



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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For week ending 10/21/01

New England's Harvest Season Nears the End

This is the final New England Crop Weather report for 2001. This weekly report would not have been possible without the voluntary efforts of our reporters. We wish to thank all of them for their help in making this a timely, accurate report. We look forward to their continued support next May, when the 2002 crop season begins.

Although every report is important, special recognition is deserved by those who have been able to respond on a regular basis throughout the six-month growing season. Reporting is a significant commitment, and their faithful cooperation helps the New England Crop Weather release to be a consistent, high quality product.

For the week ending October 21, 2001, there were 6.4 days available for fieldwork across New England. Pasture condition was rated as 4% very poor, 31% poor, 43% fair, 22% good, 0% excellent. Major farm activities included: liming fields; harrowing and planting cover crops; spreading manure; preparing fields for winter; cutting hay and chopping haylage; storing and winterizing farm equipment; and harvesting silage corn, potatoes, apples, pears and cranberries.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	-- Percent --		
	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
Topsoil Moisture			
Very Short	12	11	0
Short	46	49	7
Adequate	42	40	87
Surplus	0	0	6
Subsoil Moisture			
Very Short	28	31	0
Short	33	35	9
Adequate	39	34	89
Surplus	0	0	2

VEGETABLES: The harvest of pumpkins, broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, turnips and winter squash continued last week. Farmers kept busy by mowing the edge of fields, pulling plastic mulch, preparing equipment for storage and cleaning up harvested fields. Business at farm stands has remained good throughout the fall harvest season.

FRUIT: Late maturing apple varieties continued to be harvested last week, along with the last of the pears. The harvest of Massachusetts' cranberry crop is winding down, and though the berry color has been excellent, some problems with quality and yield have surfaced.

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2001	2000	5-yr Avg	
Apples	95	90	90	Good/Fair
Pears	95	85	95	Poor/Fair
Cranberries, MA	85	80	80	Good/Fair

FIELD CROPS: The New England harvest season is close to the end, with frost most mornings. Soil moisture supplies remain low in many areas. Farmers are getting their fields and equipment ready for the cold winter. Maine and Rhode Island potato harvest were complete by week's end. Silage corn harvest is nearly finished. Growers in the Connecticut River Valley continued to strip and bundle their tobacco crops. The second cut of hay is nearly complete, and the third cut is not far behind.

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2001	2000	5-yr Avg	
Potatoes				
Maine	100	99	99	Good/Excel
Mass	95	99	95	Good
Rhode Isl	100	90	90	Good/Excel
Silage Corn	99	90	90	Good/Fair
Dry Hay				
Second Cut	99	100	99	Fair
Third Cut	90	90	90	Fair/Poor

For the Week Ending Sunday, October 21, 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		
	-----				BASE-50F		BASE-60F		-----			-----		
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS
-----	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
MAINE														
Augusta_ME	31	63	51	+3	2542	+454	1078	+332	0.86	-0.03	3	2.83	-0.44	10
Bangor	25	64	49	+3	2375	+476	952	+330	0.65	-0.12	3	2.84	-0.13	9
Bethel	29	65	47	+2	2116	+253	743	+147	0.80	-0.08	3	3.21	-0.05	6
Cari bou	29	64	48	+6	1967	+519	677	+299	0.92	+0.22	5	3.32	+0.49	13
Dover-Foxcroft	24	70	47	+4	1876	+281	609	+157	0.50	-0.34	5	2.30	-1.09	9
Frenchville	29	61	47	+6	1772	+429	566	+243	1.48	+0.78	5	4.00	+1.00	12
Houlton	25	66	48	+6	1910	+396	665	+241	0.51	-0.20	5	2.07	-0.84	9
Livermore_Falls	25	66	46	+3	2221	+656	878	+449	0.76	-0.10	4	2.43	-0.85	10
Moosehead	28	64	44	+2	1658	+341	494	+184	0.71	-0.06	5	1.58	-1.53	8
Portland_ME	27	67	51	+4	2358	+425	951	+314	1.31	+0.43	4	3.16	-0.08	12
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	28	61	45	-1	1996	+292	688	+212	0.89	+0.13	4	2.85	-0.01	10
Berlin_AG	28	65	46	+2	2029	+329	701	+204	0.75	-0.08	3	2.08	-1.00	8
Concord	24	67	50	+3	2507	+422	1079	+340	0.60	-0.13	3	2.27	-0.48	7
Diamond_Pond	26	62	42	+2	1399	+281	358	+153	0.78	-0.06	5	2.47	+0.89	12
Keene_AP	25	66	49	+0	2521	+160	1063	+147	0.43	-0.27	4	1.27	-1.46	8
North_Conway	29	63	47	+2	2407	+494	987	+354	0.94	+0.00	4	2.46	-1.02	10
Rochester	29	66	49	+0	2476	+210	1062	+210	1.38	+0.40	3	2.58	-0.92	8
VERMONT														
Burlington_VT	29	72	52	+6	2749	+530	1226	+385	0.43	-0.20	4	1.06	-1.55	10
Island_Pond	25	70	46	+3	1823	+429	583	+258	0.55	-0.15	6	2.42	-0.38	11
Montpelier	25	62	47	+3	2077	+342	759	+247	0.49	-0.14	4	3.05	+0.53	14
Pownal	29	64	48	+2	2149	+322	755	+203	0.58	-0.26	3	2.84	-0.50	7
Rochester	26	65	47	+2	2023	+295	696	+192	0.65	-0.19	5	2.87	-0.49	11
Rutland_AG	26	65	47	-3	2150	-188	773	-127	0.60	-0.03	2	2.08	-0.64	5
Sutton	26	64	44	+3	1888	+492	612	+275	0.85	+0.08	5	2.35	-0.60	11
Townshend_Lake	25	62	47	-1	2227	+22	850	+27	0.63	-0.13	3	4.63	+1.77	13
MASSACHUSETTS														
Ashburnham	27	65	49	+4	2456	+571	1007	+409	0.48	-0.28	2	1.93	-0.91	7
Boston	37	69	55	+1	3105	+289	1499	+271	0.85	+0.11	3	1.72	-1.12	8
Greenfield	27	69	51	+0	2686	+114	1193	+142	0.70	-0.07	3	1.48	-1.60	7
New_Bedford	27	70	53	-3	2792	-84	1233	-37	0.70	-0.09	3	1.45	-1.54	12
Otis_AFB	30	72	53	+2	2791	+493	1255	+390	0.47	-0.41	3	1.11	-2.28	7
Plymouth	26	70	53	+2	2683	+342	1160	+257	0.07	-0.84	3	0.53	-3.06	9
Walpole	28	70	51	+2	2870	+544	1320	+426	0.49	-0.40	3	1.10	-2.31	7
Westover	27	68	52	-2	2918	-56	1358	+8	0.67	-0.15	2	1.63	-1.51	7
Worthington	25	65	46	-2	2054	+171	709	+134	0.60	-0.24	3	2.94	-0.35	8
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	31	70	54	+2	3073	+400	1463	+329	0.43	-0.41	2	1.20	-1.98	8
Woonsocket	27	68	51	+3	3015	+732	1461	+615	0.63	-0.28	3	1.31	-2.19	9
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport	36	71	56	+1	3234	+313	1579	+251	0.51	-0.19	2	1.64	-1.11	7
Hartford_AP	28	70	52	+1	3061	+247	1466	+224	0.53	-0.24	1	1.25	-1.96	6
Norfolk	34	71	51	+5	2437	+570	971	+398	0.44	-0.45	2	3.45	-0.07	7
Thomaston_Dam	27	68	49	-1	2573	+277	1096	+250	0.46	-0.44	2	2.62	-0.92	9
Willimantic	28	70	53	+3	2994	+653	1396	+520	0.33	-0.59	3	2.90	-0.75	9

STATE WEATHER SUMMARY
For the Week Ending Sunday, October 21, 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.

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	21	70	47	+2	0.00	2.07
NH	11	69	46	+1	0.42	1.68
VT	20	73	47	+2	0.34	1.55
MA	23	72	52	+1	0.07	1.82
RI	27	70	54	+2	0.39	0.96
CT	27	72	52	+1	0.32	0.63

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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: Most of the field corn for silage has been harvested. Farmers are waiting for grain corn to dry down before harvest. Grain corn crop looks good. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** With another freeze on Friday morning, all vegetables with the exception of cole crops are done for the season. Pear harvest is complete and apple picking is about over. Pumpkins and winter squash are in plentiful supply, to the point that some markets are saturated. The season is ending like it started, very dry. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** A wonderful week for winding down the 2001 harvest season! Crisp, cool mornings warming into golden days of fall colors. The last bit of hay is being harvested, a little more corn to go. Apples, pumpkins and squash await the busy customer. It was wet, it was dry, it was cold and it was hot... this growing season brought us a lot! **Nancy Welsh/Karen Lockman (FSA), New Haven:** Cover crops are up and green. Families are visiting farms for fall festivals. Apple and pumpkin picking continue. Winter squash, broccoli, cauliflower are still being harvested. Kale not ready yet. **Joyce Meader (Ext), Windham:** Field vegetables finished. One greenhouse operation has switched gears to tomatoes - will be ready in December.

MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook: Fall work continues, including tillage, lime spreading and rock picking. Growers are also shipping their potato crop. Demand for Maine potatoes is stronger than it has been for several years. Potato quality appears to be very good, with less than normal shrink. **Steve London (Ext), Southern Aroostook:** Potato harvest went well this year and the crop quality looks good. Most yields were good, but areas that received less rain had lower yields. **Janet King/Jennifer Zweig (FSA), Somerset:** Silage corn and gardens are finishing up for the crop year. We will see you all next spring. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Some rain allows pastures and hay fields to recover a little, but cold weather is coming. Corn silage harvest pretty well complete, as is the apple harvest. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Fall work on blueberry fields continues. Mild weather continued for outdoor work. Looking forward to spring. **Michael Tardy (FSA), Androscoggin:** Cleaning equipment, spreading manure, plowing fields, taking stock. Producers are evaluating what happened this year and looking to next year's adventure. Everyone is trying to get all that "autumn work" completed and preparing for the winter. Corn stalks, miniature squash and ornamentals are selling in expectation of autumn and the Thanksgiving holiday. **Parker Rand (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Lakes and rivers are as low as I have seen, let's hope this winter recharges the water to more normal conditions. Some are still harvesting grass and corn, but most have put away equipment for the season. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Winter is coming. The smell of snow is in the air!!! Grain corn and some soybeans left to harvest. **Laura Rand (FSA), Oxford:** Farmers are busy spreading manure and getting the farm ready for cold weather. Some rain the first of the week, but of no real consequence. We need rain badly, some reports of dry wells are showing up. Fall colors are everywhere in Oxford Hills - mums, pumpkins, squash and apples are on farm stands everywhere. What a great fall it has been... hope we have rain before spring.

MASSACHUSETTS - Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire: Silage nearly completed for 2001. Shell corn harvest will be starting soon. Cattle turned into the pumpkin and squash fields to clean up. Seems to have been a good season. Hail damage showing on some fruit. Second good frost hit. Winter may be coming. **Paul Russell (FSA), Southeast Massachusetts:** Cranberry growers are wrapping up their harvest with some disappointment over quality and yields, and are anticipating more prices below the cost of production. Vegetable growers are selling their last few ornamental products, mums, corn, pumpkins, etc., and are preparing everything for the winter season. Shellfish growers are replacing nets and also preparing their stock for the long winter. **Kip Graham (FSA), Worcester:** Apple harvest tapering off. Drops being cleaned up. Pears are at their harvest's end. Fields are being cleaned

up from the last of the vegetables. Farmers spreading manure on harvested corn fields. Very little sweet corn still standing. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Harvesting nearly completed. Color continues to be excellent, but quite a lot of fruit rot in some deliveries. This is not a surprise; the prediction was for poor quality. For several growers, this was their final harvest, sad to say. It's time to move on, there is no future in the cranberry industry for them. They cannot wait for the turnaround. **David Rose (FSA), Bristol:** Finishing harvesting of silage corn and remaining fruit. Harrowing and planting cover crops. Sales of fall squash and ornamentals are very slow compared to previous year. People are buying, but not in usual quantities. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Harvesting apples, hay, corn grain, cabbage, potatoes and other fall crops. Stripping and bundling tobacco due to the previous weeks' tobacco damp. Dairy producers are spreading manure. Farmers are spreading lime, cleaning up around farmyards, picking up plastic mulch and irrigation equipment, and storing and winterizing farm vehicles and equipment.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Bruce Clement (Ext), Cheshire: Silage harvest almost done. Some late cuttings of hay and haylage/baleage going in. Apple, pear, pumpkin and fall vegetable harvest continues. Moisture levels still very low. Need a lot more fall rain. Between the drought and the armyworms, the summer of 2001 was a discouraging season, but... "there's always next year!" **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Colder, wetter weather this week, frosts and a hard freeze. Corn silage now in, best crop in many years. Manure hauling, stacking, finishing up outside work in preparation for winter. Signing off for the season. Thanks to FSA's John Amey and John Riff for reporting help this season. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Apple harvest is winding down. Finished harvesting Red Delicious, Rome and other late maturing varieties. Only the final picking of Golden and Fuji remain. Cleaning up dropped apples and putting orchard equipment away. Field Crops: Corn silage cutting is complete. Seeding cover crops on harvested fields. Some manure spreading and incorporating into soil taking place. Vegetable: Farmers busy cleaning up fields, disking fields, planting winter cover crops and putting equipment away. **David Seavey (Ext), Merrimack:** Great weekend weather for apple sales. Finishing winter rye seeding on late cut corn fields. Some late third cut hay showed low yield due to drought. Ear corn scheduled to be cut in November. Silage corn harvest finished. Clean up continues on vegetable land. Pumpkin sales are good. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Pick-your-own farms and farm stands still open for different apple varieties, pumpkins, winter squash, Indian corn and corn stalks. Weekend weather was good and nice for business. Vegetable fields are being cleaned, disked and planted with cover crops. **Pam Marvin (FSA), Sullivan:** A few mornings of a hard frost pretty much took care of any vegetables left. Winter preparations of harvested fields is ongoing, such as manure spreading and winter rye seeding. With the holiday season approaching, much of the work will turn to Christmas trees. A few days of gusty winds and rain this past week sure cleared off the colorful leaves for another year. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** Harvest season is pretty much over. Dry conditions still prevail. Soil moisture is still very low. While the corn crop was nothing to brag about, it was better than expected given the conditions in August. The hay crop took the hardest hit, due to armyworm and drought.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: Third cut hay still being worked on, crop looks good. Harvesting cabbage and potatoes, and chopping field corn. Squash and pumpkin crops look great. Preparing fields for winter. Roadside stands filled with colorful mums, gourds, squash, corn stalks and hay bales. **Marilu Soileau (FSA), All Counties:** Farm stands had a beautiful week to sell their goods with warm, sunny days along with a couple of frosty nights. Equipment is being cleaned and prepared for storage. Displays will be coming down in the next few weeks. Pick your own operations are pulling down signs and removing rope barriers which are used to separate early and late

varieties in the orchards. Some producers are already advertising seasonal closing dates. It was a shorter season for some of our fruit growers this year due to the spring freeze. Silage corn yields are quite varied. If a producer was fortunate enough to have planted within a small window of opportunity the yields are excellent, and if not, they are average at best!

VERMONT - John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille: Manure spreading kept many busy last week, as well as cleaning corn harvest equipment. Still some third cut hay being harvested. Weekend rains of up to an inch will be helpful. Christmas tree growers starting to get ready for their harvest. **Bill Snow (Ext), Orange:** Fall weather has been good for harvesting of fall crops. Hardly anyone got stuck in the mud this fall! Fall farm activities, such as getting ready for winter, are ahead of schedule. Water supplies are still short and a concern for the winter. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** All crops have been harvested. Landowners are spreading manure. Several days of rain have brought topsoil moisture levels up to near adequate conditions. Most landowners are reporting adequate quantities of feed for the winter. **Lynette Hamilton (FSA), Windham:** Another season has passed and farmers hope with great expectation that next year will be better than the last. Farmers have been looking for a better season for decades and the American Farmer has survived. Hopefully the people of the

world realize that without these farmers producing high quality crops in abundance, the food shelves would be empty. Windham County says goodbye for this year and plans on working with NASS next year. God Bless the American Farmer. **Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Corn silage harvest complete, some spreading manure and plowing into soil. Very little winter rye planted as cover. Hay crops all finished. Pasture regrowth very little. Leaves adding to available pasture. **Richard Noel (FSA), Grand Isle/Franklin:** Good week for finishing up crop and field work. Combining going on much of this week in Franklin County. Had 0.25 inches of rain 10/21, just enough to wet your whistle! Farmers' wells beginning to dry up. One Franklin County well driller said he had 105 wells ahead of him to drill, for homes and farms. I know this sounds like a broken record, but looks like a real dry winter if we don't get some rain before the ground freezes! **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Half-inch of rain on Sunday night. Still need rain badly. Farmers still hauling water for cattle. The growing season is done. Spreading manure and finishing building projects seem to be the main tasks. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** All crops harvested except "Gilfeather" turnips and cabbage. One quarter-inch of rain last week, enough to keep winter rye growing. Season just about over. One more fall sale of pumpkins, then a little more clean up and time to pull the door down for the winter. Thankful for a good season. God Bless America.

NATIONAL REPORT STILL AVAILABLE

Although this is the final New England report for 2001, the national *Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin* report is available from Washington, D.C. every week throughout the year. This national report includes: moisture, drought & GDD maps, national and international weather data, and State, national and international crop summaries. The report is published every Tuesday at noon and is available on the Internet at www.usda.gov/oce/waob/jawf/wwcb.html by 5 pm on Wednesday. For annual subscriptions to the paper report within the U.S., send a \$45 check or money order payable to the U.S. Dept. of Commerce, NOAA and mail it to **Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin, Room 605, WWBG, 5200 Auth Road, Camp Springs, MD 20746-4304.**

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