



# New England Agricultural Statistics Service

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

22 Bridge St, Third Floor  
PO Box 1444  
Concord, NH 03302

Aubrey R. Davis, Director  
www.usda.gov/nass

603-224-9639  
Fax: 603-225-1434  
nass-nh@nass.usda.gov



## Crop Weather

Volume 21, Number 21

(issued weekly on the Internet, May - October)

September 24, 2001 - 4 pm

For week ending 9/23/01

### Showers Came Too Late to Help Crops

For the week ending September 23, 2001, there were 6.0 days available for fieldwork across New England. Pasture condition was rated as 22% very poor, 32% poor, 35% fair, 11% good, 0% excellent. Major farm activities included: fertilizing fields; re-seeding pastures and hayfields; cutting hay and chopping haylage; desiccating potato vines; and harvesting oats, barley, silage corn, potatoes, 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	25	37	1
Short	44	38	11
Adequate	28	25	83
Surplus	3	0	5
<b>Subsoil Moisture</b>			
Very Short	40	36	1
Short	28	34	7
Adequate	29	30	88
Surplus	3	0	4

#### FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2001	2000	5-yr Avg	
Apples	40	45	45	Fair/Good
Peaches	95	95	95	Fair/Good
Pears	45	40	45	Poor/Fair
Cranberries, MA	15	5	5	Good/Fair
Blueberries				
Highbush	99	99	99	Fair/Good

**FIELD CROPS:** Last week's rain showers came too late to help crop growth and slowed harvest activities; however, the rain helped replenish ground water supplies. Leaves have started to turn bright colors, as the cool Fall temperatures arrive. Potato harvest continued last week. Oat and barley harvest in Maine is running ahead of last year and normal. Corn yields have varied greatly due to lack of rain this season. Broadleaf tobacco harvest was completed in the Connecticut River Valley last week. The cutting of the second hay crop is almost complete.

**VEGETABLES:** The harvest of sweet corn, pumpkins, winter squash and other vegetables continued last week. Pumpkins and gourds are becoming popular items at roadside stands now that the Fall season is here. Sweet corn growers are nearing the end of harvest.

**FRUIT:** Last week, growers harvested apples, pears, peaches, highbush blueberries and Fall raspberries. Pick-your-own operations had good business over the weekend. Most fruit crops have a below average size this year, due to drought conditions during the growing season. Highbush blueberry harvest in New England should be finished shortly. The harvest of Massachusetts' cranberry crop is well underway, with some report of fruit rot.

#### FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2001	2000	5-yr Avg	
Potatoes				
Maine	25	25	25	Good/Excel
Mass	55	70	70	Good/Fair
Rhode Isl	85	60	65	Good
Oats, ME	90	65	80	Good
Barley, ME	95	65	85	Good
Silage Corn	55	15	30	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	95	90	90	Good/Fair
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	100	100	100	Good/Fair
Dry Hay				
Second Cut	95	90	90	Fair/Poor
Third Cut	70	65	65	Fair/Poor

For the Week Ending Sunday, September 23, 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	47	77	62	+5	2367	+375	1044	+302	0.94	+0.20	3	2.01	-0.84	9	
Bangor	41	75	61	+5	2234	+417	932	+311	0.65	-0.13	3	2.68	-0.52	10	
Bethel	35	80	59	+4	1984	+192	728	+132	1.23	+0.46	2	2.48	-0.75	9	
Cari bou	34	75	58	+6	1848	+427	660	+282	0.38	-0.39	4	2.72	-0.62	11	
Dover-Foxcroft	36	72	55	+2	1788	+234	608	+156	0.45	-0.46	3	1.30	-2.32	8	
Frenchville	34	72	56	+5	1679	+358	558	+235	0.88	+0.04	4	3.69	+0.16	12	
Houlton	31	75	57	+5	1792	+307	648	+224	0.15	-0.68	2	2.90	-0.59	9	
Livermore_Falls	32	80	60	+7	2103	+579	868	+439	0.64	-0.20	3	2.00	-1.46	8	
Moosehead	35	76	56	+4	1570	+282	486	+176	0.49	-0.35	3	3.22	-0.18	12	
Portland_ME	42	78	62	+5	2194	+350	922	+285	1.64	+0.92	3	2.49	-0.33	8	
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>															
Benton	37	75	58	+4	1888	+250	679	+203	1.75	+1.05	3	3.42	+0.31	10	
Berlin_AG	34	74	58	+4	1911	+266	695	+198	0.69	-0.04	3	1.80	-1.44	7	
Concord	36	80	64	+7	2350	+355	1047	+309	0.74	+0.11	2	1.89	-0.78	7	
Diamond_Pond	40	67	55	+4	1331	+236	357	+152	1.04	+0.13	3	4.48	+0.51	10	
Keene_AP	37	82	64	+6	2363	+126	1033	+126	1.00	+0.31	2	2.55	-0.39	7	
North_Conway	37	76	59	+4	2288	+443	979	+346	1.44	+0.67	3	2.60	-0.66	9	
Rochester	39	81	62	+4	2340	+196	1042	+198	1.02	+0.25	2	2.54	-0.45	7	
<b>VERMONT</b>															
Burlington_VT	44	77	64	+8	2549	+427	1178	+341	0.29	-0.45	1	2.61	-0.64	6	
Island_Pond	39	71	58	+6	1714	+364	575	+250	0.98	+0.25	3	4.03	+0.63	9	
Montpelier	37	74	60	+6	1942	+276	740	+228	0.47	-0.16	3	1.93	-0.91	10	
Pownal	38	74	61	+5	2016	+270	736	+185	1.22	+0.36	2	3.28	-0.36	8	
Rochester	34	77	60	+5	1900	+247	680	+178	1.00	+0.16	2	2.66	-1.02	9	
Rutland_AG	38	75	61	+3	2036	-173	757	-128	0.62	-0.18	1	2.26	-1.20	7	
Sutton	36	73	59	+7	1773	+413	607	+270	0.87	+0.10	3	2.79	-0.63	10	
Townshend_Lake	38	77	60	+3	2108	+11	836	+21	3.92	+3.17	5	6.08	+2.88	12	
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>															
Ashburnham	43	77	62	+7	2309	+502	979	+381	1.41	+0.77	3	2.72	-0.05	9	
Boston	45	80	65	+2	2835	+236	1424	+234	0.86	+0.16	2	1.59	-1.31	7	
Greenfield	43	82	65	+5	2510	+102	1156	+127	1.55	+0.78	3	3.79	+0.59	10	
New_Bedford	41	77	65	+0	2561	-74	1177	-46	2.28	+1.51	2	2.40	-0.94	6	
Otis_AFB	46	77	65	+5	2543	+406	1192	+344	0.93	+0.15	2	1.19	-1.91	6	
Plymouth	41	78	64	+4	2451	+261	1100	+211	2.26	+1.31	3	2.80	-1.09	10	
Walpole	44	79	64	+6	2662	+465	1265	+385	0.77	-0.07	2	2.12	-1.40	6	
Westover	39	79	64	+2	2711	-54	1303	-8	0.96	+0.13	1	1.99	-1.36	8	
Worthington	36	76	61	+5	1938	+153	696	+124	2.64	+1.80	2	4.69	+1.21	7	
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>															
Providence	46	80	66	+4	2836	+357	1406	+304	3.15	+2.36	2	3.61	+0.30	6	
Woonsocket	44	83	66	+8	2806	+642	1407	+569	0.80	-0.07	2	1.82	-1.78	7	
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>															
Bridgeport	53	77	68	+4	2961	+283	1506	+231	1.53	+0.83	2	2.92	+0.05	8	
Hartford_AP	44	80	65	+5	2832	+189	1403	+185	1.39	+0.52	2	3.84	+0.25	8	
Norfolk	44	82	64	+8	2261	+479	941	+369	2.07	+1.12	2	3.56	-0.41	7	
Thomaston_Dam	37	79	62	+3	2432	+284	1071	+245	2.18	+1.27	2	3.99	+0.18	9	
Willimantic	43	80	66	+6	2779	+586	1342	+482	0.98	+0.05	2	3.93	+0.27	10	

**STATE WEATHER SUMMARY**

For the Week Ending Sunday, September 23, 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.

Copyright 2001: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

For detailed ag weather forecasts and data visit the AWIS home page at [www.awis.com](http://www.awis.com) or call toll free at 1-888-798-9955.

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	30	80	58	+4	0.15	1.64
NH	29	82	59	+4	0.64	2.01
VT	30	78	60	+5	0.29	3.92
MA	36	82	64	+4	0.15	2.94
RI	44	83	66	+5	0.80	3.15
CT	37	82	65	+4	0.70	2.23

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:** Rain fell at the end of the week. Field corn harvest is progressing very well. Yields are fair to good. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Corn silage harvest continues, with yields below last year. Showers mid-week were nice, however, too late for help with this year's crops. Apple harvest continues. Peaches are all harvested. Many sweet corn growers completed harvest this week. Winter squash and pumpkin harvest continues. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Busy chopping corn and finishing 3rd cutting, and in some instances fourth cutting is possible. Roadside stands are finishing harvest of vegetables. Pumpkins in the area do not have average size due to high heat early in their development. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Rain really needed, a light shower came Thursday night. Fruits are all smaller because it's been so dry. Hail damaged apples are going into cider. Orchards are buying in fruit from out of state to keep sales rooms open. Field corn harvest is hectic; production varies from poor to actually very good. Pasture and hayland re-seeding is taking place. Equipment breakdowns are a problem, with parts hard to get quickly. **Nancy Welsh/Karen Lockman (FSA), New Haven:** Heavy rains Friday delayed chopping. Rain is still needed. A lot of peaches left on the trees since they did not size. Silage seems to be poor in the western side of the County, eastern side seems to have had a normal year - could be too early to tell. Sweet corn still available. Apples are fresh and crisp. Days are definitely getting shorter. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Heavy rains have slowed corn silage harvest.

**MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook:** Potato harvest continues at a rapid pace. Grain harvesting winding down. Second application of desiccants on later varieties. Potato yields vary from one area to another, depending on where showers fell during the summer. Quality still appears to be very good. **Dee Potter (Ext), Northern Aroostook:** Potato harvesting is underway. First killing frost occurred this week. Pastures are limited, as there continues to be little rain. **Steve London (Ext), Southern Aroostook:** Quality of the potato crop continues to be good. Yields were better where farmers irrigated. **Albert Dow (NRCS), Piscataquis:** Received a good rain Friday and part of Saturday. Harvesting of corn and potatoes is in full swing. **Donna Lamb (Ext), Piscataquis:** The rain this week was welcome, but we need a lot more for the pasture and hayfields. Birds have damaged a lot of apples. **Janet King/Jennifer Zweig (FSA), Somerset:** Some much needed rain arrived this week, although too late to have much benefit for the crops. Silage corn harvest is well underway. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Finally a little rain to keep the dust down! Corn silage harvest is almost complete. Fall seeding is not looking very good at the moment. More rain is predicted. Some farmers are needing to haul water for cows. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Fall crops such as pumpkins, squash and corn stalks are available at farm stands. One day of showers during the week. **Parker Rand (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Farmers are cutting hay and harvesting apples, corn, pumpkins and squash. Reports of very light and dry loads of silage. Smaller than normal apples are indications of how dry this season has been. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Silage corn harvest is in full swing. The yield in this area looks pretty good. Tree leaves are starting to show some bright color.

**MASSACHUSETTS - Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire:** Piles of silage are getting higher. Some yield is great, some with poor ear size. Crop conditions generally look good. Received a little rain on Thursday and Friday. **Kip Graham (FSA), Worcester:** No pest or

fertilizer applications. Continuing to harvest apple, peaches and plums. Bees have been found sleeping in the blossoms of flowers during harvesting (sleeping on the job). No appearance of disease. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Scattered dry harvesting last week. Cool overnights, but no frost reported. Berries coloring up nicely. Good dose of rain on Friday. No water shortage this year for water harvesting. Scattered reports of fruit rot. **John Devine (FSA), Franklin:** Fall harvesting continues. Some rain on Thursday, but more is needed. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** It rained 3-4 inches. Tobacco growers had a tobacco damp and started taking down their early harvest. Tobacco crop looks good. Fall harvest is in full swing. Harvesting apples, potatoes, silage corn, hot peppers, pumpkins and more.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE - Bruce Clement (Ext), Cheshire:** Over two inches of rain fell in most of the County on Thursday and Friday. Pastures and hayfields starting to recover. Silage harvest continues, as does the harvest of apples, pumpkins and other Fall crops. Clean up of vegetable fields has begun. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Temperatures somewhat mild this week. Finally a good soaking of much needed rain, about 1.5 inches over a two-day period. Field corn harvest going at a good pace, looks to be both good quality and quantity, not much moisture in cut stalks. Potatoes also coming in. Some hay being taken where available. Still some good late season sweet corn at stands, along with other late season vegetables. Appears to be a much better pumpkin and winter squash year than in 2000. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Corn harvest continues. Yields continue to be variable due to dry conditions. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Apple harvest continues, with most growers concentrating on the second picking of McIntosh and Gala apples, as well as Cortland apples. Fall raspberry and pear harvest continued. Peach, plum and blueberry harvest is nearly complete. Pick-your-own apple operations had a wonderful weekend. Vegetables: Harvesting wide array of vegetables. Good demand for all vegetables continues. Pumpkin crop yield varies from field to field and within a given field. Field Crops: Farmers continuing to make new forage seedings. Hay cutting continued. Most farmers continued to cut corn silage. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Apple harvest continues along with Fall raspberries, pumpkins, winter squash and a full array of other vegetables. Corn silage underway. Preparing fields for seeding with cover crops. The weekend was good for pick-your-own operations. Fields are dry despite the little rain we had on Friday. **Pam Marvin (FSA), Sullivan:** Water supplies were replenished with last week's rain. Harvesting of silage corn is ahead of schedule. Looks to be a bumper crop of pumpkins and fall vegetables. Fertilizing of harvested corn fields and hay fields is ongoing. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** Rains late last week dropped over an inch of precipitation. Fields are starting to green up. Corn harvesting is well under way, and many producers are done. A light third or fourth cutting is hoped for on some fields. The overall quality of the hay appears to be very good this year, but the amount of hay harvested appears to be down considerably. The quality of many fields of corn appears to have suffered some due to the drought.

**RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport:** Pumpkins look good, hard squash looks great, and cabbage is looking wonderful. Recent cool weather has helped the sweet corn crop to maintain its sweetness. Roadside stands are filled with a wide variety of fruits and vegetables. Rain on Friday night was welcomed by some, and not welcomed by others (potato harvesters). The good, hard rain was definitely needed. **Marilu**

**Soileau (FSA), All Counties:** Rain fell hard this past week. Sunny days were accompanied with extreme heat and humidity as the week drew to a close. Fungus and mold were in their element! It feels like "hurricane weather," as a storm travels up the coast in the next few days. It has been very uncomfortable working in the fields this week. Haying continues although the quality is terrible. Silage corn is also being chopped. Market gardens are winding down with some plowing taking place and cover crops being seeded. Apple harvest continues.

**VERMONT - John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille:** Corn silage harvest hit high gear last week. Yields are reported as generally better than expected. Vegetable growers still going strong as conditions have been favorable. Grass is growing and still being harvested. **Bill Snow (Ext), Orange:** Corn silage harvest going along smoothly. No major frosts, but some areas had light scattered frost. Good rain during the week, over an inch, stopped the dusty conditions. Concerns about the need to refill water storage before winter sets in and the ground freezes. Forecast for this coming week looks helpful to replenish the water supplies. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Corn silage harvesting ongoing. Crop looks good in most places. Harvesting is made easy with dry conditions. Some rain last week has helped to ease drought conditions. Some farms are having to drill wells due to dry springs. **Lynette Hamilton (FSA), Windham:** Received between three and four

inches of rain on September 20<sup>th</sup>. Apple picking has been good this year, with the absence of rain showers during the day. Apple size is a bit small, but the color is excellent. **Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Corn silage harvest nearly complete. Good crop with good quality this year. Final harvesting of alfalfa and grass. Third crop good for alfalfa, poor for grass. Pasture regrowth still slow. **Richard Noel (FSA), Grand Isle/Franklin:** Weather was excellent for field work of all types. Franklin County had a little bit of rain, 0.25 inches on Wednesday, but we need a lot more than that to replenish the ground water! I heard something the other day that reflects some of our thoughts pertaining to what happened September 11th. The comment was "Red, white, and blue - those colors don't run!" **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Three-quarters of an inch of rain on Friday. That is a start of what we need. Corn harvest moving along, corn is variable. Most haying done for the year - foggy mornings can last quite a while. No widespread killing frost. Corn in cold spots has gotten hit. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Still picking excellent late sweet corn. Potato crop in full swing, half finished with a very good crop. Started selling winter squash, pumpkins and corn stalks. We realized a good crop from the few fruit trees we have. No rain for the week. Two light frosts finished summer squash and cucumbers, but didn't hurt late sweet corn. Indian corn and gourds beginning to sell. "Fall is in the air." Customers starting to decorate.

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

**Aubrey R. Davis, Director**  
**Statisticians: Emily McAllister, Robin Helrich**

**David Luckenbach, Deputy Director**  
**Stat Assistant: Wayne Colpitt**

PERMITTED  
 FIRST CLASS  
 POSTAGE & FEES PAID  
 USDA  
 PERMIT NO. G-38

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
 NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE  
 POST OFFICE BOX 1444  
 CONCORD NH 03302-1444  
 ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED