

Crop Weather



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United States Department of Agriculture

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For week ending 6/22/08

The Rain Came, Now We Need Sun

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending June 22, 2008, there were 4.9 days available for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture was rated 5% short, 82% adequate, and 13% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 1% very short, 5% short, 87% adequate, and 7% surplus. Pasture condition was rated as 19% fair, 71% good, and 10% excellent. This past week was very rainy, with scattered thunderstorms bringing hail and wind damage to locations throughout New England. Temperatures remained below average in all locations through Thursday. Daytime temperatures ranged in the low-60s to upper 70s, while nighttime temperatures averaged in the mid-50s. Weekend temperatures were slightly warmer with highs in the mid-70s to low-80s. Rain fell in most locations nearly every day of the week, hindering dry hay production and limiting field work. Heavy thunderstorms on Monday and Sunday brought wind and hail damage to tree fruit, vegetable, and corn crops throughout the region. Reporters in Connecticut and Vermont stated corn crops in low lying areas were showing signs of stress due to the large amount of rain. Total rain accumulation for the week ranged from 0.35 inches to 2.6 inches, bringing most locations well above average for the month.

FRUIT: Strawberry picking was well underway last week, advancing to 20 percent harvested by week's end, on par with last year and normal. The heavy rains over the week deterred crowds at pick-your-own operations. Highbush and wild blueberries were reported in good condition due to adequate moisture conditions. However, warmer temperatures are needed to progress fruit maturation. Cranberry producers kept busy applying fruit rot fungicides and spraying for weeds. The heavy rainfall and thunderstorms made it a difficult week for tree fruit crops. Hail damaged orchards across New England, prompting reporters to rate apples, peaches, and pears in good to fair condition. Orchardists were busy monitoring for pests and spraying pesticides where necessary.

VEGETABLES: When the weather allowed, producers finished transplanting tomatoes and peppers. Planting of pumpkins and winter squash began in Rhode Island. The storms over the week caused significant hail damage in pumpkin fields already planted in Maine and Massachusetts and crop weather specialists stated some of these fields will need to be replanted. Farmers continued harvesting lettuce, peas, broccoli, radishes, summer squash, zucchini, and asparagus. Vegetable growers were busy side dressing fields with fertilizer, cultivating weeds, and spraying for pests.

FIELD CROPS: Potato emergence in Maine, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island was on schedule with last year and normal by the end of the week. Due to the large amount of moisture, farmers were on a five-day spray schedule for fungicide. The first cutting of dry hay was halted this week, but farmers chopped haylage during the drier periods. The second cutting of hay was reported in good condition, though more sunshine is needed to spur growth. Field corn planting neared completion at week's end. The large amounts of rain and cooler temperatures hindered crop development. Growers were busy spraying for weeds and performing mid-season nitrogen testing.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
	Percent		
Topsoil Moisture			
Very Short	0	1	3
Short	5	14	25
Adequate	82	82	70
Surplus	13	3	2
Subsoil Moisture			
Very Short	1	2	2
Short	5	14	21
Adequate	87	83	75
Surplus	7	1	2

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Set	Fruit Size	Condition
	2008	2007	5-yr Avg			
Apples	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good
Peaches	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Pears	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Blueberries						
Highbush	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good
Wild	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good/Excellent
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-			Good
Strawberries	20	20	10	Average	Average	Good

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2008	2007	5-yr Avg	Condition
	Percent Planted			
Silage Corn	99	99	95	
Sweet Corn	90	90	85	
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	85	90	85	Good/Fair
Shade	100	100	100	Good/Excellent
	Percent Emerged			
Barley, ME	95	95	95	Good
Oats, ME	95	95	95	Good
Potatoes				
Maine	80	80	75	Good/Fair
Mass	99	100	95	Good
Rhode Island	100	100	100	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	90	95	80	Good
Sweet Corn	80	85	75	Good
	Percent Harvested			
Dry Hay				
First Cut	55	65	50	Good/Fair
Second Cut	0	<5	0	Good

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

For the Period: Monday June 16, 2008
To: Sunday June 22, 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-50F DFN	BASE-60F TOT	BASE-60F DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS
MAINE														
Augusta State A	53	76	61	-5	532	+53	129	+29	0.79	+0.02	7	2.02	-1.14	17
Bangor Intl Arp	53	76	61	-3	467	+54	94	+22	0.70	-0.07	4	2.84	-0.28	12
Bethel	52	74	61	-4	421	-7	100	+22	0.86	-0.05	5	4.80	+1.14	14
Caribou Municip	53	72	60	-3	296	-30	45	+4	0.99	+0.29	4	3.11	+0.44	13
Dover-Foxcroft	49	74	59	-4	347	+11	61	+19	1.36	+0.48	7	4.80	+1.35	16
Frenchville	52	71	59	-3	242	-46	33	+6	1.24	+0.49	7	3.53	+0.68	19
Houlton	49	74	60	-3	282	-52	47	+3	0.75	-0.02	6	3.26	+0.18	15
Livermore Falls	50	76	61	-2	439	+98	105	+60	1.19	+0.21	7	3.14	-0.71	16
Moosehead	46	71	57	-5	227	-25	40	+21	4.58	+3.67	7	8.37	+4.82	18
Portland_ME	54	73	62	-2	499	+107	117	+58	0.52	-0.27	5	1.71	-1.51	12
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	47	73	61	-3	426	+0	90	+18	0.97	+0.08	5	2.48	-1.05	14
Berlin AG	50	73	61	-3	449	+39	102	+31	1.14	+0.16	6	4.99	+1.20	16
Concord	47	81	63	-4	612	+103	192	+74	0.39	-0.38	4	2.87	-0.12	11
Diamond Pond	46	69	57	-3	261	+34	51	+42	2.59	+1.47	7	8.12	+3.88	19
Keene AP	45	79	63	-2	575	+116	177	+85	0.42	-0.35	3	2.51	-0.66	10
North Conway	49	73	61	-5	489	+25	110	+13	1.37	+0.46	7	3.94	+0.23	17
Rochester	51	80	64	-3	620	+59	198	+54	1.55	+0.73	5	4.98	+1.64	11
VERMONT														
Burlington Intl	51	83	64	-2	687	+112	222	+67	0.24	-0.60	4	3.53	+0.35	12
Island Pond	48	73	60	-2	377	+63	88	+45	1.33	+0.31	7	5.56	+1.62	20
Montpelier	47	79	62	-2	513	+91	134	+56	0.57	-0.23	5	4.49	+1.20	16
Pownal	46	79	63	-1	589	+149	168	+84	0.99	-0.06	6	3.86	-0.41	17
Rochester	44	82	61	-2	432	+30	101	+29	0.32	-0.52	5	4.00	+0.39	14
Rutland AG	45	82	61	-6	526	-100	152	-29	0.83	-0.01	3	5.61	+2.28	11
Springfield_VT	44	79	63	-2	592	+125	176	+81	0.29	-0.62	4	2.16	-1.53	13
Sutton	48	71	60	-2	375	+63	83	+40	1.00	-0.03	6	4.87	+0.95	20
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	58	83	67	-2	775	+93	304	+109	0.78	+0.08	3	2.57	-0.33	9
Fitchburg	51	82	65	+2	754	+311	274	+189	0.53	-0.31	3	2.55	-0.78	12
Greenfield	46	79	64	-5	633	-39	172	-26	1.31	+0.42	4	3.22	-0.40	12
New Bedford	48	82	64	-5	590	-79	197	+16	0.98	+0.14	3	1.79	-1.61	10
Otis_AFB	55	79	65	-1	501	+28	153	+57	0.62	-0.14	3	1.74	-1.35	10
Plymouth	51	82	65	-2	600	+88	206	+88	0.74	-0.03	4	1.32	-1.96	10
Walpole	50	80	64	-3	669	+104	228	+87	1.26	+0.36	4	2.21	-1.22	13
Chicopee/Westov	44	82	65	-6	694	-108	225	-41	1.14	+0.22	3	3.83	-0.03	12
Worthington	42	78	61	-3	492	+49	119	+35	1.27	+0.39	3	4.35	+0.67	12
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	53	84	67	-2	814	+187	298	+127	1.15	+0.38	4	1.83	-1.31	12
Woonsocket	48	82	64	-3	676	+119	224	+97	1.53	+0.59	4	2.25	-1.51	11
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	55	79	68	-1	842	+148	323	+111	2.22	+1.44	4	4.32	+1.10	14
Hartford/Bradle	50	83	67	-4	842	+82	315	+65	0.92	+0.07	3	3.91	+0.33	12
Norfolk	45	77	62	-2	545	+106	156	+75	1.20	+0.15	4	6.83	+2.52	14
Thomaston Dam	49	81	65	-1	687	+114	219	+78	1.15	+0.22	4	5.18	+1.31	14
Willimantic	49	81	65	-2	739	+158	240	+96	1.10	+0.23	5	3.24	-0.27	15

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 22, 2008

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	L	HI	AV	DF	LO	HI
ME	42	77	60	-3	0.23	5.00
NH	44	83	62	-3	0.19	2.94
VT	40	83	61	-3	0.24	1.33
MA	42	84	64	-3	0.11	1.36
RI	48	84	65	-2	0.87	1.53
CT	45	83	65	-3	0.92	2.22

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: It was a rainy week. Field corn in low lying fields is yellow - too much water. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Very little dry hay was put up this week due to scattered showers. Some producers finishing up transplanting of peppers and tobacco. Generally most areas had about one inch of rain on Monday night and some reported more showers during the week. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Producers trying to finish up haying, but being hampered by intermittent showers. Vegetables and corn crops doing well. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** A week of thunderstorms and scattered showers ranging from 1/10th of an inch to three inches in parts of the county. Replanting field corn in places where wet conditions, insects or other affected the first planting. Strawberry picking when it's dry and mowing second cutting. Tomatoes fruiting, lettuce and other vegetables ready for market. Grapes are flowering and continue to look good. Bedding plant sales have slowed at greenhouses but people are continuing to plant flower and vegetable gardens. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** This was not the best week for making dry hay but the harvest continued on a limited basis. Field corn and sweet corn looks good as well as the vegetable crops. Strawberries are nice and sweet. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Picking strawberries, vegetables, and making hay between showers. A lot of hay got rained on with afternoon showers every day. No hail damage reported after last Sunday's thunderstorm. Lots of down trees still being cleaned up from fields due to the storm.

MAINE - Pam Hickey (Ext), Aroostook: Hilling and cultivation. Initial fungicide applications will begin this week. Excellent conditions. Crop growing rapidly. **Steve London, Aroostook:** Due to weather conditions potato farmers are on a five day spray program for fungicide applications. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Once the rain started, it doesn't seem to want to stop. Rain has been falling part of each day in varying amounts. Everyone seems to have plenty now. The strawberry crop is very good and picking started last week. So far vegetables look good, except for some poor corn germination. The hay harvest is on hold due to the rain. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Thunderstorm after thunderstorm since June 10th; those that got in early hay were lucky. Hay is growing well. Some areas have had hail pile up on the ground. We now need a sunny dry period. **Maria Granger (FSA), Kennebec:** The past week was pretty rainy, could possibly help diseases and molds build up on fruit crops if not managed properly. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** This area received over an inch of rain this past week which was a welcomed relief for area crop farmers. Peas were harvested this past week and the strawberry harvest is now in full swing. The strawberry crop looks good, but a little bit of rot is now being spotted due to the weather. Dry weather is needed to alleviate this problem and is forecasted for Wednesday thru Friday. of this week. Pumpkin and winter squash crops also are looking good. The blueberry harvest is anticipated to be on schedule. Fly traps will be placed in cropping fields late this week or early next week. Herbicide wiping is now occurring on the 2009 blueberry crop. Despite the rain this past week, most farming activities occurred as planned, with the exception of the dry hay harvest. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Oxford County received a severe thunderstorm Thursday afternoon with large sized hail. Also received another severe thunderstorm on Sunday afternoon with heavy rain, wind and some hail. Corn and field crops looking good at this time. Time will tell if and what damage the severe thunderstorms have caused to the crops in Oxford County. Some apple trees have received damage caused by hail in earlier storms. Pastures looking green and animals enjoying the freedom. Haylage being harvested along with first cut baled hay. **Laura Rand (FSA), Penobscot:** What a crazy week. Wet, damp days, not much sun, and producers are still harvesting haylage when they can. All crops are looking healthy and green. Small vegetables are being harvested and spray

activities are happening between the rain drops! **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis:** Rains throughout the week prevented any dry hay harvesting. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** Were we hoping for rain a few weeks ago? We now need sun again especially for the strawberry harvest. The Skowhegan area had hail late Friday afternoon and heavy thunderstorms over the weekend. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Spotty thundershowers have made finishing up first cut somewhat difficult. Strawberries are ready as are the early peas. Corn silage looks pretty good. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Berries maturing well and have good moisture. Good fruit set is evident and points to a potentially large crop. The cool temperatures are slowing fruit maturation.

MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: Temps were a little below average. Some hail damage reported on pumpkin fields, will replant. Possible loss of tree fruit from the same storm. Strawberry harvest has begun with good crowds at pick your own operations. Farmer's markets busy with plants and spring veggies. Sweet and silage corn is doing well. Row crops being cultivated. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** The week began and ended with hail, high winds and heavy rains and in between it was a very nice week. All fields today are fully saturated with standing water from the weekend rains. Vegetable growers are harvesting strawberries, peas, summer squash, beets, lettuce, and greens. All vegetable and fruit growers are applying a protective spray to prevent diseases. **Janice Barnes, Franklin:** Heavy rains and hail affected crops in many areas. Hail was pea size and larger. Apples, peaches, blueberries, and many leaf vegetables were hit. **Tom Monahan (NRCS), Hampden/Worcester:** Bad storms and hail made this week tough for fruit growers. Thunderstorms and a lot of heavy rain made strawberry fields wet and fruit a little soft. Overall apple crop a little light with a heavy June drop due to the inclement weather during pollination. Sweet corn and early summer squash could be ready for harvest reel soon. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Bloom is moving along well so far. The hives have arrived and the honeybees are getting acclimated to their new location. There are plenty of bumblebee(wild) working the blossoms in all locations. Fruit rot fungicides are being applied. Calliston is being sprayed for the control of many weeds - so far this newly registered material looks fantastic! Showers have been very scattered and we could use a good soaking region-wide. There were scattered reports of hail last week, but no damage to cranberries.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap: Growers are harvesting strawberries, broccoli, lettuces and leafy greens, peas, and radishes. Early sweet corn that spent time under row cover is tasseling. Many are waiting anxiously for raspberries and blueberries. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Warm and sunny most of the week, with a few intermittent showers and thunderstorms on a few days. Corn is doing well, farms finishing post-emergence spraying and doing mid-season nitrogen checks. First cutting for dry hay continues, re-growth on harvested fields looks good. Ready to harvest second cutting haylage on much of the alfalfa ground. Strawberry harvest peaking. More vegetable crops showing up - snap peas, early brassicas. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** A wet week makes for difficult fieldwork conditions. Connecticut and Androscoggin Rivers both running high to the tops of their banks. Some ponding in corn and meadows in lower areas of floodplains. Most farms have haylage in; anything cut this week got rained on. Fertilizer and manure being spread on cut hay lands, good re-growth on these. Some corn fields about ready for soil nitrate testing. Farmers markets offering early season greens, etc. Garden centers seeing heavy demand for vegetable transplants and seed potatoes. Need some dry weather for baling hay. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending June 21st, we received over 1.3 inches of rain. Top soil moisture conditions have improved

significantly from this much needed rain. Reports of first cutting indicate that there was significant yield reduction due to dry conditions in various areas around the county. Many producers also indicate an adverse effect on pastures on some soils due to dryness. Almost everyone is happy to see the rain. Field corn is looking good. Sweet corn plantings are all in the ground, except for a few fields that will be planted around the end of July in order to take advantage of later marketing opportunities. The alfalfa crop showed little of no adverse effects from the dry conditions. The deep root system helped here. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Growers harvesting field grown strawberries. Fruit growers monitoring pest and crop development and applying sprays for pest control along with mowing orchard floor. Field Crops: Farmers making haylage between showers and stopped baling hay because of rain. They are finishing planting and weed spraying corn fields. Vegetables: Continuing successive planting of several vegetables. Growers continued harvesting early season vegetables such as lettuce and radishes and first summer squash and zucchini are being harvested. Grower's busy side dressing fields with fertilizer, cultivating weeds, scouting for pests and spraying if needed. Fire blight is seen in some apple orchards throughout the county, growers should wait until dry weather is forecasted to start to carefully prune out the fire blight strikes. Potato leaf hopper is here and squash vine borer has been caught. Continue seeing damage from asparagus beetle, flea beetle, striped cucumber beetle, and Colorado potato beetle. European corn borer moths and oriental fruit moth starting to decrease in numbers. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Harvesting strawberries, leafy greens, and asparagus. Planting sweet corn, tomatoes, and other vegetables. Haying and making haylage. Corn silage being planted. Monitoring pests and cultivating. Received some rain that helped crops. Sunday afternoon the county received hail and hail stones size ranged from small to large pea size. Some crops were damaged.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: Finishing up with first cut hay. Field and sweet corn still being planted and looks good. Field work in potatoes and vegetables being

done, planting pumpkins and winter squash. Harvesting early vegetables. Rain mid-week was welcomed. Roadside stands busy with vegetables, flowers slowed way down.

VERMONT - Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin: Still wet here in Franklin County. Corn still set back, especially in wet areas of fields. Nitrogen test results are adequate to low and there is a big question mark on cost of nitrogen versus cost of corn. First cut hay and haylage is still not done. Looks like we are headed to some July first cut harvest. Second cut hay has come back super where the first is taken. Now if we can get some weather for harvest we would be in good shape, except for the first cut still in the fields. Pastures are unbelievably super. Coming back nicely and not too wet for cattle getting around. **John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille:** The continuing rains are proving troublesome for many producers. Corn fields are showing signs of stress in low pockets where water doesn't drain well. Haying has been a non starter except for grass silage harvesting. Veggie farmers have been having some problems with a few crops especially on heavier soils. Rain amounts have been uneven with some pockets receiving significantly more than others in heavy downpours. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Rain showers every day this past week has slowed hay harvest. Second crop hay is growing well. All corn has been planted. The crop has plenty of moisture and now could use some heat to really get it going. Pastures are doing well with the wet weather. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Corn nearly all planted, all other crops in season planted. Emergence is good but growth is slow because of cool weather. Good average crop of strawberries but slow growth and maturing, also because of cool weather. Rain for the week 1.635 inches. Plenty of rain, but short on sun and warm weather. Last cutting of asparagus with a good crop. All small vegetables beginning to emerge. Crops came up good, but growth slow. Let's hope for sun and warm weather for the coming week. **Julie Jacque (FSA), Windham:** Crops moving along. Hay being harvested, strawberry harvest in second or third week. Early crops being harvested such as greens and radishes.

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