

Crop Weather



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United States Department of Agriculture

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For week ending 6/8/08

Heat and Rain Welcomed

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending June 8, 2008, there were 5.2 days available for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture was rated 6% very short, 12% short, 78% adequate, and 4% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 2% very short, 16% short, 80% adequate, and 2% surplus. Pasture condition was rated as 1% poor, 25% fair, 72% good, and 2% excellent. The first two days of the week were cloudy with high temperatures spanning the low-70s to mid-80s and low temperatures in the low-40s to mid-50s. Scattered showers fell in northern states. Wednesday brought heavy rains to all of New England, providing much needed moisture. Thunderstorms and heavy winds moved into the area on Friday and remained throughout the weekend in many locations, slowing field work and hindering dry hay production. Weekend weather was very hot and humid, spurring crop development, but slowing business at greenhouses and farmers' markets. Highs were in the upper-80s to mid-90s in most locations, with several areas in Connecticut and New Hampshire breaking records on Saturday. Low temperatures ranged from the mid-50s to low-70s. Total rain accumulation for the week ranged from 0.24 to 3.74 inches.

FRUIT: For strawberries grown under row cover, harvesting began in earnest this past week. For newly planted strawberry beds, the plants were in full bloom to petal fall. Blueberry producers finished pollination activities and removed bees from the fields. The hot weather at the end of the week provided ideal growing conditions for cranberries. Cranberry growers were busy applying fungicides and insecticides. Despite the rainfall over the week, more precipitation is needed to advance crop development. Apples, peaches, and pears were all reported in good condition. Orchardists were busy applying thinning sprays, insecticides, and fungicides. Several apple orchards have reported instances of scab and brown rot.

VEGETABLES: The heat and rain was welcomed by vegetable producers. Development of sweet corn progressed nicely and was 55 percent emerged by the end of the week. Harvest of early season vegetables continued, including spinach, radishes, greens, asparagus, rhubarb, and lettuce. Vegetable producers kept busy transplanting and making successive plantings of various vegetable crops. Other activities included laying plastic mulch, monitoring for pests and weeds, and prepping fields for squash and pumpkin plantings.

FIELD CROPS: The heavy rains this week hindered dry hay production. Between storms, farmers continued cutting hay and harvest neared the mid-point by week's end. Due to the poor growing conditions during May, many specialists are reporting lower yields and quality. Field corn emergence surpassed the half-way mark by Sunday. The heavy rains in Connecticut damaged several low lying fields. More heat would improve crop development. Shade tobacco transplanting was complete at weeks' end. Broadleaf transplanting progressed past last year and normal and was 70 percent planted at week's end. Maine oat and barley growers finished planting, slightly ahead of last year and normal. Potato planting wrapped up in Maine, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island. Emergence in Massachusetts and Rhode Island was well past the half-way mark, while Maine potatoes were just beginning to break ground.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil Moisture			
Very Short	6	3	0
Short	12	23	0
Adequate	78	73	27
Surplus	4	1	73
Subsoil Moisture			
Very Short	2	3	0
Short	16	22	0
Adequate	80	75	46
Surplus	2	0	54

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Development	Set	Condition
Apples	PF	Average	Good
Peaches	PF	Average	Good
Pears	PF	Average	Good
Blueberries			
Highbush	FB/PF	Average	Good
Wild	PF	Average	Good
Cranberries, MA	BS/EB		Good
Strawberries	FB/PF	Average	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	100	95	95	
Oats, ME	100	95	95	
Potatoes				
Maine	99	95	95	
Mass	99	100	99	
Rhode Island	100	100	100	
Silage Corn	95	90	80	
Sweet Corn	70	80	70	
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	70	55	45	Good/Fair
Shade	100	99	95	Good
--Percent Emerged--				
Barley, ME	60	65	65	Good
Oats, ME	45	75	70	Good
Potatoes				
Maine	10	0	15	Good
Mass	70	75	70	Good
Rhode Island	85	100	80	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	60	65	55	Good
Sweet Corn	55	60	50	Good
-- Percent Harvested --				
Dry Hay				
First Cut	45	30	20	Good/Fair

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

For the Period: Monday June 2, 2008
To: Sunday June 8, 2008

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	
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN				INCHES	DFN		
MAINE															
Augusta_State_A	50	77	61	-2	311	+32	42	+2	0.35	-0.43	5	1.01	-2.29	12	
Bangor_Intl_Arp	49	76	60	-1	258	+30	24	-1	1.26	+0.47	5	3.09	-0.11	12	
Bethel	49	85	60	-1	205	-37	20	-10	1.23	+0.32	4	1.92	-1.53	11	
Caribou_Municip	40	71	57	-2	128	-47	6	-10	0.41	-0.23	2	2.40	-0.34	9	
Dover-Foxcroft	42	79	58	+0	168	-12	10	-5	1.17	+0.33	4	2.55	-0.73	11	
Frenchville	38	69	55	-3	97	-47	5	+0	0.09	-0.61	3	1.85	-0.98	11	
Houlton	40	72	56	-3	122	-57	5	-12	0.19	-0.58	2	1.82	-1.26	10	
Livermore_Falls	47	83	60	+3	229	+47	28	+13	0.42	-0.56	5	1.36	-2.21	11	
Moosehead	45	72	56	-1	80	-40	3	+2	0.67	-0.22	4	1.95	-1.32	12	
Portland_ME	49	78	61	+2	282	+69	38	+22	0.42	-0.40	3	0.83	-2.35	7	
NEW HAMPSHIRE															
Benton	47	88	61	+2	223	-34	19	-16	0.37	-0.52	5	1.28	-2.03	13	
Berlin_AG	48	89	61	+2	237	+1	26	-5	0.43	-0.51	4	1.93	-1.52	11	
Concord	45	94	64	+2	358	+54	77	+25	0.58	-0.13	3	0.77	-2.08	8	
Diamond_Pond	47	83	56	+2	114	-2	11	+11	1.53	+0.48	5	3.91	+0.04	15	
Keene_AP	50	90	64	+4	332	+61	71	+31	0.60	-0.19	4	1.12	-2.32	8	
North_Conway	50	85	61	+0	270	-1	28	-13	0.74	-0.18	4	1.29	-2.35	12	
Rochester	48	90	65	+2	362	+18	77	+10	0.91	+0.07	2	1.47	-1.93	7	
VERMONT															
Burlington_Intl	51	92	64	+2	413	+55	88	+11	1.25	+0.48	3	2.85	-0.08	12	
Island_Pond	48	86	60	+3	177	+3	13	-5	0.94	-0.04	6	3.51	-0.14	13	
Montpelier	46	89	62	+3	284	+33	38	+2	0.74	-0.10	6	2.56	-0.60	16	
Pownal	48	90	64	+5	339	+73	56	+15	1.19	+0.10	5	2.65	-1.59	16	
Rochester	47	88	61	+2	218	-17	18	-14	1.20	+0.29	4	2.65	-1.18	12	
Rutland_AG	47	91	63	-1	296	-106	52	-45	0.86	+0.03	4	1.86	-1.39	11	
Springfield_VT	46	92	63	+3	343	+61	66	+21	0.84	-0.07	5	1.18	-2.52	9	
Sutton	47	87	59	+3	178	+6	16	-2	0.99	+0.01	5	3.38	-0.19	14	
MASSACHUSETTS															
Boston/Logan_In	52	92	67	+3	472	+44	141	+58	0.78	+0.03	4	2.81	-0.07	9	
Fitchburg	53	93	67	+7	467	+212	127	+94	0.61	-0.22	5	2.05	-1.21	10	
Greenfield	48	85	64	-2	382	-47	61	-35	0.93	+0.02	4	1.85	-1.75	13	
New_Bedford	50	86	64	-1	326	-97	72	-6	0.60	-0.26	4	1.92	-1.42	9	
Otis_AFB	50	79	61	-1	245	-24	35	+2	0.82	+0.05	2	2.52	-0.72	10	
Plymouth	49	88	64	+2	330	+34	75	+32	0.54	-0.30	4	1.69	-1.76	11	
Walpole	50	92	64	+2	395	+50	92	+31	0.61	-0.23	5	1.90	-1.27	13	
Chicopee/Westov	45	91	66	-1	428	-104	99	-38	1.77	+0.79	5	3.32	-0.49	13	
Worthington	49	89	62	+3	276	+13	34	-3	1.53	+0.62	5	3.28	-0.71	14	
RHODE ISLAND															
Providence	54	85	67	+3	500	+115	124	+54	0.60	-0.19	4	1.45	-1.83	10	
Woonsocket	50	92	65	+3	399	+59	86	+34	0.49	-0.44	4	1.69	-1.97	9	
CONNECTICUT															
Bridgeport/Siko	57	86	69	+5	518	+75	139	+35	1.32	+0.49	4	2.57	-0.87	12	
Hartford/Bradle	52	93	67	+2	535	+37	148	+19	1.31	+0.40	4	3.57	-0.16	12	
Norfolk	48	88	63	+4	306	+48	52	+18	1.09	+0.00	5	3.65	-0.56	13	
Thomaston_Dam	50	90	66	+4	407	+47	79	+11	0.63	-0.35	4	2.53	-1.39	12	
Willimantic	49	92	66	+3	458	+95	99	+32	0.92	+0.03	4	2.16	-1.51	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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STATE WEATHER SUMMARY
For the Week Ending Sunday, June 8, 2008

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	L	HI	AV	DF	LO	HI
ME	33	92	59	+0	0.06	1.62
NH	35	95	61	+2	0.37	1.91
VT	42	93	62	+3	0.68	2.27
MA	44	93	64	+2	0.43	1.77
RI	50	92	66	+3	0.49	0.70
CT	48	94	66	+3	0.63	1.32

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: Very hot at the end of the week with severe thunderstorms and heavy rain. Some farmers have reported washouts on sloping fields and drowned corn in low lying fields. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Corn is really starting to grow due to the hot weather we are experiencing. Having difficulty drying hay due to the humidity and unexpected showers. Vegetables are doing great. Greenhouse business has slowed down due to the hot humid weather. Strawberries are looking good and starting to appear in markets. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Strawberry picking has begun. Finishing thinning of apples. First cut hay bales light crop. High prices of corn seed, fuel, and fertilizer a problem. Tying up grape shoots for vertical shoot pruning, grape flower clusters forming well. Needed rain arrived, now hot weather. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** Nice weather this week for the most part. There were a couple of days with scattered showers and one day of fairly steady rain. Vegetables are coming along nicely and fresh lettuce was being harvested and is delicious. Strawberries are a little late due to some cool weather but the harvest is expected to begin this week. **Jude Boucher (Ext), Tolland:** Sweet corn crops have greened up and are growing well. New plantings are emerging better than some planted earlier in the season. Plenty of rain and heat and we're off to the races. **Joyce Meader (Ext), Windham:** Perfect spring weather. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Corn planting is finished. Farmers are concentrating on getting the last first cut haylage into the silos. Corn is showing signs of nutrient deficiencies and slow growth due to poor growing conditions. Hopefully the current heat wave will warm up soils to start releasing nutrients.

MAINE - Pam Hickey (Ext), Aroostook: Farmers are finished planting for the most part. Still some broccoli being planted for later cuttings. Crops have begun to emerge for oats and barley. **Steve London, Aroostook:** A lot of the herbicides have been applied for grains and potatoes. Some of the potatoes are up and farmers are looking to start cultivating and applying fungicides soon. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** The area received some rain which helped the tilled fields. The week was cool and cloudy until the heat and humidity arrived on Sunday. We need more rain. Hay is being chopped. First crop is light due to lack of rain in May. **Maria Granger (FSA), Kennebec:** We had rain showers three days on and off last week and temperatures stayed fairly cool across the county. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Less than 1/2 inch of rain fell on Friday, but with the heat that came in over the weekend, the corn crop flourished as did the weeds, so cultivation is underway. Early varieties of strawberries are now available at one local farm stand and more will be available at the end of this week. Overall the blueberry crop looks good as good pollination occurred and the berries are forming. There are less than 5% in bloom now, but normally the blooms last about three weeks, which may make harvesting of the blueberry crop unpredictable. A little more grass was cut throughout the week. More heat is anticipated for early this week, which could lead to thunderstorms in the area. Farmers are optimistic about this season to this point, with many crops planted and the continued cooperation of Mother Nature. **Laura Rand (FSA), Penobscot:** The weather has been feast or famine. Not much sun, cool weather, and downpours of rain all week. Most fields have been too wet to get on during the week. Haylage being cut wherever possible. Corn and potatoes have been planted and are emerging. **Janet King (FSA), Somerset:** Last week was a much needed rain. Corn is being planted, some green chop has started. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Cool, moist weather was welcomed to relieve the dry conditions, but slowed crop work. Hot weather over the weekend really changed things fast. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Bloom finishing up. Bees being moved out of the fields. Good pollination and moisture indicate a good potential crop for wild blueberries.

MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: Cool temps, sunny and breezy to start the week. Some straw and hay was cut early in the week. The week ended hazy, hot and humid

with severe storms passing throughout the county three days this week. Two to three inches of rain reported. Strawberries developing well. Finally good weather for growth in the corn crop and sun loving veggies as soil temps are up. **Emily Desrosiers (FSA), Bristol:** Ongoing dry conditions and high temperatures over the weekend are beginning to take their toll. First cutting of hay is light according to all reports. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Weekend rains relieved dry conditions. All crops look good. Planting tomatoes, squashes, pumpkins, cabbage, broadleaf tobacco, etc. No problems reported on crops by insects and diseases. Harvesting beets, radishes, strawberries and cabbage. **Janice Barnes, Franklin:** Much needed rain occurred Thursday night, with light to heavy mist Friday into early Sat morning. Gardens seem to be growing well. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Hot weather has advanced cranberry growth significantly. Many inland beds with early cultivars are going into bloom and will be in full bloom by the end of the week. We could use some precipitation. Growers are reporting the usual insects - no unusual outbreaks noted so far. The first fruit rot fungicide applications will be made this week, as well as continued insecticide applications for foliar larvae. No frost nights last week.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap: The rain was welcomed and we're hoping for more. Very hot weather over the weekend meant that garden center employees spent full days watering nursery and bedding plant stock. Strawberries and raspberries are in full bloom. We've seen some apple scab and brown rot. **Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll:** Finally some relief mid-week, three days of damp, drizzle with a bit of rain, not much accumulation 3/4 to an inch total. Hay yields are low, folks hoping to get a better second cut. Pastures got some needed moisture, but more consistent moisture needed for grass to recover. Hot, humid by the week-end, full blown summer weather. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Some much-needed rain fell towards the end of the week, though a little bit more wouldn't hurt. Very warm conditions over the weekend are supporting strong corn growth. First cutting for haylage/baylage continues, though yields of grass are still low. First produce from vegetable operations starting to appear - radishes, greens, etc., and first strawberries should appear this week. Orchards continued their spraying schedule. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Mixed but decidedly hotter weather this week. Field corn up on a number of fields, some herbicide applications noted. First crop of haylage being taken and trucked to bank silos as orchard and Kentucky bluegrass fully headed out. Recent rains helping all growing crops. Continue to check and replenish pheromone lures on armyworm traps. Just a small sampling but nothing dramatic observed. Vegetable crops somewhat ahead this year. Peas, beets etc planted in fields doing well. Plastic mulch being applied to cucurbits. Farmers markets looking forward to their first weekend. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending June 7th, we received some much needed rain showers. The showers came in over a four day period and totaled 0.54 inches. This gave the grass a much needed boost. Almost all the field corn is planted and emerged. Sweet corn is also in and emerged. First cuttings of hay are looking a little light on yield. Much of the first cut had headed out. Alfalfa looks good and seemed to handle the dry soil conditions during the month of May and is in better shape. Upland pastures were helped by last week's rain, but are still behind on yield. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Vegetables: Transplanting tomato and pepper plants and making successive planting of various vegetable crops. Harvesting spinach, greens, asparagus and rhubarb. Fruit: Fruit growers monitoring pest and crop development and applying cover sprays for pest control. Orchardists wondering if they should be applying thinning sprays to apple orchards. Mowing orchard floor and weed spraying under trees. First strawberries were harvested that were grown under floating row cover. Field Crops: Planting and weed spraying corn fields. Farmers making haylage and yields are low. Grasses heading out and maturing, especially orchard grass. Greenhouses and garden centers have been very busy. Also, greenhouses and garden centers started planting fall mums.

Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford: Much needed rains in all areas in the county. Hot and humid weekend. Grass in pastures and hayfields growing well. Earlier in the week producers continued with the first cut for hay and haylage. Vegetable growers continued with planting different kinds of vegetable crops. Tree fruit growers thinning fruits and applying protective pesticides as needed. Greenhouses and garden centers continued with busy days with customers buying different kinds of plant materials.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: Rain at the end of the week was a welcome sight; it helped everything except the haying efforts. Potatoes are looking great and strawberries should be ready on time. Still planting field corn, sweet corn, and starting some prep for pumpkins and winter squash. Picking lettuces and some cole crops. Roadside stands are full and the flower business seems to have taken a little hit this season.

VERMONT - Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia: Cool wet week, at least there was no frost. All crop work was at a standstill due to rain. The rain was welcomed in the first half of the week. First cut of hay is light. Weather prediction says 80-90 today (Sat) and tomorrow hard to believe. Heat should encourage corn and other plants to grow a bit. **Paul Stanley, Franklin:** A wet week with the end of the week very hot and humid with poor drying conditions for first cut hay. Corn is looking good with some growth out of the hot humid weather. Some wet spots in corn fields however; corn seems to be

still growing in these areas. Looks like some poor weed control for soil applied herbicides due to the wet weather. Re-spray and Roundup applications on Roundup Ready corn will be a challenge unless our weather changes in the next week. **John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille:** Much needed rain along with the hot weather over the weekend has pushed the growth of most crops. Corn planting has wrapped up and first cut of grass is in full swing. Some manure being spread on first cut fields. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** The week had rain showers almost everyday putting a halt to harvesting first cut hay. The hay yields are average but it matured fast due to the drier weather. This may affect the quality of the crop. The rain last week was welcomed and should give the corn and pasture crops a boost. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** All fields planted to winter rye have been plowed with a lot of green being turned under. Emergence good, but growth very slow on all planted crops. Strawberries looking fair due to the fact we have been irrigating them. Rain for the week 0.269 inches. Very short on moisture, also sunshine and warm weather. Cutting of asparagus and rhubarb slowed up because of weather. Most early planted crops came up well but growth very short. So far asparagus, rhubarb, scallions and radishes on the market. Crops need three things, sun, warm weather and rain. Have a good week! **Julie Jacque (FSA), Windham:** Extreme temperature variations causing some melt in berry crops, mid-60's degree temps on Thursday and Friday to high 90's on Saturday. Needed showers came through this week. Corn progressing well. Hay crop seems light.

MAY 2008 CROP WEATHER SUMMARY: May began with heavy rains and below average temperatures. Warmer daytime temperatures arrived the second week. However, nighttime temperatures were below average, causing heavy frosts throughout New England that damaged fruit blooms and early planted vegetables. Rain also continued to fall sporadically throughout the week, delaying planting schedules. The latter half of the month saw variable weather conditions throughout New England, with some areas very wet, while other areas received no precipitation at all. Many farmers were forced to irrigate to promote seed germination. High temperatures for the month averaged in the mid-60s and low temperatures ranged from the upper-30s to upper-40s. Total precipitation ranged from 1.85 to 6.02 inches. Vegetable producers planted early season vegetables throughout the month, while also harvesting asparagus, rhubarb, spinach, and lettuce. All fruits, except cranberries, were in full bloom to petal fall across the region by the end of the month. The lack of significant rain over the month provided excellent pollinating conditions. Orchardists and berry growers kept busy throughout the month monitoring for pests and spraying protective fungicides and pesticides. While the rain at the beginning of the month delayed field work, planting of field crops had exceeded last year and normal by month's end. Planting of field corn and sweet corn surpassed the halfway mark by the end of May. Shade tobacco transplanting was close to completion at the end of the month. Broadleaf transplanting was just getting underway, on par with normal, but trailed last year. The first cut of grass for dry hay and haylage began near the end of the month. The hay crop condition was extremely variable throughout the region due to sporadic rainfall and cooler temperatures.

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