

Crop Progress & Condition



NEW ENGLAND
Agricultural
Statistics



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For week ending 10/24/10

Fall Harvest Nearly Complete

This will be the last publication for the 2010 crop year. We hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season and good luck next spring!

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending October 24, 2010, there were 5.2 days available for field work across New England. Pasture conditions were rated 4% very poor, 26% poor, 41% fair, and 29% good. The week began with temperatures in the mid 50s to low 60s in southern States, and upper 40s to low 50s in northern States. Tuesday and Wednesday were cloudy with seasonal temperatures. Thursday brought scattered light rain showers and average temperatures. Friday was cooler than average, with cloudy skies and temperatures in the 40s throughout the region. Temperatures over the weekend ranged from the low 50s to low 60s in southern States, and upper 30s to low 50s in northern States with scattered light rain showers on Sunday. The week's total precipitation ranged from 0.02 to 0.44 inches.

FRUIT: Many producers finished harvesting apples last week, although some PYO operations continued. Varieties still being harvested included Rome, Fuji, and Pink Lady. Orchardists were also mowing under trees. Cranberry harvesting in Massachusetts neared completion and is expected to be finished this week, with overall crop production less than previously anticipated.

VEGETABLES: Pumpkin sales were busy last week with Halloween a week away. Other vegetables being harvested include winter squash and root crops. Vegetable growers were also cleaning fields, putting away farm equipment, and preparing for winter.

FIELD CROPS: Potato producers were busy putting the crop into storage last week as the harvest ended. Overall, the crop quality looked good, although potatoes were smaller than normal in Rhode Island. In Connecticut, silage corn was still being harvested last week, and was almost finished in New Hampshire. Farmers were also cleaning fields, planting cover crops, testing soils, spreading manure, and preparing for winter.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
	-- Percent --		
Topsoil			
Very Short	1	1	1
Short	8	7	1
Adequate	75	59	75
Surplus	16	33	23
Subsoil			
Very Short	4	3	1
Short	10	8	0
Adequate	77	66	84
Surplus	9	23	15

FRUIT CROP PROGRESS ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2010	2009	5-yr Avg
	-- Percent Harvested --		
Apples	99	95	95
Pears	100	99	100
Cranberries, MA	95	85	85

FIELD CROP PROGRESS ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

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

Weather Summary for New England Agricultural Statistics

For the Period: Monday October 18, 2010
 To: Sunday October 24, 2010

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				CUM SINCE MAR 1 GROWING DEGREE DAYS				1-WEEK PRECIP			4-WEEK CUM PRECIP		
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	BASE-50F		BASE-60F		TOTAL	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS
	---	---	---	---	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	INCHES	---	---	INCHES	---	---
MAINE														
Augusta_State_A	31	60	45	-3	2610	+519	1109	+363	0.08	-0.83	1	4.29	+0.96	9
Bangor_Intl_Arp	31	62	45	-2	2561	+660	1091	+469	0.44	-0.34	1	4.66	+1.68	10
Bethel	28	60	42	-4	2216	+353	837	+241	0.06	-0.85	1	5.85	+2.53	11
Caribou_Municip	28	56	41	+0	2055	+607	800	+422	0.47	-0.23	2	4.68	+1.88	10
Dover-Foxcroft	26	57	40	-3	1984	+389	736	+284	0.13	-0.71	1	5.50	+2.14	10
Frenchville	27	53	39	-2	1770	+427	648	+325	0.34	-0.36	3	4.86	+1.92	11
Houlton	28	56	42	-1	1969	+455	753	+329	0.33	-0.41	1	3.65	+0.74	11
Livermore_Falls	23	61	41	-3	2164	+599	838	+409	0.09	-0.80	1	4.83	+1.49	10
Moosehead	26	57	39	-4	1629	+312	523	+213	0.15	-0.62	1	5.79	+2.71	12
Portland_ME	29	62	44	-4	2631	+696	1117	+480	0.16	-0.77	1	6.43	+3.11	9
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	26	57	38	-7	1938	+232	712	+236	0.29	-0.48	1	10.29	+7.40	12
Berlin_AG	28	58	40	-5	1996	+296	720	+223	0.17	-0.67	2	5.62	+2.48	11
Concord	24	63	43	-4	2849	+761	1335	+596	0.07	-0.69	1	5.77	+2.96	8
Diamond_Pond	23	49	34	-7	1063	-55	230	+25	0.35	-0.49	2	8.81	+5.45	12
Keene_AG	27	62	42	-7	2606	+242	1129	+213	0.13	-0.57	1	9.24	+6.48	9
North_Conway	28	60	41	-4	2310	+397	899	+266	0.12	-0.85	2	5.96	+2.39	11
Rochester	27	65	44	-5	2921	+652	1391	+539	0.11	-0.90	1	5.58	+1.96	11
VERMONT														
Bennington_AP	28	60	43	-3	2571	+741	1119	+567	0.06	-0.79	1	7.18	+3.83	12
Burlington_Intl	29	59	45	-2	2802	+580	1304	+463	0.32	-0.31	1	7.15	+4.57	11
Island_Pond	24	55	38	-5	1892	+498	675	+350	0.23	-0.50	2	7.03	+4.20	16
Montpelier	25	57	40	-5	2259	+522	908	+396	0.22	-0.41	3	8.10	+5.58	14
Rochester	26	60	40	-5	2127	+396	810	+306	0.21	-0.64	2	8.64	+5.27	12
Rutland_AG	26	58	40	-9	2394	+50	994	+94	0.18	-0.45	2	8.42	+5.76	11
Springfield_VT	25	59	41	-5	2662	+779	1181	+585	0.23	-0.60	1	11.39	+8.25	10
Sutton	24	55	37	-4	1847	+451	642	+305	0.15	-0.62	2	7.82	+4.85	13
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	40	66	52	-2	3558	+731	1820	+592	0.02	-0.75	1	4.47	+1.60	12
Fitchburg	31	64	46	+2	3376	+1489	1717	+1119	0.03	-0.74	1	5.27	+2.38	13
Greenfield	29	62	44	-7	2737	+159	1229	+178	0.12	-0.65	2	8.46	+5.38	15
New_Bedford	34	67	49	-5	3234	+346	1577	+307	0.19	-0.63	1	4.71	+1.68	11
Otis_AFB	32	63	48	-4	2830	+526	1262	+397	0.17	-0.74	1	5.24	+1.82	13
Plymouth	34	65	49	-2	3427	+1080	1761	+858	0.19	-0.72	1	5.79	+2.20	12
Walpole	34	64	46	-3	3201	+871	1588	+694	0.05	-0.86	1	5.37	+1.93	12
Chicopee/Westov	30	66	45	-8	3202	+218	1596	+246	0.02	-0.82	1	7.42	+4.25	13
Worthington	29	61	42	-5	2368	+482	952	+377	0.27	-0.57	3	11.39	+8.10	16
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	34	67	51	-2	3565	+883	1798	+664	0.17	-0.68	1	4.50	+1.28	12
Woonsocket	31	66	48	+0	3197	+911	1564	+718	0.08	-0.84	2	6.03	+2.49	14
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	41	70	53	-2	3641	+708	1883	+555	0.00	-0.70	0	4.24	+1.49	11
Hartford/Bradle	33	67	49	-3	3573	+753	1849	+607	0.05	-0.75	2	6.95	+3.74	15
Norfolk	32	59	44	-2	2535	+665	1077	+504	0.04	-0.87	1	10.95	+7.43	13
Thomaston_Dam	34	66	47	-3	3093	+791	1483	+637	0.08	-0.83	3	9.57	+6.03	16
Willimantic	32	66	47	-4	3197	+850	1558	+682	0.09	-0.86	1	4.03	+0.35	14

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 Weather Summary
 For the Week Ending Sunday, October 24, 2010

STATE	AIR TEMPERATURES				PRECIPITATION	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	23	62	41	-3	0.04	0.72
NH	7	65	40	-6	0.00	0.35
VT	17	62	40	-5	0.06	0.74
MA	27	67	46	-4	0.00	0.28
RI	31	67	50	-2	0.05	0.17
CT	30	70	48	-3	0.00	0.21

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: Picking and marketing pumpkins. Taking broadleaf tobacco down in sheds and baling. Picking grain corn and spreading manure. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Pumpkin patches and corn mazes were the primary farm markets this past week. Everyone was making the last push to get ready for Halloween. PYO orchards are still picking a few varieties of apples. **Ann Marie McCard (FSA), New London:** Good weather for working. Getting to the end of the season. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** Beautiful fall weather. Producers are busy cleaning up fields and farmsteads in preparation for winter. Rye cover crops are growing nicely and will provide protection for their bare fields. Cooler temperatures this week brought killing frosts in some parts of the county, though most of the southern areas are still frost free. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Apple picking is all done. Combining corn, prices remain good but the mill shuts off deliveries after 1200 tons arrive. Trucks line up on Monday morning to get in on the action. Moisture levels are good. Grape production was less overall, due to an early spring freeze; but sugar levels and ripening went well. Hay was down with dry summer; some baling continues into the fall. Good orchard activity with pumpkins, corn stalks, apples, and cider sales.

MAINE – Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook: Only a couple of operations still harvesting. Most are picking rocks, plowing, and spreading lime. This may be the year the potato industry has been waiting for. A year with good prices, above average demand and good quality come about once a lifetime. All in all, a very good growing season for all crops in Aroostook. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: As farmers come to the end of the potato harvest it is good to see the quality of the potato crop is great this year. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** The growing season is over. Conditions remain good for corn and soybean harvest. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Torrential rains received and high winds but since most of the crops have been harvested it allowed farmers to take a break before completing the spreading of manure on fields. Over all crops were good this year. Hay crop actually ended up getting a third crop in some areas. Some farmers are tilling fields to prepare ground for next season. Pumpkins, squash and corn stalks are readily available. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis/Penobscot:** Farm stands are finishing their sales with pumpkins, squash and potatoes. **Elaine S Moueus/Janet King (FSA), Somerset:** Although the growing season is winding down, there are still plenty of storage vegetables, apples, fresh greens, and beautiful pumpkins and squash available at local farmer's markets and produce stands. Rainfall totals for the month of October in some areas, are at or slightly above average; however, the low level of groundwater could still cause problems if the ground freezes too soon without allowing the groundwater to replenish. A forecast of rain for the coming week, with slightly warmer temperatures may help this situation. Despite the dry conditions, it has been a fairly productive growing season for field corn. There have been some reports from producers saying the dry matter content of the silage is higher than ideal, and most producers are reporting the corn dried down earlier than usual this year.

MASSACHUSETTS – Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: Not much field work with the rainy weather. Large apples with good quality. Frost has ended the picking season. Rain deterred field work this week with on and off showers. The moisture is helpful, but not much field work was done this part week. Fall veggie sales are good and PYO orchards are winding up their public seasons. **Lori Carver (FSA), Franklin:** Harvest is coming to an end. The last of the potato and apple crop is being harvested. Fields are being seeded with cover crop. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** The week was cold with scattered frosts. Farmers continue to harvest potatoes, apples, grain, corn, and cole crops. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Harvesting should be finished this week except for a few dry harvesting growers. The crop will probably end up being close to 1.7 million barrels, not bad, but not what we thought was out there.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire: Cool weather all week - even a few snowflakes one night. Farmers spending their time putting fields to bed, emptying manure pits, and harvesting last of fall crops. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Colder, damp weather into high teens, low twenties one night. Field corn still to be harvested, coming in as soil conditions permit. Probably loss in quality and quantity on silage corn still standing. Frost damaged leaves, etc. Some pumpkins and mums yet available, most leaves on trees about gone. Snow on the White Mountains! **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** Substantial rainfall from September 24th to the current date. Total rainfall for the past 30 days is close to 12 inches. Some field corn remains to be harvested. Saturated soils on these fields have prevented harvesting. Some fields with later cuttings of hay or haylage have yet to be harvested. Those who got onto their fields before the rains are in good shape. Vegetable growers are winding down. Most of the pumpkin crop is harvested. Some flooding and damage from the heavy rains of the last 30 days is becoming apparent. Erosion damage has been problematic on some low fields. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** County-wide frost occurred several times during the week. Fruit: Orchardists busy marketing crop. Apple harvest is done. Finishing harvesting Rome, Fuji, and Pink Lady. Finishing picking up apple drops (99% 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. Soil testing fields for next season and cleaning and putting away farm equipment. **Amy Ouellette (Ext), Merrimack:** Most of the county experienced it's first frost on Oct 19. Field clean-up and preparation for next year continues. For those with an apple crop, it's been a good fall. We hope for good snow cover and seasonal temperatures this winter and next spring. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Seeding cover crops on harvested fields. Apple harvest nearly done. Harvesting greens. Produce in season available at farmers markets and farm stands. Frost in most on the county. Hail mixed in with rain occurred on Thursday afternoon.

RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties: Still putting potatoes in storage. If we have a good week, they may finish putting potatoes in, if not then next week. Potatoes in storage look good, they are in abundance, but they are on the small side. There are more potatoes to store this year than in the previous 2 or 3 years. The stands did very good this weekend, especially pumpkins, squash and mums. A few of the stands still have native sweet corn, and small vegetables. Some parts of the state haven't had a frost yet, especially the southern and eastern parts. There is an awful lot of fall cabbage and kale, and other cold crops. Really looking good this year. This will be harvested between now and Thanksgiving. We had a good summer, and it looks like a good fall too. Livestock look well going into the winter. This week seems to be looking like a warm rainy week. This will slow down the last of the harvesting to do.

VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison: Corn has dried and starting to see snapper heads out. Nearly finished corn silage harvest. Soil condition wet with ruts in fields. Winter rye cover crops coming up with good vigor. Ready to start soybean harvest and shell corn. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Frost most mornings. Dusting of snow on Friday morning, Sunday's high was about 35. The farms that do not have all of the corn silage in have faced major breakdowns or serious mud, but just about all of the corn is in now. Very good corn

growing year here. Some reports of low energy in the second cut of hay. Lots of manure going onto fields now. The growing season is done. Some farmers were able to get in some round bales during the week. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Still wet in Franklin County and snow is appearing in the hills and hanging around instead of melting and going away. Cooler temps and shorter days are making things look like winter is coming around. Some grass haylage put up this week on the higher ground. Corn for silage is on the last of the harvest with still some to be done on the wetter ground. Apples are now done with the continual frost in the mornings last week. Pastures are still very wet and growth has slowed. **Heather Mateja (FSA), Lamoille/Washington:** Had a few nights with a wide-spread frost. Snow is on the mountain. Some farmers are still trying to get a 3rd or 4th cut of hay. Vegetable growers are harvesting winter squash and root crops. Pastures are running thin and the livestock will be off of grass in the next couple of weeks. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Farmers are wrapping up the corn harvest. Some fields are very wet with the recent rain causing some problems with corn harvest. All reports I have had indicated the corn crop was above average in both yield and quality. Some farmers are still pasturing their animals, however, they are also providing supplemental feed. The only other activity going on is fall manure spreading.

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