



# 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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October 4, 2004 - 4 pm

For week ending 10/3/04

### Harvest Continues as Weather Permits

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:** For the week ending October 3, 2004, there were 6.1 days available for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture was rated 5 percent short, 83 percent adequate, 12 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 6 percent short, 84 percent adequate, 10 percent surplus. Pasture condition was rated 7 percent poor, 38 percent fair, 43 percent good, 12 percent excellent. Another good week for field work across New England. Remnants of hurricane Jeanne moved through the six-state region on Tuesday depositing more than four inches of rain in some areas. Frost was reported in some higher elevations in the northern states. Major farm activities included: applying rye cover on harvested fields; spreading manure; chopping corn; cutting haylage and making dry hay; harvesting corn silage, apples, peaches, pears, small grains, potatoes, sweet corn and other vegetables.

**FRUIT:** Orchardists made good progress harvesting apples and pears during the week, and finished picking the last of this season's peach crop. Cranberry harvest is in full swing, and growers report this is one of the best crops in several years. Good yields, spectacular color, a very good berry size, and a superb quality all contribute to making this an excellent crop. Herbicide applications and flail mowing has begun on some blueberry fields.

#### SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
<b>Topsoil Moisture</b>			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	5	6	3
Adequate	83	84	68
Surplus	12	10	29
<b>Subsoil Moisture</b>			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	6	5	4
Adequate	84	87	88
Surplus	10	8	8

**FIELD CROPS:** Harvest activities continued during the week as weather permitted. In areas that received a minimal amount of rain, producers were busy chopping silage at a fast pace. Potato growers in Maine and Rhode Island had a great week for field work as crop harvest climbed 45 percentage points from the previous week in Maine and harvest was completed in Rhode Island. Small grains remained in good to fair conditions.

#### FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2004	2003	5-yr Avg	
Apples	70	70	65	Good/Excel
Peaches	100	99	99	Good/Fair
Pears	85	65	65	Good
Cranberries, MA	25	20	20	Good/Fair

**VEGETABLES:** Sales remained brisk at markets and farm stands as there was still a strong demand for vegetables. There were also plenty of corn stalks, pumpkins and squash available at stands for fall decorating. Growers harvested cabbage, brussel sprouts, winter squash, kale and pumpkins along with the tail end of warm season crops. Sweet corn harvest is winding down.

#### FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2004	2003	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Harvested --				
Barley, ME	95	95	95	Good
Oats, ME	95	95	95	Good/Fair
Potatoes:				
Maine	75	70	60	Good
Mass	75	60	70	Good
Rhode Isl	100	100	90	Good/Excel
Silage Corn	60	65	65	Good
Sweet Corn	99	99	99	Good/Excel
Dry Hay:				
Second Cut	95	99	95	Good
Third Cut	80	85	80	Good/Excel

For the Week Ending Sunday, October 3, 2004

The 41 stations shown below were limited by space but were 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	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS
<b>MAINE</b>														
Augusta_State_A	40	73	56	+3	2045	-6	726	-20	0.12	-0.65	3	2.49	-0.46	8
Bangor_Intl_Arp	35	74	56	+4	1947	+79	690	+68	0.03	-0.73	1	2.28	-0.90	7
Bethel	34	74	54	+2	1844	+7	576	-20	0.05	-0.72	1	2.95	-0.13	6
Caribou_Municip	32	74	54	+7	1492	+51	443	+65	0.04	-0.67	2	1.90	-1.22	7
Dover-Foxcroft	34	72	52	+3	1501	-84	419	-33	0.05	-0.82	1	2.15	-1.45	6
Frenchville	33	74	54	+6	1379	+41	379	+56	0.05	-0.72	2	3.49	+0.15	8
Houlton	30	72	53	+5	1537	+31	485	+61	0.08	-0.68	1	2.03	-1.23	7
Livermore_Falls	31	78	53	+4	1909	+356	665	+236	0.04	-0.74	1	2.42	-0.84	7
Moosehead	31	77	52	+4	1335	+25	304	-6	0.06	-0.73	1	1.35	-2.00	7
Portland_ME	42	74	58	+5	2035	+134	731	+94	0.37	-0.40	3	3.46	+0.53	7
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>														
Benton	35	74	54	+3	1751	+73	523	+47	0.01	-0.69	1	2.30	-0.58	5
Berlin_AG	34	73	53	+3	1766	+86	543	+46	0.00	-0.75	0	2.67	-0.33	7
Concord	38	77	57	+5	2422	+371	989	+250	0.66	+0.00	3	6.16	+3.57	8
Diamond_Pond	31	70	50	+3	1133	+22	201	-4	0.17	-0.67	1	2.50	-1.10	8
Keene_AP	39	75	56	+2	2279	-30	860	-56	0.73	+0.06	4	5.09	+2.36	9
North_Conway	37	74	54	+3	2039	+150	729	+96	0.03	-0.81	1	3.85	+0.65	9
Rochester	38	79	58	+3	2152	-62	807	-45	0.56	-0.25	3	5.65	+2.62	7
<b>VERMONT</b>														
Burlington_Intl	39	75	57	+4	2371	+192	968	+127	0.18	-0.50	1	2.63	-0.33	6
Island_Pond	33	72	53	+5	1621	+243	459	+134	0.04	-0.66	1	2.97	-0.02	9
Montpelier	37	75	55	+5	1968	+260	670	+158	0.05	-0.58	3	2.57	-0.02	10
Pownal	41	74	56	+5	2058	+263	667	+115	1.20	+0.36	5	6.59	+3.11	10
Rochester	37	77	56	+5	1952	+253	634	+130	0.00	-0.84	0	3.35	-0.10	4
Rutland_AG	38	73	55	+0	2033	-248	694	-202	0.25	-0.46	2	3.47	+0.29	6
Sutton	34	73	53	+6	1587	+201	429	+92	0.05	-0.65	1	2.64	-0.40	7
Townshend_Lake	43	75	56	+3	2096	-66	710	-113	1.63	+0.93	5	7.34	+4.38	9
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>														
Ashburnham	44	75	57	+5	2261	+406	849	+251	2.15	+1.45	5	8.31	+5.59	12
Boston/Logan_In	49	77	61	+2	2783	+69	1281	+64	2.74	+2.04	4	7.50	+4.70	10
Greenfield	45	78	58	+2	2462	-37	989	-55	2.38	+1.61	5	7.63	+4.49	10
New_Bedford	44	77	60	-2	2501	-259	1037	-218	3.28	+2.58	6	5.69	+2.65	10
Otis_AFB	45	73	59	+2	2422	+196	1010	+149	3.60	+2.77	4	6.27	+3.08	9
Plymouth	46	76	59	+3	2417	+143	1009	+109	3.04	+2.13	6	5.98	+2.20	13
Walpole	42	77	57	+3	2578	+307	1098	+207	3.74	+2.90	5	6.98	+3.57	12
Chicopee/Westov	41	77	58	-2	2726	-150	1201	-136	2.50	+1.72	4	5.76	+2.51	9
Worthington	40	75	56	+3	1986	+145	638	+63	3.45	+2.62	5	9.54	+6.18	10
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>														
Providence	46	77	61	+4	2824	+239	1287	+162	3.43	+2.66	5	7.03	+3.83	14
Woonsocket	44	78	59	+5	2554	+318	1079	+233	2.63	+1.79	6	6.73	+3.24	13
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>														
Bridgeport/Siko	54	79	64	+4	3076	+272	1498	+188	2.77	+2.07	5	7.25	+4.38	12
Hartford/Bradle	46	78	60	+3	2917	+179	1364	+129	3.16	+2.32	6	8.31	+4.82	12
Norfolk	43	70	55	+4	2139	+305	745	+172	3.08	+2.17	4	9.65	+5.87	9
Thomaston_Dam	45	77	59	+4	2729	+501	1191	+352	2.82	+1.91	5	6.99	+3.29	12
Willimantic	42	76	59	+4	2640	+364	1126	+254	2.46	+1.55	6	7.15	+3.49	13

**STATE WEATHER SUMMARY**  
For the Week Ending Sunday, October 3, 2004

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.

Stat	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	LO	HI	AVG	DF	LO	HI
ME	30	78	54	+3	0.00	0.75
NH	23	79	54	+3	0.00	1.99
VT	30	78	55	+4	0.00	1.63
MA	38	78	59	+3	1.37	8.56
RI	44	78	61	+4	2.63	5.18
CT	40	79	59	+3	2.46	3.54

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**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:**

Harvest of vegetables, field corn as silage, and tree fruit came to a halt with up to four inches of rain on Tuesday into Wednesday as remnants of tropical storm Jeanne skirted the coast. Attempts to continue harvest on Thursday sent farmers looking for dry fields with little success. Numerous reports of pumpkins breaking down in the field and at road side stands due to disease caused by the wet conditions. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Another four inches plus of rain with windy conditions, took two days out of harvesting; some damage. Corn chopping continues, pick your own apples and pumpkins popular, mum sales doing well, some hay went in. **Karen Vozarik (FSA), New Haven:** Warm days and cool nights. Still chopping corn. Apples are good, pears are fair.

**MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Great weather for growers to harvest. They have been in the fields everyday. Some growers have completed harvest and have begun fall tillage, rock picking etc. Most growers who are still harvesting are processor growers who plant late maturing varieties. Soil getting quite dry. **Albert Dow (NRCS), Piscataquis:** Silage corn and potato harvest are in full swing. **Donna Lamb (Ext), Piscataquis:** Had a very hard frost last night. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Lots of beautiful fall weather and corn harvest is in full swing. Good haymaking weather has helped get those last cuttings in the barn. Frost is predicted for most everybody on Tuesday night. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Herbicide application on weeds in blueberry fields underway. Corn stalks, pumpkins and squash at farm stands. Flail mowing underway on blueberry fields, but too early for burning. A week of good weather to harvest silage corn and do outdoor work. **Michael Tardy (FSA), Androscoggin:** Silage corn growers are spending their days in fields chopping, chopping, chopping. Grass producers were cutting, tethering and baling as fast as the equipment would let them. It's harvest time. We've seen the pumpkin, squash and corn stalks line the walls of the market gardens. Many of the farmers are awaiting that first frost. It's coming. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** There's frost on them there pumpkins!!! Some hay still coming in but very difficult to get it dried now. Lots of corn being chopped. Soybeans took advantage of the extended good weather.

**MASSACHUSETTS - Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire:** Corn fields are very wet for harvesting; few are done harvesting their silage. Standing corn is drying down slowly. Most farmers are chopping and not doing much haying. All squash growers reporting that size is bigger than normal and good yields. Pumpkin crop has done real well in size, quality and yield. Some reporting of a disease in pumpkins that sprayer did not prevent. **Paul Russell (FSA), Southeast Massachusetts:** Harvest for all crops is underway. Cranberries are on target good quality and yield. Field corn is well dented and ready to be chopped. Vegetables and sweet corn harvest is winding down with a very good season. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Harvesting is in full swing with nothing but positives so far - good yields, very good berry size, spectacular color, superb quality. Most growers are pretty happy, as this is our first good crop in several years. We had four inches rain last Wednesday from Jeanne. **David Rose (FSA), Bristol:** Good week for harvesting. Pumpkins, winter squash, and fall decorations are in demand. Weekend weather was perfect for farm stand sales. **John Devine (FSA), Franklin:** Another beautiful week allowed the fall harvest to conclude on most farms. Many farms are in the home stretch with vegetable and forage harvesting. Pumpkins and hard squash continue to be harvested, but producers have contacted our office to report substantial crop break-down. Apple growers are reporting a heavy crop with excellent yield, size and color. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Lots of rain this week. Four plus inches fell on the valley this week. Farmers are harvesting apples, corn silage, potatoes, cabbage, pumpkins, and winter squash. Many broadleaf tobacco growers started to take down tobacco on

September 21 due to a excellent tobacco damp. Growers continue to apply rye cover on harvested fields. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** Oct 3rd and still no frost! Finished picking last section of sweet corn. Most summer crops have had it. Pumpkins and apples selling well at area farm stands. Starting to winterize farm equipment and removal of plastic from fields has begun.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE - Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll:** Corn silage harvest wrapping up, the season is winding down rapidly. Pumpkins and mums are selling briskly. This year's pumpkins look great; apples are ripening and about ready to go. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Generally sunny and pleasant, with a few brief rainy periods. Corn chopping continues. Days are getting too short to make dry hay, but producers are still mowing grass and alfalfa for a late third/early fourth cutting for baleage or haylage. Beautiful weather for PYO apples. Farm stands full of pumpkins, squash, greens, cole crops, and mums. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Weather continued fairly warm and dry during the day, dropping to high 30's-40's at night. This allowed for many farms to catch up with fieldwork; a little more hay as possible, manure spreading, etc. Field corn harvest intensive as more silage corn reaching chopping stage maturity, thanks to a warm September we've been lucky. Fall crops, mums, sweet corn, pumpkins, winter squash, corn stalks readily available, apples too, including the increasingly popular Honey crisp. Brilliant Autumn colors this year, about peak in some parts of Coos county. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Corn harvest continuing at a fast pace. Corn grain drying down but stalks still green. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** I had a chance to do some yield plots during the last few days, and was pleasantly surprised to see that the corn was far better than I had expected. The yields were nearly the same as last year, and the ears have dried down far more than I had expected. The warm weather that we had in September made a big difference. A few fields that went in late May still need some time to mature. We had a touch of frost in the higher elevations on Saturday night. The river bottoms have not had a frost yet. The Pumpkin and winter squash crops look good. There are plenty of both, and the quality is good. The grass is still growing. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Pick-your-own apple and farm stand operations had a wonderful weekend. Apple harvest is in full swing with most growers concentrating on second or strip picking McIntosh and Gala apples, and working on Cortland and Macoun. Fruit size is excellent. Fall raspberries and pear harvest continues. Vegetables: Great weather and good demand for all vegetable continues. Harvesting wide array of vegetables including; cabbage, kale, Brussel sprouts, winter squash and pumpkins along with the tail end of warm season crops. Farmers kept busy disking, cleaning up and planting cover crops on harvested fields. Field Crops: Silage corn harvest in full swing. Cover crops were being planted in harvested fields. **John Porter (Ext), Merrimack:** With the cool temperatures many are putting the vegetable beds to sleep with a cover crop. The week brought some good weather to harvest corn and finish cutting hay fields. Cool temperatures are not slowing down apple pickers, PYO stands were packed over the weekend. **Pam Marvin (FSA), Sullivan:** The season is winding down. Lots of silage corn still being cut followed by topdressing and some winter rye planting. Good reports on yields. Apple crop this year is above average with good color. Rain slowed things down a bit this past week. Frost in spots. Final cutting of baled hay is being done. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** A nice week. Sunny with a few days of showers. Corn silage going in. Some late planted corn struggling to mature. Apple harvesting continues. Most vegetable crops have all been harvested, However some late vegetables like broccoli and even some squash being harvested. Pumpkins all harvested. Pumpkin and mum sales very strong at most farm stands.

**RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport:** Field corn being chopped, summer vegetables still going strong. Some

cover crop down on potato land. Some third cut hay being done and harvesting of pumpkins, gourds, winter squash and crops for decorative use. Roadside stands are full of seasonal fruits and vegetables.

**VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille:** Last week saw great conditions for harvesting everything. Fields are about as dry as they've been all season. Losses on potatoes have been reported due to excess rain resulting in rot and soil compaction. Pumpkin harvest is winding down with smaller than average pumpkins. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Landowners are busy cutting corn these days. The drier and warmer fall weather has saved a lot of the corn crop. It has also made it easier to harvest. Most reports I have had suggest that the yield and quality are very good. Aside from corn harvest, other landowners are spreading manure and getting ready for the winter. **Perley Sparrow (FSA), Windham:** Corn harvest has been steady with the good weather and producers are reporting an excellent crop. Apples are the best color this year as reported by the producers and quality is exceptional. Most all vegetable

have been picked with good production, some sweet corn is still being harvested. **Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Corn silage harvest in full swing. Ears maturing rapidly with black layer before total plant dry down. No hard frost yet. Finish third harvest hay crop silage. Some manure spread on hay fields, starting on corn stubble. Little fall tillage yet. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Only had a shower of rain on Saturday evening, driest week in a long time. Still no widespread killing frost. Most all farmers either chopping corn or finishing up some hay this week. Manure going on to fields too. Grass growth slowing now. Color in the leaves coming on slowly. **Chris Benedict (Ext), Chittenden:** McIntosh harvest is coming to an end across the state for most growers. Now growers have to focus on late cultivars and marketing their apples. **George Cook, (Ext) LaMoille:** Nice fall weather; September ended up driest month since last March, with just under three inches rainfall. Still many water logged fields, though. Fall chores mostly on schedule, though wetness has delayed some activity.

**September 2004 Crop Weather Summary:** Plenty of rain fell across the six-state region throughout September. Hot, humid temperatures coupled with thunderstorms began the month, followed by remnants from hurricanes Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne. The precipitation saturated fields in low lying areas and caused overflowing of riverbanks in some locations. Soil moisture levels were rated mostly adequate to surplus the entire month. Second crop hay harvest was nearly complete by month's end and growers cutting a third crop had 30 percent left to harvest. Silage corn remained in mostly good to excellent condition throughout September; as of the 27<sup>th</sup>, 40 percent of the crop had been chopped. Potato harvest in Massachusetts and Rhode Island were ahead of schedule with last year and normal at the end of the month, while Maine's potato crop was nearly one third complete. Small grain harvest was nearing completion by month's end, and both the oat and barley crops were reported in fair to good condition. Shade tobacco harvest was wrapped up by mid-month, and broadleaf tobacco harvest was finished by the last week of September. Tree fruit harvest was active during the month. Only one percent of the peaches remained to be picked at month's end; one fourth of the pear crop was left for harvest; and apples had surpassed the half way point at 60 percent completed. Massachusetts cranberry growers had their first water harvest at the end of September. Specialist were anticipating an excellent crop both in quantity and quality. The last of Maine's 2004 wild blueberries were harvested by the first week in September and highbush blueberries were finished roughly one week later.

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