

# Crop Progress & Condition



NEW ENGLAND  
Agricultural  
Statistics



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October 17, 2011 – 4 pm

For week ending 10/16/11

## Wet Soils Continue to Hamper Harvest Progress

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:** For the week ending October 16, 2011, there were 4.4 days available for fieldwork across New England. Pasture conditions were rated 3% very poor, 17% poor, 41% fair, 36% good, and 3% excellent. The week began with warmer than average temperatures across the region. Daytime temperatures ranged from the high 60s in Maine to the mid-80s in Massachusetts. The daytime temperatures fell to more normal levels as the week progressed, however, nighttime temperatures continued warmer than normal. Most areas received some precipitation from Wednesday through Friday. The week ended with average to above average daytime temperatures, ranging from the low 50s to the mid-60s, however, nighttime temperatures continued well above average, ranging from the high 30s in Maine to the high 50s in Connecticut. Average temperatures for the week were 10 degrees above normal across all New England States. Total rainfall for the week was also above normal at nearly all reporting stations. Weekly precipitation totals by State ranged from a high of 2.16 inches in Connecticut to 7.71 inches at Mount Washington in New Hampshire.

**FRUIT:** The cranberry harvest continued at a rapid pace this week in Massachusetts. Warmer than normal temperatures slowed cranberry coloring in some areas, however, growers welcomed the lack of frosts at night. Apple harvest continued in full swing across the region, with favorable weekend weather boosting Pick-Your-Own apple sales at many orchards.

**VEGETABLES:** Growers were having a difficult time harvesting vegetables in some areas due to saturated fields. The harvest of winter squash and pumpkins neared completion in parts of Connecticut, while good demand continued last week for other vegetables including cabbage, kale, beets, and Brussel sprouts. Producers were also busy pulling plastic mulch and tomato stakes, cleaning fields, planting cover crops, and putting away equipment.

**FIELD CROPS:** Rain during the week made it difficult for field entry in some areas, delaying harvest and other fieldwork activities. The corn silage harvest was active on lighter soils; field entry was difficult where wet soil conditions persisted. The last of the potato harvest continued in parts of Maine, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island, with progress also slowed by the wet conditions. Some hay was still being cut on well drained soils. Farmers were also busy seeding cover crops, spreading manure, preparing land for winter, and cleaning equipment.

### SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
<b>Topsoil</b>			
Very Short	0	0	1
Short	1	1	7
Adequate	52	63	59
Surplus	47	36	33
<b>Subsoil</b>			
Very Short	0	0	3
Short	0	2	8
Adequate	58	61	66
Surplus	42	37	23

### FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2011	2010	5-yr Avg
-- Percent Harvested --			
Apples	85	90	90
Pears	90	95	95
Cranberries, MA	80	80	70

### FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2011	2010	5-yr Avg
-- Percent Harvested --			
Potatoes			
Maine	95	95	95
Mass	85	95	90
Rhode Island	70	80	95
Silage Corn	70	95	90
Sweet Corn	100	99	100
Dry Hay			
Second Cut	99	99	99
Third Cut	80	95	90

**Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics**

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday, October 10, 2011  
 To: Sunday, October 16, 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	41	84	59	+10	2420	+337	1009	+263	1.25	+0.41	3	4.66	+1.50	14
Bangor_Intl_Arp	37	84	58	+10	2329	+435	906	+284	1.61	+0.89	4	4.22	+1.25	14
Bethel	39	83	56	+9	2157	+298	812	+216	1.52	+0.68	4	6.23	+3.06	14
Caribou_Municip	33	82	56	+13	1912	+464	640	+262	1.77	+1.09	3	3.29	+0.41	9
Dover-Foxcroft	34	84	53	+8	1860	+265	618	+166	1.60	+0.80	3	4.00	+0.56	13
Frenchville	35	79	53	+11	1553	+210	419	+96	1.17	+0.46	3	2.32	-0.78	9
Houlton	30	82	55	+11	1878	+364	620	+196	0.95	+0.25	3	2.43	-0.56	10
Livermore_Falls	36	83	56	+11	2128	+563	795	+366	1.26	+0.42	3	5.52	+2.26	14
Moosehead	33	78	54	+10	1571	+254	415	+105	1.20	+0.46	3	3.78	+0.62	12
Portland_ME	43	85	59	+11	2443	+515	1020	+383	1.22	+0.38	3	5.91	+2.79	12
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>														
Benton	36	77	54	+8	1969	+270	658	+182	1.59	+0.88	4	5.54	+2.73	15
Berlin_AG	42	81	57	+12	2008	+311	675	+178	1.27	+0.49	3	6.16	+3.17	15
Concord	41	85	58	+10	2703	+623	1194	+455	0.89	+0.19	4	7.46	+4.79	15
Diamond_Pond	35	74	51	+9	1426	+308	335	+130	1.84	+1.00	4	5.24	+1.83	15
Keene_AG	45	84	59	+9	2601	+250	1115	+199	1.56	+0.86	4	6.81	+4.09	16
North_Conway	40	80	56	+10	2207	+298	855	+222	2.50	+1.59	4	7.01	+3.66	17
Rochester	42	86	59	+9	2877	+621	1357	+505	1.94	+1.01	3	6.98	+3.63	13
<b>VERMONT</b>														
Bennington_AP	45	78	60	+13	2668	+846	1122	+570	1.26	+0.42	4	4.71	+1.37	15
Burlington_Intl	44	80	59	+11	2815	+603	1283	+442	1.54	+0.91	4	5.04	+2.36	13
Island_Pond	34	77	55	+11	2014	+621	674	+349	1.96	+1.26	3	6.02	+3.21	19
Montpelier	41	78	57	+10	2333	+603	903	+391	1.57	+0.94	4	4.99	+2.47	16
Rochester	41	81	57	+10	2215	+492	817	+313	2.18	+1.34	4	5.71	+2.35	13
Rutland_AG	44	78	57	+7	2442	+115	991	+91	1.25	+0.62	4	4.36	+1.53	16
Springfield_VT	46	83	59	+13	2800	+923	1260	+664	2.30	+1.53	4	6.06	+2.98	16
Sutton	41	77	55	+12	1925	+529	619	+282	2.54	+1.77	3	5.82	+2.87	16
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>														
Boston/Logan_In	54	87	65	+10	3340	+546	1685	+457	1.59	+0.89	3	5.26	+2.46	13
Fitchburg	50	86	62	+15	3182	+1302	1566	+968	1.36	+0.65	4	5.70	+2.96	13
Greenfield	47	81	62	+10	2576	+19	1043	-8	2.48	+1.71	4	9.41	+6.33	15
New_Bedford	49	86	64	+8	3244	+394	1560	+290	2.52	+1.75	3	4.43	+1.46	11
Otis_AFB	50	82	63	+11	2725	+442	1189	+324	1.14	+0.30	3	3.28	-0.03	13
Plymouth	52	86	64	+12	3155	+827	1518	+615	1.75	+0.87	3	4.15	+0.54	12
Walpole	49	82	61	+11	3021	+705	1442	+548	2.61	+1.77	3	7.36	+4.00	14
Chicopee/Westov	44	85	61	+7	3067	+114	1452	+102	1.72	+0.95	4	6.38	+3.25	16
Worthington	45	80	58	+10	2294	+419	877	+302	2.09	+1.26	4	9.12	+5.83	17
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>														
Providence	52	86	64	+10	3274	+619	1615	+481	1.37	+0.55	3	4.74	+1.61	13
Woonsocket	50	84	62	+12	3087	+812	1469	+623	2.53	+1.62	3	6.83	+3.37	14
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>														
Bridgeport/Siko	54	85	65	+10	3520	+625	1812	+485	0.34	-0.34	3	5.32	+2.57	12
Hartford/Bradley	49	85	62	+9	3312	+513	1646	+404	2.01	+1.24	3	7.14	+3.87	14
Norfolk	46	73	57	+10	2420	+558	979	+406	1.03	+0.19	3	9.05	+5.51	16
Thomaston_Dam	45	81	60	+9	3018	+736	1419	+573	1.50	+0.65	4	6.99	+3.45	19
Willimantic	47	84	63	+11	3181	+853	1527	+651	1.09	+0.18	3	3.65	-0.01	13

**State Weather Summary**

For the Week Ending Sunday, October 16, 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	30	85	56	+10	0.75	2.47
NH	26	86	57	+10	0.89	7.71
VT	34	85	57	+10	1.06	2.58
MA	42	87	62	+10	0.72	2.61
RI	50	86	64	+10	0.75	2.53
CT	45	86	63	+10	0.34	2.16

**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:** Corn silage harvest continued, trying to pull trucks through the wettest fields. Picking winter squash and pumpkins about complete. Heavy rain Thursday and Friday amounted to over an inch. Nice weekend for PYO apples and fall decoration sales. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** Corn silage harvest was able to be completed in spite of some showers this week. Producers are getting their land ready for winter. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Root suckering apple trees; starting mouse baiting around trees that have been picked. Some haying early in the week then 2 days of rain stopped the rest from going in. Chopping, picking and combining are continuing; muddy fields are a still an issue. Some pumpkin producers have purchased pumpkins from out of county to have enough supply. Crop loss adjustors are out assessing a wide array of crops this year. A disappointing growing season with the wet beginning and ending and the challenges in between.

**MAINE – Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook:** Most operations have finished harvesting. Heavy rains over the weekend stopped the progress of the remaining crop until the middle of the week. Producers are busy cleaning equipment, plowing, rock picking, and yes, a little well deserved bird hunting. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Farmers have continued to harvest potatoes. Weather has been rainy the end of the week to slow down harvesting. Hopefully, harvest will be complete in the next week if weather cooperates. Broccoli harvest continuing. **Don Audibert (FSA) Northern Aroostook:** Farmers in the St. John Valley are all done harvesting their crops. Some are already shipping their potato crop. A couple of farmers already came in the office to report some problems with their potato crop in storage. We'll know more how big a problem we have when potatoes are in storage for a period of 30 to 60 days. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** A few rainy days followed by sun and windy conditions. Soils are soggy. The grass is growing with warmer than normal temperatures for October. Hay is being cut on soils that are well drained, many fields are too wet to put equipment on. Silage is mostly cut except for wet spots, these will either be left or harvested after it freezes up. Hay and silage yields are good overall. Apple harvest has another week or two depending on the orchard. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** The leaves are disappearing from the trees fast because of all the rain and wind. The oaks are turning now. Grain corn and soybeans are trying to dry in the fields. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis/Penobscot:** Some spreading of manure after corn silage harvests. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Wet weather has caused some severe harvest issues for farms that have not finished corn silage. Lots of chains, tractors pulling trucks, and frustration!

**MASSACHUSETTS – Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire:** Coming off a beautiful holiday weekend, the weather remained dry until mid week then rain and gusty wind for 4 days. Some field corn was cut early in the week. As fields become workable, they are tilled and cover cropped. Farmstands and orchards are celebrating pumpkins and apples. Dairy folks still struggle to handle losses from the tropical storms. **Lori Carver (FSA), Franklin:** Rain during the week was not helpful at all. Fields are getting difficult to get on for cleanup activities and sowing of cover crops. Fall crops continue to suffer from diseases caused by this wet weather. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** It has been a very wet, rainy, cool, and damp week. Many vegetable and dairy growers are having a hard time harvesting their fall crops because of the saturated soil

conditions. A lot of tobacco was taken down this week due to the damp conditions. Farmers were very busy seeding harvested fields with rye cover, spreading manure, and picking up plastic/row covers. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Harvest continues with so many cranberries that trucks are backed up for hours at the Ocean Spray receiving station in Carver. Rot is being reported, especially in Stevens. Color remains poor for the most part, as nights have been too warm for normal anthocyanin development. The upside of this is no frost nights for the growers. Many growers will finish this week.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE – Kelly McAdam (Ext), Belknap:** Heavy rains last week, flood advisory conditions in Belknap. **Donna Juneau (FSA) Belknap/Merrimack:** Dry early in the week, rainfall on Thursday and Friday, and dry again over the weekend. Producers have reported harvesting the last of their sweet corn this week. Chopping field corn. Harvesting fall fruits and vegetables including apples and squash. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Silage corn harvest finishing up, along with some stray 4th cutting grass/alfalfa here and there. PYO apples still strong, but winding down. Farms putting fields to bed, selling winter crops. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Mix of weather this week, cool but not as cold as past week. Corn silage harvest slowed a bit with rains, but proceeding apace. A little hay still coming in. Manure spreading on open fields. Garden clean ups and hi-tunnels. A little minor crop activity-spinach and lettuce in tunnels for late fall harvest; garlic planting. Autumn colors still decent, starting to lose leaves from rainstorms. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Apple harvest continues. Rain during end of work week, but good weekend for pick-your-own sales. Field Crops: Silage corn chopping continues with the end in sight and seeding cover crops on harvested fields. Some manure spreading and incorporating in soil is taking place. Vegetables: Good demand for all vegetables continues. Growers 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. Farmers kept busy working on: pulling plastic mulch and tomato stakes, planting cover crops, and putting equipment away. **Amy Ouellette (Ext), Merrimack:** Still no frost in many places throughout Merrimack County. Cover crops are germinating, apples are being picked, and pumpkins are selling. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Apple harvest is almost done. PYO apples and pumpkins slow this week because of rain and cloudy weather. Gusty winds on Sunday. Picking leafy greens, Brussels sprouts, kale, cabbage, beet and winter squashes. Cleaning harvested vegetable fields. Chopping field corn, haying and haylage been done. Soil testing and spreading manure. Seeding cover crops. Mum sales seems slow as we haven't had a hard frost. **Jenn Zaleski (FSA), Sullivan:** It was a nice start to the week, but rain moved in Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Farmers were able to harvest corn for silage during the first part of the week. Some of the wetter fields have been cut, but it was slow going. All that is left to harvest are the extremely wet fields. Conditions were not suitable for dry hay production during most of the week, but a few acres were harvested early. The weekend turned out to be nicer than predicted. It was partly cloudy and breezy with a few light scattered showers.

**RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties:** We only had a couple of good days last week. Potato harvesting is slow, the ground is too wet to harvest potatoes in some places. The same with silage corn. There are a lot of deep ruts in the fields. It takes double the time to take the corn off than it normally would.

I think sweet corn is about done, you see very little of it around now. What is selling now in the farm stands are pumpkins and mums. It seems to be a very good crop of mums with many different colors. Farmers are picking a lot of cold crops now, cabbage, pak choi, etc. Nice weekend for apples. The vineyards are still struggling. They are having some problems, yet to be seen is how much damage has been done to them. Livestock looks good, of course we are in the season where we have to supplement their feed.

**VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Continued corn silage harvest, some hay harvest at beginning of week. Some manure spread on hay and corn fields. End of week, rain stopped field activity. No soybean harvest yet, pastures near end of season. **Daniel Hudson (Ext), Caledonia:** The frost from a couple of weeks ago killed the corn leaves. Subsequent rains delayed harvest and caused some quality losses. Some of the fields could be excessively dry when harvested, leading to quality problems. **Heather Darby (Ext), Franklin:** Nice weather last week helped folks get corn silage harvested. Many corn fields have been frosted and are drying down quickly. Corn yields of average or below average are being reported for most of the area. Hay was also made last week with the nice stretch of weather. Some second, third, and fourth cut were harvested. Reports of good yields. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Great harvest week for corn in Franklin County. Some rains however, not enough to make things muddy for harvest. Still a ways to go

and what corn is out in the field is drying down rapidly and going to need the processors turned down. Pastures are still functioning. Wet weather and mild temps are keeping a little growth going. The State Agency of Agriculture is issuing extensions for cover crops on a case by case situation. The October 15 deadline has passed. We are very close here but no cigar. The warm temps will make germination favorable and the soils are still manageable to get seed on. Pumpkins are showing up all over being the last crop of the season for gardens, unless there are some carrots left in the ground for rummaging. **Heather Mateja (FSA), Lamoille/Washington:** Most of the corn in the county has been chopped, picking of soy and corn will start soon. We still might have a few farmers that will get a little more hay, but the season is coming to an end. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Another wet week overall. The rain came more as showers last week so cropping was fit in between. A lot of corn was harvested. I have noticed on the wetter fields that some corn is being left behind due to field conditions. Not much other activity to report for last week. It was too wet to harvest any hay crops. Farmers are still pasturing, but the grass isn't growing much after the hard frosts a couple of weeks ago. **Julie Jacque (FSA), Windham:** Orchards report good crops; some haying still continuing through the weekend with good weather. Field cleanup from Irene is ongoing; some heavily damaged fields with debris cover will not be reseeded until spring due to amount of sand deposits and work left to do to get fields prepped.

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