



# 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

Volume 21, Number 7

(issued weekly on the Internet, May - October)

June 18, 2001 - 4 pm

For week ending 6/17/01

### Great Weather Continues

For the week ending June 17, 2001, there were 6.0 days available for field work across New England. Pasture condition was rated as 0% very poor, 5% poor, 23% fair, 65% good, 7% excellent. Major farm activities included: planting row crops and vegetables, cultivating potatoes, spreading manure, transplanting tobacco and some vegetables, testing soils for nitrate, cutting hay and haylage, harvesting strawberries and early season vegetables, and spraying for weeds, insects, and fungus.

#### SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	-- Percent --		
	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
<b>Topsoil Moisture</b>			
Very Short	9	7	0
Short	6	8	0
Adequate	71	79	60
Surplus	14	6	40
<b>Subsoil Moisture</b>			
Very Short	8	8	0
Short	7	7	2
Adequate	77	81	62
Surplus	8	4	36

**VEGETABLES:** Farmers continued to plant sweet corn, eggplant, peppers and other vegetables. The harvesting of asparagus, rhubarb, radish, lettuce, and other early season vegetables progressed, with most crops being reported in good condition. Fungicide applications were made and crops were actively monitored for the presence of insects. Fields were sidedressed with fertilizer. Soil nitrate testing began for sweet corn; the crop is now in tassel stage. Roadside stands welcomed the good business that came along with the nice weather.

**FRUIT:** Growers sprayed fruit crops for weeds and insects. Apple scab was reported; the crop remains in very poor condition in the southern New England states and in good condition in the northernmost states. Peaches and pears were also reported in very poor condition in the southernmost states. Strawberry harvesting was underway and the crop was in good condition. Blueberry crops, particularly lowbush, were in good condition. Bees had excellent weather last week to begin their work on the Massachusetts' cranberry crop, which was in bud to early bloom stage.

#### FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested	Fruit Set	Fruit Size	Condition
Apples	--	Avg/B.Avg	Avg	Good/Fair
Peaches	--	Avg/B.Avg	Avg/B.Avg	Fair
Pears	--	B.Avg/Avg	B.Avg/Avg	V.Poor/Poor
Strawberries	15	Avg	Avg	Good
Cranberries, MA	--	--	--	Good/Fair
Blueberries				
Highbush	--	Avg	Avg	Good/Fair
Wild, ME	--	A.Avg	Avg	Good

**FIELD CROPS:** It was a hot, humid week until the arrival of tropical storm Allison on Sunday, which brought significant rainfall to most locations. A mix of sun and rain provided excellent growing conditions, pushing emergence ahead of last year and the normal for most crops. Potato planting was completed in New England last week, with emergence well underway and farmers actively cultivating their crop. Oat and barley crops in Maine were fully emerged and in excellent condition. Silage corn planting in New England was 99% complete by the end of last week and was in good condition. Growers wrapped up shade tobacco transplanting. Broadleaf tobacco transplanting was ahead of both last year and the five-year average. Both shade and broadleaf tobacco crops were in good condition. The harvesting of first cut hay in the six-state region was half-way complete, and preparations were being made for second cutting. Farmers are hoping the recent weather will allow the second cut crop to make up for any losses incurred from the low-yielding first cut.

#### FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

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

For the Week Ending Sunday, June 17, 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	BASE-50F TOT	BASE-60F DFN	BASE-50F TOT	BASE-60F DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS
	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
<b>MAINE</b>														
Augusta_ME	52	92	70	+6	512	+125	155	+86	0.79	+0.02	3	4.08	+0.86	9
Bangor	51	95	70	+8	488	+161	132	+85	0.05	-0.72	2	1.18	-1.94	8
Bethel	49	95	70	+8	438	+96	113	+60	0.29	-0.68	2	4.18	+0.58	8
Cari bou	39	90	66	+7	417	+161	99	+72	0.14	-0.50	1	3.00	+0.33	12
Dover-Foxcroft	39	92	67	+7	379	+117	78	+51	0.15	-0.75	2	2.04	-1.38	8
Frenchville	40	87	65	+6	368	+148	87	+72	0.05	-0.65	2	3.10	+0.27	13
Houlton	36	91	66	+6	382	+121	84	+55	0.22	-0.55	1	3.44	+0.36	13
Livermore Falls	48	97	71	+11	455	+188	133	+104	0.63	-0.35	3	4.14	+0.41	8
Moosehead	43	89	65	+7	319	+129	61	+52	0.00	-0.91	0	2.39	-1.04	9
Portland_ME	49	88	68	+7	446	+137	129	+93	1.22	+0.38	1	5.18	+1.97	11
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>														
Benton	48	90	69	+9	424	+75	103	+50	0.18	-0.73	1	2.95	-0.52	12
Berlin_AG	48	92	70	+9	443	+113	108	+57	0.00	-0.98	0	2.33	-1.34	6
Concord	50	92	72	+8	539	+124	169	+83	1.52	+0.75	3	5.88	+2.95	11
Diamond_Pond	46	88	66	+9	289	+114	71	+68	0.08	-1.01	2	3.79	-0.30	14
Keene_AP	46	90	72	+7	545	+31	156	+23	1.98	+1.14	2	3.30	-0.13	7
North_Conway	52	95	72	+9	556	+180	184	+115	0.31	-0.65	1	3.74	+0.03	7
Rochester	50	95	72	+8	565	+103	209	+103	1.11	+0.27	1	4.72	+1.36	9
<b>VERMONT</b>														
Burlington_VT	52	93	73	+9	646	+170	216	+99	0.77	-0.05	3	2.74	-0.32	12
Island_Pond	47	90	68	+9	378	+129	83	+52	0.82	-0.19	1	3.46	-0.38	12
Montpelier	47	90	68	+8	420	+77	100	+43	0.19	-0.65	2	2.42	-0.85	14
Pownal	49	87	69	+8	481	+121	120	+58	1.23	+0.16	2	5.74	+1.47	14
Rochester	43	92	68	+8	408	+83	88	+36	0.68	-0.21	2	4.11	+0.38	14
Rutland_AG	48	89	69	+4	474	-51	109	-32	2.35	+1.51	2	5.42	+2.09	15
Sutton	50	90	69	+10	395	+148	95	+65	0.46	-0.54	3	3.61	-0.17	15
Townshend_Lake	48	94	68	+4	444	-6	110	+6	1.18	+0.44	2	6.78	+3.73	13
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>														
Ashburnham	52	88	71	+9	538	+181	162	+103	1.46	+0.62	2	5.03	+1.70	15
Boston	56	92	73	+7	714	+148	272	+131	0.54	-0.19	1	2.51	-0.39	11
Greenfield	45	91	71	+5	557	-5	173	+24	0.75	-0.16	1	8.34	+4.70	15
New_Bedford	51	83	71	+5	618	+61	193	+62	2.48	+1.63	2	9.48	+6.09	12
Otis_AFB	55	82	71	+8	572	+193	186	+122	1.29	+0.52	1	5.63	+2.47	11
Plymouth	51	86	71	+7	571	+158	171	+91	1.33	+0.51	1	7.87	+4.52	11
Walpole	53	91	73	+9	676	+211	241	+139	1.08	+0.17	1	5.15	+1.83	12
Westover	55	90	73	+5	709	+29	253	+48	0.40	-0.58	2	6.11	+2.22	14
Worthington	45	88	68	+6	445	+84	120	+60	0.62	-0.29	2	7.93	+4.10	13
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>														
Providence	58	85	72	+7	722	+206	259	+137	2.02	+1.25	1	7.53	+4.33	10
Woonsocket	52	93	73	+9	685	+227	250	+161	0.57	-0.41	1	7.05	+3.31	12
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>														
Bridgeport	60	83	71	+5	719	+139	235	+75	0.46	-0.31	5	4.59	+1.31	16
Hartford_AP	52	89	73	+5	719	+77	252	+59	0.41	-0.50	2	6.38	+2.73	13
Norfolk	46	87	69	+7	507	+151	144	+87	1.70	+0.59	2	8.53	+4.22	14
Thomaston_Dam	48	88	72	+8	602	+126	187	+82	3.98	+3.00	3	9.01	+5.09	15
Willimantic	50	88	73	+9	731	+249	255	+149	0.82	-0.02	1	5.01	+1.47	11

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.

Copyright 2001: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

For detailed ag weather forecasts and data visit the AWIS home page

at [www.awis.com](http://www.awis.com) or call toll free at 1-888-798-9955.

**STATE WEATHER SUMMARY**

For the Week Ending Sunday, June 17, 2001

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	34	97	68	+7	0.00	1.28
NH	40	96	69	+8	0.00	1.98
VT	42	96	69	+8	0.19	3.61
MA	44	94	71	+7	0.40	2.48
RI	52	93	72	+8	0.57	2.02
CT	46	89	71	+6	0.41	3.98

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:** Heavy rain, up to five inches, fell in some areas at the end of the week. Many fields are too wet to work. Hay has been beaten down by the rain. There is erosion in some of the steeper corn fields. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Excessive heat and humidity last week helped immature crops. Crops like strawberries were pushed too fast to keep up with picking before ripening. Heavy rains both Monday night and Sunday did cause some washouts and minor flooding. Some hay made at the end of the week. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Allison dropped 5.5" all day Sunday causing flooding, runoff and some tree damage. Water receding rapidly and fields should recover. Drought concerns have washed away and efforts are being made to bring crops to fruitful harvest. Strawberries are ready for pick-your-own. Farmers' markets have begun. Blueberries are being pruned to save the shrubs, as they don't have adequate leafing due to previous frost damage. Pastures look good. Vegetables are being planted. Almost done planting silage corn, weed control needed. First cut hay is about 70% complete with not much of a harvest, but second cutting already looks promising. Foliar feeding and mowing in orchards. Ninety-degree days anticipated! **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Haymaking and nitrate testing were most common activities. Seven plus inches of rain over the weekend - thanks to Allison! No idea yet what effect this will have or has had on crops!

**MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook:** Potatoes: Cultivating potatoes. Applying last of herbicides. Rock picking. Emergence is very good. Crops are growing rapidly. Soil starting to get a little dry but showers (June 17) will really give plants a boost. **Erin Chadbourne (Ext), Central Aroostook:** All potato, barley, and oat fields are greening fast. Not sure what the storms this past week will bring to the area as far as pests go. We're keeping our eye out for aphids and leafhoppers that may have hitched a ride on some of the storm fronts that went through "The County" over the weekend. Herbicides are still being applied in many places. **Steve London (Ext), Southern Aroostook:** Very good growing weather, seems to be a little more grass in the fields this year. **Albert Dow (NRCS), Piscataquis:** Haying is well underway. Two-tenths of an inch of rain was welcomed Sunday. **Donna Lamb (Ext), Piscataquis:** Extreme hot weather has allowed some farmers to get in their first crop of hay. **Janet King/Jennifer Zweig (FSA), Somerset:** Corn is still being planted. First crop of grass silage is being harvested. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Hot weather has allowed the corn crop to jump. Lots of first cutting hay/haylage being harvested. Rain last night cooled things off and helped the moisture conditions. Strawberries are coming fast with the hot weather. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Vegetables looking good. Haying in progress, but crop may be short. One to two inches of rain fell from tropical storm Allison. **David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild Blueberries: Pollination completed. Excellent pollination. Bees being moved out of fields. Post-emergence grass herbicides being applied. **Michael Tardy (FSA), Androscoggin:** The combination of the previous rain and the heat has caused plants to jump out of the ground. A farmer told me today that he could hear the grass grow. If we can keep the hail away, crops will be doing just fine. It has been a great early season so far. Some hay was short because of the dry conditions. Hopefully, a hearty and early 2nd crop will make up the difference. Farmers are hoping that Mother Nature is in a good mood and gives one of her appreciated "farmer-friendly" years. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Initial heavy downpour of rain on Sunday was welcomed after a hot and humid mid-week of 90 degree temperatures.

**MASSACHUSETTS - Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire:** Farmers busy making dry hay and haylage. Finishing weed control on silage corn. Another inch of rain on Saturday. Hay fields have some wet spots that are not being harvested. Some farmers had put up more good hay last week than in all of 2000. **Paul Russell (FSA), Southeast Massachusetts:** Warmer weather has

pushed most crops along. First cutting of hay is only fair. Vegetables look very good but are a week behind. Early cranberry varieties are coming into full bloom. No set-aside announcement has come from the USDA, so growers don't know whether to apply fertilizer, fungicides or flood the bogs out for this year. **Kip Graham (FSA), Worcester:** First crop of hay completed. Fair crop. Silage corn is looking good. Sprayed squash, pumpkin, melons and cucumbers for striped cucumber beetle. Broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower and lettuce was sprayed for cabbage worm and looper. Damage to blueberry bushes will result in a 35-40% crop loss. Strawberries looking awesome as of June 18<sup>th</sup>. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Most cranberry beds heading into bloom; mid-bloom for the early varieties. Pollination weather has been good so far. Many bumblebees this year helping to set the berries. Still no word from USDA on the crop set-aside issue. It is almost too late for most growers. Why does it take so long to make a decision? First fruit rot fungicide applications went on last week. Insecticide applications going on for various pests. Another nice dose of rain on Sunday into Monday will mean no irrigation necessary for a few days. **David Rose (FSA), Bristol:** Hot and humid this past week. Farmers continue to make hay. The harvest of summer squash, zucchini and strawberries is in full swing. Fruit continues to size up. Between 2.5 and 3.0 inches of rain fell yesterday, stopping all field work. **Paul Fischer (FSA), Essex/Middlesex:** Heavy rains (up to 5 inches) over the weekend flooded many fields. Crop fields that historically cannot handle excessive moisture will need several days to dry out in order to be worked. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** The past week brought excellent growing conditions; hot, sunny days with a great rain on Sunday, the 17<sup>th</sup>. Harvesting greens, lettuce, radishes, and strawberries. Planting of summer and fall crops continues. Early potatoes are flowering and early sweet corn is in tassel stage. Due to the high 80 degree temperatures, vegetable growers are monitoring insect development.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE - Bruce Clement (Ext), Cheshire:** Hot humid weather has spurred crop growth. Most crops are still a little behind schedule. Early season vegetables being harvested. Strawberry harvest started this week. Hay and haylage harvest continues. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Quite hot, good hay-drying weather predominating through most of the week, actually getting grass too dry to chop by week's end. Haying and haylage harvest going at rapid pace. Corn up about six inches now, making noticeable growth. Manure spreading on cut haylands. Looks like very good fruit set on blueberries. Strawberries at or past bloom, also nice set. Some clipper damage seen. Hi-tunnel tomatoes doing well, many now with green fruit. Spring vegetables coming along well with mix of sun and rain this season. Overall good yields reported on hay, although some quality losses by rain earlier in harvest. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Corn planting finishing up and first cut continuing at a rapid pace. Dryness earlier in the week was helped by rain over the weekend. Early planted corn is six to eight leaves (15"-18"). Regrowth on alfalfa is excellent, grasses as well. Weed control is good, but variable. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruits: Strawberry harvest started at the end of week. Fruit growers monitoring pest and crop development and applying sprays for pest control. Apple scab is seen in some orchards. June drop continues, heavy in some orchards. Vegetables: Continuing successive planting and finishing transplanting peppers. Growers continued harvesting early season vegetables such as lettuce and radishes. Asparagus harvest winding down. Growers busy side dressing fields with fertilizer, cultivating weeds, scouting for pests and spraying if needed. Cucumber beetle, four-lined plant bug and Tortoise Beetle. Starting to soil nitrate test for sweet corn. Field Crops: Finish planting and weed spraying corn fields. Farmers are continuing to make haylage and baled hay. Starting to soil nitrate test for field corn to determine nitrogen fertilizer needs. **David Seavey (Ext), Merrimack:** Fruit growers are mowing and spraying. Weed control is poor in many corn fields, making re-application necessary. First cut hay continuing. Strawberries are being harvested. Timing of rainfall was very good. Reports of hail

damage being received. Apple and peach yields are expected to be down this year. Quality of first cut hay below average. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** The week started on Monday with rain and ended on Sunday with rain. The middle of the week was very hot and humid. Had hail in some areas. Crops growing well. Picking early green vegetables and strawberries.

**RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport:** Haying continues and the crop is thin. Still planting sweet corn and summer vegetables. Harvesting lettuce and cole crops which look just great. Some straw being cut and field corn finishing up planting. Strawberries have arrived and pick-your-own operations are busy. The rain on Sunday put a cramp in some harvesting, but Saturday was picture perfect. Roadside stands are still busy. **Marilu Soileau (FSA), All Counties:** Severe thunderstorms brought heavy rain over most of Rhode Island on Tuesday night. Rainfall reports vary from 0.75 inches to 3.0 inches, which fell in a couple hours.

**VERMONT - John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille:** Last week's heat wave was positive for most crops, particularly corn. Many are finished first cut of haylage. Weed control on corn should keep many busy this week. **Bill Snow (Ext), Orange:** If farmers could pick weather, it would be nice all week and rain on Sunday to get rest. This describes this past week. Of course not all farmers would agree and not all received the correct amount of rain. It probably was too hot for some. A lot of first cut hay was cut last week with a lot of round bales made. Yields are looking better. Corn crop is variable. Some is over a foot tall and some normal for this time of year. Seems to be more weed problems in corn this year. Wild Chervil is spreading in central Vermont! If you see it, control it now before it goes to seed. It looks like Queen Anne's Lace and is in bloom now. It can grow up to six feet tall and can take over fields. You don't want it. **Larry Hamel (NRCS), Orleans:**

Very hot this past week in Orleans County. Finally received plenty of rain Sunday morning. Plenty of hay and haylage harvested during the dry and hot weather. Good soaking rains will help prospects for the second cutting. **Lynette Hamilton (FSA), Windham:** Strawberry harvest started this past weekend with a good crop. Haying and silage harvesting is in full swing, with second cut alfalfa coming on strong. The rains has fallen at the right time for the crops. Bindweed and burley cucumber like the hot humid weather of the past week, so tell farmers to scout their fields for the pest and control it when it's young. **Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Corn growth excellent, some uneven germination, insects. Weed control good to excellent. Some side dressing of nitrogen. First crop haylage mostly complete, second crop regrowth good. Damage from machinery wheel traffic evident. Alfalfa stands thinned out. New seedings of hay fields good, some spotty germination. Manure spreading on harvested hay fields. **Richard Noel (FSA), Grand Isle/Franklin:** Hay still going in and manure being spread, all forms. Big rain Saturday, 6/16: Highgate 1.10 in., St. Albans 1.50 in. Corn looks great, some farmers starting to topdress nitrogen. Second cut coming back extremely well. Crops and pastures look great. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Week of real summer weather. Hit 90 degrees for the first time in a couple of years. Corn responded to heat. Rain coming along nicely, about a half-inch on Saturday. First cut of hay pretty well in. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Nitrogen applied to early sweet corn. Potatoes cultivated and hilled up. Tomatoes and peppers sprayed for beetles. Fertilizer applied to tomatoes, peppers and summer squash. All crops showed good growth for the week. Ample rain and sun helped a great deal. Strawberries ready to pick this weekend. Two inches of rain has helped our area a great deal. Early sweet corn is knee high "plus." Looking for tassels. Peas in full bloom.

To receive this report every Monday evening, send an e-mail message to [listserv@newsbox.usda.gov](mailto:listserv@newsbox.usda.gov) and in the body, type **subscribe usda-new-eng-crop-weather**

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

PERMITTED  
 USDA  
 POSTAGE & FEES PAID  
 FIRST CLASS  
 PRESORTED

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
 NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE  
 POST OFFICE BOX 1444  
 CONCORD NH 03302-1444  
 ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED