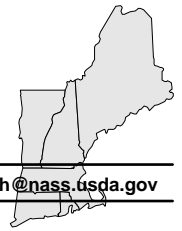




# New England Agricultural Statistics



Gary R. Keough, Director

Phone: 603-224-9639

Fax: 603-225-1434

www.nass.usda.gov/nh

nass-nh@nass.usda.gov

53 Pleasant Street, Rm 2100  
Concord, NH 03301

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

Volume 28, Number 2

(Issued weekly on the Internet, May – October)

May 12, 2008 – 4 pm

For week ending 5/11/08

## Wanted: Warm Weather

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:** For the week ending May 11, 2008, there were 6.1 days available for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture was rated 8% short, 84% adequate, and 8% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 5% short, 85% adequate, and 10% surplus. Pasture condition was rated as 1% poor, 40% fair, 50% good, and 9% excellent. The first part of the week saw partly cloudy skies and average daytime temperatures in the mid-60s to low-70s. Below average nighttime temperatures caused heavy frosts throughout New England, damaging fruit blooms and early planted vegetables. Rain showers began mid-week and brought fair amounts of precipitation to all but a few areas in New Hampshire and Vermont. Total rainfall for the week ranged between 0.11 and 1.62 inches. Heavy rainfall in some areas delayed planting schedules. Weekend daytime temperatures were average as well, providing fair conditions for fieldwork and the opening of farmers' markets throughout the region. Greenhouses were busy due to the Mother's Day holiday. Night temperatures were still below average. Warmer weather would be welcomed to help push along germination and growth.

**FRUIT:** Severe frosts in the beginning of the week have many producers concerned about significant damage to fruit crops. Warmer weather throughout the rest of the week helped spur growth along and all tree fruit crops and highbush blueberries were reported in the early- to mid-stages of bloom. With the advent of blooming, orchardists and blueberry producers released bees this past week, hoping to capitalize on the good pollinating weather. Tree fruit growers kept busy applying fertilizers and protective fungicides, planting new trees, and pruning. Blueberry producers sprayed pre-emergent herbicides and fertilizers on non-crop fields and fungicides to control mummyberry. Strawberries were reported in good condition and were in bud stage to early bloom.

**VEGETABLES:** Sweet corn was reported to be 20% planted and 5% emerged. Portions of the crop that were not covered were damaged by the frosts in the early part of the week. Vegetable growers harvested asparagus, spinach, lettuce, greens, and radishes. Roadside stands were reported to be busy over the weekend selling newly harvested crops and vegetable plants. Planting of cabbage, lettuce, beets, greens, carrots, and peas continued throughout the week. In anticipation of warm weather crops, producers were liming, fertilizing, plowing, discing, and preparing fields for planting.

**FIELD CROPS:** Field corn planting began in earnest this week and is on par with last year and normal. Producers in Maine got a good start on planting oats and barley, ahead of last year, but behind the five-year average. Hay growers were busy spraying for weed control, spring seeding, spreading manure, and preparing fields for harvest. Hay fields and pastures were reported in good condition. Massachusetts and Rhode Island potatoes were 45% and 55% planted, respectively. Potatoes in Maine were just beginning to be planted where warmer, drier soils permitted.

### SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
<b>Topsoil Moisture</b>			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	8	1	19
Adequate	84	64	73
Surplus	8	35	8
<b>Subsoil Moisture</b>			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	5	1	6
Adequate	85	64	79
Surplus	10	35	15

### FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Development	Condition
Apples	EB/FB	Good/Fair
Peaches	EB/FB	Fair/Good
Pears	EB/FB	Good/Fair
Blueberries		
Highbush	BS/EB	Good
Wild	BS	Good
Cranberries, MA	Dormant/BS	Good
Strawberries	BS/EB	Good

BS = Bud Stage, EB = Early Bloom, FB = Full Bloom, PF = Petal Fall

### FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2008	2007	5-yr Avg	Condition
--Percent Planted--				
Barley, ME	10	<5	20	Fair
Oats, ME	5	<5	20	Fair
Potatoes				
Maine	<5	<5	5	Fair
Mass	45	75	60	Good
Rhode Island	55	55	50	Good
Silage Corn	15	15	15	Good
Sweet Corn	20	25	20	Good
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	0	0	0	N/A
Shade	0	0	0	N/A
--Percent Emerged--				
Sweet Corn	5	5	5	Good/Fair
-- Percent Harvested --				
Dry Hay				
First Cut	0	0	0	Good

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

For the Period: Monday May 5, 2008  
To: Sunday May 11, 2008

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				CUM SINCE MAR 1 GROWING DEGREE DAYS				1-WEEK PRECIP			4-WEEK CUM PRECIP		
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	BASE-50F TOT	BASE-60F DFN	BASE-60F TOT	BASE-60F DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS
<b>MAINE</b>														
Augusta State_A	39	79	55	+3	94	+46	11	+11	0.27	-0.62	4	4.57	+0.97	8
Bangor Intl_Arp	36	74	54	+4	65	+33	4	+4	0.38	-0.46	3	4.43	+1.26	8
Bethel	34	76	51	-1	42	+6	1	+1	0.26	-0.54	2	2.80	-0.52	7
Caribou Municip	33	69	48	+0	10	-12	0	+0	0.72	+0.02	3	2.29	-0.21	7
Dover-Foxcroft	32	73	50	+2	35	+13	0	+0	0.60	-0.22	4	4.89	+1.55	9
Frenchville	32	68	46	-1	5	-7	0	+0	0.53	-0.17	3	2.85	+0.23	7
Houlton	29	71	48	-1	15	-7	0	+0	0.52	-0.23	4	2.19	-0.54	9
Livermore Falls	33	76	53	+4	59	+37	3	+3	0.38	-0.46	2	4.36	+0.83	7
Moosehead	28	69	46	-1	7	-1	0	+0	0.38	-0.39	4	3.26	+0.26	8
Portland_ME	41	79	55	+4	67	+38	7	+7	0.42	-0.42	2	4.04	+0.38	6
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>														
Benton	33	71	50	-2	68	+15	3	+1	0.17	-0.57	2	3.04	+0.27	8
Berlin_AG	33	73	52	+2	64	+23	1	+1	0.05	-0.72	2	2.43	-0.78	7
Concord	34	80	54	+2	106	+47	16	+15	0.11	-0.59	2	3.08	+0.28	8
Diamond Pond	29	65	47	+2	32	+20	0	+0	0.18	-0.66	2	2.91	-0.19	8
Keene_AP	36	73	54	+2	105	+55	7	+7	0.01	-0.84	1	2.44	-0.67	6
North Conway	36	79	54	+3	70	+23	3	+3	0.26	-0.65	2	4.14	+0.35	8
Rochester	25	78	53	-1	88	+17	11	+7	0.35	-0.56	1	3.79	-0.10	6
<b>VERMONT</b>														
Burlington Intl	35	74	53	-2	162	+82	25	+16	0.02	-0.68	1	1.34	-1.36	7
Island Pond	30	69	48	+0	49	+22	0	+0	0.08	-0.69	2	2.55	-0.25	9
Montpelier	31	71	51	-1	93	+43	8	+7	0.05	-0.65	3	1.92	-0.58	10
Pownal	33	73	53	+2	117	+62	7	+3	0.25	-0.74	3	2.70	-1.42	11
Rochester	32	74	50	+0	66	+23	0	+0	0.15	-0.83	2	3.29	-0.47	8
Rutland_AG	30	72	51	-5	103	+1	12	-1	0.00	-0.77	0	1.76	-1.03	5
Springfield_VT	32	75	53	+1	111	+55	9	+6	0.01	-0.90	1	2.68	-0.96	6
Sutton	33	70	50	+2	53	+30	1	+1	0.19	-0.58	2	3.03	+0.13	11
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>														
Boston/Logan_In	44	77	56	+0	130	+25	26	+26	0.45	-0.32	4	2.24	-1.00	10
Fitchburg	35	78	56	+5	154	+110	27	+27	0.15	-0.62	4	2.86	-0.31	10
Greenfield	34	79	55	-2	143	+39	10	+3	0.23	-0.61	3	2.68	-0.77	11
New Bedford	35	73	53	-3	87	-21	11	+10	1.17	+0.33	5	3.81	+0.20	12
Otis_AFB	37	66	51	-2	48	+2	0	+0	1.44	+0.60	5	4.02	+0.46	12
Plymouth	36	72	53	+0	90	+38	12	+12	1.09	+0.18	4	3.58	-0.30	11
Walpole	35	76	55	+2	131	+56	20	+20	0.45	-0.33	4	2.77	-0.85	11
Chicopee/Westov	32	77	55	-4	155	-2	19	+4	0.25	-0.66	3	2.90	-0.74	11
Worthington	33	73	53	+2	89	+38	3	+3	0.26	-0.79	3	3.32	-0.73	11
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>														
Providence	40	75	57	+3	173	+85	25	+25	0.67	-0.19	4	3.39	-0.28	10
Woonsocket	36	76	55	+2	135	+64	17	+17	0.45	-0.47	4	3.07	-0.78	10
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>														
Bridgeport/Siko	46	75	59	+3	168	+54	26	+17	0.92	+0.01	3	3.04	-0.59	8
Hartford/Bradle	35	79	58	+2	205	+69	40	+26	0.18	-0.73	3	2.49	-1.15	9
Norfolk	36	71	52	+1	99	+52	4	+4	0.38	-0.64	3	2.73	-1.44	9
Thomaston_Dam	37	75	56	+2	143	+57	11	+6	0.49	-0.56	4	2.94	-1.16	10
Willimantic	37	77	57	+3	181	+98	24	+20	0.56	-0.42	3	2.85	-1.07	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.  
Copyright 2006. AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.  
For detailed ag weather forecasts and data visit the AWIS home page at [www.awis.com](http://www.awis.com) or call toll free at 1-888-798-9955

**STATE WEATHER SUMMARY**  
For the Week Ending Sunday, May 11, 2008

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	L	HI	AV	DF	LO	HI
ME	23	80	51	+1	0.06	0.72
NH	22	83	52	+1	0.01	0.54
VT	25	77	51	-1	0.00	0.46
MA	29	79	54	+0	0.02	1.65
RI	36	76	56	+2	0.45	0.91
CT	34	80	56	+2	0.18	1.03

**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 will have to wait until petal fall to access the damage to fruit crops from last week's severe frost. Blueberry and peach crops will probably be most damaged. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Frost from last week did injure some peaches and apples. Producers will wait to June drop to see if freeze amounted to more than a thinning. Bosc pears are much lighter bloom as last year was a heavy set. Report of some non-covered sweet corn getting injury from frost while row cover was OK. Finishing up spreading manure and harrowing or chisel plowing to knock down rye before it gets too big. More field corn planted but most are not ready to plant yet. Oats planted and some spring hay seedings going in. Greenhouses and garden centers hoping for sunny Mother's Day weekend to kick-start sales. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Producers planting corn on lighter soils. Some vegetables being planted in fields. Need sun to dry out the heavier soils. Greenhouses enjoyed brisk sales for Mother's Day. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** A rainy cool week. The dry days were busy with spreading manure, planting field corn, spraying for weed control, planting vegetables, and getting ready to mow hay. A good weekend for greenhouse growers. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Corn planting season is in full swing. Manure and fertilizer are getting spread, corn is being planted, and fields are being sprayed to burn down cover crops, or with pre-emergence herbicides.

**MAINE - Pam Hickey (Ext), Aroostook:** Ground preparation for small grains and potatoes starting to be planted. Some broccoli fields planted. Some low fields still very wet. If weather permits this week with warmer temperatures and sun these fields should be a little dryer to start planting crops. **Steve London, Aroostook:** There are some fields still too wet to work, but they are coming around good. Look for a lot of field work this week weather permitting. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** The weather has been great for early vegetable plantings. We could use more rain though, some soils are drying out. Right now pastures are lush and green. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Well drained soils are drying out nicely. Manure is being spread, fences repaired and crop planting prep is underway. **Maria Granger (FSA), Kennebec:** This past week has been good weather, sunny and low 60s. Thursday had light rain in the morning. Saturday and Sunday both had winds 10-20mph making spring sprays difficult, if not put off entirely. There is good moisture in the soil, but not so much that you couldn't till or spread manure. Many producers have already turned out their cows for spring grazing. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Farmers have now caught up from the April 29th storm. Fields are being prepared for planting and manure is being spread on crop fields. Apples are currently at the "tight cluster" stage. So far so good, but orchardists will know more during the early bloom when pollination occurs. Bees are being put out in blueberry fields this week. Hopefully Mother Nature will cooperate so the bees can pollinate. Overall, it appears to have been a good week for farmers in the mid-coast area. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Oxford County producers have reported that field work is on the way as long as the weather cooperates. Fence repair has been started and animals will be going out soon. Some sweet corn has been planted and peas are showing growth. Planting of potatoes has begun. Vegetable producers have reported planting has begun also for a variety of small vegetables throughout the county. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis:** Fields are starting to dry out. Spreading manure and plowing are the activities of the week. **Jane Harden (FSA), Sagadahoc:** The county received six inches of rain. This delayed planting schedules. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** Fields are green and some manure has been spread in preparation for planting. With a dry, sunny week forecast, some planting should commence. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:**

Things dried out and field work began again later in the week. Apples will begin flowering this week if warm weather continues. Some silage corn is planted. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Pre-emergence herbicides and fertilizers are being applied on non-crop fields. Continued infection periods for mummyberry disease have been recorded so applications of fungicides are being applied to protect the plants. Plant growth is about one week ahead of normal.

**MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire:** Farmers were busy spreading manure, tilling and planting during the warm snap in April. Rainfall was less than an inch this week but fields and pastures continue to look good. Nursery sales are good and farmer's markets have all begun with good weather and Mother's Day to help sales. Cool weather and root vegetables are being planted. Cool temperatures have prolonged the bloom period in orchards. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Franklin/Hampshire/Hampden:** Crop fields are moist due to a rain shower during the week. Vegetable growers are harvesting spinach, asparagus and fiddleheads. Sweet corn is eight inches tall under plastic and looks good. Roadside stands had an excellent weekend selling flowers and vegetable plants due to two sunny days. Planting cabbage, lettuce, beets, kale, parsnips, potatoes, sweet corn and carrots. Orchardists are applying a protective fungicide spray on their fruit trees. Dairy farmers are spreading manure, mending fences and preparing land for planting field corn. **Janice Barnes, Franklin:** Hard frost/freeze in the area on Monday May 5th. Some rain this week, a couple of warm days, some wind, generally cooler at night. Gardens being rototilled. **Tom Monahan (NRCS), Berkshire/Worcester:** Still evaluating frost damage on stone fruit and early sweet corn that was emerged and under row cover.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap:** Most apple varieties are at pink stage and blueberries are in bloom. Field preparations are in progress in most places. Many early season vegetables like lettuce, greens and radishes are being seeded in the field. The weekend's pleasant weather brought many customers to garden centers. **Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll:** Pasture and hay fields continue to grow well. Spreading of fertilizer and lime continues. Soil preparation and planting of some crops. Garden centers and farm stands open for business. Lawns have recovered well from the Grey Snow Mold. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Sunny weather all week and farms made use of it getting work done in the field. Lots of field corn planted, with manure spreading and tillage being done on the rest of the land. Hay crops and pastures doing well. Most places have turned animals out to graze by now. More vegetable crops planted. Orchards applying fertilizers and early sprays. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** Last week brought rain showers early in the week. Temperature conditions remained below normal. The better drained river bottom cropland soils are doing better than the poorer drained cropland areas and poorer drained upland soils. Pastures are still behind normal in many of the upland areas. Some fields that have poorer drainage still are not operable. Many of these poorer drained soils have water right at the surface. As a result, these soils are progressing far more slowly than the well drained river bottom soils. Winter kill on alfalfa fields appears to be sporadic. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruits: Orchardists made sure bees were in apple orchards. Cherry, peach and plum were at full bloom to petal fall. Apple and pear are at king bloom to full bloom 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. Finishing up pruning blueberries and pruning peach trees. Field Crops: Farmers are fertilizing hayfields, spreading manure, plowing, discing, fertilizing, planting corn, and applying herbicides. Vegetables: continued early season vegetable

(peas, lettuce, greens, cole crops) planting, along with sweet corn and potatoes. Liming, fertilizing, plowing, discing and getting ready to plant fields. Harvesting asparagus. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Preparing vegetable fields and planting crops. Harvesting lettuce, greens, and radishes. Planting greenhouse tomatoes and in high tunnels. Apples in bloom. Spraying protective fungicides in anticipation of rain predicted for Saturday (and it didn't rain). Some nights were cold while days are warm. Seeding forage crops and planting field corn. Monitoring for pests.

**RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport:** Need some warm weather to get things moving. Rye is in great condition. Lots of fieldwork was accomplished due to the lack of rain last week. Some farmers are starting to chop haylage.

**VERMONT – Jeffrey Carter (Ext), Addison:** Continue field tillage and seed bed preparation for planting corn and new seeded hay crops. Most new seedings in and started to emerge. Started corn planting and spraying for weed control. Fertilizer and manure spreading. Dandelions in full blossom, no white yet. Grass starting to grow strong. Pasture still not up to speed yet, still cool soils. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Nice spring week. Warm, breezy, some frost in the mornings. Farmers spreading manure, fixing fences, getting corn ground ready to plant. Some heifers out, but not a lot for them to eat yet. **Paul Stanley, Franklin:** Things are moving along very well here in Franklin County. We have a good jump on corn planting and the new seed fields are pretty well to the knees in some fields!!!! Pastures are doing great; however, we are getting to where a nice rain would boost them along again

and get some of this early planted corn seed germinated. Although we are not out of the woods on the early planted corn making it past germination and frost damage, the low moisture and cool weather is keeping the seed dormant. As we move to the last half of May, we hope that our nice spring weather will continue to allow the finish of planting and get the early planting risk takers to germination. **John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille:** Last week's weather turned out better than initially predicted so a lot of progress was made with fieldwork. Early manure spreading is winding down until after first cut. A fair amount of corn was planted. Spring rainfall in this area has been below average and that has many concerned about grass yields in June. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** After a long, cold winter it's great to be able to start working the land. Plowing under a fine crop of winter rye. Soil is in good shape for this time of year. Had a very good maple crop. Excellent flavor and good grade, most of it light amber. Rain for the week 0.774 inches. Early planting of first seeds well underway. Early peas already up. Early potatoes planted and early planting of lettuce, radishes and carrots. A good start on early first crops. Have a good week and a great crop year! **Julie Jacque (FSA), Windham:** Cool, windy, and drizzly conditions for the week. Apples reported at pink tip stages. Corn planting started in the CT River Valley and the western side of the county spreading manure primarily. Some strawberries under plastic. New blueberry stand planting and many beds of greens planted this week. Rains dry fairly quickly with breezes. Many comments about the amount of fuel and cost of running equipment. Grasses growing in cool weather and cows being put out on pastures this week.

To receive this report every Monday evening, send an e-mail message to [listserv@newsbox.usda.gov](mailto:listserv@newsbox.usda.gov) and in the body, type **subscribe usda-new-eng-crop-weather**

**Gary R. Keough, Director**  
**Lorie Warren, Statistician**

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