



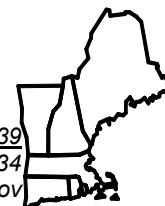
New England Agricultural Statistics Service

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Crop Weather

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July 14, 2003 - 4 pm

For week ending 7/13/03

Most Crops Need Rain

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending July 13, 2003, there were 5.8 days available for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture was rated 9% very short, 25% short, 62% adequate, 4% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 9% very short, 23% short, 67% adequate, 1% surplus. Pasture condition was rated as 0% very poor, 7% poor, 46% fair, 40% good, 7% excellent. Mixed rain and sunshine, along with average temperatures, helped speed up crop growth. Areas that have not received much rain need relief soon; growers are irrigating their crops. Major farm activities included: planting sweet corn and field corn; finishing transplanting broadleaf tobacco; cutting haylage and making dry hay; harvesting highbush blueberries, strawberries and vegetables; spreading manure; mowing; cultivating; hilling potatoes; irrigating; top-dressing and side-dressing fields with fertilizer; monitoring fields; applying herbicides, insecticides and fungicides.

FRUIT: Tree fruit size was rated average across the region, with good to fair crop conditions reported. Rain was needed in most areas to aid crop growth and development. Orchardists continued to mow and apply fungicides, as well as gear up for harvest. Strawberry harvest progressed at full speed, reaching 85 percent complete by the week's end. Wild blueberry growers sprayed for fruit flies in Maine fields. The pollination of cranberries in Massachusetts continued last week amidst fungicide applications. Applications for fruitworm were also made, as above average infestations are expected this year.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil Moisture			
Very Short	9	12	7
Short	25	25	21
Adequate	62	59	62
Surplus	4	4	10
Subsoil Moisture			
Very Short	9	11	7
Short	23	22	20
Adequate	67	65	70
Surplus	1	2	3

FIELD CROPS: Mostly dry weather last week allowed for the making of hay in areas of low humidity and sunshine. Hay drying in other areas was limited by small rain showers. The condition of second crop hay worsened slightly because of the general lack of rain. Field corn leaves continued to curl in some locations due to a lack of moisture, while turning yellow in other locations due to too much moisture. Large infestations of European corn borers have been reported in potato fields in Aroostook County, Maine; growers sprayed for control. Despite pest problems, potatoes were rated in excellent to good condition in Maine and good elsewhere. Growers finished transplanting broadleaf tobacco in Connecticut last week.

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2003	2002	5-yr Avg	
Apples	--	--	--	Good/Fair
Peaches	--	--	--	Good/Fair
Pears	--	--	--	Good/Fair
Blueberries				
Highbush	5	5	10	Good/Fair
Wild, ME	--	--	--	Good
Cranberries, MA	--	--	--	Good
Strawberries	85	85	90	Good/Fair

VEGETABLES: Growers harvested beets, broccoli, cabbage, cucumbers, greens, lettuce, peas, radishes, summer squash, hothouse tomatoes and zucchini last week. Irrigation took place in areas where minimal rain was received. Weeding and cultivating continued. Farmers were winding down on sweet corn planting and getting ready for harvest.

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2003	2002	5-yr Avg	
Barley, ME	--	--	--	Excellent/Good
Oats, ME	--	--	--	Excellent/Good
Potatoes				
Maine	--	--	--	Excellent/Good
Mass	--	--	--	Good
Rhode Isl	--	--	--	Good
Silage Corn	--	--	--	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	--	<5	5	Good/Fair
Tobacco				
Shade	--	5	5	Fair/Good
Broadleaf	--	--	--	Fair/Good
Dry Hay				
First Cut	80	85	85	Good/Fair
Second Cut	10	25	25	Good/Fair
-- Percent Emerged --				
Silage Corn	90	99	99	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	95	95	95	Good/Fair

For the Week Ending Sunday, July 13, 2003

All 86 stations appear on the Internet and in e-mail subscriptions.
Due to space restrictions, only 41 stations appear below. These stations are well distributed across the region.

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	52	87	68	-2	852	+9	319	+58	0.38	-0.32	2	0.70	-2.28	8	
Bangor_Intl_Arp	48	87	67	-2	826	+78	300	+95	0.27	-0.50	1	0.46	-2.62	5	
Bethel	46	87	66	-3	760	-4	267	+56	1.13	+0.33	4	1.20	-2.27	6	
Caribou_Municip	48	78	63	-3	682	+70	237	+101	0.75	-0.13	3	3.52	+0.41	15	
Dover-Foxcroft	45	87	63	-4	588	-50	182	+34	0.60	-0.24	3	1.98	-1.43	10	
Frenchville	49	75	62	-4	632	+70	212	+103	0.69	-0.15	3	2.60	-0.54	12	
Houlton	40	82	63	-3	702	+72	237	+91	0.54	-0.30	3	1.60	-1.58	14	
Livermore_Falls	43	90	66	+0	773	+136	287	+144	0.83	+0.06	5	1.04	-2.46	10	
Moosehead	43	81	62	-3	547	+37	162	+68	0.70	-0.21	3	3.38	-0.32	12	
Portland_ME	50	89	68	+0	809	+77	280	+85	0.47	-0.23	3	1.18	-1.86	8	
NEW HAMPSHIRE															
Benton	46	85	65	-1	744	+15	247	+72	0.82	+0.05	3	1.97	-1.36	8	
Berlin_AG	46	84	65	-2	773	+47	263	+77	1.81	+0.97	4	2.27	-1.35	7	
Concord	48	93	70	+2	967	+96	377	+100	0.54	-0.16	5	0.87	-2.02	10	
Diamond_Pond	42	77	61	-2	519	+69	152	+96	1.35	+0.33	4	2.91	-1.35	10	
Keene_AP	55	90	70	-2	949	-59	341	-22	0.13	-0.64	1	1.42	-1.85	8	
North_Conway	47	89	68	+0	884	+74	345	+104	1.61	+0.77	5	2.00	-1.53	10	
Rochester	52	90	69	-2	852	-85	314	-4	0.72	-0.05	3	2.39	-0.77	9	
VERMONT															
Burlington_Intl	51	90	71	+1	1080	+123	414	+79	0.75	-0.03	3	1.51	-1.76	8	
Island_Pond	43	83	64	+1	697	+121	211	+96	0.98	+0.06	5	1.75	-2.16	11	
Montpelier	45	84	66	-2	755	+19	237	+41	1.06	+0.36	4	1.47	-1.51	11	
Pownal	51	88	67	-1	802	+45	231	+29	1.74	+0.83	4	2.93	-1.03	11	
Rochester	46	85	65	-2	765	+59	242	+61	1.82	+0.98	4	3.85	+0.49	7	
Rutland_AG	50	86	67	-4	854	-154	291	-68	0.92	+0.08	2	2.08	-1.28	8	
Sutton	49	83	65	+0	709	+127	216	+90	1.05	+0.13	3	1.85	-2.07	12	
Townshend_Lake	55	89	68	-2	850	-76	290	-22	1.19	+0.46	4	1.94	-0.89	9	
MASSACHUSETTS															
Ashburnham	53	90	70	+3	904	+123	325	+104	0.61	-0.23	3	2.44	-0.92	14	
Boston/Logan_In	59	93	73	+0	1090	-32	443	+10	0.30	-0.33	2	2.46	-0.23	6	
Greenfield	56	89	70	-2	1004	-83	362	-50	0.57	-0.27	3	2.47	-0.98	11	
New_Bedford	53	90	73	-1	928	-177	330	-82	1.40	+0.74	2	3.68	+0.68	7	
Otis_AFB	57	90	74	+4	888	+39	319	+54	0.33	-0.30	2	1.90	-0.88	6	
Plymouth	55	89	72	+3	901	+1	316	+15	1.63	+0.86	2	4.60	+1.52	9	
Walpole	56	91	73	+3	1015	+59	394	+66	0.39	-0.38	2	3.19	-0.14	8	
Chicopee/Westov	57	91	72	-2	1056	-201	394	-125	0.89	+0.05	4	5.41	+1.85	15	
Worthington	51	85	66	-1	767	+3	230	+26	0.53	-0.45	3	1.76	-1.93	9	
RHODE ISLAND															
Providence	57	90	74	+2	1064	+10	404	+11	1.01	+0.31	3	3.81	+0.86	10	
Woonsocket	55	92	73	+4	984	+46	368	+62	0.81	-0.10	2	4.62	+0.94	10	
CONNECTICUT															
Bridgeport/Siko	63	90	74	+1	1093	-40	425	-23	1.10	+0.23	4	3.15	-0.17	11	
Hartford/Bradle	58	91	73	-2	1181	-28	465	-32	1.09	+0.38	4	3.87	+0.70	13	
Norfolk	51	83	66	-1	798	+33	239	+32	0.59	-0.37	4	3.86	-0.19	13	
Thomaston_Dam	54	90	71	+2	1050	+104	385	+73	0.82	-0.09	4	2.27	-1.40	10	
Willimantic	56	90	73	+3	1044	+87	392	+74	0.71	-0.21	2	2.74	-0.86	9	

STATE WEATHER SUMMARY
For the Week Ending Sunday, July 13, 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	AV	DFN	LO	HI
ME	39	91	65	-3	0.00	1.75
NH	35	96	66	-1	0.13	1.81
VT	40	91	67	+0	0.51	1.82
MA	51	93	71	+1	0.04	1.63
RI	55	92	73	+3	0.01	1.01
CT	51	93	71	+0	0.00	1.52

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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: Field corn is looking better, with the warm weather this week. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** With surface soil moisture dried out, showers mid-week and Friday kept crops growing. Tobacco kept being over set and cultivation continued. Field corn that was not drowned out took off. Limited hay was made. Limited sweet corn could be found at farm stands. Strawberries, summer squash and hot-house tomatoes could be found in good supply at farm stands. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Still trying to harvest hay, blueberries are ready to pick, vegetables looking better. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Busy with baling first and a little second cutting of hay. Corn all planted. Heat is boosting growth but now getting a bit dry. Blueberries look abundant and beginning to ripen for harvest. Vegetables coming into farmers' markets are tasty and appealing. A week of glorious sunshine and blue sky. **Nancy Welsh/Karen Vozarik (FSA), New Haven:** Sunny, warm days helping crops pick up. Local sweet corn should be ready in five days. Tomato plants have many blossoms and some small fruit. Silage corn shadowing fields. Some vegetables have not even flowered yet.

MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook: Potatoes and small grains: A great week for growers to get things done in the fields. Many growers finishing up final hilling. Spraying fungicides and insecticides. Process growers with refrigerator storage still moving last season's crop to processors. Crops growing rapidly. Probably growth stage normal or even a little ahead of normal. Nearly all growers having to spray potatoes for European corn borer. This is the worst infestation we have ever seen in Northern Aroostook. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Crops are growing rapidly with plenty of recent moisture. Potatoes are still being hilled. Herbicides and insecticides are still being applied as needed. Growers and scouts monitoring potato fields for European corn borer egg masses. Canola crop is flowered and starting to look excellent in fields. Harvesting of hay is continuing. Crops are looking excellent. **Steve London (Ext), Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: We still have a significant amount of corn borers in the area, hopefully we will have them under control in another week. Crop is looking very good after getting some much needed moisture Friday and Saturday. **Albert Dow (NRCS), Piscataquis:** Rain slowed hay harvest down. Some areas had 1.25 inches the first of the week and heavy rain again Friday. Potatoes are in bloom. Strawberry harvest was in full swing. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Rain has been a variable throughout mid-Maine. Some places in Central Maine are too wet with yellow corn and lots of ruts in hayfields where tractors have had a tough time harvesting first cutting haylage. Further east the situation is dry and rain is needed. Strawberry harvest seems to be going by quickly. Some early sweet corn beginning to tassel. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Crop conditions are dry throughout most of Knox and Lincoln Counties. Showers have been hit or miss in most areas. Rain is needed. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Fly traps are catching fruit flies and applications are being made for control. **Michael Tardy (FSA), Androscoggin:** We agriculture people are never happy. Now it's too dry. We do need rain for the crops. Corn is starting to curl and grass isn't growing. Farmers have been able to bale some hay. The dry weather has allowed field work to be done. The strawberry crop was a little late but appears to be a good one. Apples are suffering some from the cold, wet spring and the hot, dry summer. Farmers just have to keep on doing what they can and see what develops. **Parker Rand (FSA), Cumberland/York:** While most crops are a little late, producers are reporting good yields of cucumbers, beet greens, summer squash, strawberries, hay and raspberries. Strawberry season is winding down and raspberries and the fairs are starting. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Moisture and heat have things growing nicely. Second cut hay harvest has begun. Showers have been somewhat of a problem with hay harvest. **Laura Rand (FSA), Oxford:** Finally, the less humid conditions have allowed hay to be harvested with a vengeance. You know the saying... Some fields have turned completely brown due to lack of moisture after first cut. Crop irrigation on potatoes and others are a must. Strawberries and peas are being harvested. Farm stands

are reporting a pick up in plant sales, however, are having a difficult time keeping the inventory watered. Received one day of much needed rain.

MASSACHUSETTS - Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire: Top-dressing corn crop with nitrogen, both sweet and field corn. First cutting continues. Vegetable harvesting continues full force. No news on insect or disease problems for our crops so far. We had a week of cloudy weather, it was hard to get dry hay. Lots of vegetables were harvested, a very good crop. Sweet corn harvest is 2-3 weeks away yet. An inch of rain. **Kip Graham (FSA), Worcester:** The day or so of rain gave the crops a boost. Hopefully we'll get a few more like it. Side-dressing corn and most vegetables. Farmers taking advantage of the sun and getting caught up with haying. A lot of mulch hay this year. The warm, humid days gave a boost to the vegetables. Farm stands almost in full gear. Overall crops are picking up. Hope it stays this way. Strawberry crop all harvested. Blueberries beginning to ripen. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Bloom continues, with good pollination weather for the most part. Bees have been working some beds well, less than desired in other beds. Tremendous numbers of syrphid flies have added to the pollination this year; I have never seen so many working the flowers. Rainfall amounts in Friday's storms varied from a trace to more than two inches in a band from New Bedford to Plymouth. Fungicide applications will be nearly completed this week. Fruitworm applications have been begun. It looks like there will be above-average infestations of fruitworm this season. Things are setting up well so far. **David Rose (FSA), Bristol:** Lots of rain this week about an inch on Wednesday and 2.5 inches on Friday. Harvesting of strawberries is just about over. Squashes and peas and lettuce continued to be picked. Hay harvest slowed by all the rain. Sweet corn harvest is still a week away. Fruit continues to look good but will be late. **John Devine (FSA), Franklin:** The sudden change in the weather over the past several weeks is having a huge effect on crop conditions. You can literally watch the corn, second hay, and potatoes grow. Other crops have not fared as well because of disease pressure and/or drought. Many farms started irrigating at the beginning of July and haven't stopped yet. Blue mold, phytophthora and nematode problems surfaced this week. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** The week was hot and sunny with a few rain showers. Vegetable growers were busy top-dressing with fertilizer, cultivating, applying fungicides and scouting for insects. The sweet corn harvest began and beets, cabbage, cucumbers, greens, radishes, summer and zucchini squash harvest continue. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** A great week to finish the strawberry season. Top dressing corn and spraying for cucumber beetles. Everyone making hay. Harvesting cukes, zukes and the rest of early summer crops. All crops look real good and weather really cooperating this year.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap: Still picking strawberries and now raspberries. Several vegetable crops are being harvested including squash, greens, broccoli and new potatoes. Growers are busy with weed control and pest monitoring. White mold and leaf mold seen on greenhouse tomatoes. We could use some rain. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Lots of sun all week, with some nice rain on Friday. More rain wouldn't hurt. Most field corn looks good, some showing moisture stress on drought soils. First cutting dry hay winding down, producers progressing well into second cut for haylage, baleage, and some dry hay. Strawberries are just about done, PYO raspberries starting. Sweet corn should be available soon. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Colder, wetter weather this week, nicely timed for top-dressing of hayland and corn. First cut hay basically completed with high quality overall. Corn now growing well thanks to rains at beginning and end of the week. Well over waist high in some places. Sweet corn - earliest showing first signs of tassel. Second cut of haylage beginning. Lots more vegetables coming on to market. Earliest high tunnel tomatoes starting to ripen. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Second cutting progressing at a quick pace as weather permits. Scattered showers continue to hamper harvest but do provide some very needed moisture. Despite dryness, corn continues to grow. Still

some leaf curling on dryer soils. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruits: Strawberry harvest is nearly over (95% harvest) and getting to renovate harvested beds. First raspberries and blueberries harvested during the end of the week. Some blueberry patches have only a third of a crop. Orchardists busy monitoring for pests, spraying and mowing orchard floor. Vegetables: Growers concerned about irrigating crops. Continued harvesting vegetables such as beets, broccoli, greens, lettuce, peas, potatoes, radishes and summer squash. With dry, hot weather, lettuce and other crops are bolting. Growers busy side-dressing fields with fertilizer, cultivating, mowing weeds around edges of fields, scouting for pests and spraying accordingly. Field Crops: Side-dressing fertilizer to field corn and harvested hayfields. Farmers continued to bale hay or make haylage. Weather: Rain during week was welcomed, but more rain is needed. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Harvesting green leafy vegetables, cucumbers, tomatoes, beets, potatoes, strawberries. This weekend began the harvest of raspberries, blueberries and sour cherries. Pleasant weather for pick-your-own operations. Cultivating, side-dressing with fertilizer and monitoring for pests in vegetable fields. Monitoring apple orchards for pests too. We had some rain last Friday but crops could use more. **Pam Marvin (FSA), Sullivan:** A couple of days with rain was more than welcomed. Will help the second crop of hay along as well as watering fruits and vegetables. The second round of haylage cutting is well on its way. A strong wind on Saturday tore up some squash and pumpkin plants in a few areas. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** It was a dry and hot week. However there were rain showers over the weekend. Strawberry harvesting was winding down. Raspberry harvesting was starting by the end of the week. Blueberry growers have an average crop. Tree fruit growers continue to monitor for pests. Vegetable growers continued to harvest an assortment of vegetables. Second cut hay crop is growing well, though there was a slow down due to hot and dry weather. Bedding plant season is winding down and nurseries were shifting sales to perennials and shrubs and trees.

VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille: Good early week weather conditions were helpful to those working on second cut of grass. Corn crop continues to look great and the rain at the end of the week couldn't have come at a better time. Not

enough rain to perk up pastures. Vegetable crops with access to water are doing very well, otherwise they're very thirsty. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Much needed rain last week should help to push the corn and second crop hay. Reports on first cut hay is that it was a large yield but the quality is not very good. Second crop has been stunted from lack of rain. Some corn looks really good while other fields are poor, due probably to the lack of moisture. **Lynette Hamilton/Perley Sparrow (FSA), Windham:** Windham County in the past week had a real mixed bag of weather - it depended where you were. Field corn liked the hot, humid temperature some early planted corn is over 6 feet and dark green in color. Second cut alfalfa is being harvested. Manure is being spread on hay land along with some fertilizer. We received about a third of an inch of rain last Friday. That made the veggie growers happy. **Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Dry hay harvest. Good dry weather. High yield of grass. Alfalfa regrowth good. Grass regrowth slowed down. Some manure spread on hay fields. Pasture growth fast, then slow. Dry sections showing up. Corn crop good, 15 percent never planted. Late corn looks poor. **Eric Winchester (FSA) Orange/Windsor:** This past week finally brought some much needed rain. Corn which had started to curl has gotten a new lease on life, at least for a while. The combination of the hot weather and this most recent rain has put the corn up to about head high in some locations, and hip high in places where it was planted late. Most everyone is done with the first cut of hay ground. The yield from the first cut was very good, although with all the dry weather, many fields are not off to a fortuitous start for the second cut. Second cut has already begun for some farm operations. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Received an inch of rain on Friday, it was very welcome. Crops appear to be growing well. Local farmers are working on second cut of hay crop, some spreading manure after the cut. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Side-dressing on all crops as needed. Ran irrigation on potatoes, berries and early sweet corn on light soil. Last cultivating of vine crops. Hand cultivating cole crops. Early corn silking out. 0.288 in. rain. Short on water but great on sun and warm weather. All crops doing well but good rain would help a lot. Lots of all kinds of summer vegetables in the market now. Peas, greens, beets, carrots doing well. Think rain. Have a good week.

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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