

# Crop Weather



**NEW ENGLAND**  
Agricultural  
Statistics



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For week ending 10/26/08

## A Mixed Bag of Weather

This will be the last publication for the 2008 crop year. We hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season and good luck next spring!

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:** For the week ending October 26, 2008, there were 5.5 days available for field work across New England. Pasture condition was rated 2% very poor, 15% poor, 34% fair, 46% good, and 3% excellent. The week began with mainly sunny skies across New England with average high temperatures in the 50s and below average lows in the upper teens to mid-30s. Chilly temperatures brought more hard freezes to the region. Northern states picked up anywhere between 0.20 and 0.39 inches of rainfall on Tuesday with areas in the extreme north seeing wintry mix to snow. No significant accumulation was reported. After the front moved through the area, temperatures dipped down to below average levels. Temperatures remained cool on Thursday and Friday with partly cloudy skies. Temperatures rose to above average levels for the weekend. High temperatures were in the upper 50s to mid-60s while lows ranged from the upper 30s to low 50s. Heavy rain and strong winds moved through New England Saturday and into Sunday. Areas picked up significant rainfall totaling anywhere between one to four inches with the most precipitation seen in the northern states. Wind gusts were up to 60 mph with some power outages reported. Skies turned partly cloudy Sunday afternoon and temperatures were comfortable.

**FRUIT:** The apple harvest was nearly complete this week. There are only a few more apples to pick here and there. Orchardists kept busy picking up apple drops, marketing their crop and mowing orchard floors. The pear harvest came to a close, on par with last year and ahead of normal with the crop rated in good to fair condition. The Massachusetts cranberry harvest was active during the week with 10 percent left to be harvested. Frost protection and rainy weather made conditions not suitable for dry harvest.

**VEGETABLES:** Farm stands remained open during the week offering pumpkins, potatoes and leafy crops. Vegetable harvest for the most part is complete throughout New England. Growers were busy cleaning up fields, picking up plastic mulch and drip tape and soil testing their fields for next season.

**FIELD CROPS:** Corn silage was chopped last week and only a small amount of the crop remained standing in many parts of the region. Second cut dry hay harvest was complete, behind last year and normal due to the rainy summer. Some fields of third cut dry hay remain and some lucky farmers were getting in a little fourth cutting. Potato harvest in Maine was complete, behind last year, but ahead of normal. The warm weekend rains caused an excellent tobacco damp in Massachusetts allowing growers to take down more of their crop Sunday morning. Farmers also kept busy spreading manure, plowing and disking, liming their fields, and putting away harvesting equipment.

### SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
Percent			
<b>Topsoil Moisture</b>			
Very Short	0	0	3
Short	1	3	3
Adequate	84	84	78
Surplus	15	13	16
<b>Subsoil Moisture</b>			
Very Short	1	1	4
Short	1	1	5
Adequate	88	87	88
Surplus	10	11	3

### FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Size	Condition
	2008	2007	5 -yr Avg		
Apples	99	95	95	Average	Good/Excellent
Pears	100	100	99	Average	Good/Fair
Cranberries, Ma	90	85	85	Average/Above	Good

### FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

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

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

For the Period: Monday October 20, 2008  
To: Sunday October 26, 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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<b>MAINE</b>														
Augusta_State_A	27	60	44	-3	2276	+184	877	+131	1.90	+0.96	3	3.61	+0.19	13
Bangor_Intl_Arp	21	61	42	-4	2110	+209	787	+165	0.99	+0.18	3	3.03	+0.02	12
Bethel	22	62	40	-5	1873	+10	622	+26	2.20	+1.26	2	4.15	+0.74	10
Caribou_Municip	20	55	38	-3	1655	+207	514	+136	0.79	+0.09	2	3.66	+0.88	11
Dover-Foxcroft	20	62	38	-5	1718	+123	552	+100	1.78	+0.93	3	4.25	+0.91	10
Frenchville	15	52	37	-3	1474	+131	418	+95	0.59	-0.12	3	2.67	-0.25	13
Houlton	17	58	38	-3	1625	+111	495	+71	0.83	+0.06	3	3.06	+0.15	11
Livermore_Falls	21	62	39	-5	1924	+359	681	+252	2.52	+1.61	3	3.96	+0.56	13
Moosehead	19	57	36	-5	1397	+80	377	+67	1.46	+0.69	3	3.05	+0.00	13
Portland_ME	28	61	46	-1	2256	+321	864	+227	2.04	+1.08	2	3.49	+0.08	9
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>														
Benton	21	57	38	-6	1737	+31	532	+56	2.23	+1.46	2	4.46	+1.54	10
Berlin_AG	22	60	39	-4	1812	+112	563	+66	2.21	+1.35	3	3.64	+0.43	11
Concord	20	62	44	-1	2416	+328	993	+254	1.95	+1.18	2	2.87	+0.00	9
Diamond_Pond	16	52	34	-5	1276	+158	278	+73	1.96	+1.12	3	3.99	+0.63	13
Keene_AP	21	63	43	-2	2320	+429	927	+325	1.82	+1.05	2	2.67	-0.19	6
North_Conway	23	58	40	-4	1952	+39	648	+15	2.18	+1.18	3	3.27	-0.38	10
Rochester	26	62	42	-6	2410	+138	1008	+156	1.83	+0.79	2	3.56	-0.18	10
<b>VERMONT</b>														
Burlington_Intl	24	61	43	-3	2500	+275	1027	+186	1.82	+1.16	3	3.67	+1.09	10
Island_Pond	21	59	39	-2	1717	+323	531	+206	2.45	+1.69	2	4.42	+1.56	11
Montpelier	21	59	41	-3	2056	+319	720	+208	2.47	+1.83	4	4.37	+1.84	13
Pownal	23	61	41	-4	2299	+467	894	+342	2.11	+1.23	2	3.63	+0.25	11
Rochester	21	63	39	-5	1904	+173	624	+120	2.38	+1.50	4	4.11	+0.71	12
Rutland_AG	21	60	39	-9	2018	-329	704	-196	2.16	+1.53	4	3.46	+0.85	9
Springfield_VT	22	61	43	-2	2288	+405	879	+283	2.35	+1.51	2	3.72	+0.55	12
Sutton	18	55	38	-2	1649	+253	490	+153	2.78	+2.00	4	5.42	+2.41	14
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>														
Boston/Logan_In	35	66	49	-4	3035	+199	1441	+213	0.53	-0.26	2	1.41	-1.51	5
Fitchburg	25	64	46	+2	2798	+911	1260	+662	1.24	+0.47	3	2.19	-0.73	9
Greenfield	24	63	41	-9	2334	-250	893	-158	2.06	+1.29	2	2.60	-0.48	8
New_Bedford	24	66	46	-8	2647	-252	1190	-80	2.81	+1.95	2	4.13	+1.02	9
Otis_AFB	27	64	47	-4	2508	+198	1087	+222	1.30	+0.39	3	2.33	-1.12	11
Plymouth	24	67	47	-3	2681	+329	1224	+321	2.34	+1.40	3	3.10	-0.52	9
Walpole	25	66	44	-4	2685	+352	1208	+314	0.74	-0.20	3	2.41	-1.09	8
Chicopee/Westov	20	66	44	-9	2671	-322	1166	-184	1.89	+1.05	1	3.00	-0.20	6
Worthington	22	63	41	-6	2014	+125	689	+114	2.05	+1.18	2	3.20	-0.12	9
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>														
Providence	31	64	48	-4	3140	+452	1508	+374	0.79	-0.09	2	1.96	-1.32	8
Woonsocket	25	65	43	-4	2715	+426	1203	+357	1.23	+0.28	3	2.94	-0.66	9
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>														
Bridgeport/Siko	32	68	49	-5	3295	+351	1634	+306	0.77	+0.05	2	1.23	-1.54	7
Hartford/Bradle	23	67	46	-4	3099	+273	1475	+233	1.42	+0.59	2	1.95	-1.26	6
Norfolk	25	61	40	-5	2191	+319	828	+255	2.18	+1.27	2	2.70	-0.82	10
Thomaston_Dam	25	64	43	-5	2688	+380	1164	+318	1.72	+0.81	2	2.57	-0.97	9
Willimantic	24	67	47	-3	2836	+483	1267	+391	1.42	+0.44	2	2.61	-1.10	9

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, October 26, 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	14	65	39	-4	0.15	2.52
NH	15	64	41	-4	1.40	2.83
VT	15	63	40	-4	0.67	2.85
MA	20	69	45	-4	0.53	3.36
RI	25	67	46	-4	0.79	1.34
CT	22	68	45	-5	0.65	2.18

**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 have had several killing frosts. Farmers have not yet begun to harvest corn for grain. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Definitely a killing frost this past week. Third cutting grass silage being chopped or rolled and wrapped. Apple harvest about done and farm stands are still open with pumpkins, potatoes, and cole crops on the shelves. Grain corn being combined about 20% moisture and being run through the dryer. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Harvests around the county have come to an end for nearly all crops. A few acres of silage corn to put in, many acres of corn to pick, a few acres of late varieties of grapes, and a bit of third and fourth cutting of hay are about all that is left to harvest. Farmers are waiting to pick the corn when moisture levels drop to about 20%. Some corn harvested to use in corn stoves. Geese are feasting on rye cover, too soon to hunt them so they are doing a lot of damage to some fields. Cleaning up fields and equipment. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** Beautiful fall weather for the most part this week. Saturday brought heavy rains and high winds which kept a lot of people inside rather than out visiting pumpkin patches. Sunday was much improved in terms of the weather and farm stands and corn mazes were busy. All in all this was a difficult growing season because of the excessive moisture and the crop diseases that went along with it. **Jude Boucher (Ext), Tolland:** Most vegetable farms with retail stands or that sell through farmer's markets report that their sales were up this season. Those who sell wholesale report mixed results. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Selling off the final pumpkins and corn stalks to the decorators. Getting things ready for winter. Snow is in the forecast for the coming week.

**MAINE - Steve London, Aroostook:** There is no more to report for this season, thank you for this opportunity to work with you. Have a great winter, God bless you and I hope to talk with you again next spring. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Harvesting has been completed on all crops including apples. It was a challenging year for farmers due to excessive rain during the growing season. Let's hope for a better year in 2009! **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Mt Blue turned into Mt White last week with a snowfall in the higher elevations. Heavy rain Saturday turned into a major runoff due to frozen ground. No damage was reported. Grain corn is drying in the field and waiting to be harvested. The crop looks good. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Oxford County received several inches of rain and heavy wind over the weekend. Power outages reported in several towns. The 2008 potato crop has been reported as poor. Pumpkins and squash yield for 2008 is very low. The 2008 hay crop was good and bad depending where you were located due to the weather. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis:** Weekend rains put a temporary halt to field operations. Some corn silage is still standing in the field.

**MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire:** We had a couple of rainy days this week. Saturday we got three-four inches of rain throughout the county with wind gust up to 60. Fall foliage season is definitely over here with only the oaks and fruit trees left to drop leaves. Pasture is remarkably good this fall; still lush and green. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Growers are liming fields and spreading manure. Harvesting cabbage, greens, collards, spinach, kale, parsnips and grain corn. Warm rains Saturday night caused an excellent tobacco damp Sunday morning to take more tobacco down. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: In spite of some pretty cold mornings with pretty unbearable conditions, harvest continues. Not a good week for dry harvesting, between frost protection and rain. This will undoubtedly be Massachusetts' biggest cranberry crop ever!

**NEW HAMPSHIRE - Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll:** A mixed bag this week, hard freezes early in the week, wind and heavy rain Saturday night, Indian summer Sunday. Fall foliage well past peak, most maples and birch have dropped all of their leaves, while oaks still

putting on a colorful display. Most gardens have been put to bed for the winter, farm stands selling the last of the mums and pumpkins for the year. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Typical October weather cool conditions, frequent frosts, and a little rain. Everything's just about wrapped up for the season, maybe a few more apples to pick here and there, maybe some fourth or late third cutting forage. See you next year. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Remaining field corn being chopped hauled and packed to silos. Farmers are spreading manure, stacking. Hi-Tunnels being cleaned up, likewise other end of season activities. The last of pumpkins, mums, apples and cider are still being marketed. Regular freezes now on the mountains. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending October 25th, we had 2.21 inches of rain. The total precipitation for the month, to date, is just over 4.25 inches. Soils remain well saturated in most locations, with water on the surface in some fields. The cropping season has come to a halt, and producers are assessing their yields and feed inventory for the coming winter months. Overall, for 2008, farmers have reported that good quality dry hay is in short supply. A number of farms have reported a larger than normal inventory of poorer quality dry hay. Those who produced haylage fared better. The corn crop for the season was down from past years, but not by much. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** A county-wide freeze finally occurred. Fruit: Orchardists busy marketing crop. Apple harvest is done, finishing harvesting 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. 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. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** Nice and mild weather most of the week and rain showers at the end of the week. A few producers were still haying and harvesting corn for silage. Fruit growers were harvesting the last of the apple crop and fall raspberries. Growers were also doing the last orchard floor mowing of the season. Vegetable growers were putting the fields to rest for the winter. Pumpkins and corn stalks continued to sell at farm stands and road side stands. Poinsettia growers continued to monitor the seasonal progress of the crop. The poinsettia crop is growing well and it is starting to show some color in most greenhouses.

**RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport:** Harvesting apples and finishing up field corn. Third cut hay being done this week. Spreading manure and liming fields. Some cabbage is still in the fields along with winter squash. Roadside stands and Farmers Markets are still full of produce; mums and fall decorations have been selling well.

**VERMONT - Jeffrey Carter (Ext), Addison:** Corn silage harvest completed. Grain corn harvest and soybean harvest 50% complete, good weather conditions with cold nights, sunny days and dry. Some mud to contend with. A little hay is still being harvested before snow. Manure on fields and fall plowing in full swing. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Heavy rain on Saturday night, nearly two inches. Plus rain/snow from earlier in the week, making for a damp week. We needed the rain. Corn silage harvest just about complete, with decent weather, farmers harvested more haylage. Manure spreading with the hopes of having enough storage until spring. Prediction is for snow early this week. We are done with the growing for this calendar year. Another odd one, but I guess it will average out. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Wet weather has prevailed here in Franklin County this week. Soil conditions are still normal for this time of year. Corn harvest is done up with some corn that might go for silage, however, very risky at this point on the keeping ability in storage. Some corn will go for grain and good conditions prevail for drying the corn down for grain. Pastures are still in good shape for this time of year; however the rainy weather

this week has made for less comfortable grazing. Fall manure spreading and tillage is in full swing and hopefully folks will remember the setbacks from streams for spreading manure. This becomes even more important in the fall season because nutrient uptake is not as aggressive in the fall as it is during the growing season. **John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille:** Nice week with a lot of frosty mornings ended with some serious rain. The folks that harvest high moisture corn are starting to harvest their acreage. Manure is being spread on hayfields and corn ground along with some fall

plowing. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Cropping is pretty well done in the county. Some Farmers are getting a little fourth cut hay. Most farms are spreading manure to get their manure pits empty for the winter months. Overall the crop season brought good yields but fair quality. Corn yields were a little spotty. The heavier soils produced fewer yields due to above average rainfall. Haylage yields were good but quality was off due to not being able to get second cut until very late. It was a good pasture year with the exception getting cows through the mud during late June and July.

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