



New England Agricultural Statistics Service

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

22 Bridge St. Third Floor
PO Box 1444
Concord, NH 03302

Aubrey R. Davis, Director
www.usda.gov/nass

603-224-9639
Fax: 603-225-1434
nass-nh@nass.usda.gov



Crop Weather

Volume 24, Number 26

(issued weekly on the Internet, May - October)

October 18, 2004 - 4 pm

For week ending 10/17/04

Harvest Season Nears Completion

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending October 17, 2004, there were 5.9 days available for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture was rated 4 percent short, 90 percent adequate, 6 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 4 percent short, 92 percent adequate, 4 percent surplus. Pasture condition was rated 2 percent very poor, 15 percent poor, 33 percent fair, 43 percent good, 7 percent excellent. A mostly dry week with seasonable temperatures enabled operators to continue with the last of fall harvest activities. Showers that fell across the six-State region on Thursday and Friday helped replenish soil moisture levels to mostly adequate conditions. Major farm activities included: seeding rye for cover on harvested fields; spreading manure; applying lime; chopping corn; haying; pruning blueberry bushes; harvesting apples, pears, cranberries, potatoes; performing general farm maintenance.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil Moisture			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	4	10	1
Adequate	90	83	65
Surplus	6	7	34
Subsoil Moisture			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	4	10	2
Adequate	92	84	83
Surplus	4	6	15

FRUIT: Tree fruit harvest nears completion as late maturing varieties of apples are left to be picked along with the last of the pears. Only a few pick-your-own stands are still open. Cranberry harvest continued in Massachusetts. Some growers expressed disappointment with berry size but were still pleased with the color and quality of the crop.

FIELD CROPS: Harvest of most crops is winding down for the season. Silage growers were busy chopping as there is still a good amount of standing corn to harvest. Growers reported having a quality crop in storage and good tonnage. The summer rains made for a tough season for making dry hay, however, there is plenty of hay available in most areas, although the quality is lower than normal. Only one percent of potatoes remain for harvest in Maine while Massachusetts potato harvest is not far behind with only ten percent of the crop left for harvest.

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2004	2003	5-yr Avg	
Apples	90	90	90	Good/Excel
Pears	90	95	90	Good
Cranberries, MA	85	80	75	Good/Fair

VEGETABLES: Vegetable growers were busy during the week trying to wrap up harvest of brussel sprouts, cabbage, kale, and winter squash. Business at farm stands has been brisk throughout the Fall harvest season; pumpkins, mums, and corn stalks are still selling well.

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2004	2003	5-yr Avg	Condition
	-- Percent Harvested --			
Potatoes:				
Maine	99	99	95	Good
Mass	90	80	90	Good
Silage Corn	85	95	90	Good/Excel
Dry Hay:				
Second Cut	99	99	99	Good
Third Cut	85	85	90	Good/Fair

This is the final New England Crop Weather report for 2004. This weekly report would not have been possible without the voluntary efforts of our reporters. We wish to thank all of them for their help in making this a timely, accurate report. We look forward to their continued support next May, when the 2005 crop season begins.

Although every report is important, special recognition is deserved by those who have been able to respond on a regular basis throughout the six-month growing season. Reporting is a significant commitment, and their faithful cooperation helps the New England Crop Weather release to be a consistent, high quality product.

For the Week Ending Sunday, October 17, 2004

The 41 stations shown below were limited by space but were well distributed across the region. All 86 stations appear on the Internet and in e-mail subscriptions.

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 INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL		DFN	DAYS
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN				INCHES	DFN		
MAINE															
Augusta State_A	42	69	54	+6	2108	+23	728	-18	1.87	+1.01	4	2.03	-1.18	9	
Bangor_Intl_Arp	37	68	55	+7	2015	+119	693	+71	2.33	+1.59	5	2.45	-0.52	7	
Bethel	33	70	51	+5	1876	+15	576	-20	2.56	+1.71	5	2.85	-0.35	7	
Caribou_Municip	30	63	50	+7	1533	+85	446	+68	1.35	+0.67	4	1.43	-1.43	7	
Dover-Foxcroft	34	70	52	+8	1534	-61	419	-33	0.54	-0.27	4	0.59	-2.83	5	
Frenchville	30	63	49	+6	1416	+73	382	+59	1.14	+0.44	4	1.28	-1.78	8	
Houlton	29	66	51	+7	1586	+72	490	+66	1.87	+1.17	4	2.02	-0.93	7	
Livermore_Falls	32	72	52	+7	1945	+380	665	+236	2.17	+1.33	5	2.41	-0.85	7	
Moosehead	28	65	47	+4	1351	+34	304	-6	2.16	+1.41	4	2.25	-0.89	6	
Portland_ME	39	71	55	+6	2097	+167	733	+96	1.69	+0.84	4	2.06	-1.11	7	
NEW HAMPSHIRE															
Benton	33	65	48	+2	1769	+68	523	+47	0.91	+0.18	4	0.97	-1.86	6	
Berlin_AG	33	67	49	+4	1785	+86	543	+46	1.42	+0.62	3	1.61	-1.41	6	
Concord	34	71	54	+6	2488	+406	993	+254	1.26	+0.56	2	1.92	-0.77	5	
Diamond_Pond	31	62	45	+3	1149	+31	201	-4	1.49	+0.65	5	1.99	-1.40	9	
Keene_AP	28	68	51	+1	2325	-30	862	-54	0.57	-0.13	2	1.30	-1.42	6	
North_Conway	36	70	52	+7	2076	+165	729	+96	1.76	+0.85	3	1.82	-1.57	6	
Rochester	37	71	53	+3	2199	-61	807	-45	1.50	+0.55	2	2.06	-1.35	5	
VERMONT															
Burlington_Intl	32	68	51	+4	2426	+210	977	+136	0.56	-0.07	4	1.12	-1.52	7	
Island_Pond	29	69	47	+4	1645	+251	460	+135	1.02	+0.32	5	1.26	-1.54	9	
Montpelier	33	66	49	+4	2004	+272	674	+162	0.79	+0.16	4	0.85	-1.67	8	
Pownal	37	63	48	+2	2087	+263	667	+115	0.95	+0.11	3	2.45	-0.89	9	
Rochester	30	70	49	+3	1977	+252	634	+130	0.87	+0.03	3	0.97	-2.39	4	
Rutland_AG	29	69	49	-2	2065	-267	694	-206	0.67	+0.04	3	0.96	-1.82	6	
Sutton	33	67	47	+5	1606	+210	429	+92	0.97	+0.20	4	1.28	-1.67	7	
Townshend_Lake	36	68	50	+2	2127	-75	710	-113	1.28	+0.55	3	2.91	+0.07	8	
MASSACHUSETTS															
Ashburnham	37	67	52	+5	2305	+423	850	+252	1.11	+0.38	3	3.26	+0.48	8	
Boston/Logan_In	46	69	57	+3	2894	+90	1293	+65	1.31	+0.60	4	4.05	+1.24	8	
Greenfield	34	68	51	-2	2502	-61	989	-62	1.56	+0.79	3	3.97	+0.89	10	
New_Bedford	40	68	55	-1	2573	-288	1037	-233	1.64	+0.87	4	4.94	+1.97	12	
Otis_AFB	41	66	54	+2	2491	+202	1018	+153	0.79	-0.06	5	4.39	+1.05	9	
Plymouth	41	68	56	+4	2499	+165	1015	+112	1.19	+0.29	6	4.25	+0.66	14	
Walpole	39	70	54	+4	2647	+327	1104	+210	1.32	+0.46	3	5.06	+1.68	8	
Chicopee/Westov	30	70	52	-2	2790	-172	1209	-141	0.54	-0.25	2	3.04	-0.09	6	
Worthington	34	72	49	+2	2011	+132	638	+63	1.45	+0.61	4	4.90	+1.61	9	
RHODE ISLAND															
Providence	42	69	56	+3	2917	+254	1294	+160	1.24	+0.40	3	4.69	+1.54	9	
Woonsocket	39	72	54	+5	2621	+342	1083	+237	1.03	+0.12	3	3.66	+0.19	9	
CONNECTICUT															
Bridgeport/Siko	47	70	58	+3	3212	+306	1522	+194	0.76	+0.06	3	3.53	+0.78	8	
Hartford/Bradle	36	71	54	+2	2991	+186	1371	+129	0.89	+0.12	2	4.05	+0.81	8	
Norfolk	35	59	48	+2	2164	+300	745	+172	1.23	+0.37	3	4.31	+0.79	7	
Thomaston_Dam	37	68	52	+0	2773	+485	1192	+346	1.06	+0.19	3	3.88	+0.34	8	
Willimantic	33	70	53	+3	2706	+372	1128	+252	1.24	+0.33	3	3.70	+0.06	9	

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.

Copyright 2004: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.
 For detailed ag weather forecasts and data visit the AWIS home page at www.awis.com or call toll free at 1-888-798-9955.

STATE WEATHER SUMMARY
 For the Week Ending Sunday, October 17, 2004

Stat	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	LO	HI	AVG	DF	LO	HI
ME	28	74	51	+6	0.54	3.65
NH	22	72	50	+4	0.57	2.80
VT	25	71	48	+3	0.40	2.03
MA	30	74	54	+3	0.54	1.64
RI	39	72	56	+3	1.03	2.00
CT	33	73	53	+1	0.76	1.35

Prepared by AWIS, Inc.

REPORTERS COMMENTS, By County: *Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS), or other knowledgeable individuals.*

CONNECTICUT - Howard Rood (FSA),

Fairfield/Litchfield: Nearly all of the silage corn has been harvested. Farmers are reporting good yields of grain corn.
Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland: Many have completed corn silage harvest while a few are still at it. Vegetable growers were boxing winter squash for market and shipping pumpkins to retail outlets. Cover crop seeded and harrowed in. Starting to take down and bundle broadleaf tobacco. Grain corn close to combining.
Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham: Pick your own apples still doing well with adequate apples hanging on for great weekends. Fall foliage spectacular brought people out to orchards, greenhouses, and Quinebaug-Shetucket Heritage Corridor Walking Weekends on several farms. Corn winding down with some fields left for later picking. Vine crops like squash and pumpkin production range from good to poor. Grapes finished light, peaches varied by area. Nice fall to finish up field work. Haying, applying rye cover, manure spreading, and putting equipment away till spring.
Karen Vozarik (FSA), New Haven: Silage harvest stopped for two days from the rain. Pear harvest was poor this year. Apples and pumpkins yields are very good.
Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative: Still picking some high moisture ear corn, and waiting for a little grain corn to finish drying. Majority of field crop farmers are finished with harvest.

MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook: Potatoes and small grains: All crops have been harvested. Most Fall work completed, great weather for getting field work done. Rain has improved soil moisture; makes Fall tillage easier.
Albert Dow (NRCS), Piscataquis: Excellent weather for harvesting. Over an inch and a quarter of rain Friday night and Saturday.
Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo: Another pretty good week weather wise. One inch plus of rain will make the last of the corn silage harvest a little messy and make manure spreading a little slick.
Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln: Silage corn harvest completed in this area. Corn stalks and pumpkins for Fall decorating are at farm stands. Plenty of apples and cider.
Michael Tardy (FSA), Androscoggin: This week's weather was helpful for harvesting. Nearly all silage corn growers have completed harvesting with a quality crop in storage. Wide array of vegetables, including cabbage, brussels sprouts, winter squash, pumpkins and potatoes being picked. Fall foliage is at its peak, a pretty sight.
Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York: Harvest activities are winding down, as corn growers are finishing silage harvest this week. Time to start preparing for the upcoming winter. Fire wood dealers are having a hard time keeping up with demand.
Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin: Harvest of most crops is done. It is very hard to dry hay now unless there is a stiff wind. Some topsoil conditions are very wet. Grain corn and soybeans left to go.
Laura Rand (FSA), Oxford: This has been a busy week for getting in corn. Producers are trying to complete harvest of corn, potatoes, pumpkins, squash, and other vegetables. Several areas have reported rain on Friday night of 2-3 inches.

MASSACHUSETTS - Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire: Cloudy and cool week. Farmers are finishing up corn chopping. Doing more second third cutting; some dry & some haylage. Most vine crops harvested, good yields but some veggies are rotting in bins.
Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth: Cranberries: Harvesting continues, with dry harvesting impeded by dew deposition or rainfall of several days. Crop reports are still good ones, although size of berries has disappointed some growers. Color and quality are still excellent. Many growers finished with harvest are putting things away for the season.

Jay Otto (FSA), Bristol: Some scattered showers during the week slowed the corn chopping down. Looks like the weekend turned out better. Fall like temperatures were around over the weekend brought out people for farm stand activities.
John Devine (FSA), Franklin: Wet field conditions are delaying the final harvest on silage and potato acreage. Grain corn is drying down nicely and harvesting should begin this week. Roadside stand sales have been good but pumpkins are breaking down quickly. Squash and pumpkin losses are much higher than normal. Farmers are also reporting moisture damage to the tobacco crop during the curing process.
Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden: Harvesting potatoes, apples, and corn for grain. Farmers are pruning blueberry bushes, applying rye cover crop, picking up irrigation pipe and liming fields. Rain showers at the end of the week brought a tobacco damp. Growers then started taking down their crop for stripping.
Gary Guida, Worcester: Well, so ends another year! Winterizing equipment and some chopping of corn going on. Farm stands wrapping up with final fall sales. Very challenging year for me with many trials and tribulations. Have a warm, safe, winter and enjoy the company of your family and friends. Take time to appreciate the winter and have a well deserved rest.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll: Another growing season draws to a close. The last of the fall lime applications are going down, and home gardens are being put to bed for the winter. Foliage past peak. Pumpkins and mums still selling well at farm stands. See you all in the spring!
Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire: Cool fall conditions prevailed for most of the week - a little sun, a little rain, a little frost. A few farms chopping the last remaining corn, but most are done and are spreading manure and/or putting down winter rye. A few farms taking fourth cut on alfalfa and grass. Still plenty of apples and some pumpkins for sale, other local produce limited to kale, brussel sprouts and the like. All in all, not a bad season.
Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos: Cool rainy end of week for what has been a long stretch of dry weather. Most of the field corn now in, is being packed in bunk silos. Still a fair amount of standing corn to come in; now drying down quickly after successive frost freeze periods we have been experiencing. General late season clean up. Manure hauling. Cows still finding some pasture in what has been a long Fall season. Pumpkins, mums, and corn stalks are available for sale. Autumn colors still holding well. Geese are flying. See you next year.
Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton: Corn harvest is nearly completed. Some last minute alfalfa and haylage is being chopped. Everything considered, this summer was a good crop year for most farmers. It was tough to make dry hay, but if haylage was an option, you could more easily work around the showers. Bunker silos are full, and there is no shortage of feed this year.
George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough: Apple harvest winding up. Harvesting Red Delicious, Rome and other late maturing apple varieties. Only the final picking of Golden Delicious and Fuji remains. Pear harvest is done. Cleaning up drops apples and putting orchard equipment away. Farm stands and Pick-Your-Own apple operations had a busy weekend! Vegetables: Continued harvesting pumpkins, squash, and cool season crops like cabbage, kale, brussel sprouts, lettuce and greens. Farmers kept busy pulling plastic mulch & tomato stakes, mowing and disking fields, cleaning up fields, planting cover crops, and putting away equipment. Field Crops: Corn silage cutting is coming to an end and seeding cover crops on harvested fields. Some manure spreading and incorporating in soil is taking place.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: A soaking rain with some high winds stalled some of the last field corn chopping. Winter cover crops look good. Cole crops still in fields along with some winter squash and root crops. Corn mazes, roadside stands, apple picking and cider making are the favor of the hour.

VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille: End of week brought about an inch of much needed rain. Corn and grass harvest is winding down. Soybean harvest is progressing nicely. Lots of manure being spread on harvested corn fields. Most of the vegetable crops are in now except for the frost tolerant root crops. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Almost all cropping is done for the season. There is still a little corn out there to be chopped. Farmers are spreading manure, tilling corn fields and plowing grassland in preparation for next spring. All and all it has been a good season for quantity of feed however quality of hay suffered from all of the rain we got during the summer. The nice fall allowed corn to mature so most farmers are happy with their corn yields and quality. Dry hay is at a premium this year due to the bad weather. **Perley Sparrow (FSA), Windham:** Most all corn silage harvest is completed. Third cut alfalfa for haylage is in progress along with some balelage. Manure spreading has started on corn land and on

hay fields. Apple harvest is just about finished with only a few pick-your-own stands still open. Fall raspberries are in all farm markets along with some late sweet corn. Here in Windham county we have not had a killing frost yet. Goodbye for another year and hope everybody has a good winter. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** It is about the end of the season. Nearly all of the corn is chopped and in the bunkers; looks pretty good. Just about all of the hay that can be harvested is done. Could be better, quite a lot of it, but the quality isn't so good, especially that first cut. Forage supply is sufficient to get through to green grass, but quality is not the best. Farmers now working on getting those manure pits emptied. It seems as though pits were made to hold a certain amount. Now herd sizes have crept up, and high producing cows eat more than they used to, so manure quantity per cow has crept up. It is real important to get those pits as empty as possible to avoid those full pit problems in the late winter. I guess Columbus Day was about peak foliage, lots of leaves came down over the weekend. I would have appreciated more reds and red-orange in the leaves. Next year will be a dandy. **Heather Darby (Ext), Franklin:** Corn silage harvest continues. Cover crops being planted and manure being spread. Some fall tillage.

To receive this report, send an e-mail message to listserv@newsbox.usda.gov and in the body, type **subscribe usda-new-eng-crop-weather**

Aubrey R. Davis, Director

Statistician: Dianne Johnson

Joe Samson, Deputy Director

Stat Assistant: Lynne Arsenault

PRESORTED
 FIRST CLASS
 POSTAGE & FEES PAID
 USDA
 PERMIT NO. G-38

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
 NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
 POST OFFICE BOX 1444
 CONCORD NH 03302-1444
 ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED