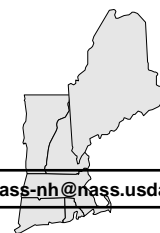




# New England Agricultural Statistics



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## Crop Weather

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For week ending 9/04/05

### A Tale of Two Weather Fronts

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:** For the week ending September 4, 2005, there were 5.0 days suitable for fieldwork. Topsoil moisture: 8% very short, 26% short, 65% adequate, and 1% surplus. Subsoil moisture: 8% very short, 22% short, 68% adequate, 2% surplus. Pasture condition: 9% very poor, 14% poor, 33% fair, 41% good and 3% excellent. The remnants of Hurricane Katrina hit the region at the beginning of the week with cloudy, rainy conditions, bringing much needed moisture to parched crops. Rain was welcomed to the region but may have arrived too late for crops under severe stress due to prolonged lack of moisture. On Friday, clear, sunny weather arrived and remained for the Labor Day weekend. It was a great weekend to do field work, to pick berries, fruits and vegetables, and sales at farm stands were brisk. Major farm activities included cultivating, weeding, irrigating, monitoring pests and diseases, spraying fungicides and pesticides, spreading manure, baling hay, chopping grass, chopping corn silage and harvesting a variety of fruits and vegetables.

**FRUIT:** Sunshine during the weekend allowed blueberry growers to near completion for the harvest season. Both highbush and wild blueberry harvests should wrap up this coming week. Remnants of Katrina brought much needed rains for cranberry growers to enhance the crop as the harvest season approaches. However, more rain is needed to help bulk up reservoirs to prevent against frost damage this fall. Apple growers appreciated rains early in the week to improve sizing of fruit as early apple harvest was starting to wrap up and as other varieties of apples were becoming ready to pick. This year, the pear harvest has varied in Connecticut and Massachusetts due to unfavorable conditions to pick, thus conditions were only rated fair in the region. Peach harvest was more than three quarters finished at week's end and crop condition rated good to fair in New England. Orchardist's were busy mowing orchard floors, and spraying insecticides and pesticides. Also, strawberry growers were busy cultivating and weeding newly renovated beds.

summer squash, tomatoes, zucchini and winter squash. Greenhouse and nursery operations were busy harvesting and selling a variety of flowers.

#### SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
<b>Topsoil</b>			
Very Short	8	10	1
Short	26	41	11
Adequate	65	49	69
Surplus	1	0	19
<b>Subsoil</b>			
Very Short	8	10	0
Short	22	28	7
Adequate	68	60	78
Surplus	2	2	15

**FIELD CROPS:** The rains early in the week brought much needed moisture to the region. Sunshine arrived for the weekend and provided farmers great conditions to work in the fields. First cutting of hay finally finished up at week's end. Second cutting of hay was progressing along rated in good condition. Some farmers were skeptical of third cutting of hay due to the prolonged lack of moisture in southern New England creating very low yields. Tobacco growers welcomed the early rains and the sunshine for the weekend as the harvests come to a close. Some farmers have started to chop corn silage even though conditions vary throughout the region due to the prolonged lack of moisture; however crop was rated good to excellent in New England. Maine small grains growers continued to harvest barley and oats as both were rated in good to excellent condition. Maine potato growers were busy preparing equipment for the upcoming harvest and desiccating vines. Growers also continued to spray fungicides on a seven to 10 day schedule. Massachusetts potato harvest was behind last year's and crop condition was rated fair to good. Rhode Island potato harvest had slowed down due to heavy soils hindering progress and crop condition was rated fair to poor.

#### FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	- Percent Harvested -			Fruit Size	Condition
	2005	2004	5-yr Avg		
Apples	20	20	20	Avg	Good/Fair
Peaches	80	85	80	Avg	Good/Fair
Pears	15	25	25	Avg	Fair
Blueberries					
Highbush	95	95	95	Avg/A. Avg	Good/Excel
Wild, ME	99	99	99	Avg	Fair
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-	Avg/B. Avg	Good

**VEGETABLES:** Vegetable growers appreciated the rains early in the week but continued to irrigate crops in the southern region due to insufficient rainfall in recent weeks. Sun arrived to the region for a great weekend that provided for brisk sales at local farm stands and farmers' markets even though gas prices were over \$3 per gallon. Sweet corn growers welcomed the rains early in the week to enhance conditions as harvest almost three quarters completed. Growers were busy harvesting a variety of vegetables such as: beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, cucumbers, eggplant, greens, lettuce, onions, peas, peppers, pumpkins, radishes, snap beans,

#### FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2005 2004 5-yr Avg			Condition
	-- Percent Harvested --			
Barley, ME	65	55	55	Good/ Excellent
Oats, ME	55	30	35	Good/ Excellent
Potatoes				
Maine	-	5	5	Good/Excellent
Mass.	25	40	40	Fair/Good
Rhode Isl.	50	50	55	Fair/Poor
Sweet Corn	70	75	75	Good/Fair
Field Corn	<5	-	<5	Good/ Excellent
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	95	85	90	Good/Fair
Shade	90	95	95	Good
Dry hay, 1 <sup>st</sup> cut	100	95	99	Good/Fair
Dry hay, 2 <sup>nd</sup> cut	85	85	85	Good
Dry hay, 3 <sup>rd</sup> cut	35	35	45	Good/Excellent

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics  
Prepared By AWIS, Inc.

For the Period: Monday August 29, 2005  
To: Sunday September 4, 2005

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				CUM SINCE MAR 1 GROWING DEGREE DAYS				1-WEEK PRECIP			4-WEEK CUM PRECIP		
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS
<b>MAINE</b>														
Augusta_State_A	58	82	70	+7	1908	+101	922	+220	1.89	+1.18	4	3.17	+0.19	11
Bangor_Intl_Arp	52	82	70	+8	1884	+234	872	+283	2.00	+1.23	4	3.69	+0.61	13
Bethel	53	80	68	+6	1728	+93	750	+182	3.62	+2.76	4	4.88	+1.29	10
Caribou_Municip	49	79	67	+9	1573	+242	639	+268	2.84	+1.97	2	3.94	+0.34	9
Dover-Foxcroft	48	78	65	+5	1463	+29	558	+119	2.08	+1.17	4	3.06	-0.37	10
Frenchville	50	79	68	+10	1550	+314	629	+312	3.62	+2.71	2	5.09	+1.37	10
Houlton	48	80	68	+9	1566	+176	637	+221	2.61	+1.70	5	3.36	-0.33	15
Livermore_Falls	49	85	68	+9	1775	+365	813	+395	1.90	+0.99	4	3.17	-0.56	10
Moosehead	50	78	65	+7	1365	+171	489	+186	3.78	+2.94	4	4.94	+1.58	11
Portland_ME	54	84	71	+8	1874	+210	896	+291	1.30	+0.60	4	2.31	-0.33	9
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>														
Benton	53	80	67	+7	1716	+209	734	+275	2.58	+1.73	4	4.58	+1.00	11
Berlin_AG	53	78	68	+7	1732	+214	745	+263	1.96	+1.08	5	3.79	-0.03	10
Concord	52	84	71	+8	2135	+318	1070	+367	1.18	+0.48	4	3.05	+0.10	10
Diamond_Pond	51	73	63	+7	1314	+290	453	+252	3.00	+1.93	5	5.30	+0.73	14
Keene_AP	54	84	71	+6	2132	+107	1059	+203	1.32	+0.54	4	2.85	-0.58	8
North_Conway	52	81	69	+7	1898	+204	892	+282	4.32	+3.47	4	5.97	+2.39	11
Rochester	52	83	71	+6	1955	+16	941	+144	0.92	+0.15	4	1.77	-1.41	7
<b>VERMONT</b>														
Burlington_Intl	59	83	71	+8	2305	+362	1194	+396	2.84	+1.97	5	3.37	-0.26	10
Island_Pond	51	77	66	+8	1660	+414	699	+386	3.34	+2.39	6	4.78	+0.53	13
Montpelier	53	80	69	+9	1948	+417	906	+419	2.65	+1.86	4	4.40	+0.96	13
Pownal	53	83	68	+7	1969	+377	895	+372	1.73	+0.79	4	3.08	-0.80	10
Rochester	54	80	68	+7	1885	+379	861	+386	2.32	+1.34	5	3.60	-0.53	11
Rutland_AG	55	83	70	+6	2056	+51	1006	+173	2.74	+1.83	4	4.26	+0.46	11
Sutton	52	77	66	+8	1654	+392	692	+366	3.48	+2.53	5	5.33	+1.14	13
Townshend_Lake	53	82	69	+6	2028	+126	975	+206	1.87	+1.03	4	3.57	+0.00	11
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>														
Ashburnham	54	83	70	+8	2072	+421	1008	+433	0.55	-0.16	4	3.24	+0.17	10
Boston/Logan_In	64	86	75	+7	2372	+65	1284	+197	0.88	+0.12	4	1.95	-1.03	11
Greenfield	50	85	71	+5	2187	+22	1091	+131	1.92	+1.11	5	3.34	+0.03	11
New_Bedford	54	85	73	+4	2158	-169	1078	-28	7.52	+6.62	4	7.69	+3.87	6
Otis_AFB	57	84	74	+8	2354	+458	1221	+437	1.71	+0.94	4	1.98	-1.12	7
Plymouth	54	84	73	+7	2149	+193	1114	+285	4.97	+3.99	4	5.19	+1.46	8
Walpole	56	86	72	+8	2333	+349	1229	+400	2.17	+1.26	4	3.32	-0.29	11
Chicopee/Westov	52	86	72	+3	2485	+9	1306	+98	1.52	+0.68	4	2.96	-0.28	9
Worthington	51	82	68	+7	1903	+286	857	+317	1.85	+0.94	4	3.18	-0.52	9
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>														
Providence	61	86	75	+7	2526	+325	1381	+371	3.45	+2.61	2	4.56	+1.22	6
Woonsocket	56	85	73	+8	2320	+368	1200	+409	2.47	+1.56	4	4.13	+0.49	9
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>														
Bridgeport/Siko	61	86	75	+6	2602	+237	1384	+233	0.62	-0.08	4	1.83	-1.04	7
Hartford/Bradle	56	87	74	+6	2632	+253	1430	+294	0.80	-0.11	4	2.17	-1.23	8
Norfolk	53	80	68	+6	1974	+353	903	+359	1.35	+0.31	4	2.15	-2.01	10
Thomaston_Dam	55	85	72	+8	2340	+410	1204	+435	1.16	+0.18	4	2.34	-1.56	11
Willimantic	52	85	73	+7	2353	+385	1200	+399	0.94	+0.03	3	1.03	-2.54	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 4, 2005

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	L	HI	AV	DF	LO	HI
ME	42	85	68	+7	0.51	4.30
NH	40	92	68	+7	0.45	5.63
VT	46	85	68	+7	1.23	3.79
MA	45	89	72	+7	0.09	7.52
RI	56	86	74	+7	1.90	3.45
CT	52	88	73	+6	0.38	2.74

Prepared by AWIS, Inc.

**REPORTERS COMMENTS, By County:** *Reporters are from extension Service (Ext), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), or other knowledgeable individuals.*

**CONNECTICUT - Howard Rood (FSA), Fairfield/Litchfield:** Scattered showers early in the week were a welcome sight for farmers worried about pasture lands and vegetable crops. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Another week of little to no rain. Vegetable producers who had water were irrigating. Large quantities of sweet corn, peppers, tomatoes, cukes, squash, and eggplant were shipped for the Labor Day weekend. Several were starting to chop corn for silage. Long stretch of dry weather for making dry hay where it could be found. Tobacco producers were complete with broadleaf harvest and firing sheds in some cases. We need rain but very little in sight. **Frank Himmelstein (Ext), New London:** The remnants of Katrina did little to help the corn crop in New London County. Dry weather continues to plague the region. Farmers with crop insurance should be gathering yield data to document their losses. Dry Hay- Good weather continues for quality hay harvest although yields are very low. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Need rain. Silage corn is being harvested with smaller ears producing less grain. Conditions vary throughout the county. Third cutting of hay is nonexistent. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Grapes turning purple, will be picking Pepin variety soon. Honey production may be down - less nectar with dry weather. Mid season blueberries have good number of berries but are shriveled and bitter tasting due to heat and dry conditions. String beans unmarketable as they immediately went to seed production. Sugar baby water melons ripened much smaller than they should have, short crop of potatoes. Green peppers turning red at 2" in size and mushy texture. Tilled in sweet corn that went to starch at harvest. Silage corn chopping began earlier on many farms with sandy soils, production estimates are from 9 to 24 tons, with better production on farms that got rain around pollination to allow good ear development. The sandy soils have small ears with kernels half the size they should be. **Joyce Meader (Ext), Windham:** Silage corn ranges from great to terrible. Pollination successful on most fields, but lack of rain prohibited kernels from filling with that high energy starch. Ears have all the kernels in many cases, but tiny ears. Other fields have green stalks and big ears. Ration balancing is going to be a challenge this year, requiring many silage samples as the pile changes quality frequently. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Katrina brought welcome rain to some areas but left others high and dry. Farmers returned to making hay by the end of the week with cooler drier weather.

**MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains; Growers continue getting ready equipment for harvest. Harvesting small grains and canola. Some vine desiccation has begun. Also growers are plowing some of their fields. Mostly grain fields after the crop is harvested. Rains first part of the week have really helped the potato crop. Quality looks very good and yields should be average. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Fungicides still being applied. Vine desiccation is being done in most areas. Grains being harvested. Broccoli harvesting continues. Showers early in week prevented fieldwork for a couple of days. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Harvesting early. Starting to top kill for harvest. **Leslie Nelson (NRCS), Piscataquis:** Over two+ inches of rain saturated fields and prevented much fieldwork from occurring. **Donald Burke (FSA), Waldo:** Second crop harvest of hay resumed as soon as Katrina moved out. Silage corn still growing. Sweet corn still plentiful, but late. Showers during the week and the remnants of Hurricane Katrina brought several inches of rain to the area. Great news for pastures and crops. Rising fuel costs affecting farmers. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Wet weather Monday through Wednesday slowed down second crop haying. A couple of blueberry fields were being finished this week. Wide variety of fruits and veggies still available, especially sweet corn. Rain from Hurricane Katrina brought relief for dry pastures and gardens. Skyrocketing fuel costs hurting local farmers. Farmers don't get to add a "fuel surcharge" onto their crops! **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Weather has been beautiful for harvesting activities. The area continues to need rain having missed most of the rain from Hurricane Katrina. Apple orchards are opening for pick your own. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Oxford County producers had several rainy days last week. Some parts of Oxford County welcomed the rain as the soils were dry. Apple producers have reported that some fruits are small in size but the majority of the fruit is average size. Apple producers reported that the rains helped with the size issue but will hinder with harvesting, which will start hopefully this week for some. Potato producers have reported some major issues with harvesting in Oxford County. Vegetable

growers are still harvesting their vegetables and taking to market, but the market will slow now that Labor Day has gone by.

**MASSACHUSETTS - Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire:** Monday through Wednesday the county had up to 3" of rain, though some areas only received 1.5" of rain. Most of the land absorbed the water. Very few puddles in the fields. Harvesting of fruits and vegetables was hampered with the wet conditions. Pick your own cane berries had a good demand. The volume of 2nd cutting for some farmers has been real short. But we have at least one farmer from south county reporting a 4th cutting. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Nice dose of rain last Tuesday and Wednesday. After wanting rain so bad for so long, the New Bedford area received nearly 7 inches. Some cranberry beds were flooded for a few hours. Damage should have been minimal, as temperatures were relatively moderate thereafter. Berries of the early varieties have disappointing size, whereas the later varieties have pretty good size. We still need rain to bulk up the reservoirs and to continue to size up the berries. Color is coming along slowly but surely. **Jason Otto (FSA), Bristol:** Good week for field work. Some rain on Monday was a relief but it seems to be too late for most crops. **John Devine (FSA), Franklin:** It was a tale of two weather fronts this week. During the beginning of the week we had the remains of Hurricane Katrina with rain and humidity and wind. The second half of the week brought cool, dry, sunny weather that was great for making hay. All fall crops are being harvested now. Corn silage yields should be awesome this year. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** A nice cool week for harvesting fall crops. Harvesting of fall crops continues at a rapid pace with dry conditions. Growers are harvesting apples, peaches, potatoes, all types of peppers and squash, tomatoes and pumpkins. Soil conditions are dry and many farmers are irrigating their crops. Growers continue to scout for pests and disease in late fall crops. Tobacco producers are reporting the crop is drying down very good in the sheds. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** Heavy rains from remnants of Katrina brought much needed rain and pushed Labor Day corn crop to excellent condition. Good size ears and Oh so sweet! Farmers harvesting all crops. Blueberry harvest complete, fall raspberry harvest underway. Pumpkins and mums now at farm stands. Great Labor Day weekend, sales and weather! Growers getting ready to pick fall products. How will gas prices affect fall leaf peeper season?

**NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap:** The early apples are being picked and fall mums are selling. Corn mazes opened over the holiday weekend. Farm stands and farmers' markets are filled to the brim with a large assortment of native grown vegetables. **Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll:** With Labor Day weekend behind us, can frost be far away? Fall mums and pumpkins appearing at the garden centers. Hay cutting and baling winding down. Peaches coming in, apples not far off. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Pretty warm most of the week, with some heavy rain midweek and gorgeous haying weather over the weekend. Field corn continues to mature, with a few farms just beginning to chop. Too wet to hay for much of the week, but remainder of second cutting and more third got mowed over the weekend. Vegetable producers, still doing well with later corn, field tomatoes, etc. Blueberry harvest starting to wind down, PYO apples just picking up. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** A rainy beginning of the week gives way to sunny but cooler temperatures in time for the county fair. Field corn maturing well, generally in milk stage or a bit further. Good re-growth of haylands and pastures. Hay being taken as possible. Plenty of summer veggies available, better than average year for sweet corn. Mature orange pumpkin entries at fair give a look at what was an overall good growing season. Some more signs of fungal problems, powdery mildew, more common now in squash plants. Seem to see more leaf miners in field corn this year. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Corn continues to mature aided by rainfall and heat. Third cutting continuing as weather permits. Quality of third cutting hay is excellent. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Vegetables: Harvesting an array of vegetables: beans, beets, cole crops, cucumbers, greens, peas, potatoes, pumpkins, radishes, summer squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, winter squash, zucchini, and other vegetables. Mildew can be found on pumpkins and winter squash. Farmers are cutting and picking up pumpkins and winter squash. Some farmers are starting to clean up harvested fields and planting cover crops. Fruit: Orchardists harvesting peaches, plums, and finished picking Paulared apples. Orchardists busy monitoring for pests, summer pruning trees, mowing orchard floors, fixing up orchard

roads and move bins into the orchard. Highbush blueberry harvest over except for those few growers who have late maturing varieties, and fall raspberry harvest continued. Seeing Two-Spot Mite buildup in fall raspberry plantings. Field Crops: Hay cutting continued during the week with the second and third cuttings being made. Some spreading manure on hay fields. Farmers making new forage seedings and some new seedings have germinated. Corn looks good to excellent. **Sadie Puglisi (Ext), Merrimack:** Markets are full with everything you can think of. Cabbage, onions, potatoes, beans, watermelons, peaches, apples, tomatoes, cantaloupe. The nights and mornings are very cool. Trees that were stressed through the summer are already dropping leaves. Mums are for sale and corn mazes are starting. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Harvesting fall raspberries and blackberries; pumpkins, winter squash, hot peppers, eggplants and a whole array of vegetables and peaches are being harvested. Great Labor Day weekend for apples Pick-Your-Own harvest. Hay and haylage being produce. Pasture, in general, look good. Irrigating vegetables, weeding and cultivating. Fall mums are also available at garden centers and farmers' markets. **Pam Marvin (FSA), Sullivan:** Harvesting of silage corn has begun in the lower part of the county. Fourth cutting of haylage just about ready. Harvesting of summer vegetables still going on with pumpkins starting to show up at farm stands. PYO apples has begun with early varieties. Signs are it is an abundant year. PYO blueberries should be finishing up in another week or so. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** This was a dry week. It was a pleasant week for field work. Hay making and haylage continued during the week with the second cut. Silage corn is growing rapidly and some is ready for harvest. Vegetable growers were busy harvesting an array of vegetables. Crops were irrigated most of the week but there were a few scattered showers which gave growers a break. Disease and insect pressure is high this year and growers were busy monitoring crops and spraying where necessary. Fruit growers mowing orchard floors, monitoring for pests, cultivating and weeding new strawberry beds and renovated beds. Blueberry harvesting continued through the week, but was light because it is almost coming

to an end. Harvesting of peaches in pick your own operations continued through the week. Harvesting early apple varieties such as Gingergold and McIntosh. Poinsettias are growing well in most greenhouses and Garden Centers are already selling early mum varieties.

**RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport:** Heavy rains mid week helped and hurt. Potato harvest was slowed due to heavy soils and some second cut hay was rained on, but summer vegetables, corn and field conditions improved with a good drink. Some cool nights and warm days have been ideal for field work. A good Labor Day Weekend sent people to roadside stands and farmers markets for the purchase of mums, flowers, summer vegetables and fruits.

**VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille:** Corn silage harvest started last week on a few farms. Remnants of Katrina left us with some much need moisture. Great weekend weather provided ideal conditions for second and third grass harvest. Winter squash showing up at farm stands already. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** There was not a lot of activity last week. A few farmers were finishing second cut and a few more were doing third cut hay. The remnants of Katrina came through on Wednesday and provided some needed moisture. No flooding occurred from this thankfully. Farmers are beginning to think corn harvest now. The corn is nearly matured. **Perley Sparrow (FSA), Windham:** Got some much needed moisture but still short. Corn within a week of harvest. **Terence Bradshaw, Univ of Vermont:** Early harvest of Paulareds, JerseyMacs, etc. should be wrapping up. Picking of Gala and McIntosh will begin this week. Welcome but heavy rain last week should help to size up fruit. Color appears excellent this year. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** We had about 2.5 inches of rain from Hurricane Katrina, most of it came over night as a steady rain with no damage. Morning fogs making drying conditions difficult. **Heather Darby (Ext), Franklin:** Very dry with some rain relief this week. Some corn is being chopped because it is drought stricken. Other corn is drying down more rapidly than usual because of the dry weather. Third cut hay is being harvested.

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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