



New England Agricultural Statistics Service

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

22 Bridge St, Third Floor
PO Box 1444
Concord, NH 03302

Aubrey R. Davis, Director
www.usda.gov/nass

603-224-9639
Fax: 603-225-1434
nass-nh@nass.usda.gov



Crop Weather

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For week ending 10/5/03

Cold Weather is Here

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending October 5, 2003, there were 5 days available for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture was rated 0% very short, 3% short, 68% adequate, 29% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 0% very short, 4% short, 88% adequate, 8% surplus. Pasture condition was rated as 2% very poor, 10% poor, 44% fair, 39% good, 5% excellent. Below average temperatures arrived last week and significant rainfall was received. Snow fell in some elevated northern locations. The first hard frost hit most areas of New England, halting some vegetable harvest. Major farm activities included: cutting haylage and making dry hay; harvesting potatoes, small grains, corn silage, apples, peaches, pears, cranberries and vegetables; finishing desiccating potato vines; spreading manure; applying lime; planting cover crops; monitoring fields; performing general farm maintenance.

FRUIT: Apple, peach and pear harvest continued last week. Pick-your-own operations experienced good business on dry days, and apple sales in general went very well. Fall raspberry harvest continued to wind down and most growers finished harvesting plums. Cranberry harvest was ten percent behind normal last week; berry size was reported as small and growers were slow to harvest until berries gained more color.

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2003	2002	5-yr Avg	
Apples	70	70	70	Good/Fair
Peaches	99	100	100	Good/Fair
Pears	65	55	70	Good/Fair
Cranberries, MA	20	25	30	Good

VEGETABLES: Harvesting continued for brussel sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, eggplant, kale, lettuce, peppers, pumpkins, squash, tomatoes, zucchini and other vegetables. Sweet corn harvest was nearly complete by week's end, and harvested fields were cleaned up. Hard frost signaled the end of harvest for many vegetable growers.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil Moisture			
Very Short	0	0	8
Short	3	6	26
Adequate	68	67	64
Surplus	29	27	2
Subsoil Moisture			
Very Short	0	1	16
Short	4	15	39
Adequate	88	76	44
Surplus	8	8	1

FIELD CROPS: Rainy days made dry hay making difficult, but some farmers still made baleage. Second crop hay harvest continued to wind down last week, while the third cut progressed to 85 percent complete. Growers harvested silage corn between showers; some farmers had difficulty getting into fields due to the wet conditions. Rhode Island growers finished harvesting potatoes, ahead of last year and the five-year average. Potato harvest in Maine and Massachusetts was ongoing when weather allowed. Maine farmers continued to wrap up small grain harvest; rain caused delays and made it difficult to get equipment into fields. Rain showers provided good conditions for tobacco damp in the Connecticut River Valley.

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2003	2002	5-yr Avg	
Barley, ME	95	100	99	Good/Fair
Oats, ME	95	100	95	Good/Fair
Potatoes				
Maine	70	75	70	Good
Mass	60	70	80	Good/Fair
Rhode Isl	100	90	85	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	65	70	70	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	99	99	99	Good
Dry Hay				
Second Cut	99	99	95	Good/Fair
Third Cut	85	85	80	Good/Excellent

For the Week Ending Sunday, October 5, 2003

All 86 stations appear on the Internet and in e-mail subscriptions.
Due to space restrictions, only 41 stations appear below. These stations are well distributed across the region.

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_State_A	37	68	51	-3	2206	+151	903	+157	3.02	+2.25	5	6.30	+3.34	14	
Bangor_Intl_Arp	37	69	52	-2	2181	+310	890	+268	3.95	+3.20	5	5.60	+2.44	12	
Bethel	33	69	49	-3	1909	+69	681	+85	1.03	+0.26	2	5.17	+2.09	9	
Caribou_Municip	32	69	48	+1	1751	+309	622	+244	1.24	+0.54	4	2.29	-0.81	12	
Dover-Foxcroft	33	63	48	-3	1596	+9	506	+54	2.56	+1.70	4	4.26	+0.67	12	
Frenchville	33	66	48	+0	1602	+263	526	+203	2.28	+1.51	4	3.19	-0.13	10	
Houlton	30	68	49	+2	1823	+316	670	+246	1.95	+1.20	5	3.03	-0.20	12	
Livermore_Falls	33	73	50	+0	1971	+416	769	+340	1.69	+0.90	3	4.86	+1.60	11	
Moosehead	30	67	46	-3	1485	+174	470	+160	3.33	+2.55	5	5.11	+1.78	10	
Portland_ME	37	71	52	-2	2164	+260	862	+225	0.70	-0.07	2	3.71	+0.77	8	
NEW HAMPSHIRE															
Benton	29	66	46	-6	1826	+145	643	+167	1.27	+0.57	5	4.03	+1.16	10	
Berlin_AG	32	67	47	-4	1886	+204	679	+182	1.06	+0.30	3	4.17	+1.18	8	
Concord	31	71	50	-4	2447	+392	1087	+348	0.71	+0.04	5	4.12	+1.53	14	
Diamond_Pond	29	62	44	-3	1320	+208	388	+183	1.41	+0.57	5	4.46	+0.88	15	
Keene_AP	28	66	47	-9	2340	+26	981	+65	1.22	+0.54	5	4.37	+1.65	13	
North_Conway	32	68	49	-4	2130	+238	849	+216	0.88	+0.04	3	4.20	+1.00	11	
Rochester	33	71	52	-4	2178	-41	873	+21	0.92	+0.10	2	6.04	+3.00	9	
VERMONT															
Burlington_Intl	34	65	50	-3	2599	+416	1169	+328	2.42	+1.75	5	3.55	+0.62	12	
Island_Pond	34	66	46	-3	1755	+375	608	+283	1.38	+0.68	5	3.25	+0.28	14	
Montpelier	29	64	46	-6	1923	+212	697	+185	2.34	+1.71	5	4.02	+1.44	13	
Pownal	31	64	48	-5	2029	+231	707	+155	1.99	+1.15	5	5.57	+2.10	15	
Rochester	30	63	48	-4	1966	+264	702	+198	2.11	+1.27	3	5.25	+1.81	11	
Rutland_AG	30	65	47	-8	2096	-190	801	-96	1.53	+0.83	4	3.28	+0.13	12	
Sutton	30	65	46	-3	1753	+366	587	+250	1.44	+0.74	5	4.15	+1.13	15	
Townshend_Lake	31	66	47	-7	2155	-11	833	+10	2.59	+1.89	5	6.12	+3.18	14	
MASSACHUSETTS															
Ashburnham	32	65	49	-4	2265	+407	920	+322	1.00	+0.30	5	4.88	+2.16	15	
Boston/Logan_In	41	72	57	-3	2818	+96	1359	+140	0.25	-0.45	3	2.03	-0.77	7	
Greenfield	31	68	49	-9	2472	-33	1052	+7	3.30	+2.53	5	8.61	+5.48	15	
New_Bedford	37	72	55	-6	2543	-226	1149	-108	0.60	-0.10	4	2.48	-0.54	11	
Otis_AFB	39	75	57	-1	2554	+322	1181	+319	0.86	+0.03	3	1.18	-2.02	7	
Plymouth	31	75	53	-4	2443	+163	1073	+172	0.27	-0.64	5	1.61	-2.16	12	
Walpole	32	73	53	-3	2576	+300	1170	+278	0.33	-0.51	3	2.53	-0.87	7	
Chicopee/Westov	30	66	49	-10	2574	-310	1143	-196	2.54	+1.76	5	9.06	+5.82	15	
Worthington	30	66	46	-8	1948	+103	678	+103	2.17	+1.35	4	6.91	+3.57	14	
RHODE ISLAND															
Providence	37	71	55	-3	2810	+218	1345	+219	0.25	-0.52	4	1.19	-2.00	9	
Woonsocket	32	72	53	-2	2544	+303	1139	+293	0.20	-0.64	3	3.35	-0.13	9	
CONNECTICUT															
Bridgeport/Siko	37	70	56	-6	2913	+100	1434	+122	0.65	-0.05	2	2.52	-0.35	8	
Hartford/Bradle	33	69	51	-7	2851	+106	1350	+114	4.22	+3.38	3	8.49	+5.01	14	
Norfolk	31	66	47	-6	2049	+212	742	+169	1.76	+0.86	5	7.69	+3.93	14	
Thomaston_Dam	30	68	50	-6	2538	+304	1094	+254	1.48	+0.57	3	6.48	+2.79	13	
Willimantic	33	72	52	-5	2654	+372	1217	+344	0.54	-0.37	4	3.42	-0.24	12	

STATE WEATHER SUMMARY

For the Week Ending Sunday, October 5, 2003

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	28	76	49	-2	0.70	5.83
NH	11	72	47	-5	0.57	2.27
VT	24	71	46	-6	0.45	2.59
MA	29	75	52	-4	0.03	4.50
RI	32	72	55	-3	0.20	0.46
CT	30	76	52	-6	0.22	4.22

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 - Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland: For many it took most of the week to let soils dry out from the previous Sunday's rains. Silage harvest was slowed with many fields too wet to enter. In other locations trucks had to be pulled through fields to allow harvest to continue. Apple and pear harvest continued to progress past the half way point. Cabbage, peppers and tomatoes continued to be harvested. Sweet corn completed on many farms. Frost on Friday morning in isolated locations. Pumpkin yields ranged from very good to poor with significant acreage hurt by a new blight to the area. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Frost halted vegetable production. Pumpkin picking taking place. Field corn harvesting getting closer to being done with poor to average yields, smaller stalks and varying ear development. Apples looking good with 60% of harvest complete, evidence of summer diseases affecting apple quality, flavor is excellent. **Nancy Welsh/Karen Vozarik (FSA), New Haven:** A light frost has hit the area this week. Still harvesting silage corn. Loss adjusters out checking fields. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Rain and late maturing corn continues to hamper corn harvest. Fields were planted late in spring - summer was cool, now fields are late maturing. Some scattered frost in the area might help dry down some corn. Mud keeping some farms out on the sidelines.

MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook: A few growers have completed harvesting their potatoes, however those who are not done are finding it a slow and difficult process due to wet soils. Some areas in the St. John valley have received as much as five inches of rain during the past week, this much rain can bring harvesting to a halt for a few days. A few days of warm, dry weather are badly needed. Still hearing complaints of small tuber size. For the most part small grain harvesting is completed. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Harvesting of potatoes continues. We have had some recent rain that has slowed harvesting a little. Most farmers only have 4-5 more days left to get their crop harvested. Canola is still being harvested - only 5-10 percent left to harvest. If showers would cease, all grains could be harvested and stored. Soil sampling taking place on already harvested grounds and liming applications for fall being applied. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Some farmers are having trouble killing russet vines. **Albert Dow (NRCS), Piscataquis:** Harvesting of silage corn and potatoes still in full swing. Heavy rains have delayed harvesting. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Lots of crazy wet weather has slowed harvest. First really cold hard frost was this week. Hail and high winds made life interesting. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Fall pruning underway on blueberry fields. Many areas have had frost. Another day of steady rain helping the water table and wells. Silage corn harvest completed over the weekend. **Michael Tardy (FSA), Androscoggin:** The week's weather was helpful for harvesting. Corn silage growers have been reporting a great crop; a few have told us the ears are short. Some potato producers have had water problems. The heavy rains dropped so much water that the rows were flooded and there is concern about rot. Pumpkins, squash and gourds are popular at the farm market. Harvest is winding down. **Parker Rand (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Some producers are finishing up corn harvest and some are finished chopping hay. The first widespread frost finished a lot of gardens, it's time to prepare for winter. **Laura Rand (FSA), Oxford:** This week's weather was cool and rainy. Some reports of frost have been received. Harvest has slowed due to ground conditions.

MASSACHUSETTS - Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire: Our ground is still soggy with mud making it tough to get around some corn fields. Some folks still have not started chopping because corn stalks are still very green and ears haven't tipped down, but with first frost in the county beginning on the 2nd, the dry down has begun. Pumpkin producers have piled their crop in fields and yards along with other vine crops. If planted crops did get started, it was a good year. Lots of planted crops were adversely affected by damp, cold weather and did not produce a fair yield. A little liming and fall fertilization was done. Harvested sweet corn ground has been tilled and cover cropped. **Kip Graham (FSA), Worcester:** Fall has arrived quickly. Many families out picking apples. Nice apple picking weather. Plums, blueberries and caneberries coming to a close. Cabbage, cauliflower, eggplant, pumpkins, squash, tomatoes, peppers, brussel sprouts harvested. Some later sweet corn still standing in fields. Some vegetable fields being cleaned after final crops are picked. Third cutting hay still being cut and dried. The cooler weather making the hay take longer to dry. Silage corn continues being chopped for winter storage. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Harvest progressing very slowly.

Everyone is waiting for better color. Crops have been very disappointing. Smaller size than expected due to insect damage, the drought from 2002, and the amount of ice sanding that was done in January. **David Rose (FSA), Bristol:** Light frost hit the area this week. Farms stands report a brisk business over the weekend. Corn harvest well underway. Crop looks good. **John Devine (FSA), Franklin:** Temperatures in the high 20's on Thursday morning brought an end to the 2003 season for many crops. Silage and potato harvest continues despite real tough field conditions. Brooks and streams are running at early spring levels and there's nowhere for fields to drain to. Don't bother asking farmers how field conditions are, they're liable to give you an answer you didn't need to hear. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** All crop fields are still saturated with the continued rainfall throughout the week. Three days of morning frost has ended the harvest of summer crops such as peppers, eggplant, tomatoes and cucumbers. The rainfall also brought a tobacco damp for the growers to take down tobacco. The wet conditions are making corn silage and potato harvest very difficult. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** Frosts on Thursday and Sunday night put an end to this farming season in Northern Worcester County. Had picked beans, zukes, fall raspberries, and grapes prior to first frost. All other crops had been picked and stored. Retail sales were brisk as consumers tried to get yard work done as well as decorate for fall. Pumpkins here not all orange but are turning in storage and display. Largest pumpkin - 49 pounds.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap: Picking fall raspberries and several varieties of high quality apples. Fruit size is large. There are still many vegetables available at farm stands. Growers are cleaning up the fields, spreading manure and sewing cover crops. Chopping corn... wishing the rain would hold off a bit. Pumpkin and mum sales are strong. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Some rain, some sun, some widespread frosts. Corn harvest is done on some farms, what remains is frosted. No more dry hay being made, though some are making baleage in between showers, and 4th cutting looks good. Apple harvest in full swing. Pumpkins are widely available. Farms are spreading manure on harvested ground and planting cover crops. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Frosts, hard freezes in county but not universal. Few locations appear to have escaped damage. Crop season about over now, however. Silage corn continues to be chopped but bulk of it now in silos. Out in field with FSA to check yields; seeing good yields on most farms, nice maturity. General problems observed: annual grasses, corn earworm damage, a few planter difficulties - too high corn populations. Bear and bird damage also in evidence. A little haying, pasturing as possible, fields still look pretty green for this time of year. Apples, cider, pumpkins, squash, mums, etc. available at local markets. About peak color in central part of county, fair numbers of visitors enjoying farm stand offers. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Corn harvest continues at a rapid pace. Fourth cut growth looks good to excellent. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Vegetables: Good demand for all vegetable continues. Harvesting wide array of vegetables, including warm season vegetables like tomatoes and peppers. However, heavy frost on Thursday and Friday has brought the harvest of warm season vegetables to an end. Harvesting cabbage, kale, brussel sprouts, lettuce, winter squash and pumpkins. Farmers kept busy disking, cleaning up and planting cover crops on harvested fields. Fruit: Pick-your-own apple and farm stand operations had a wonderful Sunday, rainy on Saturday. Apple harvest is in full swing with most growers concentrating on last picking McIntosh and Cortland. Continue harvesting varieties like Red Delicious, Macoun, Empire, etc. Fruit size is excellent, but bruising can be a problem. Peach and plum harvest over and the frost completed the fall raspberry harvest. Field Crops: Field corn harvest in full swing. Cover crops were being planted in harvested fields. **David Seavey (Ext), Merrimack:** Apple harvest going well. Weekend rain reduced retail sales at roadside stands. Pumpkin and squash harvest and sales going well. Some storage rots appearing on pumpkins. Eighty percent of the silage corn harvested. Farmers trying to beat the frost. Some scattered frost reported. Good pasturing season; stock piling grasses for late fall grazing. Some fall planting of shrubs in nurseries. Growing degree days on Monday, October 6 in Boscawen is 2044. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** The week was cool with weekend rain showers. Fruit growers were busy harvesting apples. Apple sales were doing well. Vegetable growers were harvesting a wide variety of late vegetable crops. Pumpkin harvesting and sales were going well. Greenhouses and nurseries continued with fall mum sales, some were closing down for the season.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: The last of the sweet corn has been harvested, still chopping field corn. Winter squash and some tomatoes still in the field. Cover crops on potatoes look great and finishing up some haying. Pumpkins being harvested and did alright considering the summer. Roadside stands are absolutely stuffed with pumpkins, gourds and all the fall crops.

VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille: Corn silage harvest is winding down and producers are reporting excellent yields with generally excellent quality. Soybeans have dried down and are ready for harvest; crop looks good and the yield looks great. Lamoille County has yet to experience a major killing frost this fall. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** A lot of rain showers this week slowed corn harvest. In spite of this most farms have completed their harvest. There is a little 3rd and 4th cut hay left to do. Most farms are spreading manure on their corn land to empty their manure storage for winter. A few of the higher elevations were white on Friday morning, but most of us just got rain. **Lynette Hamilton/Perley Sparrow (FSA), Windham:** Corn harvesting is almost completed in Windham County with excellent production. Winter rye being broadcasted on stubble ground along with manure. There is some late cut alfalfa to harvest.

Most all veggie crops are harvested. **Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Harvesting corn silage. Frost this week dried leaves of corn. Alfalfa and grass hay still have good regrowth. Moderate to heavy rust disease on grass leaves. Some manure spreading on harvested hay fields, both grass and alfalfa. Some manure on corn stubble and some primary tillage - moldboard or chisel plow. New seedings one foot tall and strong. Many weeds and no seeding year harvest. Pasture growth slow. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Busy week of chopping corn for silage. Heavy showers/rain stopped the progress a couple of times. Spotty frost, still no freeze to end the growing season. Some people thinking of taking a 4th cut of grass, but there is a lot of feed around, so they might not harvest it. Fall colors seem a bit late. Some snow in higher elevations on Friday morning. **Heather Darby (Ext), Franklin:** Last week brought rain, hail, sleet and snow! Corn chopping was slowed down but will resume full force this week. Most farmers in this area reporting higher than normal yields. Manure being spread on chopped fields. Third cut is finished. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Received 1.905 inches of rain this week. Main crops all harvested. Pumpkins and squash all in storage. Still plenty of beets and carrots for market. Also cabbage, turnips and broccoli. No frost yet, it has been a great year.

September 2003 Crop Weather Summary: Early September saw average temperatures with a mix of sun and rain. Growers were well into crop harvest at this point, most either behind or on schedule with average harvest progress. Hurricane Isabel pushed warm, humid air into New England near mid-September, and the above normal temperatures remained until the end of the month. Second crop hay harvest was nearly complete by month's end, and growers cutting a third crop were on schedule with 75 percent finished; some growers were able to take a fourth cutting this year. Silage corn harvest progress remained behind normal throughout the month and was rated in good to fair condition as of month's end. Potato harvest progress in Massachusetts was slightly behind normal as October approached, while Rhode Island growers were ten percent ahead of normal progress. Maine potato growers actively harvested and desiccated vines on later varieties; as of September 28, the crop was rated in good condition and nearly half of the crop was harvested. Maine oat and barley harvest was on schedule and the crops were in good to fair condition at month's end, though farmers expected low yields due to lodging from earlier heavy winds and rain. Both broadleaf and shade tobacco harvests were completed by September 21; rain during the last full week of September provided a few damp days for broadleaf growers to begin taking down the crop to be stripped and bundled. Only five percent of the peach crop was left to harvest by the end of the month, slightly behind last year and normal. Pear harvest progress was also behind at 45 percent picked, compared to an average of 60 percent. Apple harvest was on schedule, with 60 percent harvested as of the 28th. Crop specialists remarked that apple size might be smaller than average this year, but overall quality has remained good to fair. Growers completed the harvest of highbush blueberries by month's end; some locations had reported a poor highbush crop this year. White cranberry harvest was come and gone within a matter of two weeks, and growers began harvesting red berries during the last week of the month.

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Aubrey R. Davis, Director
Statisticians: Emily McAllister, Dianne Johnson

Joe Samson, Deputy Director
Stat Assistant: Wayne Colpitt

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