

# Crop Weather



NEW ENGLAND  
Agricultural  
Statistics



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For week ending 9/14/08

## Hot, Cold, Dry, and Wet

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:** For the week ending September 14, 2008, there were 5.7 days available for field work across New England. Pasture condition was rated 12% poor, 20% fair, 58% good, and 10% excellent. The past week began with partly cloudy skies and thunderstorms throughout New England. Temperatures were average to above average ranging from the high-60s to mid-70s. Mid-week brought much needed relief from the rain with some sunny, breezy days. However, daytime temperatures dropped below average and were in the low- to mid-60s. Hurricanes Hanna and Ike dumped more rain on the area over the weekend. High temperatures were average to above average in the mid-70s to low-80s. Nighttime temperatures were average to below average all week, ranging from the mid-40s to low-60s. Frost warnings occurred several nights during the week, but no damage to crops was reported. Total precipitation for the week ranged from 0.44 to 1.99 inches in the eleven weather stations tracked for this report. Several crop specialists reported receiving as much as three to four inches of rain in areas of New Hampshire and Vermont.

**FRUIT:** The cranberry harvest was gearing up to begin this past week. More fruit rot showed up and upright dieback is widespread in some beds, but the adequate rainfall helped to size and ripen the berries. Maine's wild blueberry harvest came to a close at week's end. The highbush blueberry crop was nearly complete and was reported in good to excellent condition. Orchardists continued harvesting early season apple varieties such as Cortland, McIntosh, Jonamac, Gala, and Honeycrisp. While the crop was reported in good condition, growers were busy trying to find markets for the fruit damaged by hail from early season thunderstorms and the tornado in New Hampshire. The pear harvest neared the half-way mark while the peach harvest was winding down, both ahead of last year and normal.

**VEGETABLES:** Growers continued harvesting sweet corn, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, peppers, tomatoes, and other late summer vegetables. Some sweet corn was again knocked down by heavy winds from hurricanes Hanna and Ike, but overall the crop was reported in good to excellent condition. Pumpkins and winter squash began showing up at farmers' markets and roadside stands. The variable weather conditions during the growing season have led to a decreased pumpkin crop and increased instances of mold and disease. Vegetable producers were busy cleaning up harvested fields and planting cover crops.

**FIELD CROPS:** The first cutting of hay finally came to a close this past week. The drier weather in the middle of the week allowed farmers to make excellent progress on the second and third cuttings, but drying conditions were still less than favorable. Field corn conditions were variable across the region. Vermont producers welcomed the rain, while producers in other areas of New England were hoping for a drier week. The crop was reported in good to excellent condition, but slightly behind normal for maturity. The drier weather in Maine allowed grain producers to significantly advance the oat and barley harvests, jumping way ahead of last year and normal. Both broadleaf and shade tobacco harvests neared completion at week's end.

### SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
	Percent		
<b>Topsoil Moisture</b>			
Very Short	0	1	2
Short	4	8	22
Adequate	79	72	75
Surplus	17	19	1
<b>Subsoil Moisture</b>			
Very Short	0	1	5
Short	3	7	20
Adequate	84	76	75
Surplus	13	16	0

### FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Size	Condition
	2008	2007	5 -yr Avg		
Apples	30	30	30	Average	Good
Peaches	95	85	90	Average	Good/Fair
Pears	40	30	35	Average	Good/Fair
Blueberries					
Highbush	99	99	99	Average/Above	Good/Excellent
Wild, ME	100	100	100	Average	Good
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-	Average/Above	Good

### FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2008	2007	5-yr Avg	Condition
Barley, ME	85	55	75	Fair/Good
Oats, ME	75	65	65	Good/Fair
Potatoes				
Maine	5	5	5	Fair/Good
Mass	45	30	40	Good
Rhode Island	80	80	70	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	10	25	15	Good/Excellent
Sweet Corn	90	90	85	Good/Excellent
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	99	95	95	Fair/Good
Shade	99	95	99	Good/Fair
Dry Hay				
First Cut	100	100	100	Fair
Second Cut	90	95	90	Good/Fair
Third Cut	50	60	50	Good/Excellent

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics  
Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday September 8, 2008  
To: Sunday September 14, 2008

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				CUM SINCE MAR 1 GROWING DEGREE DAYS				1-WEEK PRECIP			4-WEEK CUM PRECIP		
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOT	BASE-50F		BASE-60F	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS	INCHES	TOTAL	
						TOT	DFN	INCHES					DFN	DAYS
MAINE														
Augusta_State_A	41	75	61	+1	2083	+155	851	+119	0.80	+0.10	3	4.50	+1.63	8
Bangor_Intl_Arp	38	74	59	+0	1962	+202	769	+156	0.99	+0.15	3	4.15	+0.97	6
Bethel	37	75	57	-2	1733	-5	608	+19	0.96	+0.19	2	3.71	+0.32	5
Caribou_Municip	34	68	55	+1	1546	+152	502	+124	1.46	+0.62	3	2.12	-1.37	9
Dover-Foxcroft	34	73	55	-2	1622	+106	544	+92	0.55	-0.36	2	1.96	-1.58	8
Frenchville	37	67	54	-1	1392	+97	410	+87	1.07	+0.19	3	1.45	-2.18	9
Houlton	31	69	56	+1	1511	+54	484	+60	0.51	-0.34	3	1.53	-2.06	7
Livermore_Falls	34	76	57	+0	1802	+314	667	+238	0.60	-0.24	2	3.82	+0.22	6
Moosehead	31	71	54	-2	1321	+62	369	+59	1.07	+0.21	3	2.52	-0.88	7
Portland_ME	42	79	62	+2	2042	+261	830	+200	0.50	-0.20	2	6.10	+3.35	6
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	29	75	55	-4	1636	+42	519	+45	0.98	+0.22	3	3.01	-0.34	7
Berlin_AG	35	73	56	-2	1685	+82	541	+45	0.66	-0.11	3	2.30	-1.22	7
Concord	39	78	61	+2	2193	+260	949	+219	0.78	+0.13	3	6.13	+3.34	10
Diamond_Pond	36	69	53	-1	1194	+120	272	+67	1.29	+0.33	4	2.54	-1.70	8
Keene_AP	39	77	61	+3	2101	+337	884	+288	1.56	+0.86	3	5.02	+1.84	7
North_Conway	39	74	57	-2	1822	+28	634	+5	0.81	+0.02	3	3.61	+0.19	6
Rochester	42	79	61	+0	2233	+162	980	+148	0.50	-0.20	3	5.73	+2.73	8
Vermont														
Burlington_Intl	41	77	62	+2	2285	+225	994	+167	0.72	-0.07	4	1.70	-1.74	7
Island_Pond	37	74	57	+3	1589	+273	515	+191	0.83	+0.02	5	2.36	-1.44	10
Montpelier	39	76	60	+3	1881	+261	694	+190	0.79	+0.11	4	2.05	-1.07	13
Pownal	41	76	61	+3	2110	+418	865	+322	1.43	+0.52	4	4.88	+1.11	11
Rochester	38	79	59	+2	1740	+138	604	+110	1.28	+0.37	3	3.06	-0.86	7
Rutland_AG	37	76	60	-2	1864	-272	682	-188	0.59	-0.26	4	2.73	-0.90	7
Springfield_VT	40	76	61	+3	2079	+325	842	+255	1.03	+0.19	3	4.13	+0.62	10
Sutton	36	73	56	+1	1553	+224	478	+141	0.51	-0.30	4	1.49	-2.25	10
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	53	80	67	+2	2673	+184	1362	+205	0.50	-0.20	3	2.71	-0.27	6
Fitchburg	43	79	64	+6	2517	+764	1201	+608	1.01	+0.31	3	5.32	+2.41	8
Greenfield	36	77	61	-3	2153	-166	870	-139	1.13	+0.32	4	5.05	+1.77	10
New_Bedford	47	80	64	-3	2349	-170	1117	-67	1.09	+0.29	3	3.70	+0.12	9
Otis_AFB	48	81	64	+2	2210	+162	1024	+195	0.98	+0.21	3	4.84	+1.74	8
Plymouth	45	82	65	+2	2381	+276	1150	+278	0.80	-0.18	3	4.88	+1.02	7
Walpole	44	78	64	+2	2438	+317	1161	+295	0.79	-0.08	3	4.47	+0.87	9
Chicopee/Westov	42	78	64	-3	2404	-253	1102	-176	1.62	+0.78	3	7.18	+3.83	9
Worthington	40	74	59	+0	1858	+132	670	+106	1.48	+0.64	3	6.12	+2.56	10
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	50	80	66	+2	2780	+405	1424	+351	1.06	+0.22	3	5.35	+1.99	7
Woonsocket	45	79	64	+3	2435	+347	1146	+320	1.17	+0.26	3	4.71	+1.07	8
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	57	81	69	+3	2891	+332	1532	+299	1.64	+0.88	3	5.14	+2.27	8
Hartford/Bradle	48	79	66	+2	2761	+215	1394	+201	1.15	+0.24	3	6.67	+3.12	9
Norfolk	45	72	60	+2	2020	+294	807	+243	2.09	+1.11	4	6.77	+2.69	10
Thomaston_Dam	47	78	64	+2	2424	+356	1118	+309	1.54	+0.59	3	6.90	+3.01	10
Willimantic	46	78	64	+2	2525	+414	1188	+345	1.50	+0.59	3	5.62	+2.03	8

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, September 14, 2008

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	AIR TEMPERATURES				PRECIPITATION	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	30	79	57	-1	0.07	1.46
NH	28	80	58	+0	0.50	1.87
VT	34	79	59	+1	0.30	2.22
MA	36	83	63	+1	0.32	1.70
RI	45	80	66	+2	0.81	1.17
CT	43	81	65	+1	1.15	2.20

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

**CONNECTICUT - Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Showers on Tuesday, Friday and Sunday but not all day long. Vegetable harvest continued. Some broadleaf tobacco taken in and some more corn chopped as silage. Some reported sweet corn knocked down by Hanna. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Producers chopping corn and trying to finish third cutting of hay. Wet weather has contributed to downy mildew on cucumbers, early blight and large cracks on tomatoes, as well as black rot in pumpkins. Sales have been slower at the vegetable stands. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Corn looks good, nice height and color, ears are drying down, maturity is at various levels through out the county and about two weeks later than normal, heavy rain a concern that fields will be too wet to get in to harvest, corn harvest has started in southern to central towns of Windham county, apple picking is good, nice color and flavor, pears a bit sparse with earlier frost damage and effects of micro climates on production, high prices for winter cover crops, cleaning up vegetable beds. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** Silage corn fields began to be opened up and harvesting began this week. Rain storms dropped another couple of inches of rain on already saturated cropland. We escaped without any major wind damage problems from tropical storm Hanna. Fall crops are plentiful in the farm markets. **Jude Boucher (Ext), Tolland:** Wet, wet and more wet. Growers just want this season to end. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Silage harvest is started in CT. Fields that got planted on time in the spring are ready. Even some late planted fields seem to have caught up with earlier planted fields. Surprisingly dry matters taken on sample fields were only a point or two less than the normal fields.

**MAINE - Pam Hickey (Ext), Aroostook:** Grains continuing to be harvested. Broccoli harvesting continues. Canola is being harvested. Some early potatoes being harvested from field to processing continues also. The next week more farmers will be harvesting potatoes in the area. White mold levels are a little higher in canola this year. **Steve London, Aroostook:** Potato harvest will start for most growers this coming week. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Farmers are busy harvesting what is left in the fields. Pumpkins are reported to be way down in production. Sweet corn is just about over. Hay is still being cut. Apple orchards are open for pick your own. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Time to gear up for fall harvest. Fair season is coming to a peak. Some of the corn crop looks awesome and some in heavy soils not as good. With all of the rain, everything stayed green this summer. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Fall crops are now being harvested with plenty of pumpkins, winter squash, ornamental corn, and gourds available at local farm stands. Popular apple varieties are now available including McIntosh and Cortland. Sweet corn, which has been excellent, is still available although harvest is winding down. Farmers are hoping to start chopping some silage corn by the end of this week. We had some rain over the weekend, but through most of the week the weather was absolutely beautiful with plenty of sunshine. With warm, balmy weather forecasted for most of this upcoming week, farmers should have no problem harvesting their crops once fields dry up from yesterday's rainfall. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** Apple crop is looking good as well as vegetables,

fall squash and pumpkins. Field corn is looking good for the most part. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Some corn silage being harvested. Recent rains will slow down field work.

**MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire:** Most of the week felt like fall with cool temps and lows at night in the 40's and 30's a couple of times with frost warnings. But the week ended with tropical humidity and two and a half inches of rain. More folks started chopping corn and everybody is still trying to make hay. Fall veggies showed up at farm stands and markets. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Rain off and on during the week. Harvesting field corn, sweet corn, potatoes, apples, squash, pumpkins, cabbage, carrots and many other fall crops. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Harvest has been with mostly Ben Lear beds in early sequence for Ocean Spray. Some dry harvesting will begin this week. More fruit rot showing up and upright dieback is widespread in Early Black beds. Ample rainfall within the past week has really helped.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap:** Early apples like Jonamac and McIntosh are being picked. Sweet corn, tomatoes, peppers and other late summer vegetable are still available. Fall mums, corn stalks and pumpkin sales are going strong. Wet weather over the weekend will help cover crops grow. **Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll:** The weather was all over the charts this week, hot, cold, dry and wet. Hot and muggy early in the week, Cold nights threatened frost midweek, clear, dry and beautiful mid week and rain by Friday. If you don't like the weather, just wait a minute, it will change! Fall is definitely in the air, apples, mums and pumpkins are everywhere, and leaves are beginning to turn. Silage corn looks good considering the summer conditions, a bit late in maturing. This year's hay was a real challenge and producers are estimating a 30 to 35% reduction in hay harvested. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** A lot of field corn is mature now, and harvesting has begun. Vegetables doing well and a number of farms are putting fields to bed for the season. Apple harvest continues to progress, blueberry harvest just about done. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Mixed weather, varying temperatures this week. Hay still coming in, but harder to dry. Field corn looking well, milk stage to early dent. Farmers getting ready to chop. No frost of any consequence yet reported. Late season veggies sweet corn, pumpkins, tunnel tomatoes available from local farms. Potatoes are being dug. Annual grass weeds appear to have been the most common problem in corn fields this season. Heavy rains resulting in some ponding of fields in low lying areas along rivers. Early season apples now for sale at orchards. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending September 13, we had from three to four inches of rain depending on location. Rain events were heavy and intense in many areas. Soils are again saturated in many areas. We had two days in the middle of the week with decent weather, and farmers took advantage of this and chopped both corn and grass. Initial reports on the corn crop are encouraging. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Apple harvest is in full swing with most growers concentrating on second picking McIntosh and picking Cortland apples, also harvesting Gala and Honeycrisp

apples. Many growers are trying to find markets for hail damaged fruit. Fruit size is good. Fall raspberries and pear harvest continued with peach and plum harvest winding down. Vegetables: Harvesting a wide array of summer and fall vegetable crops. Farmers are starting to clean up harvested fields and planting cover crops. Pumpkin crop and winter squash yields vary from field to field. Field Crops: Farmers getting ready to start chopping corn silage. Hay cutting continued between rain showers with the second and third cuttings being made. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** A nice week for field work. Hay producers were making the second cut for hay and haylage whenever possible. Fruit growers were harvesting apples and late varieties of peaches. Blueberry harvesting was winding down while harvesting of fall raspberries was picking up. Growers were also mowing orchard floors and doing weed control as needed. Vegetable growers continued to harvest an array of vegetable crops. Some growers were planting winter rye for cover crop. Farm stands and farmers markets were busy with sweet corn, pumpkins and all kinds of vegetables. Garden centers were selling fall mums, pumpkins, corn stalks, trees and shrubs and other plant material.

**RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport:** Showers have helped some of the grasslands but make haying difficult. Started chopping some field corn, harvesting potatoes and corn and summer vegetables. Winter squash and pumpkins look good and starting to fill up roadside stands.

**VERMONT - Jeffrey Carter (Ext), Addison:** Started Corn silage harvest. Plants starting to shut down, ears mature but many not filled to tips. Soil conditions dry for good travel. Second cut hay and third cut haylage finishing as switching to

corn. Soybeans filling our pods, good pod counts. New seeded hay fields not so good, very weedy, regrowth slow after removing first clipping. Pastures shutting down. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Threat of frost one night. Two showery days, continuing to make hay. Some farmers beginning to open up corn fields. Corn still looks good, starting to dent. Soil getting kind of dry. Lots of Eastern Tent Caterpillar in trees. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Who would have thought that a nice rain on Tuesday was very welcome. Things are beginning to shut down on growth as fall is showing some signs. Pastures have slowed on growth and will soon be taking the last of the grazing advantage. Corn is changing rapidly. Scouted some corn today that was well dented at 1/3 milk line. Moisture still a little high, however, this will change rapidly as we enter the mature stage of the corn. The idea is to have machinery and storage ready to go for harvest. Saw some Soybeans that are maturing and showing some brown shade from the road. Apples will be in full picking mode so get out and stock up for winter. **John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille:** Corn silage harvest started last week for the "early birds". The possibility of frost did not pan out around here, thankfully. Some progress was made last week on second and third cut grass. Veggie producers in the cooler locations are starting to wind down after a challenging year. The rain we received over the weekend should be beneficial to grass growers and grazers. **Julie Jacque (FSA), Windham:** Hurricane Hanna supplied some needed rain and not in too much excess. Reports were about three inches of rain received over the weekend. The rest of the week provided mostly sunny days to continue harvest of crops. Most farmers report a "average" year for hay production having this window of sunny weather the last couple of weeks to catch up. Hopes are the weather will continue to allow for additional feed to be put up.

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