

Crop Progress & Condition



NEW ENGLAND
Agricultural
Statistics



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Volume 32, Number 25

(Issued weekly on the Internet, May – October)

October 15, 2012 – 4 pm

For week ending 10/14/12

Most Areas Received First Killing Frost

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending October 14, 2012, there were 4.7 days available for fieldwork across New England. Pasture conditions were rated 15 percent poor, 48 percent fair, 36 percent good, and 1 percent excellent. The week was cooler than normal with several rain showers. Average temperatures during the week ranged from 4 degrees below normal in Rhode Island to 6 degrees below normal in Maine. Most areas received the first hard frost of the season during the week. Total precipitation for the week ranged from 0.2 to 1.6 inches across the region. General activities included harvesting fruits, fall vegetables, hay, corn, and potatoes. Farmers also spread manure and planted cover crops on harvested fields.

FRUIT: The apple harvest neared completion in Connecticut and parts of Maine and New Hampshire. Although growers reported losses from the spring frosts, apple quality was very good. Cranberry harvest in Massachusetts also continued at a brisk pace with favorable yields and quality so far. Orchardists were also busy moving bins to shelter, winterizing equipment, and moving equipment to storage.

VEGETABLES: The first hard frost of the season occurred late last week in most areas. The harvest season was winding down, however, there was still a wide variety of fall season vegetables available at farm stands. Farmers marketed broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, collards, carrots, pumpkins, Brussels sprouts, winter squash and the last of the sweet corn. Vegetable producers were also busy planting cover crops, spreading manure, cleaning up vegetable fields, and putting equipment away.

FIELD CROPS: A late week freeze ended the growing season for many growers last week. The corn silage harvest was nearly complete in Connecticut, Maine, and Massachusetts, but was just over 75 percent complete in New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont. Second and third crop hay and haylage harvests were active while the corn for grain and soybean harvests were just getting underway in some areas. Most potato growers in Maine completed harvest despite delays caused by rain and early morning frosts. Potato harvest progress in Massachusetts and Rhode Island gained momentum, but still trailed the average pace by 20 and 15 percent points, respectively. Farmers also spread manure, planted cover crops, and prepared fields for winter.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	3	2	1
Adequate	66	76	52
Surplus	31	22	47
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	2	0
Short	6	8	0
Adequate	70	75	58
Surplus	24	15	42

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Size	Condition
	2012	2011	5-yr Avg		
Apples	85	85	85		
Pears	95	90	95		
Cranberries, MA	70	75	70	Avg/Above	Good

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2012	2011	5-yr Avg
-- Percent Harvested --			
Potatoes			
Maine	95	95	90
Mass	70	85	90
Rhode Island	70	70	85
Silage Corn	80	65	85
Sweet Corn	100	100	100
Dry Hay			
Second	99	95	99
Third	85	75	85

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday October 8, 2012
 To: Sunday October 14, 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	32	56	46	-5	2481	+400	1030	+284	0.66	-0.18	5	3.96	+0.82	18
Bangor_Intl_Arp	29	57	44	-6	2319	+426	919	+297	1.41	+0.70	5	5.21	+2.24	17
Bethel	30	56	44	-6	2170	+312	814	+218	0.56	-0.28	3	5.24	+2.08	13
Caribou_Municip	28	54	41	-5	2047	+599	768	+390	1.24	+0.56	6	4.30	+1.41	17
Dover-Foxcroft	22	56	40	-7	1925	+330	685	+233	0.88	+0.08	3	5.75	+2.30	13
Frenchville	28	52	39	-6	1801	+458	619	+296	1.12	+0.40	5	4.53	+1.41	16
Houlton	26	57	41	-5	1995	+481	734	+310	1.40	+0.70	5	6.19	+3.18	17
Livermore_Falls	24	58	42	-5	2139	+574	799	+370	0.67	-0.17	3	4.31	+1.05	12
Moosehead	25	56	38	-7	1557	+240	441	+131	0.55	-0.19	4	5.32	+2.15	14
Portland_ME	29	60	49	-2	2521	+594	1056	+419	1.02	+0.19	5	4.16	+1.06	14
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	24	54	43	-6	1971	+273	665	+189	0.89	+0.19	4	4.37	+1.57	16
Berlin_AG	25	54	42	-6	2186	+490	777	+280	0.41	-0.36	5	2.98	+0.00	16
Concord	23	57	46	-4	2732	+653	1211	+472	0.67	-0.03	4	3.31	+0.65	15
First_Conn_Lake	25	53	40	-4	1697	+579	513	+308	1.20	+0.36	6	3.66	+0.24	16
Keene_AG	22	57	44	-7	2641	+292	1131	+215	0.68	-0.02	4	5.40	+2.68	15
North_Conway	27	55	43	-5	2245	+337	861	+228	0.70	-0.20	5	5.93	+2.60	19
Rochester	26	58	46	-6	2784	+530	1280	+428	0.90	-0.02	3	4.52	+1.20	12
VERMONT														
Bennington_AP	22	60	46	-3	2635	+814	1115	+563	1.05	+0.21	5	5.00	+1.65	18
Burlington_Intl	26	59	47	-3	2989	+779	1426	+585	0.77	+0.14	4	4.30	+1.60	17
Island_Pond	22	56	41	-5	1983	+591	684	+359	1.56	+0.86	6	5.16	+2.34	19
Montpelier	24	53	43	-5	2184	+455	808	+296	0.82	+0.19	5	4.49	+1.97	16
Rochester	24	55	43	-6	2182	+460	811	+307	1.17	+0.33	4	5.47	+2.11	15
Rutland_AG	22	56	43	-9	2341	+17	904	+4	1.10	+0.47	4	5.40	+2.54	17
Springfield_VT	25	57	47	-1	2838	+962	1287	+691	0.84	+0.07	6	4.12	+1.04	18
Sutton	23	55	40	-5	1962	+566	670	+333	1.24	+0.47	6	5.49	+2.54	19
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	35	62	52	-5	3277	+488	1588	+360	0.39	-0.31	5	2.33	-0.47	14
Fitchburg	26	60	48	+0	3290	+1411	1627	+1029	0.65	-0.05	4	3.24	+0.52	13
Greenfield	26	57	46	-7	2897	+344	1317	+266	0.47	-0.30	4	5.96	+2.88	14
New_Bedford	28	64	51	-7	2987	+143	1360	+91	0.37	-0.40	5	3.23	+0.26	14
Otis_AFB	32	64	50	-4	2722	+442	1179	+314	0.34	-0.50	4	2.97	-0.33	9
Plymouth	30	64	51	-3	2990	+665	1381	+478	0.22	-0.65	5	3.49	-0.13	13
Walpole	27	67	49	-3	3115	+802	1462	+568	0.53	-0.31	5	3.23	-0.13	16
Chicopee/Westov	22	59	47	-8	3080	+132	1458	+109	0.38	-0.39	4	3.70	+0.56	12
Worthington	22	56	42	-8	2288	+415	869	+294	0.69	-0.13	5	5.74	+2.45	17
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	31	64	51	-5	3212	+561	1535	+401	0.54	-0.27	4	4.05	+0.92	12
Woonsocket	28	63	48	-3	3152	+879	1496	+650	0.51	-0.40	4	4.93	+1.47	15
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	33	68	53	-5	3549	+660	1798	+472	0.38	-0.29	3	7.44	+4.69	12
Hartford/Bradle	27	63	49	-5	3416	+621	1714	+472	0.43	-0.34	5	4.49	+1.20	14
Norfolk	25	55	43	-6	2431	+570	967	+394	0.40	-0.44	5	5.69	+2.13	18
Thomaston_Dam	25	64	46	-6	2984	+705	1376	+530	0.40	-0.44	6	4.67	+1.13	19
Willimantic	27	67	49	-4	3250	+925	1564	+688	0.49	-0.42	5	4.69	+1.03	14

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, October 14, 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	21	60	42	-6	0.54	1.50
NH	7	59	43	-5	0.21	1.54
VT	18	60	43	-5	0.31	1.56
MA	22	68	48	-5	0.20	0.91
RI	28	64	52	-4	0.20	0.54
CT	24	69	49	-5	0.11	0.58

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: Corn silage all harvested, what remains will be picked. Some grass silage put up this week. Tobacco has been taken down and some stripped. Killing frost Saturday morning put an end to the growing season except for high tunnels. **Ann McCard (FSA), New London:** Early hard frost. Corn silage mostly completed. Grain corn being harvested where possible. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Cooler weather. Apple harvest is finishing. Corn chopping is done. Planting cover crops, spreading manure and cleaning up vegetable fields. Putting equipment away. First frost for fall.

MAINE – Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook: Most potato operations have finished harvest. Fall work is being done between almost constant showers. Apple harvest is almost complete. Broccoli cutting will continue for a couple of weeks. **Don Audibert, (FSA) Northern Aroostook:** Most farmers are done harvesting potatoes. Mostly McCain growers left to finish. Couldn't harvest most of the week due to rain. Also had some early morning frost, which delayed harvest until noon on some days. Some farmers are now out in the field plowing. Most farmers are cleaning their equipment to put back in storage. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** With killing frost and short days, the growing season has pretty much ended. Time to harvest cabbage, carrots and Brussels sprouts. Time to spread manure and clean out the storage for winter. Grain corn and soybeans are still drying in the field. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Well the harvest season is winding down and farmstands are closing. Farmers are preparing fields for winter with hopes of completing before snow. Overall the growing season was good even with early rains and drier conditions at the end. Production counts have been reported as average and above for most crops. There were few crops that had damage, but recovered at the end. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis /Penobscot:** Field work has been delayed by wet weather. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** More rain has slowed fieldwork. Freeze on Saturday night has ended most row crop harvest. **Elaine S Moceus (FSA), Somerset:** Apple harvest continues as later varieties ripen. Silage corn is still being harvested as well as second and third crop hay. Lots of pumpkin and squash are now available at roadside markets. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Corn silage harvest nearly complete. Manure spreading and cover crop planting still in progress. Apple harvest going well. First really hard frost throughout the county happened last week.

MASSACHUSETTS – Heather Baylis (FSA) Franklin: Variable weather with the week ending with a hard frost on the weekend. Fall crops continued to be harvested and fill the farm stands. Apple picking was in full swing. Farmers continued to prepare for the coming winter months clearly hoping that this October doesn't repeat the snow storm of last year. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** A rainy, cool week with the first killing frost. Harvesting cabbage, kale, potatoes, apples, cauliflower, collards and pumpkins. Corn silage harvest has finished and corn grain harvest has begun. Farmers continued removing row covers, disking harvested fields and planting cover crops. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Harvesting in full swing again this week. At this point, we should be close, if not above, the USDA crop estimate given to us in August.

There are some rot issues, but by and large, growers are happy with their deliveries. The first serious frost night occurred Friday into Saturday.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Donna Juneau (FSA) Belknap /Merrimack: A mix of sun and rain last week. Many producers were in the field chopping corn and hay forage. Daytime temperatures mostly in the 50s with a killing frost Friday night/early Saturday morning. The reported low temperature was 23 degrees. Heavy rain beginning late Saturday night into Sunday with about 1/3 inch of rainfall reported in Concord. Fruit and fall vegetable harvests are ending, but there is a good supply of apples, pumpkins, cabbage, and winter squash for sale at the local farm stands. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Cool, rainy weather for the first part of the week, and a hard freeze on Friday night. Silage corn is all chopped, and the last bit of haylage and baleage is harvested. Regrowth on pastures looks good for late fall grazing. Fall crops dominating farm stands, etc., and apple picking just about done. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Cool, wet weather for most of the week. Corn harvest continued and nearing completion. "O" variety soybeans combined at end of the week. Still good amount of grass available being pastured, probably some harvested as silage as conditions permit. Later season apples, Cortland, Macouns and Honeycrisps at orchards. Hard freeze during the week. Rivers running fairly high. Past peak for fall colors. Tamaracks turning yellow. Snow on the mountains. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending October 13th we received close to an inch of rain. Thus far, there has been no killing frost in the river valley. Producers continue to put in haylage and harvest some cold crop vegetables. Farm stands still offer some fresh produce. Light rains, drizzle and cloudy conditions were more prevalent last week. Farmers took advantage of the breaks in the weather to get things done. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Farm stands and pick-your-own apple operations were busy Saturday! Apple harvest is winding down, harvesting Rome, Fuji, and Golden Delicious. Picking up drops and cleaning up orchards from harvest. Field Crops: Silage corn chopping and finished up with seeding cover crops on harvested fields. Some manure spreading and incorporating in soil is taking place. Vegetables: County-wide frost occurred during the weekend of Oct 13. Farmers kept busy working on: pulling plastic mulch and tomato stakes, planting cover crops and putting equipment away. Good demand for all vegetables continues. Growers are harvesting a wide array of vegetables including: cabbage, kale, Brussels sprouts, winter squash and pumpkins. All warm season crops harvest is over. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Harvesting greens, Brussels sprouts, pumpkins, winter squashes and apples. Cleaning vegetable fields, removing plastic and planting cover crops. Haying has been done between showers. Chopping corn, spreading manure and liming fields. Friday evening saw a hard frost.

RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties: Saturday morning we got our first frost of the season in the northern and western parts of the state and it was a killing frost. The southern and eastern parts of the state near the water got very little to no frost yet. They are picking up the pace of harvesting potatoes and putting them in storage.

Hoping to finish next week. Pumpkins, corn stalks and mums were still selling very good this weekend even though the weather for the week was cold and damp. Sunday the weather improved a lot. Today it is 64 degrees, what a difference a couple of days make. Mostly all the winter squashes have been harvested and put into storage. There is still a good amount of vegetables available such as peppers, eggplant, tomatoes, etc. Just about all the livestock have been brought back to the barns and are on winter feed. Still seeding rye for cover crop. Starting to clean and put machinery away for the winter.

VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison: Wet soil conditions persist, there was little rain nearly every day. Very little corn silage harvest, some on drier fields, most clay fields not harvested. Half of corn crop still standing. Heavy frost. Soybeans yellow and some leaf drop. Not much field work. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Got a break in the rain this week for some more corn and late grass harvest in Franklin

County. Seeing some corn grain and snaplage harvesting. Have not heard any moistures in this arena, however, borderline would be the estimate. Pasture growth is slowing down with cooler temps and even some white mountains have appeared. The great pumpkin visit is near and the pumpkin patches are filled with bright orange. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** It was a cold and wet week. We had several frosts and even a few snowflakes. The corn harvest is still ongoing. Fields continue to be dry enough to allow the harvest without significant mud. Other than corn harvest not much other field work is going on. **Terence Bradshaw, (UVM):** Apple harvest is winding down with later varieties such as Mutsu, Northern Spy, and Empire still picking. Growers are reporting a mixed apple season, with most indicating at least some crop loss from the early bud break and subsequent frosts. Quality remains very good. Wintering up tasks such as moving bins to shelter, winterizing equipment and plumbing, and fall herbicide and nutrient applications will be performed soon.

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