



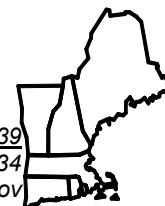
New England Agricultural Statistics Service

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Crop Weather

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June 16, 2003 - 4 pm

For week ending 6/15/03

Continued Cool, Wet Weather

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending June 15, 2003, there were 4.5 days available for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture was rated 1% very short, 8% short, 65% adequate, 26% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 2% very short, 9% short, 74% adequate, 15% surplus. Pasture condition was rated as 0% very poor, 3% poor, 14% fair, 57% good, 26% excellent. Yet another cooler than normal, rainy week in New England last week, which gave way to sun at week's end. Farmers found it difficult to get equipment on wet fields. Crops need heat and sunshine soon, progress was 1-2 weeks behind schedule. Major farm activities included: planting vegetables, sweet corn, field corn, and potatoes; finishing planting small grains; transplanting broadleaf tobacco; cutting haylage; spreading manure; mowing; discing; plowing; cultivating; applying herbicides, insecticides and fungicides.

FRUIT: Orchardists kept busy thinning, mowing and applying fungicides. Some apple growers expressed concerns about scab. Harvest has begun for a handful of strawberry growers; in general, this year's crop was around two weeks behind schedule by the week's end. Winter injury, mummy berry disease and poor pollination were noted by Maine wild blueberry growers last week. Cranberries started to bloom in Massachusetts and growers applied insecticides last week.

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Stage	Fruit Set	Fruit Size	Condition
Apples	PF	Avg	Avg	Good/Fair
Peaches	PF	Avg/B.Avg	Avg/B.Avg	Fair/Good
Pears	PF	Avg	Avg	Good/Fair
Blueberries				
Highbush	PF	Avg	Avg/A.Avg	Good/Fair
Wild, ME	FB/PF	A.Avg	--	Good
Cranberries, MA	Bud/EB	--	--	Good/Fair
Strawberries	PF	Avg/B.Avg	Avg	Good/Fair

* EB = Early Bloom, FB = Full Bloom, PF = Petal Fall

VEGETABLES: Farmers planted such vegetables as cucumbers, peppers, squash and tomatoes last week, and asparagus, greens, spinach and rhubarb were harvested. Consistent moisture and lack of heat continued to promote rotting. Sweet corn planting advanced to 75 percent and crop emergence was half complete. The sun appeared late in the weekend, giving hope to farmers and encouraging customers to visit roadside stands and farmers' markets.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
	-- Percent --		
Topsoil Moisture			
Very Short	1	2	0
Short	8	7	7
Adequate	65	62	49
Surplus	26	29	44
Subsoil Moisture			
Very Short	2	2	0
Short	9	8	17
Adequate	74	73	71
Surplus	15	17	12

FIELD CROPS: Farmers continued to wait for warm, dry days to speed up crop growth and make fields accessible to equipment. Dry hay has been nearly impossible to make, due to the consistent rain and clouds. Some farmers were able to start cutting haylage. Corn emergence remained well behind schedule; the plants need sun to green up. Maine potato farmers reached 99 percent for planting last week and planting in Massachusetts was completed. Potato emergence throughout New England remained behind the five-year average. Small grain planting in Maine was finished last week. Shade and broadleaf tobacco were both reported in good to fair condition last week, as broadleaf transplanting reached the half-way mark.

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2003	2002	5-yr Avg	Condition
	-- Percent Emerged --			
Barley, ME	90	95	95	Good/Excellent
Oats, ME	90	95	90	Good/Excellent
Potatoes				
Maine	25	25	65	Good/Excellent
Mass	80	85	95	Good
Rhode Isl	85	99	99	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	55	70	80	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	50	65	70	Good/Fair
	-- Percent Planted --			
Silage Corn	80	85	90	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	75	85	85	Good/Fair
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	50	65	75	Good/Fair
	-- Percent Harvested --			
Dry Hay	20	35	45	Good/Fair
First Cut				

For the Week Ending Sunday, June 15, 2003

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		
MAINE															
Augusta_State_A	50	77	60	-4	311	-48	45	-16	0.21	-0.56	3	2.67	-0.57	15	
Bangor_Intl_Arp	47	77	60	-2	306	+5	47	+6	1.14	+0.37	3	4.41	+1.27	11	
Bethel	48	81	59	-4	247	-69	25	-22	1.23	+0.27	3	3.55	-0.02	16	
Caribou_Municip	40	74	57	-4	208	-26	29	+6	0.82	+0.19	5	3.26	+0.58	13	
Dover-Foxcroft	41	72	57	-4	155	-85	12	-11	1.15	+0.27	3	2.76	-0.62	14	
Frenchville	40	70	55	-5	187	-13	33	+22	0.52	-0.18	3	1.47	-1.36	8	
Houlton	35	73	57	-4	224	-15	22	-3	0.80	+0.03	4	3.53	+0.45	16	
Livermore_Falls	45	79	60	+0	251	+7	31	+6	0.96	-0.02	3	3.14	-0.55	14	
Moosehead	37	71	55	-3	138	-33	9	+2	1.14	+0.23	4	4.62	+1.23	15	
Portland_ME	51	76	61	-1	303	+20	40	+10	0.63	-0.21	2	3.44	+0.25	16	
NEW HAMPSHIRE															
Benton	49	73	59	-3	254	-71	24	-23	1.05	+0.14	5	4.36	+0.93	19	
Berlin_AG	46	75	59	-3	269	-36	29	-16	2.41	+1.43	4	3.50	-0.13	13	
Concord	49	80	62	-2	378	-7	63	-13	0.66	-0.11	5	3.77	+0.86	18	
Diamond_Pond	41	70	55	-3	127	-32	6	+5	2.38	+1.31	5	4.88	+0.85	19	
Keene_AP	54	81	64	-2	392	-90	63	-58	1.01	+0.17	3	4.96	+1.53	17	
North_Conway	51	80	61	-2	316	-32	45	-16	1.07	+0.09	5	4.35	+0.65	19	
Rochester	48	76	61	-4	307	-124	42	-53	0.95	+0.11	4	4.04	+0.68	16	
VERMONT															
Burlington_Intl	51	78	64	-1	469	+24	82	-24	1.39	+0.59	5	2.92	-0.10	15	
Island_Pond	44	73	58	-2	240	+11	17	-10	2.39	+1.40	5	4.01	+0.23	18	
Montpelier	48	73	59	-3	275	-44	25	-26	1.07	+0.23	5	2.22	-1.03	13	
Pownal	52	74	62	+1	324	-11	30	-26	0.74	-0.35	5	3.60	-0.67	17	
Rochester	51	77	62	+1	282	-19	32	-14	1.50	+0.59	4	4.25	+0.48	17	
Rutland_AG	55	74	64	-2	337	-156	50	-79	0.52	-0.32	4	3.46	+0.15	18	
Sutton	47	72	58	-2	243	+16	16	-10	2.51	+1.53	6	5.33	+1.61	20	
Townshend_Lake	54	78	64	-1	327	-93	46	-48	1.41	+0.65	5	3.99	+0.92	17	
MASSACHUSETTS															
Ashburnham	53	77	63	+0	348	+18	47	-4	1.43	+0.59	4	5.56	+2.24	17	
Boston/Logan_In	54	79	64	-4	483	-47	111	-14	0.43	-0.32	3	6.11	+3.21	16	
Greenfield	54	78	64	-3	440	-88	74	-61	1.17	+0.26	5	4.45	+0.81	19	
New_Bedford	52	79	64	-4	375	-147	48	-69	0.87	+0.00	4	6.17	+2.80	15	
Otis_AFB	55	75	62	-2	348	-2	47	-8	0.66	-0.11	3	5.86	+2.68	14	
Plymouth	52	78	63	-2	370	-12	51	-19	0.69	-0.15	4	5.95	+2.56	15	
Walpole	53	80	63	-2	428	-5	81	-9	0.68	-0.21	3	6.80	+3.52	17	
Chicopee/Westov	54	79	65	-4	471	-171	85	-102	1.48	+0.50	3	5.47	+1.60	18	
Worthington	51	74	62	+0	299	-36	31	-23	1.08	+0.17	5	5.16	+1.29	17	
RHODE ISLAND															
Providence	56	80	65	-2	463	-19	80	-28	1.12	+0.35	3	5.58	+2.36	16	
Woonsocket	53	80	64	+0	403	-24	63	-16	1.15	+0.17	3	6.90	+3.18	17	
CONNECTICUT															
Bridgeport/Siko	56	79	66	-2	473	-71	85	-59	1.75	+0.98	3	9.19	+5.87	18	
Hartford/Bradle	57	81	67	-2	553	-51	117	-58	1.53	+0.62	3	7.27	+3.60	17	
Norfolk	52	74	63	+1	314	-16	31	-20	2.10	+0.98	4	8.14	+3.84	16	
Thomaston_Dam	52	84	66	+3	473	+27	87	-8	1.65	+0.67	4	8.51	+4.59	19	
Willimantic	52	80	65	+1	450	-1	75	-20	1.95	+1.11	4	7.99	+4.43	20	

STATE WEATHER SUMMARY
For the Week Ending Sunday, June 15, 2003

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.

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	33	81	58	-4	0.00	1.81
NH	32	82	60	-2	0.65	3.40
VT	41	81	62	-1	0.43	2.51
MA	50	81	63	-2	0.34	2.13
RI	53	80	63	-2	0.03	1.15
CT	52	84	65	-1	0.50	2.21

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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: Another cool, wet week. We need warm, sunny days to make the crops grow.
Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland: The sun has finally decided to visit this month! Many fields are still water logged, but most everyone has a better attitude than they did when it was raining earlier in the week. Some disking to hasten drying time for soil. Some planting of tomatoes, peppers, squash, and cucumbers by hand. The question most asked late in the week was if planted this late will there be crops to harvest in the fall?
Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham: Wet, cool, no sun. Baled wet hay after eight days of effort to dry. Thinning peaches, done pruning. Spraying, with disease pressure high in orchards. Planted vegetables. Strawberries are a week behind. Hay is going by and not able to mow. Alfalfa not blossomed yet. Weeds in round up ready fields - can't get in to spray. Farmer's Markets begin with limited produce, short season corn is now the word.
Nancy Welsh/Karen Lockman (FSA), New Haven: What little vegetable crops that are planted are rotting in the fields. Tomatoes are standing but not growing. Cool temps and heavy downpours along with high humidity later in the week causing fungus. Producers frustrated peas are yellow, strawberries not ripening - we are two weeks behind schedule. Lettuce also rotting. Hay cannot be mowed - too wet.
Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative: Finally some breaks in the clouds. PSNT testing getting underway. Soils need to dry and warm for a few days before samples are taken, or Nitrogen readings may be artificially low due low mineralization activity of soil microbes. Fertilizer Nitrogen applied before or at planting probably washed away in the rain.

MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook: Potatoes and small grains: For the most part, all crops have been planted. Small grains are emerging and growing rapidly. Potatoes also are emerging. Growers feel that despite the late start this spring, crops appear to be right on schedule. Growers are applying herbicides. Still picking rocks and at least one grower has begun hilling his potatoes. Potato emergence seems to be very even this year.
Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook: In the central area, we have had a rainy week off and on. Farmers were delayed a little because of this weather. We still have a few farmers that need a couple of days to finish planting. Let's hope we get a few sunny days this week.
Steve London (Ext), Southern Aroostook: Potatoes and small grains: Things are going well. Now we just need some heat and sunshine.
Albert Dow (NRCS), Piscataquis: Cold and wet weather. Corn planting is behind.
Donna Lamb (Ext), Piscataquis: This past week some strawberry growers had to irrigate for frost two mornings. With the cool nights, crops are very slow to start growing. Manure it still being spread on fields. Some hay fields have been harvested for haylage, but no dry hay has been made.
Janet King (FSA), Somerset: We need sunny weather.
Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo: Continued cold, wet weather continues to foul up plans for hay/silage harvests. More corn planted last week, but many fields are still too wet to plant or even spread manure. Some first crop silage harvested in drier locations. Two days of rain over the weekend will slow things for this coming week.
Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln: Some dry hay has been cut and baled between rainy days. Green chop and grass silage underway. Over one inch of rain on the weekend has kept some fields too wet for farm equipment. Blueberry pollination seems to have been helped by native pollinators. Some row crops and sweet corn still have not been planted.
Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington: Wild blueberries: Mummyberry disease and winter injury on blueberry plants are visible this season and combined with poor pollination will reduce the crop. Bees are beginning to be moved out of fields in the mid-coast region this week.
Michael Tardy (FSA), Androscoggin: Enough, enough. Will the rain ever end and will it ever warm up? We're still waiting for warm nights to help the growth of crops. Farmers were still able to chop some hay, forget baling. Lots of manure was spread and the field work is progressing. Some producers have reported difficult planting; it's very wet in places. The report from strawberry folks is good. The berries look good; they just need the heat and dry weather. Corn is out of the ground and so are the potatoes. We're on our way.
Parker Rand (FSA), Cumberland/York: There are still some planting corn, vegetables and sweet corn. The grass crop looks heavy and a lot has been chopped. Wet weather is making it difficult to make dry hay. In spite of the cool and wet weather, most crops are beginning to look good.
Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin: Everything is green. If it rains every weekend this summer, we shouldn't have any drought problems. Most crops have emerged and are looking good.
Laura Rand (FSA), Oxford: Wet, damp weather continues. Producers have the crops in

but the below normal temperatures are holding up the growth. Green chop being cut.

MASSACHUSETTS - Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire: Finished planting corn, some spraying was being done this week. Vegetable transplants are finally being set out for late summer and fall crops. Silage being cut. Too wet for cutting hay. Sunshine is a scarce commodity. Corn is up 6-8 inches for some but still mostly 3-4 inches due to little sun this week. Small grains doing well. Growth on everything, except cool crop vegetables are slow. Tent caterpillars evident in trees this year. We finally saw some bee activity this week. Around another inch of rain this week and days were still cool but a little less so.
Paul Russell (FSA), Southeast Massachusetts: The rain continues, conditions continue to be cool and wet. Growers are way behind in plantings and other field work. Crops also are a few weeks behind in growth, and in general they look poor. We need some sun and heat soon or this growing season will be lost. Cranberries are starting to bloom and insect pressure from the Cranberry weevil and Fireworm have growers applying insecticides. The first cutting of hay has been a disaster as growers are having a hard time getting into the fields just to cut it.
Kip Graham (FSA), Worcester: A couple of nice days of catching up. Because of all the rain (about 30 days worth) the bees are not out setting fruit. Lousy set to blueberries. Won't know until July for sure if any loss.
Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth: Cranberries: First scattering of blossoms in Ben Lear and sanded Early Black beds. First fruit rot fungicide applications have started or will soon begin. It looks like there should be a good bloom. More rain and cloudy skies, still slowing things down a bit. Insect populations are building nonetheless. So far, so good.
David Rose (FSA), Bristol: Strawberry and rhubarb harvest continues. Still rainy and wet with some fields unworkable. A little hay finally being made. Fruit set looks good. Weather man says we may finally get some good weather this week.
John Devine (FSA), Franklin: Same old story, rain with short breaks on sun all week. Several apple growers have called this week to say that they're really concerned about scab problems. Strawberry growers have remarked that they have a huge crop if it makes it to harvest without rotting. Vegetable and corn growers can't get on most fields because they're too wet. Remember last year when we were talking about heat and drought?
Ted Smiarowski, Jr./Julie Jacque (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden: Another week of heavy rain and cool temperatures. Farmers plowing, planting, cultivating and hoeing between rain storms. Vine crops, peppers, tomatoes and eggplant are suffering and need lots of heat and sunshine. Potato crop looks great and early potatoes are being hilled up. Harvesting lettuce, spinach, asparagus, radish and rhubarb. Orchardists, small fruit and tobacco producers are applying fungicides to reduce the pressure of diseases. Vegetable growers are scouting their fields for Colorado potato beetles and cucumber beetles. Sunday, Father's Day, we finally saw lots of heat and sunshine with hay being mowed down.
Gary Guida, Worcester: Finally a good weekend after another miserable week. Plant sales booming and consumers are asking, "When can we come to pick strawberries?" Most growers like myself have to get a week's worth of planting or transplanting accomplished in one to two days due to weather. Another challenging year. Top dressing corn with fertilizer.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap: Vegetable crops that thrive in warm temperatures are off to a slow start. Successive plantings of vegetable crops still happening. Weed control in corn is on the minds of farmers. Orchardists are busy spraying and mowing. A few drier places have managed a first hay cut. Garden centers have annuals on sale to move stock that didn't sell during the previous rainy weekends.
Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll: A few dry days may allow for full scale first cutting. Most fields are completely headed out. We need warmer weather to really get crops growing, some summer-like weather would surely help nurseries and garden centers have a better season.
Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire: Still plenty of rainfall, but some decent sun too. A few producers are mowing for dry hay, but drying conditions are far from ideal. First cutting for haylage and baleage continues. Most of the corn is up, and the earliest planted fields are at 3-4 leaf stage. Rainy conditions have made it hard for fruit and vegetable producers to keep up with spraying schedules. Strawberries still won't be ready for a couple weeks.
Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos: Generally wet weather this week, quite cool at night. Timothy at boot stage as grass growing well. Could use some sunny days for first cut hay. Earlier planted corn at about 5-leaf stage. Some spraying for curculios as blossom drop on apple stage reached. Scouting fields for true armyworm caterpillars. Weather has been good

for favoring their development. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** This week was better for haying. Most grasses headed out. Corn growing well. Soil moisture is plentiful. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** The grass is growing well, now we need some good drying weather to make hay with. Pastures are looking better than they have for a couple of years. Corn is growing slow because of cooler temperatures. We need some warm, sunny days. The frequent light showers that we have been receiving have helped replenish topsoil moisture. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Fruit growers monitoring pest and crop development and applying grasses for pest control, if needed. Orchardists applying thinning sprays to apple orchards. Mowing orchard floor and weed spraying under trees. Blueberries growing well. Strawberry harvest delayed due to cool weather and late bloom. With rainy conditions, growers are making sure to have protective fungicides applied for strawberry fruit mold control. Raspberries are starting to bloom. Field Crops: Farmers are continuing to make haylage and baled hay between rain showers. Some fields too wet for harvest equipment. Grasses heading out, especially orchard grass. Corn growing slowly. Vegetables: Making successive plantings of vegetable crops. Harvesting spinach, greens, asparagus and rhubarb. Growers are concerned about disease and insect pressure on all vegetable crops, including greenhouse vegetables. **Pam Marvin (FSA), Sullivan:** Rain showers on and off all week made it difficult to get dry hay in. Lots of alfalfa haylage has been cut. Silage corn is up and looking good. Vegetables are coming along nicely despite the extra rain. Strawberries and blueberries are maturing on time. They could be delayed a little due to the recent cool weather and excessive rain. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** Less rain and more sunshine. Pastures and hayfields doing very well. By the end of the week more farmers were making the first cut because the conditions were getting better for drying hay. Fruit growers were monitoring for pests such as plum curculio and leaf miners. Strawberry season seems to be late this year. Some growers are still busy planting vegetables and cutting flowers. Greenhouses and garden centers continued to complain of poor sales this season.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: Still waiting for some good hay weather, field corn way behind, sweet corn and summer vegetables still going in. Drought conditions last year are responsible for low field corn crops and making farmers pasture their animals during some pretty wet weather. It's tearing up some fields. Strawberries are way late. **Marilu Soileau (FSA), All Counties:** Weather continues to be a problem for Rhode Island farmers. Steady

rain and colder than usual temperatures have delayed planting and cutting of hay and early crops such as strawberries.

VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille: Very busy week for farmers mowing and chopping first cut grass for haylage. Some manure being spread on first cut fields. Corn crop needs some major heat to move it along. Week ended on a very wet note with an average 1.80 inch of rain in county. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Farmers are harvesting first cut hay. Yields are down from last year but quality is expected to be better. We received a lot of rain on Saturday which will help the drier conditions of the previous week. Most corn has germinated and is 2-4" tall. Germination looks good. **Lynette Hamilton/Perley Sparrow (FSA), Windham:** More rain this week, farmers are trying to chop between showers. Apple producers are reporting a better than average fruit set. Blueberries had a large cluster of blossoms but poor bee flight so set of fruit could be light. Windham large sweet corn producer reported that his corn under plastic was waist tall but had yellow color, needs sunlight and heat. **Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Planting of corn resumed for a few days. New seeding of hay fields. Soil still very wet. Many wet fields still fallow. Corn herbicide spraying. Some fertilizing and applying manure after first harvest haylage. No dry hay yet. First crop haylage good yields, delayed harvest due to weather, lower than normal feed value. Pasture regrowth good to excellent. **Eric Winchester (FSA) Orange/Windsor:** The past week has been cool and predominately cloudy with periodic light precipitation throughout the week. The sun finally made an appearance on Sunday. At least a portion of each day was good for field work. The primary activity this week continues to be mowing. Most farms were making haylage from the thick grass. There was just one report of someone making dry hay. Corn is reported to be three to four inches high in most locations. Early strawberries are being harvested. Vegetable crops continue to lag behind, but most plants have emerged and look healthy. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Rain on Friday and Saturday, over an inch. Lodged some hay. There was a lot of hay/haylage moving in the middle of the week. Most of the corn is in, most of it up. Been seeing a few caterpillars, have not been able to grab a sample to compare it to armyworm. Need some sun and heat to get things growing. **Chris Benedict (Ext), Chittenden:** Another wet week gave us more than adequate moisture levels. Thinning carried into early last week, with average results due to wet weather. Fruit development is proceeding at average rates.

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