



New England Agricultural Statistics Service

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

22 Bridge St, Third Floor
PO Box 1444
Concord, NH 03302

Aubrey R. Davis, Director
www.usda.gov/nass

603-224-9639
Fax: 603-225-1434
nass-nh@nass.usda.gov



Crop Weather

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For week ending 6/10/01

Good Weather for Fieldwork

For the week ending June 10, 2001, there were there were 6.4 days available for field work across New England. Pasture condition was rated as 0% very poor, 5% poor, 30% fair, 57% good, 8% excellent. Major farm activities included: planting row crops and vegetables, spreading manure, transplanting, cutting hay and haylage, and spraying for weeds, insects, and fungus.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	-- Percent --		
	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
Topsoil Moisture			
Very Short	7	3	0
Short	8	12	1
Adequate	79	64	61
Surplus	6	21	38
Subsoil Moisture			
Very Short	8	0	0
Short	7	27	1
Adequate	81	64	63
Surplus	4	9	36

VEGETABLES: Farmers planted sweet corn, tomatoes, cucumbers, squash, eggplant, peppers and other vegetables. Asparagus, rhubarb, radish, and lettuce were being harvested. Fungicide applications were made and cultivation continued. Sweet corn was beginning to tassel. Roadside stands were busy, as newly harvested vegetables were set out for sale.

FRUIT: Growers were actively spraying fruit crops for weeds and insects. The monitoring of fruit tree crops in parts of New England continued, as frost damage earlier in the spring caused a below average prediction for harvest. Strawberry harvesting began in some areas. Bees were being removed from blueberry fields in Maine after doing an excellent job pollinating the crop. Their help will be needed shortly for cranberries; the crop just started to enter into early bloom stage. Massachusetts' cranberry growers predict cranberry weevil and other pests will be a problem this year.

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

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

* EB = Early Bloom

FIELD CROPS: Cool, dry, sunny weather last week allowed farmers to finish up the planting of most major crops. More heat is needed to speed up development. Potato planting has been completed in both Massachusetts and Rhode Island, and the crop was mostly emerged in both states. Maine potatoes were nearly all planted and were ahead of last year and the five-year average for percent emerged. Oat and barley crops in Maine are now in and are mostly emerged. Silage corn planting in New England was nearing completion last week and was in good condition. Sweet corn planting continued to be ahead of schedule. Shade tobacco transplanting was nearly finished. Both shade and broadleaf tobacco crops were in good condition. Farmers cut hay and chopped haylage this past week and were preparing for their second cutting; yields were low for the first cut crop.

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Planted --			Percent Emerged	Condition
	2001	2000	5-yr Avg		
Potatoes					
Maine	99	95	95	45	Excel/Good
Mass	100	100	100	90	Good
Rhode Isl	100	100	99	95	Good/Excel
Oats, ME	100	99	99	95	Excel/Good
Barley, ME	100	100	99	95	Excel/Good
Silage Corn	95	65	85	80	Good
Sweet Corn	85	70	75	65	Good
Tobacco					
Shade	95	95	95	--	Good
Broadleaf	60	50	55	--	Good
Dry Hay					
First Cut	-- Percent Harvested --			--	Good/Fair
	35	25	35		

For the Week Ending Sunday, June 10, 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 GROWING DEGREE DAYS				1-WEEK PRECIP			4-WEEK CUM PRECIP		
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS
	INCHES	INCHES	INCHES	INCHES	INCHES	INCHES	INCHES	INCHES	INCHES	INCHES	INCHES	INCHES	INCHES	INCHES
MAINE														
Augusta_ME	49	79	62	+1	374	+82	86	+43	0.77	+0.00	2	3.63	+0.34	10
Bangor	43	78	61	+0	345	+106	59	+32	0.32	-0.46	3	1.96	-1.23	11
Bethel	43	79	59	-3	297	+43	42	+10	0.37	-0.54	2	4.00	+0.53	8
Cari bou	42	69	56	-3	300	+116	46	+29	0.71	+0.08	5	3.33	+0.60	15
Dover-Foxcroft	42	75	58	-1	259	+70	22	+6	0.97	+0.13	3	2.79	-0.50	11
Frenchville	44	66	54	-5	260	+107	42	+36	1.65	+0.95	5	3.41	+0.58	14
Houlton	36	71	57	-3	271	+83	35	+17	1.44	+0.67	5	4.11	+1.03	16
Livermore_Falls	39	79	59	+0	308	+116	56	+40	0.57	-0.41	1	4.22	+0.63	9
Moosehead	41	73	56	-1	211	+83	15	+13	0.87	-0.03	4	2.78	-0.51	13
Portland_ME	47	78	62	+2	315	+91	68	+50	0.23	-0.60	3	4.22	+1.04	11
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	42	74	58	-3	287	+19	36	-1	0.36	-0.54	3	3.34	+0.01	13
Berlin_AG	40	74	59	-2	302	+55	37	+4	0.37	-0.58	1	2.57	-0.91	8
Concord	42	79	60	-3	384	+67	84	+28	0.02	-0.70	1	4.45	+1.59	9
Diamond_Pond	39	67	52	-4	177	+54	23	+23	1.14	+0.09	4	4.68	+0.78	15
Keene_AP	43	79	59	-6	393	-12	74	-19	0.00	-0.84	0	1.32	-2.11	5
North_Conway	46	80	62	+1	401	+118	99	+55	0.19	-0.74	1	3.45	-0.20	7
Rochester	47	84	64	+1	409	+51	123	+52	0.03	-0.81	1	3.88	+0.49	10
VERMONT														
Burlington_VT	45	78	61	-3	483	+111	123	+42	0.27	-0.50	2	2.06	-0.88	10
Island_Pond	37	72	56	-3	252	+69	27	+8	0.44	-0.54	3	3.37	-0.30	12
Montpelier	39	73	57	-4	289	+27	39	+1	0.61	-0.23	2	2.26	-0.92	13
Pownal	44	75	58	-4	348	+71	56	+13	0.75	-0.35	1	4.51	+0.26	12
Rochester	39	78	58	-2	280	+35	24	-10	0.70	-0.21	2	3.43	-0.39	12
Rutland_AG	40	75	59	-6	338	-79	43	-59	0.37	-0.47	2	3.11	-0.15	14
Sutton	40	74	57	-2	263	+82	33	+14	0.57	-0.41	3	3.40	-0.20	13
Townshend_Lake	43	82	60	-3	320	-28	51	-20	0.00	-0.77	0	5.72	+2.60	14
MASSACHUSETTS														
Ashburnham	46	79	61	-1	391	+124	85	+49	0.29	-0.55	1	3.62	+0.35	14
Boston	56	80	67	+2	549	+105	177	+88	0.01	-0.75	1	2.04	-0.84	13
Greenfield	43	82	61	-5	411	-34	96	-6	0.56	-0.35	2	7.60	+3.99	15
New_Bedford	50	79	64	-1	470	+31	115	+31	0.00	-0.87	0	7.05	+3.70	11
Otis_AFB	54	77	65	+4	426	+144	110	+74	0.01	-0.76	1	4.40	+1.17	12
Plymouth	47	79	62	-1	421	+111	91	+44	0.02	-0.82	1	6.63	+3.19	12
Walpole	48	80	64	+1	513	+154	148	+83	0.00	-0.84	0	4.17	+0.99	13
Westover	50	81	64	-3	545	-5	159	+14	0.13	-0.85	1	5.71	+1.89	12
Worthington	44	76	59	-3	320	+46	63	+24	0.45	-0.46	1	7.34	+3.37	14
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	53	80	66	+2	563	+163	170	+94	0.00	-0.78	0	5.53	+2.26	10
Woonsocket	48	84	64	+2	524	+170	159	+103	0.01	-0.93	1	6.56	+2.89	13
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport	53	80	67	+3	568	+109	154	+44	0.01	-0.81	1	4.13	+0.71	11
Hartford_AP	48	80	64	-3	559	+44	162	+26	0.11	-0.80	1	5.98	+2.26	12
Norfolk	45	81	59	-2	377	+108	84	+48	0.30	-0.80	1	6.87	+2.64	16
Thomaston_Dam	45	81	61	-3	447	+73	102	+30	0.27	-0.71	1	5.03	+1.11	12
Willimantic	47	81	64	+1	569	+192	163	+92	0.01	-0.87	1	4.20	+0.55	11

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, June 10, 2001

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	36	81	58	-2	0.07	1.77
NH	28	86	58	-3	0.00	2.05
VT	35	82	58	-4	0.00	1.44
MA	42	82	63	+0	0.00	1.09
RI	48	84	65	+3	0.00	0.13
CT	44	83	63	-2	0.00	0.31

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: Weather has been very good for farming. Field corn looks good. Hay crop is fair. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Early in the week producers were looking for dry places to plant in the meadows along the CT river. By Thursday the ground had gotten to where it could be worked. Grass was cut and baled; however, much more was chopped. Early strawberries were picked. Setting out of peppers and tomatoes continued. IPM pest message reported that cutworms and cucumber beetles have been found. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Producers taking advantage of the sunshine and making hay. Reports of first cuttings that have recovered nicely with rain, but are actually like second growth. Pastures in the southern part of the county that were non-existent before rain have recovered somewhat. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Disappointing hay/haylage harvests from first cutting; fields that yielded 40 loads last year only provided nine this year. Fruit trees are slowly providing evidence of potential for dramatically reduced harvests, with expected production from 0% to 50% of normal. Temperatures improved to 80's, and farmers remain optimistic that life will go on! **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Haymaking is in full swing after the rains. Starting to see some weed control program breaks due to early season dry weather, herbicides didn't activate in time and weeds are breaking through.

MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook: Potatoes: Crops all planted. Potatoes emerging rapidly with both heat and moisture. Growers busy applying herbicides. **Steve London (Ext), Southern Aroostook:** Very good growing conditions at this time. **Albert Dow (NRCS), Piscataquis:** Strawberries are heavy in blossom. Farmers are harvesting green chop. **Janet King/Jennifer Zweig (FSA), Somerset:** Corn planted and up approximately three inches. Potatoes planted and leafing out. First crop grass cut, about 60% complete. Hail reported in Madison. Two inches of rain over southern Somerset helped crop conditions. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Rains last week and yesterday (Sunday) have helped. Some poor weed control in corn fields from extended dry period after sprays were applied. Hay and haylage harvest has started with some farms all done with first cutting. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Some hay being cut, but crop is down. Vegetable crops looking good. Some areas got heavy rain from thunder showers over the weekend. Thrip infestation in some blueberry fields burned last fall. **David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild Blueberries: Pollination completed. Excellent pollination. Bees being moved out of fields. **Michael Tardy (FSA), Androscoggin:** The recent rains have helped considerably. Most corn is out of the ground and looking good. Some folks had a good first cut of hay; others thought the production was a little short. All vegetables appear to be doing well. Sunday gave us some thunder showers and hail; not a good combination for some areas. We have had reports of hail damage to apples. **Parker Rand (FSA), Cumberland/York:** We have caught up on rain, now we need some heat. We'll have to wait and see how crops rebound from last week's frosts. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** There was some spotty hail, but little damage reported. Hay harvest is getting into full swing. Grass is coming up in some crop fields and needs to be controlled. **Laura Rand (FSA), Oxford:** Planting of field crops is winding down. Potatoes, corn, and oats have all emerged. The rain over the past weekend was a needed blessing. First crop hay being cut, and by most reports is a lighter harvest than usual.

MASSACHUSETTS - Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire: Field corn nearly all planted. Hay being harvested for both silage and

dry hay. Most operators irrigated the fields to prevent hurt to sensitive plants in case of frost. It is not hard to get buried in plowed fields. The county has had over seven inches of rain in the previous two weeks. **Paul Russell (FSA), Southeast Massachusetts:** Cool weather has slowed crop development. Vegetable growers continue to plant and cultivate. Early varieties of cranberries are starting to bloom and growers are applying fungicide and fertilizer. The first cutting of hay is underway with yields being slightly below average. Warm weather is needed to push all crops along. **Kip Graham (FSA), Worcester:** Beginning to harvest strawberries. First and second plantings of sweet corn. First appearance looking good. Hope it holds up. First cutting of hay looking OK. Many are chopping the first cutting. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Back into a dry period again, with the need for some irrigation. No frost nights during the week. First open blossoms; fruit rot fungicide applications will begin. Growers are trying to decide which beds to flood during bloom to destroy the crop. Terrible outbreak of cranberry weevil, particularly since it has evolved resistance to Lorsban, the only insecticide left that worked until recently. It looks like it will be a bad insect year, with fireworm, gypsy moth, spanworm, and Sparganothis fruitworm very much in prevalence. Weeds are really beginning to proliferate in beds managed less than in previous years. Beehives should start arriving this week. **David Rose (FSA), Bristol:** Planting continues. Finally, a week of decent weather. Farmers busy making hay. Rhubarb and asparagus continues to be harvested. A few strawberries beginning to ripen. Warm weather has certainly helped to get things growing. Apples, peaches and pears sizing up. Peas flowering and some sweet corn showing tassel. Hay crop somewhat light due to dry spring. **John Devine (FSA), Franklin:** Cool and dry weather allowed all farms to catch up on planting and to harvest first cut hay or haylage. Most fields have dried out after two weeks of rainy conditions. In general, field conditions have improved during the past week. Standing water has receded, but many crops will need extra fertilizer. Tobacco producers are watching their transplants closely for signs of blue mold. Apple growers are waiting for "June drop" to determine early season damage. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** The past week was very cool and dry. Warmer temperatures and lots of sunshine is needed. Everybody is planting - sweet corn, tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, tobacco, squash, cucumbers, etc. Top-dressing and cultivating many crops due to past heavy rains. Harvesting hay, lettuce, asparagus, and rhubarb.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Bruce Clement (Ext), Cheshire: Beautiful weather all week allowed farmers to complete corn planting and turn to harvesting haylage and some dry hay. Vegetables coming along, but are a little behind normal. Strawberries starting to size up. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** First cut of hay continuing at a rapid pace. Showers early in the week interrupted progress. Corn planting finishing up. Corn looks good. Nutsedge and annual grass weed problems due mostly to dryness after spraying. Regrowth on grass and alfalfa looks good to excellent. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Fruit growers monitoring pest and crop development and applying sprays for pest control, if needed. Peach crop set is poor. Apple crop set variable between orchard blocks and within the orchard blocks. Mowing orchard floor and weed spraying under trees. Field Crops: Planting and weed spraying corn fields. Farmers are continuing to try to make haylage and baled hay between rain showers. Vegetables: Transplanting tomato and pepper plants, and making successive plantings of vegetable crops. Harvesting asparagus and rhubarb. Striped Cucumber Beetle can be found in vine crops. **David Seavey (Ext), Merrimack:** Farmers are cutting hay and

finishing hay land and pasture seedings. Cutworms, maggots and white grubs are causing problems at this time. Sweet corn being planted. Blueberries were fertilized for the second time. Fewer apple scab sprays this year. Some frost injury to apple and peach crops. Cool temperatures have slowed growth of sweet corn and other warm season crops. Rain from the preceding week made a huge difference in the appearance of crops. Hail damage to fruit crops reported in some areas. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Strong winds and a heavy downpour on Sunday afternoon. Dry weather and sunny days most of the week. Hay and haylage harvest in full swing. Harvesting greens, radishes, asparagus. Weeding, applying protective sprays, and irrigating. Monitoring vegetable fields, small fruits, and apple and fruit orchards for problems.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: Haying is going at a good clip, partly because of the weather, but mostly because the crop is thin. Some straw being harvested. Fungicides being applied to potatoes. Summer crops going well. Farmers finally catching up after all the rain. The pastures look good. Roadside stands filling up with peas, lettuce, flowers, hanging baskets and customers. **Marilu Soileau (FSA), All Counties:** Baling straw. Low yields due to no rain and not enough warmth. Other projects and crops progressing nicely. The sunny days this week have really gotten the market crops growing like weeds!

VERMONT - John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille: Great week for fieldwork. Almost everyone started mowing grass. Clear and warm weather was just what we needed. **Bill Snow (Ext), Orange:** Harvesting of first cut hay, mostly as haylage - either chopped or as round bales. Some small square bales done, also. Completion

of corn planting. Nice week weather-wise, but cool at night. Corn seems to be a little slow growing. Hay crop yield below normal. **Larry Hamel (NRCS), Orleans:** Great weather for most farm activities! Corn planting about complete and germination looks excellent. Haying and haylage harvest is in full swing, with several farmers reporting first crop completed and manure now being spread for second crop needs. Moisture levels seem very good, except for a few wet spots in fields that caused a few delays with equipment getting bogged down. **Lynette Hamilton (FSA), Windham:** Haylage harvest is in full swing and some baled hay has been done. Some grass crops are short due to the drought in April. Some late-planted corn is being done to make up for the shortage of first cut hay. **Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Harvesting first crop hay as haylage. Two-thirds of crop knocked down this week. Grasses headed out, alfalfa in bud stage. Spreading some liquid manure on hay crop stubble. Pastures slow to regrow. Burdocks doing great. Corn crop looks good, but not great. Mostly all planted and emerged. Good weed control, some cutworms. **Richard Noel (FSA), Grand Isle/Franklin:** Chopping, baling hay going like gang busters! Manure going on as we speak. Excellent cropping weather, just a little shower on 6/7: 0.06 in. Corn looks good. Could use some more rain any time. Some alfalfa the early birds cut is back up 6-8 inches. Second cut looking good for them! **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Big haying week. Good weather. Good drying conditions. Everyone got a real good start on first cut hay. Nearly all of the corn is planted. Some are spreading manure after they get that hay off. Soil getting dry. Rain in the forecast for today. Some chilly nights last week, very close to frost. Summer weather.

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Statisticians: Emily McAllister, Robin Helrich
 Director: Aubrey Davis Deputy: David Luckenbach

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