



New England Agricultural Statistics Service

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United States Department of Agriculture

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Crop Weather

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October 14, 2003 - 4 pm

For week ending 10/12/03

Warm, Dry Conditions Prevail

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending October 12, 2003, there were 6 days available for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture was rated 0% very short, 2% short, 73% adequate, 25% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 0% very short, 3% short, 90% adequate, 7% surplus. Pasture condition was rated as 0% very poor, 16% poor, 45% fair, 29% good, 10% excellent. Mild temperatures mixed with warm, dry weather prevailed for much of the region. Vegetable harvest continued at a rapid pace. Major farm activities included: chopping haylage and making dry hay; harvesting potatoes, small grains, corn silage, apples, pears, cranberries and vegetables; finishing peach harvest; disking fields; spreading manure; applying lime; planting cover crops; monitoring fields; performing general farm maintenance.

FRUIT: Peach harvest finished during the week while apple and pear harvest continued to make gains. Sales at local orchards, farm stands and farmer markets have been outstanding. Cranberry harvest climbed to 65%, slightly above last year and the five year average.

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2003	2002	5-yr Avg	
Apples	85	75	80	Good/Fair
Peaches	100	100	100	Good/Fair
Pears	75	75	80	Good/Fair
Cranberries, MA	65	60	60	Good

VEGETABLES: Harvesting continued for brussel sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, eggplant, kale, lettuce, peppers, pumpkins, squash, tomatoes, zucchini and other vegetables. Sweet corn harvest winding down.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil Moisture			
Very Short	0	0	5
Short	2	3	18
Adequate	73	68	74
Surplus	25	29	3
Subsoil Moisture			
Very Short	0	0	9
Short	3	4	36
Adequate	90	88	55
Surplus	7	8	0

FIELD CROPS: Warm days and dry conditions allowed farmers to harvest crops at a rapid pace. The minimal rainfall allowed fields to dry out. Some farmers are thinking about a fourth cutting of hay. Silage corn harvest progressed to 80% complete. If weather conditions continue as is, harvest may be completed by weeks end. Potato harvest in Maine and Massachusetts made significant advances during the week and the dry conditions allowed Maine farmers to finish small grain harvest.

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2003	2002	5-yr Avg	
Barley, ME	100	100	100	Good/Fair
Oats, ME	99	100	99	Good/Fair
Potatoes				
Maine	90	95	90	Good/Excellent
Mass	70	80	85	Good/Fair
Silage Corn	80	80	80	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	99	99	100	Good
Dry Hay				
Second Cut	99	100	99	Good/Fair
Third Cut	85	90	85	Good/Excellent

For the Week Ending Sunday, October 12, 2003

All 86 stations appear on the Internet and in e-mail subscriptions.
Due to space restrictions, only 41 stations appear below. These stations are well distributed across the region.

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 INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL		DFN	DAYS
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN				INCHES	DFN		
MAINE															
Augusta_State_A	34	74	52	+2	2236	+161	903	+157	0.00	-0.82	0	6.30	+3.22	14	
Bangor_Intl_Arp	32	77	51	+2	2207	+319	890	+268	0.01	-0.69	1	5.61	+2.59	13	
Bethel	27	77	51	+2	1938	+83	681	+85	0.00	-0.82	0	5.17	+2.04	9	
Caribou_Municip	28	76	48	+3	1767	+319	622	+244	0.04	-0.66	2	2.33	-0.63	14	
Dover-Foxcroft	29	75	49	+2	1613	+19	506	+54	0.14	-0.68	2	4.40	+0.90	14	
Frenchville	29	75	48	+4	1622	+279	527	+204	0.01	-0.74	1	3.20	+0.02	11	
Houlton	27	76	49	+3	1843	+329	670	+246	0.04	-0.66	2	3.07	+0.00	14	
Livermore_Falls	25	77	49	+2	1992	+430	769	+340	0.00	-0.84	0	4.86	+1.60	11	
Moosehead	27	77	48	+3	1505	+188	470	+160	0.03	-0.72	2	5.14	+1.93	12	
Portland_ME	30	71	51	+1	2188	+266	862	+225	0.00	-0.80	0	3.71	+0.67	8	
NEW HAMPSHIRE															
Benton	28	75	50	+2	1855	+160	643	+167	0.00	-0.70	0	4.03	+1.23	10	
Berlin_AG	28	76	50	+4	1918	+225	680	+183	0.11	-0.66	1	4.28	+1.30	9	
Concord	28	78	53	+3	2483	+410	1089	+350	0.00	-0.70	0	4.12	+1.49	14	
Diamond_Pond	28	72	46	+3	1341	+223	388	+183	0.17	-0.67	1	4.63	+1.18	16	
Keene_AP	28	79	52	-1	2374	+33	983	+67	0.00	-0.70	0	4.35	+1.63	11	
North_Conway	27	74	50	+2	2156	+251	849	+216	0.01	-0.86	1	4.21	+0.94	12	
Rochester	28	72	50	-3	2199	-46	873	+21	0.00	-0.89	0	6.04	+2.81	9	
VERMONT															
Burlington_Intl	32	77	54	+4	2641	+437	1174	+333	0.06	-0.57	1	3.61	+0.85	13	
Island_Pond	28	78	49	+4	1781	+392	608	+283	0.08	-0.62	1	3.33	+0.48	15	
Montpelier	28	75	50	+3	1953	+227	697	+185	0.00	-0.63	0	4.02	+1.50	13	
Pownal	30	76	52	+4	2065	+250	710	+158	0.08	-0.74	1	5.60	+2.22	15	
Rochester	31	80	52	+4	2001	+283	706	+202	0.23	-0.61	1	5.43	+2.06	11	
Rutland_AG	28	76	50	-3	2123	-192	801	-99	0.00	-0.66	0	3.26	+0.31	11	
Sutton	27	78	50	+6	1784	+390	589	+252	0.13	-0.62	1	4.27	+1.32	15	
Townshend_Lake	31	74	51	+1	2185	-5	833	+10	0.24	-0.46	1	6.26	+3.39	14	
MASSACHUSETTS															
Ashburnham	29	75	52	+3	2295	+421	920	+322	0.04	-0.66	1	4.79	+2.07	15	
Boston/Logan_In	41	74	57	+0	2866	+94	1367	+141	0.00	-0.70	0	2.03	-0.77	7	
Greenfield	32	76	52	-2	2503	-38	1053	+2	0.07	-0.70	1	8.17	+5.09	15	
New_Bedford	34	73	55	-4	2587	-238	1154	-112	0.01	-0.75	1	2.36	-0.61	11	
Otis_AFB	36	70	56	+2	2600	+332	1188	+323	0.10	-0.74	1	1.20	-2.07	7	
Plymouth	29	71	53	-2	2480	+166	1075	+172	0.09	-0.77	2	1.70	-1.95	14	
Walpole	30	74	53	+1	2610	+306	1171	+277	0.01	-0.83	1	2.54	-0.82	8	
Chicopee/Westov	28	75	53	-4	2614	-318	1149	-197	0.00	-0.77	0	8.79	+5.62	14	
Worthington	28	76	51	+1	1976	+109	678	+103	0.00	-0.79	0	6.76	+3.47	13	
RHODE ISLAND															
Providence	36	74	56	+1	2856	+220	1350	+217	0.01	-0.77	1	1.20	-1.93	10	
Woonsocket	32	75	54	+3	2583	+317	1141	+295	0.00	-0.89	0	3.35	-0.11	9	
CONNECTICUT															
Bridgeport/Siko	40	74	58	+1	2971	+102	1446	+123	0.03	-0.62	1	2.46	-0.29	8	
Hartford/Bradle	31	76	54	-1	2891	+108	1356	+114	0.02	-0.76	1	8.19	+4.84	14	
Norfolk	32	70	51	+2	2079	+224	742	+169	0.02	-0.82	1	7.51	+3.89	14	
Thomaston_Dam	28	79	52	-2	2567	+300	1096	+250	0.00	-0.84	0	6.28	+2.71	12	
Willimantic	30	76	53	-1	2691	+377	1222	+346	0.01	-0.90	1	3.15	-0.51	12	

STATE WEATHER SUMMARY
For the Week Ending Sunday, October 12, 2003

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	23	81	49	+2	0.00	0.14
NH	17	80	50	+1	0.00	0.26
VT	26	80	50	+2	0.00	0.36
MA	26	79	54	+0	0.00	0.24
RI	32	75	56	+1	0.00	0.02
CT	28	80	54	-1	0.00	0.05

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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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: Silage corn now being harvested is grain deficient. Pumpkin crop is poor. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Drier now than it was the whole summer. Frosted fields. Corn left is not mature but needs to get chopped; some fields no ears - no grain. Farmers are trying to buy hay and corn to make up for losses. Summer diseases apparent in apples. Pumpkin problems with wildlife, weeds and viruses. Not much growing now. Maples beginning to brighten the landscape. **Nancy Welsh/Karen Vozarik (FSA), New Haven:** Some producers still cutting hay. Some fields are too muddy. Apples look good. Silage corn good in some fields.

MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook: Potatoes and small grains: Harvest nearly completed. Those who have more potatoes to harvest will need only a couple more days to finish. Fall tillage, rock picking and lime applications are the chores being undertaken now. Only a couple of cold mornings so frost should not have caused any damage to potatoes left in the ground. A beautiful weekend for field work. The fall foliage is at its peak, a pretty sight. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potato crop looks good so far. **Albert Dow (NRCS), Piscataquis:** Great weather. Harvesting was in full swing. **Donna Lamb (Ext), Piscataquis:** Just as corn silage harvest started again we got another inch of rain. Some fields will need to dry out before harvest can be finished. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Indian summer brought traffic checking spectacular fall foliage. Corn stalks and pumpkins for decorations are at roadside stands. Work on blueberry fields underway. **Michael Tardy (FSA), Androscoggin:** Much of the silage corn has been harvested with little trouble. Most of the corn has looked really good, with excellent yields. A few folks have told us of low yields in a few fields. Apples have been looking good, but many are on the small size. Harvest for all fall crops has been really good. **Parker Rand (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Most crops are nearing the end of harvest, equipment is being readied for winter. There is plenty of water around, the brooks and streams are full, the fall colors are peaking, the summer is over. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Most crops are now harvested. Grain corn and soybeans left to go. Looks like the ground water is being replenished nicely. Beautiful days, beautiful foliage! **Laura Rand (FSA), Oxford:** What a glorious week! Farmers are busy getting the last fruits of harvest. Silage corn harvest being wrapped up; grain corn still standing; potatoes being harvested with a vengeance; and pumpkins and late squash appearing everywhere. The fall colors have been spectacular this season.

MASSACHUSETTS - Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire: It has been a real soggy harvest this year. Most folks reported both sides of average yields, but kernel is mostly little above milk stage. Grain corn producers may have a low yield. At this time in past years, most ears were hanging down and drying. About 2/3 of the cutting has been mowed but there is about a 3-hour window for drying, maybe the 4th day it will be dry and baled. Field vine crops were burned with frosts. Local orchards, farm stands and farmer's markets are doing a booming business. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Harvest continues at a fast rate. Cannot wait for color any longer. Crops continue to be disappointing. Much insect damage, more than desired fruit rot, poor color. Growers are not a happy group, for the most part. **David Rose (FSA), Bristol:** The season is winding down. Silage corn harvest will be completed this week if the weather remains good. Sweet corn harvest is also just about finished. The apple crop is terrific. Sales at farm stands remain good. Still making some hay. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Crop fields have dried out this week with only a small amount of

rainfall. Corn silage and potato harvest continued at a fast pace with the dryer field conditions. Many producers are reporting a very good crop of apples. Farm stands had excellent business this holiday weekend due to the gorgeous fall foliage. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** Busy holiday weekend as consumers out in search of the perfect pumpkin. All fall crops did really well at retail level. Monday just the perfect fall day in New England! Field work consisted of mowing/cleaning up fields and planting cover crops. Going out today to harvest cranberries (just a wild bog). Have a good week.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap: Frost ended most vegetable harvests. Several varieties of apples are being picked. Fall sales of apples, cider, pumpkins, corn stalks and mums are going strong. Farmers continue with field work - spreading manure, disking, planting cover crops, etc. Most silage corn has been harvested. **Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll:** Warm, dry weather allowed for some good quality 3rd and 4th cut hay to be put up. Silage corn still in the field is showing the affect of several frosts. The weather has been fantastic and grass pastures are still providing quality feed. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Gorgeous Indian summer weather most of the week. Farms are just finishing corn chopping - whatever remains in the field looks pretty poor at this point. A few farms have started a fourth cut on grass and/or alfalfa. Manure is being spread and cover crops are being seeded on harvested corn fields. Apple harvest continues. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Harvest of corn silage continues at good pace, some lower fields along river hit by frost/freeze. A little hay still coming in, pasturing continues as possible. Local apples - including Honey Crisp now - and pumpkins, corn stalks available at local stands and markets. About peak color up here making for good holiday weekend sales from visitors. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** Another excellent week for chopping corn or getting in that last cut of haylage. No rain and excellent field conditions. The pumpkin crop looks good. Apples are a little smaller according to a couple of growers. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Pick-your-own apple operations had rainy weekend on Sunday, sales were off. Apple harvest is in full swing with most growers concentrating on strip picking McIntosh, Macoun, and Cortland. Harvesting late maturing varieties like Red Delicious, Empire, etc. Fruit size is excellent, but bruising can be a problem. Pear harvest almost completed. Vegetables: Harvesting wide array of vegetables that are left, including cool season crops like cabbage, kale, brussel sprouts, lettuce, winter squash and pumpkins; warm season vegetables like sweet corn, tomatoes and peppers are done for the season. Farmers kept busy working on harvested fields by pulling plastic mulch & tomato stakes, disking fields, cleaning up fields, and planting cover crops. Field Crops: Field corn harvest in full swing; the end is in sight. Cover crops were being planted in harvested fields. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Harvesting fall raspberries, pumpkins, apples. Pick-Your-Own apple operations were very busy on Saturday and Monday. We had some light frost. Cleaning vegetable fields, liming and planting cover crops.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: Plenty of field work being done with good weather to match. Field corn being chopped, haying, harvesting winter squash and vegetables of all kinds. Good cole crops coming in, roadside stands are full of mums, fruits, vegetables, ornamental corn and gourds.

VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille: Corn silage harvest is winding down after a great crop year. Last week's favorable weather allowed for both third and fourth cut grass harvest. Many are starting to empty their manure pits and plow corn ground. Great winter squash year with good yields and

happy growers. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Farmers should be finishing their corn harvest this week. Some farmers are still harvesting a little 3rd and 4th cut hay but most are done for the season. Last week was perfect for harvesting - warm and dry. **Lynette Hamilton/Perley Sparrow (FSA), Windham:** The last of the corn is being harvested, only shell corn left to do - still too wet to pick. Some sweet corn is still on market shelves. Pumpkins and squash are in high demand now along with onions and potatoes. **Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Harvesting corn silage nearly complete. Some corn (<15%) being left to dry for shell corn. Alfalfa fields vigorous, especially where manure was applied recently. Hayfields - alfalfa dieback areas of fields evident where next to very slow regrowth grasses. Manure spreading on grass hay and cut corn fields. Some primary tillage - plowing. New seedings of hay are very dense and vigorous. Pasture has lots of leaf rust, tree leaves and slow regrowth. **Eric Winchester (FSA) Orange/Windsor:** We had a little Indian summer weather this week. The sunshine was welcomed by farmers who were having a tough time getting out onto their wet fields to chop the last of the corn and get in the last of the hay crop. The light frosts we

had the past two weeks have helped to dry out the corn, which was a good deal more green than one would expect for this time of year. This past Sunday brought a little rain. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Dry, very warm week. Many farms finished chopping corn, this led to very happy farmers. Very good yields in general this year - for both hay and corn silage. Some record yields for corn. Quite a bit of bear damage reported, the thought is that this is due to this not being a big beech nut or wild apple year. Some folks trying to harvest that last bit of hay or haylage. Frost early in the week, highs later in the week in the high 70's. There did not seem to be a peak of foliage this year, but a 2 week span of quite nice color. Not much red. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Rain - 0.659 inches this week. Jack Frost finally came and brought us a great spell of weather, not only to enjoy but to get crops in for the last round up. 73 days of sweet corn without a miss. Winter rye looks good with just a small field left to seed. Main crops all harvested, dry beans pulled, and starting to husk a nice crop of popcorn. Still picking beets, carrots, cabbage and broccoli. Just about to wish folks a happy Halloween.

To receive this report every Monday evening, send an e-mail message to listserv@newsbox.usda.gov and in the body, type **subscribe usda-new-eng-crop-weather**

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