

# Crop Weather



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For week ending 10/5/08

## Apples and Fall Vegetables Plentiful

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:** For the week ending October 5, 2008, there were 5.2 days available for field work across New England. Pasture condition was rated 1% very poor, 1% poor, 34% fair, 60% good, and 4% excellent. The week began cloudy with average to above average temperatures. Highs were in the low 60s to low 70s with lows in the upper 40s to low 60s. Rain and wind moved into the region mid-week where areas saw anywhere between 0.10 and 4.00 inches of rain over three days. Rain halted field work in most areas and the winds caused minor apple drop. Temperatures cooled down for the weekend. Highs were in the low 50s to low 60s with lows in the low 30s to mid-40s. Crop specialists reported more frosts during the weekend with some areas of the south seeing their first. The week ended with mostly cloudy skies and light rain around New England.

**FRUIT:** Apples remained plentiful at farm stands and markets. Orchardists kept busy harvesting mid- and late season varieties such as McIntosh, Honeycrisp, Cortland and Macoun. Rain and wind mid-week hindered pick-your-own operations and resulted in some apple drop. The weather cleared up during the weekend allowing pick-your-own operation to prosper. Some late season apple scab disease has been showing up in areas of New Hampshire. Pear harvest continued during the week and is nearing complete. The crop was rated in good to fair condition with average fruit size. The Massachusetts cranberry harvest made significant progress last week and was a quarter of the way complete at week's end, behind last year and normal.

**VEGETABLES:** Fall crops such as pumpkins, winter squash, and broccoli were the main crops available at markets and roadside stands. The last of the sweet corn crop was also available however harvest is winding down. Growers were busy last week picking the last of their pumpkins and winter squash and pulling plastic off of their fields. Farmers also kept busy disking and planting cover crops. Growers in many states continue to report a decrease in their pumpkin and winter squash crops as a result of the wet summer. White mold is becoming an issue as well. In other areas such a part of Vermont pumpkins look good.

**FIELD CROPS:** Wet weather mid-week hindered harvesting in many areas however good weekend weather allowed farmers to get in their fields and make some progress. Farmers struggled last week to get the last of the corn for silage harvested. The second and third cuts of dry hay made minimal progress last week since cool, damp weather made drying difficult. Both hay crops were rated in good to fair condition throughout New England. However due to the lack of significant rains in many areas of Vermont, the crops in this state were rated in good to excellent condition. Maine's barley harvest was complete at week's end with the crop rated in fair to good condition. Maine's oat harvest neared completion at week's end and crop was rated in good to fair condition. The Rhode Island potato harvest was complete by the end of the week, ahead of last year and normal. Maine and Massachusetts potatoes harvests continued during the week. Some areas of Maine were too wet to dig potatoes, but farmers tried to harvest where they could.

### SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
	Percent		
<b>Topsoil Moisture</b>			
Very Short	0	0	9
Short	6	8	32
Adequate	73	59	58
Surplus	21	33	1
<b>Subsoil Moisture</b>			
Very Short	1	1	7
Short	4	6	30
Adequate	72	60	62
Surplus	23	33	1

### FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Size	Condition
	2008	2007	5-yr Avg		
Apples	70	65	70	Average	Good/Excellent
Pears	90	80	80	Average	Good/Fair
Cranberries, Ma	25	35	35	Average/Above	Good

### FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2008	2007	5-yr Avg	Condition
	Percent Harvested			
Barley, ME	100	100	95	Fair/Good
Oats, ME	95	99	95	Good/Fair
Potatoes				
Maine	70	85	75	Fair/Good
Mass	75	85	75	Good
Rhode Island	100	95	95	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	70	75	70	Good/Excellent
Sweet Corn	99	99	99	Good/Excellent
Dry Hay				
Second Cut	99	99	95	Good/Fair
Third Cut	75	85	85	Good/Fair

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

For the Period: Monday September 29, 2008  
To: Sunday October 5, 2008

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		
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN				INCHES	DFN	DAYS
<b>MAINE</b>														
Augusta_State_A	39	68	55	+2	2221	+162	875	+129	1.38	+0.61	5	5.07	+2.10	11
Bangor_Intl_Arp	38	72	54	+3	2081	+207	787	+165	1.76	+1.02	5	5.29	+2.15	11
Bethel	33	66	53	+3	1842	-1	622	+26	1.62	+0.85	5	5.70	+2.62	10
Caribou_Municip	33	65	52	+5	1651	+208	514	+136	2.60	+1.90	4	6.12	+3.04	11
Dover-Foxcroft	31	69	51	+3	1705	+117	552	+100	2.01	+1.16	3	4.84	+1.26	8
Frenchville	35	64	50	+3	1473	+133	418	+95	1.68	+0.91	4	5.07	+1.77	13
Houlton	30	65	52	+4	1616	+108	495	+71	1.97	+1.23	4	5.21	+2.01	12
Livermore_Falls	29	69	53	+5	1914	+358	681	+252	0.93	+0.13	5	4.19	+0.93	10
Moosehead	33	63	50	+2	1392	+80	377	+67	0.95	+0.18	5	3.88	+0.57	12
Portland_ME	36	71	56	+4	2198	+291	863	+226	1.24	+0.47	5	5.75	+2.80	10
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>														
Benton	33	69	51	+0	1727	+44	532	+56	1.43	+0.73	5	3.90	+1.04	11
Berlin_AG	35	69	53	+4	1797	+113	563	+66	1.22	+0.46	6	3.93	+0.95	14
Concord	32	75	56	+4	2366	+308	993	+254	0.44	-0.24	4	3.62	+1.03	12
Diamond_Pond	32	67	49	+3	1265	+152	278	+73	1.35	+0.51	6	3.75	+0.19	14
Keene_AP	34	73	56	+5	2272	+402	925	+323	0.14	-0.55	2	2.85	+0.19	10
North_Conway	33	69	53	+2	1930	+36	648	+15	0.81	-0.03	5	4.21	+1.01	11
Rochester	34	73	56	+2	2378	+155	1008	+156	1.20	+0.37	6	4.45	+1.39	13
<b>VERMONT</b>														
Burlington_Intl	42	70	55	+4	2447	+260	1026	+185	1.06	+0.40	3	2.19	-0.71	9
Island_Pond	32	70	50	+2	1696	+314	531	+206	1.38	+0.68	4	2.87	-0.08	12
Montpelier	36	73	54	+4	2021	+307	720	+208	1.20	+0.57	5	2.54	-0.03	15
Pownal	36	73	55	+5	2264	+463	894	+342	0.91	+0.08	5	3.88	+0.43	14
Rochester	37	71	55	+5	1874	+169	624	+120	1.32	+0.48	5	3.57	+0.14	11
Rutland_AG	36	69	54	-1	1995	-296	704	-194	0.67	-0.03	3	1.50	-1.62	8
Springfield_VT	35	74	56	+5	2247	+388	879	+283	0.60	-0.17	5	2.90	-0.27	13
Sutton	32	69	51	+4	1650	+262	490	+153	1.14	+0.44	5	2.17	-0.83	13
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>														
Boston/Logan_In	45	71	60	+2	2909	+179	1426	+206	0.87	+0.17	2	4.68	+1.88	10
Fitchburg	34	76	58	+7	2716	+855	1257	+659	0.84	+0.14	4	4.24	+1.52	12
Greenfield	33	76	57	+2	2297	-214	897	-149	0.33	-0.44	3	3.81	+0.69	11
New_Bedford	37	73	60	-1	2564	-214	1184	-75	1.02	+0.32	5	7.15	+4.15	12
Otis_AFB	39	70	59	+3	2428	+190	1084	+221	0.70	-0.13	5	5.29	+2.08	12
Plymouth	37	71	59	+4	2596	+310	1215	+313	0.67	-0.24	4	6.55	+2.79	11
Walpole	38	71	58	+4	2618	+337	1207	+314	1.60	+0.76	3	5.89	+2.50	10
Chicopee/Westov	34	77	59	+1	2607	-285	1162	-178	0.90	+0.12	3	4.22	+0.99	10
Worthington	33	73	53	+1	1979	+130	689	+114	0.82	+0.01	5	4.05	+0.72	12
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>														
Providence	42	73	61	+3	3029	+430	1501	+374	1.05	+0.28	4	7.03	+3.85	11
Woonsocket	38	76	59	+6	2639	+394	1201	+355	1.66	+0.82	4	6.71	+3.24	11
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>														
Bridgeport/Siko	42	73	61	+2	3169	+347	1619	+305	0.25	-0.45	3	3.66	+0.80	10
Hartford/Bradle	38	77	61	+4	3002	+251	1468	+231	0.51	-0.33	3	4.18	+0.71	10
Norfolk	36	69	54	+2	2155	+315	828	+255	0.45	-0.44	5	4.19	+0.45	14
Thomaston_Dam	37	73	58	+3	2621	+382	1164	+323	0.76	-0.14	4	3.90	+0.23	11
Willimantic	36	77	59	+5	2752	+465	1262	+388	1.04	+0.13	4	4.82	+1.16	11

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, October 5, 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	29	72	52	+3	0.37	3.01
NH	22	75	54	+3	0.14	3.44
VT	26	75	53	+3	0.60	2.52
MA	31	77	58	+3	0.16	1.60
RI	38	76	60	+4	0.29	1.66
CT	32	78	59	+3	0.22	3.94

**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:** Some still struggling to get the last of their corn chopped. Some hay put up as silage. Vegetable farmers picking last of pumpkins, winter squash and pulling plastic off fields. Scattered frost on Saturday morning with highs in the 60's. Saturday was a strong day for farm stand sales and fall yard decorations. As weather went down hill on Sunday sales dropped off. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Excessive rainfall has made it difficult to harvest corn in the fields with heavier soils and to finish third cut of hay. Pumpkins are being affected as well with white mold. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Apples have good color and excellent flavor, a bit smaller, no hay making this week with heavy rains over three days, vine crops are finished producing, corn harvest minimal with wet fields. **Jude Boucher (Ext), Tolland:** Maybe a frost tomorrow night. Some hardy folks along Long Island Sound will continue to sell to CSA customers, at farmers markets or at their own stands. Others may be limited to Brassica crops and crops from high tunnels.

**MAINE - Steve London, Aroostook:** It has been too wet to dig most days and farmers are trying to harvest when and where they can. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Wet weather has slowed harvest to only those fields that are well drained. Some manure pits are starting to be emptied. Cold weather has probably forced a county wide frost by now.

**MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire:** Apples and fall vegetables harvested and selling at stands and markets along with cider and seasonal ornamentals. Corn chopping continues and the last hay is being cut. Tourist traffic high with turning leaves. Frost was patchy in the county this week with three rainy days. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Harvesting potatoes, cabbage, collards, parsnips, apples, beets and pumpkins. More tobacco growers started taking down broadleaf tobacco due to morning tobacco damps. Many producers were adding a cover crop to their harvested fields. Vegetable growers were also picking up irrigation pipe and adding lime to harvested fields. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Harvesting increased significantly last week and will ramp up further this week as we move into the peak harvest time. Growers report crops to be everything they had hoped for, few have been disappointed. Berry size is very good. Weather has been OK for dry harvest for the most part. A couple frost nights last week, but not dangerous ones.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap:** Sunny weekend provided opportunity for field work and strong sales at farm stands and orchards. Mid-season apple varieties are being picked. Clear skies were good for late season haying. **Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll:** Cool and wet most of the week, brighter on the week-end. Cool temperatures but no frost over the entire county yet. Some farm stands still have sweet corn, though the customers have all moved on to pumpkins, winter squash and mums. Fall foliage almost to peak, looks like a nice week coming for the leaf peepers. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Cooler temperatures later in the week, and some light frost over the weekend. More progress on chopping silage corn, with most farms just about done. More hay or baleage harvested here and there, and some farms are eyeing a fourth. Mostly fall crops showing up in farm stands. Apple picking continues to do well. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Moderate weather this week, corn chopping continues, bunk silo being filled quickly. Some smaller farms finished. Quality ok but not looking as good as last year.

Apple orchards busy as later season varieties now coming in, (i.e. Honeycrisps). Good mix of maturing apples making for good cider. A bit of hay still coming in, cool, damp weather makes drying difficult. Nice fall colors despite some rains knocking off a few leaves. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending October 4th, we received a significant amount of rain. Some areas received around two inches, while others in Grafton County recorded nearly four inches of precipitation. Corn harvest is nearly completed. Pumpkin harvest is moving along. Pumpkin yields are down for the season. Winter squash yields appear to have been affected as well. Apple yields appear to be excellent in orchards with no hail or similar loss events. Dry hay yields are off for the year. The well drained river bottom soils appear to have done much better than the less well drained river bottom soils and upland soils. Many producers have expressed concerns about hay and haylage forage quality due to the excessively wet conditions of this past summer. Yield test on a number of corn fields indicate a mixed bag of results. Yields were lower on the soils that were flooded and or less well drained. Yields on the well drained soils were better. Producers mentioned that some pastures with poorer drainage did not have as good of a grazing season. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Pick-your-own apple and farm stand operations had a wonderful Saturday and Sunday. Apple harvest is in full swing with most growers concentrating on strip picking McIntosh apples, and working on Cortland and Macoun. Fruit size is good, but bruising can be a problem and orchardists seeing quite a bite of apple drop because of wind. Orchardists reporting quite-a-bit of late-season apple scab disease being seen. Peach and pear harvest is completed and fall raspberries harvest continues. Vegetables: Great weather and good demand for all vegetable continues. Farmers are harvesting wide array of vegetables including: cabbage, kale, Brussels sprouts, winter squash and pumpkins along with the tail end of warm season crops. Good demand for all vegetable continues. Warm-season crops (like tomatoes, peppers, and beans) harvest is over, with sweet corn harvest almost completed. Farmers kept busy disking, cleaning up and planting cover crops on harvested fields. Field Crops: Silage corn harvest in full swing with the end in sight. The second and third cutting of hay and hayage continues between rain showers. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Apple picking going well. Picking greens, herbs, garlic and array of vegetables. Nights are getting colder with almost freezing temperatures in some areas. Corn silage being done as well as hay. Pastures are growing. Cleaning fields; spreading manure and planting cover crops. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** There was a sigh of relief after two weeks of rain almost everyday. However the fields were still very wet and hay producers were waiting for the fields to dry out before they can go back to continue with haying operations. Fruit growers were busy harvesting apples. It was a slow week for pick you operations because of the rains. Vegetable growers continued to harvest late crops and plowing in debris to prepare the fields for winter. Farm stands were busy selling squashes, pumpkins, sweet corn and other vegetable crops. Garden centers were busy with fall mums, corn stalks and other fall decorations.

**RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport:** Still harvesting corn and summer crops, finishing up potatoes and field corn. Pumpkins took a bit of a hit with all the moisture this summer, winter squash being harvested with some of the same complaints. Spreading manure in between the rain. Weekends have been rainy which put a crimp into corn maze business and farmers markets.

**VERMONT - Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** About an inch of rain early in the week, it had been dry. Some frost late in the week. Most corn silage is in; the rain did not really bother. Most haying is done. Lots of red in the foliage this year, peak was early in the week. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Things are beginning to slow down in the way of growth in Franklin County with cool temps and some rainy weather. Corn harvest is going very well and headed past the half way mark. The crop has dried down quickly making the processors in the choppers worth there value at this stage of the game. Yields are good and quality is off

on energy values due to the mid summer rains, however, not as bad as things could have been. Hay harvest is about complete; however, some late haylage may be put up if good weather holds. Apples will be on the back side of the harvest with Ghosts and Goblins soon approaching. **John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille:** Conditions have been ideal for corn silage harvest with the majority of the crop now safely in storage. Grass growth has been weak due to lack of rain and many hay fields are being grazed instead of harvested for third cut. Pretty good pumpkin harvest in this area considering the wet summer.

**September 2008 CROP WEATHER SUMMARY:** September began with partly cloudy skies and average to above average high temperatures ranging from the mid 70s to low 90s. Remnants of tropical storm Hanna moved into New England during the first weekend of the month bringing anywhere from 1.0 to 7.0 inches of rain. Wind gusts were minimal and no significant flooding occurred. Temperatures cooled down during the second week of September. Nighttime lows were in the mid-40s to low 60s causing frost warnings to be issued in some states. Remnants of Hurricane Ike brought 0.5 to 4.0 inches of rain to New England during the second weekend of September. No serious wind damage was reported. Temperatures were average during the third week in September and skies were partly cloudy. Chilly nighttime lows in the mid-30s to low 50s brought light frosts to some areas and killing frosts to some of the northernmost areas. The last week in September remained on the cool side with high temperatures in the upper 50s to mid-60s and lows dipped down into the mid-20s in some areas, setting new record lows for the day. More light frosts occurred however many southern areas remained frost-free. Temperatures warmed up toward the last weekend in September as a result of a summer nor'easter and Hurricane Kyle. These systems brought 0.38 to 6.82 inches of rain to New England. Flooding was minimal and winds did not pose a threat to Maine. September ended with cloudy skies across the region and high temperatures in the low 60s to mid-70s and lows in upper 40s to low 60s. Total rainfall for September ranged from 1.82 to 12.03 inches, well above average in most areas. Highbush blueberry harvest was complete mid-month with the crop rated in good to excellent condition. Maine wild blueberry harvest was also complete by mid-September with berries rated in good condition. Peach harvest was complete at month's end, on par with last year but ahead normal. Pears were 75 percent harvested by the end of September and rated in good to fair condition. Massachusetts cranberry harvest began towards the end of September and the crop was 10 percent harvested at month's end, behind last year and normal. Maine potato harvest got underway during the first week in September. The crop was 45 percent harvested at month's end, ahead of last year and on par with normal. Massachusetts potatoes were 65 percent harvested at month's end, ahead of last year and on par with normal. Rhode Island potatoes remained in good to excellent condition and were 95 percent harvested by the end of September, on par with last year and ahead of normal. Maine's grain harvests were nearly complete at the end of September, with barley at 99 percent harvested and oats at 95 percent harvested. Sweet corn was 95 percent harvested by month's end, on par with last year and normal. The crop was rated in good to excellent condition. Field corn harvest began to pick up speed mid-month and was 60 percent harvested at the end of September. Broadleaf and Shade tobacco harvest were complete by mid-September. Broadleaf tobacco was rated in fair condition due to early crop damage from hail while Shade tobacco was rated in good to fair condition. The first cut of grass for dry hay was finally complete by mid-September and was rated in fair condition. The second cut was 90 percent harvested at month's end, behind last year and on par with normal. The crop was rated in good to fair condition. The third cut was 50 percent harvested at month's end, behind last year but on par with normal and rated in good to excellent condition.

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