

# Crop Progress & Condition



**NEW ENGLAND**  
Agricultural  
Statistics



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June 18, 2012 – 4 pm

For week ending 6/17/12

## What a Difference a Week Makes!

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:** For the week ending June 17, 2012, there were 6.1 days available for fieldwork across New England. Pasture condition was rated 2 percent poor, 19 percent fair, 51 percent good, and 28 percent excellent. The week began mostly cloudy, with variable daytime temperatures ranging from the mid-60s to mid-80s. Moderate precipitation ranging from 0.2 to 1.5 inches fell on Tuesday and Wednesday. Generally average temperatures and sunny skies prevailed for the rest of the week, drying out wet fields across New England. These conditions were highly favorable for crop development and fieldwork.

**FRUIT:** Apple scab was detected at some orchards last week. Strawberry PYO operations were active thanks to pleasant weather and the crop was 25 percent harvested by week's end. There were widespread reports of great size and flavor. Early raspberry and sweet cherry harvest was underway by the end of the week. Cranberries were in early bloom to full bloom stage and favorable pollination weather prevailed during the week. Cranberry growers were on their first insecticide application to combat various insects, particularly grubs. Fruit growers were busy monitoring for pests, applying cover sprays, mowing orchard floors, and weed spraying under trees.

**VEGETABLES:** Sweet corn was reported in good condition with some of the early crop completely tasseled. Farmers harvested asparagus, beets, cucumbers, greens, herbs, peas, radishes, rhubarb, scallions, spinach, summer squash, and greenhouse tomatoes. Growers were also busy planting an array of vegetables, applying fertilizer, cultivating, scouting for pests, and spraying if needed.

**FIELD CROPS:** Sunny, warm weather led to ideal haying conditions for most of New England. Hay fields in the wettest areas of Maine dried rapidly. Hay harvest advanced 35 percentage points during the week. Favorable weather accelerated growth of second crop hay. Field corn showed a healthy growth but some fields were showing signs of stress from armyworms and earlier floods. Potato growers in Maine were busy hilling and spraying fields, and specialists reported excellent crop conditions. Pastures, particularly in northern New England, were in good condition and growing well. Farmers were active applying protective sprays, weeding, and fertilizing fields.

### SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
<b>Topsoil</b>			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	18	2	5
Adequate	74	68	82
Surplus	8	30	13
<b>Subsoil</b>			
Very Short	0	0	1
Short	3	1	4
Adequate	79	68	82
Surplus	18	31	13

### FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Set	Fruit Size	Condition
	2012	2011	5-yr Avg			
Apples	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Peaches	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Pears	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Blueberries						
Highbush	-	-	-	Avg/Abv	Average	Good
Wild	-	-	-	Abv/Avg	N/A	Exc/Good
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-			Good
Strawberries	25	25	20	Average	Average	Good

### FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2012	2011	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Planted --				
Barley, ME	100	100	100	
Oats, ME	100	100	100	
Potatoes				
Maine	100	99	100	
Mass	100	100	100	
Silage Corn	90	85	95	
Sweet Corn	85	85	85	
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	80	75	75	Good/Fair
Shade	95	100	100	Good
-- Percent Emerged --				
Barley	100	80	90	Excellent
Oats	100	70	90	Excellent
Potatoes				
Maine	90	45	70	Excellent/Good
Mass	100	95	99	Good
Rhode Island	100	100	99	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	80	65	85	Good
Sweet Corn	55	65	70	Good
Dry Hay				
-- Percent Harvested --				
First Cut	65	50	55	Good
Second Cut	10	0	<5	Good/Excellent

**Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics**

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday June 11, 2012  
 To: Sunday June 17, 2012

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	---	---	---	---	---	---
<b>MAINE</b>														
Augusta_State_A	46	78	62	-3	527	+125	107	+33	0.53	-0.24	2	7.16	+3.95	13
Bangor_Intl_Arp	44	78	61	-2	481	+140	87	+36	0.34	-0.43	1	4.77	+1.65	14
Bethel	44	81	62	-2	464	+108	83	+26	0.46	-0.50	2	9.47	+5.86	17
Caribou_Municip	45	78	61	+2	374	+107	67	+38	0.61	-0.04	1	2.98	+0.31	10
Dover-Foxcroft	42	78	60	-2	345	+71	45	+16	0.44	-0.47	2	4.58	+1.15	16
Frenchville	43	77	60	-1	304	+73	58	+41	0.42	-0.28	1	2.69	-0.14	11
Houlton	40	78	60	-1	343	+70	50	+19	0.23	-0.54	1	1.13	-1.95	9
Livermore_Falls	42	79	61	+1	455	+176	80	+49	0.52	-0.46	2	9.78	+6.03	17
Moosehead	39	76	58	-2	248	+48	21	+11	0.58	-0.33	2	5.61	+2.16	11
Portland_ME	47	76	62	-1	499	+177	90	+51	0.53	-0.31	2	9.96	+6.74	13
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>														
Benton	45	78	63	+2	463	+102	91	+35	0.91	+0.00	2	6.93	+3.44	14
Berlin_AG	44	79	63	+1	480	+137	97	+43	0.52	-0.46	2	6.02	+2.33	12
Concord	46	82	65	+1	694	+264	198	+107	0.96	+0.19	2	4.56	+1.62	14
First_Conn_Lake	41	79	62	+5	344	+161	60	+56	0.53	-0.57	2	4.30	+0.18	9
Keene_AG	46	83	65	-2	676	+145	194	+55	0.64	-0.20	2	6.98	+3.55	17
North_Conway	47	81	63	-1	509	+119	105	+32	0.73	-0.22	2	10.07	+6.36	18
Rochester	46	83	64	-2	669	+191	197	+85	0.95	+0.11	2	6.09	+2.73	11
<b>VERMONT</b>														
Bennington_AP	47	82	66	+5	703	+330	208	+143	0.92	-0.14	1	2.95	-1.32	13
Burlington_Intl	50	85	70	+5	800	+308	285	+162	0.32	-0.51	1	2.04	-1.04	11
Island_Pond	43	80	64	+5	466	+207	102	+69	0.31	-0.71	1	5.86	+1.99	16
Montpelier	43	80	64	+3	549	+193	132	+72	0.38	-0.46	1	3.79	+0.51	13
Rochester	44	83	64	+3	520	+183	124	+69	0.45	-0.43	1	3.17	-0.54	14
Rutland_AG	47	82	65	-1	615	+74	161	+14	0.80	-0.04	1	3.64	+0.31	8
Springfield_VT	48	82	66	+4	733	+337	226	+152	0.63	-0.28	1	4.33	+0.63	14
Sutton	47	78	64	+5	474	+217	103	+71	0.35	-0.66	2	2.72	-1.09	13
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>														
Boston/Logan_In	52	76	64	-4	796	+211	228	+79	0.71	-0.01	2	3.23	+0.33	12
Fitchburg	50	82	66	+4	873	+502	294	+231	0.79	-0.05	2	4.38	+1.05	14
Greenfield	51	83	67	-1	763	+183	244	+87	0.79	-0.12	2	5.00	+1.36	17
New_Bedford	47	80	62	-5	702	+127	179	+40	0.56	-0.28	2	2.29	-1.11	12
Otis_AFB	46	75	61	-4	563	+169	115	+46	0.63	-0.14	2	2.81	-0.34	12
Plymouth	49	76	62	-4	705	+276	189	+103	0.58	-0.23	3	2.56	-0.77	12
Walpole	50	76	64	-3	779	+298	235	+127	0.64	-0.27	2	3.23	-0.11	11
Chicopee/Westov	47	84	66	-3	829	+129	277	+62	0.65	-0.32	2	3.80	-0.09	13
Worthington	45	79	63	+0	562	+188	124	+60	0.88	-0.02	2	5.99	+2.19	17
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>														
Providence	52	79	64	-4	784	+250	223	+93	0.47	-0.30	2	3.42	+0.23	11
Woonsocket	49	84	64	-2	803	+329	244	+149	0.72	-0.26	2	3.59	-0.16	12
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>														
Bridgeport/Siko	58	79	68	+1	866	+268	261	+93	1.49	+0.72	2	3.90	+0.64	12
Hartford/Bradley	52	84	68	+0	940	+279	338	+136	1.02	+0.12	2	3.48	-0.15	14
Norfolk	49	79	64	+2	606	+237	144	+83	0.71	-0.39	2	4.16	-0.15	14
Thomaston_Dam	48	84	67	+3	821	+329	269	+158	0.94	-0.04	2	3.55	-0.37	16
Willimantic	50	83	66	+2	875	+377	295	+183	0.67	-0.17	2	3.09	-0.44	13

**State Weather Summary**

For the Week Ending Sunday, June 17, 2012

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	82	61	-1	0.23	0.92
NH	38	83	63	+1	0.40	1.16
VT	41	88	65	+3	0.39	1.18
MA	43	84	64	-2	0.27	0.98
RI	49	84	64	-3	0.35	0.72
CT	48	84	66	+0	0.52	1.49

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

**CONNECTICUT – Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Finally some hay making weather, after we got another 2+ inches of rain Tuesday and Wednesday. For the last 8 weeks in a row it has rained Tuesday or Wednesday. Strawberries are still going strong. Field corn is still lagging on height, we need some heat. **Ann McCard (FSA), New London:** The beginning of the week brought about one inch of rain, leaving fields that were 'damp' with puddles. Most of field corn planted, but some still to be done--can't get into some fields. The end of the week and weekend were dry and sunny helping to get some haying done. Armyworms reported in some corn fields. **Mary Concklin (Ext), Tolland:** Strawberry harvest in full swing, early varieties done, later varieties being harvested. Good size and quality. Early raspberry harvest began the end of last week. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Starting second cutting of hay, planting corn and picking strawberries. Farmers markets with greenhouse tomatoes, lettuce, cukes, bedding plants, hanging pots, and other items. Some yellow field corn where water pooled may need replanting. Clearing field boundaries around grapes to reduce host plants for SWD, like wild blackberries and raspberries.

**MAINE – Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook:** Excellent growing weather so far. All crops are a bit ahead of schedule. First dry hay being cut this weekend. Potatoes being hilled and sprayed. Everyone is crossing their fingers that we don't get the heavy June downpours of past years. **Don Audibert, (FSA) Northern Aroostook:** It's been a nice week for working on the farm. Some farmers have started cultivating their potatoes. The crop received much needed sun this week. Farmers are doing machinery repairs and getting their sprayers ready to go. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** The sun finally came out over the weekend; however, it was cool for June with temps only in the 60's. Vegetable crops and corn are waiting for some heat to really start growing. The rain finally stopped for awhile at least. Strawberries are being picked, so far the crop looks good. Hay is being cut on the well drained land. Most soils are still wet from all the rain. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Square bales, round bales and wrapped bales are piling up. It is a bumper first crop and second cut harvest has begun. Strawberry harvest has also begun. Looks like another good week for field work and crop growth. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** The past week was a great week to get work done in the fields. First cut of hay is being harvested and looks good. Strawberries are being harvested and crop looks good. Most planting is completed and now the cultivating and spraying begins. Blueberries hopefully had a good pollination but too early to tell. Time to fertilize and spray for pests. Upcoming week looks good for harvesting and finishing the planting of corn. Some areas do still need some moisture. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** Some sun and warm weather this week has helped to dry out the fields. Some dry hay was put up on the dryer ground and some are still waiting to get on wet fields. Early strawberries are appearing at farm stands and PYO's are ready to get started if the weather cooperates. **Elaine S Moccus (FSA), Somerset:** Perfect hay weather for most days this week - with only one day mid-week with rain. Field corn and veggies needs sun and warmth, which is predicted for the coming week. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Some drier weather has helped and the forecast looks good for an extended period of time. Lots of ruts in grass fields where farmers are trying to harvest first cutting. Still planting corn in many locations. Strawberry harvest beginning.

**MASSACHUSETTS – Debra Senger (FSA), Berkshire:** The weather has been cooperating here in the Berkshires with warm days and cool nights. The producers were cutting hay last week. **Julie Viveiros (FSA), Bristol/Norfolk:** Good dry stretch at the end of the week...great haying weather. **Heather Baylis (FSA) Franklin:** On lower lying lands the soil is less saturated and field activities are continuing throughout the county. Many brought in hay through the end of the week. Those who got sweet corn in at the beginning of

April will be harvesting before the end of June, but if planted later the cooler temps have slowed the growth. Potatoes are in bloom. Harvesting beets, strawberries, asparagus, spinach, greens, radishes and rhubarb continued. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Mostly a dry, sunny and warm week. Crop fields still are very wet. Past wet weather conditions have made it very favorable for the following plant diseases: downy mildew and late blight. Growers are applying protective sprays to stop this from affecting their crops. Potato Beetle, imported cabbage worm, diamond back moths, and cabbage leaper are some of the pests affecting the area crops. Vegetable growers are harvesting beets, asparagus, radishes, peas, strawberries, raspberries, spinach, and greens. Hay fields are drying out and harvesting continues. Silage and grain growers are top dressing their crops. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: We are well into bloom now, and pollination weather has been good, although a bit cooler than normal through the weekend. Bees appear to be getting the job done so far. Growers are into their second fruit rot fungicide applications and their first fruitworm insecticide application. Grubs have really been causing problems in several beds, especially on the higher edges. Oriental beetle, in particular, has been involved in these issues, due primarily to a mild winter and a lack of winter floods on the beds. Other insects are causing issues too. Dodder has really started to grow and spread. It was cold enough last night in certain locations for growers to run their sprinklers for frost protection!

**NEW HAMPSHIRE – Kelly McAdam (Ext), Belknap:** Strawberry growers have begun picking their first harvest this week. There has been some early insect pressure on cucumbers and squash crops. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** One late afternoon-to-midmorning period of rain Tuesday and Wednesday, but the rest of the week was absolutely perfect. Farmers working hard to catch up on harvesting first cut hay with first prolonged spell of decent drying conditions. Regrowth is going strong. Field corn doing well, benefiting from sunshine. Vegetables are doing well - wide variety of greens, plus high tunnel tomatoes and even a few cukes and zucchini showing up. PYO strawberries in full swing. No blueberries or raspberries yet, but growers anticipating an earlier than normal harvest. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Mostly warm and sunny making good conditions for crop growth and field activities. Nice crop of haylage and dry baled hay being harvested and put into bunk silos and barns with very good quality. Field corn starting to put on some leaf cover and seems to be a promising year. Timothy past boot-stage at many locations. Cucumber beetles somewhat troubling on pumpkins and related vegetables, appears they wintered over well. Yellow rattle weed beginning to come into blossom. Sweet peas in flower. A memorable year for wildflowers in the North Country. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending June 16th, we received less than an inch of rain. Rain arrived on Tuesday and Wednesday. Sunny, warm conditions on either end of the week made for good haying weather. Farmers were taking advantage of the ideal haying conditions. Reports of army worms are earlier than normal, but isolated at this time. Be on the watch for these. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Strawberries were being picked during the week (70% harvest), and strawberry PYO operations open over the beautiful weekend. Sweet cherry harvest is underway and some ripening fruit is cracking with the rain showers that occurred during the beginning of the week. Fruit growers monitored pest and crop development and applied cover sprays for pests. Mowing orchard floors and weed spraying under trees. Apple Scab starting to be noticed and Bacteria Spot on peaches is present. Field Crops: Most farmers are finishing-up planting and weed spraying corn fields. Farmers were trying to make haylage and baled hay between showers. Soil nitrate testing for field corn to determine nitrogen fertilizer needs and side-dressing fields. Vegetables: Harvesting greens, spinach, scallions, radishes, greenhouse tomatoes, rhubarb, lettuce and summer squash. Asparagus harvest is over. Continued making successive plantings

of various vegetable crops. Growers busy side dressing fields with fertilizer, cultivating weeds, scouting for pests and spraying if needed. Stripe Cucumber Beetle seen on vine crops. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** A drier and sunnier week. Catching up with field work. Planting sweet corn and a whole array of vegetables. Topdressing vegetables and some showing nitrogen deficiency after all the rain we had last week. Mowing orchards and monitoring for pests. Some blueberry fruits are showing some cold or frost damage. Picking strawberries, greens, Swiss chard, and herbs. Farmers markets very busy. Planting field corn and haying.

**RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties:** What a difference a week makes! Acres and acres of hay are being harvested, first cutting. Strawberries; the late berries are in and the sizes are huge. Sweet corn looks good; some of the early corn is all tasseled out. They should start picking summer squash both green and yellow this week. The early potato crop was hilled up for the last time. They should be in early this year, probably by the end of July. Farmers are picking tomatoes in high tunneled houses this week and there is a nice size to them. Livestock are doing well.

**VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Nice week. Chopping haylage, baling hay, spreading manure after harvest, and still working ground to plant corn and soybeans. Initial corn planting doing good, many wet spots damaged corn. Armyworm concerns in hay and corn, spraying a lot of fields. Overestimated corn planted-

many, many clay fields not even planted yet. This week a lot of field work got caught up. **Heather Darby (Ext), Franklin:** Armyworm outbreak had led to some early harvest second cut. Several no-till fields of corn were demolished from the armyworm and replanting in progress. Most first cut is finished at this point. Topdressing of corn has started. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Super week here in Franklin County. Nice rain early in the week with nice temps and drying air have really kept growth going. Strawberries are here, with great size, juiciness and flavor. Gardens are doing super. Corn is growing well and getting to the size of top dress nitrogen. Cooler temps are keeping growth from bursting, however, nice and steady wins the race every time. Pastures are doing well, however, grass is getting a little tough with the stretch of no rain. Army worms have shown up and accelerating second cut harvest. Numbers are not outrageous, however, the alert flag has gone up and observations need to be regular. **Heather Mateja (FSA), Lamoille/Washington:** Great week to get hay in and that is what everyone was doing. The corn is looking great and ahead of most seasons. No sign of armyworms in Lamoille County. Veggie growers are irrigating and waiting for some rain. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** This past week was the longest stretch of fair weather we have had in a long time. All chopped first cut hay is complete. Still some dry square baling going on out there. Second crop hay is coming nicely. Yields should be good. Corn is about 12-18" tall. Most corn has a healthy green color to it. Pastures are still growing well.

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