

Crop Progress & Condition



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For week ending 10/11/09

Beautiful, Cool Fall Weekend

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending October 11, 2009, there were 5.0 days available for field work across New England. Pasture condition was rated 24% poor, 33% fair, 38% good, and 5% excellent. The week began cloudy across of New England with isolated light rain showers in Vermont and New Hampshire. High temperatures were below average to average during most of the week ranging in the upper 50s to upper 60s. Nighttime lows were average to above average in the low 40s to mid-50s. Rain and thunderstorms moved through the area during the night Tuesday and continued through Wednesday bringing between a tenth to two inches of rainfall to New England. An additional tenth to half an inch of rain fell on Friday in many areas. The weekend brought cooler temperatures, partly cloudy skies, and windy conditions to the region. Frosts were reported across New England Sunday morning when temperatures dipped down into the upper 20s in areas. The weekend's weather provided excellent harvesting conditions and pick your own operations were busy. Total rainfall for the week ranged from a tenth of inch in Southern Connecticut to nearly three inches in Northern Maine and New Hampshire.

FRUIT: The apple harvest was active throughout New England with some areas of northern Maine almost complete. Many varieties such as Macoun, Cortland, Empire and Gala were available at PYO operations and farm stands. Orchardists were also busy during the week cleaning up drops and putting away equipment for the winter. The Massachusetts cranberry harvest continued and increased significantly in volume during the week. The crop was 40% harvested by week's end, still behind last year and normal.

VEGETABLES: There were still a few blocks of sweet corn left to pick at week's end, but much of the harvest was complete across New England. Harvest of cool season vegetables remained active during the week and included root crops, brassicas, winter squash, greens, and pumpkins. Growers were also busy cleaning up fields, planting cover crops, and repairing and storing equipment for the winter.

FIELD CROPS: The corn silage harvest made significant progress during the week, but still lags behind last year and normal. Corn condition and maturity still varies throughout New England due earlier cool, wet conditions and yields are expected to be low. Conditions were poor for drying and harvesting dry hay, but growers hope to harvest a little more third and fourth cut. A tobacco damp occurred last week allowing Massachusetts and Connecticut growers to take down and bundle their crop. Maine's potato harvest slowed during week, but many growers were digging whether or not it was raining. Growers are in need of a spell of dry weather to complete harvest before the crop starts to freeze. Rhode Island and Massachusetts's harvests were active during the week and neared completion. Growers also kept busy seeding cover crops and spreading manure.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	1	1	1
Short	3	6	5
Adequate	80	84	78
Surplus	16	9	16
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	1	1
Short	1	6	4
Adequate	85	84	80
Surplus	14	9	15

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Size	Condition
	2009	2008	5-yr Avg		
Apples	80	80	80	Avg/Above	Good
Pears	95	95	95	Average	Good/Fair
Cranberries, MA	40	60	60	Average	Good/Excellent

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2009	2008	5-yr Avg	Condition
--Percent Harvested--				
Potatoes				
Maine	75	85	90	Good
Mass	95	85	85	Good
Rhode Island	85	100	99	Fair
Silage Corn	75	85	80	Fair
Sweet Corn	99	100	99	Good/Fair
Dry Hay				
Second Cut	100	99	99	Good/Fair
Third Cut	85	80	85	Good/Fair

For the Period: Monday October 5, 2009
 To: Sunday October 11, 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	---	---
MAINE														
Augusta_State_A	34	65	53	+2	2023	-50	683	-63	1.05	+0.24	4	3.46	+0.40	14
Bangor_Intl_Arp	32	64	50	+0	1898	+12	641	+19	1.28	+0.58	5	4.02	+0.98	15
Bethel	37	66	50	+1	1686	-167	490	-106	0.88	+0.07	4	3.83	+0.71	14
Caribou_Municip	30	58	46	+0	1590	+142	521	+143	1.61	+0.91	4	4.59	+1.61	14
Dover-Foxcroft	31	63	47	+0	1548	-45	468	+16	1.49	+0.66	4	3.85	+0.33	14
Frenchville	30	56	45	-1	1432	+89	440	+117	1.30	+0.54	5	4.36	+1.16	17
Houlton	30	59	47	+2	1575	+62	519	+95	1.61	+0.91	4	3.87	+0.78	14
Livermore_Falls	30	63	50	+3	1706	+145	537	+108	1.09	+0.25	4	4.58	+1.32	12
Moosehead	27	58	45	-1	1280	-37	343	+33	1.10	+0.34	4	2.91	-0.32	12
Portland_ME	32	66	54	+4	2092	+172	735	+98	0.97	+0.18	4	4.15	+1.13	9
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	30	66	48	-2	1605	-88	480	+4	1.02	+0.32	6	3.20	+0.39	16
Berlin_AG	31	62	48	+0	1585	-107	446	-51	0.76	-0.01	4	3.03	+0.05	14
Concord	28	70	53	+3	2179	+108	789	+50	0.81	+0.11	3	2.03	-0.59	10
Diamond_Pond	27	53	40	-5	899	-219	148	-57	1.72	+0.88	6	6.37	+2.91	19
Keene_AG	32	70	53	+0	2192	-146	833	-83	0.84	+0.14	3	3.54	+0.82	10
North_Conway	34	64	50	+2	1734	-170	511	-122	1.18	+0.32	4	4.06	+0.81	13
Rochester	31	66	53	+1	2167	-75	799	-53	0.98	+0.10	3	3.40	+0.20	7
VERMONT														
Bennington_AP	30	66	53	+4	2127	+314	717	+165	0.91	+0.09	5	2.33	-1.06	14
Burlington_Intl	36	61	52	+3	2331	+129	905	+64	0.67	+0.04	6	4.75	+1.97	19
Island_Pond	30	64	48	+2	1530	+142	448	+123	1.52	+0.82	6	4.41	+1.55	19
Montpelier	31	64	50	+2	1937	+213	653	+141	1.08	+0.45	5	3.62	+1.10	14
Rochester	30	68	50	+1	1729	+13	537	+33	1.54	+0.70	4	6.15	+2.77	15
Rutland_AG	30	64	50	-3	1936	-376	625	-275	1.27	+0.60	4	4.08	+1.10	11
Springfield_VT	30	67	52	+4	2134	+264	749	+153	0.79	+0.02	5	2.97	-0.15	17
Sutton	30	66	47	+2	1405	+12	371	+34	1.43	+0.69	7	4.55	+1.60	19
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	41	69	59	+2	2764	-2	1176	-49	0.97	+0.27	3	2.93	+0.13	8
Fitchburg	34	74	57	+8	2660	+788	1115	+517	0.79	+0.09	3	1.81	-0.91	9
Greenfield	34	69	53	-2	2195	-342	802	-249	0.70	-0.07	4	2.85	-0.23	10
New_Bedford	33	72	57	-1	2472	-346	967	-298	0.34	-0.41	4	3.51	+0.54	10
Otis_AFB	34	72	58	+3	2505	+241	994	+129	0.59	-0.25	3	3.73	+0.47	10
Plymouth	33	71	57	+3	2469	+159	965	+62	0.72	-0.15	4	3.55	-0.12	11
Walpole	34	70	55	+4	2343	+42	886	-8	1.10	+0.26	3	3.24	-0.12	8
Chicopee/Westov	31	71	56	-1	2530	-396	1015	-330	0.91	+0.14	3	3.04	-0.14	8
Worthington	30	69	52	+2	1839	-25	577	+2	0.88	+0.10	4	2.85	-0.44	12
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	36	72	59	+3	2753	+122	1170	+38	0.93	+0.16	3	3.20	+0.07	9
Woonsocket	35	70	56	+5	2480	+217	973	+127	0.98	+0.10	3	3.29	-0.17	8
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	40	72	60	+2	2891	+29	1295	-27	0.43	-0.22	3	2.61	-0.15	8
Hartford/Bradle	35	71	57	+3	2813	+35	1226	-16	0.62	-0.17	3	2.82	-0.55	9
Norfolk	32	66	51	+2	1964	+111	645	+72	0.82	-0.02	3	2.53	-1.11	11
Thomaston_Dam	34	71	55	+3	2479	+216	983	+137	0.75	-0.10	4	3.03	-0.55	12
Willimantic	36	74	58	+5	2741	+431	1167	+291	0.62	-0.29	3	2.89	-0.77	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 11, 2009

STATE	AIR TEMPERATURES				PRECIPITATION	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	27	67	49	+1	0.63	1.67
NH	19	73	50	+1	0.19	2.48
VT	25	71	49	+1	0.40	1.83
MA	29	74	56	+2	0.18	1.10
RI	35	72	58	+3	0.21	0.98
CT	30	74	57	+2	0.17	1.22

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: Frost but no freeze along the CT River. Apple picking still going and a few blocks of sweet corn left. Pumpkin harvest is in full swing and cole crops coming in. Seeding rye cover crop and cutting grass for silage. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Frost finally arrived in Western CT over the weekend. Some farms still have a little late planted corn to harvest as silage but basically the season is over for forage crops. Grain corn and soybeans still need to dry down before they can be harvested. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** This was almost a duplicate of last week in terms of weather. Cooler temperatures both during the day and at night - typical of fall weather. Some scattered showers at the end of the week ushered in a beautiful fall weekend. Silage corn harvest is moving towards completion as are fall crops. Orchard crops are very tasty. Fall is decorating farm stands. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Pumpkin picking, mum sales, cool, rain. Not much haying. Corn chopping continues, cleaning up vegetable beds, repairing equipment, putting things away until next year. Corn to pick is waiting for the right conditions. Sun came through for the second half of Columbus Day Weekend, good for hay wagon rides, picking in apple orchards, and some harvest celebrations.

MAINE – Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook: Another rainy, chilly week for harvesting crops. This weather has slowed the process of harvest. Approximately 75% of crop harvested in this area. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Growers need dry weather to finish harvest before potatoes start freezing. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** The growing season has nearly concluded here with most crops harvested. Pumpkins, a little sweet corn, and apples are all that remain to be harvested. It has been a disastrous year for most farmers with blueberries and possibly apples being the only crops that seemed to fair well in the midcoast area. **Kathy Hopkins/Elaine Moceus (Ext), Somerset:** A widespread and hard frost over the weekend has brought an end to the growing season. Harvesting is wrapping up although many crop yields are a disappointment. **Janet King (FSA), Somerset:** Producers reported 40 percent to 50 percent losses in corn silage. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Some heavy rains and wind slowed down corn silage harvest. Apples are almost done. Some cover crops being sown. Manure pits still need to be emptied.

MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: A cool week with windy conditions and another inch of rain. More corn was chopped. No one is reporting a good yield this year. Orchard business remains brisk despite reported losses from a late freeze and wet weather. Foliage weekend was mixed weather, very cold, upper 20's overnight. **Lori Carver (FSA), Franklin:** Fall is certainly here. Nice holiday weekend brought people out to farm stands for apples, cider, pumpkins, etc. Harvest of most crops are coming to an end as producers harrow fields and plant a winter cover crop. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** We had the first killing frost at week's end. Fall crops continue to be harvested including potatoes, cabbage, apples, parsnips, carrots, and collard greens. Also, a tobacco damp occurred this week and growers who harvested tobacco took some down to be bundled. Growers reported the crop is a lighter weight than normal. Dairy farmers spread manure on harvested fields. Vegetable growers continue applying a rye cover on their harvested fields. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Harvest continues, and increased significantly in volume during the past week. Crops of the early varieties (Early Black, Ben Lear) were disappointingly small. It is hoped that Stevens harvests will help, although Howes berries are very small in size. There is no way the 1.9 million barrel estimate will become a reality. There were two frost events within the past two days, with more to come during the next five days.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire: Nice weather most of the week, with a couple of hard frosts Sat. and Sun. nights.

Pastures growing slowly, but they're still green, and farms continuing to get the last of 3rd or 4th cuttings. Silage corn just about done. Apples still going strong, but most of the big push is over. Lots of squashes, root crops, & brassicas in farms stands. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Colder weather, with some frosty mornings. Wetter, at times hard, driving rains with hail even. Corn silage harvest continuing although muddy fields making for difficult traveling. Apples and cider now available at orchards all around, as are other seasonal crops. Summer not much of one this crop year; moving quickly into autumn temperatures and weather. Past peak but still nice orange and yellow colors all around. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** It rained 6 out of 7 days last week. Rainfall ranged from 1.2 inches to nearly 3 inches in other areas. Soils are saturated on many of the upland fields. Well drained river bottom soils are in better shape. Most of the corn is harvested. Some haylage still remains to be harvested on a few fields. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Vegetables: Good demand for all vegetables continues where we still have not had a major county wide freeze but several localized light frosts have occurred. Growers are harvesting wide array of vegetables including: cabbage, kale, brussel sprouts, winter squash and pumpkins along with the tail end of warm season crops. Farmers kept busy working on: pulling plastic mulch and tomato stakes, planting cover crops, and putting equipment. Fruit: Farm Stands and Pick-Your-Own Apple Operations had a beautiful weekend! Apple harvest is in full swing with most growers concentrating on strip picking McIntosh, Macoun, and Cortland. Harvesting late maturing varieties like Red Delicious, Empire, etc. Pear harvest is done. Cleaning up drops apples and putting orchard equipment. Field Crops: Silage corn chopping continues with the end in sight and seeding cover crops on harvested fields. Some manure spreading and incorporating in soil is taking place. The second and third cuttings of hay and haylage continues. **Amy Ouellette (Ext), Merrimack:** The weather during Columbus Day weekend was fantastic for apple picking. Local orchards are now harvesting Macoun, Cortland, McIntosh, Empire, Northern Spy, Gala, Crispin and many heirloom varieties. Farmers are harvesting the rest of the vegetables for the season and cleaning up fields. Silage corn was cut in several places during the week. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Great Columbus weekend for PYO apples. Apples operations were quite busy. Harvesting greens, potatoes, pumpkins, winter squashes, corn stalks. Chopping corn and haying. Pasture looks good. Applying manure. Seeding cover crops. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** Rains and mild weather through most of the week. Grass on pastures and hay fields is growing well. However it has been very difficult for hay producers to cut hay due to rainy weather. Fruit growers were harvesting apples. Traffic on the pick your own operations was slow due to rainy weather. Harvesting for fall raspberries was winding down. Vegetable growers were harvesting an array of late season vegetables. Some growers were planting cover crops. Farm stands were busy with pumpkins, corn stalk and other fall decorations. Gardens were busy selling fall mums and other fall plants such as ornamental kale. The poinsettia crop in the in greenhouses is doing well.

VERMONT – Jeff Carter, (Ext), Addison: Corn silage harvest in full swing, manure spreading on harvested fields and hay fields. Generally poor corn yields on all soils after very wet summer. Haylage harvest complete. Starting fall primary tillage. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Another cool wet week. Nearly 2 inches of rain, clouds kept the frost away. Finishing up on corn chopping; seeing some mud now. No haying during the week. Grass still green, not growing much. Foliage is just past peak, some leaves coming down in the rain and wind. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** We are moving to the last half of fall and the harvest season in Franklin County. Corn harvest is over 50%; apple drops are now available at the orchards; foliage is disappearing in the elevations and some forecasts of snow possible. These are all the signs of the

fall season crest. Hearing some good reports of yields on corn considering the poor growing year. Now to get some reports on quality will be the true picture. Cover crops on corn ground are a hot topic in the county and need to be on by 10/15/09. Plenty of moisture will help germination, however the late maturing of corn from weather conditions needs to be a factor in the 10/15/09 cover crop seed date deadline. **John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille:** Corn silage harvest progressed nicely last week with good harvest

conditions. After a couple of weeks without a frost the temp got down into the upper 20's on Monday morning. Pumpkin crop is in and generally was a decent year. Pastures are still holding up and manure pits are being emptied before it gets too wet. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** A lot of rain showers in the past week hampered corn harvesting but didn't stop it. About 80% is harvested and by the end of this week should be almost done. A few farms are harvesting a 4th hay crop. Pastures are getting fairly poor with the colder weather. Tuesday October 13 we saw our first snow. On the higher hills the ground is white but still green in the valley.

September 2009 CROP WEATHER SUMMARY: September began partly cloudy with average temperatures in the upper 60s to mid-70s and remained relatively cool through Labor Day weekend. Nighttime lows were average in the 40s and 50s. Much needed rain passed through the region September 10 - 13, bringing up to four inches of rain to coastal areas. Other areas reported only a sprinkle. Temperatures remained cool in the low 60s to mid-70s for most of the month with isolated light rain showers, but most of the region was dry. The weekend of September 19 brought cooler temperatures in the mid-30s to low 40s. Most areas experienced their first frost of the fall season; however, no significant crop damage was reported. Temperatures warmed up towards the end of the month with highs in the low 70s to low 80s and nighttime lows in the upper 30s to low 60s; however, September 26 brought temperatures down into the upper 20s in some areas. Severe frosts were abundant across New England. Rain moved into New England overnight Saturday, September 26 and continued through Monday, September 28 in many areas. Most areas picked up approximately an inch of rain during that time. Many farmers welcomed the rain, but soils remained dry. September ended with cloudy skies and cool temperatures in the mid-50s to low 60s. Monthly average high temperatures ranged from the upper 60s to mid-70s and average nighttime lows were the mid-40s to mid-50s across New England. Total precipitation was one to two inches below average in many areas, ranging from 1.05 inches to 3.09 inches. The Massachusetts cranberry harvest was underway by September 20 and was 10% harvested by month's end. The apple, peach, and pear harvests were active during September and by month's end the crops were 50%, 99%, and 75% picked, respectively. Wild and tame blueberry harvests were completed during September; both on par with last year and normal. Harvest of sweet corn was 95% complete at month's end, on par with last year and normal. The field corn harvest picked up pace during September and was 25% harvested at the end of the month, well behind last year's 55% harvested and normal of 45%. Field corn in many areas developed slowly due to the cool, rainy summer and when corn was ready to harvest, fields were too wet to work in. Maine's oat and barley harvests came to a close by September 20, ahead of last year and normal. Harvests of shade and broadleaf tobacco were active throughout September. The shade harvest was complete by September 20, but broadleaf lagged behind last year and normal, and was 99% complete by month's end. Both Maine's and Rhode Island's potato harvests were behind last year and normal at the end of the month, while Massachusetts' potato harvest was ahead of schedule. The first cut of dry hay was complete by September 6 and rated in fair to good condition. The harvest percentages for second and third cuts were 99% and 80%, respectively, both ahead of last year and normal.

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