

# Crop Progress & Condition



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

Gary R. Keough, Director

Phone: 603-224-9639

Fax: 603-225-1434

www.nass.usda.gov/nh

nass-nh@nass.usda.gov

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For week ending 10/4/09

## Cloudy Week, Rainy Weekend

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:** For the week ending October 4, 2009, there were 4.9 days available for field work across New England. Pasture condition was rated 19% poor, 37% fair, 42% good, and 2% excellent. The week began mostly cloudy across New England with below average to above average high temperatures ranging in the upper 50s to mid-70s. Light to moderate precipitation was reported across the region on Monday. Temperatures dropped mid-week with below average daytime temperatures ranging in the upper 40s to mid-60s. Nighttime lows dipped into the low 30s in some areas, resulting in light to moderate frost. While precipitation was minimal midweek, much of New England experienced mostly cloudy skies. Daytime temperatures during the rest of the week were variable, ranging in the low 50s to low 70s. Rain moved into the area on Friday and intensified on Saturday for all states. Precipitation was particularly heavy in the southern states. Total rainfall for the week ranged from 0.62 to over two inches. Precipitation was welcomed to relieve dry field conditions; however, heavy rains hindered sales at farmers markets and PYO operations.

**FRUIT:** The apple harvest remains in full swing throughout New England with a wide variety of apples available at PYO and farm stands region wide. Pear harvest was winding down in the major producing states of Connecticut and Massachusetts. The peach harvest was wrapped up by week's end in most areas. Fall raspberry harvest remains active across the region. The Massachusetts cranberry harvest continued at a slow pace as growers waited for cooler temperatures to improve berry color. Cold nighttime temperatures had growers on high alert for frost, and many cranberry beds had sprinklers run for protection.

**VEGETABLES:** Sweet corn harvest was nearly complete by the end of the week, on par with last year and normal. Warm season vegetable crop harvest is winding down in most areas and yields were expected to be low this year due to the wet growing season. Harvest of cool season vegetables remains active and included carrots, cabbage, kale, Brussels sprouts, winter squash, and pumpkins. Vegetable growers also were busy cleaning and planting cover crops in harvested fields.

**FIELD CROPS:** The silage corn harvest neared the halfway mark by the end of the week with progress ranging from 40 percent complete in Maine to 70 percent complete in Connecticut. Corn condition and maturity still varies throughout New England due earlier cool, wet conditions and yields are expected to be low. Farmers continued harvesting dry hay and haylage, weather permitting. The potato harvest in Maine was slowed due to rain and progress remained behind last year and normal at week's end. Harvest in Aroostook County Maine ranged from 20 percent dug in central areas of the county to 75 percent picked in southern areas of the county. The broadleaf tobacco harvest was complete in Connecticut and Massachusetts by the end of the week. Growers across New England were busy planting cover crops and spreading manure on harvested fields.

### SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
<b>Topsoil</b>			
Very Short	1	3	0
Short	6	14	6
Adequate	84	78	73
Surplus	9	5	21
<b>Subsoil</b>			
Very Short	1	1	1
Short	6	20	4
Adequate	84	73	72
Surplus	9	6	23

### FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Size	Condition
	2009	2008	5-yr Avg		
Apples	60	65	70	Avg/Above	Good
Peaches	10	100	100	Average	Good
Pears	85	90	85	Average	Good/Fair
Cranberries, MA	15	25	30	Average	Good/Excellent

### FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2009	2008	5-yr Avg	Condition
Potatoes	--Percent Harvested--			
Maine	35	65	70	Good/ Excellent
Mass	85	75	75	Good/Fair
Rhode Island	75	99	95	Fair
Silage Corn	45	70	65	Fair
Sweet Corn	99	99	99	Good/Fair
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	100	100	100	Fair/ Poor
Dry Hay				
Second Cut	99	99	95	Good/Fair
Third Cut	85	70	80	Good/Fair

For the Period: Monday September 28, 2009  
 To: Sunday October 4, 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	41	73	55	+2	2002	-49	683	-63	2.23	+1.46	6	2.42	-0.53	11
Bangor_Intl_Arp	40	73	55	+3	1888	+20	641	+19	2.44	+1.68	6	2.75	-0.43	11
Bethel	35	71	51	-2	1673	-164	490	-106	2.52	+1.75	6	2.98	-0.10	11
Caribou_Municip	38	67	52	+5	1588	+147	521	+143	2.12	+1.41	6	2.98	-0.14	10
Dover-Foxcroft	39	73	51	+2	1546	-39	468	+16	2.13	+1.26	5	2.36	-1.24	10
Frenchville	38	64	50	+3	1432	+94	440	+117	1.99	+1.22	7	3.06	-0.28	12
Houlton	34	69	52	+4	1571	+65	519	+95	1.53	+0.77	6	2.26	-1.00	10
Livermore_Falls	36	71	52	+3	1700	+147	537	+108	3.17	+2.39	6	3.49	+0.23	8
Moosehead	33	68	48	-1	1280	-30	343	+33	1.53	+0.74	5	1.81	-1.54	8
Portland_ME	39	74	56	+3	2059	+158	735	+98	3.11	+2.34	3	3.28	+0.35	6
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>														
Benton	30	68	47	-5	1597	-81	480	+4	1.72	+1.02	6	2.31	-0.57	12
Berlin_AG	35	72	50	-1	1582	-98	446	-51	1.44	+0.69	7	2.27	-0.73	10
Concord	31	74	54	+1	2149	+98	789	+50	0.91	+0.25	4	1.58	-1.01	9
Diamond_Pond	31	66	42	-6	899	-212	148	-57	2.75	+1.91	7	4.65	+1.05	13
Keene_AG	34	74	52	-4	2169	-140	833	-83	2.45	+1.78	5	3.55	+0.82	9
North_Conway	34	71	50	-3	1722	-167	511	-122	2.75	+1.91	6	2.89	-0.31	10
Rochester	37	75	54	-2	2144	-70	799	-53	2.22	+1.41	3	2.87	-0.16	5
<b>VERMONT</b>														
Bennington_AP	40	69	54	+3	2099	+304	717	+165	1.01	+0.17	6	1.58	-1.90	10
Burlington_Intl	40	68	52	-2	2306	+127	905	+64	2.15	+1.47	6	4.08	+1.12	13
Island_Pond	37	66	49	-1	1525	+147	448	+123	1.50	+0.80	7	2.96	-0.03	15
Montpelier	39	71	51	+0	1924	+216	653	+141	1.89	+1.26	5	2.58	-0.01	11
Rochester	37	71	49	-3	1717	+18	537	+33	3.08	+2.24	7	4.71	+1.26	12
Rutland_AG	34	71	51	-5	1924	-357	625	-271	2.65	+1.94	4	2.93	-0.25	9
Springfield_VT	35	72	52	+1	2110	+257	749	+153	1.80	+1.03	6	2.70	-0.49	14
Sutton	33	65	47	-3	1400	+14	371	+34	2.05	+1.35	6	3.22	+0.18	14
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>														
Boston/Logan_In	45	75	59	-2	2701	-13	1172	-45	1.77	+1.07	4	4.27	+1.47	7
Fitchburg	36	76	56	+5	2609	+754	1112	+514	0.77	+0.07	4	1.61	-1.11	8
Greenfield	38	71	53	-5	2168	-331	802	-242	1.72	+0.95	5	2.65	-0.49	8
New_Bedford	37	72	58	-4	2419	-341	962	-293	2.95	+2.25	4	4.64	+1.60	8
Otis_AFB	39	70	57	+0	2451	+225	987	+126	2.97	+2.14	4	8.19	+5.00	9
Plymouth	39	74	58	+2	2417	+143	961	+61	2.75	+1.84	4	4.41	+0.63	9
Walpole	38	73	55	+0	2303	+32	886	-5	1.96	+1.12	4	3.76	+0.35	7
Chicopee/Westov	36	74	56	-4	2483	-393	1013	-324	1.75	+0.97	4	2.45	-0.80	8
Worthington	36	70	50	-4	1818	-23	577	+2	1.33	+0.50	6	2.61	-0.75	10
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>														
Providence	40	74	59	-1	2689	+104	1161	+36	2.11	+1.34	4	3.80	+0.60	9
Woonsocket	38	74	55	+0	2433	+197	972	+126	2.07	+1.23	4	3.69	+0.20	8
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>														
Bridgeport/Siko	41	73	60	-2	2820	+16	1285	-25	1.37	+0.67	3	2.95	+0.08	7
Hartford/Bradle	39	74	56	-2	2760	+22	1225	-10	1.73	+0.89	4	2.69	-0.80	9
Norfolk	35	67	51	-3	1948	+114	645	+72	1.12	+0.21	6	2.70	-1.08	10
Thomaston_Dam	38	72	55	-2	2439	+211	983	+144	1.72	+0.81	4	3.34	-0.36	11
Willimantic	38	74	57	+1	2684	+408	1160	+288	1.85	+0.94	4	2.52	-1.14	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, October 4, 2009

STATE	AIR TEMPERATURES				PRECIPITATION	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	31	75	52	+1	1.47	3.65
NH	19	75	51	-1	0.69	3.66
VT	26	72	50	-2	0.85	3.08
MA	33	76	56	+0	0.77	3.60
RI	38	74	58	+0	1.98	2.11
CT	34	74	57	-1	0.84	2.32

**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:** We have not yet had a killing frost. Field corn is not mature - there were not enough degree days this summer to grow good field corn. Silage quality will be poor. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Some sun during the week however Saturday was a washout in eastern areas while along the river valley was more of a misty damp day. Good damp for taking down tobacco. Sunday turned out very nice and warm to find pumpkins and other fall items. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Still no frost to speak of. Corn silage harvest is wrapping up. Some late seeded fields still drying down but the major work is over. Grain corn and soybeans still have to dry. **Patricia Smith (FSA), New London:** Corn chopping has been moving right along with the rain-free weather. The last cutting of hay is progressing. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** Pretty nice week weather wise with cool nights and mostly sunny days. Another weekend of scattered rain didn't help with agri-tourism or farm stand sales. Silage corn harvest continued during the week. Vegetable harvest is really winding down now. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** A busy week chopping corn, haying, picking apples, picking squash, pumpkins, setting up farm stand displays. Nice weather all week and then Saturday heavy rain - really hurts pick your own sales. Farmer's Markets slowing down a bit. Cold nights, cool days, leaves are changing, fall is here.

**MAINE – Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** The rain this week slowed harvesting. Hopefully, we will get some drier weather to finish up the harvest of potatoes in the coming week. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** The additional rain was welcome but the timing was poor. Weekend events, pick your own crops and corn mazes lost a lot of traffic. The foliage is becoming spectacular. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Most harvest is at the end stage except for corn silage, grain, and late fall crops. Harvest has been more difficult due to short growing time and difficult weather. Difficult weather caused a lot more spraying than normal and cool nights early. Rain received this week was welcomed by most. Manure is being spread when time permits. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** The harvest of silage corn started on Wednesday of this week with a disappointing yield of 8 tons per acre, which is much worse than originally thought. The winter squash crop is harvested and while the butternut variety yield was o.k., the buttercup variety yield was off by approximately 40 percent. The harvest of crops for the 2009 crop year is winding down and reports confirm that this has been one of the worst cropping seasons remembered. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** Some rain helped over the weekend. Most hay crops and vegetables are harvested. Apples are being picked and silage is being cut. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Very hard frost and corn silage harvest shifted into high gear; many farms finishing quickly as yields are low. Apple harvest going well. Lots of rain over the weekend.

**MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire:** Fields being turned over and put to bed. Garlic is being planted. Corn chopping is ongoing; producers reporting low yields of poor quality. Orchards, farm stands and markets are busy selling apples, cider and other fall crops despite a rainy day on Saturday. **Lori Carver (FSA), Franklin:** Silage corn harvest continues in earnest. Producers finishing harvest of pumpkins and winter squash. Harvest of most crops is coming to an end as the nights get colder. Rainy Saturday, but beautiful Sunday. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Another beautiful week for fall harvest, with the exception of one rainy

day. The rainfall accumulated a total of 1.5 inches, preventing any work in the fields. This week's harvest included apples, fall raspberries, potatoes, parsnips, carrots, and corn silage. Many farmers seeded a rye cover crop down on their harvested fields. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Harvest continuing at a slow pace, as growers wait for color in the berries. Early Black and Ben Lear crops have been smaller than anticipated, probably due to poor pollination weather during bloom in June and early July. Fruit quality has been decent so far. Growers had two cold nights last week and many beds had their sprinklers run for frost protection. Rainfall amounts on Saturday were ample, between 2-4 inches.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE - Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll:** Mostly dry week, with heavy rain on Saturday, daytime temps in the 55-70 degree range and a few frosty nights. Leaves appear to be at or near peak, heavy tourist traffic heading to the Fryeburg Fair and to the mountains for some quality leaf peeping. Pumpkins, winter squash, corn stalks all popular at the farm stand. Corn silage harvest near completion. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** More cooler weather, with some steady rain over the weekend. Many farms finished with corn silage harvest, the rest should be done soon. Grass is growing well for later season grazing or 3rd/4th cutting. Lots of fall crops available. Apple harvest going well. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Cooler, wetter weather but temps generally above freezing. Corn silage harvest in earnest with most growers now chopping; hoping for a little more maturity. Seeing more fields with some frost damage from previous cold spell. A little manure spreading; also late cut haylage as conditions permit. Tunnel tomatoes yet at market although cleanup on-going now. Apples, pumpkins, winter squash, corn stalk and mum sales. About peak color in Coos County. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending October 3rd, we received almost 2 inches of rain. Most of that was received at the end of the week. Soil conditions remained dry enough to allow corn harvesting to continue through Friday. Temperatures remained cool. The Connecticut River Valley has not yet had a hard frost. Corn is still growing. Hard frost has finished the growing season for any corn left outside of the river valley. Some grass is still being harvested when conditions allow. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Vegetables: Great weather and good demand for all vegetables continues. Farmers are harvesting wide array of vegetables including: cabbage, kale, brussel sprouts, winter squash and pumpkins along with the tail end of warm season crops. Warm-season crops (like tomatoes, peppers, sweet corn and beans) harvest is almost completed. Farmers kept busy disking, cleaning up and planting cover crops on harvested fields. Fruit: Pick-your-own apple and farm stand operations had a rainy Saturday, October 3 and wonderful Sunday, October 4. Apple harvest is in full swing with most growers concentrating on strip picking McIntosh apples, and working on Cortland and Macoun. Peach and pear harvest is completed and fall raspberries harvest continues. Field Crops: Silage corn harvest in full swing. The second and third cuttings of hay and haylage continued between rain showers. **Amy Ouellette (Ext), Merrimack:** Chopping corn and cutting hay. Harvesting fall crops, selling storage vegetables and preparing ground for the winter. Farm stands, markets and garden centers relying on sunny weekend days for strong retail sales. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Disking, cleaning and planting cover crops in harvested vegetable fields. Harvesting an array of veggies including pumpkins and winter squashes. Apple harvest continues. Peach and pear harvest almost done. Haying and

chopping corn. Cleaning manure pits. Nice sunny week with a couple of cold nights with very light frost. Rain on Saturday.

**VERMONT – Jeff Carter, (Ext), Addison:** Harvesting corn silage and haylage. Some manure spreading on harvested fields. Started soybean harvest. Rain showers slowing progress but still harvesting OK. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** A cool wet week. Frost early in the week, then wet. Farmers chopping corn. Foliage at about peak. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Some more wet weather in Franklin County this week; a plus for bringing wells back before winter. Wet weather is making some a little skittish for corn harvest. The corn harvested

so far has not been to much of a problem for getting around on the fields. Corn is standing well and the wet weather is keeping the silage moisture levels up. Most corn has hit the ideal dent stage for harvest and if weather can cooperate this week, we will be in good shape. Apples are still a mixed bag. Orchards that avoided the hail damage in June are bumper crops. Those with the hail damage had decent crops, however not prime market apples. Other vegetables are pumpkins and are not a bumper crop making them expensive. Several corn producers looking at cover crops. These seed applications will be later than usual because of the wet summer and late growth on corn. Still should have good conditions for catch on this seed with the wet soil.

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**Gary R. Keough, Director**

**Hernan Ortiz, Statistician**  
**Kathy Schmitt, Stat Assistant**