

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 32, Number 23

(Issued weekly on the Internet, May – October)

October 1, 2012 – 4 pm

For week ending 9/30/12

No Killing Frost Yet

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending September 30, 2012, there were 4.9 days available for fieldwork across New England. Pasture condition was rated 1 percent very poor, 13 percent poor, 38 percent fair, 46 percent good, and 2 percent excellent. The week was seasonably cool with scattered reports of light frosts in northern New England. Widespread showers arrived on Friday and wet weather conditions persisted throughout the rest of the week. Average temperatures for the week ranged from 2 degrees below normal in Maine and Vermont to 2 degrees above normal in Rhode Island. Total precipitation for the week ranged from 0.2 to 4.9 inches.

FRUIT: Picking of apples and pears was active with some operations wrapping up by week's end. The harvest of fall raspberries continued. Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD) fruit flies were still a problem in many fruit orchards. Cranberry harvest slowly gained momentum in Massachusetts last week. The pace was expected to accelerate in the coming weeks, with plenty of water available for wet harvest.

VEGETABLES: Good harvest weather and high demand for vegetables kept farm stands busy. Fall vegetables were abundant and a few summer crops were still available. Vegetables harvested last week included Brussels sprouts, cabbage, kale, pumpkins, squash, sweet corn, and tomatoes. The harvest of pumpkins moved into high gear with many available at farm stands and farmers markets. There were reports of phytophthora and late blight in Connecticut. Growers were also busy disking, cleaning vegetable fields, and planting cover crops.

FIELD CROPS: Dry weather during the first half of the week allowed farmers to continue cutting hay. Hay fields were responding well to recent precipitation. Harvest of field corn advanced 20 percent despite being stalled by weekend rain showers. Early reports indicate a better than expected crop in most areas. Some producers began cleaning up corn fields and planting rye cover crops. Potato harvest in Aroostook County, Maine was in full swing; many farmers reported great quality. Meanwhile, potato harvest in southern New England reached the halfway point by week's end, behind normal progress of 75 percent dug by the end of September. Farmers were also spreading manure, planting cover crops, and moving livestock off summer pastures.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	1	0
Short	9	18	1
Adequate	71	71	48
Surplus	20	10	51
Subsoil			
Very Short	1	2	0
Short	11	18	1
Adequate	71	72	56
Surplus	17	8	43

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Size	Condition
	2012	2011	5-yr Avg		
Apples	65	60	60		
Peaches	100	100	100		
Pears	75	80	80		
Cranberries, MA	10	25	20	Avg/Above	Good

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2012	2011	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Harvested --				
Barley	100	100	100	
Oats	100	95	99	
Potatoes				
Maine	45	45	50	Good
Mass	50	75	75	Good
Rhode Island	60	45	75	
Silage Corn	50	30	50	Good
Sweet Corn	99	95	95	
Dry Hay				
Second	99	95	99	
Third	75	65	75	

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday September 24, 2012
 To: Sunday September 30, 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	38	67	54	-2	2413	+375	1020	+274	0.51	-0.26	4	4.17	+1.25	12
Bangor_Intl_Arp	33	69	53	-2	2259	+402	910	+288	0.21	-0.56	3	4.83	+1.63	11
Bethel	32	67	49	-6	2113	+285	809	+213	0.41	-0.36	3	5.52	+2.41	8
Caribou_Municip	31	65	50	+2	2007	+569	768	+390	0.31	-0.43	3	2.33	-0.85	12
Dover-Foxcroft	30	66	48	-4	1882	+303	685	+233	0.34	-0.56	2	4.28	+0.65	8
Frenchville	30	63	48	-2	1769	+434	619	+296	0.31	-0.48	3	2.43	-0.97	10
Houlton	29	66	50	+1	1954	+452	734	+310	0.90	+0.13	4	3.34	+0.01	14
Livermore_Falls	31	68	50	-2	2078	+531	790	+361	0.51	-0.26	3	4.70	+1.40	9
Moosehead	29	65	47	-4	1529	+223	440	+130	0.17	-0.65	3	4.74	+1.36	10
Portland_ME	40	71	56	+2	2446	+557	1044	+407	1.03	+0.26	2	3.15	+0.25	9
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	33	69	49	-4	1936	+267	670	+194	0.82	+0.12	4	4.48	+1.56	10
Berlin_AG	31	73	52	+0	2095	+422	755	+258	0.40	-0.32	4	3.57	+0.54	10
Concord	32	72	54	+0	2666	+627	1202	+463	1.24	+0.60	5	3.88	+1.28	12
First_Conn_Lake	32	66	48	-1	1660	+552	511	+306	0.36	-0.48	3	5.24	+1.55	10
Keene_AG	36	71	54	-3	2576	+283	1122	+207	1.20	+0.56	4	6.28	+3.52	11
North_Conway	35	66	50	-4	2193	+313	858	+225	0.52	-0.30	5	6.57	+3.37	15
Rochester	36	72	54	-3	2720	+521	1274	+422	1.15	+0.37	2	4.06	+1.06	7
VERMONT														
Bennington_AP	33	69	54	+2	2561	+777	1101	+549	0.79	-0.05	5	4.57	+1.06	11
Burlington_Intl	41	70	55	+2	2924	+757	1416	+575	0.30	-0.40	4	4.98	+1.94	11
Island_Pond	32	68	49	-2	1941	+569	680	+355	0.50	-0.20	5	6.41	+3.33	14
Montpelier	36	67	51	-2	2139	+440	801	+289	0.75	+0.12	4	5.16	+2.52	12
Rochester	37	71	51	-3	2138	+449	808	+304	0.32	-0.52	3	5.07	+1.57	8
Rutland_AG	34	70	51	-6	2289	+24	898	+5	0.38	-0.36	6	4.58	+1.31	14
Springfield_VT	33	73	55	+2	2768	+925	1275	+679	1.20	+0.43	4	3.50	+0.28	10
Sutton	33	68	48	-2	1929	+549	667	+330	0.79	+0.09	4	5.83	+2.70	8
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	49	74	61	+0	3171	+484	1566	+355	0.81	+0.11	2	3.89	+1.06	10
Fitchburg	37	74	58	+6	3209	+1364	1615	+1017	1.00	+0.31	2	3.14	+0.42	9
Greenfield	40	72	56	-3	2824	+346	1307	+266	1.11	+0.34	4	6.78	+3.61	10
New_Bedford	38	74	60	-3	2888	+158	1340	+91	1.53	+0.82	3	4.35	+1.25	10
Otis_AFB	39	73	60	+3	2628	+423	1163	+305	0.64	-0.19	2	3.10	-0.06	7
Plymouth	38	72	60	+3	2895	+640	1364	+467	2.12	+1.21	3	4.80	+0.99	9
Walpole	39	73	57	+1	3021	+767	1452	+564	0.86	+0.02	3	3.81	+0.37	11
Chicopee/Westov	34	73	57	-4	2998	+148	1443	+112	1.43	+0.65	2	4.98	+1.70	9
Worthington	34	69	52	-3	2243	+414	867	+292	1.57	+0.73	5	7.29	+3.89	10
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	44	74	61	+1	3114	+554	1515	+395	1.77	+1.00	2	5.25	+2.02	8
Woonsocket	40	73	59	+3	3066	+846	1483	+637	1.73	+0.89	3	5.13	+1.61	13
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	48	74	64	+3	3417	+643	1764	+461	4.93	+4.23	4	6.87	+4.00	11
Hartford/Bradle	42	74	59	+1	3323	+607	1694	+462	1.46	+0.62	3	3.89	+0.37	9
Norfolk	39	66	54	+0	2380	+558	963	+390	1.20	+0.29	5	6.34	+2.53	14
Thomaston_Dam	36	72	56	-1	2908	+698	1367	+531	0.96	+0.05	5	5.13	+1.40	16
Willimantic	40	73	60	+3	3150	+893	1542	+673	1.55	+0.64	3	5.47	+1.81	11

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, September 30, 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.

Copyright 2012. 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	27	72	50	-2	0.17	1.23
NH	25	73	52	-1	0.34	2.03
VT	32	73	51	-2	0.25	1.20
MA	32	77	57	+1	0.64	2.12
RI	40	74	60	+2	0.44	1.77
CT	35	77	59	+1	0.50	4.93

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: An OK week to harvest corn as silage and grain. No dry hay put up, but some grass silage harvested. Most farm stands are out of sweet corn for the season, but pumpkins and other fall decorations are in good supply. Up to 2 inches of rain fell on Friday with some thunderstorms on Friday night made fields soggy for the weekend. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Silage harvest is bogging down thanks to all of the rain that has fallen in the last 2 weeks. Still waiting for frost. Temperatures haven't gotten lower than upper thirties. **Jude Boucher (Ext), Tolland:** When the rain comes, it tends to be heavy. More late blight breaking through the weaker fungicides. Phytophthora blight is a problem on most farms. Several unusual complaints about carrot root aphids.

MAINE – Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook: Potato harvest was in full swing this week with all operations having started. Most farmers are saying they have the best quality in years, but the crop could use some more size. Grain and hay crops are done with a few soybeans left to go. An inch and a half of rain over the weekend will stop operations until midweek. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Fall is here and the colors are beautiful. Silage corn harvest is in full swing. We got a little more water than we needed this weekend. Manure is being spread. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Another great week for finishing up harvesting. Frost in low areas over the past week, but no damage reported. Heavy rains over the weekend made it hard to do any harvesting. Harvest of potatoes and corn silage is in full swing. Apples are just about all harvested as well. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis/Penobscot:** Wide spread frost has put an end to the growing season for all. Corn silage was harvested during the week, but weekend rains put a delay on this harvest. Roadside stands have put out their pumpkins and cornstalks for sale. **Elaine S Moceus (FSA), Somerset:** Light frost reported during the week, with cool temps and rain showers towards the end of the week. Approximately 1 inch of rain fell over the weekend. Corn chopping continues with most producers reporting the corn weighing slightly better than expected, others are finding lower than average yields. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Corn silage harvest dominated the week activities, with some third cutting as well. Some locations have still not had a killing frost. Lots of rain over the weekend (especially Sunday) will slow corn harvest. Good apple picking weather last week.

MASSACHUSETTS – Heather Baylis (FSA) Franklin: Fall has arrived and brought with it cooler temperatures and some additional rain. Fall crops are looking good and filling up farm stands. The potato harvest has started and apple harvests are in full swing. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Week started sunny with cool nights and by the week's end was rainy. Harvesting apples, pears, cabbage, beets, winter squash, pumpkins and many more fall crops. Farmers were taking down tobacco, spreading manure, planting a cover crop on harvested fields and bringing in irrigation equipment. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Harvesting increased in volume, but still pretty slow. Things will greatly increase now that October has begun. Good amounts of rain fell Friday into Saturday, then

Sunday morning. There appears to be plenty of water for the wet harvest.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Donna Juneau (FSA) Belknap/Merrimack: Rain sandwiched the week with rain falling on both Saturday and Sunday, September 22 and 23 and again on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, September 28, 29 and 30. Generally about 1/10 inch of rainfall was reported each day with the exception of Friday the 28th when over an inch of rainfall was reported. Mid-week brought good weather and many producers were in the field chopping corn for forage. There was a reported low of 32 degrees Tuesday night but no frost reported. Fruit and fall vegetable harvests are dwindling down but there is still sweet corn, apples, and other fall crops to be picked in some areas. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Field corn harvest continues at a good pace, increasingly wetter soils may slow things down if rain continues. Some seem to be chopping corn somewhat higher this year in expectation of high yields. Honeycrisp apples now at orchards. Soybean (a-o-variety) has dropped most leaves now. Scattered frosts, some field corn in lower lying areas, cold spots affected. Season drawing to a close. High tunnel tomato houses being cleaned out with last of picking. Peak color in parts of the county. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending September 29th, we received just under 1 inch of rain. Showers delivered small amounts of precipitation over several days. The weekend brought more significant, but gentle soaking showers. Corn harvest is nearly completed. There is a little grain corn still waiting for harvest. Pumpkin harvest is in high gear. A few producers are still planning to take a final cutting of haylage or alfalfa haylage when the conditions are right. No killing frost in the River Valley yet. A few colder drainages got frosted a few days ago, but the frost was isolated and not wide spread. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Apple harvest was in full swing with most growers concentrating on strip picking McIntosh apples and working on Cortland and Macoun. Fall raspberry and pear harvests continued. SWD Fruit Fly continues to be a problem. Field Crops: Silage corn harvest was in full swing with second and third cuts of hay and haylage continuing. Vegetables: Great weather and good demand for all vegetables continued. Harvesting a wide array of vegetables including: cabbage, kale, Brussels sprouts, winter squash and pumpkins along with the tail end of warm season crops. Farmers kept busy disking, cleaning up and planting cover crops on harvested fields. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Sunny weather most of the week with very light frost mid-week. Friday brought torrential rain that halted field work. More light rain on the week-end. Vegetable fields were cleaned, planting cover crops and removing plastic. Apple picking was in full swing. Harvesting tomatoes, potatoes, Brussels sprouts, and an array of vegetables. Corn silage harvest in full swing along with second and third cuts of hay and haylage, but came to a stop at the week's end due to rain.

RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties: With the cool nights and the days in the 60s and 70s, fall is here. It went pretty heavy this week on harvesting silage corn. They are starting to clean up some of the fields and putting rye cover crop down. Believe it or not, there is still an abundance

of vegetables. Saturday and Sunday it was raining, but to much surprise they did a pretty good weekend business selling pumpkins, mums, corn stalks and vegetables. The corn mazes took a beating this weekend with too much rain. Potatoes are slow this week. No demand for them. Hay season is over. The days are too short to make it. Livestock are starting to be brought home for the winter, taking them off of the summer pasture. The last great weekend is coming up next weekend. There will still be sweet corn, probably the last of it. Let's hope for some sunshine.

VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison: Heavy rain at end of the week stalled corn silage harvest. Most clay soil fields late to be harvested this year. Mud in fields this week will delay harvest again. End of haylage harvest. No soybeans

harvested yet. Hay fields looking much better with rain and cooler weather for regrowth. No-till and broadcast seeding of winter rye in corn fields. Manure spreading on hay and corn fields. No fall tillage yet. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Great week for corn harvest in Franklin County. Hearing of excellent yields and good quality. Rains have come in for the last of the week and things are starting to soak up, giving some cushion for ground water heading into the fall. Apples are on the tail end and still seeing some harvest festivals, which have been well attended. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** A lot of corn was harvested this past week. Corn yields are above average. The quality of the corn looks really good as well. A lot of grain in the silage. The hay is for the most part harvested. Grazing is still ongoing with some hayfields being pastured. There was a light frost earlier in the week.

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*
Hernán Ortiz, *Statistician*

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