

Crop Weather



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

Gary R. Keough, Director

Phone: 603-224-9639

Fax: 603-225-1434

www.nass.usda.gov/nh

nass-nh@nass.usda.gov

Volume 28, Number 18

(Issued weekly on the Internet, May – October)

September 2, 2008 – 4 pm

For week ending 8/31/08

Warm Days, Cool Nights

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending August 31, 2008, there were 6.9 days available for field work across New England. Pasture condition was rated 1% poor, 19% fair, 66% good and 14% excellent. Warm, dry weather continued this past week, with Saturday showers in some areas. The week began with partly cloudy to cloudy skies and average to above average high temperatures ranging from the mid-70s to mid-80s. Nighttime lows were average to above average ranging from the mid-50s to mid-60s. Skies remained partly cloudy for most of the week with high temperatures in the 70s in most areas. Highs were in the upper-60s in some northern most areas. Lows during this time were mainly in the 50s with some areas seeing temperatures dip down into the mid-40s. Some areas experienced light rain on Saturday. Rainfall totals ranged from 0.01 inches in the North to 0.32 inches in the South. The week ended windy with partly cloudy skies.

FRUIT: Orchardists were busy harvesting early varieties of apples this past week and pick your own operations were doing very well. Orchardists were also busy mowing floors, fixing roads and moving bins. The peach harvest continued strong last week, keeping harvest ahead of last year and normal. The pear harvest made progress last week, and at week's end pear harvest was ahead of last year and normal. The Massachusetts cranberry crop benefited from the cooler nights as berries were beginning to gain a better color. Fruit worm pressure remained low and only some fruit rot was evident. Cranberry growers were busy preparing for harvest. Highbush blueberries continued to be harvested although it slowed down across the region last week. Maine's wild blueberry harvest neared completion this past week with berries reported to be average size and in good condition.

VEGETABLES Sweet corn was plentiful in most states with the crop rated in good condition. Also harvested last week were tomatoes, cucumbers, broccoli, summer squash, beets, greens, beans, cabbage, peppers, radishes and eggplant. The abundance of vegetables kept farmers markets and road side stands busy throughout the holiday weekend. Growers were also busy applying extra fungicide sprays to save squash and similar crops which were affected by earlier wet weather. In some of the dryer regions, vegetable growers began irrigating their fields. This past week's weather was great for growing pumpkins and farmers were preparing for the fall season harvest.

FIELD CROPS: A second week of warm, dry weather provided great conditions for harvesting dry hay. First cut hay remained at a standstill in some areas, but the second and third cuts made significant progress during the week and were just slightly behind last year's harvest at week's end. Harvesting of field corn for silage began in a few states however the majority of areas reported corn is still behind in maturity. Potatoes were being harvested in Maine, Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Growers in Maine continued to spray to control late blight, with some vine desiccation being completed. Maine's oat and barley crops were being harvested last week with crops rated in good to fair condition. Lodging was reported in some fields due to thunderstorms. Broadleaf and shade tobacco harvests were ahead of last year and normal at week's end and tobacco was curing down nicely in the barns.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
Percent			
Topsoil Moisture			
Very Short	1	0	16
Short	14	7	32
Adequate	82	84	52
Surplus	3	9	0
Subsoil Moisture			
Very Short	1	0	8
Short	11	4	31
Adequate	84	81	61
Surplus	4	15	0

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Size	Condition
	2008	2007	5 -yr Avg		
Apples	10	15	15	Average	Good/Fair
Peaches	90	60	70	Average	Good/Fair
Pears	25	10	10	Average	Good/Fair
Blueberries					
Highbush	90	90	95	Average/Above	Good/Excellent
Wild, ME	95	95	95	Average	Good
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-	Average/Above	Good

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2008	2007	5-yr Avg	Condition
Percent Harvested				
Barley, ME	35	25	50	Fair/Good
Oats, ME	15	20	30	Good/Fair
Potatoes				
Maine	<5	-	<5	Fair/Good
Mass	30	15	20	Good
Rhode Island	45	60	45	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	<5	5	-	Good/Excellent
Sweet Corn	80	75	70	Good
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	90	75	80	Fair/Good
Shade	90	85	85	Good/Fair
Dry Hay				
First Cut	95	100	99	Fair
Second Cut	80	85	85	Good
Third Cut	30	40	30	Good/Excellent

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday August 25, 2008
 To: Sunday August 31, 2008

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-50F DFN	BASE-60F TOT	BASE-60F DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS
MAINE														
Augusta_State_A	50	80	67	+3	1868	+101	767	+77	0.02	-0.69	2	3.35	+0.34	17
Bangor_Intl_Arp	44	80	65	+2	1764	+150	697	+118	0.00	-0.77	0	1.72	-1.34	11
Bethel	46	80	64	+2	1559	-42	545	-14	0.00	-0.89	0	3.76	+0.14	12
Caribou_Municip	46	79	62	+3	1410	+103	476	+109	0.35	-0.55	3	1.54	-2.10	12
Dover-Foxcroft	46	79	63	+2	1477	+72	506	+73	0.02	-0.86	1	3.21	-0.16	15
Frenchville	48	81	62	+4	1273	+59	393	+79	0.17	-0.74	2	3.35	-0.37	13
Houlton	41	79	61	+2	1373	+8	460	+50	0.01	-0.90	1	2.04	-1.65	11
Livermore_Falls	42	78	64	+3	1633	+250	611	+199	0.01	-0.90	1	4.57	+0.84	14
Moosehead	42	79	61	+2	1199	+29	349	+50	0.10	-0.74	1	3.32	-0.04	14
Portland_ME	50	83	66	+2	1822	+197	741	+147	0.02	-0.68	1	5.19	+2.58	10
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	42	79	62	+0	1483	+6	469	+16	0.11	-0.77	1	4.37	+0.76	11
Berlin_AG	43	79	62	+1	1534	+46	498	+22	0.03	-0.90	1	2.88	-1.00	12
Concord	43	83	66	+2	1972	+193	856	+165	0.10	-0.60	3	3.98	+1.00	14
Diamond_Pond	36	77	58	+0	1075	+69	243	+45	0.35	-0.75	1	4.22	-0.39	13
Keene_AP	43	81	65	+3	1886	+259	796	+228	0.00	-0.83	0	4.50	+0.95	11
North_Conway	48	80	65	+3	1647	-13	575	-26	0.00	-0.88	0	4.27	+0.66	13
Rochester	46	83	67	+2	2011	+114	889	+107	0.05	-0.72	1	5.55	+2.34	9
VERMONT														
Burlington_Intl	47	83	66	+2	2050	+146	891	+105	0.08	-0.82	1	2.16	-1.50	9
Island_Pond	41	79	62	+3	1419	+197	458	+150	0.18	-0.83	3	4.99	+0.65	15
Montpelier	44	82	64	+3	1683	+182	619	+139	0.11	-0.71	2	4.35	+0.88	16
Pownal	45	82	65	+2	1894	+335	778	+264	0.14	-0.83	2	4.40	+0.49	17
Rochester	43	84	63	+1	1553	+79	536	+70	0.02	-0.99	1	6.08	+1.92	13
Rutland_AG	42	82	63	-4	1667	-296	609	-209	0.62	-0.29	1	3.80	+0.00	9
Springfield_VT	43	81	65	+3	1864	+245	754	+196	0.01	-0.90	1	4.71	+1.07	17
Sutton	43	78	61	+3	1397	+159	430	+108	0.26	-0.73	2	3.85	-0.41	13
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	58	84	70	+1	2379	+127	1208	+145	0.00	-0.76	0	3.92	+0.97	11
Fitchburg	49	84	68	+6	2258	+641	1078	+512	0.11	-0.63	1	4.20	+1.07	14
Greenfield	36	81	64	-4	1942	-175	786	-156	0.09	-0.70	1	2.07	-1.24	12
New_Bedford	49	81	66	-5	2100	-169	1007	-72	0.29	-0.65	3	6.19	+2.36	12
Otis_AFB	54	77	66	-2	1962	+114	914	+147	1.07	+0.28	2	3.78	+0.68	11
Plymouth	51	82	67	+0	2129	+220	1035	+223	0.01	-0.97	1	2.71	-0.96	12
Walpole	50	82	67	+1	2196	+256	1055	+241	0.13	-0.78	2	6.11	+2.53	13
Chicopee/Westov	44	82	66	-5	2156	-264	988	-195	0.24	-0.60	1	7.07	+3.86	11
Worthington	45	79	63	+0	1668	+86	604	+73	0.16	-0.75	2	3.25	-0.48	10
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	55	83	69	+0	2495	+348	1279	+291	0.22	-0.62	2	1.71	-1.60	9
Woonsocket	49	83	67	+2	2188	+280	1036	+260	0.08	-0.83	1	4.08	+0.44	13
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	57	82	70	-1	2574	+268	1355	+232	0.51	-0.19	2	3.12	+0.22	9
Hartford/Bradle	50	84	69	+0	2478	+151	1251	+136	0.25	-0.64	2	6.25	+2.91	10
Norfolk	47	78	64	+2	1817	+231	734	+199	0.20	-0.85	2	6.36	+2.22	12
Thomaston_Dam	49	81	67	+2	2173	+286	1005	+251	0.30	-0.68	3	3.04	-0.83	12
Willimantic	47	81	67	+1	2268	+345	1069	+283	0.23	-0.68	2	2.37	-1.20	12

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, August 31, 2008

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 or call toll free at

1-888-798-9955

STATE	AIR TEMPERATURES				PRECIPITATION	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	41	84	64	+2	0.00	0.59
NH	30	85	64	+2	0.00	0.56
VT	37	86	63	+1	0.00	0.62
MA	36	85	66	+0	0.00	1.07
RI	49	83	68	+0	0.08	0.26
CT	47	84	67	+0	0.04	0.60

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: A great week for making hay, attending fairs, and enjoying fresh fruits and vegetables. Mostly dry with cooler than normal temperatures. Most corn silage is a couple of weeks off from chopping. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Apples range from small to good size. Picking peaches for two more weeks. Corn is good - two weeks to dent. Mowing and chopping hay is going well this week with good weather. Earlier application with liquid manure aerator helped hay when it was dry on some farms. Vegetables are good; extra fungicide sprays made to save squash and similar crops due to pressure from wet weather. Anticipated heat will help size some crops and mature corn for harvest. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** The weather was very nice this week. Unfortunately the warm sunny days couldn't help the vegetables that were affected by diseases due to the extremely wet weather in the past few weeks. Sweet corn continues to be plentiful and very good. Peaches and other tree fruits are being harvested. Mums and other fall crops are available. **Jude Boucher (Ext), Tolland:** Great weather for growing pumpkins!

MAINE - Pam Hickey (Ext), Aroostook: Farmers still applying fungicides. Some fields have been killed already, will be ready for harvest soon. Some canola being harvested. Grains also being harvested. Crops are still looking pretty good. It was good to get warm drying weather for control of disease in some fields. **Steve London, Aroostook:** Farmers are still spraying to control late blight with some vine desiccation going on. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Hay farmers have been busy making hay. High humidity hampered drying part of the week. Late sweet corn harvest is very light and some vegetables are all finished for the season due to all the rain in August. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Fantastic weather with lots of hay being harvested. You can hear the corn growing. There is a lot of green in first cut that did not get harvested earlier; quality will still be down. Oats and barley are severely lodged from thunderstorms. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** We continued to have great weather for making hay this past week. Plenty of fresh vegetables were available to customers celebrating the unofficial end of summer. With the onset of the fall season, farmers are ready to start harvesting pumpkins and winter squash this week. Orchardists continue to harvest early varieties of apples. All continues to go well with more dry weather forecasted for the upcoming week. We could use a little rain, although those farmers with silage corn are satisfied with the warm, dry weather we continue to experience. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** Good week of sun and warm weather. Great week for hay and ripening crops. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Good weather and lots of hay baled this past week. Corn silage crop looking good.

MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: A beautiful week, sunny, breezy and warm. Corn was chopped and more hay put up. Lots of field prep and cover cropping was done. Tomatoes and peppers are ripening very slowly but field and sweet corn have thrived where the fields drained well. Fall is in the air with very cool nights in the 40's. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Another dry, sunny and warm week. Growers are harvesting potatoes, tomatoes, winter squash, turnips, beets, apples, cabbage, pears, onions, and pumpkins. A few growers are irrigating their fall crops due to the dry spell. Tobacco is curing down nicely in the barns. **Janice Barnes, Franklin:** Good week for field work and harvesting. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: With cooler nights,

cranberries have started to get better color. Size continues to be very impressive in most cultivars. Fruit worm pressure appears to have been low. Some fruit rot showing up. Harvest will begin next week, so growers are enjoying some time off and getting things ready for harvest.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll: Dry and sunny, warm days, cool nights, beautiful weather, but no measurable rain in two weeks. Threats of a few thundershowers, but no rain. Second and third cutting going in the barn, that's good, but the lack of rain is halting the growth of pastures and hay fields. Sweet corn and vegetables that survived the wet weather still being marketed at the farm stand. Peaches, apples, and blueberries are abundant and delicious. Just a little rain would be great! **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Another week of great, sunny weather. Lots of people continuing to catch up on harvesting dry hay. Field corn continues to look good, but much is still behind in maturity - just starting to see a few dented kernels here and there. Vegetable crops doing better and farms are trying to recover from disease losses. PYO apples still doing well with early varieties. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Sunny days, cooler nights. A great week for catching up with farm activities as we see probably one of the best weather weeks this summer. Second hay coming in, looks like good quality. Pastures growing well. Field corn starting to fill out, could use some more hot weather. Wide range of summer veggies now on market. Japanese beetles beginning to tail off. Skunks digging grubs. Corn earworms a problem in sweet corn. Best weather for Lancaster Fair in a long time. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** We saw some much needed sun and dryer weather this past week. There were six days with no rain! Soils remain wet on many upland fields and fields with less well drained soils. River bottom soils fared better. After a few days of dry weather, farmers were able to get the hay off the fields that were better drained. In many fields there were rutting problems and water at the surface. Producers have reported a lot of late cut dry hay and many hay producers have reported yield and quality reductions on the hay crop due to weather conditions. Field corn continues to progress. More warm weather and sunshine are still needed. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Orchardists harvesting peaches, plums, and finished picking Pauleared apples. Insurance adjusters are determining the amount of hail damage on 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 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. Late planted crops show signs of much rain, where it is doubtful that farmers will be able to harvest anything. 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. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Gorgeous weather for pick-your-own apples, blueberries, fall raspberries, and cut flowers. Harvesting a whole array of vegetables including tomatoes, sweet corn, herbs and garlic. Farm stands and farmers markets remain very busy. Weeding and irrigating crops. A good rain is in need. Pastures are growing but could use some rain. Hay crop being done.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: Harvesting potatoes and sweet corn, tomatoes, squash, beans, beets, eggplant and leafy greens. A shower mid week was a welcome sight and helped with some of the later winter squashes. Most are finished shearing Christmas trees. Second cut hay looks good and lots of field work done this week. Roadside stands are filling up with summer produce and fall mums.

VERMONT - Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia: Another good haying week. Sunny, warm and dry. Crops responding to it. Farmers haying and spreading manure after the crop is off. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** We have continued awesome weather from Franklin County. Hay harvest has been fantastic this week. Second cut baling of dry hay has been continuous all week. Some first cut in the wet holes have even been baled. Not great feed, however, will keep the dry cows going through the winter. Some third cut has been harvested and the protein values on this feed should be very good. Field corn is thriving with this great

weather and developing some nice ears and most is now in the R3 milk stage. Hopefully, producers will have the patience to leave it be until the proper moisture (65-70%) and maturity 1/3 milklime for harvest. It will be tempting for producers to jump the gun with the current nice weather. Gardens stands are really in full swing right now and the apple orchards are starting the picking process. Super crop of apples. The potato crop looks bountiful and not too many rotted potatoes, as expected with the wet weather. **John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille:** Another week of beautifully boring dry weather. The second cut of grass is finally nearing completion thanks to Mother Nature. Third cut is progressing nicely and corn harvest is close to starting for a few. Hate to mention the "R" word but growing things do need water especially grass and it's been since 8/18 that we have had a significant rainfall. **Julie Jacque (FSA), Windham:** Excellent weather for catching up on haying. Weekend weather good to get consumers to markets and farm stands. Most corn farmers waiting to start chopping silage.

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**

Gary R. Keough, Director
Jennifer Zaleski, Statistician

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