



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 12, 2004 - 4 pm

For week ending 10/10/04

First Killing Frost

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending October 10, 2004, there were 6.8 days available for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture was rated 10 percent short, 83 percent adequate, 7 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 10 percent short, 84 percent adequate, 6 percent surplus. Pasture condition was rated 1 percent very poor, 15 percent poor, 23 percent fair, 50 percent good, 11 percent excellent. A frigid air mass hit the six-State region on Tuesday night bringing an end to the growing season in most locations. Despite the cooler evening temperatures, daytime conditions were sunny and dry allowing operators a chance to finish up with harvest activities. Major farm activities included: applying rye cover on harvested fields; spreading manure; applying lime; chopping corn; making dry hay; harvesting apples, pears, cranberries, potatoes, finished harvest of small grains and sweet corn.

FRUIT: It was a great weekend at orchards for apple picking. Harvest of tree fruits continued to make gains. Apple growers were harvesting late maturing varieties like Red Delicious and Empire. Harvest of fall raspberries continued in some locations and only 15 percent of the pear crop remained to be picked. Cranberry harvest reached the half way point and producers still anticipate an excellent crop.

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2004	2003	5-yr Avg	
Apples	85	85	80	Good/Excel
Pears	85	75	75	Good/Fair
Cranberries, MA	50	65	50	Good/Excel

VEGETABLES: Frost during the week put an end to warm season vegetables. However, there are plenty of cool season vegetables remaining to be harvest such as broccoli, Brussel sprouts, cabbage, chard, lettuce and kale. Pumpkins, gourds and corn stalks still made a strong showing at markets and farm stands. Sweet corn harvest is complete throughout the region.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil Moisture			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	10	5	2
Adequate	83	83	73
Surplus	7	12	25
Subsoil Moisture			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	10	6	3
Adequate	84	84	90
Surplus	6	10	7

FIELD CROPS: Dry weather conditions gave New Englanders another great week for harvest activities. Growers were busy getting in the last of the hay as the cold temperatures have slowed down the growth on many hay fields. Silage corn harvest was also in full swing and many areas have reported very good crop yields. Maine potato harvest is nearly complete with only five percent of the crop left for harvest. Oat and barley harvest was completed during the week and the condition of both crops were reported as excellent.

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2004	2003	5-yr Avg	
Barley, ME	100	100	99	Excellent
Oats, ME	100	99	99	Excellent
Potatoes:				
Maine	95	90	90	Excel/Good
Mass	85	70	80	Good
Silage Corn	80	80	80	Good/Excel
Sweet Corn	100	99	99	Good/Excel
Dry Hay:				
Second Cut	99	99	99	Good/Excel
Third Cut	85	85	85	Good/Excel

For the Week Ending Sunday, October 10, 2004

The 41 stations shown below were limited by space but were 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		
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	BASE-50F TOT	BASE-60F DFN	TOT	DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS
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MAINE														
Augusta_State_A	29	72	52	+1	2074	+1	728	-18	0.01	-0.80	1	1.35	-1.71	7
Bangor_Intl_Arp	26	72	52	+2	1978	+92	693	+71	0.00	-0.70	0	1.13	-1.91	4
Bethel	25	74	50	-1	1863	+10	576	-20	0.00	-0.81	0	1.21	-1.91	4
Caribou_Municip	27	75	50	+5	1520	+72	446	+68	0.00	-0.70	0	0.09	-2.89	4
Dover-Foxcroft	25	72	49	+3	1516	-77	419	-33	0.00	-0.83	0	0.40	-3.12	3
Frenchville	28	75	49	+5	1405	+62	382	+59	0.02	-0.74	1	0.26	-2.94	6
Houlton	24	74	50	+4	1567	+54	490	+66	0.01	-0.69	1	0.16	-2.93	4
Kennebunkport	28	69	48	-7	1694	-683	483	-458	0.00	-0.80	0	2.59	-0.45	6
Livermore_Falls	22	77	49	+2	1927	+366	665	+236	0.00	-0.84	0	1.21	-2.05	4
Moosehead	23	77	46	+0	1347	+30	304	-6	0.00	-0.76	0	0.16	-3.07	3
Portland_ME	29	69	52	+2	2062	+142	733	+96	0.00	-0.79	0	2.17	-0.85	5
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	25	76	49	+0	1769	+76	523	+47	0.05	-0.65	1	1.23	-1.58	4
Berlin_AG	26	76	49	+1	1782	+90	543	+46	0.00	-0.77	0	1.31	-1.67	5
Concord	27	77	53	+4	2458	+387	993	+254	0.00	-0.70	0	4.19	+1.57	6
Diamond_Pond	24	74	48	+4	1149	+31	201	-4	0.06	-0.78	1	0.65	-2.81	5
Keene_AP	27	77	52	+0	2310	-28	862	-54	0.00	-0.70	0	3.31	+0.59	6
North_Conway	26	75	49	+0	2056	+152	729	+96	0.00	-0.86	0	1.37	-1.88	5
Rochester	28	75	51	-2	2176	-66	807	-45	0.00	-0.88	0	3.16	-0.04	5
VERMONT														
Burlington_Intl	32	76	54	+5	2410	+208	977	+136	0.06	-0.57	1	0.77	-2.01	4
Island_Pond	26	73	49	+3	1641	+253	460	+135	0.07	-0.63	2	0.46	-2.40	7
Montpelier	26	76	51	+3	1993	+269	674	+162	0.00	-0.63	0	0.92	-1.60	6
Pownal	30	75	52	+3	2084	+271	667	+115	0.00	-0.82	0	5.33	+1.94	8
Rochester	26	78	51	+2	1974	+258	634	+130	0.10	-0.74	1	1.25	-2.13	3
Rutland_AG	28	75	49	-4	2053	-259	694	-206	0.04	-0.63	1	1.71	-1.27	5
Sutton	25	72	48	+3	1604	+211	429	+92	0.06	-0.68	1	0.57	-2.38	4
Townshend_Lake	29	75	51	+0	2119	-68	710	-113	0.00	-0.70	0	4.51	+1.63	7
MASSACHUSETTS														
Ashburnham	32	75	53	+4	2291	+419	850	+252	0.00	-0.70	0	5.84	+3.12	9
Boston/Logan_In	40	74	58	+1	2842	+76	1293	+68	0.00	-0.70	0	5.63	+2.83	7
Greenfield	31	75	53	-2	2491	-46	989	-62	0.01	-0.76	1	5.53	+2.45	9
New_Bedford	30	71	54	-5	2536	-282	1037	-228	0.01	-0.74	1	5.70	+2.73	11
Otis_AFB	32	72	54	-1	2463	+199	1018	+153	0.00	-0.84	0	6.22	+2.96	8
Plymouth	31	72	55	+0	2460	+150	1015	+112	0.02	-0.85	2	5.90	+2.23	12
Walpole	31	75	55	+3	2619	+318	1104	+210	0.00	-0.84	0	5.87	+2.51	9
Chicopee/Westov	28	75	55	-3	2768	-158	1209	-136	0.00	-0.77	0	4.03	+0.85	6
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	35	72	56	+1	2874	+243	1294	+162	0.00	-0.77	0	6.31	+3.18	11
Woonsocket	31	76	55	+3	2595	+332	1083	+237	0.00	-0.88	0	5.36	+1.90	10
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	41	74	61	+3	3154	+292	1520	+198	0.00	-0.65	0	5.87	+3.11	9
Hartford/Bradle	31	76	56	+2	2963	+185	1371	+129	0.00	-0.79	0	6.11	+2.74	9
Norfolk	31	71	51	+2	2163	+310	745	+172	0.00	-0.84	0	6.94	+3.30	7
Thomaston_Dam	28	73	53	-1	2760	+497	1192	+346	0.00	-0.85	0	5.24	+1.66	8
Willimantic	31	73	54	+1	2679	+369	1128	+252	0.00	-0.91	0	5.36	+1.70	10

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 WEATHER SUMMARY
 For the Week Ending Sunday, October 10, 2004

Stat	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	LO	HI	AVG	DF	LO	HI
ME	21	77	49	+1	0.00	0.10
NH	14	80	50	+1	0.00	0.16
VT	20	79	50	+1	0.00	0.32
MA	26	78	54	+0	0.00	0.10
RI	31	76	57	+1	0.00	0.00
CT	28	77	55	+1	0.00	0.02

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: The first heavy frost of the season ended vegetable production this week. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Killing frost on Wednesday everywhere but right along the CT river, put an end to the growing season. Still harvesting cabbage and sweet corn in small amounts. Many dairy farmers on the home stretch for corn silage harvest. Grain corn drying down nicely. Pumpkins moving well, but many left in fields with disease problems. Boxing up butternut squash for market. Orchards saw heavy sales over the holiday weekend. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Major frost hit most parts of the county, stopped growing of vine crops and vegetables. Pumpkins good to excellent where sprayed to avoid stuff blown in on tropical storms. Apples good, great weekend for pick your own, big events in Orchards over Columbus Day weekend. End of year tallies in blueberries, peaches, grapes, raspberries not good for some producers. Field corn harvest continues. Colors changing as Fall mornings remind us to get out the wool sweaters. **Karen Vozarik (FSA), New Haven:** First frost received this week. Temperatures during days and nights have turned cooler. Producers getting silage in while weather is dry. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Finishing up corn silage harvest and pumpkin hay rides seem to be the major activities left this crop season.

MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook: Potatoes and small grains: Harvest just about finished. What a great fall for harvesting, no time lost due to rain. Growers busy picking rocks, and fall tillage. Spreading lime and getting some soil samples. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Harvesting of potatoes is nearly completed 98 percent. The farmers had a very good Fall for getting the crop harvested. All grains are harvested. **Albert Dow (NRCS), Piscataquis:** Warm sunny weather allowed for a lot of harvesting of potatoes, silage corn and vegetables. Temperature dropped to 24 degrees one morning. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Hard frost brought many crops to their knees. Corn is well frosted. Many pastures showing lots of rust fungus. Nice weather has helped get a lot of corn harvested and in the silo. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Great weather to finish up harvest of many crops. We had a hard frost Tuesday October 5th which ended the growing season. **Michael Tardy (FSA), Androscoggin:** Silage corn growers are getting in the last of the harvest. What great weather they have had. We've seen some hay down ready to bale. Everyone is trying to get that last cut. Apple producers are busy picking or shepherding the "pick your own" folks through the orchards. Market garden owners are showing off the pumpkins and winter squash. They have the corn stalks ready for those people who want to decorate for the Fall season. We're almost to the finish line for another harvest season. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** The first widespread frost hit the area on Oct 6th. The weather has been sunny and dry. Great for harvesting silage corn and pumpkins. Good yields on silage corn have been reported. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Corn silage harvest was above normal thanks to a fine finish on the weather front. Grain corn & soybeans left to go. Make sure that the firewood is done. I have a hornets nest about 30 feet off the ground in a pine tree beside my house and you know what that means! **Laura Rand (FSA), Oxford:** Weather was great this week. Silage corn is being harvested with a vengeance, reports are being received of great tonnage! Squash, pumpkins, and potatoes are still being harvested. Farm stands are beautiful this time of year with colorful arrays of pumpkins, corn stalks, and mums.

MASSACHUSETTS - Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire: Farmers are playing in mud in the fields, sometimes with other tractors pulling chopper and/or wagons. Some very good yields. Other crops continue doing good. **Paul Russell (FSA), Southeast Massachusetts:** Cranberry growers are in the middle of an excellent harvest many growers harvesting their best crop in years. Harvest will be more than 50% complete this

week as we continue to have excellent weather. First frost hit on Monday which finished many vegetable crops, and growers are completing harvest of winter squash and pumpkins. Excellent third cutting of hay, however heavy dew has made it difficult to make. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Cranberry harvest continues with good reports still coming from the handlers. Quality and color are excellent; size is average to above average. **Jay Otto (FSA), Bristol:** Great week for field work. Corn chopping in full swing. Very good yields across the county with a few exceptions of some corn blown over from past storms. Weekend weather was great for farm stands. **John Devine (FSA), Franklin:** Clear and dry weather has helped the fall harvest move at a rapid pace. Potato growers have reported that harvest conditions are near perfect and the crop has sized well. Dairy farmers are busy trying to finish with silage and harvest one more cut of hay. Vegetable farmers are in the home stretch with their harvest except for late fall crops. All farms are busy putting the finishing touches on their fall tillage work. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** A beautiful fall week with many sunny and warm days. Harvesting an excellent crop of potatoes, apples, and corn silage. Farmers are applying a cover crop to their harvested fields, picking up irrigation pipe, and removing plastic mulch off their harvested fields. Farm stands and u-pick apples had an excellent weekend. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** Just a beautiful weekend for fall sales! Killing frost ended growing season and it was a good one! Mums all sold, pumpkins just about gone.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll: The frost is definitely on the pumpkins, foliage at full peak and just past peak. Two to three frosts last week depending on location. Field corn waiting for maturity frosted. The last fair is over, all we have to do now is wait for snow! **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Plenty of sun all week, but a couple cool days and a couple nights of killing frosts. Another week of corn chopping, and now most area producers are either done or will finish up this week. Some places spreading rye on chopped fields. A few farms looking to take a fourth cutting on grass and alfalfa for haylage. Farm stands have closed for the year. Great weather for apple picking. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Field corn harvest now going at full speed, with what looks like a good crop coming in thanks to a warm September. Hard freeze, down into the low teens to twenties throughout the county, puts an end to the vegetable season with even high tunnels tomatoes killed. A little late hay still being cut, tedded as the week remains dry. Mums, pumpkins, winter squash, late greens still available for leaf peepers enjoying great Fall colors this year. Farmers markets and stands ending their season. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Corn silage harvest continues. Finishing up third cut and some fourth cut continuing. Soil moisture is good and not causing problems with access to wetter fields. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** Corn harvest is nearly complete. In general, the corn looks very good this year. The prolonged period without frost allowed the corn to mature well and the ears dried down. We had our first frost which finished the corn growth for this year. Some final cut haylage is going in. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Pick-your-own apple operations had nice weekend. 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. Pear harvest almost completed. Vegetables: Killing frost occurred Tuesday night - Wednesday morning brought to end the warm season vegetable season. Harvesting cool season crops like cabbage, kale, Brussel sprouts, lettuce, and finishing up winter squash and pumpkins. 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 and the end is in sight. Cover crops were being planted in harvested fields. **Pam Marvin (FSA), Sullivan:** Frost has hit what remaining silage or grain corn is standing. The cold temperatures have slowed down the growth of hay fields. What good forage is left is being cut

and baled daily. Has been a good fall for outside field maintenance work. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** Excellent weather for apple harvesting especially for pick your own operations. Apple harvesting going on well. About 60-80% harvested. Fall raspberries were also being harvested. Last week for sweet corn, field tomatoes and some other vegetables. However cool season vegetables like chard, kales, broccoli and lettuce continue to be harvested. Mum season is winding up and pumpkin sales continued strongly through the week. Farmers busy harvesting corn for silage. Some hay farmers making the 3rd cut while others could only manage a 2nd cut. It has been a great year for pastures but difficult for making hay.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: Chopping field corn and applying cover crops. Silage bunkers getting full. Still harvesting summer vegetables, tomatoes, lettuce, lots of cole crops around. Pumpkins being harvested along with winter squashes.

VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille: Dry spell continued through last week providing great conditions for harvesting. From reports we're getting the corn silage crop appears to have yields higher than expected considering the cool, wet summer. Harvested corn fields are seeing a lot of manure being spread. Soybean harvest should start this week. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Dry weather provided a great week for chopping corn. Many of the large corn growers have finished harvesting. So far landowners are happy with the yield

and quality of their corn crop. September weather made a big difference. Aside from corn harvesting, many farmers are emptying their manure pits to get ready for the long winter. **Perley Sparrow (FSA), Windham:** Corn harvest is about completed in the county with reports that yields were excellent. There is some third cutting left to go for haylage. Manure spreading on hay fields and corn ground. Most all fall veggie crops are harvested and shipped to market. **Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Harvesting corn silage, third crop alfalfa haylage and soybeans. Spreading liquid manure, lime and fertilizer on hay and corn fields. Excellent crops being harvested. Corn kernels mature with high plant moisture, noticeable silage leachate effluent. Nice fall weather with great foliage color. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Trying to finish up corn chopping. People say the crop looks good, but it is not quite as mature as they would like; bear damage in places. Haying just about done. Killing frosts during the week. Another dry week. Lots of manure going out onto fields. **Heather Darby (Ext), Franklin:** Killing frost last week. Corn silage harvest continues. Yields reported as being average to above average. Manure is being spread on harvested fields. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Still seeding winter rye on late fields. Picked last of sweet corn on October 4th. Pumpkins and squash all picked and stored, ready for fall sales. Still digging last of the potatoes; a real big crop. First frost October 5th. Two tenths inch rain for the week. Fall markets in full swing with large amounts of fall produce and decorations.

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