



New England Agricultural Statistics Service

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

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Crop Weather

Volume 21, Number 24

(issued weekly on the Internet, May - October)

October 15, 2001 - 4 pm

For week ending 10/14/01

Warm Temperatures Accompany Harvest

For the week ending October 14, 2001, there were 6.6 days available for fieldwork across New England. Pasture condition was rated as 12% very poor, 28% poor, 37% fair, 23% good, 0% excellent. Major farm activities included: liming fields; seeding cover crops; spreading manure; preparing fields for winter; cutting hay and chopping haylage; harvesting the last of the oats, barley, sweet corn and other vegetables; and harvesting silage corn, potatoes, apples, pears, and cranberries.

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

| Crop | -- Percent Harvested -- | | | Condition |
|-----------------|-------------------------|------|----------|-----------|
| | 2001 | 2000 | 5-yr Avg | |
| Apples | 90 | 85 | 85 | Good/Fair |
| Pears | 90 | 70 | 80 | Poor/Fair |
| Cranberries, MA | 70 | 55 | 60 | Good/Fair |

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

| Soil Rating | -- Percent -- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|-----------|-----------|
| | This Week | Last Week | Last Year |
| Topsoil Moisture | | | |
| Very Short | 11 | 6 | 0 |
| Short | 49 | 45 | 9 |
| Adequate | 40 | 48 | 81 |
| Surplus | 0 | 1 | 10 |
| Subsoil Moisture | | | |
| Very Short | 31 | 27 | 0 |
| Short | 35 | 28 | 5 |
| Adequate | 34 | 44 | 90 |
| Surplus | 0 | 1 | 5 |

FIELD CROPS: Killing frost hit many areas of New England last week, ending the growing season for most crops. Snow has fallen in higher elevations. Warm daytime temperatures arrived mid-week, allowing farmers to proceed with harvest and other fieldwork. Maine and Rhode Island potato harvest were close to complete by week's end, with only a small number of fields left to be harvested. Oat and barley harvest in Maine was wrapped up last week. Silage harvest continued to advance well ahead of last year and normal, and the crop remains in good to fair condition. Tobacco growers have started packing their crop in preparation for sale and delivery. The second crop of hay is nearly all cut.

VEGETABLES: Farmers harvested pumpkins, broccoli, cauliflower, carrots, cabbage, winter squash and other vegetables last week. Sweet corn harvest came to an end, right on schedule with last year and normal. Farmers were busy mowing the edge of fields, pulling plastic mulch, preparing equipment for storage and cleaning up harvested fields.

FRUIT: The harvest of late maturing apple varieties was active during the week. Cool temperatures early in the week were expected to improve apple color and sweetness. Massachusetts' cranberry crop remains in good to fair condition; fruit rot and cranberry weevil damage continue to be discovered.

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

| Crop | -- Percent Harvested -- | | | Condition |
|-------------|-------------------------|------|----------|------------|
| | 2001 | 2000 | 5-yr Avg | |
| Potatoes | | | | |
| Maine | 99 | 95 | 95 | Good/Excel |
| Mass | 90 | 95 | 90 | Good/Fair |
| Rhode Isl | 99 | 85 | 85 | Good/Excel |
| Oats, ME | 100 | 99 | 99 | Good |
| Barley, ME | 100 | 100 | 99 | Good |
| Silage Corn | 95 | 70 | 80 | Good/Fair |
| Sweet Corn | 100 | 100 | 100 | Good/Fair |
| Dry Hay | | | | |
| Second Cut | 99 | 100 | 95 | Fair |
| Third Cut | 85 | 90 | 85 | Fair/Poor |

For the Week Ending Sunday, October 14, 2001

The 41 stations shown below are limited by space but are well distributed across the region.
All 86 stations appear on the Internet and in e-mail subscriptions.

| 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 INCHES | DFN | DAYS | TOTAL | | DFN | DAYS |
| | | | | | TOT | DFN | TOT | DFN | | | | INCHES | DFN | | |
| MAINE | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Augusta_ME | 34 | 74 | 53 | +3 | 2526 | +447 | 1078 | +332 | 0.16 | -0.68 | 2 | 2.91 | -0.21 | 10 | |
| Bangor | 27 | 74 | 51 | +2 | 2363 | +471 | 952 | +330 | 0.01 | -0.69 | 1 | 2.84 | -0.14 | 9 | |
| Bethel | 29 | 79 | 51 | +3 | 2111 | +254 | 743 | +147 | 0.10 | -0.74 | 1 | 3.64 | +0.49 | 5 | |
| Cari bou | 28 | 72 | 50 | +6 | 1952 | +504 | 677 | +299 | 0.06 | -0.62 | 2 | 2.78 | -0.12 | 12 | |
| Dover-Foxcroft | 27 | 70 | 48 | +2 | 1868 | +273 | 609 | +157 | 0.06 | -0.74 | 1 | 2.25 | -1.21 | 7 | |
| Frenchville | 29 | 71 | 49 | +5 | 1763 | +420 | 566 | +243 | 0.10 | -0.63 | 1 | 3.40 | +0.26 | 11 | |
| Houl ton | 22 | 74 | 49 | +4 | 1893 | +379 | 664 | +240 | 0.06 | -0.64 | 1 | 1.71 | -1.32 | 6 | |
| Livermore_Falls | 22 | 77 | 49 | +3 | 2215 | +651 | 878 | +449 | 0.06 | -0.78 | 1 | 2.31 | -0.95 | 9 | |
| Moosehead | 25 | 77 | 47 | +3 | 1652 | +335 | 494 | +184 | 0.07 | -0.67 | 1 | 1.36 | -1.82 | 6 | |
| Portland_ME | 28 | 71 | 52 | +2 | 2344 | +418 | 951 | +314 | 0.04 | -0.78 | 3 | 3.49 | +0.41 | 11 | |
| NEW HAMPSHIRE | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Benton | 26 | 73 | 49 | +1 | 1993 | +296 | 688 | +212 | 0.17 | -0.53 | 2 | 3.71 | +0.91 | 9 | |
| Berlin_AG | 26 | 77 | 49 | +3 | 2020 | +325 | 701 | +204 | 0.21 | -0.56 | 1 | 2.02 | -0.96 | 8 | |
| Concord | 23 | 78 | 52 | +3 | 2493 | +416 | 1079 | +340 | 0.00 | -0.70 | 0 | 2.41 | -0.24 | 6 | |
| Diamond_Pond | 24 | 69 | 47 | +4 | 1394 | +276 | 358 | +153 | 0.21 | -0.63 | 1 | 2.73 | -0.70 | 10 | |
| Keene_AP | 23 | 75 | 52 | +1 | 2508 | +161 | 1063 | +147 | 0.00 | -0.70 | 0 | 1.84 | -0.88 | 6 | |
| North_Conway | 27 | 75 | 50 | +2 | 2400 | +493 | 987 | +354 | 0.03 | -0.86 | 1 | 2.96 | -0.35 | 9 | |
| Rochester | 28 | 75 | 50 | -2 | 2467 | +216 | 1062 | +210 | 0.01 | -0.90 | 1 | 2.22 | -1.07 | 7 | |
| VERMONT | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Burlington_VT | 28 | 78 | 55 | +6 | 2719 | +511 | 1222 | +381 | 0.04 | -0.59 | 1 | 0.92 | -1.80 | 7 | |
| Island_Pond | 24 | 71 | 48 | +3 | 1811 | +420 | 581 | +256 | 0.23 | -0.47 | 1 | 2.85 | +0.02 | 8 | |
| Montpelier | 24 | 75 | 52 | +5 | 2068 | +340 | 759 | +247 | 0.10 | -0.53 | 2 | 3.03 | +0.51 | 13 | |
| Pownal | 25 | 76 | 51 | +4 | 2140 | +321 | 755 | +203 | 0.00 | -0.84 | 0 | 3.48 | +0.12 | 6 | |
| Rochester | 25 | 77 | 50 | +3 | 2017 | +296 | 696 | +192 | 0.10 | -0.74 | 1 | 3.22 | -0.14 | 8 | |
| Rutland_AG | 24 | 76 | 50 | -2 | 2141 | -180 | 773 | -127 | 0.00 | -0.64 | 0 | 2.10 | -0.79 | 4 | |
| Sutton | 25 | 71 | 48 | +4 | 1881 | +485 | 612 | +275 | 0.27 | -0.50 | 3 | 2.37 | -0.58 | 9 | |
| Townshend_Lake | 24 | 74 | 50 | +1 | 2222 | +28 | 851 | +28 | 0.21 | -0.49 | 3 | 7.92 | +5.07 | 15 | |
| MASSACHUSETTS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ashburnham | 30 | 75 | 51 | +3 | 2447 | +569 | 1007 | +409 | 0.01 | -0.69 | 1 | 2.86 | +0.14 | 8 | |
| Boston | 37 | 77 | 56 | +0 | 3069 | +285 | 1499 | +271 | 0.02 | -0.68 | 2 | 1.73 | -1.07 | 7 | |
| Greenfield | 27 | 78 | 53 | -1 | 2669 | +120 | 1193 | +142 | 0.00 | -0.77 | 0 | 2.33 | -0.75 | 7 | |
| New_Bedford | 28 | 74 | 53 | -5 | 2763 | -75 | 1233 | -35 | 0.03 | -0.74 | 1 | 3.03 | +0.06 | 11 | |
| Otis_AFB | 34 | 73 | 55 | +2 | 2761 | +485 | 1255 | +390 | 0.00 | -0.84 | 0 | 1.57 | -1.72 | 6 | |
| Plymouth | 26 | 74 | 53 | -1 | 2656 | +334 | 1160 | +257 | 0.04 | -0.82 | 2 | 2.72 | -0.91 | 9 | |
| Walpole | 28 | 79 | 54 | +3 | 2854 | +544 | 1320 | +426 | 0.01 | -0.83 | 1 | 1.38 | -1.98 | 6 | |
| Westover | 25 | 75 | 55 | -1 | 2896 | -47 | 1358 | +10 | 0.00 | -0.77 | 0 | 1.92 | -1.23 | 6 | |
| Worthington | 28 | 76 | 51 | +1 | 2051 | +180 | 709 | +134 | 0.03 | -0.78 | 1 | 4.98 | +1.69 | 7 | |
| RHODE ISLAND | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Providence | 32 | 75 | 53 | -2 | 3040 | +394 | 1463 | +329 | 0.00 | -0.80 | 0 | 3.92 | +0.79 | 8 | |
| Woonsocket | 27 | 84 | 53 | +3 | 2996 | +725 | 1461 | +615 | 0.01 | -0.90 | 1 | 1.48 | -1.98 | 8 | |
| CONNECTICUT | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bridgeport | 33 | 72 | 55 | -3 | 3190 | +307 | 1575 | +250 | 0.00 | -0.66 | 0 | 2.66 | -0.09 | 7 | |
| Hartford_AP | 28 | 77 | 55 | +2 | 3037 | +246 | 1466 | +224 | 0.00 | -0.77 | 0 | 2.11 | -1.20 | 7 | |
| Norfolk | 28 | 72 | 52 | +4 | 2422 | +563 | 971 | +398 | 0.00 | -0.84 | 0 | 5.08 | +1.50 | 7 | |
| Thomaston_Dam | 25 | 75 | 51 | -3 | 2560 | +285 | 1096 | +250 | 0.00 | -0.84 | 0 | 4.34 | +0.79 | 9 | |
| Willimantic | 28 | 78 | 54 | +2 | 2967 | +645 | 1395 | +519 | 0.00 | -0.91 | 0 | 3.55 | -0.11 | 8 | |

STATE WEATHER SUMMARY

For the Week Ending Sunday, October 14, 2001

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.

| State | Air Temperatures | | | | Precipitation | |
|-------|------------------|----|-----|-----|---------------|------|
| | LO | HI | AVG | DFN | LO | HI |
| ME | 22 | 80 | 49 | +2 | 0.00 | 0.24 |
| NH | 12 | 80 | 49 | +1 | 0.00 | 2.10 |
| VT | 17 | 78 | 50 | +3 | 0.00 | 0.85 |
| MA | 22 | 81 | 53 | +1 | 0.00 | 0.04 |
| RI | 27 | 84 | 54 | +0 | 0.00 | 0.03 |
| CT | 25 | 78 | 53 | -1 | 0.00 | 0.02 |

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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.

Prepared by AWIS, Inc.

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

CONNECTICUT - Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham: Chopping grass and corn silage. Ears of corn vary from six to ten inches long. Later planted corn has the better production. Still very dry. Hauling water for cows. Feeding heifers on pasture. Apple harvest is 75% done. Hard frost ended most vegetable production. Days are getting shorter. **Nancy Welsh/Karen Lockman (FSA), New Haven:** A warm week for producers to finish up field work. Broccoli and cauliflower are being harvested, along with the fall favorites of apples, pears and pumpkins. Two heavy frosts have hit the area, sweetening the apples. **Joyce Meader (Ext), Windham:** Beautiful weather for pumpkin pickin' and hay rides. Traffic jams occurred along orchard highways and draft horses attracted apple buyers. Dry corn is blowing out of corn trucks on the highways - this could be a problem when packing to prevent molds.

MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook: Most potato growers have finished harvesting. Busy with fall tillage, lime spreading, picking rocks and starting to market potato crops. Weather is great for fall work. Potato crop is practically all in storage and from all reports is keeping well. **Dee Potter (Ext), Northern Aroostook:** Potato and small grain harvest are pretty well wrapped up. Rock picking and fall plowing are field activities. Little fall grazing left for cattle (crop residues). **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Harvesting of potatoes has almost been completed. A few farmers have only a couple days left. This fall weather has been excellent. Crop quality is very good. **Steve London (Ext), Southern Aroostook:** Potato harvest went well this year and the crop looks very good. **Albert Dow (NRCS), Piscataquis:** Cover crops have been planted. Harvesting is about finished. Livestock are still grazing where good pasture management kept forage growing. **Janet King/Jennifer Zweig (FSA), Somerset:** Corn being harvested - almost complete. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Crops are harvested. Pumpkins and cornstalks at roadside stands for fall decorating. Fall foliage is at its peak. The coast has had its first frost. **Michael Tardy (FSA), Androscoggin:** The harvest is winding down. A few apples are still hanging on the trees, waiting for a warm hand to pluck them away. The apple crop looks good for the year. Other farmers are preparing fields for the winter months. All the manure is being spread for the last time this year to help next year's crop. Another year is coming to a close. **Parker Rand (FSA), Cumberland/York:** The first major frost, with temps in the 20's, signaled the end of harvest for most crops. Still picking apples and cutting corn. Time to think about preparing for winter. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Time to get ready for winter. Soybeans are being harvested. Grain corn to go. Still need ground water. **Laura Rand (FSA), Oxford:** Warm fall days have been the norm for the past week. Producers are busy completing maintenance duties before cold weather arrives. Farm stands are a beautiful array of fall colors with displays of pumpkins, squash and apples. Apple producers are busy finishing harvest. It appears that the apple harvest is an abundant one this year, with production ahead of last year.

MASSACHUSETTS - Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire: Good weather for harvesting corn. Everybody making silage and hay and harvesting their vegetable crops. First good killing frost this week. Some shelled corn moisture down to 22% - good for this time of year. Lawns are still growing well. **Paul Russell (FSA), Southeast Massachusetts:** Cranberry growers are finding poor quality fruit, and some areas are finding yields much lower than expected. Vegetable growers are applying a winter cover crop to their fields and shellfish growers are preparing their beds for winter. **Kip Graham (FSA), Worcester:** Nearing the end of the season. Frost

hit many parts of the county. Hay is just about finished. Corn - very little still standing. Apple harvest still in full scale. Heavy apple drop due to rains. Raspberries, blueberries and small fruits ending. Great time to pick your own apples. Harvesting most vegetables. Finishing tomatoes and peppers. Preparing for more frost. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Harvesting continues. Early Black quality was very good, Stevens and Ben Lear were poor. It is too early to determine how the Howes will fare. Some beds (including the Cranberry Station's State Bog) was ravaged by cranberry weevil and the crop was drastically reduced. **David Rose (FSA), Bristol:** Farmers busy chopping corn and cleaning up fields. Farm stands continue to sell fall crops, but for the most part the season is over. **John Devine (FSA), Franklin:** Following a chilly start, Indian summer continues in Franklin County. This has been an excellent week to harvest third cut hay. The crop seems to have rebounded after getting some moisture. Field tobacco is being packed into bundles and readied for sale and delivery. High moisture corn harvest started this past weekend. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** The week began with a killing frost which ended the crop year for all summer crops. Still harvesting apples, hay, corn grain, potatoes, cabbage and carrots. Heavy frost on a few mornings resulted in a good tobacco damp for farmers to take down. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** Putting farms to rest, winterizing and repairing equipment. Third cut hay in process, but rain on 10/15 will definitely lower quality. Pumpkin sales still ongoing, but volume is starting to drop off. Season for retail and farming coming to a close. Next up - Christmas trees! Taking some much deserved time off to enjoy fall foliage.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton: Corn silage harvest finishing up. Fall application of manure continues. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Apple harvest winding down. Finishing Red Delicious, Golden Delicious, Rome and other late maturing apple varieties. Cleaning up apple drops and putting away orchard equipment. Pear harvest is done. Vegetables: Finished harvesting pumpkins and squash with threats of cold weather. Most warm season vegetables and sweet corn are past, due to recent hard freeze. A few warm season vegetables in protected locations still being harvested. Farmers kept busy mowing edges of fields, pulling plastic mulch & tomato stakes, disking fields, cleaning up fields, planting cover crops and putting away equipment. Field Crops: Winding down corn silage cutting and seeding cover crops on harvested fields. Some manure spreading and incorporating in soil is taking place. **David Seavey (Ext), Merrimack:** Some sweet corn still being harvested. Late maturing apples are being harvested during favorable weather. Windy conditions causing fruit drop. Good pumpkin sales. A hard frost in most locations. Some root crops being harvested. Farmers are cleaning up fields and finishing winter rye seedings. Last cut of alfalfa made in early October. **Pam Marvin (FSA), Sullivan:** The last of the haylage is being harvested. Fields are being readied for the winter. Apple picking and pumpkin harvesting are still ongoing. Applications of winter rye are coming up strong. Sullivan County is awash with brilliant colors. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** Soil moisture conditions are still very low. We did not have any rain last week. The leaves are beginning to fall off the trees. Falling leaves will reduce the demand on the soil for moisture. Soils are very dry. Some scattered, last-minute haying is still going on.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: Chopping field corn and some haying being done. Cover crops being seeded, some emerging. Weather's been good for field work, some light rain. Still getting some corn from late seedings. Farm stands busy with mums and fall decorations. Farmers' markets still going strong.

Marilu Soileau (FSA), All Counties: Winter cover crops were planted in former vegetable plots. Apple harvest is winding down with drops being harvested for holiday cider making. A rainy Sunday hurt the roadside stand traffic this weekend. Corn silage continues to be harvested. There was a widespread overnight frost on October 9th, which was our first one since last May.

VERMONT - John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille: Corn silage harvest pretty much over. Quite a bit of third cut hay was harvested last week. Still very dry, with many needing to haul water. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Most all of the corn and third crop hay has been harvested. Most farms have enough feed for the winter. No rain during the past week has not helped the dry conditions. Most rivers are as low as they have been in many years. Some landowners are hoping for a wet fall to replenish their springs for the winter. **Lynette Hamilton (FSA), Windham:** Fall foliage in Windham is at its peak this week, but rain on 10/15 will do us in. The corn season is over for another year, and even with the drought we had an average productive year. Most farmers will have enough feed for the winter feeding season. **George Cook (Ext), Lamoille:** Another dry week, with excellent outside working conditions. Need some meaningful rainfall. Good corn cutting

weather. Fall field work should be pretty much on schedule. **Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Finished corn silage harvest - higher than expected yields, good maturity, some left for high moisture shell corn harvest. Hay harvest complete, overall OK yields. Pasture growth very slow. Very dry soil still common. **Richard Noel (FSA), Grand Isle/Franklin:** What a beautiful week for all types of field work! Tillage work, lime and manure spreading, and combining corn were all being accomplished this week. Water tables are very low! Franklin County had only 0.50 in. of rain early on 10/15. Some farmers aren't barned up for winter and they're hauling water for their herds already! Looks like a long, dry winter if we don't get rain soon! **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Chopping corn about done. Yields varied with soil moisture, but in general were down 10-20%. Woke up to snow on the ground early in the week. Additional shallow wells drying up. Farmers finishing up harvesting and lots of manure being spread. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Finished sweet corn harvest on 10/9. Had sweet corn on market 84 days without a miss; very good season. Last of potatoes came out 9/30; excellent crop. Majority of cropland seeded back to rye. One-quarter inch of rain last week. Only crops left to harvest are one-half acre of pop corn, winter cabbage and turnips. All and all, a fine season.

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*

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