



# New England Agricultural Statistics Service

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

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## Crop Weather

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October 9, 2001 - 4 pm

For week ending 10/7/01

### Harvest Season Winding Down

For the week ending October 7, 2001, there were 6.0 days available for fieldwork across New England. Pasture condition was rated as 11% very poor, 25% poor, 47% fair, 17% good, 0% excellent. Major farm activities included: liming and fertilizing fields; re-seeding pastures and hay fields; spreading manure; cutting hay and chopping haylage; mowing blueberry fields; and harvesting oats, barley, silage corn, potatoes, apples, pears, fall raspberries, cranberries, sweet corn and other vegetables.

#### FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2001	2000	5-yr Avg	
Apples	75	75	75	Good/Fair
Pears	90	70	75	Poor/Fair
Cranberries, MA	50	30	35	Good/Fair

#### SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	-- Percent --		
	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
<b>Topsoil Moisture</b>			
Very Short	6	8	0
Short	45	48	5
Adequate	48	43	83
Surplus	1	1	12
<b>Subsoil Moisture</b>			
Very Short	27	33	0
Short	28	26	7
Adequate	44	41	88
Surplus	1	0	5

**FIELD CROPS:** Harvest activities are winding down in New England as cool fall temperatures set in. Farmers were busy preparing fields for the winter last week and remained on the lookout for frost. Potato harvest is well underway in the three reporting States, and crop conditions range from fair to excellent. Silage harvest proceeded at a rapid pace due to the dry weather. Tobacco growers reported excellent curing conditions this season, and much of the crop is ready for packing.

#### FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2001	2000	5-yr Avg	
Potatoes				
Maine	90	80	75	Good/Excel
Mass	80	90	85	Good/Fair
Rhode Isl	95	85	85	Good
Oats, ME	99	95	95	Good
Barley, ME	99	95	95	Good/Fair
Silage Corn	85	55	65	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	99	100	99	Good/Fair
Dry Hay				
Second Cut	95	95	95	Fair/Poor
Third Cut	80	85	80	Fair/Poor

**VEGETABLES:** Farmers continued their harvest of sweet corn, pumpkins, carrots, cabbage, tomatoes, peppers, winter squash and other vegetables. Frost hit most mornings last week, putting an end to some vegetable crops. Farmers continued to clean up harvested vegetable fields last week. Roadside stands did well over the holiday weekend.

**FRUIT:** The harvest of late maturing apple varieties was in full swing during the week. Pear harvest was nearing the end, and the crop remains in poor to fair condition. The harvest of Massachusetts' cranberry crop had reached the half-way mark by week's end, well ahead of last year and normal; some instances of fruit rot have been reported.

For the Week Ending Sunday, October 7, 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 GROWING DEGREE DAYS				1-WEEK PRECIP			4-WEEK CUM PRECIP		
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	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS
<b>MAINE</b>														
Augusta_ME	34	81	59	+7	2496	+434	1076	+330	0.03	-0.74	1	2.76	-0.22	9
Bangor	30	78	56	+4	2340	+463	952	+330	0.09	-0.64	1	2.85	-0.27	9
Bethel	30	80	56	+6	2082	+237	741	+145	0.00	-0.77	0	3.57	+0.49	7
Cari bou	33	77	53	+6	1928	+484	675	+297	0.34	-0.36	3	3.37	+0.31	11
Dover-Foxcroft	32	77	52	+5	1855	+266	609	+157	0.15	-0.69	1	2.19	-1.38	6
Frenchville	32	70	51	+6	1741	+400	562	+239	0.71	-0.06	3	3.46	+0.18	12
Houlton	31	78	53	+6	1870	+361	662	+238	0.22	-0.51	1	1.69	-1.48	6
Livermore_Falls	27	82	54	+6	2192	+635	878	+449	0.11	-0.70	1	2.26	-1.00	9
Moosehead	29	80	52	+5	1634	+321	494	+184	0.21	-0.56	1	1.45	-1.84	8
Portland_ME	38	80	59	+7	2319	+409	951	+314	0.06	-0.71	1	3.50	+0.54	10
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>														
Benton	29	77	55	+5	1963	+278	687	+211	0.12	-0.58	1	3.70	+0.85	9
Berlin_AG	31	78	54	+6	1993	+307	700	+203	0.15	-0.61	1	2.13	-0.85	8
Concord	33	82	58	+7	2464	+403	1078	+339	0.04	-0.64	1	2.94	+0.35	9
Diamond_Pond	30	73	52	+7	1376	+262	358	+153	0.36	-0.48	2	2.72	-0.82	10
Keene_AP	32	81	58	+5	2472	+149	1059	+143	0.13	-0.56	1	2.46	-0.26	9
North_Conway	34	79	55	+5	2376	+480	987	+354	0.06	-0.78	1	3.04	-0.16	10
Rochester	35	79	57	+3	2444	+217	1062	+210	0.13	-0.71	1	2.33	-0.75	8
<b>VERMONT</b>														
Burlington_VT	36	79	59	+8	2665	+475	1210	+369	0.22	-0.43	1	0.88	-1.99	6
Island_Pond	31	76	54	+7	1787	+403	581	+256	0.30	-0.40	2	2.72	-0.21	8
Montpelier	34	76	56	+7	2028	+312	755	+243	0.14	-0.49	2	2.99	+0.43	12
Pownal	35	79	57	+7	2100	+296	750	+198	0.15	-0.67	1	4.33	+0.90	8
Rochester	32	78	57	+7	1983	+275	692	+188	0.30	-0.54	1	3.45	+0.03	9
Rutland_AG	33	77	56	+2	2113	-183	768	-131	0.15	-0.55	1	2.62	-0.47	6
Sutton	31	79	55	+9	1855	+466	612	+275	0.30	-0.40	1	2.24	-0.74	8
Townshend_Lake	35	78	57	+5	2193	+19	849	+26	0.90	+0.20	3	8.28	+5.36	15
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>														
Ashburnham	35	80	57	+7	2416	+552	1005	+407	0.11	-0.59	1	3.51	+0.79	10
Boston	45	83	64	+6	3020	+282	1488	+267	0.05	-0.65	1	2.22	-0.58	7
Greenfield	35	85	59	+3	2630	+113	1190	+143	0.14	-0.63	1	3.65	+0.54	10
New_Bedford	38	77	61	+2	2725	-62	1229	-32	0.42	-0.29	4	3.08	+0.09	11
Otis_AFB	41	75	62	+6	2715	+471	1248	+384	0.12	-0.71	2	1.72	-1.50	8
Plymouth	36	80	61	+6	2616	+325	1153	+250	0.08	-0.83	2	2.76	-0.99	8
Walpole	36	82	59	+6	2809	+524	1311	+417	0.28	-0.56	2	1.98	-1.40	7
Westover	34	81	59	+2	2845	-54	1347	+6	0.25	-0.53	2	2.74	-0.48	9
Worthington	33	78	56	+5	2017	+165	707	+132	0.25	-0.55	1	6.48	+3.16	9
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>														
Providence	41	80	61	+4	3003	+397	1460	+332	0.31	-0.46	3	4.12	+0.95	9
Woonsocket	35	85	59	+6	2956	+707	1453	+607	0.23	-0.61	3	2.14	-1.32	10
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>														
Bridgeport	44	78	62	+3	3141	+310	1569	+253	1.05	+0.36	3	2.70	-0.14	9
Hartford_AP	38	81	60	+4	2986	+229	1455	+217	0.27	-0.56	3	3.26	-0.19	10
Norfolk	37	75	58	+8	2388	+545	971	+398	0.48	-0.40	2	6.23	+2.51	10
Thomaston_Dam	32	77	56	+1	2528	+284	1092	+250	0.75	-0.14	3	5.57	+1.92	12
Willimantic	36	81	59	+4	2921	+629	1386	+511	0.89	-0.02	4	4.38	+0.72	12

**STATE WEATHER SUMMARY**  
For the Week Ending Sunday, October 7, 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.

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	27	82	54	+5	0.00	0.71
NH	18	82	55	+5	0.00	0.81
VT	26	83	55	+6	0.00	1.26
MA	30	85	60	+5	0.00	1.16
RI	35	85	60	+4	0.23	0.87
CT	32	81	59	+3	0.27	1.88

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**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:** Field corn harvest is progressing well. Heavy frosts hit at the end of the week. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Killing frost over the holiday weekend finished many crops. Good week for making dry hay. Silage harvest should be complete this next week for most. Pulling plastic mulch from fields and sowing cover crop. Apple harvest continues. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Cold air has moved in and hues of gold, brown and red are cascading across the green landscape. Corn harvest still in a frenzied pace. Apple harvest in full swing with many holiday weekend activities. Vegetables limited to fall squash, pumpkins and such. Cover crop is growing well in early harvested fields. Busy time of year. Lots to do before winter's quiet slips over the fields. **Nancy Welsh/Karen Lockman (FSA), New Haven:** Weather conditions have been extreme. Severe winds and downpours on Saturday. Frost has hit and hurt some pumpkin fields. Most silage corn has been harvested. Farmers harvesting broccoli, cauliflower and winter squash. Everything looks good. **Joyce Meader (Ext), Windham:** The alfalfa is being cut for the fourth time; great year for deep rooted legumes. Frost last night will not be good for unharvested corn that was drying down too much already. Could use some additional moisture in the piles. Harvest operations were held up in September when overnight delivery of chopper parts was eliminated. Still trying to catch up??

**MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook:** Potato harvest starting to wind down, with news of certain growers finishing every day. Some frosty mornings and rain showers did little to slow harvesting progress. Ground was so dry that rain did not create any soft spots in fields. Late varieties of potatoes continue to yield better than expected. Lime being applied to fields. **Dee Potter (Ext), Northern Aroostook:** Many farms are finishing potato harvest. Other field activities include rock picking and contour plowing. Frosts most mornings. Limited pastures for grazing. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Harvesting of potatoes continues. This should be complete by the end of the week if weather cooperates. We've had some frosty mornings lately. Ground tillage is being done. Crops looking good. **Steve London (Ext), Southern Aroostook:** Weather has been pretty good. Getting some frost that is delaying harvest by a couple hours each morning. No killing frost yet. **Janet King/Jennifer Zweig (FSA), Somerset:** Silage corn is still being harvested. Apples, pumpkins and squash are finishing up for the year. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Corn harvest is almost complete. Apple harvest is also nearing the end. One day of rain, but soil and subsoil are still powder dry. Some fall tillage has made for very dusty conditions! We are about 10 inches below normal for rainfall. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Mowing has begun on blueberry fields. Only a trace of rain fell during the week. Burning of blueberry fields by some growers is on hold due to the extreme drought conditions and fire danger. **Michael Tardy (FSA), Androscoggin:** The season is winding down. The cold weather is creeping in; soon the deep frost will take care of any remaining crops. The year has been a difficult one: armyworms, drought. Farmers just keep going. **Parker Rand (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Fall harvest is winding down. Slight frost has been reported, with more predicted for the weekend. The foliage might be at its peak in this area. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Fall is upon us. Grain, corn and soybeans left to harvest here. Time to spread manure to clean out storage for winter. We still need more ground water.

**MASSACHUSETTS - Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire:** Chopping silage and making hay. Waiting for a good killing frost. Has gotten down to 29 degrees five times. Some fruit seems to be a little small. **Paul Russell (FSA), Southeast Massachusetts:** Cranberry harvest is in full swing with average yields and poor quality. Many growers are having truck loads of fruit rejected because of poor quality. Growers start harvesting their late varieties this week. Vegetable harvest is complete, and growers are cleaning up fields and planting cover crops. Shellfish harvest is winding

down as water temperatures decline. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Peak two weeks of harvest. Good weather for dry harvesting. Busy week for fresh fruit packing for the Canadian Thanksgiving. Some reported instances of fruit rot at the handlers. Should be a vicious night for frost 10/8. **David Rose (FSA), Bristol:** A mostly sunny week allowed corn chopping to continue at a fast pace. Farm stands did a good business over the long weekend. Some second and third cutting hay made. Freezing conditions on the nights of 10/7 and 10/8 (28 degrees) have finished off summer vegetables. **John Devine (FSA), Franklin:** There's frost on the pumpkins this morning (10/9), with temperatures in the mid-20's. The major activities this week have been rye seeding and manure spreading. The potato harvest is winding down, with good yields reported on most farms. Much of the broadleaf and shade tobacco is cured and ready for the final packing process. Dry conditions persist with wells and ponds drying up on some farms in Franklin County. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Harvesting apples, potatoes, cabbage and carrots. Cover crop applied to many harvested fields. Dairy farmers are applying manure to harvested corn silage fields.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE - Bruce Clement (Ext), Cheshire:** Hard frost on the evening of 10/8 ended the growing season. Silage harvest winding down. Some hay and haylage harvesting going on. Apple harvest continues; crop is very good. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Corn harvest finishing. Spotty frosts, but still very little rain. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Apple harvest is in full swing with most growers concentrating on strip picking McIntosh and Cortland. Continued harvesting late maturing varieties like Red Delicious, Macoun, Empire, etc. Fruit size is excellent, but bruising can be a problem. Fall raspberries are complete where frost killed off canes, and pear harvest is winding down. Pick-your-own apple operations had a wonderful weekend. Vegetables: Harvesting wide array of vegetables, including warm season vegetables like tomatoes, peppers, etc. Some have been completed because a killing frost occurred over the weekend in several locations. Harvesting Winter squash and pumpkins. Good demand for all vegetables continues. Farmers kept busy by starting to pull plastic mulch and tomato stakes, discing fields, cleaning up fields and planting cover crops. Field Crops: Field corn harvest in full swing. Cover crops were being planted in harvested fields. **David Seavey (Ext), Merrimack:** Some alfalfa hay cut. Cortland and Delicious apples being harvested. Fall raspberries are almost finished. Late hay land seedings being made. Winter rye being seeded. Squash and pumpkin harvest continues. Some rain, but not enough. Most field corn has been harvested. Silage corn moisture is low and overall yield is low due to lack of rain. **Pam Marvin (FSA), Sullivan:** Winter rye being applied to harvested fields. Silage corn harvest about 85% done. Apple harvesting starting to wind down. Winter squash and pumpkins are still being harvested. Late cutting of hay still going on. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** Drought conditions still persist. Less than a tenth of an inch of rain was received last week. Crops are pretty much done. We have had a good frost.

**RHODE ISLAND - Marilu Soileau (FSA), All Counties:** Farm stands were very busy with hardy mum sales going strong, as well as the symbols of the season: cider, pumpkins, corn stalks, gourds and apples. Corn chopping continues. Corn mazes and pumpkin "scary nights" are extremely popular at the farms.

**VERMONT - John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille:** Conditions for corn silage harvest have been excellent so far. Many were busy harvesting third cut grass silage. Manure being spread to make space for winter. Rain on weekend was helpful, but not enough to replenish shallow water supplies. **Bill Snow (Ext), Orange:** Corn silage crop was harvested with hardly any frost damage. However, that changed this a.m. with a cold blast and snow flurries. Still receiving reports of water shortages on dairy farms with new wells being driven. Some farms already know they don't have enough

feed for the winter and are looking without much success. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Most all crop harvest is complete. Landowners are applying manure. Orleans County received a trace to up to 12" of snow on Sunday night. Corn yields reported so far indicate a normal year of 18-22 tons/acre. **Lynette Hamilton (FSA), Windham:** Apple season is coming to an end with just a few late varieties left to pick. Corn harvesting will be done this week with only a few acres of picking corn still standing. Fall manure spreading and liming going on. Winter rye cover crop started quickly with last week's warm temperatures. **Richard Noel (FSA), Grand Isle/Franklin:** Boy, what a wild weekend for weather in Franklin County; it rained .50 to .75 in., snowed 1 to 6 in., and

Tuesday morning (10/9) we woke to a killing frost! Crops are almost all harvested, corn is being combined, much tillage work is being done, and some 4th crop has been taken on some farms. Ground is extremely dry and hard to do tillage work. Tillage tools have difficulty staying in the ground on some soils! We need some moisture before winter because ground water is very low! **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Less than a quarter-inch of rain this week. Additional homes continue to run out of water. Many farms are hauling water. One farmer who relies on pastures said that in a normal year, pasture supplies the equivalent of 4 full months of pasture on his farm; this year the pasture supplied only 2 full months. He purchases forages, so he has an unusual set of data.

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