

# Crop Weather



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Volume 28, Number 24

(Issued weekly on the Internet, May – October)

October 14, 2008 – 4 pm

For week ending 10/12/08

## Picture Perfect Fall Weather

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:** For the week ending October 12, 2008, there were 6.2 days available for field work across New England. Pasture condition was rated 1% very poor, 17% poor, 31% fair, 45% good, and 6% excellent. The week began mostly cloudy with below average temperatures across much of New England. Highs were in low 50s to low 60s with lows in the upper 20s in northern Maine and New Hampshire to the mid-40s in other areas. Light rain fell in most areas of New England overnight Wednesday and into Thursday morning. Rainfall totals ranged from 0.01 to 0.23 inches with the most rain falling in the northern states. Skies became sunny for the weekend and temperatures rose to average to above average levels and were in the upper 50s to low 70s with lows in the upper 30s to mid-50s. Light frosts occurred during the week in many areas, with widespread killing frosts more common in the northern areas.

**FRUIT:** Orchardists were busy this past week strip picking McIntosh, Macoun and Cortland apples as well harvesting late varieties such as Red Delicious and Empire. Pick-your-own operations were busy during the weekend on account of the warm, sunny weather. Apple crop was rated in good to excellent condition in many areas; however Connecticut and New Hampshire's crop was rated in good to fair condition due to summer rains and hail damage. Orchardists were also busy cleaning up apple drops and putting away orchard equipment. Pear harvest was nearly complete at week's end, ahead of last year and normal. Massachusetts cranberry harvest made significant progress last week. Harvest was ahead of last year and on par with normal by week's end.

**VEGETABLES:** Sweet corn harvest was complete last week, ahead of last year and normal. Fall vegetable harvest was winding down last week however crop such as cabbage, winter squash, and broccoli were still available at roadside stands and farmers markets last week. Pumpkins were also harvested last week and were prominent at stands. Pick-your-own pumpkin operations welcomed the beautiful weather and remained busy throughout the weekend.

**FIELD CROPS:** Field crops continued to be harvested last week including Maine oats, dry hay and silage corn. Maine's oat harvest was complete with the crop rated in good to fair condition. Second cut dry hay harvest remained at a stand still this past week; however farmers were able to make progress on the third cut. Farmers across New England were busy harvesting silage corn. Some farmers reported having difficulty in wetter fields and corn in parts of the northern states was showing frost damage. Tobacco was being taken down in Connecticut after a week of good drying conditions. Maine's potato harvest was almost done for most growers and harvest was slightly behind last year and normal at week's end.

### SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
	Percent		
<b>Topsoil Moisture</b>			
Very Short	1	0	4
Short	5	6	22
Adequate	78	73	70
Surplus	16	21	4
<b>Subsoil Moisture</b>			
Very Short	1	1	6
Short	4	4	21
Adequate	80	72	71
Surplus	15	23	2

### FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Size	Condition
	2008	2007	5 -yr Avg		
Apples	80	75	85	Average	Good/Excellent
Pears	95	90	90	Average	Good/Fair
Cranberries, Ma	65	60	65	Average/Above	Good

### FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2008	2007	5-yr Avg	Condition
	Percent Harvested			
Oats, ME	100	100	99	Good/Fair
Potatoes				
Maine	90	95	95	Fair/Good
Mass	85	90	80	Good
Rhode Island	100	99	99	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	85	90	85	Good/Excellent
Sweet Corn	100	99	99	Good/Excellent
Dry Hay				
Second Cut	99	100	99	Good/Fair
Third Cut	85	90	85	Good/Fair

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics  
Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday October 6, 2008  
To: Sunday October 12, 2008

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
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<b>MAINE</b>														
Augusta_State_A	37	72	54	+4	2256	+179	877	+131	0.07	-0.76	1	4.34	+1.24	9
Bangor_Intl_Arp	34	69	51	+2	2097	+207	787	+165	0.06	-0.64	2	4.36	+1.36	10
Bethel	31	72	51	+2	1863	+7	622	+26	0.05	-0.78	1	4.79	+1.65	9
Caribou_Municip	32	66	46	+2	1654	+206	514	+136	0.02	-0.67	1	4.68	+1.75	9
Dover-Foxcroft	30	68	48	+2	1713	+118	552	+100	0.03	-0.78	2	4.32	+0.84	8
Frenchville	35	62	46	+2	1474	+131	418	+95	0.05	-0.69	2	4.05	+0.89	12
Houlton	27	66	46	+0	1622	+108	495	+71	0.01	-0.69	1	4.71	+1.66	10
Livermore_Falls	29	70	48	+2	1922	+359	681	+252	0.08	-0.76	1	3.67	+0.41	9
Moosehead	30	68	46	+1	1397	+80	377	+67	0.12	-0.62	2	2.97	-0.22	11
Portland_ME	35	73	53	+3	2228	+304	864	+227	0.06	-0.75	1	5.31	+2.25	9
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>														
BenTon	29	67	47	-2	1731	+35	532	+56	0.18	-0.52	1	3.10	+0.30	9
Berlin_AG	30	68	47	-1	1803	+109	563	+66	0.06	-0.71	1	3.33	+0.35	12
Concord	28	74	51	+2	2387	+312	993	+254	0.13	-0.57	1	2.97	+0.33	10
Diamond_Pond	29	74	45	+1	1274	+156	278	+73	0.18	-0.66	2	2.64	-0.80	12
Keene_AP	28	70	50	+2	2286	+403	925	+323	0.17	-0.53	1	1.46	-1.20	8
North_Conway	31	69	50	+2	1944	+38	648	+15	0.08	-0.80	1	3.48	+0.19	9
Rochester	32	71	52	+0	2395	+147	1008	+156	0.13	-0.77	1	4.08	+0.82	11
<b>VERMONT</b>														
Burlington_Intl	30	71	51	+2	2470	+264	1026	+185	0.22	-0.41	2	1.69	-1.05	7
Island_Pond	27	66	45	-2	1702	+312	531	+206	0.16	-0.54	1	2.20	-0.64	8
Montpelier	28	67	48	+1	2036	+309	720	+208	0.23	-0.40	1	1.98	-0.54	12
Pownal	31	71	50	+2	2276	+459	894	+342	0.26	-0.57	2	2.71	-0.66	12
Rochester	28	72	48	-1	1883	+163	624	+120	0.34	-0.50	1	2.63	-0.73	9
Rutland_AG	28	68	48	-5	2001	-317	704	-196	0.22	-0.43	1	1.13	-1.79	5
Springfield_VT	29	70	50	+2	2262	+388	879	+283	0.21	-0.56	2	2.08	-1.02	12
Sutton	30	65	46	+2	1652	+257	490	+153	0.09	-0.67	1	1.69	-1.26	10
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>														
Boston/Logan_In	44	74	59	+3	2971	+193	1438	+211	0.01	-0.69	1	4.19	+1.39	8
Fitchburg	36	73	54	+6	2751	+875	1260	+662	0.08	-0.62	1	3.31	+0.59	10
Greenfield	32	73	51	-3	2312	-233	897	-154	0.15	-0.62	2	2.83	-0.25	9
New_Bedford	33	71	54	-4	2599	-233	1187	-80	0.30	-0.47	2	6.36	+3.39	11
Otis_AFB	37	70	54	-1	2459	+187	1084	+219	0.33	-0.51	3	4.64	+1.36	12
Plymouth	33	73	54	+2	2632	+314	1220	+317	0.09	-0.77	2	5.84	+2.20	10
Walpole	33	72	53	+1	2642	+335	1207	+313	0.07	-0.77	2	5.17	+1.81	9
Chicopee/Westov	29	75	53	-4	2635	-303	1164	-183	0.19	-0.58	1	2.79	-0.37	8
Worthington	32	69	49	-1	1988	+119	689	+114	0.20	-0.60	1	2.77	-0.52	10
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>														
Providence	39	73	57	+2	3077	+436	1507	+373	0.12	-0.67	2	6.09	+2.96	10
Woonsocket	35	72	54	+3	2670	+401	1201	+355	0.05	-0.85	2	5.59	+2.13	10
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>														
Bridgeport/Siko	41	73	57	+0	3223	+347	1627	+303	0.21	-0.44	2	2.23	-0.52	9
Hartford/Bradle	34	77	55	+2	3042	+255	1472	+230	0.02	-0.75	1	3.05	-0.28	8
Norfolk	34	66	49	+0	2167	+310	828	+255	0.06	-0.78	2	2.16	-1.44	12
Thomaston_Dam	34	73	53	+0	2646	+375	1164	+318	0.09	-0.75	2	2.38	-1.18	10
Willimantic	32	74	53	+0	2782	+464	1263	+387	0.11	-0.80	2	3.43	-0.23	10

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, October 12, 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.  
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STATE	AIR TEMPERATURES				PRECIPITATION	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	27	74	48	+1	0.00	0.12
NH	19	74	49	+0	0.06	0.67
VT	22	72	48	-1	0.08	0.40
MA	28	75	53	+1	0.01	0.37
RI	35	73	56	+2	0.05	0.32
CT	31	77	53	+0	0.02	0.26

**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:** Finally a dry week. Activities included finishing up chopping corn for most, baling dry hay, spreading rye, taking down tobacco, cutting greens and cabbage. First frosts in most of the area except along the Connecticut River which was protected by fog. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Producers experiencing difficulty chopping corn in heavier soils and concerned with corn being chopped before ready. Blight is drying corn up, so dry, some producers are contemplating picking corn rather than chopping. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Heavy rains caused grapes to split and prompted earlier harvest for some varieties. Grapes have had deer and yellow jacket damage. Frost over a few days has finished many crops and damaged others. Corn chopping has been tough with wet fields and breakdowns, more corn acreage for combining, sweet corn good and coming to an end, apple picking, pumpkins, and good activities for Columbus Day weekend hay wagon rides through the orchard. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** Nice weather this week allowed producers to finish off their corn silage harvest and the last of the sweet corn harvest. What is left of the vegetable harvest is being completed. Light frost occurred in the northern sections of New Haven County. Farm stands are brimming with pumpkins and mums along with other fall crops. Orchards are busy and fruit is plentiful and sweet.

**MAINE - Steve London, Aroostook:** Harvest is almost done for most growers with yields down some and quality pretty good. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** We are feeling the results of our wettest year on record. Wet corn fields could be difficult to harvest. Most fields look excellent. Poorly drained soils did not do as well. A lot of pick your own pumpkins coming out of the pumpkin patches. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** The harvest is nearly complete in this area. Pumpkins will be harvested through Halloween. Although the harvest of apples is near conclusion, some orchards with u-pick operations may be open a couple of more weeks. The remainder of the silage corn crop will be harvested this week. Dairy farmers will be concentrating on spreading manure on crop fields before the December 1 deadline with the end of harvest. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Corn Silage harvest muddles along, with some wet fields being very difficult to harvest. Manure is also going out on drier fields and cover crops planted.

**MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire:** Great week, spectacular weekend. Pumpkins, winter squash and Florida Mountain turnip at farm stands and markets. More corn was chopped; hay cutting is finishing up and field prep work being done. Straw put on the strawberries after two hard frost nights. Foliage is peaking, tourists from all over the northeast and Canada spotted in the county. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** A beautiful fall season week, with cool sunny weather. Silage corn and winter squash harvest has come to an end. Growers continue to harvest pumpkins, apples, cabbage, potatoes and greens. Many growers are applying a cover crop and to lime their harvested fields. Growers were also removing irrigation pipe and plastic row covers off their fields. **Tom Monahan (NRCS), Hampden/Worcester:** It's all but over for veggies and most of the apples are close to being harvested. A couple of weeks to go everybody putting perennial crops to bed and getting cover crops sown. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Good crop continues to be harvested. Most growers were harvesting this past week and it will continue through this week. Great weather for the cranberry harvest festivals in Wareham and Carver over the long Columbus Day weekend, drawing several thousands of people to watch the fun.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE - Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll:** Beautiful, picture perfect fall weather. Warm sunny and dry, leaves at peak made for a near perfect leaf peeper week-end. Sandwich Fair had record turn out on both Saturday and Sunday. The last of the forage harvest is

being brought in, total hay yield down about 20 to 25% for the year due to a dry spring, followed by a rainy summer. Fall crops wrapping up, mums, pumpkins and winter squash popular at the farm stand. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Dry sunny weather all week, with a couple of widespread killing frosts. Silage corn just about wrapped up, and a last bit of baleage being harvested here and there. Vegetables are all done, farm stands selling root crops, pumpkins, etc. Great week for picking apples. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Field corn chopping continues at a good pace, most small dairy farms done, larger dairy farms moving to fields closer to home. Haying continues as possible. Apples and cider harvest continues. Most of remaining field corn showing frost damage. Past peak colors in the county, still bright. Farmers markets are winding down. Pumpkins and mums are popular seasonal items. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending October 11th, we had less than a half inch of rain. Fields dried down in most areas; however some of the heavier soils are more restricted. With the trees dropping their leaves and cooler temperatures, soils are much slower to dry down. Most of the corn crop is harvested. A few fields remain, waiting for the corn to dry down a little more. Some hay and haylage is still being made, as weather allows. The pumpkin crop is almost fully harvested. Most pumpkin yields are down for the season. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Farm Stands and Pick-Your-Own Apple Operations had a beautiful weekend! Apple harvest is in full swing with most growers concentrating on strip picking McIntosh, Macoun, and Cortland. Harvesting late maturing varieties like Red Delicious, Empire, etc. Pear harvest is done. Cleaning up drops apples and putting orchard equipment. Vegetables: Good demand for all vegetables continues where we still have not had a major county wide frost, but a light frost occurred in localized areas. Growers are harvesting wide array of vegetables including: cabbage, kale, brussels sprouts, winter squash and pumpkins along with the tail end of warm season crops. Farmers kept busy working on: pulling plastic mulch and tomato stakes, planting cover crops, and putting equipment. Field Crops: Silage corn chopping continues with the end in sight and seeding cover crops on harvested fields. Some manure spreading and incorporating in soil is taking place. The second and third cutting of hay and haylage continues. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Great Columbus Holiday week end weather and for Pick-Your-Own apples. High-tunnels tomatoes, eggplants (also growing in high-tunnels) are harvested. Broccoli, Swiss chard, lettuce and other greens are being harvested. Pumpkins, winter squash, mums and corn stalks are available. Silage corn being chopped, hay and haylage being done and pasture is still growing. Frost was localized. Fields are being cleaned. Manure and lime being spread.

**VERMONT - Jeffrey Carter (Ext), Addison:** Continuing corn silage harvest. Good weather conditions, corn drying fast. Third and fourth cut haylage is being cleaned up. Not picking corn yet, but very close for HMSC (High Moisture Shelled Corn). Soybeans still not ready, expect to start in second weeks. Grass growth is very slow. New seeded alfalfa looking much better. Manure being spread on hay and corn land. Lime spreading and soil tillage. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Dry cool week, with warm days. Most of the corn silage is in, looks good. Most of the hay is done. Starting to spread manure to empty storage. Three good frosts brought out more leaf color. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** What Fall weather in Franklin County Vermont and beyond. Have heard of some super turn outs for apple fests and Fall Craft shows that seem to go along with the fall foliage and leaf peepers. Corn harvest is on the last twenty percent here in Franklin County. Have heard of actual yields down about ten percent, which is very good considering where we were, at end of August. Lots of third and fourth cut has been harvested this week. If the good weather continues, grasses and alfalfa will have a chance to come back and get some nutrients into the root systems for winter hardiness. This is where good nutrient Manage-

ment comes in to make sure those nutrients are there and in a usable form for the plants i.e., PH and Calcium levels. Its great weather to go out and get those fall soil samples to check on those nutrients in the soil, so get those soil probes humming. **John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille:** The corn silage harvest in this area is

winding down after near perfect harvest conditions. What soybeans that were planted this year have also been harvested. Many producers are taking advantage of the weather and are working on third cut and on a few farms fourth cut grass/alfalfa. Manure pits are starting to be emptied before the weather turns.

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