



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service



New  
England



# Crop Progress & Condition

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[www.nass.usda.gov/nh](http://www.nass.usda.gov/nh)

Week ending September 6, 2015

Issued weekly on the internet, April - November  
by the Northeastern Regional Field Office of NASS

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Released September 8, 2015

**Excellent week for field work:** New England averaged 7.0 days suitable for field work last week.

Hot and dry conditions persisted throughout much of New England last week, with some muggy, humid areas. The average weekly temperatures in the region ranged from three to eleven degrees above normal. Weekly precipitation ranged from 0.00 to 1.21 inches in the region, leaving farmers wanting rain badly. As such, irrigation continued on some farms. The dry weather allowed for more second and third cuttings of hay to take place. In some locations, field corn has matured at a faster rate than normal due to the dry conditions, although other areas continued to see slower corn maturation. Producers harvested apples, peaches, apricots, plums, pears, grapes, and many types of vegetables including tomatoes, sweet corn, and potatoes. Pumpkin and winter squash harvest began on some farms. Farmers continued to monitor for pests and diseases, including downy mildew that was found among vine crops and the spotted wing drosophila (SWD) fruit fly that was found on late-bearing raspberries and blueberries.

## Soil Moisture for Week Ending September 6, 2015

(in percent)

| Item    | Very Short | Short | Adequate | Surplus |
|---------|------------|-------|----------|---------|
| TOPSOIL | 6          | 27    | 61       | 6       |
| SUBSOIL | 7          | 24    | 61       | 8       |

## Crop Conditions as of September 6, 2015

(in percent)

| Item                    | Very Poor | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent |
|-------------------------|-----------|------|------|------|-----------|
| APPLES                  | 0         | 0    | 10   | 57   | 33        |
| BARLEY (ME)             | 0         | 0    | 0    | 43   | 57        |
| CORN                    | 1         | 4    | 35   | 54   | 6         |
| CRANBERRIES (MA)        | 0         | 5    | 10   | 70   | 15        |
| DRY HAY                 | 4         | 3    | 26   | 53   | 14        |
| OATS (ME)               | 0         | 0    | 0    | 42   | 58        |
| PASTURE AND RANGE       | 6         | 8    | 33   | 46   | 7         |
| PEARS                   | 0         | 0    | 16   | 83   | 1         |
| POTATOES                | 0         | 0    | 3    | 27   | 70        |
| QUALITY OF DRY HAY MADE | 1         | 7    | 24   | 58   | 10        |

## Crop Progress as of September 6, 2015

(in percent)

| Item                                  | This Week |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| APPLES: HARVESTED                     | 22        |
| BARLEY (ME): HARVESTED                | 51        |
| BLUEBERRIES, TAME: HARVESTED          | 91        |
| BLUEBERRIES, WILD (ME): HARVESTED     | 95        |
| DRY HAY: 2nd CUTTING                  | 93        |
| DRY HAY: 3rd CUTTING                  | 44        |
| FALL TILLAGE: SINGLE                  | 5         |
| OATS (ME): HARVESTED                  | 45        |
| PEACHES: HARVESTED                    | 66        |
| PEARS: HARVESTED                      | 16        |
| POTATOES: HARVESTED                   | 21        |
| SWEET CORN: HARVESTED                 | 76        |
| TOBACCO, CIGAR BINDER (MA): HARVESTED | 95        |

For a complete nationwide weekly weather and crop bulletin, please visit [www.usda.gov/oce/weather](http://www.usda.gov/oce/weather) and click on "Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin."

**September 7, 2015 New England Weekly Weather Summary**

|               |                 | Last Week Weather Summary |    |     |     |               |      | Accumulation Since April 1, 2015 |       |      |              |      |          |
|---------------|-----------------|---------------------------|----|-----|-----|---------------|------|----------------------------------|-------|------|--------------|------|----------|
|               |                 | Temperature               |    |     |     | Precipitation |      | Precipitation                    |       |      | GDD Base 50F |      | Base 40F |
| State         | Station         | Hi                        | Lo | Avg | DFN | Total         | Days | Total                            | DFN   | Days | Total        | DFN  | Total    |
| Maine         | Augusta_State_A | 85                        | 51 | 69  | +6  | 0.18          | 1    | 19.71                            | +1.11 | 64   | 1992         | +83  | 3405     |
|               | Bangor_Intl_Air | 86                        | 46 | 68  | +6  | 0.00          | 0    | 13.83                            | -3.19 | 68   | 1863         | +61  | 3243     |
|               | Bethel          | 86                        | 49 | 67  | +6  | 0.38          | 1    | 20.17                            | -0.86 | 63   | 1766         | +46  | 3129     |
|               | Bridgton        | 84                        | 53 | 67  | +7  | 0.02          | 1    | 20.97                            | +0.44 | 57   | 1742         | +171 | 3123     |
|               | Caribou_Municip | 82                        | 44 | 65  | +7  | 0.00          | 0    | 16.58                            | -1.41 | 73   | 1624         | +237 | 2945     |
|               | Dover-Foxcroft  | 84                        | 45 | 66  | +7  | 0.00          | 0    | 23.36                            | +4.03 | 77   | 1689         | +290 | 3021     |
|               | Durham          | 88                        | 47 | 68  | +5  | 0.80          | 1    | 16.87                            | -2.43 | 68   | 1796         | +40  | 3187     |
|               | East_Surry      | 87                        | 44 | 67  | +5  | 0.00          | 0    | 15.52                            | -3.32 | 65   | 1563         | -102 | 2896     |
|               | Eustis          | 82                        | 40 | 62  | +6  | 0.00          | 0    | 17.51                            | -1.00 | 62   | 1314         | +233 | 2557     |
|               | Frenchville     | 81                        | 43 | 64  | +7  | 0.03          | 1    | 16.55                            | -1.80 | 70   | 1373         | +94  | 2655     |
|               | Harmony         | 84                        | 46 | 66  | +5  | 0.00          | 0    | 22.12                            | +3.07 | 73   | 1761         | +152 | 3119     |
|               | Houlton         | 82                        | 39 | 64  | +6  | 0.00          | 0    | 16.05                            | -1.55 | 64   | 1602         | +186 | 2909     |
|               | Livermore_Falls | 85                        | 46 | 65  | +7  | 0.10          | 1    | 19.83                            | -1.11 | 62   | 1718         | +304 | 3072     |
|               | Machias         | 83                        | 45 | 66  | +6  | 0.00          | 0    | 18.79                            | -1.55 | 69   | 1572         | +256 | 2842     |
|               | Millinocket_Wtr | 83                        | 43 | 65  | +4  | 0.00          | 0    | 21.58                            | +1.79 | 66   | 1545         | -72  | 2833     |
|               | Moosehead       | 81                        | 46 | 64  | +7  | 0.00          | 0    | 21.11                            | +1.05 | 72   | 1543         | +325 | 2847     |
|               | Portland_ME     | 86                        | 49 | 70  | +7  | 0.02          | 1    | 17.41                            | -0.92 | 54   | 2084         | +368 | 3531     |
|               | Rangeley_2NW    | 80                        | 44 | 62  | +5  | 0.00          | 0    | 19.43                            | +0.13 | 75   | 1247         | +38  | 2457     |
|               | Sanford         | 89                        | 49 | 69  | +5  | 0.00          | 0    | 16.27                            | -3.94 | 38   | 2041         | +73  | 3432     |
|               | Topsfield_2     | 82                        | 49 | 65  | +5  | 0.00          | 0    | 20.51                            | +0.79 | 67   | 1671         | +128 | 2990     |
|               | Turner          | 87                        | 51 | 69  | +5  | 0.00          | 0    | 19.74                            | +0.67 | 61   | 1924         | -131 | 3320     |
|               | Wesley_2W       | 83                        | 40 | 64  | +3  | 0.00          | 0    | 22.05                            | +4.19 | 54   | 1768         | +220 | 3110     |
|               | West_Rockport   | 85                        | 51 | 69  | +7  | 0.00          | 0    | 16.81                            | -2.96 | 70   | 1798         | +201 | 3162     |
| New Hampshire | Berlin_AG       | 83                        | 48 | 66  | +6  | 0.24          | 1    | 19.17                            | +0.10 | 68   | 1610         | +91  | 2948     |
|               | Bradford_2      | 85                        | 44 | 67  | +4  | 0.00          | 0    | 15.36                            | -4.93 | 51   | 1784         | -49  | 3154     |
|               | Colebrook       | 81                        | 41 | 64  | +5  | 0.00          | 0    | 26.34                            | +6.33 | 83   | 1393         | -1   | 2647     |
|               | Concord         | 90                        | 48 | 71  | +8  | 0.39          | 1    | 16.28                            | -0.40 | 55   | 2360         | +434 | 3803     |
|               | East_Milford    | 89                        | 48 | 70  | +6  | 0.00          | 0    | 15.10                            | -4.62 | 46   | 2240         | +195 | 3683     |
|               | Epping          | 90                        | 44 | 69  | +6  | 0.00          | 0    | 14.47                            | -4.58 | 53   | 2184         | +245 | 3609     |
|               | Errol_AP        | 82                        | 44 | 64  | +6  | 0.00          | 0    | 22.27                            | +3.84 | 74   | 1484         | +221 | 2748     |
|               | Fitzwilliam     | 87                        | 51 | 70  | +10 | 0.06          | 1    | 18.15                            | -1.88 | 67   | 2187         | +554 | 3618     |
|               | Greenville      | 84                        | 47 | 68  | +8  | 0.01          | 1    | 20.59                            | +0.56 | 44   | 1974         | +341 | 3377     |
|               | Hancock         | 86                        | 47 | 67  | +5  | 0.00          | 0    | 24.05                            | +3.84 | 67   | 1952         | +170 | 3338     |
|               | Jefferson       | 83                        | 49 | 66  | +7  | 0.10          | 1    | 25.42                            | +5.75 | 82   | 1702         | +121 | 3042     |
|               | Keene_AG        | 89                        | 51 | 70  | +8  | 0.00          | 0    | 18.55                            | -0.70 | 56   | 2115         | +258 | 3523     |
|               | Lakeport_2      | 85                        | 51 | 70  | +5  | 0.06          | 1    | 19.49                            | +0.49 | 51   | 2109         | +112 | 3524     |
|               | Lebanon         | 89                        | 51 | 71  | +9  | 0.00          | 0    | 14.70                            | -2.14 | 56   | 2248         | +439 | 3672     |
|               | North_Conway    | 85                        | 50 | 67  | +5  | 0.00          | 0    | 17.94                            | -3.08 | 64   | 1780         | -20  | 3148     |
|               | Tamworth_4      | 84                        | 47 | 65  | +6  | 1.21          | 1    | 19.78                            | -3.33 | 62   | 1618         | +169 | 2965     |
|               | Wolfeburro      | 84                        | 57 | 70  | +6  | 0.00          | 0    | 15.93                            | -3.07 | 55   | 2112         | +115 | 3532     |
| Vermont       | Bennington_AP   | 87                        | 50 | 70  | +10 | 0.00          | 0    | 9.80                             | 13.33 | 54   | 2180         | +666 | 3626     |
|               | Burlington_Intl | 88                        | 52 | 72  | +9  | 0.00          | 0    | 20.87                            | +2.48 | 68   | 2469         | +476 | 3920     |
|               | Corinth         | 81                        | 47 | 65  | +4  | 0.00          | 0    | 24.12                            | +6.78 | 65   | 1562         | -64  | 2869     |
|               | Island_Pond     | 84                        | 47 | 65  | +8  | 0.02          | 1    | 23.99                            | +3.23 | 85   | 1578         | +213 | 2866     |
|               | Johnson_2N      | 81                        | 49 | 66  | +7  | 0.00          | 0    | 22.15                            | +1.75 | 72   | 1584         | +69  | 2924     |
|               | Marlboro_Raws   | 85                        | 51 | 67  | +8  | 0.00          | 0    | 18.38                            | -0.78 | 59   | 1952         | +473 | 3348     |
|               | Montpelier_AP   | 82                        | 50 | 67  | +7  | 0.00          | 0    | 22.23                            | +4.89 | 78   | 1831         | +205 | 3181     |
|               | Newport_AG      | 81                        | 48 | 66  | +5  | 0.01          | 1    | 25.75                            | +6.07 | 78   | 1731         | -115 | 3065     |

|               |                 | Last Week Weather Summary |    |     |     |               |      | Accumulation Since April 1, 2015 |       |      |              |      |          |
|---------------|-----------------|---------------------------|----|-----|-----|---------------|------|----------------------------------|-------|------|--------------|------|----------|
|               |                 | Temperature               |    |     |     | Precipitation |      | Precipitation                    |       |      | GDD Base 50F |      | Base 40F |
| State         | Station         | Hi                        | Lo | Avg | DFN | Total         | Days | Total                            | DFN   | Days | Total        | DFN  | Total    |
|               | Rochester       | 87                        | 52 | 69  | +8  | 0.00          | 0    | 21.81                            | -0.35 | 64   | 1898         | +336 | 3277     |
|               | Rutland_AG      | 85                        | 51 | 68  | +6  | 0.00          | 0    | 17.40                            | -2.34 | 68   | 1926         | +23  | 3305     |
|               | Springfield_VT  | 88                        | 51 | 69  | +8  | 0.26          | 1    | 14.18                            | -6.97 | 59   | 2151         | +441 | 3569     |
|               | South_Lincoln   | 81                        | 47 | 66  | +7  | 0.00          | 0    | 22.54                            | -0.97 | 60   | 1558         | +226 | 2863     |
|               | Sutton          | 81                        | 53 | 66  | +8  | 0.14          | 1    | 24.52                            | +3.76 | 88   | 1593         | +228 | 2900     |
|               | Walden          | 82                        | 50 | 64  | +6  | 0.07          | 1    | 24.35                            | +3.59 | 83   | 1287         | -78  | 2521     |
|               | Woodstock       | 87                        | 52 | 69  | +8  | 0.00          | 0    | 19.61                            | +0.87 | 56   | 2013         | +287 | 3395     |
| Massachusetts | Amherst         | 88                        | 51 | 71  | +6  | 0.00          | 0    | 2.33                             | -0.39 | 4    | 398          | 1676 | 598      |
|               | Barre_Falls_Dam | 88                        | 44 | 68  | +7  | 0.00          | 0    | 0.02                             | -1.90 | 2    | 235          | 1400 | 375      |
|               | Bedford_Hanscom | 90                        | 46 | 71  | +6  | 0.41          | 1    | 0.42                             | -1.26 | 2    | 291          | 1834 | 431      |
|               | Beverly_Ag      | 88                        | 50 | 71  | +3  | 0.05          | 1    | 0.10                             | -1.63 | 2    | 280          | 1959 | 420      |
|               | Birch_Hill_Dam  | 88                        | 47 | 69  | +7  | 0.00          | 0    | 0.55                             | -1.30 | 2    | 265          | 1395 | 415      |
|               | Boston_Logan_In | 91                        | 58 | 74  | +6  | 0.01          | 1    | 0.03                             | -1.51 | 3    | 326          | 2056 | 466      |
|               | Chatham_AP      | 86                        | 54 | 72  | +7  | 0.00          | 0    | 0.30                             | -1.45 | 2    | 307          | 1406 | 447      |
|               | Chicopee_Westov | 89                        | 48 | 71  | +7  | 0.00          | 0    | 0.02                             | -1.92 | 2    | 282          | 1792 | 422      |
|               | Edgartown       | 86                        | 51 | 73  | +7  | 0.00          | 0    | 0.27                             | -1.50 | 2    | 325          | 1669 | 465      |
|               | East_Brimfield_ | 87                        | 50 | 71  | +8  | 0.12          | 1    | 0.19                             | -1.63 | 3    | 278          | 1623 | 418      |
|               | Fitchburg       | 91                        | 48 | 73  | +9  | 0.03          | 1    | 0.11                             | -1.85 | 2    | 315          | 1847 | 455      |
|               | Greenfield      | 87                        | 53 | 71  | +7  | 0.00          | 0    | 2.02                             | -0.18 | 4    | 319          | 1755 | 479      |
|               | Hyannis_AP      | 88                        | 48 | 72  | +7  | 0.00          | 0    | 0.13                             | -1.46 | 2    | 317          | 1631 | 457      |
|               | Maynard         | 94                        | 45 | 72  | +7  | 0.04          | 1    | 0.88                             | -1.02 | 5    | 344          | 1781 | 504      |
|               | New_Bedford     | 88                        | 48 | 72  | +3  | 0.00          | 0    | 0.55                             | -1.49 | 1    | 310          | 2079 | 450      |
|               | Newburyport     | 88                        | 49 | 70  | +5  | 0.00          | 0    | 0.04                             | -1.67 | 1    | 281          | 1861 | 421      |
|               | North_Adams_Har | 87                        | 49 | 69  | +9  | 0.00          | 0    | 0.28                             | -1.75 | 2    | 256          | 1339 | 396      |
|               | Norwood         | 89                        | 42 | 69  | +4  | 0.02          | 1    | 0.04                             | -1.78 | 2    | 275          | 1940 | 415      |
|               | Pittsfield      | 86                        | 48 | 69  | +7  | 0.00          | 0    | 0.63                             | -1.42 | 1    | 246          | 1533 | 386      |
|               | Plymouth        | 87                        | 50 | 71  | +4  | 0.00          | 0    | 0.27                             | -1.76 | 2    | 295          | 1875 | 435      |
|               | Taunton_4NW     | 90                        | 51 | 74  | +8  | 0.00          | 0    | 0.32                             | -2.87 | 2    | 574          | 1596 | 804      |
|               | Westfield_Barne | 90                        | 50 | 73  | +11 | 0.00          | 0    | 0.40                             | -1.53 | 1    | 306          | 1500 | 446      |
|               | West_Otis       | 88                        | 52 | 72  | +10 | 0.00          | 0    | 0.59                             | -1.51 | 2    | 281          | 1432 | 421      |
|               | Worcester       | 86                        | 53 | 72  | +8  | 0.00          | 0    | 0.01                             | -1.93 | 1    | 281          | 1653 | 421      |
|               | Worthington     | 85                        | 48 | 68  | +7  | 0.00          | 0    | 1.13                             | -0.90 | 2    | 235          | 1423 | 375      |
| Rhode Island  | Newport_AP      | 87                        | 56 | 74  | +6  | 0.00          | 0    | 13.62                            | -4.75 | 45   | 2319         | +268 | 3787     |
|               | Providence      | 89                        | 55 | 75  | +8  | 0.00          | 0    | 16.67                            | -2.38 | 44   | 2708         | +362 | 4209     |
|               | Westerly-Wester | 86                        | 51 | 72  | +6  | 0.00          | 0    | 11.77                            | -8.55 | 42   | 2327         | +176 | 3791     |
|               | Woonsocket      | 92                        | 51 | 73  | +8  | 0.00          | 0    | 14.29                            | -6.24 | 42   | 2552         | +358 | 4033     |
| Connecticut   | Bridgeport_Siko | 88                        | 60 | 77  | +8  | 0.00          | 0    | 12.60                            | -7.23 | 47   | 2854         | +415 | 4362     |
|               | Danbury_AP      | 89                        | 51 | 73  | +8  | 0.00          | 0    | 17.34                            | -5.97 | 44   | 2496         | +230 | 3980     |
|               | Hartford_Bradle | 91                        | 52 | 74  | +7  | 0.13          | 1    | 16.02                            | -4.57 | 54   | 2810         | +385 | 4306     |
|               | Meriden-Meriden | 92                        | 52 | 75  | +10 | 0.00          | 0    | 9.30                             | 14.16 | 40   | 2710         | +505 | 4194     |
|               | Norfolk         | 84                        | 52 | 70  | +8  | 0.00          | 0    | 18.93                            | -5.44 | 58   | 2040         | +327 | 3441     |
|               | Norwich         | 91                        | 55 | 74  | +7  | 0.00          | 0    | 12.65                            | -9.16 | 38   | 2626         | +288 | 4117     |
|               | Staffordville   | 87                        | 50 | 70  | +7  | 0.00          | 0    | 17.27                            | -4.48 | 42   | 2067         | +108 | 3481     |
|               | Thomaston_Dam   | 90                        | 48 | 71  | +7  | 0.00          | 0    | 15.62                            | -6.91 | 57   | 2444         | +459 | 3908     |
|               | West_Thompson_L | 89                        | 51 | 71  | +8  | 0.00          | 0    | 14.56                            | -7.64 | 45   | 2242         | +264 | 3695     |
|               | Willimantic     | 92                        | 53 | 74  | +11 | 0.02          | 1    | 14.31                            | -7.44 | 47   | 2647         | +688 | 4132     |

Summary based on NWS data. DFN = Departure From Normal.  
Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.  
Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.  
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## REPORTERS COMMENTS, By County

*Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.*

### CONNECTICUT

WINDHAM, Dawn S. Pindell

Abnormally dry conditions continue. No rain for weeks; corn fields are continuing to dry up on gravelly soils. With the hot days, corn is maturing earlier than normal. Chopping corn. Mowing and baling hay. Pick-your-own (PYO) apples continues. Fruit size is smaller than normal. Sweet corn blocks are also maturing too quickly.

### MAINE

AROOSTOOK (Northern), Donald M. Audibert

Most farmers are now harvesting their grain. Prices are down from last year. Nice week to harvest grain, but very hot and humid weather. Due to humid weather, they could only start harvesting grain in the afternoons. Fall tillage has started where grain has been harvested.

AROOSTOOK (Central), Larry James

Combines have been running steady all week. Strong yields and good quality so far. Potato harvesters are being prepared for the season. Schools will let out on the 18<sup>th</sup> for harvest break, so most operations will be going by then.

CUMBERLAND/YORK, Sandy Truslow

The weather has been very dry and very warm for September. Dry hay was cut all week, however, estimates are that production of hay is down 40% overall for the year. Crops are being harvested. Irrigation is being used heavily.

FRANKLIN, Gary J. Raymond

Great corn growing weather. A lot of second and third cut hay went in last week. Will be needing the showers coming this week.

PISCATAQUIS/SOMERSET, Elaine S. Moceus

Great week for field work all week - no significant rainfall reported, warm, slightly humid - perfect week for baling dry hay. Silage corn is maturing with reports that some farmers will begin chopping next week.

WASHINGTON, Michael Look

Still no rain.

### MASSACHUSETTS

ALL MA COUNTIES, Thomas Smiarowski

Dry weather continues, with most weather stations showing at least a 50% departure from normal. Harvesting conditions though have been excellent. Harvest of cigar binder tobacco almost complete. Aerial rye seeding (helicopter) began last week. Starting to head into the home stretch.

HAMPSHIRE/HAMPDEN, Heather Baylis

A warm, muggy week with a hot weekend heralded in September. Pasture regrowth is slowing but still good condition for September. Potatoes are being harvested. More apple varieties are being picked and pears are tasting good. Winter squashes are coming in. Cover crops are being put down on vegetable fields.

PLYMOUTH, Carolyn DeMoranville

Temperatures continue to be well above average. Cranberry growers are hoping for cooler evenings to develop good fruit color. Another extremely dry week; rainfall since April is more than 8 inches below normal in East Wareham, MA. Cranberry growers with the earliest varieties anticipate beginning harvest at the end of the week.

### NEW HAMPSHIRE

BELKNAP/HILLSBOROUGH/MERRIMACK, Donna Juneau

Producers are reporting an exceptionally small second hay crop this year due to the lack of rainfall this summer. Lack of rainfall is also resulting in slow corn maturation. Producers are concerned about having adequate feed supplies for the coming winter.

CARROLL, Olivia Saunders

Lots of produce coming off the fields. Melons and cantaloupe looking good. Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD) has surged in the last two weeks on late-bearing raspberries and blueberries. Winter squash starting to come off the fields. Farmers are preparing for fall; haven't seen fall cover crops planted yet, but should soon.

COOS, Steve Turaj

Rather hot, humid week pushing corn along well; we need it. Field corn is a range of maturity from early-planted at milk-stage to later just silking. Helicopter over-seeding of corn fields at end of August (tillage radish, various grains) at generally first true-leaf stage. Looking like late summer conditions around the county; fall asters at full bloom.

GRAFTON, Heather Bryant:

It was a week of good weather, but we could use some rain. Pumpkin and winter squash harvest has begun on most farms.

GRAFTON, Steven Schmidt

Another week with plenty of sun and warm temperatures allowed for plenty of opportunities to complete field activities. Soil conditions have been ideal for field operations. Producers of hay and vegetable crops have had good weather to harvest in. The corn crop is looking better with the additional heat.

HILLSBOROUGH, George Hamilton

Weather: Rain is NEEDED! Many farm ponds have been pumped dry, so farmers can't irrigate crops. However, those farmers that still have water are conservatively irrigating remaining crops that are worth saving. Fruit: Apple harvest is ready to be in full swing, but hot, dry weather is delaying color development of apples. Strip picking Paula Red apples. Fruit size is good. Fall raspberries and

pear harvest continued, with peach and plum harvest winding down. Table grapes were being harvested and wine grape harvest started. Vegetables: Harvesting a wide array of summer and fall vegetable crops. Farmers are starting to clean up harvested fields and planting cover crops. Cutting and picking first pumpkin and winter squash. Downy mildew disease seen in many vine crops. Field Crops: Farmers getting ready to chop corn silage. Second and third cuttings of hay are being made. Farmers delaying making new forage seedings because of dry soil conditions.

**ROCKINGHAM, Nada Haddad**

Apple season officially started. Harvesting pumpkins, apples, peaches, apricots, plums, pears, grapes, and many types of vegetables including tomatoes, sweet corn, and potatoes. It was a hot, dry week. Ponds are dry. Weeding, irrigating and monitoring for pests. So far no visible signs of hail that occurred two weeks ago.

## **RHODE ISLAND**

**ALL RI COUNTIES, Paul E. Brule**

More than half of the state of RI is very dry. During Labor Day weekend, there were four nice hot days where farmers took advantage of second cutting hay. Potatoes are being harvested; too early for storage. Vegetables look good and there are plenty of them. This upcoming weekend, PYO Apple orchards will be opening up for the season. Some parts of the state have received no rain during the month of August. Pastures are showing their wear; livestock are being supplemented with feed.

**ALL RI COUNTIES, Heather Faubert**

We need rain badly.

## **VERMONT**

**FRANKLIN, Paul Stanley**

Who would have dreamed that we would see dry conditions in Franklin County? This is a sign of the times going from one extreme to the other. Corn is not set back by the dry conditions, being in the reproductive stage and not needing a lot of moisture. It is maturing very nicely!!!! Grass growth has slowed dramatically, however, dry weather is making for some easy drying of existing stands. Pastures are at a near halt with shallow ledge areas showing much drought stress. Gardens are finishing well and seeing some great tomatoes come in for super sauce making. Sweet corn is in its final stages and the apple crop is coming in with tree limbs hanging on the ground with so many apples. Very glad that this dry weather has set in when growth is shutting down, showing the saying that "a wet year will scare you to death and a dry year will starve you to death."

**ORLEANS, David Blodgett**

The corn crop is starting to look good after such a slow start. The warmer temperatures and sun over the past six weeks has really made a difference. Overall, the yields will probably be lower than average but much better than thought at the end of July. The quality of hay harvested is much improved over July as well. The fields have dried out enough to crop without making ruts. Most farms are done with second crop and are at least half through 3<sup>rd</sup>. A few famers are harvesting 4<sup>th</sup> crop right now. Pastures are on average for this time of year. Hopefully a frost will hold off in September to allow the corn to mature.