

Crop Progress & Condition



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

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July 2, 2012 – 4 pm

For week ending 7/1/12

Mix of Rain and Heat Boosts Crop Growth

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending July 1, 2012, there were 4.8 days available for fieldwork across New England. Pasture condition was rated 1 percent poor, 12 percent fair, 60 percent good, and 27 percent excellent. The week began cool and rainy with daytime temperatures ranging from the lower 60s to mid-70s. Most locations received over an inch of rain with northern Maine reporting higher amounts. Weather in New England warmed up significantly on Friday with temperatures remaining in the 80s and 90s for the rest of the week. There were isolated thunderstorms that produced hail during the second half of the week. Total precipitation for the week ranged from 0.2 to 5.4 inches.

FRUIT: Strawberry picking was wrapping up in southern New England but lagged in Maine due to frequent showers. These showers discouraged activity at some pick-your-own operations. More operations across New England began picking mature highbush blueberries and raspberries by week's end. Maine's wild blueberry crop was reported in great condition and began to show blue color. Wild blueberry growers in Maine were capturing fruit flies and applying herbicides. Cranberries were at full bloom to petal fall stage by week's end. Fruit growers were busy mowing grass, monitoring and applying cover sprays for pests, weed spraying under trees, renovating strawberry beds, and training young fruit trees.

VEGETABLES: Vegetables were generally doing well but some vegetable crops in Maine were experiencing stress from overabundance of moisture. Some farmers were prevented from planting due to saturated soils. Vegetable growers harvested an array of vegetables, including sweet corn, beets, cucumbers, greens, herbs, peas, radishes, rhubarb, scallions, spinach, summer squash, zucchini, and greenhouse tomatoes. Growers were also busy making successive plantings of vegetable crops, applying fertilizer, cultivating, scouting for pests, and irrigating and spraying if needed.

FIELD CROPS: Hot weather combined with abundant moisture boosted hay and corn growth. Some growers reported corn height at 5 feet in parts of New Hampshire and southern New England. Crop conditions in parts of Maine were spotty as some fields received too much rain over the previous week. Potato and grain crops in Maine were reported a week or two ahead of schedule. There had been reports of over 5 inches of rain falling in Aroostook County, saturating soils and delaying fieldwork. Extent of damage caused by rain was undetermined as of week's end. Farmers began top dressing tobacco once they finished planting the crop. Pastures were in good condition, particularly in areas that received adequate precipitation. Farmers were applying protective sprays, weeding, and fertilizing fields.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

| Soil Rating | This Week | Last Week | Last Year |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| -- Percent -- | | | |
| Topsoil | | | |
| Very Short | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Short | 8 | 28 | 12 |
| Adequate | 77 | 66 | 70 |
| Surplus | 15 | 6 | 18 |
| Subsoil | | | |
| Very Short | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Short | 7 | 19 | 8 |
| Adequate | 82 | 64 | 75 |
| Surplus | 11 | 17 | 17 |

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

| Crop | Percent Harvested | | | Fruit Set | Fruit Size | Condition |
|-----------------|-------------------|------|----------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| | 2012 | 2011 | 5-yr Avg | | | |
| Apples | - | - | - | Avg/Below | Average | Good/Fair |
| Peaches | - | - | - | Average | Average | Good/Fair |
| Pears | - | - | - | Average | Average | Good/Fair |
| Blueberries | | | | | | |
| Highbush | <5 | 0 | <5 | Avg/Above | Average | Good |
| Wild | - | - | - | Above/Avg | Above/Avg | Exc/Good |
| Cranberries, MA | - | - | - | Average | | Good |
| Strawberries | 75 | 65 | 65 | | | |

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

| Crop | 2012 | 2011 | 5-yr Avg | Condition |
|-------------------------|------|------|----------|----------------|
| -- Percent Planted -- | | | | |
| Silage Corn | 99 | 95 | 99 | |
| Sweet Corn | 95 | 95 | 95 | |
| Tobacco | | | | |
| Broadleaf | 99 | 95 | 99 | Good |
| Shade | 100 | 100 | 100 | Good |
| -- Percent Emerged -- | | | | |
| Barley | 100 | 100 | 100 | Excellent/Good |
| Oats | 100 | 100 | 100 | Excellent/Good |
| Potatoes | | | | |
| Maine | 100 | 95 | 99 | Excellent/Good |
| Silage Corn | 95 | 90 | 95 | Good |
| Sweet Corn | 80 | 90 | 90 | |
| -- Percent Harvested -- | | | | |
| Potatoes | | | | |
| Mass | | | | Good |
| Rhode Island | | | | Good/Excellent |
| Sweet Corn | <5 | 0 | 0 | Good |
| Dry Hay | | | | |
| First Cut | 80 | 70 | 75 | |
| Second Cut | 30 | <5 | 10 | Good |

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday June 25, 2012
 To: Sunday July 1, 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 | DFN | DAYS | TOTAL | DFN | DAYS |
| | --- | --- | --- | --- | TOT | DFN | TOT | DFN | INCHES | --- | --- | INCHES | --- | --- |
| MAINE | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Augusta_State_A | 57 | 89 | 69 | +2 | 800 | +167 | 241 | +80 | 1.11 | +0.36 | 5 | 5.57 | +2.51 | 13 |
| Bangor_Intl_Arp | 55 | 88 | 68 | +3 | 727 | +172 | 193 | +71 | 2.67 | +1.90 | 6 | 6.79 | +3.71 | 15 |
| Bethel | 54 | 85 | 66 | +0 | 712 | +141 | 193 | +65 | 2.55 | +1.67 | 4 | 6.01 | +2.34 | 12 |
| Caribou_Municip | 56 | 85 | 65 | +2 | 605 | +158 | 159 | +85 | 3.88 | +3.12 | 6 | 6.97 | +4.23 | 12 |
| Dover-Foxcroft | 51 | 87 | 65 | +2 | 566 | +105 | 132 | +53 | 3.75 | +2.91 | 7 | 8.22 | +4.77 | 19 |
| Frenchville | 54 | 81 | 63 | +0 | 511 | +108 | 128 | +71 | 2.95 | +2.18 | 6 | 6.20 | +3.26 | 14 |
| Houlton | 50 | 85 | 64 | +0 | 566 | +108 | 137 | +57 | 5.35 | +4.58 | 7 | 11.51 | +8.43 | 15 |
| Livermore_Falls | 53 | 86 | 66 | +2 | 702 | +236 | 189 | +108 | 2.76 | +1.87 | 4 | 7.09 | +3.28 | 13 |
| Moosehead | 51 | 84 | 62 | -1 | 431 | +71 | 77 | +33 | 1.27 | +0.30 | 4 | 7.46 | +3.76 | 12 |
| Portland_ME | 59 | 88 | 70 | +5 | 776 | +241 | 229 | +120 | 0.41 | -0.36 | 4 | 3.62 | +0.40 | 13 |
| NEW HAMPSHIRE | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Benton | 48 | 86 | 64 | -2 | 692 | +136 | 186 | +74 | 1.74 | +0.90 | 4 | 4.14 | +0.61 | 13 |
| Berlin_AG | 54 | 86 | 65 | +1 | 727 | +182 | 204 | +90 | 1.85 | +0.94 | 7 | 4.23 | +0.41 | 15 |
| Concord | 54 | 92 | 68 | +2 | 973 | +309 | 337 | +157 | 0.30 | -0.41 | 2 | 2.02 | -0.94 | 11 |
| First_Conn_Lake | 52 | 84 | 64 | +4 | 575 | +256 | 153 | +128 | 1.50 | +0.45 | 6 | 3.26 | -1.05 | 13 |
| Keene_AG | 53 | 91 | 67 | -3 | 943 | +158 | 322 | +72 | 0.74 | -0.10 | 5 | 2.49 | -0.87 | 14 |
| North_Conway | 54 | 86 | 66 | -2 | 760 | +148 | 219 | +66 | 1.64 | +0.73 | 5 | 4.97 | +1.26 | 14 |
| Rochester | 58 | 91 | 70 | +2 | 970 | +248 | 358 | +145 | 0.74 | -0.05 | 4 | 3.55 | +0.28 | 13 |
| VERMONT | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bennington_AP | 49 | 87 | 66 | +2 | 960 | +386 | 327 | +198 | 0.55 | -0.45 | 3 | 1.84 | -2.38 | 10 |
| Burlington_Intl | 56 | 92 | 70 | +2 | 1117 | +378 | 463 | +236 | 1.97 | +1.14 | 5 | 2.94 | -0.33 | 10 |
| Island_Pond | 53 | 85 | 64 | +2 | 693 | +268 | 195 | +125 | 2.43 | +1.45 | 6 | 3.56 | -0.42 | 14 |
| Montpelier | 51 | 86 | 65 | +0 | 791 | +237 | 237 | +114 | 2.58 | +1.84 | 5 | 4.25 | +1.05 | 12 |
| Rochester | 49 | 86 | 64 | +0 | 756 | +224 | 224 | +111 | 0.97 | +0.13 | 5 | 1.99 | -1.48 | 12 |
| Rutland_AG | 51 | 88 | 65 | -4 | 866 | +75 | 278 | +25 | 1.40 | +0.56 | 6 | 3.39 | +0.03 | 10 |
| Springfield_VT | 52 | 91 | 68 | +3 | 1020 | +411 | 373 | +228 | 0.39 | -0.46 | 5 | 1.54 | -2.04 | 13 |
| Sutton | 50 | 85 | 64 | +2 | 694 | +269 | 190 | +117 | 1.47 | +0.49 | 6 | 2.50 | -1.48 | 15 |
| MASSACHUSETTS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Boston/Logan_In | 61 | 90 | 74 | +3 | 1135 | +264 | 428 | +136 | 1.04 | +0.34 | 3 | 3.57 | +0.68 | 12 |
| Fitchburg | 57 | 94 | 72 | +7 | 1203 | +616 | 484 | +347 | 0.58 | -0.26 | 4 | 2.26 | -1.10 | 13 |
| Greenfield | 54 | 91 | 69 | -2 | 1056 | +206 | 397 | +112 | 0.18 | -0.68 | 3 | 2.21 | -1.34 | 12 |
| New_Bedford | 55 | 90 | 71 | +2 | 1007 | +152 | 347 | +73 | 0.81 | +0.06 | 2 | 2.17 | -1.13 | 10 |
| Otis_AFB | 57 | 86 | 71 | +4 | 848 | +216 | 268 | +108 | 1.11 | +0.41 | 3 | 2.36 | -0.62 | 12 |
| Plymouth | 57 | 90 | 72 | +4 | 1011 | +334 | 362 | +172 | 0.97 | +0.20 | 4 | 3.16 | -0.03 | 13 |
| Walpole | 56 | 91 | 72 | +4 | 1089 | +358 | 398 | +183 | 1.25 | +0.41 | 2 | 3.40 | -0.08 | 11 |
| Chicopee/Westov | 53 | 95 | 71 | -1 | 1137 | +139 | 445 | +75 | 0.43 | -0.48 | 3 | 1.72 | -2.05 | 11 |
| Worthington | 48 | 88 | 66 | +1 | 811 | +230 | 236 | +105 | 0.31 | -0.60 | 2 | 2.52 | -1.09 | 11 |
| RHODE ISLAND | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Providence | 58 | 89 | 72 | +3 | 1106 | +297 | 405 | +145 | 1.43 | +0.68 | 3 | 3.80 | +0.74 | 11 |
| Woonsocket | 56 | 89 | 71 | +3 | 1109 | +389 | 410 | +212 | 1.02 | +0.11 | 4 | 2.87 | -0.89 | 13 |
| CONNECTICUT | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bridgeport/Siko | 55 | 92 | 75 | +4 | 1216 | +334 | 471 | +163 | 0.86 | +0.02 | 3 | 3.11 | -0.11 | 9 |
| Hartford/Bradley | 52 | 95 | 73 | +3 | 1277 | +324 | 535 | +184 | 0.76 | -0.04 | 2 | 2.47 | -0.98 | 11 |
| Norfolk | 50 | 88 | 67 | +2 | 863 | +285 | 264 | +134 | 0.87 | -0.15 | 4 | 2.29 | -1.99 | 12 |
| Thomaston_Dam | 48 | 91 | 69 | +3 | 1115 | +383 | 423 | +215 | 0.65 | -0.26 | 3 | 2.44 | -1.34 | 11 |
| Willimantic | 55 | 92 | 71 | +4 | 1182 | +440 | 462 | +249 | 1.25 | +0.34 | 4 | 3.99 | +0.48 | 13 |

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, July 1, 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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 1-888-798-9955

| STATE | AIR TEMPERATURES | | | | PRECIPITATION | |
|-------|------------------|----|-----|-----|---------------|------|
| | LO | HI | AVG | DFN | LO | HI |
| ME | 50 | 90 | 66 | +1 | 0.41 | 5.35 |
| NH | 39 | 93 | 67 | +1 | 0.20 | 6.26 |
| VT | 42 | 92 | 66 | +0 | 0.32 | 6.11 |
| MA | 48 | 96 | 70 | +3 | 0.18 | 1.74 |
| RI | 56 | 89 | 71 | +3 | 0.87 | 1.43 |
| CT | 48 | 95 | 71 | +2 | 0.63 | 1.56 |

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:

Scattered showers provided some relief of hot conditions, however, for some crops like turf grass, irrigation was still needed. Harvesting summer squash, cucumbers and sweet corn. Late first cutting made with short dry down time needed, however, pop up showers did wash some hay. Tobacco likes this hot weather and looks good. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** This has been a good week for crops, plenty of sunshine and warm temperatures to grow on! Early planted field corn is chest high, even the last fields planted are being nitrate tested. Second cut on hay that actually was first cut is pretty well complete. Some fields with combined first and second are still coming off as farms opted for quality before quantity. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Picking blueberries, raspberries, lettuce, sweet peas, squash, and red potatoes. Mowing hay. Scattered thunderstorms. Hot and humid. Corn is from a few inches to five feet, growing well in hot weather.

MAINE – Marcia Hall (FSA), Androscoggin

/Oxford/Sagadahoc: Entire county's crop conditions are very spotty. Some areas have had past frost damage and excess rain while others are doing fine. Some fields are still too wet to plant small veggies while on an opposite note some farmers need to harvest potatoes early to prevent "cooking" from bouts of excess heat. **Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook:** Rain storms of 5 to 10 inches hit the county last week. There was some mild erosion on newly planted fields. Quarter size hail fell in a few areas Saturday. I don't have a damage report as of now. Hay fields and pastures look excellent. Most crops look to be a week or two ahead of schedule. So far this is shaping up to be one of the best growing seasons we have had in years. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: We have had a lot of rain this past week, farmers are behind spraying and cultivating. Not sure yet of how much damage the rain has caused. **Don Audibert, (FSA) Northern Aroostook:** Rain just about every day this week. The St. John Valley received approximately four inches of rain. We were lucky, Southern Aroostook received over 10 inches of rain. Farmers will try to finish their last hilling on potatoes if the weather can cooperate this coming week and also spray for blight. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Field work came to a virtual standstill this week. Soils are saturated and there has been no chance for them to dry out. This area received extra inches of rain to add to totals of over 10 inches for the previous four weeks. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock /Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Another week with isolated showers. Some are still trying to get corn planted on fields that just don't have time to dry up. Hay crop looks good on first cutting. Corn and potatoes look pretty good. Farmers need to spray but it needs to stop raining long enough. Vegetable crops look good, need a good week or two with no rain and things would look much better. Strawberries and blueberries look great so far. Harvest is about half way done on strawberries and some blueberry producers are saying harvest looks like it could be two weeks ahead of the normal time. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis/Penobscot:** Fields are starting to dry out from excessive rain last week. Strawberry season is in full swing. Blueberries are starting to color. Farmers markets are going strong. **Elaine S Moccus (FSA), Somerset:** Rainy weather continued the first of the week, warming up toward the end of the week with some reports of hail on Friday and intermittent rain showers over the weekend. Some corn producers are late getting their corn planted on heavy ground; most areas have been planted. Producers are reporting abundant hay

production at this time. Apple producers are reporting good fruit set. Farmers markets are going strong with lots of greens, peas, carrots, beets and other produce. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** More rain....the ground is saturated, pretty much halting most field work. Strawberry harvest is being impacted with few pickers and rotting berries. No sunlight has impacted pasture grass production. Seems like it rains every day! **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: We are beginning to see some blue fruit and starting to capture wild blueberry fruit flies so it is expected that thresholds will be reached soon and spot treatment and border sprays for the flies will need to be applied. Post-emergence applications of selective herbicides were being applied to control the increased weed presence from the ample rainfall.

MASSACHUSETTS – Debra Senger (FSA), Berkshire:

My guys got their first cutting of their hay done...we have been having warm days and cool nights. **Heather Baylis (FSA) Franklin:** A very hot, humid week with occasional showers. Strawberries, some sweet corn, yellow and green squash, and greens are all being harvested. In some areas, blueberries and raspberries are just starting to be harvested. Farmers are just starting to top-dress tobacco and planting has finished. Some irrigation is going on with this hot weather. Most everyone has finished first cutting of hay. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** It's been a hot, humid week with scattered showers. Some areas received ½ inch of rain, whereas others received as much as two inches. Vegetable growers were harvesting sweet corn, cucumbers, beets, carrots, summer squash, greens, raspberries, and blueberries. They are also busy scouting for pests and diseases. Farmers are applying a fertilizer top dress, cultivating, and irrigating if needed. Tobacco crops are looking good, planting has finished and top dressing has begun.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Donna Juneau (FSA) Belknap

/Merrimack: A mostly warm, dry week with temperatures in the 80s over the weekend of the 23rd and 24th; dipping down to the highs 60s and 70s early in the week; and warming to the 80s and 90s toward the end of the week. Some rainfall each day Sunday through Wednesday with the heaviest rainfall on Monday the 25th. The end of the week brought good weather for drying hay and producers were out on the fields baling over this past weekend. Most field corn has been planted and emerged. Vegetable producers have reported a busy week planting and will continue to plant this week. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** After a few showers on Monday and Tuesday, warm weather for the rest of the week, and getting pretty hot by the weekend. Field corn is doing well, some of it now shoulder-high. Farms harvesting dry hay as weather permits and other farms working on second cutting for haylage. Veggie crops doing well - no major pest problems evident. PYO raspberries and blueberries about to begin. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending June 30th, we received 2.5 inches of rain over a four day period. The first half of the week brought showers and heavy rains. Some scattered reports of hail and crop damage were also reported. The hot weather of the last few days coupled with abundant soil moisture has helped the corn grow. Most hay fields look good. Yellow Rattle is already going to seed. Many later cut hay fields are two weeks or more ahead of schedule. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Warm weather that occurred during two weeks of June ripened the strawberry crop quickly, where most growers are already renovating harvested beds. Fruit growers monitored pest and crop

development and applied sprays for pest control. Also, growers are training young fruit trees along with mowing orchard floors. Sweet cherry harvest is complete and raspberry harvest continued along with first blueberries being harvested. Mummyberry disease is showing up on highbush blueberries. Field Crops: Farmers continued to bale hay or make haylage at a faster rate, along with side-dressing fertilizer to field corn if needed. Vegetables: Harvesting greens, spinach, scallions, radishes, cucumbers, greenhouse tomatoes, rhubarb, lettuce, zucchini, summer squash and potatoes. Growers were busy trying to side-dressing fields with fertilizer, cultivating, mowing weeds, scouting for pests and spraying if needed. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Strawberry season is done. Picking blueberries and raspberries as well as an array of vegetables, herbs and cut flowers. Growers renovating strawberry beds. Orchards are monitored for pests. Mowing orchard floors. Haying and pastures still looking green. Plenty of sunny and dry weather in the last six days. A heat wave is anticipated for this week.

VERMONT – Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin: Nice week for growth in Franklin County. Much second cut haylage being harvested with great yields. Armyworm larvae cycle is coming to the end with minimal damage being reported this week. Early harvests of second cut paid off as the most effective and economical control. Our producers deserve a great pat on the back for monitoring and responding accordingly. Weather is allowing for second cut dry hay harvest and should help to finish the second cut haylage with regrowth going great. Corn growth is fantastic with great utilization of any top-dress done. Blueberries and strawberries are right on schedule for our Fourth of July celebration, enjoy. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** We had several days of showers and rain. This has helped with second and third crop growth as well as corn. Most corn is above the knee and has a very nice dark green color. Pastures are still doing alright considering the dry weather earlier.

To receive this report every Monday evening, send an e-mail message to listserv@newsbox.usda.gov and in the body, type **subscribe usda-new-eng-crop-weather**

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