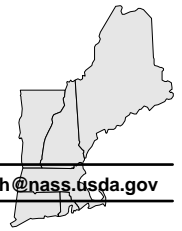




# New England Agricultural Statistics



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September 4, 2007 – 4 pm

For week ending 9/02/07

## Rain Needed Across Region

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:** For the week ending September 2, 2007, there were 6.7 days suitable for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture was rated 16% very short, 32% short, 52% adequate, and 0% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 8% very short, 31% short, 61% adequate, and 0% surplus. Pasture condition was rated 1% very poor, 19% poor, 49% fair, 27% good, and 4% excellent. Last week began with average to above average temperatures. The highs ranged from the upper 70s to the upper 80s and the lows were in the upper 50s to low 60s. Skies were fair to partly cloudy allowing a lot of fieldwork to be completed. Heavy rain fell in northern states in the middle of the week and some areas in Maine received hail damage, particularly in orchards. Weekend weather was cloudy and cool, with below average high and low temperatures. The dry weather of the past week hindered field corn development and forced many farmers to continue irrigating. The lack of rain required fruit growers to overhead irrigate orchards and some farmers reported irrigation reserves were dwindling.

**FRUIT:** Apple, peach, and pear harvests progressed this past week, with 15%, 70%, and 10% harvested, respectively. All three crops were reported in good condition. However, growers reported fruit size is small due to lack of moisture. Tree fruit growers were busy overhead irrigating orchards, monitoring for pests, mowing orchard floors, and renovating orchard roads. The Maine wild blueberry harvest was complete this past week and the highbush blueberry crop was 95% complete by week's end. Cranberries were reported in good to excellent condition. However, growers reported rain is badly needed to help increase berry size. The white cranberry harvest should begin this week. The raspberry harvest continued and strawberry producers were busy weeding and watering newly renovated strawberry beds.

**VEGETABLES:** Vegetables were plentiful and of high quality where irrigated. However, the dry weather caused pumpkins to ripen early and has provided ideal conditions for earworms in sweet corn. For producers without irrigation, vegetables were showing signs of drought stress, with both quality and quantity reported down from last year. Farmers continued harvesting peppers, tomatoes, potatoes, carrots, greens, peas, summer squash, sweet corn, cucumbers, zucchini, and cole crops and began harvesting pumpkins, gourds, Indian corn, and winter squash. The weekend weather kept farm stands very busy.

**FIELD CROPS:** The second and third cuttings of dry hay progressed nicely this past week as the weather was conducive to field work. However, both crops of hay were reported in good to fair condition due to the lack of rain. Pastures were also reported in poor condition due to the dry weather. The silage corn harvest began this week and was five percent complete by week's end. The dry conditions have hindered yields and caused poor ear development, as well as drying out the stalks. All potatoes were reported in good condition and growers were busy vine killing and applying sprout control. The Maine potato harvest should begin next week. Both broadleaf and shade tobacco harvests continued this past week, catching up to last year's progression by week's end. Oats and barley harvests were in full-swing last week, though both crops were well behind last year and the five-year average. Farmers were busy spreading manure, seeding pastures, and planting cover crops.

### SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
<b>Topsoil</b>			
Very Short	16	5	0
Short	32	30	3
Adequate	52	63	87
Surplus	0	2	10
<b>Subsoil</b>			
Very Short	8	3	0
Short	31	25	1
Adequate	61	71	88
Surplus	0	1	11

### FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Size	Condition
	2007	2006	5-yr Avg		
Apples	15	20	15	Average/Above	Good
Peaches	70	85	80	Average	Good
Pears	10	15	15	Average	Good/Fair
Blueberries					
Highbush	95	99	95	Average	Good/Excellent
Wild, ME	100	99	99	Average	Good/Fair
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-	Average	Good/Excellent

### FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Condition
	2007	2006	5-yr Avg	
-- Percent Harvested --				
Barley, ME	25	85	60	Good
Oats, ME	25	45	35	Good
Potatoes				
Maine	-	-	-	Good
Mass	15	15	30	Good
Rhode Island	65	35	45	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	5	<5	<5	Good
Sweet Corn	80	75	75	Good/Excellent
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	80	85	90	Good
Shade	90	90	90	Good
Dry Hay				
Second Cut	90	85	85	Good/Fair
Third Cut	40	25	35	Good/Fair

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

For the Period: Monday August 27, 2007  
To: Sunday September 2, 2007

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
<b>MAINE</b>														
Augusta State_A	49	86	68	+4	1914	+133	824	+130	0.43	-0.28	3	2.73	-0.27	15
Bangor Intl_Arp	43	84	66	+3	1751	+125	695	+112	0.46	-0.31	2	2.19	-0.88	13
Bethel	42	89	65	+3	1574	-39	574	+12	0.63	-0.25	2	2.45	-1.16	9
Caribou Municip	44	82	61	+3	1426	+111	474	+105	0.55	-0.34	2	2.12	-1.50	12
Dover-Foxcroft	45	86	63	+2	1376	-39	403	-32	0.33	-0.56	3	2.55	-0.84	13
Frenchville	42	80	60	+2	1283	+61	384	+69	0.48	-0.43	2	3.17	-0.55	11
Houlton	39	82	62	+3	1416	+42	486	+74	1.54	+0.63	3	3.93	+0.24	13
Livermore Falls	39	89	64	+4	1562	+170	585	+171	1.20	+0.29	2	4.80	+1.07	12
Moosehead	42	83	61	+2	1192	+14	302	+1	0.64	-0.20	2	6.05	+2.69	13
Portland_ME	47	84	67	+3	1866	+228	779	+181	0.07	-0.63	1	3.23	+0.61	8
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>														
Benton	40	89	64	+4	1529	+42	534	+79	1.44	+0.57	1	4.42	+0.82	11
Berlin AG	40	86	63	+3	1490	-8	515	+37	0.32	-0.59	2	3.10	-0.76	10
Concord	40	90	68	+4	2070	+278	951	+256	0.02	-0.68	1	1.71	-1.26	6
Diamond Pond	38	79	59	+2	1037	+25	242	+43	0.30	-0.79	3	4.87	+0.27	13
Keene AP	39	90	67	+2	1981	-16	887	+41	0.17	-0.63	1	1.55	-1.92	10
North Conway	41	88	64	+2	1622	-50	609	+5	0.32	-0.55	2	3.32	-0.28	11
Rochester	48	90	69	+4	1929	+18	856	+69	0.00	-0.77	0	2.47	-0.73	5
<b>VERMONT</b>														
Burlington Intl	44	90	68	+4	2133	+216	1013	+223	0.00	-0.89	0	1.46	-2.19	9
Island Pond	40	83	63	+4	1402	+172	439	+129	0.10	-0.89	2	4.65	+0.34	14
Montpelier	41	85	65	+4	1752	+241	697	+214	0.13	-0.68	1	2.13	-1.33	10
Pownal	41	85	66	+5	1772	+202	707	+190	0.10	-0.86	1	2.11	-1.79	13
Rochester	39	88	65	+4	1611	+126	590	+121	0.30	-0.70	1	2.18	-1.97	10
Rutland AG	39	86	65	-1	1764	-213	714	-109	0.23	-0.68	1	2.41	-1.39	9
Springfield_VT	39	90	68	+6	1934	+303	856	+295	0.00	-0.91	0	1.40	-2.24	11
Sutton	40	85	64	+5	1458	+212	476	+152	0.33	-0.64	2	3.51	-0.73	13
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>														
Boston/Logan_In	56	89	72	+3	2499	+228	1280	+209	0.01	-0.75	1	0.73	-2.23	6
Fitchburg	46	89	71	+8	2348	+719	1163	+594	0.00	-0.73	0	1.26	-1.85	9
Greenfield	43	88	68	+1	1997	-136	858	-90	0.00	-0.79	0	1.03	-2.28	6
New Bedford	44	90	69	-2	2194	-95	1034	-54	0.01	-0.92	1	1.21	-2.62	6
Otis_AFB	52	88	69	+3	1985	+121	877	+104	0.00	-0.78	0	0.73	-2.37	4
Plymouth	49	88	69	+3	2180	+255	1034	+216	0.01	-0.97	1	0.47	-3.22	6
Walpole	47	89	71	+6	2295	+340	1123	+304	0.00	-0.91	0	0.91	-2.68	6
Chicopee/Westov	39	89	70	-1	2209	-230	1054	-138	0.00	-0.84	0	1.65	-1.57	6
Worthington	40	86	66	+3	1725	+131	668	+134	0.00	-0.91	0	1.45	-2.27	6
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>														
Providence	55	87	73	+5	2558	+393	1310	+314	0.00	-0.84	0	1.08	-2.24	6
Woonsocket	47	88	70	+5	2277	+354	1090	+309	0.00	-0.91	0	0.89	-2.75	9
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>														
Bridgeport/Siko	55	83	72	+2	2524	+198	1265	+132	0.00	-0.70	0	2.65	-0.24	9
Hartford/Bradle	44	89	72	+4	2593	+248	1345	+223	0.00	-0.90	0	0.98	-2.38	9
Norfolk	43	84	67	+4	1916	+318	820	+282	0.00	-1.05	0	1.97	-2.18	8
Thomaston Dam	46	86	70	+5	2238	+336	1051	+292	0.00	-0.98	0	2.65	-1.23	10
Willimantic	43	87	70	+4	2327	+389	1132	+341	0.00	-0.91	0	1.76	-1.81	7

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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Prepared by AWIS, Inc.

**STATE WEATHER SUMMARY**

For the week ending Sunday, September 2, 2007

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	L	HI	AV	DFN	LO	HI
ME	36	93	64	+2	0.00	1.54
NH	32	91	65	+4	0.00	1.46
VT	37	90	65	+3	0.00	0.64
MA	38	92	69	+3	0.00	0.93
RI	47	88	71	+4	0.00	0.01
CT	41	89	70	+3	0.00	0.00

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

**CONNECTICUT - Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** An excellent week for making dry hay, if you can find it. Soil moisture is extremely dry and no rain in sight. Irrigated crops still look good and vegetables are plentiful. **Frank Himmelstein (Ext), New London:** An extremely good week for making dry hay or haylage. Unfortunately, the lack of rainfall this August is going to reduce corn grain yields especially in the fields with light sandy soils. Growers are easily able to work on all their crop fields this year unlike last year. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Dry, heat continues. Corn producers disappointed with poor ear development and drying stalks on gravelly soils. Heavier soils holding up better in this dry stretch, about four inches of rain below what is expected this time of year. Green chopping corn to make up for no silage left from 2006 crop on some farms. Peaches, nectarines, apples are good. Pumpkins ripening too soon. Grapes getting closer to harvest holding off mold/fungus concerns with organic sprays where possible due to heavy dew on cooler nights and heat conditions. Great weekend for Woodstock Fair goes, big event at the end of summer. Lots of blue ribbons for fruits, vegetables, honey, maple syrup and flowers. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** This was a beautiful week weather-wise. It is getting pretty dry out there. Crops are really growing well. Wholesale vegetables are bringing very low prices even though the produce is extremely high quality. Silage corn harvest began in both counties this week. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Yellowjackets, hornets, and bumblebees are all causing complaints from area residents. Everyone seems to be complaining about "bees".

**MAINE - Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Farmers still applying vine killing to fields. Grain still being harvested. Broccoli harvesting still occurring. Less than one percent of potatoes harvested for Central Aroostook area. Crops looking great. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potato vine desiccation continues with some MH30 sprout control being applied to processing potatoes. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** Nice week of sunshine but with localized intense thunderstorms with hail that damaged some crops. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Good weather produced some nice second cut hay and third cutting haylage. Some areas experienced very low second cutting yields. Corn is starting to mature for silage harvest. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Crops are looking good. Pumpkin harvest will start this week. Over the long holiday weekend a considerable amount of sweet corn was harvested for the wholesale market. The apple crop is better than anticipated due to the volume of apples. Orchardists will start harvesting some of the later varieties of apples this week. We could use some rain in this area. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Spotty showers didn't help the dry soil conditions last week. Apple crop is looking very good. Sweet corn is continuing to be harvested. Some are reporting a good crop of earworms. It's been perfect weather to harvest hay, if any is left. There is very little re-growth due to the dry conditions. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Androscoggin/Franklin:** We had another week with more thunderstorms and hail. No major damage reported. Good growing season continues. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Oxford County received hail and heavy winds with heavy rain in spots late last week. Hay producers still going strong in between thunder and lightning storms. Sweet corn still going strong and other market garden veggies. Potato crop being harvested and looking good.

**MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire:** The County is dry with up to a half inch of rain in spots this week. Southern county crops show lack of water and pastures are dry. Fields are dusty when tilled for cover crops which are being planted. Hot weather midweek pushed the silage along so harvest

should begin this week. Summer vegetable harvest remains good. Fruit is good with peaches and apples being harvested. Nights are cool with heavy dewfall which has warded off some of the usual late summer dryness. Foliage is starting to turn. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Rain is needed badly, as water supplies are dwindling with each irrigation cycle. The 1.8 million barrel crop predicted won't be there if the berries don't size up. White fruit harvest will begin today for those growers contracted by Ocean Spray to do it. **Emily Tchorz (FSA), Bristol:** Lack of rain and high temps have stressed many vegetable crops in the past week. Soil is very dry. Producers with irrigation are starting to deplete water supplies. We need some rain. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Franklin/Hampshire/Hampden:** A very dry week. No rain for about three weeks. All types of fall crops are being harvested pumpkins, gourds, Indian corn, winter squash, peppers, tomatoes, mums, potatoes, parsnips, and carrots. If the farm has irrigation, they are using it.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap:** Non-irrigated crops are in desperate need of rain. Despite this, the corn and apple crops look good, with the exception of damage caused by hail in July. Almost all vegetable crops are still being harvested. Mums are available at garden centers. **Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll:** Powder dry conditions first part of the week. Finally some relief for the entire county with thunderstorms and rain on Thursday night and showers on Friday. Pastures and hay fields not re-growing well due to dry conditions. Woodland trees showing early color due to drought stress, birches and maples dropping leaves early in dry areas. Vegetables doing well if irrigation is used. Farm stands still doing a brisk business, folks looking forward to apple picking, corn mazes and pumpkin harvest. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Mostly sunny all week - looking drier out there, with signs of drought stress here and there. Most field corn looks good and growers are getting ready to chop soon. Weather made for nice drying conditions and farms were able to put up some dry hay as well as finish up third cutting haylage/baylage. Most fruit and vegetable crops doing well, though farms without irrigation are feeling it and some apples are a bit small from the lack of moisture. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Cooler, generally fair weather. Some hay coming in. Field corn at a variety of plant growth stages depending on where planted, soils etc., from blister stage to milk. New seedings of haylands coming along well, good conditions with adequate moisture. Pumpkins beginning to show up for sale along with good supply of sweet corn, mums and other late season for market crops. Apples coloring up. Growing degree days at 1470 for base 50. Nice weather for the Lancaster Fair. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Third cutting continuing. Corn is growing well despite cooler weather. Northern corn rootworm common, but not in large numbers. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Weather: Very dry! A good soaking rain is needed. So dry, some orchardists are starting to overhead irrigate apple orchards. Fruit: Orchardists harvesting peaches, plums, and finished picking Paulared apples. Orchardists busy monitoring for pests, summer pruning trees, mowing orchard floors, fixing up orchard roads and move bins into the orchard. Highbush blueberry harvest over except for those few growers who have late maturing varieties and fall raspberry harvest continued. Vegetables: Growers are IRRIGATING to try to save unharvested crops and are harvesting an array of vegetables: beans, beets, cole crops, cucumbers, greens, peas, potatoes, pumpkins, radishes, summer squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, winter squash, zucchini, and other vegetables. Powdery mildew can be found on pumpkins and winter squash and downy mildew can be found on cucumbers and melons. Corn Earworm numbers went extremely high on August 27. Some farmers are starting to clean up harvested fields and planting cover crops. Field Crops: Hay cutting continued during the week with the second and third cuttings being made. Some spreading manure on hay fields. Farmers making new forage seedings. Corn looks good to excellent, however, drought

symptoms are starting to show. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** It's very dry and a soaking rain is needed. Warm days and some cooler nights. Apple, peaches, blueberries and fall raspberries harvest continue. Harvesting tomatoes, sweet corn and a whole array of vegetables. Irrigating vegetable fields. Second hay cut being done. Monitoring pests and managing it accordingly. Weeding and watering newly renovated strawberry beds.

**RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport:** Field corn is showing signs of stress and could really use some rain. Most summer crops and sweet corn are fairing well due to irrigation. Harvesting potatoes, sweet corn and summer vegetables. Cooler days and nights are helping. Roadside stands are filled with mums and local produce.

**VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille:** Another dry week has slowed grass growth but made for generally good harvest conditions. Foggy mornings and cooler temps have somewhat offset the lack of rain. Corn silage harvest will be starting soon for the early birds. Pastures are looking weak. Veggie harvest progressing nicely. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Farmers are waiting for the corn crop to mature so they can begin harvest. Some third cut haying going on last week.

It was a very nice week with warm temperatures and a lot of sun. Field conditions are slightly on the dry side but not bad. Pastures have done well this season with the amount of moisture we have received. **Jeffrey Carter (Ext), Addison:** Cool nights and firing corn leaves. Harvest of corn silage started this week. Many farms out of corn from last year. Plants mature and dry-down rapidly. Finished dry hay harvest and still continuing harvest of haylage third cut. Rust starting to show on grasses. Pasture re-growth very slow. Still dry soil conditions. **Julie Jacque (FSA), Windham:** Spotty showers earlier in the week left the county pretty dry. Corn drying down in shallow ground areas, but for most part still looks pretty good. No reports of hail or wind damages for crops. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Another dry week. Soil is very dry, plants not growing much until we see additional rain. Some final second cut, and some third cut hay going in, yields are OK on heavier soils. There were some spotty heavy showers one evening. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Did a lot of winter rye seeding this week on harvested fields. Still baling mulch hay. Rain for the week 0.606 inches. All summer vegetable crops still doing well. Plenty of cole crops from cabbage to broccoli. Mid-season corn, early potatoes have done well, also beets, carrots and cauliflower. Good crop of cucumbers and summer squash. Plenty of good vegetables to exhibit at local fairs. With schools starting and local fairs going on, a new type of gardening starts.

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