

Crop Progress & Condition



NEW ENGLAND
Agricultural
Statistics



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October 18, 2010 – 4 pm

For week ending 10/17/10

Good Weather for Pumpkins and Squash

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending October 17, 2010, there were 4.4 days available for field work across New England. Pasture conditions were rated 3% very poor, 29% poor, 42% fair, and 26% good. The week began with temperatures in the mid 60s to low 70s in southern States, and mid 50s to low 60s in northern States. Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday were cloudy throughout the region, with seasonal temperatures. On Friday, heavy rains and wind passed through Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont dropping up to 2.0 inches of rain. Nighttime temperatures for the week ranged from the mid 20s to low 50s. The weekend was drier, with daytime temperatures ranging from the mid 50s to low 60s and nighttime temperatures ranging from the low 30s to mid 40s. The week's total precipitation ranged from 0.18 to over 3.0 inches.

FRUIT: The apple harvest continued to near an end throughout New England last week while farm stands remained busy with apple and apple cider sales. Varieties being harvested included Fuji, Golden Delicious, and Rome. Fruit producers in New Hampshire were also harvesting fall raspberries. Grape harvesting in Rhode Island did well last week, and continued to approach completion. In Massachusetts, cranberry harvesting progressed, with decreased yields in some areas due to fruit rot and scald. Orchardists were also busy picking up apple drops and cleaning orchards.

VEGETABLES: Pumpkin harvesting continued throughout much of New England last week, with some insect damage reported to unharvested crops in fields in New Hampshire. Other vegetables being harvested included Brussel sprouts, cabbage, kale, and winter squash. Vegetable growers were also planting cover crops and removing plastic mulch and tomato stakes from fields.

FIELD CROPS: As the fall harvest continues to wind down, producers were finishing their third cut of hay, spreading manure, plowing, disking, liming, and seeding cover crops. Tobacco producers in Connecticut were continuing to take down and bundle their crop.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

| Soil Rating | This Week | Last Week | Last Year |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| -- Percent -- | | | |
| Topsoil | | | |
| Very Short | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Short | 7 | 9 | 3 |
| Adequate | 59 | 68 | 84 |
| Surplus | 33 | 22 | 13 |
| Subsoil | | | |
| Very Short | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| Short | 8 | 14 | 2 |
| Adequate | 66 | 69 | 85 |
| Surplus | 23 | 14 | 13 |

FRUIT CROP PROGRESS ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

| Crop | 2010 | 2009 | 5-yr Avg |
|-------------------------|------|------|----------|
| -- Percent Harvested -- | | | |
| Apples | 90 | 90 | 90 |
| Pears | 95 | 99 | 95 |
| Cranberries, MA | 85 | 70 | 70 |

FIELD CROP PROGRESS ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

| Crop | 2010 | 2009 | 5-yr Avg |
|-------------------------|------|------|----------|
| -- Percent Harvested -- | | | |
| Potatoes | | | |
| Maine | 95 | 90 | 95 |
| Mass | 95 | 99 | 90 |
| Rhode Island | 80 | 95 | 99 |
| Silage Corn | 95 | 90 | 90 |
| Sweet Corn | 99 | 100 | 100 |
| Dry Hay | | | |
| Second Cut | 99 | 100 | 99 |
| Third Cut | 95 | 90 | 90 |

Weather Summary for New England Agricultural Statistics

For the Period: Monday October 11, 2010
 To: Sunday October 17, 2010

| STATION | AIR TEMPERATURE | | | | CUM SINCE MAR 1 GROWING DEGREE DAYS | | | | 1-WEEK PRECIP | | | 4-WEEK CUM PRECIP | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-------------------------------------|-------|----------|-------|---------------|-------|------|-------------------|-------|------|
| | ----- | | | | BASE-50F | | BASE-60F | | ----- | | | ----- | | |
| | LO | HI | AVG | DFN | TOT | DFN | TOT | DFN | TOTAL | DFN | DAYS | TOTAL | DFN | DAYS |
| ----- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| MAINE | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Augusta_State_A | 37 | 61 | 49 | +0 | 2606 | +522 | 1109 | +363 | 2.36 | +1.51 | 2 | 4.70 | +1.51 | 9 |
| Bangor_Intl_Arp | 31 | 62 | 48 | +0 | 2556 | +661 | 1091 | +469 | 1.92 | +1.19 | 3 | 4.55 | +1.58 | 11 |
| Bethel | 31 | 62 | 48 | +0 | 2216 | +356 | 837 | +241 | 1.93 | +1.09 | 2 | 6.26 | +3.08 | 12 |
| Caribou_Municip | 28 | 56 | 45 | +2 | 2055 | +607 | 800 | +422 | 0.56 | -0.12 | 2 | 5.27 | +2.40 | 12 |
| Dover-Foxcroft | 26 | 60 | 43 | -3 | 1983 | +388 | 735 | +283 | 2.79 | +1.99 | 3 | 6.15 | +2.72 | 12 |
| Frenchville | 30 | 55 | 43 | +0 | 1770 | +427 | 648 | +325 | 0.60 | -0.10 | 2 | 5.58 | +2.50 | 12 |
| Houlton | 25 | 57 | 45 | +0 | 1969 | +455 | 753 | +329 | 1.46 | +0.76 | 3 | 4.19 | +1.22 | 14 |
| Livermore_Falls | 29 | 63 | 46 | +0 | 2164 | +599 | 838 | +409 | 2.33 | +1.49 | 2 | 5.21 | +1.95 | 11 |
| Moosehead | 27 | 58 | 42 | -2 | 1629 | +312 | 523 | +213 | 1.36 | +0.62 | 3 | 6.72 | +3.57 | 14 |
| Portland_ME | 34 | 63 | 50 | +1 | 2631 | +702 | 1117 | +480 | 3.51 | +2.67 | 2 | 6.43 | +3.29 | 9 |
| NEW HAMPSHIRE | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BenTon | 29 | 60 | 43 | -5 | 1941 | +241 | 715 | +239 | 3.30 | +2.58 | 3 | 10.23 | +7.41 | 12 |
| Berlin_AG | 28 | 58 | 44 | -3 | 1996 | +298 | 720 | +223 | 1.62 | +0.83 | 2 | 5.82 | +2.82 | 10 |
| Concord | 28 | 67 | 47 | -2 | 2849 | +768 | 1335 | +596 | 2.59 | +1.89 | 2 | 5.70 | +3.02 | 7 |
| Diamond_Pond | 29 | 54 | 39 | -4 | 1063 | -55 | 230 | +25 | 1.93 | +1.09 | 3 | 8.98 | +5.58 | 13 |
| Keene_AG | 28 | 68 | 46 | -6 | 2606 | +253 | 1129 | +213 | 2.91 | +2.21 | 3 | 9.11 | +6.39 | 8 |
| North_Conway | 33 | 62 | 47 | -1 | 2310 | +400 | 899 | +266 | 1.56 | +0.65 | 2 | 6.21 | +2.84 | 10 |
| Rochester | 31 | 67 | 48 | -3 | 2921 | +663 | 1391 | +539 | 2.62 | +1.68 | 2 | 5.51 | +2.13 | 11 |
| VERMONT | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bennington_AP | 28 | 65 | 46 | -2 | 2571 | +748 | 1119 | +567 | 2.02 | +1.18 | 3 | 7.22 | +3.88 | 12 |
| Burlington_Intl | 33 | 64 | 47 | -2 | 2798 | +584 | 1304 | +463 | 2.54 | +1.91 | 3 | 7.20 | +4.54 | 12 |
| Island_Pond | 28 | 59 | 43 | -3 | 1892 | +498 | 675 | +350 | 1.22 | +0.52 | 4 | 7.26 | +4.46 | 20 |
| Montpelier | 29 | 61 | 44 | -3 | 2259 | +528 | 908 | +396 | 1.93 | +1.30 | 3 | 8.43 | +5.91 | 12 |
| Rochester | 29 | 65 | 44 | -4 | 2127 | +403 | 810 | +306 | 1.72 | +0.88 | 3 | 8.43 | +5.07 | 10 |
| Rutland_AG | 28 | 63 | 43 | -8 | 2394 | +64 | 994 | +94 | 2.56 | +1.93 | 3 | 8.24 | +5.44 | 9 |
| Springfield_VT | 29 | 65 | 46 | -2 | 2662 | +784 | 1181 | +585 | 4.12 | +3.35 | 2 | 11.22 | +8.14 | 10 |
| Sutton | 30 | 59 | 42 | -2 | 1847 | +451 | 642 | +305 | 1.42 | +0.65 | 3 | 8.13 | +5.18 | 14 |
| MASSACHUSETTS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Boston/Logan_In | 44 | 69 | 55 | -1 | 3541 | +742 | 1820 | +592 | 1.49 | +0.79 | 3 | 4.45 | +1.65 | 11 |
| Fitchburg | 34 | 70 | 51 | +4 | 3376 | +1495 | 1717 | +1119 | 1.42 | +0.70 | 3 | 5.24 | +2.48 | 12 |
| Greenfield | 31 | 69 | 48 | -5 | 2737 | +177 | 1229 | +178 | 1.48 | +0.71 | 3 | 8.34 | +5.26 | 13 |
| New_Bedford | 35 | 72 | 54 | -3 | 3227 | +371 | 1577 | +307 | 1.78 | +1.01 | 3 | 4.52 | +1.55 | 10 |
| Otis_AFB | 36 | 68 | 51 | -3 | 2827 | +541 | 1262 | +397 | 1.53 | +0.69 | 3 | 5.07 | +1.75 | 12 |
| Plymouth | 37 | 71 | 53 | +1 | 3423 | +1092 | 1761 | +858 | 1.69 | +0.80 | 3 | 5.60 | +2.00 | 11 |
| Walpole | 33 | 70 | 50 | -1 | 3200 | +882 | 1588 | +694 | 1.96 | +1.11 | 2 | 5.32 | +1.95 | 11 |
| Chicopee/Westov | 29 | 72 | 51 | -4 | 3201 | +243 | 1596 | +246 | 1.48 | +0.70 | 2 | 7.40 | +4.27 | 12 |
| Worthington | 31 | 66 | 47 | -3 | 2368 | +491 | 952 | +377 | 2.12 | +1.28 | 3 | 11.12 | +7.83 | 13 |
| RHODE ISLAND | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Providence | 42 | 70 | 55 | +2 | 3551 | +892 | 1798 | +664 | 1.59 | +0.76 | 2 | 4.33 | +1.19 | 11 |
| Woonsocket | 35 | 71 | 50 | +0 | 3195 | +918 | 1564 | +718 | 1.50 | +0.59 | 3 | 5.95 | +2.49 | 12 |
| CONNECTICUT | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bridgeport/Siko | 44 | 72 | 56 | +1 | 3617 | +716 | 1883 | +555 | 1.39 | +0.70 | 2 | 4.43 | +1.68 | 12 |
| Hartford/Bradle | 35 | 72 | 53 | +1 | 3566 | +764 | 1849 | +607 | 1.27 | +0.50 | 2 | 6.90 | +3.65 | 13 |
| Norfolk | 34 | 65 | 47 | -1 | 2535 | +672 | 1077 | +504 | 1.35 | +0.50 | 2 | 10.91 | +7.38 | 12 |
| Thomaston_Dam | 35 | 70 | 51 | -1 | 3091 | +806 | 1483 | +637 | 1.59 | +0.73 | 3 | 9.57 | +6.03 | 14 |
| Willimantic | 33 | 70 | 52 | +0 | 3196 | +865 | 1558 | +682 | 1.23 | +0.32 | 2 | 3.94 | +0.29 | 13 |

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, October 17, 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 | 25 | 64 | 45 | -1 | 0.45 | 3.59 |
| NH | 20 | 68 | 45 | -2 | 1.28 | 3.30 |
| VT | 24 | 66 | 44 | -4 | 1.22 | 4.93 |
| MA | 28 | 73 | 50 | -2 | 0.61 | 2.36 |
| RI | 35 | 71 | 54 | +1 | 1.29 | 1.59 |
| CT | 31 | 72 | 52 | +0 | 0.90 | 1.59 |

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:

Generally an ok week to put up grass silage, pick pumpkins, and combine grain corn. Tobacco continues to be taken down in sheds and bundled. Only a few acres of sweet corn to be picked along with cole crops. A raw day on Friday with rain totaling 1.6 inches. Another good weekend for leaf peepers and farm stand sales. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** The hills are awash in color. The first flakes of snow were seen fluttering around. The farm stands are rapidly running out of produce. The crop season is just about over. Farms are hurrying to gather in the last soil samples and to take out the final loads of manure before the ground freezes. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** Nice week with some rain and wind at the end of the week. Seasonably cool weather at the end of the week, but beautiful weekend weather. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Cool, comfortable fall weather with 1.5 inches of rain. Apple and pumpkin picking are near finishing. Farmers markets are ending and another year of growing and harvest happenings is coming to a close.

MAINE – Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook: Most potatoes have been harvested. Despite rain off and on throughout the week, the bulk of the growers were able to finish. Quality is excellent with a smaller size range than normal. Pastures still look good. The last of the canola has been cut. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Producers were harvesting vegetables and some hay before the storm on Friday. Over 3 inches of rain and high winds on Friday. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** More rainfall was good for the water table. Still grain corn and soybeans left to be harvested; beautiful weather. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Harvest is completed and overall it was a good year. Farmers are finalizing spreading on fields and will be slowing down a bit in the upcoming weeks. **Megan McDonough (FSA), Kennebec:** This has been a great year for pumpkins and squash. Folks have finished putting up third cut hay. Last week brought much needed rain; Clinton reported 2.5 inches. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** We received torrential rains on Friday but with the harvest over in this area, this precipitation had little impact here other than postponing the spreading of manure on cropped fields. It was a great year for nearly all crops in midcoast Maine. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Oxford County received very strong winds and heavy rain last Thursday and Friday. The winds continued all thru the weekend. Some spots in Oxford County still have not had the big "FROST" as of yet. Hay is still being harvested and silage corn is being chopped. Pumpkins are filling the roadside stands along with squash and other cold weather vegetables. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis/Penobscot:** Pumpkins squash and cornstalks dominate the farm stands. Some fall tillage in fields where erosion is not an issue.

MASSACHUSETTS – Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire:

Transitional weather this week, hard frost several nights, then we got hit with hard rain and wind. There was some flooding, no reports of field damage. Early in the week fields were tilled and green manure crops planted. Our growing season is over but orchards are still busy with apple and cider sales and farm stands are selling pumpkins and winter veggies. **Lori**

Carver (FSA), Franklin: More rain during the week continued to replenish the moisture that was lacking during the summer. Producers continued to harvest fall crops and prepare the land for the winter. Another good weekend at the farm stands. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Last week had very cool temperatures and additional rainfall that hampered the harvest of many fall crops. Soybean harvest began and high yields were reported. Harvesting apples, potatoes, pumpkins, collards, cabbage, and nursery stock continued. Farmers are busy seeding rye cover, liming and picking up irrigation pipe. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Harvest continues. Many growers are finished and cleaning up thereafter, getting ready for fall projects. The crop will probably be closer to 1.7 million barrels, and not the August prediction of 1.95 barrels. Rot and scald have accounted for much of that reduction.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Bill Lord (Ext), Belknap: Several frosts have shut things down and field cleanup is underway. Winter cover crops are growing well, fueled by moderate temperatures and recent rains. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** A couple more frosts this week, with some heavy rain Friday. A little haylage/baylage harvested as conditions allowed. Farm stands full of fall crops, everything else is done for the season. Late season apples showing up, but PYO is pretty much done. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Rains this week made for difficulty in harvesting the remaining silage corn. A fair amount yet in the fields. Manure spreading and other end-of-year field work as possible. Pastures pretty wet; attempts at getting a bit of hay in. Morning frosts fairly common now as temperatures lower. Rivers and streams running high from the rain. End of season veggies, etc. are still available but generally winding down. **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. Vegetables: Several localized frosts occurred during the week. Farmers kept busy working on: pulling plastic mulch and tomato stakes, planting cover crops, and putting equipment away. Good demand for all vegetables continues. Growers are harvesting a wide array of vegetables including: cabbage, kale, Brussel sprouts, winter squash and pumpkins. All warm season crops harvest is over. Insect damage to pumpkins that still are in fields. Field Crops: Silage corn chopping finished up with seeding cover crops on harvested fields. Some manure spreading and incorporating in soil is taking place. **Amy Ouellette (Ext), Merrimack:** The latest apple varieties are being harvested. Farmers are cleaning up fields, spreading lime, and planting fall/winter high tunnel crops. Fall weather has been beautiful so far. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Harvesting apples, fall raspberries, greens and some warm season crops. Winter squashes, pumpkins, corn stalks, and mums available. Plowing, disking, liming, seeding cover crops on fields already harvested. Spreading manure on hay fields. Finishing up chopping corn. Torrential rain and gusty winds on Friday with about 2+ inches of rain.

RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties: The days are getting shorter and the nights are getting cooler. We had a couple of little frosts this week, but no killer frost as of

yet. Potatoes are still being put into winter storage. Small vegetables are starting to show the cool weather. Pumpkins, squash and mums are still selling real good this past weekend. Livestock looks real good for this time of the year. Not much pasture left now, most animals are being fed supplemental feeds. Grape harvest is doing very well, but not quite finished yet.

VERMONT – Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin: Things are now getting very wet in Franklin County. It seemed to be a weekend thing based on last Friday and this past Friday. Surface and sub soils are now becoming very saturated making for more water sooner in streams. Still some corn out and hopefully we can get a little weather to get things finished up. Some corn will go for grain; however, weather has not helped in the dry down process here. A lot of fourth cut did get harvested last week along with some manure spreading.

Heard some fields were done as fifth cut with great yields. Good yields on corn silage. We have ample good quality feed this year for the dairy herd. Be sure that your nutritionist gives credit here as grain prices seem to be headed up, based on the futures market this week for corn. Gardens and apples are about done, as some areas of Franklin County had snow to contend with in our last rain storm. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** There was a lot of rain this past week with some flooding reported. Late last week the area saw its first snow in the mountains. The ski trails at Jay Peak were white with about 12 inches. The snow didn't accumulate on the valley floor. Almost all cropping is finished for the year. There is still a little corn left and field conditions are very wet for harvest. If the weather breaks some farms have a little fourth cut hay to harvest. The pasture season is also coming to a close. Most farmers will be spreading their fall manure in the next few weeks. Overall it was a very good season for crops.

To receive this report every Monday evening, send an e-mail message to listserv@newsbox.usda.gov and in the body, type **subscribe usda-new-eng-crop-weather**

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