

# Crop Progress & Condition



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

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For week ending 9/15/13

## IDEAL WEEKEND FOR PICK-YOUR-OWN ORCHARDS

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:** There were 4.0 days suitable for fieldwork across New England for the week ending September 15, 2013. Pasture condition ratings averaged 1 percent poor, 24 percent fair, 56 percent good, and 19 percent excellent. The week started with scattered instances of light frost but quickly changed to scattered showers and unseasonably hot temperatures as high as 97F. A series of strong thunderstorms associated with a cold front brought in sunnier and cooler weather for the weekend. Average temperatures across the six states ranged from 2 to 4 degrees above normal. Precipitation was abundant, particularly in Northern New England, further saturating soils and delaying harvest of crops. Average precipitation across the six states ranged from 0.46 in Rhode Island to 2.74 inches in New Hampshire with the highest local precipitation total at 5.36 inches reported in New Hampshire.

**FRUIT:** Apple picking was in full swing last week as weekend weather was ideal for pick-your-own orchards. Other crops harvested included grapes, pears, blackberries, raspberries, and the remaining highbush blueberries, peaches, and plums. SWD fruit flies continued posing a problem and were reportedly in high numbers throughout New England. A few cranberry growers in Massachusetts began harvest late in the week, while the majority of growers expected to start by next week.

**VEGETABLES:** A wide array of summer and fall vegetables were available at farm stands and farmers markets. Crops harvested included beans, Brussel sprouts, cabbage, cucumbers, eggplant, greens, peppers, pumpkins, radishes, squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, and zucchini, among other summer and fall vegetables. Heavy rains last week saturated the fields, making harvesting of vegetables difficult. Farmers kept busy disking, cleaning up harvested fields, planting cover crops, hoeing weeds, and spraying pesticides for insect and disease control where needed.

**FIELD CROPS:** Heavy rainfall further saturated the ground, making haying and other fieldwork challenging. More farmers began their silage corn harvest while others still waited for further development. The tobacco harvest was complete last week; growers spread rye or wheat for cover crop on tobacco land. Rainy weather in Aroostook County, Maine made top killing potato vines difficult, thus delaying harvest of the crop. Potato growers were lowering expectations due to consistently wet weather throughout summer. Small grain harvest was well behind schedule due to aforementioned rains impeding farmers from harvesting their grain. A significant portion of the small grains were expected to be plowed under because the cover crops, such as clover, had grown over the grains.

### 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	25
Adequate	74	87	74
Surplus	25	12	0
<b>Subsoil</b>			
Very Short	0	0	3
Short	0	1	26
Adequate	81	89	71
Surplus	19	10	0

### FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Set	Fruit Size	Condition
	2013	2012	5-yr Avg			
Apples	30	35	35	Average	Avg/Above	Good
Peaches	95	95	95	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Pears	30	50	45	Average	Average	Good
Blueberries						
Highbush	100	100	100	Average	Average	Good
Wild	100	100	100	Avg/Below	AboveAvg	Good/Exc
Cranberries, MA	<5	0	<5	Average	Average	Good

### FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2013	2012	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Harvested --				
Barley	80	100	90	Fair/Good
Oats	60	95	85	Good
Potatoes				
Maine	5	10	15	Exc/Good
Mass	40	40	50	Good
Rhode Island	40	50	50	Good/Exc
Field Corn	5	20	15	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	90	90	90	Good/Fair
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	100	99	99	Good/Fair
Shade	100	100	99	Good/Fair
Dry Hay				
Second Cut	90	95	95	Good/Fair
Third Cut	45	65	60	Good

**Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics**

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday September 9, 2013  
 To: Sunday September 15, 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	---	---
<b>MAINE</b>														
Augusta_State_A	44	88	63	+3	2119	+191	915	+183	3.01	+2.31	4	8.11	+5.24	13
Bangor_Intl_Arp	39	82	63	+4	1965	+205	810	+197	2.14	+1.30	4	8.08	+4.90	13
Bethel	39	90	60	+2	1842	+104	702	+113	1.69	+0.92	4	6.28	+2.89	12
Caribou_Municip	38	83	60	+6	1681	+287	584	+206	2.80	+1.96	6	6.53	+3.04	17
Dover-Foxcroft	37	88	60	+4	1817	+301	692	+240	2.12	+1.21	5	7.47	+3.93	16
Frenchville	37	75	57	+3	1461	+166	452	+129	1.46	+0.58	5	3.56	-0.07	15
Houlton	36	84	61	+6	1657	+200	573	+149	1.55	+0.70	5	5.08	+1.49	14
Livermore_Falls	33	90	60	+4	1830	+342	706	+277	1.51	+0.67	4	6.01	+2.41	15
Moosehead	34	89	58	+4	1585	+326	525	+215	1.52	+0.66	6	4.01	+0.61	16
Portland_ME	40	93	65	+5	2135	+354	942	+312	3.69	+2.99	4	6.65	+3.90	12
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>														
Benton	36	89	60	+3	1937	+343	759	+285	2.19	+1.43	4	4.74	+1.39	16
Berlin_AG	35	88	58	+2	1876	+273	691	+195	2.86	+2.09	6	5.66	+2.14	14
Concord	35	95	65	+5	2344	+411	1071	+341	1.57	+0.92	3	4.82	+2.03	8
First_Conn_Lake	31	87	57	+4	1552	+478	513	+308	2.75	+1.79	6	4.20	-0.04	15
Keene_AG	36	93	62	+0	2235	+74	1006	+113	4.65	+3.95	4	7.02	+3.89	13
North_Conway	37	89	60	+2	1927	+133	736	+107	1.80	+1.01	5	4.85	+1.43	15
Rochester	39	92	63	+2	2198	+127	968	+136	2.95	+2.25	4	6.30	+3.30	14
<b>VERMONT</b>														
Bennington_AP	36	92	63	+5	2247	+555	992	+449	2.09	+1.18	4	4.44	+0.67	13
Burlington_Intl	41	91	64	+5	2554	+494	1230	+403	2.11	+1.32	5	4.53	+1.09	13
Island_Pond	33	88	59	+4	1755	+439	638	+314	2.71	+1.90	6	4.34	+0.54	18
Montpelier	35	88	60	+3	1903	+283	728	+224	2.72	+2.04	4	4.32	+1.20	14
Rochester	37	89	60	+3	1898	+296	748	+254	1.55	+0.64	4	2.79	-1.13	14
Rutland_AG	36	89	60	-2	2021	-115	830	-40	1.33	+0.48	4	2.81	-0.82	12
Springfield_VT	36	92	62	+4	2218	+464	977	+390	1.31	+0.47	4	5.23	+1.72	14
Sutton	35	87	56	+2	1716	+387	609	+272	2.25	+1.44	5	4.31	+0.57	17
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>														
Boston/Logan_In	52	97	70	+5	2852	+363	1493	+336	0.99	+0.29	3	1.86	-1.12	7
Fitchburg	42	96	68	+10	2805	+1052	1439	+846	0.67	-0.03	4	1.03	-1.88	14
Greenfield	41	92	64	+1	2445	+126	1145	+136	2.28	+1.47	4	3.74	+0.46	12
New_Bedford	41	91	67	+1	2570	+51	1257	+73	0.31	-0.49	2	4.26	+0.68	13
Otis_AFB	46	84	67	+4	2365	+317	1097	+268	0.31	-0.46	2	4.17	+1.07	12
Plymouth	42	93	68	+6	2632	+527	1317	+445	0.12	-0.86	2	1.41	-2.45	10
Walpole	42	93	67	+6	2649	+528	1315	+449	0.61	-0.26	3	2.61	-0.99	8
Chicopee/Westov	37	95	66	+1	2626	-31	1303	+25	1.46	+0.62	2	3.06	-0.29	10
Worthington	35	90	61	+2	1967	+241	814	+250	1.87	+1.03	4	4.32	+0.76	13
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>														
Providence	48	92	69	+4	2831	+456	1471	+398	0.66	-0.18	3	6.07	+2.71	10
Woonsocket	43	95	68	+7	2702	+614	1362	+536	0.47	-0.44	2	3.73	+0.09	12
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>														
Bridgeport/Siko	50	90	70	+4	2919	+360	1559	+326	1.53	+0.77	3	2.83	-0.04	7
Hartford/Bradle	43	95	68	+4	2857	+311	1489	+296	0.84	-0.07	2	3.82	+0.27	9
Norfolk	39	89	61	+3	2111	+385	917	+353	0.63	-0.35	4	4.48	+0.40	8
Thomaston_Dam	41	93	65	+4	2540	+472	1263	+454	0.68	-0.27	4	2.79	-1.10	15
Willimantic	42	92	67	+5	2682	+571	1332	+489	0.67	-0.24	3	2.96	-0.63	12

**State Weather Summary**

For the Week Ending Sunday, September 15, 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	32	93	61	+4	0.75	4.10	2.07	+1.31	4
NH	26	96	62	+4	1.19	5.36	2.74	+1.99	4
VT	30	92	60	+2	0.50	3.12	1.77	+1.01	4
MA	35	97	66	+4	0.07	3.24	1.11	+0.30	3
RI	43	95	68	+4	0.24	0.66	0.46	-0.41	3
CT	39	95	67	+4	0.37	1.53	0.91	+0.05	3

**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 few sprinkles on Tuesday turned into a day of showers. Very hot and humid on Wednesday and Thursday with thunderstorms on Thursday night bringing in cool and dry air for the weekend. Corn silage and grass silage harvest continued with a little dry hay getting rained on. Fruit and vegetable stands very busy with fruit and mum sales. Sweet corn and summer veggies are in good supply at stands and farmers markets. Spreading rye or wheat for cover crop on tobacco land. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Silage corn harvest is in full swing. Rain delays are the norm. Early yields are down 30-50% in some fields. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Vegetable crops are winding down, farmers markets busy, bringing in apples, mums, cider. Spreading manure, and chopping corn. Picking grapes. Heavy soils a bit wet getting corn off.

**MAINE – Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook:** Three and half inches of rain this week will hold up potato harvest until at least the middle of the week. A lot of the grain will be plowed under because the cover crop has grown up taller than the grain. Lack of sun has made top killing the potato vines difficult. **Don Audibert, (FSA) Northern Aroostook:** Farmers are having a hard time harvesting their grain due to rain. Next week's weather forecast looks good and farmers will take advantage of it to harvest as much of their grain as possible. School is getting done this week for harvest and most farmers will be starting potato harvesting this Saturday. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** The heat arrived last week along with strong thunderstorms which produced hail in some areas. Some pumpkins and apples have damage. Heavy rains last week saturated the fields, making harvesting crops difficult. Portland has received 6.5 inches this month. Average pumpkin and winter squash crop reported. Producers are concerned with frost threat tonight. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** The heat last week was good for corn maturity. Soil conditions are still a little too wet for a comfortable harvest. Vine crop production was below normal. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Mix of rain, humidity and sun for the past week didn't help with harvesting of field crops. The 3rd cutting of hay is underway in some areas. Corn silage has started being chopped. Potato harvest is underway as well. Grain corn won't be harvested for a few weeks but reports coming in, is that it should be a pretty good crop. Farmers are worried about how well potatoes will stay, due to all the rain. Apple harvest has begun and some producers are reporting lower yields and smaller sizes than last year. Farm stands are very busy and should be opened for a few more weeks. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Too much rain (and rain showers) has put a stop to harvesting hay, silage corn and grain corn. The hay crop has been reported to be down by 50% this year by several producers. The wet conditions have put off harvesting of dry beans as well within Oxford County. Weather Reports of frost this week along with rain today will also affect the fall crops. Producers have reported that several crop fields are too wet to get equipment into and if they can they are making ruts. Apple harvest has begun and looking ok thus far. Many corn producers are waiting as long as possible to begin fall harvest, hoping for additional development in the crop. Last week's severe thunder/lightning shower reportedly damaged some corn stands and washed out some roads. This storm also had some hail that was reported in several areas of Oxford County. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** More rain. A little sun would be great. Crop protection for sensitive crops is in use. A small amount of silage is being harvested. **Elaine S. Moceus (FSA),**

**Somerset:** Heavy rainfall in most areas of this county toward the end of the week. Corn silage harvesting has begun in some areas. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Several more inches of rain fell last week further saturating the ground making it difficult for any field work.

**MASSACHUSETTS – Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Hot and humid with scattered showers throughout the week. Harvesting apples, pears, late raspberries, winter squash, cabbage, potatoes, pumpkins, Indian corn, gourds, and peppers. Growers continue scouting for insects and diseases, and planting a cover crop on harvested fields. Dairy farmers are spreading manure and starting to harvest corn silage. **Carolyn DeMoranville (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Severe weather late in the week delivered very variable rains with some parts of the region getting almost none. A very few cranberry growers began harvest late in the week, most fresh fruit growers will be harvesting by next week. Fruit color is coming along, especially on early cultivars.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE – Donna Juneau (FSA) Belknap/Merrimack:** A record high temperature of 95 degrees in Concord on Wednesday, September 11 followed by 1.3 inches of rain on Thursday made for difficult conditions for field work this week. The week's nighttime temperatures ranged from the mid 30s to the mid 60s. No frost yet. The last two weekends were good for our U-Pick apple orchards with Macintosh, Cortland and a few other early varieties like Gala available. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Unseasonably warm, humid, and wet mid week, but cooler conditions by the weekend. Some locally heavy downpours, but we seem to have escaped much damage to cropland. Still a little dry hay harvested here and there. The big push for chopping corn has begun. Veggies are continuing to wind down and PYO apples continuing to increase. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Cool, wet weather with reports of scattered hail, no crop damage of note seen at this point. Rivers are running high. Red Maples coloring. Farmers still would like to get some hay/haylage in but difficult considering weather and wet field conditions. Field corn could use some time yet to further mature. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** Another wet week. We received nearly 3 inches of rain for the entire week. Soils of many fields became too wet to operate equipment on yet again. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Two nights localize light frost occurred in low areas, very minor damage occurred beginning of week. Fruit: Apple harvest is in full swing with most growers concentrating on picking McIntosh and Gala apples. Another great weekend for Pick-Your-Own orchards. Some orchardists seeing some apple drop problems increase. Fall raspberries and pear harvest continued with peach and plum harvest winding down. Grape harvest is moving along. SWD fruit fly numbers are increasing at several sites. Field Crops: Some farmers are starting silage corn harvest along with second and third cuts of hay and haylage continues. Vegetables: Good demand for all vegetables continues. Harvesting wide array of vegetables, including warm season vegetables like tomatoes and peppers. Starting to harvesting cabbage, kale, brussel sprouts, winter squash and pumpkins. Farmers kept busy disking, cleaning up and planting cover crops on harvested fields. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** The week started with sunny days and dry followed by mid week on Wednesday with 95+ fahrenheit temperature, was very humid and muggy night with severe thundershowers and lightening. Thursday a wet day with severe thundershowers flooding some fields and making them

inaccessible for haying, harvesting or doing other farm chores. Weekend was dry with more sun and cooler temperature. Harvesting tomatoes, cucumbers and zucchini however, have slowed down with the cooler nights. Eggplant and peppers are still producing well. Red, white and gold potatoes are harvested as well as blue and red fleshed potatoes. Leafy greens harvest remain strong with nice selection of baby kales, baby Asian greens and arugula. Many different apple varieties are being harvested, along with peaches, nectarines and pears. Mowing orchard floors. Cleaning up harvested vegetable fields, spreading manure or planting cover crops. Chopping field corn and haying. Spreading manure. Farm stands and PYO fruits trees were very busy on the weekend. Many farmers markets are still open and seeing a steady crowd.

**RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties:** I had the opportunity this past weekend to visit 3 or 4 farmers who had silage corn. It's one of the best corn crops I've seen, but it's not matured in a dense state to be harvested. The farmers have been waiting and by this time they should have had 25-50% harvested already. All they are cutting is enough for feed and waiting for it to mature. Potatoes are doing good. Apple crop, these are some of the nicest apples we've seen in a few years and they are plentiful, they are just starting to pick. There is still an abundance of small vegetables around, tomatoes, beans, squash and peppers. Our next episode will be pumpkins!!

Some fields are really good and others didn't produce any fruit. Pastures are green but wearing down. Animals need to be fed a little bit on the fields. It's too early to bring them in yet. The butternut squash crop, again, some fields are real good and others are not so good. The vines are dying out now and you can see the squash.

**VERMONT – Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Wet week in Franklin County has brought field work to halt. Corn still maturing with warm temps this week and grass continues to grow. Gardens are at clean up stage and some pumpkins are starting to become visual with orange tint showing up within the vines. Apples continue to be a great crop and all are hoping for some good weekend weather to get consumers out in the orchards. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** We experienced a wide range of temperatures this past week. From a light frost last weekend to 90 degree heat by the middle of the week. There were a lot of showers during the week so not much was harvested. Some storms packed some pretty good wind and heavy downpours. The rivers were pretty high but I don't think any went over their banks. I haven't heard about any crop damage from the wind as well. The corn harvest has not begun yet so any harvest at all was for third cut hay. Pastures are still holding out with the addition of some hayfields. The ground is still pretty wet but better than June and July. The leaves are starting to show their colors and with cooler temperatures, the season has changed.

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