

Crop Progress & Condition



NEW ENGLAND
Agricultural
Statistics



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For week ending 10/28/12

Harvest Season Coming to a Close

This will be the last publication for the 2012 crop year. We hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season and good luck next spring!

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending October 28, 2012, there were 6.2 days suitable for fieldwork across New England. Pasture conditions were rated 30 percent poor, 30 percent fair, 39 percent good, and 1 percent excellent. The week was mostly dry and sunny with weekly average temperatures ranging from 5 degrees above normal in Maine to 8 degrees above normal in Connecticut and Vermont. Precipitation totals for the week ranged from zero to 0.26 inches across the region.

FRUIT: Orchardists were busy wrapping up the apple harvest ahead of the impending superstorm Sandy. Apple varieties harvested included Rome, Fuji, and Pink Lady. Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD) fruit flies were still evident in some wild berry fruit. The cranberry harvest in Massachusetts advanced to 90 percent complete by week's end. In addition to harvesting, growers also cleaned and renovated cranberry beds.

VEGETABLES: Fall vegetable harvests continued to wind down throughout the region. Producers took advantage of the warm, sunny week to harvest carrots, onions, parsnips, rutabagas, and turnips. These and many other fall crops were still available at local farm stands including broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, kale, pumpkins, and squash. Farmers also cleared plastic mulch from fields, removed irrigation equipment, spread manure, and stored farm machinery.

FIELD CROPS: Dry conditions during the week allowed producers in Maine to complete potato harvest, and many have finished fall fieldwork. Farmers across New England raced to finish harvesting as much corn for silage, corn for grain, soybeans, and potatoes as possible before the arrival of Sandy. Other agricultural activities included harvesting haylage, seeding cover crops, spreading manure, and putting away equipment.

This is the final New England Crop Progress report for 2012. This weekly report would not have been possible without the voluntary efforts of our reporters. We wish to thank all of them for their help in making this a timely, accurate report. We look forward to their continued support next spring.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	3	0	1
Adequate	85	71	61
Surplus	12	29	38
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	4	0	1
Adequate	84	80	67
Surplus	12	20	32

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2012	2011	5-yr Avg
-- Percent Harvested --			
Apples	99	95	99
Pears	100	99	100
Cranberries, MA	90	95	90

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2012	2011	5-yr Avg
-- Percent Harvested --			
Potatoes			
Maine	100	100	100
Mass	95	99	99
Rhode Island	95	85	95
Silage Corn	95	90	95
Dry Hay			
Second	99	95	99
Third	90	80	95

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday October 22, 2012
 To: Sunday October 28, 2012

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				CUM SINCE MAR 1 GROWING DEGREE DAYS				1-WEEK PRECIP			4-WEEK CUM PRECIP		
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	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	BASE-50F TOT	DFN	BASE-60F TOT	DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS
MAINE														
Augusta_State_A	31	64	50	+5	2525	+433	1030	+284	0.00	-0.96	0	3.08	-0.40	15
Bangor_Intl_Arp	27	67	47	+4	2350	+449	919	+297	0.00	-0.84	0	6.94	+3.90	15
Bethel	31	68	49	+6	2196	+333	814	+218	0.00	-0.96	0	3.37	-0.10	10
Caribou_Municip	25	66	45	+6	2066	+618	768	+390	0.00	-0.70	0	4.77	+1.99	15
Dover-Foxcroft	21	68	45	+5	1935	+340	685	+233	0.00	-0.87	0	6.21	+2.86	13
Frenchville	23	64	44	+6	1810	+467	619	+296	0.02	-0.71	1	4.49	+1.57	15
Houlton	21	65	44	+5	2021	+507	734	+310	0.00	-0.79	0	7.02	+4.09	14
Livermore_Falls	25	67	48	+7	2166	+601	800	+371	0.00	-0.93	0	3.60	+0.14	12
Moosehead	26	63	44	+5	1566	+249	441	+131	0.00	-0.79	0	4.87	+1.80	13
Portland_ME	32	64	51	+6	2569	+634	1059	+422	0.00	-1.00	0	3.14	-0.35	13
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	30	67	49	+7	1996	+290	665	+189	0.00	-0.77	0	3.34	+0.40	14
Berlin_AG	34	74	51	+10	2241	+541	780	+283	0.00	-0.88	0	2.02	-1.24	14
Concord	28	66	51	+7	2782	+694	1214	+475	0.00	-0.77	0	2.38	-0.52	12
First_Conn_Lake	24	68	45	+8	1692	+574	507	+302	0.12	-0.72	1	4.12	+0.76	16
Keene_AG	34	65	50	+5	2672	+303	1131	+215	0.00	-0.75	0	2.30	-0.55	13
North_Conway	30	65	49	+7	2261	+348	861	+228	0.00	-1.02	0	3.80	+0.09	14
Rochester	30	65	50	+4	2818	+544	1280	+428	0.00	-1.07	0	3.42	-0.41	10
VERMONT														
Bennington_AP	35	65	54	+11	2703	+871	1116	+564	0.01	-0.89	1	3.57	+0.17	15
Burlington_Intl	33	65	52	+8	3055	+829	1427	+586	0.01	-0.67	1	4.66	+2.08	15
Island_Pond	25	72	48	+9	2021	+627	684	+359	0.02	-0.75	1	3.68	+0.80	17
Montpelier	27	67	49	+7	2219	+482	808	+296	0.01	-0.65	1	3.00	+0.45	15
Rochester	31	72	50	+8	2209	+478	811	+307	0.05	-0.85	1	4.26	+0.84	14
Rutland_AG	33	67	50	+5	2371	+22	904	+4	0.13	-0.52	1	3.79	+1.18	14
Springfield_VT	35	68	52	+9	2881	+998	1287	+691	0.00	-0.84	0	2.91	-0.28	16
Sutton	30	69	48	+9	1984	+588	670	+333	0.02	-0.78	1	3.90	+0.85	19
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	44	68	56	+5	3378	+536	1601	+373	0.00	-0.81	0	1.18	-1.78	13
Fitchburg	39	69	54	+11	3370	+1483	1633	+1035	0.00	-0.79	0	2.12	-0.84	13
Greenfield	39	68	52	+4	2942	+355	1317	+266	0.00	-0.77	0	3.24	+0.16	12
New_Bedford	36	69	54	+2	3077	+172	1376	+106	0.08	-0.80	1	1.25	-1.92	14
Otis_AFB	36	64	53	+5	2810	+497	1192	+327	0.02	-0.91	1	1.54	-1.96	9
Plymouth	34	68	54	+6	3082	+728	1396	+493	0.00	-0.96	0	1.32	-2.32	12
Walpole	37	66	53	+7	3182	+847	1474	+580	0.00	-0.96	0	3.45	-0.09	15
Chicopee/Westov	37	66	55	+5	3165	+168	1464	+114	0.01	-0.83	1	2.22	-0.99	13
Worthington	39	67	51	+7	2315	+424	869	+294	0.05	-0.84	1	3.76	+0.42	15
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	43	67	56	+6	3316	+624	1549	+415	0.06	-0.84	1	2.36	-0.96	13
Woonsocket	40	69	54	+8	3235	+944	1502	+656	0.00	-0.97	0	3.37	-0.27	14
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	45	69	59	+7	3687	+737	1821	+493	0.13	-0.61	2	2.92	+0.13	11
Hartford/Bradley	43	67	57	+9	3523	+695	1724	+482	0.04	-0.80	1	3.29	+0.08	14
Norfolk	42	59	51	+9	2464	+592	967	+394	0.11	-0.81	1	4.43	+0.90	15
Thomaston_Dam	39	64	55	+7	3051	+740	1376	+530	0.26	-0.65	1	5.34	+1.80	15
Willimantic	42	67	57	+10	3359	+1004	1577	+701	0.06	-0.92	1	2.74	-0.99	14

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, October 28, 2012

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
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ME	21	71	47	+5	0.00	0.04
NH	21	77	49	+7	0.00	0.12
VT	24	72	50	+8	0.00	0.13
MA	33	70	53	+6	0.00	0.18
RI	40	69	55	+6	0.00	0.06
CT	39	72	56	+8	0.02	0.26

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

MAINE – Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook: Dry conditions over the last week allowed everyone to finish harvest and most have completed their fall work. Soybeans were finished this weekend with reports of an above average crop. A well deserved week at the hunting camp and this fall will be over. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Sandy is at our doorsteps with the wind and rain has started. Luckily, all the crops have been harvested. The apples trees will lose the rest of their leaves today. Overall the apple crop is down, but the prices and demands are firm helping the orchardist pay the bills. Great year for hay. Vegetables were a challenge with the pests and lack of water/or too much water. Silage tonnage yields are on the lower side, but the grain on the ears was very good. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Ahhh... the smell of fall is in the air. Lots of manure is being spread. Batten down the hatches; a hard rain is going to fall. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** Season is winding down and hopefully, Sandy's visit will not be too damaging. **Elaine Moceus (FSA), Somerset:** Good week - mostly dry with cool temps for continuing harvest.

MASSACHUSETTS – Heather Baylis (FSA), Franklin: A very mild week with no rain gave farmers a chance to get a lot done outside. Farmers are putting away equipment and preparing for the possible hurricane. Corn harvest continued and fall crops continued to flood the market. Broccoli, cauliflower, kale and cabbage are ready. Farmers with fall root crops parsnips, carrots, turnips and potatoes are bringing in their harvest and setting up storage. Squash and onions are selling well. On some farms pumpkins and winter squash have reduced yields because of the combinations of dry weather, followed by September rains which caused fruit rot. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Everyone is preparing for Hurricane Sandy. They are cleaning fields of plastic mulch, harrowing, spreading manure, seeding a cover crop and storing away equipment. Corn grain, soybean, and potato producers are harvesting at full speed to get their crop in before Sandy arrives. Also, harvesting carrots, turnips, rutabaga, cabbage, kale and cauliflower. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Superstorm Sandy hit the area Sunday into Monday with conditions similar to a typical nor'easter. Harvesting was shut down during the storm. Growers had some issues with lost power and winds downing trees, but by and large, it was not as big a deal as feared. Many growers are done with harvest and getting involved the typical after harvest projects - cleanup, renovation, ditch maintenance, etc. At least one cranberry bed in Falmouth was flooded several times with salt water, but other problematic beds that flooded during Hurricane Bob in 1991 fared OK during Sandy. We dodged a bullet.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Donna Juneau (FSA) Belknap/Merrimack: A dry, mostly sunny week with daytime temperatures in the 60s and nighttime temperatures above freezing in the mid-30s to the high 40s. Producers were generally cleaning up and preparing for winter. Fruit and fall vegetable harvests have ended but there is still a good supply of apples, pumpkins, cabbage, and winter squash for sale at the local farm stands. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Seasonable weather most of the week. Most pastures still green for later fall grazing. Harvesting done on all but high tunnel crops. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Mild weather allowing farmers to get a lot of fall chores done from cleaning up and around greenhouses to manure spreading on many fields. Nearly all field corn now chopped and hauled and packed away in silos. Some grass still coming in. Overall, a good year for Coos County farmers. Sunshine when needed and timely rainfalls. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** Last week we received less than a half inch of rain. Soil conditions improved for equipment access. Producers are harvesting shell corn ahead of the storm that is predicted to arrive. Some farms are still making haylage. There has been no hard killing frost in the River Valley as of yet. Grass and alfalfa are still growing. Pumpkin harvesting should end shortly. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Orchardists were busy marketing their crop. Apple harvest is done with a major push on weekend of October 27-28 to make sure everything prior to hurricane storm. 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. Still catching SWD fruit fly in fruit planting and wild berry fruit. Field Crops: Silage corn chopping almost finished. Soil testing fields for next season and cleaning and putting away farm equipment. 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. **Jenn Zaleski (FSA), Sullivan:** It was a nice week in Sullivan County. Average high temperatures were in the mid-50s to mid-60s with average overnight lows in the mid-30s to mid-40s. Farmers were busy during the week finishing up the corn silage harvest. A few dairy producers harvested some acreage as grain in order to combat the rising corn prices. Producers were also busy harvesting fourth cut haylage. In addition to harvesting field crops, producers kept busy this weekend preparing for Hurricane Sandy.

VERMONT – Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin: Nice week in Franklin County allowed for finishing any corn and hay for silage. Still some corn and soybeans out for grain and Hurricane Sandy has those folks on pins and needles hoping their crop withstands the storm. Still lots of fall manure to spread with some time to spare before 12/15/2012 cut off for spreading.

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