

Crop Progress & Condition



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

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Volume 33, Number 22 (Issued weekly on the Internet, May – October) September 23, 2013 – 4 pm

For week ending 9/22/13

A WELCOMED STRETCH OF DRY WEATHER

GENERAL CONDITIONS: There were 5.4 days suitable for fieldwork across New England for the week ending September 22, 2013. Pasture condition ratings averaged 5 percent poor, 25 percent fair, 56 percent good, and 14 percent excellent. The week saw seasonably mild daytime temperatures and cool nighttime temperatures capable of producing frost throughout parts of New England. Average temperatures across the six states ranged from 3 degrees below normal to 1 degree above normal. Rainfall this week was mostly limited to the weekend, a welcome change of pace compared to wet conditions earlier in September. Average precipitation across the six states ranged from 0.27 to 0.78 inches.

FRUIT: It was another favorable week for pick-your-own orchards. Crops harvested included apples, grapes, pears, raspberries, and the remaining peaches and plums. Outlook of apples was reportedly very positive as of last week. Several cranberry growers in Massachusetts began harvest last week. Many cranberry operations had to protect their crop from frost early last week.

VEGETABLES: Farm stands continued marketing a wide array of summer and fall vegetables. Crops harvested included beans, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cucumbers, eggplant, greens, peppers, pumpkins, radishes, squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, and zucchini, among other summer and fall vegetables. Farmers kept busy disking, cleaning up harvested fields, planting cover crops, hoeing weeds, and spraying pesticides for insect and disease control where needed. Several growers reported frost in vegetable crops, but damage to vegetables was not considered significant. Powdery mildew and other diseases were present in pumpkins and winter squash as a result of wet conditions throughout the growing season.

FIELD CROPS: Sunny, dry conditions during most of the week allowed for haying, chopping corn, and other field activities. Some fields in northern New Hampshire were still in need of additional dry weather. Northern corn leaf blight was reportedly having a noticeable impact in parts of New Hampshire and Vermont. Schools in Aroostook County, Maine went on recess last Friday, accelerating potato harvest in the region. Small grain harvest was well behind schedule with below average yield expectations as a consequence of heavy rains during summer.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	0	1
Short	4	1	18
Adequate	72	74	71
Surplus	24	25	10
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	0	2
Short	3	0	18
Adequate	78	81	72
Surplus	19	19	8

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Set	Fruit Size	Condition
	2013	2012	5-yr Avg			
Apples	35	45	45	Average	Average	Good/Exc
Peaches	99	99	99	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Pears	50	65	65	Average	Average	Good
Cranberries, MA	<5	<5	5	Average	Average	Good

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2013	2012	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Harvested --				
Barley	90	100	95	Fair/Good
Oats	80	99	95	Good
Potatoes				
Maine	15	20	25	Exc/Good
Mass	50	45	60	Good
Rhode Island	50	60	65	Good/Exc
Field Corn	30	30	30	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	90	95	95	Good/Fair
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	100	100	100	Good/Fair
Shade	100	100	100	Good/Fair
Dry Hay				
Second Cut	90	99	95	Good/Fair
Third Cut	60	75	70	Good

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New England Agricultural Statistics, NASS, USDA

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics Service

Prepared By AWIS.com from NWS preliminary data

For the Period: Monday September 16, 2013
 To: Sunday September 22, 2013

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				CUM SINCE MAR 1 GROWING DEGREE DAYS				1-WEEK PRECIP			4-WEEK CUM PRECIP		
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS
	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	INCHES	---	---	INCHES	---	---
MAINE														
Augusta_State_A	37	76	59	+1	2183	+198	926	+185	0.33	-0.40	3	8.44	+5.60	16
Bangor_Intl_Arp	38	77	58	+2	2026	+215	821	+201	0.29	-0.50	3	8.36	+5.16	15
Bethel	36	76	56	-2	1885	+99	702	+106	0.30	-0.47	2	6.58	+3.33	14
Caribou_Municip	35	75	57	+5	1736	+318	594	+216	0.13	-0.65	3	5.76	+2.40	17
Dover-Foxcroft	35	77	56	+2	1861	+311	694	+242	0.34	-0.57	3	5.59	+1.98	18
Frenchville	33	72	55	+4	1510	+192	460	+137	0.14	-0.70	1	2.88	-0.66	13
Houlton	28	74	56	+4	1707	+225	581	+157	0.08	-0.76	3	4.42	+0.91	14
Livermore_Falls	30	77	54	+1	1869	+349	709	+280	0.30	-0.54	3	6.27	+2.80	18
Moosehead	33	75	55	+3	1625	+340	527	+217	0.19	-0.65	3	3.74	+0.34	18
Portland_ME	41	74	59	+2	2200	+363	951	+314	0.24	-0.47	2	6.89	+4.08	14
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	33	77	55	+0	1979	+346	763	+287	0.76	+0.06	2	5.33	+2.19	17
Berlin_AG	33	75	53	-3	1907	+266	691	+194	0.58	-0.16	2	6.08	+2.80	15
Concord	31	78	58	+1	2403	+415	1084	+347	0.65	+0.02	1	5.47	+2.79	9
First_Conn_Lake	29	76	53	+2	1577	+484	508	+303	0.80	-0.11	3	4.88	+0.88	18
Keene_AG	33	83	58	-2	2292	+63	1018	+112	0.73	+0.03	2	7.65	+4.68	14
North_Conway	33	75	55	-2	1964	+124	737	+104	0.78	+0.01	2	5.63	+2.35	17
Rochester	35	76	57	-3	2249	+113	974	+131	0.58	-0.18	1	6.88	+3.89	15
VERMONT														
Bennington_AP	32	80	57	+0	2300	+560	1002	+452	0.77	-0.10	2	4.94	+1.28	14
Burlington_Intl	35	80	59	+2	2623	+508	1251	+415	1.23	+0.48	2	5.02	+1.74	14
Island_Pond	32	76	55	+2	1802	+456	646	+321	1.36	+0.62	4	5.51	+2.06	21
Montpelier	31	76	55	+0	1951	+290	735	+224	0.83	+0.20	3	4.67	+1.80	16
Rochester	33	83	56	+0	1945	+298	755	+254	0.62	-0.22	2	3.27	-0.44	15
Rutland_AG	33	79	54	-6	2057	-144	831	-53	0.78	-0.03	2	3.46	-0.02	13
Springfield_VT	33	78	58	+2	2276	+475	987	+393	0.52	-0.27	2	5.72	+2.33	15
Sutton	35	75	54	+2	1755	+398	613	+276	1.08	+0.31	3	5.28	+1.82	19
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	44	77	63	-2	2943	+357	1521	+334	0.35	-0.35	1	2.21	-0.70	8
Fitchburg	36	82	62	+6	2889	+1088	1466	+868	0.72	+0.07	1	1.75	-1.04	15
Greenfield	35	77	57	-5	2497	+99	1155	+128	0.99	+0.22	3	4.73	+1.52	15
New_Bedford	37	79	60	-6	2640	+18	1274	+55	0.50	-0.27	2	4.72	+1.35	13
Otis_AFB	37	75	60	-2	2438	+311	1113	+267	0.03	-0.74	2	3.98	+0.88	11
Plymouth	38	80	61	-1	2709	+529	1339	+452	0.46	-0.50	2	1.77	-2.13	10
Walpole	39	82	60	+1	2721	+532	1334	+455	0.43	-0.41	2	3.04	-0.49	10
Chicopee/Westov	36	80	59	-5	2690	-63	1319	+11	0.98	+0.14	2	3.97	+0.61	11
Worthington	33	76	55	-4	2003	+225	816	+245	1.33	+0.49	3	5.58	+2.09	15
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	44	81	62	-2	2915	+448	1494	+395	0.34	-0.46	2	5.78	+2.46	11
Woonsocket	39	82	61	+2	2781	+625	1385	+548	1.02	+0.14	2	4.69	+1.08	12
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	45	77	63	-2	3014	+350	1589	+318	1.15	+0.45	1	3.57	+0.70	7
Hartford/Bradle	37	80	61	-2	2934	+302	1511	+295	1.33	+0.45	2	5.07	+1.48	10
Norfolk	37	76	55	-2	2152	+376	921	+350	1.24	+0.28	2	5.72	+1.73	10
Thomaston_Dam	34	77	56	-5	2583	+444	1269	+445	0.72	-0.19	2	3.45	-0.37	15
Willimantic	37	78	59	-2	2745	+561	1344	+486	0.96	+0.03	2	3.86	+0.20	13

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, September 22, 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	28	78	56	+1	0.00	0.85	0.27	-0.51	2
NH	19	83	55	-1	0.01	1.86	0.61	-0.11	2
VT	27	83	55	-1	0.00	2.10	0.74	-0.02	2
MA	32	82	59	-2	0.00	1.33	0.59	-0.20	2
RI	39	82	62	-1	0.34	1.02	0.51	-0.26	2
CT	34	80	59	-3	0.02	1.33	0.78	-0.08	2

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 good week for harvesting crops from apples to winter squash. Mostly sunny and dry until early Sunday morning when a cool front came thru with .75 to 1.4 inches of rain in the area. **Jude Boucher (Ext), Tolland:** The sweet corn market picked up again last week for those who still had wholesale corn to sell. Great prices for winter squash for those who had a crop this year. Some winter squash fields never got planted due to wet early summer conditions, some in flood plains went under water, some had low yields or crop loss from disease. All cauliflower fields suffering from black rot with some spread into other Crucifers. Cauliflower seed needs to be hot water treated. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Good weather for harvesting corn silage and hay; picking apples, grapes. Vegetables are winding down but squash, pumpkins, mums are coming in. Corn chopping is about three quarters done. Picking corn to begin with low corn prices expected. Celebrating Agriculture event; local farmers brought the big equipment in for display. Great volunteer effort to make the day possible.

MAINE – Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook: Our first dry week in months ended on Sunday with an inch plus of rain. School let out for harvest on Friday, so most potato operations will be going as soon as it dries up. Several reports of rot in early varieties. Grain crops were disappointing this year. **Don Audibert, (FSA) Northern Aroostook:** School is out and all farmers started potato harvest full swing on Saturday. Quality and yield looks good. Was a little dry, but received some rain on Sunday and Monday. Harvest has stopped due to rain for a couple of days. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Cold nights hit some areas with a frost last week. The days were beautiful and bring all week. Dry hay is being made. Good weather for pick your own apples over the weekend. Farmers are finishing picking pumpkins and winter squash. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Frost is nipping around the edges. No big killing frost yet. There are still lots of veggies in the field. Corn silage harvest has begun. Beautiful weather last week allowed some more small square bales to come! **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Heavy showers are really putting a halt on harvesting crops. Upcoming week is looking to be pretty dry but the fields are very wet still. Crop yields are down for strawberries, corn, hay and blueberries due to extreme wet weather conditions and lack of sun and heat. Apples are being harvested and it looks like an okay crop thus far. Some corn silage producers are looking at a good crop while others are waiting for drier weather and letting it mature a little more. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Androscoggin, Oxford and Sagadahoc County report: Potato harvest is underway along with some corn. Crop fields are very wet in areas which has made fall harvesting difficult. Dry Bean harvesting has finally begun in all three counties. Producers have reported their apple crop to be smaller than average this year with scabbing. Pumpkins are filling the farm stands now along with winter squash. Fall has arrived! **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** Some corn silage harvest beginning. Pick your own apples in full swing. Fall vegetables in good supply on farmstands. **Elaine S. Moceus (FSA), Somerset:** Nice week for field work and harvesting hay. Reports of frosts in some areas. Apple harvest continues.. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Corn silage harvest has started in earnest, but rain has caused some issues in wet fields. We need an extended period of dry weather to make harvest go smoothly. Good apple harvest so far.

MASSACHUSETTS – Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden: Sunny and warm week with only one rainy day. A wide array of summer and fall vegetables are being harvested and sold at farm stands and farmers markets. Dairy farmers were harvesting corn silage and hay. Apple producers are reporting a very good crop this year. Vegetable growers are cultivating fall crops and planting a cover crop on harvested fields. **Carolyn DeMoranville (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberry harvest is well underway. Many had to frost protect early in the week. Color continues to develop well.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Donna Juneau (FSA) Belknap/Merrimack: A generally good week for field work with day time temperatures in the 70s. A number of producers took advantage of the dry weather to harvest hay. Temperatures dipped down slightly below freezing on Tuesday night but no overall frost yet. Heavy night time rains fell early Sunday morning (September 22) with over 1/2 inch reported in Concord. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Gorgeous weather all week, with a brief spell of heavy rain Saturday night into early Sunday. Pastures look good, and farms were able to get in hay, haylage, and baleage. Corn chopping in full swing and farms making good progress. Veggies continuing to wind down and farms starting to put fields to bed. Great weather for PYO apples. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Nice stretch of cool, dry weather during the week helps farmers get in an end of season haylage and hay crop. Field corn harvest just beginning on most mature corn, what is coming in looks pretty good. Annual grasses seem to have been the biggest weed control challenge this year. Haven't yet observed any of the Northern Corn Leaf Blight in Coos County, which is troubling some farmers in adjacent NH and VT Counties. Bank Beavers causing some interesting damage, cut out blocks of field corn, along the Connecticut River. Autumn colors beginning across the County, red maple right now. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending September 21st, we received nearly 2 inches of rain. From the 17th through the 20th, sun and dry conditions allowed for haying, chopping corn, and other field activities. Farmers are still struggling to get first cut off of a few wet fields. Corn harvest began on Monday. Yields are down on most farms. Yield losses on some fields are over 50% due to the wet conditions of this past summer. Signs of powdery mildew and other disease problems are beginning to show up in pumpkins and winter squash. The cause again appears to be the wet, rainy conditions of this growing season. One producer reported almost a 100% loss. Farm stands are still providing a seasonal variety of vegetables. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Scattered frost occurred in local area throughout county. Damage to tender plants and crops. Good demand for all vegetables continues. Harvesting wide array of vegetables, including warm season vegetables like tomatoes and peppers. Harvesting cabbage, kale, Brussels sprouts, winter squash and pumpkins. Farmers kept busy disking, cleaning up and planting cover crops on harvested fields. Fruit: Apple harvest is in full swing with most growers concentrating on second picking McIntosh and Gala apples, and working on Cortland and Macoun. Great weekend for Pick-Your-Own orchards. Fall raspberries and pear harvest continued with peach and plum harvest winding down. Field Crops: Silage corn harvest in full swing along with second and third cuts of hay and haylage. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Leafy greens, kale, broccoli, tomatoes, sweet corn, pepper, eggplants, winter squashes, pumpkins, and cut flowers are

harvested and available at farmstands and farmers markets. Apple harvest is going well with good weather as well as pear harvest. Peach season almost over. Cleaning vegetable fields. Silage corn and some other crops ripening delayed as the week started and ended with cold nights and some localized light frost. Haying is being done. **Kelly Greenbacker (FSA), Sullivan:** It was a good week for making dry hay in Sullivan County. Many were chopping corn. Most areas in the county received their first frost Monday/Tuesday as temperatures dipped into the 30s for two nights. Conditions were dry through Saturday. Saturday afternoon into the evening brought light to heavy rains. Apple harvest is in full swing with the trees looking very full this year.

RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties: Saturday night into Sunday morning we had heavy showers. Apple picking is beginning its season and the apples look great. Pumpkins look really good for being planted so late, but they are a good size and color. The color could be a little better as they have some green in them. Potato harvesting is moving along real good.

VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison: Corn silage harvest in full operation. Finishing haylage harvest. Spreading manure on hay fields and corn silage. Frost on corn. **Daniel Hudson (Ext), Caledonia:** Upland corn is below average in yield. River bottom corn looks good. Much corn will be harvested too wet and at an immature stage. Some upland corn has been frosted. Some fields that were water-logged in the spring could have a yield reduction. Northern corn leaf blight has significantly affected some fields. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Great week in Franklin County for third cut hay harvest. Much dry hay and haylage put up. Apples continue to be the crop everyone is talking about. Macs, the king of the crop, are coming into full play. Leaves are a changing to their fall spectacle which will bring people out for the fall harvests. Corn has been frosted in some areas which will bring corn harvest along. Very preliminary word is that yields are better than expected. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** There were a few nice hay days last week and I noticed some really good looking dry square bales harvested. I haven't seen much corn harvested yet. The corn is showing some signs of the recent frost so harvesting will probably start soon. Fall grazing is in full swing. Just in time for the fall tourist to see the cows grazing on the green hillsides. A very pastoral scene.

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