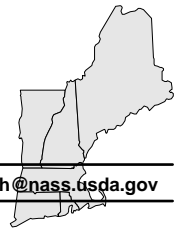




New England Agricultural Statistics



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United States Department of Agriculture

Crop Weather

Volume 26, Number 23

(Issued weekly on the internet, May – October)

October 2, 2006 – 4 pm

For week ending 10/01/06

Ready or Not, Farmers are Chopping Corn

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending October 1, 2006, there were 5.3 days available for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture: 89% adequate, 11% surplus. Subsoil moisture: 88% adequate, 12% surplus. Pasture condition: 1% poor, 33% fair, 52% good, 14% excellent. Drier weather with seasonal temperatures between Monday and Thursday provided good conditions for outdoor activities, pick-your-own operations, and field crop harvest this week; however, producers hoping for warm days to improve crop maturity and quality to late planted crops were disappointed. Cool nights and localized frosts helped to bring color to cranberries and dry down silage corn in preparation for harvest. Most growers have kept ahead of frost and fall rains, but rainy conditions on Friday and Sunday slowed field work across the region.

FRUIT: Apple harvest was in full swing across the region, with growers concentrating on McIntosh, Cortland, and Macoun varieties. Apple producers in Western Maine reported that apples have been smaller and seedless, with scab and rust. Some growers are buying apples to resell in order to supplement crop losses. Pick-your-own sales remain strong across the region, but were slowed by rain on Sunday. Cranberry harvest continued in Massachusetts; growers reported that fruit quality and color are very good so far. Also harvested this week were Bartlett and Bosc pears, fall raspberries and grapes.

VEGETABLES: Late season vegetables and decorative crops continue to fill farm stands, including beans, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, corn stalks, eggplant, gourds, kale, Brussel Sprouts, mums, ornamental corn, peppers, tomatoes, winter squash and pumpkins. Growers continue to report that the yields for pumpkins and winter squash are lighter than normal, which has helped keep their prices high. A few growers were still picking sweet corn; harvest had advanced to 99% complete by week's end. Farmers also spent the week cleaning up fields, removing crop debris, pulling plastic, putting away irrigation equipment, and planting cover crops on harvested fields.

FIELD CROPS: Farmers took advantage of the week's drier weather to harvest corn silage this week. Initial reports of yield and quality were variable across the region. Growers in Connecticut reported that late planted corn had no ears. Dry hay and haylage continued to be cut and baled as the weather permitted. Potato harvest in Rhode Island advanced to 90% this week; and harvested fields were being prepared for winter. Maine potato harvest continued this week, with many producers reporting good quality and yields; however, growers expressed concern that heavy soil moisture was slowing down field work. The rainy weekend did cause an excellent tobacco damp; growers continued to take down tobacco this week.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil Moisture			
Very Short	0	0	3
Short	0	3	13
Adequate	89	89	81
Surplus	11	8	3
Subsoil Moisture			
Very Short	0	0	4
Short	0	1	14
Adequate	88	90	80
Surplus	12	9	2

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-Percent Harvested-			Fruit Size	Condition
	2006	2005	5-yr Avg		
Apples	75	60	65	Average	Good
Peaches	100	99	99	Average	Good
Pears	95	75	70	Average	Good/Fair
Cranberries, MA	30	10	15	Average	Good/Excellent

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2006	2005	5-yr Avg	Condition
	--Percent Harvested--			
Barley, ME	99	90	95	Good/Fair
Oats, ME	99	90	95	Good/Fair
Potatoes				
Maine	70	50	55	Good/Excellent
Mass	60	75	70	Good
Rhode Island	90	90	95	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	40	70	65	Fair/Good
Sweet Corn	99	95	95	Good
Dry Hay				
Second Cut	95	95	95	Good
Third Cut	75	85	80	Good

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

For the Period: Monday September 25, 2006
To: Sunday October 1, 2006

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	
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN				INCHES	DFN		
MAINE															
Augusta State A	38	71	55	+1	2253	+215	934	+188	0.77	+0.00	3	3.38	+0.46	11	
Bangor Intl_Arp	35	69	53	-1	2175	+318	874	+252	0.70	-0.07	4	4.19	+0.99	14	
Bethel	33	72	52	-2	1951	+123	733	+137	0.60	-0.17	4	1.94	-1.17	11	
Caribou Municip	35	65	50	+2	1774	+336	609	+231	1.16	+0.42	4	2.87	-0.31	12	
Dover-Foxcroft	33	69	53	+2	1614	+35	530	+78	1.26	+0.36	2	3.25	-0.38	9	
Frenchville	37	64	50	+2	1634	+299	521	+198	2.22	+1.43	4	4.04	+0.64	15	
Houlton	30	67	50	+1	1827	+325	661	+237	0.48	-0.29	4	2.33	-1.00	14	
Livermore Falls	31	73	51	+0	1994	+447	771	+342	0.47	-0.30	2	3.23	-0.07	9	
Moosehead	31	72	49	-1	1505	+199	481	+171	0.64	-0.18	3	2.63	-0.75	12	
Portland_ME	37	76	57	+2	2254	+365	925	+288	0.82	+0.05	3	3.57	+0.67	10	
NEW HAMPSHIRE															
Benton	33	71	52	-1	1835	+166	661	+185	1.23	+0.53	4	2.98	+0.06	12	
Berlin AG	36	76	52	+1	1821	+148	651	+154	0.18	-0.54	3	1.26	-1.77	14	
Concord	31	77	56	+3	2442	+403	1070	+331	0.54	-0.10	2	2.25	+0.35	8	
Diamond Pond	33	69	46	-3	1270	+162	361	+156	0.75	-0.09	4	2.41	-1.28	14	
Keene AP	34	73	56	-1	2293	+0	968	+53	0.34	-0.30	2	1.16	-1.60	8	
North Conway	35	68	51	-3	2112	+232	840	+207	0.56	-0.26	4	2.63	-0.57	13	
Rochester	35	75	55	-2	2267	+68	952	+100	0.59	-0.19	4	3.18	+0.18	11	
VERMONT															
Burlington Intl	37	77	57	+3	2536	+369	1133	+292	1.56	+0.86	4	3.02	-0.02	12	
Island Pond	33	72	52	+2	1730	+358	586	+261	1.31	+0.61	5	2.34	-0.74	15	
Montpelier	32	75	54	+3	2116	+417	813	+301	1.88	+1.25	4	3.33	+0.69	16	
Pownal	35	72	53	-2	2040	+256	782	+230	1.64	+0.80	5	4.23	+0.72	14	
Rochester	33	72	53	+1	1936	+247	711	+207	1.67	+0.83	4	2.96	-0.54	13	
Rutland AG	32	74	53	-4	2117	-148	841	-52	0.80	+0.06	3	2.78	-0.49	13	
Springfield_VT	32	71	55	+3	2258	+415	932	+336	0.63	-0.14	4	2.51	-0.71	16	
Sutton	34	68	50	+1	1649	+269	540	+203	1.50	+0.80	5	2.75	-0.38	14	
MASSACHUSETTS															
Boston/Logan_In	45	83	62	+2	2885	+198	1418	+207	0.48	-0.22	2	1.60	-1.23	7	
Fitchburg	37	79	57	+5	2688	+843	1279	+681	0.41	-0.28	3	2.13	-0.59	10	
Greenfield	36	76	55	-4	2423	-55	1062	+21	0.92	+0.15	4	3.31	+0.14	13	
New_Bedford	36	74	58	-5	2520	-210	1126	-123	0.47	-0.24	4	3.12	+0.02	11	
Otis_AFB	39	72	58	+0	2463	+258	1065	+207	0.19	-0.64	2	1.83	-1.33	8	
Plymouth	37	76	58	+1	2532	+277	1160	+263	0.59	-0.32	4	2.10	-1.71	11	
Walpole	38	78	57	+2	2599	+345	1215	+327	0.21	-0.63	4	1.52	-1.92	9	
Chicopee/Westov	33	79	57	-4	2583	-267	1159	-172	1.32	+0.54	4	2.56	-0.72	11	
Worthington	32	76	53	-3	2022	+193	796	+221	0.76	-0.08	4	2.45	-0.95	12	
RHODE ISLAND															
Providence	41	79	61	+2	2983	+423	1458	+338	0.65	-0.12	4	2.87	-0.36	9	
Woonsocket	40	80	58	+2	2614	+394	1213	+367	0.28	-0.56	3	2.23	-1.29	9	
CONNECTICUT															
Bridgeport/Siko	44	76	63	+2	3031	+257	1486	+183	0.31	-0.39	2	2.48	-0.39	9	
Hartford/Bradle	37	82	61	+2	2998	+282	1486	+254	0.88	+0.04	3	2.19	-1.33	10	
Norfolk	34	71	53	-1	2188	+366	913	+340	0.59	-0.32	4	3.53	-0.28	14	
Thomaston_Dam	37	77	57	+0	2601	+391	1180	+344	0.72	-0.19	4	2.90	-0.83	13	
Willimantic	38	78	58	+2	2721	+464	1264	+395	0.41	-0.50	4	1.77	-1.89	11	

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 1, 2006

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	L	HI	AV	DF	LO	HI
ME	29	76	51	-1	0.18	2.23
NH	21	80	53	+0	0.08	1.47
VT	29	77	53	+0	0.63	2.90
MA	32	83	57	+0	0.15	1.54
RI	40	80	61	+3	0.28	0.65
CT	34	82	59	+0	0.14	0.93

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 - Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland: Harvesting of tree fruit continues with pears completed this past week. Corn silage harvest continues with several all done. Applying rye cover crop. Still picking string beans, tomatoes, cabbage, pumpkins, gourds, a little sweet corn, eggplant and peppers near the river. Mid week was good for drying hay and some nice 2nd and 3rd cutting put up. A touch of frost Saturday morning in outlying areas. Near 3/4 of an inch of rain on Sunday.
Marsha Jette (FSA), New London: Producers chopping 3rd cut while waiting for late planted or replanted corn to mature. Pumpkins not plentiful. Vegetables being harvested. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Pears are still pretty hard. PYO good on sunny weekend days. Buying apples to supplement crop losses. Pumpkin crop off, price of pumpkins up. Still picking sweet corn, some fields still wet from showers since spring, late planted corn no ears. Corn harvest will continue as fields mature. Rye cover looks good on early chopped fields. Mum pricing competition to draw in customers. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** This was a fairly good week for field work. The corn silage harvest is progressing well. Sweet corn is wrapping up. Fall crops are being harvested and apples are plentiful. **Joyce Meader (Ext), Windham:** Some corn is the best ever, some is a weed infested mess of short, unseeded stalks! **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Corn harvest is progressing rapidly despite the rain. Overall most farms are saying corn harvest is good with a few poor spots due to the wet conditions early in the season. Total harvest will still be down due to fields that didn't get planted.

MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook: Potatoes and small grains: Now that harvest is in progress, so have the rains begun. Growers able to harvest only four days this past week. Ground beginning to get wet and heavy slowing down harvest operations. Need a few days of warm, sunny weather. Potato quality and yields very good. Some yields are better than expected. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Fall is in the air - harvesters, trucks, smell of harvesting of potatoes along with beautiful, crisp autumn days, a great way to start off the harvest season. Farmers were busy getting crops out, the weather was great most of the week. Mostly sunny with a couple of rainy mornings. Overall everything is going great! Crop is looking very good with good yields. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: So far the farmers have been harvesting a good quality potato crop. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis:** Wet weather has made any field operation difficult. Pick-your-own apples and pumpkins are in full swing. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Corn harvest is slowed by wet weather and wet fields. Yields are lower than even previously expected. Wet weather will make it difficult to empty manure pits this fall. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Good weather most of the week for harvesting. Farmers are getting in some third crop grass. U-pick stands are full of people picking apples. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Pumpkins and corn stalks for autumn decorations are at local farmstands. Fieldwork on blueberry fields continues but burning has not started yet. Fall harvest of vegetables underway. Apple harvest continues. Beautiful fall weather during the week for outdoor activities. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Androscoggin/Franklin:** A major killing frost is expected this week. Pumpkins and squash are picked. Lots of silage corn has been chopped. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Oxford County apple producers have reported small seedless apples with scab and rust. They have also reported that they are down 50%. Potato producers have reported overall a good crop, but the size is small this year. Sweet corn is near the end of being harvested. Hay is still being harvested when weather permits. Fall has arrived and the cool nights are here. **Laura Rand (FSA),**

Androscoggin: Busy, busy, busy. Producers are chopping corn, harvesting potatoes, bringing in pumpkins, squash, and other vegetables. Most growers are trying to keep ahead of the frost and fall rains. Days have been sunny but lacking warmth, cool nights prevail.

MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: Hard frost this week with one to two inches of rain towards week's end. Silage corn being chopped. Hay making is slowed down and ending. Fields continue to be turned under and put to bed. Pumpkins and winter squash show low yields, small and immature fruit from the wet spring and delayed plantings. Farm stands had a good week and Saturday was a beautiful fall day so that encouraged sales but we could use less rain on the weekends. Foliage is beginning but the impact of the caterpillars is clear with many maple leaves going brown rather than colorful. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Cranberry harvest continues, with very good crops being delivered. Fruit quality is very good so far, and color is excellent. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Franklin/Hampshire/Hampden:** Excellent weather conditions for harvesting fall crops. No frost yet. Another rainy weekend which caused an excellent tobacco damp so far, growers could continue taking down tobacco. Harvesting apples, pears, raspberries, winter squash, pumpkins and many more fall crops. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** Spotty frost again this week, all of summer crops finished. Last of sweet corn picked as well. All ripe fall crops in from fields. Growers continue putting fields to bed for next year. Good retail sales of crops for the week except for Sunday, rainy day. Hope for good Columbus Day weekend weather (for retail sales) as growers try to hang on to consumer base.

New Hampshire - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap: Cool night temps are slowing down growth of many veggie crops. Growers are starting to clean up the fields - removing crop debris, pulling plastic, putting away irrigation and sowing cover crops. Apple, pumpkin, cider and mum sales are strong. Fall raspberries are ready. **Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll:** Mostly pleasant week, grass still growing, good for pastures, dry hay and haylage 3rd and 4th cut in some places still going in the barn. Pick-your-own apples very popular, mums are doing well. Cabbage, broccoli and cauliflower looking fantastic. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Generally nice fall weather, with scattered frost in the first part of the weekend. Corn silage harvest is still going on but starting to wind down. Additional third and a little bit of fourth cutting alfalfa/grass being harvested here and there. PYO apples doing pretty well, farm stands displaying lots of pumpkins, mums, etc. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Silage corn chopping, packing into bunk silos continues at a good pace. In general, fairly good quality considering the weather conditions this growing season. Market gardens winding down, still lots of pumpkins, mums, etc for the decoration market for sale. A light season on pumpkins however, later season apples now available. Ending the growing season at 1732 growing degree days on October 2nd. In 2005, there were 1875 growing degree days on October 3rd. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Corn silage harvest in full swing. Yields variable due to wet weather earlier in the season. Re-growth of alfalfa grass (fourth) looks good. Rain late in the week slowed field work. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** The weekend brought in some hard rains, we received nearly two inches rain in some areas. Fortunately most of the corn is now harvested. The 2006 corn crop is a little less than prior years, but is still OK for the weather conditions of this past summer. Yields are down slightly from last year with the best river bottom pieces showing only a very small decrease in yields. The fields that were slightly higher in elevation

and/or had heavier soil conditions, showed a larger loss in total tonnage. Haylage is still being chopped. Some fields are still too wet to harvest. For the year the alfalfa crop has done quite well. Alfalfa yields are generally up and/or normal. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Vegetables: Great weather and good demand for all vegetables 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 disking, cleaning up and planting cover crops on harvested fields. Fruit: Pick-your-own apple and farm stand operations had a wonderful Saturday but rainy Sunday. Apple harvest is in full swing with most growers concentrating on 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 bite of apple drop. Fall raspberries and pear harvest continues. Field Crops: Silage corn harvest in full swing. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Very light frost in certain areas. Heavy rain and gusty winds on Sunday. Pasture growing well. Haying and chopping corn. Harvesting an array of vegetables, fall raspberries, apples, Barlett and Bosc pears, grapes, pumpkins, gourds. Cleaning up harvested fields, applying manure, liming, and planting cover crops. Mums, ornamental kale and perennials are available at farmstands and garden centers. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** Chopping corn, haying and cleaning some fields. Vegetable growers still harvesting an array of different crops. Some growers are starting to clean up harvested fields and planting cover crops. Fruit growers continued to harvest apples.

Weeding new strawberry beds. Farm stands and garden centers busy selling pumpkins, mums, corn stalks and other fall decorations. Greenhouse growers busy monitoring the progress of poinsettia.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: Chopped lots of field corn this week along with baling hay. Potatoes almost finished and fields being worked. Pumpkins and winter squash, gourds and hard squashed being harvested. The quality is down, to much rain. Christmas trees getting ready to open for tagging, lots of apple PYO's open. Corn mazes, hay rides and pumpkin PYO's very busy.

VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille: Corn silage harvest is in full swing with a very wide spread in yields being reported. No widespread frost has occurred so the veggies are still growing. Some haylage was harvested before the rain on Sunday. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Ready or not the farmers are chopping corn. Several frosts this past week has dried the corn down and the farmers are taking advantage of the drier weather to harvest the crop. Other activities this week included some finish up 3rd cut haying and manure spreading. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** All harvested field seeded back to winter rye with warm weather and moisture good germination. No frost so late planting of all fall crops doing great. Pumpkin and winter squash crop looking good. Market full of late vegetables potatoes, tomatoes, broccoli, cabbage and peppers. Fall season starting with corn stalks, pumpkins, gourds and Indian corn. Have a good week.

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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