



New England Agricultural Statistics



Aubrey R. Davis, Director

Phone: 603-224-9639

Fax: 603-225-1434

www.usda.gov/nass

nass-nh@nass.usda.gov

22 Bridge Street
P.O. Box 1444
Concord, NH 03302

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For week ending 9/25/05

A Great Week For Harvest

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending September 25, 2005, there were 6.1 days suitable for field work. Topsoil moisture was rated 5% very short, 18% short, 76% adequate, 1% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 5% very short, 16% short, 77% adequate, 2% surplus. Pasture condition was rated 6% very poor, 11% poor, 48% fair, 29% good and 6% excellent. Warm conditions dominated the six-state region until a cool front arrived over the weekend. On Monday, clear skies moved in; however, light rain fell on Tuesday. By Wednesday, the skies became clear again and remained so until Saturday. On Sunday, cloudy conditions returned and brought some late evening showers. Farmers are hoping that the recent rains provide enough moisture to enhance third cutting of haylage. The weather provided ideal conditions for PYO apples and other fruits. Farm stands were full of mums, pumpkins and an array of fruits and vegetables. Major farm activities included baling hay, chopping corn silage, chopping grass, harvesting an array of fruits and vegetables, monitoring crops for pests and diseases, spraying fungicides and pesticides, spreading manure, and weeding.

FRUIT: It was a great week to pick fruits and berries. Cranberry harvest continued at a slow pace. The recent lack of rain has caused a small berry size and some growers expect less of a crop than previously estimated. Another week should help improve the quality and color of the berries. Peach harvest prospered with a week of warm weather. Crop condition was rated good to fair in the region as picking was winding down. Apple harvest reached the mid point of the season at week's end. Apple sizes varied throughout the region, below average to average in CT, average to below average in ME, and average elsewhere. Harvest of most early apple varieties has finished, however, McIntosh, Gala, Cortland, and Macoun are left to be picked. Orchardists also reported some apple dropping. Pear harvest was in full swing and crop condition was rated fair in New England.

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	- Percent Harvested -			Fruit Size	Condition
	2005	2004	5-yr Avg		
Apples	50	55	50	Avg	Good/Fair
Peaches	95	95	95	Avg	Good/Fair
Pears	65	70	55	Avg/B. Avg	Fair
Cranberries, MA	5	<5	10	Avg/B. Avg	Good

VEGETABLES: Cooler weather slowed vegetable harvest in some areas; however the mixture of warm and cool temperatures allowed growers to stay busy picking crops. Sweet corn harvest was near completion at week's end and condition was rated good to excellent and good to fair elsewhere. Producers were still harvesting beans, beets, broccoli, brussel sprouts, cabbage, cucumbers, greens, kale, lettuce, melons, onions, peas, peppers, pumpkins, radishes, snap beans, summer squash, tomatoes, and winter squash. Growers were also busy discing, cleaning and

planting cover crops on harvested fields. Some farmers were also chopping corn stalks from sweet corn fields that were already picked.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	5	6	0
Short	18	28	6
Adequate	76	65	84
Surplus	1	1	10
Subsoil			
Very Short	5	7	0
Short	16	25	5
Adequate	77	67	87
Surplus	2	1	8

FIELD CROPS: Farmers were busy with field work as they prepared for this week's wet weather due to remnants of Rita. The warm days provided ideal conditions for shade tobacco growers to wrap up harvest and curing. Farmers continued chopping corn silage as harvest reached the half-way point. Farmers are hoping that the recent rains will enhance grass re-growth to improve second and third cutting yields. Second cutting of hay should finish in the next couple of weeks if weather permits. Third cutting of hay remains uncertain for some farmers due to recent conditions; however almost three quarters of the harvest is completed. Maine barley and oats conditions have changed in recent weeks due to unfavorable weather. Barley condition was rated fair and oats were good to fair, compared to good to excellent for both crops two weeks ago. Potato harvest in Maine was in full swing and growers were busy with field work over the weekend. The weather provided great conditions for harvest of potatoes in Massachusetts. More rain is needed in Rhode Island to aid in potato harvest and to improve conditions.

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2005	2004	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Harvested --				
Barley, ME	90	95	90	Fair
Oats, ME	85	85	85	Good/Fair
Potatoes				
Maine	10	30	30	Good/Fair
Mass.	65	70	60	Good
Rhode Isl.	75	95	85	Fair/Good
Sweet Corn	95	95	95	Good/Fair
Field Corn	50	35	40	Good/Excellent
Tobacco				
Shade	100	100	100	Good
Dry hay, 2 nd cut	90	95	95	Good
Dry hay, 3 rd cut	70	70	75	Good/Fair

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

For the Period: Monday September 19, 2005
To: Sunday September 25, 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
MAINE														
Augusta State A	41	81	62	+6	2203	+198	1017	+273	0.12	-0.64	4	3.45	+0.58	14
Bangor_Intl_Arp	36	78	61	+5	2151	+322	947	+325	0.12	-0.65	5	3.99	+0.79	15
Bethel	35	79	59	+4	1971	+169	811	+215	0.02	-0.75	1	4.51	+1.32	9
Caribou Municip	32	71	54	+3	1738	+312	665	+287	0.41	-0.36	4	4.81	+1.51	11
Dover-Foxcroft	33	77	57	+5	1667	+105	582	+130	0.06	-0.85	1	3.85	+0.21	8
Frenchville	36	70	53	+3	1715	+390	662	+339	0.87	+0.03	5	4.80	+1.29	10
Houlton	30	72	54	+3	1741	+251	677	+253	0.21	-0.60	4	5.03	+1.58	13
Livermore Falls	32	82	59	+6	2009	+478	874	+445	0.16	-0.66	1	3.07	-0.35	10
Moosehead	32	72	55	+4	1534	+240	512	+202	0.33	-0.51	4	5.63	+2.23	13
Portland_ME	40	81	63	+7	2192	+335	1011	+374	0.16	-0.58	2	2.60	-0.24	10
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	38	78	59	+5	1947	+300	799	+323	0.18	-0.52	2	3.85	+0.80	10
Berlin_AG	37	78	58	+5	1961	+308	806	+309	0.00	-0.71	0	3.23	+0.06	9
Concord	36	84	63	+7	2460	+453	1199	+460	0.17	-0.46	1	2.17	-0.48	9
Diamond Pond	33	72	54	+4	1466	+367	480	+275	0.43	-0.46	3	4.85	+0.96	13
Keene_AP	37	82	62	+4	2450	+197	1183	+274	0.00	-0.67	0	1.55	-1.33	6
North_Conway	36	80	60	+6	2172	+317	973	+340	0.19	-0.58	1	5.93	+2.71	9
Rochester	38	85	62	+4	2260	+100	1048	+202	0.22	-0.55	1	2.44	-0.55	9
VERMONT														
Burlington Intl	40	81	63	+7	2630	+495	1334	+495	0.33	-0.39	3	4.34	+1.15	11
Island Pond	32	77	58	+6	1882	+526	764	+439	0.17	-0.54	4	5.61	+2.31	15
Montpelier	36	78	60	+6	2226	+550	1010	+498	0.09	-0.54	4	3.57	+0.79	15
Pownal	39	79	60	+5	2243	+486	978	+426	0.29	-0.55	2	3.69	+0.09	9
Rochester	38	80	60	+6	2163	+500	959	+455	0.40	-0.44	1	4.32	+0.70	11
Rutland_AG	39	82	62	+5	2347	+122	1108	+221	0.25	-0.53	1	5.05	+1.63	9
Sutton	36	77	57	+6	1867	+501	747	+410	0.23	-0.53	4	5.46	+2.11	15
Townshend_Lake	39	82	61	+4	2328	+217	1079	+262	0.04	-0.69	1	3.14	+0.00	9
MASSACHUSETTS														
Ashburnham	39	79	63	+8	2390	+572	1125	+527	0.02	-0.61	1	1.34	-1.39	9
Boston/Logan_In	48	85	68	+6	2763	+140	1470	+274	0.01	-0.69	1	2.00	-0.88	7
Greenfield	41	83	64	+5	2524	+97	1227	+194	0.21	-0.56	1	3.45	+0.25	9
New_Bedford	37	82	65	+3	2517	-144	1237	+6	0.02	-0.75	1	9.87	+6.59	8
Otis AFB	39	81	66	+6	2710	+554	1380	+528	0.12	-0.68	2	5.45	+2.34	8
Plymouth	37	82	65	+6	2491	+283	1262	+371	0.00	-0.93	0	8.23	+4.36	7
Walpole	41	83	65	+7	2691	+478	1383	+501	0.07	-0.77	1	4.11	+0.61	9
Chicopee/Westov	39	85	66	+4	2856	+67	1475	+158	0.08	-0.73	1	3.28	-0.05	8
Worthington	36	81	61	+5	2186	+389	946	+372	0.04	-0.80	1	2.15	-1.31	8
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	45	83	68	+6	2943	+442	1591	+483	0.14	-0.63	1	6.51	+3.22	6
Woonsocket	39	83	65	+8	2685	+505	1362	+522	0.03	-0.82	1	3.95	+0.37	9
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	51	85	70	+7	3052	+348	1624	+341	0.00	-0.70	0	2.31	-0.56	7
Hartford/Bradle	40	86	67	+7	3044	+381	1637	+415	0.00	-0.85	0	1.72	-1.86	8
Norfolk	44	78	62	+7	2273	+479	1003	+430	0.03	-0.90	1	2.29	-1.64	9
Thomaston_Dam	44	83	65	+7	2711	+546	1368	+538	0.06	-0.85	2	2.81	-0.98	10
Willimantic	39	83	65	+6	2723	+512	1366	+503	0.03	-0.90	1	1.64	-2.02	8

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 25, 2005

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	L	HI	AV	DF	LO	HI
ME	29	82	58	+4	0.00	0.98
NH	27	85	60	+6	0.00	0.52
VT	31	83	60	+6	0.00	0.82
MA	32	85	65	+6	0.00	0.24
RI	39	83	67	+7	0.00	0.14
CT	37	86	66	+6	0.00	0.06

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: A lot of corn was harvested this past week. Fields are dry enough in most places to allow for an easy harvest. The crop looks very good in most places. Some later third cut hay is also being harvested. The county still hasn't had a hard frost. **Jude Boucher (Ext), Tolland:** Finally a little rain with the wash from Hurricane Katrina, but the soil is already dry again. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Chopping corn for silage continues and several farmers are finished. Corn is drying down very fast and some is ready to pick. Irrigation continues on sod and veggies. Picking pumpkins, Indian corn and gourds. Tobacco is curing nicely in sheds. **Frank Himmelstein (Ext), New London:** Hay-Growers waiting to see if some rainfall and favorable temperatures will produce another late cutting. Field Corn-Chopping continues in the county, though many growers are finished. The typical late planted wet fields are being chopped now and look good considering the lack of additional moisture during the growing season. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Farmers are very concerned with dry conditions in the county. Silage corn in some areas was harvested early due to dryness of the crop. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Apples are small. A bit of rain. Corn harvest varies. Spreading manure. Hoping hay perks up for another cutting. Vegetables - some good, some not so hot. Pumpkins and mums ready. Still a bit hot as fall has officially begun. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Finishing up third cutting hay, harvesting corn silage, going to fairs. What better way to spend the time?

MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook: Potatoes and small grains: All growers have begun harvesting potatoes. Still harvesting small grains, however the weather has not been cooperating very well. Most growers were in the fields Sunday September 25 because rains are predicted for the beginning of the week. Crops looks good, however yields are down. Some pink rot has been found in only certain varieties. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Broccoli harvesting continues. Most area farmers have started to harvest their potato crop. Hopefully, the current showers will cease and harvesting will continue this week. The crop is looking excellent. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Some of the farmers have started harvesting potatoes, quality looks good. Some are still doing vine kill on the later varieties. **Leslie Nelson (NRCS), Piscataquis:** Early varieties of apples reported to have low yields and smaller size, but later varieties seem to be average. Farmers hoping to start harvesting potatoes and chopping corn silage this week. **Donna Lamb (Ext), Piscataquis:** Harvest of forage corn is in full swing. Some areas of the county experienced a light frost Saturday morning. Fall is here! **Gleason Gray (Ext), Penobscot:** Cool nights have slowed some vegetable harvest. Moisture levels have been good for fall growth of strawberry plantings. **Donald Burke (FSA), Waldo:** Silage corn harvest has begun with great late summer weather all week. Winter squash, pumpkins, and fall vegetables now at local farmers markets. This is the time of year for weed control on blueberry fields. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Corn stalks and pumpkins for decorations are plentiful at farm stands. Many varieties of winter squash are available. Sweet corn still available but winding down. Field work on blueberry fields underway, but no burning yet. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Harvesting of silage corn has begun. Third crop of hay is almost non-existent. Pick your own apples is in full swing. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** First frost hits low spots in this area. Vegetables are hustling out of the garden. Corn silage is flying into the wagons. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Oxford County producers are busy harvesting crops. Producers have reported that 2nd crop hay is lighter than first crop hay in Oxford County. Apples are being harvested and the size of some of the fruit is small. **Laura Rand (FSA), Androscoggin:** Silage and potatoes are being harvested with a vengeance. Cool nights and warm days.

MASSACHUSETTS - Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire: A great dry week for harvesting silage, corn is drying down fast making good feed. All veggie crops are getting harvested and are selling. Some moisture Sunday AM, but cool. Several good fields of soybeans coming along, drying and looks good. Pumpkin losses have been reported, very low yield. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Harvesting continues at a slow pace.

Early varieties have had smaller crops as expected due to small berry size. Some crops are 25% less than estimates. It appears that we will not get the 1.7 million barrel estimate for the MA crop. We probably had a significant frost night from Saturday into Sunday. Color should improve dramatically this week. Quality continues to be very good to excellent. **John Devine (FSA), Franklin:** Heavy July rains are a pain to some and a boon to others. Many pumpkin and winter squash growers have reported yields are much lower than normal as a result of water related diseases. Other farmers are trying to sever erosion problems caused by too much rain too fast. Silage harvesters were working late this week to cut as much corn as possible. Farmers are reporting that this year's yields are "off the chart" heavy. Average silage yields in the 25-30 ton/acre are not uncommon in the Conn. River valley. So far, September has also been a great month for harvesting high quality alfalfa haylage. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** The weather was very nice last week and growers continue harvesting apples, potatoes, winter squash, and silage corn. Farmers have applied a cover crop on many of the harvested fields. Irrigation pipe and plastic mulch is also being removed from the fields of summer crops. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** Fall field harvest ending with last of pumpkins and winter squash arriving at farm stands. We growers however, are still busy picking sweet corn and tomatoes. Other farm activities were mowing fields, chopping sections of picked sweet corn, weeding and cultivating new strawberry fields. Fall army worm less than 1% here. Citizen demand for sweet corn still very high. Cooler weather this weekend brought apple, pumpkin, and mum sales way up. Fall raspberries this year are so sweet and large!

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap: Fall sales at farm stands and garden centers are strong. All of the late season crops are now being harvested. The weather has been nice for field work but rain has not been consistent. **Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll:** Little or no rain, hot and humid for September. Apples and pears in full swing. Blueberries still wrapping up, turned out much better than the spring weather would have predicted. Mums and pumpkins at every farm stand and garden center. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** A little rain early in the week, with the remainder dry and sunny. Just a few ice crystals on the windshield Saturday AM after a chilly night, but no frost damage apparent anywhere. Remaining field corn is maturing rapidly; a number of farms were able to finish up, and the others are making good progress. Some spreading manure on stubble. Still plenty of vegetables in stands. Great weather for PYO apples, now into midseason varieties. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Cooler weather all around, reports of scattered frosts about the county, harder frosts further north. Growing degree days just past 1800 at our Lancaster station. Corn silage chopping continues, seeing some very good yields and quality. Haylage also being harvested. Many apples, pumpkins, and winter squash at farm stands. A good crop year despite the late start. Autumn color just beginning. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** Corn harvest is almost completed. This year's crop is very good. Ear development is much better than expected. The warm fall has been a big help. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Vegetables: Great weather and good demand for all vegetables continues. Harvesting a 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 of McIntosh and Gala apples, and working on Cortland and Macoun. Fruit size is good, but bruising can be a problem and some orchardists seeing some apple drop. Fall raspberries and pear harvest continued with peach and plum harvest winding down. Field Crops: Silage corn harvest in full swing along with second and third cuts of hay and haylage continues. Some manure spreading on fields taking place and cover crops were being planted in harvested fields. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Not much rain lately; we need some. Nights are much cooler especially on Saturday evening and Sunday. Continue to harvest summer and winter squash and a whole array of vegetables, some fall raspberries, and blueberries. Apple harvest in full swing. Cleaning some vegetable fields and planting cover crops. Haying and chopping corn.

Mum crop and other ornamental crops are excellent and plentiful. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** A pleasant week for field work. Haying and haylage making continued from the second cut and some third cut. Vegetable growers harvesting an array of vegetables including sweet corn and pumpkins. Fruit growers harvesting apples, peaches and fall raspberries. Fall mums sales strong at garden centers. Greenhouse growers monitoring the growth of poinsettias, and scouting for diseases and insects and spraying where necessary.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: Same need for rain, but at this point it's just a bit late. Harvesting corn, tomatoes, hard squash, pumpkins, summer squashes, apples and raspberries. Some third cut hay and field corn being cut. Beautiful mums fill the roadside stands and lots of gourds and pumpkins to fill in any spaces.

VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille Corn silage harvest progressed nicely last week with very good yields being reported. Some manure being spread on harvested corn

acres. Soybeans almost ready for harvest. The first frost of the season touched a few areas on Saturday morning. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** A lot of corn was harvested this past week. Fields are dry enough in most places to allow for an easy harvest. The crop looks very good in most places. Some later third cut hay is also being harvested. The county still hasn't had a hard frost. **Perley Sparrow (FSA), Windham:** Good harvesting week. Some farmers have completed corn harvest. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Kind of warm and dry week. Still no widespread killing frost. Many are now harvesting corn for silage, and quite pleased with yields. Grass continues to grow in damper areas, very difficult to dry now. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Digging late potatoes, a good crop. Cutting and storing winter squash, pumpkins, and cabbage. Early seeding rye fields all green with a nice winter cover. 1.488 inches of rain. Several good showers have helped the dry land. Fall is here and the season to decorate with lots of pumpkins, gourds, corn stalks. A bright and happy time of the season!

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Aubrey R. Davis, Director
Travis Averill, Statistician

Gerald Tillman, Deputy Director
Deirdre Davis, Stat Assistant

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