

Crop Progress & Condition



NEW ENGLAND
Agricultural
Statistics



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For week ending 9/11/11

Heavy Rains Not Welcome

GENERAL CONDITIONS For the week ending September 11, 2011, there were 4.3 days available for fieldwork across New England. Pasture conditions were rated 15 percent poor, 32 percent fair, 42 percent good, and 11 percent excellent. The week began with remnants of Tropical Storm Lee passing over most of New England bringing periods of heavy rain through Thursday. Southern New England was hit hardest. Many areas reported flooding from several inches of precipitation falling shortly after the drenching rains from Tropical Storm Irene. Daytime temperatures were generally below average in the 60s to mid-70s Tuesday through Thursday, while nighttime temperatures were above average, in the 50s and 60s. The rest of the week was partly sunny with variable daytime temperatures ranging from the mid-60s to mid-80s, a welcome relief to flooded regions. Despite dry weather in the second half of the week, major rivers in western Connecticut remained above flood stage at week's end. Total rainfall for the week ranged from 0.54 to 6.90 inches across the region.

FRUIT: While fruit trees sustained damage and fruit bruising from Tropical Storm Irene and earlier storms, assessments of damage were not as negative as feared. Apple and pear harvests were in full swing with most of the fruits reported in good condition. Grapes in Connecticut were damaged by downy mildew and flooding rains. The cranberry crop reservoirs have been replenished by the remnants of Tropical Storm Lee. Some cranberry operations began harvesting the crop on a very limited basis.

VEGETABLES: There was standing water several inches deep on many vegetable fields in southern New England. Sweet corn received major damage from Tropical Storm Irene, with complete losses in the worst hit fields. Farmers waited for fields to dry out before harvesting their crops and seeding cover crops. Whenever possible, farmers harvested a variety of crops including beans, cabbage, carrots, collards, onions, peppers, pumpkins, summer squash, and tomatoes. Downy mildew was significantly affecting tomatoes and other vine crops. Late blight had been found at multiple sites and continued raising concerns in New England.

FIELD CROPS: As a result of widespread flooding rains, many fields remained too wet to work. A large portion of corn silage fields throughout the region were very muddy and not ready for harvest, with some losses reported near flooded rivers. The crop varied from being very poor to very good depending on location with low-lying areas faring poorer. Hay and haylage production over the last week made progress as some fields dried out in the later part of the week, particularly in higher elevations. The harvest of potatoes and small grains in Maine were active as the region did not experience crippling precipitation. Twenty percent of potatoes in Massachusetts were reported in very poor condition due to the effects of heavy rain. Pastures were wet and responded to cooler temperatures last week, slowing growth. Some pastures were too muddy to graze and work.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	0	12
Short	1	4	38
Adequate	63	57	50
Surplus	36	39	0
Subsoil			
Very Short	1	1	13
Short	1	3	40
Adequate	67	63	47
Surplus	31	33	0

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Set	Fruit Size	Condition
	2011	2010	5-yr Avg			
Apples	35	35	25	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Peaches	95	95	90			
Pears	20	55	40	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Blueberries						
Highbush	99	100	99			
Wild	100	100	100			
Cranberries, MA	<5	<5	<5	AbvAvg/Avg	AbvAvg/Avg	Exc/Good

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2011	2010	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Harvested --				
Barley	60	90	80	Good/Fair
Oats	50	85	75	Good/Fair
Potatoes				
Maine	10	20	10	Good
Mass	45	40	35	Fair/Good
Rhode Island	20	35	55	Good/Fair
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	95	99	95	
Shade	100	100	95	
Silage Corn	5	25	10	Fair/Good
Sweet Corn	85	95	90	
Dry Hay				
First Cut	100	100	100	
Second Cut	90	99	90	
Third Cut	45	65	55	Fair/Good

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday September 5, 2011
 To: Sunday September 11, 2011

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		DFN	DAYS
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN				INCHES	DFN		
MAINE															
Augusta_State_A	44	82	64	+3	2065	+176	899	+175	1.75	+1.05	5	6.23	+3.32	15	
Bangor_Intl_Arp	40	80	63	+3	1996	+271	813	+207	0.90	+0.07	4	6.55	+3.41	12	
Bethel	39	82	63	+3	1881	+176	748	+164	2.55	+1.76	4	12.89	+9.42	14	
Caribou_Municip	37	75	60	+4	1657	+282	576	+198	1.59	+0.75	4	6.44	+2.91	15	
Dover-Foxcroft	37	81	61	+4	1644	+154	572	+124	3.24	+2.33	4	9.39	+5.89	14	
Frenchville	39	71	57	+2	1370	+93	386	+63	1.55	+0.64	4	5.62	+1.92	16	
Houlton	33	79	60	+4	1628	+191	562	+139	1.76	+0.87	4	5.98	+2.31	15	
Livermore_Falls	38	82	63	+6	1864	+400	736	+310	2.39	+1.54	4	8.23	+4.56	11	
Moosehead	35	78	59	+4	1374	+135	382	+72	3.00	+2.12	4	7.51	+4.11	14	
Portland_ME	46	80	65	+4	2078	+335	919	+296	1.09	+0.39	4	5.40	+2.69	12	
NEW HAMPSHIRE															
Benton	43	84	61	+4	1763	+197	636	+166	2.18	+1.41	4	10.39	+6.95	13	
Berlin_AG	39	85	62	+4	1752	+176	619	+127	1.85	+1.04	4	10.15	+6.50	14	
Concord	46	89	66	+5	2325	+430	1075	+353	2.50	+1.81	4	8.93	+6.06	12	
Diamond_Pond	39	79	57	+4	1263	+204	319	+114	3.31	+2.31	4	9.47	+5.09	15	
Keene_AG	47	83	65	+3	2241	+125	994	+112	5.64	+4.91	5	12.86	+9.61	13	
North_Conway	43	86	63	+4	1928	+166	791	+166	2.27	+1.44	5	11.67	+8.17	15	
Rochester	45	90	67	+4	2500	+472	1240	+418	1.86	+1.13	4	7.72	+4.65	11	
VERMONT															
Bennington_AP	50	84	66	+7	2307	+648	1006	+468	3.49	+2.58	5	11.66	+7.85	13	
Burlington_Intl	45	83	64	+3	2454	+432	1174	+355	3.11	+2.28	4	8.05	+4.51	14	
Island_Pond	39	81	60	+4	1776	+482	633	+313	1.57	+0.71	4	9.07	+5.08	14	
Montpelier	43	86	63	+5	2024	+433	821	+321	2.04	+1.33	4	11.22	+7.96	13	
Rochester	45	84	64	+5	1928	+357	748	+259	1.86	+0.94	4	10.43	+6.43	12	
Rutland_AG	44	84	64	+2	2148	+55	912	+53	2.09	+1.20	5	11.10	+7.39	14	
Springfield_VT	48	83	66	+6	2415	+694	1134	+552	4.00	+3.16	5	13.08	+9.53	14	
Sutton	40	84	61	+5	1693	+385	574	+241	2.12	+1.26	4	10.73	+6.80	14	
MASSACHUSETTS															
Boston/Logan_In	56	87	68	+1	2784	+357	1466	+331	2.15	+1.43	4	5.98	+2.98	12	
Fitchburg	49	86	67	+7	2712	+992	1391	+802	3.86	+3.16	4	10.50	+7.55	11	
Greenfield	51	83	65	+1	2188	-79	921	-73	4.47	+3.63	5	11.99	+8.68	13	
New_Bedford	48	81	66	-3	2730	+277	1361	+202	4.33	+3.49	4	6.28	+2.58	11	
Otis_AFB	50	82	65	+1	2240	+243	1010	+194	3.28	+2.51	4	5.16	+2.06	10	
Plymouth	48	81	65	+2	2612	+557	1289	+429	4.30	+3.32	4	7.15	+3.33	10	
Walpole	48	82	65	+2	2557	+482	1267	+412	3.33	+2.42	5	9.14	+5.50	12	
Chicopee/Westov	53	84	67	+1	2623	+28	1282	+26	4.43	+3.59	4	11.46	+8.15	12	
Worthington	53	84	65	+5	1994	+304	793	+236	5.54	+4.67	5	13.90	+10.30	15	
RHODE ISLAND															
Providence	52	83	67	+1	2735	+419	1399	+346	3.89	+3.05	4	8.84	+5.48	10	
Woonsocket	50	85	66	+3	2597	+554	1283	+467	4.27	+3.36	4	9.86	+6.22	10	
CONNECTICUT															
Bridgeport/Siko	60	86	71	+4	2950	+457	1573	+366	3.41	+2.67	4	9.44	+6.60	10	
Hartford/Bradley	57	85	68	+3	2830	+341	1462	+286	5.66	+4.75	4	13.28	+9.77	13	
Norfolk	54	79	64	+4	2116	+424	887	+328	6.90	+5.92	5	18.74	+14.62	14	
Thomaston_Dam	55	86	67	+5	2587	+565	1261	+464	6.66	+5.68	5	23.62	+19.70	14	
Willimantic	55	83	68	+5	2684	+621	1331	+500	3.53	+2.62	4	10.98	+7.41	11	

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, September 11, 2011

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 precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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STATE	AIR TEMPERATURES				PRECIPITATION	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	33	88	62	+3	0.75	3.62
NH	34	90	63	+5	1.59	5.64
VT	39	88	63	+4	1.22	6.66
MA	44	87	66	+3	0.75	5.54
RI	50	85	67	+1	1.73	4.27
CT	54	87	68	+4	3.35	6.90

REPORTERS' COMMENTS, By County: *Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), or other knowledgeable individuals.*

CONNECTICUT – Howard Rood (FSA), Fairfield/Litchfield: Many fields are still too wet to work following Hurricane Irene and the following rains. There is standing water on some fields. There will probably be losses in pumpkin production because of the wet land. It will also be difficult to harvest some field corn. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** After initial problems with Tropical Storm Irene we received 4-5" of rain from the remnants of Tropical Storm Lee. Farmington and Connecticut Rivers once again rose above flood stage. By Friday, some had started to chop corn silage, however, only on their driest fields. Some sweet corn was harvested but many were out by the weekend with very little acreage for much later in the fall. Vegetable farmers were still assessing damage from Irene and waiting for fields to dry out so cover crops can be applied. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Cleaning up from Irene wasn't enough. Lee brought more rain and even worse flooding. Reports are that several hundred acres of field corn as well as the majority of the vegetables near the rivers got flooded. Some fields still haven't been assessed since roads and bridges to the fields were washed out and repairs aren't complete. One report had flood waters into the tassels on the field corn. Due to all of the rain and cleanup, corn silage harvest got off to a delayed start this week with only a couple of farms in the area starting to chop. **Ann Marie McCard (FSA), New London:** All the rain from Hurricane Irene and earlier last week, made it difficult to harvest silage corn, especially in fields that were damaged. Heavy soils need more dry, sunny weather before harvesting can begin, while in drier fields it's slow going for corn that suffered wind damage. Vineyards have posts that were snapped and/or bent due to Hurricane Irene's winds and rains, causing bruised and damaged grapes. Early apple harvest has begun. Some apples came down during the hurricane, but most apples came through better than expected. Sweet corn received the most destruction from Hurricane Irene, with some fields totally lost. Drier weather at the end of the week and over the weekend was much appreciated by all crops! **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** Remains of Tropical Storm Lee brought 5+ inches of rain to the area during the week causing more river flooding and very wet conditions in the fields. Pastures are so muddy that cows are up to their knees in mud. Corn silage fields are so muddy that it will take a while to dry out so the machines can get in the fields to chop. It is a mess out there. **Jude Boucher (Ext), Tolland:** Fields looked more like rice fields than vegetable fields last week. There was standing water 6 to 12 inches deep even in sandy well drained fields that never flood. Phytophthora is common and late blight was found at multiple sites. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** More heavy rains this week with 5" in a few hours further flattened corn affected by Irene. Wet fields with 3 days of rain, not able to do much field work. Corn is drying down rapidly. Tough getting downed corn up. Losses of apples and peaches apparent in orchards. Apple and peach trees that came down in Irene have been braced and hope to recover some of them. Grapes almost ready to harvest are now bursting because of the rain, sugar levels have dropped and Downey Mildew is killing vines. Tomatoes similarly affected. Vine crops are all affected by mildew.

MAINE – Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook: Finally, a week of dry weather. Grain harvest is in full swing. Most of the grain yields are light. Many producers are starting their potato harvest early trying to catch a hot, early market. People are out trying to get a little more hay. It looks like quality hay will be in short supply. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Growers still applying vine killing applications. Oats and barley still being harvested. Continuation of broccoli also being harvested. Good size on early potatoes being harvested for processing. **Don Audibert, (FSA) Northern Aroostook:** Had 4 straight days without any rain and farmers were busy harvesting their grain. Most farmers will be starting potato harvest at the end of the week when school gets out for 2 weeks to work during harvest. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Rainy weather in the beginning of the week slowed down the apple harvest. Nice weather the rest of the week, although it feels like fall. Apple picking was in full swing over the weekend. Hay continues to be harvested. Silage corn harvest has not yet begun. **Gary**

Raymond (FSA), Franklin: The sun is shining and lots of hay is down for drying. Producers are gearing up to chop corn. Some fields are wet. Pumpkins are starting to get orange. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Silage corn starting to be harvested in some areas, while others are waiting for fields to dry out. Potato vines have been sprayed to begin harvesting. Crop is going to be hard to get off, due to water standing in rows from all the rain in the past week. Sweet corn that was damaged is showing a loss of about 20%. Blueberry crop is down in some areas by 50% while some areas had a pretty good yield. Apple trees sustained damage and apple bruising in areas. Crop is lower than normal due to all the spotty hail/wind storms this summer. Farmstands are pretty busy due to early/late harvest of crops. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** More rain fell on already saturated soils in areas of Oxford County. The low lying fields were in danger of being flooded once again. The rivers and streams are still muddy and a lot of debris is left behind from Irene. Potato harvest is in full swing along with apple harvest. Some more hay was harvested last week. The fall crops are being harvested and farmstands are busy. Crop adjusters are also very busy with making inspections of crop damages here in Oxford County. We had cool temps over the weekend with a breeze. This week looks warmer, but the week will end again with cool temps. These cooler temperatures may bring an early frost to some areas. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis/Penobscot:** Pumpkins and corn stalks are appearing on farm stands. Fields are drying out from all the rain we have had. Grasses are responding to cooler temperatures. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Some nice hay weather over the weekend. Harvesting corn will be difficult in some of the blown down areas. Some corn will be ready for chopping by the end of next week. Apple harvest is in full swing.

MASSACHUSETTS – Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: The remnants of Tropical Storm Lee caused worse flooding in south county than Irene did. We are still wringing wet here. Farmers are working with their insurance agents on claims for corn. No final estimate of production loss from these storms yet. A sunny Saturday made for good farmstand and market sales. Pastures and fields are too wet to graze and work. The fall pumpkin and winter squash market will be off due to the crop damage from the flooding. **Lori Carver (FSA), Franklin:** A week of rain was not what was needed - rivers and streams reached flood stage again. Producers continue to evaluate damages to farmland and crops from Irene. Apple crop is showing signs of scab. Fall crops are starting to be harvested. Mums are showing color at farmstands, a sure sign fall is on its way. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Another very rainy, wet week; farmers are having a very hard time harvesting their crops because of the wet soil conditions. Growers continued harvesting onions, potatoes, apples, raspberries, squash, carrots, cabbage and collards. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Harvest began late week on a very limited basis, those growers doing early sequence harvest for Ocean Spray. Everyone else is doing all the things you do to get ready for harvest. Tuesday through Thursday brought between 2-5 inches of rain to the area, thus replenishing reservoirs. Things had been pretty dry prior to that. All is proceeding well - it's been a good growing season, by and large.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Donna Juneau (FSA) Belknap/Merrimack: Seasonable weather this past week with a mix of rain showers, overcast skies, and some partly sunny days. The Farm Service Agency received new reports of storm damage as the result of Tropical Storm Irene on August 28. Damage was significant for some farmers including crop damage, downed trees and debris in fields. Harvesting sweet corn, field corn, tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, summer squash, peaches, and shell beans. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Rain for much of the week - totaling 6 inches in some locations. Field corn is maturing and some of it is ready to chop, a couple farms opening up fields. Pastures and hayfields should benefit from abundant moisture, though many fields are too wet right now for mechanical harvest. Still plenty of vegetables available everywhere. PYO apples doing well with

gorgeous weekend weather. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Wet start to the week finishing clear and much cooler by week's end. Temps into the low 40's. Some fields still well saturated by rains, rivers running well. Pastures and haylands growing well. Corn looks ok. Sweet corn, pumpkins and some apples being picked. Prepping for silage corn harvest. Saw first tomato hornworms in Coos County, in high tunnels, quite large caterpillars so they have been there awhile. Scouting for other blown-in pests from pestiferous regions to our south. Corn earworms seem not to have been a big problem. Powdery mildew widespread. Blackbirds/crows feeding on cornfield edges. A noticeable abundance of wild apples throughout the county, also lots of mountain ash fruit. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending September 10, we had rain showers totaling nearly 2.25 inches. The first 4 days of the week produced showers which kept things wet. Powdery mildew is showing up in many places. Hay and haylage production is progressing slowly due to wet conditions. However, as soils dried out in the later part of the week producers made progress. Questions still remain from a number of producers concerning whether or not to feed out hay or other forage crops from fields that were inundated by flood waters. Call Extension Service or your crop insurance provider if you have concerns. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Field Crops: Farmers getting started chopping corn silage. Hay cutting continued between rain showers with the second and third cuttings being made. Fruit: Apple harvest is in full swing with most growers concentrating on picking McIntosh, Gala and Honeycrisp apples. Fruit size is good. Fall raspberries, peach and pear harvest continued with plum harvest winding down. Vegetables: Harvesting a wide array of summer and fall vegetable crops that weren't damaged by the rain storms. Farmers are starting to clean up harvested fields and planting cover crops. Pumpkin crop and winter squash yields vary from field to field. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Peach harvest is almost done with pear and high bush blueberries continuing. Apple and fall raspberry harvests are going well.. Picking an array of vegetables. Corn silage is almost ready to be picked. Pastures are growing well. Planting cover crops. Fall garden mums available at garden centers and farmstands.

RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties: We had over 4 inches of rain Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday over most of the state. Ground is real wet. A lot of the small crops ended for the season for parts of the state, including tomatoes, peppers, and summer squash. No hay done in the last week due to the weather. Hurricane Irene has left her mark on RI. Fruit growers are trying to encourage people to come out and pick apples. There are

still plenty there to be picked. Looks like pumpkins and winter squash will be short this year due to the hurricane. The vines have taken a real bad beating. Livestock fared well through the storm. They look good, but if this rain keeps up, they're chopping the fields up pretty bad with their hoofs.

VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison: Hay crop harvest continues on some fields. No corn harvest yet. Corn, hay and pasture flood damage being documented. Continue decisions on how to best store damaged crops for feed. Heavily silted corn starting to show mold in ears. Not yet dry enough to get in fields to chop. Higher fields dry enough to harvest hay. **Daniel Hudson (Ext), Caledonia:** Damage to crops in Caledonia County from Hurricane Irene is less than in some counties, but there are places where the corn has been flooded. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** A wet week in Franklin County. Nothing damaging, just steady rains that kept full stream banks and wet fields. This put a halt to the second and third cut harvests, however, most are back at it with good weather over the weekend. These harvests continue to yield well with producers trying to figure out how best to mix this crop with the volume and low quality first cut. Garden clean ups are starting to happen with reports of good overall yields. Corn continues to mature even with the cooler weather. The waiting game will get very testy with the need to let late planted corn mature and continued rains that leave soils wet and slower to dry. Weather will be the deciding factor in "when" the optimum harvest time will be. **Heather Mateja (FSA), Lamoille/Washington:** A wet start to the week, but with some sun and a breeze in the latter. Second and 3rd cut were harvested, good quality and dry. Corn has been chopped by a few farmers starting off the fall season. Pastures are still looking good, but have slowed down. Pumpkins are coming out of the fields as well as some root crops. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** We had a lot of rain over last weekend making the fields pretty soggy. Weather turned nice late last week and some farmers were able to harvest some third cut hay. Low lying fields are very wet, making any kind of harvest difficult. Corn is mature for the most part and ready to be harvested. The crop varies from being very poor to very good depending on the field. Low areas in the corn fields are bare where seed did not germinate. Other areas the growth was stunted due to wet soil. Then there are areas where the corn looks pretty good. Overall, the harvest will probably be average or a little below. Some areas were flooded with the hurricane so that corn will probably be lost. Pastures are fairly run out as the growing season comes to an end. Most pastures are very wet as well.

AUGUST- Most of the first week was cloudy with spotty showers and temperatures in the mid-70s to high 80s. Hail storms hit western Massachusetts and Connecticut on August 1. There was heavy rain and downpours producing from 0.39 to 1.42 inches of rain in Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Massachusetts on Sunday, August 7. The second week began with clouds, fog, showers, and some thunderstorms. The rest of the week was mostly mild with temperatures in the 70s and 80s and a few showers. Nighttime temperatures declined to the 50s and 60s. August 15 and 16 conditions were cloudy with rain, heavy at times, and temperatures in the upper 60s to upper 70s. The third week was clear and warmer in the upper 70s to mid-80s until Friday when conditions turned cloudy with a few showers. Isolated thunderstorms with wind swept across the region August 21. The fourth week of August started with partly cloudy skies and some wind with temperatures in the mid-70s to mid-80s. Heavy rain and wind was observed on August 25 with one tornado reported in Central New Hampshire. Tropical Storm Irene arrived early Sunday, August 28, with high wind gusts and flooding rains. The rest of the month was sunny with temperatures in the mid-70s to low 80s. The beginning of the month, wild blueberries were being harvested slowly. The crop at that time was rated in fair to good condition due to inadequate precipitation in both June and July. The wild blueberry conditions improved throughout the month due to the additional rainfall. Blueberry and raspberry pick-your-own operations were open all month long. Apple and pear picking began early in August for some southern States and peach harvesting was well under-way across the region. While there were reports of downed trees and bruised fruit from Tropical Storm Irene, orchards generally fared well. Some Massachusetts cranberries had a heavy fruit set which was contributing to slow fruit growth. Some vegetable fields got to the point that they suffered from too much moisture and this increased concern for disease. Farmers markets were busy with plenty of produce and most vegetable crops were reported to be in good condition all month. There were reports of sweet corn losses due to wind damage from Tropical Storm Irene as well as from severe thunderstorms in western New Hampshire on August 21. Along the coast, some vegetables were damaged by saltwater spray during the storm. Third cuts of hay began in the beginning of August. Field corn was curling initially, but some was able to recover with the reoccurring showers that came during the month. Late in August, many fields along waterways were left with mud and silt deposits, as a result of Tropical Storm Irene. Some farmers were unable to harvest crops as fields were too moist to enter. Maine potato farmers were spraying to avoid late blight and some proceeded to kill vines to prepare for harvest.

To receive this report every Monday evening, send an e-mail message to listserv@newsbox.usda.gov and in the body, type **subscribe usda-new-eng-crop-weather**

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