

# 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 21

(Issued weekly on the Internet, May – October)

September 17, 2012 – 4 pm

For week ending 9/16/12

## Sunny Week With Cool Nights

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:** For the week ending September 16, 2012, there were 6.2 days available for fieldwork across New England. Pasture condition was rated 11 percent poor, 44 percent fair, 38 percent good, and 7 percent excellent. The week began sunny and cool. Daytime temperatures warmed up into the 70s and 80s by mid-week. A cold front moved through New England later in the week, bringing light precipitation and cooler temperatures throughout the weekend. First light frost was reported in northern New Hampshire. Average temperatures for the week ranged from normal in Connecticut to 3 degrees above normal in New Hampshire and Maine. Total precipitation for the week ranged from 0 to 0.4 inches, with the vast majority of reporting stations across the region recording less than 0.1 inches of rain.

**FRUIT:** The harvest of apples and pears was highly active thanks to excellent pick-your-own weather. Most orchardists were reporting a good crop, but some producers were realizing poor yields due to the spring frosts and dry summer conditions. Fall raspberries continued being pressured by Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD) fruit flies. Cranberry growers in Massachusetts were gearing up for the fall harvest. Cranberry bogs were in need of rain, but the cooler nighttime temperatures were beneficial to the berry color. Orchardists also monitored for pests, mowed orchard floors, and harvested peaches, plums, grapes, blackberries, and raspberries.

**VEGETABLES:** Farmers took advantage of excellent weather conditions for harvesting fall crops. Farm stands were full of pumpkins and other fall produce. Vegetables harvested last week included beans, beets, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cucumbers, eggplant, kale, garlic, greens, peppers, pumpkins, squash, sweet corn, sweet potatoes, and tomatoes. Growers were busy applying preventive sprays, irrigating, weeding, cleaning vegetable fields, and planting cover crops.

**FIELD CROPS:** Lack of significant rainfall was favorable for haymaking. Pastures were generally green despite the dry weather, but their growth was slowed by cool temperatures. Dry conditions also allowed farmers to make significant progress on the corn silage harvest. Crop condition was variable as most fields fared well while others deteriorated due to inadequate moisture, leaf spot, or other diseases. There was also significant variability in the stage of development, depending on planting dates. As a result, some fields were still not mature enough for harvest. Sunny days allowed most operations to finish the harvest of small grains. Harvest of potatoes in Aroostook County, Maine picked up pace with some growers reporting excellent quality, but lighter yields. Farmers were also spreading manure and planting cover crops.

### SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
<b>Topsoil</b>			
Very Short	1	1	0
Short	25	20	2
Adequate	74	73	77
Surplus	0	6	21
<b>Subsoil</b>			
Very Short	3	1	1
Short	26	24	1
Adequate	71	72	83
Surplus	0	3	15

### FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Set	Fruit Size	Condition
	2012	2011	5-yr Avg			
Apples	35	45	35		Average	Good/Fair
Peaches	99	99	95			
Pears	55	35	45		Average	Good/Fair
Blueberries						
Highbush	100	99	99			
Cranberries, MA	<5	<5	<5	Avg/Above	Avg/Above	Good

### FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2012	2011	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Harvested --				
Barley	100	80	85	
Oats	95	75	80	
Potatoes				
Maine	10	15	15	Good/Fair
Mass	40	55	50	Good
Rhode Island	50	25	55	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	20	10	20	Good
Sweet Corn	90	90	90	
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	100	99	99	
Shade	100	100	99	
Dry Hay				
Second	95	90	95	
Third	65	50	60	

**Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics**

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday September 10, 2012  
 To: Sunday September 16, 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	---	---
<b>MAINE</b>														
Augusta_State_A	45	79	62	+2	2332	+386	1013	+277	0.00	-0.70	0	2.74	-0.11	8
Bangor_Intl_Arp	43	80	61	+3	2187	+411	899	+284	0.00	-0.84	0	3.90	+0.70	8
Bethel	44	80	59	+2	2088	+335	810	+219	0.00	-0.77	0	2.82	-0.53	6
Caribou_Municip	39	83	61	+7	1952	+550	760	+382	0.11	-0.72	1	1.75	-1.71	12
Dover-Foxcroft	40	80	58	+2	1862	+335	685	+233	0.00	-0.91	0	3.13	-0.43	6
Frenchville	41	81	60	+7	1730	+427	615	+292	0.11	-0.75	1	1.91	-1.68	8
Houlton	40	79	60	+7	1894	+429	721	+297	0.08	-0.76	1	3.60	+0.04	10
Livermore_Falls	37	82	58	+3	2045	+547	788	+359	0.00	-0.84	0	3.09	-0.47	7
Moosehead	37	81	57	+3	1511	+244	440	+130	0.00	-0.84	0	3.91	+0.51	8
Portland_ME	44	77	62	+2	2342	+543	1029	+397	0.01	-0.69	1	1.35	-1.42	7
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>														
Benton	36	81	57	+1	1896	+290	670	+194	0.00	-0.74	0	3.78	+0.49	7
Berlin_AG	44	82	61	+5	2025	+410	748	+251	0.00	-0.77	0	3.13	-0.33	9
Concord	37	83	61	+2	2578	+628	1186	+454	0.03	-0.60	1	2.04	-0.71	7
First_Conn_Lake	39	79	58	+6	1637	+557	511	+306	0.04	-0.90	1	5.15	+0.99	9
Keene_AG	39	84	61	-2	2496	+314	1117	+220	0.04	-0.66	1	2.40	-0.67	8
North_Conway	44	81	60	+3	2159	+351	858	+227	0.03	-0.74	2	3.12	-0.26	10
Rochester	41	86	62	+2	2643	+552	1268	+432	0.00	-0.71	0	2.23	-0.76	6
<b>VERMONT</b>														
Bennington_AP	36	82	59	+1	2463	+756	1086	+541	0.02	-0.89	1	2.31	-1.44	6
Burlington_Intl	42	83	63	+4	2806	+729	1392	+561	0.04	-0.73	2	4.09	+0.69	8
Island_Pond	35	79	56	+2	1897	+571	679	+354	0.07	-0.72	4	4.79	+1.09	12
Montpelier	38	80	57	+0	2085	+452	799	+293	0.04	-0.62	3	2.88	-0.16	10
Rochester	38	82	58	+1	2085	+469	808	+312	0.00	-0.89	0	2.80	-1.06	7
Rutland_AG	40	80	59	-3	2234	+78	897	+23	0.02	-0.82	1	2.52	-1.07	9
Springfield_VT	41	84	62	+4	2672	+903	1267	+678	0.02	-0.82	1	1.36	-2.13	6
Sutton	35	79	56	+2	1899	+561	667	+330	0.00	-0.79	0	4.73	+1.07	7
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>														
Boston/Logan_In	53	82	66	+2	3003	+485	1526	+359	0.12	-0.58	1	2.51	-0.45	8
Fitchburg	46	84	65	+7	3070	+1302	1584	+989	0.03	-0.67	1	1.11	-1.78	7
Greenfield	44	81	62	-2	2721	+378	1299	+284	0.05	-0.74	1	2.12	-1.14	6
New_Bedford	42	77	62	-5	2735	+185	1307	+112	0.02	-0.76	2	2.20	-1.32	7
Otis_AFB	48	77	62	-1	2475	+403	1129	+294	0.01	-0.76	1	1.32	-1.78	6
Plymouth	45	79	63	+1	2743	+615	1327	+450	0.01	-0.97	1	3.43	-0.45	6
Walpole	44	82	63	+2	2893	+751	1430	+560	0.06	-0.79	1	3.42	-0.16	8
Chicopee/Westov	38	83	62	-4	2872	+186	1420	+132	0.02	-0.82	1	3.21	-0.15	8
Worthington	38	80	59	-1	2187	+445	866	+300	0.06	-0.78	1	3.45	-0.09	6
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>														
Providence	50	80	64	-1	2946	+543	1475	+394	0.00	-0.84	0	2.70	-0.66	6
Woonsocket	46	82	64	+3	2921	+812	1454	+624	0.03	-0.88	1	2.60	-1.04	10
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>														
Bridgeport/Siko	51	80	67	+0	3208	+617	1693	+448	0.00	-0.74	0	1.26	-1.61	7
Hartford/Bradle	46	83	65	+1	3173	+601	1661	+460	0.02	-0.89	1	2.08	-1.49	7
Norfolk	40	76	59	+0	2306	+564	960	+394	0.06	-0.92	2	2.77	-1.29	8
Thomaston_Dam	39	79	60	-2	2802	+712	1353	+539	0.07	-0.86	2	2.24	-1.63	10
Willimantic	43	81	64	+2	2998	+865	1510	+662	0.02	-0.89	1	3.78	+0.17	9

**State Weather Summary**

For the Week Ending Sunday, September 16, 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.

Copyright 2012. AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

For detailed ag weather forecasts and data visit the AWIS

home page at [www.awis.com](http://www.awis.com) or call toll free at

1-888-798-9955

STATE	AIR TEMPERATURES				PRECIPITATION	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	35	84	60	+3	0.00	0.27
NH	22	86	60	+3	0.00	0.24
VT	30	85	58	+1	0.00	0.40
MA	36	86	62	+1	0.00	0.33
RI	46	82	64	+1	0.00	0.03
CT	39	83	63	+0	0.00	0.07

**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:** Silage harvesting going full speed with a dry week and good crop being reported by many. Dry hay put up and second cutting completed with third cut hay progressing. Vegetable harvest continued with sweet corn still plentiful and summer squash giving way to winter squash. Pumpkins showing up at farm stands along with mums and gourds. Some reports of diseased cucurbits from phytophthora due to August rains. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Corn silage harvest is moving along. Condition of the standing corn is deteriorating rapidly due to leaf spots, blights and other diseases. Stalks seem to be holding moisture but the leaves are turning to powder. One operator commented "we don't usually see it snowing corn leaves until mid October - but look behind that chopper!" **Ann McCard (FSA), New London:** This past week was perfect weather for harvesting corn. The dry, sunny days had farmers getting in as much as possible. The weather had a hint of fall in the air, cool mornings and pleasant days. Local farm stands and markets have plenty of mums, late summer vegetables, early apples, corn stalks, and pumpkins available. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Making cider, digging sweet potatoes. Garlic flavor is good. Corn varying from nice and green to paper bag brown and dry. Shorter days, heavy fog slowing down hay making.

**MAINE – Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook:** Dry weather has allowed most operations to finish the grain harvest. School is out the next 3 weeks for potato harvest. Potato quality has been excellent, but yields have been light so far. With recovery rates above 95%, the McCain's plant will run hard the next 3 months. **Don Audibert, (FSA) Northern Aroostook:** Another beautiful warm week for harvesting grain. Farmers are approximately 98 percent done. Some farmers have started potato harvest. We haven't received any rain again this week! Soil is very dry and much needed rain would be nice for harvesting the potato crop to reduce bruising. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Corn silage is being cut, the tonnage is 16-18 tons per acre due to short stalks. However, grain is reported to be very good this year. Hay production has been very good this year and many are running out of storage room. Cool mornings next week are expected. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Grasses are starting to slow down. The sun is not as high in the sky. Producers are getting ready for corn silage harvest. Nice weather to visit a fair! **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Much needed rain to help with hay fields and corn crop. Third cutting of hay/haylage is underway. Apple harvest is ongoing and crop looks pretty good. Corn silage will be later than expected, but is spotty in areas. Pastures are coming back and farmers will be starting the potato harvest this week. Farm stands are full and winding down. Fall harvest crops are underway. More rain is forecasted for this week. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** Crops are still being harvested and farmers markets are well stocked. Corn is looking good. Cooler temperatures are predicted for the early part of the week. **Elaine S Moceus (FSA), Somerset:** Apple producers are reporting average size of fruit with some varieties below average in size. The quality of apples were reported to be below average due to insect, disease and some frost damage in early spring and due to spotty rain showers making sprays less effective. At this time, approximately 20% of apples have been harvested. Corn silage chopping has begun and hay harvest continues. Light frost was reported in some areas this morning (8/17). **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Silage corn harvested has started in selected spots. Some third cutting hay and haylage also part of the harvest mix. Apple harvest is in full swing. Spotty frost in low areas on morning of 8/17.

**MASSACHUSETTS – Russell Norton (Ext), Barnstable:** Excellent weather warm conditions with cooler evenings resulting in heavy dew. Apple harvest beginning to pick up. Fall raspberries in full production with SWD being troublesome in some fields. Harvesting of pumpkins and winter squashes in full swing. **Heather Baylis**

**(FSA) Franklin:** Beautiful weather with cooler nights and still maintaining warm days reminds us it is the end of the summer. Last week's wet weather was great for the soybeans, but contributed to more careful scans for fruit rot and downy mildew. The fall harvest has benefited from the good weather conditions and the first of the apples; Macs, Galas and Honeycrisps are being picked. Peaches, pears, plums, grapes, beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, Brussels sprouts, cucumbers, greens, tomatoes, and squash are among the many crops available to consumers. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** The week was warm and sunny with cool nights. It was an excellent week for harvesting fall crops. Some of the crops were winter squash, pumpkins, cabbage, kale, potatoes, Indian corn and carrots. Dairy farmers were harvesting corn silage and their third cutting of hay. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Harvest just barely getting started, some dry and some wet. There will just be a trickle during these next 2 weeks. Things are getting very dry, we could use a good soaking. There appears to be a decent amount of water for water harvesting operations at this point. Last night might have had some growers running their sprinklers for frost protection. Cool nights this week have certainly helped to color up the berries.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE – Donna Juneau (FSA) Belknap/Merrimack:** Saturday, September 8 brought heavy rains in the evening hours with about 0.35 inches of rain reported in Concord. The remainder of the week consisted of generally bright sunny days with highs in the 70s and 80s and crisp fall temperatures in the evenings. Corn is reportedly generally doing well with an average crop expected in most areas. We have limited reports of chopping field corn in some areas of the counties. The hay harvest has been ongoing with third cut being harvested in some areas. Harvest of other fall crops including pumpkins, apples, and winter squash are in full swing. Cider mills are pressing apples for fresh cider and the corn mazes are open for some fall fun. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Bright, sunny weather all week. Great weather for drying hay and farms getting a good start on chopping silage corn. Veggie crops doing well, but starting to wind down. Great weather for PYO apples. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Corn silage harvest begins. Most field corn at correct maturity for chopping. Some actually past that, other late-planted still at milk-stage. Cooler evening temperatures with heavy dews in the morning, still quite warm during the day. Many farmers continued to harvest grasses as possible. First apples being picked. First frost of the year in northern and cooler parts of the county. Assessing weed control while corn sampling: annual weeds seemed more of a problem this year, crabgrass in particular. Surprised to see galinsoga in more silage corn fields. Pumpkins, winter squashes and corn stalks for sale at farm stands. Higher elevations starting to show signs of color. Swamp maples turning red, signs of autumn. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** No rain at all last week! There was plenty of haying going on. The weekend provided ideal conditions to make hay: dry soils, light breezes and low humidity. Corn harvest has started. Yields are a little bit below normal on the average, but it is still a good crop for most producers. Given the dry summer that we had, we can be thankful that the crop is as good as it is. Some areas (and soils) in the county suffered more from the dry conditions than others, and those areas saw a more significant drop in yield than other areas. Hay yields followed a similar pattern. Some producers have done well; others are below their historical normal yields. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Apple harvest is in full swing with most growers concentrating on second picking McIntosh and Gala apples, and working on Cortland and Macoun. Great weekend for pick-your-own orchards. Fall raspberry and pear harvests continued with peach and plum harvests winding down. Field Crops: Silage corn harvest is in full swing along with second and third cuts of hay and haylage continuing. Vegetables: Good demand for all vegetables. Harvesting wide array of vegetables, including warm season vegetables like tomatoes and peppers. Harvesting cabbage, kale, Brussels sprouts,

winter squash and pumpkins. Farmers kept busy disking, cleaning up and planting cover crops on harvested fields. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Sunny, warm week with cooler nights. Harvests of apples, fall raspberries and blackberries continued. Vegetable harvest included sweet corn, tomatoes, greens, winter squashes, pumpkin and fall mums. All available at farmers markets and farm stands. Cleaning harvested vegetable fields, liming, and planting cover crops. Spreading manure. Haying and chopping corn. **Jenn Zaleski (FSA), Sullivan:** It was a cool start to the week with highs in the mid-60s and lows in the low 40s. Temperatures warmed up into the 80s by mid-week providing excellent drying weather for dry hay. A front moved through the area Friday night bringing minimal rain. The weekend was cooler with highs in the upper 60s and lows in the low 40s. Dry conditions allowed farmers to make significant progress on the corn silage harvest. Fall vegetables were available in farmers markets and farm stands. Summer vegetables were still available as well.

**RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties:** The days are getting shorter and cooler. Harvesting a huge abundance of small crops still, such as sweet peppers, egg plant, hot peppers, tomatoes, sweet corn, etc. We have just about everything in abundance. Apples are coming in very nicely. They have a nice shape and colors. Pick your own has already started. Pumpkins in some areas of the state are doing very well. We have a few spots in the state where they just died out. Squash, such a butternut and acorn, will be harvested soon. Potatoes still look good, in a couple of more weeks they will be putting them into storage. Livestock looks very good this fall. The animals have done well all summer. Pastures are still green believe it or not! Not a lot of feed out there though.

**VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Corn silage harvest ongoing with good soil conditions. Late planted corn ears are still not filled, delaying harvest for at least one-half of the corn in the county. Dry hay and haylage harvest complete, wet mornings and cool temps. Soybeans starting to yellow and leaf drop on a few fields. Most fields still green with pods not yet filled. Winter rye cover crop with aerial seeding complete. Starting to plant rye with no-till drill in corn stubble. Finished seeding grass and clover in hay fields and pasture. Manure spreading on corn stubble and hay fields. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Apples are the story of the week in Franklin County. Seems that producers were caught off guard as to the crop with some orchards shut down due to poor yields. Some of the problem points to late frost this past spring; however, the dry weather was also a culprit. Seems spotty as some areas in the county had enough moisture to keep things going in the orchards and some did not. Corn harvest is in full swing with kernels and moisture at prime. Harvest fests are well underway and seem to be well attended. The rains last week brought about a boost to growth for grass fourth cut with nice weather this week to harvest before corn. **Heather Mateja (FSA), Lamoille/Washington:** Corn silage is being harvested and yields are high. Still need some rain to replenish the small streams. No frost yet, but some cool mornings in the mid 30's. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** It was another dry week. Most locations got a little rain on Saturday, but not a lot. Ground conditions are still very dry. Some 3rd and 4th cut hay was harvested this past week. Some of the farmers with larger acreage of corn started harvesting last week. The corn crop is starting to dry down, but there hasn't been a frost yet. Usually corn harvest gets into full swing once there is a killing frost.

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

**Gary R. Keough, Director**  
**Hernán Ortiz, Statistician**

**Ty Kalous, Deputy Director**  
**Deirdre Davis, Stat Assistant**