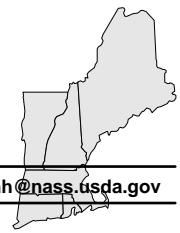




# New England Agricultural Statistics



Gary R. Keough, Director

Phone: 603-224-9639

Fax: 603-225-1434

www.nass.usda.gov

nass-nh@nass.usda.gov

22 Bridge St. 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
P.O. Box 1444  
Concord, NH 03302

A field office of the National Agricultural Statistics  
Service United States Department of  
Agriculture

Volume 26, Number 9

**Crop Weather**  
(Issued weekly on the internet, May – October)

June 26, 2006 – 4 pm

For week ending 6/25/06

## Fields Still Too Wet!

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:** For the week ending June 25, 2006, there were 5.1 days available for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture: 60% adequate, 40% surplus. Subsoil moisture: 62% adequate, 38% surplus. Pasture condition: 3% poor, 5% fair, 73% good, and 19% excellent. The week began with dry, hot, humid conditions across the six-state region. Thunderstorms moved in by Tuesday and ushered in cooler temperatures. The rest of the week saw storms throughout the region and along with the rains brought concerns of additional flooding. The rains made it nearly impossible for farmers to accomplish much fieldwork.

**FRUIT:** Strawberry harvest continued during the week with 30 percent of the crop already picked. Most pick your own operations saw a good flow of customers between the rains. The rains have been beneficial for blueberry growers, as plant set and growth have been reported as excellent. Fruit tree growers continued mowing orchard floors, thinning fruit by hand in apple and peach orchards, and spraying fungicides and herbicides when possible. Apple scab has been reported by some fruit operators as well as caterpillar problems. Massachusetts cranberries were reported in good condition.

### FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	- Percent Harvested -			Fruit Size	Condition
	2006	2005	5-yr Avg		
Apples	-	-	-	Average	Good/Fair
Peaches	-	-	-	Average	Good
Pears	-	-	-	Average	Good/Fair
Blueberries					
Highbush	-	-	-	Average	Good/Fair
Wild, ME	-	-	-	Above Avg/Avg	Good/Excellent
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-		Good
Strawberries	30	20	20	Average	Good/Fair

**VEGETABLES:** Sweet corn plantings advanced to 85 percentage points, slightly behind last year and the five year average. Growers were trying to get fields seeded which were lost last month due to the floods. Vegetable growers were busy planting cabbage, cucumbers, and greens as well as harvesting beets, broccoli, cauliflower, lettuce, radishes, spinach, and high tunnel tomatoes. Growers were also busy side dressing fields with fertilizer, cultivating weeds, and scouting for pests and spraying as needed. Greenhouses and nursery operations continued to have good sales of plants and some were busy planting mums.

### SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
	-- Percent --		
<b>Topsoil</b>			
Very Short	0	0	3
Short	0	1	8
Adequate	60	43	65
Surplus	40	56	24
<b>Subsoil</b>			
Very Short	0	0	3
Short	0	0	6
Adequate	62	55	66
Surplus	38	45	25

**FIELD CROPS:** The wet weather continued to cause problems with operators trying to get into already drenched fields to get some planting done. Growers who managed to get into their fields were able to get some hay chopped early in the week. The Maine potato crop continues to grow rapidly. Thus far, there have been no reports of Potato blight, though there have been reports of cutworms in potato fields in Central Maine. Farmers have been spraying herbicides on both potatoes and grains. Field corn producers are beginning to wonder how much of their corn will be planted/replanted by the first of July. Wet soils and standing water in many fields have limited or stopped corn growth. Only five percent of Broadleaf tobacco remains to be planted, as the crop is rated in good condition.

### FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2006	2005	5-yr Avg	Condition
	--Percent Planted--			
Potatoes				
Maine	100	100	100	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	90	99	95	Fair/Good
Sweet Corn	85	90	90	Good/Fair
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	95	95	85	Good
Shade	100	100	100	Good
	--Percent Emerged--			
Barley, ME	100	100	99	Good/Excellent
Oats, ME	100	95	99	Good/Excellent
Potatoes				
Maine	90	85	80	
Mass	85	100	100	Good
Rhode Isl	100	100	100	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	75	90	85	
Sweet Corn	70	80	80	
	--Percent Harvested--			
Dry Hay				
First Cut	40	60	60	Fair/Good

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

For the Period: Monday June 19, 2006  
To: Sunday June 25, 2006

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				CUM SINCE MAR 1 GROWING DEGREE DAYS				1-WEEK PRECIP			4-WEEK CUM PRECIP		
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	BASE-50F TOT	DFN	BASE-60F TOT	DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS
<b>MAINE</b>														
Augusta_State_A	56	86	70	+6	613	+102	201	+89	0.64	-0.13	5	6.88	+3.74	16
Bangor_Intl_Arp	55	84	70	+6	605	+162	182	+100	0.30	-0.47	4	6.59	+3.47	17
Bethel	50	91	69	+5	531	+73	162	+74	2.05	+1.14	5	6.80	+3.12	14
Caribou_Municip	48	86	66	+5	523	+171	128	+81	0.61	-0.09	4	2.45	-0.22	13
Dover-Foxcroft	50	85	66	+5	400	+38	105	+57	1.05	+0.19	3	5.20	+1.75	14
Frenchville	45	88	65	+4	466	+154	109	+76	2.77	+2.00	4	5.08	+2.21	14
Houlton	49	83	68	+6	521	+161	135	+85	0.38	-0.39	3	4.77	+1.69	15
Livermore_Falls	50	90	70	+8	559	+192	169	+118	1.64	+0.68	5	6.28	+2.43	14
Moosehead	45	90	66	+6	377	+103	96	+73	1.28	+0.37	4	5.32	+1.75	16
Portland_ME	57	82	69	+5	568	+146	169	+100	1.22	+0.45	2	8.48	+5.26	13
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>														
Benton	47	90	69	+7	476	+22	140	+60	1.06	+0.19	4	5.73	+2.20	16
Berlin_AG	50	91	69	+5	500	+62	143	+64	0.75	-0.22	4	5.85	+2.03	16
Concord	56	94	73	+8	716	+174	258	+128	1.18	+0.43	4	7.48	+4.50	15
Diamond_Pond	45	85	64	+5	311	+65	74	+63	1.40	+0.29	3	6.34	+2.07	17
Keene_AP	55	91	71	+5	634	-20	208	+18	0.93	+0.09	5	4.14	+0.77	17
North_Conway	51	90	69	+5	611	+115	199	+91	1.34	+0.43	6	5.04	+1.33	15
Rocheſter	55	91	72	+5	627	+32	200	+42	1.05	+0.25	3	6.59	+3.27	14
<b>VERMONT</b>														
Burlington_Intl	51	91	72	+6	752	+142	271	+102	1.48	+0.64	3	4.74	+1.53	15
Island_Pond	46	89	66	+6	472	+134	125	+76	0.90	-0.10	3	4.62	+0.66	16
Montpelier	49	91	70	+7	611	+161	184	+98	0.93	+0.15	4	4.00	+0.71	15
Pownal	54	91	69	+6	557	+89	160	+68	1.24	+0.19	4	5.39	+1.12	18
Rochester	49	90	69	+6	511	+81	147	+67	0.97	+0.13	4	6.00	+2.43	17
Rutland_AG	49	92	70	+3	599	-63	184	-11	0.40	-0.44	4	3.56	+0.23	14
Springfield_VT	52	93	71	+8	639	+142	206	+101	0.62	-0.29	4	4.85	+1.18	16
Sutton	46	90	66	+5	438	+102	111	+62	1.24	+0.23	4	4.60	+0.66	19
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>														
Boston/Logan_In	63	93	75	+6	781	+59	285	+70	2.50	+1.80	3	9.06	+6.16	14
Fitchburg	56	93	75	+10	775	+302	298	+203	2.24	+1.40	3	8.86	+5.53	13
Greenfield	57	92	72	+5	688	-22	232	+16	1.16	+0.29	5	4.71	+1.11	20
New_Bedford	55	86	71	+2	672	-37	212	+12	2.95	+2.12	3	10.32	+6.93	14
Otis_AFB	59	79	69	+4	656	+149	202	+94	3.26	+2.52	2	11.52	+8.46	13
Plymouth	58	90	73	+7	657	+110	220	+88	2.25	+1.48	4	10.44	+7.18	16
Walpole	59	90	74	+8	720	+119	260	+104	2.88	+2.00	3	9.97	+6.52	15
Chicopee/Westov	54	92	72	+2	741	-103	241	-47	0.82	-0.09	5	4.14	+0.30	14
Worthington	51	91	70	+7	540	+67	173	+80	0.75	-0.14	4	6.86	+3.20	16
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>														
Providence	60	90	74	+6	847	+181	289	+100	2.64	+1.87	4	8.22	+5.10	14
Woonsocket	58	90	74	+8	720	+129	253	+112	4.66	+3.74	3	12.15	+8.39	16
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>														
Bridgeport/Siko	59	89	74	+6	848	+114	272	+40	1.22	+0.42	3	5.07	+1.85	12
Hartford/Bradle	59	94	76	+6	885	+83	324	+53	1.21	+0.37	4	7.02	+3.46	13
Norfolk	52	88	71	+7	585	+116	195	+104	1.27	+0.22	4	4.84	+0.53	12
Thomaston_Dam	56	90	73	+7	736	+129	243	+88	2.71	+1.80	4	6.82	+2.97	15
Willimantic	57	91	74	+8	793	+178	273	+115	2.62	+1.73	2	7.74	+4.23	12

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.

Copyright 2006. AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.  
For detailed ag weather forecasts and data visit the AWIS home page at [www.awis.com](http://www.awis.com) or call toll free at 1-888-798-9955.

**STATE WEATHER SUMMARY**

For the Week Ending Sunday, June 25, 2006

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	L	HI	AV	DF	LO	HI
ME	42	94	68	+6	0.25	4.29
NH	34	96	69	+6	0.58	2.79
VT	43	98	69	+6	0.29	1.78
MA	51	94	72	+6	0.63	3.26
RI	58	90	74	+7	2.64	4.66
CT	52	94	73	+6	1.21	3.95

**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:** With the constant rain, it is nearly impossible to make dry hay. Vegetable farmers are finding it difficult to plant their crops. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Beginning of the week saw field work progressing with some haying done and the wet fields drying out. Late Friday the rains came and drenched the area with 2.5 to 4.5 inches in Hartford County. Tolland County received up to seven inches of rain in spots. Not good for any crops, strawberries are breaking down and cherries are splitting. Heavy rains might have hurt sweet corn pollination by flushing pollen off silk. **Frank Himmelstein (Ext), New London:** Field Corn- Growers continue to struggle to get fields planted this week. Many fields still remain unplanted throughout the county. Field corn will not be knee high by the fourth of July. Where poultry manure was applied corn fields looked good in dry areas. Where either commercial fertilizer of just cow manure was used corn looks yellow. Large areas missing in early planted fields where water has been standing on and off for the past six weeks. Despite the good progress made this week, the heavy rains over the weekend created a waterlogged situation. This will not help get fields off to a good start and make it difficult to go in to spray for weeds. Little drying out of fields is expected this week. Hay- Growers were able to chop some hay earlier in the week. Dry hay was harvested in the beginning of the week. All those fields were rained on the previous week so the quality was much lower than anticipated. Much of fields used for dry hay remain unmowed. Heavy rains this weekend just added to the waterlogged soils. No hay making weather expected this week as well with rain showers, high humidity and thunderstorms expected throughout the week. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Same old story - too much rain, too little sun. Fields don't have a chance to dry out and we get more rain. Hay that can be harvested is of poor quality. A lot of voids in wet corn fields, nitrogen has leached out. Vegetables are planted, in some cases replanted. This is a challenging year. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Heavy rain, flooding, 5"+ in places, humid weather boosted growth on corn, many fields replanted with possible need to replant a second time, some corn fields not yet planted and July 1st is almost here. High nitrogen needs on June nitrate tests, can't get in fields to apply, cost too much. Some farmers waiting for warm weather to re-leash nitrogen in soils. Haylage done, re-growth good. Tough to find a few dry days in a row to make hay. Very little hay done. Wet weekend kept people away from strawberry picking, farmers markets and bedding plant sales. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** The weather dried up somewhat early in the week but the heavy rains returned for the weekend. Reports of two to three inches throughout New Haven and Middlesex Counties. Some dry hay was made in mid-week but the quality is below normal. Strawberry harvest continues and the quality of the fruit is good. Lettuce, green beans, early summer squash and some cukes are being harvested along with some early broccoli and hot house tomatoes. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Some hay and haylage harvested. Then the rains closed in again. Heavy rain and high winds lodged a lot of the hay that is still in fields. A number of corn fields need to be replanted due to flooding - if they ever drain/dry out enough to get back in with equipment.

**MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Heavy thunderstorms earlier in the week have curtailed most field work in the upper St. John Valley causing growers to get behind in their hilling and fungicide applications, also causing some severe soil erosion. However, the ground dries out pretty fast this time of year so that they will be able to catch up. Generally crops look pretty good with good soil moisture and high temperatures. Crop growth stage would be considered ahead of normal. No late blight reported. Insect presence is minimal. It is estimated drowned out areas and seed rot accounts for five percent of the total planted acres of potatoes. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Cultivation continuing, fungicide application. Potato crop is almost emerged, crop is growing fast with those planted early at 50-60% of full growth. Grain crop is looking good, while canola is starting to flower. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Farmers have been finishing herbicide sprays on potatoes and grain. They have been spraying fungicides also. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis:** Periods of rain has made haying a challenge. Strawberry season is in full force. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** Too much rain,

wet and muck. We need sun. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Wet weather continues to cause headaches and problems with corn crops and with hay harvest. Strawberry harvest is in full swing with large berries due to all the rain. Weather forecast doesn't look any better. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Strawberries and peas are at farmstands. A lot of silage corn was planted during the week as the ground dried out. Very little hay being cut until there is a break in the weather pattern. Areas inland from the coast had much of the week suitable for field work and growing crops. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Plant set good and growth excellent because of ample rainfall. Traps being set out to monitor for blueberry fruit fly. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Summer temperatures arrived this week. Thunderstorms or rain threatened every day. Rainy weather is cutting into pick your own strawberry sales and promoting scab on apples. Hay is being cut where and when possible. **Amanda May, (Ext), Penobscot:** Beautiful week. Strawberries are ready and looking delicious. Corn and potatoes coming along well. **Guy Piper (FSA), Kennebec:** Still very wet in most areas, very hard 1st cutting hay where it is so wet. Some hay as silage/haylage. Some silage corn has been replanted but there are still areas where silage corn has not been planted, still standing water in fields. Some dry hay cut, but very limited. The Family Festival Day in Capitol Park June 24 in Augusta was relocated to the Augusta Armory. One reason was the Capital Park field was too wet to have the Family Festival. Drier weather is needed. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Androscoggin/Franklin:** Too many rain showers are making hay harvest very tricky. Grass is growing well. Apple set is below normal but the size of the fruit is above normal in some cases. Some hail damage has been reported. Early vegetable crop looks good but there has not been enough sunshine to inspire later plantings. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Oxford County Producers have had a good week for field work. Corn is coming up but some acreage has failed due to wet weather. Potato crops have been planted and now producers are having trouble getting on the land to spray with heavy equipment as the soils are very soggy. Hay is being cut between showers but producers have reported leaving ruts where they have harvested.

**MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire:** Heavy rain a couple times this past week has made for some perpetually soggy fields. Some initial plantings of field corn were lost and had to be replanted. But that window is now closed so some fields will go to cover crops. Reports of weather related problems with cherries. Caterpillars seem to be finishing on the maples and there is a slight blush of new growth on some of the defoliated hillsides. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: More heavy rain over the weekend. No reports of flooding so far with this event. Growers applying first fungicides as conditions allow. **Jason Otto (FSA), Bristol:** Another 5.25 inches of heavy downpours are making final planting impossible. Washouts and flooded fields are responsible for many fields being replanted. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Franklin/Hampshire/Hampden:** The week started off nice and sunny and ended with lots of rain. Farmers are trying to finish planting field corn and harvest hay. Planting cabbage, sweet corn, greens and cucumbers. So far, all crops still look good with all the rain. Harvesting strawberries, lettuce, spinach, radish and beets. **Gary Guide, Worcester:** Yet another volatile week. Just when strawberries are almost at peak, heavy rainy weekend kept pickers from fields and is ruining crop. This year is a real struggle for those of us in farming. Side dressing of corn is mandatory and "over the top" herbicide applications will be required. Much washout in fields.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap:** Planting of field crops is still incomplete due to wet fields. About 50% of each crop is planted. Growers are trying to get the sweet corn seeded in fields where all was lost due to flooding a month ago. Picking strawberries, peas, lettuce, spinach and in the hot houses - cucumbers and tomatoes. First cut hay done only in the driest fields. In wetter places, grass is lush and ready to be cut but it's impossible to bring equipment out there. Rain, rain, go away...come again some other day. **Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll:** Planting, haying continues where possible. Most corn will not be "knee high by the 4th of July". Some folks are lucky to have it in the ground! First cutting for grass silage is mostly complete. If you need to make dry hay it's been a pretty tough year so far!

Apple scab rampant. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Warm and humid most of the week - a couple rainy spells, and one nice, dry, sunny day. A number of fields are still excessively wet. Most field corn is between six to eight leaf stages, some farms starting to think about side-dressing. Still challenging to harvest hay. Some farms ready to harvest second cutting haylage as soon as weather holds. Vegetable crops doing OK - farms stands selling high tunnel tomatoes, greens, radishes and some strawberries. Raspberry and blueberry crops look promising but are slow to ripen. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Hot and humid weather with frequent thunderstorms make for tricky haying activities. A stretch of decent haying conditions over the weekend gave farmers a small window of opportunity. Corn looking good, although patchy in places that had seen prolonged ponding in fields. Farmers market seeing brisk business, more early veggies available. Concerns of fungal diseases, especially apple scab as had to get on timely spray coverage. Rose chafers making their appearance. Looks like a good crop of haylage has come in this year although weather always an issue! **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** First cutting continues as weather permits. Second cutting started and quality is excellent. Corn growing slowly and still slightly behind normal. Wet soils and standing water in many fields have limited or stopped growth. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** Last week we had a couple of good days during the week, but with heavy rains in the evening. As a result, farmers were waiting for things to dry out before trying to get on the less well drained fields. The end of the week was dry and sunny. Unfortunately, we did not have enough days without rain to dry out the fields that are not as well drained. Many fields are still inaccessible, due to saturated soil conditions. Hay quality continues to decline on these pieces as time goes on. Some corn fields still can't be planted due to wet soils. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Vegetables: Continuing successive planting of several vegetables. Growers continued harvesting early season vegetables such as lettuce and radishes. Grower's busy side-dressing fields with fertilizer, cultivating weeds, scouting for pests and spraying if needed. Fruit: Growers harvesting field grown strawberries. Fields affected by winter injury and flooding are showing lower than normal yields and relatively small fruit size. Fruit growers monitoring pest and crop development and applying sprays for pest control, along with mowing orchard floor. Field Crops: Farmers making haylage and baled hay, along with finishing planting and weed spraying corn fields between rain showers.

**Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Picking a good crop of strawberries and early green vegetables. Continued planting vegetables, fertilizer, side-dressing and weeding. First cut of hay being done. Overall pastures look good. Some forage corn and vegetables not been planted because some fields are still very wet. More rain came this week-end. Monitoring pests in orchards. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** Rain showers on and off throughout the week. Hay producers struggled with the weather to try and get some first cut during the break in the weather. Fruit growers continued to mow orchard floors and to do fruit thinning by hand in apple and peach orchards. They also continued to monitor their crops for diseases and insect pests, applying control pesticides where necessary. Vegetable growers were busy weeding, cultivating and fertilizing their crops, while harvesting early season vegetables. Most pick your own strawberry operations continued with strong customer flow. Greenhouse and nursery operators continued to have good sales of plants. Many were also busy planting mums.

**RHODE ISLAND -** Potatoes in full flower and look just great, PYO strawberries look good and customers are pretty steady. Picking cole crops; lettuces, cauliflower and broccoli and caught up on field work. Some haying done mid-week however fog and heavy air held off some work. Winter squash and pumpkins being cultivated and planting sweet corn. Roadside stands did well this week but the weekend was a raging wash out.

**VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille:** The first week of summer was generally very good for fieldwork. Lots of grass was harvested although most of it has already gone to seed. Some manure was being spread on first cut fields. Corn and veggie crops responded well to the warmer and drier conditions. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** The weather has turned a little drier and a lot of first cut hay was harvested. The hay crop is heavy but over mature. Most corn has been planted now. Some fields needed to be replanted. The fields are still very wet. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Sweet corn all planted, early fields sprayed for weed control and side-dressed with nitrogen. Potatoes all hilled up with good growth for this time of year. Warm days have put good color back into the corn fields. Rain for the week, 0.602 inches. Several showers that helped crops a lot. Asparagus season over. Peas just about ready to pick. Picking a good average crop of strawberries, radishes, scallions and rhubarb now in the market.

To receive this report every Monday evening, send an e-mail message to [listserv@newsbox.usda.gov](mailto:listserv@newsbox.usda.gov) and in the body, type **subscribe usda-new-eng-crop-weather**

**Gary R. Keough, Director**  
**Dianne Johnson, Statistician**

**Gerald D. Tillman, Deputy Director**  
**Deirdre Davis, Stat Assistant**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

CONCORD, NH 03302-1444  
POST OFFICE BOX 1444

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

PERMIT NO. G-38  
USDA  
POSTAGE & FEES PAID  
FIRST CLASS  
PRESORTED

