

Crop Progress & Condition



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

Gary R. Keough, Director

Phone: 603-224-9639

Fax: 603-225-1434

www.nass.usda.gov/nh

nass-nh@nass.usda.gov

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For week ending 10/18/09

A Taste of Winter

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending October 18, 2009, there were 5.1 days available for field work across New England. Pasture condition was rated 27% poor, 37% fair, and 36% good. The week began partly cloudy with rain showers across northern New England and Massachusetts. Light snow showers were reported in northern latitudes. High temperatures were below average ranging in the upper 30s to low 60s north to south. A cold front moved into the area during the middle of the week, bringing cloudy skies and November-like daytime temperatures in the 40s and 50s. Snow showers were reported in isolated areas, but accumulation was minimal. Daytime temperatures on Thursday and Friday were moderately uniform throughout all six states ranging in the upper 30s to upper 40s. Frosts and hard freezes were widespread as nighttime temperatures were in the 20s and 30s throughout the region. While temperatures were slightly warmer on Saturday, the week ended with very cool weather conditions. Coastal areas in New England received heavy precipitation and windy conditions on Sunday, with some areas reporting more than two inches of rainfall. Total rainfall for the week ranged from 0.32 to over three inches.

FRUIT: The apple harvest progressed nicely this past week and was 90% complete at week's end, on par with last year and normal. Late varieties such as Rome, Fuji, and Golden Delicious are the last to be picked. The pear harvest neared completion by the end of the week and was reported in good to fair condition. Despite the rain on Sunday, pick-your-own operations were very active. Orchardists were busy picking up drops and cleaning up harvested areas. Although the heavy winds during the week made for difficult cranberry harvesting, the harvest picked up momentum and was 70% complete at week's end, slightly behind last year and normal. Crop specialists are still predicting lower yields, but quality remains good to excellent.

VEGETABLES: The large amount of frosts over the past week brought most of the vegetable harvesting to an end. Growers were still harvesting the last of the late fall crops such as collards, spinach, cabbage, kale, Brussels sprouts, and winter squash. Vegetable producers were busy preparing harvested beds for winter, pulling up plastic mulch, putting away equipment, and planting cover crops.

FIELD CROPS: The field corn harvest began to wind down and was 90% complete at week's end, slightly behind last year, but on par with normal. Growers were busy spreading lime and manure on harvested fields. The third cutting of hay progressed slowly and was 90% complete by Sunday. Crop yields and condition remained variable throughout New England. The Maine, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island potato harvests were active this past week and neared completion at week's end; growers were busy trying to complete the harvest before the crop freezes.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	1	0
Short	3	3	3
Adequate	84	80	84
Surplus	13	16	13
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	0	1
Short	2	1	1
Adequate	85	85	87
Surplus	13	14	11

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Size	Condition
	2009	2008	5-yr Avg		
Apples	90	90	90	Avg/Above	Good/Fair
Pears	99	99	95	Average	Good/Fair
Cranberries, MA	70	80	80	Average	Good/Excellent

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2009	2008	5-yr Avg	Condition
--Percent Harvested--				
Potatoes				
Maine	90	95	95	Good/Excellent
Mass	99	99	90	Good
Rhode Island	95	100	100	Fair
Silage Corn	90	95	90	Fair
Sweet Corn	100	100	100	Good/Fair
Dry Hay				
Third Cut	90	90	90	Good/Fair

For the Period: Monday October 12, 2009
 To: Sunday October 18, 2009

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	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS
	---	---	---	---	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	INCHES	---	---	INCHES	---	---
MAINE														
Augusta_State_A	30	58	40	-10	2023	-62	683	-63	0.23	-0.63	2	3.53	+0.32	14
Bangor_Intl_Arp	26	56	39	-10	1898	+2	641	+19	0.41	-0.33	2	4.23	+1.26	15
Bethel	23	54	37	-11	1686	-175	490	-106	0.27	-0.58	1	3.87	+0.67	13
Caribou_Municip	21	50	35	-9	1590	+142	521	+143	0.00	-0.68	0	4.29	+1.43	12
Dover-Foxcroft	21	52	36	-10	1548	-47	468	+16	0.32	-0.49	2	4.17	+0.75	14
Frenchville	20	48	34	-10	1432	+89	440	+117	0.01	-0.69	1	3.87	+0.81	15
Houlton	19	51	35	-10	1575	+61	519	+95	0.11	-0.59	2	3.83	+0.88	14
Livermore_Falls	22	57	37	-9	1706	+141	537	+108	0.23	-0.61	2	4.54	+1.28	13
Moosehead	21	50	34	-10	1280	-37	343	+33	0.42	-0.33	3	3.30	+0.16	14
Portland_ME	28	59	42	-8	2092	+162	735	+98	0.22	-0.63	2	4.34	+1.17	10
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	20	51	34	-13	1605	-96	480	+4	0.28	-0.45	2	3.34	+0.51	16
Berlin_AG	21	50	35	-11	1585	-114	446	-51	0.22	-0.58	2	2.83	-0.19	15
Concord	21	58	39	-9	2179	+97	789	+50	0.31	-0.39	2	2.28	-0.41	10
Diamond_Pond	17	40	29	-14	899	-219	148	-57	0.52	-0.32	4	5.56	+2.17	20
Keene_AG	24	57	38	-13	2192	-163	833	-83	0.22	-0.48	2	3.76	+1.04	12
North_Conway	26	55	38	-9	1734	-177	511	-122	0.29	-0.62	2	4.33	+0.94	14
Rochester	25	58	39	-12	2167	-93	799	-53	0.34	-0.61	2	3.74	+0.33	9
VERMONT														
Bennington_AP	24	53	39	-9	2127	+303	717	+165	0.33	-0.51	2	2.65	-0.69	15
Burlington_Intl	25	54	38	-10	2331	+115	905	+64	0.37	-0.26	2	4.58	+1.94	18
Island_Pond	19	49	34	-11	1530	+136	448	+123	0.30	-0.40	4	3.77	+0.97	20
Montpelier	20	53	36	-11	1937	+205	653	+141	0.27	-0.36	2	3.69	+1.17	14
Rochester	21	55	36	-11	1729	+4	537	+33	0.40	-0.44	2	6.26	+2.90	15
Rutland_AG	22	53	37	-14	1936	-396	625	-275	0.15	-0.48	2	4.16	+1.38	12
Springfield_VT	22	55	38	-9	2134	+255	749	+153	0.31	-0.46	2	3.14	+0.06	15
Sutton	21	48	34	-10	1405	+9	371	+34	0.23	-0.54	3	4.62	+1.67	19
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	36	61	45	-10	2766	-38	1176	-52	0.45	-0.26	5	3.38	+0.57	13
Fitchburg	27	59	42	-5	2660	+778	1115	+517	0.24	-0.49	3	2.04	-0.74	11
Greenfield	27	57	39	-14	2195	-368	802	-249	0.37	-0.40	3	3.22	+0.14	13
New_Bedford	30	63	45	-11	2472	-389	967	-303	0.78	+0.01	3	4.12	+1.15	12
Otis_AFB	32	61	46	-8	2505	+216	994	+129	0.95	+0.10	4	4.52	+1.18	12
Plymouth	33	64	46	-7	2469	+135	965	+62	1.09	+0.19	5	4.58	+0.99	14
Walpole	30	60	42	-9	2343	+23	886	-8	0.68	-0.18	5	3.92	+0.54	13
Chicopee/Westov	26	61	42	-13	2530	-432	1015	-335	0.15	-0.64	2	3.19	+0.06	10
Worthington	24	55	37	-12	1839	-40	577	+2	0.29	-0.55	3	3.13	-0.16	14
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	36	65	46	-9	2755	+92	1170	+36	0.51	-0.33	3	3.71	+0.56	12
Woonsocket	29	60	43	-8	2480	+201	973	+127	0.68	-0.23	4	3.97	+0.50	12
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	36	65	47	-9	2896	-10	1295	-33	0.50	-0.20	2	3.09	+0.34	9
Hartford/Bradle	30	63	44	-9	2813	+8	1226	-16	0.24	-0.53	4	3.06	-0.18	13
Norfolk	29	55	38	-10	1964	+100	645	+72	0.39	-0.47	3	2.92	-0.60	14
Thomaston_Dam	32	60	42	-10	2479	+191	983	+137	0.43	-0.44	3	3.39	-0.15	13
Willimantic	31	63	45	-7	2742	+408	1167	+291	0.31	-0.60	4	3.20	-0.44	13

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 precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, October 18, 2009

STATE	AIR TEMPERATURES				PRECIPITATION	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	17	60	37	-10	0.00	0.42
NH	8	60	36	-11	0.18	0.86
VT	15	56	36	-12	0.15	0.78
MA	24	64	43	-9	0.13	1.63
RI	29	65	45	-9	0.24	0.68
CT	28	65	44	-9	0.24	0.57

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: We have had several hard frosts and even a couple of snow storms. Field corn harvest is winding down. Yields were lower than normal, due to the wet growing season. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Hard freeze finished the crop season for most producers. Some apples left to pick and field corn is about ready to combine, however, most are waiting for corn to dry down more. Lifting plastic mulch and drip irrigation tubing to clear fields for cover crop. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Some late planted corn silage still coming in. "Planting" pumpkins in fields for the PYO customers seemed to be the major activity this week despite the rain and snow. Corn mazes took a hit as snow and wind knocked over some of the spindly corn. **Patricia Smith (FSA), New London:** We have experienced two heavy frosts in parts of the county. Accumulations of ½ to one inch of snow. There is still about 200 acres or more of high moisture corn to harvest. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** Killing freeze mid-week brought things to an end in New Haven and Middlesex Counties. About an inch of rain fell on Sunday. Saturday was a nice day for farm markets, pumpkin picking, hay rides and corn mazes. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Hard frost, light snow three days this week, rain, some sun was great to get corn chopping finished, clean out vegetable beds, get apples into storage, do pick your own apples and pumpkins, also harvested traminette grapes; good full grape clusters with nice color and taste, production on this variety was better than last year.

MAINE – Doreen Conlogue (FSA), Aroostook: Decent week but cold. Morning temps well below freezing every morning last week. Hopefully growers can finish up potato harvest this week! **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** The weather has been cooler than normal for October. Some areas received snow in York County. The rain over the weekend hurt the pick-your-own sales at orchards. Most of the apples are picked except for the very late varieties. Many producers have had to purchase pumpkins, since their crop failed, for their fall sales. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Winter is on the way. Grain corn and soybeans are left to harvest. Yields will be below normal. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** The season is just about completed on harvesting of all crops. Apples and pumpkins are just finishing up. Corn silage is being harvested and crop looks okay. Quality will be down but over all looks okay. Potatoes are completed being harvested and fall weather is here. Farm stands are starting to close up as well. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** The growing season is over in the mid-coast area with several killing frosts last week and some light snow on Sunday. It has been a tough year for farmers. Let's hope Mother Nature cooperates in 2010! **Janet King (FSA), Somerset:** Most corn silage has been harvested with reports of 40 to 50% losses. Apple harvest is ongoing, with reports of sizeable fruit. Most third crop hay has been harvested, but with losses of quality reported. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Cold weather, but no snow up here! Corn silage is winding down. Manure pits are being emptied. Some third cutting haylage.

MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: This was a cold week with snow ranging from flurries to a nor'easter that spanned the weekend. We saw fallout from that in the form of wind and rain with snow in higher elevations. Fields have been turned over and planted to cover crop. Silage harvest continues. Halloween veggies at farm stands and markets. Foliage is past peak in most parts of the county. **Lori Carver (FSA), Franklin:** Cool temps during the week led to a dreary, snowy weekend. The last of the silage corn is being harvested, grain corn harvest yet to start. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Farmers spent the week harvesting only late fall crops like collards, spinach, apples, cabbage and parsnips. Dairy farmers are spreading manure. Vegetable growers are winterizing their equipment and putting away irrigation lines. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Another big week for harvesting, although conditions were not good

for dry harvesting with the two nor'easters. Those storms left 2-4 inches in most locations and the winds made even water harvesting very difficult, if not impossible. Crops continue to be less than expected; there's no way MA will have the 1.9 million barrel crop that the USDA estimated in August. Quality is decent so far. There were several frost nights this week, with temperatures in the high teens one morning.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll: It's cold and windy. We had no summer and now, no fall. We're down to two seasons: spring and winter. Doesn't leave much time for crops or harvest. Better luck next year. Leaves are past peak, but still holding on to the trees pretty well. Mums are still selling at the farm stand, but at a discounted rate. Cover crops have been planted and have mostly emerged. Pastures are green but growing very slowly. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Frosty weather all week, and a few snowflakes spitting toward the end of the week. Corn chopping all done. A few farms trying to get the last of a late third or fourth cutting for baleage. Veggie operations harvesting the last of the fall crops and putting the fields to bed. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Freezing temperatures most mornings, into the teens at times/places. Light snow cover early in week. Field corn harvest continues at a good pace. All standing corn showing some degree of frost/freeze damage. Seems like more bear damage this year than most. Still decent color. Good supply of local apples and cider at orchard stands; pumpkins and winter squash as well. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** Last week brought several hard freezes, and anywhere from an inch to 3 inches in the higher elevations. Temperatures remained cooler than normal. Some corn and grass remains to be harvested, but many producers are finishing off the season. **Heather Bryant (Ext), Grafton:** Most of the county saw snow on the morning of October 12. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Vegetables: A hard county-wide frost occurred during the week. Farmers kept busy working on: pulling plastic mulch and tomato stakes, planting cover crops, and putting equipment. Good demand for all vegetables continues. Growers are harvesting wide array of vegetables including: cabbage, kale, Brussels sprouts, winter squash and pumpkins along with the tail end of warm season crops. Fruit: Apple harvest is winding down, harvesting Rome, Fuji, and Golden Delicious. Picking up drops and cleaning up orchards from harvest. Sooty Blotch and Fly Speck diseases are affecting several late maturing apple varieties. Field Crops: Silage corn chopping continues with the end in sight and seeding cover crops on harvested fields. Some manure spreading and incorporating in soil is taking place. **Amy Ouellette (Ext), Merrimack:** Two hard frosts finished off most of the tender vegetable crops. Winter squash, potatoes, Indian corn and garlic braids are featured in farm stands and markets. Several varieties of apple are being harvested. Farmers are liming soil and cleaning fields before the winter. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Apple picking continues. Pumpkins, winter squashes, cornstalks, greens, potatoes available at local markets. Vegetable growers busy removing plastic mulch, tomato stakes, planting cover crops on harvested fields. Forage operations were busy seeding cover crops on harvested fields, spreading manure, and plowing and liming fields. A couple frosts. The week ended with rain and cold weather. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** A mild week with rain showers at the end of the week. Field corn producers were spreading manure in the fields. Others were spreading lime where needed. Vegetable growers were harvesting the last of the late season crops and preparing the fields for the winter rest. Pumpkins and corn stalk sales were strong throughout the week at the farm stands. Fruit growers continued to harvest the later varieties of apples. Most pick your own growers had about 20% of the crop still to be harvested. The wet weather for the last few weekends has not helped the situation for the pick your own operations. Sales of fall mums is winding down for most garden centers. The poinsettia crop is growing well in most greenhouses.

VERMONT – Jeff Carter, (Ext), Addison: Continued corn silage harvest. Some soybean harvest and chop last of haylage. Fields not too wet, so good trafficability for equipment. Some manure spreading on harvested fields and primary tillage to incorporate. Some lime being spread. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** The last few mornings have been 20 degrees. Snow on the ground one morning. Growing season is over. Corn is nearly all chopped. A little bit of haying this week, and some more is standing in places, but hard to harvest it now. Manure going onto corn ground. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Great week for Corn harvest in Franklin County. Preliminary yield reports are good. Jury still out on quality. Pasture and foliage is really on the way to winter hibernating with heavy frosts for the last four mornings. The biggest apple harvesters

will now be the deer herd. Many drops will be available for the four legged munchers. Deer season is in full swing and goes right through to first of December with all the hunting tools, Bow, rifle and musket. Fall manure spreading will soon be underway and we hope for continued good weather to move this final (or first activity for the 2010 growing season where these nutrients are actually used) crop activity along smoothly. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Overall it was not a bad cropping week. We did get some snow on Tuesday and it frosts every night now. Towards the end of the week some farms were harvesting a fourth crop of haylage. Corn harvest is nearly complete now. The quantity of the corn harvested is low but ear development was good so the quality should be fairly decent. Cows are still out on pasture but supplemental feeding is necessary in most cases.

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Gary R. Keough, Director
Ty Kalaus, Deputy Director

Hernan G. Ortiz, Statistician
Kathy Schmitt, Stat Assistant