New England’s corn silage crop weighed in at 3.2 million tons in 2008, up one percent from the previous year. Wet, cool weather delayed field corn planting and slowed crop emergence. June brought much-needed warmer weather, but also thunderstorms and heavy rain. Replanting took place where wet conditions and insect damage affected the first seeding and by early July, emergence was complete. July was a relatively dry month, but rains returned for most of August. Farmers in southern areas of New England began chopping silage by the first week in September. Crop conditions ranged from fair to excellent, varying across the region depending on moisture levels. Drier weather finally arrived mid-month and corn silage harvest moved into high gear. Chopping continued into October and was nearly complete by the end of the month, on par with last year and ahead of normal. Yields increased or remained steady in every state except Massachusetts. Silage yields in the six New England states averaged 19.5 tons per acre in 2008, up 0.4 tons per acre from a year earlier.

### FIELD CORN: Acreage, Yield, Production and Value, 1999 – 2008

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