

# Crop Progress & Condition



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

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August 31, 2009 – 4 pm

For week ending 8/30/09

## Summer Weather Continues

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:** For the week ending August 30, 2009, there were 5.6 days available for field work across New England. Pasture condition was rated 1% very poor, 8% poor, 28% fair, 58% good, and 5% excellent. Last week began partly cloudy, with average to above average daytime temperatures ranging in the mid-70s to upper 80s. Precipitation was scarce Monday through Thursday, with only coastal Maine and northern New Hampshire reporting significant rain on Monday. Daytime temperatures throughout New England began to drop on Thursday and were well below-average on Friday and Saturday, ranging in the mid-50s to mid-70s. Nighttime temperatures had sharply dropped as well. Some regions experienced near-freezing temperatures however no frosts were reported. Heavy rain fell on Friday and Saturday, particularly in coastal areas due to tropical storm Danny. Some areas of Massachusetts saw anywhere between three and six inches of rainfall with localized flooding. By Sunday, skies were void of rain clouds and temperatures returned to normal levels in most of New England. Total precipitation for the week ranged between 0.44 and 6.0 inches.

**FRUIT:** Early season apple varieties such as Paula Red and Ginger Gold continued to be harvested across many areas of New England with other areas just beginning their harvest. Peach and pear harvests continued in earnest however pick your own operations had a slow weekend due to the rain. Orchardists also kept busy monitoring for pests, pruning, mowing and moving bins into orchards. Highbush blueberries were completely harvested in some areas with other areas nearing completion. The Maine wild blueberry harvest progressed during the week and remains in good condition. The Massachusetts cranberry crop welcomed the significant rainfall over the weekend. Fruit is sizing up well.

**VEGETABLES:** Growers were busy harvesting an array of vegetables during the warm, sunny week. Growers were also busy weeding and irrigating as well cleaning up fields where crops failed. The sweet corn harvest was 65% harvested by week's end, behind last year and normal. Growers continue to report earworm damage and remain on a 3 to 4 day spray schedule to combat the pests. Pumpkins were beginning to ripen across New England however powdery mildew has shown up on some crops. Late blight continues to be a problem for tomato growers and some growers have reported a complete crop loss to the disease.

**FIELD CROPS:** Farmers were able to make progress on all cuts of dry hay during the week as drying conditions were favorable. Harvest remained ahead of schedule. The hot and humid conditions during the week were great for field corn. Ears are growing nicely in many areas with some growers just beginning to gear up for harvest in fields less affected by rain. Late blight continues to plague potato farmers throughout most of New England. Growers in Maine have started to desiccate potato vines. Harvesting of oats and barley continued in earnest during the week. Both crops were rated in good to fair condition. Both tobacco crops were 75% harvested at week's end, slightly behind last year and normal. Growers continue to report losses from hail and disease.

### SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
<b>Topsoil</b>			
Very Short	0	0	1
Short	10	20	14
Adequate	74	66	82
Surplus	16	14	3
<b>Subsoil</b>			
Very Short	0	0	1
Short	6	14	11
Adequate	77	71	84
Surplus	17	15	4

### FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Set	Fruit Size	Condition
	2009	2008	5-yr Avg			
Apples	10	10	15	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Peaches	70	85	75	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Pears	15	20	10	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Blueberries						
Highbush	90	90	90	Average	Average	Good
Wild	90	90	95	Above/Avg	Average	Good
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-	Avg/Above	Avg/Above	Good/Excellent

### FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Condition
	2009	2008	5-yr Avg	
--Percent Harvested--				
Barley, ME	35	35	45	Good/Fair
Oats, ME	30	10	25	Good/Fair
Potatoes				
Maine	<5	<5	<5	Good/Excellent
Mass	35	30	20	Good/Fair
Rhode Island	25	40	40	Fair
Silage Corn	<5	<5	<5	Fair/Good
Sweet Corn	65	80	70	Good/Fair
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	75	85	80	Fair/Poor
Shade	75	90	85	Good/Fair
Dry Hay				
First Cut	99	95	99	Fair/Good
Second Cut	80	75	80	Good/Fair
Third Cut	30	25	25	Good/Fair

For the Period: Monday August 24, 2009  
 To: Sunday August 30, 2009

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	---	---
<b>MAINE</b>														
Augusta_State_A	46	84	65	-1	1681	-58	615	-65	3.35	+2.64	5	5.14	+2.13	15
Bangor_Intl_Arp	43	82	65	+1	1609	+21	593	+22	2.43	+1.66	3	2.69	-0.35	7
Bethel	41	78	62	-3	1435	-142	453	-99	1.75	+0.84	4	5.81	+2.17	9
Caribou_Municip	39	78	60	-1	1384	+95	490	+127	0.12	-0.79	2	1.43	-2.24	8
Dover-Foxcroft	38	79	61	-2	1351	-33	448	+20	0.85	-0.01	3	2.72	-0.61	12
Frenchville	39	75	58	-2	1256	+58	415	+104	0.05	-0.86	1	2.23	-1.49	9
Houlton	34	79	60	-2	1371	+24	491	+85	0.62	-0.29	3	3.57	-0.12	11
Livermore_Falls	39	81	62	+1	1484	+121	504	+96	1.44	+0.52	4	4.65	+0.94	12
Moosehead	38	78	58	-2	1126	-27	332	+37	0.57	-0.27	4	1.70	-1.66	14
Portland_ME	49	86	67	+2	1722	+125	661	+75	4.84	+4.14	4	5.15	+2.56	8
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>														
Benton	41	80	61	-2	1411	-45	461	+14	1.10	+0.20	5	5.14	+1.51	14
Berlin_AG	39	81	60	-3	1384	-83	428	-42	1.69	+0.74	4	4.68	+0.78	9
Concord	47	83	65	+0	1842	+90	727	+44	2.64	+1.94	3	4.17	+1.17	10
Diamond_Pond	35	78	54	-5	840	-152	147	-49	0.47	-0.65	4	3.87	-0.76	16
Keene_AG	48	85	66	-1	1866	-86	770	-59	2.27	+1.44	4	4.31	+0.78	10
North_Conway	44	82	63	-2	1487	-149	476	-118	2.32	+1.42	3	6.83	+3.20	9
Rochester	49	86	67	+0	1846	-21	743	-28	2.84	+2.07	4	4.62	+1.39	7
<b>VERMONT</b>														
Bennington_AP	46	79	65	+2	1805	+270	668	+160	1.38	+0.40	4	4.60	+0.70	11
Burlington_Intl	46	81	65	-1	1970	+94	833	+57	0.78	-0.13	5	2.32	-1.35	12
Island_Pond	37	79	61	+2	1335	+131	433	+129	0.55	-0.48	4	3.15	-1.23	12
Montpelier	42	80	63	+1	1650	+171	606	+132	1.15	+0.31	5	2.09	-1.40	12
Rochester	43	80	62	-1	1479	+27	503	+43	1.46	+0.43	4	4.91	+0.75	13
Rutland_AG	44	78	63	-4	1668	-265	595	-212	1.67	+0.76	4	7.28	+3.48	12
Springfield_VT	46	82	64	+2	1821	+226	702	+150	1.56	+0.65	5	3.61	-0.02	15
Sutton	39	77	59	-2	1229	+8	359	+41	0.98	-0.03	4	2.83	-1.45	12
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>														
Boston/Logan_In	56	87	70	+0	2239	+25	1026	-19	2.51	+1.74	3	3.24	+0.30	8
Fitchburg	51	87	69	+6	2214	+621	1001	+441	1.75	+0.99	3	2.58	-0.59	9
Greenfield	50	83	66	-3	1872	-211	745	-183	3.11	+2.31	4	5.45	+2.13	10
New_Bedford	55	86	71	-1	2025	-204	859	-200	4.09	+3.13	3	7.49	+3.67	11
Otis_AFB	54	84	70	+3	2098	+283	905	+151	3.52	+2.73	3	4.89	+1.81	10
Plymouth	55	86	70	+4	2032	+155	865	+65	3.43	+2.46	4	5.59	+1.96	10
Walpole	54	85	69	+2	1953	+44	810	+7	1.74	+0.83	2	3.44	-0.12	8
Chicopee/Westov	50	85	68	-3	2123	-259	922	-243	1.99	+1.15	3	3.68	+0.49	11
Worthington	47	80	63	+0	1585	+28	542	+19	2.36	+1.45	2	5.21	+1.46	10
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>														
Providence	56	89	72	+4	2222	+112	1010	+38	1.72	+0.88	2	2.80	-0.49	8
Woonsocket	55	87	70	+4	2059	+181	877	+112	1.99	+1.08	3	2.84	-0.80	8
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>														
Bridgeport/Siko	61	88	72	+2	2296	+30	1091	-12	0.62	-0.08	3	1.52	-1.40	9
Hartford/Bradle	56	87	70	+0	2327	+36	1092	-7	1.52	+0.65	3	2.85	-0.45	10
Norfolk	52	78	64	+1	1684	+122	601	+72	1.28	+0.23	3	4.18	+0.06	11
Thomaston_Dam	57	84	69	+3	2065	+208	890	+147	1.57	+0.59	3	5.75	+1.90	11
Willimantic	57	87	70	+4	2259	+367	1033	+259	1.42	+0.51	3	2.23	-1.34	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 precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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**State Weather Summary**

For the Week Ending Sunday, August 30, 2009

STATE	AIR TEMPERATURES				PRECIPITATION	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	34	87	62	-1	0.05	5.38
NH	31	89	63	+0	0.45	3.35
VT	37	86	62	-1	0.55	2.87
MA	47	88	68	+1	1.50	4.09
RI	55	89	71	+4	1.72	2.69
CT	52	89	70	+2	0.14	2.25

**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:** Progress was made on second (and some third) cut dry hay. Vegetable harvest continues however, some crops like summer squash are very hard to find. Orchards gearing up for apple harvest. Up to two inches of rain on Saturday put a damper on local fairs. Tobacco harvest continues on both shade and broadleaf crops. Mums showing up at farm stands. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Some hay made this week. Mostly waiting to see how field corn turns out. Ears are filling up, stalks are short, and farmers are guesstimating 50 to 65% loss of tonnage. Fungal disease problems, some of which we have never seen in the office are still coming in from growers. **Patricia Smith (FSA), New London:** Starting to harvest silage corn. Corn planted early on normally dry fields looks good. Pastures still good because of all the rain we have had. Vegetable growers reporting all crops delayed 10 days to two weeks. Sweet corn has smaller yields and thinner ears in wet areas. Pumpkins late and a light fruit set, estimates of one half the usual crop. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** Nice week early on, Friday and Saturday brought rain. Rainfall totals ranged from 1 1/2" in New Haven County to 2 1/2" in Middlesex County. Producers are beginning to clean up fields of failed summer squash and cucumbers after harvesting everything possible. **Jude Boucher (Ext), Tolland:** Nice soaking on Saturday. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** A few inches of rain from Tropical Storm Danny, it was actually getting dry. Ears on field corn look small, tasseling at various heights, small root structure a concern if heavy winds blow. Blueberry picking continues to be good. Farmers markets busy except for rainy Saturday. Farm stands open throughout the county with vegetables and fruit - apples, peaches, plums, blueberries, nectarines and apricots. A lot of hay was baled this week working around dew and humidity.

**MAINE – Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Most farmers have started to desiccate potato vines. There are still a few aphids around. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Hay is being cut on the drier areas in the fields. With the continued rains, wetter areas will not be cut this year. Winter squash and pumpkins production will be very low this year. Organic farmers are suffering from all the rain and disease problems more than conventional farmers this year. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Record rainfall continued with the assistance of tropical storms. The periods of dry weather in between have been better. It looks like a very good week ahead for hay harvest and corn growth. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Hay was being harvested heavily in the past week. Market stands are all up and running with limited supply of some veggies due to low yields. Potatoes and tomatoes yields are low due to blight; sweet corn is also in short demand. Harvest of blueberries is just about done and crop looks pretty good. Corn silage is looking spotty in many areas and the hopes of a little more time is available for growing before a frost. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Hurricane Dan dropped over two inches of rain in this area on Saturday. The apple harvest has begun but there are reports of problems with the Cortland variety. This variety of apple is very sparse and is attributed to the terrible weather we have experienced this growing season, although other varieties of apples seem to be doing OK. Some melon varieties were harvested this past week. Small vegetable crops continue to be harvested and are now available for all local markets. A beautiful, hurricane free week is forecasted which should last right into the long Labor Day Weekend. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis:** Spotty ripening of sweet corn makes it a challenge to harvest quickly. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Some more good haymaking weather. About an inch of rain on Saturday. Early apples just starting to be picked.

**MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire:** Lots more rain, four to six inches with flooding. Cooler temps in the 40's at night. Farmers markets are well attended. Not much field work this week. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** The dry weather and warm temperatures at the beginning of the week were

great for growers to harvest their array of summer and fall fruit and vegetables. But, the end of the week brought over four inches of heavy rain showers which halted the crop harvest for one to two days on many farms. Growers continue to combat insects and crop diseases from the rainy weather. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: The remnants of Danny resulted in three to five inches of precipitation falling in the cranberry growing region, a good dose of needed rainfall, as the fruit of certain cultivars are still sizing up. Some beds have significant outbreaks of upright dieback, but so far fruit rot is not a serious issue for growers. Fruitworm levels are not particularly high this August. Vines look good, although dodder infestations were pretty bad this summer.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE - Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Generally sunny most of the week, with steady rain Friday night through Saturday. Field corn is maturing nicely - most of it early-late dough stage. Weather conditions allowing for more catching up on hay harvest. Veggie crops continue to do well for the most part. Apple harvest ramping up. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Mix of weather, cooling temperatures. Field corn at milk stage or less. Sweet corn readily available now, some earworm damage. Second cut hay to third cut haylage being taken. Some decent drying weather, yet heavy downpours at times. Apples are coloring up, pumpkins too. Still seeing lingering problems with late blight. Japanese beetles and ticks seem a bit less in numbers this year. Mums at farmstands and nurseries. Fall webworm looking fairly abundant, goldenrod and asters - looks like late summer. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** Haying is ongoing. Rainfall for the week totaling .89 inches here in Woodsville. Powdery mildew is starting to show up in some pumpkin and squash. Temperatures have been cooler than normal for this time of year, no frost yet that we have heard of. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Vegetables: Growers are harvesting an array of vegetables: beans, beets, cole crops, cucumbers, greens, peas, potatoes, radishes, summer squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, zucchini, and other vegetables. Corn earworm moth numbers are extremely high with most growers on a three to four day spray schedule. The hurricane that was off the coast over August 22-23 weekend blew in the corn earworm worms and fall armyworm moths. Late blight on tomatoes and potatoes continue to be seen. Fruit: Orchardists harvesting peaches, plums, and finished picking Paula Red apples. Many growers are trying to find a market for peaches. Orchardists busy monitoring for pests, summer pruning trees, mowing orchard floors, fixing up orchard roads and move bins into the orchard. Highbush blueberry harvest over except for those few growers who have late maturing varieties, and fall raspberry harvest continued. Field Crops: Hay cutting continued during the week with the second cuttings being made. Some spreading manure on hay fields. Farmers making new forage seedings. Corn looks fair to good. **Amy Ouellette (Ext), Merrimack:** Paula Red, Gravenstein and Ginger Gold apples are being harvested. There's a beautiful peach crop around the capital region. Fall raspberries are looking good too. Harvesting late blueberries. Sadly, many of the area's tomato crops were lost to late blight but a few remain. Corn earworm population is high, so farmers are closely monitoring sweet corn. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Harvesting peaches, apples, pears, blueberries, raspberries, an array of vegetables, and cut flowers. Potted mums are available. Hay and haylage being done. Weeding and irrigating in the first part of the week. Steady rain (and high wind) was welcome on Saturday even though PYO operations didn't see much traffic. Heavy showers occurred on Sunday evening. Farmers markets, farmstands and garden centers are busy. Monitoring pests. Late blight on tomatoes and potatoes is still being reported. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** This was a great week for field work. Dry weather with moderate temperatures was interrupted at the end of the week by rain showers. Hay producers continued to make hay most of the week before the rains at the end of the week. Fruit growers were mowing orchard floors and weeding around fruit trees as needed. Growers continued to harvest blueberries, peaches and early varieties of apples. Business at pick your own operations was slowed down by bad weather this

weekend. Vegetable growers continued to harvest an array of vegetables, including sweet corn. Fall mums are now starting to show color and greenhouse and garden center operations were selling to those looking for early mums. The poinsettia crop is doing well for most growers.

**VERMONT – Jeff Carter, (Ext), Addison:** Corn ears trying to fill. Corn crop loss at least 25% total loss. Hay crops mostly done harvest. Pasture regrowth slow. Alfalfa regrowth good. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Wet at the beginning and end of the week. Rain has gone around us, rainfall below average for the past two weeks. Middle of the week was perfect hay weather; we had first, second and third cuttings being harvested. Yields on second cut are below average. Silage corn is coming along. Threat of light frost one morning. We still need some decent weather to get that corn mature. Wondering if there will be adequate forage supplies for the winter. One hay seller is having many phone calls from people wanting to buy hay. Late blight continues to infect new gardens. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Fall is beginning to creep into everyone's mind here in Franklin County late this week. A brush with frost, near 40 degrees and cooler temps are the reason for this mindset. Corn is still progressing nicely with some field corn coming into milk stage. This is a great sign with cooler temps we will not get the growing degree days, however, we will not need as much in this area to get corn to its mature stage. Time before killing frost will now become the factor for watch. Sweet corn has taken a hit from the

canning and freezer phase. Apples are beginning the final phase of ripening and soon will be hitting the harvest phase. Hay harvest is still a mixed bag between first, second and third cuts with some producers beginning to think about fourth cutting. Yields have been great in this area. **Heather Darby, (Ext), Grand Isle:** Corn is coming along nicely with the nice warm weather. Many farmers are working on third cut. Yield and quality of the hay has been good to excellent. Pastures have done well this season with the adequate rain and cool weather. **John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille:** The folks who put up dry hay are finally having some haying weather. Sweet corn crop is also finally coming along after being delayed by this summer's poor weather. Some serious manure spreading happening on freshly harvested grass land. The small grain crops have all been harvested with generally poor yields. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Another hot and humid week. Great for the corn crop. A few more rain showers this week over last week. This made haying a little tricky. Most farms now are harvesting third crop hay. The crop looks good and should be of pretty high quality. Corn has tasseled but is on the small size so yield will probably be low. Pastures continue to perform well with the moisture we are having. **Julie Jacque, (FSA), Windham:** Cool and wet conditions over the weekend have contributed to continued slow maturity and production of vegetable crops. Blight has been reported in the tomato and potato crops. Corn crop and hay field quality continues to be spotty, given the wet weather.

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