

# 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

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For week ending 9/23/12

## Good Week For Harvesting Fall Crops

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:** For the week ending September 23, 2012, there were 5.3 days available for fieldwork across New England. Pasture condition was rated 1 percent very poor, 12 percent poor, 43 percent fair, 34 percent good, and 10 percent excellent. The week was seasonably cooler with scattered reports of light frosts. A strong storm hit the New England region on Tuesday, bringing heavy precipitation and high winds. The remainder of the week was generally dry with light precipitation falling in parts of New England during the weekend. Average temperatures for the week ranged from 1 degree below normal in Maine to 1 degree above normal in New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island. Total precipitation for the week ranged from 0.5 to 4.0 inches, with the vast majority of reporting stations across the region recording over an inch of rain.

**FRUIT:** Pick-Your-Own apple operations were busy thanks to excellent weekend weather. Some producers were reporting poor yields due to the spring frosts and dry summer conditions. The peach harvest was nearly finished by week's end. The fall raspberry harvest continued. Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD) fruit flies were still posing a problem to many fruit growers. Cranberry growers in Massachusetts began harvesting their crop at a slow pace as most waited for the berries to ripen. Cool nighttime temperatures helped bring color to the berries. Orchardists also monitored for pests, mowed orchard floors, and harvested pears and grapes.

**VEGETABLES:** Great harvest weather and high demand for vegetables kept farm stands busy. Fall vegetables were abundant while the summer crop harvest was winding down. Vegetables harvested last week included beans, beets, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cucumbers, kale, greens, peppers, pumpkins, squash, sweet corn, and tomatoes. The pumpkin harvest was underway and the crop was available in many farm stands and farmers markets. Growers were busy applying preventive sprays, irrigating, weeding, cleaning vegetable fields, and planting cover crops.

**FIELD CROPS:** Abundant sunshine between showers allowed farmers to continue third and fourth cuttings of hay. Despite scattered reports of poor conditions, pastures generally fared well thanks to recent precipitation. Harvest of field corn picked up pace and the crop was reportedly in good condition. There was some variability in quality and yields due to uneven soil moisture levels across New England. Sunny weather in Aroostook County, Maine allowed nearly all operations to finish the harvest of small grains and helped potato growers make significant progress on their crop. Meanwhile, soybeans were approaching maturity with good yields expected in Maine. Farmers were also spreading manure, planting cover crops, and engaging in agritourism.

### SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
<b>Topsoil</b>			
Very Short	1	1	0
Short	18	25	2
Adequate	71	74	65
Surplus	10	0	33
<b>Subsoil</b>			
Very Short	2	3	0
Short	18	26	3
Adequate	72	71	68
Surplus	8	0	29

### FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Size	Condition
	2012	2011	5-yr Avg		
Apples	50	50	45	Average	Good/Fair
Peaches	99	99	99		
Pears	65	65	65		
Blueberries					
Highbush	100	100	100		
Cranberries, MA	5	10	5	Avg/Above	Good

### FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2012	2011	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Harvested --				
Barley	100	95	95	
Oats	99	90	90	
Potatoes				
Maine	20	30	30	Good
Mass	45	70	65	Good
Rhode Island	60	35	65	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	30	15	30	Good
Sweet Corn	95	95	95	
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	100	100	100	
Shade	100	100	100	
Dry Hay				
Second	99	95	95	
Third	75	60	70	

**Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics**

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday September 17, 2012  
 To: Sunday September 23, 2012

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				CUM SINCE MAR 1 GROWING DEGREE DAYS				1-WEEK PRECIP			4-WEEK CUM PRECIP		
	-----				BASE-50F		BASE-60F		TOTAL	DFN DAYS		TOTAL	DFN DAYS	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	INCHES			INCHES		
<b>MAINE</b>														
Augusta_State_A	40	70	57	-1	2384	+385	1020	+277	1.27	+0.52	4	3.99	+1.13	11
Bangor_Intl_Arp	35	72	57	+0	2235	+412	910	+288	0.96	+0.19	4	4.84	+1.64	10
Bethel	34	71	53	-4	2108	+311	809	+213	3.15	+2.38	2	5.95	+2.74	7
Caribou_Municip	33	72	56	+4	1996	+572	768	+390	1.04	+0.27	4	2.75	-0.57	13
Dover-Foxcroft	32	70	52	-3	1882	+324	685	+233	1.09	+0.18	3	4.09	+0.46	7
Frenchville	31	69	54	+4	1765	+442	619	+296	1.50	+0.66	4	3.37	-0.15	10
Houlton	29	76	56	+5	1942	+454	734	+310	0.71	-0.11	4	4.13	+0.66	13
Livermore_Falls	31	71	52	-2	2069	+541	790	+361	1.59	+0.76	2	4.63	+1.19	8
Moosehead	30	71	50	-3	1529	+238	440	+130	1.43	+0.59	3	5.13	+1.73	9
Portland_ME	40	70	58	+2	2401	+550	1039	+402	0.87	+0.14	3	2.22	-0.61	10
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>														
Benton	35	74	54	-2	1927	+284	670	+194	1.85	+1.15	2	5.63	+2.55	9
Berlin_AG	33	76	57	+3	2075	+426	755	+258	1.36	+0.64	2	4.48	+1.28	10
Concord	34	76	58	+1	2632	+631	1198	+459	0.81	+0.18	2	2.85	+0.19	9
First_Conn_Lake	32	71	52	+2	1658	+561	511	+306	0.51	-0.39	2	5.55	+1.62	10
Keene_AG	36	78	57	-3	2544	+299	1119	+211	3.07	+2.39	2	5.46	+2.55	9
North_Conway	36	71	53	-3	2184	+334	858	+225	3.69	+2.92	3	6.80	+3.56	12
Rochester	37	76	56	-3	2689	+537	1271	+426	1.30	+0.53	2	3.51	+0.52	7
<b>VERMONT</b>														
Bennington_AP	38	77	59	+4	2526	+774	1097	+545	2.43	+1.58	3	4.64	+1.02	8
Burlington_Intl	39	77	61	+5	2884	+755	1413	+575	1.14	+0.41	2	4.91	+1.69	8
Island_Pond	33	72	54	+2	1933	+580	680	+355	1.91	+1.19	2	6.65	+3.30	13
Montpelier	34	75	55	+0	2126	+455	801	+289	2.20	+1.57	2	4.96	+2.15	10
Rochester	36	79	55	+1	2124	+466	808	+305	3.12	+2.28	2	5.80	+2.15	8
Rutland_AG	35	76	56	-4	2276	+59	898	+12	2.74	+1.95	2	5.25	+1.81	10
Springfield_VT	38	78	58	+3	2733	+921	1275	+679	1.54	+0.77	2	2.84	-0.51	7
Sutton	34	71	53	+2	1925	+562	667	+330	1.98	+1.21	2	6.63	+3.24	7
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>														
Boston/Logan_In	51	75	62	-2	3092	+481	1548	+355	0.72	+0.02	2	3.23	+0.34	10
Fitchburg	41	78	61	+6	3148	+1335	1602	+1004	1.27	+0.64	2	2.38	-0.37	9
Greenfield	41	76	59	-3	2782	+364	1303	+272	3.98	+3.21	2	6.10	+2.90	8
New_Bedford	41	75	61	-4	2816	+168	1326	+99	0.74	-0.03	1	2.94	-0.37	8
Otis_AFB	41	73	61	+1	2555	+408	1148	+298	1.25	+0.46	1	2.57	-0.53	7
Plymouth	41	75	62	+2	2827	+628	1350	+460	0.65	-0.29	1	4.08	+0.20	7
Walpole	43	76	61	+3	2972	+767	1448	+567	1.29	+0.45	3	4.70	+1.19	10
Chicopee/Westov	39	77	60	-4	2945	+168	1434	+120	1.46	+0.64	2	4.64	+1.30	9
Worthington	37	75	55	-3	2223	+432	866	+293	2.86	+2.02	2	6.29	+2.82	7
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>														
Providence	48	74	63	+1	3037	+547	1498	+393	0.94	+0.16	2	3.64	+0.34	8
Woonsocket	44	76	61	+3	3001	+829	1470	+631	1.73	+0.87	3	4.33	+0.74	13
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>														
Bridgeport/Siko	50	77	65	+2	3318	+627	1733	+454	0.91	+0.21	2	2.17	-0.70	9
Hartford/Bradle	44	78	62	+0	3256	+603	1679	+459	1.52	+0.66	2	3.60	+0.01	9
Norfolk	41	73	56	+0	2353	+565	961	+388	2.81	+1.87	3	5.57	+1.62	10
Thomaston_Dam	41	75	58	-2	2861	+704	1360	+532	2.08	+1.17	4	4.30	+0.50	13
Willimantic	44	76	62	+3	3081	+879	1528	+666	1.41	+0.48	2	5.19	+1.53	11

**State Weather Summary**

For the Week Ending Sunday, September 23, 2012

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
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ME	29	76	54	-1	0.50	3.15
NH	27	78	56	+1	0.51	3.69
VT	33	80	56	+1	0.82	3.52
MA	35	79	60	+1	0.65	3.98
RI	44	76	62	+1	0.66	1.73
CT	38	79	61	+0	0.91	2.81

**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:** Silage harvest continued, manure being spread and cover crops being applied. Rain showers prevented dry hay from being put up. Mums, apples, pumpkins and cornstalks moving from farm stands. Grain corn being combined and dried for delivering to mills. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Four Inches of rain didn't cause much delay in the silage harvest. It didn't even seem to cause a lot of mud, it ran off so quickly even the streams dried up within hours of the storms passing. Pastures are so poor that livestock are eating plants they normally wouldn't touch. Several sheep were sickened and two died from eating Asian Bittersweet this week. **Jude Boucher (Ext), Tolland:** High winds knocked down some corn and trees on Tuesday. Harvest is going well with lots of great quality vegetables. Phytophthora has spread to many new fields this year. All of the CT River meadow soils seem to be infested with Phytophthora after Hurricane Irene's flood last year. Great weather for the start of corn maze season. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** A lot of corn chopping going on, issues with cucumber vine in some fields, yields overall are good. Cover crop cost is up, some farms putting in combo cover of radish, oats, and rye. Pick your own apples busy with good weekends. Gourds and pumpkins are ready. Baling hay. Picking grapes. Farmers markets with winter squash, lettuce, apples, cabbage, mums, and the end of summer squash, string beans, peppers, and cucumbers. Celebrating Agriculture at the Woodstock Fairgrounds went well and the weather was awesome!

**MAINE – Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook:** Some much needed rain came through this week. Potato harvest is in full swing with excellent quality being reported. Hay and grain operations have pretty much finished. Soybeans are drying back and it looks like a bumper crop. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Fall temperatures have arrived. Some light frost reported in the usual areas. Good week for harvesting crops. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** It's pumpkin harvest time. The weather is staying nice with no killing frost in this area yet. Grasses are still lush. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Cooler nights and days are keeping farmers busy with final harvest of vegetables. Corn silage harvest is underway in many areas. Potatoes are being harvested as well. Farmers are starting to prepare ground for winter. Apple harvest is almost complete and farm stands are very busy, but winding down on crops. Blueberry harvest is complete and was good in some areas and average in others. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis/Penobscot:** Pumpkins, squash, corn stalks are filling the farm stands. Last of the sweet corn is being picked. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** Nice fall weather. Apple and late season vegetable harvest continued. Field corn being harvested for silage. **Elaine S Moceus (FSA), Somerset:** The week has been good for haying as silage corn harvest continued. Some areas have had light frosts, with seasonable cooler temperatures. Spotty evening rain showers and drizzly rain over parts of the weekend has provided some moisture. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Corn silage harvest in full swing. Several frosts in low areas.

**MASSACHUSETTS – Heather Baylis (FSA) Franklin:** Storm with strong winds hit the county. Some areas received 1 inch of rain and others in the western part of the county received 3+ inches with high wind gusts. Some damage to sweet corn fields in the southern parts of the county. Other than that, bright days and cool evening temps ended the summer on a high note. Harvesting continued and crops are looking good. Fall crops are maturing. Farmers are keeping watch for pests and mildews and treating as needed. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Fall is here and temperatures have dropped. Farm stands are full of color from blue Hubbard squash, pumpkins, mums, Indian corn, apples, gourds, corn stalks, beets, broccoli and cauliflower. During the middle of the week we had heavy rains, two plus inches and strong winds. The rains slowed the fall harvest and the winds caused some damage to sweet and silage corn. Vegetable growers are weeding late planted

crops, picking up row covers, planting cover crops and still applying preventative sprays. Cool temperatures and heavy dew in the mornings is slowing down the hay making process. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Last Wednesday brought at least an inch of precipitation to the area, with higher amounts as you worked westward from Wareham. Harvesting increased in incidence, but things are still slow, as most growers wait for the berries to ripen and color. Cool nights have helped with the latter; some growers had to frost protect Sunday into Monday.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE – Donna Juneau (FSA) Belknap/Merrimack:** The week was a mix of generally bright sunny days with light rain on Tuesday, Saturday, and Sunday. Daytime temperatures reached highs in the 60s and 70s with crisp fall temperatures in the evenings. No frost yet. Field corn is reportedly generally doing well with an average crop expected in most areas. Sweet corn will continue to be picked until frost. We have reports of chopping field corn in some areas of the counties. The hay harvest has been ongoing with third cut still being harvested in some areas. Apple harvest is in full swing, but harvest of other fall crops is dwindling down. Cider mills are pressing apples and farm fresh cider is available locally almost everywhere in the counties. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Significant rain 2 days last week! For the rest of the time, bright, sunny and pleasantly cool weather. Corn chopping going well and conditions are ideal for last third cutting hay and/or fourth cutting haylage/baleage. Fall crops showing up in farm stands, and apple picking is in full swing. PYO berries pretty much done. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Silage corn chopping, bunk silos being packed, but still not making much of a 'dent' in what looks like very good yields this year. Grass fields still look fine what with adequate moisture, cool temperatures. Pasturing continues. Some grass as possible. Apples, pumpkins, corn stalk and mums at farm markets. Another frost mid-week in northern and colder parts of the county, river areas still protected somewhat by heavy fogs and morning dew. Looks like a great year for fall colors. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending September 22, we received over 1.6 inches of rain. Topsoil moisture conditions are in good shape. Corn harvesting has reached the halfway point. Reports and yield tests indicate a high level of variability from one farm to the next. Some fields are significantly off, while others only a little. Some producers are waiting to finish the last of their fall alfalfa and haylage harvest. Most of the final cutting of hay is done. Vegetable growers are starting to wind down, but a number of them still have seasonal crops on their stands. Pumpkin harvest is underway. Yields on this crop are somewhat variable this year. Pollination/flower set seems to have been a problem for some. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Pick-your-own apple and farm stand operations had a nice weekend. Apple harvest was in full swing with most growers concentrating on starting to strip pick McIntosh apples and working on Cortland and Macoun. Peach harvest is nearly completed and fall raspberry harvest continues. SWD fruit fly continues to be a major problem! Field Crops: Silage corn harvest in full swing. The second and third cuttings of hay and haylage continued. Vegetables: Great weather and good demand for all vegetables continued. Irrigating crops that have not been harvested. Farmers are harvesting wide array of vegetables including: cabbage, kale, Brussels sprouts, winter squash and pumpkins along with the tail end of warm season crops. Warm-season crops (like tomatoes, peppers, sweet corn and beans) harvest is almost completed. Farmers kept busy disking, cleaning up and planting cover crops on harvested fields. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Pick-Your-Own apple operations were busy this weekend. Harvesting apples, peaches, winter squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, greens and other veggies. Haying and chopping corn. Pasture still growing. Cleaning vegetable fields and planting cover crops. Liming and spreading manure, fertilizing some hay fields. Bright sunny days this week with much colder nights and close to frost in some areas. **Jenn Zaleski (FSA), Sullivan:** The weather was seasonable for the week. High temperatures were

in the mid-60s to low 70s while overnight lows were in the 40s most of the week, with cooler mornings Monday and Thursday in the upper 30s. Rain moved through during the evenings of Tuesday and Saturday bringing a total of 1.45 to 3.29 inches to the area. Corn silage harvest continued through the week in earnest. Much of the early planted corn has been harvested. Dry hay making was coming to a close at week's end. Fall vegetables were abundant in farm stands and farmers markets while the summer vegetable harvest was winding down. Apples were being harvested during the week.

**RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties:** What a nice weekend we just had. The farm stands were doing a tremendous business with mums, pumpkins, corn stalks and of course an abundance of small vegetables. Even sweet corn is still selling well. Apple picking was great this past weekend. Potatoes are nice sized and looking good, but not selling well. There is not a great demand for them. Farmers figure they are going to be filling their storage with potatoes this season, more than in past years. Farmers are starting to pick squashes such as butternut, blue hubbard and others, and they are putting them in storage. Livestock looks good. Pastures are still green, but not much feed. One thing that is really doing good here is Agri-tourism. It is mostly corn mazes. We have several of these in the state and they are bringing in a lot of people!! This includes bringing people in for hay rides and pumpkin and other vegetable selling. They are plentiful this year with a nice selection.

**VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Corn silage harvest continued and nearly complete on lighter soils. Just starting to open up fields on clay soil. Crop progress is way behind on later planted clay soil fields, still no dent in kernels. Very good yields on early planted corn. Late harvest this year and now wet soils. Dry hay harvest complete, some wrapped bales and haylage still being harvested on nice days. Warm weather continued, some cool nights and leaves starting to color up. Soybean leaves yellowing but not dropping yet. Planting winter rye and triticale cover crops on harvested corn fields and winter grains no-till into pasture and hay fields for early spring feed. Heifers still out on remote pastures, grass growth slow to none with rust showing a lot. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Corn harvest was in full swing for Franklin County last week. Yields are looking very good with the jury out on quality, no word of any forage analysis yet. Pastures are doing well for this time of year and still keeping up with grazing. Apples are a hit and miss, seems to be more of a spring frost thing. Where there is a crop it is great and where there is no crop it is in the sink. Gardens are at the pumpkin stage and selling well as the fall colors and temps get people in the mood for Halloween. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Corn harvest is now in full swing. So far the harvest looks really good. The drier conditions earlier have made it easier to harvest the corn. I haven't seen any muddy fields yet. We did get some much needed rain this week. Aside from the corn harvest a little fourth cut hay was cut this past week.

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**Gary R. Keough**, *Director*  
**Hernán Ortiz**, *Statistician*

**Ty Kalous**, *Deputy Director*  
**Deirdre Davis**, *Stat Assistant*