

Crop Progress & Condition



NEW ENGLAND
Agricultural
Statistics



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Volume 31, Number 5

(Issued weekly on the Internet, May – October)

May 31, 2011 – 4 pm

For week ending 5/29/11

Planting Advances

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending May 29, 2011, there were 4.5 days available for fieldwork across New England. Pasture conditions were rated 1 percent very poor, 4 percent poor, 21 percent fair, 49 percent good, and 25 percent excellent. New England conditions were cloudy Monday through Thursday. Temperatures Monday were below average in the 60s for most of the region, except in select locations in Maine where the day's high was as low as 49 degrees. Tuesday through Thursday temperatures rose to the upper 60s to low 80s. Thursday night and into Friday, a large rain storm traveled over central Vermont and northern New Hampshire. According to the Associated Press, many people were evacuated from their homes in the night to seek shelter from flash flooding. Farmers and orchardists in Vermont and New Hampshire are still assessing the extent of damage from flooding and high winds. The weekend was cloudy with temperatures in the low 60s to low 80s in the north and low 70s to mid-80s in the south. The week's total rainfall ranged from 0.15 to 3.02 inches.

FRUIT: In the north, apples were in full bloom while in southern States, they were starting to see fruit set. Orchardists were spraying fungicides and herbicides. Pollination has been a big concern with the rain continuing off and on in some areas of the region. Strawberries and blueberries are in full bloom. This week, cranberry growers have been able to work on renovations and planting.

VEGETABLES: Vegetable growers continued planting as long as fields were dry enough. They were planting sweet corn, pumpkins, eggplant, cucumbers, squash, tomatoes, and peppers. Growers were harvesting rhubarb, asparagus, lettuce, scallions, and spinach. Some growers were forced to continue sweet corn planting while it was raining to keep on schedule for this season. Some farmers markets opened this week selling greens, fiddleheads, rhubarb, and several varieties of vegetable plants.

FIELD CROPS: Farmers were able to get into fields this past week to plant their crops. Corn producers in northern parts of Vermont and New Hampshire were left wondering about the state of their freshly planted crops after flooding storms swept across their fields Thursday and Friday. Early planted corn was reported to be germinating well in many areas. In Maine, potatoes were still well behind schedule. Several potato producers still have not been able to plant some fields because of soggy conditions.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	0	16
Short	0	0	39
Adequate	55	39	44
Surplus	45	61	1
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	0	9
Short	0	0	35
Adequate	50	44	54
Surplus	50	56	2

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Development	Fruit Set	Condition
Apples	PF	Average	Good
Peaches	PF	Average	Good
Pears	PF	Average	Good
Blueberries			
Highbush	EB/FB		Good
Wild	EB/FB		Good
Cranberries,	BS		Good/Excellent
Strawberries	FB/PF		Good

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

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2011	2010	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Planted --				
Barley, ME	65	99	90	
Oats, ME	60	99	90	
Potatoes				
Maine	55	95	85	
Mass	90	100	99	
Rhode Island	95	100	95	
Silage Corn	40	80	70	
Sweet Corn	45	55	60	
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	10	25	20	Good/Fair
Shade	80	95	80	Good/Fair
-- Percent Emerged --				
Barley	25	90	50	Good
Oats	15	90	55	Good/Fair
Potatoes				
Maine	<5	25	10	Good/Fair
Mass	45	95	60	Good/Fair
Rhode Island	20	95	65	Good/Fair
Silage Corn	15	35	30	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	30	35	35	Good/Fair
Dry Hay				
-- Percent Harvested --				
First Cut	10	35	15	Good/Fair

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday May 23, 2011
 To: Sunday May 29, 2011

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	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS
	---	---	---	---	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	INCHES	---	---	INCHES	---	---
MAINE														
Augusta_State_A	44	84	61	+3	191	+29	25	+11	0.04	-0.80	2	3.57	+0.12	10
Bangor_Intl_Arp	45	83	60	+4	197	+74	21	+13	0.15	-0.62	3	3.31	+0.08	13
Bethel	44	86	61	+4	178	+44	30	+19	0.20	-0.64	2	4.86	+1.55	13
Caribou_Municip	46	72	56	+2	115	+24	14	+9	1.01	+0.31	6	3.70	+0.92	16
Dover-Foxcroft	42	82	58	+3	111	+17	13	+9	0.68	-0.16	6	4.40	+1.14	21
Frenchville	44	72	53	-1	73	+5	4	+4	1.22	+0.49	6	3.99	+1.16	17
Houlton	44	73	56	+2	121	+28	12	+6	0.94	+0.17	5	5.71	+2.69	19
Livermore_Falls	45	85	61	+6	169	+75	25	+21	0.32	-0.55	3	4.34	+0.95	15
Moosehead	42	78	56	+5	69	+16	7	+7	2.57	+1.77	3	6.82	+3.73	17
Portland_ME	45	79	59	+3	171	+57	17	+15	0.36	-0.41	3	4.28	+1.01	13
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	43	82	62	+6	197	+42	36	+17	1.30	+0.46	5	5.56	+2.48	16
Berlin_AG	48	83	63	+7	194	+60	40	+25	2.00	+1.15	2	5.15	+1.95	12
Concord	46	89	65	+7	312	+132	74	+51	0.34	-0.38	2	4.56	+1.74	13
Diamond_Pond	43	75	59	+8	116	+58	13	+13	3.97	+3.00	2	7.11	+3.56	10
Keene_AG	51	89	67	+7	308	+63	77	+34	0.27	-0.63	3	3.38	-0.04	12
North_Conway	45	85	61	+4	184	+28	33	+16	0.41	-0.50	5	4.23	+0.60	19
Rochester	46	92	64	+5	302	+93	65	+35	0.76	-0.08	2	5.05	+1.52	15
VERMONT														
Bennington_AP	52	86	68	+12	385	+225	108	+87	0.16	-0.89	3	4.02	-0.12	13
Burlington_Intl	50	86	65	+5	331	+108	86	+47	2.83	+2.11	3	8.48	+5.67	13
Island_Pond	47	81	64	+10	224	+128	52	+45	2.70	+1.79	6	6.27	+2.96	15
Montpelier	50	83	65	+9	273	+123	68	+50	4.57	+3.80	4	8.44	+5.53	15
Rochester	49	85	64	+9	236	+100	54	+39	1.47	+0.49	5	5.42	+1.50	16
Rutland_AG	51	86	66	+6	293	+34	75	+22	0.23	-0.61	3	4.31	+1.17	14
Springfield_VT	52	88	67	+10	358	+189	101	+79	0.18	-0.77	4	3.59	-0.09	13
Sutton	45	79	60	+7	189	+95	28	+21	3.08	+2.19	5	7.33	+4.07	15
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	49	87	67	+6	370	+100	95	+65	0.28	-0.42	2	3.23	+0.30	12
Fitchburg	49	92	68	+11	400	+254	113	+102	0.27	-0.57	3	2.69	-0.49	15
Greenfield	51	87	66	+5	312	+39	69	+26	0.11	-0.80	2	4.45	+0.95	14
New_Bedford	50	85	67	+6	417	+146	92	+62	0.29	-0.55	2	3.85	+0.53	13
Otis_AFB	46	81	63	+5	255	+103	39	+31	0.20	-0.62	1	2.36	-1.01	10
Plymouth	49	86	66	+8	377	+208	87	+75	0.16	-0.68	2	2.41	-1.19	14
Walpole	49	84	68	+9	338	+127	85	+62	0.50	-0.27	3	4.07	+0.94	15
Chicopee/Westov	51	90	69	+6	426	+69	123	+54	0.25	-0.72	3	4.13	+0.43	12
Worthington	48	84	63	+6	247	+92	52	+36	0.54	-0.48	4	4.49	+0.32	14
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	49	80	66	+6	368	+130	76	+52	0.37	-0.46	2	2.90	-0.51	12
Woonsocket	49	88	67	+8	367	+160	88	+70	0.35	-0.56	3	2.74	-0.95	13
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	52	79	67	+6	400	+115	72	+22	0.55	-0.29	1	5.27	+1.71	10
Hartford/Bradley	51	90	69	+7	447	+119	126	+62	0.18	-0.73	2	3.66	-0.07	9
Norfolk	48	84	64	+7	272	+121	60	+46	0.17	-0.88	2	4.03	-0.11	12
Thomaston_Dam	52	90	68	+9	392	+165	112	+81	0.30	-0.68	3	4.52	+0.49	13
Willimantic	49	88	68	+9	416	+189	107	+77	0.40	-0.51	3	4.57	+0.77	15

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, May 29, 2011

Summary based on NWS data.

DFN = Departure from Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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STATE	AIR TEMPERATURES				PRECIPITATION	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	37	90	58	+3	0.04	4.12
NH	36	92	63	+7	0.02	4.41
VT	40	88	64	+8	0.06	5.61
MA	45	92	65	+7	0.04	0.57
RI	48	88	65	+6	0.15	0.50
CT	48	90	66	+6	0.12	0.55

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: Our rainy week ended and showers amounted to about 0.3" for the week which lead farmers back out to their fields to plant corn, tobacco, and vegetables. Grass harvested as silage, but most fields still had a wet spot or two. Shade tobacco planting caught up, but broad leaf planting is still behind normal. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Haylage harvest has interrupted corn planting. Tonnage is low as grass didn't reach normal height before heading out. Corn is germinating well. Early scouting reports are showing no problems with insects. Several weeds keep showing up on scouting reports - Asian bittersweet, milkweed and smooth bedstraw seem to be moving into corn fields. Strawberries are in bloom. **Ann Marie McCard (FSA), New London:** Hay crop is ready for first cutting, but the weather isn't cooperating. Wet fields and humid weather are hindering efforts. Farmers are planting the fields they can get into, but many fields are too wet to work. Unusually hot, humid weather over Memorial Day Weekend. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** This was a beautiful week weather wise. Hot, summer-like temperatures helped dry out fields and allowed planting to proceed. Corn began to emerge as soil temps warmed up. Vegetable planting began in earnest. **Jude Boucher (Ext), Tolland:** Fields were still very wet last week with growers reporting tractors and even lime trucks stuck. Many fields have to be reworked to kill rye that has regrown (that's expensive and time consuming). Growers using deep zone tillage have not shared these troubles and have reported making every sweet corn planting on time...sometimes even planting while it is raining! Planting unbroken ground can be a beautiful thing when the weather is constantly wet. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Good blossoms on early blueberries. Pruning and tying grape vines, picking rocks, and planting corn. Just starting to dry enough to mow hay, temperatures went from 60 degrees to 87 degrees this week. Fog was so heavy at night and in the morning it was like walking in a cloud. Moisture is causing insect and fungus pressures on vegetable plantings. Fly issues from manure piles in fields. Heat and sun at the end of the week boosted plant growth.

MAINE – Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook: A couple of operations have finished. Most need at least a few days. A few operations have not started potatoes yet. Having farmed my whole life I don't think I have ever seen such a late spring. One bright spot, pastures, hay fields and early grain look great. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Farmers had just a few days to plant crops because of rain. After this week approximately 50% of the crops are planted. Let's hope some sunny weather comes our way next week. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Still fighting the wet weather to get done planting our crops. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Finally warm weather has arrived. Annuals are getting planted, there has been some missed or delayed plantings of vegetables already. Hay has gone to seed and is ready to harvest. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock /Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Great weather for farmers to get manure spread and fields prepared. Potatoes, corn and many veggies are starting to be planted. Hay fields and pastures are nice and green. Apple trees are losing blossoms. Blueberries are loaded with bees for pollinating. Fungicides and herbicides are being applied to keep diseases from forming. Nice weather in the upcoming week will help farmers get caught up on late beginning. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Crops are finally starting to grow. Some crops were planted this past week, but over 1/2 inch of rain fell early Monday morning which brought field work to a halt again. If Mother Nature cooperates most crops should be planted by the end of this week. A better week is forecasted, but we still need more sun and warm weather. Many fields remain too wet to plant as of today. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** We were so glad to see the sunshine and some warmer weather last week! Fields need to dry out enough for producers to get their equipment onto. Crop planting is behind schedule. Vegetable operations are able to continue transplanting as long as the garden fields/soils are dry enough. Local farmers

markets are now open and have been very busy thus far with greens, fiddleheads, rhubarb and several varieties of vegetable plants. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis/Penobscot:** A short break in the weather. The warmer weather is making the grass grow faster. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** Finally a bit of sun and warm weather. Field work is commencing: planting corn, cutting hay and baleage, planting vegetable crops. **Janet King (FSA), Somerset:** What a great week and weekend for everyone! Corn being planted, also many home gardens were planted this weekend. Apples and blueberries are in full bloom. Reports of hail in the Concord area this weekend. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** The rain held off for a little while toward the end of last week allowing for some field work to begin. Apples and other fruit crops are in full bloom. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Cool, wet weather has delayed crop maturity by about a week. Pollination has been hampered by cool, wet weather, but when breaks occur the bees are pollinating well. The risk of mummyberry disease has passed as all the cups have gone by. See <http://mainewildblueberries.blogspot.com/>

MASSACHUSETTS – Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: The county was touched by storms this week causing some field flooding in the south. However, conditions were good for planting in north county so corn, summer veggies and transplants were planted. Fruit growers are waiting to gauge fruit set in the apple crop. Earlier blooming trees are setting fruit. The berry crops are maturing on time. Some producers are planning to chop haylage this week. **Lori Carver (FSA), Franklin:** Great weather allowed farmers to play catch up this week. Planting of tobacco began in earnest. Asparagus crop is great this year. First crop of hay is starting to be harvested. The good weather and the holiday weekend were a great combination for farm stands selling bedding plants. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** This week had very little rain and farmers were trying to dry out their fields for planting. Planting of tobacco, cucumbers, squash, tomatoes, and peppers has started with the fear of a freeze behind them. Growers are harvesting rhubarb, asparagus, lettuce, and spinach. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: With warm and dry weather, both cranberry growers and the cranberry vines were busy this week. Growers could finally get a lot of sweeping done, and many found numbers of cranberry weevils exceeding their threshold, necessitating insecticide applications. Winter moth has been present at high levels in places. Cranberry vines have put out a lot of new growth and weeds have exploded in their rate of growth. Renovation projects are being completed and planting has been done in most instances. A period of dry days and no frost nights has dried out the beds, but we could use a good shower. Things look very good at this point.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire: After another cool, rainy day at the beginning of the week, much warmer weather and much more sunshine. Farms gained a lot of ground catching up on planting corn, and earliest planted fields have emerged. Orchardgrass headed out, but pastures are growing well, and some farms started harvesting first cut. Most vegetable operations on schedule with planting, starting to see the first of the earliest crops at farmers' markets. Orchards working to keep up with spraying. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** What a week! Incredible thunderstorms beginning Thursday bringing large hail, driving rain and strong winds. My rain gauge in Lancaster at 6 inches since last weather report filed. Many seedlings, young plants, and apple blossoms adversely affected. Worst storm during crop years that I can remember. Hay land and many corn fields about county are sodden, under water in low lying areas putting a halt to field work until soils dry out some. Roughly half of corn planted; concerns about its state in wet soils. Dandelions past peak, orchards and other early season grasses have begun to head out. Will have better idea of crop conditions as week plays out and have an opportunity to hear from

more farms, and look about. Certainly behind at this point, hoping for drier conditions. Quite humid right now. **Heather Bryant (Ext), Grafton:** There were some thunderstorms and hail this past week, so far no reports of damage. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending May 28th, we received rain to some extent during six days. The total rainfall was just over an inch, but it kept things wet. Soils on some fields remain fully saturated, with water on the surface. Other sandy loam soils are in much better condition. River bottom Hadley and Adams soils are generally in good shape. Corn is in on these soils, and most of the corn that was planted is emerged. Less well drained soils and many upland soils remain too wet to hay. Some first cut hay is done along the river bottom. Pumpkins and other vegetables are being planted. The hot weather toward the end of the week gave things a much needed boost. Planting and haying are still behind schedule for this time of the year, compared to normal. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Apples are at petal fall in later blooming areas of the county and determining to thin in early blooming areas. Blueberries are at full bloom. Strawberries are blooming. Orchardists are applying protective fungicide sprays on fruit trees and blueberries. Seeing plum curculio damage in orchards. Field Crops: Farmers are plowing, discing, fertilizing, planting corn, and applying herbicides. Pastures and hayfields starting to look good, orchardgrass is headed out. Early planted corn has emerged and new seedlings are up and growing. First cutting of hay started as haylage. Vegetables: Continued planting vegetables, along with successive planting of sweet corn and transplanting tomato plants in fields. Laying plastic mulch and drip irrigation tape. Harvesting asparagus. **Amy Ouellette (Ext), Merrimack:** Warm temperatures over the weekend dried up some of the wet fields. Apple growers who were worried about pollination during weeks of rain are waiting to see how fruit set is. Corn growers are behind schedule seeding fields because of wet conditions. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Harvesting many different types of greens, scallions, rhubarb, asparagus, herbs, and bok choy. Planting sweet corn, potatoes and whole array of vegetables. Spraying protective fungicides in fruit orchards. Flea beetles active in grapes. Preparing field, spreading manure, fertilizers and planting field corn.

RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties: What a difference a week makes! Friday, Saturday and Sunday in the 70s and 80s. Farmers are planting everything now, tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, etc. Strawberries are looking good and will probably be picking them by the 9th of June. Farmers are starting to put in silage corn now. This week some nice looking straw was made. Let's hope it's the last of spring and summer is here. Livestock pastures are very good with all the rain and now the warm weather.

VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison: Heavy rain ended the week. Very little hay harvest and corn planting. Soil too wet for field tillage. Pasture growth good. Grasses all headed out. Delaying corn planting until after first cut haylage harvest. **Daniel Hudson (Ext), Caledonia:** Lots of rain last Thursday evening through Sunday morning. The corn had just been planted in many places, and then we received 5-9 inches of rain in that time period, plus hail. Washouts, submerged fields, over-saturated soils, etc, suggest that replanting many acres will be necessary and some stands might

sustain stand losses (i.e., lower yield later on). Few hay fields have been harvested and the quality of the first cutting is going to be quite low as a result. **Heather Darby (Ext), Franklin:** Wet weather continues to make field work difficult and slow. Some corn has been planted over the last few weeks, mostly in light textured soils. Corn has emerged and is in the 2 leaf stage. A small amount of first cut was put up last week as haylage. Yields are excellent and quality excellent, however rapidly declining. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** With Memorial Day moving by, it is bringing us to the real breaking point in Franklin County. Still too wet to get any major planting done in corn fields or gardens. As we move to June if we do not get some weather to get this planting done we will be in the very critical stage of having energy needs for 2011/2012 on a locally grown basis. Relying on purchased energy will be a whole factor in itself with escalating concentrate costs. Grass forage will be the real savour if the weather breaks. This will be at more advantage than corn because the growth is there. As the weather improves????? This really needs to be the priority because the re-growth on what hay has been harvested is fantastic!!!! Sorghum may become an option for corn fields if we cannot get them planted by mid June. Much corn that has been planted is up, however, some of it is under water in fields. Good chance of some seed not germinating and rotting in these areas, yet another factor out for the weather jury. Strawberries and apples seem to be doing well with many flowers and blossoms. Not much planting has happened in the gardens and the typical plant at Memorial Day will be for the more fortunate well drained garden soils. **Heather Mateja (FSA), Lamoille/Washington:** Thursday evening high winds and heavy rain caused damage to barns, trees, fences and crop fields. However, many farmers have planted their corn and are even managing to harvest some first cut. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Another very wet week with some localized flooding. Corn planting is very slow due to the rain and mud. Some corn fields were under water again on Sunday. I did see a little hay mowed on Sunday but for all practical purposes the weather hasn't allowed farmers to start. Pastures are growing well but very wet for Livestock. Fruits are showing a lot of blossoms but I am a bit concerned with pollination and fruit set due to the rain. Overall a week of sun would do wonders. **Terence Bradshaw, (UVM):** Drier weather early last week allowed growers to get into orchards. Soil moisture is still high and orchards easily rutted up by equipment. Pollination appears to have been adequate with a couple of windows between the rains of nice bee weather. Application of thinning sprays is difficult this year due to questionable fruit set, alternating wet/dry, warm/cool weather, and thin-cuticled leaves that could be prone to spray injury. Spring insect activity should be increasing. **Julie Jacque (FSA), Windham:** The end of the week finally had decent weather to accomplish field work. Dairies in the hill towns reported finishing up manure spreading and feeling like they were about 10 days behind; most land along the river was getting wrapped up in corn plantings with the exception of extremely wet areas. Orchards appear to be in good condition with adequate pollination. Vegetable plantings continued despite weather-peppers, squashes, tomatoes were being set out. With dry, warm weather through the weekend and the rest of the week expecting green chop to start, if it hasn't already as many farms are out of hay.

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