

Crop Progress & Condition



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

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For week ending 9/19/10

Pumpkins and Apples Abound

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending September 19, 2010, there were 5.4 days available for field work across New England. Pasture condition was rated 3% very poor, 19% poor, 35% fair, and 43% good. The week began cloudy with minimal amounts of rain across the region and temperature highs varied from the mid 60s to mid 70s. Temperatures on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday reached the mid 60s to low 70s with cloudy conditions. Thursday brought showers with precipitation amounts ranging from under 0.2 of an inch to just over 1.0 inch. Saturday afternoon was generally sunny with temperatures hovering around 70 degrees across New England. Sunday turned cloudy again and temperatures spanned from the mid 60s to mid 70s. The week's total precipitation ranged from 0.18 to 1.71 inches.

FRUIT: The harvest of McIntosh, Gala, Honeycrisp, Cortland, and Macoun apples progressed last week with some areas reporting a stronger than anticipated crop despite frosts during pollination in May. Fall raspberries and pears continued to be picked, while the harvest of peaches and plums continued to wind down in New Hampshire. More cranberry producers began harvesting the crop last week in Massachusetts.

VEGETABLES The pumpkin harvest continued to be robust last week throughout New England. Other vegetables being harvested included cabbage, brussel sprouts, kale, sweet corn, peppers, tomatoes, and winter squash. In Massachusetts, where soil conditions were predominately dry, producers continued to irrigate fall crops. Farmers also spent their time disking, cleaning fields, and planting cover crops on harvested fields.

FIELD CROPS: Corn silage harvesting was in full swing across the 6-State region last week, and proceeding quickly due to dry fields. Yields were reportedly down in some areas due to a lack of moisture during the growing season. However, early harvest results were better than expected in other areas. Farmers were also on their third or fourth cut of dry hay. As fields became barren, farmers started to spread manure and seed cover crops. In Maine, the majority of grains have been cut, while favorable weather conditions aided potato harvesting.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	5	12	9
Short	28	38	29
Adequate	63	50	59
Surplus	4	0	3
Subsoil			
Very Short	8	13	7
Short	36	40	21
Adequate	56	47	69
Surplus	0	0	3

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Size	Condition
	2010	2009	5-yr Avg		
Apples	45	35	40	Average	Good/Fair
Peaches	99	95	95		
Pears	70	60	55		
Blueberries					
Highbush	100	100	100		
Wild	100	100	100		
Cranberries, MA	5	<5	<5	Average	Good

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2010	2009	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Harvested --				
Barley, ME	95	99	90	
Oats, ME	95	100	85	
Potatoes				
Maine	30	10	15	Good/Excellent
Mass	65	65	50	Good/Fair
Rhode Island	50	55	75	Good/Fair
Silage Corn	40	10	20	Good
Sweet Corn	95	95	90	
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	99	95	99	
Shade	100	99	99	
Dry Hay				
Second Cut	99	95	95	
Third Cut	70	70	60	

Weather Summary for New England Agricultural Statistics

For the Period: Monday September 13, 2010
 To: Sunday September 19, 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 INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS
MAINE														
Augusta_State_A	42	69	57	-4	2425	+463	1066	+328	1.12	+0.42	4	4.37	+1.54	11
Bangor_Intl_Arp	39	69	57	-2	2375	+584	1045	+428	0.96	+0.14	4	5.93	+2.73	13
Bethel	39	67	55	-3	2084	+317	813	+220	0.81	+0.04	2	3.97	+0.66	8
Caribou_Municip	38	68	54	+1	1955	+546	779	+401	0.41	-0.40	4	3.93	+0.51	12
Dover-Foxcroft	35	68	52	-4	1888	+351	719	+267	1.33	+0.42	4	6.28	+2.70	14
Frenchville	38	65	53	-1	1715	+406	640	+317	0.54	-0.30	5	5.37	+1.80	15
Houlton	32	68	53	-1	1855	+382	723	+299	1.71	+0.87	4	4.19	+0.65	13
Livermore_Falls	35	69	54	-2	2043	+535	815	+386	0.92	+0.08	3	5.94	+2.42	11
Moosehead	35	68	51	-3	1566	+291	516	+206	0.99	+0.15	3	4.93	+1.53	14
Portland_ME	43	72	58	-2	2417	+602	1064	+430	0.35	-0.35	2	4.43	+1.64	9
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	39	64	51	-5	1857	+239	708	+232	1.04	+0.32	4	3.79	+0.56	13
Berlin_AG	37	70	53	-4	1894	+268	702	+205	1.34	+0.57	4	3.83	+0.43	14
Concord	37	71	57	-3	2615	+649	1255	+521	0.41	-0.22	3	2.67	-0.04	9
Diamond_Pond	30	67	48	-5	997	-89	224	+19	1.40	+0.48	5	4.91	+0.82	17
Keene_AG	37	74	58	-4	2416	+214	1074	+173	0.36	-0.34	3	1.18	-1.85	8
North_Conway	40	68	55	-4	2168	+346	876	+243	0.85	+0.08	3	3.64	+0.30	10
Rochester	42	73	58	-3	2717	+607	1330	+490	0.69	-0.04	4	3.95	+0.96	10
VERMONT														
Bennington_AP	37	71	56	-2	2373	+652	1058	+511	0.52	-0.38	4	1.36	-2.36	11
Burlington_Intl	40	68	57	-2	2621	+528	1259	+426	1.02	+0.25	4	2.79	-0.57	11
Island_Pond	36	64	52	-3	1791	+457	656	+331	1.29	+0.52	6	3.27	-0.33	17
Montpelier	40	66	54	-4	2113	+468	879	+371	0.89	+0.25	4	2.15	-0.81	11
Rochester	39	71	54	-4	2002	+373	789	+291	0.91	+0.04	4	2.49	-1.31	10
Rutland_AG	38	68	54	-7	2249	+74	964	+86	1.15	+0.31	4	3.45	-0.10	9
Springfield_VT	38	71	57	-1	2482	+699	1135	+544	0.62	-0.20	4	1.51	-1.94	9
Sutton	36	64	51	-4	1761	+415	635	+298	0.89	+0.12	4	2.23	-1.35	16
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	53	75	63	-3	3188	+642	1686	+511	0.44	-0.26	4	5.56	+2.62	11
Fitchburg	42	74	61	+4	3092	+1310	1610	+1013	1.47	+0.79	2	3.64	+0.79	9
Greenfield	40	72	58	-5	2529	+163	1168	+147	0.39	-0.38	3	1.61	-1.63	8
New_Bedford	40	78	61	-6	2896	+316	1455	+250	0.78	+0.01	2	3.94	+0.48	8
Otis_AFB	45	75	59	-4	2539	+444	1166	+326	0.39	-0.38	1	5.41	+2.31	7
Plymouth	44	79	62	+0	3078	+928	1621	+740	0.45	-0.53	2	5.83	+1.93	8
Walpole	42	76	61	+1	2940	+778	1495	+621	0.56	-0.28	2	5.61	+2.05	10
Chicopee/Westov	36	76	62	-4	2925	+211	1489	+193	0.35	-0.49	2	2.03	-1.33	5
Worthington	35	70	54	-5	2205	+448	909	+341	0.41	-0.43	3	2.32	-1.20	10
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	48	79	63	-2	3191	+762	1665	+576	0.82	-0.01	2	4.12	+0.77	7
Woonsocket	42	74	59	-2	2922	+793	1458	+624	0.76	-0.15	2	4.59	+0.95	9
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	49	80	65	-2	3248	+627	1752	+496	0.79	+0.07	3	2.58	-0.29	6
Hartford/Bradle	42	78	63	-2	3254	+657	1727	+520	0.11	-0.80	2	1.80	-1.79	5
Norfolk	40	68	56	-3	2365	+609	1025	+457	0.64	-0.34	3	2.78	-1.26	9
Thomaston_Dam	42	74	60	-2	2842	+732	1403	+585	0.28	-0.63	2	4.71	+0.86	7
Willimantic	39	77	61	-1	2912	+758	1454	+602	0.89	-0.03	3	3.37	-0.27	9

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, September 19, 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	31	72	54	-3	0.35	1.71
NH	29	74	55	-3	0.25	1.56
VT	36	74	54	-4	0.49	2.20
MA	35	79	59	-3	0.15	1.47
RI	42	79	62	-2	0.76	2.16
CT	38	80	61	-2	0.11	1.09

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: Silage corn harvest is proceeding very quickly because most of the fields are dry. We had some scattered light showers across the county. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Another dry week although there were showers mid week that yielded about one half inch. Harvest of sweet corn, peppers, tomatoes, winter squash, potatoes, and pumpkins continues. All but a couple acres of broadleaf tobacco in the sheds. Corn silage still being harvested and some trying to bale dry hay. Cover crops being seeded. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Corn harvest continues. Farmers have started spreading manure as corn comes off. When will it rain? **Ann Marie McCard (FSA), New London:** Need rain. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** This was a nice moderate week of weather which saw some scattered showers mid-week. The corn silage harvest is continuing at a good pace. Late vegetables are being picked. Pumpkins are plentiful. Farm stands are all decked out with fall decor. Corn mazes are very popular with agri-tourists.

MAINE – Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook: School is out and most farmers have started harvest. Cold nights and seasonable days have made the start of harvest near perfect. Most grain and hay have been cut. Broccoli crews will be going for another couple of weeks. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Showers off and on this week. Crops continued to be harvested. All growers here in Central Aroostook are harvesting potatoes in all areas. Beautiful weekend to get crops out of the ground. Let's hope for a bountiful harvest season. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Production on most vegetables is winding down. Pumpkins and winter squash continue to be picked. Second crop of hay is in short supply due to the drought in August. Apple orchards in this area who suffered from the freeze in May still have 40 to 100% losses in production. Orchardists are still concerned about the labor arriving late to pick apples and need dry days for picking before the apples fall off. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** There is still a lot of hay being harvested. There should be a surplus this year. Corn silage harvest is underway. Lots of activity at the local fairs. No frost yet! **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Corn silage is being harvested and overall crop looks much better than expected. Apples are being harvested and also look better than expected due to late frost in May. Late crops are plentiful. Crop harvest will be winding down in the next couple of weeks. What a great year so far. Farmers will be starting to spread manure on fields as soon as harvest is completed. **Megan McDonough (FSA), Kennebec:** Fall temperatures have arrived. Last week brought a few good rain showers. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Harvest season is here and the fall colors are arriving! Potatoes, apples, silage corn, sweet corn, and fall crops are being harvested daily now. Hay is still being harvested. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis/Penobscot:** Isolated area had a light frost Saturday morning. Corn silage harvest continues. **Elaine S. Moceus (FSA), Somerset:** Spotty late afternoon and evening rain showers during the week and approximately half an inch of rain on Thursday helped top soil conditions, but it is too early to tell whether or not the rain has had much impact on ground water conditions. Hay and corn silage harvests are continuing. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Nice weather has helped push harvests along. Apple harvest is in full swing and corn silage is more than 50 % done with some farms finished. One nice rain last week brought about an inch, but did not slow harvest much.

MASSACHUSETTS – Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: Very dry, under 1/2 inch of rain throughout the county. Farmers report that rainfall for the season is up to 7 inches less than normal. Fall vegetables are on the stands and fields are being turned under and seeded. There was a little scattered light frost in the county. **Lori Carver (FSA), Franklin:** Silage corn harvest is swinging into high gear. Apple harvest continues. Fall crops such as pumpkins, mums, Indian corn, and winter squash are decorating all of the local farm

stands. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Another dry week! Vegetable growers are still irrigating their fall crops. Harvesting corn, silage and grains, hay, apples, fall raspberries, mums, potatoes, peppers, winter squash, and many more fall crops. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: More harvesting going on, with a serious increase this week with the receiving stations gearing up. Too early to tell how the crop looks at this point. Growers have needed to protect the berries from frost at least two nights. Nice rainfall on Friday.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire: Cooler conditions and a couple showers in the week, but it's still very dry out there. Silage corn harvest going well, some farms are finished chopping, but yields are down considerably from lack of moisture. Ditto for hay crops. Fall vegetables making their way into farm stands, etc., farms starting to put fields to bed. Great weekend weather for picking apples - whatever there is, anyways... **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Cooler temps, threats of frost but no damage reported. Silage corn harvest continues with nearly all corn now at appropriate maturity for chopping. Later apples, i.e. Honeycrisps, now being picked at orchards. A little rain this week at later part, some fields a bit wet, but doesn't look to be a problem. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending September 18, we had rain over four days. Rainfall totaled more than an inch. Corn harvest is well under way. So far the crop looks good. Many producers are looking at a last harvest of haylage. The crop looks good. Sweet corn is still coming in. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Apple harvest is in full swing with most growers concentrating on second picking McIntosh and Gala apples, and working on Cortland and Macoun. Great weekend for pick-your-own orchards. Some orchardists seeing some apple drop problems increase. Fall raspberries and pear harvest continued with peach and plum harvest winding down. Vegetables: Good demand for all vegetables continues but starting to see fewer customers. Harvesting wide array of vegetables, including warm season vegetables like tomatoes and peppers. Harvesting cabbage, kale, Brussel sprouts, winter squash, and pumpkins. Farmers kept busy disking, cleaning up and planting cover crops on harvested fields. Field Crops: Silage corn harvest in full swing along with second and third cuts of hay and haylage continues. **Amy Ouellette (Ext), Merrimack:** Cortland and McIntosh apple harvest going strong. Farm stands are loaded with pumpkins, winter squash, corn stalks, apples, and cider. Many people are liming and over-seeding hay fields and pastures. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** Cooler, dry weather most of the week with some rain showers mid-week. Silage corn was being chopped and hay producers continued to cut and bale hay whenever possible. Fruit growers were harvesting apples and fall raspberries. Vegetable growers were harvesting an array of vegetable crops including pumpkins. Most farm stands had an abundance of pumpkins, corn, and other vegetables. Garden centers were selling fall mums and other fall decorations.

RHODE ISLAND – This past week has had cool weather. A lot of pumpkins are being harvested right now. They look good, but they came in early. Grapes are not being harvested yet. Grapes look good. Still an abundance of small vegetables around. Livestock looks good. Pastures are fair to short. What really looks good this year is the butternut squash. The size and quality are A-1!!

VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison: Corn silage harvest is widespread across the region. Plant dry-down is very good and DM running 32 to 35%. Harvesting haylage also with good yields for third or fourth cut. Soybean leaves yellowing with lots of strong growth for pod development and seed fill. Some rain to slow down harvest operations but not enough to saturate soil surface. Still very dry conditions and hard soil for fall tillage. Some farmers started to spread manure on corn fields and fall plow clay soils. Some started to fall seed winter cover crop rye on lighter soils after corn harvest.

Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia: Good fall week. Had about 3/4 inch of rain mid-week, it still seems dry. Scattered frosts in cold pockets two mornings this week. Farmers with corn chopping a small pile to feed out this fall, quite a few ran out of corn silage this summer. One farmer told me this was the best corn year he has had in 10 years. Some late season haying, getting difficult to dry down even for wrapped bales, foggy mornings and the sun just isn't drying things now. Beginning to see some color in the leaves now.

Heather Darby (Ext), Franklin: Corn silage harvesting is under way in most areas up North. Corn yields are average to above average. Folks working on 3rd and even 4th cut at this time. Soybeans are starting to dry down and small grains are being planted. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Nice week in Franklin County. Corn Harvest is well under way and the good weather is denting and drying ear kernels down to good moisture levels. Hay harvest will slow with the corn harvest underway. If the weather cooperates we will have some very nice fourth cut harvest. Apples are the fruit of topic now. Yields seem very good, some signs of the late spring frost, however, very limited. Leaf peepers are starting to fill the weekend roads. Colors are very limited at this time. Need to keep watch of current information for the best sights as leaves can change rapidly to

provide those brilliant fall colors. **Heather Mateja (FSA), Lamoille/Washington:** Rainy week, but let up enough each day for harvesting corn silage. Looks like a good year with high yields and good quality. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Last week was a fairly nice one with sun and rain shower mix. Most farmers are now harvesting corn. The crop looks very good and the ground is dry enough to make harvesting easier. Most hay has been harvested now although some farmers plan to finish this up after the corn harvest. Pastures have pretty much run out and most grazers are using hayfieds for fall feed. The leaves are changing color fast up here and it won't be too long before peak foliage. The apple harvest is in full swing. Despite the cold weather last spring during pollination the crop is really pretty good. The fruit size is about average and is very sweet. All and all it should be a reasonably good year for the growers. **Julie Jacque (FSA), Windham:** Rain in the amount of 2/10 of an inch was reported to the office, not nearly enough to improve non-irrigated soil conditions. Irrigation sources have been reported as stressed or dry. US Drought monitor upped the county drought status from "abnormally dry" to D1 "Moderate Drought". Dairy farmers report minimal to no pasture for fall grazing indicating that feed put up will be used earlier than expected.

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