



New England Agricultural Statistics Service

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United States Department of Agriculture

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Crop Weather

Volume 24, Number 17

(issued weekly on the Internet, May - October)

August 16, 2004 - 4 pm

For week ending 8/15/04

Rain, Rain, More Rain!

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending August 15, 2004, there were 4.5 days available for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture was rated three percent short, 62 percent adequate, 35 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated four percent short, 74 percent adequate, 22 percent surplus. Pasture condition was rated one percent very poor, three percent poor, 22 percent fair, 59 percent good, 15 percent excellent. The week began warm and dry, then rain and warm temperatures arrived and continued throughout the weekend. The remnants of Hurricane Charley slowed crop harvest over the weekend and flooded fields at some locations. Major farm activities included: mowing orchards; pruning trees; spreading manure; cultivating; irrigating; weeding; monitoring fields; applying pesticides; cutting and baling hay; harvesting highbush and wild blueberries, apples, peaches, potatoes, sweet corn and other vegetables, broadleaf and shade tobacco.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil Moisture			
Very Short	0	1	0
Short	3	9	2
Adequate	62	74	72
Surplus	35	16	26
Subsoil Moisture			
Very Short	0	2	0
Short	4	10	15
Adequate	74	76	64
Surplus	22	12	21

FRUIT: Early apple harvest now underway in New England, with growers picking Jersey Mac, Paula Red and Lodi varieties. A wide range in pear conditions reported in Connecticut and Massachusetts, with ratings from very poor to good in the two-state region. Wet weather interrupted harvest of blueberries and raspberries. Wild blueberry harvest remains well behind last year and normal. Cranberry growers welcomed weekend rains to improve berry sizing.

FIELD CROPS: Field corn growth was excellent in response to rain and warm temperatures. Operators still trying to finish up first cut haying; other farmers began second and third cuttings as weather permitted. Maine potato growers applied fungicides and insecticides as necessary to control disease and insect pressure. As of August 13, 2004, the incidence of potato late blight in the northern and central parts of Aroostook County remained limited. Harvest of shade and broadleaf tobacco was active until wet weather arrived; growers continued on a tight protective spray schedule.

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2004	2003	5-yr Avg	
Apples	<5	5	5	Good/Fair
Peaches	35	40	45	Fair/Good
Pears	--	--	--	Good/Poor
Blueberries				
Highbush	70	70	70	Good/Fair
Wild, ME	20	50	45	Fair/Poor
Cranberries, MA	--	--	--	Good/Fair

VEGETABLES: Wet weather caused concerns with growers with reports of mildew and mold on crops. Sweet corn harvest neared the halfway mark by week's end; growers reported sun is needed to ripen the crop. Tomatoes were reported smaller and ripening later than normal due to lack of sunshine. Producers harvested an array of vegetables, such as beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, cucumbers, eggplants, greens, lettuce, peas, peppers, potatoes, radishes, snap beans, summer squash and tomatoes.

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2004	2003	5-yr Avg	
Barley, ME	--	--	10	Good/Excellent
Oats, ME	--	--	5	Good/Excellent
Potatoes:				
Maine	--	--	--	Good/Excellent
Mass	10	10	15	Good
Rhode Isl	--	10	25	Excellent/Good
Silage Corn	--	--	--	Good
Sweet Corn	45	40	45	Good/Excellent
Tobacco:				
Shade	50	45	60	Good
Broadleaf	30	40	55	Good
Dry Hay:				
First Cut	95	99	99	Good/Fair
Second Cut	60	55	65	Good/Fair
Third Cut	10	10	20	Good/Excellent

For the Week Ending Sunday, August 15, 2004

The 41 stations shown below were limited by space but were 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 INCHES		DFN DAYS	
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN				INCHES	DFN	DAYS	
MAINE															
Augusta_State_A	56	82	70	+2	1420	-90	530	-57	3.22	+2.45	4	5.65	+2.65	15	
Bangor_Intl_Arp	53	83	69	+3	1351	-24	499	+8	1.60	+0.83	3	3.70	+0.77	13	
Bethel	50	86	67	+1	1309	-65	433	-48	2.31	+1.40	4	5.72	+2.26	13	
Caribou_Municip	49	80	66	+3	1072	-60	342	+19	2.40	+1.49	4	4.63	+0.85	10	
Dover-Foxcroft	48	81	67	+2	1057	-146	317	-55	2.57	+1.73	3	3.98	+0.81	12	
Frenchville	49	80	66	+4	992	-59	292	+16	4.23	+3.28	5	5.89	+2.21	11	
Houlton	48	83	67	+3	1079	-100	357	-2	1.48	+0.55	6	3.10	-0.52	12	
Livermore_Falls	47	87	69	+5	1367	+179	509	+152	1.89	+0.97	4	4.38	+0.99	13	
Moosehead	50	83	65	+3	948	-53	233	-25	1.88	+1.04	5	5.63	+2.13	14	
Portland_ME	53	81	70	+2	1379	+5	514	+15	3.35	+2.72	5	5.32	+2.75	14	
NEW HAMPSHIRE															
Benton	48	79	66	+2	1251	-27	395	+3	1.05	+0.14	6	3.83	+0.38	13	
Berlin_AG	48	81	65	-1	1276	-11	419	+5	2.49	+1.50	4	5.79	+2.07	11	
Concord	47	86	72	+4	1721	+189	728	+131	1.14	+0.37	5	3.55	+0.47	15	
Diamond_Pond	49	74	62	+1	825	-43	158	-11	1.89	+0.70	4	5.14	+0.66	13	
Keene_AP	46	84	69	-1	1619	-89	630	-93	0.36	-0.55	4	2.73	-0.77	10	
North_Conway	52	87	69	+3	1471	+38	565	+42	3.14	+2.23	6	6.41	+2.87	17	
Rochester	50	87	71	+2	1509	-118	595	-74	2.90	+2.06	4	5.02	+1.73	13	
VERMONT															
Burlington_Intl	52	82	68	-2	1691	+44	716	+33	1.34	+0.40	5	6.46	+2.90	17	
Island_Pond	44	78	64	+2	1137	+84	342	+75	2.32	+1.20	5	4.93	+0.67	17	
Montpelier	49	80	67	+3	1376	+78	489	+70	2.16	+1.25	5	6.20	+2.98	20	
Pownal	48	82	68	+3	1448	+107	485	+41	1.88	+0.90	5	7.33	+3.57	18	
Rochester	47	81	66	+2	1357	+91	463	+62	2.56	+1.51	4	8.33	+4.39	13	
Rutland_AG	46	82	68	-3	1459	-237	519	-188	3.25	+2.27	5	6.91	+3.18	16	
Sutton	46	78	64	+1	1135	+64	333	+51	1.68	+0.56	5	5.01	+0.80	18	
Townshend_Lake	48	83	67	-3	1485	-117	531	-121	1.08	+0.17	5	4.62	+1.20	15	
MASSACHUSETTS															
Ashburnham	50	82	69	+3	1595	+204	621	+130	1.33	+0.53	5	4.37	+1.09	16	
Boston/Logan_In	62	86	75	+3	1928	+5	896	+0	2.10	+1.40	3	3.95	+1.24	10	
Greenfield	49	83	70	-1	1727	-95	708	-99	1.22	+0.38	5	4.73	+1.37	15	
New_Bedford	58	85	73	+0	1748	-175	738	-157	3.01	+2.03	3	4.96	+1.57	10	
Otis_AFB	59	86	74	+5	1673	+116	714	+77	1.16	+0.39	3	1.98	-0.88	9	
Plymouth	56	84	73	+3	1675	+55	712	+27	2.56	+1.65	3	4.36	+1.05	13	
Walpole	55	85	73	+4	1831	+167	800	+104	2.41	+1.51	3	4.49	+1.18	12	
Chicopee/Westov	52	82	71	-3	1969	-114	888	-120	0.95	+0.18	5	4.24	+1.16	13	
Worthington	48	81	66	+0	1409	+54	476	+22	3.51	+2.56	5	6.12	+2.23	16	
RHODE ISLAND															
Providence	57	84	73	+2	1959	+130	893	+62	2.91	+2.07	3	6.37	+3.27	12	
Woonsocket	54	84	73	+4	1799	+163	777	+114	3.87	+2.96	3	6.14	+2.54	11	
CONNECTICUT															
Bridgeport/Siko	60	83	74	+0	2074	+116	981	+44	1.86	+1.11	3	5.43	+2.24	11	
Hartford/Bradle	55	86	73	+2	2070	+62	976	+18	1.50	+0.68	4	4.86	+1.83	13	
Norfolk	50	79	67	+1	1525	+164	554	+93	4.16	+3.12	5	8.33	+4.40	16	
Thomaston_Dam	48	86	71	+3	1961	+343	880	+237	1.20	+0.22	6	4.83	+1.00	15	
Willimantic	52	82	71	+3	1862	+215	803	+134	1.08	+0.17	4	5.28	+1.60	13	

STATE WEATHER SUMMARY
For the Week Ending Sunday, August 15, 2004

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	45	87	67	+2	1.16	6.54
NH	37	90	67	+1	0.36	3.82
VT	42	86	66	+0	0.36	3.81
MA	47	87	72	+2	0.23	4.43
RI	54	84	72	+2	0.77	3.87
CT	48	86	71	+1	1.04	4.16

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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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: Hurricane Charley gave us some rain, but no crop damage on Saturday. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Great weather for haying Monday and Tuesday. Harvesting sweet corn, beans, cabbage, peppers, summer squash, cukes and eggplant. Blueberries, peaches and early apples are being picked. Shade tobacco harvest continues. Struggling to cut broadleaf tobacco with wet weather over the weekend. Very little wind and just over an inch of rain from Charley. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Producers are busy finishing the second cutting of hay. They hope to begin harvesting corn silage by the last week in August. Appearances are that the vegetable crops will be good. Producers are anxious for sunny days to finish ripening the tomatoes. Fruit crops are good to excellent. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Picking peaches, apples, blueberries. Mowing and spraying orchards. Picking vegetables. Corn looks good, over 10 feet in height in places. Planting sod. Grape vines not recovering well. Light pear crop. Problems with birds in the blueberries and sweet corn. Powdery mildew on squash. Apple scab a concern. Most crops look good. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Bonnie and Charley dumped inches of rain on us in three days. Fields are flooded in a number of areas. Damage to crops will take a while to determine.

MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook: Potatoes and small grains: Growers are busy spraying fields because of the threat of late blight. A few Colorado beetles and aphids have been found. Many growers are applying CURZATE or SUPERTIN as well as regular fungicides. Potato crop looks very good despite disease and insect pressure. Kudos to growers for maintaining a timely spray schedule and applying necessary products. Heavy rains during the middle of the week made maintaining a proper spray schedule difficult. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Some fungicides are being applied. Some vine desiccation of early potato varieties is occurring. The potato crop is looking very good. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Some aphids are showing up in some areas. No late blight has been reported in this area. The crop is coming along well. **Albert Dow (NRCS), Piscataquis:** Dry spots between showers allowed farmers to move first cut hay into the barns. Most hay this summer has been wet at least once before it went in. Blueberry harvest began. **Donna Lamb (Ext), Piscataquis:** Sweet Corn started under row covers is being harvested. Not sure if farmers will be harvesting the rest of the first cut hay. Weather has not been very cooperative this year. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Wet, crazy weather continues to be a problem. Three inches of rain on Thursday brought a lot of field activities to a halt. Many silage corn fields are not even at tassel stage yet. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Blueberry harvest proceeding slowly due to the wet weather. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Crop harvest interrupted a few days due to remnants of hurricane rains but otherwise progressing well. **Michael Tardy (FSA), Androscoggin:** Producers continue to farm between the raindrops. We have farmers who are still trying to get some first crop off the land while some third crop is ready on another part of the farm. Market garden operators are doing a good business. They do have some concern about mold and mildew on certain crops. We still need more warmth in the evening hours to help corn grow. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Farmers are hoping for a late frost. Corn, pumpkins and squash will be late to mature. Tomatoes on the average are a lot smaller than usual. There just has not been enough sun and there does not appear to be a major weather change in sight. **Laura Rand (FSA), Oxford:** This crop season has had a mixture of highs and lows. Producers are talking about the good quality of the hay but are concerned because of the difficulty of getting it harvested. Many round bales are showing up in fields on those that have harvested hay. Soil conditions are so wet in many areas that some hay producers are unable to get onto fields for harvest. Additionally, the wet weather does not allow needed drying conditions. Potato producers are gearing up for harvest, however, mud conditions prevail. Sweet corn is still late and is questionable

if there will be enough heat to bring it to maturity. Silage corn conditions are poor, crop is yellow, and many areas are questionable if the crop will make maturity.

MASSACHUSETTS - Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire: The weather slowed down haying this week. Those making baleage or silage in (long) bags have been harvesting. Some (European) Corn Borer reported. Some reports of tomato blight; black on the bottom and rotting in the middle. Two inches of rain kept fields wet. Fall crops doing well in the cool weather. Cloudy this week. Some areas experienced heavy rains. Temperatures in the low 70's. The cool weather is not good for growing sweet corn. Other veggies look good. Farmers' markets are in full swing. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: The cranberry vines got some much-needed rain on Friday and especially on Sunday (remnants of Charley). This is a critical time to size up the earlier variety berries, so it came at a good juncture. Some field rot showing, as well as fruitworm-injured berries. We will find out what the crop estimate is for all areas on Tuesday at the annual summer meeting. **David Rose (FSA), Bristol:** The remnants of the hurricanes came through last week bringing us over four inches of rain and slowing field work. Cool weather has reduced the harvest. Corn, cukes and squash are in short supply driving prices to extreme highs for this time of year. **John Devine (FSA), Franklin:** The remnants of hurricanes Bonnie and Charley left Franklin County swamped this week. Heavy rains have left many fields too wet for harvest. This is bad news for potatoes, tobacco, machine harvest cukes and blueberries. Sweet corn is very abundant and it tastes great. All the warm weather crops such as tomatoes, peppers and egg plant have been slow to ripen. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Hot, humid, muggy and rainy week. All crops being harvested in full force and they have very good quality. This type of weather brings plant diseases so growers are on a tight protective spray schedule. Harvesting the early apple crop and the crop looks good. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** Intermittent showers kept me and other growers spraying for European Corn Borer and other insects in sweet corn. Sugar pumpkins are half orange and winter squash very close to ripe. Large pumpkins still sizing up. Still some mildew problems in fields. Swamp maples already breaking in color and it's only mid-August. Is this a warning sign of an early frost? Hurricane missed us fortunately. For those who are interested, my road is STILL closed-going on seven weeks with no retail sales.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap: Where is the summer? Sweet corn and field tomatoes are being harvested but they're maturing later than normal and ear size of some sweet corn is small. The vegetable, cut flower and blueberry harvests are well underway. Very few peaches made it this year. Those with peaches are proudly calling the Extension office to let me know! **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** A couple dry days, otherwise lots of damp weather and rain. Corn is continuing to mature - mostly blister stage. Pastures and hayfields continue to look great, but harvesting is still a challenge. All sorts of veggies available, though a shortage of bright sunny days makes for occasional shortages. Early apple varieties should be ready for PYO soon. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** A little more sun this week, yet still enough rain to hamper haying activities. Field corn mostly in silk now except for a few later planted fields. Local sweet corn just beginning to trickle in. Good regrowth on hay lands and pastures, corn also looks vigorous - just need some heat units. Blueberry picking continues. More summer veggies showing up at farm stands. A slow, cool and wet year, with various fungal diseases apparent. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Wet weather slowed harvest but is providing moisture for crops. Some leaf blight due to continual moisture is evident on grasses. Corn continues to tassel and silk. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Vegetables: Growers harvesting an array of vegetables: beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, cucumbers, greens, lettuce, peas, potatoes, radishes, snap beans, summer squash, sweet corn and other vegetables. Irrigating crops and by week's

end plenty of rain. High disease and insect pressure, so farmers kept busy spraying pesticides for insects and diseases. Very good demand for produce at most local farmers' markets and farm stands. Fruit: Orchardists harvesting peaches and Jersey Mac apples. Blueberry and raspberry harvests continued. Orchardists busy monitoring for pests, mowing orchard floors, moving bins into orchards and fixing up orchard roads. Apple growers busy summer-pruning trees. Cultivating and weeding newly renovated strawberry beds. Field Crops: Hay making and cutting haylage continued during the week with the second cut and some third cut being made. The remaining first cut is only good for mulch hay. Silage corn is growing rapidly. **John Porter (Ext), Merrimack:** Some troubles getting second cutting of hay done. Some worries about apple crop this year. Sweet corn harvesting looking good but slowed down by the rain later in the week. Farm stands continue to showcase good looking tomatoes, summer squash, cucumbers and blueberries. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Picking early apple varieties such as Paula Red, Lodi, etc. Blueberry, raspberry, sweet corn, potato, cut flowers and an array of other vegetables continue to be harvested. High wind on Wednesday uprooted or damaged some crops. **Pam Marvin (FSA), Sullivan:** Lots of rain. Could use some dry, sunny days to continue corn growth. Some pumpkin and squash fields experiencing low yields due to very wet conditions during pollination. Lots of dry hay being harvested in between rain showers. Top-dressing with manure has been occurring. Lots of sweet corn being harvested with good yields. Blueberry and raspberry picking winding down to a close with good production being reported. Picking of early variety apples has begun.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: A mix of weather during the whole week including sun, rain, fog, heat and

cool temperatures. Some haying done. Harvesting sweet corn, beans, tomatoes, lettuce and all other summer vegetables. Spraying potatoes, cultivating some crops, pruning Christmas trees. Still harvesting some blueberries and starting raspberries.

VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille: Another wet week hampered many field activities including the harvest of grass. Most crops are still looking good despite a close call with flooding. Many veggies are suffering from blossom end rot and it has been a banner year for slugs. Many fields were too wet to even spread manure. **Perley Sparrow (FSA), Windham:** Another wet week in Windham County. Drying hay has come to a halt; even trying to chop it for haylage is almost impossible. We had some sweet corn blown down by a passing thunder shower. Some vegetable spoiling on the vines because of all the wet weather. Weeds in newly seeded alfalfa fields and even on established stands are becoming a problem to control. **Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Little field work; some manure spread on hay fields. Some hay harvest ruined by rain. Addison County Fair & Field Days very muddy. 30 farms showed Corn at Crop contest up to 13 feet high. Lots of entries. Some ear development at milk stage, mostly blister. Soybean pods just starting to fill. Quality hay samples, but fewer entries. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Warm, wet week. Corn coming along, but not much haying being accomplished due to weather. Orleans County had over three inches of rain this week causing clay mud in parking areas, had to turn back thousands of cars. Coolest summer here in 20 years says the paper. **Heather Darby (Ext), Franklin:** More rain this week once again has slowed forage harvest. Farmers still working on harvesting second cut. A few have begun third cut. Many corn fields are flowering while others remain in vegetative state.

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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