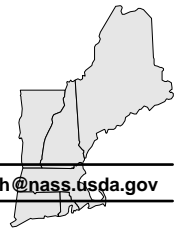




New England Agricultural Statistics



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October 1, 2007 – 4 pm

For week ending 9/30/07

Great Harvesting Weather

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending September 30, 2007, there were 6.6 days suitable for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture was rated 4% very short, 23% short, 73% adequate, and 0% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 3% very short, 21% short, 76% adequate, and 0% surplus. Pasture condition was rated 2% very poor, 13% poor, 43% fair, 38% good, and 4% excellent. Clear skies this past week once again provided excellent conditions for completing field work and advancing harvests of silage corn, hay, fall vegetables, and tree fruit. The beginning of the week boasted record high temperatures in the upper 80s to low 90s. Scattered thundershowers on Thursday and Friday brought much needed moisture to the area, but also brought hail damage in northern states. The rain helped to lower temperatures back into the 60s and 70s for the weekend, keeping pick-your-own operations and farm stands very busy. Low temperatures ranged in the low 40s to upper 60s throughout the week; no major frost damage has been reported.

FRUIT: The cool, dry weather over the weekend kept pick-your-own operations busy, advancing apple, peach, and pear harvests. The last of the 2007 peach crop was picked by week's end. The apple harvest was 55 percent complete and the pear harvest was 60 percent complete, both behind last year and normal. Several orchardists in Maine reported heavier than normal apple dropping due to the dry weather and record heat. The cranberry harvest in Massachusetts was in full swing. Grape and fall raspberry harvests continued as well.

VEGETABLES: The sweet corn harvest neared completion at the end of the week. Overall the crop was reported in good to excellent condition throughout the growing and harvest seasons. Farmers continued harvesting late variety tomatoes and peppers, winter squash, greens, cabbage, and pumpkins. Crop specialists report good size and quantity for this year's pumpkin harvest. Vegetable growers were busy disking, pulling mulch plastic from harvested fields, and planting cover crops.

FIELD CROPS: A week of mild, mostly dry fall weather pushed harvests into high gear. Farmers were also busy sowing protective cover crops on harvested fields. Hay fields and pastures were beginning to show signs of drought again. Some hay producers are reporting significantly less yield than expected and crop quality on third cutting of hay is deteriorating. The silage corn harvest was slightly ahead of the halfway mark by the end of the week and was reported in good to excellent condition. The Maine potato harvest was nearing the halfway point by week's end, Massachusetts was 80 percent dug, and Rhode Island was 95 percent dug. The Maine potato harvest is behind last year and normal, while Massachusetts and Rhode Island harvests are ahead of both last year and normal. Potato quality remains very good in all three states. The rain on Thursday and Friday provided the first tobacco damp of the season and growers started bundling the crop for sale.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	4	7	0
Short	23	28	0
Adequate	73	65	89
Surplus	0	0	11
Subsoil			
Very Short	3	6	0
Short	21	20	0
Adequate	76	74	88
Surplus	0	0	12

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Size	Condition
	2007	2006	5-yr Avg		
Apples	55	70	65	Average/Above	Good
Peaches	100	99	99	Average	Good
Pears	60	90	70	Average	Good/Fair
Cranberries, MA	20	25	15	Average	Good/Excellent

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2007	2006	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Harvested --				
Barley, ME	100	99	95	Good
Oats, ME	95	99	95	Good
Potatoes				
Maine	70	55	50	Good/Excellent
Mass	80	60	65	Good
Rhode Island	95	90	90	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	60	35	50	Good/Excellent
Sweet Corn	99	95	95	Good/Excellent
Dry Hay				
Second Cut	99	95	95	Good/Excellent
Third Cut	80	70	75	Good/Fair

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

For the Period: Monday September 24, 2007
To: Sunday September 30, 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
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN				INCHES	DFN		
MAINE															
Augusta State_A	40	91	66	+12	2275	+242	948	+202	1.50	+0.73	3	3.33	+0.42	8	
Bangor Intl_Arp	33	91	65	+11	2082	+229	807	+185	0.73	-0.04	1	1.64	-1.56	5	
Bethel	38	88	63	+10	1844	+20	644	+48	0.43	-0.34	2	2.11	-1.01	7	
Caribou Municip	31	83	57	+8	1652	+216	527	+149	1.16	+0.41	3	2.07	-1.13	9	
Dover-Foxcroft	32	84	60	+9	1599	+22	437	-15	0.00	-0.91	0	0.77	-2.87	3	
Frenchville	32	78	55	+6	1475	+141	423	+100	0.95	+0.15	2	2.04	-1.38	8	
Houlton	27	85	60	+11	1665	+165	549	+125	0.23	-0.54	2	0.75	-2.60	6	
Livermore Falls	33	90	62	+11	1820	+275	652	+223	0.27	-0.50	2	2.21	-1.11	8	
Moosehead	31	86	60	+11	1397	+93	352	+42	0.57	-0.26	2	1.84	-1.55	7	
Portland_ME	46	90	67	+12	2223	+339	899	+262	1.29	+0.52	2	3.22	+0.33	8	
NEW HAMPSHIRE															
Benton	34	83	60	+8	1771	+105	597	+121	0.38	-0.32	3	4.15	+1.21	12	
Berlin AG	36	84	61	+10	1726	+56	572	+75	0.67	-0.05	1	2.60	-0.45	6	
Concord	38	90	66	+12	2451	+417	1103	+364	0.60	-0.04	2	3.09	+0.48	8	
Diamond Pond	33	79	57	+9	1202	+95	276	+71	1.34	+0.50	3	3.70	-0.02	9	
Keene AP	41	88	64	+12	2337	+487	1021	+419	0.37	-0.27	2	2.63	-0.08	7	
North Conway	39	90	64	+11	1906	+30	684	+51	0.39	-0.42	2	2.24	-0.96	9	
Rochester	39	90	66	+10	2274	+81	973	+122	1.03	+0.26	1	3.48	+0.49	7	
VERMONT															
Burlington Intl	42	84	65	+11	2529	+367	1167	+326	0.52	-0.18	3	1.95	-1.11	9	
Island Pond	36	81	59	+10	1640	+270	496	+171	1.01	+0.31	3	3.47	+0.36	10	
Montpelier	38	85	64	+12	2078	+382	813	+301	1.16	+0.53	3	3.09	+0.43	9	
Pownal	41	84	63	+10	2095	+315	810	+258	0.39	-0.45	3	3.78	+0.26	10	
Rochester	39	85	62	+10	1903	+218	671	+167	1.40	+0.56	3	4.15	+0.63	8	
Rutland AG	39	84	63	+7	2062	-197	798	-94	0.92	+0.17	3	3.31	+0.01	9	
Springfield_VT	40	87	64	+11	2290	+451	982	+386	0.43	-0.34	3	2.89	-0.34	8	
Sutton	37	81	60	+11	1691	+313	528	+191	2.61	+1.90	3	4.48	+1.32	9	
MASSACHUSETTS															
Boston/Logan_In	54	93	73	+13	3015	+338	1531	+322	0.15	-0.55	1	1.81	-1.03	6	
Fitchburg	43	91	69	+16	2778	+937	1347	+749	0.04	-0.64	1	2.24	-0.48	7	
Greenfield	43	88	65	+8	2368	-102	980	-60	0.23	-0.54	1	3.61	+0.43	9	
New Bedford	42	83	67	+6	2599	-120	1193	-53	0.10	-0.62	1	1.64	-1.49	6	
Otis_AFB	48	79	68	+10	2391	+193	1033	+176	0.08	-0.76	1	2.53	-0.63	6	
Plymouth	47	87	69	+12	2605	+357	1211	+315	0.23	-0.68	1	3.14	-0.68	6	
Walpole	44	90	69	+13	2712	+464	1292	+405	0.03	-0.81	1	1.95	-1.50	6	
Chicopee/Westov	42	92	67	+7	2623	-218	1229	-100	0.39	-0.38	1	2.77	-0.51	7	
Worthington	39	87	63	+9	2022	+198	756	+181	0.02	-0.82	1	2.15	-1.26	8	
RHODE ISLAND															
Providence	51	89	71	+11	3074	+523	1555	+437	0.06	-0.71	1	2.55	-0.69	5	
Woonsocket	44	89	68	+12	2715	+501	1274	+429	0.02	-0.82	1	2.63	-0.90	5	
CONNECTICUT															
Bridgeport/Siko	52	81	70	+8	3033	+270	1503	+203	0.13	-0.57	1	1.92	-0.95	6	
Hartford/Bradle	47	93	71	+12	3110	+402	1598	+367	0.05	-0.79	1	1.17	-2.36	6	
Norfolk	44	85	65	+12	2286	+468	959	+386	0.41	-0.50	1	2.18	-1.65	6	
Thomaston Dam	46	87	67	+11	2664	+461	1222	+387	1.04	+0.13	1	1.85	-1.89	7	
Willimantic	44	87	67	+11	2766	+516	1320	+452	0.30	-0.61	1	2.43	-1.23	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 30, 2007

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	L	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	27	91	61	+10	0.00	1.58
NH	30	92	63	+10	0.00	1.34
VT	36	87	62	+10	0.02	2.61
MA	38	93	68	+11	0.02	1.08
RI	44	89	69	+10	0.02	0.09
CT	42	93	68	+10	0.00	1.04

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

CONNECTICUT - Jude Boucher (Ext), Tolland: Most sweet corn has dry tips, but late season peppers and tomatoes look great, as do winter squash and pumpkins. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Corn chopping continues as well as harvesting of fall vegetables. Very dry and unseasonably warm. Mums and pumpkins are plentiful. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Some pears are light and others are abundant, good flavor too. Hay more than a 50% loss for most farms, shortages expected. Quality is a problem with strong weed growth but little hay forage. Some farms did get three cuttings on heavier soils. Macs are small, later varieties of apples are sized better, 45% of apples harvested. Pumpkins are good, people are buying them earlier. Mums sales are good. Cleaning up fields pulling mulch plastic out of vegetable plantings. Corn yields reported from eight tons per acre to 30 tons per acre. Corn to pick is drying down as expected. Problems with equipment breakdowns are holding up getting the job done but everyone is working on it. Grape harvests continue into November for some varieties. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** This was a beautiful and unusually warm week. The harvest season is winding down for silage corn and vegetables, while it is getting busy in the orchards and pumpkin patches. The pumpkin crop began to color up early, but the size and quantity is very good. **Joyce Meader (Ext), Windham:** Dry corn being harvested for dry silage (40% dry matter). Could be difficult to exclude the oxygen and molds.

MAINE - Steve London, Southern Aroostook: Yields on the potato crop is a little lower than last year, but the quality is good so far. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis:** Some orchardists have reported apples are prematurely dropping off the trees due to dry soil conditions over the past month. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** Beautiful fall weather. Foliage starting to color up. Silage starting to be cut. We could still use more rain going into the fall and winter months. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Apple orchards are busy harvesting with the crop being one of the largest ever. Although hail affected one of our largest commercial orchards in this area, it appears the volume of apples will offset any losses from this damage. Approximately 50 percent of pumpkins and 25 percent of winter squash have been harvested to date. Silage corn harvest started on September 22 and will conclude this week. The fall weather has been beautiful allowing for a booming business at orchards and farmstands and for farmers to finish up with harvest of the remainder of their crops. We still have not had a severe frost in this area and another beautiful week of fall weather is forecasted. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** The orchards were busy with customers with pick your own apples this weekend. Some are saying the record heat last week increased the amount of apple drops. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Androscoggin/Franklin:** Because of the beautiful weather, corn silage harvest has progressed at a very good rate. It looks like a good to excellent crop. Still not much frost on the pumpkins! **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Good overall week with thunderstorms and showers. Sweet Corn still being harvested in areas and other market garden veggies being harvested. Potato crop and apple producers

going strong with harvesting. **Laura Rand (FSA), Penobscot:** Silage, potatoes and fall crops are all being harvested. Weather has been extremely warm. A few night showers.

MASSACHUSETTS - Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire: Fall weather prevails. Cool nights with frost warnings and warm sunny days. One half inch of rain this week. Silage harvest continues. Summer vegetable crop pretty much complete. Folks are selling apples, pumpkins and winter squash. Sweet corn is still being picked but quality is dropping as the crop ages. Orchards are booming now. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Franklin/Hampshire/Hampden:** A rainy Thursday night 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 harvested is coming to an end and growers are reporting a very good yield. Many growers are sowing a protective cover crop on their harvested fields.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap: The late season crops look great. Apple, pear, fall raspberry, and grape harvests are happening now. Still no frost in the lakes region. Overall, this was a dry summer. **Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll:** Above normal temperatures early in the week, with severe thunderstorms and much needed rain by the end of the week bringing temps back to normal. Severe weather downed trees and caused power outages across the county. No significant wide spread frost yet, so vegetables are still rolling into farmstands. Pumpkin patches and corn mazes continue to do well. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Sunny all week, with some warm temperatures midweek and just a few showers Thursday night. It's kind of looking dry out there again; pastures and hayfields are yielding low due to lack of moisture. Another great week for silage corn harvest; many farms are done and the rest will be done soon. Some vegetable crops winding down, but harvest of fall crops going strong. Great fall weather for apple picking over the weekend. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Corn silage harvest began. Quite a variety in maturity observed in corn throughout the county depending on planting date, cultivars, etc. Some a bit past 1/2 up to 3/4 stage; others still at milk-stage. Cooler, wetter conditions this week with heavy downpours hampering late season hay making, still some coming in however. Still no hard freezes reported. Growing degree days for the 2007 crop season ends at 1739 GDD's for base 50 at Lancaster site. Crows seem abundant this year, hitting corn field edges fairly hard. Bear damage also noted in various field corn locations. Overall field corn growers seemed to have done a very good job on weed control this year. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Corn silage harvest in full swing. Yields look good to excellent on many fields. Fourth cut re-growth looks very good. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Pick-your-own apple and farm stand operations had a wonderful Saturday and Sunday. Apple harvest is in full swing with most growers concentrating on strip picking McIntosh apples and working on Cortland and Macoun. Fall raspberries and pear harvest continued. Vegetables: Great weather and good demand for all vegetables continued. Harvesting a 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 disking, cleaning up and planting cover crops on harvested fields. Field Crops: Silage corn harvest in full swing with second, while third cuts of hay and haylage continued. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** The first part of the week was hot, but the second half of the week was very pleasant. Vegetable growers continued to harvest an array of crops including tomatoes and sweet corn. It was a busy week for pumpkins. Growers were also busy plowing in harvested fields and planting cover crops. Fruit growers were busy harvesting apples. Garden centers and farms were busy selling fall mums and pumpkins. Greenhouse growers were monitoring the seasonal progress for poinsettia. The poinsettia crop is growing well.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: Cover crop on potato land looks good. Harvesting potatoes, sweet corn, tomatoes, and winter squashes. The size of the squash seems small, but otherwise seems like a good crop. Chopping field corn and haying some third cut. Apple picking is in high gear. Mums and fall decorations are abundant at the roadside stands. Farmers markets still going strong.

VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille: Great pumpkin harvest in this area this year!! Corn silage harvest is progressing very quickly given the ideal harvest conditions. Got enough rain last week to keep pastures going a while longer. Still no general frost yet although some higher elevation corn fields have already been frosted. Valley fog has kept freezing temperatures at bay for now. **Julie Jacque (FSA), Windham:** Apple crop looks great. Reports of third and some fourth cut hay along the river. Showers Friday helped things along. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Warm week, still no widespread killing frost. Heavy rain, wind, thundershowers, and hail on Thursday caused some localized damage. A lot of corn silage went into storage this week. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Cleaning up harvested fields. Winter rye doing well on harvested fields. Rain for the week 0.395 inches, but very strong on sun and heat. Fall harvest goes on. No frost yet so still picking green produce. Still have very good late sweet corn. Digging potatoes. Starting to cut and store squash and pumpkins. Market now full of late fall produce. Lots of pumpkins this year.

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