

Crop Progress & Condition



NEW ENGLAND
Agricultural
Statistics



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September 10, 2012 – 4 pm

For week ending 9/9/12

Finally Widespread Precipitation

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending September 9, 2012, there were 5.4 days available for fieldwork across New England. Pasture condition was rated 16 percent poor, 30 percent fair, 49 percent good, and 5 percent excellent. The week ending September 9 began with seasonal temperatures and widespread rain showers. Temperatures warmed up during the middle of the week through Saturday. A line of thunderstorms moved through New England on Saturday, bringing heavy rain and gusty winds. Pleasant, fall-like weather settled in at the end of the week. Average temperatures for the week ranged from 6 degrees above normal in Maine and Rhode Island to 8 degrees above normal in New Hampshire and Vermont. Total precipitation for the week ranged from 0.3 to 4.3 inches, with many reporting stations across the region recording over two inches of rain.

FRUIT: Apple picking was in full swing, with McIntosh, Gala, and Honeycrisp varieties ready for harvest. Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD) fruit fly numbers continued to climb last week. Harvests of highbush and wild blueberries in New England were complete by the end of the week. There were reports of good yields from Maine wild blueberry producers. Cranberry growers in Massachusetts welcomed wet weather to replenish water supplies for harvest. While there were additional reports of fruit rot, the crop continued to be rated in good condition. Orchardists also monitored for pests, mowed orchard floors, and harvested peaches, pears, plums, grapes, blackberries, and raspberries.

VEGETABLES: Farm stands were busy and full of summer and fall produce. Vegetables harvested last week included green beans, beets, cole crops, cucumbers, garlic, greens, peppers, pumpkins, radishes, squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, and other vegetables. Pumpkins matured early and were vulnerable to mildew, blight, and phytophthora. Growers were busy applying preventive sprays, irrigating, weeding, cleaning vegetable fields, and planting cover crops.

FIELD CROPS: Significant rainfall across New England helped spur re-growth in hay fields. Showers rejuvenated pasture growth and less than 1 percent of pastures in New England were reported in very poor condition, compared to 5 percent a week earlier. Field corn benefited from recent precipitation and continued to mature with some fields ready for harvest. There was some variability in the stage of development, depending on planting dates. Tobacco harvest was wrapping up in Connecticut and completed in Massachusetts. Harvest of small grains in Aroostook County, Maine was nearly complete. Potato growers welcomed showers to size up russet potatoes. Soybeans benefited from recent wet weather, bringing hopes of good yields. Farmers were also weeding, cultivating late planted crops, and planting cover crops.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	1	8	0
Short	20	40	1
Adequate	73	51	63
Surplus	6	1	36
Subsoil			
Very Short	1	7	1
Short	24	39	1
Adequate	72	54	67
Surplus	3	0	31

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Set	Fruit Size	Condition
	2012	2011	5-yr Avg			
Apples	25	30	25		Average	Good/Fair
Peaches	95	95	90			
Pears	30	20	30		Average	Good/Fair
Blueberries						
Highbush	100	99	95			
Wild	100	100	100			
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-	Avg/Abov	Avg/Abov	Good

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2012	2011	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Harvested --				
Barley	99	50	65	
Oats	90	40	65	
Potatoes				
Maine	5	10	10	Good/Fair
Mass	35	40	35	Good
Rhode Island	40	20	45	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	10	5	10	Good
Sweet Corn	90	85	85	
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	95	95	95	
Shade	100	100	95	
Dry Hay				
Second	95	85	90	
Third	55	40	50	Fair/Good

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday September 3, 2012
 To: Sunday September 9, 2012

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	53	83	66	+4	2251	+373	993	+272	2.39	+1.69	4	5.30	+2.38	13
Bangor_Intl_Arp	47	80	64	+4	2110	+395	880	+276	3.66	+2.84	4	5.45	+2.32	10
Bethel	51	83	66	+6	2020	+324	801	+219	1.96	+1.16	3	5.44	+1.95	11
Caribou_Municip	49	77	65	+9	1874	+504	734	+357	0.87	+0.03	4	2.11	-1.43	14
Dover-Foxcroft	47	80	63	+5	1808	+325	677	+230	2.85	+1.94	3	6.24	+2.75	12
Frenchville	47	76	63	+8	1661	+389	591	+268	0.51	-0.40	2	2.51	-1.20	11
Houlton	52	77	64	+8	1822	+391	700	+278	1.65	+0.75	5	5.56	+1.88	12
Livermore_Falls	50	83	64	+7	1990	+533	778	+353	2.60	+1.74	4	4.71	+1.03	12
Moosehead	45	77	61	+5	1463	+230	430	+121	3.14	+2.26	4	6.57	+3.17	12
Portland_ME	55	82	67	+6	2259	+526	1012	+391	1.24	+0.54	3	4.16	+1.46	11
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	49	79	65	+7	1869	+311	682	+213	1.81	+1.03	4	4.11	+0.65	9
Berlin_AG	48	80	65	+7	1950	+381	728	+237	1.81	+0.99	4	4.78	+1.10	13
Concord	58	86	70	+9	2501	+616	1165	+445	1.80	+1.10	4	3.37	+0.48	10
First_Conn_Lake	41	79	63	+9	1582	+527	498	+293	4.33	+3.32	4	6.85	+2.44	12
Keene_AG	52	86	69	+7	2421	+317	1100	+221	1.97	+1.23	4	3.33	+0.05	10
North_Conway	53	83	66	+6	2087	+334	846	+223	2.33	+1.49	5	5.30	+1.78	13
Rochester	52	87	69	+6	2559	+543	1247	+428	1.61	+0.87	3	3.92	+0.83	12
VERMONT														
Bennington_AP	50	84	69	+10	2400	+750	1069	+533	1.33	+0.42	2	2.51	-1.31	8
Burlington_Intl	51	85	71	+10	2716	+704	1362	+545	3.50	+2.66	3	4.11	+0.54	7
Island_Pond	45	79	65	+8	1846	+558	666	+347	3.93	+3.06	3	5.11	+1.08	11
Montpelier	45	80	65	+7	2031	+448	786	+287	2.17	+1.45	3	3.05	-0.24	8
Rochester	48	84	67	+7	2028	+465	796	+309	1.63	+0.70	3	3.32	-0.70	9
Rutland_AG	49	81	67	+4	2173	+92	886	+30	1.44	+0.54	5	2.50	-1.23	8
Springfield_VT	49	87	70	+10	2589	+877	1242	+662	0.74	-0.10	3	1.47	-2.09	7
Sutton	48	78	64	+8	1850	+548	655	+323	3.06	+2.19	2	4.80	+0.83	9
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	59	82	72	+5	2886	+475	1479	+350	2.24	+1.51	5	3.26	+0.26	9
Fitchburg	55	86	73	+13	2965	+1254	1546	+959	0.84	+0.14	4	3.30	+0.34	10
Greenfield	53	84	70	+6	2638	+385	1279	+289	1.64	+0.80	3	3.42	+0.11	10
New_Bedford	51	83	71	+3	2650	+214	1290	+138	2.06	+1.22	4	3.76	+0.04	8
Otis_AFB	55	79	69	+6	2389	+406	1109	+297	1.20	+0.43	3	2.33	-0.77	9
Plymouth	55	84	71	+7	2652	+610	1303	+447	2.02	+1.04	4	4.53	+0.72	9
Walpole	55	85	71	+9	2794	+731	1399	+547	1.60	+0.69	4	4.09	+0.45	10
Chicopee/Westov	52	88	72	+6	2786	+207	1394	+144	2.07	+1.23	4	5.40	+2.10	10
Worthington	48	82	66	+6	2125	+445	857	+302	2.80	+1.92	2	4.36	+0.75	8
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	58	84	72	+6	2845	+545	1444	+396	2.54	+1.70	4	4.16	+0.80	10
Woonsocket	57	86	72	+9	2822	+791	1423	+610	1.64	+0.73	6	4.03	+0.39	13
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	65	83	75	+7	3091	+615	1646	+446	1.03	+0.30	5	1.77	-1.07	11
Hartford/Bradle	57	87	74	+8	3071	+597	1629	+458	0.89	-0.02	3	3.98	+0.48	9
Norfolk	53	81	67	+7	2244	+561	948	+391	2.27	+1.29	4	3.31	-0.82	8
Thomaston_Dam	54	88	71	+8	2728	+718	1336	+542	2.02	+1.04	5	3.54	-0.38	12
Willimantic	56	85	73	+10	2899	+849	1479	+652	2.49	+1.58	5	4.96	+1.39	12

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, September 9, 2012

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	40	85	64	+6	0.51	3.80
NH	35	87	67	+8	0.70	4.33
VT	40	87	66	+8	0.74	3.93
MA	48	89	70	+7	0.30	3.96
RI	57	86	71	+6	0.51	2.54
CT	52	88	72	+7	0.89	4.03

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: Just about all broadleaf tobacco is harvested. Pumpkins matured early and after heavy rains in August phytophthora is running through fields resulting in pumpkins that are breaking down. Mums coloring nicely. Chopping of corn silage started and third cutting hay put up. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Corn silage harvest was slowed a little by rain this week. Gray leaf and other diseases are abundant. Some fields have gone from healthy green to brown in 24 hours. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Sweet corn is doing well. Heavy rain this week. Cucumber vine in some corn fields. Chopping has begun with good tonnage. Mowing hay, picking vegetables, pick your own apples were busy and grape harvest began. Pumpkins are ripening.

MAINE – Marcia Hall (FSA), Androscoggin/Oxford/Sagadahoc: Hay was being harvested through most of the week. Producers have begun to harvest some potatoes. Apple picking has begun. Pumpkins and squash crops seem to have been affected by the wet weather (vine rot, mildew and blight). Producers have reported that they will not be harvesting silage corn timely, hoping to get a little more time for the crop to mature. **Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook:** Showers Saturday night should finish out the russet crop. Early varieties are being harvested. Excellent quality and light yields are being reported. Most of the grain was finished last week. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Rains have helped keep the soil moist. A wide variety of vegetables are being picked. Apples are being picked early, the reddish color is lacking however. The season has been difficult for most growers with the wet May and June, a dry July, then a wet August and various pest and disease problems. Silage is starting to be cut on early planted corn. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Some wild, wet weather, but little damage. Crops are progressing to harvest. Grasses look real nice. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Crops are still being harvested for fall and much needed rain was received last week. Fields are looking much better and third cutting of hay is underway for some farmers. Corn crop looks much better, but is still spotty. Potatoes are being harvested as well as apples. Blueberry harvest is over great, crop this year. Farm stands are in full swing and very busy. Farmers will be preparing fields for winter very soon. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis/Penobscot:** We had over 3 inches of rain this past week. Some folks were able to get in some hay around the rain showers. **Elaine S Moceus (FSA), Somerset:** Cooler temperatures this week, with heavy rain during the week and over the weekend; most areas received a total of over 2 inches of rain. Highbush blueberry harvest is winding down, reportedly average production received, as apple harvest continued. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Rain finally came to Waldo County! We received about 3-4 inches. Hopefully pastures and third cutting hay/haylage will respond. Corn silage harvest is near with some farmers in adjoining counties harvesting small amounts to fill a short term need.

MASSACHUSETTS – Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden: A dry and warm week with one day of heavy rains. Growers are still on the lookout for late blight and downy mildew in their crops. Farm stands are full of local vegetables such as apples, peaches, raspberries, potatoes, squashes, cabbage, peppers and many more fall crops. Growers are weeding and cultivating late planted crops and adding a protective cover on harvested fields. Corn silage harvest is underway with reduced yields on light soils. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: The entire area had between 2.5 and 5.0 inches of rain last Wednesday, and it occurred in only a few hours, putting some cranberry vines under water for a short time frame. No damage was done, as it was overcast and in the 70s while the vines were flooded. Water supplies for harvest were replenished very nicely. First harvesting will begin this week, limited dry harvest and early sequenced beds for Ocean Spray. Fruit rot continues to be on the

increase, but by and large, I have seen more issues with fruit worm than fruit rot. Berries are coloring up slowly but surely. Possible frost nights coming this week.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Donna Juneau (FSA) Belknap/Merrimack: A mix of sun and clouds last week in Belknap and Merrimack Counties. Tuesday, September 4th it rained most of the day with 0.45 inches reported in Concord. Producers have indicated that field corn is generally doing well with an average crop expected in most areas. No reports of chopping yet. Producers have been in fields harvesting the second cut of hay and haylage. Apple growers are harvesting the crop 3 to 4 weeks early. The peach harvest was also running about a week early this year and was generally completed by the end of last week. Farmers markets are still going strong. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** A spell of warm, muggy weather midweek with a couple of heavy showers. First farms starting to chop corn. Grass regrowth looks good on hayfields, though a couple fields showing a little bit of rust. Vegetable crops still going strong. PYO apples going well, with Cortlands and Honeycrisp ready for harvest. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Cooler temperatures, good soaking rain. Field corn denting on earlier planted locations. Farmers planning for silage chopping which will probably begin in coming week. Nice regrowth in hayfields and pastures. Corn earworm damage on untreated sweet corn showing up. No frost reported so far. Meadows beginning to look more like late summer, adequate moisture has most looking fairly green yet. Spots of color in red maples. Should be good year for leaf-peepers. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending September 8th, we received 1.2 inches of rain. Soil moisture conditions are at a healthy level. The corn crop continues to mature, and producers will begin harvesting within the next week or two. There is some variability in the stage of development with the earlier planted pieces of corn nearly ready to harvest. Other fields need 2 or 3 more weeks. Producers have reported that the recent rains have helped bring on their final grass and alfalfa cuttings. In some situations the final cutting appears to be better than earlier cuttings. Some late blight has been reported on tomatoes. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Apple harvest is in full swing, picking McIntosh, Gala and Honeycrisp apples. Fruit size is good. Fall raspberry and pear harvests continued with peach and plum harvests winding down. SWD fruit fly numbers continue to climb. Field Crops: Farmers chopped corn silage during the week and cut hay with the second and third cuttings being made. Cover crops were being planted in harvested fields along with forage seedings. Vegetables: Harvesting a wide array of summer and fall vegetable crops. Farmers are starting to clean up harvested fields and planting cover crops. Cutting and picking pumpkins and winter squash. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Apples, peaches, fall raspberries, blackberries, a whole array of vegetables including sweet corn, garlic bulbs, green and red kale, greens, and butternut squash were harvested. Monitoring pests, cleaning some vegetable fields, haying and corn chopping. Spreading manure on some hay fields. Mums and fall ornamental crops available at garden centers. Some rain during the week with heavy downpours and gusty winds on Saturday night. **Jenn Zaleski (FSA), Sullivan:** The week began cool with much needed rain falling Tuesday. Temperatures warmed up to the low 80s Wednesday through Saturday. A line of strong thunderstorms moved through the county Saturday afternoon bringing heavy rain and strong winds. Temperatures were cool Sunday with highs in the mid-70s and lows in the mid-50s. Corn silage harvest began last week. Hay was harvested during the week as well. Summer vegetables were still available. Fall varieties have shown up at farmer's markets and farm stands.

VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison: Corn silage harvest on lighter soil was in full swing. Haylage and dry hay harvest continued through the week. Rain at end of the week, but still trucks moving on light soils. Soybeans filling pods nicely, anticipate good crop yields.

Pastures good, but slowing down and regrowth with leaf diseases prevalent. Fall seeding cover crop rye in corn. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Showers in Franklin County this week have rejuvenated grass growth, helped with finishing corn, and provided much needed water for the ground waters that supply our wells. Days are growing shorter helping with sun evaporation, a sure sign of the end to our growing season and the approaching fall. Pumpkins will be the focus in season and highlight with the up and

coming Halloween. Fall harvest festivals are in full swing and we hope for good weather on the weekends to get our consumers and producers together to share in these events. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Some welcome rain fell this past week. Some third cut was harvested. Corn is maturing and looking good. It is in the early dent stage. Most farms are waiting for the crop to dry down a bit before they begin to harvest. Grazing got a bit of a boost with the rain last week.

AUGUST SUMMARY: The month of August brought monthly average temperatures ranging from 0 to 5 degrees above normal. Precipitation for the month ranged from 1.8 inches in northern Vermont to 6.7 inches in central Massachusetts. The month began with daytime temperatures consistently in the 80s and 90s across the region. Strong storms during August 10 and 11 brought high winds and welcomed heavy downpours. A few areas received an overabundance of rain over a short period of time, resulting in saturated soils. Most areas in New England, with the exception of Vermont, received much needed precipitation during the middle of August. However, the remainder of the month was mostly free of precipitation, save for light to moderate precipitation falling on August 28. Fruit growers began harvesting pears and early season apple varieties early in August. There was evidence of frost and hail damage in tree fruits. Many blueberry growers reported severe pressure from Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD) fruit flies. Pleasant summer weather boosted pick-your-own sales at fruit operations. Farm stands were very busy and full of local produce throughout the month. There were scattered reports of downy mildew and late blight across the region. Vegetable growers harvested an array of vegetables, applied preventive sprays, irrigated, weeded, and cleaned vegetable fields. Abundance of dry weather provided excellent haymaking conditions, pushing second and third cut progress ahead of the 5-year average. Soil moisture levels were variable across the region, resulting in uneven pasture conditions. Corn conditions were extremely variable, with crop specialist ratings ranging from poor to excellent depending on local moisture levels. Corn maturity levels were also highly variable given some late plantings and dry summer conditions. Growers in Aroostook County, Maine took advantage of the warm, dry weather to combine grains, and harvest of barley and oats was well ahead of schedule. Producers in Maine had sprayed to kill potato vines and were gearing up for harvest.

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