



# New England Agricultural Statistics Service

a field office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service  
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## Crop Weather

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October 20, 2003 - 4 pm

For week ending 10/19/03

### Harvest Season Winding Down

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:** For the week ending October 19, 2003, there were 5.1 days available for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture was rated 0% very short, 1% short, 65% adequate, 34% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 0% very short, 2% short, 83% adequate, 15% surplus. Pasture condition was rated as 3% very poor, 17% poor, 44% fair, 27% good, 9% excellent. Major farm activities included: chopping haylage, making dry hay; harvesting potatoes, corn silage, apples, pears, cranberries, vegetables; finishing grain harvest, sweet corn harvest; disking fields; spreading manure; applying lime; planting cover crops; mowing fields; burning blueberry fields, performing general farm maintenance.

#### SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
<b>Topsoil Moisture</b>			
Very Short	0	0	1
Short	1	2	18
Adequate	65	73	77
Surplus	34	25	4
<b>Subsoil Moisture</b>			
Very Short	0	0	7
Short	2	3	40
Adequate	83	90	51
Surplus	15	7	2

**FRUIT:** Apple and pear harvest continued to make gains during the week. Apple harvest climbed to 90% complete, only slightly behind last year's crop progress. Pear harvest has reached 90%. Sales of apples, pumpkins, corn stalks and mums continued strong at farm stands. Cranberry harvest at 80% complete, is slightly above last year and the five year average.

**FIELD CROPS:** Cooler temperatures has ended the crop season for many farmers. Silage corn harvest progressed to 95% complete. Potato harvest in Maine is nearly complete with 99% of the crop in. Massachusetts potato harvest advanced to 80%, slightly behind last year and the five year average. Heavy rains and winds in some areas may have hampered second and third cuttings of hay.

#### FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2003	2002	5-yr Avg	
Apples	90	85	90	Good/Fair
Pears	95	95	90	Good/Fair
Cranberries, MA	80	70	75	Good

**VEGETABLES:** Harvesting of beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots and other cole crops continued. Sweet corn harvest was complete by week's end.

#### FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2003	2002	5-yr Avg	
Oats, ME	100	100	100	Good/Fair
Potatoes				
Maine	99	99	99	Good/Excellent
Mass	80	90	90	Good/Fair
Silage Corn	95	95	90	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	100	100	100	Good
Dry Hay				
Second Cut	99	100	99	Good/Fair
Third Cut	85	95	90	Good/Excellent

*This is the final New England Crop Weather report for 2003. 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 2004 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 Sunday, October 19, 2003

All 86 stations appear on the Internet and in e-mail subscriptions.  
 Due to space restrictions, only 41 stations appear below. These stations are well distributed across the region.

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_State_A	38	68	52	+3	2259	+173	903	+157	3.03	+2.16	5	7.43	+4.20	15	
Bangor_Intl_Arp	37	72	51	+4	2231	+334	894	+272	2.47	+1.72	4	7.63	+4.66	14	
Bethel	33	70	48	+2	1948	+86	681	+85	3.16	+2.30	4	6.11	+2.89	9	
Caribou_Municip	31	73	47	+4	1784	+336	624	+246	1.63	+0.95	2	3.53	+0.68	13	
Dover-Foxcroft	29	75	48	+4	1626	+31	506	+54	1.17	+0.35	3	4.66	+1.25	14	
Frenchville	31	72	46	+4	1638	+295	529	+206	0.31	-0.39	2	2.98	-0.06	10	
Houlton	28	74	48	+5	1864	+350	675	+251	1.99	+1.29	2	4.77	+1.84	13	
Livermore_Falls	31	74	49	+5	2003	+438	769	+340	2.48	+1.64	5	5.72	+2.46	12	
Moosehead	28	73	45	+2	1511	+194	470	+160	1.57	+0.81	3	5.50	+2.37	12	
Portland_ME	34	69	51	+3	2209	+278	862	+225	2.39	+1.53	3	4.29	+1.09	8	
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>															
Benton	29	67	45	-3	1860	+158	643	+167	1.32	+0.58	5	4.26	+1.42	12	
Berlin_AG	33	70	47	+2	1926	+226	680	+183	2.73	+1.92	4	5.32	+2.28	11	
Concord	26	69	49	+2	2499	+416	1089	+350	1.56	+0.85	3	4.24	+1.53	12	
Diamond_Pond	30	66	43	+2	1345	+227	388	+183	0.38	-0.46	6	3.44	+0.06	16	
Keene_AP	27	66	47	-3	2384	+27	983	+67	1.23	+0.53	3	4.37	+1.65	11	
North_Conway	31	68	48	+3	2167	+255	849	+216	3.52	+2.60	7	6.35	+2.93	15	
Rochester	28	64	48	-3	2207	-55	873	+21	2.26	+1.30	3	5.20	+1.76	9	
<b>VERMONT</b>															
Burlington_Intl	28	73	50	+3	2665	+448	1176	+335	0.56	-0.07	4	3.99	+1.36	14	
Island_Pond	31	72	45	+2	1790	+396	608	+283	1.74	+1.04	6	4.62	+1.82	16	
Montpelier	25	68	46	+1	1965	+232	697	+185	0.54	-0.09	2	4.42	+1.90	12	
Pownal	32	65	48	+2	2076	+251	710	+158	1.07	+0.23	2	5.37	+2.03	12	
Rochester	26	69	46	-1	2009	+283	706	+202	1.55	+0.71	2	6.60	+3.24	10	
Rutland_AG	28	70	46	-5	2128	-206	801	-99	0.58	-0.05	3	3.46	+0.70	11	
Sutton	29	78	45	+3	1791	+395	589	+252	1.39	+0.62	5	4.95	+2.00	15	
Townshend_Lake	30	70	48	-1	2192	-11	833	+10	0.45	-0.29	4	5.25	+2.41	15	
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>															
Ashburnham	32	68	49	+3	2305	+422	920	+322	1.73	+0.99	2	4.97	+2.17	13	
Boston/Logan_In	41	70	55	+0	2903	+95	1367	+139	3.46	+2.74	3	4.76	+1.94	7	
Greenfield	31	70	49	-4	2513	-53	1053	+2	1.33	+0.56	3	7.20	+4.12	14	
New_Bedford	30	69	52	-4	2614	-252	1155	-115	2.10	+1.33	3	3.43	+0.46	10	
Otis_AFB	36	68	54	+2	2632	+340	1190	+325	2.06	+1.20	4	3.17	-0.19	9	
Plymouth	30	69	52	+0	2504	+167	1075	+172	2.61	+1.70	4	3.21	-0.38	14	
Walpole	31	68	50	+0	2621	+299	1171	+277	2.33	+1.46	3	3.28	-0.11	8	
Chicopee/Westov	32	70	51	-3	2636	-330	1150	-200	1.73	+0.93	4	7.46	+4.33	14	
Worthington	27	66	45	-4	1976	+95	678	+103	2.47	+1.63	5	6.48	+3.19	14	
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>															
Providence	38	71	54	+2	2891	+224	1352	+218	2.14	+1.30	3	2.47	-0.69	9	
Woonsocket	33	70	51	+2	2599	+318	1141	+295	2.27	+1.36	3	3.28	-0.20	7	
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>															
Bridgeport/Siko	41	71	56	+1	3016	+105	1449	+121	0.91	+0.21	3	2.44	-0.31	8	
Hartford/Bradle	38	71	53	+2	2918	+110	1358	+116	1.43	+0.66	4	7.51	+4.28	13	
Norfolk	32	67	47	+0	2089	+224	742	+169	2.04	+1.17	3	7.33	+3.81	13	
Thomaston_Dam	34	66	49	-2	2576	+285	1096	+250	1.53	+0.65	3	5.60	+2.06	10	
Willimantic	34	70	51	-1	2710	+373	1222	+346	1.96	+1.05	3	3.67	+0.03	11	

**STATE WEATHER SUMMARY**  
 For the Week Ending Sunday, October 19, 2003

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	26	77	48	+3	0.23	3.66
NH	14	76	46	-1	0.38	4.08
VT	20	78	46	+0	0.04	3.68
MA	27	74	51	+0	0.83	3.46
RI	33	71	53	+1	2.14	2.27
CT	31	72	51	-1	0.91	2.68

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 - Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Dry hay baled Tuesday and grass round baled for silage. Corn silage harvest continues with some wet fields still remaining to be harvested. Grain corn drying down but morning fog and frequent rains hamper drying. Vegetable and tobacco farms putting equipment away for the season. Keep the wood shed full and have a good winter! **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Heavy rain and winds slowed things down for final harvest. Trucks and choppers stuck in fields, using dump wagons with lighter loads and still getting stuck. Getting custom help to finish fields as time is nearly up for quality and quantity. Apples nearly done. Pumpkins at roadside markets. Fall's burst of color was awesome until rain and wind erased their hues. **Nancy Welsh/Karen Vozarik (FSA), New Haven:** Producers are still finishing up the last of the harvest. Got first heavy frost 10/19. This crop year seemed to be the worst. Producers replanted 3 times or more and watched their crops rot in the field due to excess rain that started in May. Producers happy to see this year go and ready to start again in the spring. This year was truly a disaster. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Harvest has wound down, the fields are empty except for a few corn mazes, the first snow flakes fell over the weekend. Another cropping season is over in New England with nothing normal about it again. Now what do we look forward to - as much snow as we have had rain this year?

**MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook:** Potato harvest is just about completed. Some growers have also completed their fall work while others continue fall tillage, rock picking and lime spreading. Weather has not been real cooperative for the growers to get fall work done. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Harvest is almost complete - approximately two percent left. Liming of soils and soil samples being taken before snow comes. All grains are pretty much harvested. **Donna Lamb (Ext), Piscataquis:** Finishing up with the corn silage harvest. Some folks were able to get a late crop of hay in the barn. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Wet weather continues to hamper field work. Farmers are chopping corn in only the dry spots and leaving the wet holes. Manure spreading to empty pits is at a standstill. Heavy winds and rain last week knocked out power to many areas. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Fall foliage took a beating with this week's driving rain storm. Trees were down and homes without power. Flail mowing and burning blueberry fields will continue up until snow flies. **Michael Tardy (FSA), Androscoggin:** The harvest season is wrapping up. Dairy farmers are trying to empty out the storages and get all the manure spread. Apples are still available and pumpkins still have that orange glow. Now comes the tasks of field preparation, equipment maintenance and fence repair. With all the rain lately, available moisture looks good for the winter months. Most producers are reporting a good year. **Parker Rand (FSA), Cumberland/York:** There are a few still harvesting crops, but most are finished. There are a few apples and some potatoes left to get. Winter cover is showing on some vegetable land. It's time for the haunted hay ride. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** During a storm midweek, a reported inch and half of rain fell with heavy winds, resulting in some power outages and possible other damage. The week's weather has cooled, with some early morning frost. **Laura Rand (FSA), Oxford:** Wind and rain received during the week - blew all the beauty away! Producers are busy spreading manure, fixing machinery, and getting ready for winter. Most crops are in the final stages of completing harvest. Cold nights and cool days!

**MASSACHUSETTS - Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire:** Snowflakes around this county the 19th. Most of all fall harvesting is nearly done. Some pumpkins still piled in the fields. Haying may not be all done but not much drying time now. Crop yields have been above average this year but loss of some fruit because of early spring freeze/frost. **Kip Graham (FSA), Worcester:** Rainy and colder days creeping in and making conditions more difficult to maintain the fields. The silage corn is nearing its end. Very minimal sweet corn still standing. This colder weather is pleasant when in the fields. Apple picking continues on. Some cole crops still waiting to be harvested. The cold has stunted much of what is still in the fields. Fall is here! **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Harvest continues. Color is still lagging behind. More rot than one would tolerate in many deliveries. There are, however, some good-sized crops being delivered to the handlers. Many growers are doing the usual post-harvest activities. **John Devine (FSA), Franklin:** Harvesting is winding down on most fall crops. Weather conditions have delayed the potato and apple harvest. Tobacco growers are reporting losses from "pole sweat" during the curing process. Forage harvesting continues at a slow and muddy pace. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Harvesting of fall crops is winding down. It has been a battle for potato and corn silage producers because of the wet conditions. The corn grain harvest has just begun with the crop looking good at this early stage of harvest. Many of the harvested fields have a cover crop growing on them. Many vegetable growers are removing row covers and irrigation off the fields. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** Many frosts this week. Cleaning up, mowing around fields, and winterizing equipment were major farm activities this week. Good retail sales of pumpkins, apples, winter squash. It's been great reading the comments from "non-growers" as they are a big help in gauging our progress and stages on this farm. Have a safe and happy holiday, "talk" to you next year. On the whole a pretty good season.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap:** Our first heavy frost came on Oct 20. We're all working to put the land to bed for winter. Apples, pumpkins, gourds and corn stalks are selling well. Happy winter! **Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll:** Rain, wind, frost, I even saw a few snow flakes! A few dry days allowed for some hay to make it into the barn. There are a few apples left to harvest, a few frosted pumpkins left in the field. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Last bit of corn chopping winding down. Some fourth cutting alfalfa and grass being harvested, but many fields are too wet for equipment. Farms are spreading manure on corn ground. Winter rye is greening up nicely where it was seeded early. Apple harvest continues. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Crop season about done as last of corn silage - maybe a few fields left - heads to the barn. Cooler, wetter conditions as typical for this time of year. Pumpkins, apples still available at farms. Farms pasturing as possible. Preparation for winter season begins. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** Prior to October 20th, we did not have any hard frost. The grass has continued to grow well. Most of the third cut and fourth cut alfalfa is in the bunk. Initial yield plots on field corn indicate a substantial improvement over the last two summers. A couple of test plots showed very high yields, especially for those fields with narrower rows (higher population plantings). **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Heavy rainfall and very strong wind in the middle of the week. This weekend, apple orchards were busy with pick-your-own customers and hay rides. Still harvesting apples. Sales of apples, baked goods, pumpkins, winter squashes, potatoes, corn stalks and mums were quite noticeable. Cleaning fields, spreading manure, lime, etc. Nights

are getting colder with light to killing frost. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** There was a strong storm early in the week. However most of the days in the week were cool and dry. Harvest of corn for silage is over and growers were busy plowing and planting winter cover crops. Apple harvesting is almost over. Only a few growers were busy harvesting late apple varieties. Some growers were planting strawberries. Vegetable season is over for most growers. Fall mum and pumpkin sales are winding down for most garden centers and they are now planning for Christmas sales.

**RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport:** Cover cropping some sweet corn fields, still chopping field corn, harvesting the last of the winter squash. Almost sold out of pumpkins and the PYO's are down to the last bits. Marketing potatoes and selling at roadside stands, which are still full of the fall harvest. **Dexter Miller (RC&D), All Counties:** Farm stands are in full color with mums, pumpkins, and a variety of apples. Cool, dry days are attracting visitors and school groups to many of the pick-your-own orchards and farms that offer recreational opportunities.

**VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille:** Corn silage harvest is all but over, however high moisture ear corn harvest has not yet started. Soybeans have been harvested with average yields. Lots of manure to be spread before winter and depending on the weather, additional third cut of grass could be harvested. 2003 was an excellent crop year in our area and should provide a boost along with higher milk prices to the farm economy. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Most farmers are done cropping for the year and are spreading manure to ready their manure pits for the winter. Pasture farmers are still enjoying reasonably good pasture conditions. It has been a great pasture

year. **Lynette Hamilton/Perley Sparrow (FSA), Windham:** Last of the third cut is being harvested. Manure spreading taking place before cut-off date. Picking corn is almost ready to pick. All-in-all it has been a good season in southern Vermont. Veggie producers have reported strong markets for their crops, and apple people have reported an average crop. I think we have had a good cropping year and hope to hear from everybody in the spring. **Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Finishing harvest of corn silage and third cut haylage. Some manure spreading on corn stubble and cut grass hay fields. Some plowing of corn fields. Some fall fertilization of hay crops. Spreading limestone. Soil sampling fields. **Eric Winchester (FSA) Orange/Windsor:** The weather this week has returned to more seasonable conditions. We got the first real frost of the year this morning (10/20). Most of the field corn has been harvested. Grain corn has still not been picked. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Most folks now done with corn silage harvest. Most also done with any haying. Seem to be concentrating on spreading manure. Wet week, strong winds. Genuine fall. **Chris Benedict (Ext), Chittenden:** Apple harvesting rounded out with good amounts of moisture last week. Cooler temperatures predicted for this week should offer harsh end of season picking conditions. **Heather Darby (Ext), Franklin:** Beautiful weather at the beginning of the week helped farmers finish up corn silage harvest. Manure is being spread on corn fields. Fall tillage occurring on many fields. High moisture corn being picked. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Week's rain - 0.642 inches. All fields seeded to winter rye. Still picking cabbage, broccoli, beets and carrots. Had a great squash sale. All fall decorating pumpkins, etc. are selling well. A great fall for maturing crops. Have a nice, bright fall week.

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**

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