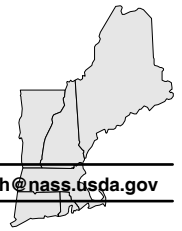




New England Agricultural Statistics



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September 18, 2006 – 4 pm

For week ending 9/17/06

Crop Weather

A Light Frost to Start the Week

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending September 17, 2006, there were 6.4 days available for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture: 6% short, 86% adequate, 8% surplus. Subsoil moisture: 3% short, 87% adequate, 10% surplus. Pasture condition: 8% poor, 25% fair, 53% good, 14% excellent. The week began with dry weather, cooler than normal temperatures, and morning frosts in low lying areas. Crop damage was reported as minor, but the cool weather did add needed color to cranberries in Massachusetts. Showers came to the region Thursday and Friday. Parts of Connecticut received over an inch of new rain, adding frustration to growers of vegetables, field corn, and hay. Clearer skies and seasonable temperatures returned by the weekend for most of the region, giving a boost to retail sales at farm stands.

FRUIT: Fall raspberry, grape, and pear harvest continued this week, while peach and plum harvest began to wind down. Farm stands and pick-your-own apple operations kept busy with the weekend's dry weather as more varieties of apples became available this week including Cortland, Gala, McIntosh, and Honeycrisp varieties. Producers mowed orchard floors to make picking easier. Orchardists in New Hampshire reported apple size and color looked good, but remained concerned with apple drop from the wind and rain showers and low seed count from those apples which did drop. Wet and dry harvesting of cranberries began slowly this week. Growers noted that the week's cooler nighttime temperatures added color to the berries, but there is a significant amount of injury from fruitworm.

VEGETABLES: Vegetable producers continued to harvest a wide array of summer and fall vegetable crops. Farm stands kept busy over the weekend selling sweet corn, ornamental corn, corn stalks, cantaloupe, watermelon, tomatoes, peppers, lettuce, parsnips, pumpkins, winter squash, and fall mums. Many growers noted that this year's pumpkin and winter squash crop have suffered due to poor pollination and wet spring and summer conditions which brought powdery mildew. Growers in New Hampshire reported damage to tomatoes by the week's cold temperatures, and were worried that cool nights may prevent tomatoes from ripening. Farmers started to clean up harvested fields this week, put away irrigation equipment, and plant cover crops.

FIELD CROPS: Tobacco harvest in the Connecticut River Valley wound down this week; producers mowed down shade tobacco stalks in preparation for planting cover crops. More field corn was chopped for silage and more second and third cut hay was baled this week, with quality varying widely across the region. Drier and less humid conditions were welcome to many hay and corn silage producers this week, but farmers with fields in low lying areas continue to report that conditions remain too wet to harvest field corn or cut hay. In addition, cold humid nights leading to morning fog and dew have made drying hay more difficult. Small grain harvest continued in Maine this week; several growers are reporting that barley and oat yields will be lower this year due to clover taking over the fields. Potato harvest in Northern Maine continued on a limited basis this week. Many producers continued to desiccate vines and prepare harvesting equipment.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	0	6
Short	6	2	28
Adequate	86	92	65
Surplus	8	6	1
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	0	7
Short	3	1	25
Adequate	87	90	67
Surplus	10	9	1

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	- Percent Harvested -			Fruit Size	Condition
	2006	2005	5-yr Avg		
Apples	40	35	40	Average	Good
Peaches	95	95	90	Average	Good
Pears	55	40	40	Average	Good/Fair
Blueberries					
Highbush	100	100	99	Avg/Above Avg	Good
Cranberries, MA	<5	5	5	Average	Good/Excellent

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	- Percent Harvested -			Condition
	2006	2005	5-yr Avg	
--Percent Harvested--				
Barley, ME	95	85	85	Good/Fair
Oats, ME	90	80	70	Good/Excellent
Potatoes				
Maine	5	5	10	Good/Excellent
Mass	25	50	40	Good/Excellent
Rhode Island	70	75	75	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	10	25	20	Fair/Good
Sweet Corn	90	90	90	Good
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	99	99	99	Good/Fair
Shade	100	99	99	Fair/Good
Dry Hay				
First Cut	100	100	100	Fair/Good
Second Cut	95	90	95	Good/Fair
Third Cut	45	55	60	Good/Fair

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics
Prepared By AWIS, Inc.

For the Period: Monday September 11, 2006
To: Sunday September 17, 2006

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	42	77	60	+0	2140	+194	914	+178	0.02	-0.68	2	2.85	+0.00	12
Bangor Intl_Arp	37	79	59	+0	2078	+302	853	+238	0.03	-0.81	2	3.31	+0.11	13
Bethel	35	77	57	-2	1869	+116	717	+126	0.06	-0.71	2	2.06	-1.29	8
Caribou Municip	32	75	55	+2	1705	+303	588	+210	0.03	-0.80	1	1.23	-2.23	8
Dover-Foxcroft	36	73	55	-2	1539	+12	521	+69	0.05	-0.86	1	2.01	-1.55	10
Frenchville	33	73	55	+3	1575	+272	510	+187	0.05	-0.81	2	1.34	-2.25	9
Houlton	30	75	56	+3	1751	+286	639	+215	0.02	-0.82	2	2.03	-1.53	12
Livermore Falls	33	79	57	+2	1916	+418	755	+326	0.02	-0.82	1	2.58	-0.98	9
Moosehead	31	77	53	-1	1452	+185	471	+161	0.18	-0.66	2	2.16	-1.24	10
Portland_ME	40	79	60	+2	2120	+321	897	+265	0.07	-0.63	1	2.15	-0.62	9
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	33	72	55	-3	1752	+146	648	+172	0.17	-0.57	1	2.23	-1.06	8
Berlin AG	34	73	55	-3	1743	+128	635	+138	0.21	-0.56	2	2.53	-0.93	8
Bethlehem	36	77	58	+1	1939	+335	780	+304	0.20	-0.53	2	1.94	-1.52	12
Concord	34	79	59	-1	2304	+354	1032	+300	0.32	-0.31	1	1.87	-0.88	9
Diamond Pond	33	68	52	-1	1228	+148	356	+151	0.25	-0.69	2	2.83	-1.33	10
Keene AP	36	73	57	-5	2166	-16	937	+40	0.12	-0.58	1	1.17	-1.90	10
North Conway	37	77	58	-1	2030	+222	822	+191	0.41	-0.36	3	2.35	-1.03	10
Rochester	39	76	58	-4	2152	+61	925	+89	0.45	-0.26	1	2.45	-0.54	8
VERMONT														
Burlington Intl	38	75	59	+0	2390	+313	1093	+262	0.34	-0.43	1	2.74	-0.66	8
Island Pond	33	72	55	-1	1655	+329	576	+251	0.21	-0.58	2	1.44	-2.26	10
Montpelier	37	73	57	+0	2010	+377	791	+285	0.25	-0.41	3	2.53	-0.51	14
Pownal	38	70	56	-3	1957	+250	769	+224	1.41	+0.50	3	3.04	-0.71	12
Rochester	37	77	56	-2	1841	+225	689	+193	0.20	-0.69	2	1.89	-1.97	10
Rutland AG	35	72	56	-5	2027	-129	826	-48	0.23	-0.61	4	2.13	-1.46	13
Springfield_VT	37	75	58	-2	2146	+377	911	+322	0.20	-0.64	4	2.87	-0.62	17
Sutton	36	71	55	+1	1596	+258	534	+197	0.37	-0.42	2	1.83	-1.83	10
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	50	74	62	-3	2680	+162	1348	+181	0.30	-0.40	1	2.36	-0.60	9
Fitchburg	40	79	59	+2	2533	+765	1233	+638	0.41	-0.29	1	4.46	+1.57	11
Greenfield	38	76	57	-7	2305	-38	1037	+22	0.45	-0.34	2	4.11	+0.85	16
New Bedford	39	77	59	-8	2373	-177	1089	-106	0.54	-0.24	2	3.27	-0.25	10
Otis_AFB	45	72	60	-4	2309	+237	1026	+191	0.09	-0.68	2	2.68	-0.42	11
Plymouth	39	74	59	-5	2374	+246	1115	+238	0.37	-0.61	2	3.10	-0.78	12
Walpole	38	78	58	-4	2457	+315	1179	+309	0.29	-0.56	2	2.91	-0.67	11
Chicopee/Westov	35	79	58	-8	2436	-250	1116	-172	0.36	-0.48	1	4.24	+0.88	11
Worthington	35	77	56	-4	1938	+196	780	+214	0.60	-0.24	1	3.88	+0.34	11
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	47	78	63	-3	2791	+388	1396	+315	1.03	+0.19	2	3.74	+0.38	10
Woonsocket	39	78	59	-3	2466	+357	1175	+345	0.65	-0.26	2	4.89	+1.25	11
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	47	75	64	-4	2822	+231	1409	+164	1.78	+1.04	3	10.66	+7.79	12
Hartford/Bradle	40	82	62	-3	2813	+241	1421	+220	1.02	+0.11	2	3.82	+0.25	10
Norfolk	38	77	57	-2	2092	+350	896	+330	1.93	+0.95	3	5.70	+1.64	12
Thomaston Dam	41	77	60	-3	2465	+375	1147	+333	1.56	+0.63	2	5.70	+1.83	15
Willimantic	38	78	60	-3	2566	+433	1221	+373	0.84	-0.07	2	3.68	+0.07	12

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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1-888-798-9955.

STATE WEATHER SUMMARY

For the Week Ending Sunday, September 17, 2006

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	L	HI	AV	DF	LO	HI
ME	29	82	57	-1	0.00	0.33
NH	25	79	56	-2	0.12	0.89
VT	29	77	56	-2	0.07	1.41
MA	31	81	59	-4	0.03	1.67
RI	39	78	62	-3	0.52	1.03
CT	37	82	61	-4	0.65	1.93

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: Many fields are too wet to harvest field corn and second and third cuttings of hay. Frost is forecast this coming week. **Jude Boucher (Ext), Tolland:** There was ice on the car windshield on Tuesday morning in Tolland, even though the thermometer up on the deck read 37 degrees. No sign of cold injury to crops yet. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Several in the river valley harvesting corn silage. Those in the hills are waiting for corn to mature and dry some more. Sweet corn winding down but some still have more for their own stands. Second and third cut grass are being harvested prior to corn harvest. Mums, pumpkins, corn stalks, and Indian corn showing up at farm stands. Mildew on vine crops has finished many for the season. Picking up plastic off fields and putting irrigations equipment away. Some frost noted last Tuesday morning but no damage reported. Mowing down shade tobacco stalks to get ready for cover crop. Broad leaf harvest is complete for nearly all growers. **Frank Himmelstein (Ext), New London:** Another difficult week for making dry hay. A long dry stretch of weather with low humidity has been rare for most of the season. Some round bales were made during the week. May planted corn seems ready to cut, however, the majority of the silage corn in the county is far from dried down enough to harvest. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Finishing third cutting. New London County did not experience a frost. Corn chopping in full swing, with various yields being reported due to earlier conditions in the spring. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Chopping corn, ruts in fields are a problem, corn varies from good height-small ears, to short stalks-big ears, to not much there at all, pick your own apples gradually adding more varieties, mowing orchards for PYO ease, a few peaches available, rainy Saturday's a drag for Farmers Markets and PYO and for mum sales. Farmers discouraged about finances. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** Another rain soaked week. Almost all of the vegetable crops are coming to an early end of season. They just cannot take in any more moisture. The weather finally cleared up on Saturday and some drying out took place.

MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook: Potatoes and small grains: Potato harvesting continues on a limited basis. Most potatoes harvested are either going directly to the processor or are being shipped to market, very few going into storage. Small grain harvest nearly completed. Fall tillage continues as does lime spreading. Yield and quality of potato crop is very good however late maturing varieties tend to run small due to the dry conditions at the end of the growing season. Most potato fields have at least one application of vine kill. Early maturing potato varieties are completely dead. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Farmers are vine killing and getting all equipment ready for harvest. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Corn silage harvest has started as many low fields have had a killing frost. Dry weather conditions for once. Lots of second cutting hay being baled. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Sweet corn is winding down, fresh apples are at farm stands. Haying continues now that the weather has improved. Perfect weekend weather for the last summer weekend! Leaves are beginning to turn color along low lying meadows and streams. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Nice fall weather for most of the week. Some silage is being harvested. Apple harvest is in full swing. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Androscoggin/Franklin:** Great week for field work - excellent weekend weather. Hay is still being harvested. Pumpkins, sweet corn and apples are for sale at roadside markets. Some apple producers have very low yields at this time, possibly due to early frosts when pollination should have occurred. Fall is in the air.

MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: The county saw two inches of rain on Thursday, but ended with a beautiful weekend with temps in the 70's and 80's. We dodged

frost early in the week with overnight temps in the mid to upper 30s. Maple trees stressed from the caterpillar invasion are starting to turn and going right to brown. Corn yields will be low and the hay crop will be smaller with reduced quality. Farmers have been playing catch-up all summer from the wet spring. This was a good week for farm stand sales and farm tours for school kids are starting, farmers markets did brisk business with the great weekend weather. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Cranberry harvesting began on a limited basis last week, with both wet and dry harvesting being done. Two frost nights mid-week should have helped to color the berries. At this point, color is much better than it was one year ago. There is some fruit rot out there, but not much so far. There is a significant amount of fruit worm-injured fruit. Harvesting will continue at a limited basis this coming week. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Franklin/Hampshire/Hampden:** It was a beautiful week for harvesting fall crops. Harvesting of winter squash, parsnips, Indian corn, potatoes, pumpkins, mums, apples, peaches, and corn silage. Farmers are applying a cover crop on many harvested fields. Irrigation pipe and plastic mulch are being removed from harvested fields. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** Spotty frost here this week, minor crop damage. Sweet corn is still being picked. Summer crops just about finished. Pumpkins coming on farm stands and stores still half green, season running out for ripening on the vine. Fall squashes now appearing. Growers are starting to till under sweet corn fields for cover crops. Good weekend for second cut hay, and retail sales at area farm stands.

New Hampshire - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap: We're in the midst of the apple harvest. Cortland, McIntosh, and Honeycrisp are available, as well as many more. Fall raspberries are ready. Sweet corn, cantaloupe, watermelon and many summer vegetables are being harvested. Fall mum sales are going strong. **Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll:** Valley frost on Monday and Tuesday night, limited impact, but surely a reminder of things to come. Beautiful weekend, enough sun and heat to dry some beautiful second and third cut hay. Mums are looking fantastic, farm stands all primed for the fall foliage season. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** A little bit of everything this past week - warm, cool, dry, & rainy. Some northern corn leaf blight showing up here and there on both field and sweet corn, but not very devastating. Corn chopping has started in earnest. A bit of haylage or baleage harvested, but not very ideal conditions for dry hay. Farm stands still offering corn, tomatoes, peppers, lettuce. PYO apples are going strong. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Light frosts, although down into high 20's in colder parts of the county; trending warmer at end of week. Apple picking has begun especially McIntosh. Third cut hay coming in as conditions permit. Field corn moving into dough stages farmers prepare for harvest. Vines on potatoes are about to be killed, smaller patches being dug. Mums, decorative crops, pumpkins, etc. Frost could have been worse. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Third cut continuing, quality good to excellent. Corn silage continues to mature. Some early chopping to open up fields, nothing significant. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** There was a little bit of rain up here this past week. Soil conditions are drying out and fields that have been inaccessible all summer are now beginning to dry down. The better drained river bottom fields are looking good. Some corn fields have a good crop on them, and some are not as good. There is a lot of late cut hay on the side hill fields, not very good quality in some cases. however, farmers are harvesting what they can off these fields. Drying hay this time of the year is more difficult. The pumpkin crop has suffered this summer due to poor pollination from wet cool conditions earlier this season. Winter squash is in the same condition. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Apple harvest is in full swing with most growers concentrate picking McIntosh apples, also harvesting Gala and Honeycrisp apples. Fruit size is good, but bruising can be a problem. are saying this is best early coloring of apples we have seen. Many orchardist

are saying this is best early coloring of apples we have seen. Seeing apples drop with wind and rain showers. Some of the apples that have dropped have low seed count which is a sign of poor pollination in the spring and others are being pushed off because of large size apples. Fall raspberries and pear harvest continued with peach and plum harvest is winding up. Vegetables: Harvesting wide array of summer and fall vegetable crops. Farmers are starting to clean up harvested fields, put away irrigation equipment and plant cover crops. Pumpkin crop and winter squash yields have varied from field to field. Field Crops: Farmers soon to be chopping corn silage and hay cutting continued during the week, with the second and third cuttings being made. Cover crops were being planted in harvested fields. Weather: Some localized light frost occurred beginning of week. **Sadie Puglisi (Ext), Merrimack:** Apple picking is in full swing. Farmer's markets are staying fairly busy. Cool night temperatures and frost in some areas of the county are slowing things down and some tomatoes are being hit hard by the drop in temperatures. Pumpkins are selling well. Cut flowers still look good despite the cool weather. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Great and pleasant week-end for PYO apples. Harvesting many apple varieties, Bartlett pears, fall raspberries, grapes, peaches and array of vegetables including tomatoes and sweet corn, and small pumpkins. Hay, haylage being done and some field corn being chopped. Cider and mums with different colors are available. We have had some rain on one night but mainly a sunny week. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** Great week for field work. Hay producers continue to cut grass for hay and haylage. Vegetable growers continue to harvest an array of vegetables including sweet corn and pumpkins. Growers are concerned that fruit on field tomatoes may not ripen due to cool nights. Fruit growers are harvesting apples, fall raspberries and the last late varieties of peaches. Growers are also pruning summer raspberries and weeding new plantings of strawberries. Garden centers, greenhouse and nurseries selling fall mums and trees and shrubs. They are also

monitoring poinsettia for diseases and pests and spraying as needed. Fruit growers were busy harvesting peaches and early apples. Vegetable growers harvesting an array of vegetable crops including pumpkins and sweet corn. Garden centers busy selling fall mums trees and shrubs.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: Chopping field corn, harvesting potatoes, sweet corn, pumpkins, squashes and summer vegetables. Some rain late in the week stalled field work. Oats in nursery land look great. Apples are in good shape, peaches winding down. Some haying done in the first part of the week, cold wet nights haven't done it much good.

VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille: Last week brought warmer than average and dry weather for harvesting second and third cuts of grass. Corn is maturing nicely but some vegetable crops including pumpkins in some locations have done very poorly as a result of the wet spring and early summer. Lack of a killing frost to date has been very beneficial for those crops that are "trying to catch up". **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** There were two mornings of frost in the county last week. You can see some of the corn drying down from these frosts. Farmers have begun to harvest corn. The quality of the corn varies widely from very poor to good. I haven't seen any excellent corn this year. Even on the good fields the corn stocks are short and small in diameter. Landowners have been able to harvest some nice third cut hay. Pastures continue to grow so there is still some good grazing out there. **Jeffrey Carter (Ext), Addison:** Continued hay harvest, some finishing first cut dry hay, second cut hay and haylage, a little third cut alfalfa/grass being taken. Trying to finish hay harvesting, and starting corn harvest. Just now starting to open fields for chopping corn silage. Very little harvest so far, very late maturity. Very low yields, up to 1/3 fields either with no ear development or stunted and yellow with small ears and plant height less than 5 feet. Very discouraged farmers. Excessive leaf diseases on corn, very heavy dew and fog every morning. Rust disease on pasture grasses.

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

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