

Crop Progress & Condition



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

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For week ending 10/25/09

Rainy Finish to the Season

This will be the last publication for the 2009 crop year. We hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season and good luck next spring!

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending October 25, 2009, there were 4.9 days available for field work across New England. Pasture condition was rated 27% poor, 25% fair, 43% good, and 5% excellent. The week began partly cloudy with below average to average high temperatures ranging in the upper 40s to mid-60s. Frost was reported throughout New England as temperatures dipped below 32 degrees in all non-coastal areas. Dry conditions remained in New England during the middle of the week except for northernmost latitudes. Precipitation ranged from 0.24 to 0.43 inches in northern regions, with northern Maine reporting snowfall. With the exception of Maine, daytime temperatures were above average on Wednesday and Thursday, ranging in the mid-50s to mid-70s. In contrast, northern Maine reported maximum temperatures in the 30s. A storm system moved into the area on Friday evening, bringing heavy rainfall to New England during Friday night and Saturday. Some locations reported over two inches of precipitation. Temperatures were above average in the southern states and were variable in the northern states during this time period. Pleasant weather conditions marked the end of the week, with high temperatures ranging in the mid-50s to upper 60s. Total rainfall for the week ranged from 1.01 to 2.87 inches.

FRUIT: The apple harvest was complete in many orchards at week's end and was 95 percent finished overall, on par with last year and normal. Late varieties such as Rome, Fuji, and Golden Delicious are being picked. The pear harvest neared completion in all states by the end of the week. Orchardists were busy setting out mouse bait, picking up apple drops, flail mowing harvested areas, cleaning up equipment and marketing the crop. The cranberry harvest is starting to wind down, with many growers finished. The largest growers will finish harvesting in approximately two weeks. Crop specialists are predicting lower yields, but quality remains good to excellent.

VEGETABLES: Vegetable growers continue to harvest and market spinach, carrots, collards and cabbage. Greens, pumpkins, corn stalks, mums and winter squash were also available at farm stands and farmers markets. Pumpkin yields were low this year due to early blight outbreaks earlier in the season. Farmers are cleaning up fields, picking up plastic mulch, drip tape and trellis stakes, seeding cover crops on harvested fields, draining and putting away irrigation equipment and soil testing fields for next season.

FIELD CROPS: This year was challenging for many field crops, resulting in low yields and inconsistent quality. Crops that suffered the most were on heavy soils where plants could not tolerate the excessive moisture, and many farmers expect to be short on silage and hay this winter. The field corn harvest is finishing up slightly behind last year, but on par with normal. The potato harvest was finished in Rhode Island at week's end. Heavy rains in Massachusetts and Maine kept potato growers from harvesting the last of the crop. The third cutting of hay continued at a slow pace due to weekend rains, but condition was still in the good range at week's end. Growers were busy spreading lime and manure, seeding cover crops, cleaning up fields, and putting away equipment.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	1	0	0
Short	1	3	1
Adequate	75	84	84
Surplus	23	13	15
Subsoil			
Very Short	1	0	1
Short	0	2	1
Adequate	84	85	88
Surplus	15	13	10

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Size	Condition
	2009	2008	5-yr Avg		
Apples	95	95	95	Avg/Above	Good/Fair
Pears	99	100	99	Average	Good/Fair
Cranberries, MA	85	90	85	Average	Good/Excellent

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

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

For the Period: Monday October 19, 2009
 To: Sunday October 25, 2009

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	30	59	43	-5	2024	-68	683	-63	2.13	+1.21	4	5.64	+2.28	16
Bangor_Intl_Arp	26	60	43	-4	1902	+1	641	+19	2.20	+1.41	5	6.33	+3.34	18
Bethel	24	62	42	-3	1686	-177	490	-106	2.24	+1.32	4	5.91	+2.56	15
Caribou_Municip	24	50	36	-5	1590	+142	521	+143	1.99	+1.29	4	5.72	+2.93	14
Dover-Foxcroft	24	58	38	-5	1548	-47	468	+16	2.83	+1.99	5	6.88	+3.53	17
Frenchville	24	47	35	-6	1432	+89	440	+117	1.27	+0.57	4	4.57	+1.64	17
Houlton	25	52	38	-5	1575	+61	519	+95	2.40	+1.65	5	5.65	+2.74	17
Livermore_Falls	26	61	41	-3	1706	+141	537	+108	2.44	+1.54	5	6.93	+3.57	17
Moosehead	23	54	37	-5	1280	-37	343	+33	2.33	+1.56	4	5.38	+2.31	16
Portland_ME	29	62	45	-2	2098	+163	735	+98	1.81	+0.87	4	6.11	+2.76	13
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	26	60	42	-3	1605	-101	480	+4	2.35	+1.58	4	5.37	+2.47	18
Berlin_AG	26	55	41	-4	1585	-115	446	-51	2.10	+1.26	4	4.52	+1.36	17
Concord	25	68	45	-1	2187	+99	789	+50	2.19	+1.42	4	4.22	+1.39	13
Diamond_Pond	20	51	34	-6	899	-219	148	-57	2.49	+1.65	5	7.48	+4.12	22
Keene_AG	27	71	47	-2	2202	-163	833	-83	2.53	+1.82	4	6.04	+3.26	14
North_Conway	29	61	41	-3	1735	-178	511	-122	3.41	+2.43	4	7.63	+4.04	16
Rochester	29	65	44	-4	2170	-100	799	-53	2.12	+1.10	4	5.66	+2.00	12
VERMONT														
Bennington_AP	22	71	47	+3	2140	+309	717	+165	1.83	+0.97	2	4.08	+0.72	15
Burlington_Intl	24	63	45	-1	2334	+111	905	+64	1.01	+0.37	4	4.20	+1.62	18
Island_Pond	23	59	41	-2	1530	+136	448	+123	1.52	+0.78	4	4.84	+2.00	21
Montpelier	22	68	45	+2	1938	+201	653	+141	1.60	+0.97	4	4.84	+2.32	16
Rochester	22	69	43	-2	1731	+0	537	+33	3.20	+2.34	3	8.22	+4.84	16
Rutland_AG	23	67	44	-5	1938	-407	625	-275	2.35	+1.72	4	6.42	+3.78	14
Springfield_VT	24	70	47	+3	2144	+261	749	+153	2.02	+1.18	3	4.92	+1.77	16
Sutton	23	58	40	-1	1405	+9	371	+34	1.72	+0.95	4	5.43	+2.45	20
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	34	69	52	-2	2800	-30	1178	-50	2.03	+1.26	3	5.22	+2.34	15
Fitchburg	29	74	50	+6	2690	+803	1115	+517	1.68	+0.91	3	3.48	+0.58	13
Greenfield	28	70	47	-4	2205	-375	802	-249	1.78	+1.01	3	4.57	+1.49	15
New_Bedford	29	69	51	-3	2500	-392	968	-302	2.34	+1.51	3	6.41	+3.36	14
Otis_AFB	28	68	51	+1	2533	+227	996	+131	2.32	+1.41	3	6.83	+3.40	14
Plymouth	29	73	52	+3	2501	+152	967	+64	2.42	+1.50	3	6.98	+3.38	16
Walpole	29	68	49	+1	2359	+28	886	-8	2.87	+1.95	3	6.61	+3.15	15
Chicopee/Westov	27	75	49	-4	2554	-433	1015	-335	1.93	+1.09	3	4.74	+1.56	12
Worthington	27	74	46	-1	1850	-37	577	+2	2.26	+1.41	3	4.76	+1.46	16
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	31	73	53	+2	2790	+106	1172	+38	2.89	+2.03	3	6.44	+3.20	13
Woonsocket	29	76	49	+3	2503	+216	973	+127	2.65	+1.72	3	6.38	+2.82	14
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	34	68	53	-2	2931	-6	1295	-33	2.47	+1.77	3	4.77	+2.02	11
Hartford/Bradle	29	77	50	+1	2841	+19	1226	-16	1.85	+1.04	3	4.44	+1.23	14
Norfolk	30	68	45	+0	1973	+102	645	+72	2.16	+1.25	3	4.49	+0.97	15
Thomaston_Dam	29	72	49	+0	2498	+194	983	+137	2.16	+1.25	3	5.06	+1.52	14
Willimantic	30	76	52	+3	2773	+424	1169	+293	1.91	+0.95	3	4.69	+1.00	14

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 25, 2009

STATE	AIR TEMPERATURES				PRECIPITATION	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	16	71	40	-4	0.97	3.26
NH	15	72	43	-1	0.55	3.50
VT	17	71	43	-1	0.90	3.33
MA	26	76	49	+0	0.92	3.00
RI	29	76	51	+3	2.65	2.89
CT	27	77	50	+1	1.76	3.44

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: Some hay made this past week but most was made as silage. Cole crops still coming in and pumpkin sales have slowed with the rainy weekends. Grain corn producers are very concerned with bird damage and wet grain as for most varieties the ear has not bent over to shed moisture. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Too much rain - too little sun. 30% loss in hay, 50% loss in corn silage, 70% loss of pumpkins - early blight, molds, mildews and other fungus seemed to be the only bumper crops we had in the area this year. Blueberries were the only bright spot with this year. Growers I spoke with claimed it was one of their best growing years ever. The problem was getting people out to pick! This year certainly was interesting - let's hope next season is a little more "normal"! Whatever that is! **Patricia Smith (FSA), New London:** We have experienced several frosts. Producers waiting to harvest high moisture corn. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Finishing apple picking, putting mouse bait in orchards, cleaning up plastic mulch, picking corn, spreading manure, cleaning equipment up to put away, picking Cabernet Franc and Carmine grapes - grape varieties were all late to mature but overall production was good. Many farmers are going to be short on silage and hay. Farmers who have sold grain and silage in the past have shut everyone off to assure they can feed the cows. The crops that suffered the most were on heavy soils, plants could not tolerate wet roots for so long this summer.

MAINE – Doreen Conlogue (FSA), Northern Aroostook: Last week was very chilly and some parts of the County received 6+" of snow on Thursday! Most of the potatoes are out with the exception of a few acres. This week's temps look a little warmer and thankfully no snow in the forecast! **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Harvesting is just about completed for all crops, including apples. Farmers have been busy spreading manure where they can get on the land. 1.5 to 2 inches of rain was received on Saturday. 2009 was a poor year for most farmers due to all the rain and cold conditions in June and July. Let's hope for a better 2010! **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Grain corn and soybeans left to go. We are having a couple of beautiful Indian summer days but we need them to dry out after about 3 inches of rain. All crops have reported below average yields and reduced quality this season. It was just too wet. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Corn silage harvest nearly complete. Some growers going after third cutting haylage, although yields are low. Most dairy farmers report 30-50% yield reduction in corn silage harvest. Manure pits being emptied.

MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: We got up to 70 on Thursday but overall it was a cool, windy week that ended with about 2 inches of rain and heavy wind. Fields are back to soggy. The last of the silage is being cut. Saturday's farmers' markets were a washout. **Lori Carver (FSA), Franklin:** As we come to the end of another growing season, Franklin County growers are reporting that the year was not the best or the worst. The weather was certainly challenging and will be a memorable one. Late Frosts, hail, and long periods of rain, Early snow, you name it we had it this year. Looking forward to a calmer and more successful growing season in 2010. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Soybean and corn grain harvest has started. Vegetable and fruit growers continue harvesting apples, potatoes, kale, spinach, carrots, collards and cabbage. Farmers are busy spreading manure and lime, picking up irrigation pipe, gathering plastic row covers, and winterizing their equipment. All crop fields are saturated from the weekend's heavy rainfall. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Harvesting is winding down, with many growers finished. The largest growers have two weeks' more of harvesting. Crops are better for the Stevens beds, but Howes berries, although numerous are very small, for the most part. The crop will probably end up being 1.7 million barrels in Massachusetts, not 1.9 million as estimated in August.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll: Most of the week was mild and sunny. Saturday brought heavy rain with around 3 inches of rainfall. Leaves past peak and most maples dropped all they had left in the rain. Cornstalks, pumpkins, mums and winter squash still popular at the farm stand. Pastures still growing, although slowly. Hard to believe that the season is over, already looking ahead to the next! **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** A stretch of Indian summer this week, with generally sunny weather (except for Sat) and warmer temperatures. Last bit of hay/haylage/baleage getting harvested or animals cleaning up the last of the grazable forage. Most of the veggies in by now, farms finishing up putting the fields to bed. Apples just about done with the harvest of late varieties. An interesting growing season, to say the least - here's hoping for a normal summer, whatever that is, in 2010. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Frosty mornings. Heavy rains this weekend have rivers running hard. Corn silage harvest nearly complete; what's not in yet, should be chopped and packed this week coming. Apples and cider still available at local stands, pumpkins too. A little late cut grass being mowed, manure spreading and equipment cleanup. Conclusion of a difficult crop year. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** The end of the week was very wet. Saturday brought very heavy rains. Some locations reported nearly 3 inches of rain. In Woodsville, we received 2.3 inches of rain. Soils are now fully saturated. Field cropping is pretty much done. With the exception of a few of fields scattered around the county, most of the corn is harvested, for better or worse. Yields for the 2009 season were highly variable. Yields were down on most fields, ranging from 80% losses on some to 20% loss or less on others. Soils made the biggest difference. Better drained soils with plenty of manure applied produced a much better crop than soils that were less well drained. The hay crop suffered similar problems. For those trying to put up dry hay, the summer weather proved to be a huge challenge. Those putting up haylage did a little better. The frequency of rain events and cool conditions slowed growth and harvest on many crops and impaired field activities. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Orchardists busy marketing crop. Finishing harvesting Cortland, McIntosh, and Macoun. Harvesting Rome, Fuji, and Golden Delicious. Picking up apple drops however, many orchardists are flail mowing under trees and not worrying about the drop apples. Vegetables: Farmers are cleaning up fields, picking up plastic mulch, drip tape, and trellis stakes, seeding cover crops on harvested fields, draining and putting away irrigation equipment and soil testing fields for next season. Cleaning and putting away farm equipment. Field crops: Silage corn chopping is finished. Soil testing fields for next season and cleaning and putting away farm equipment. Seeding cover crops on harvested fields. Some manure spreading and incorporating in soil is taking place. **Amy Ouellette (Ext), Merrimack:** It's peak apple season with many varieties and cider available at orchards around central NH. Farmers continued to clean-up fields before winter hits. Several overcast and rainy days during the week. **Melinda Marston (FSA), Merrimack/Belknap/Hillsborough:** This year was a tough year for most crops. This year was particularly tough for hay, pumpkins, and most corn. There were producers that thought that they were going to have a big loss and in the end made out alright. It was not a bumper year for most but some made out better than others. With field corn in particular, it seemed to be a bit hit or miss depending on the type of soil and the location of the field. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Apple harvest nearly complete. Greens, cabbage, pumpkins, winter squashes, potatoes, available at farm stands and farmer markets. Haying been done. Growers cleaning their fields. Night and day temperature relatively warm. Heavy rain on Friday evening into Saturday. Many farm stands getting ready to close by the end of the week.

VERMONT – Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia: Cool dry week until Sat when we got 2 inches of rain. Most corn silage got in before

then, some farmers reporting corn yields about 25% lower than usual. Another very unusual growing season. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Corn harvest is on the last leg here in Franklin County. Good thing because rains have been quite steady this week. Pastures are going to become deer hunters paradise soon, so would be wise to think about bringing in those last pastured animals. Apples are a thing of the past now with drops that are beginning to add compost to tree soils. Cover crop seeding is becoming a challenge due to the wet weather and wet soil conditions in corn fields. **John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille:** A very wet Saturday slowed

the progress of the corn silage harvest. Most had already harvested their wet spots just in case so shouldn't be an issue. Field work is winding down but the prediction of a warmer than average week will make for a strong finish. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Landowners are trying to finish corn harvest and fourth cut hay. Last week was a bit showery which delayed some harvest. The field conditions are still good for running equipment on. It frosts every night now and on Thursday the tops of the hills were all white. Cows are still in pasture but are being fed supplemental feed at the barn.

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