

# Crop Progress & Condition



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

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For week ending 10/20/13

## STRETCH OF DRY, WARM WEATHER

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:** There were 6.3 days suitable for fieldwork across New England for the week ending October 21, 2013. Pasture condition ratings averaged 18 percent poor, 46 percent fair, 32 percent good, and 4 percent excellent. The week was relatively warm with significant day and night temperature swings throughout the week. Average temperatures across the six states ranged from 5 to 9 degrees above normal. Rainfall this week was moderate in Vermont, light to minimal elsewhere. Average precipitation across the six states ranged 0.04 to 0.79 inches.

**FRUIT:** It was another favorable week for pick-your-own orchards which were winding down by week's end. Apples were abundant this year; farm stands and cold storage facilities were filling up with the fruit. Apple crop expectations were high thanks to above average fruit set, size, and quality. Cranberry harvest in Massachusetts was in full swing; crop outlook remained favorable.

**VEGETABLES:** Farmers continued harvesting and marketing a wide array of vegetables all week thanks to favorable weather. Growers throughout New England were still harvesting warm season crops as most of the region did not yet experience a killing frost this year. Vegetable growers also kept busy irrigating crops, cleaning up harvested fields, planting cover crops, and putting equipment away.

**FIELD CROPS:** Farmers took advantage of last week's weather and actively harvested crops, cleaned up fields, spread manure, and planted cover crops such as rye. Warm daytime temperatures allowed for good germination of late season cover crop plantings. The corn silage harvest continued with some farmers switching to soybeans and corn for grain. Northern Corn Leaf Blight was blamed for declines in yield on many fields throughout Northern New England. Most farmers moved on to completing their 3<sup>rd</sup> dry hay cuts; however, a few farmers were yet to finish their 2<sup>nd</sup> cuts. Pasture growth started to slow for winter. An extended period of fair weather in Aroostook County, Maine allowed potato growers to finish their harvest with few interruptions. Growers then proceeded to plow rotated ground and ship their potato crop to market.

### SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week *	Last Year
-- Percent --			
<b>Topsoil</b>			
Very Short	1	N/A	0
Short	7	N/A	0
Adequate	87	N/A	71
Surplus	5	N/A	29
<b>Subsoil</b>			
Very Short	1	N/A	0
Short	18	N/A	0
Adequate	78	N/A	80
Surplus	3	N/A	20

\*Soil ratings for week ending 10/13 unknown due to government shutdown

### FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Set	Fruit Size	Condition
	2013	2012	5-yr Avg			
Apples	90	95	95	Average	Avg/Above	Good/Exc
Peaches	100	100	100	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Pears	99	99	95	Average	Average	Good
Cranberries, MA	70	80	80	Average	Average	Good

### FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2013	2012	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Harvested --				
Barley	100	100	100	Fair/Good
Oats	100	100	100	Good
Potatoes				
Maine	100	95	95	Exc/Good
Mass	99	85	95	Good
Rhode Island	85	80	85	Good/Exc
Field Corn	90	85	90	Good/Fair
Dry Hay				
Second Cut	99	99	99	Good/Fair
Third Cut	80	90	90	Good

**Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics Service**

Prepared By AWIS.com from NWS preliminary data

For the Period: Monday October 14, 2013  
 To: Sunday October 20, 2013

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				CUM SINCE MAR 1 GROWING DEGREE DAYS				1-WEEK PRECIP			4-WEEK CUM PRECIP		
	-----				BASE-50F		BASE-60F		TOTAL	DFN DAYS		TOTAL	DFN DAYS	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	INCHES			INCHES		
<b>MAINE</b>														
Augusta_State_A	40	69	55	+8	2357	+270	935	+189	0.25	-0.63	4	1.33	-1.92	8
Bangor_Intl_Arp	39	68	55	+9	2183	+285	827	+205	0.19	-0.57	4	0.90	-2.07	8
Bethel	37	67	54	+7	2003	+140	702	+106	0.42	-0.45	2	1.41	-1.83	5
Caribou_Municip	37	65	51	+9	1842	+394	595	+217	0.63	-0.06	5	3.03	+0.19	9
Dover-Foxcroft	36	69	52	+8	1951	+356	696	+244	0.25	-0.58	4	1.78	-1.62	8
Frenchville	41	60	50	+8	1603	+260	461	+138	0.61	-0.09	5	2.30	-0.72	10
Houlton	38	63	51	+9	1787	+273	581	+157	0.44	-0.26	2	2.15	-0.76	7
Livermore_Falls	35	71	53	+9	1966	+401	711	+282	0.30	-0.55	3	1.19	-2.08	6
Moosehead	39	64	52	+9	1690	+373	527	+217	0.37	-0.40	4	2.82	-0.30	8
Portland_ME	36	73	56	+8	2371	+439	965	+328	0.25	-0.62	2	0.87	-2.35	5
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>														
Benton	36	67	53	+7	2081	+378	763	+287	0.68	-0.07	4	1.71	-1.14	9
Berlin_AG	40	65	52	+8	1989	+289	691	+194	0.50	-0.32	4	1.11	-1.95	7
Concord	32	74	54	+7	2565	+481	1092	+353	0.19	-0.53	1	1.08	-1.65	3
First_Conn_Lake	38	64	52	+11	1624	+506	510	+305	0.63	-0.21	4	1.52	-1.85	7
Keene_AG	33	71	54	+6	2442	+83	1024	+108	0.20	-0.50	2	1.62	-1.10	6
North_Conway	37	70	53	+8	2071	+158	740	+107	0.46	-0.47	2	1.38	-2.07	7
Rochester	37	71	53	+5	2387	+123	978	+126	0.23	-0.74	1	1.26	-2.21	6
<b>VERMONT</b>														
Bennington_AP	35	68	57	+12	2468	+642	1007	+455	0.27	-0.57	3	2.69	-0.65	8
Burlington_Intl	47	70	58	+11	2841	+623	1273	+432	0.91	+0.28	5	2.32	-0.30	8
Island_Pond	38	64	53	+10	1892	+498	646	+321	0.88	+0.18	4	1.97	-0.83	8
Montpelier	36	63	53	+8	2054	+320	735	+223	1.01	+0.38	4	2.07	-0.45	7
Rochester	36	67	54	+8	2079	+352	756	+252	0.80	-0.04	3	1.74	-1.62	5
Rutland_AG	34	68	54	+5	2164	-172	831	-69	0.62	-0.01	2	1.32	-1.42	5
Springfield_VT	32	69	55	+9	2418	+537	991	+395	0.55	-0.24	2	1.60	-1.50	6
Sutton	35	63	51	+9	1848	+452	614	+277	0.94	+0.17	5	1.74	-1.21	8
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>														
Boston/Logan_In	44	73	59	+5	3238	+426	1573	+345	0.05	-0.68	1	0.52	-2.31	6
Fitchburg	34	75	56	+10	3109	+1225	1501	+903	0.04	-0.71	1	0.92	-1.90	6
Greenfield	35	73	54	+4	2649	+80	1164	+113	0.14	-0.63	2	1.49	-1.59	6
New_Bedford	32	70	55	+0	2882	+11	1311	+41	0.04	-0.74	2	0.93	-2.05	6
Otis_AFB	34	68	55	+4	2658	+363	1142	+277	0.03	-0.84	2	0.30	-3.08	6
Plymouth	32	71	55	+5	2944	+605	1372	+469	0.05	-0.86	2	1.27	-2.32	6
Walpole	36	71	54	+6	2919	+595	1346	+452	0.04	-0.84	1	1.16	-2.24	6
Chicopee/Westov	34	75	56	+3	2873	-97	1338	-12	0.07	-0.74	2	1.81	-1.32	6
Worthington	34	70	52	+5	2113	+231	820	+245	0.16	-0.68	2	1.48	-1.81	6
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>														
Providence	38	71	57	+4	3198	+528	1542	+408	0.04	-0.80	2	0.52	-2.65	6
Woonsocket	35	72	55	+7	3009	+727	1412	+566	0.07	-0.84	1	1.82	-1.67	7
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>														
Bridgeport/Siko	44	72	59	+4	3351	+435	1671	+343	0.02	-0.68	1	0.27	-2.48	4
Hartford/Bradle	38	74	57	+6	3182	+371	1549	+307	0.11	-0.66	2	2.08	-1.14	6
Norfolk	38	67	52	+7	2284	+418	932	+359	0.14	-0.74	2	1.55	-1.97	6
Thomaston_Dam	34	75	55	+5	2770	+476	1294	+448	0.22	-0.67	3	2.10	-1.44	8
Willimantic	36	72	56	+6	2981	+642	1374	+498	0.05	-0.86	1	1.73	-1.91	5

**State Weather Summary**

For the Week Ending Sunday, October 20, 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	75	53	+8	0.06	0.76	0.38	-0.39	3
NH	23	74	53	+8	0.06	0.94	0.36	-0.41	2
VT	30	72	54	+9	0.27	1.46	0.79	+0.09	3
MA	29	76	55	+5	0.03	0.19	0.08	-0.73	2
RI	35	72	57	+5	0.03	0.07	0.04	-0.76	1
CT	34	75	56	+5	0.03	0.22	0.13	-0.66	1

**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:** Only a few fields of corn silage to chop. Some are harvesting grain corn with wide range in yields and moisture, and very low prices. Cattle still on pasture and we have had a couple of frosts as of late. Gardens done and plowed down where frost was hard. Spreading manure and some 2nd/3rd cutting grass as silage was made. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Halloween decorations, hay rides, and corn mazes seem to be the big draws to farms. October has been warmer than normal and crowds have been out. Field crops are in except for grain corn and some fields of sunflowers waiting for the combines. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Warm very dry weather continues. Apple production abundant with cold storage facilities filling up and farm markets full too. Apple prices are down from last year due to supply. Chopping corn finished. Combining corn continues as fields meet moisture levels under 20%. Baling hay, chopping grass. Cleaning up vegetable beds. Farms open for Walktober had good attendance on walks this past weekend.

**MAINE – Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook:** An unexpected stretch of fair weather allowed potato harvest to proceed almost uninterrupted. After a growing season with near record rainfall everyone is worried about breakdown. Soybeans and a small amount of grain are all that's left in the fields. **Don Audibert, (FSA) Northern Aroostook:** Producers are all done harvesting their crop. Are now plowing rotated ground and picking rock piles. A few started shipping their potato crop to market. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Harvesting is winding down for the season. Just a few days of apple picking left. Apple production was above average with a good size. The weather has been dry since mid September and warmer than average. Cooler temperatures are expected next week. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** The conditions were nice and dry for silage corn harvest. Surprisingly some late hay is being harvested. Pasture growth is finally slowing for winter. Grain corn is still drying in the field and soybeans are left to harvest. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis:** Finishing up on the wet areas for corn silage harvest. Pastures and cover crops have grown well this fall. **Caragh Fitzgerald (Ext), Kennebec:** The (relatively) warm, dry weather is helping people get the end of season field work done.

**MASSACHUSETTS – Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** The last few weeks have been excellent weather for harvesting crops. No crop killing frost. Farmers are harvesting apples, cabbage, carrots, broccoli, bok choy, parsnips, pumpkins, potatoes, turnips, and peas. Corn silage harvest has ended and corn grain and soybean harvest has begun. A few growers have taken down tobacco to be bundled for sale. Vegetable growers are removing irrigation pipe and plastic row covers off their fields. Growers are also spreading manure and lime, harrowing harvested fields, and adding a rye cover crop. **Carolyn DeMoranville (Ext), Plymouth:** Temperatures were relatively warm during the past week (61-71 degrees for highs) and rainfall was relatively low. Weather did not affect wet harvesting and dry harvesting may have been delayed on one day due to wet conditions.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE – Donna Juneau (FSA) Belknap/Merrimack:** Temperatures mostly in the 60s this week with some nighttime temperatures dipping down to freezing. Most farmers have harvested their field corn at this point. Pumpkin, potato and squash sales are strong at the farm

stands. **Olivia Sounders (Ext), Carroll:** Pockets of frosts have already occurred with more hard frosts expected this week. Conditions have been dry but warm days have allowed for good germination of late season cover crop plantings. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Corn Silage continues at a good pace, weather generally cooperative although some evening rains making for wet spots in some locations. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** The month of October has provided some of the longest periods of time so far this year without excessively wet soil conditions. There was no rain from the 4th through the 17th of October. Drier conditions in late September prevailed, allowing soils to take in the rainfall that arrived in early October. Many producers have been able to put up a late cutting of hay, and make up for some lost production earlier in the year. Most of the corn has been harvested. There are still a few fields of corn left to combine for grain. Northern Corn Leaf Blight appears to have been more widespread this year. Corn yields are down on many fields, as a result. There has been no hard killing frost through October 20th in most of the lower elevation areas of the county. Producers are planting winter rye on harvested cropland. **Heather Bryant (Ext), Grafton:** Some parts of the county got their first frost this week -- others parts of the county have already had several. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Farm Stands and Pick-your-own apple operations had a beautiful weekend! Apple harvest is winding down, harvesting Rome, Fuji, and Golden Delicious. Starting to picking up drops. Apple Crop is huge, where orchardists are running out of bins. Vegetables: 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 wide array of vegetables including: cabbage, kale, Brussel Sprouts, winter squash and pumpkins. Some warm season crops harvest continues in areas where frost has not occurred. Field Crops: Silage corn chopping finishing up with seeding cover crops on harvested fields. Some manure spreading and incorporating in soil is taking place. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** With the continued nice weather, some warm season crops are still been harvested such as tomatoes, cukes, zucchini, sweet pepper, eggplants. Also harvesting swisschards, Brussels sprouts, scallions, broccoli, spinach and many herbs. Red raspberries, apples are also harvested. Chopping corn and hay been done. PYO apple operations are still busy on weekend. Very little frost and rain came on Thursday evening. Cleaning vegetable fields, spreading lime.

**RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties:** Believe it or not in the last 3 weeks we have had little to no rain. Potato harvest is going along well. Everyone is putting potatoes into storage. They will probably be done within the next week. They would have been done sooner but the weather was too warm. It has been an excellent year for apples. I dare say they are probably 75-80% done, but still some apples around to be picked. Pumpkins were put in late, and most places had a very good crop that ripened. We have not a frost as of yet. Believe it or not there is still a good amount of small vegetables around still. Even sweet corn!! Plenty of peppers, egg plants and the things that are on the short side are tomatoes and summer squash. A lot of butter nut and blue hubbard squash have been picked and stored and should be picked this week. Pastures are pretty well done. Farmers still have not brought their animals in because of the warmth of temperatures and the dryness. They have to feed them outside because there is not enough feed to feed them. The animals look real nice going

into the winter and the pastured animals look real good. Welcome back everyone from the furlough. Talk to you next week.

**VERMONT – Daniel Hudson (Ext), Caledonia:** Wet areas of corn fields performed especially poorly this year. Much of the corn came off below 30% dry matter. Overall, corn silage yields are probably at least 15% below average. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Catch up time for the crop reports. Franklin County has had a good three weeks with Corn harvest. Good reports on yields for the conditions we were in early in the growing season. Still no reports on forage analysis. Apples are on the downhill slide with a great crop in this arena. Fantastic

foliage and weather has brought people out for the you pick experience. Pumpkins are a hit and miss as for yields. Still plenty for pumpkin pies and the great pumpkin Halloween. **David Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** The weather for the past week has been mild days but cold nights. Farmers are harvesting corn now. The corn harvest was delayed due to the crop not drying down enough. Farmers are estimating a 30% loss from the wet growing season and also concerned about the energy value due to the kernels not as dry as they would like. There is still some third and fourth cutting hay going on but most farmers are done for the season.

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