



New England Agricultural Statistics



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Crop Weather

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For week ending 9/18/05

Rains Came But Not Soon Enough

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending September 18, 2005, there were 5.5 days suitable for field work. Topsoil moisture was rated 6% very short, 28% short, 65% adequate, and 1% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 7% very short, 25% short, 67% adequate, and 1% surplus. Pasture condition was rated 6% very poor, 23% poor, 35% fair, 33% good, and 3% excellent. The first signs of fall came to Northern New England this week with leaves beginning to turn color and drop; however, several reporters noted that there has not yet been a major frost in the region. The week began with unseasonably warm temperatures and high humidity across the region. By Wednesday, cooler weather arrived, but humid conditions led to foggy mornings for the remainder of the week. Showers and thunderstorms spread across the region slowing field work as the remnants of Ophelia interacted with a cold front from the west. Farmers welcomed the wet weather for pasture and hay fields as it replenished the moisture; however, many found the rain came too late to help with most crops. Areas of Massachusetts reported field flooding and washouts. At the end of the week, the sun began to peek through the clouds again. Farm stands, where a wide variety of vegetables were available, have switched to fall sales. Major farm activities included weeding, monitoring crops for pests and disease, spraying fungicides and pesticides, spreading manure, baling hay, chopping grass and corn silage, and harvesting a variety of fruits and vegetables.

FRUIT: Apple harvest was in full swing with Macs, Honeycrisp, and Gala the main varieties ready to pick. Some growers reported lesser crops of smaller fruit, but were optimistic that this week's rains could help somewhat. Some fruit drop was observed with the heavy rain showers. Apples that dropped had low seed count, an indication of poor pollination from the spring. Connecticut tree fruit continued to suffer from prolonged lack of moisture. Growers reported apple and pear sizes below average to average in Connecticut, while the same fruits in the other New England states were reported as average in size. Fall raspberries and pear harvest continued while peach and plum harvest began to wind up. Heavy rains in the Cape Cod region caused flooding in several cranberry beds for a short period. Planks were pulled to allow for drainage. While the rain came too late to help with the size of some cranberry varieties, it did provide a needed boost to reservoir levels. Cranberry harvest started this past week with fruit quality reported as very good.

with exception of tomatoes and corn, harvest of summer crops was nearly complete. Sweet corn ears were reported dry at the tip; corn picked for the weekend looked good. Heavy rain towards the end of the week brought high numbers of corn earworm moth. Sweet corn growers were encouraged to keep checking their late sweet corn plantings for damage. Farmers cleaned up harvested fields, stored irrigation equipment and planted cover crops.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
	-- Percent --		
Topsoil			
Very Short	6	12	0
Short	28	35	3
Adequate	65	52	67
Surplus	1	1	30
Subsoil			
Very Short	7	10	0
Short	25	26	3
Adequate	67	63	70
Surplus	1	1	27

FIELD CROPS: Drier conditions earlier in the week led farmers to start harvesting and chopping silage corn this week, although some growers reported that rain later in the week caused some problems with mud. Farmers continued to cut hay during the week, with the second and third cuttings being made. Growers felt that the week's wet weather would be beneficial to hay growth, but the rains came too late for any benefit to the corn crop. Corn yields varied across the region, but reporters appeared encouraged given the late spring start. Cover crops were being planted in harvested fields. Growers also sprayed for Fall Army Worms and European Corn Borer. Vine desiccation began on potato fields in Maine; farmers were busy digging potatoes in Maine and Vermont. Shade tobacco producers were shredding stalks as harvest was complete.

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2005	2004	5-yr Avg	Condition
	-- Percent Harvested --			
Barley, ME	85	80	80	Good
Oats, ME	85	50	70	Good/Excellent
Potatoes				
Maine	10	15	15	Good
Mass.	50	55	50	Good
Rhode Isl.	75	80	75	Fair/Good
Sweet Corn	90	90	90	Good/Fair
Field Corn	25	15	20	Good/Excellent
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	100	99	99	Good/Fair
Shade	99	100	100	Good
Dry hay, 2 nd cut	90	95	95	Good
Dry hay, 3 rd cut	60	60	65	Good

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	- Percent Harvested -			Fruit Size	Condition
	2005	2004	5-yr Avg		
Apples	35	40	40	Avg/B. Avg	Good/Fair
Peaches	95	95	90	Avg/B. Avg	Good/Fair
Pears	45	50	40	Avg/B. Avg	Fair
Blueberries					
Highbush	100	100	99	Avg/A. Avg	Good/Excel
Cranberries, MA	-	-	<5	Avg/B. Avg	Good

VEGETABLES: Growers spent the week harvesting a wide array of fall vegetable crops including cole crops, melons, winter squash, and pumpkins. Picking of summer produce continued, but

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

For the Period: Monday September 12, 2005
To: Sunday September 18, 2005

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				CUM SINCE MAR 1 GROWING DEGREE DAYS				1-WEEK PRECIP			4-WEEK CUM PRECIP		
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	BASE-TOT	50F-DFN	BASE-TOT	60F-DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS
MAINE														
Augusta State_A	55	85	66	+7	2117	+163	994	+257	1.25	+0.55	4	3.75	+0.91	12
Bangor Intl_Arp	50	84	65	+7	2074	+290	929	+313	1.80	+0.97	4	4.42	+1.22	13
Bethel	39	83	65	+8	1909	+149	803	+211	0.87	+0.10	4	4.61	+1.28	10
Caribou Municip	41	74	61	+8	1706	+300	664	+286	1.14	+0.32	4	4.78	+1.34	10
Dover-Foxcroft	48	77	61	+6	1616	+84	580	+128	1.71	+0.80	3	4.00	+0.43	9
Frenchville	46	80	61	+9	1689	+383	662	+339	0.31	-0.54	3	4.47	+0.89	8
Houlton	39	77	62	+9	1710	+241	675	+251	1.83	+0.99	3	5.25	+1.70	13
Livermore Falls	36	85	64	+9	1946	+443	864	+435	0.92	+0.08	4	3.11	-0.43	10
Moosehead	38	78	61	+8	1497	+226	512	+202	1.29	+0.45	4	5.66	+2.26	10
Portland_ME	59	88	68	+9	2098	+291	981	+348	1.14	+0.44	4	2.44	-0.34	8
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	40	84	66	+10	1886	+274	787	+311	1.01	+0.28	3	4.28	+1.02	10
Berlin AG	39	84	65	+10	1902	+281	797	+300	1.27	+0.50	4	3.92	+0.49	11
Concord	48	89	70	+11	2367	+409	1168	+435	0.82	+0.19	4	2.18	-0.55	9
Diamond Pond	40	78	61	+10	1429	+346	478	+273	1.10	+0.17	4	5.43	+1.31	14
Keene AP	46	88	70	+10	2364	+172	1158	+259	0.23	-0.47	2	1.68	-1.37	7
North_Conway	46	84	66	+9	2097	+282	956	+324	1.42	+0.65	4	5.78	+2.42	10
Rochester	45	86	68	+8	2176	+75	1026	+188	1.19	+0.47	3	2.27	-0.72	9
VERMONT														
Burlington Intl	58	87	71	+13	2539	+454	1299	+467	0.91	+0.14	2	4.09	+0.71	9
Island Pond	39	83	65	+11	1826	+496	752	+427	0.79	+0.01	4	5.78	+2.13	14
Montpelier	53	85	69	+12	2154	+515	986	+479	0.71	+0.06	4	3.57	+0.57	15
Pownal	44	85	67	+10	2170	+456	964	+418	1.64	+0.73	2	3.40	-0.34	7
Rochester	36	87	68	+11	2090	+467	942	+445	1.50	+0.62	4	4.12	+0.29	12
Rutland AG	46	88	69	+9	2262	+96	1084	+208	2.06	+1.22	4	5.24	+1.67	11
Sutton	38	82	65	+11	1816	+474	741	+404	1.57	+0.79	4	5.36	+1.74	14
Townshend_Lake	43	87	69	+9	2247	+191	1061	+252	1.23	+0.46	4	3.15	-0.17	9
MASSACHUSETTS														
Ashburnham	46	86	69	+11	2298	+523	1097	+501	0.77	+0.08	4	1.53	-1.34	10
Boston/Logan_In	62	91	71	+7	2639	+107	1411	+240	1.11	+0.41	2	2.01	-0.94	7
Greenfield	42	86	70	+8	2424	+69	1193	+175	1.32	+0.54	3	3.48	+0.23	10
New Bedford	59	89	71	+6	2407	-158	1189	-11	2.33	+1.56	3	9.87	+6.38	8
Otis_AFB	61	82	71	+9	2597	+513	1327	+489	3.62	+2.85	2	5.37	+2.27	7
Plymouth	60	88	71	+10	2385	+246	1216	+337	3.26	+2.28	3	8.24	+4.35	8
Walpole	47	91	70	+10	2586	+434	1343	+471	1.87	+1.03	4	4.16	+0.59	10
Chicopee/Westov	52	90	72	+7	2743	+43	1427	+135	1.68	+0.84	3	3.21	-0.15	8
Worthington	40	87	68	+10	2109	+359	931	+364	0.26	-0.58	3	2.43	-1.10	9
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	63	91	73	+9	2815	+399	1530	+445	2.92	+2.08	3	7.17	+3.81	6
Woonsocket	57	87	71	+10	2575	+456	1316	+484	1.45	+0.54	4	4.37	+0.73	9
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	64	87	74	+9	2909	+303	1551	+300	1.69	+0.96	3	2.31	-0.56	7
Hartford/Bradle	58	91	74	+11	2923	+338	1581	+377	0.92	+0.01	4	2.08	-1.50	10
Norfolk	46	83	68	+10	2191	+442	984	+417	0.91	-0.07	4	2.28	-1.77	9
Thomaston Dam	50	88	72	+11	2603	+503	1327	+511	1.59	+0.67	4	2.90	-0.96	10
Willimantic	54	90	73	+12	2618	+474	1326	+476	0.67	-0.24	4	1.61	-2.01	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 18, 2005

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	L	HI	AV	DF	LO	HI
ME	33	88	63	+7	0.31	2.19
NH	32	90	66	+10	0.23	2.40
VT	35	88	68	+11	0.19	2.09
MA	40	92	70	+9	0.16	5.06
RI	57	91	72	+9	1.45	2.92
CT	40	92	72	+10	0.67	2.68

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: With near perfect weather and dry fields farmers were busy harvesting corn for silage. Vegetable and fruit crops need rain. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Heavy thunderstorms came through the area Thursday and Saturday bringing much needed rain, however it was too late for many crops. Field corn was being harvested as silage and shade tobacco producers were shredding stalks as harvest was complete. High fuel prices taking a toll on farmer's pocket books as at harvest time much to be consumed. Apple and pear crops are expected to be light due to the dry season. **Frank Himmelstein (Ext), New London:** Hay; Some much needed rains fell this week. It should produce some positive benefits for grass hay re-growth. Corn Silage; Corn continues to be chopped at a fast pace. The overall crop in the county is fair to poor depending on the field soil type. Rains came too late for any benefit to the crop. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Hot and dry until fast and furious showers showed up on Friday and Saturday evening, too late to improve crops other than hay. Corn yields continue to vary, higher plant populations may have an effect on reduced ear size. Apples are small, there are lots of apples just takes more to fill a bushel. Pumpkins also abundant but did not size up to the better selling sizes. Mums were irrigated and look great. Fifth Celebrating Agriculture event well attended. Farmers stopped at FSA booth to talk about crops, weather, and high LDP rates. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Nice weather early in the week, then Ophelia dumped inches of rain in a matter of hours. Some low lying fields flooded. The concern now is for nitrate levels in green chop harvested from drought stressed fields. Farmers need to beware of harvesting too early after the rains.

MAINE - Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook: Recent shower activity has delayed some field work. Farmers are trying to continue to vine-kill potatoes. Broccoli harvest continuing. Some farmers have started to harvest potatoes. More farmers should start this week if weather permits. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Farmers getting storage and equipment ready for harvest. Still applying top-kill. Potato and grain quality looks good at this time. **Leslie Nelson (NRCS), Piscataquis:** Farmers chopping grass, and some hay still being harvested. Corn silage estimated to be at least two weeks behind. Vine desiccation has begun on potato fields. **Donald Burke (FSA), Waldo:** Haying, field work on blueberry fields, and farmers markets kept everyone busy. Silage corn harvest has not begun yet. The price of fuel is going down which helps our local farmers. Showers at the end of the week from Hurricane Ophelia slowed down field work for a couple of days. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Fresh local apples are now at farm stands as well as melons and winter squash. Of course there is still plenty of sweet corn. Showers and overcast skies from the remnants of Hurricane Ophelia slowed down outdoor work for several days. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Significant rains have missed our area again. The soil remains dry. Apples picked so far are on the small side. Pick your own apples, corn mazes and pumpkin rides are all in full swing. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** We got some needed rain, but it interfered with pick your own apples on the weekend. Corn silage harvest is under way. The 165th Farmington Fair is happening this week! **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Oxford County producers had a good week weather wise. Sweet corn still being harvested along with other vegetables. Second crop hay is being harvested. Apple and potato producers are busy harvesting their crops at this time. **Laura Rand (FSA), Androscoggin:** Silage corn being harvested. Fall colors showing up at farm stands including asters, pumpkins, squash, and sweet corn. Sporadic rain showers at the end of the week, however, good weather prevails and most are hoping for a long, warm fall.

MASSACHUSETTS - Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire: A few hot days, others cloudy. No frost yet! Still very heavy dew in the morning. Silage corn is being cut at very high tonnage yields. Some corn is 14 foot tall. A lot of pumpkins being picked and sold at the stands/markets. Most tree fruit is a little smaller than normal. Great season for pick your own farms. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Significant rainfall occurred on Thursday, with 5-6 inches in three hours in many locations, including the

Cranberry Station. Several cranberry beds were flooded for a short period, as planks were pulled to allow for drainage. Effects from Ophelia were minimal, as the storm passed far to the east - rain less than an inch and minimal wind. Harvest started this past week for early incentives for Ocean Spray growers. It will continue at a slow pace until the last week of September. Fruit quality is very good so far. The rain came too late to help the size of some of the varieties, but it really helped the reservoir levels. Hard to believe, but no frost nights so far. **Jason Otto (FSA), Bristol:** Some heavy rains moved into the area late in the week. Heavy downpours cause field flooding and washouts in some areas. Some of the field moisture was replenished but too late in the season. **John Devine (FSA), Franklin:** Another beautiful week for harvesting fall crops. Lots of winter squash and pumpkins have been brought off the fields this week. Silage corn has ripened very quickly and some fields are showing signs of drought stress. Potato and onion farmers are reporting good yields on most fields. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Overall the week was very nice with one day of a steady rainfall. This rainfall brought much needed moisture into the county. Growers are in full swing harvesting silage corn, apples, peppers, potatoes, winter squash and cabbage. Apple yields are lighter this year because of a late spring frost, a very dry summer and a warm spell in January. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** A very dry week finally ended on a wet note. Sweet corn ears are dry at tip; corn picked for this weekend however was absolutely "prime"! Growers spraying for fall army worm and last of European Corn Borer. Harvesting winter squash, pumpkins, and other fall related products as well as picking summer produce, but with exception of tomatoes and corn, most summer crops just about done. Fall raspberries are excellent, apple crop is good. Consumer demand for fall produce and pumpkins is just starting. Mums strong, but all of us not wanting summer to end, especially with home heating oil prices.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap: Thankfully, we got some rain this past weekend. More is needed. McIntosh and Gala apples and fall raspberries are being harvested. Many vegetables are available at farm stands, which have switched gears to fall sales. Mum crops look nice. Over seeding pastures in hopes of fall rains to water in the seed. **Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll:** A bit of welcome rain, could still use more. Leaves beginning to color and drop; seems a bit early. Pumpkin and mum sales going well. Apples coming in smaller than usual. Many apples showing evidence of insect and disease damage. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Considerably warmer and more humid weather than last week, and a bit of rain towards the end of the week. The big push has begun with corn chopping. Still some third cutting hay to harvest, but weather hasn't been favorable. PYO apples continues with Macs and Cortlands. Veggies still doing well. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Field corn harvest begins, looks to be a good silage crop coming in. Considering late spring plantings and slow start, we have done well! Weather changing from hot humid weather at beginning of week to cooler temps, heavy rain by weekend. Some hay still coming in. Pumpkins fairly abundant at farm markets along with mums, late season veggies and early apples. Still no hard freeze reported on cropland and gardens. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Vegetables: Harvesting wide array of summer and fall vegetable crops. Farmers are starting to cleaning up harvested fields, putting away irrigation equipment and planting cover crops. Pumpkin crop and winter squash yields vary from field to field. Very high numbers of corn earworm moth were blown in with the heavy rain showers that came through Thursday and Friday. Sweet corn growers must keep checking their late sweet corn plantings for damage. Fruit: Apple harvest is in full swing with most growers concentrating on second picking McIntosh apples, also harvesting Ginger Gold, Gala and Honeycrisp apples. Fruit size is good, but bruising can be a problem. Seeing apple drop with heavy rain showers. Many of the apples that have dropped, have low seed count which is a sign of poor pollination in the spring. Fall raspberries and pear harvest continued with peach and plum harvest is winding up. Field Crops: Farmers are chopping corn silage and hay cutting continued during the week with the second and third cuttings being made. Cover crops were being planted in harvested fields. **Sadie Puglisi (Ext), Merrimack:** Welcomed rains this weekend. Farm stands full of pumpkins, corn stalks, and mums. Silage

quality is variable from over mature to under mature. Hay quality is good. Apple pickers are in full swing and fall raspberries are out. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Apple harvest in full swing and PYO apple operations quite busy picking McIntosh and Gala. Peaches and plum harvests still going on. At farm stands you will find fall raspberry, pumpkins, winter squashes, sweet corn, potatoes, tomatoes and many other vegetables. Pasture looks relatively fair to good. Hay being cut and haylage being done. Had some rain this weekend. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** Much needed rains. Vegetable growers busy harvesting an array of vegetables. A lot of field tomatoes being harvested at this time. Fruit growers busy harvesting peaches and apples. Apples and peaches picking very strong in the pick-your-own operations. Fall mum sales very strong at most garden centers and nurseries. Poinsettias growing well at most greenhouses.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: A welcomed rain arrived on Thursday. This will help pasture, but just a little late for some crops. Still harvesting corn, eggplant, tomatoes, beans etc, along with apples and tree fruits. Third cut is thin. Hard squash and pumpkins look good. Irrigation is the name of the game this season.

VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille: Farmers were busy chopping corn last week. Yields are being reported as some of the best ever. Pumpkin harvest in full swing with good yields. Weekend rain will give the grass a boost. No sign of frost yet. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Many farms started to harvest corn this week. The drier conditions earlier in the week made harvesting a pleasure. The rains later in the week have caused some problems with mud. So far the corn looks very good. Yields should average high this year. **Perley Sparrow (FSA), Windham:** Corn dried down very quickly and harvesting has begun on most all farms in Windham. **Terence Bradshaw, Univ of Vermont:** Harvest is in full swing with Macs, Honeycrisp, and Gala the main varieties in harvest. Some growers reporting smaller crops of smaller fruit, but the rains this past week should help that some. Not a lot of drop noted, even with the hot weather we have experienced lately. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Hot early in week, then wet. Have not seen the sun since Wednesday. Some people have started chopping corn. Some working on hay. Saw a bit of 4th cut this week, unusual here. Spreading manure after taking off the hay. Foliage on trees beginning to turn color. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Still seeing winter rye on late harvested fields. Started digging late potatoes, picking squash and pumpkins. Good crop of tomatoes and potatoes. 0.730 inches of rain last night, first rain in two weeks. Lots of beets, broccoli and cabbage. A good year for cole crops. Season starting for all types of fall products and decorations.

To receive this report every Monday evening, send an e-mail message to listserv@newsbox.usda.gov and in the body, type **subscribe usda-new-eng-crop-weather**

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