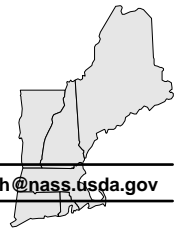




New England Agricultural Statistics



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July 16, 2007 – 4 pm

For week ending 7/15/07

Come Rain or Come Shine

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending July 15, 2007, there were 5.3 days suitable for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture was rated 1% very short, 21% short, 69% adequate, and 9% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 1% very short, 20% short, 73% adequate, and 6% surplus. Pasture condition was rated 11% poor, 19% fair, 58% good, and 12% excellent. Average to above average temperatures arrived this week, assisting crop development. Thunderstorms in northern states on Monday brought hail damage to vegetable and fruit crops. Showers and thunderstorms returned on Wednesday and continued sporadically throughout the rest of the week in all areas of New England, with some locations receiving over three inches of rainfall. While the rain was much needed, some areas in Vermont experienced flood damage. Drought is still an issue in regions where rainfall did not occur as heavily. Growers reported needing more rain and sunshine to boost crop development.

FRUIT: The strawberry harvest neared completion across New England. Producers reported a good crop this season. In areas where harvesting was complete, growers were busy renovating the fields. Raspberry and highbush blueberry harvesting continued; both crops were reported in good condition. Growers were busy checking fly traps and spraying insecticides as needed. Orchardists were busy checking for animal and hail damage, spraying fungicides, and mowing orchard floors. Apples, peaches, and pears were all reported in good condition. Cranberries in Massachusetts neared petal fall last week and were reported in good condition. Grower activities included applying fungicides and insecticides and applying fertilizers to help enhance fruit development.

VEGETABLES: Farmers' markets were very busy this weekend with the abundance of fresh, local produce. Squash, lettuce, tomatoes, peas, greens, and high tunnel cherry tomatoes and peppers remained staples. Farmers also began harvesting cucumbers and new potatoes this past week, as well as sweet corn in some areas of New England. While the rain was welcomed in most locations, thunderstorms brought hail damage to areas in New Hampshire and flooding occurred in parts of Vermont. The added rain increased slug activity in wet fields. However, reporters stated rain was still needed across the region and irrigation was necessary in dry fields. Vegetable growers were busy weeding, monitoring for pests, applying fertilizer as needed, and spraying herbicides and fungicides.

FIELD CROPS: The rain last week boosted field corn growth, but more rain in addition to sunshine and warm temperatures will be needed to bring the crop to historic levels. Potatoes were beginning to bloom and farmers reported the crop in good to excellent condition; farmers were busy hilling and spraying. Hay growers continued to cut green chop, but the rain hindered the dry hay harvest. The second cut of dry hay was reported in good condition, but re-growth is slow in drier areas. Farm activities included fertilizing, spreading manure, spraying weed control, and cultivating fields.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	1	9	0
Short	21	33	4
Adequate	69	57	75
Surplus	9	1	21
Subsoil			
Very Short	1	7	0
Short	20	32	0
Adequate	73	61	76
Surplus	6	0	24

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Set	Fruit Size	Condition
	2007	2006	5-yr Avg			
Apples	-	-	-	Avg/Above	Average	Good/Excellent
Peaches	-	<5	<5	Average	Average	Good
Pears	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good
Blueberries						
Highbush	5	20	10	Avg/Above	Average	Good
Wild, ME	-	-	-	Avg/Above	Below/ Avg	Good
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-	Average	-	Good
Strawberries	95	95	90	Avg/Above	Avg/Above	Good/Excellent

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2007	2006	5-yr Avg	Condition
--Percent Planted--				
Sweet Corn	99	99	99	
--Percent Emerged--				
Sweet Corn	99	95	95	
-- Percent Harvested --				
Barley, ME	-	-	-	Good
Oats, ME	-	-	-	Good/Excellent
Potatoes				
Maine	-	-	-	Good/Excellent
Mass	-	-	-	Good
Rhode Island	-	-	-	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	-	-	-	Good
Sweet Corn	5	<5	<5	Good/Excellent
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	-	-	-	Good
Shade	-	<5	5	Good
Dry Hay				
First Cut	95	75	85	Good/Fair
Second Cut	20	10	20	Good/Fair

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

For the Period: Monday July 9, 2007
To: Sunday July 15, 2007

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				CUM SINCE MAR 1 GROWING DEGREE DAYS				1-WEEK PRECIP			4-WEEK CUM PRECIP		
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	BASE-50F TOT	DFN	BASE-60F TOT	DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS
MAINE														
Augusta State_A	52	80	66	-4	957	+74	354	+73	0.69	-0.01	5	1.77	-1.19	15
Bangor Intl_Arp	46	83	66	-3	871	+87	292	+71	0.29	-0.48	3	1.41	-1.67	14
Bethel	48	80	63	-6	776	-24	236	+9	0.64	-0.14	3	1.82	-1.60	10
Caribou Municip	43	77	64	-3	701	+57	195	+47	1.14	+0.24	4	3.37	+0.19	20
Dover-Foxcroft	45	81	62	-5	677	+5	164	+2	0.66	-0.18	4	1.82	-1.57	12
Frenchville	46	75	63	-3	631	+39	161	+42	1.24	+0.40	5	5.28	+2.10	20
Houlton	40	79	64	-2	682	+20	191	+31	0.95	+0.11	4	4.25	+1.05	21
Livermore Falls	44	81	64	-2	760	+91	236	+80	0.89	+0.12	4	1.52	-1.92	11
Moosehead	41	82	61	-4	557	+18	111	+7	1.69	+0.78	5	3.52	-0.18	18
Portland_ME	53	81	67	-3	933	+163	329	+116	1.38	+0.68	3	2.18	-0.82	8
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	48	87	65	-2	780	+19	236	+47	2.69	+1.92	5	5.16	+1.87	17
Berlin AG	49	86	64	-3	748	-12	216	+16	1.51	+0.67	4	3.50	-0.08	13
Concord	51	87	70	+2	1094	+183	451	+154	2.46	+1.76	2	3.64	+0.77	11
Diamond Pond	44	79	60	-3	490	+14	97	+35	2.69	+1.67	4	4.45	+0.21	16
Keene AP	52	91	72	+2	1042	-8	418	+33	0.72	-0.07	3	1.90	-1.37	11
North Conway	49	79	64	-5	813	-35	260	+1	2.02	+1.18	4	2.67	-0.84	12
Rochester	53	84	67	-4	973	-4	378	+40	0.70	-0.07	2	1.92	-1.22	7
VERMONT														
Burlington Intl	53	87	70	-2	1148	+149	507	+150	3.46	+2.66	7	6.20	+2.93	19
Island Pond	48	84	63	-2	708	+104	195	+70	4.03	+3.12	7	6.99	+3.12	20
Montpelier	50	87	67	+0	921	+151	328	+118	4.14	+3.45	4	6.21	+3.28	15
Pownal	50	88	68	+1	928	+137	335	+119	1.33	+0.42	2	3.48	-0.44	10
Rochester	48	87	67	+1	832	+92	274	+79	1.62	+0.78	5	5.48	+2.12	18
Rutland AG	47	87	69	-1	939	-109	350	-29	2.07	+1.23	6	4.39	+1.03	16
Springfield_VT	49	90	70	+3	1017	+179	411	+167	2.19	+1.41	5	3.55	+0.16	16
Sutton	49	84	64	+0	736	+124	205	+69	1.53	+0.62	7	4.15	+0.27	22
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	61	91	74	+0	1347	+177	618	+157	0.31	-0.32	3	1.20	-1.47	11
Fitchburg	55	89	74	+6	1285	+468	584	+347	0.95	+0.11	4	2.45	-0.91	12
Greenfield	48	89	70	-2	1099	-32	435	-1	1.87	+1.03	3	3.31	-0.12	14
New Bedford	54	88	74	+1	1124	-29	451	+11	0.05	-0.59	3	1.44	-1.50	12
Otis_AFB	57	84	73	+3	971	+80	352	+65	0.01	-0.62	1	2.24	-0.50	8
Plymouth	54	90	74	+4	1126	+184	468	+145	0.27	-0.50	2	1.96	-1.12	10
Walpole	57	89	74	+4	1219	+221	532	+182	1.42	+0.65	4	3.06	-0.23	12
Chicopee/Westov	54	93	74	+1	1194	-111	520	-27	1.01	+0.17	3	3.30	-0.22	10
Worthington	50	90	69	+2	921	+123	324	+106	1.34	+0.36	3	4.61	+0.90	11
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	59	91	76	+4	1371	+271	613	+194	0.00	-0.70	0	1.86	-1.07	7
Woonsocket	56	91	74	+5	1210	+230	509	+181	0.28	-0.63	3	3.09	-0.57	11
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	63	87	75	+3	1367	+186	597	+121	0.14	-0.75	1	1.32	-2.04	8
Hartford/Bradle	59	97	77	+5	1446	+189	685	+160	0.44	-0.26	2	1.70	-1.41	10
Norfolk	54	90	72	+5	1032	+231	410	+187	1.51	+0.57	2	3.07	-0.93	10
Thomaston Dam	56	91	74	+5	1209	+223	509	+177	0.86	-0.05	2	2.59	-1.06	11
Willimantic	55	93	75	+5	1258	+261	549	+211	0.06	-0.88	1	1.74	-1.90	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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Prepared by AWIS, Inc.

STATE WEATHER SUMMARY

For the week ending Sunday, July 15, 2007

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	L	HI	AV	DF	LO	HI
ME	40	86	64	-4	0.17	2.21
NH	38	91	67	+0	0.70	5.99
VT	45	90	67	-1	1.22	5.80
MA	48	95	73	+3	0.01	1.87
RI	56	91	74	+4	0.00	0.28
CT	53	97	74	+4	0.01	1.51

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: Scattered thundershowers fell during the end of the week. Most crops look good. **Frank Himmelstein (Ext), New London:** Hot and humid weather moved the field corn crop along this week. Most fields looking good. A few sandier spots showing some drought stress. Rain will be needed for some corn fields to enhance growth in the near future. Green chop of second cut hay continued throughout the week. First cut dry hay harvest winding down for most growers. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Dry, grass is brown, corn growth uneven in some fields. Squash, lettuce, and tomatoes at market. A warm, sunny week.

MAINE - Dee Potter (Ext), Northern Aroostook: Daily showers have made haying difficult. Cultivation and spraying are the primary crop activities. Pasture re-growth is slowing down. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Recent showers during the week have slowed up some field work. The spray schedule is five day. Some hoeing and hilling cultivation. Crop looks excellent. Some potato varieties in bloom...beautiful. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potato crop growing well, no late blight has been found anywhere. European corn borer sprays should be applied this coming week. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Interesting week. Some beneficial rain in spots while others remain dry. One location has had 3/10" in the last four weeks, while other locations in the county have received several inches during the same period. Strawberry renovation time. Highbush blueberries should start this week. Second crop hay is slow due to dry weather. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Most areas got some rain this week with over 1/2 inch falling yesterday in some places. Overall apple crop looks good with spraying occurring throughout the week for various fungi. Some animal damage reported in apple orchard. Some concern that the silage corn crop may not reach maturity. Cucumbers just starting to be harvested. Farmers are in hopes of starting to pick sweet corn this week. Fly traps were checked on blueberry fields and spraying of imidan occurred where fruit flies were found. Harvest of blueberries on schedule to start around July 30. Strawberry harvest is nearly complete with an excellent crop reported. Harvest of dry hay slowed down this week due to damp, wet weather conditions. No second crop has been harvested yet in this area. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Showers helping to alleviate some of the lack of moisture but are very uneven and still have not provided adequate precipitation. Soil is still very dry. Crop development is a week behind because of cooler temperatures. **Jill Littlefield (FSA), Cumberland/York:** We received much needed rain. Almost too much at once in some places. Hail was also an issue for some crops. Some sweet corn is starting to be picked. Small veggies are in full swing. The farmers market was overflowing with fresh native products. Second crop hay was in need of water. Hopefully, now it will come on strong with this rain we received. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Androscoggin/Franklin:** We got some much needed rain that has brought haying to a near standstill. Farmers are trying to sneak some in between showers. We need some sunshine and heat to get the corn growth moving. Strawberry season is over. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Penobscot:** Quality of first cut of hay is great, quantity is a little low but not bad. Second cut is looking good, needs a little more moisture but we have time still. Apples are looking good. Strawberries have a couple more weeks before being completely harvested and crop was good this year. Corn is exceeding in most locations. Moisture is needed in some locations, but overall looks

pretty good. Most producers are pretty happy with the growing season so far.

MASSACHUSETTS - Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth: Bloom is on the way out, as many beds have very few blossoms remaining. Beehives will be on their way out soon. Fruit set is very good for the early cultivar; one bed I saw last week has the potential of being a 550+ barrel/acre crop, a grower's dream. Set is less on several late cultivar beds so far. The next two weeks will really tell the story. Growers are finishing their fungicide applications for fruit rot control, applying their second insecticide for fruit worm control and applying that critical fertilizer application for fruit set and berry sizing. Insect levels are less than a normal year, first time that's happened in quite awhile. Reports of dime to quarter-sized hail in Brewster on July 6 which did some damage to the set fruit present. Showers have been very scattered. We could use another good soaking, now that the berries are set. **Emily Tchorz (FSA), Bristol:** All crops still doing well, although some areas in the county are beginning to suffer from high heat without any rain. Sporadic thundershowers over the weekend did provide some relief, but more rain would be better.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll: Cool, damp weather. Showers and thunderstorms provided needed moisture. Pastures and hay fields re-growing well with the addition of some rain and cool temperatures. Strawberries still available but won't last much longer, some raspberries are ready and blueberries are nearly there. A variety of vegetables being picked including, new potatoes, summer squash, peas, lettuce and spinach, tomatoes and cucumbers from high tunnels. Sweet corn nearly ready. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Mixed weather this week, hard rain, reports of hail, sunny at week's end. Temperatures still fairly cool, growing degree days not moving much. Good re-growth on previously cut haylands, may see some second cut haylage coming in soon. Uncut hayfields (first cut) well past prime. Corn looks good, weed control in general better than usual. Could use some heat however. Barley out of boot. Japanese beetles fairly abundant now. Cucumber beetles just starting to make their presence known. High-tunnel cherry tomatoes and peppers becoming available at markets. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Hay harvest continuing as weather permits. Thundershowers continue to make it difficult to dry hay. Corn growing well. Third cut growth looks good to excellent. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** Last week brought wide spread rains and thundershowers. Some areas were hit with torrential down pours. Some areas along the Connecticut River received as much as three inches in 20 minutes. These down pours did some damage, and caused erosion problems in the affected areas. Crops look good, corn is catching up with a little more warm weather. The hay ground rebounded quite well with the rain. We have had one report of hail moving through the area. Some of the side hill fields with heavier soils will need to dry out a little before they can be hayed. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Thunderstorms producing hail, damaged fruit and vegetable crops in some localized areas on Monday evening. Fruit: Fruit growers are monitoring pest and crop development and apply sprays for pest control. Also, growers are training young fruit trees along with mowing orchard floors. Strawberry harvest is over and growers are renovating strawberry beds. Blueberry and raspberry harvest continues. Field Crops: Tough for farmers to continue to bale hay or make haylage because rain showers are occurring every two to three days. Vegetables: Growers are irrigating fields due to hot weather and are continuing successive plantings. Growers are harvesting an array of vegetables: beets, broccoli, cucumbers, greens, lettuce, peas, potatoes, radishes, summer squash, and other vegetables. 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. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Some days were hot, humid while other days were pleasant. We experienced some severe thundershowers and gusty winds in late afternoons and late Monday evening Rockingham County experienced another hail storm hitting several towns (Nottingham, Deerfield, etc...). Crops were damaged either by hail, winds and heavy rain. Rainfall amount ranged from 1/2 inch to four inches in a short period of time. Picking raspberries, blueberries and a whole array of vegetables. Strawberry picking is winding down on most farms. Overall pastures look good. Haying. Some fields remain very wet.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: Harvesting squashes, summer vegetables, cole crops. Just starting to harvest some sweet corn. Weed control and shearing Christmas trees. Spraying potatoes and starting some second cut hay. Field corn looks good and so do the later summer vegetables but we could really use another dose of rain.

VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille: Last week was a tough one to accomplish any

fieldwork. Torrential downpours caused minor flooding in this area and generally brought any harvest activity to a halt. Most crops took all that Mother Nature had to offer without problem. Veggie growers have to deal with slugs which took delight in the soggy conditions and reports of armyworms in corn fields to west in Franklin County, this has many corn growers nervous. **Jeffrey Carter (Ext), Addison:** Heavy Rains stop hay harvest, boost corn growth. Corn looks best uniform crop in years. Hay crop re-growth very poor with dry to drought conditions on clay soils. Pasture re-growth very poor. Noticeable crop improved vigor and growth with this week rains. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** A wet week, two-plus inches of rain. Some have started the second cut of hay, others are ready to start. Some reports of armyworm sightings. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Cultivating, putting nitrogen and extra fertilizer where needed. Started seeding winter rye on early picked fields. Have sprayed twice for potato bugs and squash and cucumber beetles, also for early blight. Honey bees helping and working hard with lots of clover this year. Rain a plenty, 3.008 inches, but it was needed. Will do a great deal of good. All crops need so much to keep growing. Market full of lots of greens, peas, green beans, lettuce, chard, scallions, carrots, zucchini squash and best of all early, red potatoes to go with the peas. A real full market of nice 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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