



New England Agricultural Statistics



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October 17, 2005 – 4 pm

For week ending 10/16/05

Rain, Rain, and More Rain

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending October 16, 2005, there were 2.8 days suitable for field work. Topsoil moisture was rated 31% adequate, 69% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 43% adequate, 57% surplus. Pasture condition was rated 5% very poor, 17% poor, 43% fair, 25% good and 10% excellent. Rains from the previous weekend continued into Monday of this week causing flooding and erosion along rivers, streams, and tributaries. In the southern region, daily rain saturated fields and brought field work and other outside activities to a halt through Saturday. In the northern region, there was a break from rain on Tuesday and Wednesday. Heavy rains returned on Friday and Saturday which brought rivers, streams, and tributaries back to flood stage, and placed many fields under water again. On Saturday evening, strong winds arrived and continued into Sunday causing additional damage. The growing season is ending the same way that it began... wet!

FRUIT: Another wet week hindered any action in the orchards. Cranberry growers were able to progress with their harvest during the rains. Most growers wished that all this rain would have been spread out during the summer to enhance sizing of berries. Heavy rains during the week and into the weekend brought pick-your-own operations to a standstill. On Sunday, some dry weather arrived in southern New England, but the wind created unfavorable picking conditions. Some growers continued to harvest Cortland, Macoun, and other varieties during the week in spite of the weather. Pear harvest was at a standstill due to the recent rains. The harvest should finish soon if the weather conditions improve. Fall raspberry growers continued to harvest berries; no frost has been recorded to date.

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2005	2004	5-yr Avg	Fruit Size	Condition
- Percent Harvested -					
Apples	85	90	85	Avg	Good/Fair
Pears	95	90	85	Avg/B. Avg	Fair/Good
Cranberries, MA	80	80	70	Avg/B. Avg	Good

VEGETABLES: Heavy rain caused flooding along riverbeds and streams in the region. Pumpkins continued to float down rivers and streams as water levels proceeded to rise into fields. Some vegetable growers worked in the wet and muddy conditions to finish harvesting fall crops. Sweet corn harvest finally finished and crop condition was rated good to fair. Producers were busy harvesting brussel sprouts, cabbage, kale, pumpkins, and winter squash, but quantities were limited due to excessive rainfall. Wet weather affected sales at farmers markets and roadside stands which were overloaded with pumpkins, mums and fall vegetables.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
			-- Percent --
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	0	2	4
Adequate	31	55	90
Surplus	69	43	6
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	0	3	4
Adequate	43	66	92
Surplus	57	31	4

FIELD CROPS: Very little field work was done during a week of heavy rain that caused flooding and field damage. No progress was made on second and third cutting of hay. Hay harvest might be discontinued due to fields being saturated and too soft for haying equipment. Most farmers were done chopping corn silage but those that have not finished will have to wait for fields to become dry. Some of those flooded fields may never be harvested. Maine's small grain harvest was at a standstill from the recent rain but close to wrapping up the season. The saturated soils limited any combining of barley and oats and both crops might not get harvested due to the recent rains. Tobacco growers were busy taking down their crops. Some reports of excess moisture and mold growing on the edge of leaves caused enough concern for some to fire their sheds to dry the tobacco again. Massachusetts potato harvest came to a standstill and was hit hard from the recent rain. Conditions of the potato harvest in Massachusetts were rated very poor to poor in the state. Unharvested acreage of crops in flooded areas are either under water or destroyed. Rain halted the potato harvest in Maine. Some fields are so heavily saturated that they may never be harvested.

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2005	2004	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Harvested --				
Barley, ME	95	100	100	Fair
Oats, ME	90	100	100	Fair
Potatoes				
Maine	90	99	99	Good/Excellent
Mass.	85	90	90	Very Poor/Poor
Rhode Isl.	100	100	95	Fair/Good
Sweet Corn	100	100	100	Good/Fair
Field Corn	85	85	85	Excellent/Good
Dry hay, 2 nd cut	99	99	99	Good/Excellent
Dry hay, 3 rd cut	90	85	90	Good

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics
Prepared By AWIS, Inc.

For the Period: Monday October 10, 2005
To: Sunday October 16, 2005

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				CUM SINCE MAR 1 GROWING DEGREE DAYS				1-WEEK PRECIP			4-WEEK CUM PRECIP		
	LO	HI	Avg	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	Days	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	Days
MAINE														
Augusta_State_A	42	59	52	+3	2356	+273	1039	+293	4.63	+3.79	4	11.09	+7.93	15
Bangor_Intl_Afp	41	62	53	+5	2311	+417	975	+353	4.55	+3.83	4	10.65	+7.68	15
Bethel	41	61	51	+3	2081	+222	828	+232	3.50	+2.66	4	8.20	+5.03	9
Caribou_Municip	32	57	48	+4	1843	+395	686	+308	2.68	+2.00	3	7.77	+4.89	12
Dover-Foxcroft	36	54	47	+2	1745	+150	589	+137	4.45	+3.65	6	7.89	+4.45	11
Frenchville	32	55	47	+4	1814	+471	680	+357	2.31	+1.60	4	7.21	+4.11	15
Houlton	29	58	48	+4	1854	+340	697	+273	3.00	+2.30	3	6.29	+3.30	12
Livermore_Falls	38	60	51	+6	2124	+559	895	+466	4.29	+3.45	4	9.35	+6.09	9
Moosehead	35	58	47	+4	1609	+292	521	+211	3.75	+3.01	4	7.30	+4.14	13
Portland_ME	47	60	54	+5	2354	+426	1033	+396	4.74	+3.90	5	11.51	+8.39	11
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	40	61	51	+4	2052	+353	817	+341	3.22	+2.51	4	8.46	+5.65	12
Berlin_AG	42	60	51	+6	2073	+376	823	+326	3.23	+2.45	4	7.98	+4.99	8
Concord	48	61	54	+6	2648	+568	1242	+503	4.67	+3.97	5	12.33	+9.66	11
Diamond_Pond	41	59	48	+5	1537	+419	486	+281	3.30	+2.46	4	7.36	+3.95	13
Keene_AP	45	61	54	+4	2637	+286	1226	+310	3.88	+3.18	6	12.95	+10.23	10
North_Conway	46	62	53	+6	2299	+390	990	+357	3.86	+2.95	4	9.55	+6.20	9
Rochester	45	58	51	+0	2395	+139	1076	+224	5.75	+4.82	5	13.86	+10.51	10
VERMONT														
Burlington_Intl	49	61	54	+6	2815	+603	1381	+540	1.80	+1.17	6	4.94	+2.26	14
Island_Pond	44	62	53	+9	2004	+611	785	+460	3.11	+2.41	4	6.68	+3.87	13
Montpelier	44	60	53	+6	2377	+647	1043	+531	1.56	+0.93	5	6.10	+3.58	16
Pownal	47	61	53	+6	2391	+569	1007	+455	3.69	+2.85	7	11.23	+7.89	15
Rochester	46	60	52	+5	2300	+577	988	+484	1.98	+1.14	5	6.77	+3.41	11
Rutland_AG	43	58	51	+1	2480	+153	1133	+233	2.78	+2.15	7	7.77	+4.94	13
Sutton	39	60	50	+7	1968	+572	763	+426	2.31	+1.54	4	6.53	+3.58	15
Townshend_Lake	46	59	52	+3	2458	+260	1100	+277	3.19	+2.48	7	9.69	+6.85	13
MASSACHUSETTS														
Ashburnham	45	58	51	+4	2553	+673	1166	+568	4.58	+3.87	7	11.30	+8.56	12
Boston/Logan_In	51	61	56	+0	3005	+211	1535	+307	4.50	+3.80	5	6.95	+4.15	10
Greenfield	48	62	55	+3	2694	+137	1260	+209	3.64	+2.87	6	9.85	+6.77	12
New_Bedford	50	63	57	+1	2752	-98	1303	+33	6.58	+5.81	7	10.63	+7.66	12
Otis_AFB	52	70	59	+6	2963	+680	1452	+587	4.37	+3.53	7	7.83	+4.52	13
Plymouth	50	60	56	+3	2716	+388	1323	+420	5.23	+4.35	7	8.76	+5.15	11
Walpole	49	61	54	+4	2893	+577	1437	+543	7.52	+6.68	7	11.23	+7.87	12
Chicopee/Westov	50	63	56	+2	3084	+131	1537	+187	4.88	+4.11	7	12.81	+9.68	12
Worthington	44	62	51	+3	2303	+428	962	+387	4.03	+3.20	7	15.26	+11.97	14
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	50	64	57	+4	3201	+546	1668	+534	8.23	+7.41	7	12.23	+9.10	13
Woonsocket	50	61	55	+5	2902	+627	1420	+574	8.27	+7.36	7	12.32	+8.86	12
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Sikorski	53	72	59	+3	3339	+444	1715	+388	6.96	+6.28	6	10.19	+7.44	13
Hartford/Bradley	50	66	57	+4	3290	+491	1709	+467	5.51	+4.74	6	11.48	+8.21	10
Norfolk	44	60	52	+5	2412	+550	1023	+450	4.43	+3.59	7	11.77	+8.23	12
Thomaston_Dam	49	66	55	+4	2910	+628	1410	+564	5.95	+5.10	7	13.97	+10.43	14
Willimantic	49	64	56	+4	2951	+623	1430	+554	6.07	+5.16	7	10.49	+6.83	12

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 16, 2005

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	L	HI	AV	DF	LO	HI
ME	29	62	49	+3	2.19	6.82
NH	28	66	51	+5	2.67	8.72
VT	33	64	52	+5	0.15	3.81
MA	42	71	55	+4	1.95	8.40
RI	50	64	56	+4	7.14	8.27
CT	44	72	56	+4	4.43	8.55

Prepared by AWIS, Inc.

REPORTERS COMMENTS, By County: Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), or other knowledgeable individuals.

CONNECTICUT - Howard Rood (FSA), Fairfield/Litchfield: It was a rainy week. Very little field work was done. **Jude Boucher (Ext), Tolland:** Rain...too much, too late! **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Excessive rain kept on coming all week with numerous recordings of 15 inches or more. Friday night was torrential rain which led to flooding on Saturday and Sunday. Pumpkins floating down the Connecticut and Farmington Rivers. Broadleaf tobacco hanging in sheds picked up excess moisture and growing mold on the edge of leaves. Some producers tried to fire their sheds to dry tobacco again. Concerns over mold in grain corn by the time it gets combined. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Heavy rains prevented field work and chopping of the final acres of field corn. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Rain, rain, rain for nine days. Local flooding, roads closed, equipment and cellars wet in many areas, kept people from getting into orchards until Saturday when they picked anyway despite the showers. Sunday the big bright sun came out and people were at orchards busy buying cider, apples, vegetables, mums, and jams. No frost yet. Field corn left to be picked is actually still green in north part of county. Pumpkins to deliver but can't get in the fields to pick them, the soil is saturated. Brooklyn Ag Center open house well attended with people interested in forest management walk, master gardener program walk and agency exhibits. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** Heavy rains pounded the entire two county regions this week. Anything requiring outside work was very difficult to accomplish. There is a lot of standing water and gully erosion being reported on cropland. **Joyce Meader (Ext), Windham:** Pumpkins floating down the Quinebaug River, corn under water. Such are the risks of good river bottom land. Sun finally came out. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Rain, rain and more rain! Watch the rain fall and shore up the leaks was about all we did this past week!

MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook: Potatoes and small grains: Most growers have completed potato harvest, leaving wet areas in the fields they could not get equipment though. Those who have not finished will have a difficult time harvesting the rest as fields are saturated with over three inches of rain from Saturday and Sunday. Some small grains remain in the fields and probably won't get harvested. Not much other field work has been done due to the wet fields. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Farmers have been trying to finish potato harvest. Most farmers have finished but some still have four to five days left to harvest. This weekend we received 3.5 inches in this area. 5gh. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Rain has put a hold on harvest. Waiting for soil to dry up to finish harvest. **Leslie Nelson (NRCS), Piscataquis:** More rain keeping fields saturated. Many fields have standing water making harvest difficult (or impossible!). Wet weekend weather has deterred customers from u-pick apples and pumpkins. **Donna Lamb (Ext), Piscataquis:** Excessive rain has stopped all field operations until the fields have a chance to dry out. **Donald Burke (FSA), Waldo:** The ground was too wet to do much field work. Farmers are determined to finish harvesting their corn silage when things dry out. Plans for harvesting third cut of hay may be delayed or curtailed. Manure pits are full and need to be spread this fall, but the ground is too soft. This area has received over a foot of rain over the last two weekends. The growing season is ending the same way it began...wet! **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Fortunately all silage corn in this area had been harvested before the heavy rains. Over 12 inches of rain in the mid-coast over an eight day period has put a hold on most field work. Fields are too soft to spread manure and manure pits are full and need to be emptied before winter. Hayfields are too soft for haying equipment. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** The area received another 4-5 inches of rain over the weekend. Silage corn that was not harvested before the rains may have to be left in the field. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** More rain, more flooding. Some soybeans have gone under water twice. That might not be good. Time to finish getting that firewood in. Apple harvest is behind schedule. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Oxford County producers have had another weekend of very wet weather. Several inches of rain along with high winds have brought very wet soils. Crop fields have standing water and have made harvesting come to a standstill. Sunshine will be welcomed! **Laura Rand (FSA), Androscoggin:** Another week of downpours.

Producers are finding it difficult to get out on the ground to perform normal farming activities. Weekend rain hampered any prospects of outside work. Rivers are overflowing and some gulling and erosion.

MASSACHUSETTS - Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire: Some more rain 1/2 to 1 3/4 inches this week, making it very damp and muggy. Some low ground had water to the top of the silage corn stalks, leaving a lot of debris in the fields of both corn and hay fields. Reports of pumpkins floating in streams. No frost, yet. What's coming for the winter is still a big question. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Everyone was water harvesting in the rain this week. The area got variable amounts of rain, but most places got at least five inches. Where was this rain when we needed it in August to size the berries? No dry harvesting was done this week. Sunday was the first day any could be attempted and the vines were probably still wet where there was overgrowth. It looks like color will never reach the desirable levels this harvest. No cold nights, although growers won't be too upset - they got their rest this fall! **Jason Otto (FSA), Bristol:** A very wet week slowed the fall sales. Heavy rains around the area gave way to flooding. Corn chopping stopped due to flooded fields. **John Devine (FSA), Franklin:** Twelve to 16 inches of rain in an 8-day period has left Franklin County with severe flooding and erosion problems. Producers from all areas of the County are seeking emergency assistance to repair damaged fields and roadways. Unharvested crops in flood-prone areas are either under water or gone. These include pumpkins, potatoes, winter squash and silage/grain corn. Harvested crops in these areas, including cut silage and wrapped hay, in some cases, have floated down the river. Tobacco farmers have reported that extreme moisture is effecting their crop. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Rainy all week long. Harvesting of potatoes and corn grain came to a standstill. Harvesting cabbage, greens, and pumpkins was difficult because of the muddy and wet conditions. Many tobacco growers were taking down their crop due to the great tobacco damps they received this week. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** What a weather week! No field work possible. Farm stands overloaded with pumpkins and fall products, as retail sales were terrible. Finally Sunday the rain stopped and citizens came out in force to support local growers and apple orchards, but it sure was windy. Fall raspberries, cranberries, and concord grapes only crops left to harvest here. No frost yet.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap: The rain put a stop to most field work this week. Wet conditions and high winds weren't good for apple picking business this weekend. Macoun, Cortland and many other varieties are being harvested. **Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll:** Wet, windy weather predominates. Most crops finished for the season, still no frost. Leaves not getting much color but many have fallen. Leaves seem to be about two weeks behind. Some of the leaf peeping season may still be salvaged. Looking forward to some sun. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Good grief! Rainy weather straight through the week, with heavy precipitation over the weekend before the sun finally peeked out late Saturday afternoon and Sunday. Much of the cropland appears to be OK, but there are fields along the Ashuelot and Cold Rivers with severe damage. Agriculturally, not a whole heck of a lot going on. The only thing left are pumpkins, a number of which have literally floated away and apples, which no one really felt like picking. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Not much field activity this week due to wet fields and rains. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** Last week we saw the sun one day. The rest of the week it was cold and damp or rainy. Nearly seven inches of rain fell during the week. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Weather: Major rain showers occurred again during the week and Saturday causing flooding and eroding farm fields. Fruit: Pick-your-own apple operations had a bad rainy week and weekend! Apple harvest is in full swing with the end in sight. Vegetables: Good demand for all vegetables continues where we still have not had a major county wide frost. Growers are harvesting wide array of vegetables including: cabbage, kale, brussel sprouts, winter squash and pumpkins along with the tail end of warm season crops. Farmers kept busy working on harvested fields by pulling plastic mulch & tomato stakes. Too wet to do any tractor work on fields. At three farms, unharvested pumpkins were carried away by the strong flooded river current. Field Crops: Silage corn chopping stopped due to wet weather, with the end in sight. Some soil erosion occurred on August and September planted hayfields and pastures. **Sadie Puglisi (Ext), Merrimack:** It's been rain and more rain. Any low area is

flooded. Not a lot of days to get harvesting done. Looking forward to some sun this week if we are lucky. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Two weekends in a row with heavy rain and gusty winds made field work tough. Some fields are very wet and not accessible for work or harvesting of crops. PYO apples and farm stands affected by the wet weather: slow traffic. Pumpkins, gourds mums, winter squashes, kales still available. No frost yet. **Pam Marvin (FSA), Sullivan:** Rain, rain go away. With two weekends in a row of heavy rain, many fields are either under water or waterlogged. Almost all of the silage corn has been cut with only a few fields left to get. Could be tricky. Third cut of hay could be lost in some areas due to too wet fields. There are some washouts and debris along some fields in the lower half of the county. Assessments still ongoing. To date, no frost has been reported which is allowing late fall chores to get done. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** Rain showers throughout the week. This was a very difficult week for any kind of field work. Apple and fall raspberry continued through the week but it was slowed down significantly by the rains. Harvesting of sweet corn and other vegetables was also slowed down by the rains. No haying was possible due to excessive rains.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: Heavy rains, high winds and some flooding made for a storm filled week. Did get some field corn chopped in between the rain and was able to

get in some winter squash, but the remainder of the week consisted of working on equipment and staying inside. The rain did help with soil moisture but we sure would have liked getting it a little at a time and not all at once.

VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille: Very slow week for fieldwork in this area. Persistent rain has left the ground saturated and difficult for equipment travel. End of week brought some minor lowland flooding. Most crops have been harvested in those areas. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Most farms have finished their corn harvest. We have had a lot of rain this week making field conditions wet and muddy. Some farmers are emptying their manure pits in preparation for winter. Pastures are still doing well for this time of year considering that we have not had a real killing frost in most areas of the county. This is very unusual for this late in the year. **Perley Sparrow (FSA), Windham:** Very wet week not much field work done. Most all corn has been harvested. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** All fields planted this year have all been seeded back to winter rye. Germination has been good with a good cover crop. Lots of rain, 4.152 inches, but ground was dry so most of it went where it should. The fall season at its peak. Garden markets full of pumpkins, potatoes, squash with all kinds of fall decorations. Good time for squash and pumpkin sales. Good week to decorate for fall.

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