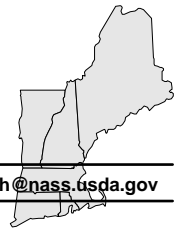




New England Agricultural Statistics



Gary R. Keough, Director

Phone: 603-224-9639

Fax: 603-225-1434

www.nass.usda.gov/nh

nass-nh@nass.usda.gov

53 Pleasant Street, Rm 2100
Concord, NH 03301

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

Volume 27, Number 22

(Issued weekly on the Internet, May – October)

September 24, 2007 – 4 pm

For week ending 9/23/07

Beautiful Fall Weather

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending September 23, 2007, there were 6.8 days suitable for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture was rated 7% very short, 28% short, 65% adequate, and 0% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 6% very short, 20% short, 74% adequate, and 0% surplus. Pasture condition was rated 3% very poor, 13% poor, 51% fair, 29% good, and 4% excellent. This past week was ideal for completing field work. Very little rain fell in New England, with only a few areas in the northern states reportedly receiving any rain at all. The lack of rain this past week brought back dry conditions, hindering hay production and slowing field corn maturation. High temperatures ranged from the upper 60s to low 80s across the region. In the southern states, low temperatures ranged in the upper 40s to low 60s. In northern states, the low temperatures dipped into the 30s in the first part of the week, but were back in the 50s and 60s by the weekend. No major frost damage was reported for the week. The nice weather this week kept farm stands and fall festivals busy.

FRUIT: Pick-your-own operations were busy this past week with the beautiful fall weather. The peach harvest was 99 percent complete by week's end. This year's crop rated in good condition and fruit size was reported average throughout the season. The apple and pear harvests continued last week and were reported in good condition. The highbush blueberry harvest was completed this past week. Both wet and dry cranberry harvests began last week and were <5% complete by Sunday. The crop was rated in good to excellent condition, but berry size is smaller than was previously predicted. The cool nights helped add color to the berries.

VEGETABLES: The summer vegetable harvest was nearly complete by week's end. However, some field tomatoes were still yet to be picked. The fall vegetable harvest was in full swing with the warm, dry weather. Sweet corn, peppers, beets, cabbage, kale, Brussel sprouts, winter squash, and pumpkins filled the bins at farm stands. Sweet corn was 95% harvested by the end of the week and was reported in good condition. Growers reported the rain from the prior week helped boost pumpkin growth and color this past week. Farmers were busy picking up plastic mulch and cleaning harvested fields.

FIELD CROPS: While the sunny weather this week provided ideal conditions for field work, the lack of rain brought back dry fields. The silage corn harvest was 35% complete by week's end, slightly ahead of last year and normal. Most growers are reporting decreased yield this year due to the dry weather during the peak growing period. The Maine potato harvest progressed rapidly this past week, jumping from <5% to 25% harvested. Massachusetts and Rhode Island potatoes were 50% and 90% picked by the end of the week, both ahead of last year and normal. Shade and broadleaf tobacco harvests were complete in Connecticut. Growers were busy packing away shade cloth and planting cover crops in harvested fields. Both barley and oats were 85% harvested by Sunday and were reported in good condition. Second and third cuttings of hay continued, with northern states reporting better crops than southern states.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	7	2	5
Short	28	22	18
Adequate	65	75	76
Surplus	0	1	1
Subsoil			
Very Short	6	5	5
Short	20	20	16
Adequate	74	75	77
Surplus	0	0	2

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Size	Condition
	2007	2006	5-yr Avg		
Apples	40	55	50	Average/Above	Good
Peaches	99	95	95	Average	Good
Pears	60	70	55	Average	Good/Fair
Blueberries					
Highbush	100	100	100	Average/Above	Good/Fair
Cranberries, MA	<5	10	5	Average	Good/Excellent

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2007	2006	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Harvested --				
Barley, ME	85	99	90	Good
Oats, ME	85	95	85	Good
Potatoes				
Maine	30	30	20	Good
Mass	50	45	55	Good
Rhode Island	90	75	80	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	35	20	30	Good
Sweet Corn	95	90	95	Good
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	100	100	100	Good
Shade	100	100	100	Good
Dry Hay				
Second Cut	95	95	95	Good
Third Cut	75	55	70	Good/Fair

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

For the Period: Monday September 17, 2007
To: Sunday September 23, 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
MAINE														
Augusta State_A	39	79	59	+2	2160	+168	897	+155	0.00	-0.74	0	2.26	-0.59	8
Bangor Intl_Arp	33	79	58	+2	1975	+158	761	+140	0.00	-0.78	0	1.37	-1.83	6
Bethel	33	79	56	+0	1749	-43	611	+15	0.00	-0.77	0	2.31	-0.92	7
Caribou Municip	32	76	57	+5	1593	+172	508	+130	0.00	-0.77	0	1.46	-1.88	8
Dover-Foxcroft	32	75	56	+2	1526	-28	421	-31	0.00	-0.91	0	1.10	-2.52	6
Frenchville	39	77	57	+6	1434	+113	410	+87	0.00	-0.84	0	1.57	-1.96	8
Houlton	30	78	56	+5	1589	+104	522	+98	0.00	-0.83	0	2.06	-1.43	7
Livermore Falls	32	79	55	+2	1734	+210	624	+195	0.00	-0.84	0	3.14	-0.32	8
Moosehead	31	78	54	+3	1320	+32	324	+14	0.00	-0.84	0	1.91	-1.49	7
Portland_ME	38	73	57	-1	2105	+261	849	+212	0.00	-0.72	0	2.00	-0.82	7
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	31	76	54	-1	1700	+62	572	+96	0.11	-0.59	1	5.21	+2.10	10
Berlin AG	32	76	54	+0	1645	+0	544	+47	0.00	-0.73	0	2.25	-0.99	7
Concord	36	83	60	+3	2336	+341	1052	+314	0.00	-0.63	0	2.51	-0.16	7
Diamond Pond	32	74	53	+2	1148	+53	260	+55	0.00	-0.91	0	2.66	-1.31	9
Keene AP	36	81	58	+3	2234	+416	979	+377	0.00	-0.63	0	2.43	-0.46	6
North Conway	34	77	56	+1	1810	-35	650	+17	0.07	-0.70	2	2.17	-1.09	9
Rochester	37	83	59	-1	2162	+18	926	+82	0.00	-0.77	0	2.45	-0.54	6
VERMONT														
Burlington Intl	38	82	62	+5	2422	+300	1124	+287	0.00	-0.74	0	1.43	-1.82	6
Island Pond	34	76	56	+4	1570	+220	472	+147	0.00	-0.73	0	2.56	-0.84	9
Montpelier	35	78	58	+4	1981	+315	773	+261	0.00	-0.63	0	2.06	-0.78	7
Pownal	36	79	57	+2	2001	+255	777	+226	0.03	-0.83	1	3.49	-0.15	8
Rochester	35	83	58	+3	1815	+162	642	+140	0.00	-0.84	0	3.05	-0.63	6
Rutland AG	34	81	57	-2	1972	-237	766	-119	0.00	-0.80	0	2.62	-0.84	7
Springfield_VT	35	81	59	+4	2189	+382	944	+349	0.00	-0.78	0	2.46	-0.91	5
Sutton	34	77	56	+4	1618	+258	506	+169	0.00	-0.77	0	2.20	-1.22	8
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	47	80	62	-3	2853	+254	1439	+249	0.00	-0.70	0	1.67	-1.23	6
Fitchburg	38	83	60	+4	2646	+839	1284	+686	0.00	-0.64	0	2.20	-0.57	6
Greenfield	39	80	59	-3	2257	-151	937	-92	0.02	-0.75	1	3.38	+0.18	8
New Bedford	38	79	59	-6	2476	-159	1138	-85	0.00	-0.77	0	1.55	-1.79	6
Otis_AFB	41	73	60	-2	2267	+130	977	+129	0.00	-0.78	0	2.45	-0.65	5
Plymouth	40	80	60	-1	2468	+278	1144	+255	0.00	-0.95	0	2.92	-0.97	6
Walpole	37	80	60	+1	2580	+383	1229	+349	0.00	-0.84	0	1.92	-1.60	5
Chicopee/Westov	36	82	60	-4	2501	-264	1175	-136	0.00	-0.83	0	2.38	-0.97	6
Worthington	35	80	56	-2	1929	+144	724	+152	0.02	-0.82	1	2.13	-1.35	7
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	45	81	64	+2	2927	+448	1478	+376	0.00	-0.79	0	2.49	-0.82	4
Woonsocket	38	84	61	+2	2585	+421	1213	+375	0.00	-0.87	0	2.61	-0.99	4
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	48	80	62	-3	2893	+215	1433	+158	0.09	-0.61	1	1.79	-1.08	5
Hartford/Bradle	41	86	63	+2	2963	+320	1521	+303	0.00	-0.87	0	1.12	-2.47	5
Norfolk	37	79	58	+2	2179	+397	916	+344	0.00	-0.95	0	1.77	-2.20	5
Thomaston Dam	40	81	60	+1	2543	+395	1171	+345	0.02	-0.89	1	0.81	-3.00	6
Willimantic	38	83	61	+2	2642	+449	1265	+405	0.00	-0.93	0	2.13	-1.53	3

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 2007. 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.

Prepared by AWIS, Inc.

STATE WEATHER SUMMARY

For the week ending Sunday, September 23, 2007

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	L	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	29	82	56	+1	0.00	0.04
NH	26	85	56	+1	0.00	0.25
VT	30	83	57	+2	0.00	0.77
MA	31	84	60	-1	0.00	0.11
RI	38	84	62	+0	0.00	0.00
CT	35	86	61	-1	0.00	0.09

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: Dairy farmers are busy chopping field corn for silage. Fields are dry. We have not yet had a killing frost. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Harvest of many crops continues as more farmers complete harvest. Broadleaf and shade tobacco harvest is complete. Tobacco growers are now packing away shade cloth and seeding cover crop. Corn silage harvest is now progressing and yields are down some, but not as much as earlier suspected. Second and third cut hay are barely able to be found with yields being about 20 small square bales per acre. Some vegetable farmers are now picking up plastic mulch. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Producers are busy chopping corn which is drying rapidly. Vegetables are still plentiful with most producers reporting an excellent year. Pumpkins revitalized with much needed rain ten days ago. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Still dry. First harvest of St. Croix was tremendous, 50+ people helped over two weekends on one vineyard. Brix (sugar content) was 18. They harvested 20% more than average. Perfect weather for harvesting, vines have done well despite the drought. Spraying grapes for powdery mildew, etc. Very little hay to harvest. Corn chopping going strong, custom harvesting corn, and spreading rye. Apples are smaller. Pear crop a concern with not much production. Vegetables okay, onions, garlic good at markets. Celebrating Agriculture was well attended. Many people enjoyed the hearty farm breakfast, farm, agri-business and agricultural support exhibits, wagon rides through a dairy farm, logging, music and more to support the farms and forests of the Quinebaug & Shetucket Valley National Heritage Corridor. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** This was a beautiful week weather-wise. The corn silage harvest continued at a good pace as the crop dried down. Vegetable harvest is almost complete. Orchards are very busy and the fruits are wonderful. Farmstands are dressed up for fall with beautiful mums, colorful pumpkins, Indian corn, gourds and corn stalks.

MAINE - Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook: Harvest season is definitely happening in Aroostook County. This week was the first full week of harvesting potatoes for most farmers in Central Aroostook. "Spuds" look great! Grains are continuing to be harvested. Broccoli harvesting still occurring also. Crops look great and continue to be harvested. Harvest season is in full force. The beautiful weather we have had this week provided good conditions to get crops out of the ground. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** The quality of the potato crop looks good so far and seems to be an average yield. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** Pick your own in full swing. Pumpkins and squash filling farmstands. Beautiful fall weather with only scattered frost so far. Very little silage corn being harvested as yet. Dry weather continuing. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Dry conditions and warm weather have helped mature the corn silage crop for those areas not yet hit by frost. Some nice second and third cut hay being made, but not much for yield due to dry conditions. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Great weather for harvesting pumpkins and squash. Silage is starting to be cut. Many are

still harvesting hay with the sunny, dry weather. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Androscoggin/Franklin:** Awesome weather for the agricultural fairs and a continued growing season. Corn is barely frosted. Bumper crop hay still being harvested.

MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: Sunny week, seasonal temps, widely scattered light frost, rain Saturday night. Silage harvest in full swing. Still some dry areas in southern section of county. Farmstands were booming with the great weather. Last of the peaches being harvested now. Fall veggies coming in and looking good. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Franklin/Hampshire/Hampden:** Fall harvest is in full swing and crops look good overall. A few farmers have taken down broadleaf to bundle. Crop looks good. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Harvesting has started, both water and dry. Crops are down from the estimates, probably due to small berries. We could have used rain in August and early September to size them up better. A few cool nights have resulted in decent color. Quality is reasonable so far.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll: Beautiful weather this week. Great weekend for hay rides and corn maze exploration. Northern part of the county at about 65% of full fall color, southern part of the county just getting started. Some third cutting being done as grass regrowth in hay field and pastures is good. We could use a bit more rain to promote late season growth. Silage corn nearly ready; farmers opening fields and preparing equipment. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Seven days of bright, sunny weather. Ideal conditions for harvesting field corn and most farms have been making good progress. Good drying conditions for dry hay and pastures seem to be doing better than they did a couple weeks ago. Fall vegetable crops starting to come in, while tomatoes, etc. starting to decline. Apple harvest going strong. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Warm, dry week with more hay being mowed, tilled, and baled. All farmers take advantage of favorable weather conditions. Field corn advancing towards maturity as hard frosts still make no appearance. Fall produce, flowers, sweet corn being sold at farmstands and markets. Growing degree days at 1663 in Lancaster. Looks like nice autumn colors this year as hillsides start to brighten up in northern part of county. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Corn silage harvest still in the beginning stages. Corn is maturing well and drying down for harvest. Most is in the late dough stage or early dent. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Vegetables: Very localized frost reports on September 17 and 18, but no major damage reported. Good demand for all vegetables continues. Harvesting wide array of vegetables including warm season vegetables like tomatoes and peppers. Harvesting cabbage, kale, Brussel sprouts, winter squash and pumpkins. Farmers kept busy discing, cleaning up, and planting cover crops on harvested fields. Fruit: Apple harvest is in full swing with most growers concentrating on second picking McIntosh and Gala apples, and working on Cortland and Macoun. Many orchardists are finding some apple scab fruit when harvesting due to the wet conditions this spring and summer. Fall raspberries and pear harvest continued with peach and plum harvest winding down. Field Crops: Silage corn harvest in full swing along with second and third cuts of hay and chopping haylage continues.

Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham: Apple and pear harvests continue. Great week for picking. Harvesting a whole array of vegetables including pumpkins, winter squash. Also harvesting fall raspberries and table grapes. Chopping field corn and haying. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** Great weather for field work. Vegetable growers continued to harvest an array of different vegetable crops. Others plowing in fields and planting cover crops. This was the last of harvesting peaches. Fruit growers are now busy harvesting apples. Farmstands were full of pumpkins. Garden centers were busy selling fall mums. However, because of warm weather, mums are not selling as much as they should. Greenhouse growers were busy monitoring the progress of poinsettias

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: Some haying being done, harvesting winter squashes and pumpkins along with summer vegetables. Starting to chop corn and considering the lack of rain this summer, the crop doesn't look too bad. Still harvesting sweet corn and cole crops look great. Cool weather has helped a lot. Roadside stands and farmers' markets doing well.

VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille: For this time of year, we've been having incredible weather for fieldwork. Corn silage harvest is ahead of schedule and third cut forage has kept almost everyone very busy. Conditions have gotten quite dry again which hasn't been good for the

grazers. **David Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Last week brought beautiful weather to close out the summer. Aside from a frost earlier in the week, temperatures have been warm. Except in the hardest hit frost areas, the corn does not look like it suffered from the cold temperatures. Farmers have begun harvesting the corn crop. Early indications are very positive with a lot of tonnage and grain. The drier ground conditions are also helping with the harvest. Aside from corn, there is some third and fourth crop hay being harvested. The weather is warm enough so that some are drying the hay and making square bales. **Julie Jacque (FSA), Windham:** Lots of corn being chopped and continued cucurbit harvest. Apple harvest is in full swing. No rain showers. Cool nights and day temperatures remaining warm. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Received an inch of needed rain at start of the week. A couple of mornings with scattered light frost, then a warm and dry week. Farmers continued with late haying and corn chopping. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Harvested fields have turned to a nice green cover crop of winter rye. No frost yet has kept the land a nice green color. 1.068 inches of rain for the week. Fall is almost here and now market takes over a change. Lots of summer vegetables gone. Now it's beets, potatoes, tomatoes and winter squash. Because of no frost yet, still have cucumbers, late varieties of sweet corn and broccoli in the market along with pumpkins, winter squash, corn stalks and gourds. Colors in market have changed from green to yellow and brown.

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
Lorie Warren, Statistician

Gerald D. Tillman, Deputy Director
Kathy Schmitt, Statistical Assistant