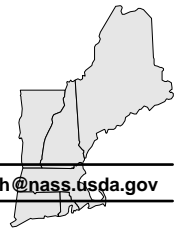




New England Agricultural Statistics



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September 10, 2007 – 4 pm

For week ending 9/9/07

Crop Weather

Rain Rain Come Today

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending September 9, 2007, there were 6.5 days suitable for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture was rated 14% very short, 43% short, 42% adequate, and 1% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 11% very short, 36% short, 53% adequate, and 0% surplus. Pasture condition was rated 3% very poor, 28% poor, 42% fair, 24% good, and 3% excellent. Temperatures over the past week varied widely, with highs ranging from the upper 60s to low 90s; the average was in the upper 70s to low 80s. Skies were partly cloudy throughout the first part of the week. Much needed rain fell in the northern states over the weekend, but the southern states received very little to no rain, leaving most areas very dry and crops showing signs of drought stress. The dry weather provided good conditions for harvesting second and third cuttings of hay and for curing tobacco in the barns. Vegetable and fruit growers were irrigating where possible and noted again that irrigation reserves were dwindling.

FRUIT: The apple harvest is in full swing with 20 percent harvested at week's end. Pick-your-own operations were very busy as Sunday was "Apple Sunday" in Maine. Peaches and pears were 75 and 15 percent harvested, behind last year and normal. All three tree fruit crops were reported in good condition. Orchardists were busy overhead irrigating, monitoring for pests, and mowing orchard floors. The highbush blueberry harvest progressed very little this past week and was 95% complete by the end of the week, same as the prior week. Cranberry growers reported being worried the lack of rain will not provide enough water for harvest and frost protection. Despite the dry conditions, the fruit quality remains good and the crop was reported in good to excellent condition. The fall raspberry harvest continued and strawberry producers were irrigating newly renovated strawberry beds.

VEGETABLES: The fall vegetable harvest was in full swing this past week. Growers were picking tomatoes, summer and winter squash, cucumbers, sweet corn, carrots, peppers, eggplant, beans, broccoli, greens, and zucchini. Vegetable producers were busy irrigating fields. Where irrigation was not available, crops were suffering from the dry weather and some late plantings were not growing well even with irrigation. Growers reported the mildew that was found on pumpkins and winter squash in prior weeks has been killing vines. Farmers were busy cleaning up harvested fields and planting cover crops.

FIELD CROPS: Field crop conditions were varied this past week. For the southern states, the lack of rain has dried up pasture, hay, and field corn crops. The lack of rain has caused field corn to mature quickly and farmers were busy harvesting in order to save as much of the crop as possible. The harvest was 20 percent complete by week's end, well ahead of last year and normal. For northern states, the rain over the weekend provided needed moisture and field crops were reported in good condition. The Maine potato harvest began this past week and Rhode Island and Massachusetts potato harvests progressed nicely as well. All potatoes were reported in good condition. Broadleaf and shade tobacco harvests were 95 percent complete at weeks end and growers reported the crops were curing well in the sheds. Oat and barley harvests were still behind last year and normal, but were reported in good condition. Farmers were busy spreading manure on hay and harvested corn fields and baling hay.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	14	16	0
Short	43	32	2
Adequate	42	52	92
Surplus	1	0	6
Subsoil			
Very Short	11	8	0
Short	36	31	1
Adequate	53	61	90
Surplus	0	0	9

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Size	Condition
	2007	2006	5-yr Avg		
Apples	20	30	25	Average/Above	Good
Peaches	75	90	85	Average	Good
Pears	15	50	25	Average	Good/Fair
Blueberries					
Highbush	95	99	99	Average	Good
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-	Average	Good/Excellent

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2007	2006	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Harvested --				
Barley, ME	40	90	75	Good
Oats, ME	60	75	55	Good
Potatoes				
Maine	<5	5	5	Good
Mass	20	25	35	Good
Rhode Island	75	55	60	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	20	5	5	Good
Sweet Corn	85	80	80	Good
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	95	90	95	Good
Shade	95	95	95	Good
Dry Hay				
Second Cut	95	90	90	Good/Fair
Third Cut	55	40	45	Good/Fair

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

For the Period: Monday September 3, 2007
To: Sunday September 9, 2007

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	DAYS
MAINE														
Augusta State A	44	91	67	+5	2032	+165	875	+157	0.00	-0.70	0	1.51	-1.42	12
Bangor Intl Arp	39	89	65	+5	1860	+155	740	+138	0.00	-0.81	0	1.25	-1.87	10
Bethel	39	89	62	+2	1660	-27	602	+22	0.14	-0.67	1	1.31	-2.20	7
Caribou Municip	34	85	61	+5	1504	+140	500	+124	0.00	-0.84	0	1.48	-2.07	10
Dover-Foxcroft	44	84	60	+2	1446	-30	418	-28	0.00	-0.91	0	1.54	-1.94	10
Frenchville	38	83	59	+4	1352	+85	403	+81	0.05	-0.86	1	2.12	-1.60	10
Houlton	33	85	61	+4	1493	+68	512	+91	0.00	-0.91	0	2.95	-0.74	10
Livermore Falls	38	91	62	+4	1648	+198	616	+192	0.33	-0.54	1	3.18	-0.51	10
Moosehead	36	89	59	+3	1256	+29	322	+14	0.00	-0.87	0	4.61	+1.22	11
Portland_ME	44	92	68	+7	1993	+271	838	+219	0.07	-0.63	1	0.44	-2.25	6
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	39	86	62	+4	1617	+67	567	+99	0.20	-0.59	2	3.11	-0.37	10
Berlin AG	40	87	61	+3	1566	+5	541	+51	0.10	-0.73	1	1.83	-1.88	8
Concord	38	95	68	+6	2198	+324	1015	+297	0.19	-0.51	1	1.22	-1.68	3
Diamond Pond	36	81	58	+3	1097	+47	259	+54	0.00	-1.02	0	1.90	-2.54	10
Keene AP	37	91	67	+7	2100	+387	942	+354	0.14	-0.60	1	1.05	-2.31	6
North Conway	43	90	63	+3	1715	-29	638	+17	0.00	-0.84	0	1.64	-1.89	8
Rochester	43	93	66	+4	2043	+39	903	+87	0.20	-0.55	1	1.49	-1.62	3
VERMONT														
Burlington Intl	43	92	70	+8	2275	+274	1087	+273	0.09	-0.75	2	0.91	-2.67	7
Island Pond	35	84	61	+5	1481	+199	468	+150	0.01	-0.87	1	2.40	-1.67	11
Montpelier	40	88	66	+7	1865	+290	749	+252	0.09	-0.64	1	1.44	-1.88	8
Pownal	41	89	65	+6	1882	+241	753	+219	0.53	-0.38	1	1.57	-2.26	11
Rochester	38	91	63	+4	1701	+147	625	+140	0.00	-0.94	0	1.03	-3.01	5
Rutland AG	39	89	64	+1	1865	-204	753	-100	1.33	+0.42	1	3.45	-0.30	8
Springfield_VT	40	94	68	+8	2059	+356	914	+336	0.00	-0.84	0	0.36	-3.21	7
Sutton	38	87	61	+5	1538	+242	501	+170	0.02	-0.86	1	1.92	-2.09	11
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	58	95	74	+7	2667	+273	1378	+255	0.03	-0.71	1	0.08	-2.92	3
Fitchburg	45	94	71	+11	2497	+795	1242	+657	0.29	-0.41	1	0.67	-2.30	6
Greenfield	43	90	68	+3	2124	-115	915	-71	0.40	-0.44	1	0.56	-2.75	4
New Bedford	44	84	68	-2	2318	-101	1088	-57	0.00	-0.85	0	0.46	-3.28	3
Otis_AFB	48	81	67	+2	2103	+134	925	+117	0.07	-0.70	1	0.12	-2.98	3
Plymouth	46	88	69	+5	2312	+284	1096	+244	0.00	-0.98	0	0.17	-3.63	2
Walpole	47	89	69	+6	2428	+377	1186	+337	0.23	-0.68	1	0.61	-3.03	3
Chicopee/Westov	43	95	70	+4	2355	-208	1130	-114	0.17	-0.67	1	0.69	-2.60	3
Worthington	42	89	65	+4	1829	+159	706	+153	0.03	-0.86	1	0.05	-3.58	3
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	52	92	73	+6	2718	+434	1400	+358	0.00	-0.84	0	0.16	-3.20	3
Woonsocket	47	92	70	+7	2417	+398	1160	+350	0.00	-0.91	0	0.38	-3.26	4
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	61	83	73	+5	2686	+228	1357	+164	0.00	-0.72	0	1.02	-1.82	4
Hartford/Bradle	51	95	73	+7	2760	+301	1442	+276	0.25	-0.66	1	0.47	-3.02	6
Norfolk	49	87	68	+8	2045	+372	879	+324	0.23	-0.76	1	0.99	-3.15	5
Thomaston Dam	50	89	70	+6	2379	+382	1122	+332	0.04	-0.94	1	1.17	-2.75	7
Willimantic	47	89	70	+6	2466	+429	1201	+378	0.00	-0.91	0	0.51	-3.06	4

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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Prepared by AWIS, Inc.

STATE WEATHER SUMMARY

For the week ending Sunday, September 9, 2007

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	L	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	32	93	61	+3	0.00	0.40
NH	30	96	64	+5	0.00	1.52
VT	33	94	64	+5	0.00	1.33
MA	37	96	69	+5	0.00	1.75
RI	47	92	71	+5	0.00	0.00
CT	45	95	70	+6	0.00	0.52

REPORTERS COMMENTS, By County: *Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS), or other knowledgeable individuals.*

CONNECTICUT - CONNECTICUT - Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland: A trace of rain on Sunday, but that's it. Dusty everywhere. Pastures and hay are burned up. Field corn is drying from both the top and bottom. Irrigation is being used on what vegetable crops remain in fields. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Chopping has begun with mixed results. Silage corn was doing very good through the second week of August, but the county has not received any rain since that time and corn is curling. Second cutting of hay ended with average to poor. Some producers are reporting there will be no third cutting. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Corn fields on all types of soil are drying up, some right to the top. Some farmers are frantically harvesting to save what they can before it's too late. Rain now will not save the corn that is dried and drying. Nice weather to do field work but hay production is down and everything is too dry. Spraying cucumber vines in some fields. Ready to chop. Trucks are hauling corn silage to the trench silos at a vigorous pace. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** Crop conditions continue to deteriorate due to a lack of rain. Apple size is smaller than usual. Silage corn is drying down at a rapid rate as the harvest continues. Later plantings of tomatoes and summer squash are not doing well even with irrigation. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Corn silage harvest is in full swing. Too early to know if the dry August during ear fill hurt the yield.

MAINE - Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook: A few farmers have started to harvest for processing. Broccoli harvest continuing. Approximately 50% of small grains already harvested. Crops being harvested are looking great. Yields on potatoes are variable. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Barley crop continues to look good with average of 65-70 bushels per acre. Some flea beetles in potatoes. Farmers continuing with fungicide sprays with a lot of vine desiccation. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Great weather for second/third cut hay. Some early corn silage harvested. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Pumpkins are now available at local farmstands with the harvest starting on 9/4 in this area. The anticipated start date of silage corn harvest is September 20th, a little later than expected earlier. Sweet corn harvest is near completion. McIntosh apples are now being harvested. Spotty hail damage is being found in the apple crop. It is too early to tell how this will affect the overall harvest of the crop. More dry hay was harvested last week which was evident as I traveled around the counties. Some much needed rain fell yesterday with more rain forecasted for today and tomorrow. This is a welcome relief to farmers. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Dry weather continued most of the week. Farmers were busy harvesting hay, picking vegetables and irrigating. Much needed rain arrived on Apple Sunday. Apple picking season has started. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Androscoggin/Franklin:** More showers have occurred. All vegetation remains very green in this area. Corn crop looks good. There are now some pumpkins for sale. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Oxford County received some much needed rain during the last part of the week. Good growing season continues. Sweet corn still being harvested. Apples looking good and plentiful. Pastures have been mostly depleted. **Laura Rand (FSA), Penobscot:** Producers have been busy harvesting hay, picking veggies and getting ready to chop corn. Pumpkins, squash, cukes, sweet corn, and potatoes are all showing up on farmstands. Dry conditions persisted throughout the week.

MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: HHH, very dry week with drought conditions. Fall veggies are showing stress. Vegetables are being irrigated where possible. Quality of the sweet corn is dropping due to lack of rain. Precipitation in the forecast for coming week. Farm markets still doing well. Fall annual flowers for sale this week. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:**

Cranberries: The drought continues and growers are beginning to be concerned about adequate water supplies for water harvest and frost protection. We were hoping to get something from Gabrielle, but that's not going to happen. Fruit quality continues to hold up pretty well so far. White harvest started last week, with more happening this week. **Emily Tchorz (FSA), Bristol:** Lack of rain and high temps throughout August and now into September have affected all crops in the county. Water supplies are very strained and all crops are suffering. Farms with irrigation capabilities are running out of water. Drought conditions exist in all areas. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Franklin/Hampshire/Hampden:** Another very dry week with hardly any rain. Irrigation pumps are still running due to the very dry conditions. Harvesting all types of fall crops including Indian corn, silage corn, sweet corn, winter squash, pumpkins, gourds, apples, peaches, pears, potatoes, parsnips, carrots, and fall raspberries. Tobacco crop is all harvested and is curing very good in the sheds.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap: Heat-loving vegetables like tomato, pepper and eggplant are doing exceptionally well. Thankfully, there is rain in the forecast for the weekend. The apple harvest is well underway. Farmstands, markets and garden centers are selling fall mums, corn stalks and pumpkins. Trees are just starting to change color...fall is on the way! **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Bone-dry for most of the week, but some much-needed rain by Sunday. More drought stress showing up in all crops. Corn starting just starting on a couple fields. Good conditions for haying, but farms are reporting low yields. Vegetable crops doing OK with irrigation. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Dry weather ended with heavy rains and cooling temperatures at week's end. Square and round bale hay being put up earlier in the week. Corn silage still working towards maturity; some early varieties planted early starting into soft dough stages, others considerably behind. Grass pastures have begun to look in need of water. Fall decoration market underway with mums and pumpkins sales on-going. Winds rousing some apple drops off of heavily laden trees this year. Sweet corn widely available as Autumn colors begin to show up. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Third cut finishing up. Preparations for corn silage harvest continue. Moisture levels in the soil are good resulting in continuing maturity of corn and re-growth of fourth cut hay. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** There was generally good weather for field work last week. The weekend produced some light showers on Saturday. Corn harvesting has not yet gotten into full swing. Some farmers were still putting in hay and haylage while the weather was there to do so. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Weather: Very dry until some rain occurred on Sunday, September 9. Many crops showing drought stress. Vegetables: Irrigating to save unharvested crops. Harvesting an array of vegetables: beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, cucumbers, greens, potatoes, radishes, summer squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, zucchini, and other vegetables. Some farmers are starting to clean up harvested fields and planting cover crops. Mildew has killed some pumpkins and winter squash vines, so farmers are starting to cut and pickup fruit. Fruit: Orchardists harvesting Marshall McIntosh, Ginger Gold, Gala, and Honeycrisp apples, along with peaches, plum/prunes and fall raspberries. Irrigating strawberry beds and if possible, apple and peach orchards. Field Crops: Farmers cutting hay continued during the week with the second and third cuttings being made. A lot of grass fields drying up due to hot and drought conditions. Starting to get ready for chopping corn silage. Also, silage corn showing drought symptoms. **Dorothy Perkins (Ext), Merrimack:** Pumpkins have turned early. Sales are low due to time of year. Rain is needed in many areas but crops are not suffering to the extent that significant harvest will be lost. This week's rain and cool weather will help tremendously. Growers report a good year of sales for tomatoes, corn and beans. This year's hay is the best in many years, almost everyone got a second cut and great weather for processing it. Silage

corn is doing very well this year also. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Another very dry, hot and humid week. On Saturday evening few towns were hit with severe thundershowers with gusty winds knocking trees down. Sunday some communities received steady, drizzling rain for part of the day. Picking early apple varieties such as Gala, Cortland, McIntosh; peaches, blueberries, fall raspberries, sweet corn, tomatoes and a whole array of vegetables. Fields are dry. Some fields are being irrigated while crops growing on non-irrigated fields are showing drought stress. Second hay cut and pastures are suffering from the drought. Mum are now available at many local retail outlets.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: Lots of second cut finished this week and some third. Both crops are pretty thin. Sweet corn still coming in strong, along with all summer vegetables. Potato harvest is OK, some skins tender due to dry weather. Farmers markets and roadside stands doing very well.

VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille: Another hot, dry week just ended on a much needed moist note with a light soaking rain on Sunday. Corn silage harvest started in this area last week under ideal conditions. Quite a bit of dry baled hay was made last week. The grass has been struggling and needs any rain we can get to improve third cut yields. Same story for pastures. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** The nice weather last week allowed a lot of really high quality third cut hay to be harvested. A few of the larger corn growers started to chop corn. Mostly just opening up the fields and checking equipment. We

haven't had a frost yet but the corn appears to be mature and is drying down. Nice gentle rains over the weekend will help the drier conditions we had started to experience. Pastures are still producing fairly well. A really good grazing year over all. **Jeffrey Carter (Ext), Addison:** Corn silage harvest underway. Fast and furious as corn is drying down very quickly. Started out a great year for planting, great start for early growth, then late season drought conditions on clay soils is making for quicker than normal crop maturity. Good yields reported. Soybeans also early senescence and beans in pods filling nicely, but early. Hay harvest pretty much over. Some manure being spread on hay and harvested corn fields. Anticipate early fall plowing of clay soils. **Julie Jacque (FSA), Windham:** Very dry conditions, pastures and grasses have slowed growing. Corn ears slightly stunted. Cucurbits being "stemmed" and rowed for putting into bins. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Another dry week. Scattered showers Saturday evening. Local weather report described the week as dry and cold, dry and hot, dry and windy. Plants are in suspended animation. Some haying and spreading manure. I would think that some farm water supplies are getting short, but have not heard any reports of it. Spotty frost early in the week. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Fields seeded to winter rye showing a nice green cover crop. Started to dig and bag early potatoes. Early potatoes good size and matured. Finished baling mulch hay for the season. Rains for the week 0.232 inches. A few showers early, rest of the week dry. Market garden season and produce changing from summer to fall. Still a lot of summer produce, but late variety of sweet corn, squash and pumpkins for sale now. Local fairs have shown fine exhibits of a good crop year. Time to start fall exhibits in the market.

AUGUST CROP WEATHER SUMMARY: Temperatures in the beginning of August were average to above average, ranging in the 80s to 90s. Heavy thunderstorms with hail and tornado like winds hit the area on August 3, causing damage to potato, tobacco, corn, vegetable, and tree fruit crops. Much needed rain showers occurred throughout the second week of August, bringing moisture to dry fields. Cooler temperatures arrived mid-month, with frost warnings in some areas of New England. The below average temperatures hindered field corn development, but were very beneficial to both wild and highbush blueberry fields, keeping fruit firm for harvest. Rainfall was occasional and light; growers reported that fields were very dry and several crops were showing signs of drought stress. The last week of August began with cool temperatures (ranging in the 70s to 80s) and cloudy skies, hindering the dry hay harvest. The end of the week boasted record high temperatures in some areas and clearer conditions, allowing field work to be completed and spurring field corn growth. By month's end, many areas in New England were very dry despite sporadic showers throughout the month. Rainfall at most locations was one-to two-inches behind normal. Vegetable producers were busy harvesting a wide array of summer crops and irrigating dry fields throughout the month. Sweet corn harvest was in full swing and was 75 percent complete by month's end. The dry conditions hindered field corn yields and caused poor ear development, as well as drying out the stalks. The Massachusetts potato harvest began mid-August and was ten percent complete by month's end. The Rhode Island potato harvest has reached the half-way mark and the Maine potato harvest was just beginning at month's end. Potatoes in all three states were reported in good condition. Potato farmers were busy scouting for pests and began vine killing. Late blight was identified in southern Aroostook County and farmers were on a seven-day spray schedule throughout the month. The oat and barley harvests in Maine began mid-month and were 20 and 25 percent complete at month's end, considerably behind last year's harvest for the same time period. Both crops were reported in excellent condition. Shade and broadleaf tobacco harvests continued through August with both crops reported in good condition. Shade tobacco was 75 percent picked by August 27 and broadleaf was 55 percent picked, behind last year and normal for both crops. The first cut of dry hay was complete the third week of August. The second (80 percent complete) and third (30 percent complete) cuts were progressing nicely, but growers have reported lower yields due to the dry weather. The wild blueberry harvest began the first week of August and was 95 percent complete by the end of the month. The highbush blueberry harvest was also 95 percent complete at month's end and both crops were reported in good condition. The pear harvest in Connecticut began the last week of August and was five percent complete at month's end. Apples and peaches were ten and 50 percent complete, respectively. All three fruit crops were rated in good condition. However, the lack of rain throughout the end of the month forced some tree fruit growers to overhead irrigate their orchards.

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