with fertilizer, some manure. Mostly manure going on corn ground. Corn planters in yards and ready to go this coming week. Pasture fences being tightened and started grazing, mostly dry cows out, and some heifers. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Lots of manure moving this week. Very breezy most of the week, aided drying. Fixing fences and corn ground preparation were the other major activities. Grass is greening up. Needs some rain to really get growing. **Terence Bradshaw, Univ of Vermont:** Dry weather has lowered scab risk but made irrigation necessary already in dry sites. Apple fruit bud count is high at UVM Horticultural Research center with potential for a very good bloom. Tree planting should be wrapping up and bloom expected possibly this coming weekend. **Julie Jacque (FSA), Windham:** Sunny but cool weather this week, windy which dried fields well; cold weather vegetables being planted like broccoli, cabbages. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** The past week's weather has helped to dry things out a bit. Landowners are spreading manure and discing the drier corn fields. Pasture people are working on fences. The late winter heavy snow has created a large fence repair workload. Pastures are greening up and with some warmer temperatures the cows should be out soon.

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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