

Crop Progress & Condition



A field office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service
United States Department of Agriculture

Gary R. Keough, State Statistician, New England Phone: 603-224-9639 Fax: 603-225-1434 www.nass.usda.gov/nh nass-nh@nass.usda.gov

Volume 33, Number 27

(Issued weekly on the Internet, May – October)

October 28, 2013 – 4 pm

For week ending 10/27/13

This will be the last publication for the 2013 crop year. We hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season and good luck next spring!

SERIES OF KILLING FROSTS

GENERAL CONDITIONS: There were 6.1 days suitable for fieldwork across New England for the week ending October 27, 2013. Pasture condition ratings averaged 1 percent very poor, 31 percent poor, 45 percent fair, 20 percent good, and 3 percent excellent. The week was seasonably cool with multiple widespread hard frosts throughout the latter half of the week. Average temperatures across the six states ranged from 1 to 3 degrees below normal. Rainfall this week was minimal; averages across the six states ranged from 0.01 to 0.19 inches.

FRUIT: Orchardists were busy marketing crops, including an abundance of apples. Most farmers finished their apple harvest and kept busy flail mowing under trees and storing their apples. Some orchardists had such a good production year that their storage space was insufficient. Cranberry harvest in Massachusetts slowly continued; progress was behind last year and 5-year average. Some cranberry growers were reporting yields below earlier expectations.

VEGETABLES: Farmers continued harvesting fall-season crops prior to a series of killing frosts that ended the growing season for most growers in New England. Vegetable growers were busy cleaning up fields, soil testing fields for next season, and putting away farm equipment. Some farm stands were closing for the season, but many remained open with various fall crops available.

FIELD CROPS: Haying and corn silage harvest was almost complete thanks to another week of favorable weather for fieldwork activities. There was some grain corn not yet harvested as of October 26. Yield testing on field corn in northern New England demonstrated yield losses caused by a combination of late plantings, wet weather, leaching, and Northern Corn Leaf Blight. Many farmers were pleased with their third cuttings of hay; however, dry hay was overall in short supply due to wet weather during the summer. Growers in Massachusetts and Rhode Island were finishing up potatoes. Farmers were also busy planting cover crops, soil testing fields for next year, spreading manure, cleaning up fields, and moving equipment back in storage.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	3	1	0
Short	13	7	3
Adequate	80	87	85
Surplus	4	5	12
Subsoil			
Very Short	2	1	0
Short	8	18	4
Adequate	87	78	84
Surplus	3	3	12

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Set	Fruit Size	Condition
	2013	2012	5-yr Avg			
Apples	95	99	99	Average	Avg/Above	Good/Exc
Pears	100	100	100	Average	Average	Good
Cranberries, MA	80	90	90	Average	Average	Good

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2013	2012	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Harvested --				
Potatoes				
Maine	100	100	99	Exc/Good
Mass	100	95	99	Good
Rhode Island	95	95	95	Good/Exc
Field Corn	99	90	95	Good/Fair
Dry Hay				
Second Cut	100	100	99	Good/Fair
Third Cut	95	90	95	Good

2 - Crop Weather, October 28, 2013

New England Agricultural Statistics, NASS, USDA

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics Service

Prepared By AWIS.com from NWS preliminary data

For the Period: Monday October 21, 2013
 To: Sunday October 27, 2013

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	31	60	46	-1	2361	+269	935	+189	0.07	-0.87	2	1.01	-2.41	8
Bangor_Intl_Arp	28	62	46	+1	2187	+286	827	+205	0.04	-0.77	2	0.72	-2.29	8
Bethel	28	60	41	-4	2003	+140	702	+106	0.00	-0.94	0	1.25	-2.16	4
Caribou_Municip	27	54	41	+1	1842	+394	595	+217	0.42	-0.28	4	1.95	-0.83	11
Dover-Foxcroft	27	60	41	-1	1951	+356	696	+244	0.15	-0.70	2	1.33	-2.01	8
Frenchville	27	52	39	-1	1603	+260	461	+138	0.43	-0.28	5	1.57	-1.35	12
Houlton	24	58	41	+1	1787	+273	581	+157	0.64	-0.13	3	1.65	-1.26	7
Livermore_Falls	25	62	41	-2	1966	+401	711	+282	0.01	-0.90	1	1.01	-2.39	6
Moosehead	25	58	39	-2	1690	+373	527	+217	0.35	-0.42	3	2.16	-0.89	9
Portland_ME	26	64	46	+0	2377	+442	965	+328	0.03	-0.93	1	0.79	-2.62	5
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	26	61	40	-4	2081	+375	763	+287	0.19	-0.58	3	1.82	-1.10	11
Berlin_AG	27	62	41	-3	1989	+289	691	+194	0.09	-0.77	3	1.04	-2.17	9
Concord	22	66	44	-2	2570	+482	1092	+353	0.00	-0.77	0	1.08	-1.79	3
First_Conn_Lake	26	55	38	-1	1626	+508	510	+305	0.22	-0.62	3	1.63	-1.73	9
Keene_AG	23	66	41	-6	2442	+75	1024	+108	0.00	-0.73	0	1.62	-1.20	6
North_Conway	27	60	41	-3	2071	+158	740	+107	0.04	-0.96	2	1.38	-2.27	8
Rochester	27	63	43	-5	2387	+115	978	+126	0.04	-1.00	1	1.22	-2.52	6
VERMONT														
Bennington_AP	28	66	45	+1	2474	+642	1007	+455	0.11	-0.77	2	2.80	-0.58	10
Burlington_Intl	31	63	45	+0	2847	+622	1273	+432	0.06	-0.60	3	2.38	-0.20	11
Island_Pond	24	57	38	-4	1892	+498	646	+321	0.22	-0.54	5	1.97	-0.89	12
Montpelier	27	60	41	-3	2057	+320	735	+223	0.23	-0.41	3	2.30	-0.23	10
Rochester	28	61	41	-3	2079	+348	756	+252	0.01	-0.87	1	1.75	-1.65	6
Rutland_AG	28	61	41	-7	2164	-183	831	-69	0.03	-0.60	2	1.35	-1.26	7
Springfield_VT	25	64	42	-3	2419	+536	991	+395	0.01	-0.83	1	1.61	-1.56	7
Sutton	25	58	38	-3	1848	+452	614	+277	0.31	-0.47	5	1.95	-1.06	12
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	37	71	52	-1	3261	+425	1573	+345	0.03	-0.76	1	0.53	-2.39	6
Fitchburg	25	68	46	+3	3114	+1227	1501	+903	0.00	-0.77	0	0.92	-2.00	6
Greenfield	27	65	44	-6	2650	+66	1164	+113	0.01	-0.76	1	1.50	-1.58	7
New_Bedford	26	67	47	-7	2885	-14	1311	+41	0.08	-0.78	2	0.78	-2.33	7
Otis_AFB	27	66	47	-4	2661	+351	1142	+277	0.24	-0.67	2	0.50	-2.95	7
Plymouth	25	69	48	-2	2952	+600	1372	+469	0.04	-0.90	2	1.13	-2.49	7
Walpole	27	68	47	-1	2924	+591	1346	+452	0.03	-0.91	1	1.18	-2.32	6
Chicopee/Westov	22	68	45	-7	2876	-117	1338	-12	0.00	-0.84	0	1.81	-1.39	6
Worthington	28	64	42	-5	2113	+224	820	+245	0.03	-0.84	2	1.51	-1.81	8
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	31	71	49	-3	3212	+524	1542	+408	0.02	-0.86	2	0.53	-2.75	7
Woonsocket	28	71	47	-1	3018	+729	1414	+568	0.04	-0.91	2	1.70	-1.90	9
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	36	69	51	-2	3374	+430	1673	+345	0.00	-0.72	0	0.27	-2.50	4
Hartford/Bradle	29	68	46	-4	3185	+359	1549	+307	0.00	-0.83	0	2.08	-1.13	6
Norfolk	29	60	43	-2	2284	+412	932	+359	0.00	-0.91	0	1.55	-1.97	6
Thomaston_Dam	25	66	44	-5	2770	+462	1294	+448	0.01	-0.90	1	2.11	-1.43	9
Willimantic	24	68	45	-5	2984	+631	1374	+498	0.03	-0.95	1	1.76	-1.95	6

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, October 27, 2013

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 2013. AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.
 For detailed ag weather forecasts and data visit the AWIS
 home page at www.awis.com or call toll free at 1-888-798-9955

STATE	AIR TEMPERATURES				P R E C I P I T A T I O N				
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	DAYS
ME	23	64	42	-1	0.00	0.64	0.17	-0.66	2
NH	10	67	42	-3	0.00	0.70	0.09	-0.67	1
VT	19	66	41	-3	0.00	1.32	0.19	-0.53	3
MA	20	71	46	-3	0.00	0.37	0.07	-0.77	1
RI	28	71	50	-2	0.01	0.11	0.05	-0.81	2
CT	24	70	46	-3	0.00	0.03	0.01	-0.84	1

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: More hard frost/freezing mornings. Finished final cutting of hay and combining of corn continues. Spreading manure and machinery cleanup. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Cleaning up, prepping equipment for storage, and clearing brush seem to be the primary tasks on farms around here as operations switch from crop production to getting ready for winter. **Jude Boucher (EXT), Tolland:** Hit 28 degrees the last couple of nights, ending warm season crop harvest, except possibly along the shore. Many large farms were still selling wholesale sweet corn, tomatoes, eggplant, etc. as of Wed. or Thursday. They were planted late due to June flooding and thus were harvested late. Some plants didn't set well in the July heat and finally produced a crop this fall. Sunny and warm weekend weather through most of the fall have allowed for good retail sales and well attended Halloween festivals. The warm fall and high wholesale prices have helped make up for some of the early season losses, with a couple of farms reporting near record profits for the year. A happy ending for some after a terrible start! Now if the growers can just rebuild all the greenhouses they lost in Feb. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** A few frosts finished vegetables. Still combining corn and baling hay. Dry conditions.

MAINE – Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook: A few soybeans and a small acreage of grain are all that is left to harvest. Most operations are finishing up their rock picking and plowing. Very few reports of potatoes breaking down thus far. **Don Audibert, (FSA) Northern Aroostook:** Few farmers reporting that they have hollow heart problems with some of their potatoes. Cleaning their machinery and putting in storage. Most farmers will be shipping their crop starting this week. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** The first hard frost hit the area over the weekend ending the growing season except for those with high tunnels or row covers. The growing year was good or bad depending on the crops grown. Dry hay of any quality is in very short supply. Apples production depended on the variety and time of pollination. Certain types of vegetables suffered from too much rain early in the summer. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** There was a hard freeze on October 27th. Grain corn and soybeans are still standing in the fields. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Harvest is completed except for grain corn. The plan is to complete this week. The hay crop turned out great with a lot of third cuttings. Apple production was reported as one of the best years. Fields being prepared for winter and manure being spread. Over all a good year for crops, even with the heavy wet months. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis:** Finishing harvests. Some manure spreading. Fall planted cover crops look great. **Elaine S. Moceus (FSA), Somerset:** Most acres of silage corn have been harvested with varying results. Some producers of lighter soils have reported average production, while producers of heavy soils in conjunction with having to plant later than normal, reported less than average production. Most producers are reporting sufficient hay; however, due to the wet season are concerned with hay quality. Dry hay producers are reporting less production than average due to the wet summer, and are also concerned with hay quality.

MASSACHUSETTS –Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden: Cold weather has arrived. Harvesting cabbage, collards, spinach, beets, soybeans, corn grain, and hay. Farmers are spreading manure and adding lime on their

harvested fields. They are also picking up plastic row covers and harrowing their fields. **Carolyn DeMoranville (Ext), Plymouth:** Harvest is winding down. Fruit color is similar to observed values at this time last year and ahead of the 5-year average. Brix is running ahead of last year and the 5-year average. Some growers are reporting that their yields are below expectations.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Donna Juneau (FSA) Belknap/Merrimack: A partly cloudy week with a number of cold nights with temperatures in the 20s. Producers have been in the fields harvesting hay, haylage and the last of the field corn. **Olivia Sounders (Ext), Carroll:** Frosts becoming more common. Dry weather has allowed for late lime applications. Many still picking tomatoes out of high tunnels. Great fall for lettuce and greens. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Field corn harvest nearly complete, what is left should be in this week. Manure spreading and stacking to clean out storage continues. Cooler and wet weather conditions, a little light snow cover that doesn't stay, typical weather for this time of year. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending October 26th, weather conditions remained relatively favorable for this time of year. Light shower activity had minimal impact of field work. Farmers continue to harvest some haylage in scattered locations. There is still some grain corn that is not yet harvested, but soil and weather conditions remain favorable allowing harvesting to continue. Vegetable producers are still offering a selection of produce. Yield testing on field corn had demonstrated significant yield losses on a number of fields. Contributing factors to the yield reductions include late planting, leaching, Northern Corn Leaf Blight and other factors, related to the wet conditions of this past summer. **Heather Bryant (Ext), Grafton:** Several hard frosts this past week. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Weather: County-wide hard frost occurred several times during week. Excellent weekend for on-farm sales of farm products. Fruit: Orchardists busy marketing crop. Apple harvest is done. Finishing harvesting Rome, Fuji, and Pink Lady. Finishing picking up apple drops (98% completed); however, many orchardists are flail mowing under trees and not worrying about the drop apples. Very large crop, orchardists ran out of bins and cold storage or CA space to store apple crop. 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. Field crops: Silage corn chopping finished. Soil testing fields for next season and cleaning and putting away farm equipment. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Apple harvest winding down. Fall crops abundant at farm stands and farmers markets. Vegetable growers cultivating fields, planting cover crops; also getting ready for the winter farmers markets. Harvesting corn for silage, hay and haylage being done. Soil testing, plowing, spreading manure. Sunny and cloudy week, cooler days, and seen frost several nights in a row. **Kelly Greenbacker (FSA), Sullivan:** The weather continued to cooperate early in the week with warm days and above freezing nights. Farmers continued to harvest the last of the corn and haylage crops. Overall farmers are reporting an average to above average yield on hay/haylage this year; however, many saw quality losses due to wet weather and a delayed first cut. The weather turned colder at the end of the week and into the weekend. Most areas received a frost, and daytime temperatures on Friday-Saturday were in the 40s. Many farm stands are closed for the season at this point, and

those remaining open have apples, cider, pumpkins, squash and other fall items available.

RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties: Most of the crops are gone now. We had 3 killing frosts in the last 3 days. Everything is pretty well frozen up. This has been a terrific fall and we made it this far without a killing frost. They are finishing up potatoes this week and putting it and corn into storage. If there are anymore small vegetables around they needed to be picked before Friday, because Friday, Saturday and Sunday night we had real heavy frost. Farmers are bringing the dry cows home back to the barn now. They are starting to clean the machinery to be put away for the winter and they will start to plan for next spring.

VERMONT –Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin: Great year over all in Franklin County. Yields seem to be better than expected

in all arenas. Pasture growth has come to a crawl and the rainy weather is making for some slowed grazing. Snow in some areas have really slowed growth down. Gardens have gone into hibernation and late season apples are still hanging on. Might be able to find some carrots in the ground or some late hanging raspberries up for grabs. **Heater Mateja (FSA), Lamoille:** Corn Silage is in, Haying is almost complete. Slow start to the season, but ended being an average year for Lamoille County. **David Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Most all of the corn has been harvested at this point. There may be a little more 3rd or 4th cut hay left to harvest but essentially it is done. The weather last week was wet and cold. The mountains nearby are white with snow over the weekend. Farmers still have cattle out on the pastures but there is little feed left. Cattle are being fed at the barn now.

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

Gary R. Keough, State Statistician

Hernan Ortiz, Statistician