

Crop Progress & Condition



NEW ENGLAND
Agricultural
Statistics



53 Pleasant Street
Room 2100
Concord, NH 03301

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 32, Number 19

(Issued weekly on the Internet, May – October)

September 4, 2012 – 4 pm

For week ending 9/2/12

Crops Pressured By Dry Weather

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending September 2, 2012, there were 6.4 days available for fieldwork across New England. Pasture condition was rated 5 percent very poor, 14 percent poor, 30 percent fair, 49 percent good, and 2 percent excellent. The week ending September 2 was generally warm and dry with a few scattered showers throughout the week. Nighttime temperatures were cooler however, with northern New England States experiencing temperatures in the 40s. Average temperatures for the week ranged from 4 degree above normal in southern New England to 6 degrees above normal in New Hampshire. Total precipitation for the week ranged from 0 to 2.2 inches, with the majority of reporting stations across the region recording less than one inch.

FRUIT: Many pick-your-own apple operations opened for the holiday weekend. Apple crop conditions remain variable depending on location. Highbush blueberry and Maine's wild blueberry harvests were winding down. Many blueberry growers reported above average yields despite increasingly severe pressure from Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD) fruit flies. Cranberry growers were irrigating on a regular basis and preparing for the upcoming harvest. Orchardists also monitored for pests, mowed orchard floors, moved bins into orchards, and harvested peaches, pears, plums, and raspberries.

VEGETABLES Farm stands were very busy and full of local produce. Vegetables harvested last week included green beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, cucumbers, greens, pumpkins, radishes, squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, zucchini, and other vegetables. Downy mildew and blight remained an issue with some vegetable crops. Some growers reported yield losses from prolonged dry conditions. Growers were busy applying preventive sprays, irrigating, weeding, and cleaning vegetable fields.

FIELD CROPS: Lack of significant rainfall across New England provided good haymaking conditions. However, inadequate moisture led to reduced yields in some areas. Soil moisture levels were variable across the region, resulting in a wide range in pasture conditions. Field corn continued to advance toward maturity and there were preliminary reports of below average yields due to lack of moisture. Tobacco harvest was ongoing in Connecticut and completed in Massachusetts. Growers in Aroostook County, Maine took advantage of the dry week to continue harvest of oats and barley; progress was well ahead of last year and the 5-year average. Growers in Maine were hoping for more rain to size up russet potatoes. Many farmers have begun to kill vines in preparation for harvest.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	8	3	0
Short	40	37	4
Adequate	51	59	57
Surplus	1	1	39
Subsoil			
Very Short	7	2	1
Short	39	36	3
Adequate	54	61	63
Surplus	0	1	33

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Set	Fruit Size	Condition
	2012	2011	5-yr Avg			
Apples	20	20	15		Average	Good/Fair
Peaches	85	85	80			
Pears	15	10	20		Average	Good/Fair
Blueberries						
Highbush	99	95	95			
Wild	90	95	95			
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-	Avg/Abov	Avg/Abov	Good

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2012	2011	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Harvested --				
Barley	90	20	45	
Oats	80	20	35	Excellent/Good
Potatoes				
Maine	<5	<5	5	Good/Fair
Mass	25	35	30	Good
Rhode Island	30	15	35	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	5	<5	5	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	85	80	80	
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	80	80	85	
Shade	95	95	90	
Dry Hay				
Second	90	80	85	
Third	40	35	40	Fair/Good

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday August 27, 2012
 To: Sunday September 2, 2012

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	52	82	68	+4	2139	+345	950	+252	0.33	-0.38	3	3.94	+0.95	12
Bangor_Intl_Arp	45	82	68	+5	2008	+370	844	+258	0.22	-0.55	2	2.04	-1.04	8
Bethel	53	84	68	+6	1907	+283	758	+193	0.84	-0.03	2	5.99	+2.39	12
Caribou_Municip	41	89	66	+8	1770	+447	699	+329	0.73	-0.15	4	2.36	-1.25	15
Dover-Foxcroft	43	84	64	+4	1715	+290	652	+215	0.15	-0.75	1	4.47	+1.06	12
Frenchville	39	87	64	+7	1566	+337	564	+248	1.25	+0.34	3	3.60	-0.12	13
Houlton	38	87	66	+7	1723	+341	671	+257	1.69	+0.78	3	4.18	+0.49	10
Livermore_Falls	42	85	64	+5	1889	+488	747	+331	0.44	-0.47	2	3.86	+0.13	12
Moosehead	41	86	63	+5	1382	+196	417	+115	0.56	-0.28	2	3.84	+0.48	11
Portland_ME	52	84	70	+6	2138	+487	961	+359	0.10	-0.60	3	5.66	+3.03	11
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	45	84	65	+5	1761	+264	644	+187	1.97	+1.11	3	5.60	+2.01	9
Berlin_AG	46	84	65	+5	1845	+337	693	+213	1.31	+0.42	4	6.33	+2.49	13
Concord	45	87	69	+6	2358	+553	1092	+393	0.21	-0.49	2	6.29	+3.33	10
First_Conn_Lake	45	84	64	+8	1530	+512	504	+304	0.67	-0.41	3	5.04	+0.45	14
Keene_AG	46	87	68	+3	2283	+272	1032	+181	0.38	-0.41	2	5.01	+1.56	9
North_Conway	47	84	67	+5	1977	+294	806	+199	0.75	-0.11	2	7.26	+3.67	12
Rochester	49	89	70	+5	2426	+501	1184	+392	0.60	-0.17	2	4.75	+1.56	12
VERMONT														
Bennington_AP	43	86	67	+6	2264	+683	1003	+483	0.86	-0.09	2	2.82	-1.07	9
Burlington_Intl	49	87	71	+7	2569	+639	1285	+491	0.23	-0.65	1	2.92	-0.72	8
Island_Pond	40	84	63	+5	1743	+505	633	+321	0.74	-0.23	4	4.34	+0.06	12
Montpelier	43	84	66	+6	1923	+402	748	+263	0.55	-0.25	2	3.14	-0.31	10
Rochester	45	83	66	+5	1910	+414	748	+276	1.05	+0.06	3	3.88	-0.26	10
Rutland_AG	45	84	65	+0	2056	+65	839	+11	1.05	+0.14	2	3.29	-0.51	6
Springfield_VT	46	87	70	+9	2449	+807	1172	+608	0.54	-0.36	1	2.30	-1.33	7
Sutton	45	83	64	+6	1750	+496	625	+300	1.59	+0.63	3	3.34	-0.88	11
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	60	90	73	+4	2733	+444	1396	+317	0.15	-0.61	2	2.28	-0.69	7
Fitchburg	53	89	72	+10	2806	+1166	1457	+885	0.24	-0.48	2	4.29	+1.20	9
Greenfield	50	89	69	+3	2494	+345	1205	+251	0.43	-0.37	2	4.00	+0.69	10
New_Bedford	49	88	71	+0	2504	+196	1214	+117	0.12	-0.80	1	2.66	-1.17	7
Otis_AFB	52	81	69	+3	2252	+372	1042	+263	0.11	-0.66	2	2.87	-0.23	9
Plymouth	50	88	70	+4	2504	+563	1225	+401	1.40	+0.42	1	4.20	+0.49	7
Walpole	52	89	71	+6	2642	+672	1317	+493	1.75	+0.84	2	3.28	-0.32	9
Chicopee/Westov	45	90	70	+1	2628	+170	1306	+106	1.09	+0.25	2	5.92	+2.69	10
Worthington	43	85	66	+4	2011	+405	813	+276	0.57	-0.34	2	3.36	-0.35	9
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	56	90	73	+4	2691	+508	1360	+357	0.16	-0.68	2	3.97	+0.64	9
Woonsocket	52	89	71	+6	2664	+726	1335	+549	0.93	+0.02	3	3.10	-0.54	10
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	55	90	75	+6	2915	+569	1540	+398	0.23	-0.47	2	3.33	+0.45	9
Hartford/Bradle	50	90	73	+5	2903	+541	1531	+402	1.17	+0.26	3	4.69	+1.31	8
Norfolk	46	83	67	+5	2123	+513	897	+356	0.43	-0.62	1	4.42	+0.26	7
Thomaston_Dam	45	88	68	+3	2583	+667	1261	+497	0.13	-0.85	2	3.80	-0.09	10
Willimantic	50	89	72	+6	2734	+781	1384	+588	1.27	+0.36	3	3.67	+0.10	10

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, September 2, 2012

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	38	89	66	+5	0.10	1.69
NH	30	90	67	+6	0.17	2.19
VT	40	88	66	+5	0.23	1.59
MA	43	91	69	+4	0.01	1.75
RI	52	90	72	+4	0.02	0.93
CT	44	91	71	+4	0.01	1.27

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: A complete list of vegetables were harvested this past week. The Labor Day holiday weekend weather great for outdoor fairs, family picnics and farmers markets. Some dry hay put up last week and corn silage equipment getting set up to harvest this coming week. While many have completed broadleaf tobacco harvest others are still cutting and hanging the crop. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Corn silage harvest started. Early results show corn is off about 15% of tonnage. Small amounts of grey leaf and corn blight showing up in the first few fields harvested. **Jude Boucher (Ext), Tolland:** Late blight on tomatoes in most locations not using fungicides. Downy mildew on cucumbers, melons, broccoli, cauliflower and basil. Plectosporium is common in pumpkin fields and the wet weather this coming week may take down some unprotected fruit. Northern corn leaf blight and corn rust are common where non-resistant sweet corn varieties were used. Phytophthora has already been very damaging on solanaceous, cucurbit and legume crops. **Mary Concklin (Ext), Tolland:** Apple harvest is in full swing and progressing well. Fruit condition and size are very good. Peach harvesting is winding down. Fall bramble harvest is being impacted by Spotted Wing Drosophila and yellow jacket feeding. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Sunny, hot week with one really heavy downpour. Peaches, blackberries, and last of the blueberries were finishing up. Early apples smaller, good flavor. Haying with dry, sunny days. Fair time activities and corn maze business picking up.

MAINE – Marcia Hall (FSA), Androscoggin/Oxford/Sagadahoc: Corn producers still reporting this year's yield will be less than normal due to the weather conditions. Blight is still an issue with some crops. Fall harvesting of crops has started, but reports of low yields thus far. Friday night brought heavy rain in spots, but yet other areas received no rain. **Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook:** Dry conditions persist. Top kill is being applied to the potatoes, but many are dying back on their own. A few operations have started to harvest and yields are expected to be light. Oat and barley harvests should be finished by the end of the week. Second crop hay was disappointing because of the dry weather. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Still some aphids around in potatoes. Some potato vine desiccation taking place. **Don Audibert, (FSA) Northern Aroostook:** Farmers are finishing up harvesting their grain. This year has been one of the best years for harvesting their grain due to dry weather. Much rain needed, did get approximately 0.3 inches of rain this week. Schools will close a week later this year, per farmers' requests. Hoping to get more rain and let their potato crop (russets) grow longer, due to the dry growing season. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Southern Maine has been warmer and wetter than normal for the month of August. Portland received 6.21 inches of rain. That being said, we could use some rain now. The apple crop is quite variable depending on location for frost damage and varieties. The Macintosh crop is light. Paula Reds are being picked. The peach crop was good. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Good growing conditions all week. Good conditions for third cut hay harvest. Rain should be a bonus this week. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Nice week for farmers to catch up with a little bit of rain. Ground water is still low in most of the county. Farmstands are busy with local produce for the most part. Pumpkins are starting to be picked for fall harvest. Apple crop looks better than expected and harvest has started. Blueberry harvest is almost over and a great crop overall. Hay and corn crops are still struggling due to not much rain. Yields on corn are expected to be lower than normal and second cutting of hay is expected to be low. Hopes of a third cut will be minimal due to not enough precipitation. Farmers are spraying for blight in Penobscot County on potatoes and tomatoes in multiple areas. Potato vines will be sprayed to kill plants for harvest this week. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis/Penobscot:** Pastures and hay crops are looking better with moisture and cooler temperatures. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext),**

Somerset: Rain from Isaac should help this week with the dryness. Some hay got in last week. Vegetables are at farm stands and farmers markets. Blueberry harvest was winding up. **Elaine S Moceus (FSA), Somerset:** Beautiful week for harvesting hay! Most producers are reporting their corn is 'average to excellent' at this time; however, some producers plagued with untimely showers throughout the growing season and wet conditions are reporting uneven corn growth and shorter than normal stalks. Although hard to predict at this time, these producers indicate 30% production losses in some areas. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Apple harvest began. Lots of dry hay cut last week with all the dry weather. SWD brought blueberry harvest to an ugly end.

MASSACHUSETTS – Heather Baylis (FSA) Franklin: Weather has started changing with cooler nights and fewer 90 degree days. We still could use more moisture. Harvest of third cutting hay shows reduced yield and quality. Some areas are reporting late blight and farmers are still vigilante. Farm stands are chock full of summer vegetables and consumers thoughts are starting to turn to fall crops, especially apples. Field corn harvest will be starting soon. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** A warm and dry week. Fall vegetable harvest has started. Harvesting winter squash, pumpkins, mums, potatoes, apples, pears and many more fall crops. Producers have reported crop yields are down some because of the past dry conditions, but farm stands still have a full selection of local produce. Irrigating late planted fall crops. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Cool nights are helping anthocyanin development in the cranberries, but they have a long way to go still. Fruit rot is showing up in places where it shouldn't, where several fungicide applications should have kept it at bay. This may be a reflection of the very poor keeping quality predicted earlier this year. Growers are irrigating on a regular basis, as rainfall has been absent. Even Isaac's remains expected in the area tomorrow, do not appear to be very significant. Growers are largely getting ready for the upcoming harvest.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire: Generally sunny all week with just a brief shower midweek and cooler conditions by the end. Field corn maturing nicely - just about ready to chop. Good conditions for haying, though yields are down. Wide range of vegetables available. Macs and Cortlands ready for picking - quite a bit early. PYO blueberries just about done. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Cooling temps, a good soaking rain late Friday that should see crops through for awhile. Heavy dew in the morning making drying hay more difficult. Field corn approaching maturity, looks ahead this year from previous ones. Farmers assessing silage chopping plans. Pumpkins ready for market. Seeing a little corn earworm damage on late maturing sweet corn, probably blown up here a week or so ago. Powdery mildew fairly abundant in cucurbits. No frosts yet, fields still green. Nice weather in general for the Lancaster Fair. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending September 1st, we had 6 days of good weather. Plenty of sun and good conditions for hay and other crops. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: PYO apple orchards opened for the holiday weekend. Orchardists harvesting Marshall McIntosh, Ginger Gold, Gala and Honeycrisp apples, peaches, plum/prunes and fall raspberries. SWD fruit fly numbers continue to climb. Field Crops: Hay cutting continued during the week with the second and third cuttings being made. Getting ready for chopping corn silage. Vegetables: Harvesting an array of vegetables: beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, cucumbers, greens, potatoes, radishes, summer squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, zucchini, and other vegetables. Some farmers started cleaning up harvested fields and planting cover crops. Mildew has affected many pumpkins and winter squash vines, so farmers are starting to cut and pickup fruit. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Harvesting of fruits and vegetables including sweet corn, apples, peaches, late blueberry varieties and fall raspberries continued. Irrigating vegetable fields, monitoring pests

and spraying protective fungicides. Good conditions for harvesting hay. Chopping corn. Mums available at garden centers and roadside stands. Farmers markets still busy. Mainly drier days and cooler nights. A soaking rain is needed. **Jenn Zaleski (FSA), Sullivan:** It was a wet start to the week. 0.30 to 0.54 inches of rain fell on Monday. Mid-week temperatures were on the cooler side with overnight lows in the mid to upper 40s. Friday was hot with highs in the upper 80s and scattered showers. Labor Day weekend temperatures were warm, in the low 80s. Conditions were still dry across the county with irrigation activities continuing throughout the week. A good soaking rain is sorely needed. There have been no reports of producers chopping corn yet. Dry hay harvest continued through the week.

RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties: Early potatoes are just about finished being dug. We should be starting into the winter potatoes pretty soon. Sweet corn is one of the better crops and it is plentiful and was selling well this past weekend. Small vegetables, most of them are doing well and are very plentiful. There are some problems with hot peppers and tomatoes. The pastures look good and green. Livestock also looks good. Most of the second cutting is finished being mowed. I don't see much of a third cutting this year. Silage corn looks real well. I think they will start cutting within the next week or two. Nice size and nice ears on it.

VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison: Corn harvest started with opening up field edges. Only for green chop and small holdover piles. Main harvest is not expected for a few weeks yet. Hay harvest continued, third cut better than second, but still light yields. New seeded alfalfa vigorous growth now. New seedings in August starting to emerge. Much crabgrass this year. Soybean plants vigorous, pods formed, but beans not well developed yet. Soil moisture good and now some rain. **Daniel Hudson (Ext), Caledonia:** Corn silage harvest is very close to beginning. **Heather Darby (Ext), Franklin:** Very dry conditions. Some corn silage being chopped because drought stricken and/or early season corn is ready for harvest. Small ears being reported as well as short corn - yields reported to be below or average. Good week for making hay and haylage, some low yields due to lack of moisture. Pastures also poor due to lack of rain. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Dry weather persists in Franklin County. Maturing corn is being somewhat effected, however, a shower could still bring things along. Some corn harvest is still going on and many producers are thinking in that direction. Hay harvest still continued and will be very spotty as to a fourth cutting to go with the corn harvest. Apples are getting close to full swing harvest and the crop looks great at this time. Pumpkins are showing up at garden stands and door steps. A sure sign of the changing season. Leaves are changing to the color mode and will be very interesting to see where this goes in the dry climate we are currently in.

NASS is currently conducting our annual September surveys on crops. In the first 2 weeks of September, NASS is surveying U.S. small grains growers for final production. The responses will provide the foundation for 2012 production estimates. All participating farmers should respond. Your information matters!

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Gary R. Keough, Director
Hernán Ortiz, Statistician

Ty Kalaus, Deputy Director
Deirdre Davis, Stat Assistant