



New England Agricultural Statistics Service

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United States Department of Agriculture

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Crop Weather

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September 27, 2004 - 4 pm

For week ending 9/26/04

Outstanding Week for Fall Harvest

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending September 26, 2004, there were 6.6 days available for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture was rated 6 percent short, 84 percent adequate, 10 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 5 percent short, 87 percent adequate, 8 percent surplus. Pasture condition was rated 9 percent poor, 31 percent fair, 47 percent good, 13 percent excellent. Excellent week to catch up with fall harvest activities. Sunny skies and dry conditions made ideal weather conditions for producers across New England. Major farm activities included: applying cover crops; disking; spreading manure; applying lime; chopping corn; cutting haylage and making dry hay; harvesting corn silage, apples, peaches, pears, small grains, potatoes, sweet corn and other vegetables; finishing harvest of broadleaf tobacco.

FRUIT: Apple harvest is in full swing. Harvest passed the half-way mark with 60 percent of the crop picked. U-Pik apple farms had plenty of sunny days to entice pickers to the orchards during the week. Massachusetts cranberry growers had their first water harvest last week, with dry harvest volume steadily increasing. Cranberry specialist report a quality crop has been harvested to date with good color. Pear and fall raspberries harvest continued as peach harvest is winding down.

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2004	2003	5-yr Avg	
Apples	60	60	55	Good/Excel
Peaches	99	95	95	Good/Fair
Pears	75	45	50	Good
Cranberries, MA	<5	10	10	Good/Fair

VEGETABLES: Consumer demand remains high for all vegetables at markets and farm stands. Growers continued to harvest the last of their vegetables such as cabbage, winter squashes, kale, and pumpkins. Sweet corn harvest is nearly complete with just 5 percent of the crop left to be harvested.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
	-- Percent --		
Topsoil Moisture			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	6	3	6
Adequate	84	67	67
Surplus	10	30	27
Subsoil Moisture			
Very Short	0	0	1
Short	5	3	15
Adequate	87	70	76
Surplus	8	27	8

FIELD CROPS: The harvest pace for fall crops picked up last week as producers had another outstanding week for harvest activities. Farmers were busy making hay as weather conditions have been ideal for harvest. Field corn harvest jumped to 40 percent chopped by week's end. Maine potato harvest advanced to 30 percent complete and crop yields were reported as excellent. Oat and barley harvest were almost complete with crop conditions reported as fair to good. Broadleaf tobacco harvest came to an end last week and reports indicated the crop has cured very well in the barns this year.

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2004	2003	5-yr Avg	Condition
	-- Percent Harvested --			
Barley, ME	95	95	90	Fair/Good
Oats, ME	95	90	90	Fair/Good
Potatoes:				
Maine	30	45	35	Good/Excel
Mass	70	55	65	Good
Rhode Isl	95	90	80	Good/Excel
Silage Corn	40	45	45	Good
Sweet Corn	95	95	95	Good/Excel
Tobacco:				
Broadleaf	100	100	100	Good
Dry Hay:				
Second Cut	95	95	95	Good
Third Cut	70	75	75	Good/Excel

For the Week Ending Sunday, September 26, 2004

The 41 stations shown below were limited by space but were 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 INCHES		DFN DAYS	
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN				INCHES	DFN		
MAINE															
Augusta_State_A	44	78	60	+5	1999	-18	721	-25	0.03	-0.74	1	3.68	+0.79	8	
Bangor_Intl_Arp	40	76	59	+4	1901	+62	685	+63	0.09	-0.68	1	2.97	-0.23	9	
Bethel	37	79	58	+4	1816	+4	576	-20	0.24	-0.53	1	3.13	-0.02	7	
Caribou_Municip	35	73	53	+3	1455	+25	441	+63	0.04	-0.73	1	3.75	+0.49	9	
Dover-Foxcroft	36	75	56	+4	1480	-88	418	-34	0.00	-0.91	0	2.28	-1.36	6	
Frenchville	36	74	54	+4	1344	+15	376	+53	0.07	-0.76	1	5.05	+1.57	11	
Houlton	30	72	52	+2	1508	+14	482	+58	0.06	-0.73	1	4.52	+1.11	11	
Livermore_Falls	36	82	57	+5	1882	+345	665	+236	0.20	-0.60	1	2.60	-0.78	8	
Moosehead	38	76	55	+5	1317	+19	304	-6	0.03	-0.81	1	2.04	-1.36	10	
Portland_ME	43	78	61	+6	1978	+109	724	+87	0.00	-0.76	0	3.41	+0.55	5	
NEW HAMPSHIRE															
Benton	38	75	56	+3	1722	+67	523	+47	0.00	-0.70	0	3.60	+0.60	6	
Berlin_AG	38	76	56	+4	1743	+82	543	+46	0.19	-0.51	3	3.61	+0.50	9	
Concord	34	81	61	+5	2369	+350	984	+245	0.00	-0.63	0	6.22	+3.59	7	
Diamond_Pond	34	71	52	+3	1124	+21	201	-4	0.27	-0.60	2	3.85	+0.04	10	
Keene_AP	36	79	60	+3	2233	-34	856	-55	0.00	-0.65	0	4.37	+1.54	6	
North_Conway	36	78	58	+4	2006	+142	729	+96	0.03	-0.75	2	4.10	+0.90	11	
Rochester	40	81	60	+4	2096	-78	799	-49	0.00	-0.77	0	5.51	+2.52	6	
VERMONT															
Burlington_Intl	38	78	62	+6	2320	+173	963	+122	0.32	-0.38	1	5.67	+2.54	7	
Island_Pond	32	76	56	+5	1594	+232	459	+134	0.13	-0.57	1	4.81	+1.59	11	
Montpelier	35	77	59	+6	1929	+245	668	+156	0.01	-0.62	1	3.50	+0.78	10	
Pownal	39	75	58	+3	2014	+247	667	+115	0.30	-0.54	1	6.70	+3.14	7	
Rochester	36	81	58	+5	1908	+235	634	+130	0.00	-0.84	0	4.60	+1.02	6	
Rutland_AG	36	75	57	+0	1995	-244	694	-195	0.00	-0.77	0	3.83	+0.45	6	
Sutton	35	76	55	+5	1562	+190	429	+92	0.20	-0.54	1	4.73	+1.46	10	
Townshend_Lake	38	77	59	+3	2049	-75	710	-109	0.00	-0.71	0	7.75	+4.65	7	
MASSACHUSETTS															
Ashburnham	39	79	60	+6	2214	+386	848	+250	0.00	-0.65	0	6.74	+4.02	10	
Boston/Logan_In	48	81	65	+4	2704	+58	1264	+62	0.00	-0.70	0	5.11	+2.25	7	
Greenfield	39	81	62	+3	2402	-43	983	-54	0.02	-0.75	1	5.55	+2.35	6	
New_Bedford	43	80	61	-3	2431	-254	1026	-211	0.01	-0.74	1	3.11	-0.11	5	
Otis_AFB	45	79	60	+1	2359	+185	1001	+147	0.00	-0.82	0	4.94	+1.81	7	
Plymouth	44	80	61	+2	2350	+125	999	+106	0.00	-0.91	0	3.32	-0.53	9	
Walpole	44	81	63	+6	2525	+297	1096	+212	0.00	-0.84	0	3.96	+0.48	9	
Chicopee/Westov	36	81	62	-1	2670	-141	1194	-129	0.00	-0.79	0	3.36	+0.05	7	
Worthington	35	78	59	+3	1945	+136	638	+63	0.00	-0.84	0	6.40	+2.96	8	
RHODE ISLAND															
Providence	48	80	64	+4	2743	+221	1267	+155	0.02	-0.75	1	4.02	+0.75	11	
Woonsocket	41	80	62	+4	2489	+295	1068	+226	0.00	-0.84	0	4.79	+1.23	10	
CONNECTICUT															
Bridgeport/Siko	47	84	68	+6	2973	+244	1465	+174	0.00	-0.70	0	4.52	+1.65	9	
Hartford/Bradle	39	81	64	+4	2849	+167	1353	+127	0.00	-0.84	0	5.25	+1.69	9	
Norfolk	40	73	59	+4	2102	+298	745	+172	0.00	-0.91	0	6.65	+2.76	7	
Thomaston_Dam	37	81	60	+3	2665	+484	1189	+357	0.00	-0.91	0	4.23	+0.46	9	
Willimantic	39	80	62	+4	2576	+349	1117	+252	0.00	-0.91	0	4.81	+1.15	9	

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 26, 2004

Stat	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	LO	HI	AVG	DF	LO	HI
ME	30	82	56	+3	0.00	0.25
NH	27	85	57	+4	0.00	0.73
VT	29	81	57	+4	0.00	0.32
MA	35	82	61	+3	0.00	0.02
RI	41	80	63	+3	0.00	0.02
CT	30	84	62	+2	0.00	0.05

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: Farmers continue to harvest field corn for silage. Most fields look very good. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Beautiful, dry week for harvesting crops. Crops progressing nicely. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** A terrific week for chopping corn, picking apples, seeding rye, spreading manure, and selling mums. Corn production is averaging over 24 tons per acre. Irrigating sod seedlings on Sunday. Farmers are stretched with harvesting hay, corn, and getting the rest of the chores done. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Corn harvest is progressing as quickly as corn will dry down. Many fields are being opened and then the choppers move on as the center corn is still too wet to harvest. Cold nights have taken a toll on the warm season grasses and pastures and hay lots have dropped dramatically in production and quality.

MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook: Potatoes and small grains: Great weather for harvesting crops. Potato harvest moving along at a rapid pace. In fact, a few growers have stopped harvesting due to immature tubers. There are a few reports of quality issues. Grain harvest just about complete. Potato yields are very good. **Pam Hickey (Ext),**

Central Aroostook: A terrific week for chopping corn, picking apples, seeding rye, spreading manure, selling mums. Corn production is averaging over 24 tons per acre. Irrigating sod seedlings on Sunday. Farmers are stretched harvesting hay, corn and getting the rest of the chores done.

Albert Dow (NRCS), Piscataquis: Potato harvest is in full swing. Silage corn is beginning to dent. Roadside stands are flourishing. **Donna Lamb (Ext), Piscataquis:** Corn silage harvest has started. Pastures are a little dry. Apple harvest is in full swing. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Beautiful September weather has allowed for more haylage and corn silage harvest. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Harvest of corn silage underway. A lot of farmers cutting second crop of hay. Fall crops now available at farm stands. Quality of corn crop is going to be down due to growing conditions. Hay quality is also down. **Michael Tardy (FSA),**

Androscoggin: Harvest is in full swing. This past weekend, farmers were using the great weather to get the corn silage off the ground and into the silo. Hay farmers were rolling the newly cut grass or baling those rectangular bales for storage. Every farmer is in the harvest mode and enjoying the great weather. **Sandy Truslow (FSA),**

Cumberland/York: Great weather continued this past week. Farmers were busy making hay and harvesting pumpkins.

Corn silage growers are reporting a good crop and are planning to start harvest soon. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Best weather of the summer!!! Great week for Farmington Fair. No frost yet. Corn silage harvest started. Lots of apples & pumpkins for sale. **Guy Piper (FSA),**

Kennebec: Moisture for both top soil and sub soil are good.

MASSACHUSETTS - Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire:

Corn harvesting hampered from very wet grounds. Farmers picked the dry parts of fields and cut a lot of silage. Some of the grain corn growers are looking and hoping that they will have the corn dry enough to make the picking a good quality. Some hay was being made. Still a good supply of veggies. Squash producers are harvesting in full swing, sizes above average. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: First water harvesting occurred last week, with dry harvesting increasing in volume. Good crops being harvested to date, with good quality and color. Harvesting will significantly increase this coming week. No frost nights, although cool for the most part. **John Devine (FSA), Franklin:** Excellent weather all week allowed the corn and potato harvest to move along at a rapid pace. Yields for both

crops are very good this year! Pumpkins and winter squash are also being harvested quickly as producers try to beat disease pressure and the threat of frost. Hay farmers couldn't be happier with the weather that we had last week. All farms brought in some beautiful rowen.

Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden: The week was beautiful with lots of sunny fall days. Harvesting an excellent fall crop of apples, silage corn, potatoes, cabbage, mums and Indian corn. Due to heavy rains in the past week the winter squash and the pumpkin crops are not holding up in storage very well per many growers. The broadleaf tobacco crop cured very well in the barns this year. Many farmers are applying a rye cover crop on their harvested fields and are picking up irrigation pipe. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** Just a beautiful week! Consumer demand of sweet corn exceeding field production! Pumpkins, and all fall squash have been harvested. Still picking summer crops, but cucumbers have had it. Big weekend for mums and fall decorations as well. Chopping corn, plastic removal, and applying cover crop were primary farm activities. U-pik apple farms were swamped this weekend.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap: It was a beautiful week for field work. Apple harvest is going along nicely, with McIntosh, Gala, Cortland, Honeycrisp and more being picked. Vegetable harvests continue, as frost has not visited yet. Pastures are in very good shape. Farms and garden centers are busy selling pumpkins, mums, corn stalks, late season vegetables, apples and cider. **Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll:** Leaves are turning, pumpkins and mums selling briskly at the farm stands. We're having some of the best weather of the season in some cases, too little too late! Corn chopping beginning almost everywhere, field corn looks good, if a bit late.

Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire: A solid week of dry, sunny weather. The big push has begun with chopping corn, and producers have been able to make lots of progress with the good weather. Others continue to work at harvesting third cut hay or baleage. Vegetables have slowed down, but there's still plenty available at farm stands. Apple harvest continues, lots of great days for PYO. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Warmer, generally drier weather this week has farmers putting up rowen whenever they can to make up for what's been a difficult hay year. Some field corn being opened up, but no harvesting in earnest as farms look for corn to put on more maturity. Extensive corn maturity checks, yield estimate weighting throughout county with FSA shows corn generally at one-quarter to one-half stage. Annual grasses seem to have been most troubling weeds in corn fields this year. Mums, pumpkins, and sweet corn are quite available at farm stands/market. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** Early planted corn is looking good. Corn planted in latter part of May are looking better as each week passes without a frost. Fourth cut hay is coming in. Looks like an average year for apples with fairly decent size and good quality. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Great weather and good demand for all vegetable continues. Harvesting wide array of vegetables, including warm season vegetables like tomatoes and peppers. Harvesting cabbage, kale, brussel sprouts, winter squash and pumpkins. Farmers kept busy disking, cleaning up and planting cover crops on harvested fields. Fruit: Apple harvest is in full swing with most growers concentrating on second picking McIntosh and Gala apples, and working on Cortland and Macoun. Fruit size is excellent, but bruising can be a problem and some orchardists seeing some apple drop. Fall raspberries and pear harvest continued with peach and plum harvest basically over. Field Crops: Field corn harvest in full swing

along with second and third cuts of hay and hayage. Some manure spreading on fields taking place and cover crops were being planted in harvested fields. **John Porter (Ext), Merrimack:** Pumpkin harvest is in full swing. Many consumers hit the stands this weekend for fall harvest and entertainment. Corn for silage has started being cut and looks to be of good quality. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Good weekend weather for apple picking. Apple orchards quite busy with customers. Winter squashes, fall raspberries, sweet corn and an array of vegetables are being harvested. Pumpkins, decorative kales and mum sales are going well. Pastures look good and haying being done. Harvesting corn silage. Some vegetable fields are being cleaned, plowed, disked. Lime being applied. **Pam Marvin (FSA), Sullivan:** What a great week for field work. Lots of silage being harvested along with second and third cuttings of hay. The last of summer vegetables are being harvested. Was a great year for most. Good reports from apple producers on this year's crop. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** Farmers making 3rd cut hay and haylage and harvesting silage corn. Fruit growers busy harvesting different varieties of apples and fall raspberries. Harvest of pumpkins and various vegetable crops continued through the week. Fall mum sales in garden centers and cut flower sales in many farm stands.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: A good week, still getting some potatoes out of the ground. Pumpkins, gourds, sweet corn, field corn all being harvested. Hard squash along with summer vegetables look

good. Roadside stands are full of Autumn fare.

VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille: Dry week made for great harvest conditions for both corn and grass. Corn yields appear to be average or slightly below average. **Perley Sparrow (FSA), Windham:** Last week was the most perfect week all summer, hot and dry. Corn harvest is at a rapid pace with all the good weather. Apple picking is about two-thirds completed to date with an excellent crop. Drying hay last week was the best all year. Rye is being broadcast and harrowed in along with manure on corn fields. **Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Finishing chopping third cut grass and alfalfa haylage. Some baled grass hay. Baling grass bedding. Chopping corn silage. Some manure spreading on hay fields. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** This was about the best week of the year for sun, no rain and warm temperatures. Still no killing frost, but plants are shutting down. Farmers chopping corn and finishing up the haying, spreading manure- ground conditions are very soft on heavier soils. Leaves are beginning to show some color, towns in this area have their fall foliage festivals this week. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Winter rye turning fields into a nice green color, potato harvesting in full swing with a good crop. Sweet corn nearly done. Fall season starting with lots of fall produce. Cabbage, broccoli, potatoes and turnips. Market full of fall decorations pumpkins, gourds, Indian corn and corn stalks; it is the season. Fall is here.

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