

Crop Weather



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United States Department of Agriculture

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October 20, 2008 – 4 pm

For week ending 10/19/08

Sunny, Warm Week; Cool, Frosty Weekend

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending October 19, 2008, there were 6.5 days available for field work across New England. Pasture condition was rated 1% very poor, 12% poor, 39% fair, 46% good, and 2% excellent. Skies were mostly cloudy across New England at the start of the week with average to above average temperatures. Highs were in the mid-50s to low 70s with nighttime lows in the mid-30s to mid-50s. Rain moved into northern areas Wednesday night. Rainfall totals through Thursday ranged from 0.10 to 0.57 inches. Friday's temperatures were below average to average and remained at these levels throughout the weekend. Lows ranged from the upper-teens in the North to the low 40s in the South. The North had further hard freezes while many areas in the South experienced their first killing frost of the year, officially ending the growing season in New England. The week ended with partly cloudy skies and windy conditions with cool fall-like temperatures.

FRUIT: The past week's weather provided excellent conditions for apple growers to harvest Rome, Fuji, Red and Golden Delicious varieties. Pick-your-own operations kept busy throughout the weekend despite cooler temperatures. Orchardists were also busy picking up apple drops and cleaning up orchards after harvest. Sooty Blotch and Fly Speck diseases were affecting several late maturing apple varieties in New Hampshire. The pear harvest neared completion across New England this week with some areas reporting that harvest was complete. It was a very active week for cranberry growers in Massachusetts. Both wet and dry harvests made significant progress. More rot than usual was reported in some bogs however overall quality of berries remained in good condition.

VEGETABLES: Pumpkins and winter squash harvest continued last week and both crops remain popular at farms stands and markets. There were reports of pumpkin rot within a few days of harvesting making it difficult for growers to keep their harvested pumpkins in good condition. Also, pumpkins were starting to freeze with the onset on cooler temperatures and frequent frosts. Cabbage, parsnips, beets, kale, and Brussels sprouts harvests continued and all crops were available for purchase.

FIELD CROPS: Corn silage harvest was nearly complete last week. Most of the corn left standing will be harvested for grain and high moisture shell corn. The weather was warm last week but too cool for hay to dry. Second cut dry hay remains at a standstill and will most likely not be harvested this year. Third cut hay progressed and harvest was on par with last year and normal. Thursday's rains brought an excellent tobacco damp to Massachusetts; however broadleaf growers in Connecticut were waiting for damps to take down more of the crop. The Massachusetts potato harvest was completed, ahead of last year and normal. Maine's potato harvest was nearly complete and rated in fair to good condition.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
	Percent		
Topsoil Moisture			
Very Short	0	1	5
Short	3	5	13
Adequate	84	78	77
Surplus	13	16	5
Subsoil Moisture			
Very Short	1	1	8
Short	1	4	17
Adequate	87	80	70
Surplus	11	15	5

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Size	Condition
	2008	2007	5-yr Avg		
Apples	90	85	90	Average	Good/Excellent
Pears	99	99	95	Average	Good/Fair
Cranberries, MA	80	75	80	Average/Above	Good

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2008	2007	5-yr Avg	Condition
	Percent Harvested			
Potatoes				
Maine	95	100	99	Fair/Good
Mass	100	95	90	Good
Rhode Island	100	100	100	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	95	95	90	Good/Excellent
Dry Hay				
Second Cut	99	100	99	Good
Third Cut	90	90	90	Good

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

For the Period: Monday October 13, 2008
To: Sunday October 19, 2008

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	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS
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MAINE														
Augusta_State_A	28	64	49	+2	2269	+182	877	+131	0.26	-0.62	4	4.38	+1.13	12
Bangor_Intl_Arp	23	64	48	+0	2104	+206	787	+165	0.22	-0.54	2	4.33	+1.36	11
Bethel	25	67	48	+2	1873	+10	622	+26	0.28	-0.59	2	4.82	+1.58	10
Caribou_Municip	24	56	44	+1	1654	+206	514	+136	0.25	-0.44	4	4.76	+1.92	11
Dover-Foxcroft	22	64	45	+2	1718	+123	552	+100	0.43	-0.40	2	4.49	+1.09	9
Frenchville	24	57	44	+3	1474	+131	418	+95	0.35	-0.35	4	3.40	+0.38	12
Houlton	18	59	43	-2	1622	+108	495	+71	0.25	-0.45	3	4.88	+1.97	10
Livermore_Falls	23	68	46	+2	1924	+359	681	+252	0.43	-0.42	4	3.85	+0.58	12
Moosehead	22	61	43	-1	1397	+80	377	+67	0.48	-0.29	3	3.28	+0.16	12
Portland_ME	31	66	51	+4	2246	+314	864	+227	0.15	-0.72	1	5.25	+2.03	9
NEW_HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	21	65	46	+0	1737	+34	532	+56	0.62	-0.13	2	3.45	+0.60	10
Berlin_AG	23	66	47	+3	1812	+112	563	+66	0.15	-0.67	1	3.26	+0.20	10
Concord	23	71	50	+3	2410	+326	993	+254	0.35	-0.37	2	3.01	+0.28	11
Diamond_Pond	21	66	42	+1	1276	+158	278	+73	0.50	-0.34	2	2.60	-0.77	12
Keene_AP	23	70	51	+5	2315	+425	927	+325	0.54	-0.16	1	1.86	-0.86	8
North_Conway	27	65	48	+3	1952	+39	648	+15	0.20	-0.73	1	3.40	-0.05	9
Rochester	28	67	50	+2	2410	+146	1008	+156	0.40	-0.57	1	4.21	+0.74	11
VERMONT														
Burlington_Intl	26	69	51	+4	2495	+277	1027	+186	0.57	-0.06	2	2.22	-0.40	8
Island_Pond	19	68	46	+3	1716	+322	531	+206	0.43	-0.27	4	2.56	-0.24	11
Montpelier	22	68	48	+3	2055	+321	720	+208	0.47	-0.16	3	2.38	-0.14	11
Pownal	27	69	51	+5	2299	+473	894	+342	0.35	-0.49	2	2.88	-0.46	13
Rochester	23	74	49	+4	1904	+177	624	+120	0.07	-0.77	2	2.50	-0.86	10
Rutland_AG	23	71	48	-2	2018	-318	704	-196	0.41	-0.22	1	1.54	-1.20	6
Springfield_VT	24	69	50	+5	2286	+405	879	+283	0.56	-0.23	3	2.42	-0.68	13
Sutton	23	65	46	+5	1658	+262	490	+153	0.49	-0.28	3	2.04	-0.91	11
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	40	70	56	+3	3018	+206	1439	+211	0.00	-0.73	0	3.95	+1.12	7
Fitchburg	30	72	53	+7	2787	+903	1260	+662	0.03	-0.72	1	3.23	+0.41	10
Greenfield	27	71	51	-1	2334	-235	893	-158	0.06	-0.71	1	2.85	-0.23	9
New_Bedford	34	69	54	-3	2632	-239	1187	-83	0.00	-0.78	0	5.95	+2.97	10
Otis_AFB	37	68	54	+3	2493	+198	1084	+219	0.00	-0.87	0	4.43	+1.05	11
Plymouth	39	67	54	+3	2664	+325	1220	+317	0.00	-0.91	0	5.58	+1.99	9
Walpole	33	69	54	+5	2681	+357	1208	+314	0.00	-0.88	0	4.86	+1.46	8
Chicopee/Westov	28	71	52	-3	2664	-306	1166	-184	0.02	-0.79	1	2.71	-0.42	8
Worthington	28	71	51	+4	2014	+132	689	+114	0.13	-0.71	1	2.86	-0.43	10
RHODE_ISLAND														
Providence	40	70	57	+4	3127	+457	1508	+374	0.00	-0.84	0	5.47	+2.30	9
Woonsocket	33	71	55	+6	2712	+430	1203	+357	0.00	-0.91	0	5.11	+1.62	9
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	41	73	58	+4	3282	+366	1634	+306	0.00	-0.70	0	2.22	-0.53	8
Hartford/Bradle	34	74	56	+5	3091	+280	1475	+233	0.00	-0.77	0	2.90	-0.32	7
Norfolk	31	67	50	+5	2190	+324	828	+255	0.01	-0.87	1	2.10	-1.42	12
Thomaston_Dam	33	70	54	+4	2684	+390	1164	+318	0.07	-0.82	1	2.43	-1.11	10
Willimantic	32	73	55	+4	2825	+486	1267	+391	0.04	-0.87	1	3.21	-0.43	10

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, October 19, 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	18	69	46	+1	0.06	0.80
NH	17	72	48	+3	0.02	0.96
VT	17	74	48	+3	0.07	0.70
MA	23	72	53	+3	0.00	0.59
RI	33	72	57	+4	0.00	0.00
CT	29	75	55	+4	0.00	0.07

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: We had our first hard frost this past week. We have not had any heavy fall rains, so the fields are still easy to work. Corn for silage is nearly all harvested. The corn still standing will be harvested for grain. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Just about everybody has finished chopping corn. Some picked a little shelled corn for corn stove customers. Some high moisture ear corn was harvested as well. Frost on both Saturday (10/18) and Sunday (10/19). Some are chopping grass silage. Only cabbage left to pick on some vegetable acreage. Pumpkins are still moving for most of the week. Broadleaf tobacco producers are waiting for damps to take down more in sheds. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Producers will be picking the remaining corn for grain. The first heavy frost was experienced in the county this weekend. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** An excellent week with dry warm sunny days. Frazzled farmers with intense drive have gotten most of the silage corn chopped and third cutting of hay slow to dry. Apples have excellent flavor and good sales at farms and farmers markets, winter squash is good. Rye cover crop is growing well carpeting the fields with a nice green contrast to the varied hues of autumn. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** Perfect fall weather continued this week. There is a lot of cleaning up activities going on as the growing season winds down. Orchard fruits are plentiful and delicious. Lots of mums and pumpkins to be found at farm stands. **Jude Boucher (Ext), Tolland:** There were still at least a couple of growers selling sweet corn along Long Island Sound last week, with acres still left to harvest. Killing frost in Tolland County on October 19 and 20, the 2008 growing season is over for most vegetable growers in CT, but the retail sales go on. **Joyce Meader (Ext), Windham:** Excellent corn silage yields have allowed corn grain or ears to be combined for sale to poultry operations, or storage as earlage for dairy cows. Corn grain sale price is dropping. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Corn silage harvest has ended. Farms with beans or grain corn are between harvests waiting for these crops to dry down. Overall producers were surprised with the yields. Not the best year certainly, but not nearly as bad as everyone feared given the wet spring!

MAINE -Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York: Good weather continues for apple picking. Red and Yellow Delicious apples are still available for pick your own. Other crops should be finished harvesting, however, there are still fields of silage standing. All areas received heavy frost this morning, even down to the coast. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Not only is there frost on the pumpkins, now they are starting to freeze! Hay season is pretty much a "wrap". Some silage corn left to go. Soybeans and grain corn are left to harvest. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Numerous frosts throughout this past week have put an end to the growing season in the mid coast area. Farmers are finishing up their harvest of silage corn this week. All other crops have been harvested and reports are that most yields were average to above despite the wetter than normal growing season. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Cover crops still being planted with the last of the corn being harvested. Muddy fields are hampering the last of the field work. We finally had a really hard freeze on Saturday night.

MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: Good business at farm stands and markets. Pumpkins are not keeping long once harvested this year, complaints of rot within a few days of picking. No problems reported on winter squash yet. Long season grain corn is still in the field. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Another beautiful fall season this week. Thursday's rain brought an excellent tobacco damp to the Connecticut River Valley. The valleys first frosts arrived over the weekend also; only parsnips, collards, beets, cabbage and other greens are to be harvested. Growers are spreading lime and applying manure or harvested fields. The corn grain harvest has

also started. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Very active week for both dry and wet harvest. Handlers report crops continue to be large with good quality. Stevens's variety has more rot than usual. Some growers are near finish and some have many acres left.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll: Week began warm and dry, foliage at peak. A few tenths of rain at mid-week, the sun returned by Thursday, but much colder air came with it. Frost at least three nights this week. Foliage past peak by the end of the week, woodstoves fired up all over the county. Mums, pumpkins and winter squash still popular at the farm stand. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Sunny weather most of the week, with hard frosts becoming more frequent. Corn chopping all done. Weather is too cool for hay to dry, but there's still a little baleage taken here and there, and some farms harvested a fourth cutting on their grass and alfalfa. Harvesting of fall vegetable crops is starting to wind down. More great weather for picking apples. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Cooler temperatures, frost and a hard freeze to end the week. Corn silage chopping, hauling bunker silo packing continues at a good pace. Other farm activities are winding down. Apples and cider at orchards. High tunnels still yielding a few tomatoes, cleaning these up as season ends. Remaining field corn frost/freeze damaged. Past peak colors in the county. Farms continue to pasture livestock to make full use of available feed. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending October 18th, we had just over a half inch of rain. Now that the trees have lost their leaves, a little bit of rain goes a long way. With no transpiration taking place, and temperatures remaining cooler, the soils retain the water for a much longer period of time. Fortunately, many fields along the river bottom have better drainage and are still operable. A few operators are busy applying and harrowing in their manure, but most will wait until spring. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Farm stands and Pick-your-own apple operations had a beautiful weekend! Apple harvest is winding down, harvesting Rome, Fuji, and Golden Delicious. Picking up drops and cleaning up orchards from harvest. Sooty Blotch and Fly Speck diseases are affecting several late maturing apple varieties. Vegetables: County wide frost occurred during the week. Farmers kept busy working on pulling plastic mulch and tomato stakes, planting cover crops, and putting away equipment. Good demand for all vegetables continues. Growers are harvesting wide array of vegetables including cabbage, kale, brussels sprouts, winter squash and pumpkins along with the tail end of warm season crops. Field Crops: Silage corn chopping continues with the end in sight and seeding cover crops on harvested fields. Some manure spreading and incorporating in soil is taking place. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** Nice and mild weather throughout the week. One day of rains and also the first real frost of the year. Hay producers were doing the last cuts of the year. Apple harvesting is winding down and some growers were also harvesting fall raspberries. Vegetable growers were plowing in the fields and planting winter rye seed for cover crop. Farm stands were busy selling vegetables and fruits, pumpkins and corn stalks for fall decoration. Garden centers were selling fall mums and other fall decorations.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: Winter squash and pumpkins being harvested. Field corn still being chopped and some third cut finishing up. Warm dry weather has kept some of the summer vegetables going but quickly coming to an end. Spreading manure and liming fields. Corn mazes, apple picking, pumpkin picking and roadside stands are very busy.

VERMONT - Jeffrey Carter (Ext), Addison: Finished corn silage harvest. Manure spreading on corn and hay land. Plowing in manure and lime into corn fields. Soybean harvest started. Shell corn for High Moisture Shell Corn started. Good weather conditions dry and

cool. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Finishing up both corn silage and haylage. For some, the corn looks excellent, an unusual fourth cutting of haylage is yielding more than the first cut did in May. Heavy frost for last few nights is finishing up our growing season. For the week we had about a half inch of rain. Spreading manure to have enough room in the pit for winter. **John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille:** Last week brought a series of heavy frosts that have ended the growing season in this area. Corn silage harvest has all but ended but there is still some third cut grass and a bit of fourth cut alfalfa that was harvested. Many are taking advantage of the weather to get some manure spread. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Almost all of the corn has been harvested. We have had several very hard frosts this past week. There is still some forth cut hay being harvested. Most farms are still using there pastures for at least part of the day. The drier past month has made the corn harvest much easier. Overall there are mixed feelings on the season. Some farms are feeling comfortable with their yields and feed quality and some are not. Farms on the heavier wet soils had

more difficulties harvesting their grass and some corn along the rivers was stunted due to flooding. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Franklin County had some rainy days this week, however topsoil moisture is not creating bad field conditions for the remaining corn harvest and fall manure applications at this time. Pastures are still great for this time of year, nice sunny days and warm day time temps are making nice conditions for fall pasture clean up. The leaf peepers are on the real down side of the season. Heavy frosts have really brought the leaves to the ground; however we have had a great leaf and apple season in Franklin County. Hay harvests are about done and getting some nice weather to bring back hay fields harvested and cover crops that have been applied to corn fields. The cover crop practice has caught fire here in Franklin County along with many other counties in Vermont. Good Environmental practice along with providing a little Nitrogen for next ears crop. This is still not as good as a sod and corn rotation which is also a good environmental practice.

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