

Crop Progress & Condition



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

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Volume 29, Number 15

(Issued weekly on the Internet, May – October)

August 10, 2009 – 4 pm

For week ending 8/9/09

Drier Conditions Welcomed

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending August 9, 2009, there were 6.0 days available for field work across New England. Pasture condition was rated 12% poor, 30% fair, 43% good, and 15% excellent. Last week began partly cloudy with average high temperatures ranging in the mid-70s to upper 80s. Nighttime temperatures were average to above average, ranging in the low 50s to low 70s. Temperatures dropped Thursday and remained three to eight degrees below average throughout the rest of the week, ranging in the upper 60s to low 80s for daylight temperatures and mid-40s to mid-60s for nighttime temperatures. Light rain fell in Rhode Island on Wednesday and heavy rain fell in northern Maine on Friday. Otherwise, the rest of the New England states enjoyed a relatively dry and sunny week. Total precipitation for the week ranged between 0.00 and 0.68 inches.

FRUIT: The pear harvest began this past week, ahead of last year and normal. The apple harvest has been slow to start and was less than 5% harvested at the end of the week. Apple fruit set and size look good. However, scab is prominent due to the wet weather during June and July. The peach harvest was 40% complete at week's end, well ahead of last year and normal. Orchardists were moving bins into the orchards in preparation for harvest and pruning trees. Picking of blueberries continued at a fast rate with 60% of the highbush and 10% of the Maine wild blueberry crops harvested at the end of the week. Wild blueberries were rated in good condition, but need more sun and heat to ripen. Cranberry farmers were forced to irrigate due to the drier weather this past week.

VEGETABLES: The sweet corn harvest was more active and was 25% complete by week's end, still behind last year and normal. Some producers have decided not to harvest due to irreparable damage caused by the wet weather during the month of July. On the other hand, drier weather improved the condition of vegetable crops, particularly in northern states. Growers were busy removing blight-infected plants and spraying pesticides and fungicides. Harvesting of peas, beans, lettuce, cabbage, squash, greens, beets, broccoli, radishes, cucumbers, peppers and other vegetables continued.

FIELD CROPS: Late blight in potatoes was widespread and growers were still on a 5-day spray schedule. First cut hay was 90% harvested and second cut was 45%, both behind last year and normal. Harvesting of third cut hay commenced last week. Hay conditions were extremely variable across New England. In Connecticut, shade tobacco was 25% harvested and broadleaf was 10% harvested at week's end. Field corn was tasseling and growing more rapidly, but was still short for this time of year. Maine oats and barley were reported in good condition.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

| Soil Rating | This Week | Last Week | Last Year |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| -- Percent -- | | | |
| Topsoil | | | |
| Very Short | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Short | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Adequate | 74 | 46 | 45 |
| Surplus | 26 | 54 | 54 |
| Subsoil | | | |
| Very Short | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Short | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Adequate | 71 | 47 | 55 |
| Surplus | 29 | 52 | 44 |

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

| Crop | Percent Harvested | | | Fruit Set | Fruit Size | Condition |
|-----------------|-------------------|------|----------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| | 2009 | 2008 | 5-yr Avg | | | |
| Apples | <5 | - | - | Average | Average | Good/Fair |
| Peaches | 40 | 40 | 30 | Average | Average | Good/Fair |
| Pears | 5 | - | - | Average | Average | Good/Fair |
| Blueberries | | | | | | |
| Highbush | 60 | 60 | 60 | Average | Average | Good |
| Wild | 10 | 20 | 15 | Above Avg | Average | Good |
| Cranberries, MA | - | - | - | Average | Average | Good |

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

| Crop | 2009 | 2008 | 5-yr Avg | Condition |
|---------------------|------|------|----------|----------------|
| --Percent Emerged-- | | | | |
| Barley, ME | - | - | - | Good |
| Oats, ME | - | - | - | Good |
| Potatoes | | | | |
| Maine | - | - | - | Good/Excellent |
| Mass | 10 | - | 5 | Good/Fair |
| Rhode Island | 5 | - | <5 | Fair/Poor |
| Silage Corn | - | - | - | Fair |
| Sweet Corn | 25 | 40 | 35 | Good/Fair |
| Tobacco | | | | |
| Broadleaf | 10 | 30 | 25 | Fair/Good |
| Shade | 25 | 45 | 40 | Good/Fair |
| Dry Hay | | | | |
| First Cut | 90 | 90 | 95 | Good/Fair |
| Second Cut | 45 | 45 | 55 | Fair/Good |
| Third Cut | <5 | - | 5 | Good |

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday August 3, 2009
 To: Sunday August 9, 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 | 52 | 83 | 67 | -3 | 1236 | -144 | 373 | -154 | 0.68 | -0.08 | 4 | 5.65 | +2.72 | 18 | |
| Bangor_Intl_Arp | 48 | 82 | 67 | -2 | 1169 | -83 | 354 | -85 | 0.04 | -0.69 | 1 | 2.87 | -0.06 | 14 | |
| Bethel | 48 | 81 | 64 | -5 | 1053 | -204 | 266 | -168 | 0.73 | -0.18 | 2 | 5.59 | +2.27 | 14 | |
| Caribou_Municip | 47 | 80 | 65 | +0 | 1021 | -15 | 314 | +21 | 0.07 | -0.87 | 1 | 4.34 | +0.56 | 15 | |
| Dover-Foxcroft | 47 | 82 | 64 | -3 | 979 | -115 | 267 | -66 | 0.91 | +0.12 | 3 | 5.03 | +1.88 | 18 | |
| Frenchville | 47 | 80 | 65 | +2 | 912 | -48 | 255 | +5 | 0.12 | -0.79 | 1 | 5.51 | +1.94 | 17 | |
| Houlton | 43 | 82 | 65 | -2 | 997 | -79 | 302 | -22 | 2.01 | +1.10 | 3 | 7.13 | +3.60 | 17 | |
| Livermore_Falls | 45 | 83 | 65 | -2 | 1086 | +2 | 301 | -20 | 0.58 | -0.31 | 2 | 5.36 | +2.12 | 14 | |
| Moosehead | 43 | 83 | 62 | -3 | 804 | -104 | 197 | -33 | 0.62 | -0.22 | 5 | 4.29 | +0.72 | 19 | |
| Portland_ME | 51 | 85 | 68 | -2 | 1266 | +19 | 411 | -31 | 0.07 | -0.56 | 1 | 3.75 | +1.11 | 10 | |
| NEW HAMPSHIRE | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Benton | 45 | 81 | 63 | -4 | 1035 | -139 | 278 | -77 | 1.32 | +0.41 | 2 | 6.15 | +2.84 | 12 | |
| Berlin_AG | 45 | 81 | 63 | -4 | 1028 | -152 | 260 | -115 | 0.80 | -0.18 | 2 | 3.58 | +0.01 | 12 | |
| Concord | 45 | 85 | 66 | -4 | 1388 | -17 | 477 | -63 | 0.02 | -0.75 | 1 | 4.60 | +1.59 | 10 | |
| Diamond_Pond | 38 | 74 | 56 | -7 | 620 | -172 | 93 | -55 | 1.65 | +0.50 | 4 | 6.54 | +2.21 | 19 | |
| Keene_AG | 44 | 85 | 66 | -5 | 1396 | -175 | 507 | -149 | 0.22 | -0.69 | 1 | 6.46 | +3.04 | 11 | |
| North_Conway | 48 | 82 | 65 | -4 | 1098 | -217 | 285 | -190 | 0.65 | -0.26 | 1 | 6.12 | +2.65 | 14 | |
| Rochester | 49 | 87 | 68 | -2 | 1388 | -104 | 490 | -114 | 0.00 | -0.84 | 0 | 4.84 | +1.62 | 7 | |
| VERMONT | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bennington_AP | 44 | 83 | 65 | -3 | 1374 | +145 | 447 | +45 | 0.50 | -0.46 | 1 | 5.57 | +1.88 | 13 | |
| Burlington_Intl | 48 | 83 | 67 | -4 | 1505 | -11 | 575 | -47 | 0.95 | +0.04 | 3 | 3.69 | +0.23 | 14 | |
| Island_Pond | 42 | 80 | 61 | -3 | 973 | +10 | 267 | +26 | 1.73 | +0.61 | 4 | 5.60 | +1.51 | 17 | |
| Montpelier | 45 | 83 | 64 | -3 | 1239 | +48 | 394 | +12 | 0.38 | -0.46 | 1 | 5.01 | +2.01 | 14 | |
| Rochester | 44 | 84 | 64 | -3 | 1097 | -62 | 316 | -47 | 0.95 | -0.08 | 1 | 5.38 | +1.65 | 12 | |
| Rutland_AG | 43 | 83 | 64 | -6 | 1264 | -298 | 395 | -248 | 1.42 | +0.49 | 1 | 5.71 | +2.09 | 8 | |
| Springfield_VT | 44 | 83 | 65 | -3 | 1383 | +100 | 470 | +31 | 0.11 | -0.79 | 3 | 5.36 | +2.01 | 18 | |
| Sutton | 44 | 81 | 62 | -3 | 896 | -84 | 211 | -45 | 1.44 | +0.36 | 4 | 6.03 | +2.00 | 16 | |
| MASSACHUSETTS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Boston/Logan_In | 59 | 89 | 73 | +0 | 1715 | -50 | 712 | -96 | 0.00 | -0.70 | 0 | 4.09 | +1.45 | 8 | |
| Fitchburg | 52 | 87 | 70 | +3 | 1686 | +412 | 680 | +236 | 0.01 | -0.83 | 1 | 5.40 | +2.08 | 12 | |
| Greenfield | 47 | 83 | 66 | -6 | 1429 | -249 | 509 | -224 | 0.13 | -0.71 | 1 | 7.51 | +4.15 | 10 | |
| New_Bedford | 50 | 87 | 70 | -5 | 1517 | -241 | 561 | -239 | 0.02 | -0.88 | 1 | 5.18 | +2.11 | 11 | |
| Otis_AFB | 54 | 82 | 70 | -2 | 1602 | +186 | 619 | +54 | 0.12 | -0.63 | 2 | 3.91 | +1.19 | 9 | |
| Plymouth | 51 | 85 | 70 | -2 | 1517 | +39 | 560 | -53 | 0.04 | -0.80 | 1 | 4.91 | +1.74 | 10 | |
| Walpole | 52 | 84 | 69 | -2 | 1467 | -59 | 534 | -95 | 0.00 | -0.84 | 0 | 4.27 | +1.09 | 8 | |
| Chicopee/Westov | 47 | 85 | 68 | -7 | 1630 | -290 | 637 | -277 | 0.45 | -0.32 | 2 | 7.26 | +4.12 | 14 | |
| Worthington | 45 | 82 | 64 | -4 | 1185 | -55 | 347 | -62 | 0.17 | -0.81 | 1 | 7.24 | +3.32 | 13 | |
| RHODE ISLAND | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Providence | 57 | 86 | 72 | -2 | 1683 | +8 | 681 | -66 | 0.31 | -0.46 | 1 | 5.46 | +2.50 | 12 | |
| Woonsocket | 52 | 86 | 70 | -1 | 1564 | +64 | 592 | -6 | 0.10 | -0.81 | 2 | 5.45 | +1.88 | 10 | |
| CONNECTICUT | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bridgeport/Siko | 59 | 86 | 73 | -2 | 1744 | -48 | 749 | -92 | 0.28 | -0.49 | 2 | 4.38 | +1.06 | 12 | |
| Hartford/Bradle | 52 | 89 | 71 | -3 | 1795 | -57 | 770 | -101 | 0.02 | -0.75 | 1 | 8.57 | +5.66 | 12 | |
| Norfolk | 47 | 84 | 66 | -2 | 1279 | +33 | 402 | -14 | 0.30 | -0.68 | 1 | 8.38 | +4.58 | 12 | |
| Thomaston_Dam | 51 | 85 | 69 | -1 | 1574 | +89 | 609 | +28 | 0.41 | -0.50 | 2 | 6.66 | +2.89 | 17 | |
| Willimantic | 53 | 87 | 71 | +1 | 1734 | +223 | 718 | +114 | 0.04 | -0.87 | 1 | 4.28 | +0.53 | 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 precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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1-888-798-9955

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, August 9, 2009

| STATE | AIR TEMPERATURES | | | | PRECIPITATION | |
|-------|------------------|----|-----|-----|---------------|------|
| | LO | HI | AVG | DFN | LO | HI |
| ME | 43 | 85 | 65 | -3 | 0.00 | 2.01 |
| NH | 32 | 89 | 65 | -3 | 0.00 | 1.72 |
| VT | 40 | 85 | 63 | -4 | 0.11 | 1.73 |
| MA | 45 | 89 | 69 | -2 | 0.00 | 0.58 |
| RI | 52 | 86 | 71 | -1 | 0.00 | 0.31 |
| CT | 47 | 89 | 70 | -1 | 0.00 | 0.50 |

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 dry week with some summer like temperatures. More potatoes and tomatoes affected by late blight. Some producers giving up on vegetable crops drowned by heavy rains in previous weeks. Peaches, blueberries and most vegetables being harvested. Some dry hay made on dryer ground. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** First cutting hay is in the barn - finally! Thursday thru Saturday was the window hay producers needed to finally get first cutting finished. Field corn is gaining some height. Lack of degree days has also delayed tasseling so growers are hopeful that the next few weeks - assuming temps climb a little - will add some tonnage to their yield. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** This was a nice week. We had more sunny days and more summer-like temperatures. Producers were able to make dry hay but the quality wasn't there. Silage corn started to tassel but it's not very tall. Vegetable crops are suffering the ill-effects of diseases caused by so much rain in June and July. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** A pretty good week, sunny, warm, and a little rain. Crop issues abound with blight in tomatoes - cleaning out fields and destroying infected plants. Field corn at all different heights and stages of maturity in the same fields. Early peaches are small, seconds with lots of split peaches. Tomatoes also slow to ripen. Sweet corn good, but beginning to ripen all at once from varied plantings. Baled hay, although tough to get good quality and needed cuttings, crop losses estimated at 20 to 40%. Farm markets have opened with a variety of vegetables and fruits, some supplementing with purchased vegetables/sweet corn for crops that are late or short on production.

MAINE - Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook: The crops continued to grow rapidly and look excellent. The recent sunny weather was welcomed. Growers were still on a five-day spray schedule. Broccoli harvesting continuing; haying being done. Aphid activity is increasing. Growers should be scouting for aphid populations, especially seed growers. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Farmers are currently spraying for late blight, Colorado potato beetles and some aphids. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Good dry and warm days are helping with harvesting of dry hay. Farmers were very busy trying to catch up on spraying, cultivating and harvesting. Blight is in the area on potatoes and tomato plants. Blueberries were starting to be harvested and crop looks pretty good. Sweet corn is small but starting to be harvested along with other veggies. Corn for silage is short with some yellowing still showing and started to tassel. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Overall it was a beautiful week in the mid-coast area. A fierce storm (wind, rain and hail) did roll through on Wednesday afternoon, hitting parts of Knox County especially hard, but we received no reports of crop damage from this storm. It is nice to see lots of hay down and being harvested in earnest for the first time this year. The blueberry harvest is underway and overall the crop is predicted to be good. Silage and sweet corn still need some heat, which is forecasted for some of this week. Most crops still remain behind in maturity and, therefore, fewer fresh vegetable crops are available for local markets. We are hoping that with improving weather we will see some improving crop conditions. It remains a tough season for most crop producers in this area. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis:** Farmers tried to get in some more hay but localized showers made it difficult. **Janet King (FSA), Somerset:** The weather has cooperated somewhat this week, with some producers harvesting hay for the first time! Monday saw almost an inch of rain followed by three nice days, with a trace of rain on Thursday. Friday was sunny in the morning with a wild wind and rain storm soaking everything down again before the sun came out in the afternoon. Corn is growing with the August heat and humidity, but still behind schedule. Overall, apples are looking good with the exception of Macs showing some scab due to weather conditions not allowing timely spraying. Cortlands are light this year due to a heavy June drop. The initial fruit set was excellent in May due to the nice weather, but the wet, cloudy and cold weather in June and July has set back the

fruit a week or more. The size of some of the apple varieties are slightly above average due to the moisture. Farmer's markets are going strong with lots more vegetables to offer; zucchini, cukes, carrots, beets and greens are available with sweet corn coming soon. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Less rain, but the weather has been unpredictable, making hay harvest difficult. Winter grains are finally ready to harvest. Some silage corn is tasseling, although only about three to four feet tall. Drier fields are starting to look better. Late blight has hit many growers and homeowners with tomatoes and potatoes going down very rapidly. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries; Wild blueberry harvest is underway throughout the state. The crop still needs more sun and heat to ripen. Despite all of the rain we have had earlier we now also need moisture as we have only had scattered showers since the beginning of the month. Crop quality and yield looks good but the areas with poor pollination will not be harvested until later this month.

MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: Generally a sunny breezy week, some humidity, and little rain. Farmers still reporting losses of field tomatoes and potatoes to late blight and fall cucurbits are maturing slowly. Field corn is not consistent in maturing. Harvesting sweet corn, cukes, summer squashes, hoop house tomatoes, greens, beets, beans, blueberries and peaches. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** A week with more sunshine than rain. Many farmers could see an improvement in the growth of their crops. Late blight and other diseases have affected the tomato crop on almost all farms. The tobacco crop is almost a total loss due to four types of diseases which were caused by all the past rains and cool weather in June and July. Harvesting corn, blueberries, cukes, summer squash, tomatoes and other summer crops. **Deb Cannon (Ext), Plymouth:** The cranberry crop is in good condition. The week was dry and farmers were forced to irrigate.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire: Warm and sunny most of the week, with only scattered brief showers midweek and light rain Sunday night. Field corn progressing well - ears formed and beginning to fill out. Great haying weather at the end of the week. Veggie crops continuing to do pretty well and sweet corn harvest is picking up. PYO blueberries still going strong with peaches coming soon. Apples are starting to show color and aren't far behind. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Somewhat sunnier week but still scattered, sometimes heavy downpours, made haying difficult. Major rivers are running at quite high levels. Majority of field corn now tasseling/silking. Wider range of vegetables - late summer types, tomatoes and peppers from tunnels, bush beans, early potatoes and a little sweet corn now at markets. Late blight on potatoes and tomatoes all over the county at this point, more fortunate ones applied fungicides to protect clean foliage. Quite a fast-moving disease. Even high tunnels do not protect against it, as have seen tomatoes inside affected from dead potato plantings nearby. Blueberry picking going well, at least something looks pretty good. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending August 8th, we had over one inch of rain at the beginning of the week. The middle of the week was rain free! Late blight on tomatoes and potatoes is widespread and moving. A number of growers have reported some level of infection over the past several days. Hay producers are still struggling too with wet soil conditions. Many producers who hay upland fields have reported less than half a crop. Corn along the river bottom looks much better than it did two weeks ago. However, the lack of proper ear development is a concern with many growers. Some fields may not develop properly, while other fields will do better. The cooler than normal conditions, along with excessively wet conditions have taken their toll on some farms. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** DRY week finally!! Pick-your-own operations were busy! Vegetables: Growers were harvesting an array of vegetables between rain showers; beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, cucumbers, greens, lettuce, peas, potatoes, radishes, snap beans, summer squash, sweet corn and

other vegetables. High disease and insect pressure, so farmers kept busy spraying pesticides for insects and diseases. More late blight disease seen in potato and tomato fields. Growers are reporting damage on sweet corn cause by birds. Fruit: Orchardists harvesting peaches and Vista Belle and Jersey Mac apples. Blueberry and raspberry harvests continued. Orchardists busy monitoring for pests, mowing orchard floors, moved bins into orchards and fixing up orchard roads. Apple growers were busy summer pruning trees. Cultivating and weeding newly strawberry renovated beds. Field Crops: Hay making and cutting haylage continued at rapid pace due to dry weather! Silage corn is rapidly growing with much of it tasseling and silking.

VERMONT - Jeff Carter, (Ext), Addison: Finally some dry weather so hay crop harvest is going strong, both dry baled hay and haylage. Fields drying out nicely. Corn and soybeans have responded with a surge of growth, tassels showing in corn. Soybeans added height and flowers, some pod set started. Barley harvested, oats still in new seedings. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Some break in the wet weather has allowed the second and some third cut haylage harvest to resume here in Franklin County. Even got some second cut dried and baled. Corn is moving along with tassel and ear silking. The shorter corn

in wet areas is tasseling also so these areas will see no more growth, however, we may see some ears come with this corn that will at least give some feed value. Veggies are in full swing with blueberries at there best. Corn is starting to appear at many stands and stores. Still pretty pricy and will probably drop as we move into the season. Pastures are doing real good and even liking the sun along with all other aspects of growth and harvest. **John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille:** Generally a good week for crops with warm weather and limited moisture which was a change from what has passed for normal this summer. Fair amount of dry baled hay, first and second cut were made over the weekend. Sweet corn is running late but is looking pretty good in this area. Late blight is floating around veggie farms but hasn't wiped out any major growers yet. Manure being spread on freshly harvested hayfields and pastures are starting to weaken with the hotter temps. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** The week was mostly dry. Farmers were out getting their second cut of hay in and some bales. **Julie Jacque, (FSA), Windham:** A small break in poor weather allowed for dry hay harvest this past week. Greens and sweet corn harvests continued; field corn responding fairly well to the warmer and more humid conditions of the week. Peaches and blueberries producing very well. Cucurbits, primarily squashes, seem to be struggling under the uncertain conditions.

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