

Crop Progress & Condition



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For week ending 6/7/09

Good Week for Planting

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending June 7, 2009, there were 6.3 days available for field work across New England. Pasture condition was rated 10% fair, 75% good, 15% excellent. The week began with a morning frost which lightly damaged emerged sweet and silage corn, however many areas escaped extensive injury. Partly cloudy skies dominated the weather pattern for most of the week in the northern states providing excellent conditions for field work, however many areas were getting dry by week's end and were in need of a good rain. Temperatures in ME, NH, and VT were below average to average for the week, ranging from the upper 60s to upper 70s and below average to average nighttime lows in the low 40s to mid-50s. Scattered rain and thundershowers affected areas of the northern states during the night Saturday and Sunday. The southern states experienced clear skies for the first part of the week, however rain moved through the area Wednesday night and into Thursday morning. It rained most of the day on Friday and areas received anywhere between 0.12 to 0.90 inches of rainfall. The weekend's weather in CT, MA, and RI was partly cloudy with average temperatures in the upper 60s to mid-80s. For all states, total rainfall for the week ranged from 0.13 to 1.11 inches.

FRUIT: Fruit development ranged from full bloom to petal fall across New England with the exception of Massachusetts cranberries, which remained at bud stage. Tree fruits were in good condition throughout the region however orchardists were busy monitoring and spraying for plum curculio. Strawberry harvest began in some areas, but most anticipate harvest to begin in a week or so. Cool weather in Maine delayed and extended the wild blueberry bloom. The Massachusetts cranberry crop suffered damage from a frost June 1, mostly to new growing tips. Many cranberry growers were seeing their first scattered blossoms.

VEGETABLES: Most vegetables had been planted by week's end. Winter squash and pumpkins were still going in the ground along with tomato and pepper transplants. Sweet corn was 80% planted at weeks end, ahead of last year and normal. Growers continued to harvest spring greens, radishes and rhubarb. Harvest of peas, radishes, turnips, carrots, and beets began. The asparagus harvest came to a close in many areas. Vegetable growers were busy last week scouting for flea beetles, cabbage worms, and diamond back moths and fertilizing and irrigating earlier planted crops.

FIELD CROPS: Oats, barley, potatoes, and shade tobacco were completely planted at week's end. The planting of field corn made great progress last week with some areas now 100% seeded. Field corn emergence surpassed the half-way mark, ahead of last year and normal. Broadleaf tobacco transplanting ranged from 25% complete in CT to 60% complete in MA. All newly planted crops look good, but could benefit from moisture and warmth. Growers were busy harvesting haylage and first cut dry hay, principally in the northern states where rain was absent.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	2	0	6
Short	17	3	12
Adequate	76	76	78
Surplus	5	21	4
Subsoil			
Very Short	2	1	2
Short	13	1	16
Adequate	80	84	80
Surplus	5	14	2

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/Fair
Wild	PF	Average	Good
Cranberries, MA	BS	--	Good
Strawberries	FB/PF	Average	Good/Excellent

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

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2009	2008	5-yr Avg	Condition
--Percent Planted--				
Barley, ME	100	99	95	
Oats, ME	100	99	95	
Potatoes				
Maine	100	95	95	
Mass	100	99	99	
Rhode Island	N/A	100	99	
Silage Corn	90	90	80	
Sweet Corn	80	70	70	
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	35	65	50	Good/Fair
Shade	100	100	95	Good/Fair
--Percent Emerged--				
Barley, ME	85	55	70	Good
Oats, ME	90	45	70	Good
Potatoes				
Maine	5	5	15	Good
Mass	85	55	65	Good
Rhode Island	N/A	80	90	N/A
Silage Corn	65	60	55	Good
Sweet Corn	55	50	50	Good
-- Percent Harvested --				
Dry Hay				
First Cut	35	40	25	Good

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday June 1, 2009
 To: Sunday June 7, 2009

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	DAYS
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN				INCHES	DFN		
MAINE															
Augusta_State_A	40	73	59	-3	313	+58	41	+7	0.20	-0.60	1	2.34	-0.98	12	
Bangor_Intl_Arp	39	73	57	-3	247	+41	20	-1	0.25	-0.56	1	2.03	-1.19	10	
Bethel	39	76	57	-3	223	+3	22	-4	0.14	-0.77	1	1.98	-1.43	10	
Caribou_Municip	37	73	55	-4	158	+1	17	+3	1.23	+0.57	3	3.05	+0.29	11	
Dover-Foxcroft	37	74	55	-3	175	+13	16	+3	0.38	-0.46	1	1.61	-1.65	9	
Frenchville	39	73	54	-3	119	-9	11	+8	1.00	+0.30	3	3.37	+0.54	13	
Houlton	32	72	53	-5	158	-3	20	+5	0.82	+0.05	2	2.46	-0.62	10	
Livermore_Falls	40	76	57	-1	225	+61	20	+7	0.05	-0.91	1	2.62	-0.91	10	
Moosehead	33	76	53	-4	105	-1	15	+15	0.47	-0.40	1	2.24	-0.99	9	
Portland_ME	39	74	60	+2	316	+124	54	+42	0.18	-0.62	1	2.35	-0.83	9	
NEW HAMPSHIRE															
Benton	27	74	53	-7	208	-29	27	-4	0.08	-0.79	1	2.68	-0.59	7	
Berlin_AG	38	75	55	-5	213	-2	22	-5	0.14	-0.78	1	1.95	-1.44	9	
Concord	33	78	61	-1	382	+103	81	+35	0.01	-0.69	1	1.81	-1.03	9	
Diamond_Pond	30	69	49	-7	83	-21	7	+7	0.61	-0.43	3	3.90	+0.09	10	
Keene_AG	32	81	59	-6	346	-15	76	-2	0.04	-0.81	1	2.47	-0.96	9	
North_Conway	41	75	58	-3	264	+17	33	-2	0.13	-0.78	1	3.01	-0.62	10	
Rochester	37	78	62	-1	369	+52	76	+17	0.15	-0.69	1	2.26	-1.16	8	
VERMONT															
Bennington_AP	30	76	58	-3	373	+129	67	+30	0.02	-1.05	1	2.62	-1.58	8	
Burlington_Intl	38	78	58	-5	374	+43	70	+1	0.15	-0.62	2	2.43	-0.48	9	
Island_Pond	34	72	52	-6	151	-7	17	+1	0.26	-0.72	2	2.36	-1.23	9	
Montpelier	35	75	55	-5	278	+47	46	+14	0.29	-0.55	2	3.39	+0.27	9	
Rochester	33	77	55	-5	217	+2	32	+4	0.09	-0.83	1	5.35	+1.50	8	
Rutland_AG	32	77	56	-8	301	-73	48	-39	0.14	-0.67	2	2.86	-0.37	12	
Springfield_VT	31	79	59	-2	358	+99	63	+23	0.00	-0.91	0	1.94	-1.76	7	
Sutton	32	73	53	-5	146	-10	21	+5	0.07	-0.90	2	3.20	-0.31	11	
MASSACHUSETTS															
Boston/Logan_In	48	80	64	-1	545	+149	158	+87	0.04	-0.69	2	1.17	-1.71	10	
Fitchburg	36	81	64	+5	539	+306	154	+126	0.06	-0.75	1	1.45	-1.79	9	
Greenfield	34	78	59	-6	376	-22	79	-5	0.07	-0.84	1	2.15	-1.43	10	
New_Bedford	35	75	60	-5	410	+17	73	+6	1.10	+0.26	3	2.71	-0.61	14	
Otis_AFB	43	77	61	+0	451	+206	85	+58	1.09	+0.31	5	1.76	-1.50	14	
Plymouth	42	76	61	-2	436	+166	91	+56	0.81	-0.03	4	1.62	-1.85	14	
Walpole	39	76	61	-3	396	+78	82	+29	0.15	-0.69	3	2.74	-0.41	12	
Chicopee/Westov	45	80	62	-5	487	-11	117	-6	0.00	-0.98	0	1.11	-2.68	7	
Worthington	33	76	58	-3	295	+54	57	+24	0.04	-0.89	1	2.42	-1.61	9	
RHODE ISLAND															
Providence	43	77	62	-2	485	+130	111	+51	0.77	-0.04	3	1.80	-1.50	12	
Woonsocket	40	79	61	-1	462	+148	110	+66	0.29	-0.62	3	1.44	-2.20	14	
CONNECTICUT															
Bridgeport/Siko	44	77	63	-2	464	+53	98	+6	1.26	+0.42	2	2.26	-1.21	7	
Hartford/Bradle	39	80	63	-3	551	+87	153	+38	0.07	-0.84	2	1.38	-2.35	8	
Norfolk	36	74	58	-3	338	+102	74	+44	0.06	-1.01	2	2.08	-2.09	10	
Thomaston_Dam	39	77	61	-2	434	+100	97	+37	0.46	-0.52	3	2.67	-1.27	13	
Willimantic	39	79	62	-1	518	+182	127	+68	0.40	-0.51	3	1.97	-1.74	12	

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, June 7, 2009

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	AIR TEMPERATURES				PRECIPITATION	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	32	78	56	-3	0.00	1.46
NH	18	82	57	-3	0.00	0.61
VT	26	79	55	-6	0.00	0.29
MA	33	81	61	-2	0.00	1.42
RI	40	79	61	-2	0.29	0.85
CT	36	82	62	-2	0.06	1.26

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: A cool cloudy week with showers Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. A good week for transplanting broadleaf tobacco and most veggies. Silage corn planting nearly completed. Many chopped grass silage. The cloudy weather has not yielded much for rain and reports are that northern Hartford County has a six inch deficit since the first of the year. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Haylage first cut is over. Dry hay is coming off slowly - most of it is getting rinsed a few times. Nitrate testing of field corn started this week. Wireworms popped up and wiped out a couple of fields in the Housatonic River Valley - in spite of seed treatments labeled to prevent them. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Not very many good drying days for hay. Vegetables doing well. Producers trying to finish planting corn. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** Scattered showers again last week brought moisture to the fields, but limited field activities. **Jude Boucher (Ext), Tolland:** Row-cover sweet corn tasseling and early tomatoes near full size. Maggots, blackrot and diamondback moth larvae on Brassica crops. Thrips on cukes in the greenhouse. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Strawberries need warm weather to ripen. Blueberries are healthy with a huge potential crop. Peaches are small, will need hand thinning. Apples range from poor to really good, some blocks with deer damage. No frost issues. Apples have been thinned. Controlling weeds and fungus in orchards. Field corn and hay look good. Hay is going by with lack of sunny days to mow and bale. Cool weather and rain has been good for crops, but now sun and heat are needed to bring berries to maturity. We need a push growth on corn and to get the hay in.

MAINE – Doreen Conlogue (FSA), Aroostook: Another great week for field work. Planting has been completed. Grains and early potatoes are up and look good. Herbicides being applied to grains. Growers in Southern Aroostook have started harvesting first cut hay, quality looks good. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** The beautiful weather this past week has allowed farmers to finish planting in the area. We had a few thundershowers in the area over the weekend to water the crops. Some crops have begun to emerge. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Good weather allowed farmers to plant and make hay. Dry, windy weather has started irrigation guns on some of the fields. The soil could use some rain, which is in the forecast for this week. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Hay harvest is ten days ahead of schedule. The crop is lighter than average probably because it is early. The early harvest is good news for second and third crop as long as we get some water. Spring planting is pretty well wrapped up. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Crops are looking good for what has emerged. Farmers have been harvesting green chop (haylage) and some first cut dry hay. Warm and sunny days have given farmers a chance to finish up planting and started harvesting. Apples are starting to set on trees. Strawberries and blueberries are starting to set. Much needed rain is forecasted for the up coming week. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** We experienced a dry week with plenty of sunshine for farmers to cut hay fields and chop grass. Plantings of silage corn and most varieties of sweet corn have nearly concluded in this area. The strawberry harvest should begin in approximately one week. Some winter squash and pumpkins have been planted. All is going well in the mid-coast area with most crops right on schedule. A cold, wet week is forecasted. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** In need of rain in places. Hay was being harvested over the past weekend. Animals grazing and enjoying the pastures! Corn and potato crops have been reported to be all planted and looking good. Small vegetables are in the ground with all but a few plantings left. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis:** A lot of planting. Hay was starting to be harvested. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** A good week for field work. Planting, hay and baleage production continued. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Some first cutting hay/haylage harvested last week with dry and windy conditions. Still cold nights have caused problems with frosted corn and other vegetables. Even

without a frost, some crops are suffering from cold. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries; Cool weather has delayed and extended blueberry bloom. A large number of native bees have been seen this year and along with the imported hives have provided for excellent pollination. It is expected that we will have a better than average crop as a result. Insect pressure has been very low this year with few outbreaks. Post emergence applications for weeds on non crop fields are being made.

MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: Average weather, planting continued. More farmers hay cut. Cooler temperatures last week. Farmer's markets did brisk business. **Lori Carver (FSA), Franklin:** A cool start to the week, turned into a great end. Crops are all looking great. Tobacco planting was in full swing. Dairy farmers are getting that first cutting of hay done. Asparagus season is coming to an end. Lettuce, peas and radishes were being harvested. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Temperatures were cool with a few showers last week. Sunday morning small fruit producers were irrigating for frost control due to temperatures in the low 30's. Farmers were selling garlic, turnips, carrots, beets, kale, lettuce and asparagus. Potato and sweet corn growers were side dressing their crops. Dairy farmers were finishing planting corn and started to cut hay. Vegetable growers are scouting for flea beetles, cabbage worms, and diamond back moths. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: There was a very tricky frost night in the early morning hours of June 1 - dew points dropped rapidly and winds died. Many growers experienced some frost injury, mostly to the new growing tips. One grower lost several beds that morning - there won't be much of a crop. Other reports are still coming in. Most beds show hook at this point - we are not far from our first scattered blossoms, although the cool forecast for this week will slow things down. Growers continue to scout and treat for insects, have crews out weeding woody perennials, cleaning out ditches, and finishing planting of renovated beds. Things look very good at this point. We've had ample amounts of rainfall to keep the plants happy.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll: Cool, dry weather, cloudy skies and the threat of rain has kept first cutting to a minimum. We could use some rain, everything is pretty dry. Garden centers were selling vegetable and annual transplants like hotcakes. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Dry, sunny weather all week. Many farms made great strides in harvesting first cut haylage/baleage. Field corn all planted and doing well - most of it at two to three leaf stage. Many places seem to have escaped much injury from last week's freeze. Lots of greens, etc. offered at farm stands and farmers' markets. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** A drier, warmer week helped with farm activities. Most, if not all corn planted now, some emerging and in good condition. Grasses growing well, orchard grass heading out. Haylage harvest going steady, a lot mowed and on the way to bunk silos. Good weather conditions for this throughout the week. Pastures also being well utilized. Windy weather made spray applications hard to time. Plum curculios protection needed. A better crop year start than last year. Garden centers did a brisk business. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending June 6th, we had about 0.4 inches of rain. Soil conditions were generally favorable for field work. First cutting haylage continued to go into the bunks. Overall, it was a good week for getting field work done. Some of the well drained river bottom soils were drier at the surface, and could use some more rain. Conversely, the less well drained soils have not dried out as well, due to the slower start to the growing season. Vegetable growers are well on the way for their first plantings. Most of the corn is up and doing OK. No-till corn is also up and growing. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Concern about frost one night during the week, Monday night/Tuesday morning. Some growers irrigated strawberries during night/morning for frost control and made sure tender plants were protected during the night. Vegetables: Transplanted tomato and pepper plants, and made successive

plantings of various vegetable crops. Harvested spinach, greens, asparagus and rhubarb. Fruit: First strawberries were harvested. Fruit growers monitored pest and crop development and applied cover sprays for pest control. Orchardists wondering if they should be applying thinning sprays to apple orchards. Mowed orchard floor and weed sprayed under trees. Greenhouses and garden centers were very busy. Also, greenhouses and garden centers started planted fall mums. Field Crops: Planted and weed sprayed corn fields. Farmers making haylage and yields are low. Grasses heading out and maturing, especially orchard grass. **Amy Ouellette (Ext), Merrimack:** Harvested many types of greens and radish. Early strawberries look very good and will be ready to start harvesting late this week. Orchardists are monitoring for plum curculio on apples. Dry weather allowed for the first cutting of hay during the week. **Melinda Marston (FSA), Merrimack/Belknap/Hillsborough:** Great week for field work. Corn planting was in full swing and farmers started first cut hay. A little rain would be welcomed. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** A very pleasant week for field week. It was a dry week that gave hay producers time to go out and cut hay. Grass in pastures and hay fields continue to do well. Fruit growers were mowing the orchard floors, irrigating and spraying for plum curculio on fruit trees and other pests on other crops. Vegetable growers continued to plant succession crops while weeding, cultivating, fertilizing and irrigating earlier crops. Nurseries, greenhouses, and garden centers had a good week selling plants.

VERMONT – Jeff Carter, (Ext), Addison: Started dry hay harvest last week. Haylage harvest continued, mostly done first crop. Corn is generally good, some replanted from rotted seed in wet soils. Almost all corn planted. Hay crop is good, early heading of grasses. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Cool dry week. Some scattered light frosts a couple of nights. One brief shower. Plants need some moisture and warmth to get going. Good week for haylage and

round bales, not quite enough heat to make dry hay. Yields seem low. Lots of corn has emerged, but not doing any growing yet. Dire cash flow situation on most dairy farms making it difficult to build excitement for harvest. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** What a week!!!! Fantastic weather here in Franklin County. First cut hay was being harvested like gang busters with a fantastic yield. Heard some forage analysis on the May cut with super results in this arena. Re-growth on this harvest is coming back super and will set up some very good second cut harvest. Much baling was being done with the first cut which will make for some great dry cow hay. Manure began to go back on the first cut fields making for some good re-growth and a cut back on inputs needed for nutrients. Will also get those nutrients used up by the crop and not into the surface waters. Corn is pretty well in the ground and emerged. Color is starting to come back from pale green with the good weather conditions. **Heather Darby, (Ext), Grand Isle:** A good weather week overall for the area. Farmers were finishing up corn planting. First cut hay was well under way for most. The quality is passing by rapidly, especially orchard grass. The corn is emerging and is yellow and purple due to cool soils. Some poor stands have been recorded. **John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille:** Great weather last week made for a big rush to finalize corn planting. The non corn growers were very busy harvesting first cut grass silage. Not much feed that's been down has gotten wet yet. Looks like we're off to a good start with the cropping season in this area. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** A lot of first cut hay was harvested over the past week. Top soil conditions are a bit dry even with rain earlier in the week. Pastures seem to be doing well. There still is a little corn to be planted but most acreage is in. Germination appears to be fairly even. **Julie Jacque, (FSA), Windham:** Lots of activity getting first cutting in relatively early. Vegetable crops look good. Some cooler nights still and moisture is needed in the ground. Fruit sets look very promising.

MAY 2009 CROP WEATHER SUMMARY: Cool and rainy conditions across New England ushered in the month of May. Below average nighttime lows brought threats of frosts. Showers occurred nearly every day during the week, slowing field work and planting. Many welcomed the precipitation, but by the end of the week, some areas were becoming waterlogged. Thunderstorms, heavy winds, and hail blew through the region during the second weekend of May, damaging fruit trees and newly planted fields. Temperatures warmed up to the mid-60s to low 70s by mid-May providing excellent field work conditions. More thunderstorms occurred the third weekend of May, bringing further hail damage to the southern states. Temperatures cooled down into the third week of May bringing heavy frost damage to some areas on early planted vegetables, peaches, and strawberries. Temperatures climbed back up to average to above average levels for the rest of the week with some areas seeing highs in the low 90s. Southern states received thunderstorms during the fourth weekend of May with more hail damage reported. Many areas of the south saw scattered rain showers through the end of May while the north saw heavier rainfall. High temperatures were below average in the low 50s to mid-60s, with nighttime lows ranging from the mid-30s to low 50s. Total rainfall for May ranged from 2.77 to 5.18 inches across New England, below average to average in the south and average to above average the north. Vegetable producers planted early season vegetables throughout the month, while also harvesting asparagus, rhubarb, spring greens, and radishes. All fruits, except cranberries, were in full bloom to petal fall across the region by the end of the month. Orchardists and berry growers kept busy throughout the month monitoring for pests and spraying protective fungicides and pesticides. Planting of the majority of field crops were ahead of last year and normal by month's end. Planting of field corn and sweet corn has passed 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 trailing last year. The first cut of grass for dry hay and haylage began near the end of the month.

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