

Crop Progress & Condition



A field office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service
United States Department of Agriculture

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For week ending 9/8/13

MINIMAL IMPACT FROM LATE SUMMER FROSTS

GENERAL CONDITIONS: There were 5.2 days suitable for fieldwork across New England for the week ending September 8, 2013. Pasture condition ratings averaged 4 percent poor, 28 percent fair, 53 percent good, and 15 percent excellent. New England experienced warm daytime temperatures in the 70s and 80s and cool nighttime temperatures with scattered instances of light frost late in the week. Average temperatures across the six states ranged from 1 to 3 degrees above normal. Precipitation was abundant, with averages across the six states ranging from 0.81 in Connecticut to 2.40 inches in Maine with the highest local precipitation total at 5.19 inches reported in Maine.

FRUIT: Apple picking picked up pace, with crop yields looking very promising throughout most of New England. Other crops harvested included peaches, pears, plums, blackberries, raspberries, and the last highbush blueberries. SWD fruit flies continued attacking raspberry and blueberry fields but the majority of these crops had already been harvested by week's end. Massachusetts cranberry growers were readying for harvest as early cultivars were fully red by week's end.

VEGETABLES: A wide array of summer and fall vegetables were available at farm stands and farmers markets. Crops harvested included beans, beets, eggplant, greens, peppers, pumpkins, radishes, squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, and zucchini, among other summer and fall vegetables. Several farmers reported delayed, staggering development in vegetable crops. Farmers kept busy cleaning up harvested fields, planting cover crops, hoeing weeds, and spraying pesticides for insect and disease control where needed. Some growers were using row covers to protect their cold sensitive crops; the overall damage caused by frosts was minimal.

FIELD CROPS: The frequency of rain made dry hay production challenging; however, farmers managed to harvest hay and haylage whenever possible. Most corn growers were waiting for additional development in the crop before starting harvest. The crop continued to show irregularity in both quality and maturity. Northern corn leaf blight was a concern for some growers. Most potato growers in Maine were letting their Russet potatoes grow further before applying potato vine kill. Growers were concerned that their potatoes would be impacted by excessive precipitation falling throughout the potato growing season. Growers in Aroostook County, Maine feared losing a portion of their small grain crops to wet weather.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	0	1
Short	1	3	20
Adequate	87	73	73
Surplus	12	24	6
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	0	1
Short	1	2	24
Adequate	89	77	72
Surplus	10	21	3

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Set	Fruit Size	Condition
	2013	2012	5-yr Avg			
Apples	25	25	25	Average	Avg/Above	Good
Peaches	90	95	90	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Pears	25	30	30	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Blueberries						
Highbush	99	100	95	Average	Average	Good
Wild	100	99	100	Avg/Below	AboveAvg	Good/Exc
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2013	2012	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Harvested --				
Barley	75	95	75	Fair/Good
Oats	45	85	65	Good
Potatoes				
Maine	<5	5	10	Exc/Good
Mass	30	35	40	Good
Rhode Island	30	40	40	Good/Exc
Field Corn	<5	10	10	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	80	85	85	Good/Fair
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	95	95	95	Good/Fair
Shade	100	99	95	Good/Fair
Dry Hay				
First Cut	100	100	100	Good/Fair
Second Cut	85	95	90	Good/Fair
Third Cut	35	55	50	Good

2 – Crop Weather, September 9, 2013

New England Agricultural Statistics, NASS, USDA

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday September 2, 2013
 To: Sunday September 8, 2013

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	46	81	65	+3	2030	+174	884	+169	3.65	+2.95	5	5.16	+2.22	10
Bangor_Intl_Arp	41	81	65	+4	1876	+181	779	+179	2.25	+1.45	4	6.29	+3.18	10
Bethel	37	80	62	+2	1771	+94	676	+98	2.30	+1.48	4	5.16	+1.63	9
Caribou_Municip	37	78	59	+3	1609	+251	562	+187	2.35	+1.51	3	5.02	+1.46	16
Dover-Foxcroft	38	79	62	+3	1744	+276	665	+220	1.66	+0.75	4	5.98	+2.51	14
Frenchville	35	75	57	+1	1405	+144	439	+118	1.13	+0.22	2	2.95	-0.77	14
Houlton	34	79	60	+3	1578	+159	545	+125	2.03	+1.12	3	3.84	+0.15	12
Livmore_Falls	37	80	61	+3	1758	+315	678	+255	2.17	+1.29	5	5.12	+1.42	12
Moosehead	34	77	60	+4	1520	+299	505	+198	1.27	+0.41	4	2.61	-0.77	12
Portland_ME	44	82	65	+4	2028	+317	899	+282	2.68	+1.98	6	2.96	+0.28	8
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	37	81	62	+3	1866	+324	731	+264	1.10	+0.30	5	2.97	-0.53	14
Berlin_AG	36	79	60	+2	1817	+264	668	+179	0.78	-0.06	3	2.95	-0.79	9
Concord	36	85	65	+3	2239	+376	1021	+306	2.59	+1.89	2	3.25	+0.34	5
First_Conn_Lake	32	77	58	+4	1496	+451	493	+288	0.60	-0.43	4	1.54	-2.93	10
Keene_AG	38	85	64	-1	2150	+71	970	+98	1.07	+0.31	3	3.11	-0.23	11
North_Conway	38	81	63	+3	1858	+123	710	+91	2.42	+1.58	5	4.09	+0.55	12
Rochester	40	82	65	+1	2104	+112	930	+117	2.36	+1.60	5	3.56	+0.43	11
VERMONT														
Bennington_AP	37	82	64	+4	2152	+520	948	+416	0.70	-0.21	4	4.27	+0.43	10
Burlington_Intl	41	86	66	+4	2454	+464	1183	+372	1.43	+0.59	5	2.90	-0.69	11
Island_Pond	33	82	60	+3	1686	+411	610	+293	0.77	-0.12	5	1.70	-2.41	14
Montpelier	36	81	61	+2	1829	+262	697	+202	0.72	-0.02	5	1.87	-1.48	12
Rochester	38	81	62	+3	1826	+281	719	+236	0.76	-0.19	5	1.51	-2.55	12
Rutland_AG	37	79	62	-2	1949	-108	798	-51	0.65	-0.26	3	2.03	-1.73	10
Springfield_VT	37	83	64	+4	2134	+440	941	+365	1.15	+0.30	4	4.89	+1.31	12
Sutton	36	79	60	+4	1669	+379	590	+260	1.39	+0.50	5	2.20	-1.85	15
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	52	82	70	+3	2710	+333	1421	+305	0.85	+0.10	3	0.87	-2.13	4
Fitchburg	42	82	68	+8	2675	+983	1375	+792	0.19	-0.51	5	0.42	-2.57	11
Greenfield	42	81	65	-2	2347	+122	1104	+123	0.54	-0.30	3	2.10	-1.21	9
New_Bedford	45	81	68	-2	2449	+48	1204	+66	1.29	+0.43	5	3.99	+0.23	12
Otis_AFB	45	81	67	+2	2245	+290	1047	+243	2.19	+1.42	4	3.99	+0.89	12
Plymouth	45	82	68	+4	2502	+488	1257	+409	0.45	-0.53	4	1.31	-2.48	9
Walpole	44	80	66	+3	2525	+487	1257	+412	1.38	+0.47	3	2.04	-1.60	8
Chicopee/Westov	39	81	66	-3	2511	-35	1248	+11	0.61	-0.23	4	2.01	-1.27	9
Worthington	36	77	61	-1	1888	+228	779	+228	1.08	+0.18	3	2.80	-0.85	10
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	49	82	68	+2	2699	+431	1409	+373	3.47	+2.63	3	5.45	+2.09	8
Woonsocket	44	81	67	+4	2575	+569	1303	+496	2.75	+1.84	5	3.28	-0.36	11
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	53	83	71	+2	2777	+337	1487	+302	0.03	-0.68	2	1.51	-1.33	6
Hartford/Bradle	45	81	68	+1	2728	+284	1426	+265	1.18	+0.27	3	3.23	-0.25	8
Norfolk	41	78	63	+2	2029	+366	881	+328	0.95	-0.05	2	4.38	+0.23	5
Thomaston_Dam	41	84	65	+2	2430	+446	1214	+428	0.64	-0.34	3	2.30	-1.62	12
Willimantic	43	81	67	+3	2562	+538	1278	+459	0.54	-0.37	4	2.39	-1.18	10

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, September 8, 2013

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				P R E C I P I T A T I O N				
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	DAYS
ME	32	84	62	+2	0.74	5.19	2.40	+1.61	4
NH	25	87	63	+3	0.35	2.71	1.28	+0.54	3
VT	31	87	62	+2	0.30	1.64	0.87	+0.02	4
MA	36	87	66	+2	0.10	2.86	0.88	+0.05	3
RI	44	82	67	+2	0.75	3.47	2.23	+1.37	3
CT	41	84	67	+1	0.03	2.73	0.81	-0.08	3

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: A very nice week with cooler temps (fall like) good for harvesting vegetables, dry hay and some corn for silage. Some dairy farmers mowing 3rd cutting to chop prior to filling bunker silos with corn. Dryer weather has required pastures to be supplemented with stored feed. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** An isolated early frost Friday sent several growers scrambling to protect crops and salvage usable produce. Fortunately only a couple low lying areas were affected. **Jude Boucher (Ext), Tolland:** The sweet corn market slowed last week, making for the first week of tough sales all season. Corn is still not maturing uniformly within a field. Yields of most vegetables are light compared with normal. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Grapes are being harvested, corn chopping, baling hay, picking vegetables, and pick your own apples. Harvest activity all through the county. Corn mazes are open, fall mums and pumpkins ready. Good weather, just enough rain and warm days. A lot of early planted corn is chopped and in the pile with good yields.

MAINE – Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook: Twenty-six inches of rain over the course of the potato growing season has many worried this crop won't keep. Yields so far are above average. A lot of the grain fields won't be harvested because of the wet weather. Apple harvest is getting underway. **Don Audibert, (FSA) Northern Aroostook:** Tablestock potatoes have all been vine killed and waiting to be harvested. Most farmers are letting their russet potatoes grow a little longer before they vine kill. Farmers are now busy harvesting their grain. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Periodic showers slowed down making hay. A touch of fall has been felt by cool nights. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Grain corn maturity looks to be a little behind. Hopefully the hot weather projected for this week gives the corn a boost before we get a killing frost. We have been right on the borderline for frost. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/ Penobscot/ Piscataquis:** On and off showers all week made it tough to complete harvest on a lot of crops. Blueberry harvest is completed, apple harvest is under way. Farm stands are very busy with multiple crops. Corn silage has started being harvested as well as potato harvest. Late fall crops are looking good for the most part. Third cutting of hay is being cut and quality is down a little. Cold nights and scattered showers predicted for the upcoming week. **Caragh Fitzgerald (Ext), Kennebec:** We certainly didn't need the inches of rain that fell early in the week, or the continued showers. With the cool nighttime temperatures later in the week, it is really feeling like fall. We need more sun and warm temperatures. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis/ Penobscot:** Very chilly mornings. Veggie farmers are using row covers to protect their cold sensitive crops. Winter squashes are coming off now. **Elaine S. Moceus (FSA), Somerset:** Cold and rainy at the beginning of the week, warm weather low humidity mid-week, with light frost in some areas of Somerset County overnight of 9/8. Hay harvesting continues as well as harvest of early varieties of apples. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** SWD has hit remaining blueberries and raspberries that were not sprayed, bringing the harvest to a close. Some silage corn harvested for feed in October.

MASSACHUSETTS – Debra Senger (FSA), Berkshire: Orchards are reporting good crop conditions for apples, pears, and peaches. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** A dry week with cool temperatures. Growers are harvesting an array of summer and fall vegetables and fruits. Corn silage harvest has started and some growers report some fields have Northern Corn Leaf Blight. Potato growers report their crop is smaller in size. Growers continue cultivating late fall crops such as spinach, lettuce, turnips, and radishes. **Carolyn DeMoranville (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Most of the area received more than 2

inches of rain early in the week. Thunderstorms were widespread. Growers are readying for harvest with the first cool nights turning thoughts to frost protection. Early cultivars are fully red but not yet at maximum color. Late cultivars are showing blush and red areas on the upward facing surfaces of the fruit. Some growers will begin harvesting in the coming week.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Kelly McAdam (Ext), Belknap: Growers in Strafford County have been happy with apple crop yield this year. **Olivia Saunders (Ext), Carroll:** Apple crop is starting to come in. Fruit quality looks good this year, with nice size development. Sweet corn has been readily available with great quality this year. Weeds are now going to seed on many farms. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** A muggy start to the week, but bright, sunny, and cooler conditions for the remainder. Great weather for haying. Field corn continues to mature; first chopping started late last week, and more of it to start this week. Vegetable crops are still going strong, but some starting to wind down, and farms starting to sow cover crops. PYO apples just starting to ramp up. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Cooling temperatures generally. Likely some frost this Sunday night in scattered locations about the county. Fog along rivers providing a measure of protection. Hay and haylage harvest as conditions permit, not good drying weather. Farmers assessing corn for silage chopping, not as mature now as same time last year. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending September 7th, we received approximately 2.1 inches of rain. Rain fell on five days during some point in the day. The frequency of rain made dry hay production challenging. However farmers still managed to make hay when they could. Farmers are still working their way around the wet spots. Corn harvest has not yet started. Many farms are waiting as long as possible to begin harvest, hoping for additional development in the crop. Apple harvest has begun. Farm stands have a steadier stream of sweet corn and other produce for sale. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Apple harvest is in full swing, picking McIntosh, Gala and Honeycrisp apples. Fruit size is good. Fall raspberries and pear harvest continued with peach and plum harvest winding down. Great weekend for Pick-Your-Own orchards. Field Crops: Farmers are getting ready to chop corn silage. Second and third cuttings of hay are being made along with making new 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. Increase in number of squash vine borer insects trapped. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** A mostly sunny week with one day of heavy rain in the afternoon. End of week saw a couple of cold nights. Harvesting peaches, plums, and McIntosh, Cortland, Gala, and Honeycrisp apples. PYO apple/fruit operations were very busy on the week-end. Also picking blackberries, fall raspberries and many vegetables including sweet corn, tomatoes, green beans, sweet & jalapeno peppers, spinach, swiss chard, and several other greens and herbs. Winter squashes and pumpkin are also been harvested. Cut flowers from zinnias, gerbera daisies, snapdragons to celosia are seen at farm stands and farmers markets. Monitoring pests. Cleaning some vegetables fields, and planting cover crops. Haying has been done (2nd and 3rd cut). Spreading some manure on some hay fields. Chopping field corn.

RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties: This past week, we had heavy rains on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, with thunder and lightning. In the state there were 2-9 inches of rain depending on where you were in the state for the 3 day period. That kind of slowed the week down. We lost 3 days to rain and a day or two to dry and get back into the field. A very slow week in other words. Going around the state, the most beautiful thing to see on the farm is the apple crop! It is even making the local news!

The trees are full with #1 apples, and they should be picking very soon, with the nights in the 40's. Potato harvest is slow, but a good crop. Small crops such as tomatoes, beans and squash etc are all available, but slow in ripening. The same with sweet corn, which has been staggering all summer. A lot of the pastures are green, but wet. Livestock looks good, but they are using winter feed to feed them now. I think feed this winter could be short, depending on the silage crop. With all the rain this summer, I would say hay is good, but far from excellent.

VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison: Haylage and hay harvest continues. Manure spreading on fields. Corn harvest is about to start. Corn crop still high loss from prevented plantings, wet weather early that damaged crop. Earliest corn planted ready for harvest. **Daniel Hudson (Ext), Caledonia:** No appreciable frost yet in corn growing areas. Northern corn leaf blight is a significant problem in some fields. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Apples are the story this week for Franklin County. A Bumper crop in this category and getting great weather for ripening. What's good for apples is good for corn too. Corn is still getting great weather for finishing. Let's leave it in the field so it can do so. Starting to see some clean up in the gardens. This is a good thing to do and it is best to get those remains moved to another area.

We were on the verge of some serious blight's for vine plants and it would be best to move these plants to an area not used for gardening. Get out and visit your local apple orchard and make plenty of apple sauce for the freezer. It will taste great on those cold winter days just around the corner. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Temperatures dipped pretty low in the county on 2 different nights this past week. There was some scattered frost on both mornings in the colder spots. Just a reminder that the growing season will be coming to a close soon. Second hay crop is pretty much completed on all farms. Some third cut is still underway. The corn harvest hasn't started yet but will soon. **Jennifer Gehly (FSA), Windham:** It was a rainy start to the week with roughly a half an inch of rain falling Monday. The week was nice with highs in the mid to upper 70s with lows in mid-50s. Thursday was remarkably cooler with temperatures dipping down into the upper 30s. The weekend remained cool with highs in the upper 60s to low 70s with lows in the mid-40s. Showers moved through the area overnight Friday. Farmers were busy during the week harvesting summer and fall vegetables such as tomatoes, winter squashes, eggplant, zucchini, summer squash, beets, and sweet corn. Hay was being harvested for silage. Early varieties of apples were available and plentiful. Peaches and plums were still available as well.

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