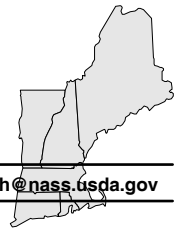




New England Agricultural Statistics



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For week ending 8/13/06

A Great Weather Week for Growers

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending August 13, 2006, there were 6.5 days available for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture: 9% short, 77% adequate, 14% surplus. Subsoil moisture: 5% short, 82% adequate, 13% surplus. Pasture condition: 2% poor, 19% fair, 55% good, 24% excellent. The week began with hot, humid conditions giving way to rain and thundershowers. By Tuesday afternoon, cooler and drier air moved into the region and stayed for most of the week, interrupted only by thunderstorms on Thursday. High temperatures in the upper 70's to low 80's were welcomed by dairy farmers, who saw milk production improve this week. While many growers were excited about the moderate conditions for doing field work, some growers expressed concern that topsoil was beginning to dry out with fewer showers in the region. By week's end, temperatures at night became much cooler, ranging from the low 50's in the south to the upper 30's in the north, sparking worries for the potential of an early frost in low lying northern areas.

FRUIT: Wild blueberry harvest in Maine progressed well with moderate weather this week. Wild blueberry growers noted that flatter fields that held the heavy rains from May and June are producing lower yields than fields that had adequate drainage. Highbush blueberry and raspberry harvests continued this week, with many reporting a good crop this year. Scattered showers last week were welcome to cranberry growers in Massachusetts, as early varieties of cranberries are reportedly sizing well. More peaches and early season apples appeared on farm stands this week. Orchardists were busy pruning trees, monitoring for pests, mowing orchard floors, moving bins into orchards and fixing up orchard roads.

VEGETABLES: A wide array of vegetables arrived at farm stands and farmers markets this week, including some field tomatoes and melons making their first appearance. More sweet corn became available, selling at a high price. Other vegetables harvested this week included beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, cucumbers, greens, lettuce, parsnips, peas, potatoes, radishes, snap beans, summer squash. Concerns for disease and insect pressure had farmers spraying pesticides and fungicides this week. Some growers irrigated their vegetable crops in response to recent drier conditions. Nurseries started to mark down their stock.

FIELD CROPS: The week's sunny and dry conditions were ideal for making dry hay in most areas, but daily shower activity made haymaking difficult in the north. First and second crop hay continued to be harvested, with a few farms starting their third cutting for haylage. Field corn quality and development ranged widely across the region, with some farmers seeing uneven growth in fields. Sunny weather and high soil moisture helped push field corn development in many areas; however, growers are concerned that cooler nights this week will slow down corn growth. Harvesting of small grains continued this week in Northern Maine; growers in Southern Aroostook County are reporting lighter yields than last year. Potato growers across the region continued to prepare harvesting equipment and checked tuber size to determine when to begin vine desiccation. Maine potato farmers are still on a 5-day spray schedule for fungicide, and looking out for late blight. Tobacco harvest in the Connecticut River Valley progressed at a furious pace this week.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	0	16
Short	9	6	39
Adequate	77	79	45
Surplus	14	15	0
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	0	13
Short	5	5	23
Adequate	82	83	61
Surplus	13	12	3

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	- Percent Harvested -			Fruit Size	Condition
	2006	2005	5-yr Avg		
Apples	<5	-	<5	Avg/Above Avg	Good/Fair
Peaches	30	30	40	Average	Good/Fair
Pears	-	<5	-	Average	Good/Fair
Blueberries					
Highbush	75	60	65	Avg/Above Avg	Good/Excellent
Wild, ME	40	30	25	Above Avg/ Avg	Good
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-	Average	Good/Fair

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2006	2005	5-yr Avg	Condition
--Percent Harvested--				
Barley, ME	20	-	-	Good
Oats, ME	10	-	-	Good
Potatoes				
Maine	-	-	-	Good/Excellent
Mass	<5	15	10	Good
Rhode Island	-	-	10	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	-	-	-	Fair
Sweet Corn	35	40	40	Good
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	30	45	45	Good/Fair
Shade	45	50	50	Good/Fair
Dry Hay				
First Cut	95	99	95	Poor/Fair
Second Cut	60	60	65	Good/Fair
Third Cut	<5	20	15	Good

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

For the Period: Monday August 7, 2006
To: Sunday August 13, 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	BASE-60F DFN	BASE-50F TOT	BASE-60F DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS
MAINE														
Augusta State A	50	81	66	-4	1668	+212	766	+203	1.19	+0.42	4	6.01	+3.04	15
Bangor Intl_Arp	48	80	65	-3	1630	+306	719	+249	0.36	-0.41	3	6.33	+3.40	14
Bethel	44	83	63	-5	1479	+154	626	+164	0.44	-0.47	2	5.41	+2.01	11
Caribou Municip	43	78	61	-4	1402	+310	533	+222	1.11	+0.20	5	2.99	-0.79	17
Dover-Foxcroft	45	79	62	-5	1255	+97	477	+120	0.02	-0.81	1	2.02	-1.13	13
Frenchville	45	76	60	-4	1286	+273	461	+195	1.34	+0.42	4	3.98	+0.36	16
Houlton	37	79	60	-6	1417	+281	561	+217	0.70	-0.21	4	4.13	+0.56	16
Livermore Falls	40	83	62	-4	1535	+391	666	+324	0.60	-0.31	4	4.29	+0.97	15
Moosehead	41	80	60	-4	1194	+232	437	+191	0.57	-0.27	3	5.26	+1.73	16
Portland_ME	47	83	67	-2	1626	+306	737	+262	0.11	-0.52	1	3.13	+0.53	11
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	43	83	63	-4	1399	+165	581	+204	0.38	-0.53	3	4.74	+1.35	12
Berlin AG	42	83	62	-5	1416	+174	579	+180	0.69	-0.29	3	6.00	+2.35	14
Bethlehem	44	85	63	-3	1505	+271	660	+282	0.94	-0.11	3	5.20	+1.32	14
Concord	42	86	66	-3	1831	+353	886	+313	0.24	-0.53	3	3.30	+0.25	12
Diamond Pond	41	76	56	-6	1032	+196	339	+179	0.78	-0.41	4	7.02	+2.60	19
Keene AP	41	84	65	-5	1705	+54	794	+98	0.11	-0.80	1	1.98	-1.49	5
North Conway	44	84	64	-4	1617	+234	722	+219	0.40	-0.51	3	5.45	+1.94	13
Rochester	45	84	66	-4	1717	+147	801	+159	0.34	-0.50	2	2.73	-0.53	8
VERMONT														
Burlington Intl	47	86	67	-4	1886	+294	916	+258	0.32	-0.59	3	2.64	-0.86	12
Island Pond	39	82	60	-4	1344	+329	526	+269	0.74	-0.38	2	3.98	-0.22	15
Montpelier	44	83	64	-2	1596	+343	684	+280	0.38	-0.50	4	4.34	+1.21	16
Pownal	44	83	64	-3	1553	+260	671	+245	0.62	-0.36	3	4.37	+0.64	13
Rochester	44	84	63	-3	1451	+230	602	+216	0.49	-0.56	3	4.13	+0.28	11
Rutland AG	42	84	63	-7	1607	-32	710	+30	0.25	-0.72	2	3.66	-0.04	9
Springfield_VT	42	86	65	-3	1696	+347	778	+312	0.36	-0.55	3	3.63	+0.20	12
Sutton	42	81	60	-4	1292	+259	491	+219	1.63	+0.51	2	5.21	+1.06	14
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	57	86	72	-2	2063	+206	1077	+217	0.04	-0.66	1	2.59	-0.09	8
Fitchburg	48	86	69	+3	1997	+655	1030	+558	0.29	-0.54	3	1.89	-1.42	8
Greenfield	45	87	68	-4	1815	+53	870	+93	0.52	-0.32	4	3.03	-0.33	14
New Bedford	45	86	69	-5	1846	-8	896	+40	0.87	-0.08	1	2.12	-1.15	10
Otis AFB	48	82	69	-2	1769	+272	825	+218	1.41	+0.64	1	2.87	+0.07	7
Plymouth	46	86	69	-2	1855	+295	928	+273	0.11	-0.77	1	1.03	-2.22	8
Walpole	48	85	69	-2	1927	+321	977	+308	0.37	-0.50	3	2.99	-0.26	11
Chicopee/Westov	43	87	68	-6	1918	-96	928	-41	0.00	-0.77	0	0.89	-2.21	5
Worthington	41	85	64	-4	1541	+234	690	+254	0.26	-0.72	1	2.62	-1.30	8
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	54	88	73	+2	2155	+392	1107	+312	0.50	-0.31	2	1.82	-1.22	11
Woonsocket	48	85	70	+0	1933	+354	976	+340	1.13	+0.22	1	2.70	-0.87	9
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	56	85	73	-1	2154	+266	1088	+191	0.03	-0.74	2	1.98	-1.26	7
Hartford/Bradle	47	89	71	-3	2196	+254	1145	+223	0.05	-0.74	2	1.69	-1.28	8
Norfolk	46	82	66	-2	1655	+342	777	+334	0.54	-0.47	2	2.07	-1.80	9
Thomaston Dam	48	86	69	+0	1925	+364	942	+325	0.06	-0.89	2	1.96	-1.85	10
Willimantic	47	85	69	-2	2010	+420	1000	+358	0.12	-0.79	3	1.99	-1.72	9

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 13, 2006

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	L	HI	AV	DF	LO	HI
ME	36	87	63	-4	0.02	1.92
NH	32	88	63	-4	0.11	1.17
VT	39	88	63	-4	0.13	1.63
MA	41	89	68	-2	0.00	1.41
RI	48	88	71	+1	0.00	1.13
CT	44	89	70	-2	0.01	0.56

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: Weather was very hot the first part of the week. Vegetable crops are starting to need water. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** A beautiful week for doing anything as far as crop work goes. Some showers associated with a cold front Thursday PM. Many areas still need rain though. Harvesting of all crops taking place and farms stands seeing good business with early apples now showing up on the shelves. Nice weather for finishing first cutting and baling second. The only down side to the cooler weather is lost growing degree days for late planted field corn and vegetables. **Frank Himmelstein (Ext), New London:** Corn silage: corn crop continues to move along with plenty of moisture in the soil and sunny days. The corn planted in mid to late June is looking great. Dry hay: This week had the best drying conditions for hay all summer. First and second cut continued to be harvested. Round bales seems to be the dominant method for putting up dry hay these days. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Forty-six degrees this morning, cold nights slow down corn growth and it really needs to get growing, a very uneven growth in the same fields, with 2' to 8' and tasseling. Blueberry picking is finishing. Sweet corn is tasty and doing okay, vegetables like peppers, tomatoes, lettuce, beets, cucumbers are growing well. Cows producing better in this cooler weather, dairy farmers are getting anxious about ways to make ends meet, hopefully state program funds come soon as expenses pick up even more as harvest approaches and some farms will need to buy feed. **Joyce Meader (Ext), Windham:** Hay cut, farmers baling square and round, landlords looking for hay operators. Some corn leaves reaching for moisture! Some replanted corn not tasseled, hope to gain some height first... Nutsedge grass looks like hay due to all the rain. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Haymaking weather continued. Some farmers finally finished getting in the first cutting - as mulch, but at least it is down! Field corn ears seem to be filling nicely. No reports of root worm adults above IPM threshold.

MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook: Potatoes and small grains: Harvesting small grains has begun. Growers are applying fungicides and insecticides, and are watching the size of potato tubers to determine when to begin vine desiccation. Size is larger than normal for this time of year. Growers are still working to get potato harvesting equipment ready. Some late blight has been spotted, but it appears to be under control. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Harvesting of grains is continuing. For potato growers, farmers are still on a five day spray schedule for fungicide. Crops are looking very good. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Potato crop is looking good. Farmers are still on a five to six day spray schedule for fungicides. Grain crop continues to be a little lighter than last year. When the weather is good, farmers are combining. Other than that, business as usual. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Variable weather has made haymaking a challenge again this week. Lots of nice dry weather mixed in with a thunderstorm now and then! Second cutting of haylage is going well. Some grains coming in along with winter rye harvest. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis:** Farmers are still trying to get in the last of their first cut hay. Period rains have made this a challenge. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Blueberry harvest continues. Fields that are flat and held the heavy rains in May are producing lower yields than fields that had adequate drainage. Almost daily showers have made haying difficult. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Harvest is underway on most fields. Cool evening temperatures and showers improving fruit size and quality. Crop in mid-coast was average to below average but crop on the blueberry barrens is much better than average. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Cool dry weather this week. The mornings feel like fall. Crops that survived the early summer weather were helped along by the warm weather in July. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Androscoggin/Franklin:** Third hay crop

harvest has begun. Several spotty showers mid to late afternoons seem to be the norm this week. The temperatures are cool in the morning, warm in the afternoon with low humidity. Sweet corn is available at roadside stands along with an abundance of other fruit and vegetables. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** The heat was good for most crops. Still have wet fields in some areas. Harvesting of hay crop is on going. Sweet corn has been filling the local farm stands and selling at a high price. Blueberry crop is still being harvested. The heat pushed the field corn along. Some scattered thunde storms brought rain to parts of Oxford County. **Laura Rand (FSA), Androscoggin:** Great growing conditions. Sweet corn, tomatoes, peppers, potatoes, and other fresh vegetables are showing up on farm stands. Field corn has tasseled and growth is starting to look good. Hay production is abundant but hearing discussion on poor quality. Hail and some wind damage to trees.

MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: A very sunny, breezy and dry week. Temperatures moderated and were actually on the cool side by week's end with nights in the 40s and low 50s. Warmer weather is predicted for next week. Topsoil is drying out and getting dusty. Some good soaking rain would be helpful at this point. However, this week was great for haymaking and other field work. Farmers markets and stands are doing a good business with tomatoes, cukes, beans, lettuce and other greens selling well. Blueberries and raspberries have done well. Nurseries are starting to mark down their stock. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Scattered showers last week helped growers eliminate an irrigation event or two. No reports of hail anywhere so far. There are some very good crops out there. Berries (at least early varieties) are sizing very nicely. Cool nights over the weekend should help the berries start coloring. We'll find out the crop estimate this week. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Franklin/Hampshire/Hampden:** Scattered showers and hazy, hot and humid week. Harvesting tobacco, blueberries, peaches, hay, sweet corn, cabbage, cukes, parsnips and more. Overall, crops look good. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** Just a great weather week for growers. ECB running at an average of four percent infestation. Growers harvesting wide array of summer crops and spraying continues on sweet corn and fungicide applications on veggies. Decent fruit set on pumpkins and fall squash. Soil starting to get dry as not much rain around.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll: Cooler dryer air, lots of sun, few showers. Crops are picking up although not quite catching up. Blueberries still rolling in, size and flavor are excellent. Peaches starting for those few that attempt to grow them. Things are going along smoothly for the time being. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Pretty much dry and sunny all week - the best stretch of weather since early May. Most field corn eared out, with earliest plantings well into milk stage. Lots of hay mowed, and a few farms starting in on third cutting for haylage/baleage. Re-growth on harvested fields is still going strong. There are lots of vegetables at farm stands and farmer markets - a few field tomatoes and melons making their first appearance. Early season apples just starting to appear. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Cooler weather this week with heavy dew extending time for mown hay to dry. Down into mid-30's in temperature the last two nights. No reports in on frost, but possible in some low lying areas. Nearly all field corn tasseled out. Sweet corn available at farm stands, along with most summer vegetables. Blueberries still being picked; sudden heavy showers continue to make haying a difficult chore. Fungal diseases such as powdery mildew, apple scab, etc. a problem at farms, difficult year to keep ahead of this. Growing degree days are now at 1350. Seldom seen rivers running so high for this time of the year. **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. Busy irrigating crops. High disease and insect

pressure, farmers kept busy spraying pesticides for insects (especially fall armyworm) and diseases. There is very good demand for produce at most local farmers' markets and farm stands. More growers are reporting damage on sweet corn caused by birds. Fruit: Orchardists harvesting peaches and Vista Belle and Jersey Mac apples. Blueberry and raspberry harvests continued. Orchardists busy monitoring for pests, mowing orchard floors, move bins into orchard and fixing up orchard roads. Apple growers busy summer pruning trees. Cultivating and weeding newly strawberry renovated beds. Field Crops: Hay making and cutting haylage continued at a during the week with the second cut. The remaining first cutting is only good for mulch hay. Silage corn is rapid growing, with much of it tasseling and silking. **Sadie Puglisi (Ext), Merrimack:** Vegetable stands are packed full with corn, tomatoes, eggplants, peppers, and early potatoes. Some blueberries are still for sale, and peaches are great this year. Second cut of hay is happening.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: Blueberries still being harvested, sweet corn, eggplant, tomatoes, beans, squash all being harvested. Lots of haying done this week. Pasture looks good and so does field corn. Top kill on some potatoes and harvesters being cleaned up. Roadside stands are full of local produce.

VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille: Here we are in the dog days of summer and crop conditions have been very favorable. Field activity has slowed as many are between cuts of grass. Some manure being spread on second cut fields. Crops are maturing with the help of abundant sunshine and it isn't raining. Let's all go the fair! **Jeffery Carter, Univ of Vermont(Ext):** Corn silage crop is a disaster. At least 60% loss due to late planting, saturated soil after planting. Some corn only 12" and farmers are sidedressing Nitrogen to try to salvage crop. Best ears at the fair just starting to fill. Hay crop second cut of alfalfa good, grass hay still very poor with low feed quality due to delayed harvest. Soybeans looking OK with pod set, but again wet soils and continuing rain.

July 2006 Crop Weather Summary: Hazy, hot, and humid conditions dominated the month of July, with most areas reporting temperatures averaging at least five degrees above normal. Many fields, already saturated from the abundance of rain in June, were damaged further by scattered thunderstorms throughout the month which brought heavy winds, hail, lightning, flash flooding, and downed trees and power lines. Silage corn continued to be planted and replanted as late as July 19. By mid-month, field corn growth ranged from just emerged to tasseling, but humid conditions in the last week of July helped to spur growth. The first sweet corn arrived at farm stands near the end of the month, much later than usual. New England's first cut of hay continued as field conditions permitted, and the second cut had progressed to 30% by month's end. Growers were concerned about forage quality in the first cut hay, but were more optimistic with the second cut. Apple growers spent the month worrying about scab and drops due to weather conditions. Peach harvest was 15% complete by month's end, with peach conditions rated from good to fair across the region for most of the month. Strawberry harvest completed with many growers reporting a good to average crop, and other growers reporting heavy losses from the month's hot and stormy conditions. Highbush blueberry harvest started ahead of schedule with most areas reporting the crop in good to excellent conditions throughout the month. Tobacco growers began harvesting both broadleaf and shade varieties in July, while keeping a close watch and tight spray schedule for blue mold, which appeared on a few fields in both Connecticut and Massachusetts. Potatoes in Massachusetts and Rhode Island were rated in good or better condition for most of the month, but the lack of sun in both May and June put potato harvest behind schedule. Warm conditions through July helped Maine's potato crop develop, with conditions improving from good to excellent by the end of the month. Growers maintained a 5-day spray schedule to control late blight outbreaks in Aroostook County and Central Maine. Maine barley and oats were reported to be in good to excellent condition all month.

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