

Crop Progress & Condition



NEW ENGLAND
Agricultural
Statistics
53 Pleasant Street
Room 2100
Concord, NH 03301

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

Gary R. Keough, Director

Phone: 603-224-9639

Fax: 603-225-1434

www.nass.usda.gov/nh

nass-nh@nass.usda.gov

Volume 30, Number 22

(Issued weekly on the Internet, May – October)

September 27, 2010 – 4 pm

For week ending 9/26/10

Fall Harvesting Continues

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending September 26, 2010, there were 6.1 days available for field work across New England. Pasture condition was rated 2% very poor, 23% poor, 43% fair, and 32% good. The week began mild with temperature highs in the mid 60s and lower 70s. Tuesday, southern New Hampshire, Connecticut, and Massachusetts enjoyed sunny skies while the rest of New England had to settle for partly cloudy. As the week carried on, temperatures continued to be generally pleasant ranging from the 60s to the 80s in several areas on Thursday and Friday. Some areas of Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont had scattered showers Thursday. The weekend began warmer than average with most of New England experiencing temperatures in the 80s. Sunday brought us back to autumn with mostly cloudy skies and temperature highs in the upper 50s to low 70s. The week's total precipitation ranged from zero to 0.87 inches.

FRUIT: Apple harvesting was in full swing last week with many Pick-Your-Own operations doing well. Fall raspberries continued to be picked throughout New England while the harvesting of grapes in Connecticut occurred two to three weeks earlier than normal. The harvesting of cranberries in Massachusetts progressed last week with some fruit loss due to fruit rot and scald injury.

VEGETABLES: The harvest of vegetables was winding down last week while pumpkin harvesting continued throughout New England. In Connecticut, pumpkin weight was down due to lack of moisture. Sweet corn harvesting neared completion, with many fields drying up. Other vegetables being harvested included cabbage, broccoli, brussel sprouts, butternut squash, kale, peppers, snap beans, tomatoes, and winter squash. In areas without adequate moisture, farmers were irrigating crops. Other activities included disking, cleaning fields, and planting cover crops on harvested fields.

FIELD CROPS: Silage corn harvesting proceeded rapidly last week throughout New England due to dry conditions, and was nearing completion by week's end with good yields. Dry hay cutting remained variable throughout the region, with poor conditions reported in Connecticut. Farmers in Vermont were on their third or fourth cut. The majority of grain harvesting ended in Maine last week while potato harvesting continued. Farmers also continued to clean fields and apply cover crops.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	7	5	3
Short	21	28	14
Adequate	69	63	78
Surplus	3	4	5
Subsoil			
Very Short	8	8	1
Short	25	36	20
Adequate	66	56	73
Surplus	1	0	6

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Size	Condition
	2010	2009	5-yr Avg		
Apples	65	45	50	Average	Good/Fair
Peaches	99	99	99		
Pears	85	75	70		
Cranberries, MA	10	5	10	Average	Good

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2010	2009	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Harvested --				
Barley, ME	100	100	95	
Oats, ME	100	100	95	
Potatoes				
Maine	50	20	35	Good/Excellent
Mass	75	75	65	Good/Fair
Rhode Island	60	70	80	Good/Fair
Silage Corn	65	25	40	Good
Sweet Corn	95	99	95	
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	100	99	100	
Shade	100	100	100	
Dry Hay				
Second Cut	99	99	95	
Third Cut	80	80	70	

Weather Summary for New England Agricultural Statistics

For the Period: Monday September 20, 2010
 To: Sunday September 26, 2010

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				CUM SINCE MAR 1 GROWING DEGREE DAYS				1-WEEK PRECIP			4-WEEK CUM PRECIP		
	-----				BASE-50F		BASE-60F		TOTAL	-----		TOTAL		
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	INCHES	DFN	DAYS	INCHES	DFN	DAYS
MAINE														
Augusta_State_A	46	84	61	+5	2501	+490	1081	+336	0.49	-0.28	1	3.95	+1.07	9
Bangor_Intl_Arp	43	81	60	+5	2447	+613	1058	+436	0.33	-0.44	2	5.47	+2.27	13
Bethel	37	79	58	+4	2142	+335	823	+227	0.47	-0.30	2	2.27	-0.90	7
Caribou_Municip	41	73	53	+3	1981	+553	779	+401	1.06	+0.29	4	4.18	+0.90	15
Dover-Foxcroft	39	77	55	+3	1923	+358	722	+270	0.78	-0.13	3	6.11	+2.47	14
Frenchville	36	72	50	-2	1722	+395	640	+317	1.06	+0.22	4	6.08	+2.58	17
Houlton	36	74	54	+3	1886	+394	723	+299	0.87	+0.07	4	4.66	+1.23	15
Livermore_Falls	35	83	57	+5	2094	+560	823	+394	0.57	-0.24	2	5.06	+1.66	9
Moosehead	37	69	52	+1	1583	+287	516	+206	1.08	+0.24	3	5.14	+1.74	14
Portland_ME	42	86	63	+7	2506	+643	1090	+453	0.16	-0.59	1	1.85	-1.00	6
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	33	79	55	+2	1891	+240	710	+234	0.23	-0.47	1	1.96	-1.06	9
Berlin_AG	34	78	56	+4	1941	+284	708	+211	0.37	-0.33	1	2.87	-0.27	11
Concord	35	90	65	+9	2719	+706	1298	+559	0.00	-0.63	0	0.68	-1.96	5
Diamond_Pond	28	73	51	+2	1026	-75	226	+21	0.52	-0.36	3	4.44	+0.59	16
Keene_AG	32	89	62	+4	2499	+239	1103	+193	0.00	-0.66	0	0.51	-2.34	4
North_Conway	36	80	58	+4	2229	+369	887	+254	0.37	-0.40	1	1.88	-1.32	7
Rochester	37	88	63	+6	2813	+646	1366	+519	0.04	-0.73	1	1.02	-1.97	7
VERMONT														
Bennington_AP	32	89	62	+7	2459	+697	1088	+536	0.10	-0.74	1	0.86	-2.72	8
Burlington_Intl	39	82	61	+6	2702	+561	1283	+443	0.37	-0.34	2	2.28	-0.88	11
Island_Pond	31	74	55	+4	1829	+470	663	+338	0.46	-0.24	6	3.25	-0.01	19
Montpelier	34	82	59	+6	2182	+502	898	+386	0.55	-0.08	1	1.72	-1.03	9
Rochester	34	85	58	+4	2058	+390	800	+296	0.00	-0.84	0	1.26	-2.34	7
Rutland_AG	33	85	58	+0	2307	+75	975	+87	0.00	-0.77	0	1.51	-1.89	6
Springfield_VT	34	91	62	+7	2565	+743	1162	+566	0.06	-0.71	1	0.75	-2.56	6
Sutton	35	75	54	+4	1797	+428	638	+301	0.46	-0.29	3	2.12	-1.19	15
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	51	88	69	+7	3326	+691	1754	+555	0.00	-0.70	0	1.08	-1.79	7
Fitchburg	41	88	68	+14	3221	+1398	1673	+1075	0.00	-0.64	0	1.62	-1.10	5
Greenfield	37	84	63	+4	2624	+188	1202	+167	0.00	-0.77	0	0.43	-2.77	4
New_Bedford	39	83	66	+4	3009	+336	1502	+268	0.00	-0.76	0	1.98	-1.27	4
Otis_AFB	45	77	64	+5	2642	+477	1204	+351	0.00	-0.81	0	2.35	-0.77	3
Plymouth	46	88	69	+10	3210	+993	1684	+792	0.00	-0.92	0	2.34	-1.52	4
Walpole	40	86	65	+8	3047	+826	1538	+655	0.00	-0.84	0	1.65	-1.84	6
Chicopee/Westov	33	89	67	+6	3046	+246	1548	+228	0.00	-0.80	0	0.42	-2.90	3
Worthington	35	88	61	+6	2285	+482	937	+362	0.00	-0.84	0	0.54	-2.91	6
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	48	88	69	+8	3325	+813	1729	+619	0.00	-0.77	0	1.81	-1.47	3
Woonsocket	41	86	67	+10	3040	+853	1512	+671	0.00	-0.84	0	1.60	-1.97	5
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	50	84	70	+7	3389	+672	1823	+536	0.19	-0.51	1	0.98	-1.89	4
Hartford/Bradle	38	90	69	+9	3389	+716	1796	+572	0.00	-0.84	0	0.16	-3.41	3
Norfolk	38	87	63	+8	2459	+660	1064	+491	0.00	-0.92	0	0.68	-3.23	5
Thomaston_Dam	40	84	66	+8	2953	+780	1450	+619	0.08	-0.83	1	0.37	-3.41	4
Willimantic	38	86	67	+8	3030	+811	1507	+643	0.00	-0.92	0	1.04	-2.62	5

Summary based on NWS data.
 DFN = Departure from Normal (Using 1971-2000 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 2010. 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, September 26, 2010

STATE	AIR TEMPERATURES				PRECIPITATION	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	28	86	56	+3	0.02	1.29
NH	25	90	59	+6	0.00	0.54
VT	28	91	58	+5	0.00	0.60
MA	31	91	65	+7	0.00	0.01
RI	41	88	68	+8	0.00	0.00
CT	36	90	67	+7	0.00	0.19

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: Fields are very dry, so silage corn harvest is proceeding very rapidly. Poor third cutting of hay because of the dry weather. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Continued harvest of peppers, tomatoes, cabbage, snap beans, pumpkins, and sweet corn. Many complete with corn silage harvest while others are combining corn with moisture levels down to as low as 20%. Some dry hay made where it could be found. Pumpkin weights are light with drought conditions still present. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Frost midweek in some spots has ended the season for some crops/growers. Corn is drying down faster than the harvest crews can get to it. Raspberries and apples are still being picked. Pumpkins and other fall decorations are being harvested as well. **Ann Marie McCard (FSA), New London:** The continued lack of rain affecting all crops; any rain will help grasses, pastures, and ponds. Silage corn, fruit and veg harvest in full swing. Pumpkins maturing early and some sweet corn is finished for the year with the rest drying up. Grape harvest is 2-3 weeks early this year. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** Some areas received about 1/2 inch of rain mid-week, but most of the area is very dry. Vegetable harvest is winding up and pumpkins and fall vegetables are plentiful. Mums are beautiful. Farm stands are all decked out with seasonal decor. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Another hot dry week. Fall has arrived, temperatures are cool at night but have hit 80 to 90 during the day. Corn chopping continues. Most vegetables are done. Pumpkins and mums are selling and apple picking is doing well. Hay still delayed, waiting for rain. Rivers and ponds are well below their normal water levels. Celebrating Agriculture held on the 25th was well attended. USDA says thank you to the American Farmer!

MAINE – Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook: Soil conditions were perfect for the first week of harvest. Soil was moist enough to keep the dust down and farmers were able to carry some soil to cushion the potatoes. Grain harvest is down to just a few acres. Rain Friday night gave everyone a break from a long first week. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** A good week of weather to harvest potatoes. Rain on Friday slowed harvesting a little, but Sunday was a good drying day. Grains are all harvested and into storage. Broccoli harvest continues. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Most crops have been picked. Silage corn has been harvested. Good picking weather for apples last week. Next week will be wet and apple picking will be delayed. Some haylage is being wrapped. Some sweet corn can still be found in the stands. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Any rain received is welcome to recharge the groundwater. Still very little frost has occurred. Corn silage harvest has easy sledding this year. There is third cut hay still coming in. Time to enjoy the foliage! **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Harvest is almost completed and overall crops were better than expected. Farmers are happy to see the rain to help with pastures and water supplies. Apples are being harvested very heavily now and look great. Corn silage almost completed as well. Spreading will be getting done in the next week or so for hopes of an easy winter. Temperatures have cooled off. Dry hay is still being harvested. **Megan McDonough (FSA), Kennebec:** More seasonable temperatures have set in. While temperatures are dipping each evening we have yet to receive a frost. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** We have gone from being very dry to equipment getting stuck in fields. The harvest of winter squash and pumpkins continues while sweet and silage corn harvests are nearly complete. The apple crop yield in this area has been much better than originally expected with the harvest approximately 50% complete. Third cut grass continues to be chopped. This harvest season is winding down but what a great season it has been here in Mid-Coast Maine! **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Producers are still harvesting fall vegetables. Silage corn, potatoes and hay currently being harvested daily as long as weather permits. Grain corn is looking good. Apples for the most part in Oxford County are average. Orchards have been very busy with pick your own. **Donna**

Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis/Penobscot: Pastures are greening up very nicely. Sweet corn season is just about over. Pumpkins, cornstalks, and apples predominate roadside stand offerings along with fall vegetable crops. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** Hay, silage, and vegetable harvests are wrapping up. Apples are being picked at PYO. Some wells are still low and more rain is needed to replenish them. No frost to speak of as yet. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Good harvest weather with a couple of warm days to help maturity. Interestingly we also had a touch of frost in some low lying areas, but seemed to only hit the top of corn plants. Corn silage harvest continues. Many are done. Some cover crops being planted.

MASSACHUSETTS – Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: Very, very dry with widespread frost Monday night. All fall veggies are available at farm stands and markets. Field corn harvest is going quickly. Foliage is turning early and fast. The reduced apple harvest is well underway. The size of the harvestable fruit that didn't get knocked off by the freeze in May or the dry summer is huge. **Lori Carver (FSA), Franklin:** Dry conditions continue - livestock producers report that sources of water in pastures are drying up. A beautiful weekend brought people out to farm stands to purchase pumpkins and mums. Silage corn is being harvested. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** It was another week with no rain and vegetable growers continue to irrigate their fall crops. The fall harvest continues on silage corn, apples, fall raspberries, cabbage, pumpkins, mums, potatoes, and many more fall crops. Many farmers are applying a rye cover crop on their harvested fields and removing their plastic row covers. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Harvesting continues at a slow pace, but will increase significantly this week. Many beds will be picked earlier than usual due to the earlier season and fruit quality concerns. Fruit rot and scald injury have resulted in crop loss in several beds. We'll find out soon how bad the quality is.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire: Scattered light frost early in the week, warmer temps later on, and still no rain. Most farms finished up chopping corn. Still some 3rd or 4th cut harvested here and there, but many fields don't have enough forage to make it worthwhile. Fall crops most prominent in farm stands, but there's still corn and tomatoes too. PYO apples for mid- and late-season varieties. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** First light frost of the fall, some damage to plants and corn leaves in fields in lower areas. Mix of weather, a little rain, variable temperatures, and general cooling trend. Corn silage harvest continues as most at the right stage. Still haying. Haylage being put up in what looks like an overall good forage year. Seem to be easing slowly into autumn, weather cooperative in getting field work finished up, manure spread, etc. Nice fall colors showing up in hillsides. Late summer produce, fresh apples and cider. Mums abundant at stands. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** We received about a half inch of rain for the week. The corn crop looks good. Harvest is about 70% completed. Producers are scrambling to take a 3rd or 4th cut of haylage. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Pick-your-own apple and farm stand operations had a nice weekend. Apple harvest is in full swing with most growers concentrating on strip picking McIntosh apples and working on Cortland and Macoun. Peach harvest is nearly completed and fall raspberries harvest continues. Vegetables: Great weather and good demand for all vegetable continues. Irrigating crops that have not been harvested. Farmers are harvesting a wide array of vegetables including: cabbage, kale, Brussel sprouts, winter squash and pumpkins along with the tail end of warm season crops. Warm-season crop (like tomatoes, peppers, sweet corn and beans) harvest is almost completed. Farmers kept busy disking, cleaning up and planting cover crops on harvested fields. Field Crops: Silage corn harvest in full swing. The second and third cuttings of hay and haylage continues. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Picking apples, fall raspberries, winter squashes, corn silage, and haying. Fall color. Lack of rain. Earthquake on Saturday evening.

RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties: It's been a great week for picking pumpkins. Sweet corn has just about run out. It was a little bit short this past week. Late potatoes are still being harvested. Silage corn looks excellent and is being harvested way ahead of schedule. Small vegetable crops are in abundance. Livestock looks good. Pastures are fair to short. Butternut squash is still being harvested and stored. All in all, it was an excellent week.

VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison: Corn silage harvest proceeding quickly with fairly dry soil conditions. Good yields reported with some variability noted in dry down in fields. Most likely N losses from early wet soil conditions after planting then followed by extremely hot and dry conditions. Hay crop harvest is basically complete with a few farms finishing third or fourth cut haylage this week. Soybean crop turning and looks like a good expected harvest with many pods and good seed fill. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Scattered frost one morning, got some rain, quite a bit of sun. Many are finishing up hay harvest- chopping or big round bales. Some waiting until this is done to start chopping corn, other farmers are nearly done with their corn. More rain further north, not enough to make mud in corn fields. Fall foliage is getting very nice now. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Corn harvest is still the activity

of the week in Franklin County. Showers have slowed harvest some, however, not enough rain to make getting around fields a problem. Yields are very solid. Apples and farm stands are doing well. Weather has been wet, same as the corn harvest, not enough to keep people away from the pick your own tradition. It seems that grass will not stop growing. Some third and fourth cut harvests have happened in the past two weeks and the regrowth has been amazing. Pastures are doing well also. We had patches of frost early in the week. Not enough to slow fall growth. The shorter days are upon us and this will begin to slow things down and bring on the reality of what is ahead. **Heather Mateja (FSA), Lamoille/ Washington:** Corn silage is almost all in and looks like a great year. Some areas saw a light frost. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** The area saw its first frost last Wednesday on the 22nd. It was a light frost and somewhat spotty. The corn harvest is in full swing and most comments have been that it is one of the higher yields they have had in a long time. Besides harvesting corn there is still a little bit of hay harvest being done. Some have been able to cut a forth crop of hay. Pastures are fair considering the time of year. The apple crop is turning out well despite the cold and untimely snow last spring. The fruit is descent size and good flavor.

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
Rebecca Dubbs, Statistician, Heidi Gleich, Intern

Ty Kalaus, Deputy Director
Deirdre Davis, Statistical Assistant