

Crop Progress & Condition



A field office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service
United States Department of Agriculture

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For week ending 9/12/10

Fall Harvest in Full Swing

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending September 12, 2010, there were 6.1 days available for field work across New England. Pasture condition was rated 2% very poor, 24% poor, 40% fair, and 34% good. The week began sunny to partly cloudy across the region with temperatures ranging from highs in the upper 70s and lows in the upper 40s. Tuesday and Wednesday brought scattered showers across New England. Windy conditions, cloudy skies, and cool temperatures generally in the mid 60s and lower 70s were reported Thursday and Friday. Saturday brought pleasant, sunny conditions with temperatures in the upper 60s to high 70s. Sunday turned cloudy and cooler with temperatures lingering in the low to mid 60s. Average nighttime temperatures during the week ranged from the mid 40s to upper 50s. Total precipitation ranged from .01 to over .89 inches.

FRUIT: Harvest of Honeycrisp, McIntosh, Gala, and Cortland apples continued across New England last week. An increased incidence of drops from prolonged lack of moisture earlier in the season reduced full crop potential in some blocks. Fruit harvest is also underway for fall raspberries, peaches, and pears. Harvest of cranberries in Massachusetts began last week on some beds, although harvest is about two weeks away for most producers.

VEGETABLES: The harvest of winter squash and pumpkins was ongoing last week. Powdery mildew killed pumpkin vines at some locations. Growers also noted an increase in the number of squash vine borer insects and cucumber beetles adversely affecting pumpkins and winter squash in New Hampshire. Other vegetables still harvested across the region included sweet corn, tomatoes, and peppers. In Vermont, there were reports of cabbage, onion, beet, turnip, and lettuce crop losses due to extremely dry conditions. Farmers were also busy cleaning up harvested fields and planting cover crops.

FIELD CROPS: The harvest of field corn began in multiple locations throughout New England last week. Yields were reportedly variable, with drier fields yielding less than those that received adequate moisture. In Maine, the harvest of oats and barley neared completion, allowing farmers to prepare for potato harvest. Early potatoes harvested were reported in excellent condition. Rains were especially welcomed to bulk up tubers and improve harvest conditions for later varieties. Vine killing continues as farmers prepare to move harvest into high gear. Mostly dry conditions with cool temperatures kept potato harvest active in Rhode Island and Massachusetts. The shade tobacco harvest in Connecticut and Massachusetts came to an end last week, while the last of the broadleaf crop was picked and hung in sheds. Farmers were busy sowing cover crops, and cutting third or fourth crop of dry hay.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	12	16	2
Short	38	46	29
Adequate	50	38	62
Surplus	0	0	7
Subsoil			
Very Short	13	17	2
Short	40	42	17
Adequate	47	41	73
Surplus	0	0	8

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Size	Condition
	2010	2009	5-yr Avg		
Apples	35	25	30	Average	Good/Fair
Peaches	95	90	90	Average/Below	Good/Fair
Pears	60	35	35		
Blueberries					
Highbush	100	99	99		
Wild	100	100	100		
Cranberries, MA	<5	-	-	Average	Good

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2010	2009	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Harvested --				
Barley, ME	90	85	80	
Oats, ME	90	90	75	
Potatoes				
Maine	20	5	5	Good
Mass	40	50	35	Good/Fair
Rhode Island	35	40	65	Good/Fair
Silage Corn	25	<5	10	Good
Sweet Corn	95	85	85	
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	99	95	95	
Shade	100	95	95	
Dry Hay				
Second Cut	95	95	90	
Third Cut	65	60	50	

Weather Summary for New England Agricultural Statistics

For the Period: Monday September 6, 2010
 To: Sunday September 12, 2010

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
	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
MAINE														
Augusta_State_A	49	73	62	+2	2378	+479	1066	+340	0.28	-0.42	3	3.42	+0.52	9
Bangor_Intl_Arp	47	77	63	+3	2325	+591	1044	+436	0.72	-0.12	4	5.03	+1.88	12
Bethel	46	77	61	+2	2048	+334	813	+227	0.04	-0.74	2	3.33	-0.12	10
Caribou_Municip	44	69	57	+2	1925	+545	779	+401	1.18	+0.34	4	3.67	+0.15	10
Dover-Foxcroft	42	74	58	+1	1869	+372	719	+270	0.55	-0.36	5	5.23	+1.72	13
Frenchville	42	68	55	-1	1694	+412	640	+317	1.39	+0.48	6	4.86	+1.17	13
Houlton	38	71	58	+2	1830	+388	723	+299	0.65	-0.23	5	2.95	-0.70	11
Livermore_Falls	42	76	60	+3	2015	+545	815	+388	0.35	-0.49	3	5.30	+1.64	11
Moosehead	39	71	55	-2	1554	+310	516	+206	0.79	-0.09	5	4.53	+1.13	14
Portland_ME	50	81	64	+4	2362	+609	1063	+438	0.21	-0.49	2	4.23	+1.51	9
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
BenTon	38	79	58	+0	1840	+267	708	+237	0.37	-0.40	3	3.92	+0.50	11
Berlin_AG	44	77	60	+2	1871	+288	702	+209	0.38	-0.42	5	2.89	-0.72	13
Concord	41	86	64	+3	2564	+659	1251	+527	0.17	-0.51	1	2.42	-0.43	8
Diamond_Pond	36	73	53	-2	995	-68	224	+19	1.76	+0.77	5	4.57	+0.22	16
Keene_AG	40	89	61	-3	2361	+233	1073	+188	0.15	-0.57	1	0.92	-2.30	6
North_Conway	44	80	61	+2	2134	+364	875	+249	0.12	-0.70	2	3.05	-0.43	9
Rochester	45	86	65	+3	2661	+622	1330	+505	0.14	-0.58	1	3.30	+0.25	7
VERMONT														
Bennington_AP	40	85	61	+2	2327	+659	1056	+516	0.23	-0.68	2	1.32	-2.48	11
Burlington_Intl	47	81	64	+3	2567	+535	1253	+432	0.88	+0.06	4	2.21	-1.30	9
Island_Pond	45	76	59	+3	1772	+472	656	+335	1.39	+0.54	5	3.04	-0.91	15
Montpelier	44	80	60	+3	2082	+483	879	+378	0.28	-0.42	4	1.74	-1.49	10
Rochester	43	83	60	+2	1975	+396	789	+298	0.35	-0.56	3	1.96	-2.02	9
Rutland_AG	45	84	61	-3	2219	+115	964	+102	0.36	-0.52	2	3.58	-0.11	8
Springfield_VT	41	87	62	+3	2431	+701	1134	+550	0.07	-0.77	1	1.09	-2.45	8
Sutton	46	75	58	+3	1750	+436	635	+301	0.71	-0.14	6	2.00	-1.89	16
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	56	86	69	+3	3096	+653	1664	+523	0.28	-0.43	2	5.33	+2.33	8
Fitchburg	48	87	67	+8	3012	+1283	1595	+1005	0.08	-0.62	2	2.27	-0.67	9
Greenfield	44	88	62	-3	2472	+192	1167	+169	0.04	-0.80	1	1.54	-1.77	8
New_Bedford	47	83	66	-3	2820	+350	1441	+275	0.08	-0.75	1	3.77	+0.10	8
Otis_AFB	48	77	64	+0	2474	+464	1158	+338	0.10	-0.67	1	5.30	+2.20	8
Plymouth	51	86	68	+4	2993	+925	1602	+739	0.26	-0.72	1	5.51	+1.68	8
Walpole	49	84	65	+3	2864	+777	1482	+624	0.09	-0.81	3	5.19	+1.56	11
Chicopee/Westov	41	88	65	-2	2843	+232	1470	+208	0.07	-0.77	1	3.08	-0.24	6
Worthington	40	84	61	+0	2171	+472	909	+350	0.07	-0.79	1	3.20	-0.39	10
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	52	84	67	+2	3097	+766	1641	+583	0.00	-0.84	0	3.38	+0.02	6
Woonsocket	48	86	66	+3	2854	+799	1454	+635	0.13	-0.78	2	4.23	+0.59	9
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	54	90	70	+3	3144	+634	1718	+504	0.00	-0.75	0	2.42	-0.43	5
Hartford/Bradle	46	88	67	+2	3164	+660	1703	+522	0.05	-0.86	1	1.86	-1.66	6
Norfolk	45	82	61	+2	2320	+619	1025	+464	0.04	-0.94	2	2.93	-1.18	10
Thomaston_Dam	47	85	65	+2	2773	+739	1398	+598	0.01	-0.97	1	5.06	+1.14	8
Willimantic	46	85	65	+2	2836	+761	1442	+608	0.04	-0.87	1	2.97	-0.60	10

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, September 12, 2010

Summary based on NWS data.

DFN = Departure from Normal (Using 1971-2000 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	35	82	59	+1	0.04	2.13
NH	32	89	61	+1	0.10	1.92
VT	39	90	60	+1	0.07	3.80
MA	40	89	64	+1	0.00	0.28
RI	48	86	67	+2	0.00	0.13
CT	44	90	66	+1	0.00	0.14

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: Fields are dry, so corn silage harvest is going really well. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Still very dry but a change to much cooler and drier air for the week. Vegetable crops harvest is winding down earlier than normal for the season, like the whole year. Corn silage harvest still progressing nicely and well ahead of normal. Some broadleaf tobacco still being taken in, shade tobacco harvest is complete. Pumpkins showing up at farm stands. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Field corn harvest is progressing. Fields are highly variable. Heavier soils are yielding a little on the low side. Drier soils are yielding low to extremely low. Ears are still in milk but the stalks are so dry the whole plant average is on target. Even the weeds seem to have felt the heat - bindweed especially seems to have been held in check. Fall raspberries are ready. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** No rain this week but cooler temperatures were more in the normal range. Typical summer vegetable harvest is winding up and fall vegetables are being picked. Farm stands are all decked out with pumpkins and mums and are beautiful. Weekend weather was wonderful for fair goers. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** It is dry. Corn dented one day and a few days later brown from top to bottom. Chopping continues. Little hay to harvest. Apples, grapes, vegetables, doing okay. Orchards open for the season with special activities to bring the public in.

MAINE – Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook: Most of the grain has been cut. Growers are gearing up for potatoes. Many have been digging for a couple of weeks; most will be going by the weekend as school lets out. Reports have been steady with early types being excellent and the later types having a small size profile. Grain for the most part was average to slightly above. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Fall is here with the cooler temperatures this week. The rain was welcomed this week for bulking of late varieties and for harvesting potatoes. Farmers continued to harvest crops when weather permitted. Vine killing of potatoes still being applied. Crops are looking excellent. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** The weather certainly changed last week to cool temperatures, something we are not used to! Apple growers are concerned with the apples being ready for picking two weeks early and the labor for picking the apples is just arriving. Retain is being used to hold the apples on the trees. Two weeks of sunny picking weather is needed to get the apples off the trees before they fall to the ground. Those who have the apples have good quality and size. Many orchards in the area experienced losses from the freeze in May. Grass is just starting to grow again, which will limit any late hay harvest. Corn silage is being harvested early with most expecting better than normal production. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Surface water is still low but recent rain has helped and more is predicted this week. Most crops still in fields are looking less stressed. Corn is being harvested; quality and production still could be lower than anticipated due to drought conditions. Apples and potatoes are being harvested and crop is below normal. Harvest of winter squash and pumpkins is ongoing. Farmers are very busy with fall harvest. Rain is expected most of the first part of the week. **Megan McDonough (FSA), Kennebec:** Kennebec County is experiencing more seasonable temperatures. We are finally receiving much needed rain. A late spring frost that had raised concerns among apple growers appears to have had less of an overall impact than initially expected. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Fall is in the air and with that comes the harvest of pumpkins, winter squash, and apples which are now available at farm stands and other local markets. Silage corn harvest began on Friday, September 12th and reports are the crop is good. The most popular McIntosh and Cortland varieties of apples are now being harvested locally. Only a few weeks remain to this banner year for crop production in Knox and Lincoln Counties. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis/Penobscot:** Cool temperatures and rain have brought relief to farms and animals. Pastures are starting to green up. **Elaine Moceus (FSA), Somerset:**

Temperatures have cooled down to the 70's during the day. The rainfall this week of approximately a half inch and possibly more in the week ahead, should help to fill wells that are critically low. Corn silage chopping is underway and dry hay is still being harvested. Sweet corn has mostly been harvested and pumpkins and squash are plentiful at roadside stands. Temperatures could drop into the 30's at night. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Corn silage harvest begins in earnest. Helpful rains have improved pastures and third/fourth cutting grass crops.

MASSACHUSETTS – Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: Cool weather is here. Fall harvest is ahead of schedule. Lots of apple drops from the dry weather thinned the crop but it is ahead of schedule with plenty to pick. The fruit is very good and sweet, on the average to small side. Trees at certain stages of bloom during the freeze in May did not produce fruit. Depending on where in the county you were, different apple varieties were affected. Farmers continue sowing cover crops and the field corn harvest is beginning in earnest. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** It was another dry week with cooler temperatures. Vegetable growers are irrigating late fall crops. Tobacco is curing very nicely in the barns. Corn silage harvest is in full swing. Also, harvesting apples, pears, fall raspberries, cabbage, peppers, potatoes, squash, mums, and Indian corn continues. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Harvesting began on Tuesday, all Ocean Spray beds and very few at this point. Most beds won't be harvested until the last week of September and later. Not much going on except getting ready for harvest. Many growers were affected by the hot and low humidity weather of 11 days ago, resulting in many scalded berries. Some growers say it is the worst they've ever seen.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Bill Lord (Ext), Belknap: Continued dry weather is limiting hay and pasture growth. Farm ponds have not recovered from irrigation activity. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** A brief shower early in the week, but mostly another week of dry weather. Silage corn harvest in full swing. Other farms continue to work at 3rd & 4th cuttings. Vegetable crops still doing well with irrigation, but a couple farms are concerned if wells will be able to keep up with demand. Apple harvest continuing. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** A little cooler temps with some showers this week. Corn silage harvest begins, most field corn is now ready for chopping although some fields planted late are still in the milk-stage. Good regrowth of alfalfa, grass meadows as generally optimum growing conditions prevailed. Cortland and McIntosh apples now being picked. Crabgrass seems to be the top weed problem on many farms this year. Observing particularly heavy crow damage to corn this year. Looking like early autumn at farm stands, late variety sweet corn, orange pumpkins, and winter squash. Mums also for sale. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** Corn harvest has begun. So far the crop looks good. Ear development is good, with good yields. Some of the fields planted mid May or later still need a couple of weeks to dry down. The hay crop looks good on the silty river bottom soils. Sandy, drier soils are showing stress from lack of rain. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Apple harvest is in full swing picking McIntosh, Gala, and Honeycrisp apples. 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. Cutting and picking pumpkin and winter squash. Increase in number of squash vine borer insects trapped. Cucumber beetle adults damaging pumpkin and winter squash fruit. With near miss of a hurricane on September 4, very high numbers of corn earworm, fall armyworm, and even European corn borer insects caught in traps during the past week. Field Crops: Farmers chopping corn silage during the week and hay cutting with the second and third cuttings being made. Cover crops were being planted in harvested fields along with forage seedings. **Amy Ouellette (Ext), Merrimack:** Cortlands, Macs and many other

apples are being harvested. The peach season is over for this year. Sweet corn may be finishing up earlier than normal. Farmers are chopping corn and getting the last hay cutting finished up for the year. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Apples are being picked. Sweet corn, tomatoes, peppers, and other late summer vegetable still available. Fall mums, corn stalks and pumpkin sales are going strong. Still dry. Some ponds are dry. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** Generally dry weather except for some few shower towards the end of the week. Excellent haying weather for most of the week. Apple harvest is going well and the overall fruit quality is good. Fall raspberries were also being harvested. Vegetable growers were harvesting an array of vegetable crops. Downy mildew on cucumber and some other cucurbit crops. Powdery mildew has killed many pumpkin vines and farmers were starting to cut and pick up fruit. Some farmers were starting to chop silage corn.

RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties: This past week has been a cool week. Temps in the high 70's and low 80's. Nights have gotten as low as 55 degrees. Crops are being harvested and looking well. Late potatoes are being dug now. The skins on the late potatoes are still a little early to harvest for storage. The crop looks fair. Cattle pastures are normal for this time of the year. A little on the short side, they are starting to give feed to the animals.

VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison: Corn silage harvest has started with many fields opening up and many completely harvested. Good plant dry down this past week. Feed stocks short so many small piles for immediate (3 week) feed. Hay harvest continued for dry hay and haylage. Mostly all complete. Soybeans filling pods, no harvest yet. Pasture grass looks better, but still short. Soil conditions still very dry. Some new seedings of hay still being planted at this late date. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** A dry, cool week. Some haying and some corn chopping getting started. Fields are drying out. A hint of showers on Sunday afternoon. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Some welcome rains have come

to Franklin County this week, nothing major, just some good soaking showers to bring the much needed moisture. Some corn harvest has begun. Silage moistures are on the high side and kernels are not fully dented. Need to really look here and not jump the gun. Look for that kernel milk line and run some moisture tests on chopped silage to get a handle on harvest timing. Hay and haylage harvest has slowed down this week due to the welcome moisture. We are in good shape in this category and anything beyond this point will be gravy. A lot of fourth cut can be harvested if conditions are good. Apples are in full swing and the bounty is super. Reports of full trees and great size. Looks like the spring frost did not affect most orchards. Will keep you posted as the harvest progresses in the county. Gardens are down to carrots and other below ground bounty. Some second growth lettuce if the ambition prevailed to plant. The fall harvest farmers markets are about to get started. We have many of these scheduled in the county and it is a great time to pick up some local produce to freeze or can and get us through the long winter ahead. **Heather Mateja (FSA), Lamoille/Washington:** Although it was cloudy with a chance for rain each day, the weather held out for the most part and corn silage is being harvested. The light rain was too much to get much hay in, but perfect for the veggie producers and the pastures that needed some moisture. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** A lot of cloudy weather this past week but not a lot of moisture. Some 3rd and 4th crop hay is being harvested. Some of the farmers with large acreage of corn got started harvesting this week. The crop looks exceptional both in overall yield and ear development. Pastures have really slowed down. Most grazers are adding hayland to their grazing system to provide enough feed. Temperatures have remained warm so the growing season is still in full swing here. **Julie Jacque (FSA), Windham:** Extremely dry conditions occurring in the county. Office is busy with crop loss notifications on cabbage, onions, beets, turnip, lettuces, and hay. Corn harvest is going well and 2 weeks ahead of normal. Reports of irrigation supply water drying up.

August 2010 CROP WEATHER SUMMARY: Weather conditions were generally dry with most precipitation falling near the end of the month. Average high temperatures ranged from the mid-70s to mid-80s and low temperatures ranged from the lower 50s to mid-60s. The month began with rainy conditions in northern New Hampshire and Vermont. Temperatures climbed until a cold front moved in the area on August 4, bringing light to moderate precipitation to most of New England. Coos County reported over 4 inches of rain by August 5. The cold front lowered temperatures in northern States with many areas reporting nighttime temperatures in the 40s. A storm front passed through New England on August 9, bringing light precipitation to southern States and heavier showers to parts of northern New England. Afterwards, weather conditions were increasingly dry until a cold front crossed New England on August 22. The weather system dumped 0.87 to 4.48 inches of rain by August 25. Weather conditions during this time period were also windy and cool with daytime temperatures in the 60s and 70s. Temperatures began climbing back up during late-August with record-breaking temperatures, as high as the mid-90s, marking the end of the month. Total rainfall for August ranged from 0.99 to 6.52 inches. The wild blueberry harvest in Maine was complete in almost all areas by month's end. Yields varied greatly due to location and extent of frost damage. The highbush blueberry harvest was active early in August and neared completion by the end of the month. The picking of apples and pears began at the beginning of the month and was ahead of schedule by August 31. Fruit growers were actively harvesting late varieties of peaches and fall raspberries. Cranberries matured well throughout the month and benefited from late-August showers. Vegetable growers were harvesting beans, beets, cole crops, cucumbers, greens, peas, pumpkins, radishes, squash, tomatoes, peppers, zucchini, and other vegetables. There were some vegetable crop losses throughout the month as a result of prolonged hot, dry conditions. The sweet corn harvest was ahead of schedule and the crop was in good condition at month's end. The first potatoes were harvested at the beginning of August. Hot, dry conditions accompanied harvest of early potatoes in Maine, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island. Rains arrived the last week of August improving dry harvest conditions but potentially too late to improve potato size on later varieties. Field corn in dry areas matured and dried down faster allowing early chopping of the crop. Dry weather allowed the third cutting of hay to advance to halfway done by month's end, with some growers preparing for a fourth cut, unusual at this time of year. Oats and barley for grain were 60 and 70 percent combined respectively by month's end, well ahead of last year's 30 percent harvested. Farmers also kept busy irrigating fields, spreading manure and fertilizer, scouting and spraying for pests, and harvesting tobacco.

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