

Crop Progress & Condition



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

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Volume 29, Number 12

(Issued weekly on the Internet, May – October)

July 20, 2009 – 4 pm

For week ending 7/19/09

Sunny, Warm Days Still Needed

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending July 19, 2009, there were 4.7 days available for field work across New England. Pasture condition was rated 1% very poor, 12% poor, 24% fair, 46% good, and 17% excellent. Last week began with below average high temperatures ranging in the mid-60s to low 80s. Nighttime temperatures were below average as well, ranging in the upper 40s to low 60s. Most states were dry with partly cloudy skies, except for Maine, which experienced rain nearly every day. Temperatures improved mid-week and were mostly average throughout the rest of the week, ranging in the upper 70s to low 80s. Heavy rain and thundershowers moved into the area Thursday night and continued through Friday evening; no major crop damage was reported. The weekend began foggy, but ended partly cloudy, with some much needed sun shining through. Total precipitation for the week ranged between 0.19 and 1.76 inches.

FRUIT: The strawberry harvest was 95% complete at week's end, on par with last year and normal. Growers continued renovating beds in harvested fields. Highbush blueberries were 15% picked at the end of the week. The warmer, drier weather helped to increase fruit size. Growers were busy scouting for fruit flies and applying pesticides as needed. Cranberries were still in full bloom to petal fall and were rated in good condition. The peach harvest began in Massachusetts this past week, slightly ahead of normal. More instances of fire blight were reported in apple orchards and scab is continuing to be a problem. Tree fruit producers were busy monitoring for pests and mowing orchard floors.

VEGETABLES: Sweet corn planting and emergence neared completion by week's end. Harvesting was still just beginning in most locations, well behind last year and slightly behind normal. Vegetable planting and growth remained behind schedule due to the prolonged rains in June and early July. Disease, weed, and pest pressures continued to be prevalent and growers were busy spraying pesticides, fungicides, and herbicides as needed. Harvesting of peas, lettuce, cabbage, squash, greens, beets, broccoli, radishes, cucumbers, and snap beans continued.

FIELD CROPS: Drier weather over the past week helped move along the dry hay harvest. First cut hay was 80% harvested at week's end, still behind last year and normal. Second cut hay was 25% harvested, slightly behind last year, but on par with normal. Many fields were still too wet to hay and drying conditions remained tricky with the sporadic rain showers. Field corn conditions varied throughout the region. However, the drier weather did spur crop growth and dry out saturated fields. Armyworms reared their ugly heads this week and growers were busy scouting and treating as necessary. The potato crops in Maine and Massachusetts were reported in good to excellent condition. Growers were on a 5-day spray schedule as late blight was found in several counties in Maine. The tobacco crop began showing signs of disease in Massachusetts. Both broadleaf and shade tobacco were rated in good to fair condition.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	0	5
Short	2	0	16
Adequate	50	42	71
Surplus	48	58	8
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	0	2
Short	0	0	14
Adequate	57	46	83
Surplus	43	54	1

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Set	Fruit Size	Condition
	2009	2008	5-yr Avg			
Apples	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good
Peaches	5	<5	<5	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Pears	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Blueberries						
Highbush	15	15	15	Average	Average	Good
Wild	-	-	-	Above Avg	Average	Good
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-			Good
Strawberries	95	95	95	Average	Average	Good/Fair

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2009	2008	5-yr Avg	Condition
--Percent Planted--				
Sweet Corn	99	100	99	
--Percent Emerged--				
Silage Corn	99	100	99	Fair/Good
Sweet Corn	95	100	95	
-- Percent Harvested --				
Barley, ME	-	-	-	Good/Excellent
Oats, ME	-	-	-	Good/Excellent
Potatoes				
Maine	-	-	-	Good/Excellent
Mass	-	-	-	Good
Rhode Island	-	-	-	N/A
Sweet Corn	<5	10	5	Good/Fair
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	-	-	-	Good/Fair
Shade	-	-	-	Good/Fair
Dry Hay				
First Cut	80	90	90	Fair/Good
Second Cut	25	30	25	Good/Fair

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday July 13, 2009
 To: Sunday July 19, 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	53	80	66	-5	845	-118	192	-129	0.47	-0.23	4	4.39	+1.47	19	
Bangor_Intl_Arp	50	81	65	-4	781	-77	176	-80	0.55	-0.22	5	4.77	+1.69	20	
Bethel	51	81	64	-5	720	-152	143	-117	0.67	-0.10	5	8.31	+4.97	22	
Caribou_Municip	44	76	62	-5	680	-28	181	+9	1.67	+0.76	6	3.54	+0.24	18	
Dover-Foxcroft	46	81	62	-6	634	-106	130	-60	0.84	+0.02	5	5.67	+2.33	21	
Frenchville	46	71	60	-6	589	-63	138	-5	2.11	+1.27	6	3.70	+0.47	20	
Houlton	42	76	61	-6	656	-74	168	-20	1.08	+0.24	5	3.95	+0.71	20	
Livermore_Falls	48	82	63	-4	730	-6	154	-30	0.65	-0.12	6	6.53	+3.21	23	
Moosehead	45	78	59	-6	511	-88	105	-19	0.66	-0.25	6	5.51	+1.81	19	
Portland_ME	53	80	67	-3	861	+15	216	-33	0.32	-0.38	3	7.28	+4.33	15	
NEW HAMPSHIRE															
Benton	48	80	62	-5	699	-130	149	-68	0.38	-0.39	4	4.53	+1.32	17	
Berlin_AG	47	80	62	-6	707	-121	145	-83	0.34	-0.50	4	4.15	+0.65	16	
Concord	47	85	67	-4	991	+0	290	-47	0.43	-0.27	1	5.50	+2.67	17	
Diamond_Pond	41	73	56	-8	441	-87	72	-3	1.80	+0.76	6	8.35	+4.15	19	
Keene_AG	48	84	66	-6	997	-137	318	-111	0.98	+0.15	1	5.48	+2.21	14	
North_Conway	49	82	63	-7	761	-163	158	-137	0.75	-0.09	5	7.15	+3.68	22	
Rochester	52	84	67	-4	964	-94	276	-104	0.35	-0.42	1	5.13	+2.03	14	
VERMONT															
Bennington_AP	46	82	64	-5	996	+134	278	+31	0.81	-0.10	4	4.81	+0.97	17	
Burlington_Intl	52	82	66	-6	1076	-7	356	-45	1.13	+0.29	6	5.14	+1.87	19	
Island_Pond	44	77	60	-5	658	-4	152	+7	1.18	+0.23	6	7.68	+3.84	21	
Montpelier	47	81	64	-4	872	+34	235	-3	0.87	+0.18	5	5.27	+2.40	16	
Rochester	48	82	63	-4	752	-56	178	-45	0.80	-0.04	5	6.60	+3.24	20	
Rutland_AG	48	81	65	-7	896	-235	235	-188	0.51	-0.36	1	6.69	+3.30	12	
Springfield_VT	48	84	65	-3	999	+89	295	+19	0.31	-0.46	3	3.55	+0.24	19	
Sutton	45	77	60	-6	590	-82	109	-47	1.36	+0.42	5	7.14	+3.31	21	
MASSACHUSETTS															
Boston/Logan_In	60	85	73	-2	1217	-49	424	-93	0.24	-0.39	1	4.26	+1.63	14	
Fitchburg	54	88	70	+2	1220	+330	424	+152	0.38	-0.46	2	6.10	+2.74	18	
Greenfield	50	84	66	-6	1031	-188	321	-163	0.80	-0.04	1	4.58	+1.19	14	
New_Bedford	50	86	69	-6	1063	-186	317	-179	1.90	+1.24	2	6.44	+3.59	14	
Otis_AFB	55	84	70	-1	1139	+164	366	+35	0.78	+0.15	1	6.92	+4.26	11	
Plymouth	51	87	70	-2	1056	+30	309	-58	1.11	+0.34	1	6.42	+3.34	15	
Walpole	52	84	68	-3	1030	-52	307	-87	0.44	-0.33	1	6.60	+3.39	15	
Chicopee/Westov	45	85	67	-8	1188	-214	405	-200	1.09	+0.26	2	4.91	+1.44	15	
Worthington	46	81	65	-4	844	-25	215	-35	0.55	-0.43	2	3.21	-0.57	15	
RHODE ISLAND															
Providence	57	85	71	-3	1197	+5	405	-66	0.93	+0.23	2	6.86	+3.97	15	
Woonsocket	51	86	69	-3	1112	+48	350	-22	0.19	-0.69	1	5.32	+1.71	13	
CONNECTICUT															
Bridgeport/Siko	57	83	72	-3	1244	-33	459	-73	0.33	-0.55	2	1.09	-2.32	10	
Hartford/Bradle	51	86	70	-5	1317	-36	502	-79	0.91	+0.21	2	4.24	+1.21	13	
Norfolk	47	80	65	-4	915	+42	247	-8	2.70	+1.79	3	6.61	+2.69	18	
Thomaston_Dam	51	83	68	-2	1134	+68	379	+7	1.07	+0.15	4	5.25	+1.60	21	
Willimantic	50	85	69	-2	1254	+176	448	+68	0.39	-0.59	4	7.94	+4.23	16	

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, July 19, 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 precipitation 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	39	85	63	-5	0.15	2.11
NH	33	88	64	-4	0.22	1.80
VT	41	84	63	-5	0.26	1.37
MA	44	88	68	-3	0.09	1.90
RI	51	86	70	-3	0.19	0.93
CT	47	88	69	-4	0.04	2.70

REPORTERS COMMENTS, By County: *Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS), or other knowledgeable individuals.*

CONNECTICUT - Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield: Field corn is looking worse as the season wears on. Wet conditions are causing de-nitrification and low soil oxygen causing corn to be extremely short and yellow. Some fields are still less than a foot tall. When fields do dry there isn't enough available nitrogen to support growth and plants immediately show stress symptoms. Silage tonnage could be anywhere from one third to two thirds of normal yield. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** Nice week overall. Severe thunderstorms late in the week brought three to four inches of rain in some areas of the county along with power outages. Silage corn and sweet corn are growing well. Producers were able to harvest dry hay but the quality is suffering due to the delayed harvest. Vegetables are still being affected by the wet weather and pressures from diseases. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Awesome sunshine at last. Still cool at nights and a heavy shower this week. Crops are about ten days behind, concern about lack of height in many corn fields. Some grapes were not able to pollinate during the wet weather and results showing of pressure on fruit crops with constant rain and difficulty to get the spray on. Hail damage on apples is very visible. Peaches splitting. Shut down of Putnam water supply not caused by runoff, water came into plant clean - internal valve issue. Alas, the challenges of weather. A lot of hay was finally baled and chopped last week. Cutting from some fields with over mature growth, looking for a better quality cutting next time.

MAINE – Doreen Conlogue (FSA), Aroostook: Last week was cool and rainy. Grains are starting to head out, and potatoes continue to look good. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Fungicide applications continued on a five day spray schedule. Field scouting for insects and diseases. Crop is looking excellent. Potato blossoms are beautiful! **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Late blight has been found in the area so farmers need to be scouting their fields as much as possible. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** The weather was a little warmer and sunnier. It was still a challenge to make dry hay with showers every couple of days. Many crops look poor, including all the vine crops. Farmers were trying to salvage some crops by reapplying nitrogen and spraying herbicide. The first of the sweet corn should be picked this week. Blueberry picking is starting, the crop looks good, even though it is late. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** There is a problem with nutrients leaching through the soil because of the continuous rainfall on row crops. Lack of sunshine is also helping to make for very pale or even yellowed leaves. Bad news for apples, Fire Blight has hit some orchards and trees are dying and need to be removed. Hay harvesting is moving at a snail's pace and there are plenty of snails around this year! **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Much needed sun was welcomed this past week. Harvesting was under way for second crop hay. Vegetable growers have stands open with fresh veggies, supply is limited due to late growing. Corn is starting to look a little greener in most areas. Blueberries are getting larger and look pretty good. Apples are a little small but producers are optimistic. **Maria Granger (FSA), Kennebec:** Better days have allowed producers to get some much needed field work done and second cut hay was under way. Many vegetable producers have missed the window for planting longer season crops and will be planting cover crops instead. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** Continued daily showers have made dry hay harvesting extremely difficult if not impossible and what is cut and baled is of low quality. Silage corn is yellowed, stunted and unlikely to provide high quality feed unless the weather changes dramatically. **Janet King (FSA), Somerset:** Corn in many places is greenish/yellow. Wet weather has also made it hard to hay. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Some moments of summer allowed for some dry hay to be harvested. Strawberries are just about done and a few highbush blueberries are turning. Corn still looks terrible with some fields just getting herbicide

applied due to wet soils. Some nitrogen being topdressed as most nitrate tests are low. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries; Fruit flies are emerging and treatments being applied for control. Growers indicated that in the mid coast area the crop was better than average and Downeast less than average so overall an average crop (80 million pounds) is predicted. A new disease, *Valdensinia*, has emerged in fields in Maine and growers have been alerted to identify and burn affected area to prevent disease spread. See: <http://www.wildblueberries.maine.edu/PDF/Disease/Valdensinia.pdf>

MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: Warmer this week with cool nights. Up to three inches of rain received in a series of storms. Lightning and high wind accompanied storms. Suspected late blight reported in tomatoes in southern part of the county. Fields are not dry and silage corn looks poor. Prices up at farmstands and markets due to lower yields. **Lori Carver (FSA), Franklin:** Nice week - only a couple of storms. Finally some good hay weather! Blueberry and raspberry crops were being harvested, as well as early cabbage, summer squash, and cucumbers. Sweet corn harvest is gearing up. Tobacco is showing signs of disease. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** The past week was mostly dry with cool temperatures. Harvesting sweet corn, blueberries, peas, lettuce, cabbage, squash, and greens. Growers continued to top-dress, cultivate fields and scout for insects and diseases.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll: Finally, some dry weather! Showers and thunderstorms were still making it difficult to dry hay, but at least the sun was shining. Vegetables and sweet corn are behind schedule, corn by about a week to ten days, other vegetables may be closer to two weeks. Farm stands trying to keep enough produce on the shelves to keep customers happy. Tomatoes showing a lot of fungus, mold and other diseases, not confirmed as late blight at this point. Farmers markets doing a brisk business, folks want locally grown products. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Apart from thunderstorms Friday night, plenty of dry, sunny weather all week. Field corn is growing well - most of it chin-high. Producers were harvesting forages as haylage or dry hay at a furious pace, and were able to make some progress catching up. Sweet corn should be ready to harvest soon - earliest varieties should make it to the stands this week. PYO blueberries have begun and raspberries continued. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Sunnier, somewhat warmer temperatures, but still thunderstorms and scattered downpours made attempts at haying quite difficult. Many pastures rather wet. So a little hay and grass silage came in, but not what was expected for this time of summer. Top-dressed nitrogen on field corn and some on cut meadowland. Potatoes in flower. Armyworms present in various locations in the county in grass meadows and corn edges. Various fungal diseases showing up. Slowing summer activity at nurseries and greenhouses. More summer veggies becoming available, but slow growth generally. Raspberries and blueberries coloring up. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending July 18th, predicting the weather was a challenge. When it was supposed to rain, it didn't. When rain was predicted, it was dry. To hay or not to hay? All things considered after the fact, there were more days without rain than with rain. Many fields in the upland areas remain too wet to hay. River bottom fields are generally in better shape. Making quality hay has been a challenge. In many cases, making any dry hay at all has been very difficult. The corn crop is well behind normal for this time of year. Sweet corn is just sitting there and not growing well for a number of growers. Many vegetable crops are also behind due to the lack of warmth. Cole crops however are fairing better. We need some warm temperatures, sun and dry conditions. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Vegetables: Very good demand for produce at most local farmers' markets and farm stands. Farmers kept busy harvesting, cultivating, hoeing weeds, monitoring pest pressures,

and spraying pesticides for insects and diseases. Growers harvested an array of vegetables including: beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, cucumbers, greens, lettuce, potatoes, radishes, snap beans, summer squash and first sweet corn. High numbers of squash vine borers were caught during the week. Fruit: Growers were renovating strawberry beds. Blueberry and raspberries harvest continued along with the first peaches. Orchardists were busy monitoring for pests, spraying if needed, and mowing orchard floors. Scab continued to be a problem on several orchards. Field Crops: Farmers made baled hay between showers, still tricky drying conditions for dry hay. Silage corn is rapid growing. Second hay crop is looking good. **Amy Ouellette (Ext), Merrimack:** Now harvesting raspberries and earliest blueberries in central NH. Apple growers were scouting for apple maggot. Fireblight is present in some locations. Despite the two late spring frosts, some central NH peach growers have a good looking crop. Harvesting all sorts of vegetables. An abundance of tomato foliar diseases have popped up. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Strawberry harvest is done and now renovating strawberry beds. Topdressed vegetable fields with fertilizer and monitored for pests. Late blight, early blight and septoria leaf diseases reported in tomatoes. Successive vegetable plantings. Harvested an array of vegetables including potatoes, sweet corn and tomatoes. PYO blueberries and raspberries operations were busy last week. Farmers markets and farmstands saw big crowds. Haying has been tough because of thundershowers every day or every other day. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** Excellent weather for field work. Hay producers were taking advantage of dry weather and were out haying. Strawberry harvesting was winding down and blueberry harvesting was just starting. Raspberry harvesting was in top gear. Fruit growers were also busy mowing orchard floors and a few growers were doing final touches on fruit thinning in the apples orchards. Vegetable growers were harvesting early crops and weeding and fertilizing other crops. Growers were also monitoring for late blight on tomatoes and other fungal diseases and applying protective sprays as needed.

VERMONT – Jeff Carter, (Ext), Addison: Continued standing water in fields with clay soil. Many corn and soybean plants damaged or dead from water saturation. Hay harvest very little on drier fields. Many ruts in fields from equipment for spraying corn, fertilizing grass or side-dress N on corn. Corn on best land up to waist high. Little second crop haylage chopped, little new seeded fields chopped. Oats and barley in new seedings headed out. **Dr. Bob Ceglowski (DVM), Bennington:** Sweet corn harvest is moving into its second week. A few fields of field corn

are just starting to tassel out. Second cut hay/haylage has yielded well, but some fields have areas with standing water. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Early part of the week was cool and damp, end part of week was warm and dry. We had another record temperature this week, the lowest high temperature for the date. Dampness meant some hay was made during the week. Cool temperatures meant that corn did not have the growth spurt we have been hoping for. There is still quite a bit of first cut out standing, some folks are gaining on their second cut of hay. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Yet another wet week in Franklin County and beyond. Some second cut still being harvested between the showers with very wet field conditions. Did hear of a very good forage sample result on some second cut which provides a little up lift in spirits among all the gloom and doom. Corn is still doing OK on the well drained soils. Much pale green and lost corn in the wet areas of fields. Top-dress on corn has been a problem with applications and loss if it does get put on, especially in soils low in organic matter. Raspberries are now in full swing and other fruits are going to be in abundance with the wet weather and clearance from the ground to avoid the moisture. Apples are also looking real good to date. Sweet corn starting to show up, however, the mass harvest maybe delayed due to the wet weather. **Heather Darby, (Ext), Grand Isle:** Rain continued and crops are suffering! Many reports of slugs, cutworms, and armyworms in crop fields around the area. Some treatment for armyworms has been initiated. The corn fields are highly variable, some maintaining green color and others looking severely nutrient deficient. Farmers are trying to start second cut in between rain showers. So far yields have been good but many ruts in the fields. **John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille:** This past week's warmer temps helped the corn crop to make some more progress. Some haylage was getting in where the showers have been light. Manure was spread on drier fields. Pastures are still doing well after all the cool wet weather. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** It continued to rain on a daily basis making any kind of cropping activity near impossible. Soils are saturated and in spots there is standing water on the fields. Excessive moisture and lack of hot days have put corn growth behind. Pastures are very wet and there is a lot of mud on laneways. Most of first cut hay has now been harvested. Very little dry hay has been put up. Second crop is behind due to the rain. **Julie Jacque, (FSA), Windham:** A weather break this week allowed for some drying to occur to get back on the fields with equipment. Soils seem to still be holding a lot of moisture. Warmer temps have helped corn crop finally grow; leaf color looks a lot better.

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