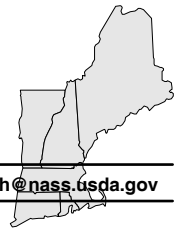




New England Agricultural Statistics



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September 25, 2006 – 4 pm

For week ending 9/24/06

Crop Weather

Sunny Days and Cool Temperatures

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending September 24, 2006, there were 5.8 days available for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture: 3% short, 89% adequate, 8% surplus. Subsoil moisture: 1% short, 90% adequate, 9% surplus. Pasture condition: 8% poor, 29% fair, 49% good, 14% excellent. The warm, sunny weather which started the week gave way to rain on Tuesday night and Wednesday morning. Daytime temperatures for the remainder of the work week remained in the mid to upper 60's, but conditions remained good for farmers harvesting field crops. A few scattered light frosts were reported across the region late in the week, but there were no reports of significant damage. Rain on Saturday and Sunday limited outdoor activities and hurt retail sales at farm stands and markets.

FRUIT: Apple and pear harvest were in full swing this week, with growers reporting that most crops were looking good and selling well. Many growers were concentrating on the second picking of McIntosh and Gala apples, while working on Cortland, Macoun, and other mid-season varieties. Orchardists in New Hampshire found some apple scab fruit due to the wet conditions from earlier in the year. Producers were also concerned about bruising and apple drop. Fall raspberry harvest continued this week, while peach and plum harvests were nearly complete in the region. Cranberry harvest continued at a slow pace in Massachusetts this week; growers were helped by mid-week rain which improved water levels, and two nights of frost which added color to the berries.

VEGETABLES: While summer vegetable production has nearly completed, growers continued to harvest a wide array of fall vegetables this week, including sweet corn, peppers, beets, broccoli, eggplant, parsnips, winter squash, pumpkins, cabbage, and kale. Farm stands were also full of fall mums and decorations this week. Winter squash and pumpkin producers reported that their yields are expected to be very low due to poor growing conditions this year. The short supply of pumpkins has forced some producers to purchase pumpkins for their farm stands. Growers in Connecticut reported that field tomatoes still need time to ripen. Farmers kept busy disking, cleaning up and planting cover crops on harvested fields.

FIELD CROPS: Corn silage harvest was in full swing in southern parts of the region, while harvest in northern states continued slowly this week, with some growers delaying harvest in the hopes that the corn might mature a little more. Early reports of quantity and quality vary across the region. More second and third cut grass was cut this week primarily as silage. Soybeans in Vermont are reported to be almost ready for harvest. Small grains harvest in Northern Maine wound down this week, with growers continuing to report lower than normal yields. Potato harvest picked up this week across the region, although intermittent showers prevented some Maine producers from getting full days in the fields. Massachusetts potato harvest remained behind schedule due to the late start with planting in the spring, and the lack of warm weather to bring the crop to maturity in the summer.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	0	5
Short	3	6	18
Adequate	89	86	76
Surplus	8	8	1
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	0	5
Short	1	3	16
Adequate	90	87	77
Surplus	9	10	2

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	- Percent Harvested -			Fruit Size	Condition
	2006	2005	5-yr Avg		
Apples	55	45	50	Average	Good
Peaches	99	95	95	Average	Good
Pears	70	65	55	Average	Good/Fair
Blueberries					
Highbush	100	100	100	Avg/Above Avg	Good
Cranberries, MA	10	5	10	Average	Good/Excellent

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2006	2005	5-yr Avg	Condition
Barley, ME	99	90	95	Good
Oats, ME	95	85	85	Good
Potatoes				
Maine	30	10	25	Good/Excellent
Mass	50	65	60	Excellent
Rhode Island	75	75	85	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	25	45	40	Fair/Good
Sweet Corn	95	95	95	Good
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	100	100	100	Good/Fair
Shade	100	100	100	Fair/Good
Dry Hay				
Second Cut	95	90	95	Good
Third Cut	55	70	70	Good/Fair

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

For the Period: Monday September 18, 2006
To: Sunday September 24, 2006

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 INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS
MAINE														
Augusta_State_A	44	79	60	+4	2215	+216	934	+191	1.18	+0.43	2	3.18	+0.32	11
Bangor_Intl_Arp	41	79	60	+4	2150	+327	874	+252	1.22	+0.45	3	3.70	+0.50	13
Bethel	45	78	59	+4	1932	+135	733	+137	0.40	-0.37	2	1.68	-1.53	8
Caribou_Municip	36	78	57	+6	1762	+338	609	+231	0.90	+0.13	4	1.86	-1.46	10
Dover-Foxcroft	39	79	57	+4	1590	+32	530	+78	0.98	+0.07	2	2.89	-0.74	10
Frenchville	36	74	55	+5	1621	+298	521	+198	0.67	-0.17	5	2.01	-1.51	14
Houlton	33	78	58	+6	1812	+324	661	+237	0.58	-0.24	3	2.20	-1.27	13
Kennebunkport	39	80	60	-1	1998	-270	762	-170	1.98	+1.24	2	5.01	+2.17	10
Livermore_Falls	35	79	58	+6	1976	+448	771	+342	1.39	+0.56	2	3.09	-0.35	9
Moosehead	33	78	55	+4	1496	+205	481	+171	1.20	+0.36	3	2.44	-0.96	10
Portland_ME	42	78	62	+6	2207	+356	921	+284	1.69	+0.96	2	3.44	+0.61	9
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	38	79	58	+4	1811	+168	661	+185	0.71	+0.01	3	2.11	-0.97	10
Berlin AG	43	78	58	+4	1800	+151	649	+152	0.30	-0.42	5	1.35	-1.85	12
Bethlehem	44	84	61	+7	2013	+373	800	+324	0.56	-0.14	5	1.77	-1.39	15
Concord	35	83	62	+6	2392	+391	1061	+322	0.60	-0.03	3	2.13	-0.53	9
Diamond Pond	36	74	53	+3	1264	+167	361	+156	0.63	-0.27	3	2.66	-1.27	11
Keene AP	37	81	61	+3	2246	+1	959	+51	0.37	-0.31	2	1.19	-1.72	10
North_Conway	39	79	59	+4	2096	+246	840	+207	0.55	-0.22	3	2.45	-0.79	12
Rochester	39	83	61	+4	2232	+80	949	+104	1.26	+0.49	3	3.14	+0.15	9
VERMONT														
Burlington Intl	46	80	63	+7	2481	+352	1122	+284	0.42	-0.31	4	2.13	-1.09	10
Island Pond	40	78	57	+5	1706	+353	586	+261	0.44	-0.28	5	1.47	-1.88	14
Montpelier	40	81	59	+5	2077	+406	808	+296	0.19	-0.44	5	1.97	-0.84	16
Pownal	37	78	57	+2	2012	+260	780	+228	0.49	-0.36	3	3.40	-0.22	13
Rochester	36	83	59	+5	1904	+246	709	+206	0.40	-0.44	3	1.64	-2.01	12
Rutland AG	36	80	58	-1	2086	-131	838	-48	0.52	-0.27	3	2.55	-0.89	14
Springfield_VT	36	80	60	+5	2219	+407	927	+331	0.49	-0.28	4	2.84	-0.51	17
Sutton	35	76	55	+4	1634	+271	540	+203	0.43	-0.34	4	1.69	-1.70	13
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	52	83	67	+4	2801	+190	1400	+207	0.61	-0.09	2	1.89	-1.00	8
Fitchburg	44	81	64	+9	2634	+821	1270	+672	0.42	-0.21	3	3.43	+0.68	11
Greenfield	41	80	61	+0	2383	-35	1057	+26	0.61	-0.16	2	3.64	+0.44	13
New_Bedford	38	79	63	-2	2464	-184	1119	-108	1.62	+0.85	3	4.45	+1.14	11
Norwood	35	82	63	+5	2593	+388	1246	+365	0.70	-0.14	2	2.19	-1.32	10
Otis_AFB	43	77	64	+4	2405	+258	1058	+208	0.75	-0.04	2	2.92	-0.18	10
Plymouth	38	79	64	+4	2472	+273	1151	+261	0.87	-0.07	3	2.48	-1.40	11
Walpole	40	81	63	+4	2548	+343	1210	+329	0.71	-0.13	1	2.48	-1.03	9
Chicopee/Westov	36	81	63	+0	2528	-249	1149	-165	0.36	-0.46	3	3.34	+0.00	10
Worthington	35	80	58	+2	1995	+204	793	+220	0.56	-0.28	4	3.73	+0.26	12
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	46	81	66	+4	2905	+415	1443	+338	0.72	-0.06	1	3.67	+0.37	9
Woonsocket	40	81	63	+5	2558	+386	1206	+367	0.41	-0.45	2	3.61	+0.02	10
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	47	80	66	+3	2938	+247	1457	+178	0.15	-0.55	2	9.84	+6.97	12
Hartford/Bradle	40	83	65	+5	2923	+270	1467	+247	0.08	-0.78	2	3.22	-0.37	11
Norfolk	38	76	59	+3	2155	+367	912	+339	0.33	-0.61	4	5.31	+1.36	14
Thomaston_Dam	41	80	62	+3	2550	+393	1173	+345	0.31	-0.60	3	5.09	+1.29	14
Willimantic	40	81	64	+4	2663	+461	1255	+393	0.12	-0.81	2	3.00	-0.66	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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STATE WEATHER SUMMARY

For the Week Ending Sunday, September 24, 2006

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	L	HI	AV	DF	LO	HI
ME	30	82	58	+4	0.10	2.08
NH	22	85	59	+4	0.27	1.48
VT	29	83	58	+4	0.19	1.39
MA	31	84	63	+3	0.31	1.78
RI	40	81	65	+4	0.41	1.24
CT	35	84	63	+3	0.07	0.44

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: For those who started chopping corn, harvest is progressing nicely. Sweet corn, peppers, eggplant, winter squash, pumpkins and cabbage being harvested. Tomatoes still mostly green in fields. Cucumbers and summer squash pretty much finished for the season. Not much dry hay taken in but grass chopped for silage. Apple and pear harvest in full swing and most crops are looking good and selling well. A touch of light frost in outlying areas on Friday morning. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Silage producers are reporting unexpected problems opening corn fields for silage, from trees down across fields with high wind storms encountered last month to areas throughout fields that did not produce due to heavy spring rains. A few reports of fourth cutting of hay being completed. The apples are good but it will be a short season. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** A nice week for field work, chopping, spreading manure, putting rye on. Pick Your Own apples doing well on sunny weekends, slower action during the week, pumpkins ready, mums beautiful, some vegetables still available, making cider, cool nights. Sixth Celebrating Agriculture held in Woodstock to help educate people about the economic and environmental benefit of working farms and forests. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** The weather cooperated this week and the corn silage harvest moved into full swing while the final cutting of hay continued to be harvested. Some vegetables are still hanging on but most of the vegetable crops are just about finished. Mums are beautiful and the farm stands have lots of fall decorations and crops to offer buyers. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Corn silage harvest is underway between storms. It seems fields just get passable from one rain and the next one moves through. Reports on quality and quantity are variable - some real good corn and some real bad corn out there.

MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook: Potatoes and small grains: All growers have begun potato harvesting. Rain showers have begun making it difficult to get full days of harvesting in. However the ground was so dry it has not affected their ability to get through the fields. Small grains harvest is just about complete. Yield and quality of potato crop is very good. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Potato harvest is in full swing now, crop is looking excellent. Most of the grains have been harvested in the Central Aroostook area. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Potato farmers are coming along good with harvest with a good quality at this time. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Corn silage harvest in full swing. Rain over the weekend will slow harvest for a day or two. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Cole crops are ready, sweet corn still being picked. Haying continues but ground is still soft in places. Field work on blueberry fields is now underway. Apple harvest continues, apple crop will be short 30-40 percent. Cortland variety way down from past years for one orchardist in Lincoln County. Showers and rain over the weekend curtailed outdoor activities. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** It's prime time for apple picking. The crop is one week early and growers say the apples may not stay on the trees until Columbus Day. Pumpkins are in short supply, many are coming in from out of state. Silage farmers are trying to hold off harvest to see if the corn will mature. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Androscoggin/Franklin:** Apple harvest is... a mixed bag. Some fruit was large and some was small. Some trees were bare and some were loaded. Some trees had hail damage but most were missed. There was a lot of pressure from fungus because of the wet growing season. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Oxford County Apple producers have started to harvest their crop, but have reported small fruit due the weather we have sustained in Oxford County this season. Sweet corn is still being harvested in places along with cold vegetable crops. Hay harvesting is on going in between rain showers. Potato crop being harvested and started on time and thus far seem to look good. **Laura Rand (FSA),**

Androscoggin: Cooler temperatures and sunny days have been the norm. Some reports of spotted frost. Few showers at the end of the week. Producers are busy harvesting corn, potatoes, and late vegetables. Farm stands are plentiful with pumpkins, squash, and fall flowers.

MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: Scattered hard frost in the county put some vegetable beds to rest. Winter squash and pumpkin yields are very low and some farmers are calling around to find these vegetables for their fall farm stands. Orchards are booming. Rain in the county was up to two inches this week with temperatures moderating toward week's end. Of course, some of the rain fell on Saturday curbing weekend market and stand sales. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Harvesting continues, but at a slow pace, as most growers will start in the next seven to ten days. Crops have been good for the most part. The area received two plus inches of rain in less than two hours mid-week, helping to beef up the water levels even further. Two frost nights last week will help the berries color up. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Franklin/Hampshire/Hampden:** Excellent weather conditions for harvesting fall crops. Potato crop is very good but only 50 percent harvested due to the prolonged growing season. Weekend rains caused an excellent tobacco damp for growers to start taking down tobacco. Also harvesting winter squash, pumpkins, mums, parsnips and winter cabbage. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** Good week for field work as growers continued to harvest fall products as well as sweet corn. Pumpkin size, quantity, and quality remain a problem. Mowing fields, removing plastic and seeding cover crops, dominant activity. No frost yet. Apple harvest winding down, raspberries still coming on strong. Lousy weekend for retail sales.

New Hampshire - Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll: Beautiful warm sunny weather to begin the week, daytime highs at least 20 degrees cooler by the end of the week. Pasture regrowth good due to warmer temperatures. Although we've had a few light frosts, no reports of significant damage. Apple harvest going well, lots of apples coming in. Pumpkins still tough to come by. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Generally cool weather, with light scattered frost midweek - not enough to do too much damage. Corn chopping in full swing. Veggie production is winding down for the year. Apples continuing to do pretty well, starting to harvest mid-season varieties. Greenhouses and farm stands showing lots of pumpkins, fall mums. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Field corn harvest begins in earnest with a good stretch of favorable weather to help it along. Variable corn maturity observed with some at nice half dent and others at milk stage, hoping for warm weather to ripen lower end. Mums pumpkins, other farm products for the decoration market are for sale. A little third cut hay coming in. Annual grasses seem to have been the biggest problem in field corn this year. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Corn silage harvest continuing slowly, should be in full swing this coming week. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** Corn harvesting started this past week. Over all the early planted well drained corn land looks better than expected. Some producers are delaying harvest to allow the corn to mature a little more. The more poorly drained soils that were planted later still have a ways to go. Some fourth cut alfalfa is going to be harvested. The alfalfa is generally planted on better drained sites. Alfalfa quality was generally of good quality this year. Hay and haylage harvesting is still problematic on heavier wetter soils. Some of these sites were harvested for the first time this season. Quality on these fields was down considerably. Pumpkin growers have seen a poor crop this year. The same with winter squash. The apple crop looks OK in some orchards, but volume is off considerably for other growers. Apple size and quality, however, looks good. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Vegetables: Good demand for all vegetables continues. Harvesting a wide array of vegetables, including warm season vegetables like

tomatoes and peppers. Harvesting cabbage, kale, Brussel 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. Fruit size is excellent, but bruising can be a problem and some orchardists seeing some apple drop. Many orchardists are finding some apple scab fruit when harvesting due to the wet conditions we had this spring and summer. 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 continues. **Sadie Puglisi (Ext), Merrimack:** Cool nights and warm days all this week with few bursts of rain. Not much has changed since last week. Apples and pumpkins. Silage is being brought in and cover crops are going in. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Farm stands, farmers' markets, PYO operations and garden centers remained busy this week. Good weather prevailed with exception of Saturday. Picking a whole array of vegetables, cool crops, winter squash and pumpkins. Peach and pear harvest are almost done. Apple picking is in full swing. Fall raspberries also been harvested. Chopping field corn and haying. Disking, cleaning, and planting cover crops on harvested vegetable fields. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** The early part of the week was nice for haying and field work. Hay and haylage harvesting continued through mid-week. However things slowed down by the weekend due to rain showers. Fruit growers busy harvesting apples and the last

crop of peaches. Some were also harvesting fall raspberries. Vegetable growers are harvesting an array of vegetable crops and sweet corn. Pumpkin growers are cutting and picking pumpkins from the fields. Greenhouse and garden centers busy selling fall mums and monitoring their poinsettia crop.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: More rain at the beginning of the week stopped haying. Pasture is getting mucky and more water doesn't help. Harvesting potatoes mid-week along with chopping corn. Still getting in summer vegetables. Pumpkins are going to be a premium crop this year, what is around and made it through the wet season is scarce. Farmers markets are finally getting busy and farm stands are decorated to the hilt. Now let's have some sunshine.

VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille: Last week brought some nice harvest weather. Some second cut and quite a bit of third cut of grass were put up mainly as haylage. Most of the early planted corn for silage was harvested last week with highly variable yields. Soybeans are almost ready for harvest and look very good considering their late start. **Jeffery Carter (Ext), Addison:** Harvest corn silage started. late maturity, many ears not filled. Finishing hay harvest, second cut dry hay, second and third cut haylage. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Most harvested fields seeded with winter rye. Now disking late potatoes. Starting to put winter squash in the market. Last crop of cucumbers and cabbage. Fall is in the air. Lots of fall produce on the market, potatoes, beets, cabbage and broccoli. Still good sweet corn. Have a good week.

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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