

# Crop Progress & Condition



NEW ENGLAND  
Agricultural  
Statistics



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For week ending 9/4/11

## The Wrath of Irene

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:** For the week ending September 4, 2011, there were 5.2 days available for fieldwork across New England. Pasture conditions were rated 14 percent poor, 30 percent fair, 45 percent good, and 11 percent excellent. The week began partly sunny to partly cloudy throughout New England. Temperatures were typical in the low 70s to low 80s Monday through Wednesday. Thursday and Friday were slightly warmer in the mid-70s to low 80s with more clouds and very few isolated showers in northern Vermont and New Hampshire. Saturday and Sunday seemed very warm with high humidity and above average temperatures in the mid-70s to mid-80s. The week's total rainfall ranged from 0 to 0.91 inches across the region.

**FRUIT:** Some apple orchards fared Tropical Storm Irene well because much of the crop wasn't quite ripe yet and the fruit was strong enough to withstand the wind. On the other hand, there were also reports of downed trees and bruised fruit. The harvest of Maine wild blueberries was nearly complete while cranberry growers in Massachusetts were preparing for the start of the harvest season. The cranberry crop was reported to be largely unaffected by Irene.

**VEGETABLES:** Producers were assessing the damage to their vegetables this week. Sweet corn that was blown down by Irene was ruined for the most part. Along the coast, some vegetables were damaged by saltwater spray during the storm. Where it was possible, farmers harvested a variety of crops including sweet corn, tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, and summer squash. Vegetables with powdery mildew and downy mildew were being sprayed. Late blight continues to be a problem in some areas of New England.

**FIELD CROPS:** Many fields were flooded in various locations across New England, as a result of Tropical Storm Irene. Various locations along waterways were left with mud and silt deposits. Some field corn that was not damaged was ready to be harvested or sprayed for worms, but fields were too moist to enter. Small grains were being harvested in some parts of Maine. A few growers were digging new crop potatoes for processing while most potato growers in Maine were applying vine killing applications to get ready for harvesting. Some hay was harvested before the weekend rains halted progress.

### SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
<b>Topsoil</b>			
Very Short	0	0	16
Short	4	3	46
Adequate	57	71	38
Surplus	39	26	0
<b>Subsoil</b>			
Very Short	1	1	17
Short	3	8	42
Adequate	63	74	41
Surplus	33	17	0

### FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Set	Fruit Size	Condition
	2011	2010	5-yr Avg			
Apples	20	25	20	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Peaches	90	90	85			
Pears	15	35	20	Average	Average	Good
Blueberries						
Highbush	95	99	95			
Wild	99	100	99			
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-	AbvAvg/Avg	AbvAvg/Avg	Exc/ Good

### FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2011	2010	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Harvested --				
Barley	25	75	60	Good/Fair
Oats	20	70	50	Good/Fair
Potatoes				
Maine	<5	15	5	Good/Exc
Mass	40	30	30	Good/Fair
Rhode Island	15	20	50	Good/Fair
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	90	95	90	
Shade	100	95	90	
Silage Corn	<5	10	5	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	80	90	80	
Dry Hay				
First Cut	99	100	99	
Second Cut	80	95	85	
Third Cut	35	60	45	Fair/Good

**Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics**

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday August 29, 2011  
 To: Sunday September 4, 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 INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN DAYS	
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN					DFN	DAYS
<b>MAINE</b>														
Augusta State A	53	80	66	+3	1967	+160	865	+163	1.64	+0.93	1	5.09	+2.11	13
Bangor Intl Arp	48	77	65	+3	1901	+251	781	+192	1.73	+0.96	2	6.62	+3.54	13
Bethel	47	83	64	+3	1792	+157	721	+153	4.09	+3.23	2	10.64	+7.05	13
Caribou Municip	45	74	61	+3	1587	+256	561	+190	1.76	+0.89	4	6.62	+3.02	16
Dover-Foxcroft	46	78	62	+2	1564	+130	550	+111	3.56	+2.65	2	6.71	+3.28	14
Frenchville	43	74	60	+3	1315	+79	378	+61	2.25	+1.34	5	5.66	+1.94	17
Houlton	43	74	61	+3	1555	+165	544	+128	2.07	+1.16	3	5.10	+1.41	16
Livermore Falls	46	80	64	+4	1775	+365	708	+290	2.70	+1.79	1	6.18	+2.45	9
Moosehead	45	75	61	+3	1307	+113	369	+66	2.33	+1.49	2	5.69	+2.33	16
Portland ME	54	81	66	+3	1973	+309	881	+276	0.62	-0.08	1	4.79	+2.15	12
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>														
Benton	46	82	64	+4	1683	+176	614	+155	2.35	+1.50	2	8.97	+5.39	13
Berlin AG	46	79	63	+3	1669	+151	594	+112	5.02	+4.14	3	8.47	+4.65	12
Concord	47	87	67	+4	2213	+396	1031	+328	2.04	+1.34	1	6.70	+3.75	11
Diamond Pond	45	74	59	+4	1209	+185	304	+103	3.10	+2.03	1	7.52	+2.95	17
Keene AG	49	87	67	+2	2132	+107	955	+99	2.41	+1.63	1	7.86	+4.43	12
North Conway	49	81	65	+3	1836	+142	763	+153	3.81	+2.96	1	10.00	+6.42	13
Rochester	50	88	69	+4	2382	+443	1191	+394	1.50	+0.73	1	6.65	+3.47	10
<b>VERMONT</b>														
Bennington AP	47	80	66	+5	2194	+602	963	+440	1.88	+0.94	1	8.63	+4.75	11
Burlington Intl	53	84	69	+6	2354	+411	1140	+342	2.94	+2.07	2	6.07	+2.44	13
Island Pond	47	79	64	+6	1703	+457	616	+303	3.78	+2.83	2	7.88	+3.63	16
Montpelier	48	83	66	+6	1934	+403	795	+308	4.72	+3.93	1	10.44	+7.00	13
Rochester	48	85	66	+5	1826	+320	712	+237	3.63	+2.65	1	10.81	+6.68	12
Rutland AG	47	83	66	+2	2051	+46	881	+48	3.20	+2.29	2	10.73	+6.93	11
Springfield VT	51	87	68	+7	2304	+651	1092	+525	3.61	+2.72	2	9.82	+6.20	12
Sutton	46	78	63	+5	1617	+355	557	+231	4.37	+3.42	3	10.03	+5.84	16
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>														
Boston/Logan In	54	86	69	+0	2659	+352	1411	+324	0.65	-0.11	1	7.02	+4.04	12
Fitchburg	54	86	69	+8	2594	+943	1342	+767	1.93	+1.22	1	8.51	+5.44	9
Greenfield	50	83	67	+0	2079	-86	882	-78	2.37	+1.56	1	8.15	+4.84	12
New Bedford	52	82	68	-3	2617	+290	1318	+212	0.20	-0.70	1	3.64	-0.18	10
Otis AFB	50	79	66	+0	2134	+238	973	+189	0.03	-0.74	1	3.13	+0.03	8
Plymouth	54	82	68	+3	2502	+546	1249	+420	0.45	-0.53	1	3.85	+0.12	10
Walpole	53	85	70	+5	2452	+468	1232	+403	1.71	+0.80	1	9.61	+6.00	12
Chicopee/Westov	49	84	69	-2	2499	+23	1228	+20	0.87	+0.03	1	7.56	+4.32	12
Worthington	46	81	64	+2	1891	+274	757	+217	0.87	-0.04	2	9.10	+5.40	13
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>														
Providence	57	83	70	+2	2615	+414	1349	+339	0.79	-0.05	1	7.33	+3.99	10
Woonsocket	53	85	68	+4	2485	+533	1241	+450	1.20	+0.29	1	7.51	+3.87	10
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>														
Bridgeport/Siko	59	83	72	+2	2804	+439	1497	+346	0.26	-0.44	1	8.73	+5.86	9
Hartford/Bradley	52	86	70	+2	2700	+321	1402	+266	1.04	+0.13	1	9.34	+5.94	13
Norfolk	49	81	65	+4	2017	+396	854	+310	2.02	+0.98	1	12.18	+8.02	12
Thomaston Dam	52	84	67	+3	2462	+532	1206	+437	2.17	+1.19	1	18.08	+14.18	12
Willimantic	53	85	69	+4	2556	+588	1273	+472	1.80	+0.89	1	10.00	+6.43	10

**State Weather Summary**

For the Week Ending Sunday, September 4, 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	43	84	63	+3	0.62	4.09
NH	37	89	65	+4	1.25	5.68
VT	42	88	66	+4	1.88	5.74
MA	46	86	67	+2	0.03	3.13
RI	53	85	69	+3	0.47	1.20
CT	49	87	69	+2	0.20	2.79

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

**CONNECTICUT – Howard Rood (FSA), Fairfield/Litchfield:** Hurricane Irene arrived on Sunday (8/28) with heavy rains and high winds. Most fields are too wet to work and farmers are still accessing damage. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Hurricane/Tropical Storm Irene damaged some field corn, really hurt sweet corn, both by wind and flooding. Numerous crops in the flood plain in both Farmington and Connecticut River Valley were destroyed and anything that was submerged cannot be harvested and sold as food. For sweet corn out of the flooded areas, wet soils will keep farmers from spraying their crops timely to keep worms out. Despite all the rain from Irene some hay was put up dry. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Cleaning up after Irene, salvaging anything usable/sellable and trying to deal with the aftermath was first and foremost this past week. Millions of dollars worth of crops were lost due to flooding in the state, mostly in the Connecticut River Valley, due to flood waters that came from the north. Some bright spots appeared with the damage reports. Orchards and blueberry patches reported less than expected damage - since Irene was more of a rain than a wind event. Corn harvest was planned to begin this week - but with rain forecast for the next 3-4 days those plans are on hold for a while. **Patricia Smith (FSA), New London:** Some farmers still without power today. About 70-75 percent of the silage corn is still standing and harvesting is underway. Sweet corn was blown down from the winds and is not harvestable. Apples that were not totally ripe stayed on the trees. Questionable salt spray damage near the shore. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** Recovery from the effects of Tropical Storm Irene and assessing those effects on crops has been all consuming this week. As producers are able to get into the fields they are finding vegetables that are damaged by all the rain and the sweet corn that was blown down is ruined. **Jude Boucher (Ext), Tolland:** CT farms received 3 to 10 inches of rain with Tropical Storm Irene. All crops along most rivers were ruined by floodwater. I've never seen the CT River so high and it surprised many growers who still had equipment in some of the higher locations in the meadows. Many of the remaining sweet corn plantings in the silking stage are down. Some growers are attempting to pick them anyway because the price is so high, but picking tangled corn is a Herculean task. One RI grower informed me that he topped his corn before the storm and left some untopped as a control. Only the untopped corn went down. Downy mildew is killing off foliage on all unsprayed cucurbit crops. About one third to two thirds of the tomatoes in the state have cracked due to excessive rains. Most vegetable farms were running on generator power for most of the week after Irene. Electronic communications about filing for storm damage failed to reach them. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** There is crop damage across the county after Hurricane Irene. Apple and peach trees came down, fruit was bruised and knocked off (10 to 15%), corn blown down in about 50% of the county. Some corn standing nicely, while next to it was almost flattened. Slow going to chop one way and be careful not to pull up root balls in some fields. Vegetables with powdery mildew and downy mildew being sprayed. Sweet corn was flattened in some areas. Trees took out power to farms and fruit in coolers was lost. Fortunately milk got picked up and generators are keeping it cool and keeping milking on time. Cost to run generators has been quoted as \$150 to \$400 per day with diesel fuel and propane used. Rows of netted grapes blew over. Damage to trellis systems. Many areas still without power.

**MAINE – Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook:** Several people made one last attempt to get some dry hay at the end of the week. Rain on Saturday ruined any not picked up on Friday. Some grain harvested last week. Test weights are very good, but color and yields are disappointing. There is a demand for early potatoes, but the saturated ground is making it difficult to get into the fields. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** A few growers digging new crop potatoes for processing. Most growers applying vine killing applications to get ready to harvest soon. Grains continued to be harvested; broccoli continued to be harvested. Market stands have all vegetables harvested for sale. Some early variety apples

available for sale now also. **Don Audibert, (FSA) Northern Aroostook:** Had a few inches of rain again this week. Potato farmers are worried about water soaks when they put them in storage. Oats, barley, and buckwheat are being harvested when possible. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Damage reports from Irene are mainly on sweet corn, silage corn and apples. Corn was knocked down and farmers who use mechanical harvesting are having to hand pick. Some have a 15% loss on sweet corn production. Not all farms were damaged, it all depended on the location and how exposed the farm is. Apple trees were heavy with fruit and had 3-10% drop depending on location. Some blocks had a significant number of apple trees blown over or snapped off at the graft. Overall, most are saying we were lucky! Three days of rain this week is slowing field operations and apple picking. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** More rain, more water; everything looks very green for this time of the year. The grasses are still growing strong and the corn plant growth is good. I think that it has been another very good year for tree growth. The foliage should be excellent. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Hurricane Irene has come and gone. Apples were blown off trees and crop is underway. A lot of water standing in low spots. Corn was bent pretty hard due to heavy winds and downpours. Vegetables were beaten pretty bad, but the dry week helped to give time for further harvesting. Manure is being spread rapidly to clean out pits. Cool temperatures at night and warm days in the upcoming week. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Hurricane Irene has left a trail of destruction here in Oxford County. On August 29th CMP had reported that over 17,000 CMP customers had lost power due to Irene. Some producers have reported that crop fields were 6 feet under water and that Irene left debris behind within their crops. Some producers took pictures from a canoe while paddling around in their crop fields, which they should have been harvesting from. Over 6 inches of rain fell during this storm on August 28th and the strong winds knocked down trees and power lines all through Oxford County. Erosion in fields as well as field access roads has been reported. Several bridges were washed away along with roads while Hurricane Irene swept through Oxford County. Some livestock had to be rescued from pastures to higher ground. Last week was a week for producers to start to take note of the actual damages this storm left behind and they are in the process of reporting notice of loss to crop insurance agents as well as contacting our office. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Hurricane brought lots of wind, but not all that much rain to Waldo County. Some corn silage fields are blown down, while others look just fine. Chopping may be difficult in some fields. We are very lucky compared to other parts of New England. Late Blight continues to spread throughout mid-coast. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: The harvest of the blueberry crop is nearly complete, there are a few isolated fields finishing up this week. Crop in the mid-coast was down by 30% to 50% but Downeast the harvest was average to better than average as the blueberries took advantage of the ample moisture and berry size and yields increased.

**MASSACHUSETTS – Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire:** The county recuperated from Irene for 5 days, but was flooded again on Sunday with more rain predicted through this Thursday. We remain under a flood warning. Estimates are \$1M to repair and restore fields. Approximately 1000 acres of silage corn and 300 acres of grain corn were damaged and destroyed by flooding and blow downs. Oats were also lost to blow downs. Flooded and saturated hayfields mean no last cutting in the county. Appraisals are being done to quantify the losses. Low lying vegetable farms were hit hard and will lose their fall crops. No field work can occur due to saturation on tilled farms. Orchards in the county came out the best. **Lori Carver (FSA), Franklin:** Farmers spent the week evaluating losses to land and crops caused by Hurricane Irene. Damage to farmland is extensive in many areas. Apple crop seems to have come through the storm nicely due to the minimal wind. Potatoes, turf grass, sweet corn and silage corn did not fare as well in areas near rivers and streams. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/**

**Hampden:** Growers continue to survey their losses from the aftermath of Tropical Storm Irene. Across the counties producers have lost 100s and 100s of acres of crops. Damage from Irene included flash floods, five plus inches of rain and wind damage. Some growers were affected severely where others lucked out with the damages and crops remained pre-storm condition. Growers continue harvesting onions, potatoes, apples, raspberries, squash, carrots, cabbage, and collards. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Had been getting very dry until this morning's good soaking. Growers are getting ready for harvest, some may begin this week. Berries continue to color up and size. Very few reports of fruit rot. Some hail (localized) reported on August 20; very little damage. Localized scald injury occurred just before Irene arrived. Many weeds were injured by the salt spray that blew onshore during the tropical storm winds. Cranberries were unaffected.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE – Kelly McAdam (Ext), Belknap:** Tropical Storm Irene provided heavy rainfall and strong winds. No reports of flooding, minimal crop loss in Belknap County. **Donna Juneau (FSA) Belknap/Merrimack:** Mostly dry, sunny weather during the beginning of the week with scattered showers toward the end of the week and on the weekend. This week producers were cleaning up after Tropical Storm Irene. A number of producer's crops were impacted by the heavy rains and high winds associated with the previous weekend's tropical storm. Some fields were flooded; corn, tomato, and bean plants were blown down; and peaches and apples were blown off trees. Harvesting a variety of crops including sweet corn, tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, summer squash, peaches, and some varieties of apples. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** After Irene, gorgeous sunny weather for most of the week, with a little rain late Sunday. The CT River cresting Monday flooded a couple hundred acres of corn and hayfields and left them with heavy silt accumulation. Otherwise, corn is maturing well - the first plantings should be ready to harvest soon - and forages are growing well for third cutting and fall grazing. Most vegetable crops still doing fine. More PYO apples starting up with early varieties. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Rivers and tributaries running hard, similar to spring flood conditions as a result of Tropical Storm Irene. Quite muddy and lots of wood debris noticeable. Oxbows and floodplains serving their purpose with low lying fields underwater in various locations from flood waters and probably rising ground water. Some haying midweek as conditions dry, more weekend rain. Storm was more of water than wind event with some crops silted, possibly affecting quality and harvestability. Access roads to river fields damaged in places. Earliest planted corn at soft dough to milk stage, although some field corn just forming ears, wide range of maturity levels. Powdery mildew is evident on pumpkins and squash. First pumpkins and mums for decoration now at farmstands. Plenty of sweet corn all around. Monarch butterflies are back. **Heather Bryant (Ext), Grafton:** With more reports in now, Tropical Storm Irene did flood some fields on farms in low lying areas. Affected crops include field corn, hay and vegetables. Some crops have been lost, but for the county as a whole, damage was low. Heavy rains at times yesterday and this morning. No new reports of flooding at this time. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending September 3rd, we received reports of rainfall from Tropical Storm Irene that ranged from a low of less than 4 inches to more than 7 inches. The southern and eastern parts of the county were hit with higher rainfall levels. Flash flooding along the Connecticut, Ammonusuc, Baker and Pemmigewasett Rivers damaged crops and created havoc with water control structures in many areas. There were fields of hay, corn and other crops that were inundated and covered with mud and silt. In some cases it is likely that the crops will be a loss. Please check with Cooperative Extension or your crop insurance carrier if you have a loss or any questions concerning your crops. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Escaped the worst of Hurricane Irene, with only a few isolated areas of flooding. Some sweet corn fields and raspberries were blown down. Mechanical pickers will not be able to pick sweet corn or beans for awhile. Some apple and peach fruit were blown off trees. Wind damaged many vegetable crops where more diseases are being seen with beans, greens/lettuces and other vegetable crops. Also, seeing more

disease problems in vine crops including phytophthora, powdery mildew, and plectosporium. Excessive rain caused bad cracking and softening of tomato fruit. Fruit: Apple harvest is picking up, picking Paul Red, Gala and Honeycrisp apples. Fruit size is good. Fall raspberries, pear, peach and plum/prune harvest continues. 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. With Hurricane Irene occurring on August 28, high numbers of corn earworm and fall armyworm insects caught in traps during the past week. Field Crops: Farmers chopped haylage during the week and hay cutting with the second and third cuttings being made. Very little lodging of forage crops and silage corn have been seen in Hillsborough County. **Amy Ouellette (Ext), Merrimack:** Tropical Storm Irene caused flooding of riverside corn fields and winds that knocked down corn, taller vegetable plants like tomatoes and apples off trees. Damage was sporadic rather than widespread and/or severe. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Crop assessment continues following Tropical Storm Irene of Sunday, August 28 (it turned to be a tropical storm in NH and not a hurricane as reported in the news). Apples trees were tipped over, apples dropped, also bruised. Peaches, what is left of them, had some fruit dropped. Some sweet corn tipped over, about 50% losses of what remained to be harvested this season. Beans and other vegetables were flattened. Tomato plants tipped over and have loss of fruits. Silage corn tipped over. Cleaning fields and orchards after tropical storm Irene. Blueberry harvest season almost done. Picking fall raspberries, apples, peaches, plums, and a whole array of vegetables. Monitoring pests. Planting cover crops. Silage corn almost ready to be picked. Hay and haylage been done. Farmers markets and farm stands have seen steady traffic. **Jenn Zaleski (FSA), Sullivan:** The week began cool with highs in the mid-70s and lows in the mid-50s. Farmers were busy Monday assessing their fields for flooding and damage. Many corn and hay fields along the Connecticut River were submerged. Some farmers lost round bales down the river due to the flooding. The weather was warm, sunny and dry during the week, allowing flood waters to recede. Many of the fields that were under water were dry by the mid-week. Temperatures were hot and sticky Saturday and Sunday with highs in the upper 80s. Heavy rains and thunderstorms moved through the county Sunday, bringing the threat of flash flooding. An inch or more of rain fell. Farmers kept busy during the week haying fields that were dry and cleaning up any messes left by flood waters.

**RHODE ISLAND – Heather Faubert (URI), All Counties:** Hurricane Irene was less harmful than was originally feared. Some growers did suffer significant losses. Especially frustrating was the loss of power that is still affecting many farmers 6 days after the storm. **Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties:** Hurricane Irene left her mark on RI. First of all, there was no damage to potatoes. As far as small crops go, the saltwater spray ate the leaves off of peppers, tomatoes, summer squash and a lot of vine crops. The fruit is there, but with the leaves gone the fruit is exposed to the sun, and being burnt, cannot be harvested. We lost little to no livestock, and the livestock still looks good. We are still assessing all of the damage. Some apple orchards had severe damage and trees were uprooted, 200 to 300 trees in some orchards. Grapes, it's too early to tell, but it looks like it could be a 10 - 15% loss.

**VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** The week started with heavy rains and wind. Damage to corn crop overall moderate with individual fields damage severe. Crop damage especially along field edges with blown down corn with a few fields entirely flattened, especially all sweet corn fields. The high water flooding along streams up to above ears and heavy silt remains on plants. Stream flood shoot areas damaged and lost all soil. Hay fields along streams filled with debris, gravel and silt. Water levels still at flood stage after heavy rains again at end of week. Friday and Saturday some haylage harvest on higher fields. Some manure spread to lower amounts in storage structures. Continued saturated soil conditions in all fields. Still corn maturity very late with many fields with very immature ears or still in blister stage. **Paul Stanley (CCA),**

**Franklin:** Franklin County has escaped the rages of Hurricane Irene. Ended up with some wind and rain, however, nothing really damaging. Some streams escaped top of bank with minimal damage to crops. Some wind damage in corn with minimal effects. Some concern of flood damage in corn and sod ground. We are getting some rains currently that will do a good rinsing job. Made some good dry hay this week in the wake of the hurricane. Nice drying day on Friday allowed for haylage and dry hay harvest. On the tail end of the sweet corn with reports of a good crop. We just hope this will translate over to the cow corn. Seeing some concerns from state officials of a weak corn crop. Franklin County is in good shape. The state as a whole will have some concerns now that the hurricane has made its statement in southern Vermont and impacting all aspects of life with crops included. **Heather Mateja (FSA), Lamoille/Washington:** Lamoille County was very lucky.

Hurricane Irene left some down trees and high waters, there were no reports of major damage. Some corn was laid down from wind and flood waters. Maple producers are starting to explore their sugarbushes and finding trees that are broken and uprooted. All livestock and farmsteads seem to be fine. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** The flood waters have receded leaving a lot of silty corn and third cut hay. Fields are very wet right now. Some hay was harvested last week with a 4 day window of sun. A lot rain fell again this weekend and rivers are high but not out of their banks. Most farms are looking for some drier weather so they can start corn harvest. **Julie Jacque (FSA), Windham:** County still reeling from flood damages. Crop assessment to date in excess of \$400,000 in damages. Many acres of vegetables and grains to be tilled under due to contamination from flood waters. Rains coming early week of 9/5 not promising to help the situation.

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