

Crop Progress & Condition



NEW ENGLAND
Agricultural
Statistics



53 Pleasant Street
Room 2100
Concord, NH 03301

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

Volume 31, Number 27

(Issued weekly on the Internet, May – October)

October 31, 2011 – 4 pm

For week ending 10/30/11

New England Spooked by Snow in October

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending October 30, 2011, there were 5.3 days available for fieldwork across New England. Pasture conditions were rated 9 percent very poor, 30 percent poor, 28 percent fair, 29 percent good, and 4 percent excellent. The week began partly cloudy with average temperatures for this time of year, in the mid-50s to low 60s. Tuesday, the wind picked up somewhat and some observed light rain. The light rain was more wide spread across the region on Wednesday and temperatures were slightly cooler, in the high 40s through mid-50s. Thursday, the rain was heavier and some higher elevations had snow. Daytime temperatures were in the low 40s to low 50s. Friday morning, roads were slick because of the freezing temperatures mixed with the rain from the day before. Temperatures warmed into the 40s and the skies were partly cloudy into Saturday. Saturday evening, a major snow event traveled across New England leaving 30 or more inches of snow at some locations. Nighttime lows were in the mid-20s to low 30s. Some had snow still falling Sunday morning. Sunday brought partly cloudy to sunny skies with temperatures in the 40s. Total rainfall for the week ranged from 0.16 inches in Vermont to a high of 2.95 inches in Massachusetts. Average temperatures for the week ranged from 2 to 5 degrees below normal across New England.

FRUIT: Some strawberry farmers still needed to put straw down on their fields when the snow fell. Rain and high winds made water harvesting of cranberries difficult this past week. Some growers have been waiting for cooler nights for berry color to improve. Apple harvesting was nearly complete.

VEGETABLES: Some farmstands still had a good selection of fall vegetables, fruits, and flowers while others were winding down. For some, this snow event was their first killing frost.

FIELD CROPS: Some maple producers cut and removed downed limbs, picked up around trees, and cut out smaller trees before the snow came to help reduce the hassle of working in deep snow. Wet conditions in the fields made it difficult to cut and harvest hay and corn. Farmers were spreading manure on harvested fields that were accessible. Some Rhode Island potatoes were still in fields and producers struggled to harvest with only four days suitable for fieldwork. In Maine, some potato farmers reported storage problems due to the high moisture during the growing season. In Vermont, some soybeans were still not dry enough for harvesting.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	0	1
Short	1	1	8
Adequate	61	53	75
Surplus	38	46	16
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	0	4
Short	1	0	10
Adequate	67	60	77
Surplus	32	40	9

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2011	2010	5-yr Avg
-- Percent Harvested --			
Apples	99	100	99
Pears	100	100	100
Cranberries, MA	90	95	90

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2011	2010	5-yr Avg
-- Percent Harvested --			
Potatoes			
Maine	100	100	100
Mass	100	99	99
Rhode Island	90	95	99
Silage Corn	90	99	99
Dry Hay			
Second Cut	99	100	100
Third Cut	85	99	95

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday, October 24, 2011
 To: Sunday, October 30, 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	29	56	43	-3	2434	+342	1009	+263	0.38	-0.59	3	4.28	+0.77	13
Bangor_Intl_Arp	25	58	44	-1	2352	+451	906	+284	0.68	-0.18	3	4.20	+1.14	14
Bethel	26	56	40	-4	2160	+297	812	+216	0.82	-0.16	4	4.83	+1.32	14
Caribou_Municip	27	52	40	+2	1916	+468	640	+262	0.36	-0.35	3	3.76	+0.97	15
Dover-Foxcroft	22	56	40	-2	1861	+266	618	+166	0.59	-0.29	3	3.82	+0.46	14
Frenchville	26	48	37	-2	1553	+210	419	+96	0.21	-0.53	2	2.61	-0.31	14
Houlton	24	56	41	+2	1885	+371	620	+196	0.42	-0.38	3	3.15	+0.21	13
Livermore_Falls	21	57	40	-3	2129	+564	795	+366	0.78	-0.16	2	4.44	+0.95	13
Moosehead	22	57	37	-3	1570	+253	415	+105	0.45	-0.35	3	3.41	+0.33	17
Portland_ME	27	59	42	-3	2469	+534	1020	+383	1.38	+0.37	4	6.02	+2.49	11
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	24	56	37	-7	1974	+268	658	+182	0.93	+0.16	4	4.04	+1.09	16
Berlin_AG	23	61	42	+1	2029	+329	675	+178	0.60	-0.29	2	4.48	+1.20	13
Concord	24	58	40	-5	2718	+630	1194	+455	2.43	+1.65	4	5.74	+2.81	13
Diamond_Pond	19	52	33	-6	1424	+306	335	+130	0.64	-0.20	3	4.68	+1.32	16
Keene_AG	27	58	39	-8	2613	+243	1115	+199	1.75	+0.99	4	4.23	+1.37	14
North_Conway	26	56	40	-3	2209	+296	855	+222	0.80	-0.23	5	5.56	+1.82	17
Rochester	26	61	41	-5	2894	+619	1359	+507	2.17	+1.09	3	7.59	+3.72	11
VERMONT														
Bennington_AP	24	61	40	-4	2693	+861	1122	+570	1.25	+0.33	5	3.21	-0.21	15
Burlington_Intl	27	63	42	-3	2841	+615	1283	+442	0.30	-0.39	2	2.68	+0.10	14
Island_Pond	22	58	37	-4	2019	+625	674	+349	0.27	-0.50	3	4.10	+1.21	16
Montpelier	26	59	39	-4	2341	+604	903	+391	0.44	-0.23	5	2.98	+0.42	17
Rochester	26	63	39	-5	2221	+490	817	+313	0.67	-0.24	5	3.51	+0.08	14
Rutland_AG	23	63	38	-9	2459	+109	991	+91	1.35	+0.69	5	2.97	+0.36	13
Springfield_VT	27	58	40	-3	2816	+933	1260	+664	1.08	+0.23	4	3.96	+0.75	14
Sutton	23	55	37	-3	1930	+534	619	+282	0.43	-0.38	3	4.43	+1.36	16
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	34	63	48	-4	3420	+576	1691	+463	2.01	+1.19	4	6.43	+3.45	10
Fitchburg	27	60	42	-3	3216	+1329	1566	+968	1.48	+0.68	4	5.07	+2.09	13
Greenfield	28	61	43	-6	2604	+16	1043	-8	1.83	+1.05	4	5.94	+2.85	13
New_Bedford	32	61	46	-7	3307	+399	1569	+299	2.23	+1.34	3	7.31	+4.11	9
Otis_AFB	32	59	46	-4	2793	+479	1203	+338	2.48	+1.54	4	6.13	+2.61	11
Plymouth	33	62	47	-2	3220	+865	1529	+626	2.60	+1.63	3	6.93	+3.28	10
Walpole	31	59	43	-4	3052	+716	1437	+543	2.49	+1.52	4	8.18	+4.62	12
Chicopee/Westov	27	59	42	-9	3102	+103	1452	+102	1.78	+0.93	4	5.34	+2.11	13
Worthington	21	56	38	-7	2294	+402	872	+297	2.32	+1.42	5	6.05	+2.70	15
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	33	61	46	-5	3329	+635	1617	+483	2.07	+1.16	4	6.18	+2.84	13
Woonsocket	31	62	44	-3	3131	+840	1469	+623	2.70	+1.72	5	7.97	+4.31	14
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	34	64	49	-3	3610	+657	1823	+495	1.94	+1.19	3	3.53	+0.73	10
Hartford/Bradley	29	60	44	-6	3358	+529	1646	+404	1.78	+0.94	5	6.04	+2.83	12
Norfolk	27	55	40	-4	2431	+559	979	+406	1.53	+0.60	4	3.55	+0.01	14
Thomaston_Dam	28	63	42	-6	3044	+732	1418	+572	2.40	+1.48	4	5.36	+1.81	14
Willimantic	30	61	44	-4	3225	+869	1527	+651	1.61	+0.63	4	4.34	+0.60	12

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, October 30, 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.

Copyright 2011. AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

For detailed ag weather forecasts and data visit the AWIS home page at www.awis.com or call toll free at 1-888-798-9955.

STATE	AIR TEMPERATURES				PRECIPITATION	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	20	59	40	-2	0.17	1.75
NH	8	61	39	-5	0.43	2.59
VT	20	63	38	-5	0.16	2.14
MA	21	63	44	-5	1.48	2.95
RI	31	62	46	-4	1.59	2.70
CT	27	64	45	-5	1.21	2.78

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

CONNECTICUT – Ann Marie McCard (FSA), New London: Everyone is trying to finish up with picking and chopping corn. Muddy conditions persist in making harvest challenging and slow. Farm stands still have a nice selection of fall veggies, fruits and flowers available. Autumn Nor'easter brought snow, then rain and wind to the area. Loss of power sporadic throughout the county caused by damaging winds and downed trees and wires. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** The week started sunny and dry; then about 2" of rain on Thursday with over 1" of snow that night; it coated everything and stayed in shaded areas the next day. Farmers markets are all ending this weekend. Maple producers are cutting and removing downed limbs in the groves and cleaning up the area by also cutting out smaller trees. The work is to help reduce the hassle of working in deep snow again if we have a repeat of the 2011 winter season.

MAINE – Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook: A few operations are finishing up fall work. Some are touching up washes caused by severe storms during the summer. The excessive rain during the growing season has caused some rot problems in the potato crop. **Don Audibert, (FSA) Northern Aroostook:** A few farmers still picking rocks in potato fields. Most farmers started marketing their crop. Some farmers did report having problems in storage due to the above normal rainfall we had during the growing season. Did have a trace of snow Sunday morning. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** A snowstorm dropped between 2-18" of snow on Saturday night. Widespread power outages are causing farmers headaches. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** The grain corn is still standing in the snow but I think we are done haying for this year! It has been a long, warm fall. Soybeans were coming in fast last week to beat the snow. The weather looks a little spooky today! **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** The majority of farm operations have completed harvest. There is still some corn silage that needs to be harvested, but fields are still pretty wet. Farmstands are winding down with winter crops still being available. Fields are being prepared for winter on high ground since a lot of fields are still pretty soggy. Some crops did great while others took a big hit in production due to hail, wind and excessive moisture this past year. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Oxford County received rain last Tuesday and Wednesday (October 25 and October 27). Saturday, October 29 thru Sunday, October 30th we received in several places over a foot of SNOW within Oxford County. This was a record breaker for snow fall before Halloween! Some producers still have corn to harvest at this time. Hay for mulch is still being harvested where possible and weather permits. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis/Penobscot:** Snow in October!!! **Elaine S Moceus (FSA), Somerset:** Trick or Treat! Approximately 6 inches of heavy, wet snow fell in the Somerset County area over the pre-Halloween weekend causing some power outages. Lots of leaves were still on the trees, providing the snow a larger surface to stick to, weighing down branches to put the 'hold down' on smaller blueberry bushes, willow shrubs, and birch trees. Cooler temperatures are in the forecast. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** For farms that have completed corn harvest, manure spreading was on the agenda for last week. Some 3rd and 4th cutting hay/haylage. Snow on Sunday was significant and will slow down the final corn silage harvest.

MASSACHUSETTS – Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: The last week of October was cold and drizzly, ending with several inches of snow on 10/29 and the nor'easter which really ended field work prematurely with up to 2 feet of snow in the county. If the snow melts, folks have a fighting chance to straw mulch the strawberries and put in the last of their garlic etc. What a year. **Lori Carver (FSA), Franklin:** SNOW!!! The first snow of the season happens before Halloween and it was a major amount. From 12"-24". The heavy snow brought down lots of branches and trees, and resulted in major power outages. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Still lots of cranberries to be harvested. Tough

conditions for water harvest this week, with rain and high winds. Very cold nights the past 2 overnights. Some growers are waiting for color to improve; these cold nights should help.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Kelly McAdam (Ext), Belknap: Belknap County received varying amounts of snow over the weekend. For most, this was the first "killing" frost. Approx. 16-20" average snowfall. **Donna Juneau (FSA) Belknap/Merrimack:** Cooler weather this week leading up to a record breaking October snow fall event Saturday evening through Sunday morning. Tree damage due to wet, heavy snow. Remaining crops including field corn will reportedly be harvested when the snow melts. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Pretty normal at the beginning of the week - cool temps, a little rain mid-week. Then we got a couple feet of snow Saturday night. Guess we're done for the season. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Autumn shifts suddenly to winter weather conditions with cold weather and snow at the end of the week. Variable snow accumulations, just a few inches in some locations. Last of silage corn chopped and packed into silos, finishing up earlier than last year and of decent quality. Still pasturing cattle to end of week. End of season cleanup, manure spreading activities. Tamaracks changing needle color now to that yellow-orange color telling us autumn is drawing to a close. **Heather Bryant (Ext), Grafton:** Two-5 inches of snow over the weekend in most of the county. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending October 29th, we had over an inch of rain. Soils remain wet on many fields. Harvesting of corn, soybeans and hay is progressing as soil and weather conditions allow. A few corn fields remain to be harvested as either silage or grain. Yield reports indicate a lower than normal crop for the year, overall. This weekend's snow may put an end to any last minute haylage production. The pumpkin crop is significantly below normal expectations. Wet rainy conditions have caused problems. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Record snow storm with 14-20 inches on Saturday. All field activities stopped. All farmers had to plow snow for their driveways, those who have snowplowing businesses had to plow customer's lots and driveways. Most of the western part of the county does not have electricity as of Monday morning. Fruit: Orchards busy marketing crops. Apple harvest almost complete with last apples harvested soon. Picking up apple drops, can't now because of snow. Orchardists getting ready to spread bait and paint on tree trunks. Vegetables: Farmers are cleaning up fields, picking up plastic mulch, drip tape, trellis stakes and irrigation equipment. Soil testing fields for next season. Cleaning and putting away farm equipment. Field Crops: Farmers finished haying and making haylage. Farmers are spreading manure and lime on fields, soil testing fields for next season and cleaning and putting away farm equipment. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Nor'easter dropped snow starting mid - afternoon on Saturday and came down very heavy all night until early Sunday morning. More than a foot of snow accumulated in some areas. Trees, field corn, and other crops loaded with heavy wet snow. Assessing damage of crops and structures. Power outages in many communities. Activities beginning of the week included finishing harvest, cleaning fields, spreading manure and lime. Frost hit mid-week. **Jenn Zaleski (FSA), Sullivan:** It's beginning to look a lot like ... Halloween? On this day of ghouls and treats, snow blankets the land. Saturday's Nor'easter moved into Sullivan County between 4:00 and 5:00 pm. Nearly 8 to 10 inches of the white stuff accumulated. Records were set by this storm. The beginning of the week was the complete opposite of the weekend's weather. Temperatures were in the upper 50s and rain fell mid-week. Thursday's precipitation changed over to snow by evening and areas of the county picked up 2 to 4 inches of snow from that system. Most of that snow melted on Friday due to nice sunny skies.

RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties: Thursday night we had our first freeze. As of Friday (10/28), 2-5 inches of snow is expected on Sunday. There are still potatoes to be harvested and put into storage. The farmers are fighting the weather, with only 4

days this week to harvest. Silage corn is the same story, farmers are having a hard time getting it in with the wet ground. Still picking apples and that is winding down now. This weekend a lot of places will not have pumpkins to sell as they are out of them. Cold crops are still being harvested. Livestock – a lot of them have been brought back to the barn from the pastures for winter feeding.

VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison: Heavy frost and snow this week. Very dry corn. Continued corn silage harvest. Started picking corn ears for high moisture ground ear corn. Most hay crop harvest complete, some cleanup of last crop of the year. Soybean pod fill

complete, starting to rattle in pods. Seed not dry enough yet. Pasture full of leaves for supplemental feed. More activity on firewood. Spreading lime and manure, some fall plowing started. Aerway tillage on both corn and hay fields. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** A great week in Franklin County. Corn is about done and some fall manure going out. Some lingering haylage harvest being done. Picking corn still not dried down to where it needs to be. Cover crops are in and we are hoping for a nice November to get them germinated and growing before winter sets in. Pastures are not growing much and a little snow has appeared and gone for now, making folks think about bringing the animals in or doing some additional pasture feeding.

OCTOBER - The month began with rain and heavy thunderstorms across the region. Temperatures were above average with highs in the mid-60s to mid-70s and nighttime lows in the 50s and 60s. The first weekend was a wash-out for some. Heavy rain was reported in parts of Connecticut, New Hampshire, and Vermont. More heavy rain was seen during the early part of the next week, but the later part of the week and into Columbus Day weekend was mild with clear skies and temperatures in the mid-70s to mid-80s. The second week of October began warmer than average. Daytime temperatures ranged from the high 60s to the mid-80s. The daytime temperatures fell to more normal levels as the week progressed, however, nighttime temperatures continued warmer than normal. Most areas received some precipitation from October 12 through October 14. Average temperatures for the week were 10 degrees above normal across all New England States. The third week started out mild with partly cloudy skies and temperatures in the mid-50s to upper 60s. Storms crossed the region on Wednesday bringing heavy rainfall to the southern States and lesser amounts to the north. Windy conditions on Thursday lead to mostly cloudy skies over the weekend with temperatures in the mid-50s to low 60s. The last week of October brought more rain showers, some heavy at times. A major snow event traveled across New England, the evening of October 29, leaving zero to 30 or more inches of snow. Nighttime lows were in the mid-20s to low 30s. Sunday and Monday were partly cloudy to sunny with temperatures in the 40s. Excellent weather over Columbus Day weekend left PYO operations and farmstands booming with activity. Apple operations were wrapping up picking McIntosh, Macoun, and Cortlands. Orchards that were not hit by heavy wind and hail previously this season were reported to be in good condition. The cranberry harvest continued at a rapid pace in Massachusetts. Warmer than normal temperatures slowed cranberry coloring in some areas, however, growers welcomed the lack of frosts at night. Insects continued to be a problem in many vineyards while some pumpkin fields were negatively affected by too much moisture. Growers were also having a difficult time harvesting vegetables in some areas due to saturated fields. Some vegetable farmers were able to harvest cool weather crops and prepare fields for winter. Some areas had their first hard freeze during the first week while others didn't have a frost until late in the month. Fields dried out early in the month which allowed farmers to cut hay and haylage. Some corn silage fields were completely harvested early in October, while other fields still needed to dry out. Also early in the month, farmers were digging potatoes early and late in the day to get the crop into storage while they had beautiful weather. Some potato farmers were able to complete their harvesting during the first week. Some tobacco was taken down from sheds because of damp conditions. Farmers were liming, spreading manure, and seeding winter rye in some fields. Several farmers were still cleaning-up debris and reshaping fields in parts of Vermont that were hit hard by Tropical Storm Irene back in August.

To receive this report every Monday evening, send an e-mail message to listserv@newsbox.usda.gov and in the body, type **subscribe usda-new-eng-crop-weather**

Gary R. Keough, *Director*
Rebecca Dubbs, *Statistician*

Ty Kalas, *Deputy Director*
Deirdre Davis, *Stat Assistant*