# **Crop Progress & Condition**



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

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June 29, 2009 – 4 pm

For week ending 6/28/09

## **Sunshine Needed Stat!**

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending June 28, 2009, there were 3.1 days available for field work across New England. Pasture condition was rated 12% poor, 26% fair, 50% good, 12% excellent. Once again, cool weather and rain dominated the weather patterns across New England this past week. The week began with below average daytime temperatures, ranging in the mid-60s to low 80s. Nighttime temperatures were above average, ranging in the upper 50s to low 60s. Temperatures steadily increased throughout the week, peaking in the mid-70s to low 80s. Rain fell nearly every day at most locations. A series of hail storms blew through the area starting on Friday, with some areas of Connecticut even experiencing tornadoes. Damage was reported on apples, peaches, tomatoes, field corn, sweet corn, and broadleaf tobacco crops. Total precipitation for the week ranged from 0.09 to 1.22 inches in the eleven weather stations tracked for this report. While total rainfall was less this week than last week, steady drizzles and sporadic rain showers made it very difficult to complete field work. A good dose of sunshine and warmer temperatures would be welcome medicine to all crops.

FRUIT: The strawberry harvest was 50% complete by the end of the week, on par with last year and slightly ahead of normal. Fungal diseases are becoming a huge issue in most fruit crops as the farmers are not able to apply fungicides in a timely manner. Apple, peach, and pear crops were rated in good to fair condition due to prolonged rains and hail damage during the storms at the end of the week. Cranberries were in early bloom to full bloom. Pollination conditions for the cranberry crop have been poor thus far and sunshine is desperately needed for proper fruit set. On a positive note, despite all the rain, blueberry fruit set looks very good this year. Fruit producers were busy mowing orchard floors, monitoring pest and crop development, and applying fungicides and pesticides when the weather allowed.

**VEGETABLES:** Wet weather is providing ideal conditions for pests and fungal diseases in vegetable crops. Late blight on tomatoes and potatoes, cutworms in sweet corn and pumpkins, slugs, and weeds are all thriving and causing issues for vegetable farmers. Sweet corn is shorter than usual for this time of year and is beginning to yellow due to nitrogen leaching. Growers were busy applying extra fertilizer and side dressing fields between rain showers to combat this problem. Harvesting of lettuce, cabbage, greens, radishes, summer squash, zucchini, peas, broccoli, and carrots continued.

**FIELD CROPS:** The first cut of dry hay was 65% complete at week's end. However, very little dry hay has been made this year. While re-growth looks good, sunnier days are needed to get the second cut underway. Field corn planting was nearly complete by the end of the week and was reported in good condition despite the rain. The humidity and warmer temperatures helped spur along growth. Broadleaf tobacco transplanting continued this past week. Hail damage was reported in Massachusetts. Potato and grain plantings were completed and all three crops were rated in good condition.

#### SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
		Percent	
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	1	2	4
Adequate	39	51	70
Surplus	60	47	26
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	3	2	10
Adequate	39	53	74
Surplus	58	45	16

#### FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

	Perce	ent Harv	vested			Condition	
Crop	2009	2008	5 -yr Avg	Fruit Set	Fruit Size		
Apples	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good	
Peaches	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good	
Pears	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good/Fair	
Blueberries							
Highbush	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good	
Wild	-	-	-	Above Avg	Average	Good	
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-			Good	
Strawberries	50	50	45	Average	Average	Good/Fair	

## FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2009	2008	5-yr Avg	Condition						
Percent Planted										
Silage Corn	99	99	99							
Sweet Corn	95	95	95							
Tobacco										
Broadleaf	95	95	95	Good/Fair						
Shade	100	100	100	Good/Fair						
	Percent Emerged									
Barley, ME	100	99	100	Good						
Oats, ME	100	99	99	Good						
Potatoes										
Maine	100	95	95	Good						
Mass	100	100	99	Good						
Rhode Island	N/A	100	100	N/A						
Silage Corn	95	90	90	Good/Fair						
Sweet Corn	80	85	85	Good						
Dry Hay										
First Cut	65	60	65	Good/Fair						
Second Cut	<5	5	<5	Good						

# Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday June 22, 2009 To: Sunday June 28, 2009

	TE	AI MPER	R ATUR	lE		M SIN				EK PREC			CUM PR	
STATION	LO 		AVG			DFN	BASE TOT	-60F DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS
MAINE Augusta_State_A Bangor_Intl_Arp Bethel Caribou_Municip Dover-Foxcroft Frenchville Houlton Livermore_Falls Moosehead Portland_ME	58 58 58 56 58 55 58 57 55 57	79 80 82 82 82 82 82 83 81 75	66 66 67 66 67 65 65	+0 +1 +2 +5 +3 +5 +4 +4	563 489 452 403 378 352 391 462 290 574	+1 -1 -54 +12 -25 +2 -10 +53 -20 +105	107 82 73 99 64 86 88 81 60 127	-24 -16 -31 +42 +4 +44 +26 +18 +29 +43	0.62 0.78 1.68 0.47 0.69 0.29 1.20 1.59 1.51	-0.15 +0.01 +0.77 -0.25 -0.15 -0.48 +0.43 +0.66 +0.57 +0.00	4 6 6 3 6 4 5 6 4 5	5.83 7.64 7.09 3.22 5.85 2.67 5.17 7.52 4.83 7.47	+2.72 +4.52 +3.39 +0.53 +2.40 -0.23 +2.09 +3.67 +1.20 +4.25	15 17 16 13 16 14 15 17 11
NEW_HAMPSHIRE Benton Berlin_AG Concord Diamond_Pond Keene_AG North_Conway Rochester	55 56 58 50 61 59	83 85 86 80 84 84 86	67 67 68 64 70 67 68	+4 +4 +2 +5 +3 +2	445 451 676 247 663 500 652	-51 -32 +83 -29 -46 -44 +3	86 84 181 40 194 95 166	-6 -9 +31 +23 -20 -31 -15	0.52 0.18 0.52 1.81 1.16 0.42 0.98	-0.32 -0.76 -0.20 +0.73 +0.32 -0.49 +0.21	3 1 6 3 3 6 5	3.16 3.63 4.89 4.89 5.01 5.53 6.00	-0.37 -0.19 +1.94 +0.59 +1.64 +1.82 +2.71	12 12 15 15 15 19
VERMONT Bennington_AP Burlington_Intl Island_Pond Montpelier Rochester Rutland_AG Springfield_VT Sutton	56 58 55 56 53 57 57	83 87 83 85 86 84 82 82	67 71 67 69 68 68 70 65	+4 +5 +6 +6 +4 +1 +6	724 404 568 475 591	+170 +60 +30 +75 +3 -125 +131 -15	172 214 90 141 105 139 179 65	+65 +21 +32 +40 +12 -80 +59 +7	0.79 1.04 1.17 0.12 0.72 0.19 0.22 0.99	-0.25 +0.20 +0.19 -0.65 -0.12 -0.65 -0.67 +0.01	4 3 3 2 4 2 5 4	5.15 4.31 3.51 2.14 4.89 3.10 4.12 3.46	+0.89 +1.07 -0.47 -1.13 +1.37 -0.23 +0.50 -0.51	16 14 15 13 15 12 15
MASSACHUSETTS Boston/Logan_In Fitchburg Greenfield New_Bedford Otis_AFB Plymouth Walpole Chicopee/Westov Worthington	56 60 59 56 55 55 59 55	84 81 79 82 79 79 82 80	66 68 68 64 65 64 66 69 66	-5 +3 -2 -6 -2 -5 -3 -3 +2	685 697	+51 +331 -84 -73 +192 +98 +26 -87 +38	253 266 185 159 184 159 167 247 134	+7 +154 -59 -71 +55 +3 -13 -75 +26	0.67 1.21 0.51 1.10 1.27 2.34 2.58 0.81 0.38	-0.03 +0.37 -0.33 +0.30 +0.56 +1.57 +1.73 -0.10 -0.53	6 7 5 4 6 7 5 5	2.70 5.96 5.18 4.10 3.50 4.68 4.93 5.71 6.73	-0.19 +2.63 +1.61 +0.74 +0.47 +1.45 +1.90 +3.10	15 18 18 14 17 20 19 14
RHODE_ISLAND Providence Woonsocket	59 58	79 83	66 66	-4 -2	802 759	+76 +114	220 206	+2 +42	0.29 0.73	-0.48 -0.18	5 5	3.37 3.91	+0.25 +0.15	17 20
CONNECTICUT Bridgeport/Siko Hartford/Bradle Norfolk Thomaston_Dam Willimantic	60 61 58 60 60	81 82 80 80 83	71 70 66 69 69	+1 -1 +2 +2 +2		+19 +46 +95 +104 +187	240 306 148 218 260	-23 +2 +42 +42 +79	0.62 0.61 0.91 1.02 2.53	-0.21 -0.23 -0.14 +0.11 +1.62	3 5 7 7 4	6.41 6.17 9.49 8.69 6.88	+3.19 +2.64 +5.18 +4.87 +3.37	16 17 20 21 17

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 28, 2009

	AIR	remp	ERAT	PRECIPIT	CATION	
STATE	LO	ΗI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	39	87	66	+2	0.10	3.36
NH	43	88	67	+2	0.15	1.81
VT	48	88	68	+4	0.05	1.93
MA	55	86	66	-2	0.38	2.58
RI	58	83	66	-3	0.13	0.73
CT	52	85	69	+0	0.09	2.53

**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: Another cold, wet week. Sweet corn is shorter than usual; it needs warm weather to grow. We had a series of hail storms late in the week. Farmers lost apple, peach, and tomato crops due to the hail. Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland: A tornado along with hail, lighting and heavy rain hit in Wethersfield Friday evening. Glastonbury and Hebron also received hail from the same storm. More heavy rain Saturday evening, but more to the east in Mansfield, still assessing damage. Have reports of apples, peaches, tomatoes, field corn, sweet corn and broadleaf tobacco being damaged. Some producers are totally wiped out. The rest of the area is still very wet and producers are challenged to apply sprays and cultivate. Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield: Rain, thunderstorms, hail and now reports of a tornado in the area last Friday. Still assessing damage as the storms were intense in small areas. First cut hav is now a month late and second cut havlage is over a week late with no real end to this weather pattern in sight. Marsha Jette (FSA), New London: Rain and thunderstorms hamper the harvesting of dry hay. Corn is yellowing in the fields due to leaching of nitrogen. Extra fertilizer being applied to sweet corn. An aphid alert has been issued. Hail damage is being reported from the severe storms this past weekend. Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven: It was pretty wet again this week. It warmed up for a day or two, but we are really in need of some sunny, hot weather. Disease is coming into a lot of the vegetable crops and it is still nearly impossible to make dry hay. Field corn and sweet corn aren't nearly as tall as they should be by this time of year. Jude Boucher (Ext), Tolland: Late blight has been spread to home gardens throughout New England by plants sold at big box stores. This is the disease that caused the Irish Potato Famine and spreads rapidly on the wind. Protect your tomato and potato plantings with protective fungicide applications and destroy severely infected plants. Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham: Blueberries are loaded with fruit. Strawberries are lacking flavor, the sun is needed to sweeten them up. Slugs are in strawberries, corn, and vegetable plantings. Keeping strawberries picked to avoid rotting in the field. Grass silage was cut early, no hay baled yet. Hay that was mowed three weeks ago is still lying in the fields and is past maturity. Early planted corn looks good, late planted is poor, replanted wet areas. Issues with nematodes in corn and cutworms in sunflowers. Zucchini is growing well. Humidity is giving some heat to growth, issue still with lack of sun and cool wet weather. Some corn fields not planted yet, too wet. We will have some corn knee high by the 4th of July! Joyce Meader (Ext), Windham: Re-growth of annual turnip, planted for pasture, looks great if grazed before boot stage. Pastures are green and growing rapidly with this wet weather. Laneways are a problem though.

MAINE - Doreen Conlogue (FSA), Aroostook: Crops continue to look good despite the constant rain. The St. John Valley did not receive as much precipitation last week as the Southern and Central Aroostook areas. The forecast for this week looks very much like last week: rain, rain and more rain. Steve London, Southern Aroostook: Potatoes and small grains: Late blight has been found in some tomato plants at this time. Hoping for drier conditions soon. Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York: June has been one of the coldest and wettest on record. All crops are being affected. Nitrogen is leaching in the soil. Plantings for fall crops are be missed due to the rain. The plants that have germinated are waiting for some sun and heat to grow. Late blight has been spotted on some tomato plants, so the spores are in the air. The weather needs to change fast! Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin: Record rainfall for June, with two days of rain left to go! Field work has come to a standstill. Fields are saturated with some standing water. It is too wet to even spread manure. Strawberries are rotting in the field. All plants now have wet feet and are not very happy. Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis: Heavy rains in the past week have halted all crop activity. Farmers are in much need of sun, heat and wind in order to start spraying and cultivating. Blight has been found in tomato plants and cut worms on corn has started.

Plants are starting to yellow due to excessive moisture. No sun in up coming week forcasted. Hay fields and crop fields have standing water at this time. Maria Granger (FSA), Kennebec: The rain has continued to put a damper on field conditions. While we did receive less rain than the week before, an inch and a half still fell across the county. Many producers still have not planted all of their crops. Those crops that have been planted are extremely weedy, as summer sprays and cultivation are not possible at this time. We need sun! Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln: We experienced another gloomy week in the mid-coast. Crop fields are too wet currently for any field activities. Mold and mildew is a huge problem in many crops. Cutworms have been spotted in some silage corn, sweet corn and pumpkins. Some of the strawberry crop has not ripened and a cloudy, wet week is forecasted. The quality of feed will be affected as the majority of first cut hay/grass has not been harvested. Some crops will be replanted if farmers are able to get on fields soon enough to replant. Most crops will be harvested later than expected. We need sunshine desperately. Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford: RAIN RAIN GO AWAY!! We need sun, wind and heat to help dry the wet saturated ground and help the veggies grow. Many late planted vegetables are either waiting to be planted or sitting in water. Low yields and rot issues are becoming more of an issue and with more rain on the way, very likely. Some flooding over the weekend with road closures. Cultivation in areas have stopped due to equipment getting stuck. Harvesting of hay is still at a standstill and pastures very wet. Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset: Gurgle, Gurgle - wet weather and continuous light and heavy rain is causing problems in the strawberry harvest. Fungal disease explosion, standing water in fields, flooding on small streams, and corn that will be only ankle, not knee high, by the Fourth of July. Some sun please? Janet King (FSA), Somerset: Somerset County has received approximately four inches of rain in the past week. Corn growth has been slow due to the below average temperatures and excessive rainfall in most areas. The saturation of water may cause damage to the young roots. Hay fields are not being harvested due to the wet conditions. When harvest can be done, the quality is expected to be low. The extended forecast calls for more rain this coming week. Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo: Poor weather conditions prevailed with some areas getting significant rainfall. Very little crop work done last week. Cool temperatures have not helped either. We need some sun! Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington: Wild blueberries; Rain, overcast and cooler temperatures are delaying crop maturation. It will be very difficult to get a blueberry pie by the 4th of July this year.

MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: Weather problems continue. Less rain this week, but cool temps and cloudy skies remain. Some silage corn has been lost to wet fields. First hay cutting was non existent or of low quality. Solanaceous crops doing poorly and cucurbits not lost to moisture are being treated with fungicides. Direct sales of transplants are up at markets and stands due to losses of original plantings in home gardens. Julie Viveiros (FSA), Essex/Middlesex: Very wet with excessive rain. Hard to make hay. Strawberries are not doing well with all the moisture. Lori Carver (FSA), Franklin: Rain and cool temps continued to pose problems. Strawberries continued to be harvested. Early cabbage harvest has begun. Hay harvest continued between the raindrops. Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden: Clouds and rain all week with below normal temperatures left crop fields water logged. Sunshine and a breeze are needed. Many crops need to be top dressed and cultivated. Warm season crops are growing slowly while other crops like the cool weather. Vegetable and fruit producers are applying a protective spray to prevent disease. Lettuce, salad greens, peas, strawberries and radishes are being harvested. The tobacco crop is growing very slowly and heat and sunshine are greatly needed. Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth: Cranberries: Rainy, cloudy, miserable weather is creating all sorts of havoc for all farmers and homeowners. The weather has been far from conducive for bees leaving the hives to pollinate the cranberry blossoms. Early Black and Ben Lear beds are in full bloom. It has

also created major problems for growers getting their fungicides on for fruit rot control - there may be higher levels of rot later in the season as a consequence. Vines are lush as can be, which may make them more susceptible to certain fungi, which have had perfect conditions for infection. I have seen many leaf spot and blight diseases on a wide range of plants in the past week. Botrytis is thriving! Again, farmers and homeowners cannot treat the plants because there have been very few open windows of dry conditions. We need a break in the pattern and fast, or the fruit set will be deleteriously affected in the cranberry industry.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Dot Perkins (Ext). Belknap: The wet weather is starting to take its toll. Botrytis is starting to take hold in the strawberry patches and pick your own operations are not seeing the turnout because of the rain. First cut hay has become very mature and quality has declined. Those that got it in the first week of June have a nice crop but others have had to turn it into havlage to harvest any of the nutrients. Even if the rain had stopped water in the fields have kept equipment off of them. Vegetable growers have started to see fungus problems and there has been no break to get protective fungicides on the crops. Livestock growers who utilize pasture should watch for parasite loads to increase due to the wet, overcast days. Animal infections will increase because parasite hatch and survivability has increased. Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll: More rain with a few sunny breaks, just enough to make it muggy and trigger thundershowers. Too wet for haying, too wet for much field work. Strawberries could use a few dry days. Where's a good Canadian high pressure system when you need one? Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire: More rain nearly every day in the past week with occasional glimpses of the sun and some heat here and there. Field corn seems to be doing OK - some farms starting to side-dress. Harvesting dry hay is near impossible, though re-growth on grass looks good. Wet conditions are raising concerns about diseases and putting a damper on PYO operations. Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos: Some dry baled hay coming in but it's difficult with random thunderstorms. Timothy is now headed out. Fields cut earlier for haylage are re-growing well; pastures also. Field corn is also doing OK, a foot or so in height. Blossoms to early fruit greening on high tunnel tomatoes, other veggies could use some sun. George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough: On-going rain showers making it very difficult on farmers and crops. Thunderstorms occurred during weekend (Saturday, June 27) that produced hail which could have damaged crops. Sunshine and warmer temperatures are desperately needed!! Vegetables: Growers continued harvesting early season vegetables such as lettuce, greens, radishes, summer squash, zucchini and peas. With the excessive amount of rain that has occurred, this has caused many late planted vegetable seeds to rot in the fields. Weeds and slugs are plaguing growers. Farmers are side-dressing fields with fertilizer, cultivating and hand-hoeing weeds, scouting for pests and spraying. Potato leaf hopper is here and squash vine borer has been caught! Fruit: The continuing rain showers are keeping customers away from pick-your-own operations. Strawberry harvest continues (70% harvest), it has been a tough harvest season for growers. Sweet cherry harvest is under way and the ripening fruit is cracking with all the rain that occurring. Fruit growers mowed orchard floors, monitored pest and crop development and applied sprays for pest control. Field Crops: Farmers made haylage between showers and stopped baling hay because of rain. Farmers side-dressed fertilizer to field corn, if needed, and to hay fields. Pastures and hay fields are growing well despite of all the rain. Amy Ouellette (Ext),

Merrimack: Growers are harvesting strawberries, broccoli, spinach, carrots, and many greens. Blueberry fruit set looks excellent. We could use some sun shine and a break from the rain. Melinda Marston (FSA) Merrimack/Belknap/Hillsborough: There are still some producers that are waiting for the sun to dry out the ground to finish planting corn. There are many producers waiting to harvest first cut hay still. Not much is growing very well either because there has not been much sun. Hopefully it will come out soon. Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham: More cloudy days than sunny days last week. Light rain, downpours and showers with cold temperatures. Gusty wind with hail in localized areas on Friday afternoon: more strong rain on early Saturday evening. Picking strawberry, greenhouse tomatoes, cucumbers, zucchini and leafy greens. Protective fungicide sprayed on vegetables, small fruit and tree fruits. Monitoring insects. Haylage being done. Some new planted seeds are rotting.

**RHODE ISLAND – Melissa Turisi (FSA):** It has rained the last 18 out of 22 days. Report just in that this was the second wettest spring on record. Reports of strawberry losses and hay loss.

VERMONT - Jeff Carter, (Ext), Addison: Very wet soil now. Many corn and soy fields showing water stress with pockets of damaged plants from standing water in fields. Hay harvest continues between showers. Much hay rained on and poor quality. Pasture re-growth good, but feed quality low. Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia: During the last half of the week, summer arrived- we finally hit 80 degrees. Cool and dry early in the week, then warm and dry. About a quarter inch for the week came on Saturday. Second cut of haylage started on some farms. Corn is beginning to grow. Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin: The week in Franklin County brought some nice weather with some storms mixed in. Hail in Enosburg area was very heavy with some damage to any vegetated leaves with size. Corn escaped with small leaf area at this stage. Some second cut haylage was harvested on the early first cut fields with some pretty good yields. Still some first cut bales being put up for TMR scratch factor and dry cow feed. Strawberry harvest has started with the fruit slow to ripen. Some garden greens have been harvested with excellent results. Looks like we are in for a rainy week, so things will slow down on harvest and growth. Heather Darby, (Ext), Grand Isle: The weather has been highly unpredictable over the last week. Sporadic thunderstorms and hail popping up in random spots around the region. Many areas remain very dry and in need of rain. The pastures are slowing down with the onset of hot and dry weather. The last week was very warm and good weather for corn growth and development. Many fields are being top-dressed and some have reached canopy closure. Overall, the color of the corn has improved considerably. Some farmers have started second cut. Still reporting lower than normal yields but good quality. John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille: Up and down week to get fieldwork accomplished. Scattered rain made it hard to plan on doing much but many took a chance and were able to get some haylage put up. The corn responded well to the hot and humid days. Had a report of a cucumber beetle infestation with a squash producer and there seems to be plenty of slugs to go around. One farmer also had to replant six acres of field corn due to crow damage. Julie Jacque, (FSA), Windham: Wet weather continues; haying is at a complete standstill. Dry hay shortages continue. Some humidity and warmer temps this week helped with the vegetable and corn crop growth. Some yellowing occurring due to excessive moisture.

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