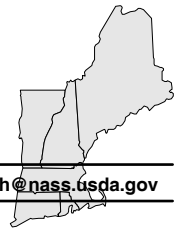




New England Agricultural Statistics



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October 16, 2006 – 4 pm

For week ending 10/15/06

Crop Weather

Farmers Preparing for Colder Weather

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending October 15, 2006, there were 6.0 days available for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture: 5% short, 84% adequate, and 11% surplus. Subsoil moisture: 1% short, 87% adequate, and 12% surplus. Pasture condition: 8% poor, 26% fair, 47% good, and 19% excellent. The week began with dry conditions and above average daytime temperatures across much of the region. Wet weather arrived Wednesday night and stayed until Thursday morning, bringing more than two inches of rain, and stopping field activities in most of the region. Sunny weather returned on Friday and remained throughout the weekend, helping to bring people out to farm stands and markets, corn mazes, and hay rides; however, temperatures remained much cooler. Daytime highs over the weekend stayed below 60 degrees, while overnight lows fell into the 20s and 30s, bringing killing frosts to much of the region.

FRUIT: Massachusetts Cranberry harvest continued this week, with growers expecting a longer than usual harvest period due to the size of this year's crop. Growers continue to report that the crop is in good to excellent condition. Apple harvest across the region advanced to 90 percent this week. Farm stands and pick-your-own apple operations saw brisk business this weekend as Red Delicious, Rome, and other late maturing varieties became available. Orchardists spent the week cleaning up dropped apples, putting away orchard equipment, and painting tree fruit trunks in preparation for winter. Some farms reported late season raspberries and some pears still available. Wild blueberry producers spent the week flail mowing and burning blueberry fields, while strawberry producers weeded strawberry beds.

VEGETABLES: Freezing nighttime temperatures brought killing frosts to much of the region over the weekend, and with it the end of this year's vegetable harvest. In the few areas where frosts did not occur, growers continued to harvest and farm stands continued to promote late season vegetables and decorative crops, including cabbage, kale, parsnips, brussel sprouts, winter squash, pumpkins, peppers, tomatoes, and fall mums. Many vegetable growers removed plastic mulch and tomato stakes, cleaned their fields, planted cover crops, and put away equipment. Greenhouse growers monitored their poinsettia crops for pests and nutrient requirements.

FIELD CROPS: Farmers were harvesting soybeans and corn for grain this week. Field corn harvest for silage was nearly finished across the region; however, the mid-week rain delayed completion. Growers seeded cover crops on harvested fields. A few farms tried to harvest more grass for dry hay and haylage this week. Some producers reported that the hard frosts were beneficial for making hay, but intermittent rains and heavy dews have made haymaking difficult. Producers in western Vermont reported that grass was infected with rust. The remaining unharvested acres of Maine's oat crop were combined this week, and potato harvest in Maine advanced to near completion. Producers continue to report a good to excellent potato crop this year. Tobacco producers continued to bundle their crops for sale.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
	-- Percent --		
Topsoil Moisture			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	5	1	0
Adequate	84	89	31
Surplus	11	10	69
Subsoil Moisture			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	1	1	0
Adequate	87	87	43
Surplus	12	12	57

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-Percent Harvested-			Fruit Size	Condition
	2006	2005	5-yr Avg		
Apples	90	85	85	Avg/Above	Good
Pears	99	95	90	Average	Good
Cranberries, MA	80	75	70	Average	Good/Excel

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2006	2005	5-yr Avg	Condition
	--Percent Harvested--			
Barley, ME	100	95	99	Good
Oats, ME	100	95	99	Good/Fair
Potatoes				
Maine	95	90	95	Good/Excellent
Mass	80	85	85	Good
Rhode Island	95	100	99	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	80	85	90	Fair
Sweet Corn	100	100	100	Good
Dry Hay				
Second Cut	99	99	99	Good
Third Cut	85	90	90	Good

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

For the Period: Monday October 9, 2006
To: Sunday October 15, 2006

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	30	76	53	+3	2304	+223	936	+190	2.30	+1.46	2	4.66	+1.52	10
Bangor Intl Afp	30	76	52	+3	2222	+329	874	+252	1.98	+1.27	2	4.42	+1.45	12
Bethel	26	80	50	+2	1978	+120	733	+137	2.40	+1.56	2	3.71	+0.55	10
Caribou Municip	28	74	47	+3	1794	+346	609	+231	1.03	+0.35	3	4.29	+1.40	14
Dover-Foxcroft	23	77	49	+3	1635	+40	530	+78	1.96	+1.16	2	4.35	+0.90	8
Frenchville	30	69	47	+3	1653	+310	521	+198	1.47	+0.75	3	5.03	+1.91	16
Houlton	26	77	48	+3	1851	+337	661	+237	0.31	-0.39	2	2.17	-0.84	12
Livermore Falls	25	82	50	+4	2022	+457	771	+342	1.95	+1.11	2	4.06	+0.80	8
Moosehead	25	76	47	+3	1517	+200	481	+171	1.53	+0.79	2	3.73	+0.56	10
Portland_ME	29	72	53	+4	2311	+384	925	+288	2.90	+2.07	2	5.58	+2.48	10
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	27	74	48	+0	1854	+156	661	+185	1.39	+0.69	2	4.06	+1.26	12
Berlin AG	25	76	49	+3	1849	+153	651	+154	1.35	+0.58	2	2.11	-0.87	12
Concord	26	81	53	+4	2505	+426	1078	+339	2.06	+1.36	1	4.32	+1.66	9
Diamond Pond	28	70	45	+2	1279	+161	361	+156	1.40	+0.56	3	3.36	-0.06	14
Keene AP	27	79	51	-1	2350	+1	972	+56	1.48	+0.78	1	3.07	+0.35	8
North Conway	28	75	48	+2	2131	+223	840	+207	2.10	+1.20	2	3.80	+0.47	11
Rochester	29	77	51	+0	2315	+61	953	+101	2.69	+1.77	1	5.15	+1.83	11
VERMONT														
Burlington Intl	34	74	51	+3	2581	+371	1135	+294	0.55	-0.08	2	3.42	+0.72	12
Island Pond	27	73	47	+3	1745	+353	586	+261	1.07	+0.37	3	3.53	+0.71	18
Montpelier	29	75	50	+3	2151	+422	814	+302	0.53	-0.10	2	3.77	+1.25	13
Pownal	28	77	50	+3	2086	+265	782	+230	1.21	+0.37	3	4.15	+0.80	14
Rochester	26	77	48	+2	1961	+239	711	+207	0.76	-0.08	3	4.05	+0.69	13
Rutland AG	27	74	49	-3	2151	-173	841	-59	0.44	-0.19	2	2.75	-0.11	11
Springfield_VT	26	78	51	+4	2309	+433	935	+339	1.05	+0.28	1	3.57	+0.49	12
Sutton	26	75	47	+4	1667	+271	540	+203	0.95	+0.18	2	3.39	+0.44	15
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	41	80	58	+2	2996	+207	1439	+211	1.24	+0.54	1	2.83	+0.03	7
Fitchburg	29	79	54	+7	2764	+885	1291	+693	2.08	+1.38	2	3.61	+0.89	11
Greenfield	30	79	52	-2	2478	-75	1063	+12	1.43	+0.66	2	4.97	+1.89	11
New Bedford	29	74	55	-3	2604	-240	1136	-133	0.74	-0.03	1	3.85	+0.88	11
Otis_AFB	32	72	55	+2	2553	+273	1078	+213	0.87	+0.03	1	2.56	-0.74	7
Plymouth	30	76	55	+3	2623	+298	1174	+271	0.90	+0.03	1	3.24	-0.38	10
Walpole	31	80	53	+2	2673	+360	1229	+335	1.69	+0.85	1	3.50	+0.14	8
Chicopee/Westov	26	79	52	-3	2654	-294	1169	-180	1.50	+0.73	1	4.60	+1.46	11
Worthington	25	76	49	-1	2063	+190	796	+221	1.80	+0.98	3	4.31	+1.02	13
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	36	78	57	+3	3099	+448	1482	+348	1.22	+0.41	1	3.42	+0.29	8
Woonsocket	30	79	54	+4	2692	+419	1222	+376	2.01	+1.10	1	3.65	+0.19	8
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	38	74	56	-1	3149	+260	1506	+180	3.44	+2.77	1	4.31	+1.56	7
Hartford/Bradle	29	82	55	+2	3096	+301	1505	+263	2.00	+1.23	2	4.19	+0.90	9
Norfolk	28	71	50	+2	2234	+373	913	+340	1.94	+1.10	2	3.52	-0.04	12
Thomaston Dam	31	77	53	+1	2674	+395	1185	+339	2.73	+1.89	1	4.51	+0.97	10
Willimantic	29	78	54	+2	2813	+488	1277	+401	1.67	+0.76	2	2.89	-0.77	10

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 15, 2006

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	L	HI	AV	DF	LO	HI
ME	22	82	49	+2	0.02	3.16
NH	15	88	49	+2	1.00	2.73
VT	21	79	48	+1	0.36	1.22
MA	25	81	53	+2	0.05	2.32
RI	30	79	56	+3	0.72	2.01
CT	26	82	53	+1	0.74	3.44

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 - Howard Rood (FSA), Fairfield/Litchfield: Heavy rains at the end of the week made field work difficult. **Frank Himmelstein (Ext), New London:** With hard frosts ending the week, the last of the silage corn was being cut in the county. Overall the late corn planted around late June, early July did much better than most of the corn planted earlier. Some early planted fields were ruined by a number of conditions. Too much water early in the season, followed by poor weed control late in the season seemed to plague those fields. I would hope that farmers would make sure starting next season to plant corn varieties that are resistant to glyphosate as some of the best looking fields in terms of weed control were in fields planted to glyphosate resistant corn varieties. Some custom applicators continue to use herbicides that cause injury to stressed corn and it certainly showed up in a number of fields I observed this season. Growers should check with their local Extension agents before agreeing to certain pest management programs. Making dry hay was still a struggle the past few weeks. Hard frosts are good weather for drying hay if the sun stays out and the rain stays away for enough days. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** We have experienced our first frost in New London County. Still chopping corn, and chopping grass. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Heavy rain overnight slowed down getting the corn done, some fields still nice and green but grain deficient, some frost action but not a big one yet, warm start of week with much cooler by the end, spreading manure, harrowing in rye, cleaning up last of vegetables, promoting pumpkins and mums. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** This was a good week for finishing up silage corn harvesting and hay making. The killing frost forecast for the weekend should bring an end to the vegetable crops still holding on. **Joyce Meader (Ext), Windham:** Last fields being harvested. Second cut on the wet land, third cut on the dry fields. Corn silage quality high and low, eared and no eared. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Corn is done, silage anyway. There are still some grain corn and soybeans standing out to dry. A few farms are trying to sneak out one more harvest of grass haylage but for the most part another harvest season has come and gone.

MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook: Potatoes and small grains: Potato harvest just about wrapped up with an excellent crop in storage. Growers are starting to ship this crop. Also busy with fall tillage, lime spreading and picking rocks. Soils are very wet with the latest rain. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Farmers in central Aroostook area are almost done harvesting, three or four more days should finish up for the season. Crop looks excellent, yields are very good. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Farmers have harvested a good crop of potatoes. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Four inches of rain slowed down the end of the corn harvest. Killing frosts for two to three days in a row has hit pretty much everywhere. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Silage corn harvest still underway. Flail mowing and burning of blueberry fields is ongoing. Roadside stands closing down for the year, but some will be open until Thanksgiving. Most areas have had a light frost. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Fine fall weather with cool nights and sunny days prevailed. Frost has hit most areas. Farmers are finishing up harvesting silage corn. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Androscoggin/Franklin:** Grain corn and soybeans left to go. There have been snow flurries in the

mountains. **Laura Rand (FSA), Androscoggin:** Areas of the county received two inches of rain during Wednesday and Thursday. Producers are busy harvesting all crops and preparing for colder weather.

MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: Some very windy, chilly but sunny weather this week. More hay was made. Weekend was good for markets and stands. Quality and quantity of pumpkins and winter squash is down in the county. Two hard freezes with nights in the mid 20's really put an end to it. Most cover crop seeding is completed by now. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Big crops continue to be harvested. It will take longer than usual for harvest to wind down because of the big production. Color gets better and better. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Franklin/Hampshire/Hampden:** First major frost this week. Still harvesting cabbage, apples, potatoes, parsnips and some sweet corn. One farmer said he never harvested sweet corn so late in the season. Tobacco growers continue bundling their crop for sale. Corn grain harvest started this week. The grain crop looks good. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** A couple of nights of frost put an end to this year's growing season, most marketable late season crops were already off of the fields. Some late season raspberries still being harvested and that's about all. Farm stands had brisk sales as weather over weekend was perfect. Cover cropping, mowing fields, chopping corn, winterizing equipment, and some late 2nd cut hay being made. Farmers assessing this woeful year.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap: Beautiful fall weather brought families to apple orchards over the weekend. Pumpkin and fall mum sales are going well. Farmers are tidying up the fields to get ready for winter. **Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll:** Thursday morning's thundershower was a real gully washer, up to two and a half inches reported in some areas, roadside and field erosion evident. Widespread frost has put an end to most crops. Foliage well past peak, though still beautiful and still a draw for the "peepers". Mums have done very well and folks are finding pumpkins to supplement the lack of a local crop. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Gorgeous sunny weather all week, with frost more nights than not. Corn is harvested, maybe a little late third/fourth cutting grass or alfalfa harvested here and there. Apples still looking good, PYO businesses still doing well. Other than that, most farms putting fields to bed for the winter. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Silage corn harvest, bunker packing continues. Standing corn is brown, hit by hard frost. Remaining pumpkins going quickly, season winding down. Fall colors past peak. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** Almost all of the corn is harvested. Hard rains on Thursday shut harvest down on some fields. There are a few fields left to harvest. Over all, the yield on corn silage appears to be down by 25% to 30% for a large number of producers. On the good side, however, ear development is generally close to normal, with only a slight reduction on most fields. As a general rule grain yields per ton of silage should be good. Some producers are still chopping grass. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Farm stands and pick-your-own apple operations had a beautiful weekend! Apple harvest is in full swing with the end in sight. Harvesting Red Delicious, Rome and other late maturing apples varieties. Only the final picking of Golden Delicious and Fuji remains. Pear harvest is done. Cleaning up drops apples and putting

orchard equipment away. Vegetables: Good demand for all vegetables continues where we still have not had a major county wide frost. Growers are harvesting wide array of vegetables including: cabbage, kale, brussel sprouts, winter squash and pumpkins along with the tail end of warm season crops. Farmers kept busy working on: pulling plastic mulch and tomato stakes, planting cover crops, and putting away equipment. Field Crops: Silage corn chopping continues with the end is in sight and seeding cover crops on harvested fields. Some manure spreading and incorporating in soil is taking place. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Fairly good week weather wise, mainly sunny with three nights in a row with frost. Some heavy showers. Still picking apples, green vegetables and cool season crops, and winter squashes. Cleaning vegetable fields from black plastic, and crop residues, mowing and disking; spreading lime and planting cover crops. Cutting corn silage. Spreading manure on some of the fields. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** This was a nice week for field work. Producers continued to make hay and haylage. Growers cutting and chopping field corn. Fruit growers are harvesting late varieties of apples, weeding strawberries and painting tree fruit trunks in preparation for winter. Vegetable growers are harvesting potatoes, peppers, tomatoes and other vegetables. Most of the vegetables are winding down as the temperatures continue to go down. Growers cleaning fields and planting cover crops. Farm stands are busy selling pumpkins and fall mums.

Greenhouse growers monitoring the poinsettia crop for pests and nutrient requirements.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: Cover crops looking good. Haying, chopping field corn and harvesting fall vegetables still going strong. Potatoes, hard squash and pumpkins are still being harvested. There was some rain this week but not enough to damage anything, either that or we are just getting used to it. Corn mazes, hay rides, farm stands and markets were very strong this weekend.

VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille: Had a series of killing frosts last week which wrapped up the growing season in this area. Great weather for outside activities. Corn silage harvest is winding down. Manure being spread on many harvested fields. **Jeffery Carter (Ext), Addison:** Harvesting second and third cut alfalfa and grass hay. Yields good but drying very hard with heavy dews and cool temperatures. Grass heavily infected with rust. Corn very late harvest with very low yields, low quality with delayed maturity and frost last weekend before ears matured. Heavy losses from late planting, wet season. Average county yield less than 10 tons silage per acre. FSA disaster status for county for all crops. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Seventy five percent of harvested fields seeded back to winter rye. No hard frost made for a lot of fall crops to mature. Great crops of cabbage, squash, potatoes and pumpkins. Main crops all harvested. Have a good winter.

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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