



New England Agricultural Statistics Service

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



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Crop Weather

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September 10, 2001 - 4 pm

For week ending 9/9/01

Weather - Good for Harvest, Poor for Crops

For the week ending September 9, 2001, there were 6.8 days available for fieldwork across New England. Pasture condition was rated as 18% very poor, 35% poor, 38% fair, 7% good, 2% excellent. Major farm activities included: irrigating; cutting hay and chopping haylage; desiccating potato vines; harvesting oats, barley, silage corn, potatoes, tobacco, apples, peaches, pears, raspberries, highbush blueberries, sweet corn and other vegetables; and spraying for weeds, disease and insects.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	-- Percent --		
	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
Topsoil Moisture			
Very Short	25	27	6
Short	39	42	14
Adequate	36	31	73
Surplus	0	0	7
Subsoil Moisture			
Very Short	29	28	0
Short	39	42	18
Adequate	32	30	76
Surplus	0	0	6

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2001	2000	5-yr Avg	
Apples	20	20	20	Good/Fair
Peaches	85	85	85	Fair
Pears	35	30	25	Poor
Cranberries, MA	<5	--	--	Good/Fair
Blueberries				
Highbush	95	99	99	Good/Fair

FIELD CROPS: More scattered shower activity appeared across New England last week, but not enough to slow harvest or help moisture starved crops that were still in the ground. Potato harvest continued last week and growers continued to desiccate vines. Field corn harvest is ahead of normal. The silage corn crop is very light and hay yields are low, due to drought conditions and armyworm damage. The third cut hay crop remains in fair to poor condition, as the dry weather continues to parch fields. Oat and barley crops in Maine are in good condition and harvest is running ahead of normal.

VEGETABLES: Sweet corn, pumpkins, winter squash and other vegetables were harvested last week, with above average yields being reported for most crops. Both the yield and quality of most vegetable crops have fared well despite the lack of rain this year. Growers scouted fields for weeds, insects and disease, and applications were made where necessary. Sweet corn continues to be a favorite at farmers' markets, and the crop remains in good to fair condition as harvest progresses.

FRUIT: Growers continued to harvest apples, pears, highbush blueberries and raspberries last week. Peach harvest is nearing completion, and is right in line with last year and the five year average. Now that Maine's wild blueberry harvest is complete, it is apparent that the period of dry weather before harvest drastically reduced yields, and final production figures will be lower than earlier predictions. Massachusetts cranberries continue to be in good to fair condition as growers prepare for the red harvest.

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2001	2000	5-yr Avg	
Potatoes				
Maine	5	10	5	Good
Mass	40	55	55	Good/Fair
Rhode Isl	70	50	40	Good
Oats, ME	65	40	50	Good
Barley, ME	75	40	60	Good
Silage Corn	20	<5	10	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	85	75	80	Good/Fair
Tobacco				
Shade	90	100	99	Good/Fair
Broadleaf	95	90	95	Good/Fair
Dry Hay				
Second Cut	90	85	85	Fair
Third Cut	50	50	50	Fair/Poor

For the Week Ending Sunday, September 9, 2001

The 41 stations shown below are limited by space but are well distributed across the region.
All 86 stations appear on the Internet and in e-mail subscriptions.

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	TOT	DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS
	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
MAINE														
Augusta_ME	46	89	65	+4	2178	+311	984	+266	0.35	-0.35	2	1.20	-1.73	8
Bangor	40	89	64	+3	2079	+374	895	+293	0.52	-0.29	2	2.30	-0.82	9
Bethel	39	89	62	+2	1836	+149	694	+114	0.14	-0.67	1	1.93	-1.58	8
Cari bou	39	87	62	+5	1726	+362	626	+250	0.24	-0.60	1	2.16	-1.39	13
Dover-Foxcroft	39	84	61	+3	1696	+220	591	+145	0.45	-0.46	1	1.41	-2.07	10
Frenchville	37	84	61	+5	1571	+304	531	+209	0.54	-0.37	1	3.27	-0.45	13
Houlton	33	87	61	+5	1688	+263	621	+200	0.60	-0.31	1	3.71	+0.02	10
Moosehead	35	88	59	+3	1472	+245	467	+159	0.23	-0.64	1	3.91	+0.52	11
Portland_ME	45	86	64	+3	2021	+299	868	+249	0.15	-0.55	1	1.18	-1.51	8
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	39	87	61	+3	1765	+215	652	+184	0.05	-0.74	1	1.67	-1.81	7
Berlin_AG	38	88	61	+2	1794	+233	670	+180	0.11	-0.72	1	1.39	-2.32	6
Concord	38	92	64	+3	2174	+300	984	+266	0.16	-0.54	1	0.94	-1.96	7
Di amond_Pond	39	80	57	+3	1254	+204	341	+136	0.03	-0.99	1	4.29	-0.15	13
Keene_AP	39	90	63	-1	2182	+90	969	+93	0.22	-0.53	1	0.99	-2.32	4
North_Conway	40	87	62	+2	2141	+397	947	+326	0.17	-0.67	1	1.43	-2.10	6
Rochester	42	91	64	+1	2164	+160	982	+166	0.10	-0.65	1	2.20	-0.91	9
VERMONT														
Burlington_VT	43	87	66	+4	2361	+360	1110	+296	0.28	-0.56	1	3.71	+0.13	11
Island_Pond	34	85	60	+3	1607	+325	557	+239	0.15	-0.73	1	3.69	-0.38	10
Montpelier	37	87	61	+3	1807	+232	706	+209	0.18	-0.55	1	1.69	-1.63	9
Pownal	42	82	61	+1	1872	+231	703	+169	0.12	-0.79	1	2.36	-1.47	9
Rochester	39	87	61	+2	1767	+213	646	+161	0.20	-0.74	1	1.71	-2.33	8
Rutland_AG	39	84	61	-3	1896	-173	726	-127	0.36	-0.55	1	2.19	-1.56	7
Sutton	39	86	60	+4	1655	+359	585	+254	0.03	-0.85	1	3.76	-0.25	10
Townshend_Lake	40	86	62	-2	1973	+9	814	+27	0.33	-0.49	1	1.94	-1.56	7
MASSACHUSETTS														
Ashburnham	45	85	63	+3	2138	+436	928	+343	0.09	-0.61	1	1.49	-1.48	8
Boston	54	86	69	+2	2614	+220	1332	+209	0.10	-0.64	1	1.99	-1.01	8
Greenfield	46	90	66	+0	2301	+62	1077	+91	0.27	-0.57	2	1.03	-2.28	5
New_Bedford	47	80	65	-4	2361	-58	1098	-47	0.02	-0.83	2	2.63	-1.11	9
Otis_AFB	50	81	66	+2	2329	+360	1106	+298	0.03	-0.74	1	3.59	+0.49	8
Plymouth	46	82	65	+0	2257	+229	1025	+173	0.31	-0.67	4	3.33	-0.47	13
Walpole	44	85	66	+3	2458	+407	1184	+335	0.08	-0.83	1	2.36	-1.28	7
Westover	41	86	65	-3	2521	-42	1230	-14	0.02	-0.82	1	2.32	-0.97	11
Worthington	39	86	61	+0	1794	+124	665	+112	0.09	-0.80	1	1.31	-2.32	4
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	51	84	67	+0	2610	+326	1307	+265	0.06	-0.78	1	3.66	+0.30	9
Woonsocket	44	87	67	+4	2586	+567	1312	+502	0.05	-0.86	1	4.09	+0.45	7
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport	54	82	69	-1	2719	+261	1395	+202	0.02	-0.70	1	4.39	+1.55	11
Hartford_AP	45	86	67	+1	2624	+165	1318	+152	0.01	-0.90	1	3.17	-0.32	8
Norfolk	46	83	63	+3	2065	+392	872	+317	0.00	-0.99	0	2.09	-2.05	6
Norwich	47	84	65	-2	2580	+286	1267	+239	0.01	-0.90	1	3.03	-0.61	8
Thomaston_Dam	41	82	63	-2	2264	+267	1016	+226	0.02	-0.96	1	4.21	+0.29	10
Willimantic	44	84	65	+1	2567	+530	1252	+429	0.13	-0.78	2	4.26	+0.69	11

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, September 9, 2001

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	30	94	61	+2	0.00	1.72
NH	30	92	61	+1	0.00	0.64
VT	30	90	61	+1	0.01	0.70
MA	39	90	65	+1	0.00	0.31
RI	44	87	67	+1	0.00	0.06
CT	41	88	65	+0	0.00	0.41

Prepared by AWIS, Inc.

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 continues to be very dry. Pasture conditions are poor. Ears on field corn are not completely filled out because of this summer's drought. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Corn silage harvest started in parts of the counties. A beautiful week for making dry hay. Early apple harvest continues where there are apples. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Hot, very dry, parched soil. Field corn rapidly drying down. Chopping has begun in full force. Vegetables in various stages of winding down. Pumpkins are coming. Mums selling. End-of-season flowers with bountiful color. Too dry for fall seedings. Hay looks thirsty. **Nancy Welsh/Karen Lockman (FSA), New Haven:** Weather conditions are dry. Looks like a good year for mums. Apples, peaches, pears are being picked. Some stands have gourds. Producers will be chopping next week. **Joyce Meader (Ext), Windham:** Corn looks great, best some farmers have seen for a long time. Beautiful haying weather once the dew dries off the hay. New sweet corn varieties tasting real 'sweet.'

MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook: Grain harvest continues, fungicides being applied to late varieties. More potato vines being desiccated. Lime is being applied to fields where grain has been harvested. A few potatoes being harvested. Potato yields vary considerably from area to area depending on where rain showers fell. **Dee Potter (Ext), Northern Aroostook:** Some showers midweek. Top killing potatoes. Some harvesting of potatoes and small grains underway. Pastures responding to the rain and cooler weather. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Vine desiccant applications are being sprayed on potatoes. Some farmers have started to harvest their fields. Crops look good. Rain would be welcomed for later varieties. **Steve London (Ext), Southern Aroostook:** Crops continue to look very good. There doesn't seem to be too many pests around. There are some aphids and leaf hoppers, spotty in places. **Albert Dow (NRCS), Piscataquis:** One and nine-tenths inches of rain in some areas. Grass responded and more green is apparent. **Janet King/Jennifer Zweig (FSA), Somerset:** Dry conditions still persist, although some localities got some moisture in the form of severe thunderstorms. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Despite some rain, the dry conditions prevail. Corn chopping is in full gear with some fields showing stress from drought and others looking fine. Apple harvest is in full swing. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Some Fall crops being harvested. Weeds are a major problem due to dry weather conditions. One farmer commented that he had never seen his pasture so bad. Conditions are extremely dry. One-half inch of rain fell this past week. **David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild Blueberry crop harvest completed. Lack of moisture and warm temperatures have reduced crop from previous 110.6 million pound average to 65 million pounds, 10 million pounds under the 5-year average. **Michael Tardy (FSA), Androscoggin:** Many silage corn producers are out in the fields chopping away. I have had reports from several telling me that the crop is very dry and light. Reports from market gardeners are mixed. Some crops fared ok with the dry weather, others produced nothing. Everything from sweet corn to pumpkins have "paw prints" from the dry weather. Some dairy farmers aren't sure where to find the feed for the cows. What little their land produced has been fed as fast as it was cut. Some corn producers will finish earlier than in past years. They will have more time to prepare for next season. **Parker Rand (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Still very dry, sunny, and hot. Good for harvest, but bad for crops. U-Pick apple signs are showing up and farm stands are showing off all fall vegetables. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Conditions are very dry; we need rain. Silage corn is being harvested as well as third crop hay. **Laura Rand (FSA), Oxford:** Dry weather continues with little or no rain in sight. The river valleys have received more moisture than other areas of the county. Apple crop looks of good quality, though somewhat in small in size. Producers have reported shortages on hay harvest due to armyworms and drought.

MASSACHUSETTS - Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire: Silage chopping nearly in full swing, yields seem good. Making hay. Vegetable harvest is growing close to the end. Sweet corn ear worms weren't a problem this year. Some areas had two inches of rain in the last 25 days, crops are dry. Chopping season coming and then we will get heavy rain. Temperature has been down to 37/39 degrees six times lately. **Paul Russell (FSA), Southeast Massachusetts:** Cranberry growers will start harvesting this week, a few growers picked some white fruit for the new white cranberry juice last week. Vegetable growers are wrapping up their harvest and most crops are producing record yields. Quahogs still continue to grow slow, but growers are receiving record prices. **Kip**

Graham (FSA), Worcester: The end of the harvesting is approaching rapidly. The weather has been cooperating this past week. The picking weather has been very pleasant. Silage corn in the southern part of the county is looking up. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Several Stevens beds harvested for white berries. Looks pretty strange to see the berries in such a condition. Everything being readied for the real harvest of red berries to begin in two weeks. **David Rose (FSA), Bristol:** Harvest continues. Corn mazes opening. Corn chopping underway. Fruit crops look good, apples being harvested, peaches winding down. It is getting dry, we could use some rain. **John Devine (FSA), Franklin:** Except for scattered showers on Tuesday, drought conditions continue in Franklin county. Most hay farmers are reporting yield losses as a result of armyworms followed by dry weather. The silage crop still looks okay except for knolls and high ground. The potato harvest continues, with most farmers reporting very good yields. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** It's still very dry. No rain all week. Fall crop yields are reported lower than normal, but have good quality. Applying cover crop on harvested fields.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Bruce Clement (Ext), Cheshire: Silage chopping started this week. Yields are down, but crop is still decent. Occasional showers have helped to green things up a bit, but no significant regrowth of grass. Apples, Fall raspberries, pumpkins, winter squash, and a full array of other vegetables being harvested. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Weather continues to be warm and dry, with increasing concerns over water levels in wells. Losing ground again regarding re-growth of hay and pasture lands. Farmers assessing whether there is enough that's worth cutting. Field corn generally looks quite good; some at dough stage. Some chopping expected to begin shortly. Vine killing of potatoes also about due. Plenty of vegetables at farm stands and markets. Pumpkin and winter squash displays beginning to pop up. Substantially better year for pumpkins and sweet corn than in 2000. Fall mums also being offered at stands and garden centers. Flowering seems earlier. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Dry weather continues to limit growth. Corn ear size is small, and on drier soils there tend to be fewer or no ears present. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Starting McIntosh and Gala apple harvest. Peach, pear, plum and fall raspberry harvest continues. Vegetables: Harvesting wide array of vegetables. Farmers kept busy irrigating crops not harvested and starting to clean up harvested fields. Field Crops: Hay cutting continued. Farmers making new forage seedings. Farmers starting corn silage harvest, many corn fields showing drought stress. Weather: Drought conditions throughout the county with localized thundershowers mid-week and cooler temperatures giving some relief. **David Seavey (Ext), Merrimack:** Hay is being cut. Second and third cut yields are low due to lack of rain. Small ear size on field corn is a result of drought. No frost reported in Merrimack County. Irrigation necessary on nursery stock, sod, fruits and vegetables. Apple size affected by drought on some sites. Some field corn was cut early. **Pam Marvin (FSA), Sullivan:** Rain last week helped remaining crops along. Could use more. Pumpkins being harvested and looking good. Apple picking is in full force. Early signs show a good crop. Lack of rain affected the size of the apples a little. The last of the vegetable harvesting being done. The remaining second and third cut of baled hay being done, as well as the third cut of alfalfa haylage. Harvesting of silage corn has begun. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** Things are still very dry. The small shower that we received on the 31st of August was too little, too late. Water systems are continuing to fail. Many of the worst fields are showing a tinge of green as a result of the shower; however, there will, in all probability, be little to no yield off the most severely damaged fields this year. Many of these "burned" fields will need re-seeding. There is a shortage of available hay and grass for livestock in the county. Drought emergency funding is available in the county to provide for livestock water at the farm and in pastures, where supplies have become inadequate or gone dry.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: Potato harvest going well, some third cut hay being done. Field corn looks great, summer vegetables still strong. Tomatoes, peppers, corn and beans plentiful. Mums and fall decorative items are filling up farm stands. Pastures are showing some signs of stress due to lack of rain, but otherwise the weather has been beautiful. **Marilu Soileau (FSA), All Counties:** A sunny week with temperatures above average during the daylight hours. One overnight was very cold with reported temperatures in the mid-30s. The sugar pumpkins have great color and nice size. Field grown mums are starting to bloom. Apples seem to be maturing a little

earlier than normal. Still no corn chopping reported in Rhode Island. The hay crop is extremely poor in quality and quantity. Northern RI farm stands were doing brisk business over this past gorgeous weekend! Many communities hosted festivals which aided the traffic counts, bringing buyers and producers together "out on the farm."

VERMONT - John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille: Some areas missed most of last week's needed rain. Those that benefitted from the rain saw crops "perk up" for the first time in awhile. Some started corn silage harvest last week on fields that were looking particularly dry. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Little to no rain this past week has aggravated drought conditions. Farmers are harvesting silage corn. Most all of second cut hay is harvested and half of third cut hay is done. Yields are low county-wide for hay. **Lynette Hamilton (FSA), Windham:** I took my Sunday drive around southern Windham County and the sad fact is that we are still in the dust bowl and farmers are cutting corn at a fever pace to get what moisture they can. Some of the corn harvested has little or no ears. Apple growers say the apples are turning red right before their eyes and they don't understand it with no water. "All the kids will have

pumpkins for Halloween," reported one of the county's pumpkin producers. They are looking really good with thick shells and good color. **Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Corn silage harvest proceeding quickly, good dry soil conditions, stalks very dry, ears fully developed. Little regrowth on grass hay. Alfalfa and clover doing better and in full bloom. Most of third cut is finished, newly seeded fields harvested once, four-cut fields of alfalfa regrowth are excellent. Soybeans nearly ready to harvest, some yellow color. Pasture is in good to fair condition. **Richard Noel (FSA), Grand Isle/Franklin:** Well, it didn't rain as much as was predicted, only 0.65 in. in Franklin county Wednesday, but that's alright - a lot of corn and hay were harvested. Farmers are trying to beat the fall rains. Dust is flying and rain will be needed! Third cut alfalfa is high in quality, but short on quantity. Grass was almost nonexistent, but it's starting to green up with the previous week's rain. All types of field activities going on, this is the season. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Another very dry week here. About a tenth of an inch of rain. Also hot, up near 90 twice. Nothing is growing, some rootworm beetles seen feeding on silage corn. People continuing to run out of water.

August 2001 Crop Weather Summary: Drought conditions prevailed in New England throughout the month of August. The lack of moisture caused damage to hay crops, which had already been ravaged by severe armyworm infestations in July. Farmers had cut their second hay crops quickly to stay ahead of the armyworm attack in July and as a result, the harvest remained ahead of normal throughout August. Regrowth for third crop hay has been slow, with fair to poor crop ratings as harvest got underway in mid-August. Silage corn harvest was just getting underway at month's end, and the crop was greatly in need of moisture. Potato harvest was active in Rhode Island and Massachusetts during August, with good to fair yields expected. Maine potato growers were irrigating if equipment was available to combat drought conditions; yields were expected to be lighter than normal, but no problems from disease had surfaced as growers prepared for harvest. Maine oat and barley harvest was ahead of normal as of the 26th, and both crops were in excellent to good condition. The harvest of both shade and broadleaf tobacco was nearly complete by the end of the month. Some late planted shade and broadleaf tobacco fields were discovered to be infected with blue mold as the last of the crop was picked, and acreage was destroyed at some locations. Peach harvest was active during August, and apple and pear harvest was getting underway at month's end. Tree fruit size was generally below average due to lack of moisture regionwide. Cranberries in Massachusetts sized up nicely during August; however, damage from fireworm and weevil infestations was expected to reduce crop potential. Maine's wild blueberry harvest neared completion by month's end; the crop suffered great losses from the ill-timed dry weather and yields were much lower than expected on non-irrigated fields.

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