

# Crop Progress & Condition



NEW ENGLAND  
Agricultural  
Statistics



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October 3, 2011 – 4 pm

For week ending 10/2/11

## Rain Delays Harvesting

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:** For the week ending October 2, 2011, there were 4.2 days available for fieldwork across New England. Pasture conditions were rated 3% very poor, 14% poor, 37% fair, 39% good, and 7% excellent. Monday and Tuesday were cloudy in the southern part of New England while the north saw partly cloudy to sunny skies. Temperatures were in the low 70s to low 80s, which was above average for this time of year. Light, scattered rain dotted the region on Wednesday. Thursday had more consistent precipitation across the region and at times was accompanied by heavy thunderstorms. Temperatures remained above average in the mid-60s to mid-70s. There was less rain on Friday. Nighttime lows through Friday were also above average in the 50s and 60s. The weekend was a wash-out for some. Heavy rain was reported in parts of Connecticut, New Hampshire, and Vermont. Daytime high temperatures dropped into the mid-50s to mid-60s, closer to normal. Total rainfall for the week ranged from 0.4 to 2.47 inches.

**FRUIT:** There were good weather conditions early in the week for picking apples and pumpkins however, weekend sales were slowed by wet weather. Grape producers were reporting a significant loss due to Spotted Wing Drosophila and sour rot. The harvest of pears, raspberries, and cranberries continued.

**VEGETABLES:** Vegetable crops were the minority at many farmstands. Producers were harvesting late sweet corn, kale, butternut squash, acorn squash, pumpkins and other fall vegetables. Several producers were preparing fields for winter.

**FIELD CROPS:** Many fields of corn were blown down and were full of mud from Tropical Storm Irene and the persistent rain in several areas of New England. Harvesting activities were challenging, but continued as growers tried to salvage their crops. Some producers were cleaning up fields and planting cover crops. Many were unable to cut hay this week without enough time between showers for fields to dry. Potato producers welcomed the mostly dry weather this week in Maine, which helped advance harvesting progress.

*Pear harvesting progress for the week ending September 25, 2011 was updated from 75 to 60 percent complete following the receipt of additional information. Current week harvest progress is estimated at 80 percent.*

### SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
<b>Topsoil</b>			
Very Short	0	0	2
Short	1	2	7
Adequate	48	65	64
Surplus	51	33	27
<b>Subsoil</b>			
Very Short	0	0	4
Short	1	3	11
Adequate	56	68	75
Surplus	43	29	10

### FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Set	Fruit Size	Condition
	2011	2010	5-yr Avg			
Apples	70	70	65			
Peaches	100	100	100			
Pears	80	90	85			
Cranberries, MA	30	25	25	Average	Average	Exc/Good

### FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2011	2010	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Harvested --				
Barley	100	100	100	
Oats	99	100	99	
Potatoes				
Maine	50	60	55	Good/Fair
Mass	75	80	75	
Rhode Island	50	70	85	Good/Fair
Silage Corn	35	80	60	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	95	95	99	
Dry Hay				
Second Cut	95	99	95	
Third Cut	70	90	80	

**Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics**

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday, September 26, 2011  
 To: Sunday, October 2, 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	---	---	
<b>MAINE</b>															
Augusta_State_A	47	80	63	+9	2318	+275	982	+236	0.68	-0.09	3	4.37	+1.44	14	
Bangor_Intl_Arp	47	81	63	+10	2242	+381	892	+270	0.90	+0.13	3	3.37	+0.17	12	
Bethel	47	80	61	+9	2089	+258	805	+209	2.40	+1.63	3	5.68	+2.58	12	
Caribou_Municip	40	81	59	+11	1839	+400	620	+242	0.29	-0.44	2	3.36	+0.20	10	
Dover-Foxcroft	46	79	60	+10	1817	+236	613	+161	1.01	+0.12	2	5.04	+1.42	13	
Frenchville	38	77	56	+8	1505	+169	407	+84	0.28	-0.50	2	2.95	-0.43	10	
Houlton	36	81	59	+11	1811	+307	603	+179	0.23	-0.54	2	3.23	-0.08	11	
Livermore_Falls	46	77	60	+11	2065	+516	789	+360	1.63	+0.86	2	5.78	+2.50	13	
Moosehead	42	73	58	+9	1523	+215	406	+96	0.87	+0.06	3	5.70	+2.33	11	
Portland_ME	51	83	64	+10	2337	+444	1003	+366	1.05	+0.28	3	3.90	+0.99	12	
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>															
BenTon	39	78	59	+8	1938	+266	670	+194	1.58	+0.88	4	5.56	+2.66	15	
Berlin_AG	44	77	60	+9	1934	+258	666	+169	2.63	+1.90	4	5.09	+2.07	13	
Concord	50	82	65	+11	2610	+567	1188	+449	3.95	+3.31	3	7.72	+5.13	14	
Diamond_Pond	39	72	57	+10	1400	+291	337	+132	1.65	+0.81	4	6.70	+3.04	16	
Keene_AG	46	85	65	+10	2510	+211	1106	+190	2.74	+2.09	4	10.64	+7.89	16	
North_Conway	49	81	61	+9	2134	+251	846	+213	2.32	+1.49	4	5.57	+2.37	16	
Rochester	52	84	65	+10	2777	+573	1343	+491	1.24	+0.45	3	4.58	+1.57	12	
<b>VERMONT</b>															
Bennington_AP	44	82	64	+12	2569	+781	1111	+559	2.11	+1.27	4	6.98	+3.48	15	
Burlington_Intl	43	81	63	+10	2723	+552	1275	+434	2.05	+1.35	2	6.86	+3.84	14	
Island_Pond	42	78	58	+9	1956	+582	673	+348	1.70	+1.00	4	5.30	+2.25	20	
Montpelier	42	79	61	+10	2259	+557	899	+387	2.10	+1.47	4	5.33	+2.71	15	
Rochester	42	84	63	+11	2148	+455	816	+312	2.16	+1.32	4	5.58	+2.10	13	
Rutland_AG	41	80	62	+7	2373	+102	989	+95	1.94	+1.21	3	5.28	+2.04	16	
Springfield_VT	46	81	65	+13	2697	+850	1249	+653	2.64	+1.87	5	7.78	+4.57	16	
Sutton	41	77	59	+11	1867	+485	615	+278	1.71	+1.01	4	5.22	+2.12	15	
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>															
Boston/Logan_In	57	78	68	+8	3152	+456	1631	+418	1.40	+0.70	4	4.74	+1.92	14	
Fitchburg	52	85	68	+16	3044	+1195	1537	+939	1.44	+0.74	3	7.52	+4.80	12	
Greenfield	47	82	65	+8	2460	-25	1027	-15	4.06	+3.29	4	10.75	+7.59	15	
New_Bedford	53	84	70	+9	3092	+352	1525	+274	0.81	+0.11	4	6.05	+2.97	12	
Otis_AFB	57	81	69	+11	2582	+370	1158	+299	0.90	+0.07	4	4.92	+1.75	12	
Plymouth	57	81	70	+13	2996	+734	1478	+580	0.78	-0.13	4	6.28	+2.48	12	
Walpole	54	81	67	+12	2896	+636	1419	+530	2.06	+1.22	4	6.85	+3.42	15	
Chicopee/Westov	49	85	68	+8	2959	+100	1435	+102	1.65	+0.87	4	8.35	+5.08	14	
Worthington	46	81	63	+9	2214	+381	865	+290	4.15	+3.31	5	12.22	+8.83	17	
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>															
Providence	56	83	70	+11	3114	+545	1575	+453	1.48	+0.71	3	6.88	+3.66	12	
Woonsocket	55	84	70	+15	2952	+726	1446	+600	1.55	+0.71	4	7.70	+4.19	13	
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>															
Bridgeport/Siko	54	81	70	+9	3353	+569	1769	+463	1.13	+0.43	4	7.98	+5.11	11	
Hartford/Bradley	49	83	68	+10	3183	+459	1623	+390	2.32	+1.48	4	9.88	+6.37	13	
Norfolk	42	78	63	+10	2355	+529	974	+401	5.51	+4.60	4	14.78	+10.98	16	
Thomaston_Dam	50	84	68	+12	2915	+699	1410	+573	2.75	+1.84	6	11.41	+7.69	18	
Willimantic	52	84	69	+13	3048	+784	1502	+632	0.79	-0.12	4	5.57	+1.91	12	

**State Weather Summary**

For the Week Ending Sunday, October 2, 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	36	83	60	+9	0.23	2.40
NH	36	85	62	+10	0.75	4.05
VT	33	84	61	+10	1.25	3.20
MA	42	85	67	+11	0.64	4.15
RI	55	84	70	+11	0.75	1.55
CT	42	87	68	+10	0.50	5.51

**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:** Another sort of wet week. Fruit harvest continuing. Corn silage harvest continued and a little combining of grain corn took place. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Having to pull trucks through mud up to the axles to harvest corn is no way to run a corn harvest. But that is what a lot of growers are doing in an effort to salvage some of the crop. Unrelenting rain and fields saturated since Irene went through make for bog like conditions in many fields. Everyone is harvesting as much as they can between the downpours. **Patricia Smith (FSA), New London:** Harvesting silage corn is difficult and expensive due to the rain, rain and more rain that we have experienced. Some fields too wet to try and harvest. Will be picking high moisture corn this week. Grain corn is ready, but producers are waiting for it to dry up some as less rainfall is forecast for this week. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** Corn silage harvest continued this week as weather cooperated. There are still some very wet fields out there. Producers are preparing their land for winter, cleaning up fields and planting cover crops. **Jude Boucher (Ext), Tolland:** Most wholesale vegetable farms either went under a river with Hurricane Irene or are finishing up for the season now. Many small retail operations are harvesting Brassica crops, etc. **Joyce Meader (Ext), Windham:** When I was out this weekend, it appeared that 25% of the grape crop was rotted from the Asian fruit fly. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** More rain, can't bale hay. Tough hauling corn, getting stuck and corn that was knocked down by Hurricane/Tropical Storm Irene has been further flattened by rain. Grapes are really suffering from Spotted Wing Drosophila and now reports of sour rot causing more damage. Sunny days good for apple and pumpkin picking; starting orchard weekend activities.

**MAINE – Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook:** Producers welcomed the mostly dry weather this past week. Some rot problems and lumpy conditions have slowed the pace of the potato harvest. Presque Isle area received 1.5 inches of rain overnight. Apple harvest is in full swing. Reports are that it is a good crop. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Frequent rains have caused pumpkin and winter squash disease and rot. Farmers tried to cut silage corn on the dry days. Fields are wet after all the rain over the weekend. Pick your own apples were hurt by the weather this weekend. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** More rain; corn harvest is still waiting to gear up a notch. Well drained soils will need to be harvested first. Hopefully, we will have another dry period. There still has not been a major frost in the area. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Farmers are harvesting corn silage heavily and looks pretty good. Potato harvest is almost completed. Some farmers have done 3rd cutting but stopped and started with corn. Overall, harvest is winding down and most crops have done pretty good. Apple harvest is about 75% complete. Manure will be applied shortly on fields that stay dry. Some fields still have too much moisture in them and will be the last harvested. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis/Penobscot:** It has been a challenge to get the last hay crop in with periodic rains. Late frost and wet fields have delayed corn chopping. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Wet weather has slowed corn silage harvest. Harvest is also slowed by blown down corn making harvest difficult and reducing yields. Apple harvest continued. Looks like a first hard frost is a real potential later this coming week.

**MASSACHUSETTS – Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire:** September ended with 2 inches of rainfall bringing the total for the month to 9.9 inches in central county. August measured 10.6 inches. The county is soaked. The last cutting of hay is lost to unworkable fields and 60-80 percent of the silage corn crop is unusable. Rainy weekends have dampened farmers markets. PYO orchards are reporting steady business despite the rain. Pumpkins are scarce and pricy due to low supplies. Farmers are shipping them in from out of state. **Lori Carver (FSA), Franklin:** Fall harvest continues. Rainy weather

is not helping. Producers are seeing some stem rot in pumpkins. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** It's wet! Over 5 inches of rain fell last week. All crop fields are saturated and have puddles of water throughout the fields. Many growers can't harvest their crops because of the saturated fields. The rain did cause a tobacco damp so a few growers took down tobacco in the sheds to bundle up. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Harvest continues, with crops being very good, for the most part. Color is less than desirable because nights have been warmer than usual. No real frost nights so far - hard to believe as it's now October. Harvesting will significantly pick up in volume this week. Fruit rot is increasing in incidence with the warmer days. Fruit worm appears to be an issue in many deliveries as well. A little worm here and there, but not much in the way of accumulation.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE – Donna Juneau (FSA) Belknap/Merrimack:** A mix of weather this past week with precipitation ranging from light showers to heavy downpours in areas on Thursday. Harvesting apples, sweet corn, butternut and acorn squash, pumpkins, and pears. **Russell Norton (Ext), Carroll:** Warmer than average temperatures and moist. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Warm, muggy weather much of the week with a couple rainy days. Corn chopping progressing well, though muddy conditions are slowing some farms down a little. Great grass growth, but poor conditions for mechanical harvest. Vegetable production starting to wind down - farm stands offering more winter crops. PYO apples still going strong. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Corn silage harvest progressing, heavy rains this weekend may have slowed down activities as many fields now quite sodden. Orchards picking apples and stands now offering a wide range of varieties and making cider. Had my first Honey Crisp this year! No frost this week, temperatures generally mild for this time of the year. Pumpkins, cornstalks, mums, some late season sweet corn and other veggies available at markets. Looks like autumn up here, nice colors. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending October 1st, we had another wet one! There were only 3 days suitable for field work. Over 2.6 inches of rain fell. Ground conditions remain wet on many soils. The well drained Hadley and Adams series soils are operable, but many others are too wet to get onto. Corn harvest is moving along, but not too quickly. Some producers are putting up end of the season haylage, either in wrapped bales or in the bunk. The apple crop was excellent. Harvesting of fruits and vegetables continues with selection being best on the seasonal crops. Those with high tunnels are stretching their season with some later plantings of selected vegetable crops. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Apple harvest is in full swing with most growers concentrating on strip picking McIntosh apples, and working on Cortland and Macoun. Peach and pear harvest is complete and fall raspberries (that have not been damaged by Spotted Wing Drosophila) harvest continues. Field Crops: Silage corn being chopped. The second and third cuttings of hay and haylage continued between rain showers. Vegetables: Good demand for all vegetables continues. Farmers are harvesting a wide array of vegetables including: cabbage, kale, Brussel sprouts, winter squash and pumpkins along with the tail end of warm season crops. Warm-season crops (like tomatoes, peppers, sweet corn and beans) harvest is almost completed. Farmers kept busy disking, cleaning up and planting cover crops on harvested fields. **Amy Ouellette (Ext), Merrimack:** Harvesting mid-season apples, sweet corn, potatoes, winter squash and any remaining summer vegetables. Growers are planting cold-tolerant vegetables inside high tunnels for late season harvest or to overwinter for early spring harvest. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** More rain and cloudy weather than sun. PYO apple was slow this weekend because of rain. Harvesting an array of vegetables, greens and winter squashes. Haying and haylage was done between showers. Chopping corn. Some fields are very wet. Cleaning up harvested fields.

**RHODE ISLAND – Heather Faubert (Univ of RI), All Counties:** Ready for the rain to stop for a while! **Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties:** The rain is starting to hurt with the harvesting of silage corn. A lot of the fields are too wet to get into. Potatoes look good, but there is not a big demand for them. It looks like RI will store more potatoes this winter than they have in the previous 5 years. It's a very good crop. Vegetables are hit and miss. There are a few left around, but not a lot. Sweet corn will probably be around for 2 more weeks. The late corn is coming in now. Vineyards are reporting a few more problems now from Hurricane Irene. It has affected the grapes more than first thought. Apple season is in full swing. There are still plenty of late apples around. Livestock looks good.

**VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Wet soils and late maturing corn has delayed silage harvest to latest date I can remember. At best, 20% of fields started harvest or opened up for expected harvest. Early spring floods and delayed planting followed by late summer floods and wet soils and short feed supplies in storage. Mold on silted corn not evident except where ears were damaged by birds and opened husk before flooding. Silt is washing off corn plants after heavy rain this weekend, but most is still coating leaves and ears. Haylage harvest continuing with some manure spreading on fields. Soil damage from machinery traffic evident with many ruts in hay fields. New seeded hay fields planted in August after delays this spring, growth not vigorous and many fields damaged in heavy rain washing. Soybean crop looks fair with many fields very poor from standing water. Pasture growth still good, hay

crop grass and alfalfa growth still good. No frost yet. **Daniel Hudson (Ext), Caledonia:** Very wet. Producers talking about being short of feed and are quite concerned. Some of the silage seems to be harvested at an excessively high moisture level. **Heather Darby (Ext), Franklin:** Some warm and dry weather in the beginning of the week helped farmers get some corn silage harvested. End of the week rain put field work on hold again. Corn yields are average to below average on most farms. Corn leaf diseases causing early maturation and reduced quality in some fields. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Wet week in Franklin County hampered harvest of third and fourth cut haylage. Pastures are difficult to navigate with the wet conditions. Still plenty of growth for this time of year. Corn looks surprisingly good. Good growing conditions have helped continue maturity. Harvest is going to be the challenge with the wet conditions. Getting to the pumpkin stage in the gardens with a good looking crop here. Apples are still being harvested with a great crop. **Heather Mateja (FSA), Lamoille/Washington:** Wet week. Field work is on hold until the ground dries. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Another wet week is putting farmers behind in harvesting the corn crop. Many fields are too wet to get onto right now. Some corn harvesting has been done on the better drained fields. Not a lot of activity occurred this week. Pastures are still growing since we have not had any killing frosts to date. There is still some third cut hay left to harvest and a little fourth cut as well. Late apples are being harvested now. It was a very good year for apples. Farmers are hoping for some drier weather to finish up field work before the inevitable snow fall.

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