Crop Progress & Condition



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

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For week ending 5/30/10

A Taste of Summer

GENERAL CONDITIONS For the week ending May 30, 2010, there were 6.9 days available for field work across New England. Pasture condition was rated 2% very poor, 6% poor, 30% fair, 53% good, and 9% excellent. The week began warm with maximum temperatures ranging from the mid-70s to upper 80s and minimum temperatures ranging from the upper 40s to mid-60s. Most of New England experienced record-breaking heat in the 90s on Tuesday and Wednesday. A cold front moved in and clashed with the warm air on Wednesday night, resulting in lightning, winds gusting up to 70 miles per hour, and 1 inch hail. After the cold front crossed New England, temperatures temporarily cooled to average levels then warmed back up by the end of the week. Daytime temperatures reached the 70s and low 80s. Total rainfall for the week ranged from none to nearly an inch. More rain is needed for crop growth.

FRUIT: Fruit trees finished blooming by the end of the week. Extent of frost damage is being determined as the fruits continue to mature. However, early reports indicate heavy losses involving fruit trees. Other fruits fared better. The first "Pick Your Own" (PYO) strawberry operations opened this past week. Spanworms have made a presence in several locations and Mummyberry continues to be damaging to wild blueberries in Maine. Orchardists were monitoring for pests, applying protective sprays, pruning trees, and mowing the orchard floors.

VEGETABLES: Extent of frost damage to asparagus and other vegetables is still being assessed. Some vegetables hit by frost were being planted again. Farmers were busy planting beets, tomatoes, peppers, sweet corn, cabbage, greens, and some fall vegetables such as winter squashes and pumpkins. Farmers were also occupied harvesting asparagus, fiddleheads, greens, spinach, scallions, radishes, cucumbers, tomatoes, and rhubarb. Some vegetable operators were irrigating fields to make up for the lack of rain.

FIELD CROPS: Farmers were occupied last week thanks to prolonged dry weather. The planting of oats, barley, and southern New England potatoes was finished by week's end while planting of other field crops was in full swing. Emergence of most crops is far ahead of last year and normal due to early planting. Hay chopping and baling was active last week with yields lower than last year in some areas. Pasture and hay growth slowed despite warm weather as a consequence to the lack of rain. Corn planting was nearly completed and off to a good start with height reaching nearly a foot in some fields. Farmers were busy fertilizing, hoeing, weeding, irrigating fields, moving livestock out to pasture, chopping haylage, and cutting rye for straw.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year			
	Percent					
Topsoil						
Very Short	16	7	0			
Short	39	29	3			
Adequate	44	62	76			
Surplus	1	2	21			
Subsoil						
Very Short	9	5	1			
Short	35	17	1			
Adequate	54	74	84			
Surplus	2	4	14			

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Development	Fruit Set	Condition
Apples	PF	Avg/Below	Good/Fair
Peaches	PF	Average	Good/Fair
Pears	PF	Avg/Below	Good/Fair
Blueberries			
Highbush	FB/PF	Average	Good/Fair
Wild	FB/PF	Avg/Below	Good
Cranberries,	N/A	Good	Good
Strawberries	FB/PF	Average	Good/Fair

EB= Early Bloom, FB=Full Bloom, PF=Petal Fall,

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2010	2009	5-yr Avg	Condition					
Barley, ME	100	99	85						
Oats, ME	100	99	85						
Potatoes									
Maine	95	95	75						
Mass	100	99	95						
Rhode Island	100	95	95						
Silage Corn	85	70	70						
Sweet Corn	60	60	55						
Tobacco									
Broadleaf	30	20	20	Good					
Shade	100	95	80	Good					
	Percent Emerged								
Barley, ME	95	70	40	Good					
Oats, ME	95	75	40	Good					
Potatoes	Potatoes								
Maine	30	<5	5	Good					
Mass	100	65	50	Good					
Rhode Island	100	55	65	Good					
Silage Corn	45	30	25	Good					
Sweet Corn	35	40	35	Good					
Percent Harvested									
Dry Hay									
First Cut	40	15	10	Good/Fair					

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday May 24, 2010 To: Sunday May 30, 2010

			RATURE	GROWING D	NCE MAR 1 EGREE DAYS		EK PRECIP		CUM PRECIP
STATION	LO		AVG DFN	BASE-50F TOT DFN	BASE-60F TOT 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	47 43 40 44 39 43 36 38 35 46	91 92 91 87 91 86 88 90 91	67 +10 67 +10 66 +9 65 +10 64 +9 62 +9 63 +8 65 +10 62 +10 65 +9	380 +209 343 +212 298 +156 248 +151 233 +133 211 +138 230 +131 270 +169 173 +115 346 +225	94 +78 83 +74 70 +58 66 +60 53 +48 51 +51 63 +56 60 +55 34 +34 79 +76	0.00 0.11 0.00 0.17 0.00 0.05 0.45 0.00 0.02	-0.84 0 -0.66 1 -0.84 0 -0.53 2 -0.84 0 -0.67 1 -0.32 1 -0.88 0 -0.79 1 -0.77 0	0.91 1.61 2.17 2.48 1.41 1.97 2.53 1.72 2.00	-2.53 7 -1.62 8 -1.14 8 -0.31 10 -1.85 6 -0.86 8 -0.50 8 -1.68 8 -1.11 8 -1.48 7
NEW_HAMPSHIRE Benton Berlin_AG Concord Diamond_Pond Keene_AG North_Conway Rochester	38 39 45 33 47 44 47	88 88 96 87 95 93	66 +9 65 +9 69 +11 60 +8 69 +8 67 +10 68 +9	275 +112 262 +120 420 +230 117 +55 370 +113 330 +165 419 +199	66 +46 61 +45 135 +110 21 +21 107 +61 82 +63 119 +86	0.03 0.00 0.34 0.00 0.98 0.15	-0.81 2 -0.86 0 -0.39 1 -0.98 0 +0.09 2 -0.76 1 -0.70 1	1.73 2.20 1.50 2.65 2.78 1.84 2.60	-1.37 11 -1.02 7 -1.33 9 -0.93 12 -0.64 12 -1.79 9 -0.91 7
VERMONT Bennington_AP Burlington_Intl Island_Pond Montpelier Rochester Rutland_AG Springfield_VT Sutton	45 50 40 43 43 45 45	91 92 86 87 91 90 94 87	67 +10 71 +11 65 +12 67 +11 66 +10 67 +7 68 +10 66 +12	390 +222 442 +208 251 +149 338 +180 292 +148 353 +82 398 +220 260 +160	126 +104 155 +113 60 +52 106 +87 73 +57 103 +47 121 +97 64 +56	0.15 0.32 0.00 0.05 0.15 0.45 0.64	-0.90 2 -0.41 2 -0.91 0 -0.73 2 -0.83 2 -0.39 1 -0.32 2 -0.76 1	1.80 1.42 2.36 2.17 2.36 2.86 2.59 2.80	-2.34 12 -1.41 11 -0.98 15 -0.77 14 -1.56 11 -0.30 9 -1.10 12 -0.49 14
MASSACHUSETTS Boston/Logan_In Fitchburg Greenfield New_Bedford Otis_AFB Plymouth Walpole Chicopee/Westov Worthington	56 51 50 50 48 50 51 51	94 98 93 95 88 93 96 97	69 +8 71 +14 69 +8 68 +7 65 +8 68 +10 71 +11 69 +6 68 +11	564 +281 561 +407 392 +106 444 +161 341 +180 480 +301 494 +272 503 +132 345 +182	179 +146 191 +179 114 +67 112 +79 64 +55 137 +123 156 +130 166 +92 96 +79	0.11 0.53 0.32 0.41 0.34 0.32 0.32 0.31	-0.59 1 -0.31 2 -0.59 2 -0.43 2 -0.47 2 -0.52 2 -0.45 2 -0.67 2 -0.85 1	2.90 3.29 2.39 2.12 2.89 2.53 2.68 2.30 2.57	-0.02 9 +0.10 11 -1.11 13 -1.20 11 -0.46 11 -1.05 10 -0.44 10 -1.41 14 -1.59 13
RHODE_ISLAND Providence Woonsocket	54 53	96 96	69 +9 69 +10	567 +317 497 +279	161 +134 145 +125	0.23 0.52	-0.59 2 -0.39 2	2.52	-0.87 10 -0.35 10
CONNECTICUT Bridgeport/Siko Hartford/Bradle Norfolk Thomaston_Dam Willimantic	55 54 50 52 51	94 99 87 93 96	67 +6 71 +9 67 +10 69 +9 69 +9	496 +198 624 +282 386 +227 467 +229 510 +272	120 +66 211 +142 108 +93 136 +102 161 +128	0.42 0.34 0.19 0.42 0.47	-0.42 3 -0.57 2 -0.86 2 -0.56 2 -0.44 2	2.74 2.31 2.89 3.02 2.43	-0.81 12 -1.42 13 -1.25 14 -1.00 13 -1.36 13

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, May 30, 2010

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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	AIR	TEM	PERA	TURES	PRECIP	ITATION
STATE	LO	ΗI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	34	93	64	+9	0.00	0.45
NH	31	97	67	+10	0.00	0.98
VT	40	94	67	+10	0.00	0.64
MA	44	98	68	+9	0.10	0.85
RI	53	96	67	+8	0.19	0.52
CT	47	99	68	+8	0.07	0.71

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: Hay is topping out shorter than normal because of the very warm weather earlier in the spring. We need some rain. Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield: Hay and haylage making were the major activities for the week just ended. A truly remarkable stretch of weather allowed the majority of first cutting to be harvested without incident or delay. Corn planting resumed late in the week on those farms putting up mostly haylage. Early planted corn is approaching the 1 foot stage which will trigger the PSNT sampling period. We need rain, fields are getting too dry too early - the roots aren't deep enough yet to reach the stored water. Patricia Smith (FSA), New London: Weather has been excellent, crops are progressing and hay is being harvested. Everything is ahead of schedule. Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven: Beautiful week with some record setting heat which triggered some severe thunderstorms mid-week with strong winds and hail. No damage to crops was reported in New Haven or Middlesex counties. Vegetable planting continued. Chopping grass for haylage and green chop was in full swing and some dry hay was harvested. Field corn planting is going well. Reports of the first strawberries of the year by the end of the week. Jude Boucher (Ext), Tolland: Some orchards are reporting that they lost 80-90% of most apple varieties as a result of the frost a couple weeks back. First cutting of hay is just about done. Some folks lost sweet corn fields with the frost too, but have since replanted those fields. Some towns had severe thunderstorms early last week, while others were missed or picked up only 0.3 inch of rain. It is starting to get a little dry. We are looking forward to a little rain this week. Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham: Frost damage hit peaches and pears hard. Some places had no pears at all. Orchards are pruning, mowing, and planting vegetables. A lot of hay is being baled. Hottest day recorded was 90 degrees. Haylage all chopped on some farms. The yield was about 80% of normal. Corn is growing well. Heavy haze on Monday came from fires in Canada, rolled over Windham County late in the day. Good weather all week to get field work done.

MAINE - Casey Cote (St John Valley Soil & Water Conservation Dist), Northern Aroostook: Planting continues throughout the region. All grains have been planted and are emerging. Seed growers are still planting. The soil is very dry in the St. John Valley region. Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook: A quick moving shower on Wednesday brought about an inch of rain, sprucing up the crops that have emerged. Farmers are hurrying to get herbicides on as potatoes are breaking the ground. Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook: Farmers busy planting. Got some rain this week, but not enough to slow things down. Barley, oats and potatoes are all planted. Seed potato growers just finishing up planting and plants should be all up by the end of next week. Emerged crops look good. Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York: Nice weather all week allowed for many acres of hay to be cut. Most hay is reported as being below average quantity. However, more cuts may be able to be made this year if rain arrives. Apple damage has been reported at near 100% in some orchards and minimal damage in others. Overall estimate is 40-50% losses in apples and 20-30% losses in strawberries. We really need rain to keep the crops growing. Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin: It is getting dry, grass growth has slowed down. It has been a good first cut with lots of square bales coming in because of good drying weather. All in all, it has been a very good planting season. Now some nice slow showers would be good. Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis: Berries are coming good, first crop of hay is being harvested. Corn is emerging and looks good. Ground is extremely dry; the need of rain is very high. Fungicide spraying on berries and spraying on apples is on going. Over all crops are looking good. Vegetable growers are happy with warm sunny days and cool nights. Crops are about two weeks ahead of schedule. Megan McDonough (FSA), Kennebec: We have experienced hot weather which has led to very dry conditions; rain is needed. Folks continue with haying and planting activities. Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln: Great

weather for all field activities but rain is needed and is forecasted for today. Grass is being chopped and hay harvested. Farmers have started planting fall crops, i.e. squash and pumpkins. Small crops such as tomatoes continue to be set out. The apple & strawberry crops continue to show signs of damage from the May frost. The apple and blueberry crops now have fruit set. The blueberry crop is looking good. With the exception of strawberries and apples, all is on track in the mid-coast area. Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford: We need rain! The dust is flying and plants that have emerged need water badly in many areas of Oxford County. Fiddleheads are being harvested. Pastures are looking good, but grass growth has slowed. Producers are harvesting hay in parts of Oxford County. Some corn has emerged and looking for water! Potato crop is mostly in. Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis/Penobscot: Planting, haying are primary activities on farms. Some fields are getting a little dry but rains are predicted today and should help. Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset: Corn has been planted, fruit crops are developing with the exception of some of the apple crop, and the first cut of hay and baleage has been accomplished for some folks. We need some rain to get these early crops off to a great start. Janet King (FSA), Somerset: Dry conditions are reported throughout Somerset County we really need rain. Producers are reporting first crop hay as being very light this year, and the quality is reported as being fair to good. Most crops have been or are in the process of being planted this week. It's been a great week for field work with only spotty showers in the evening. Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo: Dry weather continues, good for making hay/haylage. Lots of activity, but we need some rain. More reports of frost damage to strawberries from two weeks ago. Amanda May (FSA), Washington: Beautiful weather. Unusually warm, rain needed. Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington: Wild blueberries; Injury symptoms from frost and mummyberry evident this week. Note several outbreaks of spanworm. Pollination is done in most fields except along the coast. Most fields show good to excellent pollination.

MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: Storm midweek brought high winds and downed trees and wires. The county fared better than those to our east. We got very little rain from the event so our fields are dry. Transplanting and field work continues. First hay is being cut and last of the corn is being planted. Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden: A very dry week with 40-75 mph winds on May 26th. Dairy farmers were finishing up planting corn and mowing acres and acres of first cutting hay. Young stock were released on pastures, vegetable growers were busy planting winter squash, cabbage, beets, greens, cucumbers, peppers and sweet corn. Potatoes are all up and being top dressed and hilled. Other vegetable crops are being cultivated and being irrigated. Some very early sweet corn is showing tassels. Growers are scouting for Colorado potato beetle, cucumber beetle, potato flea beetle and thrips. Tobacco planting is in full swing and is being irrigated on some farms. The high winds this week scarred vegetable plants, toppled tobacco barns, ripped off barn roofs and flattened many trees into crop fields.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – William Lord (Ext), Belknap: Temperatures in the 90's Tuesday and Wednesday pushed crops. Drip irrigation now running in many fields to maintain good moisture levels. Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire: Warm, sunny conditions most of the week. Apart from a couple brief thunderstorms, it's pretty dry out there, and more rain wouldn't hurt. Field corn doing well - all of it planted, and most of it emerged. Lots of grass and alfalfa being harvested for haylage and baleage, and some dry hay. More planting going in on veggie operations - many growers are turning on the irrigation more often and considerably earlier than usual this season. Blueberries are doing well; orchards are still waiting for fallout of freeze from a few weeks ago. Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos: Quite warm-hot dry weather, lots of farm activity. Nearly all field corn planted or should be soon. Corn at 3-leaf stage in many locations.

Haylage being chopped quickly wilted and packed. Possibly a little dry baled hay as well. Kentucky bluegrass headed out, orchard grass starting also. Vegetable transplants going in. All crops growing well and ahead of schedule for this time of year. Soil conditions getting to dry side, could use some soaking rain in coming week. Fine weather for Memorial Day weekend; garden centers and nurseries continue to have brisk business. Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton: For the week ending on May 29th, we had just a trace of rain. Total rain fall for the month of May was 1.8 inches, well below average. Most river bottom soils and many upland soils are in need of a good rain. Most of the first cut hay and haylage is done. Reports of volume indicate that production was down considerably on many fields, with reductions of 50%. Many are not sure exactly why hay/haylage volume were down, there are some exceptions of course. The quality is generally very good. Most are hoping for a better second cut. Almost all the field corn is planted, and most of what is planted has already emerged. Reports of freeze damage to the apple crop have become more serious. Some orchardists predict that 90% of some apple varieties could be damaged. Some vegetable and berry crops were also damaged by the freeze in early May; some of these had to be replanted. George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough: Weather: Recorded high temperatures during week along with warm winds are drying soil. Some growers are irrigating fields before planting vegetable fields. Vegetables: Laying plastic mulch and drip irrigation tape. Transplanting tomato and pepper plants in fields, and making successive planting vegetable crops. Harvesting spinach, asparagus, rhubarb and greens. Fruit: Growers monitoring pest and crop development and applying cover sprays for pest control. Orchardists last chance to apply thinning sprays to apple orchards. Mowing orchard floor and weed spraying under trees. Harvesting first local grown strawberries. Field Crops: Planting and weed spraying in corn fields. Farmers are starting to make havlage and baled hav. Corn has emerged and new seedings are up and growing. Amy Ouellette (Ext), Merrimack: Farmers are seeding and transplanting all vegetables, managing pests in orchards, and cutting hay. Rain is needed. Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham: Growers busy preparing fields, hoeing, weeding, side-dressing. Successive planting, irrigating and fertilizer vegetable planting. With two 90 degrees days, strawberry picking may start a little earlier. Monitoring pests in fruit orchards and spraying protective fungicides. Field corn is being planted. Need some soaking rain; some downpour rain and gusty wind happened mid-week. Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford: A very warm and dry week. Some hay producers were busy making the first cut. Grass in pastures and hay fields continue to do well. Fruit growers were mowing orchard floors and irrigating as needed. Vegetable growers continued to plant different vegetable crops including sweet corn, and irrigating the fields as needed. Some growers were harvesting greenhouse tomatoes and cucumbers. Greenhouse operations and garden centers had a busy weekend selling bedding plants and perennials.

RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties: Starting the first week of June weather and soil conditions are great. We had over a half inch of rain on Thursday night. This helped the crops. Potatoes are looking pretty good. Strawberries, pick you own started this past week, May 29 (1st time we started picking in May in a long

time). The whole State of RI had great weather this week. Sweet corn is continuing to be planted. Early corn looks real good in some places. Going full force this week planting vegetable plants. Livestock, they are starting to put heifers and beefers out to pasture. This week they started to see some hay being cut for bales. Cutting rye for straw is currently happening and should be finished by weeks end.

VERMONT - Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison: Continuing hay crop harvest for haylage and also some dry hay baled this week. Nice weather allowing for most corn planting. Corn emergence strong and plants look excellent. Pasture use heavy and already very short. Newly seeded hay crops emerging with plenty of weeds. Manure spreading on cut off hay fields. Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia: Summery week, near 90 for a few days at beginning of the week pushing record highs. Hot days, low humidity and wind really dried things out. Corn planting got finished, some said corn was up in 4 days. First cut of hay started with the stretch of hot, dry weather; yields are lower than average. Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin: Yet another Awesome week here in Franklin County. Starting to be on the dry side however, moisture is still in the seed zone for corn. Corn looks great with super germination. Some question on herbicide activity with the dry weather. This will be a matter of how long and how much rain. Time has not run out, however, we will be getting close. Gardens are in and under way with the great tradition of Memorial Day planting. Strawberries will be coming right around the corner and this will be the first test of what the mid May frost has done to the fruit bearing plants. Pastures are starting to slow up with the dry weather. Clovers are doing great with this weather. First cut hay has been great. Most all producers report yields down and quality up. Some caution will be if we have a continued dry summer might make us short on total hay yields. We still have a lot of summer left so hopefully we will see some MODERATE rains to keep us all going. Heather Darby (Ext), Franklin: The weather was excellent last week for cropping. Many folks were finishing corn planting and also first cut of hay. Hay quality is good to excellent. The yields are decent and reported to be about average. Corn is emerging in 5-6 days after planting. Some corn is 3-4 leaves with good color. Winter wheat is mostly headed. Spring wheat is starting to elongate. John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille/Washington: Great week for fieldwork! Most of the corn crop has been planted and many producers have completed their first cut of grass. Conditions have been drier than average but after several wetter than average years no one is complaining. Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans: A lot of fair weather this past week. Almost all field corn has been planted and some is emerging. Emergence looks very even. We have had very little rain over the past few weeks and conditions are starting to become very dry. A day of rain would help get the corn started and maintain the pastures. Farmers have taken advantage of the fair weather and a lot of hay has been harvested. The yield is probably a little low but it is really good quality feed. Some farms are done with first cut now. Julie Jacque (FSA), Windham: Strong wind front came through causing a little reported damage. Weather conditions overall are dry, but conducive to continued field work. Straw harvest and some first cutting hay occurred this week. Warm temperatures caused the corn to emerge stage quickly. Talk of lateblight being as close as PA is concerning growers.

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