

# Crop Progress & Condition



**NEW ENGLAND**  
Agricultural  
Statistics



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For week ending 10/7/12

## Wet Weather Slows Harvest Progress

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:** For the week ending October 7, 2012, there were 4.1 days available for fieldwork across New England. Pasture condition was rated 2 percent very poor, 12 percent poor, 45 percent fair, 39 percent good, and 2 percent excellent. The week was warmer than normal with mostly cloudy skies and frequent precipitation. Average temperatures for the week ranged from 6 degrees above normal in Rhode Island to 8 degrees above normal in Maine and New Hampshire. Total precipitation during the week ranged from 0.2 to 4.3 inches across the region. There has not been a killing frost to date in most locations. General activities included harvesting dry hay and haylage, disking, cleaning, and planting cover crops on harvested fields, and harvesting fruits, fall vegetables, corn, and potatoes.

**FRUIT:** The apple harvest continued across the region despite intermittent rain showers. Drier weekend weather provided favorable market conditions for pick-your-own operations. Despite the wet weather, farmers also harvested pears and fall raspberries. The harvest of cranberries in Massachusetts was in high gear, with a good crop expected in most areas.

**VEGETABLES:** There was good demand across the region for late season vegetables. The pumpkin harvest continued across New England along with other fall vegetables such as Brussels sprouts, beets, cabbage, carrots, gourds, kale, peppers, potatoes, and winter squash. Some farmers finished harvesting the rest of their sweet corn. Producers were also busy cleaning vegetable fields, disking, and planting cover crops.

**FIELD CROPS:** The corn silage harvest continued at a decent pace despite being slowed by frequent rain showers during the week. Meanwhile, the corn for grain and soybean harvests were yet to begin in most areas as farmers waited for the crops to dry down in the fields. Some potato farmers in Maine completed their harvest while most others were nearing completion. Hay harvesting was active in areas where weather conditions allowed field entry. Most producers were working on second and third cuts while others were hoping to get a fourth cut this year. Pastures were still being grazed due to the moist conditions and lack of killing frost in most areas.

### SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
<b>Topsoil</b>			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	2	9	1
Adequate	76	71	63
Surplus	22	20	36
<b>Subsoil</b>			
Very Short	2	1	0
Short	8	11	2
Adequate	75	71	61
Surplus	15	17	37

### FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Size	Condition
	2012	2011	5-yr Avg		
Apples	70	75	70		
Pears	85	85	90		
Cranberries, MA	45	55	40	Avg/Above	Good

### FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2012	2011	5-yr Avg
-- Percent Harvested --			
Oats	100	100	99
Potatoes			
Maine	80	75	75
Mass	55	80	85
Rhode Island	65	60	80
Silage Corn	70	45	70
Sweet Corn	99	99	99
Dry Hay			
Second	99	95	99
Third	80	70	80

**Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics**

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday October 1, 2012  
 To: Sunday October 7, 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	---	---
<b>MAINE</b>														
Augusta_State_A	44	72	59	+7	2480	+415	1030	+284	1.52	+0.74	5	3.30	+0.30	13
Bangor_Intl_Arp	40	72	58	+7	2319	+439	919	+297	2.63	+1.91	5	3.80	+0.70	12
Bethel	38	73	58	+8	2170	+323	814	+218	1.12	+0.34	5	4.68	+1.59	10
Caribou_Municip	38	72	55	+9	2047	+602	768	+390	1.71	+1.01	4	3.17	+0.13	12
Dover-Foxcroft	35	73	56	+8	1925	+335	685	+233	3.44	+2.60	5	4.87	+1.31	10
Frenchville	36	71	54	+9	1801	+459	619	+296	1.60	+0.83	4	3.52	+0.26	12
Houlton	38	70	56	+9	1995	+485	734	+310	3.18	+2.46	4	4.87	+1.72	13
Livermore_Falls	37	74	58	+11	2139	+581	799	+370	1.54	+0.72	4	3.64	+0.38	9
Moosehead	37	72	54	+8	1557	+243	441	+131	3.17	+2.40	4	4.77	+1.50	10
Portland_ME	40	72	60	+9	2517	+604	1056	+419	1.24	+0.47	4	3.15	+0.18	10
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>														
Benton	38	73	57	+7	1985	+298	674	+198	0.99	+0.29	6	3.66	+0.82	12
Berlin_AG	48	78	62	+14	2186	+498	777	+280	0.81	+0.04	5	2.57	-0.41	11
Concord	35	78	59	+8	2730	+666	1211	+472	0.59	-0.10	4	2.67	+0.08	12
First_Conn_Lake	39	72	55	+10	1698	+583	514	+309	1.59	+0.75	5	2.50	-1.02	11
Keene_AG	38	78	59	+6	2641	+314	1131	+215	0.45	-0.25	5	4.76	+2.04	12
North_Conway	41	73	57	+8	2245	+347	861	+228	1.02	+0.18	6	5.26	+2.06	16
Rochester	38	75	59	+6	2783	+552	1280	+428	1.17	+0.32	5	3.62	+0.51	9
<b>VERMONT</b>														
Bennington_AP	37	75	60	+10	2630	+823	1115	+563	0.73	-0.09	5	3.97	+0.55	14
Burlington_Intl	46	74	59	+8	2985	+792	1426	+585	2.09	+1.45	7	3.57	+0.73	15
Island_Pond	38	71	56	+9	1983	+598	684	+359	1.19	+0.49	6	3.67	+0.76	17
Montpelier	35	73	56	+8	2184	+466	808	+296	0.72	+0.09	5	3.71	+1.16	14
Rochester	39	76	56	+7	2182	+472	811	+307	0.86	+0.02	6	4.30	+0.89	11
Rutland_AG	40	74	57	+4	2341	+41	904	+4	1.18	+0.48	5	4.32	+1.25	14
Springfield_VT	39	77	59	+10	2834	+970	1287	+691	0.54	-0.23	6	3.30	+0.15	13
Sutton	36	72	54	+8	1962	+572	670	+333	1.48	+0.77	7	4.25	+1.28	13
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>														
Boston/Logan_In	50	78	62	+5	3258	+513	1588	+366	0.41	-0.29	5	2.06	-0.74	10
Fitchburg	40	79	60	+11	3284	+1418	1627	+1029	0.32	-0.38	5	2.62	-0.10	10
Greenfield	41	77	60	+5	2893	+371	1315	+267	0.40	-0.37	4	5.54	+2.44	11
New_Bedford	41	77	62	+3	2971	+176	1360	+98	0.59	-0.13	5	2.88	-0.10	11
Otis_AFB	43	75	61	+6	2710	+461	1179	+314	0.74	-0.10	2	2.64	-0.59	6
Plymouth	44	78	61	+6	2976	+680	1381	+478	0.50	-0.40	4	3.28	-0.45	9
Walpole	41	77	59	+6	3093	+804	1462	+568	0.55	-0.29	5	2.76	-0.61	12
Chicopee/Westov	36	78	61	+4	3076	+170	1458	+116	0.43	-0.34	4	3.34	+0.13	9
Worthington	37	74	56	+5	2291	+436	869	+294	0.62	-0.17	5	5.11	+1.80	13
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>														
Providence	44	78	62	+5	3199	+586	1535	+406	0.80	+0.03	4	3.51	+0.35	8
Woonsocket	41	78	61	+8	3144	+891	1496	+650	0.96	+0.11	5	4.45	+0.99	12
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>														
Bridgeport/Siko	45	78	65	+6	3521	+682	1798	+480	1.22	+0.54	3	7.06	+4.24	9
Hartford/Bradle	39	78	62	+6	3410	+647	1714	+475	1.08	+0.26	4	4.08	+0.65	10
Norfolk	38	72	57	+7	2431	+585	967	+394	1.28	+0.41	5	5.35	+1.65	15
Thomaston_Dam	37	79	61	+7	2979	+730	1376	+533	2.94	+2.06	4	4.34	+0.71	15
Willimantic	40	78	62	+8	3238	+941	1564	+688	1.24	+0.33	4	4.22	+0.56	10

**State Weather Summary**

For the Week Ending Sunday, October 7, 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	35	76	57	+8	0.58	3.44
NH	22	79	58	+8	0.25	2.49
VT	29	77	57	+7	0.39	4.31
MA	36	81	60	+7	0.23	1.25
RI	41	78	62	+6	0.40	0.96
CT	37	80	61	+7	0.33	2.94

**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:**

Another week of off and on showers slowed down field work for corn harvest, both silage and grain. No dry hay made. Holiday weekend good for PYO apple and pumpkin picking, and getting the last few mums for fall decorations. Winter squash in good supply. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Rain kept the corn choppers out of the fields for most of the week. The mud made the farmers wish they had stayed out of the fields for the rest of the week! **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Another rainy week slowed down corn harvesting. Most yield reports are good! Waiting for ear corn to dry down a bit to combine. Busy weekend for apple picking and special activities in orchards. Early chopped grass fed out on some farms due to short feed from 2011 poor corn yields. Squash, pumpkins and fall vegetables at markets.

**MAINE – Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook:**

A few operations have finished potato harvest. Most operations have a day or two left. Cold weather and several periods of rain will slow progress. Later varieties may be making up for the lack of yield in the earlier varieties. Broccoli and cauliflower harvest is coming to a close. Still a few soybeans to be cut. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** A cool, damp week slowed harvesting of apples and silage corn. No killing frost reported yet. Cool weather is forecast for next week. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Cool weather is here! Most of the silage corn in this county is harvested. Grain corn is still standing to dry. Soybeans are also left to go. There was a heavy frost this morning (10/9) and there was some snow in the mountains this weekend. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** More rain this week which has really made some fields saturated and producers are having a hard time getting manure on them. Fall crops are filling farm stands, but coming to the end of the season. Corn silage is just about all harvested as well as apples and fall crops. Overall, crops did pretty good even for all the rain and dry spells this summer. Fields will be prepared for fall and the upcoming season in the next few weeks. Frost over the weekend has really made the season come to an end. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** Rain and sun last week. Widespread frost Monday night (10/9). Fall crops are on farmstands and at farmers' markets. Corn harvest in full swing. Spectacular fall foliage has been a plus for tourism. **Elaine S Moccus (FSA), Somerset:** Cooler temperatures and frosty mornings reveal pumpkin patches and pick-your-own apple signs. Silage corn harvest continued while producers work on final second or third crop hay harvest. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Corn silage harvest nearing completion. Some recent rains have made the going a little slick. Apple harvest is going well. Winter rye seed seems to be a little hard to get this year for cover cropping on corn silage acres.

**MASSACHUSETTS – Heather Baylis (FSA) Franklin:**

A mixed bag of weather this week with some wet and very foggy days, up to 80 on Friday and then a much cooler weekend. Corn harvest is underway and tobacco is down. Farmers are spreading manure and planting cover crops. Harvest includes pumpkins, winter squash, cabbage, beets, apples, pears and other fall crops. Pastures are still being grazed with no hard frost yet. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA),**

**Hampshire/Hampden:** A cloudy, rainy week with very little sunshine. Fall harvest of an array of vegetables and fruit including: apples, cabbage, kale, Brussels sprouts, winter squash, potatoes and carrots. The rains caused a tobacco damp so growers took down tobacco in the sheds to bundle up. Farmers kept busy disking harvested fields, planting a cover crop and removing row covers from harvested fields. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Harvest in high gear. Some pretty good crops, as anticipated. Also anticipated, higher than normal levels of fruit rot in some deliveries. Color is decent, but could be better. Nights have been cool, but no widespread frost nights where everyone has been running the sprinklers. Water supplies are not as good as some growers would prefer.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE – Donna Juneau (FSA) Belknap**

**/Merrimack:** It was a rainy week from start to finish with rainfall reported every day except Friday, October 5. The rain halted the harvest of both corn forage and hay. Nighttime low temperatures were in the 40s and 50s – no frost yet. There are still crops to harvest including the last of the sweet corn, apples and raspberries; as well as field corn and hay. The farm stands are well stocked with fall crops including potatoes, squash, pumpkins, gourds, sweet corn and peppers. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Rain and cool weather pretty much all week. Growth on pastures looks good and on hayfields for anyone looking to get a late fourth cutting for haylage. Corn chopping just about done. Veggie operations busy putting fields to bed and fall crops dominating farm stands. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Wetter weather this week, but corn silage harvest continued at a good pace. Generally mild temperatures for this time of year. Typical late season veggies at farms. Summer forage seedings getting off to a very good start with plenty of moisture and temperate weather conditions so far. No real hard freezes at this point except perhaps in colder parts of the county. A long growing season overall. Still good grass growing, fields look fairly lush for October cattle pasturing to take advantage of all this available feed. Past peak colors in parts of the county, but still quite colorful. Excellent year for reds and orange, leaves holding well. Geese are back! (A good hard freeze on Columbus Day night.) **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending October 6th, we received over 1.2 inches of rain. Conditions remained generally cooler and foggy in the morning. There has not been a killing frost to date, in most locations. Pumpkin harvest is continuing. Grass and alfalfa are still growing. There are still some farms taking their last cut of haylage. The arrival of light wind and significant rain over the weekend has knocked most of the leaves off the trees. The color is past peak in the higher elevations. The valley still has a week or two left before all the leaves are off. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Pick-your-own apple and farm stand operations had a good Saturday and Sunday. Apple harvest continued, completing Cortland apple harvest and working on Golden Delicious apples. Fall raspberry and pear harvests are over. Field Crops: Silage corn harvest completed, while second and third cuts of hay and haylage continues. Planting cover crops on harvested fields. Vegetables: Great weather and good demand for all vegetable continues. Harvesting a wide array of vegetables

including: cabbage, kale, Brussels sprouts, winter squash and pumpkins along with the tail end of warm season crops. Good demand for all vegetable continues. Farmers kept busy disking, cleaning up and planting cover crops on harvested fields. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Haying and chopping corn. Rain during the first part of the week followed with sun for the Columbus Holiday week-end. Apple harvest is in full swing. Harvesting fall crops. Cleaning vegetable fields, disking and planting cover crops. Very light frost in some areas.

**RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties:** Its Columbus Day weekend and we had a mix of weather. Mostly cool days and cool nights. Very little rain. The vegetable stands had a very good weekend, between pumpkins, squash, corn stalks and a good assortment of vegetables. I think after this weekend sweet corn will be hard to find. It was also a very good weekend for mums. Silage corn harvest is in full swing. They are more than 50% done. It's a good crop. Need a little bit more dry weather so they can get in the fields and finish harvesting. Corn mazes had a good weekend. Potatoes are slow. Seems to be a lower demand for them so they are starting to fill the storages. The days are getting real short now. Cleaning the fields up and putting rye down for the winter.

**VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Wet soil in fields. Continued corn silage harvest and planting winter rye cover crops. Poor conditions with machinery, ruts in fields. Some manure spreading and lime applications. Haylage crop harvest complete. Soybeans not yet harvested. Some grain corn nearing maturity, good dry down on early planted corn. Winter rye cover vigorous, seeding this year with aerial helicopter, truck broadcast and no-till grain drills. All fields good catch on cover. **Heather Darby (Ext), Franklin:** Corn harvest continued with many farmers harvesting high moisture corn, snaplage, and/or earlage. Some corn silage still being chopped. Regrowth of pastures was good once rain and cooler weather came into the area. Many farmers still hoping to harvest fourth cut. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Very wet week in Franklin County, bringing a halt to corn harvest. Still a lot of corn in the field, raising concerns of completing harvest before dry matter levels get beyond proper ensiling. Pastures are still growing, however, wet conditions are making grazing a challenge. On the positive side, the rains have brought ground water back to adequate levels for our water supplies. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Farmers continued to harvest corn. Most of the crop is in now. We had several days of rain this past week. This will help the water table, but has made some of the cornfields hard to work in. We had a hard frost this morning (10/9).

**SEPTEMBER SUMMARY:** September brought monthly average temperatures ranging from 3 degrees below normal to 2 degrees above normal. Precipitation for the month ranged from 2.3 inches in central Vermont to 7.0 inches in southwestern Connecticut. The month began with above average temperatures primarily in the 70s and 80s. Widespread rain showers on September 4-5 brought over an inch of precipitation to many locations. A line of thunderstorms moved through New England on September 8, resulting in heavy rain and gusty winds. Temperatures briefly climbed into the 70s and 80s by mid-month. A strong storm hit New England on September 18, bringing heavy precipitation and high winds. Late September was marked by sunny, cool weather. There were scattered instances of frost but no major killing frost in September. The month ended with widespread rain showers and below average daytime temperatures. The harvest of apples and pears was active thanks to excellent pick-your-own weather. Some producers were reporting poor yields due to the spring frosts and dry summer conditions. Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD) posed a problem to fruit orchards. Some cranberry growers in Massachusetts began harvesting their crop, but most waited for the berries to ripen. A total of 10 percent of the crop was harvested by month's end, compared to 25 percent last year and 20 percent normal. Orchardists also harvested peaches, plums, grapes, blackberries, and raspberries. Farm stands were busy and full of summer and fall produce. Pumpkins matured early and were harvested throughout the month. Vegetable growers were busy cleaning vegetable fields and planting cover crops. Sunny weather provided favorable haymaking conditions, bringing second and third cut progress ahead of last year and on par with normal. Soil moisture levels in the beginning of September were low but were replenished by month's end. There was significant variability in the stage of development of field corn, depending on planting dates and soil moisture levels. Abundant sunshine in Aroostook County, Maine allowed operations to finish the harvest of small grains ahead of schedule. Farmers also harvested potatoes, finished the tobacco harvest, spread manure, and planted cover crops.

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