



# New England Agricultural Statistics



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## Crop Weather

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October 3, 2005 – 4 pm

For week ending 10/2/05

### Another Warm Fall Week With Little Frost

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:** For the week ending October 2, 2005, there were 5.8 days suitable for field work. Topsoil moisture was rated 3% very short, 13% short, 81% adequate, 3% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 4% very short, 14% short, 80% adequate, 2% surplus. Pasture condition was rated 7% very poor, 12% poor, 43% fair, 30% good and 8% excellent. Warm weather and rains early in the week provided much needed moisture to the crops as the harvest season comes to a close. For many crops, the rains came too late. More rain hit on Thursday with high winds in parts of New England causing some crop damage. Clear, sunny days arrived on Friday and remained through the weekend. Cool nights brought scattered light frost to northern New England. Sales from farm stands continued strong with mums, pumpkins and vegetables marketed. Major farm activities included baling hay, chopping corn silage, chopping grass, harvesting an array of fruits and vegetables, spreading manure, and weeding.

**FRUIT:** A warm, sunny weekend provided great conditions to pick fruit. Peach harvest should finish this coming week and condition was rated fair to good. Pear harvest has completed for some growers, however, most growers still have pears to pick. Pear conditions continue to vary in the region and at week's end was rated fair to good. Apple harvest is now coming down the back stretch and concentrating on second or strip picking. Growers are busy harvesting Cortland, Ginger Gold, Honeycrisp, Macoun and McIntosh apples. There were some reports of some apple drops and bruising. Cranberry harvest was progressing at a slow rate due to poor coloring in berries and fruitworm injury. Quantity of cranberries may be lower than projected, however quality continues to be very good. Maine wild blueberry growers continue to work fields but too early to burn or flail. Fall raspberry growers continued to pick berries.

squash. Growers were also busy discing, cleaning and planting cover crops on harvested fields. Roadside stands and farmers markets were busy selling fall mums, pumpkins and vegetables.

#### SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
<b>Topsoil</b>			
Very Short	3	5	0
Short	13	18	5
Adequate	81	76	83
Surplus	3	1	12
<b>Subsoil</b>			
Very Short	4	5	0
Short	14	16	6
Adequate	80	77	84
Surplus	2	2	10

**FIELD CROPS:** Rains during the week limited field work until the weekend. Wet conditions made it difficult to harvest the last of the barley and oats in Maine. Both barley and oats conditions were rated good. Maine potato harvest made big strides over the weekend after a wet week but remain behind the five year average. Massachusetts potato harvest improved over the week and on schedule with last year. Rhode Island potato harvest took advantage of the warm, sunny weekend and is close to wrapping up the season. Corn silage harvest continued strong and was three quarters completed as farmers took advantage of the warm weekend weather. Field corn conditions varied in the region from good to excellent in MA, NH, and VT and good to fair elsewhere. Some growers reported some wind damage to the corn fields from the storms on Thursday in the region. Farmers continue to welcome the rains to see if re-growth will justify another cutting of hay. Most farmers continued to bale second cutting and third cutting over the weekend after a wet week as the harvest season comes to a close. Some reports of fourth cutting of hay and maybe even some alfalfa in the coming week.

#### FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2005	2004	5-yr Avg	Fruit Size	Condition
- Percent Harvested -					
Apples	65	70	65	Avg	Good/Fair
Peaches	99	99	99	Avg	Fair/Good
Pears	80	80	70	Avg/B. Avg	Fair/Good
Cranberries, MA	10	20	20	Avg/B. Avg	Good

**VEGETABLES:** Rain showers during the week improved crops due to limited moisture through the summer months. Warm, sunny days over the weekend provided excellent conditions for sales at roadside stands and farmers markets. In Aroostook County, growers continued to harvest broccoli. Most vine crop yields are lower due to fields being infected by diseases. Some sweet corn growers reported wind damage to some of the fields from the storms during the week. Sweet corn harvest should finish picking this coming week or shortly thereafter as most growers were finished. Producers were still harvesting beets, brussel sprouts, cabbage, carrots, kale, pumpkins, tomatoes, and winter

#### FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

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

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

For the Period: Monday September 26, 2005  
To: Sunday October 2, 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	38	69	56	+3	2252	+209	1018	+272	0.94	+0.17	2	2.50	-0.43	12
Bangor_Intl_Arp	36	70	56	+4	2201	+340	951	+329	0.90	+0.13	2	2.89	-0.31	13
Bethel	33	68	52	-2	1991	+160	811	+215	1.07	+0.30	2	1.96	-1.14	7
Caribou_Municip	35	67	53	+5	1765	+326	665	+287	2.61	+1.88	3	4.58	+1.42	12
Dover-Foxcroft	31	69	51	+1	1685	+104	582	+130	0.37	-0.52	2	2.14	-1.48	6
Frenchville	37	67	53	+5	1741	+405	662	+339	3.12	+2.34	4	4.30	+0.92	12
Houlton	31	68	53	+4	1773	+269	677	+253	1.29	+0.52	3	3.71	+0.40	11
Livermore_Falls	32	72	52	+2	2028	+479	874	+445	1.01	+0.24	2	2.18	-1.10	8
Moosehead	32	69	50	+2	1545	+237	512	+202	1.34	+0.53	3	3.19	-0.18	12
Portland_ME	37	69	57	+3	2242	+349	1017	+380	0.57	-0.20	2	1.87	-1.04	8
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>														
Benton	35	69	52	+0	1966	+294	799	+323	1.05	+0.35	4	2.32	-0.58	10
Berlin_AG	35	69	52	+1	1983	+307	806	+309	1.30	+0.57	2	2.57	-0.45	6
Concord	38	72	57	+4	2510	+467	1203	+464	1.40	+0.76	3	2.39	-0.20	8
Diamond_Pond	35	68	49	+2	1475	+366	480	+275	1.73	+0.89	4	3.58	-0.08	12
Keene_AP	37	72	57	+2	2502	+203	1190	+274	1.13	+0.48	2	1.36	-1.39	4
North_Conway	35	68	53	+2	2201	+318	974	+341	1.25	+0.42	3	2.86	-0.34	8
Rochester	36	72	55	-2	2295	+91	1050	+198	1.09	+0.30	2	2.61	-0.40	7
<b>VERMONT</b>														
Burlington_Intl	40	71	58	+5	2690	+519	1346	+505	1.20	+0.50	3	2.70	-0.32	9
Island_Pond	34	67	52	+2	1901	+527	764	+439	1.30	+0.60	3	3.57	+0.52	12
Montpelier	33	71	56	+5	2272	+570	1017	+505	1.23	+0.60	5	2.15	-0.47	16
Pownal	37	69	54	+2	2278	+490	980	+428	1.56	+0.72	4	3.52	+0.02	9
Rochester	37	72	55	+3	2198	+505	961	+457	1.57	+0.73	3	3.57	+0.09	9
Rutland_AG	36	72	55	-2	2382	+111	1109	+215	0.68	-0.05	3	2.99	-0.25	8
Sutton	34	69	51	+3	1884	+502	747	+410	1.08	+0.38	4	3.06	-0.04	14
Townshend_Lake	37	74	54	-1	2360	+208	1081	+258	0.90	+0.20	3	2.17	-0.83	8
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>														
Ashburnham	38	70	56	+4	2435	+586	1130	+532	1.16	+0.46	2	1.95	-0.77	7
Boston/Logan_In	48	77	62	+3	2850	+154	1493	+280	0.47	-0.23	2	1.59	-1.23	5
Greenfield	38	71	55	-3	2563	+78	1232	+190	0.37	-0.40	1	1.90	-1.26	5
New_Bedford	37	75	60	-3	2587	-153	1255	+4	1.62	+0.92	2	3.97	+0.89	6
Otis_AFB	41	75	61	+3	2786	+574	1402	+543	1.15	+0.32	2	4.89	+1.72	6
Plymouth	39	75	59	+3	2559	+297	1277	+379	0.94	+0.03	2	4.20	+0.40	5
Walpole	39	75	58	+2	2745	+485	1390	+501	0.76	-0.08	2	2.70	-0.73	7
Chicopee/Westov	36	73	59	-2	2924	+65	1491	+158	0.74	-0.04	2	2.50	-0.77	6
Worthington	34	70	53	-2	2211	+378	948	+373	0.99	+0.15	4	1.29	-2.10	8
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>														
Providence	44	77	62	+3	3026	+457	1613	+491	1.22	+0.45	2	4.28	+1.06	6
Woonsocket	39	75	59	+4	2747	+521	1372	+526	0.80	-0.04	2	2.28	-1.23	7
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>														
Bridgeport/Siko	44	75	64	+3	3151	+367	1657	+351	0.43	-0.27	2	2.12	-0.75	5
Hartford/Bradle	39	75	61	+3	3120	+396	1656	+423	0.55	-0.29	2	1.47	-2.04	6
Norfolk	39	67	54	+2	2307	+481	1004	+431	0.62	-0.29	2	1.56	-2.24	7
Thomaston_Dam	40	72	58	+2	2768	+552	1375	+538	0.74	-0.17	2	2.39	-1.33	8
Willimantic	37	74	59	+2	2785	+521	1377	+507	0.60	-0.31	2	1.30	-2.36	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, October 2, 2005

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	L	HI	AV	DF	LO	HI
ME	29	72	52	+1	0.37	3.67
NH	20	75	53	+1	0.53	3.63
VT	27	74	54	+2	0.39	3.02
MA	32	78	58	+2	0.37	1.62
RI	39	77	61	+3	0.80	1.22
CT	36	75	59	+1	0.43	1.15

**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:** Farmers continue to harvest corn silage. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Some showers mid week led to clear and a wonderful weekend for visiting farmers markets and farm stands. No killing frost yet so vegetables are still being harvested by some. Pear harvest is complete with mixed results for producers. Apple harvest is making good progress at about 75% complete. Corn silage harvest is wrapping up while grain corn is continuing to dry down. **Frank Himmelstein (Ext), New London:** Hay - Very little activity on hay production during the week. The rains received this week may allow enough re-growth to justify one more cut on some fields before the end of the year. Corn Silage - A number of later planted fields still have not been chopped. Some damage may have occurred from the strong winds that came through earlier in the week. Grains yields down considerably in many areas due to lack of rain during the growing season. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Showers helped restore pastures and some 3rd cutting of hay. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Heavy wind and rain Thursday, first major drink in a long time. Dust storm off sod farm, still dry. Applying rye, harvesting apples, some varieties small in size., Young Christmas trees lost due to dry conditions, woods are dry, trees stressed by drought dropping leaves before turning color, smaller roots under surface have dried up and will offer little support if wet spring occurs. Hickory nuts plentiful, not much of an acorn crop. Chrysanthemums, pumpkins and corn stalks brighten fall decorating. Apples 50% harvested. Corn about 80% done. **Joyce Meader (Ext), Windham:** Farmers are torn between their political obligations and a beautiful weekend to get the cropping season finished. 2006 Farm Bill Forum was a unique opportunity for local farmers to express their wishes. Instead many spread manure and finished corn chopping. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Corn silage harvest is winding down, most farms are finished. A few late planted fields hanging around yet. Some late grass silage coming off with the week's unseasonably warm temperatures.

**MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Potato harvest in full swing. However rains during the middle of the week curtailed harvest operations until the weekend. Good weather predicted for the next few days, will see substantial acreage harvested. Ground drying out quite well over the weekend. Condition of the harvested crop is very good with yields about average. Wet weather has made it difficult to harvest remaining acres of small grains and their condition is deteriorating. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** It was a very rainy week which delayed harvesting until Wednesday. Thursday we had more showers later in the day. The weekend was beautiful with lots of sunshine and warm temperatures. Growers took advantage of the warm weather and harvested long hours on Saturday and Sunday. Crop looks excellent! Broccoli harvesting still continuing. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Harvesting is coming along good. **Leslie Nelson (NRCS), Piscataquis:** Harvesting of corn silage is in full force. Potato harvest has just started. Pumpkins, squash and apples are dominating roadside stands. **Donald Burke (FSA), Waldo:** Silage corn harvest underway with perfect fall weather. More hay remains to be cut if the weather holds. Field work on blueberries underway but too early to burn or flail now. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Fall crops such as broccoli, pumpkins, butternut and buttercup squash are ready at farm stands. Silage corn harvested is underway by our dairy farmers. Mulch hay is ready in preparation for colder months ahead. Perfect weather for harvesting silage corn and vegetables and outdoor activities. Very little fall foliage here on the coast so far. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** The weather has been great for harvesting. Yields of pumpkins and winter squash are way down on some fields due to last June's weather. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** There has been some frost. With good field conditions corn silage & 3rd cut hay are coming in nicely. Apple harvest is coming down the stretch. After a wet start, we had a pretty good growing season. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Harvest of silage corn is going strong. Sweet corn almost done being harvested. Potato crop being harvested along with haylage. Pumpkins, winter squash and apples are being harvested and available around the county in farm stands. Autumn color is just beginning. **Laura Rand (FSA), Androscoggin:** Cool nights, warm days have been the norm. Pumpkins, squash, brussel sprouts, potatoes, silage corn, hay are all being harvested. No reports of

frost as of yet. Silage corn production is being reported at normal or above normal yields as an average.

**MASSACHUSETTS - Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire:** Some areas in the county had up to two inches of rain this week. Corn silage is being harvested at a very fast rate, with only a few minor breakdowns. With cold weather coming squash & pumpkins are being harvested & taking cover. Orchards are at full speed picking their crop. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Harvesting has been progressing at a slow rate, as many growers are waiting for better color. Color has been poor so far. Several growers report that their harvested crops have been 25-30% below their projections. If that continues throughout the industry, there's no way we reach the 1.7 million barrel crop prediction. Quality continues to be very good, but fruitworm injury certainly took away some of the crop. **John Devine (FSA), Franklin:** Farmers in Franklin County have made the most of excellent harvest conditions. Silage, potatoes, and late fall crop growers are reporting excellent yields. Grain farmers have remarked that perfect weather conditions have allowed their crops to be ready well ahead of schedule. Fall vine crops producers, especially pumpkins, have not been so lucky. Some growers were affected by phytophthora on low-lying acreage. Many have reported that their crops are breaking down during harvest or in storage. These losses appear to be field specific rather than widespread. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** A rainy Monday brought the first tobacco damp for the Valley tobacco growers. This tobacco damp allowed growers to take down and start bundling their crop for sale. Many growers also finished harvesting their crop of tomatoes, peppers, winter and summer squash. Greens, cabbage, potatoes, apples and pumpkins are still being harvested. Corn silage harvest is coming to an end and growers are reporting an excellent yield. Many growers are sowing a protective cover crop on their harvested fields. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** Heavy rain along with fierce wind flattened wide areas of ripening sweet corn, and really added moisture to soils. Most winter squash and pumpkins have been harvested now, still picking sweet corn, tomatoes and eggplant. Growers are mowing fields and removing plastic. Cover crops being applied. Just a beautiful weekend for retail sales of fall crops and of course sweet corn. Everyone selling mums. New strawberry fields look just beautiful, weed free and plenty of plant vigor.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap:** What a wind storm we had on Thursday!! Picking McIntosh, Cortland, Ginger Gold and more...it's prime time at the orchards. Farm stands are featuring winter squash, pumpkins, gourds and mums. Corn silage chopping and late hay cutting are in progress. **Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll:** Warm sunny days, cool nights, still no frost. Little to no leaf color. Quite an unusual beginning to fall. Conditions favorable for pasture growth, so pastures still look very good. Most crops harvested, everyone waiting for frost. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** One day with heavy rains, but an otherwise gorgeous week. Many farms are done chopping corn, and the remainder should be done pretty soon - the weather has been quite cooperative this season. Some third cut hay/baylage harvested, some farms may try a fourth cut on alfalfa/grass in the next week or so. Great weekend for picking apples and orchards are keeping busy. Farm stands still hanging in there with late season sweet corn and an abundance of pumpkins. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Very good quality/quantity silage corn coming in. Heavy rain and winds earlier in week damped spirits, knocked down scattered trees. Harvest continues, a little hay where possible. Manure spreading on hay land. Most pumpkins now out of field and on display at fair. Honey bees kicking drones out of the hive. Summer is over! Approaching peak autumn colors in northern part of county, rather late for us. Honeycrisp apples are now on sale. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Vegetables: Great weather and good demand for all vegetable continues. Harvesting wide array of vegetables including: cabbage, kale, brussel sprouts, winter squash and pumpkins along with the tail end of warm season crops. Good demand for all vegetable continues. Farmers kept busy discing, cleaning up and planting cover crops on harvested fields. Fruit: Pick-your-own apple and farm stand operations had a wonderful weekend. Apple harvest is in full swing with most growers concentrating on second or strip picking McIntosh apples, and working on Cortland and Macoun. Fruit size is good, but bruising

can be a problem and orchardists seeing quite a bit of apple drop. Fall raspberries and pear harvest continues. Field Crops: Silage corn harvest in full swing. Cover crops were being planted in harvested fields. **Sadie Puglisi (Ext), Merrimack:** Finally seeing some fall color in the trees. Cortlands and Macs are being picked along with some fall raspberries. Squash and pumpkins are filling the farm stands. Looking forward to some warm days this week to possibly extend the season a little longer. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Different apple varieties are being harvested. Harvesting an array of vegetables, pumpkins and gourds. Abundant supply of mums at garden centers. Some cool nights but no frost. Gusty winds and high rain in the afternoon of September 29. Some apples being bruised and vegetable plants uprooted. **Pam Marvin (FSA), Sullivan:** Most of the silage corn is harvested with excellent yields being reported. Fall fertilizing with manure and seeding of winter rye is following. The last of the hay crops are getting in. A good year for apples with reports of smaller than usual size. Warmer than usual fall weather has helped to get the fall crop and field chores done. Very little frost to date. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** A few showers during the week interrupted hay making for some days. However, growers continued to make hay and haylage from the second cut. Vegetable growers busy harvesting sweet corn and an assortment of other vegetables. Fruit growers busy harvesting apples. Fall mums continued to sell at most garden centers.

**RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport:** Field corn being chopped and still harvesting some potatoes. Lots of field work, haying, and harvesting. Rain midweek was good for pastures and cool grasses.

**VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille:** Warm summer weather has provided great harvesting conditions. Had one day of rain and high winds that slowed fieldwork but did no substantial agricultural damage. Corn silage harvest is more than half done. Soybeans almost ready for harvest. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Farmers are continuing to harvest corn. Most farmers I have talked to are very happy with the quantity and quality of the crop. The weather has been somewhat cooperative for the harvest as well. Most all of the 3rd hay crop has been harvested. A few hay fields are being cropped for the fourth time this year. We still haven't had widespread frost in the county. **Perley Sparrow (FSA), Windham:** Corn harvesting continues. Got rain one day. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Another warm fall week with no wide-spread frost. High winds on Thursday caused some damage. Lots of haying, corn chopping and manure spreading. Lots of moisture in the ground, fields are soft. Quantity of hay and haylage appears greater than average. **Heather Darby (Ext), Franklin:** Corn silage continues this week with some delays due to rain. Overall the yields have been high. Manure is being spread on harvested fields and fall tillage has begun. Some people still finishing up third cut. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Still seeding winter rye on late harvested fields. All squash stored ready for sales. Late potato crop half dug with good yield. 0.586 inches of rain for the week. Markets full of good fall crops, potatoes, squash, cabbage, tomatoes, beets and carrots. Also all kinds of produce for decorating, corn stalks, pumpkins, Indian Corn, gourds and bittersweet.

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