Harvesting Season Comes to a Close

This will be the last publication for the 2007 crop year. We hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season and good luck next spring!

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending October 28, 2007, there were 5.2 days suitable for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture was rated 3% very short, 3% short, 78% adequate, and 16% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 4% very short, 5% short, 88% adequate, and 3% surplus. Pasture condition was rated 4% very poor, 23% poor, 43% fair, 30% good, and 0% excellent. Last week began partly cloudy with above average high and low temperatures, varying from the upper 30s to low 80s. Temperatures remained average to above average and dry through Friday, allowing farmers to get in the last of their crops. Rain moved into New England Friday night. Heavy rains continued to fall throughout the day on Saturday, totaling anywhere from 1.0 to 3.2 inches, with reports of some minor flooding. Rain replenished top soil moisture supplies however subsoil conditions remained dry throughout the region. The rain moved out of the area Saturday night leaving partly cloudy skies and average temperatures. Many areas of Maine experienced a killing frost Sunday night, officially bringing the harvest season to an end. Some southern areas reported a hard frost over the weekend but mainly light frosts were seen.

FRUIT: The apple harvest was nearly complete at 99 percent by week's end. Across the region orchards finished up a busy season by harvesting the last of the late apple varieties. Pick-your-own apples were also complete by week’s end. Orchard owners were finishing up picking up dropped apples. Grapes were all done except for a variety that needs the frost to bring out sugars and the flavor. The Massachusetts cranberry harvest was 85 percent complete and was reported in good to excellent condition.

VEGETABLES: The vegetable harvest finished up this week. There wasn’t much produce left in farmstands besides pumpkins, winter squash, greens, cabbage and broccoli. The fall weather was great for extending the vegetable harvest allowing for some summer vegetables to be harvested.

FIELD CROPS: Field corn remained at 99 percent harvested. Farmers were still trying to get in the last of their third and fourth cut hay. The potato harvest is near completion across the area. There were good damps during the week for tobacco to be taken down and leaves bundled. Farmers were mainly cleaning up their fields for the winter.
Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics
Prepared By AWIS,Inc.

For the Period:      Monday  October 22, 2007
To: Sunday October 28, 2007

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**STATE WEATHER SUMMARY**

For the week ending Sunday, October 28, 2007

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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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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:  Corn for silage is nearly all cut. Field corn still standing will be harvested for grain.  
Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:  Good amount of rain for the week now that the growing season is over with. Good damps during the week for tobacco to be taken down and leaves bundled. Grain corn still drying down to be combined. Way to go Red Sox!

Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:  We had two inches of rain, still dry. With the warm weather and moisture, a bit more haying is being done. Significant frost 10/28. Rye cover is six to eight inches, looks good. Some trouble getting certified rye seed in quantities needed. Still chopping corn and apple picking is done. Grapes all done except for varieties that need the frost to bring out the sugars and flavor.  
Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:  Still no killing frost in either New Haven or Middlesex County. This has been a very good crop growing year in spite of the dry conditions which began in August and continue to date. Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:  The hard frost over the weekend has finally put an end to the growing season. Some final mowing and fall weed control applications were still finishing up this last week.

MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire:  FROST:  . .finally. The end of the growing season has arrived with a hard freeze in the forecast. Plenty of cold rain, around two inches and wind this week. Pastures have stayed in good shape through October. Farmers’ markets will end next week and orchards are finishing their busiest season. Hope everyone has happy holidays and a restful winter. Boston Red Sox - World Champions!!!

Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Franklin/Hampshire/Hampden:  Another week with added rainfall. Harvesting grain corn, potatoes, greens, cabbage and pumpkins. Tobacco growers continue bundling their crop for sale. Many farmers are cleaning and putting their equipment under shelter. Spreading manure and applying a cover crop on harvested fields.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll:  A few more frosts, but no hard freeze. Pastures growing very slowly, but still growing. Not much left at the farm stand except pumpkins and a few mums. Well past peak, leaves are being stripped from the trees by wind and rain. A beautiful fall foliage season and an excellent long growing season. Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:  Fairly mild most of the week, with steady rain on Saturday and a widespread hard frost Sunday night. Apart from a few farms taking the last of fourth cutting on grass and alfalfa and harvesting the last of late apple varieties, we’re pretty much done for the year.  
Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:  Colder weather and frost this week again. Heavy rains and wind towards the end of the week. Rivers running high; some fields in lower areas flooded. Most corn silage is now in. Crop season is over as cleanup continues. Cover crops look good; those planted in late summer have had good establishment conditions. Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:  Fourth cut finishing up. Rain late in the week put a halt to all field work. Some flooding.  
George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:  Localized frost occurred on Friday, but there still has not been a county-wide freeze. Fruit: Orchardists are busy marketing crop. Apple harvest is almost done. Finishing up harvest of Rome, Fuji, and Golden Delicious. Finishing picking up apple drops (90% completed), however, many orchardists are flail mowing under trees and not worrying about the drop apples. Some orchardists are short of bins for picking apple drops and are looking for markets for the drop apples. Vegetables: Farmers are cleaning up fields, picking up plastic mulch, drip tape, trellis stakes and irrigation equipment and soil testing fields for next season. Cleaning and putting away farm equipment. Field crops: Silage corn chopping almost finished. Soil testing fields for next season and cleaning and putting away farm equipment. Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:  PYO apples are done and most harvest is done. Available in farm stands: pumpkins, winter
squash, apples, gourds, Indian corn, mums and leafy greens. Chopping corn. Pasture still growing. Cool nights and very light frost so far. Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford: Nice and mild weather most of the week. Rain showers at the end of the week. Vegetable growers harvesting last crops of the season, and cleaning up the fields. Fruit growers harvesting the last of the late apple varieties. Pumpkins and fall mums continued to sell at farm stands and garden centers. Greenhouse growers monitoring the seasonal progress of the poinsettia and applying pest control products where necessary.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: Finishing up potato harvest, cover crop looks good. We've had some rain, enough to help some of the top soil, but not enough to go any further. Field corn still being chopped, harvesting winter squashes, brassicas, cole crops and due to some very mild weather, summer vegetables. Roadside stands are still very full with great diversity.

VERMONT - Jeffrey Carter (Ext), Addison: Combining corn for high moisture grain. Some manure spreading on corn fields and fall plowing. Haylage harvest finished for the year. Waiting to dry out again to harvest soybeans. Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia: Crops are in, a number of farms have empty manure storages. Good fall weather has allowed fall work to progress well. Fairly warm week, heavy rain on Saturday. Seems a bit more like fall. Sherwin Williams, Rutland: A great long season has made for a real good market garden year. All brown fields have turned to green, ready for a winter nap and rest for the winter. Rain for the week 1.308 inches. This report makes the end of a very good market garden year. Mother Nature had a real productive 2007 year. It was a very long season with no early frost. All farmers and growers have a lot to be thankful for. Have a real good winter!