

Crop Progress & Condition



A field office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service
United States Department of Agriculture

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For week ending 9/1/13

WET WEATHER RETURNS TO NEW ENGLAND

GENERAL CONDITIONS: There were 5.0 days suitable for fieldwork across New England for the week ending September 1, 2013. Pasture condition ratings averaged 1 percent poor, 17 percent fair, 62 percent good, and 20 percent excellent. New England experienced summer-like temperatures and high humidity this past week. Average temperatures across the six states ranged from 3 to 8 degrees above normal. Precipitation averages across the six states ranged from 0.95 to 1.59 inches with the highest local precipitation total at 5.51 inches reported in New Hampshire. Most of the precipitation fell during the weekend, but some locations also experienced significant rainfall earlier in the week.

FRUIT: Fruit crops harvested included apples, apricots, peaches, pears, plums, blackberries, raspberries, highbush blueberries, and wild blueberries. Other activities included mowing orchard floors, moving bins into orchards, pruning trees, monitoring for SWD fruit flies as well as other pests, and spraying if needed. Most highbush blueberry operations have closed for picking at this point in the season. Wild blueberry growers in Maine completed their harvest this past week. Dr David Yarborough, crop specialist, estimated above average quality and production. Massachusetts cranberry growers were wrapping up weed management and preparing for harvest.

VEGETABLES: Vegetables were widely available at farm stands and farmers markets. Crops harvested included beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, cucumbers, eggplant, greens, peppers, pumpkins, radishes, squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, and zucchini, among other summer and fall vegetables. Farmers kept busy irrigating fields, cleaning up harvested fields, hoeing weeds, and spraying pesticides for insect and disease control where needed. Some growers were troubled by late blight impacting their tomatoes and downy mildew damaging cucumbers and melons. Furthermore, growers were also concerned by humid weather providing favorable conditions for the spread of vegetable diseases.

FIELD CROPS: The extended period of minimal rain allowed farmers to harvest dry hay as well as early planted field corn prior to the rainy weekend. The corn crop continued to show irregularity in both quality and stage of development. Heavy precipitation over the weekend brought frustration as haying activities and early harvest of field corn were halted in many areas. Maine potato growers had difficulty spraying their crop due to drenching rains, raising concerns on outlook of crop.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	3	8
Short	3	14	40
Adequate	73	77	51
Surplus	24	6	1
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	1	7
Short	2	11	39
Adequate	77	81	54
Surplus	21	7	0

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Set	Fruit Size	Condition
	2013	2012	5-yr Avg			
Apples	15	20	15	Average	Average	Good
Peaches	75	85	85	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Pears	15	15	20	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Blueberries						
Highbush	95	99	95	Average	Average	Good
Wild	100	90	95	Avg/below	AboveAvg	Good/Exc
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2013	2012	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Harvested --				
Barley	55	90	55	Fair/Good
Oats	30	75	45	Good/Exc
Potatoes				
Maine	<5	<5	5	Exc/Good
Mass	20	25	30	Good
Rhode Island	25	30	30	Good/Exc
Field Corn	<5	<5	<5	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	75	80	80	Good/Fair
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	75	80	80	Good/Fair
Shade	90	95	90	Good/Fair
Dry Hay				
First Cut	99	100	99	Good/Fair
Second Cut	80	90	85	Good/Fair
Third Cut	30	40	40	Good/Fair

2 – Crop Weather, September 3, 2013

New England Agricultural Statistics, NASS, USDA

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday August 26, 2013
 To: Sunday September 1, 2013

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	54	84	70	+6	1925	+158	843	+153	1.45	+0.74	4	5.01	+2.00	9
Bangor_Intl_Arp	48	86	69	+6	1772	+158	738	+159	3.68	+2.91	4	5.59	+2.53	8
Bethel	46	85	68	+6	1682	+81	642	+83	2.29	+1.40	4	7.11	+3.49	9
Caribou_Municip	43	79	65	+6	1541	+234	548	+181	0.48	-0.42	5	4.50	+0.86	17
Dover-Foxcroft	47	84	66	+5	1662	+257	638	+205	1.47	+0.59	6	5.97	+2.60	14
Frenchville	41	76	63	+5	1349	+135	431	+117	0.15	-0.76	5	3.91	+0.19	16
Houlton	36	81	64	+4	1503	+138	527	+117	0.76	-0.15	3	4.33	+0.64	13
Livermore_Falls	45	84	68	+8	1677	+294	650	+238	2.33	+1.42	6	6.54	+2.81	11
Moosehead	51	78	65	+6	1446	+276	482	+183	0.76	-0.08	5	2.79	-0.57	13
Portland_ME	60	84	71	+7	1921	+296	855	+261	0.28	-0.42	2	1.21	-1.40	6
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	50	83	69	+8	1780	+303	699	+246	1.28	+0.40	6	3.16	-0.45	12
Berlin_AG	43	84	67	+6	1741	+253	642	+166	1.86	+0.93	4	3.68	-0.20	10
Concord	56	87	71	+8	2131	+352	973	+282	0.66	-0.04	3	1.32	-1.66	5
First_Conn_Lake	48	81	67	+10	1433	+427	480	+282	0.74	-0.36	4	1.67	-2.94	10
Keene_AG	52	86	71	+6	2050	+68	928	+87	1.20	+0.39	5	3.91	+0.42	10
North_Conway	47	84	68	+5	1766	+106	674	+73	0.63	-0.25	5	3.13	-0.48	11
Rochester	54	83	70	+5	2000	+103	886	+104	0.99	+0.22	5	2.69	-0.52	9
VERMONT														
Bennington_AP	58	86	71	+9	2054	+495	907	+393	1.38	+0.41	4	4.20	+0.29	9
Burlington_Intl	64	86	74	+10	2342	+438	1135	+349	0.25	-0.65	2	2.49	-1.17	9
Island_Pond	57	85	69	+10	1610	+388	586	+278	0.67	-0.34	6	2.91	-1.43	13
Montpelier	58	82	70	+9	1748	+247	671	+191	0.40	-0.42	4	1.88	-1.59	10
Rochester	45	84	69	+8	1737	+263	682	+216	0.34	-0.67	4	3.23	-0.93	10
Rutland_AG	51	85	70	+5	1862	-101	764	-54	0.70	-0.21	4	3.38	-0.42	10
Springfield_VT	60	85	72	+10	2033	+414	899	+341	2.74	+1.83	5	3.92	+0.28	11
Sutton	54	83	68	+9	1594	+356	568	+246	0.54	-0.45	6	2.07	-2.19	13
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	61	84	72	+3	2569	+317	1350	+287	0.02	-0.74	1	1.71	-1.24	3
Fitchburg	58	88	74	+12	2546	+929	1314	+748	0.17	-0.57	5	1.51	-1.62	9
Greenfield	51	87	72	+5	2243	+126	1063	+121	0.92	+0.13	5	3.37	+0.06	9
New_Bedford	57	83	71	+2	2325	+56	1148	+69	2.62	+1.68	4	3.71	-0.12	10
Otis_AFB	55	81	69	+3	2126	+278	994	+227	1.45	+0.66	3	2.52	-0.58	10
Plymouth	58	83	71	+5	2374	+465	1194	+382	0.74	-0.24	2	2.05	-1.62	6
Walpole	59	82	72	+6	2409	+469	1206	+392	0.65	-0.26	4	3.08	-0.50	7
Chicopee/Westov	60	87	74	+4	2396	-24	1195	+12	0.92	+0.08	3	4.54	+1.33	8
Worthington	46	83	69	+7	1809	+227	753	+222	1.30	+0.39	5	3.63	-0.10	11
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	60	84	73	+4	2568	+421	1348	+360	1.31	+0.47	3	3.74	+0.43	7
Woonsocket	60	86	72	+6	2454	+546	1248	+472	0.45	-0.46	3	2.97	-0.67	9
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	67	86	76	+6	2631	+325	1411	+288	0.86	+0.16	1	1.82	-1.08	7
Hartford/Bradle	64	87	75	+6	2601	+274	1368	+253	1.72	+0.83	3	5.99	+2.65	9
Norfolk	55	83	69	+7	1937	+351	849	+314	2.90	+1.85	2	7.24	+3.10	7
Thomaston_Dam	50	88	72	+7	2318	+431	1167	+413	1.41	+0.43	6	3.87	+0.00	13
Willimantic	60	85	73	+8	2444	+521	1226	+440	1.69	+0.78	4	2.80	-0.77	9

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, September 1, 2013

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				P R E C I P I T A T I O N				
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	DAYS
ME	36	86	67	+6	0.09	3.68	0.96	+0.15	4
NH	41	88	69	+7	0.06	5.51	1.18	+0.33	4
VT	39	88	69	+8	0.05	2.77	1.07	+0.17	4
MA	46	88	71	+6	0.02	2.62	0.95	+0.14	3
RI	56	86	72	+3	0.45	2.06	1.11	+0.39	3
CT	47	88	73	+6	0.76	2.90	1.59	+0.68	2

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

CONNECTICUT – Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland: A very humid and rain filled weekend for the Labor Day holiday. Some hay was rained on and corn fields got drenched in some locations which will not help corn silage harvest right around the corner. Tomatoes are now coming in good supply with peppers lagging behind. Sweet corn was in good supply over the holiday weekend. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Sunny, warm most of the week with a few heavy downpours and thunderstorms. Chopping corn where feed is short; baling hay; farmers markets good business with a nice variety of vegetables and fruits available. Apples look good, early apples smaller in size.

MAINE – Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook: We have had over two inches of rain in the last 24 hours. The ground has been saturated for several days and is making spraying all but impossible. There is the worry that we could be facing a great deal of breakdown in the potato crop. Grain crops are good, but harvest has been slow. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** The weather had been too dry in August, but after the Labor Day deluge the fields are very wet with some standing water. The apple crop looks heavy and very good. Orchardists are hoping for great weather over the next few weekends for pick your own sales. Spotted Wing Drosophila is attacking peaches, nectarines and raspberries requiring growers to spray frequently. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Too much rain, as usual, has bogged down field work again. Vine crops do not appear to be doing as well as usual this year. The warm weather and rain is keeping everything green. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Tough week for hay harvest, but other crops are doing great. Some 2nd/3rd cuttings are being done. Corn chopping maybe started this week if weather permits. Heavy rain showers over the weekend have left standing water in areas. Farm stands are very busy with most crops. Blueberry harvest is pretty much completed and overall crop looks better than expected. **Caragh Fitzgerald (Ext), Kennebec:** Rain off and on through the week impeded some field work. Damp, foggy nights will accelerate the spread of many vegetable diseases. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** Crops are ripening. Heavy rain on Monday. **Elaine S. Moceus (FSA), Somerset:** Weather information from an on-line source in one area of Somerset County indicates August 2013 actual monthly precipitation total of 6.97 inches, where the monthly average is 3.53 inches. Actual precipitation totals could be more or less in other areas of Somerset County. Harvesting of early apple varieties has begun. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Our mini dry spell for late August came to a crashing end with 3-4 inches of rain over the Labor Day weekend! **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Wild blueberry growers completed their harvest this past week. Crop quality and production were above average for this season. This is my last report for 2013.

MASSACHUSETTS – Russell Norton (Ext), Barnstable: The week had steady temperatures staying in the high 60s at night and low 70s during the day. Rain fell on Tuesday and Sunday, amounts were generally below a quarter inch, and some spots recorded higher amounts. Much of the week was overcast with high humidity. Fruits being harvested include early apple cultivars, peaches, and fall raspberries. Vegetable harvest includes just about anything you can think of plus some. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Hot and humid week with heavy rains at the end of week. Harvesting winter

squash, pumpkins, tomatoes, peppers, raspberries, apples, and peaches. Growers still applying protective fungicide sprays to prevent Late Blight in tomatoes and potatoes and prevent cucurbit downy mildew in cucumbers and winter squash. Growers are also on the lookout for northern corn leaf blight. **Carolyn DeMoranville (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Cooler temperatures and some rain as we move towards fall. Cranberry growers are preparing for harvest and wrapping up weed management. Many are mowing bed edges and trimming tall weeds. Crop continues to look good but fruit are only average in size.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Kelly McAdam (Ext), Belknap: Heavy rains over the weekend in Belknap County, but no reports of damage yet. Most blueberry operations have closed for picking (both Belknap and Strafford County) at this point in the season. **Donna Juneau (FSA) Belknap/Merrimack:** A mix of warm sunny and overcast weather with rain at times on Monday and Wednesday, August 26 and 28 slowing harvesting activities. Field corn is close to harvest for some producers, however, the holiday weekend rain will likely push off harvesting due to wet fields. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Nice weather at the start of the week, but it's been downright soupy for the last 4-5 days. Field corn is doing well, but still going to be a week or so before any of it is ready to chop. Hayfields are growing well, but little decent weather for dry hay. Third cutting of haylage about done. Vegetable crops are still doing well, with some leaf molds, etc. showing up with moisture. PYO apples starting to accelerate. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Fairly dry at beginning of week, some corn showing moisture stress, but rain over the weekend changing that. Field corn somewhat behind compared to this time last year. Grain oats have been harvested, soybean pods filling out. Apples are coloring up. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending August 31, we received rain fall amounts ranging from 2 inches to over 3 inches. Some areas of the county had flash flooding caused by torrential rains. We had twelve days with no rain from August 13 through August 25th. Many fields with wet soils had dried down to the point that farmers were able to get onto the fields and take the hay off. The rains that we received over the Labor Day weekend have slowed or halted this progress. The corn crop continues to be highly irregular. A number of producers have reported that they expect significant yield reductions this fall, due to the wet year that we have had. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Orchardists harvesting Marshall McIntosh, Gala and Honeycrisp apples, peaches, plum/prunes and fall raspberry. Orchardists busy monitoring for pests, mowing orchard floors, fixing up orchard roads and moving bins into the orchard. Harvesting late maturing highbush blueberry and fall raspberry harvest continued, however concerns about SWD Fruit Fly damage. Field Crops: Farmers hay cutting continued during the week with the second and third cuttings being made. Getting ready for chopping corn silage. Vegetables: Harvesting an array of vegetables: beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, cucumbers, greens, potatoes, radishes, summer squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, zucchini, and other vegetables. Some farmers are starting to cleaning up harvested fields and planting cover crops. Some farmers are starting to cut and pickup pumpkins and winter squash fruit. Downy Mildew has taken its toll on cucumbers and some squash plants. At some farm sites, squash vine borer trap numbers were increasing instead being zeros. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Harvesting an array of vegetables and greens. Paula Red and Cortland apples are

being harvested as well as plums, peaches, nectarines. Some rain came mid week but more and heavier rain with flood warnings came on Sunday evening as well as on Monday Labor day. Some fields are very wet now and it will be difficult to get into for harvesting or haying. Pastures are doing ok. Field corn is growing well. **Kelly Greenbacker (FSA), Sullivan:** We saw a return to hot and humid weather this week into the holiday weekend. The county received heavy rain and thunderstorms Sunday night into Monday. Farm stands have a large supply of sweet corn, cucumbers, tomatoes, and other late summer produce. Early apples are ready as well. Many are preparing to chop corn and looking for the next clear forecast to continue with hay harvest.

RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties: This past week we had a lot of cloudy and overcast weather. It hasn't changed much and vegetables are slow to ripen. Potatoes look good and they are harvesting a little bit on the short side. For example, if it took an acre of potatoes to fill a trailer, now it takes about an acre and a third. Sizes are good, with a lot of #1's. Not very many Chef's. Animals look good and pasture

looks good for this time of the year. All small crops, such as tomatoes, summer squash, beans, etc are all available, but not in abundance according to the farmers. We had some terrific rains this past holiday weekend. Anywhere from 5-9 inches of rain depending on the part of the state you are in. Right now we need some dry weather.

VERMONT – Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin: Apples are becoming the story in Franklin County this week. Looking like a bumper crop this year. Size of fruit looks to be on the medium side with amount of apples that have come in. This will bring back apple sales to the local orchards that had a dismal season last year. Corn continues to mature very nicely with great weather. Ear development continues to be fantastic. Pastures are doing great for this time of year. Third cut yields look very good on hay with continued weather for dry hay harvest. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Last week was warm and humid with a few showers. Some second and third cut hay was harvested. The corn is not mature yet so none has been harvested. Cows are out on fall pastures now that second crop has been taken off the hayfields.

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