

# Crop Progress & Condition



**NEW ENGLAND**  
Agricultural  
Statistics



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October 24, 2011 – 4 pm

For week ending 10/23/11

## Still No Killing Frost for Some

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:** For the week ending October 23, 2011, there were 4.5 days available for fieldwork across New England. Pasture conditions were rated 1% very poor, 16% poor, 47% fair, 34% good, and 2% excellent. Monday and Tuesday this past week were partly cloudy with temperatures in the mid-50s to upper 60s. Storms crossed the region on Wednesday bringing heavy rainfall to the southern States and lesser amounts to the north. Daytime high temperatures remained mostly average in the mid-50s to low 60s. On Thursday, conditions were windy and temperatures rose to the mid-60s to low 70s, above average for this time of year. Friday and through the weekend, skies remained partly cloudy to cloudy with temperatures in the mid-50s to low 60s. Total rainfall for the week ranged from a low of 0.18 inches in Vermont to a high of 2.54 inches in Massachusetts.

**FRUIT:** Apples were still available at farmstands. Many orchardists were reporting good size and quality. Cranberry harvesting slowed for Ocean Spray growers when the receiving station was shut down due to a shortage of bins for storing cranberries in freezers.

**VEGETABLES:** Several locations in New England were reporting that there was still no killing frost. PYO pumpkin operations were busy over the weekend in anticipation of Halloween. Pumpkin harvesting neared completion with some reported rot problems. Producers also worked to wrap up harvesting of other vegetables including sweet corn, peppers, tomatoes, squash, and cabbage. Some were preparing to close their farmstands and begin fall clean-up.

**FIELD CROPS:** More and more operations were able to finish their corn silage harvest. Many producers were preparing their harvested fields for the winter by spreading manure and planting rye. Also in preparation for the winter, farmers were soil testing and equipment was being cleaned. Some tobacco was taken down from sheds due to damp conditions. The heavy rain experienced by the southern States was not favorable for already saturated fields and pastures. For some, the time between rain showers was still not long enough to catch up on harvesting silage and hay.

### SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
<b>Topsoil</b>			
Very Short	0	0	1
Short	1	1	8
Adequate	53	52	75
Surplus	46	47	16
<b>Subsoil</b>			
Very Short	0	0	4
Short	0	0	10
Adequate	60	58	77
Surplus	40	42	9

### FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2011	2010	5-yr Avg
-- Percent Harvested --			
Apples	90	95	95
Pears	95	100	100
Cranberries, MA	85	95	85

### FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2011	2010	5-yr Avg
-- Percent Harvested --			
Potatoes			
Maine	99	99	99
Mass	95	99	95
Rhode Island	80	90	95
Silage Corn	85	95	95
Sweet Corn	100	100	100
Dry Hay			
Second Cut	99	100	100
Third Cut	85	95	90

**Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics**

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday, October 17, 2011  
 To: Sunday, October 23, 2011

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				CUM SINCE MAR 1 GROWING DEGREE DAYS				1-WEEK PRECIP			4-WEEK CUM PRECIP		
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS
	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	INCHES	---	---	INCHES	---	---
<b>MAINE</b>														
Augusta State A	41	61	52	+5	2434	+344	1009	+263	0.76	-0.15	4	4.58	+1.27	13
Bangor_Intl_Arp	39	62	52	+7	2349	+448	906	+284	0.79	+0.02	4	4.42	+1.45	14
Bethel	40	60	49	+4	2160	+297	812	+216	0.75	-0.15	3	6.41	+3.11	13
Caribou Municip	40	58	49	+8	1916	+468	640	+262	0.41	-0.29	6	3.69	+0.88	14
Dover-Foxcroft	37	59	48	+6	1861	+266	618	+166	0.59	-0.25	4	4.24	+0.87	13
Frenchville	39	53	46	+6	1553	+210	419	+96	0.42	-0.28	6	2.68	-0.28	14
Houlton	36	61	50	+8	1885	+371	620	+196	0.61	-0.12	5	2.96	+0.05	12
Livermore Falls	33	61	49	+6	2129	+564	795	+366	0.68	-0.20	4	5.29	+1.97	13
Moosehead	37	57	46	+5	1570	+253	415	+105	0.50	-0.27	7	3.83	+0.74	17
Portland_ME	36	62	53	+7	2469	+534	1020	+383	1.40	+0.49	2	5.69	+2.40	10
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>														
Benton	35	63	48	+4	1974	+268	658	+182	0.53	-0.24	5	4.69	+1.81	16
Berlin_AG	40	63	52	+8	2029	+329	675	+178	0.79	-0.05	4	6.51	+3.39	15
Concord	30	66	51	+6	2718	+631	1194	+455	0.73	-0.02	2	7.26	+4.47	12
Diamond Pond	35	55	43	+3	1424	+306	335	+130	1.18	+0.34	7	5.57	+2.21	17
Keene_AG	34	66	50	+2	2613	+250	1115	+199	0.40	-0.30	3	5.22	+2.47	14
North_Conway	37	60	49	+5	2209	+296	855	+222	0.92	-0.04	4	7.08	+3.54	16
Rochester	33	65	52	+4	2894	+626	1359	+507	1.08	+0.08	2	6.66	+3.08	11
<b>VERMONT</b>														
Bennington_AP	36	71	53	+8	2693	+864	1122	+570	0.31	-0.53	3	4.07	+0.73	14
Burlington_Intl	35	71	52	+6	2837	+616	1283	+442	0.52	-0.11	6	4.43	+1.84	14
Island Pond	36	65	47	+6	2019	+625	674	+349	0.59	-0.13	5	5.53	+2.71	17
Montpelier	34	64	49	+5	2341	+604	903	+391	0.38	-0.25	5	4.64	+2.12	16
Rochester	31	65	49	+4	2221	+491	817	+313	0.57	-0.27	3	5.00	+1.64	13
Rutland_AG	37	68	51	+3	2459	+117	991	+91	0.18	-0.45	1	3.56	+0.88	11
Springfield_VT	35	66	51	+7	2816	+933	1260	+664	0.35	-0.47	3	5.52	+2.39	15
Sutton	35	66	47	+7	1930	+534	619	+282	0.55	-0.22	6	5.71	+2.75	17
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>														
Boston/Logan_In	46	69	59	+7	3406	+582	1691	+463	1.64	+0.88	1	5.82	+2.96	10
Fitchburg	36	68	54	+9	3216	+1329	1566	+968	1.51	+0.74	3	5.03	+2.15	12
Greenfield	40	70	54	+4	2604	+28	1043	-8	0.83	+0.06	2	8.17	+5.09	13
New Bedford	36	71	58	+4	3302	+418	1569	+299	2.29	+1.48	2	5.89	+2.88	10
Otis_AFB	37	72	59	+8	2788	+486	1203	+338	2.00	+1.10	1	4.55	+1.14	11
Plymouth	35	73	58	+8	3214	+869	1529	+626	2.05	+1.14	2	5.11	+1.52	11
Walpole	38	68	55	+7	3058	+729	1442	+548	1.79	+0.88	2	7.75	+4.32	12
Chicopee/Westov	32	71	54	+2	3102	+121	1452	+102	0.99	+0.15	2	5.21	+2.05	13
Worthington	32	65	49	+3	2294	+409	872	+297	0.95	+0.11	3	7.88	+4.59	15
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>														
Providence	40	70	57	+6	3325	+646	1617	+483	2.12	+1.28	3	5.59	+2.39	12
Woonsocket	36	71	56	+8	3130	+845	1469	+623	1.91	+1.00	3	6.88	+3.36	13
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>														
Bridgeport/Siko	47	69	60	+6	3590	+661	1823	+495	0.84	+0.14	2	2.72	-0.03	11
Hartford/Bradley	41	70	56	+6	3357	+539	1646	+404	1.28	+0.49	1	6.58	+3.37	11
Norfolk	42	63	51	+6	2431	+562	979	+406	0.79	-0.12	4	7.53	+4.01	14
Thomaston_Dam	36	68	53	+5	3044	+744	1418	+572	0.94	+0.03	3	5.71	+2.17	16
Willimantic	36	70	56	+6	3225	+880	1527	+651	1.09	+0.15	2	3.52	-0.15	12

**State Weather Summary**

For the Week Ending Sunday, October 23, 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	31	63	49	+6	0.31	1.40
NH	23	68	49	+5	0.35	1.80
VT	31	71	49	+6	0.18	1.18
MA	31	73	55	+6	0.37	2.54
RI	36	71	58	+7	1.50	2.12
CT	36	72	56	+6	0.79	1.85

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

**CONNECTICUT – Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Pumpkins about done as are all summer crops. Seeding rye and getting manure out on fields. Cattle still out on pasture. Good damp to take down broadleaf tobacco. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Corn silage harvest is mostly finished. A few farms with late planted fields are finishing up. Pumpkin sales were brisk, with several patches in the area packed with people over the weekend. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** One to 2 inches of rain fell mid-week adding to the surplus already found in fields and pastures. Producers are preparing land for wintering over. **Jude Boucher (Ext), Tolland:** Most vegetable growers are finishing harvest operations for sweet corn, peppers, tomatoes, squash, cabbage, etc., closing their retail stands, and working on fall clean up. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Several farmers just finished silage last week, combining continues. Fields are too wet to finish third cutting of hay; ruts in fields need to be fixed before next cropping season starts. A good weekend for Walktober with The Last Green Valley. Learning about agriculture through guided walks on farms.

**MAINE – Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook:** Most all of operations have finished harvesting. Near constant rains this summer have caused several storage issues. Most farmers are busy getting the fall work done before winter sets in. Any hay that is open is being scooped up. It appears we will be very short this year. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Still have a few farmers finishing up harvesting potatoes...need just a couple of days. If the weather cooperates, all should be done the first of the week. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Warm temperatures have kept the grass growing, but the rains have created soggy fields. No frosts since October 7th. Most vegetables are done picking, except for potatoes and root crops. Many have rot problems with pumpkins. Some silage is still standing waiting to be harvested. Overall, most are saying this was a pretty good year for crops. A few orchards were hit by hail. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Silage corn is pretty much harvested here with some high moisture corn coming in. Grain corn and soybeans are still drying in the field. It was a good fall weekend for splitting wood and ATV use! **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Rain is really just not letting up long enough to complete harvest of corn/hay crops. Farmers are trying to spread manure and prepare fields for next spring, but the rain won't stop. Most corn is harvested, but some farmers are still trying to finish up. Farm stands are still going strong with fall crops. Apple and potato harvests are complete and crops are pretty good. Cleaning of equipment is underway and hopes of a good winter. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis/Penobscot:** Wet areas in corn fields continue to make silage harvest a challenge. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** Harvests have mostly ended. Fields being prepared for winter if possible between rain. **Elaine Moceus (FSA), Somerset:** Silage corn producers are reporting average to above average production. Apple harvest is ongoing with reports of good sized fruit and quantity. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Wet weather continues to cause problems with corn silage harvest. Apple harvest nearly complete.

**MASSACHUSETTS – Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire:** A drizzly, cloudy week with windy conditions and only a little sun. Daytime temps are falling to 50s and 60s. Harvest sales continued at stands, markets and orchards. Some corn was chopped. The apple crop is good. Where fields are workable, they are being prepped for next year. **Lori Carver (FSA), Franklin:** Wet conditions continue to hamper efforts to complete the fall harvest. Tobacco is being taken down. A nice weekend was good news for farmstands. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Another week with heavy rains. Farmers are still having a very hard time harvesting their crops because of the saturated soil conditions. Corn grain harvested started and farmers continue harvesting apples, potatoes, kale, collards, cabbage, beets, and pumpkins. More tobacco was taken down because of the damp conditions. Farmers were busy

seeding harvested fields with a cover crop. Farmers are also picking up irrigation pipe and plastic row covers, and spreading manure. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Harvesting is slowing down, but for Ocean Spray growers it's because the receiving station has had to shut down because of a shortage of bins to store the cranberries for the freezers. The harvest will clearly go deep into November the way things are looking. Big crops are pointing the final crop for the state close to our record in 2008. Growers who are finished are cleaning up and getting things ready for the winter. Renovation products will begin soon.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE – Donna Juneau (FSA) Belknap/Merrimack:** Rainfall early to mid-week, drying out toward the end of the week and on the weekend. Chopping field corn, harvesting apples, potatoes, and other winter keepers. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Cool weather most of the week, but no frosts at night. A little bit of silage corn left, but it's looking pretty crispy by now. A few farms mowing remaining grass for late 3rd or 4th cut balage. PYO apples starting to wrap up. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Most silage corn now harvested and being packed in bunk silos. Farmers have done well since fields somewhat wet in places, slow going. Manure spreading. A few round bales going in. Decent pasturing conditions and grass regrowth. Late season apples; Liberty, Nova, etc. at orchards. Fairly warm temperatures this week, but beginning to cool down. Halloween Ladybird Beetles and Western Conifer Seed bug being noticed in fair numbers. Canada geese in the chopped corn fields. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending October 22nd, it was another wet one! Scattered rain showers with occasional hard rains, accompanied by cool cloudy conditions kept things on the wet side. Many fields remain saturated, with the better drained Hadley and Adams soils being more accessible to heavy equipment. Upland soils are often saturated, with limited access due to wet conditions. Corn harvest is ongoing, with better than 80% of the crop completed. Scattered haylage is still being produced. No killing frost in the valley yet. Continued cool, wet conditions have increased disease issues on pumpkins and squash. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Orchardists busy marketing crop. Finishing harvest of Cortland and Macoun. Harvesting Rome, Fuji, and Golden Delicious. Picking up apple drops, however, many orchardists are flail mowing under trees and not worrying about the drop apples. Field Crops: Silage corn chopping end is near. Soil testing fields for next season and cleaning and putting away farm equipment. Seeding cover crops on harvested fields. Some manure spreading is taking place. Vegetables: Farmers are cleaning up fields, picking up plastic mulch, drip tape, and trellis stakes, seeding cover crops on harvested fields, draining and putting away irrigation equipment and soil testing fields for next season. Cleaning and putting away farm equipment. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Apple harvest almost completed. Harvesting some winter squashes, cabbage, Brussel sprouts and other cool crops. Cleaning harvested fields, spreading manure and planting cover crops. Chopping field corn continues. Light frost on Sunday evening. **Jenn Zaleski (FSA), Sullivan:** Temperatures were in the mid-50s to low 60s during the week. Overnight lows were in the 40s. Rain moved through the area Wednesday and Thursday bringing 0.2 to 0.5 inches of precipitation. Thursday was humid with temperatures close to 70 degrees in some areas. The weekend was breezy and cool with a cold start to Sunday; overnight lows were in the low 30s. There is still some over-dry field corn left standing on wetter soils. There are still many acres of second and third cut dry hay to harvest, but conditions have not been optimal. Some farmers have reported giving up on hay for the season.

**RHODE ISLAND –Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties:** This weekend we checked with the potato farmers and they said there are still a lot of potatoes to be put in storage. They are hoping for at least another 10 days without a freeze. They probably have another 25% of the crop to get into storage. Silage corn - farmers are having a tough

time trying to harvest with the wet ground. Apples are still being picked and the crop looks good. The only small vegetables left are the cold crops, cabbage, bok choy etc. Livestock - farmers are starting to bring their young stock back home for the winter to feed them.

**VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Corn silage harvest continued, wet field conditions prevail. Manure spread on fields after harvest, lime spreading on fields. Hay crop finished. Soybean harvest not started yet. **Daniel Hudson (Ext), Caledonia:** Most of the corn has been harvested and most of the pastures are used up. Pastures that remain still have good quality. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Corn continues to be the story in Franklin County last week. Harvest is still underway and on the downhill slide.

Temperatures are still holding for cover crop planting, best if drilled or no till seeded. Some corn will make it for picking, however, will take a while for dry down. Some fall manure being spread with fall tillage. If our weather can hold we will really make up for the wet, late spring of 2011. The great pumpkin is making plans for his arrival next Monday, so be on the look out! **Heather Mateja (FSA), Lamoille/Washington:** Wet week, some third and fourth cut is still being harvested. Corn and soy are ready to be harvested as soon as we get a dry spell. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Farmers are getting to the end of corn harvest. Only a few fields left. Overall the harvest was fair, but not as good as the past few years. We had a hard frost this morning. There is still a little fourth cut hay to harvest otherwise most farmers are wrapping up the cropping season.

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