

Crop Progress & Condition



NEW ENGLAND
Agricultural
Statistics



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October 22, 2012 – 4 pm

For week ending 10/21/12

Fall Harvest Slowed By Rain

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending October 21, 2012, there were 4.6 days available for fieldwork across New England. Pasture conditions were rated 35 percent poor, 37 percent fair, 26 percent good, and 2 percent excellent. The week was warmer than normal with average weekly temperatures ranging from 5 degrees above normal in Maine to 7 degrees above normal in New Hampshire and Rhode Island. Widespread rain showers continued during the week, bringing between 0.2 to 2.9 inches of precipitation across the region. There were still some areas in southern New England that have not had a killing frost this fall.

FRUIT: Apple harvest is winding down in most New England States. Many orchardists were marketing their crop and preparing for winter. Meanwhile, the cranberry harvest in Massachusetts neared completion by week's end with reports of very good berry size and color.

VEGETABLES: Farm stands and farmers markets were still full of fall crops such as beets, cabbage, collards, kale, Brussels sprouts, squash, pumpkins, and gourds. However, the marketing season was starting to wind down in many areas. Some growers have turned their attention to pulling plastic mulch, stakes, and irrigation equipment from fields to prepare for winter. Producers also cultivated fields, planted cover crops, and readied machinery for storage.

FIELD CROPS: Rain showers during the week slowed the harvest of field crops across the region. Farmers were able to make limited progress harvesting corn for silage, hay, and haylage due to the wet conditions. Some producers started corn for grain and soybean harvests. The wet conditions also made it difficult for potato farmers in Maine to complete harvest. The rains provided good conditions for a tobacco damp in the Connecticut River Valley allowing many producers to take down and bundle their crop. Farmers were also plowing, soil testing, spreading manure, seeding cover crops, and putting farm equipment in storage.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	0	3	1
Adequate	71	66	53
Surplus	29	31	46
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	0	6	0
Adequate	80	70	60
Surplus	20	24	40

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2012	2011	5-yr Avg
-- Percent Harvested --			
Apples	95	90	90
Pears	99	95	99
Cranberries, MA	80	85	85

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2012	2011	5-yr Avg
-- Percent Harvested --			
Potatoes			
Maine	95	99	95
Mass	85	90	95
Rhode Island	80	75	90
Silage Corn	85	85	95
Dry Hay			
Second	99	95	99
Third	90	80	90

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday October 15, 2012
 To: Sunday October 21, 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	36	65	53	+6	2511	+422	1030	+284	0.90	+0.00	5	3.59	+0.30	19
Bangor_Intl_Arp	29	64	51	+5	2343	+443	919	+297	2.90	+2.13	5	7.15	+4.18	18
Bethel	37	70	51	+6	2188	+325	814	+218	1.69	+0.80	2	3.78	+0.50	13
Caribou_Municip	29	63	48	+6	2062	+614	768	+390	1.82	+1.12	5	5.08	+2.26	18
Dover-Foxcroft	23	64	46	+3	1932	+337	685	+233	1.89	+1.05	5	6.55	+3.17	15
Frenchville	28	61	45	+5	1807	+464	619	+296	1.75	+1.05	5	4.78	+1.80	17
Houlton	26	64	49	+7	2016	+502	734	+310	2.44	+1.72	5	7.92	+5.01	18
Livermore_Falls	31	67	50	+6	2157	+592	800	+371	1.39	+0.52	5	4.09	+0.79	16
Moosehead	27	65	45	+4	1565	+248	441	+131	1.15	+0.38	5	5.04	+1.94	16
Portland_ME	32	67	54	+7	2556	+622	1059	+422	0.88	-0.01	4	4.17	+0.91	15
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	29	70	50	+5	1988	+283	665	+189	1.46	+0.69	4	3.98	+1.11	18
Berlin_AG	35	74	54	+10	2225	+525	780	+283	0.80	-0.04	4	2.42	-0.68	18
Concord	29	75	53	+7	2766	+680	1214	+475	1.12	+0.38	4	3.62	+0.85	17
First_Conn_Lake	28	68	48	+8	1703	+585	512	+307	1.24	+0.40	4	4.36	+1.00	18
Keene_AG	29	72	51	+3	2661	+299	1131	+215	1.17	+0.47	4	3.50	+0.76	17
North_Conway	29	67	48	+4	2255	+342	861	+228	2.08	+1.13	3	4.32	+0.81	19
Rochester	29	74	51	+3	2808	+541	1280	+428	1.35	+0.36	2	4.57	+1.03	12
VERMONT														
Bennington_AP	28	70	53	+9	2674	+846	1116	+564	1.78	+0.94	4	4.35	+1.01	19
Burlington_Intl	31	71	55	+9	3033	+813	1427	+586	1.79	+1.16	3	4.95	+2.35	18
Island_Pond	27	69	51	+8	2004	+610	684	+359	0.91	+0.20	4	4.16	+1.35	21
Montpelier	27	69	51	+7	2209	+473	808	+296	1.45	+0.82	4	3.74	+1.22	18
Rochester	29	69	49	+5	2198	+469	811	+307	2.18	+1.34	3	4.53	+1.17	16
Rutland_AG	28	70	49	+2	2357	+17	904	+4	1.38	+0.75	4	4.04	+1.34	19
Springfield_VT	30	73	53	+8	2868	+985	1287	+691	1.53	+0.72	4	4.11	+0.99	20
Sutton	28	69	47	+6	1971	+575	670	+333	1.16	+0.39	5	4.67	+1.72	22
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	42	74	58	+5	3336	+516	1601	+373	0.38	-0.37	3	1.99	-0.86	15
Fitchburg	31	76	56	+11	3340	+1454	1633	+1035	1.15	+0.38	4	3.12	+0.26	15
Greenfield	33	74	53	+2	2924	+350	1317	+266	2.37	+1.60	4	4.35	+1.27	16
New_Bedford	30	72	57	+3	3043	+163	1376	+106	0.21	-0.59	3	2.70	-0.30	16
Otis_AFB	36	72	57	+6	2780	+480	1192	+327	0.44	-0.45	2	2.16	-1.24	10
Plymouth	31	72	57	+7	3047	+704	1396	+493	0.60	-0.31	3	3.44	-0.15	15
Walpole	31	74	56	+8	3162	+834	1474	+580	2.37	+1.47	5	4.31	+0.89	18
Chicopee/Westov	29	75	56	+3	3129	+151	1464	+114	1.40	+0.57	4	3.64	+0.49	14
Worthington	29	70	50	+3	2304	+420	869	+294	2.40	+1.56	4	5.28	+1.99	19
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	36	74	58	+7	3275	+599	1549	+415	0.96	+0.12	4	4.07	+0.88	14
Woonsocket	33	75	56	+9	3202	+918	1502	+656	1.92	+1.01	4	5.12	+1.61	16
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	39	73	60	+6	3621	+696	1817	+489	1.19	+0.49	3	7.72	+4.97	13
Hartford/Bradle	33	75	57	+6	3472	+656	1722	+480	1.74	+0.96	4	4.71	+1.50	16
Norfolk	36	65	51	+6	2451	+583	967	+394	2.64	+1.74	4	5.52	+2.00	19
Thomaston_Dam	30	72	53	+4	3020	+722	1376	+530	1.61	+0.70	4	5.91	+2.37	19
Willimantic	32	75	57	+8	3308	+965	1575	+699	0.95	+0.02	4	4.23	+0.57	16

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, October 21, 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	23	74	49	+5	0.57	2.90
NH	17	75	51	+7	0.27	2.33
VT	26	75	50	+6	0.19	2.79
MA	28	78	55	+6	0.21	2.40
RI	33	75	57	+7	0.91	1.92
CT	30	75	56	+6	0.57	2.64

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: Combining corn, making last cutting of hay for 2012, mostly as grass silage. Sales at farmers markets winding down as season comes to a close. About one inch of rain on Friday, but the sun came back out for the weekend. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Mowing hay, finishing apple harvest, and picking corn.

MAINE – Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook: Several periods of rain have made it difficult to get the few remaining acres of potatoes out. Most operations have finished, but can't get their fall work done. Broccoli and cauliflower harvests are almost finished. **Don Audibert, (FSA) Northern Aroostook:** Farmers had 1.5 days to harvest potatoes this week due to rain and frost. Potato harvest is approximately 95 percent complete. Just a few McCain growers to finish up. Most farmers are now plowing, picking rocks, and putting their farm machinery back in storage. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** There was a 4.0 earthquake centered in Hollis at 7:14 PM on the 16th, that was quite a surprise for the whole area. Luckily, no damage has been noted. October has been rainy with more cloudy, wet days than sun. This week looks good for a change. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** There was lots of rain this week. Harvest totals for the year: well below average for maple syrup and apples, slightly below average for corn and small grains, vine crops did well, pasture and hay well above normal. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis/Penobscot:** The last weekend for a number of farmers markets.

MASSACHUSETTS – Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden: Heavy rains at the end of the week made it difficult for many growers to harvest their fall crops. Harvest continued for potatoes, apples, beets, kale, collards, cabbage and Brussels sprouts producers. Other producers were also busy pulling up plastic mulch and tomato stakes, harrowing fields and planting a cover crop and putting away equipment. Many tobacco producers took down tobacco to bundle due to the heavy rains that caused a tobacco damp. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Harvest continued with many growers finished. Size and color are very good, for the most part. Growers are cleaning up and getting ready to do fall projects.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Donna Juneau (FSA) Belknap/Merrimack: It was a mostly rainy week again from start to finish with rainfall reported every day except Wednesday and Thursday, October 17 and 18. We learned last week that most producers had been able to get out on the fields and harvest their field corn before the freeze of late Friday night/Saturday morning, October 12-13. Whatever remained in the fields after the freeze was generally harvested mid-week on October 17 and 18 when the weather cleared. Daytime temperatures ranged from the 50s to the mid-70s with a couple of cold nights on Tuesday and Wednesday with temperatures dipping down to freezing and below. Producers are now cleaning up and preparing for winter. Farm stands are still stocked with fall crops including apples, cabbage, potatoes, squash, pumpkins, and gourds. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Cool weather most of the

week, with rain on Friday. Pastures still looking good, though harvesting hayfields pretty much done. Vegetable growers finishing putting fields to bed. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Mix of weather, frosts more common. Most silage corn now chopped and packed a little ear corn to come in yet. Manure spreading now going at a good pace. Grass fields still looking good for pasturing and possible haylage harvest. Rivers running high, groundwater getting re-charged. Seeing fall insects: Asian Ladybeetle, Western Conifer Seed bug, Box Elder bug - looking for indoor accommodations. Garden hi-tunnel cleanup ongoing. Still mums and pumpkins for sale, but crop year at the end. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending October 20th, we received just over a half inch of rain. No hard killing frost yet in the Connecticut River Valley. A few producers are still putting up alfalfa and grass haylage. Some corn has not yet been harvested, but should be dry enough for shelling in the next few weeks. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Orchardists busy marketing crop. Apple harvest is done. Finishing harvesting Rome, Fuji, and Pink Lady. Finishing picking up apple drops (99% completed). Most orchardists report 50% of a normal crop due to losses from the spring frosts. Field Crops: Silage corn chopping almost finished. Soil testing fields for next season and cleaning and putting away farm equipment. Vegetables: Farmers are cleaning up fields, picking up plastic mulch, drip tape, trellis stakes and irrigation equipment and soil testing fields for next season. Cleaning and putting away farm equipment.

RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties: The eastern and southern parts of the state have not had a killing frost yet. They're trying to finish getting potatoes in storage this week. Last week was a little bit wet. Vegetable stands are still doing a good business this weekend. Corn, pumpkins, squash and mums and still some vegetables are around. Fields are being harrowed and seeded for rye. Winter will be here shortly and things are winding down. A lot of the machinery is being cleaned and stored for the winter.

VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison: Continued rain and wet fields delayed harvest. Very little corn silage chopped and some soybean harvest started. Wet soils and mud delays. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Franklin County is still getting rain, making things wet for field work. Still some corn out and late cut hay for silage. Very wet conditions making some ruts and adding to moisture levels in the haylage. Corn now really on the dry side for silage, still waiting on dry down for picking. Fall manure spreading will be a challenge. Pit volumes are in good shape due to the dry summer. Gardens still waiting for the Great Pumpkin, whose time is rapidly approaching. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** We got several days of rain this past week. This will help recharge the water table before winter sets in. The corn harvest is nearing completion with approximately 95% of the crop cut. Most of the winter rye cover crop has been seeded on the harvested corn ground. There also was some fourth cut hay activity on some farms. The crop looks fairly good for being the fourth crop. Finally there was manure spreading activity on a lot of farms. Cows are still being pastured, but there isn't a lot of new growth so the season is winding down.

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