

Crop Progress & Condition



NEW ENGLAND
Agricultural
Statistics



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For week ending 6/26/11

Too Much Rain for Most of New England

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending June 26, 2011, there were 4.1 days available for fieldwork across New England. Pasture conditions were rated 2 percent very poor, 6 percent poor, 21 percent fair, 51 percent good, and 20 percent excellent. The week began partly cloudy with temperatures in the mid-70s to mid-80s. Wednesday through Saturday was cooler, with high temperatures ranging from the mid-50s to the mid-70s. Rain varied from light to heavy and was accompanied by thunderstorms in some areas. Warmer conditions arrived Sunday, with temperatures mostly in the mid-70s and cloudy. Farmers were spreading manure, cutting hay, planting, harvesting early season vegetables, scouting for pests, and spraying when conditions were dry enough for field entry.

FRUIT: Some varieties of grapes were a little behind schedule in Connecticut. The strawberry harvest was in full swing in the north. However, excessive rainfall has kept some consumers away from U-Pick operations and cold, damp conditions have raised the threat of mold. In Maine wild blueberries, post emergence weed control continued to be applied because of cool, wet conditions which are conducive to weed growth. Pollination and fruit set were observed to be uneven because of weather variations in different parts of the region during bloom. The sweet cherry harvest began in Hillsborough County, New Hampshire. Massachusetts cranberries were mostly in the early to full bloom stage. Beehives were in place and for the most part, the weather cooperated for pollination.

VEGETABLES: First sweet corn showed up at farmers markets on Sunday in Connecticut. Producers were reporting pressure from insects and disease because of the wet conditions. Growers continued harvesting early season vegetables such as lettuce, greens, peas, radishes, rhubarb, summer squash, and zucchini. The excessive amount of rain caused some vegetable seeds to rot in fields.

FIELD CROPS: Early in the week some silage corn was replanted where the first planting had poor germination or rotted. Many are still reporting that fields are too wet to replant their corn. There were a few farmers who reported that their early planted corn was “knee high” in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Dry hay harvesting continued to be a challenge due to frequent rain showers in some areas.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	0	2
Short	5	5	21
Adequate	58	82	69
Surplus	37	13	8
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	1	1
Short	5	4	16
Adequate	62	82	77
Surplus	33	13	6

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Set	Fruit Size	Condition
	2011	2010	5-yr Avg			
Apples	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Peaches	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Pears	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good
Blueberries						
Highbush	0	<5	<5	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Wild	-	-	-	Above Avg	Average	Excellent
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-			Good/Exc
Strawberries	50	65	45	Average	Average	Good/Fair

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2011	2010	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Planted --				
Potatoes				
Maine	100	100	100	
Silage Corn	95	100	99	
Sweet Corn	90	95	90	
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	90	95	95	Good/Fair
-- Percent Emerged --				
Barley	100	100	100	Good/Fair
Oats	99	100	100	Good
Potatoes				
Maine	85	100	95	Good/Fair
Mass	100	100	95	Good/Fair
Rhode Island	100	100	100	Good
Silage Corn	85	95	90	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	85	70	70	Good/Fair
-- Percent Harvested --				
Tobacco				
Shade	--	--	--	Good/Fair
Dry Hay				
First Cut	65	80	65	Good/Fair
Second Cut	0	15	<5	Fair/Good

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday, June 20, 2011
 To: Sunday, June 26, 2011

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				CUM SINCE MAR 1 GROWING DEGREE DAYS				1-WEEK PRECIP			4-WEEK CUM PRECIP		
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS
	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	INCHES	---	---	INCHES	---	---
MAINE														
Augusta_State_A	51	80	62	-4	552	+24	150	+32	0.67	-0.10	4	3.68	+0.55	11
Bangor_Intl_Arp	49	81	62	-3	540	+82	120	+33	0.98	+0.21	2	2.98	-0.14	12
Bethel	46	79	60	-6	530	+56	159	+66	2.03	+1.12	3	3.05	-0.64	10
Caribou_Municip	49	75	60	-3	421	+56	88	+38	0.72	+0.02	2	7.80	+5.13	14
Dover-Foxcroft	46	79	59	-4	401	+26	83	+31	0.54	-0.31	2	2.42	-1.03	10
Frenchville	47	74	58	-4	312	-12	48	+12	0.13	-0.64	2	5.85	+2.97	13
Houlton	45	76	60	-3	405	+32	82	+28	0.74	-0.03	3	5.30	+2.22	10
Livermore_Falls	43	79	60	-4	512	+131	143	+88	1.06	+0.11	4	3.09	-0.76	12
Moosehead	44	76	57	-5	322	+36	62	+37	0.68	-0.24	2	3.16	-0.43	9
Portland_ME	51	82	62	-3	537	+100	145	+71	1.68	+0.91	4	3.57	+0.35	10
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	44	80	60	-4	510	+42	134	+50	0.86	+0.00	4	3.08	-0.45	16
Berlin_AG	46	77	60	-5	524	+71	144	+61	0.89	-0.07	4	3.87	+0.05	14
Concord	45	83	63	-4	734	+175	252	+116	2.21	+1.47	3	3.58	+0.61	9
Diamond_Pond	43	73	55	-5	339	+83	67	+54	0.80	-0.30	4	3.37	-0.91	15
Keene_AG	44	84	62	-6	710	+38	233	+35	2.77	+1.93	4	6.19	+2.82	14
North_Conway	48	82	61	-5	547	+35	173	+59	1.88	+0.97	4	3.57	-0.14	14
Rochester	48	87	64	-3	765	+152	275	+110	1.21	+0.42	4	3.08	-0.23	11
VERMONT														
Bennington_AP	45	82	65	+2	819	+336	288	+191	2.13	+1.08	4	4.76	+0.49	12
Burlington_Intl	50	82	66	-2	801	+173	287	+110	1.07	+0.23	4	3.60	+0.38	12
Island_Pond	42	77	60	-3	551	+201	154	+102	0.99	+0.00	4	2.93	-1.04	14
Montpelier	46	80	62	-2	644	+180	203	+112	1.79	+1.02	4	4.91	+1.62	15
Rochester	44	81	60	-4	578	+134	164	+80	3.09	+2.25	4	6.63	+3.08	15
Rutland_AG	45	81	64	-4	696	+16	226	+23	1.64	+0.80	4	4.26	+0.93	14
Springfield_VT	45	83	64	-2	802	+290	290	+180	2.14	+1.23	4	5.18	+1.52	18
Sutton	47	76	59	-3	497	+149	125	+73	1.03	+0.03	4	3.40	-0.55	15
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	54	83	66	-4	866	+123	318	+93	2.27	+1.57	4	4.58	+1.68	12
Fitchburg	51	85	66	+2	898	+409	346	+246	3.44	+2.60	4	5.52	+2.19	14
Greenfield	48	82	63	-6	738	+9	239	+14	3.82	+2.96	4	6.88	+3.29	15
New_Bedford	52	84	69	-2	923	+194	324	+114	1.16	+0.34	4	3.90	+0.52	12
Otis_AFB	52	75	65	-2	648	+124	186	+71	1.31	+0.58	2	3.34	+0.29	10
Plymouth	51	80	66	-2	837	+272	284	+144	0.94	+0.17	4	3.35	+0.10	12
Walpole	51	85	66	-2	804	+185	284	+120	1.66	+0.79	4	4.97	+1.51	12
Chicopee/Westov	46	85	66	-5	905	+40	334	+35	2.32	+1.41	4	5.93	+2.10	15
Worthington	44	80	61	-4	620	+132	185	+87	2.57	+1.67	4	6.13	+2.48	16
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	54	82	68	-2	872	+186	306	+108	0.93	+0.16	3	4.02	+0.90	11
Woonsocket	51	85	66	-2	844	+235	300	+152	2.37	+1.46	4	5.11	+1.35	14
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	60	81	70	+0	961	+207	354	+112	3.00	+2.19	2	6.31	+3.09	10
Hartford/Bradley	51	86	68	-3	980	+157	382	+100	3.19	+2.35	5	6.88	+3.33	17
Norfolk	48	79	63	-2	675	+191	210	+114	2.11	+1.06	4	7.09	+2.78	16
Thomaston_Dam	48	86	67	+0	893	+269	337	+175	2.44	+1.53	4	7.25	+3.41	17
Willimantic	50	85	68	+1	917	+284	334	+169	0.82	-0.08	5	5.76	+2.25	18

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, June 26, 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	42	82	60	-4	0.13	2.03
NH	36	87	61	-4	0.51	3.31
VT	41	84	62	-3	0.92	5.00
MA	44	86	65	-3	0.94	3.82
RI	51	85	67	+0	0.93	4.43
CT	47	86	67	-2	0.82	3.19

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: Northern tier of towns in Hartford and Tolland Counties had up to 3 inches of rain in 2 hours Saturday night. Early in the week some dry hay was made and corn replanted where first planting had poor germination. Showers on Wednesday about finished strawberries. Planting of broadleaf tobacco finished up on many farms while others continued to plant. First sweet corn showed up at farmers markets on Sunday. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Rain - that just about sums up the week. When it wasn't falling, the fields were way too wet to work. **Ann Marie McCard (FSA), New London:** Another week of unsettled weather. Below normal temperatures, more showers and little sunshine are affecting crops. All crops need some sunshine and warmer weather. Producers still trying to replant some field corn and the last of the vegetables and pumpkins are waiting to be planted once the fields dry out some. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** Wet conditions are starting to take a toll on vegetable crops. Producers are reporting a lot of pressure from disease associated with wet conditions. Corn still remains to be planted and hay making continues to be challenging. We really need a long stretch of hot, sunny weather to dry things out. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Only two days of sun/dry for hay making; then rain and more rain with cool temperatures. Dealing with slugs and other voracious insects going for vegetables. Finishing replanting corn. Some varieties of grapes a little behind on blossoming. People don't want to pick strawberries in this gray weather.

MAINE – Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook: Still very wet. Many operations busy filling in washes. Cultivation ongoing when the ground is dry enough. Hay fields and pasture still look excellent. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Crops are continuing to emerge throughout Aroostook County. Some fields planted late are just beginning to emerge; however with the abundance of moisture crops are growing rapidly. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Cool, damp weather slowed down the strawberry picking over the weekend. Some farms haven't been able to open PYO strawberries yet due to slow production. Hay is being harvested between the showers. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** We are receiving a good blend of sun and moisture. We could use a little more sun and heat. Lots of hay coming in. Strawberries did real well this spring with no frost damage. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Two inches of rain fell Saturday morning with cool temperatures to add insult to injury. Most crops are looking pretty good but are a week to 10 days behind normal schedule. We need sunshine and warmth!!!! It has been nearly impossible to make dry hay, but first cut grass is being chopped. The blueberry crop is also showing the affects of the cool, damp spring with lower than normal fruit set possibly due to lack of pollination by bees. Growers continue to place fly traps on cropping fields, and apply herbicides on non-cropping fields. The strawberry harvest is now in its second week and hopefully some anticipated dryer weather will keep the berries from molding. We anticipate some warmer, dryer weather for the upcoming week although we could see some precipitation on Wednesday. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Hay is being harvested and the corn is growing! Livestock are now grazing and enjoying the green grass. Strawberries are being harvested. Potato crop looking great at this time along with grain corn. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis/Penobscot:** Intermittent rains have been great for the corn but made haying a challenge. **Elaine S. Moceus (FSA), Somerset:** Hay crop seems to be plentiful this year - some estimates of 20% greater first cut than last year have been reported. Corn producers have most of their corn in, some areas of heavy soil still need to be planted. There were some reports of a few acres planted early that needed to be replanted. One report of early corn planted that is now over a foot tall. Overall, berries are looking good this year; strawberry harvest has begun. Most of the week, the conditions were favorable, with rain towards the end of the week. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** A fairly good stretch of weather allowed for a lot of first crop to finally be harvested last week. Some

cutworms in corn and one incident of armyworm in grass so far. Strawberry harvest in full swing. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Post-emergence weed control applications continue to be applied this month because of cool, wet conditions which are conducive to weed growth. Pollination is uneven, with some fields having berries just on tip and others having excellent pollination. Differences in fruit set because of weather variations in different parts of the state during bloom.

MASSACHUSETTS – Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: We had 2-3 days of workable weather. From Wednesday on it was a washout. No field work, no hay cut, slowed sales at farmers markets and lost 4 days of strawberry season. Cool temps and wet fields will have a negative impact on crop progress. **Lori Carver (FSA), Franklin:** Wet weather continues to plague producers. Afternoon storms brought heavy downpours. The strawberry crop is suffering due to the excess moisture. Hard to get the hay crop in because of the daily rain storms. Producers are busy spraying crops to keep disease from setting in. Fields are showing the stress of wet weather, yellowing, lack of germination in spots, etc. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Another rainy, wet week with only a few dry days. Very little planting took place this week. Crop fields are water logged and growers are having a very hard time cultivating and harvesting their crops. Growers are scouting for crop diseases and insects. A protective fungicide spray is being applied to fruits and vegetables to ward off any diseases due to the very wet conditions and cool temperatures. Summer squash, radishes, strawberries, raspberries, lettuce and early cucumbers are being harvested. Tobacco farmers are waiting for fields to dry out so they can add a fertilizer top-dress. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Further and further into bloom we go. Bloom looks fabulous and pollination weather has been good for the most part. Beehives are all in place now and bee activity has been good. Nice soaking rains on Wednesday and Thursday, with more than 2 inches in most places. Growers are into their second fungicide treatments for fruit rot. Some berries are set. Insect infestations continue to be below the norm for the most part. It has been a good growing season up to this point.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Kelly McAdam (Ext), Belknap: Last week had more wet, cool days than before. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** A nice start to the week, then soggy, wet weather for the remainder. Some field corn showing nitrogen leaching. Grass growth is strong, but poor harvesting conditions. Vegetable crops are doing OK for the most part, but some disease issues popping up here and there. Strawberry harvest starting to wind down. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Field corn planting completed. Quite a variance in growth as earliest planted may be "knee high by the fourth of July". Others just in or just emerging. Busy hay and haylage harvest at the beginning of the week as dry weather fairly was cooperative; quite a heavy yield although quality not the best as grass maturity is a week or more ahead of schedule. Rain in later part of week slowed fieldwork. Yellow rattle weed quite frequently seen now in many second cut hay fields, nibbling at edges of others. Seems to get toe-hold on roadside edges entryways. Bunch grasses like Timothy and orchard grass seem most affected. Yellow rattle seeds about at dough-stage in some field. Buttercups a notable sight. Saw first brown marmorated stink bug in the county. Some cutworms in corn. Trying to stay ahead of weeds is a challenge for farmers this year. More kinds of veggies showing up at farmers markets. Strawberries beginning to be picked. Tunnel tomatoes showing a little color. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending June 25th, we received about 1.35 inches of rain at our Orford location. Most of the corn that will be planted is now in the ground. Some fields were finished this past week. First cut haylage is well underway. Making dry hay has been a problem, but producers are getting in what they can. There is a lot of later cut hay and haylage, but the yield appears to be OK.

Vegetable operations are getting the last of their crops in the ground. Some early crops such as lettuce and greens are coming along well. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** On-going rain showers making it very difficult on farmers and crops, especially strawberries. Fruit: The continuing rain showers are keeping customers away from pick-your-own operations. Strawberry harvest continues (80% harvested), it has been a tough harvest season for growers. Sweet cherry harvest is underway. Fruit growers mowing orchard floors, monitoring pest and crop development and applying sprays for pest control. Field Crops: Farmers making haylage between showers and stopped baling hay because of rain. Farmers are side-dressing fertilizer to field corn, if needed, and to hay fields. Pastures and hay fields are growing well despite of all the rain. Vegetables: Growers continued harvesting early season vegetables such as lettuce, greens, radishes, summer squash, and zucchini. With the excessive amount of rain that has occurred, this has caused many late planted vegetable seeds to rot in the fields. Weeds and slugs are plaguing growers. Farmers are side-dressing fields with fertilizer, cultivating and hand-hoeing weeds, scouting for pests and spraying. Striped Cucumber Beetle and Potato Leaf Hopper are here and Squash Vine Borer has been caught! **Amy Ouellette (Ext), Merrimack:** Strawberry harvest is about mid-way. Abundant fruit, but wet field conditions making pick-your-own marketing a challenge. Early field grown vegetables like lettuce, greens, radish and peas are being harvested. Blueberry fruit set looks good. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** PYO strawberry operations were busy with a good crop. Harvesting an array of greens, asparagus, rhubarb, radish, and zucchini. Some downpour of rain on Wednesday evening into Thursday. Pastures growing well. Haying and planting field corn. Monitoring pests in small fruits and orchards. Farmers markets, farm stands and garden centers are busy. **Jenn Zaleski (FSA), Sullivan:** Farmers were able to make some progress harvesting their first cut dry hay crop Monday and Tuesday. Others were busy trying to plant the rest of their field corn. Heavy rain came earlier than predicted on Wednesday catching many farmers off-guard. A lot of cut hay got rained on and will most likely be mulch now. Rainy and cool conditions continued through the rest of the week. Sunday was dry, but overcast skies and lack of wind was not suitable to drying out any of the wet hay. Field corn is growing well in most fields. Stunted and yellowing plants can be seen in low-lying areas that remain wet.

RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties: The weather hasn't changed much. We have had about 4 good days with cloudy weather. The total rainfall has been about an inch. The potato

farmers are starting to worry about blight. There have not been enough sunny days, ideal conditions for blight. There is a lot of spraying going on to prevent blight. This doesn't help our busy farmers. This time of the year our first cutting should be about 95% done, but it is not because we don't have enough sunny days. Farmers are still putting in haylage believe it or not. As far as small crops, they look good and green in most places but they too need a little more sun. The silage corn planting is not finished yet. Farmers are still pushing to try to get it done. What looks real good with this weather are pastures, they are doing very well because we have had a lot of moisture. Strawberries are excellent and the season may be extended another week or two because of the weather. Let's hope we have a long fall.

VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison: Corn planting and dry hay harvest continued until rain later in the week. The week ended with storms and standing water in fields. Corn crop condition looks worse this week with poor stands in wet portions of fields and replant activity in many early planted fields. Late planted corn emergence fast, but few fields over 1 foot tall. Weed spray continues. Still attempting tillage on wetter fields. Second crop hay regrowth good. New seeded hay fields have good emergence. Pasture regrowth good on rotated pasture, continuous pasture poor. **Heather Darby (Ext), Franklin:** More wet weather last week slowed field work once again. Folks are still planting corn while some corn is ready to be top-dressed. First cut still being completed while some second cut is ready to be harvested. Cutworm and armyworm populations are high in some areas. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Quiet week here in Franklin County. Some manure being spread and weather too drizzly for any hay, haylage or last of corn planting. Strawberries are in full swing. Looks like size will be down some however, as typical, smaller means sweeter. The berries will draw people out to the farm stands and other sales will be included with the berries. Potatoes are under a lot of pressure with the wet weather. Much rot and late planting. The apples are going to need a lot of attention from here on to harvest, as risk of molds and insects are very high with the wet weather. Most of the first cut haylage is off now and the small fields are waiting for some dry weather for baling. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** We had a few good days earlier in the week, but then it turned to showers. The weekend was a wash. First cut hay harvest is ongoing with many farmers done. The second cut grass is growing well. Corn is 6 to 18 inches and looks very good. Most plants have a dark green color. Pastures are doing well, but mud is still a bit of an issue. Strawberries are starting to ripen. Fruit size is a little small, but the flavor is very good.

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