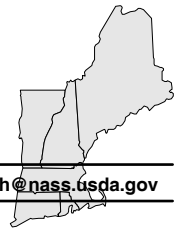




New England Agricultural Statistics



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October 23, 2006 – 4 pm

For week ending 10/22/06

Frosts, Cold Rain, and High Winds

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending October 22, 2006, there were 4.6 days available for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture: 70% adequate and 30% surplus. Subsoil moisture: 1% short, 82% adequate, and 17% surplus. Pasture condition: 3% poor, 29% fair, 51% good, and 17% excellent. Sunny skies and cooler temperatures carried forward from the weekend, but only lasted through Monday. Clouds and rain came to the region on Tuesday afternoon and stayed until Friday night. Heavy rain and wind on Friday downed trees and caused localized flooding of small rivers and streams. Most weather stations in Maine and Vermont reported receiving between two and four inches of rain this week; excess soil moisture slowed field work for the crops yet to be harvested. Clear skies arrived on Saturday morning, and remained until late Sunday afternoon. Overnight temperatures in the 20s and 30s brought hard frosts to most areas and some snow in higher elevations, bringing an end to this year's growing season. Many farmers focused on servicing equipment and preparing for winter.

FRUIT: Cooler temperatures were welcome to cranberry producers in Massachusetts this week who saw improvement in berry color. Many cranberry growers completed their harvest and are starting to prepare for winter, while a few producers continued to harvest late season varieties. Apple harvest is also winding down, with growers focusing on late varieties including Rome, Fuji, and Golden Delicious apples. Orchardists spent the week cleaning up dropped apples, putting away orchard equipment, and painting tree fruit trunks in preparation for winter.

VEGETABLES: The sunny weekend weather helped bring customers to farm stands, which still were selling some late season crops, including cabbage, kale, brussel sprouts, pumpkins, winter squash, cole crops, corn stalks, and mums. Freezing nighttime temperatures over the past two weeks brought killing frosts to much of the region, effectively ending this year's vegetable harvest. Vegetable growers spent the week pulling up plastic and drip tape, disking harvested fields, seeding cover crops, and putting away equipment for the winter. Greenhouse operators and garden centers continued to monitor the progress of poinsettias in preparation for the coming holiday season.

FIELD CROPS: Wet weather and saturated soils slowed down attempts to harvest soybeans and the last of the silage corn this week. While early reports show corn silage yields below normal, some growers New Hampshire are optimistic that the grain content per ton is good due to better growing conditions during ear development. Corn for grain harvest continued this week, but rain showers slowed drying progress. Hay producers reported there remain some fields of haylage and alfalfa to be cut, but soil moisture limited field access this week. Tobacco growers kept busy taking down and bundling their crop. Some broadleaf tobacco buyers purchased crops in the sheds this week even though producers hadn't taken it all down yet. Potato growers in Maine wrapped up harvest this week. Farmers kept busy with fall tillage, rock picking and lime application.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil Moisture			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	0	5	0
Adequate	70	84	29
Surplus	30	11	71
Subsoil Moisture			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	1	1	0
Adequate	82	87	41
Surplus	17	12	59

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-Percent Harvested-			Fruit Size	Condition
	2006	2005	5-yr Avg		
Apples	95	90	90	Avg/Above	Good
Pears	100	99	99	Average	Good/Fair
Cranberries, MA	90	90	85	Average	Good/Excel

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	--Percent Harvested--			Condition
	2006	2005	5-yr Avg	
Barley, ME	100	99	100	Good
Oats, ME	100	95	99	Good/Fair
Potatoes				
Maine	100	95	99	Good
Mass	90	90	90	Good
Rhode Island	99	100	100	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	90	90	95	Good/Fair
Dry Hay				
Second Cut	100	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 16, 2006
To: Sunday October 22, 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	33	63	50	+3	2319	+230	936	+190	2.35	+1.45	4	5.83	+2.54	12
Bangor_Intl_Arp	30	61	49	+3	2238	+338	874	+252	2.27	+1.50	4	5.47	+2.50	13
Bethel	29	62	46	-1	1988	+125	733	+137	3.21	+2.32	4	6.52	+3.24	12
Caribou_Municip	27	54	45	+4	1796	+348	609	+231	2.49	+1.79	5	5.88	+3.06	15
Dover-Foxcroft	27	60	46	+3	1635	+40	530	+78	3.10	+2.26	4	6.47	+3.09	10
Frenchville	29	53	44	+3	1653	+310	521	+198	2.79	+2.09	5	7.15	+4.17	16
Houlton	23	57	46	+4	1857	+343	661	+237	1.73	+1.01	4	3.32	+0.41	13
Livermore_Falls	27	65	47	+3	2034	+469	771	+342	2.71	+1.84	3	5.38	+2.08	9
Moosehead	25	58	44	+3	1521	+204	481	+171	2.93	+2.16	5	5.46	+2.36	12
Portland_ME	27	67	49	+3	2329	+395	925	+288	2.59	+1.70	4	6.48	+3.22	12
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	27	61	43	-3	1861	+156	661	+185	2.38	+1.61	4	5.73	+2.86	13
Berlin_AG	28	64	45	+1	1859	+159	651	+154	2.85	+2.01	3	4.66	+1.56	10
Concord	27	67	49	+3	2525	+439	1078	+339	1.06	+0.32	4	4.78	+2.01	10
Diamond_Pond	23	53	40	-2	1279	+161	361	+156	3.03	+2.19	5	5.76	+2.40	16
Keene_AP	27	64	48	-2	2365	+3	972	+56	1.48	+0.78	4	4.18	+1.44	10
North_Conway	27	61	44	-2	2137	+224	840	+207	3.11	+2.16	4	6.36	+2.85	12
Rocheſter	30	66	48	-2	2333	+66	953	+101	1.60	+0.61	3	5.49	+1.95	11
VERMONT														
Burlington_Intl	26	64	47	+0	2592	+372	1135	+294	3.25	+2.62	3	6.25	+3.65	11
Island_Pond	26	60	43	+0	1750	+356	586	+261	3.13	+2.42	4	6.22	+3.41	17
Montpelier	25	61	44	-1	2156	+420	814	+302	2.60	+1.97	3	6.18	+3.66	11
Pownal	28	64	46	+0	2092	+264	782	+230	2.00	+1.16	3	5.66	+2.32	14
Rochester	27	62	43	-3	1965	+236	711	+207	3.65	+2.81	4	7.30	+3.94	14
Rutland_AG	25	61	45	-5	2157	-183	841	-59	2.24	+1.61	4	4.47	+1.77	12
Springfield_VT	25	65	47	+2	2323	+440	935	+339	2.34	+1.53	4	5.42	+2.30	12
Sutton	25	57	42	+1	1669	+273	540	+203	3.26	+2.49	4	6.22	+3.27	15
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	38	71	54	+1	3030	+210	1443	+215	0.53	-0.22	3	2.75	-0.10	8
Fitchburg	30	69	51	+6	2785	+899	1291	+693	1.25	+0.48	4	4.44	+1.58	12
Greenfield	30	66	48	-3	2493	-81	1063	+12	1.85	+1.08	4	6.21	+3.13	13
New_Bedford	30	72	52	-4	2634	-246	1136	-134	1.08	+0.28	3	3.31	+0.31	11
Otis_AFB	34	68	52	+2	2583	+283	1080	+215	0.68	-0.21	3	2.49	-0.91	8
Plymouth	29	70	51	+1	2648	+305	1174	+271	0.78	-0.13	4	3.15	-0.44	11
Walpole	31	69	50	+2	2691	+363	1229	+335	0.77	-0.13	3	3.56	+0.14	10
Chicopee/Westov	27	68	50	-4	2676	-302	1170	-180	1.11	+0.28	4	5.35	+2.20	12
Worthington	26	65	45	-3	2069	+185	796	+221	1.86	+1.02	4	5.61	+2.32	13
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	35	71	54	+2	3134	+458	1484	+350	1.25	+0.41	3	3.95	+0.76	10
Woonsocket	31	71	51	+3	2712	+428	1222	+376	0.88	-0.03	3	4.12	+0.61	9
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	37	71	55	+2	3192	+267	1512	+184	0.70	+0.00	3	4.86	+2.11	8
Hartford/Bradle	31	72	53	+2	3127	+311	1507	+265	0.93	+0.15	4	5.04	+1.83	11
Norfolk	30	65	49	+3	2249	+381	913	+340	1.36	+0.46	4	4.55	+1.03	12
Thomaston_Dam	31	69	50	+1	2692	+394	1185	+339	1.02	+0.11	3	5.22	+1.68	10
Willimantic	30	71	51	+2	2840	+497	1277	+401	0.77	-0.16	3	3.54	-0.12	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 22, 2006

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	L	HI	AV	DF	LO	HI
ME	23	67	46	+2	1.14	3.72
NH	12	76	46	+0	1.06	4.28
VT	19	68	44	-1	1.68	4.47
MA	26	72	50	+1	0.21	1.90
RI	31	71	54	+3	0.55	1.25
CT	28	72	52	+1	0.70	1.62

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: Nearly all of the silage corn has been harvested. Grain corn will be harvested next month. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Killing freeze last weekend pretty much finished off the season for most. Some with corn silage to chop are still only half way done. Veggie growers are pulling up plastic and seeding cover crops. Dairy farmers have been spreading manure and putting machinery away for the winter. Grain corn was drying down but recent showers have slowed drying progress. Broadleaf tobacco buyers have been out purchasing crops in the sheds even though it isn't all down yet. Keep warm this winter! **Frank Himmelstein (Ext), New London:** Some frosted corn fields still standing in the county. Wet weather has made those remaining fields difficult to get on to harvest. Some hay fields remaining to be cut. Growers looking to make some freeze dried hay once colder weather settles in. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** A nice week to finish up most crops, orchards were busy this weekend. Vegetable fields are tilled in, heavy rains a few nights but field work continues. Still a bit of silage corn to cut, but this is it for the season, cover crop looks good. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** This was a nice week weather-wise with the exception of Friday which was pretty miserable with cool, rainy and very windy weather. Saturday was beautiful and the nice weather brought the shoppers out to the farm stands for their fall products which are still plentiful and delicious. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Everyone seems to be finishing up harvest; growers are servicing equipment and generally getting ready for winter. Rain late in the week halted soybean harvest.

MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook: Potatoes and small grains: Growers have finished harvesting their crops and are busy with fall tillage, rock picking and lime application. However, rains have forced them out of the fields for a good part of the week. Soils are very wet now. Also some growers are beginning to ship their potato crop to market. **Janet King (FSA), Somerset:** Over the weekend, there was some flooding along the rivers and streams. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Wet weather continues to slow the last of the corn harvest. Manure pits are being emptied on the dry fields. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Outdoor activities winding down. Rain mid-week made much land too soft to get on. Fall weather is right on our doorstep with frosts, cold rain and high winds. Think SPRING! **Gary Raymond (FSA), Androscoggin/Franklin:** There was some minor flooding on grain corn and soybean fields. Hopefully the water receded quickly enough to avoid serious crop loss. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Oxford County has received several inches of rain over the past couple of weeks. Some parts of the county reported over four inches of rain from one storm. Over the past weekend very high winds and several inches of rain was reported throughout the county.

MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: A week of changing seasons. We had some warm fall weather early in the week, then torrential rain, high winds and downed trees as a cold front passed through on Friday. The trees are pretty bare and snow is predicted for our higher elevations. Farmers markets did well on Saturday, which turned out to be a beautiful day, with good crowds and sales. More corn was cut last week but now fields are wet again making access difficult. We are buttoning up for winter. The Berkshires wish

everyone a restful time until next spring. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Harvest continues, mostly picking Stevens and Howes now. Very cold nights this week helped further color nicely colored berries. Many growers are through with harvest and cleaning things up. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Franklin/Hampshire/Hampden:** Harvesting of apples, pumpkins, potatoes, hay and cabbage is coming to an end. Harvesting proceeds with grain corn, parsnips and carrots. Tobacco crop looks good and everyone is taking down and bundling their crop. Vegetable growers are removing plastic row covers off their fields and picking up irrigation pipe. Dairy farmers are spreading manure. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** Most farms "put to bed" for this year, and this will be the last year we'll be doing that. After 30 years in agriculture we have finally realized that the seasons are too volatile, local governments too regulatory and tax happy (you can't love open space and tax growers out of existence), and the cost of doing farming spiraling out of control. Also the siren song of developers is now sweet music to my ears. I wish all reporters a healthy and happy holidays and much prosperity in life. As for me, well let's just say I'll be alright.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap: We had one or two light frosts, depending on where you were. Farm stands are selling cabbage, kale, brussel sprouts, pumpkins, winter squash, corn stalks and mums. Farmers are cleaning up fields. Pastures are still green and looking good. **Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll:** Rain and strong winds has stripped a number of leaves from the trees. It is looking more and more like winter. Any silage corn not harvested by now has dried out in the field. Pumpkins, mums and winter squash still available at the farm stand. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** A couple of raw rainy days, and a few nights dipping into the 20's. A few farms are harvesting the last of the season's grass or alfalfa. Most pastures are pretty much done for the season. Other than that, looks like the end of the crop season...see you next year. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Colder wetter weather. Still silage corn to come in. However, heavy rains have put some remaining corn on flood plains underwater. Western Conifer seed bugs are common. Rivers are running quite high, looks like spring flood conditions. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** Some areas received nearly four inches of rain during the past week. Saturated soil conditions have shut down attempts to harvest the corn that remains to be chopped. Some fields of haylage and alfalfa also remain to be chopped. Some producers are still working on pumpkin harvest, and winter squash. Apple harvest though is starting to wind down for most varieties. Over all for the season, the corn silage yield was lower than normal for a large number of producers. On the good side grain content per ton is good, due to good growing conditions during ear development. Grass yields on the fields that were well drained and accessible throughout the summer were at or above normal levels. On poor drained sites, where soils were too wet for most of the season, yields were significantly lower, and feed quality was poorer than normal. Some producers only took one harvest for the season due to wet soil conditions. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Apple harvest is winding down, harvesting Rome, Fuji, and Golden Delicious. Picking up drops and cleaning up orchards from harvest. Vegetables: Major frost occurred during the week. We are continuing to harvest cool season crops. Getting ready for winter picking up plastic, drip tape, disking up harvested fields, and putting equipment away. Field

crops: silage corn chopping end is in sight. Spreading some manure on drier fields. **Sadie Puglisi (Ext), Merrimack:** The corn is in, the apples are almost picked and the pumpkins are almost sold. The season is coming to a near end. Greens and peppers are still in some stands. Hoping for some good weather this week to push what pumpkins there are. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** Farmers cleaning and disking fields and applying manure and lime. Harvesting and chopping corn continued throughout the week. Vegetable growers harvesting late vegetable crops including cabbage, brussel sprouts winter squash. Fruit growers are harvesting late apple varieties. Pumpkins, mums, ornamental kale and other fall ornamentals continue to be available at garden centers. Greenhouse

growers and garden centers monitoring the progress of poinsettia crop and preparing for the coming holiday season.

VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille: Last week saw an end to the favorable harvest conditions that we had experienced in recent weeks. Drying conditions are looking terrible for the week ahead and what little corn silage that is still not harvested is not going anywhere soon. The crop year in this area can be summarized as fair to good for most crops with grass being better than average in quantity. Vegetable crops did quite well once they made it past pollination which was problematic because of the rainy weather.

This is the final New England Crop Weather report for 2006. This weekly report would not have been possible without the voluntary efforts of our reporters. We wish to thank all of them for their help in making this a timely, accurate report. We look forward to their continued support next May, when the 2007 crop season begins.

Although every report is important, special recognition is deserved for those who have been able to respond on a regular basis throughout the six-month growing season. Reporting is a significant commitment, and their faithful cooperation helps the New England Crop Weather release to be a consistent, high quality product.

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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