



# New England Agricultural Statistics Service

a field office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service  
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## Crop Weather

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August 27, 2001 - 4 pm

For week ending 8/26/01

### Minimal Rain Offers Little Relief

For the week ending August 26, 2001, there were 6.5 days available for fieldwork across New England. Pasture condition was rated as 16% very poor, 38% poor, 40% fair, 6% good, 0% excellent. Major farm activities included: cultivating; irrigating; cutting hay and chopping haylage; harvesting shade and broadleaf tobacco, oats, barley, potatoes, apples, peaches, pears, raspberries, highbush and lowbush blueberries, tomatoes, sweet corn and other vegetables; and spraying for weeds, disease and insects.

#### SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	-- Percent --		
	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
<b>Topsoil Moisture</b>			
Very Short	29	44	1
Short	49	34	14
Adequate	22	22	61
Surplus	0	0	24
<b>Subsoil Moisture</b>			
Very Short	35	32	0
Short	39	38	11
Adequate	26	30	73
Surplus	0	0	16

#### FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2001	2000	5-yr Avg	
Apples	15	10	10	Good/Fair
Peaches	60	60	65	Good/Fair
Pears	5	15	10	Poor
Cranberries, MA	--	--	--	Good/Fair
Blueberries				
Highbush	85	90	85	Fair/Good
Wild, ME	90	75	85	Fair/Good

**FIELD CROPS:** Rain showers arrived in New England last week, but in most areas they did not provide enough moisture for crops to recover from previous drought conditions. Where available, farmers proceeded with irrigation while most field crops continued to be harvested. New England potatoes were reported in good to fair condition, as farmers actively harvested the crop across the three reporting States. Signs of drought stress continue to appear and worsen in hay and corn crops in areas of the six-state region. Oat and barley crops in Maine are in excellent to good condition. Blue mold is affecting broadleaf tobacco fields in the Connecticut River Valley; some farms have lost their entire crop.

**VEGETABLES:** Most vegetable crops continued to be harvested last week and irrigation, where available, was used on fields left to be harvested. Some vegetable crops have been damaged by the extreme dry conditions. Fields were scouted for weeds, insects and disease, and applications were made where necessary. Sweet corn remained in good to fair condition, as the harvest of the crop progressed ahead of last year.

**FRUIT:** Apple, peach, pear and raspberry harvest continued last week. Due to the lack of moisture, apple size has been reported as small. The harvest of both highbush and lowbush blueberries is nearing completion. Cooler weather, along with some showers last week, helped to improve the quality of Maine wild blueberries left to be picked; the crop is currently rated in fair to good condition. Cranberries in Massachusetts have been hit hard by both fireworm and weevil populations, and the crop underwent a slight decrease in condition.

#### FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2001	2000	5-yr Avg	
Potatoes				
Maine	5	<5	5	Good/Fair
Mass	20	30	40	Good/Fair
Rhode Isl	50	35	25	Good/Fair
Oats, ME	25	5	20	Excel/Good
Barley, ME	35	5	30	Excel/Good
Silage Corn	<5	--	--	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	65	55	65	Good/Fair
Tobacco				
Shade	80	90	95	Good/Fair
Broadleaf	80	80	85	Good/Fair
Dry Hay				
Second Cut	90	70	75	Fair/Good
Third Cut	35	30	25	Fair/Poor

For the Week Ending Sunday, August 26, 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		BASE-60F		TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL		DFN	DAYS
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN				INCHES	DFN		
<b>MAINE</b>															
Augusta_ME	46	87	69	+4	1948	+269	891	+233	0.05	-0.70	1	0.14	-2.89	3	
Bangor	39	87	68	+3	1867	+334	814	+262	0.24	-0.53	1	0.97	-2.03	6	
Bethel	43	87	67	+3	1660	+136	645	+109	0.64	-0.27	2	1.27	-2.33	11	
Cari bou	39	81	62	+2	1563	+313	569	+214	0.36	-0.55	4	0.48	-3.23	8	
Dover-Foxcroft	36	86	63	-2	1532	+194	550	+134	0.49	-0.35	4	0.67	-2.60	7	
Frenchville	39	81	61	+1	1418	+257	478	+175	0.44	-0.48	3	0.69	-3.03	9	
Houlton	33	83	64	+2	1523	+218	561	+166	0.21	-0.70	2	1.04	-2.65	5	
Livermore Falls	37	91	67	+5	1772	+454	765	+369	0.41	-0.55	2	0.85	-2.82	7	
Moosehead	35	83	63	+2	1340	+225	432	+145	1.09	+0.25	3	1.40	-2.00	7	
Portland_ME	50	82	68	+3	1802	+264	786	+220	0.19	-0.47	3	1.26	-1.29	7	
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>															
Benton	44	85	67	+4	1597	+187	597	+162	0.00	-0.91	0	0.28	-3.33	4	
Berlin_AG	42	83	65	+3	1631	+210	616	+158	0.35	-0.63	2	0.85	-3.05	5	
Concord	49	87	70	+5	1943	+249	881	+218	0.11	-0.62	3	0.68	-2.36	7	
Diamond Pond	40	76	61	+3	1147	+186	319	+129	0.49	-0.65	3	2.17	-2.46	13	
Keene_AP	45	86	70	+2	1953	+66	872	+69	0.83	-0.02	1	4.10	+0.56	7	
North Conway	46	89	69	+5	1953	+370	885	+307	0.30	-0.61	1	0.54	-3.10	5	
Rochester	47	86	68	+1	1948	+144	898	+152	0.42	-0.35	3	1.52	-1.73	8	
<b>VERMONT</b>															
Burlington_VT	48	86	71	+5	2135	+318	1011	+257	0.92	+0.01	4	1.66	-2.00	9	
Island Pond	41	82	65	+5	1464	+298	512	+216	0.13	-0.95	3	1.41	-2.99	9	
Montpelier	42	82	67	+4	1633	+201	639	+177	0.07	-0.80	1	0.58	-2.88	7	
Pownal	47	84	68	+5	1688	+204	642	+150	0.22	-0.76	2	3.18	-0.68	9	
Rochester	44	83	67	+4	1591	+188	591	+145	0.20	-0.85	1	1.24	-2.90	9	
Rutland_AG	44	83	67	-1	1720	-150	669	-114	0.73	-0.22	1	1.52	-2.28	7	
Sutton	44	81	65	+5	1511	+328	545	+235	1.52	+0.47	3	2.46	-1.86	11	
Townshend Lake	44	86	68	+1	1778	+6	748	+25	0.05	-0.86	1	0.85	-2.73	8	
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>															
Ashburnham	52	85	70	+6	1918	+377	844	+300	0.34	-0.43	2	1.40	-1.80	9	
Boston	58	84	71	+0	2317	+182	1175	+168	0.30	-0.47	2	4.04	+1.14	9	
Greenfield	52	89	72	+4	2042	+29	958	+60	0.00	-0.84	0	0.43	-2.93	6	
New Bedford	50	84	71	-2	2101	-45	977	-40	1.29	+0.31	3	3.48	-0.27	14	
Otis_AFB	37	81	68	-1	2047	+301	966	+241	2.56	+1.78	3	4.15	+1.12	10	
Plymouth	48	83	70	+2	2004	+196	909	+137	1.40	+0.47	3	4.29	+0.76	12	
Walpole	52	85	71	+4	2200	+356	1065	+288	0.47	-0.44	2	2.24	-1.27	9	
Westover	50	86	71	-2	2267	-34	1112	-14	0.33	-0.51	3	5.80	+2.65	12	
Worthington	47	82	66	+2	1609	+105	606	+99	0.03	-0.88	1	1.49	-2.30	6	
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>															
Providence	55	85	72	+2	2332	+298	1169	+233	1.75	+0.91	3	4.30	+1.05	9	
Woonsocket	52	89	73	+6	2312	+498	1178	+438	0.54	-0.37	2	4.77	+1.13	9	
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>															
Bridgeport	60	84	73	+0	2419	+237	1235	+175	1.45	+0.75	3	4.70	+1.71	8	
Hartford_AP	54	86	72	+2	2345	+130	1179	+115	0.38	-0.46	1	2.43	-0.80	9	
Norfolk	50	80	68	+4	1849	+340	791	+278	0.19	-0.86	1	5.29	+1.21	10	
Thomaston_Dam	52	84	69	+2	2038	+245	926	+208	0.71	-0.27	2	3.74	-0.09	9	
Willimantic	54	85	72	+5	2305	+479	1129	+381	0.91	+0.04	3	2.69	-0.88	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.

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**STATE WEATHER SUMMARY**  
For the Week Ending Sunday, August 26, 2001

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	33	91	65	+2	0.00	1.16
NH	33	90	66	+3	0.00	1.57
VT	38	87	67	+3	0.00	1.52
MA	37	89	70	+2	0.00	3.58
RI	52	89	72	+3	0.54	2.35
CT	50	87	71	+2	0.00	2.00

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:** It is still very dry. Second and third crop of hay is not growing. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Where did the market for sweet corn go? Demand is weak to none, or so it seems. Some hay made over the weekend. Several getting ready for silage harvest after Labor Day. Early apples are at roadside stands. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Corn is maturing quickly with hot days and nights. Hay harvest continues. Peaches are sweet and juicy. Sweet corn maturing too fast. Apples gradually coming into harvest. Quick rain slowed up some crop work, but was needed to nourish thirsty fields. **Nancy Welsh/Karen Lockman (FSA), New Haven:** Harvest of peaches, pears and apples continues. Field work being completed. No rain during the week.

**MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook:** Light showers and humid weather slowed grain harvest, but it gave late maturing potato varieties a new life. Insect pressure minimal. Growers desiccating earlier maturing varieties. Some potato harvesting has begun. Despite the light showers, potato yields are expected to be less than previous years. **Erin Chadbourne (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Still some fungicide and insecticide applications. Vine killing continues, along with broccoli harvest. We are finally receiving some welcomed rainfall. **Steve London (Ext), Southern Aroostook:** Crops look good. **Albert Dow (NRCS), Piscataquis:** Some farmers are feeding hay because pasture growth has stopped. At least one farmer has had to buy hay in order to keep from using his winter supply. **Janet King/Jennifer Zweig (FSA), Somerset:** Hay crop is suffering from the lack of moisture. Corn is starting to show signs of drought stress. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Dry weather continues -- one day of light rain did little to help the situation. Corn silage harvest will begin soon. Very little grass growth. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Harvesting of sweet corn and small vegetable crops continues. Some small grain crops were harvested last week. Crop conditions are poor due to dry weather conditions. A very small amount of rain was received on Monday, 8/20, which was not sufficient to make any difference in the poor crop conditions. **David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild Blueberries: Showers and cooler temperatures have led to some improvement in crop quality. Some fields that may have been abandoned because of dry conditions will be harvested. **Michael Tardy (FSA), Androscoggin:** Anybody have any water out there? The farmers in this area could use some; they could use more than some! The concern for corn producers is nitrogen getting into the ears because of the dying leaves. They have been advised by some dealers not to harvest right after rain. Nothing is ever easy. The vacationers are happy with no rain, hot sun, and blue skies. Farmers are asking for rain every day. Crops are doing OK in spite of the dry conditions. We have had reports of some corn drying up, leaves curling and turning brown. The grass crop will be short; some folks had a double whammy! What the armyworms didn't get, the hot, dry weather is getting. Keep smiling. **Parker Rand (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Spotty showers have done little to help most crops. It's still very dry, and it may be too late for some of the silage corn. Apple picking has started, but the apples are small. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Some rain was received during the week, but water levels are still very low. **Laura Rand (FSA), Oxford:** Dry conditions still persist. We need a few days of steady rain in order to recover even a little! Early apple harvest has begun with apples looking small, but of good quality. Oat harvest is light, but also appears to be of good quality. More reports are being received of corn curling and the hay crop drying up.

**MASSACHUSETTS - Paul Russell (FSA), Southeast Massachusetts:** Crops continue to progress. Slow growth of shellfish has resulted in an increase of price. Cranberry growers are expressing some concern with the quality of fruit due to the extreme, humid weather, but overall production is average. Vegetable crops continue to produce excellent yields and quality with strong demand for fresh produce. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Cranberry weevil certainly reduced crop significantly on certain beds. At least

40% of the crop at the Cranberry Station was lost due to weevils clipping the flowers off. Black-headed fireworm also had a significant impact elsewhere. The first white berries for the soon-to-be-sold white cranberry juice will be harvested within the next few days. **John Devine (FSA), Franklin:** Blue mold infection has spread to Franklin County. In spite of unusually dry weather conditions, several farms have sustained total crop loss on broadleaf tobacco. In general, all crop conditions have worsened because of extremely hot and dry weather. These crops include silage, hay, vine crops and potatoes. Topsoil and subsoil moisture levels are as low as they've ever been, and the risk of fire is high. **Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire:** Making hay, both dry and silage, in all three cuttings. Vegetables are in full harvest. Crops are in bad need of water. Despite this, everything looks great. **Ted Smiarowski (FSA), Hampshire:** It's dry. All vegetable growers with irrigation equipment are irrigating. Some crops are maturing very fast because of the heat and the added water. Harvesting all types of summertime fruits and vegetables. **Kip Graham (FSA), Worcester:** Apples, peaches, caneberries, sweet corn, squash, tomatoes, cukes, and most vegetables being harvested. Corn fields fully tasseled in most of the county. Humidity is giving crops a bit of a boost. The first 2 or 3 plantings of corn already chopped as the next crop is ready for harvesting. Most of the blueberries have been harvested. Spraying pesticides for insects and diseases is an ongoing practice. Finishing second cutting of hay and beginning third cutting in some areas of the county.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE - Bruce Clement (Ext), Cheshire:** Drought conditions prevail in most of the county. Pasture and hay growth at a standstill in most fields. Many producers are feeding stored feeds to their animals. Streambeds are bone dry throughout the county. Not only crops, but shrubs and trees showing signs of drought stress. Summer raspberries are done and blueberries are winding down. A full array of vegetables being harvested. Vegetable growers relying on irrigation. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Cooler, somewhat moister conditions. County receiving close to an inch of rain by various small rain events. Field corn looks pretty good except on some drier soils. Grass, hay, and pastureland in need of more water to put on some late season growth. Lots of local sweet corn and other late summer vegetables available at farm stands and markets. Blueberry harvest winding down. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Dry weather conditions continue to depress crop growth. Corn looking poorer as weather continues. Ear size is small and some plants are dead. Some grasses still haven't regrown after second cutting. Alfalfa growing slowly and yields are depressed from lack of moisture. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** Conditions are still extremely dry. Topsoil and subsoil are powder dry at 3 to 4 feet in many areas. It seems unlikely that any third cutting will be available on many farms that also lost their second cutting to armyworms. Field checks indicated that some producers have lost up to 80% of their mixed hay crop for the year, due to armyworms and drought. Some farms have started chopping corn. Fields that have gone completely brown from drought are being chopped this week. A few other fields will be chopped soon. Corn on the better sights, that had plenty of manure, is still green and has a chance to produce a halfway decent crop. However, even the "good" fields show some sort of drought stress. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Weather: Drought conditions throughout the county. Localized showers gave temporary local relief, but not for long. If irrigation is not available, all crops will be suffering. Fruit: Peach, plums, Paulared apples, and fall raspberry harvest continues. Blueberry harvest winding down. Apple growers continue to move bins into orchards getting ready for harvest. Irrigating renovated strawberry beds, raspberries, blueberries, and peaches. Vegetables: Harvesting wide array of vegetables. Farmers kept busy monitoring pest pressures and spraying pesticides for insects and diseases. High demand for produce at most local farmers' markets. Field Crops: Hay cutting continues. Farmers making new forage seedings. With dry conditions, silage corn leaves are curling and showing stress conditions.

**David Seavey (Ext), Merrimack:** Early apple harvest has begun. Blueberry harvest at the tail end. Warm season vegetable harvest continues. Farmers are spraying vegetables and nursery stock for insects and disease control. Haying continues. Irrigation systems running during drought conditions. A soaking rain is needed. Apple color looks very good. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Harvesting early apple varieties (Paulared, Lodie), peaches, blueberries, and a whole array of vegetables. Non-irrigated crops are showing drought stress symptoms. Irrigating, cultivating, monitoring pests. We need a good soaking rain. **Pam Marvin (FSA), Sullivan:** Early varieties of apples being harvested. Crop looks good. Most pumpkin and squash crops badly in need of rain. Blueberry harvest just about finished. Lots of 2nd and 3rd cuttings of hay being finished. Lack of rain keeping new crop from growing. Cornish Fair had a good attendance of livestock and crop producers. A good time had by all.

**RHODE ISLAND - Marilu Soileau (FSA), All Counties:** Beautiful weather for farm work this week. Sunny without extreme heat. The weekend was great for driving back country roads and stopping at farm stands to get fresh vegetables, berries, peaches, and early apples. Saw the first bundled cornstalks of the year as well! Hardy mums are turning out in abundance! Apple growers were busy roping off fruit varieties for the upcoming start of pick-your-own season next weekend.

**VERMONT - John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille:** Somewhat cooler temperatures helped with heat and drought-stressed crops. Have received report of some vegetable crop losses where irrigation wasn't possible. Grass still not growing and corn silage will likely be harvested early. **Bill Snow (Ext), Orange:** Scattered showers early last week were very welcomed. Noticed that fields started to green up a little. We will take what we get. Drought affecting some farms more than others.

Corn crop looks variable with concern about full ear development. Good year to have carryover of 30% from last year. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** The county received some rain in the form of showers on several different days last week. This has helped the dry conditions, but it is still very dry. Most farms harvesting second or third crop of hay. Yields have varied, but on the average are poor. Silage corn looks good in general, but there is some leaf curl due to the dry weather. **Lynette Hamilton (FSA), Windham:** We need rain!! **Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Third crop hay is only alfalfa, full bloom and stunted. Grass not growing. Very dry soil conditions. Started opening corn fields and starting to chop corn silage because stalks are dry and dying. No full ear development yet, still milk stage at best. Pastures show very little regrowth. **Richard Noel (FSA), Grand Isle/Franklin:** Finally a good soaking rain! Highgate had 1.15 inches of rain, St. Albans .90 in., and Swanton had over 2 inches! Chopping of corn has begun on some farms this weekend. Not too much for ears on some of it, haven't heard of any feed analysis back yet. That will be the proof of the pudding! Haying weather has been excellent, to bale or chop. Hay is of excellent quality, but short. Vegetables are having a tough time, if not irrigated, but tomatoes sure taste great! Last week was a good week for all farming practices. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Dry. Some second cut hay going in with manure or fertilizer top-dressed afterwards. Some areas got rain late in the week and again late Sunday night. A number of farms using backup water supplies, having new wells drilled, or hauling water. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Started harvesting potatoes with machine digger. Sprayed summer squash and cucumber vines for disease problems, and cabbage for worms. Started picking early apples; no scab, color off, and some drop. We were blessed with a good big inch of rain in two showers which was badly needed. Sweet corn picking is good, rain will help the flavor. Early potatoes real good. Cabbage and broccoli look like good crops.

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