

# Crop Progress & Condition



**NEW ENGLAND**  
Agricultural  
Statistics



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For week ending 10/9/11

## A Beautiful Holiday Weekend

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:** For the week ending October 9, 2011, there were 4.8 days available for fieldwork across New England. Pasture conditions were rated 14% poor, 40% fair, 39% good, and 7% excellent. The week began cloudy with generally average temperatures in the mid-50s to mid-60s. Rain was present in most locations on Tuesday, some heavy at times. Wednesday was partly cloudy with temperatures in the low 60s to low 70s. Temperatures turned cooler again, in the mid-50s to low 60s, Thursday and Friday with mostly sunny skies. Some more hard freezes were reported Thursday and/or Friday night. Columbus Day weekend was sunny and much warmer with temperatures in the mid-70s to mid-80s. Total rainfall for the week ranged from 0.3 to 2.57 inches.

**FRUIT:** The excellent weather over the weekend left PYO operations and farmstands booming with activity. Apple operations were concentrating on wrapping up McIntosh, Macoun, and Cortland picking. Orchards that were not hit by heavy wind and hail were reported to be in good condition. The cranberry harvest was reported to be so far. Insects continued to be a problem in vineyards.

**VEGETABLES:** Some pumpkin fields were negatively affected by too much moisture. Farmers were harvesting pumpkins, broccoli, eggplant, peppers, squash, carrots, collards, cauliflower, and other cool weather crops. Some areas had their first hard freeze this week. Farmers continued to clean fields and prepare for winter.

**FIELD CROPS:** Fields dried out during this past week which allowed farmers to cut an abundance of hay and haylage. Some corn silage fields were completely harvested while other fields still needed to dry out before harvesting could begin. The later part of the week had beautiful weather for harvesting potatoes in Maine. Farmers were digging potatoes early and late in the day to get the crop out of the ground and into storage. Some potato farmers were able to complete their harvesting. More tobacco was taken down this week because of damp conditions. Farmers were liming, spreading manure, and seeding winter rye in some fields. Farmers continued to clean-up debris and reshape fields in parts of Vermont that were hit hard by Tropical Storm Irene.

### SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
<b>Topsoil</b>			
Very Short	0	0	1
Short	1	1	9
Adequate	63	48	68
Surplus	36	51	22
<b>Subsoil</b>			
Very Short	0	0	3
Short	2	1	14
Adequate	61	56	69
Surplus	37	43	14

### FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Set	Fruit Size	Condition
	2011	2010	5-yr Avg			
Apples	75	80	80			
Pears	85	95	95			
Cranberries, MA	65	60	50	Avg/Above	Avg/Above	Good/Exc

### FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2011	2010	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Harvested --				
Oats	100	100	100	
Potatoes				
Maine	85	80	80	
Mass	85	90	85	
Rhode Island	65	75	90	
Silage Corn	50	85	75	Fair /Good
Sweet Corn	99	99	99	
Dry Hay				
Second Cut	95	99	99	
Third Cut	70	95	85	

**Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics**

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday, October 3, 2011  
 To: Sunday, October 9, 2011

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				CUM SINCE MAR 1 GROWING DEGREE DAYS				1-WEEK PRECIP			4-WEEK CUM PRECIP		
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	BASE-50F		BASE-60F		TOTAL	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS
	---	---	---	---	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	INCHES	---	---	INCHES	---	---
<b>MAINE</b>														
Augusta_State_A	33	80	54	+2	2357	+289	994	+248	1.89	+1.10	3	4.51	+1.49	12
Bangor_Intl_Arp	27	80	51	+0	2272	+390	897	+275	1.12	+0.41	3	3.59	+0.51	11
Bethel	28	79	51	+1	2114	+265	806	+210	1.74	+0.95	3	4.87	+1.77	11
Caribou_Municip	27	77	50	+4	1865	+419	627	+249	1.22	+0.52	3	2.99	-0.03	9
Dover-Foxcroft	26	79	48	+0	1830	+239	613	+161	1.04	+0.20	4	2.82	-0.73	12
Frenchville	24	73	47	+1	1523	+180	412	+89	0.81	+0.04	3	2.21	-1.03	9
Houlton	21	77	49	+2	1835	+324	609	+185	1.17	+0.46	2	2.64	-0.49	9
Livermore_Falls	25	79	49	+2	2086	+527	789	+360	1.72	+0.89	4	5.11	+1.85	13
Moosehead	26	75	47	+0	1538	+223	408	+98	1.26	+0.49	4	3.96	+0.70	11
Portland_ME	32	81	54	+3	2377	+461	1010	+373	2.02	+1.25	2	4.83	+1.85	10
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>														
Benton	27	75	49	-2	1952	+263	670	+194	0.99	+0.29	3	4.37	+1.54	14
Berlin_AG	28	77	49	+1	1954	+264	666	+169	1.82	+1.05	4	5.06	+2.08	13
Concord	30	80	53	+3	2644	+577	1189	+450	1.69	+0.99	3	6.91	+4.31	13
Diamond_Pond	27	76	47	+2	1408	+292	334	+129	1.02	+0.18	2	4.29	+0.79	14
Keene_AG	31	81	53	+0	2538	+207	1106	+190	0.52	-0.18	3	5.52	+2.80	14
North_Conway	30	78	52	+3	2161	+261	846	+213	1.34	+0.50	4	4.64	+1.43	15
Rochester	31	82	54	+1	2813	+578	1347	+495	2.40	+1.54	3	5.12	+1.98	11
<b>VERMONT</b>														
Bennington_AP	30	76	53	+3	2597	+788	1111	+559	0.39	-0.43	3	3.88	+0.47	13
Burlington_Intl	31	74	52	+2	2748	+552	1275	+434	0.32	-0.31	2	4.07	+1.25	12
Island_Pond	29	75	50	+3	1976	+590	673	+348	1.28	+0.58	5	5.01	+2.12	21
Montpelier	30	77	51	+2	2283	+563	899	+387	0.59	-0.04	3	3.88	+1.34	14
Rochester	29	81	51	+2	2168	+456	816	+312	0.09	-0.75	2	3.81	+0.41	11
Rutland_AG	29	74	50	-4	2390	+86	989	+89	0.19	-0.50	3	3.38	+0.34	14
Springfield_VT	32	81	54	+5	2734	+868	1251	+655	0.23	-0.54	3	4.01	+0.87	14
Sutton	28	75	49	+3	1886	+495	615	+278	0.91	+0.19	4	4.01	+1.05	15
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>														
Boston/Logan_In	46	82	62	+5	3236	+484	1651	+428	1.19	+0.49	2	3.78	+0.98	12
Fitchburg	34	82	57	+7	3096	+1228	1547	+949	0.72	+0.02	2	4.38	+1.66	10
Greenfield	36	78	55	-1	2493	-34	1028	-21	0.80	+0.03	3	7.08	+3.99	13
New_Bedford	33	78	57	-3	3146	+343	1532	+269	0.27	-0.46	1	1.99	-0.98	9
Otis_AFB	36	73	56	+2	2630	+376	1162	+297	0.51	-0.33	3	2.15	-1.09	11
Plymouth	38	80	58	+4	3053	+752	1486	+583	0.53	-0.36	2	2.51	-1.20	10
Walpole	34	84	57	+4	2945	+652	1426	+532	1.29	+0.45	3	4.81	+1.45	13
Chicopee/Westov	31	78	54	-4	2988	+75	1435	+92	0.85	+0.08	3	4.77	+1.57	13
Worthington	31	79	52	+0	2237	+379	867	+292	0.69	-0.09	3	7.37	+4.07	15
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>														
Providence	40	80	59	+3	3177	+558	1586	+456	0.62	-0.15	3	3.61	+0.46	11
Woonsocket	36	81	57	+5	3005	+748	1453	+607	0.83	-0.03	3	4.32	+0.86	12
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>														
Bridgeport/Siko	44	75	58	-2	3411	+564	1773	+453	0.41	-0.26	2	4.98	+2.18	9
Hartford/Bradley	35	79	56	+1	3228	+460	1626	+386	0.97	+0.16	3	5.19	+1.78	12
Norfolk	34	75	50	+0	2370	+521	974	+401	0.20	-0.66	3	8.08	+4.40	14
Thomaston_Dam	32	77	54	+0	2947	+693	1410	+566	0.52	-0.35	3	5.55	+1.94	17
Willimantic	34	79	56	+2	3092	+790	1505	+629	0.55	-0.36	3	2.59	-1.07	11

**State Weather Summary**

For the Week Ending Sunday, October 9, 2011

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	21	82	50	+1	0.81	3.05
NH	15	82	51	+2	0.25	3.14
VT	28	82	51	+2	0.09	1.28
MA	30	84	56	+2	0.27	3.90
RI	36	81	58	+3	0.62	1.03
CT	32	80	55	+0	0.20	0.97

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

**CONNECTICUT – Howard Rood (FSA), Fairfield/Litchfield:** Fields are starting to dry out so that farmers can harvest field corn. We had hard frosts the last 2 nights. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** A great week for fall harvest from Wednesday on with no rain, great sun and warm, if not record setting temps. Corn silage harvest progressed with some complete and others continuing. A lot of dry hay and silage put up as fields started to dry out. Apple harvest continued and farm stands and PYO operations were thrilled for the great weather during the holiday weekend. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Record breaking high temps saw farmers scrambling to get one last cutting of hay from their drier fields. Many fields still saturated from the earlier rains. Corn harvest is winding down. Pumpkins are problematic with many more fields affected by the rains than we realized. Several growers are reporting 30 to 40 percent losses. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** Producers have been busy chopping corn and cutting hay as fields dried out even more. Finishing up work in orchards. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Light frost. Picking eggplant, peppers, and squash. A record breaking 85 degrees on Saturday. Sunny and nice weekend for Columbus Day apple picking, pumpkin buying and family outdoor orchard activities. Corn chopping continues with about 70% done; some corn is dried paper bag brown from top to bottom; while other corn is still green. Custom work in high gear with chopping, picking, and combining going on. Price of corn has dropped a bit. Combining at 14 to 16% moisture; ready earlier than usual.

**MAINE – Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook:** Many operations are finishing up potato harvest. Temperatures in the eighties this weekend made cooling down storages difficult. Apples, pumpkins, and broccoli are still being harvested. Despite record breaking rainfall this summer most crops are near average. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Showers at the beginning of the week slowed harvest of potatoes for a couple of days. However, the remainder of the week was beautiful warm weather in the county. Potato farmers were digging early and late to get crop out of the ground and into storage. **Don Audibert, (FSA) Northern Aroostook:** This week was a perfect week for farmers to finish harvesting their potato and grain crops. It was sunny, hot, and dry most of the week. Farmers in the St. John Valley are done harvesting all their crops for this year. Farmers are now starting to pick rock piles and doing some plowing. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Beautiful, warm weather over the weekend. Portland reached record highs 3 days in a row (low 80's). The warm weather had some avoiding PYO apples, as they believe a freeze is needed. Apples have sized up in the last 3 weeks. Overall, the apple crop is good. There is a shortage of apple bins reported. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** WOW, summer came back for a short stay! Harvest conditions have returned to good. Hopefully, we do not get too much rain on Thursday. The corn crop is completely frosted and drying in the field. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Heavy rains in the first part of the week put a stop to all harvesting. Excessive rains have slowed the corn silage harvest by about 2 weeks in areas. We really need some dry weather to complete this harvest. Apples are mostly harvested and the crop that wasn't hit with hail and heavy winds looks pretty good. Most all vegetable crops have been harvested and farm stands are still going strong. Manure has been spread on fields where harvest was complete and that were dry. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis/Penobscot:** The area had a very hard freeze this week followed by temperatures in the 80s. Corn silage harvest is in full swing. Some fields continue to be a challenge with wet soils. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** First hard frost finally put an end to the outdoor growing season. Silage corn chopping in earnest where soil is not too wet. Lots of rain early in the week, but the weather turned on Thursday and hopefully will dry out enough for silage corn harvest without the use of a lot of chains! Pasture conditions are great for late, cool season grass growth.

**MASSACHUSETTS – Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire:** Finally, a dry week. Fields are being put to rest and fall veggies and ornamentals adorn farm stands and markets. Spectacular weather brought out customers to orchards and farms over the 3 day weekend. Farmers are still working through problems with the corn crop with their insurance companies. More reports of lost last cuttings on the hay and quantification of crop loss from the storms is ongoing. **Lori Carver (FSA), Franklin:** Harvesting of silage corn continued. Producers continued to gather the fall crops and started cleaning up fields in preparation for winter. What a great holiday weekend for farm stands! **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** The week started out very rainy, wet and ended up dry and temperatures in the mid 80s. Many dairy and vegetable producers have had a difficult time harvesting their crops due to the saturated soil conditions. More tobacco was taken down because of the tobacco damps. Growers were harvesting silage, apples, raspberries, carrots, cabbage, kale, collards, spinach, potatoes, and cauliflower. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: As more crops are harvested, it looks more and more that the USDA estimate of 2.1 million barrels will be exceeded and we may have our second or third biggest crop ever. Things are looking good!

**NEW HAMPSHIRE – Donna Juneau (FSA) Belknap/Merrimack:** Rain on Monday, heavy rain on Tuesday, clearing out mid-week, high temperatures in the 80s over the weekend. Harvesting fall crops including field corn, apples, winter squash, and pumpkins. **Russell Norton (Ext), Carroll:** Light frost Wednesday, Thursday and Friday morning followed by warm weekend temperatures. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Pretty sunny most of the week, with 2 killing frosts. Farms finishing up with chopping corn, held back a little by still-wet soil conditions. A few good haying days let others get last 3rd or 4th cutting hay. Vegetable crops all done, with mostly fall/winter crops on display at farmers' markets and farm stands. Great weekend weather for PYO apple picking. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Hard freeze last week put an end to vegetable growing season. Heavy rains slowed down corn silage harvest which picked up later in the week, now going at a rapid pace. Decent hay drying weather later part of the week and fair number of fields mowed, tilled and baled. Apple harvest of later varieties continued. Remaining field corn generally hit by hard freezes, ending growth. Farmers market summer/fall ends, but pumpkins still available, last of sweet corn. Past peak autumn colors but still looks good, most leaves holding pretty well. A pretty Columbus Day holiday weekend! **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending October 8th, we had just over a half inch of rain. Several days of good weather allowed soils to dry down and corn harvesting went into high gear. Corn yields have been highly variable, depending on location and soils. More than half the crop looked good. Yield reports indicate some loss on a number of fields and farms. Harvesting of hay and haylage continued as weather improved. Vegetable stands are still open and providing seasonal crops. Fall foliage has gone from dull to brilliant over the last few days. Enjoy it while you can! **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Farm stands and PYO apple operations were busy and had a beautiful weekend! Many communities had their fall festivals over the weekend promoting the fall harvest - pumpkins and apples. Good demand for all fruit and vegetables continued where we still have not had a major county wide freeze, but couple of light frosts occurred in localize areas. Fruit: Apple harvest is in full swing with most growers concentrating on finishing McIntosh, Macoun, and Cortland picking. Peach harvest is done for the season. Field Crops: Silage corn chopping continued and seeding cover crops on harvested fields. Some manure spreading and incorporating in soil is taking place. The second and third cuttings of hay and haylage continued. Vegetables: Growers harvested a 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 working on pulling plastic

mulch and tomato stakes, planting cover crops, and putting equipment away. **Amy Ouellette (Ext), Merrimack:** Warm weather has enabled a third cutting of hay in some places. Farmers are liming and seeding winter rye in fields. It was a great weekend for pick-your-own apples. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Picking apples and the gorgeous, sunny Columbus weekend brought traffic to PYO apple orchards despite the late arrival of the colorful foliage. Wednesday, growers were busy picking warm season crops in the field because of the frost forecast. Also, growers covered vegetable field crops with Reemay. Harvesting of greens, cabbage, kale, Brussel sprouts, winter squash and pumpkins and root crops continued as well as sweet corn, potatoes, tomatoes and other warm season crops. Cleaning harvested fields. Spreading manure, planting cover crops. Silage corn harvest in full swing. The second and third cuttings of hay and haylage continue. Farmstands selling pumpkins, mums and other fall ornamental crops. **Jenn Zaleski (FSA), Sullivan:** There was one day of rain this week. There were also a couple morning frosts. The weekend was simply beautiful with warm temperatures and sunny skies. Farmers were busy during the week trying to get corn silage chopping done. Wet fields remain a problem in areas and the recent frosts have made it imperative to finish chopping soon. In the wetter parts of the county, farmers reported being 2 weeks behind schedule. Farmers in drier areas were able to catch up on harvesting during the weekend. Besides cutting corn silage, farmers were also busy harvesting hay for haylage and a few farmers were even able to bale some dry hay this late in the season.

#### **RHODE ISLAND – Heather Faubert (Univ of RI), All Counties:**

What an amazingly, beautiful weekend! **Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties:** The week was a little better than last week, it's starting to dry up a little. Farmers are getting into the field to get silage corn cut on the high grounds. Potatoes look good and they are back into the fields digging now that the rain stopped. We had some nice sweet corn for this weekend, and I think the end is coming soon for sweet corn. Vegetables; they are picking cold crops now such as cabbage, kale, etc. These crops didn't seem to get damaged by the hurricane at all. Other vegetables; there are a few here and there, but not much. Vineyards; we are seeing more problems with the grapes now than first thought. It is not just hurricane damage, but some

sort of insect problem. Apples are still doing well. Livestock is looking good.

**VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Corn silage harvest continues as soils dry out. Excessive damage to wet soils in fields. Two frost events and corn leaves heavily damaged. Immature ears and green stalks predominate. Some early planted corn drying down for shell corn harvest. Crop is widely variable through region. Flooded corn harvest is starting, poor fermentation and very high soil load in crop. High ash content and low energy will be problematic this year for feeding. Hay crop still growing and many farmers harvesting a third or fourth cut for wrapped bales or chopped haylage. The soybean crop looks good, even though many fields were damaged by standing water early in the season. Pastures are still viable for grazing, leaf diseases widespread. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Corn harvest is well underway in Franklin County. Very nice weather is making the harvest very manageable. Frost has bit and corn is at prime harvest. Yields are at the "good" stage, however, still too early to evaluate. Much haylage and round bales being done for third and fourth cut harvest. Ground is still too wet to dry for hay. Apples have been very good with Macintosh harvest done up and the later varieties left for the picking. Pastures are making some come back from the nice weather. **Heather Mateja (FSA), Lamoille/Washington:** After days of rain the weather turned with a nice wind and warmer weather. Corn was harvested, hay was cut, and the soy is drying. Overall, it has been a good season for hay. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Fair weather this week allowed a lot of corn to be harvested. Fields are wet but Farmers have been able to get the corn off so far. We had 2 nights of hard frosts mid-week, but by the weekend we were experiencing summer like temperatures and a lot of sun. Most farm activity was harvesting corn, although there is still a little third cut hay being harvested. Pastures remain good for this time of year. The apple harvest is pretty well complete and it appears to have been a very good year. **Julie Jacque (FSA), Windham:** Wrapping up season harvest; some hay was still trying to be made with a good stretch of weather over the long weekend. Apple crop reports are pretty good, no major complaints. Cleanup continues on Irene damaged fields with debris removal, re-grading, and reshaping fields.

**SEPTEMBER** - The month began with remnants of Tropical Storm Lee passing over most of New England bringing periods of heavy rain through Thursday, September 8. Southern New England was hit hardest. The rest of the week was partly sunny with variable daytime temperatures ranging from the mid-60s to mid-80s. Despite dry weather in the second half of the week, major rivers in western Connecticut remained above flood stage at week's end. Total rainfall for the first week in September ranged from 0.54 to 6.90 inches across the region. The second week began partly sunny with above average temperatures in the 70s and 80s through Wednesday. A cold front passed over New England on Thursday, September 15, bringing light to moderate precipitation and unseasonably cold air throughout the region. Nighttime temperatures were particularly cool in northern States and dipped below the freezing point in several locations. The third week started with partly cloudy to sunny skies and temperatures in the mid-60s. Tuesday through Thursday had light showers and scattered rain that was heavy at times and temperatures were in the mid-60s to mid-70s. Nighttime lows were well above average in the mid-50s and 60s. The weekend was cloudy and muggy with above average daytime temperatures. The last week of the month continued to be on the warm side with temperatures in the low 70s to low 80s. Rain began Wednesday, September 28, and some heavy thunderstorms swept across the region on Thursday. Rain continued into the weekend, delaying harvesting activities. Apple and pear harvesting began to pick up with most of the fruits reported in good condition. Farmstands were full of fall raspberries, peaches, plums, pears, and apples. Early in the month, grapes in Connecticut were damaged by downy mildew and flooding rains. Mid-Month, some vineyards in New England were dealing with damage caused by the Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD), a type of Asian fruit fly. SWD was also affecting some late blueberries and raspberries. The cranberry crop reservoirs were replenished by the remnants of Tropical Storm Lee. Cranberry conditions remained consistently in excellent to good condition. There was standing water several inches deep on many vegetable fields in southern New England. While some farmers markets began to close due to a lack of produce from vendors, others flourished with fall vegetables such as cabbage, kale, Brussels sprouts, winter squash, and pumpkins. A large portion of corn silage fields throughout the region were very muddy which delayed harvesting. Crop conditions varied with low-lying areas faring poorer. Hay and haylage production during the beginning of the month was able to progress in higher elevations that dried more quickly. Later in the month, hay was cut between showers. The harvest of potatoes and small grains in Maine were able to continue throughout most of the month as the region did not experience crippling precipitation from Tropical Storm Lee or much of the showers experienced elsewhere in New England.

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