

Crop Progress & Condition



NEW ENGLAND
Agricultural
Statistics



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August 20, 2012 – 4 pm

For week ending 8/19/12

Soil Moisture Levels Continue to Improve

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending August 19, 2012, there were 5.2 days available for fieldwork across New England. Pasture condition was rated 8 percent poor, 33 percent fair, 57 percent good, and 2 percent excellent. It was another warm week throughout New England with average temperatures ranging from 2 degrees above normal in Connecticut to 4 degrees above normal in Maine. Most areas received some precipitation during the week. The lowest precipitation total for the week was recorded in Vermont while the weekly high of 4.8 inches was recorded in Maine.

FRUIT: The wild blueberry harvest continued in Downeast, Maine with a better than average crop expected. Rain showers and cooler overnight temperature this week were beneficial to the fruit development. The precipitation also helped cranberries size up in Massachusetts. Producers harvested apples, highbush blueberries, peaches, plums, and raspberries. Apple yields were below average in some areas due to the early bloom and frost injury this spring. Favorable summer weather boosted pick-your-own sales at many fruit operations. Orchardists also monitored for pests, pruned trees, mowed orchard floors, and moved bins into orchards.

VEGETABLES: Vegetable stands were full of produce during the week, especially sweet corn and tomatoes. Other vegetables harvested last week included green beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, cucumbers, greens, melons, peas, peppers, radishes, squash, and zucchini. Blight was reported in some tomato fields, due in part to the recent rains which have disrupted spray schedules.

FIELD CROPS: Precipitation over the past several weeks accelerated hay re-growth, but slowed harvest progress. Producers will continue second and third cuttings when drier weather returns this week as predicted. The field corn crop condition has varied greatly across New England. Some areas have reported uneven stands and variable maturity levels due to late plantings and dry summer conditions. Barley and oat harvests were in full swing in Maine last week with good results reported so far. Some producers in Maine have sprayed to kill potato vines and are gearing up for harvest.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	1	3	2
Short	23	31	11
Adequate	72	62	75
Surplus	4	4	12
Subsoil			
Very Short	2	3	2
Short	28	32	20
Adequate	68	62	71
Surplus	2	3	7

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Set	Fruit Size	Condition
	2012	2011	5-yr Avg			
Apples	10	10	10		Average	Fair/Good
Peaches	50	65	55		Average	Good
Pears	10	<5	5		Average	Good/Fair
Blueberries						
Highbush	85	80	80			
Wild	60	60	65		Average	Exc/Good
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-	Avg/Above	Avg/Above	Good

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2012	2011	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Harvested --				
Barley	60	<5	15	Excellent/Good
Oats	25	<5	10	Excellent/Good
Potatoes				
Maine	<5	0	<5	Good/Excellent
Mass	15	20	15	Good
Rhode Island	15	10	15	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	-	-	-	Good
Sweet Corn	55	55	55	Good/Fair
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	65	35	45	
Shade	95	70	65	
Dry Hay				
First	99	99	99	
Second	80	70	70	
Third	25	15	15	Fair/Good

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday August 13, 2012
 To: Sunday August 19, 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	83	71	+3	1881	+301	832	+214	2.56	+1.79	5	4.65	+1.61	15
Bangor_Intl_Arp	56	85	71	+5	1764	+323	740	+222	1.55	+0.78	2	2.63	-0.31	10
Bethel	52	82	68	+3	1676	+239	667	+162	2.62	+1.71	5	7.26	+3.72	16
Caribou_Municip	50	83	70	+8	1548	+366	612	+275	0.47	-0.44	3	2.48	-1.29	11
Dover-Foxcroft	50	83	69	+5	1509	+249	585	+193	3.11	+2.27	6	4.46	+1.25	14
Frenchville	49	81	68	+6	1359	+261	489	+201	0.71	-0.27	4	2.88	-0.84	12
Houlton	47	84	69	+6	1509	+276	591	+216	2.04	+1.08	3	2.74	-0.95	10
Livermore_Falls	50	84	69	+6	1673	+430	671	+297	1.62	+0.66	5	4.51	+1.00	17
Moosehead	45	80	65	+4	1199	+150	369	+99	2.66	+1.82	4	3.30	-0.16	12
Portland_ME	57	84	71	+4	1865	+423	828	+300	2.82	+2.19	5	9.00	+6.47	15
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	47	82	67	+4	1552	+218	574	+163	0.33	-0.58	2	5.45	+1.92	14
Berlin_AG	47	81	68	+4	1641	+298	629	+195	1.65	+0.66	4	6.73	+2.93	12
Concord	49	87	71	+5	2096	+496	970	+345	1.36	+0.59	4	7.19	+4.11	16
First_Conn_Lake	47	79	66	+6	1335	+427	448	+270	1.26	+0.07	4	4.90	+0.34	12
Keene_AG	48	86	72	+4	2037	+255	926	+168	0.97	+0.06	3	5.49	+1.95	13
North_Conway	51	81	68	+3	1745	+249	714	+167	2.21	+1.30	5	8.47	+4.89	18
Rochester	53	88	72	+4	2147	+447	1045	+343	1.69	+0.88	6	5.64	+2.34	15
VERMONT														
Bennington_AP	45	85	68	+4	2020	+619	897	+432	0.22	-0.76	3	3.93	+0.13	13
Burlington_Intl	50	84	71	+3	2277	+559	1133	+419	0.06	-0.88	1	3.99	+0.39	9
Island_Pond	44	81	66	+4	1548	+447	571	+292	0.39	-0.73	3	4.92	+0.58	13
Montpelier	46	80	66	+3	1708	+354	669	+231	0.21	-0.70	1	4.13	+0.79	11
Rochester	46	81	68	+4	1688	+365	666	+245	0.52	-0.53	2	4.31	+0.28	13
Rutland_AG	45	81	67	-2	1839	+71	762	+23	0.00	-0.98	0	4.65	+0.88	12
Springfield_VT	48	87	71	+6	2170	+712	1033	+526	0.13	-0.78	2	4.40	+0.87	14
Sutton	46	81	66	+5	1549	+430	562	+268	0.07	-1.03	2	3.38	-0.89	11
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	61	86	75	+4	2410	+400	1213	+270	0.87	+0.13	2	4.87	+2.08	12
Fitchburg	53	87	74	+9	2498	+1044	1289	+774	2.22	+1.45	4	5.54	+2.30	15
Greenfield	53	87	72	+3	2224	+323	1075	+229	1.35	+0.51	5	5.28	+1.92	17
New_Bedford	57	86	72	-2	2220	+205	1070	+123	1.58	+0.60	3	6.01	+2.46	11
Otis_AFB	57	82	72	+3	1976	+341	906	+232	1.02	+0.25	4	5.48	+2.54	15
Plymouth	60	86	73	+4	2226	+528	1087	+365	1.11	+0.20	4	5.65	+2.26	12
Walpole	54	86	72	+4	2339	+600	1154	+423	0.73	-0.18	3	5.29	+1.90	12
Chicopee/Westov	48	89	72	-2	2350	+177	1168	+110	2.21	+1.43	3	6.10	+3.01	13
Worthington	47	83	67	+2	1792	+375	732	+255	0.97	+0.06	3	4.66	+0.81	14
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	60	85	73	+2	2378	+465	1187	+312	1.46	+0.62	4	5.40	+2.22	13
Woonsocket	54	86	72	+5	2365	+655	1176	+480	1.46	+0.55	4	5.74	+2.10	14
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	60	87	74	+2	2571	+521	1336	+347	0.51	-0.20	4	5.71	+2.60	10
Hartford/Bradle	53	89	73	+2	2591	+498	1359	+356	1.92	+1.08	3	6.23	+3.12	11
Norfolk	49	82	67	+2	1882	+459	794	+310	0.60	-0.45	2	6.34	+2.33	12
Thomaston_Dam	48	88	71	+4	2321	+631	1139	+464	1.37	+0.39	4	5.88	+2.05	16
Willimantic	53	86	73	+5	2435	+714	1225	+522	1.20	+0.33	4	4.05	+0.45	14

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, August 19, 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	42	85	69	+4	0.47	4.84
NH	40	88	69	+4	0.17	2.36
VT	43	87	68	+3	0.00	1.17
MA	46	89	72	+4	0.34	3.76
RI	54	86	72	+3	1.25	1.54
CT	48	89	72	+2	0.51	2.56

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

CONNECTICUT – Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham: Heavy rain and wind again. Knocked some crops around, water came fast and had little time to soak in. Vegetable crops doing well. Field corn maturing for an early harvest on early planted fields.

MAINE – Marcia Hall (FSA), Androscoggin/Oxford/Sagadahoc: Spotty thunderstorms have supplied some areas with too much rain last week. Some areas reported getting 2 inches during one storm over the weekend. Producers are looking for some dry weather to dry out the crop fields. Corn growth is very uneven this year and some fields have spots with no growth. Hay will continue to be harvested with the dry weather coming in this week. **Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook:** McCains has run out of raw product. We are very close to the Shepodies being ready. So the shut down should be short lived. Rain has started the hay crop growing again. We will see some second cutting beginning soon. Barley and oat harvests have been in full swing all week. Good crops and test weights being reported in all areas. **Don Audibert, (FSA) Northern Aroostook:** Did receive some needed rain. Farmers are now harvesting oats and barley. Spraying to kill potato vines has started and getting ready for harvest. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Southern Maine received plenty of rain last week, over two 2 inches in most areas. Rainy weather delayed spraying for disease in tomatoes, early blight is being reported. Squash vine borers are also a problem this year. Local apples are starting to appear at the stores. Size is very good, which will help offset the freeze and set losses earlier this spring. Farmers are looking forward to a sunny, dry week. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Much needed rain received last week should help alleviate some stress. Hopefully crops will recover enough to size up and continue during the harvest season. Hay fields much needed the rain in order to have another cutting. Pastures should green up again. Corn is going to be spotty in maturing in all areas. Farm stands are in full swing. Apple and blueberry harvests are underway. Blueberry crop looks good in areas and spotty in areas. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis/Penobscot:** Rain this past week has caused nightshades to develop blight if not protected. Vegetable stands and farmers markets are full of a bountiful harvest of produce. **Elaine S Moceus (FSA), Somerset:** Most areas received over 2.5 inches of rain on Friday, making the total amount of rainfall as of mid-August over 5 inches. Producers are reporting their corn to be below average at this time, due in part to planting later than usual as well as the dry conditions in July. Peaches and early apple varieties are set to be harvested this week. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Finally some rain came on Thursday. While other parts of the state have had adequate rain, Waldo County has been very dry. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Wild Blueberry harvest continues Downeast. Most areas reporting a better than average crop, but fruit size is small overall. The recent rains and cooler night temperatures are improving berry quality. During the past week we have seen a significant increase in spotted wing drosophila coming to our traps, insecticide applications are being made in fields with fly detection.

MASSACHUSETTS – Russell Norton (Ext), Barnstable: Scattered showers on 3 days during the past week, providing adequate soil moisture. Blueberry harvest is just about finished. Peaches, sweet corn, and tomatoes are abundant. Fall raspberries are beginning to ripen. **Heather Baylis (FSA) Franklin:** Weather continues in a much better pattern, however, producers are now shifting to deal with diseases that have

multiplied with the moisture. The moisture has improved the hay crop, but it is still not great. All summer vegetables are in full harvest including sweet corn, green beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, cucumbers, greens, melons, peppers, radishes, squash, tomatoes, zucchini, and other vegetables. Late blight has hit the county hard in tomato crops that have not been sprayed or have not followed their spray schedules. Growers continue hoeing and cultivating, monitoring for pests, and spraying for diseases and insects. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Heavy rains last week have saturated all crop fields to make it very difficult to harvest. The potato aphid virus has effected many tobacco fields in the valley. Growers continued hoeing and cultivating, monitoring for pests, and spraying for diseases and insects. Harvesting an array of summer vegetables and apples, peaches and blueberries. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Tomorrow we'll find out what this year's crop estimate is for all of the cranberry growing regions. My guess is 2.2 million barrels for Massachusetts. Rain fell several days this week, further helping the berries size up. Fruit rot has been limited so far, but there are outbreaks of flea beetle, for which growers have needed to apply insecticides. Things look very good at this point.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Donna Juneau (FSA) Belknap/Merrimack: Last week brought a mix of sun and showers most days with heavier rain on Thursday, August 16. The rain this week (and last) has improved the quantity and quality of second cut hay and haylage, but slowed harvesting. Rain has also reportedly improved the quality (i.e., size and weight) of the apple crop. Apple growers have indicated that they are harvesting 3 to 4 weeks early due to early spring/record warm temperatures in March. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Generally warm and sunny most of the week, with a few brief periods of scattered showers midweek and cooler temperatures by the weekend. Not caught up for soil moisture, but crops generally look good. Hayfields and pastures look better. Field corn maturing nicely, some should be ready to chop soon. Vegetable crops doing well - wide array of crops available by now. First apples are ready, but yields are very low on account of early bloom and frost/hail injury. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Cooler nights, especially with scattered heavy downpours at times, making hay and haylage problematic. Third cut being taken as conditions allow. Very good regrowth this year with enough soil moisture to promote grasses. Field corn ears filling well on fertile land. Seeing bear damage in corn as ears begin milk stage, other varmint issues as well. Whole range of summer veggies at farm markets, including sweet corn and tomatoes. Winter squash and pumpkins coloring up on vines. Mums I've seen at nurseries look good. Monarch butterflies about. **Heather Bryant (Ext), Grafton:** Late blight confirmed in Grafton County this past week. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending on August 18th, we received just over a half inch of rain. Rain fall amounts per event were less than 0.25 inch per day. The hay crop appears to be recovering from dry conditions earlier in the summer. The corn fields that were planted earlier in the spring are doing well. Some of the fields that were planted later in the season are not as far along. Most of the corn in the county looks good. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Orchardists harvesting peaches, plums, and picking Paulared apples. Orchardists busy monitoring for pests, summer pruning trees, mowing orchard floors, fixing up orchard roads and moved bins into orchards. Highbush blueberry harvest over except for those few growers who have late maturing varieties, and fall raspberry harvest continued. SWD Fruit Fly is being

trapped in almost all small fruit plantings. Farmers are worried about this new pest. Field Crops: Hay cutting continued during the week with the second and third cuttings being made. Some spreading manure on hay fields. Farmers are starting to get ready to make new forage seedings. Vegetables: Growers are harvesting an array of vegetables: beans, beets, cole crops, cucumbers, greens, peas, potatoes, pumpkins, radishes, summer squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, winter squash, zucchini, and other vegetables. Powdery mildew can be found on pumpkins and winter squash. Corn Earworm trap numbers were high to extremely high. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Gorgeous at end of the week with perfect weather for Pick-Your-Own apples, peaches, blueberries and summer raspberries. Harvesting different types of vegetables and there is a big demand at farmstands and farmers markets. Monitoring for insect pests in sweet corn; also monitoring for diseases and insects on other vegetables. Disease pressure seen in high tunnels/hoop-houses. Pasture growing lush green with the rain we received. Haying and haylage been done. **Jenn Zaleski (FSA), Sullivan:** High temperatures were in the 80's during the week with lows in the 60's. Scattered rain showers fell mid-week bringing up to a half an inch of rain to some areas. Rain also fell again Friday evening across the county bringing an additional tenth of an inch of rain. Skies cleared up for the weekend and temperatures cooled town. Highs were in the mid-70s with overnight lows in the upper 40s to mid-50s. Producers were

able to keep bailing hay during the week. Veggies were abundant at farmer's markets and farm stands. Field corn looks great.

RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties: We've had some heavy rains a couple of times this past week. Potato digging was slow last week. A couple of heavy rains slowed it up. Sweet corn is in abundance and real good. Small vegetables are great and very plentiful at this time. The rain has been helping the fruit mature better. Pastures look good. Livestock looks good. It was not a good week for cutting hay with the spotty rains.

VERMONT – Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin: Still low on moisture in Franklin County, however, we are getting enough isolated showers to keep our crops growing. We are very fortunate in Franklin County to be in this situation. Water table is still very low. This is becoming a concern with fall banging at our door. Seeing some garden stands with the early apples, such as Paula Reds advertised. Sweet corn is on the tail end. If anyone is looking for some canning or freezer corn, this is the time to get it. Grasses just seem to keep going. This is remarkable, considering the dry weather. Dairy ration inputs from imported corn continue the rise in prices. This is a time to put the great forages we are fortunate to have in Franklin County to work and reduce those imports as much as possible.

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