



New England Agricultural Statistics Service

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Crop Weather

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For week ending 10/13/02

New England Harvest Nearly Complete

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending October 13, 2002, there were 5.7 days suitable for field work across New England. Pasture condition was rated as 14% very poor, 19% poor, 47% fair, 18% good, 2% excellent. Cool, rainy conditions persisted in New England last week as harvest for most crops was winding down. Poor weather over the holiday weekend reduced the number of buyers at local farmers' markets and roadside stands. Most farmers are readying fields for next season and are preparing for the winter months ahead. Major farm activities included: harvesting silage corn, hay, potatoes, apples, pears, cranberries, and late season vegetables for roadside stands; sampling soil for next year; disking; tilling; cleaning up and planting cover crops on harvested fields; and spreading manure and lime.

FRUIT: The amount of apples and pears remaining to be harvested is quickly diminishing, with a quarter of each crop left to be picked at most. Pear harvest is complete in Connecticut. Cool temperatures and some frost added good coloring to apples. Fall raspberry picking and grape harvest were active last week. Massachusetts' cranberry growers made good progress with harvest, passing the half-way point by week's end. Those harvesting dry were not happy to see showers last week, except to replenish water supplies.

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2002	2001	5-yr Avg	
Apples	75	85	85	Good/Fair
Pears	90	90	85	Very Poor/Poor
Cranberries, MA	65	65	60	Good/Fair

VEGETABLES: Though most vegetable harvest has been completed, late harvest continued last week with brussel sprouts, cabbage, cucumbers, eggplant, gourds, kale, lettuce, peppers, pumpkins, squash, spinach, and tomatoes. A small number of sweet corn fields have yet to be completely harvested. With favorable weather, harvest should be finished soon. Cool and rainy weather hurt farm business over the holiday weekend.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
	-- Percent --		
Topsoil Moisture			
Very Short	5	8	11
Short	18	26	49
Adequate	74	64	40
Surplus	3	2	0
Subsoil Moisture			
Very Short	9	16	31
Short	36	39	35
Adequate	55	44	34
Surplus	0	1	0

FIELD CROPS: Most farmers have finished chopping silage corn; fifteen percent of this year's crop remains in the field. Second crop hay harvest is mostly finished, with the third crop not far behind. Wet conditions have made baling difficult, causing many farmers to chop remaining grass. Maine potato growers are close to finishing harvest, with five percent of their crop left to be dug. If weather cooperates, crop specialists predict harvest will be complete by the end of next week. Potato farmers in Rhode Island also have five percent of their crop left to harvest, while Massachusetts growers have 15 percent left to go. Prolonged rainy weather provided excellent tobacco damp conditions for growers to take down the crop in Connecticut and Massachusetts last week.

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2002	2001	5-yr Avg	
Potatoes				
Maine	95	99	95	Good/Excellent
Mass	85	90	90	Good
Rhode Isl	95	99	90	Good/Fair
Silage Corn	85	90	80	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	99	100	100	Good/Fair
Dry Hay				
Second Cut	100	99	95	Good/Fair
Third Cut	95	85	85	Fair

For the Week Ending Sunday, October 13, 2002

The 42 stations shown below are limited by space but are well distributed across the region. All 86 stations appear on the Internet and in e-mail subscriptions.

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 INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL		DFN	DAYS
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN				INCHES	DFN		
MAINE															
Augusta_State_A	30	61	49	-2	2343	+266	1015	+269	0.07	-0.76	2	3.09	-0.01	11	
Bangor_Intl_Arp	25	61	47	-3	2187	+297	902	+280	0.00	-0.70	0	3.58	+0.58	9	
Bethel	27	67	47	-3	2050	+194	794	+198	0.15	-0.68	3	3.20	+0.06	10	
Cari bou_Muni ci p	25	61	43	-3	1674	+226	600	+222	0.21	-0.48	3	1.94	-0.99	14	
Dover-Foxcroft	25	57	42	-5	1621	+26	530	+78	0.12	-0.69	3	2.84	-0.64	13	
Frenchville	26	66	45	+0	1549	+206	549	+226	0.11	-0.63	2	1.35	-1.81	11	
Houlton	20	60	44	-2	1721	+207	612	+188	0.03	-0.67	2	3.40	+0.35	12	
Livermore_Falls	24	65	46	-2	2099	+536	863	+434	0.11	-0.73	4	3.56	+0.30	13	
Moosehead	23	58	42	-4	1534	+217	489	+179	0.32	-0.42	2	3.41	+0.22	11	
Portland_ME	31	61	51	+1	2332	+408	977	+340	0.02	-0.79	2	3.47	+0.41	13	
NEW_HAMPSHIRE															
Benton	26	60	47	-3	1989	+293	757	+281	0.33	-0.37	4	3.97	+1.17	13	
Berlin_AG	26	60	47	+0	1907	+213	692	+195	0.24	-0.53	4	3.70	+0.72	10	
Concord	27	63	50	+0	2619	+544	1201	+462	0.46	-0.24	3	4.05	+1.41	13	
Diamond_Pond	25	54	43	-2	1342	+224	390	+185	0.15	-0.69	2	3.39	-0.05	16	
Keene_AP	28	64	51	-2	2526	+182	1104	+188	1.15	+0.45	3	4.67	+1.95	9	
North_Conway	28	61	47	-3	2354	+448	1031	+398	0.30	-0.58	4	3.57	+0.28	11	
Rochester	31	65	50	-2	2536	+288	1136	+284	0.21	-0.69	2	2.97	-0.29	10	
VERMONT															
Burlington_Intl	34	65	54	+5	2657	+451	1212	+371	0.01	-0.62	1	5.16	+2.42	9	
Island_Pond	27	60	47	+2	1763	+373	611	+286	0.11	-0.59	2	5.09	+2.25	13	
Montpelier	27	60	49	+2	2066	+339	786	+274	0.25	-0.38	4	3.94	+1.42	15	
Pownal	33	65	51	+3	2149	+332	813	+261	1.58	+0.75	3	7.35	+3.98	11	
Rochester	31	64	49	+2	2081	+361	800	+296	0.67	-0.17	5	6.91	+3.55	13	
Rutland_AG	31	63	50	-2	2185	-133	867	-33	0.63	-0.02	3	4.53	+1.61	13	
Sutton	27	61	46	+1	1832	+437	650	+313	0.34	-0.42	4	4.09	+1.14	14	
Townshend_Lake	31	64	51	+1	2392	+200	1000	+177	1.37	+0.67	3	5.10	+2.24	12	
MASSACHUSETTS															
Ashburnham	37	66	51	+3	2500	+624	1073	+475	1.31	+0.61	3	4.49	+1.77	10	
Boston/Logan_In	45	71	56	-1	3251	+473	1663	+436	0.33	-0.37	3	2.51	-0.29	11	
Greenfield	34	67	51	-3	2738	+193	1244	+193	2.10	+1.33	3	5.09	+2.01	11	
New_Bedford	39	72	56	-3	2930	+98	1362	+95	0.60	-0.17	4	3.61	+0.64	12	
Otis_AFB	38	72	55	+2	2799	+527	1274	+409	0.60	-0.24	3	5.54	+2.26	11	
Plymouth	36	72	53	-2	2773	+455	1278	+375	0.88	+0.02	4	3.10	-0.54	14	
Walpole	36	72	53	+1	2866	+559	1355	+461	0.80	-0.04	3	4.59	+1.23	12	
Chilmark/Westov	36	72	53	-3	3024	+86	1479	+132	2.35	+1.58	3	5.55	+2.39	12	
Worthington	32	68	49	-2	2204	+335	884	+309	3.24	+2.44	4	6.80	+3.51	13	
RHODE_ISLAND															
Providence	43	73	57	+2	3263	+622	1666	+532	0.54	-0.25	3	4.60	+1.47	11	
Woonsocket	37	72	53	+3	2855	+586	1337	+491	0.63	-0.27	3	3.95	+0.49	11	
CONNECTICUT															
Bridgeport/Siko	46	74	59	+3	3335	+459	1703	+379	2.21	+1.56	4	5.65	+2.90	11	
Hartford/Bradle	39	76	56	+2	3247	+460	1648	+406	2.34	+1.57	3	4.84	+1.51	9	
Norfolk	36	73	52	+4	2513	+656	1067	+494	1.95	+1.11	4	5.51	+1.91	13	
Thomaston_Dam	37	73	53	+1	2784	+513	1257	+411	2.31	+1.47	4	4.77	+1.21	12	
Willimantic	37	73	55	+2	2904	+586	1360	+484	0.53	-0.38	4	4.27	+0.61	11	

STATE WEATHER SUMMARY
For the Week Ending Sunday, October 13, 2002

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.

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	19	69	45	-3	0.00	0.65
NH	17	73	47	-2	0.14	1.38
VT	23	66	49	+1	0.01	1.58
MA	30	73	53	+0	0.05	4.13
RI	37	73	56	+2	0.45	0.63
CT	35	77	55	+1	0.37	2.34

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

CONNECTICUT - Howard Rood (FSA), Fairfield/Litchfield: Rain that fell Friday, Saturday, and Sunday did little to slow field corn harvest. Most farmers are nearing the end of corn harvest. Yields are somewhat less than last year, due to the late spring frosts and early summer's drought. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Most completed corn silage harvest this past week. Many other crops are winding down such as tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, etc. Sweet corn producers with their own stands are still picking. Pumpkins are moving, but not as fast as previous years. Chopping second/third cut grass since drying will be difficult for baling. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Chopping hay, mowing hay. Spreading manure. Chopping last of corn. Leaving fields for future shell corn. Picking apples. No frost yet. Third and fourth cutting of hay looks good. Holiday weekend activities intense at local orchards with hay rides, chicken barbecue, pumpkin painting and more. **Nancy Welsh/Karen Lockman (FSA), New Haven:** We have had three days of rain. Temps have been humid to cool. Mums have sold out at many stands. Looking for good weekends to sell pumpkins and fruits. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** PYO raspberries still going strong. Some reports that pumpkins are not keeping well in the field. Fall manure spreading well underway. Soil samples being taken for next season.

MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook: Potatoes: Nearly all growers have completed harvesting with a quality crop in storage. Two or three days of good weather would allow the rest of the growers to finish. Cold morning temperatures have caused some late starts. Those who have completed harvesting are tilling their fields, picking rocks, spreading lime, etc. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Harvesting of potatoes is winding down. We have had an excellent harvest to get the crops out. Potato harvesting should be done this week if the weather cooperates. **Steve London (Ext), Southern Aroostook:** Most of the farmers finished harvesting this week. Quality is very good. **Albert Dow (NRCS), Piscataquis:** A good soaking rain has added more green to the landscape. **Janet King (FSA), Somerset:** The apple crop is looking very good this year. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Flail mowing has begun on blueberry fields, but no burning yet. Pumpkins and corn stalks are available for Halloween decorating. **Michael Tardy (FSA), Androscoggin:** It's almost over for another year. I see the tractor and plow go by my house daily. Producers are preparing the fields for the next round they fight with Mother Nature. They are spreading manure, harrowing, plowing - whatever it takes to ready the land for another crop next year. A few silage corn growers are still chopping. The market gardens are hanging on for the final sale. Apple growers are sharing their crop (for a price) with the general public. We are still looking for some rain to replenish the ground water. Hopefully, we'll get some before the ground freezes. **Parker Rand (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Harvest season is winding down, equipment is being readied for winter. Cold weather (there was ice on the puddles) has brought out the fall colors about a week later than usual. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** It is time to finish up that firewood and button down the hatches! Hopefully, we will get enough rain to improve the ground water situation before the ground freezes. Time to finish cleaning out the manure storage before this year's new supply. **Laura Rand (FSA), Oxford:** Apple harvest is in full swing with reports of a good harvest this year. Silage corn mostly harvested with a few finishing up this week. Farm stands are showing fall colors of pumpkins, squash, mums and potatoes. This week's wet weather came as a blessing, in that the grass has turned green again and pastures restored briefly. A full frost was received mid-week throughout the county.

MASSACHUSETTS - Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire: A few farms still chopping, fall tillage and last of veggie crops being

harvested. Two more reports of between 90 and 100 percent crop loss for apples. Apples harvested are poor quality and small size. Fall squash, pumpkins had some crop loss, sales of decorative vegetables hurt by poor weekend weather. Lightly scattered frost mid-week, heavy rain (2-4 inches) on weekend. Lawns still green, fall foliage color late this year. **Kip Graham (FSA), Worcester:** Silage corn progressively being chopped, trying to beat the frost. The second crop of hay is pretty much near completion. Many farmers are well on their way cutting their third crop. Apple pickers are enjoying the fall foliage as they are actively picking apples, though the harvest is a bit behind normal. Vegetables are rapidly nearing the end, though farmers can still be seen harvesting the last of their crops. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Harvesting continues with more than half the crop "in the barn." The weekend's weather was not very conducive for dry harvesting. Hard frost on October 15. Crop predictions are pretty much on the mark so far. **John Devine (FSA), Franklin:** Tobacco growers are reporting that this year's crop looks very good following the curing process. This past weekend had perfect conditions for "taking down" the crop in the curing sheds. Potato growers were delayed by the wet weather, but most are reporting that they're ahead of schedule. The same is true with apple producers, but many are forecasting lower yields due to the late spring frosts and drought conditions this past summer. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** A rainy holiday weekend. Two or three inches of rain fell across the Connecticut River Valley. This rain caused another excellent tobacco damp. Corn grain harvest began and the potato harvest is in high speed to complete before a deep freeze comes. Vegetable growers are removing irrigation pipe and plastic covers off harvested fields. Harvesting cabbage, spinach and apples continues. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** We need the rain, but did it have to rain 2 of 3 days during Columbus Day weekend? Sold out of small mums; apples, gourds, pumpkins and related items did well at farm stands. Final picking of tomatoes, peppers, and eggplant as frost finally arrived on Monday night (10/14). Field work will now take a front seat in farm chores as everyone will be putting farms to rest as the season ends (including me). Consumers somewhat careful in dollar purchases this week because of soft economy, stock market and possible war. Dry well not recovered yet.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap: Apple harvest almost completed; only late varieties left on trees. Fall raspberries and pears still being picked. Pumpkins, winter squash, corn stalks and late seeded vegetables are available. Farmers are preparing fields for the winter. Field corn harvest continues. **Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll:** Finally got widespread frost. Extra moisture and cooler weather caused most everything left to green up. Pretty much everything is finished for the year. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Farmers in the area are just about wrapping up corn silage harvest. There are a number doing a fourth cutting of alfalfa. Dairy farmers are also spreading manure. PYO apples still going strong. Pumpkins are available everywhere. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Corn harvest finishing up. Crop was quite variable due to dry weather during August and early September. The last of third and fourth cut is being cleaned up. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Pick-your-own apple operations had rainy weekend, sales were off. Apple harvest is in full swing with most growers concentrating on strip picking McIntosh, Macoun, and Cortland. Harvesting late maturing varieties like Red Delicious, Empire, etc. Fruit size is excellent, but bruising can be a problem. Pear harvest almost completed. Vegetables: Harvesting wide array of vegetables left, including cool season crops like cabbage, kale, brussel sprouts, lettuce, winter squash and pumpkins, also warm season vegetables like sweet corn, tomatoes and peppers, but most vegetables are done for the season. Farmers kept busy

working on harvested fields by pulling plastic mulch & tomato stakes, disking fields, cleaning up fields, and planting cover crops. Field Crops: Field corn harvest in full swing - the end is in sight. Cover crops were being planted in harvested fields. **David Seavey (Ext), Merrimack:** Most silage corn has been harvested. Frost in low-laying areas. Late maturing apples harvested. Grapes and fall raspberries harvested. Winter rye seeded after field clean up. Farmers cut hay from alfalfa fields. Pumpkins and squash were harvested. More farms are making compost with plant refuse. Mum sales beginning to pick up after a slow start. **Pam Marvin (FSA), Sullivan:** Various field activities are continuing from harvesting to manure applications to liming and winter rye. Some reports of corn yields are better than expected, but still down from a year ago. The first real frost (October 15) has hit the county for this year and most fall vegetables are through the harvest period. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** Rain showers toward the end of the week. Most vegetable growers are done with harvest. Had some frost last week, which ended most vegetable harvest. A few greenhouse tomato growers are still harvesting. Final harvest for late apple varieties. A few farmers are still doing seeding for cover crops. Pasture seems to be looking better due to rains we've received as of late.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: A light soaking rain toward the end of the week helped ground water. Chopping field corn, harvesting pumpkins, gourds and fall crops. Cabbage and cole crops coming in well, still harvesting tomatoes. Roadside stands are full of mums and fall decorations. **Marilu Soileau (FSA), All Counties:** Rainy weekends don't bring customers out to the farms! Plenty of apples, decorative corn, corn stalks, pears, cider, gourds and pumpkins... but very few buyers. Pick-your-own operations are really hurting! Silage corn harvest continues as well as potatoes. Why is it that the rains always come at the worst possible time?

VERMONT - John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille: Corn silage harvest is winding down after a month of favorable harvest conditions. Many are spreading manure on harvested fields and plowing some

fields in anticipation of spring planting. Vegetable season was longer than average due to light and scattered frost. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** The county experienced its first county-wide killing frost on October 15. Temperature was 22 degrees this morning. Almost all of the corn has been harvested. Farmers are finishing third cut hay and in some cases fourth cut hay. **Lynette Hamilton (FSA), Windham:** October 15 and the first killing frost. Corn silage in Windham is about 90 percent completed. Third cut alfalfa is being chopped and the quality is good to excellent. **Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Most crops about all harvested. Heavy rain on Saturday. Killing frost on Monday (10/14). **Richard Noel, Franklin/Grand Isle:** We only had a touch of frost. Grass and legumes are still growing, but very slow. We had 0.25 inches of rain in a short hard shower last night. We need a steady rain before winter. Water table is getting low again! A lot of third cut hay put up this week. Some farmers waiting for hard frost to finish up that late planted corn. Still to green! Timely planted corn is chopped and the remainder is waiting to dry down for the combine. Shouldn't be too many farms that can't empty their manure storages, spreading conditions are excellent. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Killing frost on October 15. Foliage a week late. Some showers on Sunday. Most of the corn silage in and covered. Some late season haying. **Chris Benedict (Ext), Chittenden:** With a low of 33 degrees and a high of 63 degrees, last week perfectly outlined fall New England weather. These temperatures along with some rain provided great apple picking and maturing weather. Harvest is past the halfway mark and will continue throughout this week. We've also had good sunshine, so good coloring of the apples has occurred. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Finished seeding winter rye on sweet corn, potato and pumpkin fields. First frost on October 9. A great long season. Received 0.346 inches of rain this week, moisture enough to germinate winter rye. Finished picking squash and pumpkins. Hoping for good Columbus Day week for sale of all fall crops. Lots of nice winter cabbage. Have a nice week.

To receive this report every Monday evening, send an e-mail message to listserv@newsbox.usda.gov and in the body, type **subscribe usda-new-eng-crop-weather**

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