

# Crop Progress & Condition



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

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

Volume 33, Number 10 (Issued weekly on the Internet, May – October) July 1, 2013 – 4 pm

For week ending 6/30/13

## Hot, Humid, and more Rain - Dry Days Needed

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:** There were of 2.9 days suitable for fieldwork across New England for the week ending June 30, 2013. Pasture condition ratings averaged 1% poor, 22% fair, 66% good, and 11% excellent. Hot, humid weather dominated the week. Showers and thunderstorms occurred almost daily in most areas of New England. Average temperatures ranged from 4 degrees above normal north to 8 degrees above normal south. Precipitation averages across the six states ranged from 0.69 to 2.8 inches. Some areas received almost 6 inches of precipitation.

**FRUIT:** Producers were busy monitoring for pests in orchards and spraying protective fungicides. Maine wild blueberry growers were active placing traps to monitor blueberry maggot fly and spotted wind drosophila. Massachusetts cranberries progressed to 70% in full bloom and 30% in petal fall by week's end. Growers are trying to schedule fungicide and cranberry fruit worm sprays. The strawberry harvest continued in all six New England states, ranging from 20% picked in Maine to 95% picked in Massachusetts. The excessive rains are causing mold problems in strawberries in several areas.

**VEGETABLES:** The wet weather limited field activities. Farmers were active sidedressing with fertilizer, cultivating, and spraying where they could get into fields. Growers continue to transplant tomato and pepper plants, and plant sweet corn, pumpkins, squash, and eggplant. Farmers in southern states replanted sweet corn, pumpkins, and other vegetables in drowned out areas. Vegetables harvested included summer squash, zucchini, beets, greens, peas, radishes, and spinach.

**FIELD CROPS:** Last week's frequent rains limited field activities. Growers replanted previously flooded fields, applied fertilizer to combat nitrogen deficiencies, and cultivated when they could get into the fields. Farmers made slight progress making first crop dry hay and hay silage on drier fields. Second crop hay growth is good with higher quality expected. Corn in low areas is suffering from wet soils. Tobacco growers in the Connecticut River Valley were able to set out Broadleaf tobacco transplants in between downpours. Maine potato growers applied fungicide and herbicide applications as well as oil sprays for aphids when they could get into the fields. Dry weather is needed throughout New England.

### SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
<b>Topsoil</b>			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	0	3	8
Adequate	46	64	77
Surplus	54	33	15
<b>Subsoil</b>			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	0	0	7
Adequate	46	66	82
Surplus	54	34	11

### 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	0	<5	<5	Average	Average	Good
Wild	-	-	-		Average	Good/Fair
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-			Good
Strawberries	55	75	65	Average	Average	Good/Fair

### FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2013	2012	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Planted --				
Silage Corn	99	99	99	
Sweet Corn	95	95	95	
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	99	95	95	Good/Fair
-- Percent Emerged --				
Barley	100	100	100	Exc/Good
Oats	100	100	100	Exc/Good
Potatoes				
Maine	100	100	99	Good
Mass	100	100	100	Good
Rhode Island	100	100	100	Good/Exc
Silage Corn	99	95	95	Fair/Good
Sweet Corn	90	80	85	Good/Fair
-- Percent Harvested --				
Dry Hay				
First Cut	60	80	70	Good/Fair
Second Cut	<5	30	15	Good/Fair

**Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics**

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday June 24, 2013  
 To: Sunday June 30, 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	---	---
<b>MAINE</b>														
Augusta_State_A	56	88	70	+4	662	+65	210	+65	3.02	+2.27	5	6.52	+3.45	15
Bangor_Intl_Arp	56	90	68	+4	567	+45	160	+50	2.09	+1.32	5	5.48	+2.38	15
Bethel	57	87	69	+4	563	+25	152	+36	2.98	+2.08	6	6.70	+3.01	16
Caribou_Municip	48	86	63	-1	503	+84	123	+58	2.45	+1.71	7	5.99	+3.28	18
Dover-Foxcroft	55	90	67	+4	554	+123	151	+82	1.99	+1.15	7	5.40	+1.95	18
Frenchville	46	83	60	-3	412	+36	96	+47	3.30	+2.53	6	5.40	+2.48	16
Houlton	48	85	65	+1	481	+52	106	+36	0.79	+0.02	7	4.93	+1.85	18
Livermore_Falls	57	89	69	+6	574	+137	167	+96	3.74	+2.83	7	6.97	+3.12	16
Moosehead	55	88	66	+4	455	+121	103	+66	3.56	+2.60	6	7.29	+3.62	15
Portland_ME	54	92	70	+6	639	+138	203	+107	3.47	+2.70	5	7.32	+4.10	15
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>														
Benton	59	87	71	+8	632	+106	174	+72	2.90	+2.06	7	6.98	+3.45	18
Berlin_AG	56	86	69	+5	688	+175	206	+103	1.02	+0.10	6	3.87	+0.05	16
Concord	56	93	73	+7	806	+178	278	+114	1.85	+1.15	6	6.74	+3.79	16
First_Conn_Lake	57	85	69	+9	512	+215	128	+107	2.04	+0.98	7	4.75	+0.44	18
Keene_AG	60	91	74	+6	746	-1	254	+22	2.32	+1.48	5	7.27	+3.91	14
North_Conway	57	88	69	+3	637	+59	174	+35	1.94	+1.03	7	5.89	+2.18	18
Rochester	57	90	72	+5	714	+29	230	+33	2.17	+1.40	6	6.70	+3.43	18
<b>VERMONT</b>														
Bennington_AP	59	89	73	+9	793	+250	268	+151	1.73	+0.71	7	7.29	+3.05	17
Burlington_Intl	60	89	75	+7	932	+231	353	+144	4.40	+3.57	7	8.51	+5.26	17
Island_Pond	56	83	69	+7	559	+160	137	+73	3.11	+2.13	7	7.18	+3.20	18
Montpelier	59	86	71	+7	633	+110	167	+56	3.27	+2.51	7	8.16	+4.92	18
Rochester	59	85	72	+8	612	+110	176	+73	3.13	+2.29	7	7.61	+4.12	17
Rutland_AG	62	88	72	+5	694	-59	211	-24	2.15	+1.31	7	5.93	+2.58	18
Springfield_VT	58	91	73	+8	751	+175	242	+110	2.26	+1.39	6	6.33	+2.73	16
Sutton	58	84	69	+7	568	+169	145	+80	2.88	+1.90	7	6.83	+2.85	16
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>														
Boston/Logan_In	61	95	76	+6	975	+148	386	+118	0.92	+0.22	4	10.39	+7.50	15
Fitchburg	59	94	76	+11	998	+445	396	+272	1.02	+0.18	4	8.51	+5.16	13
Greenfield	65	92	76	+7	852	+43	302	+38	3.38	+2.54	5	10.98	+7.43	14
New_Bedford	66	92	76	+6	870	+58	323	+71	0.95	+0.17	3	9.56	+6.22	13
Otis_AFB	64	86	73	+6	755	+160	252	+108	1.83	+1.13	4	10.26	+7.26	14
Plymouth	64	94	76	+9	903	+264	353	+181	0.87	+0.10	4	10.29	+7.08	14
Walpole	62	94	76	+9	918	+225	345	+148	0.66	-0.18	3	10.95	+7.47	14
Chicopee/Westov	62	93	77	+6	936	-17	365	+19	1.40	+0.49	5	9.56	+5.77	14
Worthington	60	88	72	+8	647	+98	215	+96	2.77	+1.86	4	10.90	+7.29	13
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>														
Providence	66	93	77	+8	992	+225	402	+164	0.58	-0.18	2	9.90	+6.81	12
Woonsocket	65	93	76	+9	954	+272	378	+198	0.57	-0.34	4	10.83	+7.07	15
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>														
Bridgeport/Siko	68	90	77	+8	992	+154	402	+117	0.65	-0.19	4	9.48	+6.26	14
Hartford/Bradle	67	94	79	+8	1032	+123	429	+102	1.77	+0.95	4	10.96	+7.47	13
Norfolk	61	86	73	+9	718	+172	256	+138	2.67	+1.63	4	13.38	+9.08	15
Thomaston_Dam	64	93	78	+11	881	+186	360	+168	1.89	+0.98	5	12.25	+8.45	14
Willimantic	65	92	77	+10	964	+259	376	+179	0.60	-0.31	5	10.02	+6.51	15

**State Weather Summary**

For the Week Ending Sunday, June 30, 2013

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	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	DAYS
ME	46	92	67	+4	0.50	5.17	2.62	+1.82	5
NH	43	95	71	+7	0.88	4.77	2.06	+1.22	6
VT	52	93	72	+7	0.72	5.95	2.80	+1.96	6
MA	55	95	74	+8	0.46	3.38	1.34	+0.53	4
RI	65	93	74	+7	0.50	1.11	0.69	+0.01	3
CT	61	95	76	+8	0.40	2.67	1.11	+0.26	4

**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:** Monday thru Thursday scattered thunderstorms and rain (about every evening). A little dry hay made on Monday and then done for the week. Broadleaf tobacco planting between downpours. Spraying field corn for weeds and sweet corn for worms. Summer squash, peas and cauliflower at farmers markets. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Corn is yellow in the fields. Pre and at plant Nitrogen washed away. Plants are growing slowly but steadily and fields are too wet for tractors and spreaders to apply topdress nitrogen. Some dry hay being made but the fields are being patterned with ruts. One grower said his discbine almost stalled the tractor when it submarined into standing water that he couldn't see under the thick grass! **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Heavy rains with thundershowers, temperatures in the 80's with high humidity, gray days discouraging, still trying to re-plant corn, vegetables, and get some vegetables planted. Heavy wet soils not allowing topdressing or spraying. Dryer soils are doing better.

**MAINE – Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook:** Sunday was the first day in four without rain. Producers may be able to get back in the field by Tuesday. There is a lot of hilling to be done before the potatoes get too big. Dry hay will probably start this week. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** A lot of rain again this past week. Fungicide & herbicide applications being applied when growers were able to get in fields. Oil spray for aphids is being applied also. Late planting of some potatoes have not emerged yet; all other potatoes planted have emerged and are growing rapidly. **Don Audibert, (FSA) Northern Aroostook:** Farmers are still busy cultivating and spraying their potato crop. Looks like nice sunny and warm days for this week. Pastures are looking nice and should be harvesting their first cut soon. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Rain, rain and more rain. This is getting old. Luckily Saturday and Sunday had some sun to help dry out the forage. Strawberries are having some mold, but the rain has also kept people from coming out to pick. All crops are a little behind due to over 7 plus inches of rain in June. Tomatoes are being sprayed for blight. Farmers with heavy soils are being stopped from succession plantings. Hay not cut earlier this spring has gone by and the land is too wet to get on for awhile. Hoping for a drier July! **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Way too many rainy days. We need sunny days and a dry out period. Hay harvest is at a standstill. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Another week with showers. Producers are reporting that strawberries are starting to rot in the field. Hay crop looks good but due to wet fields the harvest is hard. Corn is sprouting and looks good so far. Farmers have been hilling potatoes and spraying, due to the loss of nitrogen from wet weather. Most farmers have completed the final plantings and now maintaining the crops will be a job with all these showers. Much needed sunny and dry days. Pollination period is completed for blueberries and apples, but at this time it's too early to tell what the crops will really be. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis/Penobscot:** Not much progress on haying this past week due to rain. **Elaine S. Moeceus (FSA), Somerset:** Actual rainfall totals throughout Somerset County this month varied from 4 to 5.5 inches of rain for the month, while the average rainfall in June is approximately 3.5 inches. Some silage corn in low lying areas have had to be replanted due to the excessive moisture. Producers are reporting a plentiful hay crop this year. We now have plenty of water; we need warm temperatures to make things grow! **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Wet weather continues to plague farmers. Some breaks allowed for some hay/haylage harvest. Corn silage is looking fair to poor with saturated soils. Strawberry harvest underway, but conditions are great for mold. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberry growers are placing traps in fields to monitor for the blueberry maggot fly and the spotted wing drosophila (SWD). Some early captures of the blueberry maggot fly indicate it could be an active season for

them. Only one female SWD has been captured to date indicating they are active but are at very low levels. The fruit are beginning to turn blue, so when threshold levels are reached insecticide applications for control will begin soon.

**MASSACHUSETTS – Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Very hot and humid week with a day of heavy, heavy rain. The crop fields are having a hard time drying out. Vegetable, tobacco, and corn silage farmers are cultivating to kill weeds and dry out the fields, topdressing to replenish nitrogen, spraying for insects and diseases. Vegetables harvested include summer and zucchini squash, beets, greens, peas, radishes, and strawberries. **Carolyn DeMoranville (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Extreme heat early in the week limited outdoor work. After that, weather has been unsettled with high humidity and haze and frequent thundershowers, mostly at night. Some areas experienced more than an inch in 15-20 minutes. Growers are trying to schedule fungicide and cranberry fruitworm sprays but the weather is not cooperating. Most bogs are at or past full bloom and most have some small fruit and pinheads. The hot weather has been good for pollinator activity.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE – Kelly McAdam (Ext), Belknap:** Belknap-thundershowers each day of the week last week with heavy rains left a lot of puddling in poorly drained soils. Zero days suitable for field work for heavy equipment use on fields. Sweet corn is behind where it should be at this time of year as growers were unable to plant at optimum time with the ground being wet. **Donna Juneau (FSA) Belknap/Merrimack:** Producers are reporting that rain and wet fields are slowing down the completion of planting field corn and harvesting hay and haylage. Some low wet fields have already been planted once but wet conditions have resulted in the need to replant. The rainy conditions have some producers generally running behind and juggling tasks depending on the weather and field conditions. For other producers, including vegetable growers with typically drier fields, the warm weather and rainfall has resulted in vigorous crop growth. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** In a word, soupy; warm but not a whole lot of sun, and at least a little rain almost every day this week. Corn fields doing pretty well, and grass regrowth is strong. Lousy conditions for baling dry hay, and challenging to finish up haylage or baleage. Veggie crops are doing OK. PYO strawberries starting to wind down, but a nice cherry crop has shown up. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Rains off and on, at times hard and large amounts make haying quite difficult. Field corn variable, some looking pretty good, others later planted and/or wet fields in need of sun. Harvested grasses headed out, many problem weeds like Bedstraw in bloom. Highbush blueberries filling out well. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending June 29th, we received rain every day. Rainfall totaled nearly three inches for the 7 day period. Soils remains saturated. Many fields are too wet to hay. River bottom fields along the CT River are in a little better shape, but upland fields are very wet. Hay production has come to a halt. Many producers are concerned about poor quality and/or loss of feed. The corn crop was given a much needed boost by the heat. Corn that was planted from the last week of April through the first week of May looks much better. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Warm weather that occurred during last week of a June ripened strawberry crop quickly, where most growers getting ready to renovate harvested beds this coming week. Fruit growers monitoring pest and crop development and apply sprays for pest control. Also, growers are training young fruit trees along with mowing orchard floor. Sweet cherries are being harvested. Mummyberry disease is showing up on highbush blueberries. Field Crops: Farmers continued to bale hay or make haylage between rain showers, along with sidedressing fertilizer to field corn if needed. Vegetables: Harvesting greens, spinach, scallions, radishes, cucumbers, greenhouse tomatoes, rhubarb, lettuce, and

zucchini, summer squash, etc. Growers busy trying to sidedress fields with fertilizer, cultivating, mowing weeds, scouting for pests and spraying if needed. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** The week started with two very HOT and humid days followed by rain Wednesday with some heavy at times. The rest of the week saw some sun, more clouds and showers and rain mist. Blueberries are ripening earlier pushed by the hot days. Strawberry and blueberry PYO operations busy on the weekend. Harvesting greens, cucurbits, and cut flowers. Monitoring pests in orchards and spraying protective fungicides between showers. Growers continue being busy with successive vegetable planting, fertilizing and monitoring pests. Haying was challenging with the on and off rain. **Kelly Greenbacker (FSA), Sullivan:** Field conditions are saturated. The past week brought more scattered thunderstorms and rain. The rain was heavy at times with areas receiving up to 3 inches Thursday into Friday. Some farmers were able to work on some 2nd cut haylage earlier in the week. Many are worried about the lack of dry hay made this season. Strawberries have been abundant over the last week, but the season may wind down quickly with recent rains. Vegetables and field crops could use some sun and dry weather to encourage growth.

**RHODE ISLAND – Heather Faubert (Univ of RI), All Counties:** Ready for fewer showers and lower humidity. High humidity is leading to a lot of plant disease pressure. **Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties:** This week was a rainy cloudy week with very little sun. A thunderstorm on Thursday night dropped 8/10 of an inch of rain and Friday we got 4/10 of an inch in addition. We had a little rain on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday as well, but very little. That means no hay was made this week. The coming week doesn't look any better for baling hay. This rain is not good for potatoes. It's hard getting into the fields to spray. We have not accessed the

damage from water yet. Not all sweet corn has been planted yet. Silage corn is in, small and yellow in some places due to too much water. There are still small crops to be planted, in another week or so we will be running out of time. One thing is the pastures look good and green. Strawberry season is still going. There are a lot of berries to be picked and they look really good.

**VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Continued daily rain, soil saturated and standing water in most fields. Corn planting delayed for third week. No planting, or fertilizing sidedress Nitrogen. Very few hay fields harvested for chopped haylage between rains. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Wet weeks are getting very regular in Franklin County. We have escaped excessive flooding damage to crops; however, we remain very saturated. Crop damage to wet areas had already happened so further damage is not excessive at this point. Growth in grass is still super; however, quality reports are very low due to lack of sun. Gardens remain saturated with good growth. One report of downed sweet corn taking little wind to blow over corn with little root stability in saturated soils. Strawberries are very wet and harvest is spotty depending on soil types. July 4th is prime time here and hopefully people will brave the weather and take in some fruits. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** A lot of rain again this week is really starting to cause problems with crops. There are fields of corn where there is standing water. The corn on the heavier soil fields is only a few inches tall and yellow. On the drier fields the corn looks better but still behind schedule. The hay harvest is all but impossible except on the driest fields. Many farmers have stopped harvesting because they can't get their equipment on and off the field. We could really use some hot dry weather to catch things up. The pastures are doing well but the muddy conditions make grazing a challenge right now.

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**Gary R. Keough, State Statistician**

**Robin Helrich, Statistician**

**Lynne Arsenault, Stat Assistant**