



New England Agricultural Statistics Service

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Crop Weather

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May 29, 2001 - 4 pm

For week ending 5/27/01

Rain At Last

For the week ending May 27, 2001, there were 5.1 days available for field work across New England. Pasture condition was rated as 1% very poor, 23% poor, 38% fair, 37% good, 1% excellent. Major farm activities included: planting row crops and vegetables, transplanting tobacco and some vegetables, applying fertilizer, plowing, and spraying for weeds and insects.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	-- Percent --		
	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
Topsoil Moisture			
Very Short	6	24	0
Short	34	42	1
Adequate	53	34	51
Surplus	7	0	48
Subsoil Moisture			
Very Short	5	9	0
Short	32	33	1
Adequate	57	57	58
Surplus	6	1	41

VEGETABLES: Farmers planted broccoli, sweet corn, onions, cucumbers, squash, peas, peppers and other spring vegetables. Cole crops were in good condition. Asparagus and rhubarb crops were being harvested. Farmers who were previously hesitant to plant should be starting now that the ground has received some moisture. Farmers who had vegetables already planted are hoping the rain will accelerate growth; it had been previously reported as slow. Roadside stands did well over the holiday weekend.

FRUIT: Growers were active in spraying fruit crops for weeds and insects between showers. Orchard fruit in the southern New England states was still struggling to improve from the frosts which hit earlier this month. Bees were being moved onto berry fields in preparation for bloom. Most strawberry crops are approaching petal fall stage. Maine wild blueberries are currently on the path toward another successful season. Cranberry plants in Massachusetts appeared to have weathered the near-drought conditions well and are nearing early bloom stage.

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Stage	Fruit Set	Fruit Size	Condition
Apples	Petal Fall	Avg	Avg	Good
Peaches	Petal Fall	B.Avg/Avg	Avg	Fair
Pears	Petal Fall	B.Avg/Avg	Avg	Poor
Strawberries	Full Blm	--	--	Good/Excel
Cranberries, MA	Bud	--	--	Good
Blueberries				
Highbush	Full Blm	Avg	--	Good/Fair
Wild, ME	Full Blm	A.Avg	--	Good

FIELD CROPS: The rain which fell over most of New England this past week raised farmers' spirits for the coming growing season; however, the northernmost parts of the region are still looking for rain clouds. Growers were active with spring fieldwork in between showers. Potato planting in Maine, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island is almost complete. Transplanting of broadleaf tobacco has begun. Farmers are expected to begin chopping haylage this next week as crops have headed out; first cut hay crops are looking very short due to the lack of rain early in the spring.

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Planted --			Percent Emerged	Condition
	2001	2000	5-yr Avg		
Potatoes					
Maine	90	55	65	5	Good
Mass	90	85	90	55	Good
Rhode Isl	100	99	85	80	Good
Oats, ME	85	75	75	45	Excel/Good
Barley, ME	90	80	75	50	Excel/Good
Silage Corn	80	30	50	35	Good
Sweet Corn	65	45	50	35	Good/Fair
Tobacco					
Shade	60	55	55	--	Good
Broadleaf	5	10	15	--	Good
Dry Hay					
First Cut	10	<5	10	--	Fair/Good

For the Week Ending Sunday, May 27, 2001

The 41 stations shown below are limited by space but are well distributed across the region. All 86 stations appear on the Internet and in e-mail subscriptions.

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				CUM SINCE MAR 1				1-WEEK PRECIP			4-WEEK CUM PRECIP		
	-----				GROWING DEGREE		DAYS		-----			-----		
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS
MAINE														
Augusta_ME	42	74	57	-2	250	+106	64	+53	0.00	-0.84	0	0.52	-2.95	7
Bangor	38	79	58	+3	222	+114	48	+42	0.00	-0.77	0	1.00	-2.24	9
Bethel	35	79	58	+2	216	+98	37	+28	0.01	-0.83	1	0.37	-2.94	4
Cari bou	40	80	61	+8	210	+131	40	+37	0.01	-0.69	1	0.53	-2.23	7
Dover-Foxcroft	39	75	58	+4	171	+89	21	+19	0.00	-0.84	0	1.15	-2.11	8
Frenchville	43	79	61	+9	195	+137	37	+37	0.00	-0.73	0	0.44	-2.38	5
Houlton	31	79	58	+5	181	+100	31	+27	0.01	-0.76	1	0.93	-2.07	6
Livermore_Falls	35	80	57	+3	214	+132	51	+49	0.00	-0.85	0	1.12	-2.27	6
Moosehead	36	78	57	+5	140	+95	14	+14	0.00	-0.78	0	1.18	-1.89	7
Portland_ME	41	67	53	-4	201	+101	49	+49	0.04	-0.73	1	0.41	-2.90	4
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	41	73	58	+2	213	+74	35	+18	0.22	-0.60	2	1.38	-1.66	6
Berlin_AG	40	78	60	+4	219	+100	35	+22	0.00	-0.84	0	0.42	-2.76	4
Concord	39	74	57	-2	281	+119	77	+58	0.71	+0.01	2	0.90	-1.90	5
Di amond_Pond	41	75	58	+7	157	+107	23	+23	0.01	-0.94	1	1.64	-1.85	6
Keene_AP	45	73	59	-2	287	+64	67	+30	0.02	-0.87	2	1.00	-2.40	3
North_Conway	41	77	59	+2	282	+143	73	+59	0.16	-0.75	1	0.52	-3.11	4
Rochester	38	78	56	-4	275	+86	91	+65	0.25	-0.59	2	0.98	-2.59	7
VERMONT														
Burlington_VT	53	78	63	+5	355	+153	107	+74	0.21	-0.49	3	1.10	-1.68	6
Island_Pond	44	77	61	+8	188	+103	27	+22	0.02	-0.88	1	1.58	-1.67	4
Montpelier	43	72	58	+2	215	+80	39	+23	0.51	-0.26	3	0.72	-2.15	6
Pownal	46	75	57	+2	258	+114	56	+37	1.89	+0.84	6	2.10	-2.04	7
Rochester	42	76	58	+3	203	+81	23	+10	1.03	+0.05	4	1.20	-2.72	6
Rutland_AG	49	74	60	+0	241	+4	41	-6	1.02	+0.18	5	1.39	-1.71	8
Sutton	44	74	58	+6	199	+117	33	+28	0.25	-0.62	2	1.27	-1.93	4
Townshend_Lake	44	77	57	-2	222	+38	41	+13	3.09	+2.32	6	3.40	+0.19	10
MASSACHUSETTS														
Ashburnham	47	70	56	-2	279	+149	73	+64	1.06	+0.22	5	1.22	-1.95	8
Boston	50	61	55	-7	367	+121	122	+98	1.03	+0.33	5	1.11	-1.85	9
Greenfield	45	76	57	-4	297	+48	81	+44	4.47	+3.56	6	4.48	+0.98	7
New_Bedford	46	68	59	-3	299	+52	73	+49	4.22	+3.39	5	4.28	+0.94	7
Otis_AFB	46	68	57	+1	252	+117	66	+60	2.79	+1.95	5	2.86	-0.55	8
Plymouth	43	72	57	-2	270	+119	65	+57	4.19	+3.34	5	4.28	+0.64	7
Walpole	48	72	58	-2	356	+165	115	+96	2.29	+1.52	6	2.39	-0.78	8
Westover	50	73	58	-6	384	+55	119	+60	3.45	+2.50	6	3.55	-0.13	8
Worthington	43	70	54	-4	229	+90	59	+45	4.09	+3.05	6	4.12	-0.07	9
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	49	70	59	-2	381	+165	118	+100	3.73	+2.89	5	3.75	+0.31	6
Woonsocket	44	77	59	+0	368	+181	122	+108	4.68	+3.77	5	4.77	+1.07	8
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport	51	64	57	-5	377	+116	94	+52	2.92	+2.07	6	2.96	-0.62	7
Hartford_AP	48	73	58	-6	398	+97	124	+68	4.13	+3.21	6	4.43	+0.70	9
Norfolk	44	70	54	-3	267	+132	76	+64	4.10	+3.05	6	4.25	+0.11	11
Thomaston_Dam	46	73	57	-3	317	+110	83	+56	3.64	+2.66	6	3.70	-0.35	7
Willimantic	50	72	61	+2	399	+193	117	+91	2.45	+1.54	5	2.46	-1.36	6

Summary based on NWS data.

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normal s 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 WEATHER SUMMARY
For the Week Ending Sunday, May 27, 2001

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	30	83	57	+2	0.00	0.28
NH	32	79	57	+0	0.00	1.66
VT	32	78	58	+2	0.02	3.09
MA	41	78	57	-2	0.87	4.47
RI	44	77	58	-1	2.84	4.68
CT	44	73	57	-3	2.45	5.02

Prepared by AWIS, Inc.

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

CONNECTICUT - Howard Rood (FSA), Fairfield/Litchfield: Several inches of much needed rain fell this past week. Hay that has been cut up to this time has been very short, due to the dry weather. Dry weather may have hurt weed control in corn. Apple and peach crops may have been damaged by frosts early this week. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Rain finally arrived and decided to stay, good thing as farmers were comparing our current soil loss to the pictures of the 30's when the wind would blow it across the open plains. Rain was too late to help first cutting hay, but corn and vegetables have happy feet soaking up the moisture. Fruit crops are in sad shape due to earlier freeze, and early vegetables stopped producing without irrigation. June around the corner should bring better crop days. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** For weeks we didn't have any rain - now we have TOO MUCH. Seven inches in 7 days - what a difference a week makes! Grass hay/haylage is going by as timothy and orchard grass are or have flowered. Yield of first cut low, most growers wondering if it will even pay to go harvest it. Weeds are exploding out of the ground now that they have some water.

MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook: Potatoes: Growers finishing up planting potatoes. Planting last of small grain crops. Emergence is very slow due to extremely dry conditions. Grain that has emerged is suffering from dry conditions. Rain is needed very badly. **Dee Potter (Ext), Northern Aroostook:** Many farms have wrapped up planting of potatoes and small grains. Cattle are out on pasture. Much needed rain began the evening of May 28; up until then it had been hot and dry. **Erin Chadbourne (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Potato planting finishing. Barley and oats emerging. Broccoli planting continuing. Herbicide applications in potatoes has begun. **Steve London (Ext), Southern Aroostook:** Planting has been going very well, could use some rain. **Albert Dow (NRCS), Piscataquis:** Remained dry. Tilling and planting still going on. Silage corn has emerged on some fields. **Donna Lamb (Ext), Piscataquis:** Weekend rains were a great relief to farmers. Forage growth has started to respond to the added moisture. Earlier this week berry growers were irrigating their crop. **Janet King/Jennifer Zweig (FSA), Somerset:** Much needed rain on Sunday, although moisture is still needed. Silage and sweet corn is being planted, much of it has emerged. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Finally -- some substantial rain -- corn crops are popping out of the ground. Hay/haylage harvest should begin this week. Strawberries will be flowering soon as well. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** The first crop of fresh greens has arrived. Much needed rain over the weekend! Bees had a good week for pollination. Hay crop looking short. **David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild Blueberries: Bees have been moved into all fields for pollination. Cool weather has slowed development so crop development is near normal. Plants have emerged on all pruned fields. **Michael Tardy (FSA), Androscoggin:** The recent rain has helped but we need more. Planting has gone great but water is needed to get things growing. There's talk about haying but the crop will be short without the water. All producers have been able to get field work done. We need the rain but it's nice to have the time to work the fields. Let's hope that we get a good mix in the coming weeks. **Parker Rand (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Great spring for all outside activities, but too dry. If we don't get a lot of rain soon it will be very serious. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** The rain was timely once again. Pastures and hayfields are now starting to grow. Planting conditions have been optimum. Sprouting plants look good. **Laura Rand (FSA), Oxford:** Dry weather continues.

MASSACHUSETTS - Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire: Still some corn planting. Several operators cutting and chopping forage (not much wilting), but real short growth. Dry crops got rain as needed. Finally, some rain, a little over 1.5 inches. It's a real help. Everything is greening, nice! **Paul Russell (FSA), Southeast Massachusetts:** Much needed rain arrived and has

improved conditions for all crops; however, more is needed. Row crops continue to be planted, cranberry growers are applying fertilizer and moving bees onto their property in anticipation of bloom. Shellfish growers are harvesting some product and planting new seed. **Kip Graham (FSA), Worcester:** Asparagus and rhubarb continuing to be harvested. The continuous mild rain is helping the freshly planted crops for a good start for those who have planted. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: The drought ended after 33 days with no measurable precipitation; droughts like this past one hardly ever occur in April and May. The vines held up well through the period. Rainfall amounts were in excess of two inches in most locations. Good growth of the plants continues. Sporadic outbreaks of cranberry weevil, gypsy moth, black-headed fireworm. Very little oxygen deficiency injury or winterkill noted. Weed growth really has exploded in response to the rainfall. **John Devine (FSA), Franklin:** The drought has passed. Moderate to heavy rains for the past 5 days have ended farmer concerns about dry conditions. These conditions have allowed much of the planted acreage to be sprayed with herbicide. Hay and pasture conditions have improved, although the first cut hay is "heading out" quickly. Broadleaf tobacco is being transplanted now and shade tobacco is all planted in this county. Some parts of Franklin County suffered hail damage on 5/28/01. Tree fruit was the only crop affected, and the damage doesn't appear to be significant at this time. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Rained 5 out of 7 days with 2.5 to 3.5 inches total. The rain was well appreciated. Everyone wants to see the sun now so they can start harvesting hay and plant their summer crops. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** Well, we wanted rain and did we get it. One-half inch size hail Monday afternoon. Transplanted crops are fine. Laying plastic, transplanting tomatoes, peppers, squash, cukes, etc. Spraying post-emergence herbicide in corn. Plant sales still strong with geraniums (of course), the main flower for this weekend. Perennials looking good and selling well, vegetable plants in big demand. Corn sales brisk. Consumer response to local grown products is on the increase as big retail stores continue to market inferior or poor quality plant material. Consumers are in a spending mood. **David Rose (FSA), Norfolk and Bristol:** Field activity slowed as much needed rain fell on several different days. The harvest of rhubarb and asparagus continues. The drought is over as nearly 3 inches of rain fell last week.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos: A welcome soaking rain ends what had been a quite a spell of dry weather. Most field corn now planted. Hay and pasture grasses have seemed somewhat behind normal for this time of year. Upper soil conditions quite dry. Alfalfa at pre-bud stage, orchard grass about bud stage. Past full bloom now for apples, highbush blueberries at full bloom. Spring vegetables and peas planted and emerged. Good week to get field work done. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruits: Strawberries blooming. Fruit growers are applying sprays for pest control. Field Crops: Planting and weed spraying corn fields. Grasses in pastures and hayfields starting to head. Vegetables: Plowing, disking, fertilizing fields, planting vegetables and transplanting field tomatoes. Laying down plastic and drip irrigation. Harvesting asparagus and rhubarb. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** The less than one-inch of rain and showers on Sunday and Monday, May 27th and 28th, was welcomed. However, more rain is needed. Spraying protective sprays on tree fruit orchards and small fruit fields. Irrigating small fruits and vegetables. Continuing to make successive plantings of sweet corn and many other vegetables. Some vegetables are growing very slowly because of lack of rain.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: A welcome rain for most of the week helped most crops. Cole crops look great, lettuce, etc. doing well. Field and sweet corn emerging. Strawberries and blueberries doing great, especially after the frost. Most field work has been delayed, fungicides being

applied to potatoes, and let's hope not too many had hay down. **Marilu Soileau (FSA), All Counties:** The rains finally came! Slow, steady showers were quickly absorbed by the parched soil. Fields responded immediately. Pastures have greened up and the weeds are trying to take over in many gardens. Field corn is mostly all planted now. The soil is moist and germination is finally possible. More rain is predicted for the next few days.

VERMONT - John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille: Weekend rain gave thirsty plants a big boost. Corn planting is starting to wind down and first cut of grass should be underway soon. Pastures should also respond to the moisture. Northern areas in the state missed much of the mid-week rain. **Bill Snow (Ext), Orange:** Most of the field corn has been planted and some are thinking about chopping haylage. However, lack of moisture may have made a short first crop. Rain and downpours with large hail in some areas on Monday may not have helped much. Wait and see if the hay crop responds. Ground was white from hail in White River area, and other areas reported hail, too! Snow in the forecast for Wednesday in the higher elevations. Looks like another odd year. **Larry Hamel (NRCS), Orleans:** Farmers are waiting for the rains to stop from this weekend to finish up corn planting. Hay/grass crop too high now for manure fertilizer application. Getting equipment ready for haying! Hay/grass ready to harvest. Especially orchard grass. Plenty of rain this weekend which will help get some more growth for first cut. **Lynette Hamilton (FSA), Windham:** In the southern part of Windham County we have had about 5 inches of rain in the past week. It is hard to tell yet if the fertilizer will help the hay crop that was spread early this spring.

Orchard grass is all headed out and should be cut. Alfalfa crops took a pounding from Sunday's heavy rains. Haylage harvesting should start as soon as we have a weather change. **George Cook (Ext), Lamoille:** Rain over the weekend was needed. Spring crop work going smoothly. Rain should give crops needed boost. **Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Finishing corn planting and spraying. New seeded hay crops are coming up nicely. Much needed rain finally came at end of week. First crop hay is light, grasses headed out, dandelions white, alfalfa starting to bud. **Richard Noel (FSA), Grand Isle/Franklin:** Haying started last week for haylage. Showers during the week slowed harvest up a little bit - 5/23: 0.15 in., 5/26: 0.25 in., 5/28: 0.06 in. Hay and corn needed the rain, and all I did was the two-step! Now we need some sunshine. You don't get energy or protein from clouds! **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Received about 3/4 inch of rain this week. First real rain this spring. Most of the corn planted now, some has emerged. People getting ready to start haying. One rainy day early in the week, then showers and thunderstorms on Sunday and Monday. Everyone quite pleased to see the rain even though some of the Memorial Day parades got soaked. Dairy cows out on pasture, this rain will really encourage them. Prediction is for wet snow flurries tonight in higher elevations. We will take moisture any way we can get it. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Early strawberries in full bloom. Early potatoes beginning to show. Early apple blossoms full. Small vegetable crops coming slow. Asparagus volume down. Too dry. One quarter inch of rain for the week. Hay crop very short and stunted. **Maria Garcia (Ext), Chittenden:** There was a hail storm last night in the area. Damage has yet to be assessed.

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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