



New England Agricultural Statistics Service

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Crop Weather

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For week ending 9/30/01

Fall Temperatures Arrive

For the week ending September 30, 2001, there were 5.9 days available for fieldwork across New England. Pasture condition was rated as 11% very poor, 31% poor, 42% fair, 16% good, 0% excellent. Major farm activities included: liming and fertilizing fields; re-seeding pastures and hay fields; spreading manure; cutting hay and chopping haylage; and harvesting oats, barley, silage corn, potatoes, apples, peaches, pears, Fall raspberries, cranberries, sweet corn and other vegetables.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	-- Percent --		
	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
Topsoil Moisture			
Very Short	8	25	0
Short	48	44	11
Adequate	43	28	86
Surplus	1	3	3
Subsoil Moisture			
Very Short	33	40	0
Short	26	28	7
Adequate	41	29	91
Surplus	0	3	2

VEGETABLES: The harvest of sweet corn, pumpkins, tomatoes, peppers, winter squash and other vegetables continued last week. Frost killed off some vegetable crops in parts of the region. Pumpkin size has been reported as below average this year, but the crop is of good quality. Some sweet corn growers have completed harvest, others are not far behind. Farmers have been busy cleaning up harvested vegetable fields.

FRUIT: The harvest of apples, pears, cranberries and Fall raspberries continued last week. Peach and highbush blueberry harvests were completed by week's end. Heavy rains caused increase drop in apple orchards; the crop has been doing well at farm stands and pick-your-own operations. Water harvesting began for Massachusetts' cranberry crop; berry size has been reported as small this year.

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2001	2000	5-yr Avg	
Apples	65	60	60	Good/Fair
Peaches	100	100	99	Fair/Good
Pears	80	60	60	Poor/Fair
Cranberries, MA	20	10	15	Good/Fair
Blueberries				
Highbush	100	100	100	Fair/Good

FIELD CROPS: Hard frost hit northern New England last week and rain showers hampered harvest activities region wide. Fall is in the air as cool temperatures moved in and pumpkins, gourds, Indian corn, and other Fall decorations were hot items for sale at roadside stands. Pasture regrowth had been slow this year due to hot, dry conditions, but recent rains and cooler temperatures have helped speed things up. Potato harvest in Rhode Island is nearing completion; harvest in Maine and Massachusetts is close to normal. Maine oat and barley harvest is winding down. Silage harvest is well underway, with variable yields reported. Tobacco growers are beginning to take down leaves from the sheds. Both second and third crops of hay remain in fair to poor condition.

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2001	2000	5-yr Avg	
Potatoes				
Maine	55	60	50	Good
Mass	70	75	75	Good/Fair
Rhode Isl	95	70	75	Good/Excel
Oats, ME	95	80	90	Good
Barley, ME	95	85	90	Good
Silage Corn	70	35	45	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	99	95	95	Good/Fair
Dry Hay				
Second Cut	95	95	90	Fair/Poor
Third Cut	75	80	75	Fair/Poor

For the Week Ending Sunday, September 30, 2001

The 41 stations shown below are limited by space but are well distributed across the region.
All 86 stations appear on the Internet and in e-mail subscriptions.

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				CUM SINCE MAR 1 GROWI NG DEGREE DAYS				1-WEEK PRECIP			4-WEEK CUM PRECIP		
	-----				BASE-50F		BASE-60F		-----			-----		
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS
-----	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
MAI NE														
Augusta_ME	38	76	58	+4	2431	+398	1061	+315	1.78	+1.01	4	3.08	+0.17	10
Bangor	32	76	57	+4	2295	+442	946	+324	2.09	+1.32	4	3.28	+0.08	10
Bethel	30	77	56	+3	2036	+212	735	+139	2.31	+1.54	2	3.71	+0.59	8
Cari bou	29	73	55	+6	1900	+464	672	+294	2.00	+1.25	3	3.27	+0.07	9
Dover-Foxcroft	33	73	55	+4	1832	+255	609	+157	1.59	+0.68	2	2.49	-1.15	6
Frenchville	27	71	53	+4	1722	+388	562	+239	1.71	+0.91	3	3.29	-0.13	10
Houl ton	26	75	55	+6	1844	+344	660	+236	1.28	+0.51	2	2.07	-1.28	6
Kennebunkport	37	73	57	-2	1984	-333	731	-207	1.55	+0.78	4	3.35	+0.45	8
Moosehead	27	77	54	+4	1612	+308	491	+181	0.59	-0.24	1	1.47	-1.92	8
Portland_ME	41	74	59	+5	2257	+373	934	+297	1.75	+0.98	4	3.59	+0.70	10
NEW HAMPSHI RE														
Benton	30	72	53	+1	1921	+255	681	+205	1.67	+0.97	3	3.63	+0.69	9
Berlin_AG	30	72	55	+4	1957	+287	696	+199	0.97	+0.25	3	2.09	-0.96	8
Concord	29	78	57	+3	2406	+372	1060	+321	1.63	+0.99	3	3.06	+0.45	9
Di amond_Pond	29	68	50	+3	1352	+245	357	+152	1.12	+0.28	4	2.39	-1.33	9
Keene_AP	30	75	56	+0	2415	+128	1046	+132	0.71	+0.07	3	2.55	-0.23	9
North_Conway	37	73	56	+4	2336	+460	982	+349	1.43	+0.62	4	3.15	-0.05	10
Rochester	36	81	57	+2	2394	+201	1051	+200	1.06	+0.29	3	2.30	-0.69	8
VERMONT														
Burlington_VT	36	79	57	+3	2603	+441	1194	+353	0.37	-0.33	4	0.94	-2.12	6
Isl and_Pond	30	73	54	+4	1752	+382	576	+251	1.34	+0.64	2	2.57	-0.54	7
Montpelier	30	72	54	+2	1981	+285	746	+234	2.32	+1.69	6	3.03	+0.37	11
Pownal	35	73	54	+2	2051	+271	740	+188	2.11	+1.27	3	4.30	+0.78	8
Rochester	32	78	54	+1	1936	+251	685	+181	1.82	+0.98	4	3.35	-0.17	9
Rutl and_AG	31	76	53	-4	2069	-190	761	-131	1.33	+0.58	2	2.83	-0.47	6
Sutton	30	73	54	+5	1810	+432	608	+271	0.93	+0.22	2	1.97	-1.19	8
Townshend_Lake	35	77	54	-2	2141	-1	841	+19	2.89	+2.19	4	7.71	+4.67	13
MASSACHUSETTS														
Ashburnham	42	75	57	+4	2361	+520	990	+392	1.33	+0.65	3	3.49	+0.77	10
Boston	50	75	62	+2	2922	+245	1447	+238	0.80	+0.10	2	2.27	-0.57	7
Greenfi el d	38	82	58	-1	2569	+99	1173	+133	0.64	-0.13	3	3.78	+0.60	11
New_Bedford	43	76	62	+0	2649	-70	1202	-44	0.30	-0.42	4	2.68	-0.45	9
Oti s_AFB	46	75	63	+5	2633	+435	1219	+362	0.52	-0.32	2	1.63	-1.53	7
Plymouth	42	77	62	+5	2538	+290	1123	+227	0.34	-0.57	2	2.99	-0.83	10
Wal pol e	43	78	61	+5	2741	+493	1289	+402	0.32	-0.52	1	1.78	-1.67	6
Westover	39	77	59	-2	2778	-63	1321	-8	0.71	-0.06	3	2.51	-0.77	8
Worthi ngton	36	74	54	-2	1969	+145	699	+124	2.06	+1.22	3	6.32	+2.91	9
RHODE ISLAND														
Provi dence	47	76	62	+3	2923	+372	1430	+312	0.46	-0.31	3	3.87	+0.63	7
Woonsocket	42	85	62	+6	2891	+677	1432	+587	0.44	-0.40	2	1.96	-1.57	8
CONNECTI CUT														
Bri dgeport	49	78	63	+2	3054	+291	1535	+235	0.08	-0.62	2	1.67	-1.20	7
Hartford_AP	44	78	61	+3	2911	+203	1426	+195	0.45	-0.39	2	3.00	-0.53	8
Norfol k	41	76	59	+6	2327	+509	957	+384	2.53	+1.62	3	5.75	+1.92	8
Thomaston_Dam	39	79	58	+1	2487	+284	1086	+251	1.41	+0.50	4	4.84	+1.10	10
Wi lli manti c	42	79	61	+4	2858	+608	1365	+497	1.68	+0.77	2	3.62	-0.04	10

STATE WEATHER SUMMARY

For the Week Ending Sunday, September 30, 2001

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	26	79	56	+4	0.59	3.19
NH	23	86	54	+2	0.39	3.83
VT	28	79	54	+1	0.37	2.89
MA	33	82	60	+3	0.30	4.08
RI	42	85	62	+3	0.23	1.46
CT	38	80	60	+2	0.08	2.53

Prepared by AWIS, Inc.

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: Rains at the end of the week slowed silage harvest. Ears are poorly filled out because of summer's drought. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Corn silage harvest continues at a rapid pace. Vegetable harvest continues since frost has not shown up yet. Picking winter squash and pumpkins. Seeding winter rye for cover crop. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** A lovely Fall week for family fun in orchards. Pre-school and school groups exploring the land of apple and pumpkin production. Corn harvest continues, with yields from 7 tons (low) to 24 tons (high) per acre. Rye cover planted as chopping continues. Grain production okay. Spreading of semi-liquid plant food is ongoing. Chrysanthemums adding color to the changing Fall landscape. **Nancy Welsh/Nancy Lockman (FSA), New Haven:** Pear crop is way below average. Apples and pumpkins are being picked. Silage is being harvested between rains. Silage is good in some areas and poor in others.

MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook: Now we get rain! Some areas got as much as four inches. Growers were out of the fields for two to two-and-one-half days due to wet conditions. However, harvesting conditions were very good by the weekend. Crews are putting in long days to get this crop out of the ground. Potato yields continue to be very spotty, with some surprises and also some disappointments. Quality is very good. **Dee Potter (Ext), Northern Aroostook:** Potato harvest interrupted mid-week by rain. Frost is on the ground most mornings. Limited Fall pastures available. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Harvesting of potatoes is in full swing. The crop is looking good. Soybeans are maturing. Canola is all harvested. **Albert Dow (NRCS), Piscataquis:** A frost hit the last day of September. Grass growth has responded to the recent rain as much as could be expected for this late in the season. **Donna Lamb (Ext), Piscataquis:** Corn silage harvest is progressing. Widespread frosts came this weekend. Pastures are finally rebounding with the rain and cool temperatures. **Janet King/Jennifer Zweig (FSA), Somerset:** Somerset County still needs rain before Winter. Silage corn is being harvested. Gardens are finishing up. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** One good rainfall has helped settle topsoil. Frost on Saturday night was widespread. Corn silage harvest almost done. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Fall work on blueberry fields has begun. Silage corn yields are good. Two inches of rain fell during the week. **Michael Tardy (FSA), Androscoggin:** The silage corn harvest is almost complete. We've had reports that range from "awful" to "pretty good." Parts of the county appeared to have received enough rain to help corn grow; other parts received little, if any, rain. Those areas produced very few mature ears of corn for harvest. The apple crop looks pretty good. The season of growth is winding down. **Parker Rand (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Finally some decent rain, though not enough. Fall harvest is going well and the colors are beginning to show. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Frost has been heavy enough to finish most vegetable gardens. Corn silage production looks good in this area. We still need more ground water supplies. **Laura Rand (FSA), Oxford:** WOW! What a switch in weather! We had a couple of wet days, however, no real accumulation of water, just enough to make the grass green. Then later in the week Fall really set in with frosty nights! Farmers are busy with getting harvest activities wrapped up. This is Fryeburg Fair week and many are displaying livestock and giving the tractor a workout on the tractor pulls.

MASSACHUSETTS - Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire: Chopping corn. Cloudy, wet weather for making hay. Pumpkins being picked and trucked for selling, as well as all vegetables. Some moisture this week, may help, but is probably too late. No mud for chopping corn - it's great. No killing frosts yet! **Paul Russell (FSA), Southeast Massachusetts:** Cranberry growers have started harvest, and early varieties harvested for dry fruit have some quality problems. Yields have been normal to slightly below normal. Shellfish growers are having problems shipping their product to New York City because of the September 11th attacks, plus most shellfish is marketed through restaurants and that market is down. Vegetable growers are finishing up harvest with one of their better growing and marketing seasons. **Kip Graham (FSA), Worcester:** Silage harvesting moving along smoothly. Pumpkins and Winter vegetables at peak. Vegetable fields being cleaned up, preparing for cover crops. Fall weather crept up on us quickly. Still cutting hay where available. Some late sweet corn still standing and ready to be harvested. Apple picking continues. Peach, plum and blueberries nearing end. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: First water harvesting of red cranberries

in addition to continued dry harvesting. There has not been a single frost night that I know of to date, although there was a close call last week. Berries are coloring up very nicely. Size has been disappointing for the early varieties and it looks like the size will be small for the later varieties, also. There has been field rot in some deliveries. **David Rose (FSA), Bristol:** Most vegetable crops winding down. Demand for fresh sweet corn is over. Corn chopping in full swing. Despite cold and windy weather, corn mazes and hay rides were popular. **John Devine (FSA), Franklin:** Fall crop harvest continues in Franklin County. Most farms are in the process of concluding the season, but we haven't had a killing frost yet. Activities this week included picking squash, pumpkins, Indian corn, apples and peppers. This has also been a good week to harvest corn or bale hay. Tobacco farmers have started the final activity of "taking down" the crop after curing. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Fall harvest is in full swing. Tobacco damp this week caused many growers to take down tobacco. Cover crop applied to many harvested fields. Dairy farmers are applying manure to harvested corn silage fields. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** Still harvesting sweet corn, all other field crops are finished. Good weekend for farm sales; pumpkins are leading the charge now, with apples not far behind. Visited Los Angeles County, CA - farms, fields, soil and climate are just spectacular. Talk about agriculture!

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Bruce Clement (Ext), Cheshire: More rain this week stimulated grass growth and is helping to replenish ground water levels. Silage harvest continues. Smaller farms about done. Larger farms about 70 percent done. Yields are good on the river soils. Apple harvest progressing well. Nice weekend weather boosted sales. Pumpkins and other Fall crops being harvested. Pumpkin size is down. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Temperatures moving downward. Cooler, wetter weather trend with two hard frosts this weekend took out warm season vegetable crops. Field corn harvest proceeding at a good pace. Accompanied John Riff (FSA) in Coos and Carroll Counties to check corn yields. Seeing and recording some of the best field corn yields in some time. Hay still being taken where possible. Some farms will be looking at regrowth alfalfa after frost kill for additional feed. Nice pumpkin/winter squash crop this year. Many roadside displays to market (decorative plants) to "leaf-peepers" who are up here now. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Corn silage harvest continues between showers. Still dry despite rains. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Apple harvest is in full swing with most growers concentrating on second picking of McIntosh and Gala apples, working on Cortland, and starting to harvest late maturing varieties like Red Delicious, Macoun, Empire, etc. Fruit size is excellent, but bruising can be a problem. Heavy rain showers caused sizeable number of fruit drops. Fall raspberries and pear harvest continued with peach, plum, and blueberry harvest being completed. Pick-your-own apple operations had a wonderful weekend. Vegetables: Harvesting wide array of vegetables, including warm season vegetables like tomatoes and peppers. Harvesting Winter squash and pumpkins. Good demand for all vegetable continues. Farmers kept busy by starting to pull plastic mulch and tomato stakes, disking fields, cleaning up fields, and planting cover crops. Field Crops: Field corn harvest in full swing. Second and third cuts of hay and haylage continued between showers. Cover crops were being planted in harvested fields. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Continued picking apples, pumpkins, winter squash, some vegetables and Fall raspberries. Seeding pastures, hay fields, cover crops. Liming and fertilizing new fields. It rained on Friday for a few hours. Some nights have been quite cold - almost to the freezing point. **Pam Marvin (FSA), Sullivan:** Many fields getting a third cutting done. Rain last week has helped to keep the fields green. Apple picking is still very busy. Apples look a little smaller than normal, but overall the crop is good. There is an abundance of pumpkins around. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** We received slightly less than one inch of rain last week. Other areas received more or less, depending on the location. The showers have continued to help green things up; however, at this point, it is pretty much too late to do the crops any good. More rain is needed to help bring back the ground water. Surface water supplies are still very low, and dug wells and shallow drilled wells are still suffering.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: Sweet corn still being harvested, pumpkins look great along with hard squash. Field corn being chopped. Some hay being done. Lots of activity at farm stands. Cool temperatures and some wind in the latter part of the week. **Marilyn Soileau (FSA), All Counties:** Heavy overnight rains on several evenings have caused ready-to-pick apples to fall from the trees. This has been a

devastating development after the Spring frost our producers endured at blossom time. The sunny weekend weather saw heavy activity at farm stands throughout the state. Corn silage and apple harvest continues. Cider making is underway, as an assortment of apple varieties are now available. Winter vegetable crops are also being harvested at this time.

VERMONT - John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille: Widespread killing frost occurred on the weekend. In most places it was much later than normal. Corn silage harvest seems to be ahead of average. Yields were good, but highly variable. Good weather conditions for third cut. Pumpkin harvest is much better than last year. **Bill Snow (Ext), Orange:** Received three inches of rain during the week, which helped to restore water supplies. Some wells that had gone dry started running again. Hauling water gets old fast. No major frosts yet, just light frosts. Looks like real nice color this Fall. Could be peak this coming weekend. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Most of the larger corn growers have finished harvesting. Reported yields have ranged from 16-25 tons per acre. Landowners are finishing third cut hay. Most third cut is light. Two straight nights of killing frost has all but ended the growing season. Rain is still needed to revive some landowners' springs. **Lynette Hamilton (FSA), Windham:** Silage corn cutting is slowing down, and as you drive around the County you see more of those long white sausages making

an imprint on today's farm scene. Apple picking is in full swing with good production. The fields have an orange tinge with the pumpkins ready to be harvested. Fall pastures are turning green, with new growth from the past week's rain and cooler temperatures. **Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Corn silage harvest nearly complete, some primary tillage with chisel and moldboard plows. Generally good yields for corn crop, ranging to areas with poor to disaster yields. Continued spreading manure on corn stubble fields and third cut hay fields. Third cut hay completed, some excellent fourth cut alfalfa harvested. This year's new-seeded alfalfa and grass fields have good growth. Pasture slow to regrow, but better growth with the cooler nights and rain showers. Things look better than expected for the season. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Widespread frost expected tonight (Sat night). Got 1.7 inches of rain this week, very welcome. Farmers concentrating on getting corn silage in. Quite a bit of haying, also. Others working on spreading manure. Foliage getting very nice. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Squash and pumpkins all harvested and in storage. 75 percent of potatoes dug. Great crop. Still picking good sweet corn. Mother Nature has blessed us with no hard frost. Dry beans are all pulled and are in the barn waiting for cold weather to flail out. Nice crop of mature popcorn ready to pick. Lots of gourds, Indian corn and Fall decorating material. Some real fancy and unusual gourds.

September 2001 Crop Weather Summary: Dry conditions that began in mid-July persisted into early September. The extended period without rain reduced yields on most crops and diminished ground water supplies at many locations. Regrowth of third crop hay was minimal due to lack of moisture, and by month's end, hay crops were rated as fair or poor across the six state region. Silage corn harvest proceeded at a fast pace during September; 70 percent of the crop was chopped at month's end, compared with 35 percent last year and 45 percent normal. Corn yields were reduced significantly by drought conditions and July's armyworm attack. Rains arrived later in September, but came too late to help corn crop growth in the southernmost States. Potato harvest had advanced past the halfway mark in Maine by the end of September, roughly on schedule with last year and normal. Yields in Maine were variable depending on irrigation availability or where showers fell during the Summer, but quality remained good or excellent at most locations. Farmers harvested the first 25 percent of the potato crop under extremely dry conditions; rainfall later in the month helped soften up the soil somewhat to reduce bruising. Maine oat and barley harvest was nearing completion by month's end, and both crops were reported in good condition. Shade tobacco harvest was wrapped up by mid-month, and farmers in the Connecticut River Valley completed broadleaf tobacco harvest a week later. Tree fruit harvest was active during the month; apple and pear progress had passed the midway point by the last week in September, and peach harvest was complete by the end of the month. Fruit size was below average due to the prolonged dry conditions. Some Massachusetts growers began harvesting white cranberries in early September for the production of a new white cranberry juice; regular harvest got underway around mid-month. The last of Maine's 2001 wild blueberries were harvested the first few days in September; yields were much lower than expected on non-irrigated fields. New England's highbush blueberry crop was all harvested by month's end, with condition ratings from fair to good. As of September 30, temperatures had dipped below freezing in northern and low lying areas, but most of southern New England awaited the first killing frost.

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