

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

Volume 30, Number 23

(Issued weekly on the Internet, May – October)

October 4, 2010 – 4 pm

For week ending 10/3/10

Rains Slow Field Work

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending October 3, 2010, there were 4.4 days available for field work across New England. Pasture condition was rated 3% very poor, 21% poor, 41% fair, 34% good, and 1% excellent. The week began with light rains and temperatures ranging from the upper 50s to low 70s. On Tuesday, high temperatures rose into the 70s throughout much of New England and persisted until the weekend. Heavy rains and wind were experienced Thursday and Friday across the six States. Nighttime temperatures for the week ranged from the low 50s to mid 60s. The weekend brought average to below average daytime temperatures ranging from the mid 50s to upper 60s with cloudy skies. Nighttime temperatures ranged from the low 30s in Maine and New Hampshire to the low 50s in southern States. The week's total precipitation ranged from 0.91 to 5.70 inches.

FRUIT: Apple picking continued last week with some producers in Maine finishing the harvest. Varieties being harvested included McIntosh, Cortland, and Macoun. Other fruits being harvested included fall raspberries, pears, and day neutral strawberries in New Hampshire. Grapes continued to be harvested from vineyards in Rhode Island last week with the crops reportedly looking good. Cranberry harvesting in Massachusetts accelerated while many beds have been affected by fruit rot and or scald. Cranberry fruit size was rated as average and in condition.

VEGETABLES: Vegetable producers were harvesting broccoli, brussel sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, green beans, kale, pumpkins, radishes, red peppers, late sweet corn, tomatoes, and winter squash last week. On land where harvesting of crops has been completed, farmers were busy cleaning fields, disking, and planting cover crops.

FIELD CROPS: Silage corn harvesting began to wind down last week, with high yields reported in Vermont. In Connecticut, grain corn was drying down fast prior to rains on Thursday and Friday. Rains in New Hampshire and Vermont caused some low lying, unharvested field corn fields to become flooded. In Massachusetts, tobacco farmers were busy stripping the crop and taking it down to bundle for sale. Hay and haylage harvesting continues throughout the region, with some producers in New Hampshire on their fourth cut. In Maine, small grain harvesting was completed by week's end. Potato harvesting was slowed by rains in Rhode Island and Maine, although some producers were able to dig over the weekend. Farmers also kept busy spreading manure and planting cover crops.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	2	7	1
Short	7	21	6
Adequate	64	69	84
Surplus	27	3	9
Subsoil			
Very Short	4	8	1
Short	11	25	6
Adequate	75	66	84
Surplus	10	1	9

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2010	2009	5-yr Avg
-- Percent Harvested --			
Apples	70	60	65
Peaches	100	100	100
Pears	90	85	85
Cranberries, MA	25	15	25

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2010	2009	5-yr Avg
-- Percent Harvested --			
Barley, ME	100	100	99
Oats, ME	100	100	95
Potatoes			
Maine	60	25	60
Mass	80	85	75
Rhode Island	70	75	90
Silage Corn	80	45	60
Sweet Corn	95	99	99
Dry Hay			
Second Cut	99	99	99
Third Cut	90	85	80

Weather Summary for New England Agricultural Statistics

For the Period: Monday September 27, 2010
 To: Sunday October 3, 2010

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	38	76	61	+7	2579	+532	1109	+363	1.34	+0.57	4	3.23	+0.29	12
Bangor_Intl_Arp	36	80	62	+10	2533	+668	1091	+469	1.61	+0.84	4	3.62	+0.42	14
Bethel	34	75	58	+6	2201	+367	837	+241	2.81	+2.04	5	4.13	+1.04	11
Caribou_Municip	36	74	59	+11	2050	+610	800	+422	2.83	+2.11	4	5.48	+2.34	16
Dover-Foxcroft	31	75	57	+8	1981	+398	735	+283	1.69	+0.81	4	4.35	+0.74	16
Frenchville	35	71	56	+8	1769	+432	648	+325	3.15	+2.38	4	6.14	+2.78	19
Houlton	30	77	61	+12	1966	+461	753	+329	1.18	+0.41	5	4.41	+1.12	18
Livermore_Falls	30	78	58	+8	2156	+605	838	+409	1.79	+1.02	5	3.63	+0.37	13
Moosehead	33	73	55	+7	1629	+320	523	+213	3.19	+2.39	5	6.05	+2.69	16
Portland_ME	39	79	62	+8	2588	+691	1116	+479	1.18	+0.41	5	1.90	-1.02	10
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	33	72	55	+4	1933	+258	715	+239	5.82	+5.12	4	7.46	+4.57	12
Berlin_AG	32	73	56	+6	1994	+316	720	+223	3.01	+2.27	4	5.10	+2.09	14
Concord	32	80	62	+9	2811	+764	1333	+594	2.24	+1.59	4	2.82	+0.23	8
Diamond_Pond	32	70	52	+6	1059	-51	230	+25	5.55	+4.71	4	9.23	+5.60	17
Keene_AG	34	81	62	+7	2582	+278	1129	+213	5.18	+4.52	4	5.69	+2.95	8
North_Conway	35	75	58	+6	2286	+400	899	+266	3.48	+2.64	5	4.82	+1.62	11
Rochester	36	81	61	+7	2894	+685	1391	+539	2.08	+1.28	6	2.95	-0.07	12
VERMONT														
Bennington_AP	33	77	61	+9	2541	+749	1119	+567	4.05	+3.21	4	4.90	+1.41	11
Burlington_Intl	36	81	59	+6	2772	+597	1304	+463	3.38	+2.69	4	5.65	+2.66	14
Island_Pond	33	74	56	+7	1881	+505	675	+350	4.73	+4.03	7	7.87	+4.85	24
Montpelier	33	72	57	+6	2238	+533	908	+396	5.28	+4.65	5	7.00	+4.40	14
Rochester	34	74	57	+6	2114	+418	810	+306	5.30	+4.46	4	6.56	+3.10	11
Rutland_AG	36	76	59	+5	2376	+100	994	+99	4.93	+4.21	4	6.44	+3.23	10
Springfield_VT	35	75	59	+8	2634	+784	1181	+585	5.73	+4.96	5	6.48	+3.28	11
Sutton	33	70	54	+6	1837	+453	642	+305	5.21	+4.51	5	7.27	+4.20	18
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	47	84	68	+9	3455	+750	1816	+601	1.07	+0.37	4	1.79	-1.02	10
Fitchburg	37	81	65	+13	3325	+1473	1717	+1119	2.55	+1.85	6	4.10	+1.38	10
Greenfield	38	79	62	+5	2710	+218	1229	+186	6.07	+5.30	6	6.50	+3.35	10
New_Bedford	46	81	70	+9	3147	+397	1573	+320	1.41	+0.71	3	2.27	-0.79	6
Otis_AFB	48	79	67	+11	2766	+547	1262	+402	1.88	+1.05	5	2.37	-0.81	7
Plymouth	48	85	70	+14	3353	+1085	1759	+860	1.52	+0.61	4	2.23	-1.56	7
Walpole	41	81	65	+10	3158	+892	1588	+698	1.31	+0.47	5	1.96	-1.46	10
Chicopee/Westov	37	82	65	+6	3152	+284	1596	+261	4.68	+3.90	5	5.10	+1.84	8
Worthington	35	75	59	+6	2349	+512	952	+377	7.22	+6.38	5	7.70	+4.32	9
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	47	82	69	+10	3457	+880	1793	+669	0.96	+0.19	5	1.78	-1.43	7
Woonsocket	42	79	66	+12	3156	+925	1564	+718	2.71	+1.87	5	3.60	+0.10	9
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	50	78	67	+6	3507	+713	1873	+565	2.62	+1.92	5	3.60	+0.73	9
Hartford/Bradle	41	82	65	+8	3496	+765	1844	+610	4.66	+3.82	6	4.82	+1.32	9
Norfolk	39	72	59	+7	2524	+694	1077	+504	7.67	+6.76	6	8.35	+4.56	11
Thomaston_Dam	42	78	63	+8	3048	+826	1483	+645	6.88	+5.97	6	7.25	+3.54	10
Willimantic	43	80	66	+10	3145	+875	1557	+686	1.74	+0.83	6	2.67	-0.99	10

Summary based on NWS data.
 DFN = Departure from Normal (Using 1971-2000 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, October 3, 2010

STATE	AIR TEMPERATURES				PRECIPITATION	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	29	80	58	+7	1.09	3.95
NH	25	82	59	+8	1.26	5.82
VT	30	81	57	+6	3.38	7.27
MA	32	85	65	+10	0.94	7.22
RI	42	82	68	+10	0.73	2.71
CT	37	82	65	+8	1.74	7.67

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:

Heavy rain from this past weekend will slow the remaining field corn harvest. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Nice rains on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday totaled up to about 3.5 inches, which alleviated drought conditions once growing season is finally about done. Picking high moisture shelled corn and combining corn as well. Vegetables and fruit still plentiful at farmers markets and farm stands. The damps of last week allowed for a lot of tobacco to be taken down in sheds. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Finally some rain! Not as much as the Carolinas thank goodness! Corn silage harvest is winding down. Grain corn was drying down quickly before the rain. Fall manure spreading was moving steadily - the rain will slow things for a few days to let fields firm up. **Ann Marie McCard (FSA), New London:** Received much needed rain and cooler weather. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** Rain came with a vengeance this week. Reports of 5 to 8 inches fell across the two county areas. Field work was impossible. Streams and rivers filled up. The sun finally came out over the weekend and people were out taking hay rides, picking pumpkins and buying mums and other fall decorations at the farm. **Jude Boucher (Ext), Tolland:** Finally, some much needed rain. Too late to help summer crops, but the rain will give fall-planted greens and water supplies a boost and help reduce the stress on perennial crops before the winter. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Still warm and very dry; then rain, Tuesday 1 and 4/10ths, Thursday 1/4 inch and Friday 1/2 inch. Windy on Friday. Still chopping corn, picking apples and pumpkins, waiting for hay to grow to get another cutting. Grape harvest continues. Most field work is winding down.

MAINE – Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook:

Two inches of rain at the end of the week will hold up potato harvest until probably Wednesday. Grain has been cut, although there is still some canola to be harvested. So far the season has progressed ahead of schedule. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Farmers tried to continue to harvest potatoes. The rain over the week slowed harvest a few days, but the weekend weather was partly sunny. Some were digging in some areas. Broccoli harvest continued in Aroostook County. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Good rainfall amounts are starting to recharge the ground water table. There has not been a real killing frost in most places yet. Third cut hay is still being harvested. It was a very good year for squash and pumpkins. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Harvesting has come to a stop, most apples are completed and farmers are spreading fertilizer as the cool weather is upon us. Overall, crops did good this year. Drought conditions reduced the overall quality of corn silage but yield was better than expected. Farmers got a second cut on some fields but overall not many third cuttings were reported. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** We experienced some warm temperatures and precipitation last week. The harvest is nearly complete with 70% of the apple crop, 60% of the pumpkins and nearly all the winter squash harvested in this area. We have not had a significant frost yet but with everything nearly harvested, this will not be a factor in this part of Maine. Farmers will soon be spreading manure on those cropped field. This growing season has been one of the best we have experienced in a long time! **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Oxford County received several inches of rain last Friday, October 1, 2010. Potatoes, apples, silage corn, hay and fall vegetable crops are being harvested. Farm stands are looking very festive and are busy with sales of fall veggies. Pick your own apple orchards are busy on the weekends. Some spots have received a frost where other areas of Oxford County have not. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis/Penobscot:** We had a more wide spread frost this weekend. Fall vegetables dominate roadside stand sales. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** Fall harvests are wrapping up for vegetables. Apples are getting picked. Pastures are greening up from the rain and wells are recharging. Scattered frost hit low lying areas up north. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Rain came without too much damage.

Waldo County got 2-3 inches. It shouldn't slow the rest of the corn harvest. Cover crops being planted. Some third cutting haylage.

MASSACHUSETTS – Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: Fall blew in following the remnants of a tropical storm. Four and 1/2 inches of rain and plenty of wind. Temps went from the 70's to the 50's. Farmstands were busy, apple picking and pumpkins were driving the sales. Foliage has peaked. Corn harvest slowed this week. **Lori Carver (FSA), Franklin:** A week of much needed rain fell. Good weather for stripping tobacco. The rainy week was followed by a beautiful weekend - great for pick your own apples and farm stands. Producers continue to harvest crops like cabbage, peppers, and radishes. Cover crops are being put on land where harvest is complete. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Wet! Over six plus inches of rainfall fell last week. All crop fields are saturated. The rain resulted in a great tobacco damp. Many growers started taking down tobacco and bundling it up for sale. Harvesting apples, corn grain, cabbage, pumpkins, carrots and many more fall crops continues. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Harvesting increased significantly this week, as many growers wanted to pick early due to poor quality. Many beds have serious issues with fruit rot or scald or both. Several loads have been rejected by Ocean Spray. Crops have been good size, for the most part. Harvesting will increase further this week, going into the long weekend.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos: A wet week with particularly heavy rains in the later part. Observed water over the banks in places of all major Coos County rivers by late Friday afternoon. Feeder streams and springs running hard. Ponding in low lying fields, sodden meadows, and pastures affecting grazing and field activities. Apple crop continues to come in, nice size and quality of later varieties. Numerous acres of unharvested field corn under water by weekend, rain has stopped but river levels remain high. Cooler temperatures towards end of week with possible frosts. Trees holding leaves well despite rains. Nice colors throughout the county. Mums, pumpkins, apples, cider, and cornstalks for sale at markets. **Heather Bryant (Ext), Grafton:** There was some flooding on October 1st and the first light frost of the season in some parts of the county on October 3rd. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending October 2nd, we received over 5 inches of rain. The ground is saturated in many upland fields that have less well drained soils. The sandy river bottom soils are better off. There was some flooding. Corn harvest is nearly completed. Many producers are putting up a fourth cut of hay. Vegetable growers are still picking crops. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Pick-your-own apple and farm stand operations had a good Saturday and Sunday. Apple harvest is in full swing with most growers concentrating on strip picking McIntosh apples, and working on Cortland and Macoun. Fall raspberry and pear harvest continues. Vegetables: Great weather and good demand for all vegetables continues. Harvesting a wide array of vegetables including: cabbage, kale, Brussel sprouts, winter squash and pumpkins along with the tail end of warm season crops. Good demand for all vegetable continues. Farmers kept busy disking, cleaning up, and planting cover crops on harvested fields. Field Crops: Silage corn harvest is in full swing with second and third cuts of hay and haylage continuing. **Amy Ouellette (Ext), Merrimack:** Harvesting mid-season apples and several vegetables including carrots, green beans, late sweet corn, potatoes, the last of the tomatoes, red peppers, broccoli, cauliflower, and winter squash. Late hay crops did not yield well. Farmers have planted cover crops in some places and thankfully there's been rain to germinate them. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Great weather week-end for PYO apples. Fall raspberries harvested as well as an array of vegetables including tomatoes and sweet corn. Abundance of pumpkin, corn stalks and mums. Cleaning vegetables fields, disking, liming, and planting rye. Haying and chopping corn. Some rain on Tuesday and stormy weather on Friday with downpour

rain and gusty wind (about 45 mph). **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** Rain showers most days in the week. Not a good week for making hay. Fruit growers continued to harvest apples. Some were also harvesting fall raspberries and day neutral strawberries. Vegetable growers continued to harvest an array of vegetable crops including sweet corn, and also mowing and tilling harvested fields and planting cover crops. Most farm stands and garden centers were busy with customers buying pumpkins and fall mums. The rains slowed down customers at pick-your-own apple operations.

RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties: It's been a very cool and damp week last week. Harvesting was hampered a couple of days by rain. This slowed potato harvesting down. Small vegetables are still in abundance. Pumpkins, squash, mums etc are in abundance and doing well. Livestock is doing well. Pastures have seen some rain this week, but still need more. Subsoil is still very dry. This coming week doesn't look much better, with the forecast of rain and colder temps. Grape harvesting is in full swing at the RI vineyards and it looks like a real good crop.

VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison: Continued dry weather first part of week allowed corn silage harvest to continue. Many fields with high yields. Corn piles covered and early chopped corn piles being opened up for early fall feed. Supplies of corn silage were exhausted before harvest. Week ended very wet with time to think of next year's plan for crops. Hay and haylage completed. Grass still green, but fall is here. Soybeans and shell corn not ready for harvest yet, expected 3 weeks. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Water. I measured nearly 6 inches of rain at home on Thursday and Friday. Some low-lying areas that are usually dry were flooded.

All fields that flood in the spring were under water. Unsure about how much corn was flooded and the amount of damage, we had several days of warning, so I would guess that farmers were able to chop most of corn in the lowest areas. In general, most of the corn silage was in before the rain. It will take several days for fields to dry out enough to finish up the chopping. Scattered frost the last two nights. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Rain has slowed things down on the corn and apple harvest here in Franklin County this week. Over three inches of rain on Friday hampered the apple picking and corn harvest, which has started back over the weekend on high ground fields. Much flooding in the fields that are prone to being wet. Not a lot of crop damage has occurred and waters have receded quickly. Corn harvest will be tricky in these areas with more rain forecast for the end of the week. We are getting more frequent frosts which will slow the pasture growth, however, pastures are doing well for this time of year. Pumpkins are now the big sale items at farm stands and markets. The giant pumpkins seemed to take a hit this year because of the late spring frost. The "norm" on pumpkins seems to be a good crop, so the Halloween busters will have plenty of bounty to pick from. **Heather Mateja (FSA), Lamoille/Washington:** A lot of rain Thursday through Friday, 5 inches +/- in Morrisville. Flooding of low land left standing corn dirty and any unharvested hay will take a few days to dry. Still no hard frost. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** A very wet week ended with widespread flooding. All of the major rivers in the county were over their banks on Friday. The weekend turned out nice, but not a lot of corn was harvested. The harvest is around 70% complete and the corn yields are very good. Pastures and cattle laneways are very wet and muddy now with all of the rain. Most grazing farms are now turning their cows out into the hayfields. Hopefully the land will dry out this coming week to allow farmers to finish the corn harvest.

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Gary R. Keough, Director
Rebecca Dubbs, Statistician, Heidi Gleich, Intern

Ty Kalaus, Deputy Director
Deirdre Davis, Statistical Assistant