

Crop Progress & Condition



NEW ENGLAND
Agricultural
Statistics



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For week ending 9/25/11

Hot Days for Harvesting

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending September 25, 2011, there were 5.0 days available for fieldwork across New England. Pasture conditions were rated 15 percent poor, 44 percent fair, 36 percent good, and 5 percent excellent. The week started with partly cloudy to sunny skies and temperatures in the mid-60s. Tuesday and Wednesday, light showers were scattered across the region and temperatures were in the mid-60s to low 70s. Thursday and Friday had more rain, heavy at times on Friday. Daytime highs were average in the low to mid-70s, but nighttime lows were well above average in the mid-50s and 60s. The weekend was cloudy and muggy with above average daytime temperatures in the mid-70s to low 80s across the region. Nighttime lows remained higher than average in mid-50s to high 60s. Total rainfall for the week ranged from 0.09 to 2.26 inches.

FRUIT: PYO operations were seeing low customer numbers in some areas due to the wet weather. Apples and pears were reported by many to be in good condition. Some vineyards in New England were dealing with damage caused by the Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD), a type of Asian fruit fly. Grape producers were harvesting what was still good and then picking the rest to burn and stop the cycle. SWD was also affecting some late blueberries and raspberries.

VEGETABLES: Some farmers markets have begun to close due to a lack of produce from vendors. In other areas, farmstands have been busy with the fall harvested vegetables such as cabbage, kale, Brussels sprouts, winter squash, and pumpkins. Broccoli harvesting continued in Maine. Some vegetable growers were cleaning their fields and planting cover crops.

FIELD CROPS: Corn silage harvest continued. Progress was slow due to wet conditions and some fields still had standing water. In several locations, there were corn fields that were destroyed by flooding. Late season hay cutting continued between showers, however, some second and third cut hay will be left in soggy fields. Maine potato farmers enjoyed a good week of weather to wrap up their small grain harvesting and begin full scale harvesting of potatoes.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	0	7
Short	2	2	21
Adequate	65	77	69
Surplus	33	21	3
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	1	8
Short	3	1	25
Adequate	68	83	66
Surplus	29	15	1

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Set	Fruit Size	Condition
	2011	2010	5-yr Avg			
Apples	50	60	50	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Peaches	99	100	99			
Pears	75	85	70	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Blueberries						
Highbush	100	100	100			
Cranberries, MA	15	10	10	Average	Average	Exc/Good

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2011	2010	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Harvested --				
Barley	99	99	95	
Oats	95	99	95	
Potatoes				
Maine	35	45	35	Good/Fair
Mass	70	75	65	
Rhode Island	35	60	75	Good/Fair
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	100	100	100	
Shade	100	100	100	
Silage Corn	20	60	35	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	95	95	95	
Dry Hay				
Second Cut	95	99	95	
Third Cut	70	80	70	

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday, September 19, 2011
 To: Sunday, September 25, 2011

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	42	75	62	+6	2227	+222	955	+211	0.84	+0.08	5	5.33	+2.46	12
Bangor_Intl_Arp	41	76	61	+6	2152	+323	866	+244	0.59	-0.18	4	4.20	+1.00	11
Bethel	36	77	60	+5	2010	+208	789	+193	0.57	-0.20	4	7.37	+4.18	11
Caribou_Municip	37	77	59	+8	1768	+342	603	+225	0.01	-0.76	1	4.83	+1.53	12
Dover-Foxcroft	34	77	57	+5	1746	+184	599	+147	0.35	-0.56	4	7.59	+3.95	13
Frenchville	38	74	57	+7	1453	+128	400	+77	0.06	-0.78	1	4.92	+1.41	13
Houlton	34	77	58	+7	1745	+255	590	+166	0.08	-0.73	3	5.07	+1.62	12
Livermore_Falls	36	77	60	+8	1989	+458	777	+348	0.91	+0.09	5	6.85	+3.43	12
Moosehead	34	75	57	+6	1469	+175	404	+94	0.45	-0.39	2	7.16	+3.76	10
Portland_ME	40	76	61	+5	2239	+382	973	+336	1.62	+0.88	4	3.47	+0.63	10
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	35	75	59	+6	1871	+224	660	+184	1.43	+0.73	5	6.33	+3.28	13
Berlin_AG	35	77	59	+6	1861	+208	653	+156	0.44	-0.27	4	7.48	+4.31	12
Concord	35	78	63	+8	2504	+497	1147	+408	0.93	+0.30	5	5.81	+3.16	12
Diamond_Pond	35	71	56	+7	1349	+250	337	+132	0.85	-0.04	5	8.15	+4.26	13
Keene_AG	35	80	62	+4	2400	+147	1059	+150	1.99	+1.32	5	10.31	+7.43	13
North_Conway	38	74	59	+5	2057	+202	829	+196	0.85	+0.08	5	7.06	+3.84	13
Rochester	37	78	62	+4	2671	+511	1305	+459	1.40	+0.63	4	4.84	+1.85	10
VERMONT														
Bennington_AP	35	76	63	+8	2467	+710	1070	+518	0.95	+0.11	4	6.75	+3.15	12
Burlington_Intl	42	75	63	+8	2627	+492	1239	+400	1.13	+0.41	5	7.75	+4.56	14
Island_Pond	36	76	60	+8	1897	+541	666	+341	1.08	+0.37	7	7.38	+4.08	18
Montpelier	38	77	62	+8	2176	+500	875	+363	0.73	+0.10	5	7.95	+5.17	12
Rochester	37	74	60	+5	2057	+394	785	+281	1.28	+0.44	3	9.38	+5.76	10
Rutland_AG	35	75	61	+3	2284	+59	959	+72	0.98	+0.20	6	6.54	+3.12	15
Springfield_VT	39	80	63	+9	2591	+774	1206	+610	0.89	+0.12	4	8.75	+5.42	13
Sutton	38	74	58	+8	1802	+436	602	+265	0.64	-0.12	5	7.86	+4.51	14
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	51	80	66	+4	3025	+402	1574	+378	1.08	+0.38	4	3.99	+1.11	11
Fitchburg	41	80	65	+10	2919	+1101	1481	+883	2.18	+1.55	4	8.01	+5.28	10
Greenfield	38	77	62	+2	2352	-75	984	-49	2.07	+1.30	4	9.06	+5.86	12
New_Bedford	47	80	66	+3	2954	+293	1457	+226	0.83	+0.06	3	5.44	+2.16	9
Otis_AFB	45	75	65	+6	2451	+295	1097	+245	0.73	-0.07	3	4.05	+0.94	9
Plymouth	48	82	67	+8	2855	+647	1407	+516	1.09	+0.16	3	5.95	+2.08	9
Walpole	43	78	64	+6	2755	+542	1350	+468	1.40	+0.56	4	6.50	+3.00	12
Chicopee/Westov	37	79	65	+4	2833	+44	1375	+58	2.16	+1.35	5	7.57	+4.24	11
Worthington	35	75	59	+4	2124	+327	834	+260	2.19	+1.35	5	8.94	+5.48	14
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	48	80	67	+6	2972	+471	1503	+395	1.27	+0.50	4	6.19	+2.90	10
Woonsocket	42	79	65	+8	2811	+631	1375	+535	1.86	+1.01	4	7.75	+4.17	10
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	50	78	69	+5	3214	+510	1700	+417	3.44	+2.74	3	7.11	+4.24	8
Hartford/Bradle	42	80	66	+6	3057	+394	1563	+341	1.84	+0.99	4	8.60	+5.02	10
Norfolk	38	73	61	+6	2265	+471	943	+370	2.31	+1.38	6	11.29	+7.36	13
Thomaston_Dam	37	82	65	+6	2789	+624	1353	+523	2.22	+1.31	6	10.83	+7.04	13
Willimantic	41	79	66	+7	2910	+699	1434	+571	1.22	+0.29	3	6.58	+2.92	9

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, September 25, 2011

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	31	80	59	+6	0.00	1.62
NH	30	81	60	+6	0.17	2.03
VT	32	80	61	+7	0.32	1.79
MA	35	82	64	+6	0.38	2.70
RI	42	80	66	+6	1.10	1.86
CT	37	82	66	+6	1.05	3.44

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

CONNECTICUT – Howard Rood (FSA), Fairfield/Litchfield:

Another rainy week. Most fields are too wet to work. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** A warm and wet week with some sun sprinkled in. Heavy rains Friday yielded about 1.75 inches of rain. The weekend was very humid and breaks of sun but no rain. Corn silage harvest continued but no great progress due to wet conditions. Humid conditions kept farm stand customers away from purchasing fall items over the weekend. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Harvesting corn silage between rainfalls. Saturated soils aren't getting a chance to dry. Ruts made now will have lasting effects on yield from soil compaction - but growers have little choice except to harvest. Pumpkin patches, berry patches, orchards and all PYO operations are seeing low customer numbers due to weather. **Patricia Smith (FSA), New London:** Producers reporting 85-90% loss of large pumpkins. Sugar pumpkins about a 60% loss. Farmers markets have closed due to loss of vendors because they have no produce to sell. Silage corn is being harvested, but the fields are so wet in some cases the trucks have to be pulled. Some fields still have water standing in them. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** Some corn silage continued to be harvested this week. Rain hampered progress towards the end of the week. Farm markets bursting with fall colors. Pumpkins seem plentiful along with mums and other fall decorations. **Jude Boucher (Ext), Tolland:** More wet weather. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Corn chopping across rows to pick up downed corn is slow going; still wet fields and then Friday, we had 4" more rain so all field work was shut down. Some corn is dried brown top to bottom. Vineyards are dealing with SWD; a type of Asian fruit fly that is destroying grapes just ready to pick; harvesting what is still good and then picking the rest to burn to stop the cycle. One vineyard reported a 70% loss of St Croix variety. They were looking excellent just a few days before harvest. Late blueberries and raspberries have also been affected by SWD. Sweet corn is about done. Farmers markets are ending early where crops are finished due to storm effects with virus and other. Great day Saturday at Celebrating Agriculture with lots of farm equipment, exhibits, wagon rides, and people coming to see and support local agriculture.

MAINE – Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook: First week of potato harvest was excellent. Dry weather and warm temperatures got everyone off to a great start. Still some late season hay being cut. Grain yields were light to very light this year. Broccoli harvest is on-going with average to above average yields. Soybean harvest will start shortly. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** More farmers are harvesting potatoes. Grains are almost done. Broccoli harvest is still being done. Farmers are finishing haying fields. All crops look excellent. Let's hope for a warm, dry harvest season. **Don Audibert (FSA), Northern Aroostook:** Some farmers are more than half done potato harvesting due to the nice warm, sunny weather we had all week in the St. John Valley. Grain harvesting is winding down. Yields look good. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Wet weather several days last week slowed down apple picking and hay harvesting. The weekend ended up spectacular for weather, warm and sunny. Orchards are reporting a few more apple trees have tipped over due to the effects of Hurricane Irene. Silage corn is just starting to be cut. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Conditions are wet. Corn harvest will be okay on well drained soils. Some second and third cut hay will be left in wet areas. The more sun we get the better. This week's warm temperatures were great. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Reports of an early frost in some low lying areas within Oxford County. Fall harvesting is in full swing. Quality of corn is down due to the early drought conditions we had in July. The dry conditions have also effected the yield on pumpkins and squash. Apple harvest is underway with reports of some damage due to Hurricane Irene. The farmstands have been busy as well with the fall harvested vegetables and fruits. The night temperatures warmed up last week compared to the week prior! **Donna Coffin (Ext),**

Piscataquis/Penobscot: Misting on Saturday put a dampening on farm activities including customers coming to pick pumpkins. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** A good week for harvesting for Farmers Markets. Fall crops are on the stands. Manure being spread and corn silage harvest beginning. Leaves developing color. **Elaine Moceus (FSA), Somerset:** For the past two weeks, producers have been harvesting silage corn, with reports of average or slightly above average production. The rain received from Tropical Storm Irene the last of August 2011, in addition to the following high temperatures, seemed to have had a positive impact on the maturity of the corn. Corn silage is continuing to be harvested, and those producers with a little later start in planting this spring, will begin to chop corn in the next week or two. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Silage corn harvest is started on many farms. Corn that was blown down by Irene has been difficult to harvest. Some third crop haylage. Some damage on late High Bush Blueberries by fruit flies. Apple harvest has gone well.

MASSACHUSETTS – Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: Another damp week. Bad problems with mold, fungus etc. Fields remain muddy to work in. Dairy fields are being evaluated. The majority of corn in the county has been destroyed by the flooding. Orchardists concerned about the re-occurrence of European brown rot next year in stone fruit due to the excess moisture. Fall sales and PYO good at orchards. Farmers harvesting pumpkins and squash on higher somewhat drier ground. Sweet corn is still selling. **Lori Carver (FSA), Franklin:** Silage corn harvest is beginning. Apple harvest is in full swing. Vegetable crop harvesting is coming to an end. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** The week began dry and warm, however, it ended rainy. Growers continue harvesting all fall crops. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Harvesting increased in volume, with both dry and wet harvesting going on. Crops have been variable, with expected good crops and disappointing less than expected crops (mostly due to small sized berries). Quality has been decent so far.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Donna Juneau (FSA) Belknap/Merrimack:

Seasonable weather conditions this week with rain during the latter half. Harvesting pumpkins, some varieties of apples, sweet corn, tomatoes, summer and winter squash, beans. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Warm and humid much of the week, with several days of showers. Corn chopping continues to go well, some farms have already finished. Plenty of moisture out there, and growth on pastures and hayfields is strong. Vegetable crops starting to wind down, but still plenty of variety available. PYO apples still doing great. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Rather warm. Humid weather much of the week helping along late season crops, especially corn. Some rain. Hay being mowed and raked although drying is a challenge. Autumn crops at markets also mums, corn stalks. Looks like corn silage had begun on earlier planted fields although still a lot at milk stage. Some field corn damaged by last week's frost. Seems like the Androscoggin River Valley more affected by frost than other parts of County. Hilly areas and those away from CT River Valley hit harder in that area; river fog helped here. Apples being harvested. Cider made. Approaching peak color in much of Coos County. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending September 24th, we received just over 1.4 inches of rain. Rain fell over a 4-day period, with most of the rain falling from Wednesday into Thursday. Some localized flooding occurred. Corn harvest started late in the week. Some of the better corn on well drained fields is being chopped. Yields are ok, but not as high as normal. Some of the more problematic corn fields are off by a significant margin. A weekend survey of some of the corn fields that were flooded by T.S. Irene showed that the flooded pieces still had heavy depositions of silt on the corn plants. Hard rain that arrived after the flood waters went down was not sufficient to wash the silt and sand deposits off. Farmers are harvesting hay and haylage whenever the weather cooperates. Vegetable stands are still open, and offering seasonal produce.

George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough: New Pest Problem: Since the hurricane, increasing numbers of a new fruit fly - Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD) - are being caught. Seeing major damage to fall raspberries and now finding them in grapes, blueberries and on the ground dropped peaches caused by SWD. Fruit: Apple harvest is in full swing with most growers concentrating on second picking McIntosh and Gala apples, and working on Cortland and Macoun. Fall raspberries and pear harvest continued with peach harvest winding down. Field Crops: Silage corn harvest starting along with second and third cuts of hay and haylage continues but came to stop due to rain. Some manure spreading on fields taking place. Cover crops were being planted in harvested fields. Vegetables: Localized areas had frost events occurring the weekend of September 17-18, but not county-wide. Harvesting wide array of vegetables, including warm season vegetables like tomatoes and peppers but end is in sight. Harvesting cabbage, kale, Brussels sprouts, winter squash and pumpkins. Farmers kept busy disking, cleaning up and planting cover crops on harvested fields. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Nice week with sun, cool, warm, and some rain. Picking most apple varieties. Harvesting broccoli, Brussels sprouts and other cole crops. Winter squashes, pumpkins and whole array of vegetables being picked as well as fall raspberries and late blueberries. Vegetable growers busy cleaning their fields and planting cover crops. Pastures looking green. Field corn being chopped. Some manure spreading on fields taking place. Farmers markets, farmstands, as well as Pick-Your-Own operations were busy. **Jenn Zaleski (FSA), Sullivan:** It was a rainy week in Sullivan County. Rain fell Monday-Friday with totals ranging from 0.9 inches to 1.75 inches. High temperatures were in the upper 60s to low 70s during the week. The weather cleared up for the weekend. Skies were sunny and temperatures were unseasonably warm and humid in the upper 70s to low 80s. Nighttime lows were in the mid-60s. Conditions were not suitable to harvest dry hay, but farmers were able to harvest field corn for silage in between rain showers and were able to make significant progress during the weekend. Farmers were concentrating their efforts on dryer fields, hoping the wetter ones will dry out in time. Corn conditions vary across the county, with some fields drying out quickly and others still

looking fairly green. Farmers were also busy spreading manure on fresh cut fields.

RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties: No work got completed this week. It was either raining or misting most of the week. We were lucky to get 2 days of work. Potatoes were only harvested on 1 or 2 days this week. It is just too wet. No hay was made either. Sweet corn was very short this weekend. We will probably have one more shot at fresh picked sweet corn this week and next. Not much to say about small vegetables. Most of them are not number 1 stock. Pumpkins have been in the news all week long. There are some good pumpkins left, and I'd like to say about 50%. What happened is they are rotting right around the stem at the top. Normally, they would rot at the bottom on the ground. Livestock are fairing well, and prices are very good for beef.

VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison: Corn silage harvest underway. Fourth cut of alfalfa regrowth for haylage. Summer late seedings filled in with complete stance. Good growth. Still making decisions on harvesting flooded corn silage. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** The weeks are staying about par from week to week here in Franklin County. Plenty of surface moisture, however, not to the point of a lot of difficulty with harvests. Still much third and fourth cut haylage being harvested. Surface is still too wet to dry any of this feed. We may still see some drying weather which will help dry the surface for corn harvest and making some dry hay. Some corn being harvested. We are seeing some great weather to mature corn and we need to take advantage of this weather by leaving corn in the field as long as possible, especially fields with replanted corn from this spring. Apples are now the king of veggies and fruit taking over from the sweet corn. All signs are pointing towards a great apple year. Pastures are doing great with good moisture and warm weather for continued fall growth. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** I still haven't seen any field corn harvested. I expect this will start soon. Fields are very wet so harvesting will be a bit of a challenge. A little 3rd cut hay was harvested around the rain showers. Pastures are holding their own but laneways are pretty muddy. The apple harvest is nearing the end. It appears to be a very good year for apples.

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