



New England Agricultural Statistics



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August 29, 2005 – 4 pm

For week ending 8/28/05

Crop Weather

Mostly Dry and Sunny

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending August 28, 2005, there were 6.4 days suitable for fieldwork. Topsoil moisture: 10% very short, 41% short and 49% adequate. Subsoil moisture: 10% very short, 28% short, 60% adequate, 2% surplus. Pasture condition: 6% very poor, 13% poor, 36% fair, 39% good and 6% excellent. Mostly clear skies and warm temperatures prevailed in the region at the beginning of the week. On Wednesday, cool, cloudy conditions prevailed and scattered rains hindered field work throughout New England. Warm, clear conditions returned through Saturday. Cloudy, hazy and rainy weather hit most of the region on Sunday, bringing much needed moisture. In southern New England, crops continued to show signs of stress due to prolonged lack of rainfall. Major farm activities included cultivating, weeding, irrigating, monitoring pests and diseases, spraying fungicides and pesticides, spreading manure, baling hay, chopping grass, and harvesting a variety of fruits and vegetables.

FRUIT: Maine wild blueberry harvest should finish at week's end as overall the crop was expected to be below average due to extreme variation among fields. Highbush blueberry harvest was coming to an end with the crop rated good to excellent. Early apple harvest was in full swing with Ginger Golds, Jersey Macs and Paula Reds throughout most of the region. Maine and Vermont apple conditions were rated good to excellent and good to fair elsewhere. Peach harvest continued strong in Connecticut whereas, the rest of New England had less than half of the crop picked. Pear harvest was in full swing in Massachusetts, although harvest should start soon in Connecticut. Cranberry growers were busy preparing bogs as harvest approaches. More rain was needed to improve berry conditions and to help prevent frost damage during late harvest. Orchardist's were busy mowing orchard floors, fixing roads and moving bins into orchards, and spraying insecticides and pesticides.

summer squash, tomatoes and zucchini. Greenhouse and nursery operations were busy harvesting and selling a variety of flowers.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
	-- Percent --		
Topsoil			
Very Short	10	11	0
Short	41	44	9
Adequate	49	45	71
Surplus	0	0	20
Subsoil			
Very Short	10	8	0
Short	28	35	8
Adequate	60	55	77
Surplus	2	2	15

FIELD CROPS: The prolonged lack of rainfall has led to unfavorable field conditions. Farmers were busy wrapping up the first cutting of hay. Cool, dry days provided great haying conditions for second and third cuttings as both were rated good to excellent in the region. Field corn conditions varied from excellent to good in New Hampshire and Vermont and good to fair elsewhere. Some farmers started to chop corn silage while others prepared equipment for harvest. Maine oats and barley growers were in full swing with the harvest as quality and yield were very good. In Massachusetts, broadleaf tobacco harvest was nearing completion, whereas some Connecticut growers were irrigating the crop to bring along to maturity. Shade tobacco harvest in the Connecticut River Valley was coming to the end with the crop rated in good condition. The potential for late blight in Aroostook County potatoes remains high. Maine potato growers have only reported four cases of late blight in Southern Aroostook County this year. Growers continued to spray on a seven to 10 day schedule. Rhode Island potato harvest, in full swing, was rated in fair to poor condition, whereas Massachusetts potatoes were rated in good condition.

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	- Percent Harvested -			Fruit Size	Condition
	2005	2004	5-yr Avg		
Apples	10	10	10	Avg	Good/Fair
Peaches	65	70	55	Avg	Good/Fair
Pears	5	5	10	Avg	Fair/Good
Blueberries					
Highbush	90	90	90	Avg/A. Avg	Good/Excel
Wild, ME	95	85	90	Avg	Fair/Good
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-	Avg/B. Avg	Good

VEGETABLES: Vegetable growers continued to irrigate crops due to insufficient rainfall and additional moisture was needed in the region to enhance conditions. Sweet corn conditions varied from good to fair in southern New England and to good to excellent in northern New England, while harvest progressed throughout the region. Growers were busy harvesting a variety of vegetables such as: beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, cucumbers, eggplant, greens, lettuce, onions, peas, peppers, radishes, snap beans,

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2005 2004 5-yr Avg			Condition
	-- Percent Harvested --			
Barley, ME	35	30	35	Good/ Excellent
Oats, ME	30	20	20	Good/ Excellent
Potatoes				
Maine	-	<5	<5	Good/Excellent
Mass.	15	30	30	Good
Rhode Isl.	30	40	45	Fair/Poor
Sweet Corn	65	65	65	Good/Fair
Field Corn	-	-	-	Excellent/Good
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	80	65	80	Good/Fair
Shade	80	80	85	Good
Dry hay, 1 st cut	99	95	99	Good/Fair
Dry hay, 2 nd cut	80	75	80	Good/Excellent
Dry hay, 3 rd cut	25	25	35	Good/Excellent

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics
Prepared By AWIS, Inc.

For the Period: Monday August 22, 2005
To: Sunday August 28, 2005

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				CUM SINCE MAR 1 GROWING DEGREE DAYS				1-WEEK PRECIP			4-WEEK CUM PRECIP		
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS
MAINE														
Augusta_State_A	55	84	69	+3	1765	+56	849	+179	0.42	-0.31	2	2.44	-0.57	10
Bangor_Intl_Arp	50	85	67	+3	1744	+183	802	+240	0.55	-0.22	3	2.88	-0.14	12
Bethel	50	84	66	+2	1601	+50	693	+149	0.12	-0.79	2	1.91	-1.71	8
Caribou_Municip	47	83	64	+4	1452	+182	588	+229	0.38	-0.53	3	1.74	-1.95	12
Dover-Foxcroft	47	81	63	+0	1357	-5	522	+100	0.21	-0.63	2	2.81	-0.48	11
Frenchville	49	87	64	+4	1426	+246	575	+268	0.54	-0.37	3	2.23	-1.49	12
Houlton	43	84	64	+3	1439	+112	580	+179	0.43	-0.48	4	1.37	-2.32	13
Livermore_Falls	46	86	66	+4	1645	+304	753	+351	0.20	-0.74	1	2.23	-1.46	9
Moosehead	43	83	61	+1	1257	+122	451	+160	0.36	-0.48	1	3.66	+0.28	10
Portland_ME	52	85	69	+4	1727	+159	819	+243	0.00	-0.68	0	1.33	-1.24	7
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	48	81	63	+1	1592	+158	680	+239	0.61	-0.30	2	2.88	-0.75	11
Berlin_AG	46	81	62	+0	1608	+163	691	+227	0.69	-0.28	2	2.26	-1.65	7
Bethlehem	46	83	63	+0	1598	+164	683	+241	0.87	-0.12	4	4.16	+0.06	13
Concord	47	89	68	+3	1984	+260	989	+316	0.18	-0.53	1	2.07	-0.95	8
Diamond_Pond	47	80	61	+3	1221	+244	428	+234	1.01	-0.11	4	2.89	-1.74	12
Keene_AP	48	88	66	-2	1986	+66	983	+166	0.13	-0.71	1	1.75	-1.79	5
North_Conway	48	83	66	+2	1757	+147	821	+235	0.04	-0.87	2	2.08	-1.56	11
Rochester	51	87	68	+2	1810	-26	866	+107	0.05	-0.72	1	2.15	-1.08	4
VERMONT														
Burlington_Intl	50	84	68	+2	2154	+307	1113	+347	0.08	-0.83	1	1.34	-2.33	7
Island_Pond	45	81	63	+3	1543	+357	652	+352	0.34	-0.72	3	2.86	-1.54	11
Montpelier	47	83	65	+3	1814	+358	842	+374	0.09	-0.76	4	2.18	-1.30	13
Pownal	49	81	64	+1	1843	+333	839	+339	0.00	-0.98	0	1.86	-2.02	8
Rochester	47	84	64	+2	1760	+332	806	+352	0.20	-0.85	2	1.42	-2.74	7
Rutland_AG	47	83	66	-1	1914	+12	934	+139	0.44	-0.49	3	1.83	-1.97	10
Sutton	46	81	62	+2	1543	+340	651	+337	0.13	-0.90	3	2.24	-2.06	12
Townshend_Lake	49	86	65	-2	1892	+89	909	+174	0.05	-0.86	1	2.14	-1.46	10
MASSACHUSETTS														
Ashburnham	51	83	67	+3	1931	+364	937	+385	0.21	-0.56	2	3.44	+0.24	9
Boston/Logan_In	60	88	73	+3	2193	+18	1175	+148	0.02	-0.75	1	2.19	-0.73	9
Greenfield	49	85	66	-3	2038	-11	1012	+98	0.24	-0.58	2	2.77	-0.57	8
New_Bedford	52	89	70	-2	1993	-195	983	-56	0.02	-0.96	1	0.51	-3.29	4
Otis_AFB	55	88	70	+3	2188	+407	1125	+385	0.04	-0.75	1	0.27	-2.79	3
Plymouth	52	89	69	+2	1989	+146	1024	+238	0.01	-0.94	1	0.53	-3.06	5
Walpole	54	87	71	+4	2174	+297	1140	+349	0.12	-0.79	2	2.36	-1.18	9
Chicopee/Westov	50	89	69	-3	2331	-11	1222	+76	0.01	-0.83	1	2.17	-1.00	9
Worthington	48	84	64	-1	1774	+243	798	+283	0.32	-0.59	2	1.42	-2.35	7
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	59	89	74	+4	2349	+277	1274	+320	0.80	-0.04	1	1.12	-2.15	5
Woonsocket	53	88	70	+3	2160	+314	1110	+357	0.45	-0.46	1	1.90	-1.74	7
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	59	89	73	+2	2423	+199	1275	+193	0.00	-0.70	0	1.45	-1.50	4
Hartford/Bradle	53	91	71	+2	2462	+209	1330	+248	0.36	-0.49	2	1.58	-1.68	6
Norfolk	51	82	65	+2	1844	+308	843	+322	0.02	-1.03	1	2.95	-1.15	9
Thomaston_Dam	52	88	69	+3	2183	+358	1117	+386	0.15	-0.83	2	1.50	-2.33	9
Willimantic	50	90	69	+2	2194	+334	1111	+349	0.00	-0.89	0	0.34	-3.23	5

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 28, 2005

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	L	HI	AV	DF	LO	HI
ME	41	87	65	+2	0.00	1.68
NH	38	90	64	+1	0.04	1.01
VT	44	87	64	+1	0.00	0.56
MA	47	91	69	+2	0.00	0.32
RI	53	89	72	+3	0.00	0.80
CT	50	93	70	+2	0.00	0.44

REPORTERS COMMENTS, By County: *Reporters are from extension Service (Ext), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), or other knowledgeable individuals.*

CONNECTICUT - Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland: Many areas still with out measurable rain for the summer months. Many reporting that veggies without irrigation have stopped producing. Grass hay very light with alfalfa/clover somewhat better. Field corn from very good on heavy soils to burnt up on gravel. Some started chopping last week. Irrigated veggies look very good but fuel costs are adding up. Most finished harvesting broadleaf tobacco but some still irrigating to bring it along to maturity. Irrigating pumpkins to help size them up. **Frank Himmelstein (Ext), New London:** An excellent week for making hay. Field Corn: The corn crop looks poorer every day. It's currently bone dry in New London County. Although rain is expected in the county later in the week it will be too late to help any corn planted before the middle of June. High nitrate concentration of corn stover should be of concern for some growers at harvest time. Some corn being chopped off. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** New London County is in desperate need of rain, most storms forecasted have turned northwest. The southeastern corner of the county, known for its light sandy soils, has experienced curling brown silage corn with 2nd cutting almost non-existent. Pumpkins are dropping drying blossoms. Squash is "cooking" on the vines. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Rain needed to get a third cutting of hay. Lighter soils are so dry that trucks are getting stuck in the sand as chopping begins to get corn off that is now dried down to frost like conditions. Ears on this early corn are 8" or less, not filled all the way, dented with no milk. Custom liquid manure spreading, cutting 2nd or 3rd cutting of hay, picking blueberries, peaches, early apples, pears just about ready, mowing orchards, spraying apples for various insects and maggot protection. Fruit size is affected by lack of water, no abnormal drop yet. Digging potatoes. Dry, Dry, Dry. Field corn is suffering. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** There has been no change in the dry conditions. All crops are feeling the affects of the abnormally dry weather. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Cooler drier weather made haying easier. Some corn silage harvesting of early varieties. Showers on Sunday brought relief from severely dry conditions in some areas.

MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook: Potatoes and small grains: Growers continue to prepare harvest equipment. Harvesting small grains, spraying fungicides, and insecticides when needed. Potato crops rebounded from the dry conditions following much needed rain the first part of the week. In furrow insecticides are letting go so some control for Colorado beetles, fleabeetles and aphids is being applied. Quality and yield of grain crop is very good. **Donald Burke (FSA), Waldo:** Blueberry harvest almost complete. Local farmer's markets active with locally grown produce. Second crop haying is going strong. Dry weather conditions continue. Could use some rain. It has been great weather for outdoor work. Farmers busy all week. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Blueberry harvest almost complete with only a few fields left to be raked. Machine harvesters were used more in this area, this year. Farmers still cutting second crop hay. Plenty of locally grown sweet corn now at farmers market. Dry weather continues, rain is needed. Sunny weather was great for outdoor work and activities. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Majority of harvest finished last week, a few late fields in Eastern Washington county will be harvested this week. The crop was very variable with some fields doing well and others with a very poor crop similar to last year. Overall the average crop is expected to be below average. Since the crop will be completely harvested by next week and there are no activities until pruning later in the fall, this will be my last crop report as I will be on sabbatical this fall and next spring. **Elaine Moceus (FSA), Franklin:** A rain storm the first of the week and a couple of scattered showers during the night gave some relief to crops and pastures. Most crops are doing well. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Oxford County producers have had a good week for harvesting more hay! Vegetable growers around the county are in need of rain. Pastures are looking good but also in need of rain. Potato growers are starting to dig while other potato crops are struggling. Apple producers have reported that some of the fruits are small in size while the majority of the crop is looking good. Oxford County apple producers reported that harvest season will start later this year due to the weather. **Laura Rand (FSA), Androscoggin:** Squash, tomatoes, cabbage, broccoli, and potatoes are all being harvested. Hay producers are busy getting in the hay during this dry week.

MASSACHUSETTS - Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire: Not much moisture until Sunday when there was light rain on and off all day. Very heavy dew has helped most crops, but slowed down hay drying. Tomatoes are good this year, turning color with good quality. No reports of trouble with vine crops. Fall flowers are showing up at nurseries and farmer's markets. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Weed wiping, edge mowing, prep for harvest. Very dry, water supplies down. We need rain! **Jason Otto (FSA), Bristol:** Cooler weather this week was a relief. Some showers over night Sunday, but seems to be too late for most crops. **John Devine (FSA), Franklin:** As long as you weren't trying to bale, it's been an excellent week! Cooler and drier conditions have slowed crop growth and improved field conditions. Scattered showers on Tuesday and Wednesday wrecked alot of second and third cut hay. Producers are reporting losses in many of their Fall crops. Excessive moisture and disease are the culprits in most cases. Most farms are still recovering from the heavy rains in July. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Cooler temperatures arrived this week. Producers are still irrigating late summer and fall crops because of dry conditions. Farmers are harvesting potatoes, sweet corn, beans, cabbage, beets, cucumbers, peppers, apples, peaches and tobacco. Tobacco growers are reporting that the crop is drying down nicely in the bales and the crops is almost all harvested. On fields harvested a cover crop is being applied. Potato harvest is in full swing with reports of an average yield. Apple harvest is just starting by picking Jersey Macs and Paula Reds. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** Another tough week. Rains spotty in county last Sunday but here in Northern Worcester county we got a crop saving two hours of medium to light rain. Corn is still curling in fields and ears drying up. Pumpkins coloring up but yield and tonnage way down from dry summer. On plus side, melons are absolutely delicious with great flavor, size, and terrific consumer response even at premium prices. Spray programs on sweet corn going to be real tough this coming week.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap: Most vegetables and blueberries are now being harvested. Apples are almost ready. Growers are busy managing pests and irrigating. Thankfully, rain is on the way. **Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll:** A good soaking rain would be helpful. Crops continue to come in, apples sizing up and beginning to color. An excellent blueberry harvest continues to come in. Fall webworm and tomato horn worm running rampant. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Mostly dry and sunny all week, with a good steady rain all day Sunday. Corn continues to look good - ears filling out nicely, more of it denting, and a few farms getting ready to chop. Good drying conditions for haying, and fields and pastures should benefit from moisture. PYO apples continuing with early varieties. Vegetable growers tilling up old plantings of sweet corn. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Cooler temperatures, more typical for this time of year now occurring. Growing degree days pass 1500 mark out at Lancaster recording station. Heavy rains on Sunday. Field corn looking quite good, much generally in milk stage. Sweet corn readily available at farm stands. Hay continues to come in as weather permits. Fields, pastures look good for late August. Seeing a bit more fungal leaf afflictions on squash type plants. Continues to be a very good growing season, even some melons are about ripe to pick now. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Corn continues to grow well. Some beginning to show signs of moisture stress especially on light sandy soils. Third cutting continues. Quality is excellent. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** We have had slightly over 2 inches of rain in the last week. This helped improve topsoil moisture conditions. The hay crop looks good. Corn continues to grow and mature. Ear developments is still a little behind on fields planted in June. But over all, things should do well. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Orchardists harvesting peaches, plums, and finished Jersey Mac, and now picking Paula Red and Ginger Gold apples. Highbush blueberry harvest winding down, and fall raspberry harvest continued. Orchardists busy monitoring for pests, summer pruning trees, mowing orchard floors, fixing up orchard roads and move bins into orchard. Vegetables: Farmers kept busy harvesting an array of vegetable crops, monitoring pest pressures, spraying pesticides for insect and disease control where needed.

Field Crops: Hay making and chopping forage continued during the week. Corn looks good to excellent and farmers starting to get equipment ready to start chopping in a couple of weeks. **Sadie Puglisi (Ext), Merrimack:** Yesterday's rain was a welcome sight. Peaches and apples are a big hit at the markets right now. Blueberries are just ending. Stands are still full with tomatoes, squashes, potatoes, onions and greens. Hay quality is good thanks to timely rains and sunshine

Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham: Harvesting peaches, apples, apricots, plums, raspberries and whole array of vegetables. Hay and haylage being done. Corn silage being done. Most apple orchards open for the season. Weeding, cultivating and irrigating vegetable fields. Rain on Sunday helped somewhat. Mums now available at farmstands and garden centers.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: Some cool weather has moved in making the lack of rain a bit more tolerable. The fields are taking a beating along with any hope of a third cut hay. Harvesting potatoes, sweet corn, tomatoes, all squashes,

summer vegetables and fruits. Second cut hay is having no problem drying. **Melissa Turrisi (FSA):** Rhode Island producers continue to struggle with near drought conditions. Farm stands are full with sweet corn, tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, etc. Orchardists are preparing for upcoming harvest.

VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille: Other than some ongoing second and third cut of grass most field work has slowed. Weather has been a little cooler and moisture has been a little light. Most vegetable crops look very good and we anticipate high yields. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** We had another very good week of weather for harvesting hay. Almost all of second crop hay is complete and some farms have started harvesting their third crop. The third crop looks a little light on yield due to the dry weather. This varies based on the available soil moisture. The wetter fields are showing a better yield. The corn continues to mature and I see no signs of drought with this crop. It continues to look real good. **Perley Sparrow (FSA), Windham:** Finally got some rain. This week more is expected.

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