



New England Agricultural Statistics Service

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United States Department of Agriculture

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Crop Weather

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For week ending 9/14/03

Great Week for Field Work

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending September 14, 2003, there were 6.8 days available for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture was rated 0% very short, 21% short, 71% adequate, 8% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 0% very short, 21% short, 75% adequate, 4% surplus. Pasture condition was rated as 0% very poor, 8% poor, 47% fair, 36% good, 9% excellent. A very dry week in New England, providing excellent conditions for making hay. Cool temperatures with near-frost nights prevailed at the start of the week, but warm, humid weather arrived near the weekend as Hurricane Isabel approached the east coast. Major farm activities included: cutting haylage and making dry hay; harvesting broadleaf and shade tobacco, potatoes, small grains, apples, peaches, pears, highbush blueberries and vegetables; desiccating potato vines; spreading manure; monitoring fields; performing general farm maintenance.

FRUIT: Harvest of apples, peaches, pears and plums was ongoing last week. Fall raspberries and white cranberries were also harvested, while highbush blueberry harvest continued to wind down in most states. Growers geared up for red cranberry harvest in Massachusetts. Pick-your-own orchards were open for business.

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2003	2002	5-yr Avg	
Apples	30	35	30	Good/Fair
Peaches	80	90	90	Good/Fair
Pears	20	35	35	Good/Fair
Blueberries Highbush	95	99	99	Good/Fair
Cranberries, MA	<5	<5	<5	Good/Fair

VEGETABLES: Beans, beets, cabbage, cucumbers, greens, peppers, pumpkins, radishes, squash, tomatoes and zucchini were harvested last week, among other vegetables. Sweet corn remained in good condition and harvest progressed to 85 percent complete. Decorative fall crops appeared at farm stands. Local markets experienced good sales of fall vegetables and mums.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil Moisture			
Very Short	0	1	32
Short	21	17	37
Adequate	71	76	31
Surplus	8	6	0
Subsoil Moisture			
Very Short	0	0	39
Short	21	21	32
Adequate	75	77	29
Surplus	4	2	0

FIELD CROPS: Excellent hay making conditions prevailed as the weather remained dry for most of the week. Second cut progressed to 95 percent complete, and progress of the third crop harvest reached the half-way mark last week; crop specialists rated the third hay crop in good to excellent condition. Silage corn harvest got underway last week, and growers kept their fingers crossed that Hurricane Isabel would steer clear of New England. Potato crops throughout the region were rated in good condition last week as harvest progressed. Maine potato growers were active killing vines on early varieties and readying equipment for harvest. Farmers commented that grain yields in Maine appear to be light this year, due to lodging from heavy winds and rain earlier in the season. Broadleaf and shade tobacco crop harvests neared completion in the Connecticut River Valley.

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2003	2002	5-yr Avg	
Barley, ME	75	85	85	Good/Fair
Oats, ME	65	60	75	Good/Fair
Potatoes				
Maine	10	20	20	Good
Mass	45	50	55	Good
Rhode Isl	65	75	60	Good
Silage Corn	5	15	20	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	85	90	85	Good
Tobacco				
Shade	95	99	99	Good/Fair
Broadleaf	95	100	99	Fair/Good
Dry Hay				
Second Cut	95	95	90	Good/Fair
Third Cut	50	65	60	Good/Excellent

For the Week Ending Sunday, September 14, 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	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS
	---	---	---	---	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	INCHES			INCHES		
MAINE														
Augusta_State_A	43	78	61	+1	2003	+84	853	+123	0.00	-0.70	0	1.45	-1.43	7
Bangor_Intl_Arp	38	79	60	+0	1968	+216	832	+220	0.00	-0.84	0	1.51	-1.66	3
Bethel	38	83	60	+1	1752	+22	661	+73	0.00	-0.77	0	1.85	-1.56	5
Caribou_Municip	36	81	56	+2	1572	+182	580	+202	0.00	-0.84	0	0.69	-2.81	10
Dover-Foxcroft	34	73	58	+1	1464	-46	489	+38	0.00	-0.91	0	0.59	-2.94	3
Frenchville	32	78	56	+3	1436	+145	490	+167	0.00	-0.89	0	0.22	-3.43	6
Houlton	30	81	55	+0	1643	+191	624	+200	0.00	-0.86	0	0.77	-2.84	5
Livermore_Falls	33	81	58	+1	1809	+327	741	+312	0.00	-0.84	0	1.37	-2.25	4
Moosehead	33	82	56	+1	1365	+111	447	+137	0.00	-0.87	0	0.51	-2.89	5
Portland_ME	41	77	60	-1	1949	+177	805	+176	0.00	-0.70	0	1.60	-1.14	5
NEW_HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	39	77	57	+0	1692	+105	616	+143	0.00	-0.77	0	2.08	-1.30	3
Berlin_AG	37	78	57	-1	1743	+146	653	+158	0.00	-0.78	0	1.64	-1.91	4
Concord	38	82	63	+3	2227	+303	1017	+289	0.00	-0.66	0	1.24	-1.57	8
Diamond_Pond	37	74	54	+0	1227	+156	371	+166	0.00	-0.97	0	1.39	-2.89	8
Keene_AP	41	79	61	-2	2137	-13	914	+23	0.02	-0.68	2	1.23	-1.93	9
North_Conway	38	79	59	-1	1963	+177	822	+194	0.00	-0.80	0	1.63	-1.81	5
Rochester	40	82	60	-3	1985	-76	834	+4	0.00	-0.70	0	1.49	-1.52	4
VERMONT														
Burlington_Intl	42	83	64	+4	2365	+314	1084	+259	0.00	-0.80	0	0.52	-2.94	6
Island_Pond	36	81	57	+2	1621	+310	578	+255	0.00	-0.82	0	1.26	-2.59	7
Montpelier	40	78	60	+3	1768	+155	660	+157	0.00	-0.69	0	1.35	-1.81	6
Pownal	44	76	60	+2	1862	+178	670	+128	0.05	-0.86	1	2.17	-1.61	10
Rochester	42	81	60	+2	1805	+210	668	+175	0.05	-0.86	1	2.37	-1.57	4
Rutland_AG	41	79	59	-3	1925	-201	759	-109	0.02	-0.84	1	2.02	-1.63	8
Sutton	40	79	58	+4	1628	+304	568	+232	0.01	-0.81	1	1.53	-2.26	8
Townshend_Lake	45	79	61	-1	1978	-40	794	-7	0.10	-0.67	1	2.27	-1.13	10
MASSACHUSETTS														
Ashburnham	46	79	61	+3	2086	+341	882	+290	0.13	-0.57	1	2.50	-0.42	9
Boston/Logan_In	49	81	65	-2	2517	+43	1243	+91	0.00	-0.70	0	0.85	-2.14	5
Greenfield	47	81	63	-2	2260	-46	989	-17	0.51	-0.31	1	2.93	-0.36	11
New_Bedford	43	78	63	-4	2266	-237	1042	-136	0.13	-0.68	1	2.62	-0.99	7
Otis_AFB	43	75	63	-2	2258	+222	1065	+239	0.08	-0.69	1	3.38	+0.28	7
Plymouth	40	79	62	-2	2177	+84	974	+105	0.00	-0.98	0	1.83	-2.02	6
Walpole	39	81	62	+0	2321	+211	1078	+214	0.00	-0.88	0	1.97	-1.64	6
Chicopee/Westov	41	81	63	-4	2351	-291	1065	-208	0.27	-0.57	1	2.32	-1.02	10
Worthington	38	78	59	-1	1794	+77	649	+86	0.15	-0.69	1	2.21	-1.36	8
RHODE_ISLAND														
Providence	46	79	65	+0	2507	+146	1219	+151	0.00	-0.84	0	2.72	-0.64	6
Woonsocket	40	80	63	+1	2281	+204	1042	+218	0.00	-0.91	0	2.47	-1.17	6
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	52	78	67	-1	2586	+43	1288	+61	0.09	-0.68	1	2.45	-0.42	9
Hartford/Bradle	45	82	66	+1	2590	+58	1245	+56	0.32	-0.59	1	3.66	+0.12	8
Norfolk	43	78	60	+1	1877	+159	704	+141	0.20	-0.78	1	3.95	-0.14	8
Thomaston_Dam	43	79	62	+0	2329	+272	1036	+230	0.20	-0.76	1	3.08	-0.82	10
Willimantic	41	78	64	+2	2397	+298	1119	+279	0.28	-0.63	1	2.68	-0.90	7

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 WEATHER SUMMARY
For the Week Ending Sunday, September 14, 2003

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	30	83	57	+0	0.00	0.08
NH	31	82	58	+0	0.00	0.14
VT	30	84	60	+1	0.00	0.11
MA	35	82	62	-1	0.00	0.51
RI	40	80	64	-1	0.00	0.03
CT	41	82	64	+0	0.06	0.69

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: A wonderful dry week for harvesting crops. Much second and third cut hay was put up as farmers waited for field corn to dry down. Vegetable and fruit harvest continued as crops continue to mature. Tobacco harvest wound down as only a few still had broadleaf in the field. Farm stands were busy selling a mix of fruits and vegetables. Mums were also good movers at markets. Pumpkin crop looks to be light this year. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Cutting first, second and third hay crops. Some fields still wet. Corn at every stage across the county, from short and very green to tall, tasseling and almost ready to harvest. A lot of hay went in this week with awesome weather except for a big rain overnight Saturday. Picking peaches, waiting for color on apples, vegetables winding down. Quality of forage crops and potential big winds a concern. Ear worm trouble in sweet corn. Picking for three more weeks likely. **Nancy Welsh/Karen Vozarik (FSA), New Haven:** Weather conditions of rain and high humidity continue to destroy crops as they become ready to harvest. Pears are coming up with *Fabraea* disease. Squash and tomatoes are rotted and most plants have been overcome by weeds where herbicides were ineffective. Apples being harvested, nectarines are excellent.

MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook: Potatoes and small grains: Potato harvesting has begun on a limited basis. Potatoes that are now being harvested are either being delivered to the processor or are being shipped as fresh pack. Very few are going into storage. Yields are very spotty. Also, more potato vines are being desiccated, some with a second application. Small grains and canola are being harvested. Growers finding grain yields a little on the light side. Soils are getting very dry. A little moisture would improve harvesting conditions. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Growers continue to apply vine kill on early varieties; later varieties still have time to size up for a week or so. Growers are getting equipment and storages ready to harvest. Harvest will be in full swing next week. Let's hope for a harvest of good weather and good crop of potatoes. Canola is being harvested - approximately 25 percent of crop. Oats and barley continue to be harvested. Harvest time is here in the County! **Albert Dow (NRCS), Piscataquis:** Potato harvest is underway. Crops all look good. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Another very dry week with excellent hay making conditions. Crops and soils are very dry. Corn silage harvest is starting, with many farmers' eyes and ears to the weather reports concerning the possible high winds and rain forecast for the end of the week. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Farmers have been busy harvesting their hay/grass crop. The weather has been perfect this past week for all farming activities. Silage corn harvest should be starting soon. The crop looks good in some areas and poor in other areas (small ear development). Could have problems from hurricane later this week. **Michael Tardy (FSA), Androscoggin:** Another week of good weather with cool nights. Sunny days had producers working in the fields. Some silage corn harvest began. Pick-your-own apple signs are up. Great weather for fairs! **Parker Rand (FSA), Cumberland/York:** The silage choppers have started on the corn, some corn looks very good and some poor. This pleasant weather has brought out the apple pickers at the pick-your-own operations. The fall colors are starting to show up in the low areas. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Measured grain harvest for oats and barley so a slightly above average harvest. Quantity would have been higher, but there was a lot of lodging. Time to get in the firewood... no killing frost yet. **Laura Rand (FSA), Oxford:** What a glorious week! Farmers cutting hay; silage harvest has begun and fall vegetables at the farm stands. All reports are that the season, although not much sun, is a hit! Potato harvest is ongoing. Soil conditions are dry and dust flying in the air while harvest is upon us!

MASSACHUSETTS - Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire: Great weather to make hay, very heavy dew in morning. The ground is very damp making drying hay a little slow. Most everybody reporting excellent looking forage corn. A few fields and portions of fields look bad because of wet/cold ground. Veggie people are

happy with their crops this fall. There are reports that orchards will have a good crop although fruit may be smaller than normal. **Paul Russell (FSA), Southeast Massachusetts:** Harvest of white cranberries in underway with mixed reviews. Growers are finding an average crop at best. Harvest of red fruit will begin in a week and many growers are concerned with poor quality because of fruit rot and insect damage. Fall vegetables are poor because of the wet, humid conditions crops faced all summer. Many hay growers continue to struggle to make hay because of the wet, humid weather. **Kip Graham (FSA), Worcester:** Harvesting of apples, pears, peaches and plums continues. Blueberries are just about ended. The birds are feasting on what is left. The cooler weather is approaching quite rapidly. Vegetables are also continuously being harvested - tomatoes, squash (summer and zucchini), peppers, greens, cole crops, beets, beans and others. Some growers reporting losing tomatoes probably due to the earlier humid weather in August. Haying continues and corn will shortly be in full swing. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: White berry harvest completed this week. The remainder of the crop will be harvested later than usual, as many growers wait for anthocyanin development. It appears that the growing season never really caught up to a normal schedule. Some dry harvesting for fresh fruit will probably occur later in the upcoming week. The long period of high humidity resulted in very thick vine overgrowth in many beds, leading to the occurrence of red leaf spot disease. Of course, the area watches Isabel very closely to see what impact it will have here. **David Rose (FSA), Bristol:** Harvesting continues of all crops. Corn mazes are open. Equipment being fixed to begin silage corn harvest. A good week to make hay. Cranberry producers starting to harvest for the white cranberry juice. Cool nights have slowed the ripening of some crops. **John Devine (FSA), Franklin:** This past week's weather was perfect for making hay and harvesting fall crops. Every farm with haying equipment was really busy this week. Silage cutting has started but it's off to a slow start. Right now everyone's watching Hurricane Isabel to see where she's going. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** It was a beautiful week with a well needed rain shower on Sunday. Fall harvest is in full swing. Growers are harvesting apples, pears, mums, fall raspberries, potatoes, winter squash, pumpkins, Indian corn and many more fall crops. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** Another hectic week for farmers and farm stands. All summer and fall crops being harvested. Big sellers this week were sweet corn, mums and tomatoes. Everyone made or finished up second cut of hay. Pumpkins here just starting to ripen. No insect problems in corn.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire: Plenty of bright sunshine for most of the week. Corn chopping has started on early hybrids or early-planted fields, later fields are not yet mature enough. Great week for haying, and producers finished up last of third cutting haylage. Blueberry harvest is about done, apples are ripening and harvest should get in full swing soon. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Fairly warm and dry for mid-September. Still lots of baled hay being harvested - I hear a few farms have stopped, no room left to put it. Field corn looks very good, looks like a little early corn being chopped. Vine killing of potatoes, getting ready for harvest. Apples about ready for picking, seems to be plenty of wild ones this year, but spotty in some locations. Fall veggies abundant, into late season Silver Queen type sweet corn. Pumpkins, winter squash, mums and flowering kale ready for the decoration market. Beans, cucumbers, mid-summer veggies about gone. More reports of bear sightings getting into the corn. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Third cut continuing. Corn ears continue to mature, but leaf and stalk moisture still high. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** The week of the 7th through the 13th was an excellent week for haying and getting field work done. The mornings were damp and cooler, but from mid-morning to evening things dried out well, and quite a bit of dry hay and haylage was made. Corn harvest has begun and is looking good. The yields appear to be very good this year. This should be a good feed year for almost everyone. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Field Crops: Hay cutting continued at a rapid pace during the week with the second and third cuttings being made.

Some spreading manure on hay fields. Farmers making new forage seedings. Farmers starting corn silage harvest. Fruit: Orchardists harvesting Marshall McIntosh and Honey apples, peaches, and fall raspberries. Vegetables: Harvesting an array of vegetables: beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, cucumbers, greens, potatoes, radishes, summer squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, zucchini, and other vegetables. Some farmers are starting to clean up harvested fields and plant cover crops. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Great cool and sunny weather for pick-your-own operations. Picking apples, peaches, plums, different types of vegetables, pumpkins and winter squashes. Good weather for haying. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** The week was dry. It was a nice week to work outdoors. Farmers were busy making hay and haylage from third cut. The silage corn is doing great in most of the fields. Harvesting of sweet corn and a variety of other vegetables continued throughout the week. Pumpkin harvesting and sales picked up momentum. Fruit growers were busy harvesting early apples and fall raspberries. Harvesting of peaches also continued throughout the week. Nurseries and garden centers were busy with fall mum sales. Perennials were on sale at most garden centers.

VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille: Big, big week for haying. Couldn't have asked for a better week for fieldwork. Corn crop continues to thrive even though bears have decided to take up residence in many of the cornfields. Sweet corn harvest winding down and have seen some problems with corn borers. Corn silage harvest should really get underway this week. It is very dry and that has slowed grass growth particularly in pastures. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Last week was a very nice week to finish harvesting hay and get ready

to cut corn. A few of the large corn growers have begun to cut corn. The corn is still a little green but not too bad. Everybody I have talked to says this was one of the best hay years in a while. The second cut was a little short due to a dry period but the first and third crop was excellent. Reports on quality for first crop is that it is high. The corn harvest should be high also. Looks like there will be no shortage of feed this winter. **Lynette Hamilton/Perley Sparrow (FSA), Windham:** Full week of warm and sunny weather was much needed by farmers in southern Vermont. The good drying conditions allowed farmers to put in large quantities of high quality third cut and allowed for the dry down of corn. Corn harvesting is just getting under way with producers opening up fields and getting their equipment ready for the big push over the next month. **Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Corn silage harvest in progress. Most corn still too immature. Some at 1/3 milk line. Finishing third crop harvest of alfalfa and grass mixed hay. New seedings of hay fields being planted. New stands look good, uniform. Pasture regrowth better, moderate amounts of rust disease on foliage. Soybean leaves starting to yellow. Some soil conditions very dry. Manure spreading on harvested hay crop fields. **Eric Winchester (FSA) Orange/Windsor:** During the past week we had warm, sunny days and cool nights. As you might expect in September the mornings were foggy. Sunday brought rain, at least in southern parts of the two counties. The Tunbridge fair has ended and farmers are ready to begin chopping corn this week. There is still quite a bit of moisture in the corn, so some of this year's crop may go into silos green. Some farms are still on their third cutting of grass. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Sunny, dry week. Lots of hay. Nearly frost early in week, heavy fog later in week. Some starting to chop corn.

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