

Crop Progress & Condition



NEW ENGLAND
Agricultural
Statistics



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August 29, 2011 – 4 pm

For week ending 8/28/11

Irene Brought Rain and Wind

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending August 28, 2011, there were 5.1 days available for fieldwork across New England. Pasture conditions were rated 13 percent poor, 25 percent fair, 48 percent good, and 14 percent excellent. Monday through Wednesday was partly cloudy with some wind and temperatures reached the mid-70s to low 80s. New England experienced light to heavy rain and wind and one tornado reported on Thursday with temperatures remaining mild in the mid-70s to mid-80s through Saturday. Friday, skies cleared into partly cloudy to sunny conditions. Tropical Storm Irene arrived early Sunday, with high wind gusts and flooding rains. Thousands of people lost their power throughout the region. Crop losses are being assessed at this time. The week's total rainfall ranged from 1.80 to 6.89 inches across the region.

FRUIT: The harvest of highbush blueberries was complete, except for late maturing varieties. Meanwhile, the wild blueberry harvest in Maine was completed in some areas and was expected to be complete Statewide by next week. Orchardists were harvesting peaches, plums, and apples. They monitored for pests, mowed orchard floors, fixed orchard roads, and moved bins into orchards. Some fruit was blown off of trees or bruised during Sunday's storm.

VEGETABLES: Vegetable producers harvested what they could before Irene arrived. Some farmers markets were cancelled on Sunday due to the threat of wind and heavy rain. Blight was reported on some tomatoes in parts of Maine and New Hampshire. Powdery Mildew was also reported in New Hampshire, which affects crops such as pumpkins and squash.

FIELD CROPS: Maine potato farmers were spraying for late blight and aphids. Broadleaf tobacco, hay, and corn producers worked hard to harvest as many acres as they could to beat Irene. Low lying fields were flooded after the storm. Some of the flood waters receded when the rain stopped but other fields were left waterlogged after already being saturated from rain earlier this month. Sediment and debris also affected crops negatively.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	2	17
Short	3	11	29
Adequate	71	75	53
Surplus	26	12	1
Subsoil			
Very Short	1	2	26
Short	8	20	24
Adequate	74	71	49
Surplus	17	7	1

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Set	Fruit Size	Condition
	2011	2010	5-yr Avg			
Apples	15	20	15	Average	Average	Good
Peaches	75	75	70			
Pears	<5	20	15	Average	Average	Good
Blueberries						
Highbush	90	95	90			
Wild	85	95	90			
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-	Avg/Above	Avg/Above	Good/Exc

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2011	2010	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Harvested --				
Barley	15	65	45	Good/Fair
Oats	10	55	30	Good/Fair
Potatoes				
Maine	<5	10	<5	Good
Mass	30	10	20	Good/Fair
Rhode Island	10	15	30	Good/Fair
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	60	85	75	Good/Fair
Shade	80	90	80	
Silage Corn	<5	<5	<5	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	70	80	70	
Dry Hay				
First Cut	99	100	99	
Second Cut	80	95	80	
Third Cut	30	45	30	Good/Fair

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday, August 22, 2011
 To: Sunday, August 28, 2011

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	55	82	69	+3	1853	+144	821	+151	1.37	+0.64	4	3.64	+0.63	15
Bangor_Intl_Arp	51	82	68	+4	1794	+233	744	+182	2.25	+1.48	3	6.62	+3.60	15
Bethel	50	82	65	+2	1688	+137	687	+143	4.35	+3.44	3	6.69	+3.07	13
Caribou_Municip	49	78	65	+5	1507	+237	547	+188	2.14	+1.23	3	6.90	+3.21	16
Dover-Foxcroft	45	83	64	+2	1478	+116	533	+111	1.55	+0.71	5	4.46	+1.17	15
Frenchville	47	76	62	+3	1242	+62	368	+61	1.16	+0.25	3	5.07	+1.35	16
Houlton	44	81	65	+4	1474	+147	527	+126	1.60	+0.69	5	3.80	+0.11	17
Livermore_Falls	46	84	65	+3	1681	+340	684	+282	1.86	+0.92	3	4.12	+0.43	12
Moosehead	45	78	62	+2	1230	+95	357	+66	1.00	+0.16	4	5.28	+1.90	19
Portland_ME	53	83	69	+4	1856	+288	834	+258	1.94	+1.26	3	4.58	+2.01	14
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	47	79	64	+2	1583	+149	582	+141	3.40	+2.49	3	6.94	+3.31	12
Berlin_AG	47	82	64	+2	1577	+132	570	+106	1.74	+0.77	3	4.00	+0.09	12
Concord	49	86	70	+5	2090	+366	978	+305	2.04	+1.33	3	5.48	+2.46	12
Diamond_Pond	44	76	60	+2	1143	+166	295	+101	1.50	+0.38	5	4.57	-0.06	17
Keene_AG	50	84	68	+2	2011	+91	904	+87	2.29	+1.45	3	7.33	+3.79	13
North_Conway	49	83	65	+2	1732	+122	729	+143	3.20	+2.29	3	6.50	+2.86	15
Rochester	51	87	70	+4	2250	+414	1129	+370	2.42	+1.65	3	5.97	+2.74	10
VERMONT														
Bennington_AP	47	84	68	+5	2078	+568	917	+417	3.84	+2.86	3	7.25	+3.37	11
Burlington_Intl	54	81	70	+5	2219	+372	1075	+309	0.78	-0.13	5	3.17	-0.50	12
Island_Pond	43	77	63	+4	1604	+418	584	+284	1.64	+0.58	4	4.35	-0.05	17
Montpelier	46	80	67	+5	1824	+368	755	+287	1.85	+1.00	5	5.73	+2.25	13
Rochester	48	82	66	+3	1715	+287	671	+217	2.37	+1.32	4	7.42	+3.26	12
Rutland_AG	48	81	67	+0	1938	+36	838	+43	2.74	+1.81	3	8.10	+4.30	11
Springfield_VT	49	84	69	+6	2176	+606	1034	+490	3.05	+2.14	3	6.51	+2.90	11
Sutton	46	78	63	+3	1528	+325	534	+220	1.49	+0.46	4	5.86	+1.56	15
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	63	87	75	+5	2524	+349	1346	+319	1.71	+0.94	3	7.09	+4.17	13
Fitchburg	54	86	72	+9	2456	+889	1274	+722	2.60	+1.83	3	6.91	+3.71	10
Greenfield	49	83	67	-2	1959	-90	832	-82	1.67	+0.85	4	6.09	+2.75	14
New_Bedford	54	88	73	+3	2486	+298	1257	+218	0.42	-0.56	3	4.21	+0.41	11
Otis_AFB	55	82	72	+5	2019	+238	927	+187	0.33	-0.46	3	3.75	+0.69	9
Plymouth	56	85	74	+7	2371	+528	1188	+402	0.41	-0.54	1	3.71	+0.12	11
Walpole	53	86	71	+5	2313	+436	1163	+372	2.53	+1.62	3	8.30	+4.76	13
Chicopee/Westov	48	86	70	-1	2367	+25	1166	+20	3.37	+2.53	3	7.75	+4.58	12
Worthington	49	81	65	+2	1791	+260	726	+211	3.91	+3.00	4	8.63	+4.86	13
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	58	85	74	+4	2473	+401	1277	+323	1.35	+0.51	2	7.23	+3.96	10
Woonsocket	53	87	72	+6	2357	+511	1183	+430	2.27	+1.36	3	6.97	+3.33	11
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	60	84	75	+4	2651	+427	1414	+332	3.58	+2.88	3	9.31	+6.36	11
Hartford/Bradley	54	86	72	+3	2560	+307	1332	+250	4.92	+4.07	3	10.63	+7.37	15
Norfolk	49	81	66	+3	1907	+371	813	+292	6.95	+5.90	3	11.34	+7.24	14
Thomaston_Dam	50	86	68	+2	2337	+512	1151	+420	8.66	+7.68	3	18.07	+14.24	14
Willimantic	52	86	72	+5	2424	+564	1211	+449	2.58	+1.69	3	10.29	+6.72	10

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, August 28, 2011

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	42	87	65	+3	0.75	4.35
NH	34	87	66	+3	1.39	3.58
VT	42	85	66	+3	0.78	4.30
MA	46	88	70	+4	0.30	4.76
RI	53	87	73	+5	1.10	2.27
CT	49	87	71	+3	2.58	8.66

REPORTERS' COMMENTS, By County: *Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), or other knowledgeable individuals.*

CONNECTICUT – Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland: Broadleaf tobacco producers working into the dark to harvest as many acres as they can to beat Irene. Vegetable producers also harvesting what they can before the storm. Dairy farmers testing generators and hoping the corn is still standing next week. Best of luck to everyone! **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Farms tried to harvest as much as possible in anticipation of Irene. Anything that could be harvested rather than blown down was being harvested. Irene dropped 8+ inches of rain over the area in less than 16 hours. Low lying fields were flooded but the flood waters receded rapidly when the rain stopped. No reports of wind damage yet but most fields haven't been checked yet. **Patricia Smith (FSA), New London:** Several towns 100% without power. Sweet corn is flat. Field corn seems to have done better. A lot of apples on the ground. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** Thunderstorm early in the week followed by nice weather for the most part. Some scattered showers mid to late week. Hurricane Irene caused a lot of flooding along the New Haven and Middlesex County shorelines and there are reports of river flooding in the western portion of New Haven County, from as much as 8 inches of rainfall. A lot of our communities are without power. Crop damage is unknown at this time. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** A flurry of action anticipating Hurricane Irene. Heavy rain and winds. Chopping some corn early to get it in the bunker silo to assure they are not short on feed. Setting up generators, picking vegetables and early apples ready to pick. Canceled farmers markets on Sunday. Brooklyn Fair on this weekend.

MAINE – Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook: A lot of grain was cut last week. Some potatoes are being harvested for early chip and table stock markets. Grain yields are light. Potatoes are reported as average. Blight continues to be a problem. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Grain being harvested. Broccoli harvesting continuing. Farmers continuing to spray fungicides on potatoes. Some growers applying vine killing applications in some areas. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Farmers are spraying for late blight and for aphids. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Streams and rivers are flooded. There are two bridges washed out on Rt 27 disrupting traffic to and from Canada. Some spots received up to 6 plus inches of rain. There are corn and soybean crops under water. There is silt in vegetable crops and some of the apple crop was blown off the trees. It could have been worse. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Overall, crops look great currently. We will update after Irene has left. Soils are pretty good in most areas and field crops are doing great. Some blight on tomatoes has been reported. Blueberry harvest is completed and crop is a little lower than normal. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis/Penobscot:** Sunday we had about 2 inches of rain. Soils are saturated. Winds came in late Sunday. Isolated power outages reported. Farmers are in the process of assessing damage from the storm. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** Good night Irene! **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Late blight seems to be spreading rapidly in many parts of Waldo County. Growers concerned about the corn crop and high winds that are expected on Sunday. Rain has really improved pastures and grass growth. Lots of manure being spread to empty pits. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Soils are saturated and berry size is quite large. It is expected that harvest will continue for another week. Cool temperatures will help maintain crop quality, but crop is very mature so losses from fruit drop are expected. The harvest is better than average for the current harvest due to the larger fruit size.

MASSACHUSETTS – Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: The week started wet and will end wild. Folks are prepping for the predicted storm. Saturday farmers markets should be busy and well attended. There are reports of folks scrambling to harvest some field corn to avoid losing it in the predicted wind and up to 13" of rain predicted for the county from Hurricane Irene. The ground is already saturated

from last weekend and we expect field and crop damage reports next week. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Tropical Storm Irene brought anywhere from 4 to 8 inches of rainfall. All cropland is saturated and 100s of 100s of acres of crops are under water. Many sweet and silage corn fields are flattened by the wind and heavier rains. It may be days before producers can get back into these fields. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: The USDA crop estimate last week was 2.1 million barrels, but I think that was less than what is out there. Some beds have fantastic crops and size appears to be pretty decent. There is some fruit rot in places, but not alarming amounts so far. Rain has come at a regular interval, although some places received as much as 5 inches last week. Growers are getting prepared for high winds. Large amounts of rainfall are not expected, as we'll be on the eastern side of the eye. This is the lull between growing the crop and the pending harvest.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Donna Juneau (FSA) Belknap/Merrimack: Mix of relatively mild weather through Saturday with sunny to partly cloudy days with light rain showers. Harvesting sweet corn, tomatoes, peaches, plums, cucumbers, peppers, beans and squash. Sunday August 28 Tropical Storm Irene resulted in anywhere from 3 to 5 inches of rainfall in an approximately 12 hour period. Preliminary reports of impact to corn fields, orchards, and fruit and vegetable operations in some areas (i.e., flattened corn fields, downed trees, fruit blown off trees, bruised fruit on trees, and staked crops including tomatoes and beans blown over). Relatively minor localized flooding reported to date. The Merrimack River has reportedly not yet crested so flooding of corn fields along the river still a possibility over the next day or two. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** So far, it seems like we escaped the worst of Irene, with only a few isolated areas of flooding and very little crop injury. A couple farms with flood-prone fields harvested some silage corn in advance of the storm, but the rest of it looks pretty good. Third cutting progressing on alfalfa and alfalfa/grass. Still waiting to see what longer-term effect weather will have on vegetable crops, but so far, so good. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos** Windy and heavy rains on Sunday from Tropical Storm Irene. Fields sodden, low lying corn ground flooded somewhat, still assessing damage. Earlier week decent weather for fieldwork. Some meadows being mowed. Corn filling out well with adequate moisture. Cooling temperatures. General typical summer pests. Wide range of vegetables now available at farm stands and markets. Corn widely available. Swamp red maples showing some color. **Heather Bryant (Ext), Grafton:** Last week's thunderstorm included a tornado that touched down on one farm in Grafton County causing significant damage. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** As of August 26th, soil moisture conditions are in good shape. Since August 21st, we have received rainfall from as little as 3 inches, to as high as nearly 6 inches in some areas. A localized tornado like storm event ripped through the Canaan, NH area on the 21st. Damage was localized, but significant for those affected. There was significant damage to trees, and a couple of farm structures. In addition, torrential rains fell in some areas of the county. Some farmers reported that their second cut hay was lodged as a result of the heavy rain and cyclonic winds. Late Blight has arrived in the area. In addition, we have had reports of the arrival of Powdery Mildew which affects crops such as pumpkins and squash. The final impacts of Hurricane Irene were less severe than initially feared. Winds were not as high and the rainfall was less than was predicted. Rainfall varied from as little as 3.8 inches to nearly 7 inches. Wind damage to field corn was minimal. There was some blow down, but it was limited. Flash flooding is the major factor which has caused damage. Low lying areas have water on them, flood conditions are much less than expected but still very significant. Tributaries to the Connecticut River are running very full, and the Connecticut River itself is high. Soil moisture conditions are now fully saturated. There are reports of damage to local roads due to excessive runoff and flood waters. A large sink hole was reported in Plymouth, and water overtopped a

dam above Campton. There is a report of a landslide in Orford. One vegetable operation reported a total loss of crops with sediment and debris deposits on fields, including the loss of the hay crop on some fields. Reports of storm and flood related damages are still coming in. It is expected that damages from flash flooding will be the major issue. It will take several days to get a full assessment of the damage caused by Hurricane Irene. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Rainy, windy conditions on Sunday from Hurricane Irene. Assessing damage, some sweet corn fields blown down. Some apples and peaches blown off trees and a very few fruit trees blown over or snapped off at graft unions. Fruit: Orchardists harvesting peaches, plums, and Paula Red apples. Orchardists busy monitoring for pests, mowing orchard floors, fixing up orchard roads and moving bins into the orchard. Highbush blueberry harvest over except for those few growers who have late maturing varieties and fall raspberry harvest continued. Vegetables: Growers are harvesting an array of vegetables: beans, beets, cole crops, cucumbers, greens, peas, potatoes, radishes, summer squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, zucchini, and other vegetables. Corn Earworm moth numbers are high with most growers on a 3-day to 4-day spray schedule. Growers prepared for the hurricane over weekend of August 27-28. Field Crops: Hay cutting continued during the week with the second cuttings being made. Some spreading manure on hay fields. Farmers making new forage seedings. **Amy Ouellette (Ext), Merrimack:** The tropical storm caused some fruit to fall from trees, corn stalks to lodge, and other damage to vegetable crops. It's early to tell the lasting effects of the storm. Lower fields are saturated in some places. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** The 2011 Hurricane Irene of the Century. Gusty and strong winds with heavy rain and downpour for about 24 hours on Sunday. Temperatures unseasonably cold on Sunday evening. High tunnel and greenhouse growers busy securing their structures in anticipation of the hurricane. Some fields are flooded, eroded and roads washed. Growers were busy at the beginning of the week harvesting an array of vegetables, apples, blueberries, fall raspberries and cut flowers. Haying and haylage was done. Damage being assessed. **Jenn Zaleski (FSA), Sullivan:** Rains subsided Monday allowing farmers to cut hay for both dry hay and silage. Tuesday and Wednesday's winds provided excellent drying conditions. Farmers were able to put in a good amount of hay before Thursday's rains. Scattered showers and thunderstorms moved through the region during the afternoon bringing up to 0.25 inches of rain. Friday and Saturday were sunny and dry allowing farmers to get in more hay and prepare for Hurricane Irene. Hurricane Irene moved into the region Saturday night through Sunday dropping significant amounts of rain totaling 4 inches or more. We did not get the strong winds that were predicted, but there was enough of a wind to bring down branches causing power outages. There have been preliminary reports of corn fields under water and culverts

and access roads being washed out. So far, nothing has been said about any crops being blown down. Rivers are high and low lying areas are flooded. There is a lot of debris in the Connecticut River.

RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties: On Friday August 26th farmers were calling, they were worried about the hurricane. Vegetable plants are coming into their peak right now loaded with fruit and the size is excellent. If the storm hits they are worried they will be wiped out because with everything so heavy from the rain the plants will just snap and break. This spring we had very cold weather and these crops were planted a little later so the picking is a little later also. If we get hit with this storm the sweet corn will be flattened out and the mechanical pickers will not be able to pick it, vegetable plants will be snapped off, silage corn will be flattened out, it's going to one tremendous disaster. It couldn't have happened at a worse time. For the last 3 days farmers are picking everything they can and putting as much as they can into storage as far as small vegetables. We are going to have to wait this storm out to see how bad it is. Talk to you next week.

VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison: Continued hay harvest and manure spread on hay land. Use of aeration tillage for manure on grass fields. Corn growth and new hay seedings very good. No corn harvest. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** More showers in Franklin County continued to bring much needed moisture for crops as a whole. Hurricane Irene has landed and it's too early for assessment at this time. Corn continues to ear out with some reports of milk stage. Yields will be down, however, too early to determine how much. Gardens are beginning to move to fall stage of life. Potato harvest will be the next crop in mind. Apples are looking real good and starting to ripen. Still out a bit for picking to begin. Hay harvest is in the third cut stage and yields look good here with the much needed moisture that has arrived. Pastures have bounced back, however, will be in the fall mode of production soon. **Heather Mateja (FSA), Lamoille/Washington:** Lots of hay being harvested before the big storm. Hot, dry weather has been great for all the crops. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Hurricane Irene dropped around 7 to 12 inches of rain over the last 48 hours. A lot of flooding has occurred which will affect crop harvest especially for corn grown along the rivers. It's too early to tell how much effect this will have, but in some areas it is expected that it will be a total loss. Grass crops will also be affected. The storm has passed now and the next few days will tell the tale. **Julie Jacque (FSA), Windham:** Crops doing fairly well. Peppers, squashes, cabbage and sweet corn in abundance. Sunday 8/21 thunderstorms had some winds that bent over some plants, but for the most part no major damages. Hurricane forecast (8/28) to bring heavy rains and strong wind gusts.

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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