

# Crop Progress & Condition



**NEW ENGLAND**  
Agricultural  
Statistics



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September 19, 2011 – 4 pm

For week ending 9/18/11

## It's Getting Chilly Out There

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:** For the week ending September 18, 2011, there were 5.4 days available for fieldwork across New England. Pasture conditions were rated 11 percent poor, 38 percent fair, 44 percent good, and 7 percent excellent. The week began partly sunny with above average temperatures in the 70s and 80s through Wednesday. A cold front passed over New England on Thursday bringing light to moderate precipitation and unseasonably cold air throughout the region. Daytime temperatures throughout the rest of the week ranged from the low 50s to upper 60s. Nighttime temperatures were particularly cool in northern States and dipped below 32 degrees in several locations. Intensity of frost was variable, depending on latitude and elevation. Total rainfall for the week ranged from a trace to 1.47 inches. Dry conditions were a welcome relief to fields impacted by flooding rain in the past few weeks.

**FRUIT:** Farmstands were full of fruit as fall raspberries, peaches, plums, pears, and apples were being picked. Apple quality was mixed across the region due to the wide range of weather conditions that were experienced from storms in previous weeks. Some grape producers harvested their crops before the storms earlier this month, while others waited until this past week and found a better sugar content, but also some mildew and insects. A few more cranberry beds were harvested with varying size and condition of fruit.

**VEGETABLES:** Summer vegetables were getting scarce at farmstands in some areas. The season ended early for some due to excess moisture in August and early September. Pumpkin patches were preparing to open with crops reported to be in good condition in the south while some areas in the north reported smaller than normal pumpkins. Some winter squash was harvested. Fall crops such as cabbage and kale were reported to be in very good condition in Rhode Island. A few areas had their first frost of the season.

**FIELD CROPS:** Farmers were cutting hay and harvesting silage corn. Some fields were still too wet for entry. Producers were on their second and third cuts of hay with some reported fourth cuts with good to fair crop conditions. Corn maturity was variable, even within fields. Potato harvesting in Maine was underway.

### SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
<b>Topsoil</b>			
Very Short	0	0	5
Short	2	1	28
Adequate	77	63	63
Surplus	21	36	4
<b>Subsoil</b>			
Very Short	1	1	8
Short	1	1	36
Adequate	83	67	56
Surplus	15	31	0

### FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Set	Fruit Size	Condition
	2011	2010	5-yr Avg			
Apples	45	45	40	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Peaches	99	100	95			
Pears	40	70	55	Average	Average	Good/Fair
Blueberries						
Highbush	99	100	100			
Cranberries, MA	5	5	<5	Average	Average	Exc/Good

### FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2011	2010	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Harvested --				
Barley	90	90	90	
Oats	85	90	85	
Potatoes				
Maine	15	25	15	Good
Mass	60	60	50	Good/Fair
Rhode Island	30	50	70	Good/Fair
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	100	99	99	
Shade	100	100	99	
Silage Corn	10	35	20	Fair/Good
Sweet Corn	90	95	95	
Dry Hay				
Second Cut	90	99	95	
Third Cut	55	70	65	Good/Fair

**Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics**

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday, September 12, 2011  
 To: Sunday, September 18, 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	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN DAYS	
	---	---	---	---	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	INCHES	---	---	INCHES	---	---
<b>MAINE</b>														
Augusta_State_A	40	80	61	+2	2142	+188	927	+190	1.10	+0.40	1	5.86	+3.02	11
Bangor_Intl_Arp	38	79	60	+2	2070	+286	839	+223	0.98	+0.15	1	5.86	+2.66	10
Bethel	37	80	58	+0	1941	+181	767	+175	0.16	-0.61	1	11.15	+7.82	10
Caribou_Municip	35	78	56	+3	1703	+297	584	+206	1.47	+0.65	3	6.96	+3.52	14
Dover-Foxcroft	34	79	56	+1	1694	+162	585	+133	0.42	-0.49	2	8.79	+5.22	14
Frenchville	37	75	53	-1	1403	+97	388	+65	1.06	+0.21	3	6.02	+2.44	15
Houlton	33	78	57	+4	1684	+215	574	+150	1.16	+0.32	2	6.59	+3.04	14
Livermore_Falls	33	80	57	+2	1918	+415	754	+325	0.85	+0.01	2	7.80	+4.26	10
Moosehead	35	79	55	+2	1418	+147	393	+83	1.38	+0.54	2	7.71	+4.31	12
Portland_ME	37	82	62	+3	2160	+353	949	+316	0.14	-0.56	1	3.79	+1.01	9
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>														
BenTon	33	77	56	+0	1802	+190	638	+162	0.37	-0.36	2	8.30	+5.04	11
Berlin_AG	35	79	55	-2	1799	+178	634	+137	0.17	-0.60	1	8.78	+5.35	11
Concord	32	82	61	+3	2409	+451	1108	+375	0.34	-0.29	2	6.92	+4.19	10
Diamond_Pond	33	72	52	-1	1299	+216	325	+120	0.89	-0.04	3	8.80	+4.68	13
Keene_AG	37	83	60	-2	2315	+123	1024	+125	0.27	-0.43	2	10.61	+7.56	11
North_Conway	35	81	58	+0	1990	+175	811	+179	0.13	-0.64	2	9.41	+6.05	11
Rochester	35	87	62	+2	2587	+486	1276	+438	0.08	-0.64	1	5.86	+2.87	9
<b>VERMONT</b>														
Bennington_AP	35	81	59	+2	2378	+664	1036	+490	0.43	-0.48	2	9.64	+5.90	11
Burlington_Intl	37	80	60	+2	2531	+446	1208	+376	0.57	-0.20	3	7.40	+4.02	14
Island_Pond	30	77	56	+2	1827	+497	645	+320	0.89	+0.11	5	8.63	+4.98	15
Montpelier	34	79	58	+2	2089	+450	844	+337	0.46	-0.19	2	9.07	+6.07	12
Rochester	34	81	58	+2	1989	+366	770	+273	0.28	-0.60	2	10.47	+6.64	11
Rutland_AG	34	79	58	-3	2208	+42	932	+56	0.27	-0.57	2	8.30	+4.73	12
Springfield_VT	35	84	61	+4	2496	+720	1168	+578	0.25	-0.58	2	10.91	+7.44	12
Sutton	32	78	55	+0	1741	+399	587	+250	0.73	-0.05	2	8.71	+5.09	13
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>														
Boston/Logan_In	48	86	68	+3	2909	+377	1527	+356	0.11	-0.59	2	4.62	+1.67	10
Fitchburg	38	83	64	+7	2813	+1038	1435	+839	0.04	-0.65	1	8.43	+5.56	9
Greenfield	38	81	61	-2	2267	-88	953	-65	0.15	-0.63	2	8.66	+5.41	12
New_Bedford	43	82	65	-1	2841	+276	1409	+209	0.08	-0.69	1	5.03	+1.54	9
Otis_AFB	45	81	64	+3	2344	+260	1052	+214	0.01	-0.76	1	3.65	+0.55	9
Plymouth	42	85	67	+6	2732	+593	1349	+470	0.11	-0.87	1	5.27	+1.38	7
Walpole	40	84	64	+4	2660	+508	1316	+444	0.06	-0.78	2	7.63	+4.06	11
Chicopee/Westov	37	84	64	-1	2723	+23	1326	+34	0.11	-0.73	1	8.78	+5.42	9
Worthington	34	79	59	+0	2057	+307	813	+246	0.34	-0.50	2	10.66	+7.13	13
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>														
Providence	46	85	67	+3	2854	+438	1453	+368	0.24	-0.60	1	6.27	+2.91	8
Woonsocket	41	85	65	+4	2702	+583	1330	+498	0.02	-0.89	1	7.76	+4.12	9
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>														
Bridgeport/Siko	49	86	69	+3	3082	+476	1638	+387	0.00	-0.73	0	7.25	+4.38	8
Hartford/Bradley	41	84	66	+3	2942	+357	1514	+310	0.06	-0.85	1	11.68	+8.10	9
Norfolk	38	78	59	+2	2187	+438	915	+348	0.06	-0.92	1	15.93	+11.88	10
Thomaston_Dam	39	84	64	+3	2685	+585	1305	+489	0.06	-0.86	2	17.27	+13.41	10
Willimantic	41	85	66	+5	2796	+652	1383	+533	0.03	-0.88	1	7.94	+4.32	9

**State Weather Summary**

For the Week Ending Sunday, September 18, 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	30	82	57	+1	0.07	1.47
NH	23	87	58	+1	0.02	0.89
VT	30	84	58	+1	0.23	1.24
MA	34	86	63	+2	0.00	0.92
RI	41	85	66	+2	0.02	0.24
CT	31	86	65	+3	0.00	0.06

**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:**

Finally, some dry weather. Farmers were busy cutting hay and chopping corn. Many fields are too wet to work. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Warm the first half of the week with some showers and very cool and dry for Friday and the weekend (mid 30's for lows). Corn silage harvest progressed with chopping the driest fields first. Some dry hay made of both second and third cutting. Farm stands had lots of apples and pears on hand but veggies were in tight supply. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Corn silage harvest is in full operation. Corn maturity is widely variable even within a field. Shaded or wet spots are noticeably greener than the rest of the field. BMR is drying down faster than the choppers can get to it. Pumpkin patches are set to open this week with reportedly good crops. Picking fall raspberries and apples. Corn stalks are being harvested to sell for decorations. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** Nice dry weather this week allowed some producers to get into their silage corn fields and start chopping. The season has ended for most vegetables and fall crops due to excess rains in August and early September. Cool nights this week but not cool enough for a frost. **Jude Boucher (Ext), Tolland:** Finally some sunshine and a week without inches of rain, although much cooler. Wash from the previous week's storm seems to have spread Plectosporium blight on pumpkins and summer squash throughout the state. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Nice week for field work. Fields continue to be wet pulling trucks and wagons to chop corn, slow going with downed corn too. Some fields look good and are still not yet mature. Apple picking is in full swing, good flavor and color with a bit of blemish from hail and wind. Harvesting grapes, overall good; issues with Spotted Wing Drosophila in some vineyards. Grapes were harvested early to get the grapes in before the storm while others waited and got better sugar content but have mildews and insects to contend with. Sweet corn limited due to loss of blocks ready or tough picking nearly laying on the ground, later blocks are coming nicely. Fall weather has arrived, still cleaning up fallen trees in fields.

**MAINE – Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook:** Potato harvest will be in full swing today as the high schools let out Friday. Reports so far have been mixed. Some fields are showing soft rot problems. Grain and dry hay harvest is winding down. Apple harvest will start next week for most orchards. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Grains are still being harvested. Hay is being baled. Farmers are starting to harvest potato fields in the area for processing and for storage. Full time harvesting of potatoes will start very soon. All vegetables available at all farm stands which include squash and pumpkins and apples. **Don Audibert, (FSA) Northern Aroostook:** Finally got 4 days of straight sunny weather. Farmers are busy harvesting all their grains. Yields for oats are disappointing. School is out starting on September 19 for 2 weeks. Now that school is out most farmers have started harvesting their potatoes. Producers are concerned about potatoes going in storage due to water soaks. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Some low lying areas received the first frost of the season. Most of the area was above the freezing mark. Farmers are busy cutting hay, harvesting fall crops and spreading manure. Cool nights and sunny days, nice fall weather. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Beautiful weather! Fall crops are being harvested. Corn silage harvest is about to be underway. The corn crop is finishing much better than it started. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Good week of weather with hit and miss showers helped farmers get some more hay chopped. Corn silage is being chopped on dry fields and looks okay, but quality is expected to be an issue for most. Potato harvest is underway as well. Blueberry harvest is over and production has been reported below the normal for some areas in Hancock County. Fall harvested crops are now being picked and are at farm stands. Pumpkins are being reported smaller than normal, but should be okay for most. Some damage reported on sweet corn and pumpkins, but so far is minimal. Apple harvest is well underway and crop looks good in places and smaller than normal in others. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis/Penobscot:** Cool nights with expectation of frosts. Pumpkins are being harvested. Pastures are

looking good. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Corn silage harvest has started to a limited extent. Despite frost warnings, very little occurred except in low lying areas. Second and third cutting of hay/haylage continues and manure pits being emptied as the harvest gets done. Apple harvest is strong, with one orchard indicating quite a bit of hail damage from August storm.

**MASSACHUSETTS – Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire:** The cleanup continues. Farmers are making decisions and seeking guidance on handling their flooded field crops. Flooded hay fields are done for the year and others remain too wet to work in, even out of the flooded areas. Our dairy farmers have grave concerns over feed quality, cost and availability. Farmers continue to report losses. About 80% of the fall crops are lost. Parts of the county ended their growing season with frosts and hard freezes on the 15th and 16th. **Lori Carver (FSA), Franklin:** A good week of weather ends with cool temps and a possible frost. Harvesting of fall crops continues. Orchards are busy picking apples. Silage corn harvest is beginning. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Mostly a dry, warm week. Growers continued harvesting all fall crops. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: More beds harvested this week, but still only a trickle. Crops have been variable, depending on size of the berries. Several beds have had disappointing crops, and based on the early reports, maybe we won't have our biggest crop. My estimates have been wrong before!

**NEW HAMPSHIRE – Donna Juneau (FSA) Belknap/Merrimack:** Seasonable weather conditions this week. Harvesting sweet corn, some varieties of apples, plums, tomatoes, potatoes, onions, summer squash, beans, cucumbers, cabbage and beets. **Russell Norton (Ext), Carroll:** Fields and soils got an opportunity to dry out in the beginning of the week, cool night temps at the end of the week. The morning of 8/17/11 in Conway was 34F. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Generally nice weather all week, with cooler temps in the later half, but no frost. Corn chopping in full swing, as is last third cutting haylage and dry hay. Vegetable crops beginning to wind down, though there's still plenty available all around. PYO apples doing well with great picking weather on the weekends. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Cooling temperatures, some rain, foggy mornings. Summer is drawing to an end with 'first frost' of varying intensity this weekend. Hay and haylage being harvested, somewhat difficult to get dry. Early planted silage corn about ready to chop with much else still needing to grow. Rivers running strong. Typical end of season pests as crop year draws to a close. Pumpkins, winter squash, corn, mums and other veggies widely available at farmstands and markets. Autumn colors starting off well in northern parts of Coos should be pretty nice this weekend. Grand opening of large corn maize at County Farm. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending September 17th, we had a total of 0.5 inches of rain. Soil conditions remain saturated on many fields. The better drained soils are operable by heavy farm equipment. Some of the soils with poorer drainage still have limitations. The corn crop is variable this year. The well drained soils are doing OK, while fields that were flooded and replanted, or late planted are off by a significant margin. Development of the ears is often 3 to 4 weeks behind normal for this time of year. Yields are below normal for a number of producers. Some producers had corn under 3 to 8 feet of water from Tropical Storm Irene. These producers are still trying to determine what to do with these flood damaged corn fields. Harvesting of haylage is progressing. Making dry hay is a bit more of a challenge this time of year. Some hay producers are also dealing with flood damaged crops from Tropical Storm Irene. Vegetable growers are still harvesting, but things are beginning to wind down. A light frost over the weekend did hit some areas. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Apple harvest continues with growers picking McIntosh, also harvesting Gala and Honeycrisp apples. Fruit size is good. Pear harvest continued with peach and plum harvests winding down. Field Crops: Farmers chopped corn silage during the week and hay cutting continued with

the second and third cuttings being made. Vegetables: Harvesting a wide array of summer and fall vegetable crops. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Colder nights with some frost pockets. Picking pumpkins, winter squashes, apples, peaches, fall raspberries, sweet corn, vegetables, and greens. Field corn chopping started. Cleaning fields and planting cover crops. Spreading manure. **Jenn Zaleski (FSA), Sullivan:** The week began unseasonably warm with highs reaching into the low-80s. Thursday was a rainy day with precipitation totaling a quarter of an inch. Skies cleared up for the weekend with chilly overnight lows in the upper 30s to low 40s. Frost warnings and advisories were posted, but it doesn't appear there were any hard frosts. Daytime temperatures during the weekend were in the mid-60s. Farmers kept busy finishing up second and third cut dry hay and haylage. Also, field corn for silage harvest began in earnest. Many farmers could be seen during the weekend cutting non-stop. Farmers were also busy spreading manure on just harvested fields.

**RHODE ISLAND – Paul Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties:** I toured the apple producers with the Ag Commissioner on RI Apple Day, and there is still an excellent crop there to be picked of mid season and late season apples. Potatoes are great; they look good for size and fruit. We are struggling with small vegetables, some parts of the state were hit hard and there is not much left. Other parts of the state look very good. Fall crops such as cabbage and kale look very good. Cold weather crops look excellent. Livestock, from now on we will be feeding them. There is not too much left out there in pasture. The pastures are green, but they are not growing.

**VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Started corn silage harvest on well-drained soils. Continued hay and haylage harvest. Heavy morning dews. Pasture still adequate green. Little rust yet. Soils drier for harvest traffic. Flooded fields still very wet. Monitoring for mold development in corn ears and on stalks. Flooded pasture and hay loss for this fall from contaminants. Silt, debris and sewage waste contaminants extensive in flooded fields along rivers and streams. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Nice week in Franklin County. Much third and fourth cut hay and haylage harvested. Some rains keeping the surface wet, however, not a big problem. Corn continues to mature and 2 mornings of frost have slowed things a bit. Not a major killing frost so the hope is that harvest can wait a bit longer for some continued maturing process. This is really helping the late planting from this spring. Apples are at a bumper crop with trees brimming with red. Let's hope for the good fall weather that will get people out picking. Foliage is beginning to turn which will help get people out this fall. Pumpkins are starting to appear. Not sure of the crop. Will keep an eye out here, for pumpkins, ghosts and goblins. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** We saw widespread frost on September 17 and scattered frost on September 18. I haven't seen any corn harvest yet, but expect it will start soon. The corn crop varies widely this year from poor to good. Some corn was flooded a few weeks ago as well. A lot of third crop hay was harvested last week. Some of it looks really good. Fields are still pretty wet from the tropical storms that came through.

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