2010 CROP WEATHER SUMMARY

January: New England experienced above average temperatures in January with highs ranging from the mid-20s to mid-30s and nighttime temperatures in the mid-teens to low 20s, 0 to 13 degrees above normal. Snowfall totals were wildly variable throughout the region, ranging from 4.3 to 48 inches. The first days of 2010 began with a snowstorm that brought strong winds throughout New England and several inches of snow. Unseasonably warm weather surfaced January 25 and 26, with daytime temperatures ranging in the upper 30s to upper 50s and nighttime temperatures reaching the 40s in some locations. The snow-melting temperatures combined with heavy precipitation caused localized floods. A cold front returned on January 28, accompanied by strong winds and very low temperatures.

February: Temperatures were average to above average throughout the month of February. High temperatures averaged from the upper 20s to upper 30s and lows ranged from the upper teens to upper 20s. Precipitation amounts from the first snowstorm of the month on February 10 ranged from less than an inch in central New England to nearly 5 inches in southern Connecticut. Another snowstorm reached New England by February 16, resulting in 1.5 to 5.3 inches of snow. The last week of February was marked by a damaging series of storms. The snowfall amounts from the first storm ranged from a trace to over 13 inches. The more powerful second storm brought torrential rain and damaging winds along the coast and southern States. A state of emergency was declared in New Hampshire, where hurricane-force gusts were reported.

March: New England experienced significant rainfall and above average temperatures throughout the month of March, and average high temperatures ranged from 41.5 degrees in Maine to 55.0 degrees in Connecticut. Low temperature averages ranged from 20.8 to 36.9 degrees, north to south. Snowfall totals were less significant than earlier in the season, with the exception of a few inches in northernmost latitudes. A severe rainstorm crossed New England in mid-March, and high winds and heavy rain resulted in tree damage, power outages, and major flooding. Rainfall totals for the month ranged from 0.94 in northern Maine to nearly 10 inches in coastal Massachusetts.

April: Temperatures warmed during the beginning of April, climbing into the 70s and 80s and some 90s. A cold front moved in April 8, bringing temperatures back to more seasonable levels. Lightning and dime-sized hail were reported in Rhode Island and eastern Massachusetts on April 22. A cold spell during April 27-28 brought unusually low daytime temperatures and nighttime temperatures low enough to cause mild to moderate frost. Northern areas of Vermont and New Hampshire received significant snowfall, and some areas reported well over a foot of snow. Total precipitation for the month ranged from 1.03 to 3.50 inches. Dry conditions and mild weather allowed growers to get an early start on field preparations. By month's end, fall potatoes were 70 percent planted in Massachusetts and Rhode Island, 1 to 2 weeks ahead of schedule. Potatoes, oats and barley crops were 10 to 20 percent seeded in northern Maine, and early season vegetable planting was underway throughout the region, well ahead of normal.

May: New England experienced mostly dry conditions and generally above average temperatures during May. Average high temperatures ranged from the mid-60s to mid-70s and lows ranged from the lower 40s to mid-50s. The month began with record-breaking temperatures which reached as high as 90 degrees. A wet week followed, and the region received 0.35 to 1.90 inches of rain, and temperatures cooled to the 40s and 50s. Snow showers, lightning, and heavy winds were present at week's end. Cold weather persisted until the middle of the third week. Temperatures dipped to the low 20s, and heavy frosts were reported at many locations. New England warmed to seasonal levels by the end of the third week. Cooler conditions returned May 18-19, and rain showers brought much needed moisture to dry soils. Summer-like conditions arrived on May 20, with temperatures in the 70s and 80s. By May 25-26, most of New England experienced record-breaking temperatures in the 90s. A cold front clashed with the warm air on the night of May 26, resulting in lightning, hail, and winds gusts to 70 mph. The severe weather event brought only minimal precipitation. The month ended with dry soils in need of moisture. Total rainfall for May ranged from 1.37 to 2.94 inches, 0.36 to 2.74 inches below normal.

Fruit trees were mostly in full bloom stage at the beginning of May, 2 to 3 weeks ahead of normal due to the unusually warm weather during March and April. The heavy frosts in mid-May hit many orchards at full bloom and caused significant damage to New England's tree fruit crops. Berries that were irrigated were less prone to frost damage. Fruit growers were busy monitoring for pests and applying fungicides, pesticides, and insecticides. Farmers were active planting early season vegetables, and took advantage of dry conditions to begin planting fall vegetables, such as winter squash and pumpkins, at the end of the month. Vegetable growers also harvested asparagus, fiddleheads, greens, spinach, scallions, radishes, cucumbers, tomatoes, and rhubarb. Sweet corn planting had advanced beyond the halfway point by the end of May, on par with normal. Dry conditions and warm soils in May moved planting of field crops such as potatoes, oats, barley and field corn into high gear, and most crops were in the ground and emerged well ahead of schedule. By the end of May, potatoes in Massachusetts and Rhode Island were 100 percent planted and emerged, well ahead of previous year averages. Emergence of oats and barley in Maine was mostly complete at month's end. Shade tobacco transplants were all set out by the end of May. Broadleaf tobacco averaged 30 percent

transplanted, ahead of last year and normal. Warm and humid conditions early in the month accelerated crop growth for grasses, and some farmers took their first cutting in mid-May.

June: Weather conditions rarely deviated from what is expected of June, and average high temperatures ranged from the low 70s in northern latitudes to as high as 80 degrees in southern States. Low temperature averages ranged from the upper 40s to low 60s. The month began with heavy rain showers and thunderstorms accompanied by hail and damaging winds. The majority of the region was under a tornado watch or warning. Due to a very dry May, these series of storms were welcomed despite their intensity, as they left 1 to 3 inches of water throughout most of New England. The second week of June was considerably cooler, with daytime temperatures mostly in the 60s. Significant rain showers were present on June 12, but precipitation amounts varied widely. Average to below average temperatures continued through the first half of the next week, and northern latitudes reported nighttime temperatures in the 30s. Temperatures in the 80s arrived on June 18 and persisted through the first day of summer. A storm system moved into the region on June 24 and many areas reported severe weather. Areas hardest hit experienced torrential rain, hail, lightning, and wind gusts exceeding 70 mph. Temperatures were variable during the rest of the month, which ended dry and cool. Total rainfall for June ranged from 2.01 to 6.08 inches.

The strawberry harvest was underway at the beginning of June and the crop was 70 percent picked by month's end, well ahead of normal. Yields were reduced at some locations due to heavy frosts in May. Fruit trees were significantly damaged by the frosts, and heavy losses were reported in many orchard blocks throughout the region. Fruit growers were busy monitoring pest and crop development, applying cover sprays, and mowing orchard floors. Vegetable growers planted sweet corn, pumpkins, and other late season vegetables while harvesting a variety of early season vegetables. Sweet corn development ranged from 1 to 2 weeks ahead of schedule, with some early planted fields ready to pick at month's end. All other vegetables were reported in good condition. Maine potatoes were all planted by the first week of June. Field corn planting was wrapped up by late June, with development 1 to 2 weeks ahead of schedule. Tobacco transplants were all set out by the end of the month and crop specialists rated both broadleaf and shade crops in good to excellent condition. Hay and pasture growth was vigorous during most of June, with 80 percent and 20 percent of the first and second cuttings of hay baled by month's end, respectively. Pests and diseases were kept mostly in check thanks to preventive measures and dry conditions during the second half of June.

July: Weather conditions during the month were hot and sunny, but precipitation was variable. Average high temperatures ranged from the low to upper 80s and lows ranged from the upper 50s to upper 60s. The month began cool in the 60s and 70s and gradually warmed up by the holiday weekend when a major warm front brought record-breaking temperatures to all six States. Temperatures peaked in the 90s with some areas hitting three digits during July 5-7. The heat wave persisted until a cold front brought showers and thunderstorms on July 10. Warmer than average temperatures, mostly in the 80s, returned afterwards and persisted until mid-July. A storm system moved into the area on July 13, bringing anywhere from 0.10 to 2.09 inches of rain across New England. Scattered thunderstorms on July 19 left over an inch of precipitation in parts of the region. Severe weather made an appearance 2 days later, bringing funnel clouds, tornadoes, damaging winds, flash floods, and hail to some locations. The days following July 21 saw scattered rain showers and variable temperatures throughout the region. The last week of July began hot with temperatures in the 80s and 90s everywhere but the northernmost latitudes. A cold front entered the area on July 28, bringing cool, dry air to all of New England at month's end. Total rainfall for July ranged from 1.00 to 5.84 inches.

The strawberry harvest drew to a close by mid-July with some producers reporting yield losses due to frosts in May. Highbush blueberry harvest picked up its pace at the beginning of July and reached the halfway mark by month's end, ahead of last year and normal. Maine's wild blueberry harvest was underway the last week of July. Peach harvest was also underway the last week in July, with 20 percent picked by month's end. Orchardists were busy irrigating, monitoring for pests, applying cover sprays, and mowing orchard floors. Sweet corn appeared at farm stands during the first week of July and more than a third of the crop was harvested by month's end, well ahead of last year and normal. Vegetable growers also harvested beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, cucumbers, eggplant, greens, lettuce, peas, radishes, rhubarb, scallions, spinach, summer squash, tomatoes, and zucchini. By the end of July, field corn height ranged from 5 to 14 feet and showed signs of stress due to lack of moisture. Hay growth was vigorous during most of July and harvest continued significantly ahead of schedule; 65 percent of the second cutting was baled by month's end, with some farmers advancing to a third cutting. Tobacco harvest was underway in mid-July and remained ahead of schedule throughout the month. Irrigation was in full force to combat dry conditions. Farmers also spread manure, applied fertilizer, fungicides and insecticides, and scouted for pests and diseases.

August: Weather conditions were generally dry in August, with most precipitation falling near the end of the month. Average high temperatures ranged from the mid-70s to mid-80s and lows ranged from the lower 50s to mid-60s. The month began with rainy conditions in northern States, particularly in northern New Hampshire and Vermont. Temperatures climbed until a cold front moved into the

area on August 4, bringing light to moderate precipitation to most of New England. Coos County reported over 4inches of rain by August 5. The cold front lowered temperatures in northern States, with many areas reporting nighttime temperatures in the 40s. A storm front passed through New England on August 9, bringing light precipitation to southern States and heavier showers to parts of northern New England. Afterwards, weather conditions were increasingly dry until a cold front crossed New England on August 22. The weather system brought 0.87 to 4.48 inches of rain by August 25. Weather conditions during this time period were also windy and cool, with daytime temperatures in the 60s and 70s. Temperatures began climbing back up during late-August with record-breaking temperatures, as high as the mid-90s, marking the end of the month. Total rainfall for August ranged from 0.99 to 6.52 inches.

Maine's wild blueberry harvest was complete in most areas by month's end. Yields varied greatly due to location and extent of frost damage. Highbush blueberry harvest was active early in August and neared completion by the end of the month. Peach and fall raspberry harvests were in full swing all month. Apples and pears were ready to pick in early August, and harvest remained ahead of schedule by month's end. Cranberry bogs benefited from late-August showers. Sweet corn harvest moved into high gear during the month, and good yields were reported where irrigation was available. Vegetable growers harvested beans, beets, cole crops, cucumbers, greens, peas, pumpkins, radishes, squash, tomatoes, peppers, zucchini, and other vegetables. The prolonged hot and dry conditions resulted in vegetable crop losses at some locations. Field corn matured and dried down early due to lack of moisture, allowing early chopping at some locations. Potato harvest was underway at the beginning of August, with vines dying back early due to lack of moisture. Tobacco harvest was active during the month, and neared completion by the end of August. Dry weather moved the third cutting of hay to the halfway mark by month's end, with some growers preparing for a fourth cut, unusual for August. Maine oats and barley were 60 and 70 percent harvested by month's end, respectively. Farmers irrigated fields, spread manure and fertilizer, and scouted and sprayed for pests.

September: Weather conditions were generally mild with scattered showered darting across New England throughout September. Average high temperatures ranged from the upper 60s to upper 70s and lows ranged from the upper 40s to lower 60s. The month began with record high temperatures in the 80s and 90s at some locations. On the evening of September 3, Hurricane Earl threatened Cape Cod and Nantucket. The damage was minimal thanks to the cool ocean waters forcing Earl to downgrade to a tropical storm by the time it reached the New England coastline. Precipitation ranged from zero to over 1.50 inches. Sunny to partly cloudy conditions continued until September 7, when scattered showers moved across the region. Pleasant conditions returned Thursday and lasted for the rest of that week. Cool and cloudy weather arrived the third week in September. Temperature highs ranged from lower 60s to lower 70s. The sun returned on September 20 and temperatures ranged from 60s and 70s and later turned warmer with highs in the 70s and 80s. Cooler, autumn weather returned for the remainder of the month with temperatures staying in the lower to mid 70s.

Wild blueberry and highbush blueberry growers wrapped up harvest activities around Labor Day. Apple, pear, and peach harvests were active throughout the month. Peaches were all picked by the end of the month, on schedule with normal. The Massachusetts cranberry harvest was underway in mid-September, slightly ahead of normal due to the early start to the growing season and fruit quality concerns. Vegetable growers harvested beans, beets, broccoli, brussel sprouts, cabbage, cucumbers, greens, kale, onions, peppers, pumpkins, radishes, sweet corn, squash, tomatoes, and zucchini. Powdery mildew killed pumpkin vines at some locations. Farmers noted an increase in the number of squash vine borer insects and cucumber beetles adversely affecting pumpkins and winter squash in New Hampshire. In Vermont, there were reports of cabbage, onion, beet, turnip, and lettuce crop losses due to the extremely dry conditions. Irrigation was in full force, if available. Oats and barley were all harvested by late September. Silage corn yields suffered at some locations due to the prolonged lack of moisture during the growing season. Potato harvest was active during the month in the major growing areas. Maine potato harvest reached the halfway mark at month's end, well ahead of last year and normal. Potato condition was rated good to excellent north and mostly good to fair south.

October: The month began with cloudy conditions and temperatures in the 50s and 60s. Showers on October 5 and 6 turned heavy for some in Vermont, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts. Many farmers reported frost during the first weekend. Temperatures rose to the mid 60s and low 70s in southern States and mid 50s to low 60s in northern States during the second week. Midweek turned cloudy with seasonal temperatures. Heavy rains returned at the end of the week in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont, with accumulations of up to 2 inches. The weekend dried out for most, with temperatures in the mid 50s to low 60s. Nighttime temperatures ranged from the mid 20s to low 50s. The third week in October was less eventful with seasonal temperatures and a few light scattered showers on Thursday and Sunday. The last week started with temperatures in the 60s and 70s that later dropped below average to finish the month.

Sales from Pick-Your-Own operations and farm stands were booming Columbus Day weekend thanks to sunny skies and mild temperatures. Apple growers harvested Cortland, Macoun, Golden Delicious, Honeycrisp, Mutsu, Empire, and Northern Spy varieties. Harvest was winding down for most producers by mid-October, with the last of the apples picked by month's end. Silage corn growers had 20 percent of the crop left to harvest in early October

when wet conditions arrived. Rivers flooded into fields and left silt and mud, and limited field entry at many locations. Cranberry harvest was winding down by the end of the month, with less than optimum yields in some areas due to fruit rot and scald. Pumpkin sales were brisk as the month ended, and all growers were busy cleaning fields and preparing for winter.

November: Snow arrived in upper elevations November 4 and 5 while the rest of New England experienced light showers. Total precipitation for the week was 0.26 to 1.29 inches. Temperatures fell to the 30s to low 50s during the second week. Freezing rain and light showers persisted through November 9. The rest of the week was cloudy to partly cloudy with temperatures ranging from the upper 40s to low 60s. Nighttime temperatures got as low as the low 20s and low 40s. Total precipitation for the third week was 0.01 to 1.88 inches. The last week of the month continued with cloudy skies and scattered showers until the end of the week when snow fell in Vermont and Maine. By the end of the month, snow had accumulated over all of New England.

The last of the field corn crop was chopped by early November, on schedule with earlier years. The 2010 potato season also drew to a close, and growers harvested the remaining apples, cranberries, fall vegetables, and last cuts of hay. Farmers cleaned fields and equipment, applied manure, soil tested fields for next season, planted cover crops, and prepared for winter.

December: The month began with a rain and wind storm creating temperatures warmer than usual, with highs reaching the low 60s in southern States and the mid 50s in northern States. The storm system quickly passed, and the rest of the first week returned to seasonal conditions, with temperatures ranging from the low 20s in northern States to low 40s in southern States. The second week was mostly windy. Temperatures were cooler than average until late week when a storm system passed through the region, bringing rain and wind to lower elevations and snow to higher elevations and parts of Maine. This storm persisted into the beginning of the third week and brought torrential rains to the State of Maine. Between 6 and 8 inches fell, and ten Maine counties sustained damages from the storm. Aroostook and Washington counties were the most adversely impacted. The remainder of the week was drier, with temperatures average to below average throughout the region. The week of the 20th brought average to below average daytime temperatures and warmer than average nighttime temperatures throughout the northern States. The week was mostly dry, but turned stormy December 26. The system moved up the Eastern Seaboard to New England, and brought snow and strong winds that persisted until late December 27. The “Blizzard of 2010” brought over a foot of snow to many areas, with coastal areas of Massachusetts receiving over 18 inches. Wind speeds during the blizzard were highest in coastal areas, and 80 mph were recorded on Cape Cod, Massachusetts. Windgusts from 65 to 70 mph were recorded elsewhere along the coast, while inland wind gusts topped in the mid-30 mph range. As the storm left the region, cold air and high winds lingered until month’s end. Total precipitation for December ranged from as low as 2.46 inches in northern elevations of New Hampshire to 5.37 inches in northern Maine.