

Crop Progress & Condition



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For week ending 9/27/09

Sunday Showers Welcomed

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending September 27, 2009, there were 6.0 days available for field work across New England. Pasture condition was rated 0% very poor, 12% poor, 32% fair, 50% good, and 6% excellent. The week began mostly sunny across New England with average to above average high temperatures in the low 70s to low 80s. Temperatures remained warm during the week with average to above average nighttime lows in the upper 30s to low 60s. Areas of Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine experienced rain mid-week, but most of the region remained dry. Temperatures cooled down into the weekend and many states were issued frost advisories for Saturday morning. With temperatures dipping down into the upper 20s in some areas, severe frosts were abundant across New England. Saturday turned into a sunny, cool, fall-like day, perfect weather for farmer's markets, farm stands and pick your own operations. Rain moved into New England overnight and continued through Sunday. Total rainfall for the week ranged from half an inch in the northern states to over two inches in coastal regions. The rain was welcomed by all; however, much more is needed to fully replenish the dry soils.

FRUIT: The apple harvest reached the half-way mark last week, slightly behind last year and normal. The peach and plum harvest was winding down, but pears and fall raspberries continued to be picked. The Massachusetts cranberry harvest was active and berries were rated in good to excellent condition.

VEGETABLES: The sweet corn harvest made little progress during the week, but remains on par with last year and normal. Available vegetables include peppers, tomatoes, green beans, cabbage, kale, Brussels sprouts, winter squash, and pumpkins. Fall vegetables yields are expected to be low this year due to the wet growing season. Some producers reported that have had to buy in pumpkins due to crop losses. Vegetable growers were also busy cleaning up harvested fields.

FIELD CROPS: The corn silage harvest was in full swing last week, but remains behind last year and normal. Corn condition and maturity still varies throughout New England. Farmers continued harvesting dry hay and haylage, but drying conditions were slowly deteriorating. The potato harvest in Maine picked up speed, but was behind last year and normal at week's end. Along with the fall harvest, growers also kept busy planting cover crops and spreading manure.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	3	9	0
Short	14	29	8
Adequate	78	59	59
Surplus	5	3	33
Subsoil			
Very Short	1	7	1
Short	20	21	6
Adequate	73	69	60
Surplus	6	3	33

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Size	Condition
	2009	2008	5-yr Avg		
Apples	50	55	55	Avg/Above	Good
Peaches	99	99	99	Average	Good
Pears	75	75	75	Average	Good/Fair
Cranberries, MA	10	10	10	Average	Good/Excellent

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2009	2008	5-yr Avg	Condition
--Percent Harvested--				
Potatoes				
Maine	25	40	40	Good/Excellent
Mass	75	65	65	Good/Fair
Rhode Island	70	95	90	Fair
Silage Corn	25	55	45	Fair/Good
Sweet Corn	95	95	95	Good/Fair
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	99	100	100	Fair/Poor
Shade	100	100	100	Good/Fair
Dry Hay				
Second Cut	99	95	95	Good/Fair
Third Cut	80	65	70	Good/Fair

For the Period: Monday September 21, 2009
 To: Sunday September 27, 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 INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES		DFN DAYS	
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN				INCHES	DFN		
MAINE															
Augusta_State_A	34	78	59	+3	1962	-55	678	-68	0.02	-0.75	2	0.21	-2.68	6	
Bangor_Intl_Arp	29	77	57	+2	1848	+9	636	+14	0.10	-0.67	2	0.31	-2.89	5	
Bethel	29	77	55	+1	1650	-162	487	-109	0.20	-0.57	2	0.46	-2.69	5	
Caribou_Municip	26	76	55	+5	1560	+130	521	+143	0.56	-0.21	2	1.03	-2.23	6	
Dover-Foxcroft	27	78	54	+2	1523	-45	465	+13	0.12	-0.79	2	0.24	-3.40	6	
Frenchville	26	73	53	+4	1413	+84	440	+117	0.57	-0.26	2	1.76	-1.72	6	
Houlton	25	76	55	+5	1539	+45	519	+95	0.58	-0.21	2	0.74	-2.67	5	
Livermore_Falls	28	81	54	+2	1677	+140	535	+106	0.05	-0.75	1	0.32	-3.06	2	
Moosehead	26	78	53	+3	1263	-35	342	+32	0.25	-0.59	2	0.30	-3.10	4	
Portland_ME	34	81	59	+3	2011	+142	729	+92	0.04	-0.72	1	0.17	-2.69	3	
NEW HAMPSHIRE															
Benton	29	73	53	+0	1584	-71	480	+4	0.32	-0.38	2	0.59	-2.41	6	
Berlin_AG	29	75	53	+0	1563	-98	446	-51	0.41	-0.29	2	0.83	-2.28	3	
Concord	32	80	59	+3	2108	+89	786	+47	0.25	-0.38	1	0.69	-1.94	6	
Diamond_Pond	27	66	48	-2	896	-207	148	-57	0.57	-0.30	3	2.08	-1.73	7	
Keene_AG	32	81	58	-1	2134	-133	830	-81	0.25	-0.40	2	1.10	-1.73	4	
North_Conway	31	79	55	+1	1705	-159	510	-123	0.11	-0.67	2	0.14	-3.06	4	
Rochester	34	81	58	+1	2109	-65	794	-54	0.20	-0.57	1	0.65	-2.34	2	
VERMONT															
Bennington_AP	34	79	59	+5	2062	+295	716	+164	0.40	-0.44	2	0.57	-2.99	4	
Burlington_Intl	35	78	60	+5	2279	+132	905	+64	1.39	+0.69	4	1.94	-1.19	8	
Island_Pond	31	74	54	+4	1510	+148	448	+123	0.45	-0.25	3	1.65	-1.57	9	
Montpelier	33	76	58	+5	1900	+216	653	+141	0.45	-0.18	2	0.69	-2.03	6	
Rochester	34	80	56	+2	1703	+30	537	+33	1.24	+0.40	2	1.63	-1.95	5	
Rutland_AG	31	78	56	-3	1899	-340	625	-264	0.09	-0.68	2	0.28	-3.10	5	
Springfield_VT	33	78	58	+4	2081	+254	749	+153	0.24	-0.53	2	0.90	-2.39	8	
Sutton	29	73	53	+2	1394	+22	371	+34	0.91	+0.17	3	1.19	-2.08	9	
MASSACHUSETTS															
Boston/Logan_In	46	81	65	+3	2637	-9	1160	-42	0.19	-0.51	1	2.50	-0.36	3	
Fitchburg	36	81	63	+8	2560	+732	1107	+509	0.24	-0.41	1	0.84	-1.88	4	
Greenfield	36	79	58	-3	2141	-304	801	-236	0.43	-0.34	1	0.93	-2.27	3	
New_Bedford	36	81	62	-2	2362	-323	953	-284	0.05	-0.70	1	1.70	-1.52	5	
Otis_AFB	39	77	60	+1	2400	+226	980	+126	0.01	-0.81	1	5.34	+2.21	6	
Plymouth	41	80	62	+3	2359	+134	950	+57	0.02	-0.89	1	1.66	-2.19	5	
Walpole	38	78	60	+3	2261	+33	882	-2	0.18	-0.66	1	1.80	-1.68	3	
Chicopee/Westov	33	81	61	-2	2435	-376	1009	-314	0.38	-0.41	1	0.73	-2.58	5	
Worthington	33	77	56	+1	1800	-9	577	+2	0.63	-0.21	1	1.28	-2.16	4	
RHODE ISLAND															
Providence	44	83	64	+3	2627	+105	1151	+39	0.16	-0.61	2	1.69	-1.58	5	
Woonsocket	38	80	61	+4	2393	+199	969	+127	0.24	-0.60	1	1.62	-1.94	4	
CONNECTICUT															
Bridgeport/Siko	49	83	67	+4	2748	+19	1267	-24	0.79	+0.09	1	1.58	-1.29	4	
Hartford/Bradle	39	82	63	+4	2712	+30	1222	-4	0.47	-0.37	2	0.96	-2.60	5	
Norfolk	38	75	58	+3	1925	+121	645	+72	0.59	-0.32	2	1.60	-2.29	5	
Thomaston_Dam	39	79	61	+3	2400	+219	982	+150	0.49	-0.42	2	1.62	-2.15	7	
Willimantic	39	82	63	+5	2632	+405	1154	+289	0.42	-0.49	2	0.67	-2.99	5	

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, September 27, 2009

STATE	AIR TEMPERATURES				PRECIPITATION	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	25	81	55	+2	0.00	0.69
NH	26	83	56	+2	0.11	0.78
VT	29	80	56	+2	0.00	2.10
MA	30	82	60	+2	0.00	0.65
RI	38	83	63	+4	0.09	0.24
CT	37	83	62	+3	0.09	0.79

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:

Field corn has not properly matured, because of this summer's cool, wet weather. Yields are down by one third to one half of normal. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Another dry week until Sunday with about 3/4 to 1 inch of rain in the area. Corn silage harvest is continuing and some are spreading dairy manure prior to seeding rye. Third cutting not regrowing since the rain shut off in early September. Frost on Saturday morning but a great day to get out and visit farmers markets, farm stands and pick-your-own operations as well as attending Celebrating Agriculture in Woodstock. **Barbara Pagano (FSA), New London:** Weather continues to be good for field work. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** Warm summer-like weather early in the week morphed into cooler temperatures you would expect at the start of autumn. Corn silage harvest moved along well for most of the week. Tonnage is down for most producers. Fall crops are plentiful. A lot of farm stands have been forced to buy-in pumpkins due to a poor growing season here. **Jude Boucher (Ext), Tolland:** Nice slow rain Sunday and we actually needed it. Many wholesale vegetable operations wrapping up for the season. A few retail operations near the shore hope to be open until November. Potatoes that were vine-killed when they were first diagnosed with late blight look pretty good as they are being harvested, although yields were off by 30-50%. Sweet corn growers report that yields were off by 40% or more. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** An excellent week for farm work, corn chopping going well, some waiting for maturity, haying, chopping grass, apple picking, good action at orchards with pick your own and sales in the market. The 9th Celebrating Agriculture was great; about 5,000 people came to learn about supporting and enhancing local agriculture. Great group of people made it possible.

MAINE – Doreen Conlogue (FSA), Aroostook:

Potato harvest is in full swing and the crop looks good. We're finally getting some much needed rain this week. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** A widespread frost occurred Saturday morning ending the growing season for most of the area. The weather has been beautiful for harvesting crops. Sunday, the rains returned and now the weather forecast is for frequent rains. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** First major frost hit the area this week. Silage corn harvest is under way. Lots of people are picking their own apples. The smell of manure and wood smoke are in the air. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Most farmers have completed the harvest of hay crops, but working on corn silage since frost has hit most fields. Crop is lower than most years and quality is expected to be low. Late fall veggies are harvested and short supply is being reported. Apples are little smaller but plentiful. Farm stands are still open and crops are at the final stage of harvest in most areas. Potatoes are being harvested and crop is being reports as average. **Maria Granger (FSA), Kennebec:** Many harvest activities are winding down. Much of the area had a light frost this weekend. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** We experienced another beautiful fall week in the mid-coast area. Our first severe frost occurred on Saturday morning. This may have put on end to the growing season for some crops in low lying areas. Most of the hay crop is now harvested. The harvest of pumpkins, winter squash and apples continues. Winter squash and pumpkin yields will be off by about 25 percent, but apples yields may be off by as much as 40 to 50 percent for some orchardists. Peppers, green beans and tomatoes are still being harvested. Rain is needed and a wet week is forecasted. **Janet King (FSA), Somerset:** Last year rain

help and fall seedings, corn is being harvested. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Dry weather continues. Corn silage harvest has started for many farms. Apple harvest going well. Widespread frost this past weekend.

MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire:

Another more widely scattered frost this week in central and northern county. More corn chopping planned this week depending on the condition of the crop. Orchards, markets and stands are busy selling fruit, cider, corn stalks, some winter squash and pumpkins though the cucurbits are behind in maturity. The week ended with one inch of rain. **Lori Carver (FSA), Franklin:** Silage corn harvest is in full swing, third crop of hay also coming off the fields. Apple harvest continues. Winter squash and pumpkins are almost all off the fields. Onions look good this year. Rain on Sunday was needed. Farm stands gearing up for the fall foliage season. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** We had another beautiful week for fall harvest that ended with a nice rain, on Sunday, to settle down the dust. Harvesting continues on potatoes, apples, cabbage, parsnips, carrots and many other fall crops. Many fields were seeded down with a rye cover. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Harvesting increased in volume during the week and will crank into full gear this week. Harvested crops have been disappointing so far, with smaller crops than anticipated. 1-2 inches rain fell on Sunday.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll:

Finally some rain! Moisture should keep pastures growing for a few more weeks. Wide spread frost over the weekend. Pick your own apples doing well, corn stalks and pumpkins decorate the farm stands. Fall colors brightening the landscape. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Dry conditions for most of the week, with steady gentle rain on Sunday to provide some welcome moisture. Farms making great strides chopping silage corn. Others able to continue catching up on baleage - conditions a little too cool for good dry hay. Root crops, squashes showing up at farm stands. Apple harvest moving into later season varieties. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Another hard frost this week. Generally clear weather, although some needed rain. Corn silage harvest progressing well with no hindrance from weather. Quite variable maturity in corn; overall much more immature than other years. Yield seems lower as well. Signs of nitrogen deficiencies in a lot of corn fields. Apple harvest beginning and other fall veggies, mums, etc. at farm stands. Lots more color in the hills and mountains. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** We received only a very small amount of rain this week. Field conditions were ideal for harvesting activities. Corn harvest is in high gear. The custom harvesters are rolling. A few producers are waiting to harvest until the corn has a chance to mature or dry down a little more. Hay harvesting is still on going for a few operations: some fields for the first time this season due to wet soils earlier on. Grazing on some wet soils was reported to be below normal throughout the season. Various vegetable crops were adversely affected by wet conditions. Farmers however are doing the best with what they have. Those looking to purchase feed are reporting that good quality feed is harder to come by. **Heather Bryant (Ext), Grafton:** The first hard frost of the season was on 9/26. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Vegetables: Good demand for all vegetables continues. Harvesting wide array of vegetables, including warm season vegetables like tomatoes and peppers. Harvesting cabbage, kale, Brussels 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. 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. **Melinda Marston (FSA), Merrimack/Belknap/Hillsborough:** This week people took advantage of the nice weather. Some producers are still trying to finish up some hay or haylage. Some producers are starting prepare equipment, etc ready for chopping corn while some others have started chopping. Hopefully more good weather is to come.

VERMONT – Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia: Got some welcomed rain this week. Another frost, ended the growing season for more corn. Corn chopping in full force, most looks okay. Some final haying. Foliage in higher elevation looking good. Our growing season is winding down. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Some rain for the week in Franklin County. Still some farms short on water in wells. Rain falling now will help

with the wells. Hope it does not get to wet for corn harvest. Corn is looking very good considering the wet cool summer. Some good ears on the short corn and most is ready for harvest and kernels dried down well. Pastures are slowing growth considerably and may become a little wet if the rain continues. Apples are super. Size of fruit is great and ripened to the ultimate with great flavor; be sure to get out and pick some. Last of the gardens are harvested. Frost has made sure of this. **John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille:** Many areas had a killing frost over the weekend but other areas that were foggy managed to escape the season ender. Corn silage harvest got off to a good start last week with dry field conditions. Pumpkin yields are lower this year but producers still had a decent harvest in this part of the state. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Most all farms have begun chopping corn. We got our second killing frost this weekend. A little 4th cutting hay is still being harvested. We had a lot of rain yesterday and over night that will help to recharge the water table. Pastures are poor to fair except where they are grazing on regrowth from hayfields. **Julie Jacque, (FSA), Windham:** Dry, sunny weather persisted through most of the week. Corn is being chopped, and yields so far in Windham County are pretty good. Some late blight has affected potato quality and yields.

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