

Crop Weather



A field office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service
United States Department of Agriculture

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For week ending 9/21/08

Fall is in the Air

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending September 21, 2008, there were 6.7 days available for field work across New England. Pasture condition was rated 1% very poor, 2% poor, 20% fair, 68% good, and 9% excellent. The past week began with partly cloudy skies and windy conditions across New England. Some apple drop was seen across the region due to strong winds, but no other serious damage was reported. High temperatures were above average in the upper 70s to low 80s with above average nighttime lows in the mid-50s to mid-60s. Temperatures fell to average levels mid-week and skies remained partly cloudy with areas of patchy fog seen some mornings. Temperatures cooled down on Thursday where high temperatures were in the upper 60s to low 70s and lows were in the mid-30s to low 50s. A few crop weather specialists reported light frosts in areas Friday morning. Friday was an even cooler day where high temperatures did not reach above 65 degrees and nighttime lows were as low as 26 degrees in areas such as northern Maine. More light frosts were experienced across New England with killing frosts seen in the northern states. The week ended with partly cloudy skies and average to above average high temperatures in the low 60s to upper 70s. Nighttime lows were average to below average in the low 40s to low 50s.

FRUIT: This past week provided great weather for pick-your-own apples. Many varieties such as McIntosh, Cortland, Honeycrisp and Macouns could be found at orchards and farmers markets. Orchardists were busy cleaning up apple drops from winds on Monday. Scab was found in some orchards mainly due to the wet conditions earlier in the season. Massachusetts cranberries harvest was widespread last week. The crop was rated in good condition with berries coloring up slowly, but surely. The peach and pear harvests continued last week; however the peach harvest is coming to a close. The highbush blueberry harvest was complete at week's end with the crop rated in good to excellent condition..

VEGETABLES: Growers continued harvesting summer vegetables such as sweet corn, broccoli, peppers and tomatoes however the harvest is winding down. More vegetable operations were cleaning up their fields last week and planting cover crops. Winter squashes and pumpkins were plentiful at roadside stands and farmers' markets. The pumpkin crop is variable throughout the region. Where some fields have bumper crops, other fields have no crops.

FIELD CROPS: This past week provided excellent conditions to harvest field crops. Both Broadleaf and Shade tobacco harvests were complete at week's end, ahead of last year. Broadleaf tobacco was reported as drying nicely in sheds with some sheds ready to take down. Corn silage harvest was in full swing throughout New England last week. Corn is drying quickly due to the lack of rain and light frosts. Farmers were still harvesting second and third cut dry hay, however more fields was being chopped as silage. Oats and barley continued to be harvested in Maine with both crops ahead of last year and normal at week's end. Farmers were also busy disking and planting cover crops on newly harvested fields.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
	Percent		
Topsoil Moisture			
Very Short	1	0	7
Short	16	4	28
Adequate	77	79	65
Surplus	6	17	0
Subsoil Moisture			
Very Short	2	0	6
Short	7	3	20
Adequate	86	84	74
Surplus	5	13	0

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Size	Condition
	2008	2007	5 -yr Avg		
Apples	45	40	45	Average	Good/Excellent
Peaches	99	95	95	Average	Good/Fair
Pears	55	50	55	Average	Good/Fair
Blueberries					
Highbush	100	100	100	Average/Above	Good/Excellent
Cranberries, MA	5	<5	<5	Average/Above	Good

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2008	2007	5-yr Avg	Condition
Barley, ME	95	80	90	Fair/Good
Oats, ME	85	80	80	Good/Fair
Potatoes				
Maine	20	20	15	Fair/Good
Mass	50	45	50	Good
Rhode Island	90	90	80	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	25	35	25	Good/Excellent
Sweet Corn	95	95	90	Good/Excellent
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	100	99	99	Fair
Shade	100	99	100	Good/Fair
Dry Hay				
Second Cut	95	95	95	Good/Fair
Third Cut	60	70	65	Good/Excellent

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics
Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday September 15, 2008
To: Sunday September 21, 2008

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	TOTAL		TOTAL		
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN		DFN	DAYS	DFN	DAYS	
MAINE														
Augusta State A	35	80	56	-2	2133	+148	864	+123	0.22	-0.51	1	4.42	+1.58	7
Bangor Intl Arp	32	81	55	-3	2007	+196	778	+158	0.25	-0.54	1	3.93	+0.73	5
Bethel	32	75	54	-3	1770	-16	617	+21	0.25	-0.52	1	3.45	+0.20	4
Caribou Municip	27	75	53	+2	1582	+164	507	+129	0.17	-0.61	2	2.04	-1.32	9
Dover-Foxcroft	29	78	53	-2	1655	+105	549	+97	0.26	-0.65	1	2.09	-1.52	5
Frenchville	26	68	51	-2	1415	+97	413	+90	1.00	+0.16	4	2.30	-1.24	10
Houlton	26	78	53	+1	1546	+64	488	+64	0.08	-0.76	3	1.34	-2.17	8
Livermore Falls	30	79	54	+0	1839	+319	675	+246	0.25	-0.59	1	3.59	+0.12	5
Moosehead	28	76	52	-1	1351	+66	376	+66	0.17	-0.67	2	2.24	-1.16	7
Portland_ME	36	81	57	-2	2095	+258	845	+208	0.21	-0.50	1	6.25	+3.44	6
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	30	75	53	-3	1666	+33	527	+51	0.27	-0.43	1	2.50	-0.64	6
Berlin AG	30	78	55	-1	1729	+88	557	+60	0.22	-0.52	3	2.10	-1.18	8
Concord	33	80	58	+0	2250	+262	967	+230	0.31	-0.32	1	6.39	+3.71	9
Diamond Pond	29	71	51	+0	1219	+126	277	+72	0.54	-0.37	2	2.38	-1.62	9
Keene AP	34	75	58	+2	2158	+346	903	+301	0.14	-0.50	1	4.80	+1.88	6
North Conway	32	77	55	-2	1860	+20	642	+9	0.28	-0.49	1	3.59	+0.31	5
Rochester	32	79	57	-3	2287	+151	997	+154	0.27	-0.49	1	5.87	+2.88	7
VERMONT														
Burlington Intl	35	82	59	+2	2352	+237	1011	+175	0.04	-0.71	1	0.88	-2.40	7
Island Pond	31	75	55	+3	1635	+289	526	+201	0.07	-0.67	1	1.14	-2.31	10
Montpelier	34	80	57	+2	1935	+274	710	+199	0.07	-0.56	4	1.18	-1.69	13
Pownal	36	81	58	+2	2166	+426	882	+332	0.18	-0.69	1	4.59	+0.93	10
Rochester	34	81	57	+2	1793	+146	618	+117	0.20	-0.64	1	1.97	-1.74	6
Rutland AG	32	83	57	-3	1918	-283	698	-186	0.00	-0.81	0	2.26	-1.22	6
Springfield_VT	33	79	58	+2	2140	+339	863	+269	0.22	-0.57	2	3.72	+0.33	8
Sutton	32	77	54	+2	1591	+234	488	+151	0.14	-0.63	2	0.97	-2.49	10
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	48	82	62	-2	2761	+175	1392	+205	0.24	-0.46	1	2.94	+0.03	6
Fitchburg	37	79	60	+4	2589	+788	1224	+626	0.11	-0.54	1	5.09	+2.30	7
Greenfield	30	77	55	-7	2187	-211	875	-152	0.04	-0.73	1	5.03	+1.82	9
New Bedford	41	82	60	-5	2423	-199	1138	-81	0.41	-0.36	1	3.95	+0.58	9
Otis AFB	43	82	61	+0	2290	+163	1051	+205	0.21	-0.56	1	4.72	+1.62	8
Plymouth	43	82	61	-1	2458	+278	1173	+286	0.26	-0.70	1	5.08	+1.18	7
Walpole	40	80	60	+0	2508	+319	1182	+303	0.31	-0.53	1	4.72	+1.19	9
Chicopee/Westov	35	80	59	-5	2469	-284	1123	-185	0.10	-0.74	1	7.20	+3.84	8
Worthington	32	79	55	-3	1901	+123	682	+111	0.04	-0.80	1	6.02	+2.53	9
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	46	83	63	-1	2871	+404	1453	+354	0.62	-0.18	1	5.97	+2.65	8
Woonsocket	38	81	61	+2	2511	+355	1167	+330	0.48	-0.40	1	4.98	+1.37	7
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	49	84	64	-1	2994	+330	1570	+299	0.01	-0.69	1	5.15	+2.28	9
Hartford/Bradle	40	83	62	-2	2844	+212	1422	+206	0.15	-0.73	1	6.81	+3.22	9
Norfolk	37	79	57	+0	2072	+296	822	+251	0.07	-0.89	1	6.75	+2.76	10
Thomaston Dam	41	82	60	+0	2499	+360	1141	+317	0.02	-0.89	1	6.91	+3.09	10
Willimantic	39	82	61	+1	2605	+421	1213	+355	0.26	-0.67	1	5.87	+2.21	8

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, September 21, 2008

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	AIR TEMPERATURES				PRECIPITATION	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	25	82	54	-2	0.02	1.47
NH	25	86	56	+0	0.10	0.71
VT	29	86	56	+0	0.00	0.78
MA	30	85	59	-1	0.00	0.49
RI	38	83	63	+1	0.00	0.62
CT	36	85	61	-1	0.01	0.26

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:

Corn silage harvest continues however many have to pull trucks through muddy spots in fields as drier fields have been harvested. Broadleaf tobacco drying nicely in sheds and some sheds are ready to take down soon. Pumpkins are running hot and cold as some fields have bumper crops and others have none. Some dry hay made however more was chopped as silage. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** After a wet beginning, the week turned out excellent with good temperatures and bright sunny days, corn chopping all through the county, sweet corn is ending, apple picking is going well, vegetables ending, mums and pumpkins are at farm stands. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** Beautiful week of weather, warm days and cool nights. Fall vegetables are being harvested along with some summer crops which are just about finished. Silage corn harvest is in full swing. Orchards are busy and mums and pumpkins are plentiful at farm stands. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Corn silage harvest is in full swing. Corn is drying faster than expected due to 10 days with no rain. Frost hit low lying areas. This will make the corn dry even faster in those fields.

MAINE - Pam Hickey (Ext), Aroostook: Harvest is in full swing now. Grains are still being harvested. We have had a couple of frosts so far in this area. Temperatures during the day have been in the 60's perfect fall weather this past week. Crops are continuing to be harvested. **Steve London,**

Aroostook: Harvest is in full swing and weather has been good. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Great weather for pick your own apples. Producers are still trying to cut dry hay. Silage is being cut. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Great harvest weather. The first killing frost hit the area. Corn was not affected to a great degree. Corn silage harvest is about to get underway. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** The harvest of silage corn started on Saturday of this week. The pumpkin harvest is about 40% complete and 50% of the harvest of winter squash is complete. Approximately 35% of the apple crop has been harvested and the crop is reported to be average to above average. We had crisp, cool fall weather this past week with more of the same forecasted for the upcoming week. Although frost was evident in some areas on Thursday morning, it was not severe enough to affect crops in this area. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Great weather for harvest of third crop haylage and the beginning of corn silage harvest. Some areas got frosted on Thursday night, but higher locations are still growing. Some areas are even getting a bit dry!

MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire:

Windy start to the week, then clear and sunny, but chilly. Frost on Thursday 9/18 night in parts of the county. Lots of field work this week. Fall crops being harvested and marketed. Orchards are busy with a great apple crop. Corn chopping is in full swing. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Harvesting continues on all fall crops. The weather was dry and warm all week. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Widespread harvesting of Ocean Spray acreage last week, particularly Ben Lear berries. Crops have been good so far. More harvesting this week, as the other handlers will be open. A

few close calls with frost last week, but most growers did not have to run their sprinklers. Color is coming, slowly but surely.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap:

Harvesting Cortland apples now at Belknap orchards. Sweet corn, tomatoes and winter squash are still available everywhere. No frost yet, although temps dipped into the 30's one night. Weather has been clear and cool, excellent for field work. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Sunny weather all week, with some scattered light frost late in the week. The big push to chop corn has begun. Hay/baleage harvest continues, though cooler temps and shorter days make dry hay a bit tricky. More vegetable operations cleaning up fields for the season, lots of fall crops at farm stands and markets. Apple picking in full swing with Macs, Cortlands, and Honeycrisps. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Field corn chopping has begun as temperatures become colder. First hard frost/freeze in the county, although some locations only hit lightly. Hay continues to come in, cool foggy mornings making it difficult to dry. Apple harvest on going Macintosh, Cortland's, Macouns starting to be picked. Lots of pumpkins, sweet corn, mums available at local stands. Some secondary apple scrub problems noted, tough year to control this fungal problem. Orchardists cleaning up drops from last weeks heavy winds, which there were more exposed locations that have experienced this as well. Even high tunnel tomatoes showing fungal diseases at this time. Autumn colors looking good in notches and northern part of the county. Summers over. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending September 20th, we had 6 days with no rain. Farmers were busy making haylage and hay. Some of the wetter soils were cut for the first time this year. Quality was down on these pieces. Other producers were taking second and third off together. The better drained soils along the river bottom fared much better. The custom harvesters moved into the area, and corn is going into the bunks at a phenomenal rate. More than 50% of the corn in the county is now harvested. Apple yields look good. Pumpkin yields are down for the season, but quality is very good. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Very localized frost reports on September 18 and 19, but no major damage reported. Vegetables: Good demand for all vegetables continues. Harvesting wide array of vegetables, including warm season vegetables like tomatoes and peppers. Harvesting cabbage, kale, brussel sprouts, winter squash and pumpkins. Farmers kept busy disking, cleaning up and planting cover crops on harvested fields. Fruit: Apple harvest is in full swing with most growers concentrating on second picking McIntosh and Gala apples, and working on Cortland and Macoun. Some orchardists are finding some apple scab fruit when harvesting due to the wet conditions we had this spring and summer. Fall raspberries and pear harvest continued with peach and plum harvest winding down. Field Crops: Silage corn harvest in full swing along with second and third cuts of hay and hayage continues. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Apple picking going well and orchards are busy. Picking peaches, lettuce, greens, potatoes, tomatoes, sweet corn, cut flowers and pumpkins. Some vegetables fields are being cleaned. Hay is being done. Overall pasture conditions are ok. Chopping corn silage. Nice days cool nights. Soils are dry.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: Chopping field corn, great week for second cut hay and some third cut in premium spots. Summer vegetables going strong, tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, cole crops, lettuces and squashes all doing well. Dry weather has made harvesting good and lowered any sprays. Lots of fall flowers and decorations in roadside stands.

VERMONT - Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia: We got strong wind from Hurricane Ike early in the week, no crop damage. Farmers get going on chopping corn for silage and finishing up haying. It is getting dry. Widespread frost on Friday 9/19 and Saturday 9/20 mornings. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Another great weather week in Franklin County after Hurricane Ike's passing with much wind and little rain. Have had a couple of good killing frosts with nice warm days. Corn has virtually made it to maturity before the frosts have lain in. Now for a little dry down and some good weather for harvest and we will make up for the wet summer.

It will be interesting to hear yield reports; however, with preliminary scouting it looks real good. Gardens are shutting down with the frosts and have seen some fall flower bulbs planted. Apples are now in full swing for harvest and the yield looks good. Nice weather for the pick your own orchards. Pasture growth is slowing rapidly, however, the nice weather is making for some enjoyable end of season pasture clean up for our grazing bovines. **John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille:** The first killing frost of the season hit some areas last week that were not protected with fog. Corn silage harvest is finally in high gear and proceeding rapidly with the fabulous weather conditions. The lack of rain has dramatically slowed the growth of grass which is hurting pastures and will hold back third cut yield. **Julie Jacque (FSA), Windham:** Corn harvest was full swing in most parts of the county this week. Weather cooperated to get into and stay on fields. Total hay production was making progress from the rains, but most reported they are still behind in tonnage and in quality of feed. Square dry bales are extremely hard to come by. Most has been in silages and/or baleage.

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