



# New England Agricultural Statistics Service

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

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## Crop Weather

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September 17, 2001 - 4 pm

For week ending 9/16/01

### Cooler Temperatures Arrive

For the week ending September 16, 2001, there were 6.7 days available for fieldwork across New England. Pasture condition was rated as 20% very poor, 40% poor, 31% fair, 9% good, 0% excellent. Major farm activities included: irrigating; cutting hay and chopping haylage; plowing; spreading manure; desiccating potato vines; and harvesting oats, barley, silage corn, potatoes, tobacco, apples, peaches, pears, Fall raspberries, cranberries, highbush blueberries, sweet corn and other vegetables.

#### SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	-- Percent --		
	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
<b>Topsoil Moisture</b>			
Very Short	37	25	0
Short	38	39	12
Adequate	25	36	82
Surplus	0	0	6
<b>Subsoil Moisture</b>			
Very Short	36	29	0
Short	34	39	8
Adequate	30	32	91
Surplus	0	0	1

#### FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2001	2000	5-yr Avg	
Apples	40	30	30	Good
Peaches	95	90	95	Fair
Pears	40	35	35	Poor/Fair
Cranberries, MA	5	--	<5	Good/Fair
Blueberries				
Highbush	95	99	99	Fair/Good

**FIELD CROPS:** Significant rainfall hit some areas of New England last week, while farmers in other areas continued to look for rain clouds. It is almost past the point for rain to be able to improve crops. Cool nighttime temperatures are signaling the start of Fall; frost hit northern areas near week's end. Lime and vine desiccant were applied to potato fields as harvest progressed. Silage corn harvest is progressing ahead of normal due to the dry conditions. Both second and third cut hay crops were reported in fair to poor condition. Growers completed the harvest of shade tobacco in the Connecticut River Valley last week; broadleaf harvest should be finished soon.

**VEGETABLES:** Sweet corn, pumpkins, winter squash and other vegetables were harvested last week, and farmers proudly displayed the rewards of their hard work at farmers' markets and farmstands. Growers continued to scout fields for weeds, insects and disease last week, and applications were made where necessary. Only 10 percent of New England's sweet corn crop remains to be harvested.

**FRUIT:** Growers continued to harvest apples, pears, peaches, highbush blueberries and Fall raspberries last week. Connecticut pears are in very poor to poor condition, mainly due to early season frosts. Highbush blueberry harvest is complete in both Maine and Rhode Island, and the other States are not far behind. Massachusetts' cranberry growers began the harvest of early black varieties last week, as white berry harvest came to an end.

#### FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2001	2000	5-yr Avg	
Potatoes				
Maine	10	15	10	Good
Mass	45	60	65	Good/Fair
Rhode Isl	85	55	50	Good/Fair
Oats, ME	90	55	65	Good
Barley, ME	95	50	70	Good/Fair
Silage Corn	35	5	15	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	90	85	90	Good/Fair
Tobacco				
Shade	100	100	100	Good/Fair
Broadleaf	99	99	99	Good/Fair
Dry Hay				
Second Cut	95	90	85	Fair/Poor
Third Cut	65	55	55	Fair/Poor

For the Week Ending Sunday, September 16, 2001

The 41 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		
<b>MAINE</b>															
Augusta_ME	42	89	64	+4	2277	+340	1024	+290	0.01	-0.69	1	1.12	-1.74	7	
Bangor	37	89	61	+3	2158	+390	921	+307	0.02	-0.82	1	2.27	-0.92	8	
Bethel	35	92	62	+4	1917	+171	722	+132	0.03	-0.74	3	1.89	-1.48	9	
Cari bou	34	88	59	+5	1793	+395	654	+276	0.65	-0.19	1	2.70	-0.78	11	
Dover-Foxcroft	34	87	58	+2	1754	+232	608	+156	0.00	-0.91	0	1.34	-2.21	9	
Frenchville	37	86	58	+5	1633	+334	557	+234	0.16	-0.71	2	3.25	-0.36	11	
Houl ton	30	88	57	+3	1741	+280	644	+220	0.04	-0.80	1	2.96	-0.61	9	
Livermore_Falls	29	96	61	+5	2035	+542	862	+433	0.01	-0.83	1	1.77	-1.81	7	
Moosehead	33	87	57	+3	1529	+266	486	+176	0.16	-0.69	3	3.82	+0.42	12	
Portland_ME	39	85	62	+3	2110	+320	903	+272	0.05	-0.65	2	1.04	-1.72	8	
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>															
Benton	33	87	58	+2	1827	+227	671	+196	0.16	-0.59	2	1.67	-1.65	7	
Berlin_AG	33	90	58	+2	1855	+246	689	+192	0.32	-0.45	1	1.46	-2.03	6	
Concord	33	90	61	+2	2253	+311	1015	+284	0.53	-0.11	3	1.26	-1.51	8	
Diamond_Pond	33	82	54	+1	1296	+219	357	+152	0.20	-0.75	1	3.93	-0.27	10	
Keene_AP	36	88	61	+0	2263	+91	999	+104	0.62	-0.08	3	1.55	-1.55	5	
North_Conway	34	89	61	+4	2220	+419	974	+344	0.11	-0.67	2	1.46	-1.94	7	
Rochester	37	87	62	+2	2252	+171	1019	+185	0.12	-0.58	2	1.94	-1.05	8	
<b>VERMONT</b>															
Burlington_VT	38	88	62	+3	2449	+380	1146	+317	0.00	-0.78	0	3.24	-0.18	9	
Island_Pond	31	85	56	+1	1655	+334	570	+245	0.10	-0.70	1	3.18	-0.57	9	
Montpelier	32	87	58	+1	1870	+243	727	+222	0.06	-0.61	1	1.53	-1.55	8	
Pownal	37	83	59	+1	1939	+239	720	+176	0.85	-0.06	2	2.28	-1.48	8	
Rochester	34	89	58	+0	1829	+220	665	+170	0.33	-0.57	2	1.86	-2.03	8	
Rutland_AG	33	85	59	-3	1961	-185	743	-129	0.52	-0.32	2	2.37	-1.24	7	
Sutton	34	87	57	+3	1712	+378	602	+265	0.14	-0.66	2	3.44	-0.26	10	
Townshend_Lake	36	86	59	-3	2036	-2	826	+21	0.57	-0.20	3	2.21	-1.15	8	
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>															
Ashburnham	41	84	62	+4	2224	+463	961	+367	0.66	-0.04	3	1.65	-1.25	8	
Boston	48	87	66	+1	2730	+226	1389	+227	0.51	-0.19	2	1.03	-1.94	7	
Greenfield	40	88	64	+2	2400	+69	1116	+104	1.32	+0.52	3	2.24	-1.03	7	
New_Bedford	38	82	63	-4	2455	-80	1138	-52	0.08	-0.71	1	1.41	-2.14	7	
Otis_AFB	43	82	65	+3	2435	+375	1153	+321	0.15	-0.62	2	2.82	-0.28	7	
Plymouth	36	83	63	+1	2353	+236	1068	+193	0.08	-0.90	1	1.94	-1.93	10	
Walpole	40	87	64	+3	2560	+428	1233	+365	0.61	-0.25	2	1.82	-1.77	6	
Westover	37	84	62	-4	2610	-62	1267	-16	0.82	-0.02	3	1.36	-2.00	10	
Worthington	35	85	59	+0	1862	+128	683	+118	1.53	+0.69	3	2.08	-1.47	6	
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>															
Providence	45	85	66	+1	2721	+332	1360	+283	0.20	-0.64	1	2.21	-1.15	7	
Woonsocket	40	89	65	+4	2691	+592	1362	+534	0.67	-0.24	3	1.56	-2.08	7	
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>															
Bridgeport	48	83	66	-1	2835	+260	1450	+211	0.04	-0.71	2	2.84	-0.03	9	
Hartford_AP	40	86	64	-1	2723	+164	1363	+166	1.15	+0.24	3	2.83	-0.73	7	
Norfolk	39	82	64	+5	2162	+428	912	+347	1.15	+0.17	3	1.68	-2.39	6	
Thomaston_Dam	37	84	61	-2	2345	+266	1045	+233	1.23	+0.29	3	2.52	-1.36	9	
Willimantic	40	85	64	+2	2666	+544	1297	+451	0.83	-0.08	4	3.86	+0.26	11	

**STATE WEATHER SUMMARY**

For the Week Ending Sunday, September 16, 2001

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				Precipitation	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	29	96	60	+3	0.00	0.65
NH	24	96	58	+1	0.08	1.12
VT	28	90	58	+0	0.00	0.88
MA	32	90	63	+1	0.00	1.92
RI	40	89	65	+2	0.12	0.67
CT	36	87	64	+0	0.04	2.04

Prepared by AWIS, Inc.

**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:** There have been heavy showers in nearly every town in the County. Pastures look good. Rain arrived too late to help the field corn crop. It is only about 75% of a normal crop. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Corn silage progressing nicely. Second and third cut hay put up. Broadleaf tobacco about done; however, late harvested crop has a lot of blue mold. Pumpkins and gourds showing up at farm stands. Rain on Friday was very welcomed. **Nancy Welsh/Karen Lockman (FSA), New Haven:** Dry weather has made it possible to start chopping. Cool days and nights have set in, making it feel like Fall. Apples and pears are available for picking. Fruit is small due to frost in late spring. Some varieties of apples were hurt harder depending on the area. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Corn silage harvest is progressing quickly with favorable weather. Cool temperatures are slowing the ripening of Fall raspberries. Pumpkins are generally smaller than normal.

**MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook:** Considerable potato harvesting, as well as grain harvesting going on. More potato vines being desiccated; nearly all fields have at least one application. Some more lime being applied. Potato crop yields appear to be somewhat better than previously anticipated; quality is very good. Ground is still quite dry. Lastly, God Bless America during these tragic times. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Some vine killing of late season varieties. Harvest is underway. Potato crop looks good. **Steve London (Ext), Southern Aroostook:** Potato and grain crops have been very good quality. **Albert Dow (NRCS), Piscataquis:** No rain this past week. Silage corn is being harvested early due to the effect of the dry weather. **Donna Lamb (Ext), Piscataquis:** Frost has hit the low lying fields. Corn silage harvest has begun. Pastures are very dry. **Janet King/Jennifer Zweig (FSA), Somerset:** Haying and harvesting corn. Need rain. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Dry weather allowed corn harvest to continue all week. Little or no second/third cuttings of hay will leave some producers short. Corn silage is good in some fields and bad in others. Lots of dusty tractors and choppers. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Winter squash now available at farm stands. Fall work on blueberry fields in progress. Very little scab on apples this year due to dry weather. **Michael Tardy (FSA), Androscoggin:** NO RAIN! NO RAIN! NO RAIN! Farmers are harvesting silage corn and we hear mixed results. Most have chopped small ears, some have chopped no ears. Quite a few have reported decent tonnage. Farmers just do what they have to do. With recent events in New York and Washington, DC, problems get put in perspective. **Parker Rand (FSA), Cumberland/York:** It's feeling a lot like Fall and the trees are beginning to turn. Silage corn harvest is in full swing and pumpkins are showing up at all the farm stands. God Bless America! **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** First frost has hit. It is good that most crops matured early this year. What we really need now is a wet Fall to replenish the ground water. **Laura Rand (FSA), Oxford:** All crops are being harvested. Depending on the area, silage corn harvest is reported as average to light in yield. Oats are being reported as light yield. Apple producers are reporting that the apples being harvested are small, but of good quality. Farm stands show a colorful array of pumpkins, squash and asters. Dry weather continues with no rain in the forecast.

**MASSACHUSETTS - Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire:** Silage chopping is in full swing, as is the harvesting of forage (first, second and third cuttings of hay), weather permitting. Everything is really too good. What will come? Another inch of rain really didn't do much good. Trucks in corn fields aren't getting stuck in

wet ground. Sweet corn is holding on 'til a frost. **Paul Russell (FSA), Southeast Massachusetts:** Cranberry growers are starting to harvest early black varieties and are finding some fruitworm damage. In general, the crop is good. Vegetable growers are winding down harvest with good to excellent yields reported. Shellfish are growing at a good pace - prices are going down since there are more legal sizes available for harvest, and demand is dropping off now that we're past the holiday. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Completion of white berry harvest with cultivar 'Howes' being picked. First dry picking of 'Early Black' berries. Color is excellent in the berries on the top. The past three nights should have moved the color along in the berries in the canopy, too. Very dry; irrigation being done on a regular basis. Many growers will not start harvesting until October 1. Some beds with significant amounts of fruit rot. **David Rose (FSA), Bristol:** Another week of harvesting all crops. We need rain. Grounds are very dry. The weather has also cooled off quite a lot with nights in the forties. Corn chopping in full swing. Beautiful weekend for pick your own operations and corn mazes. **John Devine (FSA), Franklin:** Harvesting continues in Franklin County with excellent weather all week. Cool and dry conditions have prompted everyone to start thinking about Fall. Most farm activities seem secondary compared with the losses that occurred on September 11th. God Bless America. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** Yet another great weekend for farm sales! Pumpkins, mums, and fall decorating items doing well. Still harvesting summer crops, all Fall crops harvested. Very light frost here on Saturday night, but areas farther to the northwest received a killing frost. Harvesting season is just about over. Pumpkins have great color and size, but yields are down.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE - Bruce Clement (Ext), Cheshire:** Some rain and cooler temperatures have brought about a slow improvement in grass growth. Some nighttime temps in the 30's, but no frosts reported. Silage corn harvest progressing rapidly, some farms are already done. Apple, pear, Fall raspberry, pumpkin, winter squash and a full array of other vegetables still being harvested. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Scattered frost on a couple of nights, fairly widespread. Decidedly cooler temperatures throughout the week. Again just a little bit of rain, weather remains dry. Wells in need of recharge. Corn silage harvest has begun. Corn is at dent stage on some fields, looks pretty good. Grass/clover being cut for hay where it's worth doing. Red clover in full bloom up north yielding some nice crops. Still plenty of late season vegetables on the market. Been a good sweet corn year, later varieties making it to harvest. Powdery mildew now pretty common on some vine crops. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Corn harvest continues. Dryness continues to limit growth. No significant rainfall this week. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: McIntosh and Gala apple harvest continues, along with the start of early Cortland harvest. Warm temperatures have delayed the coloring of red-colored apple varieties. Peach, pear, plum and Fall raspberry harvest continued. Vegetables: Harvesting wide array of vegetables. Farmers kept busy irrigating crops not harvested and starting to clean up harvested fields. Cold temperatures reported, but no killing frost as of yet. Field Crops: Farmers continuing corn silage harvest. Hay cutting continued. Farmers continued making new forage seedings. **David Seavey (Ext), Merrimack:** Hay harvest continues with low yields. Hay quality not the best. Apple harvest in full swing. Silage corn being harvested. Dry weather persisted with some relief at end of week. Winter squash are being harvested. First frost reported September 15th. Borers are damaging squash in certain locations. **Pam Marvin (FSA), Sullivan:** Silage corn harvesting and apple picking are in full

swing. The rains this past week have greened up the fields. Pumpkin crop looks to have survived the drought - many varieties and sizes out there. Vegetable fields being plowed under and prepared for the winter months.

**RHODE ISLAND - Marilu Soileau (FSA), All Counties:** Much needed rain fell Friday. It gave producers the opportunity to grade products and set up displays for retail sales over the weekend. Farmers' markets on Saturday were busy, although roadside farm stand sales were off. Pick your own operations report business was slow, as well. Silage corn harvest is underway now. Hay is very poor quality! Saw some gorgeous pumpkins with thick shells, deep rich color and sturdy green stems. They were exceptionally beautiful. All that's needed now are customers!

**VERMONT - John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille:** Many areas saw the first frost of the season over the weekend. Corn silage harvest also started last week. Seems to be great variability in corn yields on farms this year. Weather has been cooperating for third cut grass. Overall conditions still dry. **Bill Snow (Ext), Orange:** Started harvesting field corn in most locations. Most don't start until after the Tunbridge Fair. Should be in full swing this week. Slight frosts Saturday and Sunday mornings. Trees starting to turn color. Difficult week for all. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** No rain during the last week has made soil moisture in short supply. Light frost in some areas on Saturday. Most landowners are starting to harvest corn silage. Corn yields are good in most

places. **Lynette Hamilton (FSA), Windham:** We had a little more rain on Thursday night; only laid the dust down. Corn cutting is in full swing. Production will be off about 25% from last year. The apple producers are reporting an average crop, but with good color. **Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Harvesting corn silage, dry stalks, good ears. Finishing third cut alfalfa. Pastures starting to regrow, still very dry. **Richard Noel (FSA), Grand Isle/Franklin:** Plenty of corn and third cut hay chopped this week, farmers taking advantage of the good weather. Some hay is even being baled! But it's getting awfully dry for this time of year. A lot of fieldwork being done of all sorts; chopping, spreading manure and plowing, to name just a few. And for some of us, putting wood in the cellar is fieldwork! **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Another dry week. Farmers beginning to chop corn for silage. People taking a last cut of hay. Some frost on two nights during the week. Soil is powdery dry. Saw a big load of Canadian hay heading towards a farm. More long-time residents who never have been out of water are now out of water. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Potato harvest is in high gear with a very good crop. Still picking good quality of late sweet corn. Squash and cucumbers still hanging on, but slowing down. Starting to harvest winter squash. Picking our few fruit trees; color not too good. A quarter-inch of rain fell - every bit helps a lot, but a whole lot more is needed. All harvested fields have been seeded, with winter rye germination good. Field turning a nice green.

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