

Crop Progress & Condition



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

53 Pleasant Street
Room 2100
Concord, NH 03301

Gary R. Keough, State Statistician, New England Phone: 603-224-9639 Fax: 603-225-1434 www.nass.usda.gov/nh nass-nh@nass.usda.gov

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For week ending 6/16/13

Crops Need Sun

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	0	0	18
Adequate	50	58	74
Surplus	50	42	8
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	0	2	3
Adequate	50	64	79
Surplus	50	34	18

GENERAL CONDITIONS: There were 3.8 days suitable for fieldwork across New England for the week ending June 16, 2013. Pasture condition ratings averaged 29% fair, 61% good, and 10% excellent. Cooler temperatures and significant precipitation dominated most of the week, slowing crop growth and further saturating fields. Average weekly temperatures across the region ranged from 1 to 4 degrees below historical averages. Precipitation averages across the six states ranged from 1.15 to 3.82 inches. Prolonged wet conditions have brought most farm activities to a standstill, particularly in southern New England which received the highest precipitation amounts.

FRUIT: Producers were busy monitoring for pests in orchards and spraying protective fungicides, mowing and spraying weeds under trees. Pollination was complete by the end of the week in the wild blueberry fields in Downeast Maine and the bees were moved out. Growers with adequate hives had good pollination but others reported a poorer fruit set. The bulk of Massachusetts cranberries remained in early bloom and about 10 percent had advanced to full bloom by week's end. Insect pressure has been light; however weeds were growing rapidly in response to the wet weather. The strawberry harvest was just getting underway across New England with 10 percent picked, behind last year and normal due to wet conditions.

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Set	Fruit Size	Condition
	2013	2012	5-yr Avg			
Apples	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good
Peaches	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good
Pears	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good
Blueberries						
Highbush	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good
Wild	-	-	-	N/A	N/A	Good
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-			Good
Strawberries	10	25	20	Average	Average	Good

VEGETABLES: Persistent rain showers have slowed planting progress across the region. Saturated vegetable fields are in need of warmer, sunnier weather to boost crop development. Growers transplanted tomato and pepper plants, and continued making successive plantings of various crops such as sweet corn, pumpkins, squash, and eggplant. Vegetables harvested included asparagus, beets, greens, peas, radishes, rhubarb, and spinach. Growers applied protective fungicide sprays between showers.

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2013	2012	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Planted --				
Barley, ME	99	100	100	
Oats, ME	99	100	100	
Potatoes				
Maine	95	100	100	
Mass	100	100	100	
Silage Corn	95	90	95	
Sweet Corn	85	85	85	
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	75	75	75	Good/Fair
Shade	100	95	99	Good/Fair
-- Percent Emerged --				
Barley	99	100	95	Exc/Good
Oats	99	100	90	Exc/Good
Potatoes				
Maine	50	90	70	Good
Mass	100	100	95	Good
Rhode Island	100	100	99	Good
Silage Corn	85	80	80	Good
Sweet Corn	65	55	65	Good/Fair
-- Percent Harvested --				
Dry Hay				
First Cut	30	60	55	Good/Fair

FIELD CROPS: All field work was slowed by the wet weather. The last 5 percent of corn acreage still remains to be planted. Some emerged corn fields have been sprayed. The rain and lack of sun slowed crop development and caused symptoms of nutrient deficiency in some fields. Saturated soils with excess standing water caused damage to corn and other crops at some locations. A few farmers were able to take advantage of the dry days late in the week to make hay and haylage. Broadleaf tobacco planting made steady progress and is about three-quarters planted in both Connecticut and Massachusetts. Fieldwork was at a standstill for most potato growers in Massachusetts and Rhode Island due to excessive moisture. Crop specialists in northern Maine report that the last 5 percent of the crop is yet to be planted as growers wait for soils to dry out enough to support heavy equipment.

2 – Crop Weather, June 21, 2013

New England Agricultural Statistics, NASS, USDA

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday June 10, 2013
 To: Sunday June 16, 2013

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	52	77	61	-3	416	+43	102	+37	1.19	+0.42	4	6.97	+3.74	17
Bangor_Intl_Arp	46	74	59	-4	344	+30	75	+31	1.66	+0.89	3	6.91	+3.78	18
Bethel	45	75	59	-4	344	+15	67	+17	1.00	+0.03	3	8.25	+4.66	15
Caribou_Municip	41	77	58	-2	347	+102	79	+54	0.66	+0.03	4	7.33	+4.66	18
Dover-Foxcroft	46	76	60	-1	349	+98	78	+53	1.21	+0.32	3	7.40	+4.00	19
Frenchville	38	75	57	-3	283	+73	57	+44	0.33	-0.37	4	6.22	+3.39	19
Houlton	39	75	56	-5	318	+68	59	+32	1.86	+1.09	3	8.86	+5.78	19
Livermore_Falls	43	76	59	-3	352	+97	78	+51	1.51	+0.53	3	6.13	+2.42	15
Moosehead	41	76	58	-1	278	+98	53	+45	1.40	+0.49	3	8.67	+5.26	18
Portland_ME	50	76	61	-2	385	+89	86	+53	1.27	+0.43	4	7.00	+3.80	16
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	46	75	59	-3	400	+63	73	+23	1.40	+0.49	3	7.67	+4.22	18
Berlin_AG	51	78	63	+2	460	+143	115	+67	0.73	-0.25	3	6.47	+2.82	16
Concord	47	79	61	-4	533	+133	141	+60	1.72	+0.95	3	8.08	+5.16	15
First_Conn_Lake	44	75	57	+0	307	+140	53	+51	0.86	-0.22	4	7.25	+3.19	19
Keene_AG	45	78	60	-7	482	-16	125	-2	2.34	+1.50	3	8.95	+5.52	15
North_Conway	47	75	59	-4	414	+52	85	+20	1.05	+0.08	2	6.25	+2.54	17
Rochester	49	76	60	-5	452	+6	106	+6	1.88	+1.04	5	7.56	+4.20	17
VERMONT														
Bennington_AP	45	75	60	-2	532	+185	138	+79	2.63	+1.55	4	12.03	+7.76	16
Burlington_Intl	48	79	63	-2	651	+191	210	+99	2.64	+1.83	3	12.88	+9.84	18
Island_Pond	42	74	57	-3	362	+123	60	+31	1.45	+0.45	4	9.32	+5.51	20
Montpelier	44	73	58	-4	408	+77	69	+15	2.04	+1.20	3	8.05	+4.79	18
Rochester	43	75	58	-5	387	+74	78	+29	2.23	+1.33	3	7.84	+4.09	17
Rutland_AG	45	77	59	-7	454	-55	100	-35	1.28	+0.44	4	7.24	+3.92	17
Springfield_VT	46	77	60	-3	492	+123	113	+47	1.49	+0.58	3	7.12	+3.42	14
Sutton	44	74	57	-3	367	+130	71	+43	1.25	+0.26	3	8.08	+4.33	18
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	53	80	65	-3	645	+97	196	+63	4.07	+3.33	5	10.53	+7.63	18
Fitchburg	52	80	63	+2	677	+334	215	+160	3.33	+2.49	3	10.24	+6.91	15
Greenfield	48	79	61	-7	562	+17	150	+8	3.65	+2.74	3	11.18	+7.54	15
New_Bedford	50	79	64	-4	562	+23	155	+31	3.45	+2.59	4	11.54	+8.16	16
Otis_AFB	52	75	62	-2	480	+116	116	+57	3.42	+2.65	4	9.93	+6.76	15
Plymouth	51	80	63	-2	589	+192	179	+104	3.60	+2.77	4	12.28	+8.91	16
Walpole	50	80	62	-3	591	+142	158	+62	4.11	+3.21	4	11.61	+8.31	16
Chicopee/Westov	46	80	61	-8	618	-43	187	-9	3.22	+2.24	3	13.06	+9.18	15
Worthington	44	74	58	-5	395	+47	99	+42	4.48	+3.57	4	12.65	+8.80	16
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	53	80	65	-2	661	+162	211	+96	4.10	+3.33	4	11.21	+8.00	16
Woonsocket	50	80	63	-2	638	+196	202	+118	4.08	+3.10	5	12.28	+8.55	18
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	53	80	66	-1	652	+90	202	+50	2.95	+2.18	4	10.25	+6.95	14
Hartford/Bradle	51	81	63	-5	687	+64	224	+40	3.97	+3.06	3	14.21	+10.55	14
Norfolk	47	73	59	-4	447	+104	121	+67	4.07	+2.95	5	14.54	+10.23	17
Thomaston_Dam	48	81	63	-2	563	+102	182	+82	5.73	+4.75	4	14.47	+10.55	15
Willimantic	50	80	63	-2	646	+180	198	+98	4.03	+3.19	4	10.66	+7.11	18

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, June 16, 2013

STATE	AIR TEMPERATURES				P R E C I P I T A T I O N				
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	DAYS
ME	37	79	59	-3	0.30	3.02	1.15	+0.32	4
NH	34	80	59	-4	0.50	2.98	1.57	+0.69	3
VT	38	79	59	-4	0.80	3.66	1.84	+0.93	3
MA	44	82	62	-3	1.94	4.48	3.47	+2.62	4
RI	50	80	64	-1	2.65	4.10	3.41	+2.61	4
CT	47	81	63	-3	1.81	5.73	3.82	+2.93	4

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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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: Picking strawberries where one can walk. Four months worth of rain in 5 weeks has brought most farm activity to a standstill. Fields are saturated - if not outright flooded. Hopefully the end is near - we can't handle any more water! **Ann McCard (FSA), New London:** Way too much rain in the last week, anywhere from 5-8 +/- inches around the county; some corn, sweet corn and vegetable fields have standing water. All the rains will delay the planting of corn and some vegetables. Some farmers can't make first cutting of hay. **Jude Boucher (Ext), Tolland:** Picked up another 5.5 inches of rain in Tolland last week. Standing water in almost every field by Friday. Corn shows a need for nitrogen in most fields. All June Nitrate tests coming in below 10ppm, even in heavily manure fields near barns. Most hay is not cut and going by. Sweet corn plantings are way behind. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Blueberries look good, hand thinning peaches, apples good set, and some farms unable to plant pumpkins or vegetables with 10" of rain in last ten days. Water is flowing out of fields. No irrigation needed so far this year. Silage corn up to knee high, unable to top dress or spray unless fields are on dry gravelly soils. Some corn is under water, likely will need to be replanted. Late getting sweet corn blocks planted with heavy showers. Very little hay baled in last ten days. Grapes require close watch on fungus/disease pressure and repeat spraying to control.

MAINE – Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook: Soils are wet and heavy. Work done in the fields is being done with the uncertainty that any minute your equipment may sink in the mud. Most operations were happy to get their herbicides applied last week. Yellow areas, associated with fertilizer leeching, are showing up in grain fields. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Looking forward to some sunshine. **Don Audibert, (FSA) Northern Aroostook:** Had a few good days to finish planting. Spraying fields when possible. Pastures are nice and cattle are now grazing. Producers are busy cultivating their potatoes. More rain in the forecast for this week, producers would prefer nice sunny days at the moment to dry out the fields and finish their cultivating and spraying. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Cool, rainy weather continued most of last week. Vegetable crops are growing slowly. More sun and heat are needed for corn to be knee high at the 4th of July. Grass is growing well. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Grass is doing well; it looks like a good week to maybe harvest a bunch. Corn is up and looking good except for wet areas. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Over all pretty good weekend for field work. Much needed sun and warm weather is predicted for the upcoming week. Plants are starting to look distressed due to all the rain and cold. Fields need to be cultivated and crops need spraying. Berry trees are starting to develop fruit set with smaller to normal size. There are still some farmers waiting for fields to dry out in order to complete corn planting. First cut of hay has been underway and a good looking crop. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis/Penobscot:** Some haylage has been harvested. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** Strawberries are sizing up. Vegetable crops are ripening. **Elaine S. Moceus (FSA), Somerset:** Rain during mid-week slowed field work slightly, but towards the end of the week conditions were great for harvesting hay. Some fields are still too wet to work. Producers are still planting silage corn and vegetable growers are continuing to plant seeds and transplants. Strawberries are between fruit set and harvest - some will be ready for harvest this weekend; blueberries are plentiful and most are showing green fruit. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Unpredictable weather has caused more problems for hay and corn silage growers. Many fields had standing water last week. 1st cutting is still behind schedule. Strawberry harvest will be soon, although all this wet weather will be a problem for harvest. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Pollination finished in Downeast fields and bees are being moved out. The cool wet weather reduced the pollination. Those growers with adequate hives had good pollination but those

with reduced numbers did not get a good fruit set. It will be a few weeks before it is possible to tell if the potential crop will be average or not.

MASSACHUSETTS - Debra Senger (FSA), Berkshire: Producers have started to do a first cut on their hay. Also the strawberries are ready for picking! The Berkshire is looking greener with all the rain we have had, but no reports to the office on any damages. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Rain, rain, and more rain. Some producers report over 10 inches. Crop fields went from saturated to puddles and ponding of water. Many growers were pumping water off vegetable fields. Growers were having a difficult time spraying a protective spray on their crops or wanting to but, could not spray for insects. All in all growers are still harvesting an excellent crop of beets, radishes, peas, summer squash, lettuce, and strawberries. Dairy farmers wanted to, but could not, harvest hay or top dress corn fields. **Carolyn DeMoranville (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Bloom has advanced in many beds, with the final arrival of warmer weather. Some beds are already close to full bloom. Many of the first fungicide applications for fruit rot control were applied on Saturday and Sunday evening. So far, insects have not been much of an issue (knock on wood). Weeds have loved this wet weather and are growing rapidly. Another 2+ inches of rain this past week, with many locations getting 10-15 inches in the past two weeks. This means that Phytophthora root rot will be an ongoing concern in certain beds. Beehives are arriving from Maine, but have not been located yet on many beds.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire: Kind of a soggy week, with heavy rain on a couple of days and not a lot of sunshine for the rest of them. Rain is delaying harvest of hay and haylage in some cases. Field corn is doing well overall. Planting finishing up on vegetable crops, and harvesting early greens, etc. has begun. PYO strawberries are beginning. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Lower lying fields still pretty wet, a little corn under water. Grass haylage harvest continues as conditions allow. Orchard grass headed out. Problem weed/Yellow Rattle begins flowering in southern part of Coos County. Good weather for mosquitoes. **Heather Bryant (Ext), Grafton:** Rain and lack of sun over the last couple weeks seems to be leading to symptoms of nutrient deficiency in some crops. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending June 16th, conditions remained wet. Rain or showers fell 5 days. Total rain fall for the week was just under 2 inches. Production of dry hay was almost impossible. Farmers were able to make some haylage toward the end of the week. Soil moisture conditions remain adequate to saturated. The better drained river bottom soils are in better shape. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Strawberries were being picked during the week and Strawberry Pick-Your-Own operations open over the weekend. Fruit growers monitoring pest and crop development and applying cover sprays for pest. Mowing orchard floor and weed spraying under trees. Also, hand thinning peaches. Field Crops: Most farmers are trying to finish-up planting and weed spraying corn fields. Farmers are trying to make haylage and baled hay between showers. Grasses maturing, especially orchard grass. Vegetables: Harvesting asparagus, beets, greens, peas, radishes, rhubarb, spinach, and strawberries. Finishing most transplanting tomato and pepper plants, and continue making successive planting of various vegetable crops including sweet corn and beans. Planting progress slowed this past week because off and on rain showers. Potato leaf hopper is here! Also, seeing Asparagus Beetle, Flea Beetle, seed Corn Maggot, Striped Cucumber Beetle, and Colorado Potato Beetle. **Dot Perkins (Ext), Merrimack:** Rainy days and cool evenings are slowing vegetable growth. Only half of our first cut hay is in and fields are going past prime rapidly. It's almost time for mid season nitrogen checks in corn fields. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Picking strawberry and harvesting an array of greens, asparagus, herbs, rutabaga,

scallions, broccoli and beets. Sweet corn and other warm season vegetables crops in the field are growing slowly because of lack of sun during the week and colder weather. Rainy days at the beginning of the week followed finally with sun on Friday and Saturday. Monitoring pests and spraying protective fungicides in orchards and blueberry fields. Some fields are soaked with water. **Kelly Greenbacker (FSA), Sullivan:** Throughout the past week, the area received about 3 inches of rain or more. Wet conditions have made it difficult for farmers to continue with 1st cut haylage and hay. Many fields are saturated with some reported ponding and lodging in hay fields. Much of the silage corn has emerged. A stretch of sunny, dry weather is needed to move many crops and hay harvest along. Strawberry harvest has also begun.

RHODE ISLAND – Heather Faubert (Univ of RI), All Counties:

Another 4 inches of rain this week on top of the 5 inches from the week before. Strawberry growers and any growers needing to work in the field are having trouble. **Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties:** This last week we got anywhere from 8 3/4 to 9 inches of rain. Depending on which farmer's rain gauge you want to go by. The only thing happening this week, was strawberries were being picked, and plenty of them. They look real good and there are a lot of big nice red berries. Potato fields are soaked. We expect there will be some damage. No hay this week. It will take a couple of days of drying out before you can get on those fields. It's about the same with everything, sweet corn and vegetables you just can't get on the field as there is too much mud. We need to get some sunny weather soon or we will have some damaged crops. That's all from RI, not too much good to say.

VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison: Continued saturated soils with excess standing water in fields. Corn crop starting to show damage in wet areas and nutrient deficiencies. No corn planting this week, no sidedress fertilizer. Damage to fields from

spray trucks. Hay fields some chopped hay but mostly no progress and field damage from equipment tire ruts. **Daniel Hudson (Ext), Caledonia:** Corn is way behind where it should be. If the rest of the growing season is not ideal, the prospect for good yields is poor. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Wet weeks are a routine here in Franklin County. Not much activity at all. Some haylage harvested in between showers. Still some wet feed going into storage. Corn growth is progressing very slowly and plant losses are now showing up in wet areas of fields. Gardens are still wet and hearing that Strawberries are starting to mold and very difficult to pick because of the wet weather. Pastures are growing well, however, wet conditions make it difficult for cattle to get around. **Terence Bradshaw, (UVM):** At least the rain stopped long enough this week to get some orchard work done, but wet soils are problematic in many orchards and equipment has rutted them up in many blocks. Apple scab has been reported by some growers, and will need to be managed for the rest of the season. Plum curculio is winding down now, so growers who applied an insecticide (whose residue hadn't washed away) in the past 10 days or so should be able to put that pest behind them. Codling moth eggs are entering peak hatch now, so larvicides targeted at that pest should be applied in problem orchards as soon as possible. **Jennifer Zaleski (FSA), Windham:** Over three inches of rain fell during the course of the week, further saturating the already wet soils. Standing water is apparent in low lying areas. Yellow corn can also be seen in these areas and other wetter parts of fields. Dry hay making has been slow going due to the lack of extended drying weather. Much of the crop has already headed out and is getting old. Some folks were out this weekend mowing, tedding, and getting some of the crop in before rain moves in again. Strawberries are available at farmers markets and farmstands along with early season vegetables such as lettuces and greens.

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Gary R. Keough, State Statistician

Robin Helrich, Statistician

Lynne Arsenault, Stat Assistant