



New England Agricultural Statistics



Gary R. Keough, Director

Phone: 603-224-9639

Fax: 603-225-1434

www.nass.usda.gov

nass-nh@nass.usda.gov

53 Pleasant Street
Concord, NH 03301

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

Volume 26, Number 24

(Issued weekly on the internet, May – October)

October 10, 2006 – 4 pm

For week ending 10/08/06

A Picture Perfect Holiday Weekend

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending October 8, 2006, there were 6.3 days available for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture: 1% short, 89% adequate, 10% surplus. Subsoil moisture: 1% short, 87% adequate, 12% surplus. Pasture condition: 25% fair, 56% good, 19% excellent. Clear skies for most of the week provided excellent conditions across most of the region for harvesting fall crops, especially late planted field corn. Tuesday and Wednesday were the warmest days, with high temperatures ranging from the 60s in the north to the 70s in the south. Rain on Wednesday night into Thursday morning gave way to cooler temperatures, but skies remained fairly clear through the holiday weekend, bringing brisk business to farm stands and pick-your-own operations. Morning fog occurred daily in the river valleys, and low lying areas saw patches of light frost throughout the week.

FRUIT: Cranberry producers in Massachusetts took advantage of the week's weather to advance harvest to 65% complete by week's end. Early reports are showing large yields along with excellent color and quality. Apple harvest was in full swing across the region with producers picking Cortland, Macoun, and McIntosh varieties. Bright sunny weather over the three-day holiday weekend resulted in extremely busy pick-your-own business at apple orchards across the region. Producers in New Hampshire reported large fruit size, but apple drop and bruising continued to be a concern. Harvest of fall raspberries continued this week while peach and pear harvest were complete across most of the region.

VEGETABLES: Vegetable harvest continued to wind down this week, with producers focusing on pumpkins, winter squash, gourds, beets, carrots, cabbage, kale, Brussel Sprouts, ornamental corn and other decorative crops. While producers reported that cole crops looked good, growers continued to be concerned with the quality and yields of pumpkins due to pollination problems earlier in the year. The first major frost of the season occurred Saturday night into Sunday morning in Northern States, causing damage to tomatoes and peppers. Farmers kept busy working this week plowing and disking, removing plastic mulch and crop debris, planting cover crops and spreading manure on harvested fields.

FIELD CROPS: Heavy wet soils in Northern Maine slowed potato harvest this week, but conditions improved by week's end. Growers continue to report that the quality and yields of this years potato crop are very good. Drier conditions this week allowed for field corn harvest to continue at a brisk pace. Most growers are reporting a decent quality crop considering the late start and cooler temperatures this season. Initial reports of yields have ranged from excellent to less than half production. Harvested fields were cleaned up and planted to winter rye. A few standing corn fields were affected by the week's frosts. Barley and oat harvest in Maine was nearly complete this week, while more second, third and fourth cut hay and haylage was harvested.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil Moisture			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	1	0	2
Adequate	89	89	55
Surplus	10	11	43
Subsoil Moisture			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	1	0	3
Adequate	87	88	66
Surplus	12	12	31

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-Percent Harvested-			Fruit Size	Condition
	2006	2005	5-yr Avg		
Apples	85	75	75	Avg/Above	Good
Peaches	100	100	100	Average	Good
Pears	95	90	80	Average	Good
Cranberries, MA	65	50	45	Average	Good/Excel

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2006	2005	5-yr Avg	Condition
--Percent Harvested--				
Barley, ME	100	95	99	Good
Oats, ME	99	90	95	Good/Fair
Potatoes				
Maine	85	80	85	Good/Excellent
Mass	70	85	80	Good
Rhode Island	95	95	95	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	70	85	80	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	99	99	99	Good
Dry Hay				
Second Cut	99	95	99	Good
Third Cut	85	90	85	Good

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

For the Period: Monday October 2, 2006
To: Sunday October 8, 2006

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 INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS
MAINE														
Augusta State A	31	66	51	-2	2272	+207	934	+188	0.41	-0.37	3	2.38	-0.62	10
Bangor Intl_Arp	28	68	50	-2	2195	+315	874	+252	0.52	-0.20	3	2.47	-0.63	12
Bethel	27	66	49	-3	1962	+115	733	+137	0.31	-0.47	2	1.37	-1.72	10
Caribou Municip	28	62	47	+0	1779	+334	609	+231	1.20	+0.50	3	3.29	+0.25	12
Dover-Foxcroft	29	69	50	+2	1623	+33	530	+78	0.15	-0.69	2	2.44	-1.12	7
Frenchville	30	60	47	+1	1641	+299	521	+198	0.67	-0.10	4	3.61	+0.35	15
Houlton	25	63	47	-1	1837	+327	661	+237	0.80	+0.08	3	1.88	-1.27	12
Livermore Falls	26	69	48	+0	2006	+448	771	+342	0.25	-0.57	2	2.13	-1.13	7
Moosehead	26	64	46	-2	1507	+193	481	+171	0.36	-0.41	2	2.38	-0.89	10
Portland_ME	33	70	52	+1	2280	+367	925	+288	0.17	-0.60	3	2.75	-0.22	9
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	28	68	47	-4	1844	+157	661	+185	0.73	+0.03	3	2.84	+0.00	11
Berlin AG	28	71	49	-1	1835	+147	651	+154	0.28	-0.49	2	0.97	-2.01	12
Concord	30	77	53	+2	2471	+407	1076	+337	1.12	+0.43	3	2.58	-0.01	9
Diamond Pond	28	66	45	-2	1276	+161	361	+156	0.58	-0.26	4	2.21	-1.31	13
Keene AP	30	75	52	-2	2322	-5	972	+56	0.88	+0.18	3	1.71	-1.01	8
North Conway	29	69	49	-2	2122	+224	840	+207	0.59	-0.25	2	2.11	-1.09	12
Rochester	31	73	52	-3	2291	+60	953	+101	0.61	-0.24	3	2.91	-0.20	11
VERMONT														
Burlington Intl	33	67	51	-1	2559	+366	1135	+294	0.89	+0.25	2	3.21	+0.37	11
Island Pond	29	66	47	+0	1738	+353	586	+261	0.71	+0.01	5	2.67	-0.24	17
Montpelier	29	70	50	+0	2134	+416	814	+302	1.17	+0.54	2	3.49	+0.94	14
Pownal	33	74	52	+2	2064	+257	782	+230	0.81	-0.01	3	4.35	+0.93	14
Rochester	30	71	50	+0	1947	+237	711	+207	1.22	+0.38	3	3.49	+0.08	12
Rutland AG	30	72	50	-5	2134	-166	841	-59	0.99	+0.29	3	2.54	-0.53	13
Springfield_VT	31	74	52	+2	2284	+420	935	+339	1.40	+0.63	3	2.72	-0.43	15
Sutton	29	68	47	+1	1657	+267	540	+203	0.51	-0.20	4	2.81	-0.16	15
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	45	77	58	-1	2941	+196	1430	+208	0.50	-0.20	2	1.89	-0.91	7
Fitchburg	37	78	55	+5	2724	+858	1287	+689	0.70	+0.00	3	1.94	-0.78	10
Greenfield	35	75	53	-3	2453	-69	1063	+15	2.01	+1.24	3	3.99	+0.89	11
New Bedford	36	74	55	-5	2560	-235	1132	-130	1.02	+0.30	3	3.65	+0.67	12
Otis_AFB	39	72	56	+0	2508	+259	1073	+208	0.75	-0.09	2	1.78	-1.45	8
Plymouth	35	75	56	+0	2576	+280	1168	+265	0.88	-0.02	2	2.71	-1.02	11
Walpole	33	77	55	+2	2641	+352	1225	+331	0.89	+0.05	2	2.10	-1.27	9
Chicopee/Westov	34	77	55	-4	2621	-285	1168	-174	1.42	+0.65	3	3.46	+0.25	11
Worthington	31	76	52	+0	2043	+188	796	+221	1.19	+0.40	2	3.11	-0.20	11
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	39	78	58	+2	3043	+430	1470	+341	0.83	+0.06	2	3.23	+0.07	9
Woonsocket	35	78	55	+2	2651	+398	1219	+373	0.95	+0.10	2	2.29	-1.17	9
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	46	76	59	+0	3098	+259	1497	+179	0.41	-0.27	2	2.65	-0.17	9
Hartford/Bradle	36	79	57	+1	3049	+286	1497	+258	1.23	+0.41	2	3.21	-0.22	9
Norfolk	37	73	52	+2	2211	+365	913	+340	0.66	-0.21	2	3.51	-0.19	13
Thomaston Dam	38	76	55	+1	2641	+392	1184	+341	0.75	-0.13	2	3.34	-0.29	11
Willimantic	36	77	57	+3	2771	+474	1273	+397	0.69	-0.22	2	2.06	-1.60	10

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 WEATHER SUMMARY

For the Week Ending Sunday, October 8, 2006

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	L	HI	AV	DF	LO	HI
ME	23	72	48	-1	0.02	1.33
NH	21	79	50	-1	0.28	1.73
VT	26	76	49	+0	0.41	1.98
MA	29	78	55	+0	0.30	2.01
RI	35	78	57	+1	0.83	1.73
CT	34	79	56	+1	0.41	1.95

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

CONNECTICUT - Jude Boucher (Ext), Tolland: Heavy rainfall on Sunday and Thursday morning. Strong winds along the coast with the storm Thursday. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Recent warm sunny weather has been beneficial for harvesting grass and later maturing corn. Vegetables are winding down. No frost in the county yet. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Cold nights, sunny days, declining sunlight, corn chopping and haying continues, spreading manure, getting the pits cleaned out and ready for winter storage use, vegetable crops are nearly all done, ornamental corn, pumpkins and gourds marketed at farm stands now along with cider, apples, winter squash. **Joyce Meader (Ext), Windham:** Final fields of corn silage being harvested (before frost causes conditions allowing mold growth). These fields were planted in July - not too tall, not too dry, ears not too big. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** The corn is in. The majority of the acreage is harvested. A few smaller farms finishing up some late planted corn. Soybeans seem to be drying down nicely. No reports of problems except the usual feeding by deer.

MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook: Potatoes and small grains: Wet fields kept farmers out of potato field's part of the week. Heavy wet soils slowed harvesting operations, but improved by the weekend. A few growers have finished potato harvesting, but most still have several days left. Still a few acres of small grains remain unharvested. Quality and yields of potato crop still very good. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Potato crop is looking great so far, with good quality and decent yields. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Good stretch of weather and lots of corn silage was harvested. Most all areas have had a hard frost after this past week. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Starting harvesting silage corn on 3rd of October. Continue to harvest pumpkins and squash. Apple harvest will be winding down this week, a lower than usual apple yield is anticipated. Spotty wide spread frost affected some areas this past week Friday and Saturday). Farmers are still trying to finish up harvest of second crop hay. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Great weather over Columbus Day weekend brought out the crowds to pick your own apples and pumpkin farms. Pick your own sales are very good this year, if producers have the apples. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Androscoggin/Franklin:** This was a real Indian summer with lots of color, warm temperatures and blue skies! Most crops are harvested. Potatoes are coming in. Grain corn and soybeans are left to go. **Laura Rand (FSA), Androscoggin:** What glorious weather! Fall activities all are complemented by fall colors. Silage corn, potatoes, pumpkins, and squash are all being harvested with a vengeance. Receiving reports of good tonnage on corn to less than half production. Hay tonnage good, however, quality is reported as poor throughout the season.

MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: Spectacular Columbus day weekend, excellent weather. Corn was cut. Hay was made. Fields were seeded and farmers markets were packed. Orchards were overflowing with customers. Below average foliage color did not deter leaf peepers and the Berkshires were booming. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Big week for harvesting...you can see it happening all over the region. All handlers are reporting big crops, excellent color and quality. Smiles are on most faces these days! **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Franklin/Hampshire/Hampden:** Excellent week for harvesting fall crops. Farm stands had a dry and sunny holiday weekend for selling their goods. Farmers are harvesting potatoes, corn silage, apples, cabbage and pumpkins. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** Finally! A picture perfect holiday weekend! Citizens out in droves for cider, pumpkins, apples and all area farm stands report brisk business! Too bad that more weekends and weather wasn't more co-operative this year. Harvest of fall raspberries continues and wild cranberry bogs

have begun. Spotty frost again, but most field work nearing completion. Nothing in fields left to harvest.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap: Corn is being chopped. Farmers are pulling out crop debris and plastic mulch. Winter squash, pumpkins, red peppers and late planted vegetables are being harvested. Apples are big! No frost yet in Belknap County. **Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll:** Beautiful Fall weather with warm sunny days, and cold frosty nights. Foliage is at peak or just past peak, most corn silage harvesting done. Frost is putting an end to the season whether we are ready for it or not. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Pretty nice weather all week. Last bit of silage corn getting chopped, a bit of haylage/baleage harvested here and there. Vegetable crops are continuing to slow down. Gorgeous weather over Columbus Day weekend has resulted in insanely busy PYO business at apple orchards. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Cooler weather this week, dipping into the 20's and causing freezing in some parts of county. A few fields of standing corn affected. Silage corn harvest continues at a good pace with large percentage now in. Decent quality considering late start, cooler temps this growing season. Cortland apples are for sale at farm stands. Cooperative weather conditions for harvest, marketing and garden clean up. Canada geese are back. Leaf peepers are in large numbers this week, bright vibrant color all about. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Corn silage harvest continuing. Third cutting finishing up and some fourth cut as well. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Weather: First major frost occurred Saturday night(10/7/06), bringing an end to harvest of any tender crops like tomatoes and peppers. Fruit: Pick your own apple and farm stand operations had wonderful weather for Columbus Day Weekend. Apple harvest is in full swing with most growers concentrating on strip picking McIntosh apples, and working on Cortland and Macoun. Fruit size is good, but bruising can be a problem and orchardists seeing quite a bit of apple drop. Harvesting fall raspberries continues. Peach and pear harvest is completed. Vegetables: Great weather and good demand for all vegetables continues. Harvesting a wide array of vegetables including: cabbage, kale, Brussel Sprouts, winter squash and pumpkins along with the tail end of warm season crops. Good demand for all vegetables continues. Farmers kept busy disking, cleaning up and planting cover crops on harvested fields. Field Crops: Silage corn harvest in full swing with second and third cuts of hay and haylage continues. **Sadie Puglisi (Ext), Merrimack:** Vegetables are slowing down. Some places have tons of pumpkins, others are in need. This year's crop was spotty. Greens, high tunnel tomatoes and red peppers are out in addition to squashes and pumpkins. Corn chopping is finishing up and third cut of hay is happening. Sizes of some apples are very large.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: Lots of field work, rye planted, pumpkins and gourds being harvested, but the pumpkins are few and far between; field corn being chopped, cole crops look good. More rain this week was an unwelcome sight. Some hay being cut. Farmer's Markets and Farm Stands look real good, full of color and local produce.

VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille: Last week was busy with harvest of corn silage, haylage, and soybeans. Great weather has made for excellent harvest conditions. Soybean yields appear to be good considering this year's weather. Some manure being spread on harvested fields. Have received reports of some low yields of pumpkins due to pollination problems but we're confident that Halloween will go on as usual. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** All harvested fields seeded down with winter rye. Have a good crop of potatoes, pumpkins and winter squash. Fall season in full swing. All sorts of late fall produce on the market, potatoes, pumpkins, beets, carrots and all kinds of fall decorations. Have a good week!

SEPTEMBER CROP WEATHER SUMMARY: With the start of September came the end of the season's warm weather. Typical days were marked by morning fog, sunny but cool days, and even cooler nights. Some low lying areas also reported light frosts this month. Rain, while not as heavy as earlier in the year, came quite frequently throughout the month, causing frustration for farmers attempting to harvest fields and attract customers to farm stands. Hay producers kept busy making hay and haylage despite being interrupted by regular shower activity. Farmers reported that hay fields in low lying areas or with poorly draining soils remained too wet to harvest. First cut was finished by mid-month, while second cut was 95% complete by month's end. Silage corn harvest was in full swing by month's end with many producers reporting lower than normal yields. Growers who were forced to plant and replant field corn late due to the wet spring conditions did not have enough dry warm weather to bring the crop to full potential. Rhode Island potato harvest progressed well throughout the month of September, with growers reporting a good to excellent crop despite the growing conditions. Massachusetts potato harvest was only 60% complete by month's end, about one week behind the five year average, due to the late start with planting in the spring and the lack of warm weather to bring the crop to maturity in the summer. Maine potato harvest picked up pace by mid-month to be 70% complete by month's end. Producers reported good quality and yields, but heavy soil moisture and rain showers were slowing down field work. Small grain harvest in Northern Maine remained ahead of schedule this season. Several growers reported lighter yields than normal due to underseeded clover taking over the fields. Broadleaf and shade tobacco harvest was complete by mid-month. Producers needed to fire their sheds to remove moisture from tobacco at the start of the month. By month's end, the rainy weekends caused an excellent tobacco damp for growers starting to take down tobacco. Sweet corn harvest wound down in September, with 99% of the harvest complete by the end of the month. Pumpkin and winter squash producers reported poor yields due to poor pollination, and problems with powdery mildew and disease due to excessive moisture. The short supply of pumpkins forced some growers to purchase pumpkins for resale on their farm stands. Field tomato growers in Connecticut also reported widespread losses this year. In addition to disease, many tomatoes failed to ripen due to the lack of warm weather. Rain showers and cooler temperatures were welcome to cranberry growers in Massachusetts, who saw berry color, quality and size improve throughout the month. Many cranberry producers reported a significant amount of injury due to fireworm. Apple harvest was in full swing across the region in September. Overall, growers reported this year's apple crop was in good condition; however, producers in Southern States reported some damage to apples from high winds and hail, while growers in northern states saw problems with poor pollination, apple drop, and rust. Peach harvest was complete by the end of the month, while pear harvest had advanced to 95% by month's end.

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
John Miyares, Statistician

Gerald D. Tillman, Deputy Director
Lynne Arsenault, Statistical Assistant

RESORTED
 FIRST CLASS
 POSTAGE & FEES PAID
 USDA
 PERMIT NO. G-38

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
 NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
 53 PLEASANT ST, ROOM 2100
 CONCORD, NH 03301
 ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED