



New England Agricultural Statistics Service

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Crop Weather

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For week ending 9/8/02

New England Needs More Rain

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending September 8, 2002, there were 6.5 days suitable for field work across New England. Pasture condition was rated as 16% very poor, 35% poor, 34% fair, 15% good, 0% excellent. Scattered showers fell in northern New England last week, more rain was received in the south. All of New England needs more rain, soil conditions are very dry. Hot days and cool nights with some light frost were prevalent for the week. Major farm activities included: harvesting tobacco, potatoes, oats, barley, highbush blueberries, apples, peaches, pears and vegetables; applying vine desiccants to potatoes; cutting dry hay and chopping haylage; irrigating; applying manure; monitoring for pests and disease and spraying where necessary.

FRUIT: Growers harvested apples, peaches, plums and raspberries last week between showers. One quarter of apple and pear crops have been picked, and the peach harvest is 85 percent complete. Highbush blueberry harvest is winding down. White cranberry harvest began in Massachusetts last week, harvest of red berries should begin soon; water supplies are low as growers prepare for water harvest.

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2002	2001	5-yr Avg	
Apples	25	20	20	Good/Fair
Peaches	85	85	85	Good/Fair
Pears	25	35	25	Very Poor/Poor
Blueberries Highbush	99	95	99	Good
Cranberries, MA	<5	--	--	Good/Fair

VEGETABLES: Roadside stands and farmers' markets continue to get good business as fall approaches. Rain received last week was too late to help many parched crops. Sweet corn harvest progressed to 85 percent complete. In many areas, sweet corn never reached full maturation before being picked. Cucumbers, eggplant, greens, onions, peppers, pumpkins, squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, and many other vegetables were harvested last week.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil Moisture			
Very Short	34	32	25
Short	38	35	39
Adequate	28	33	36
Surplus	0	0	0
Subsoil Moisture			
Very Short	39	37	29
Short	31	34	39
Adequate	30	29	32
Surplus	0	0	0

FIELD CROPS: Second cut hay is nearly complete for the season, more than half of the third crop has been cut. Field corn is still showing stress from lack of rain as harvest gets underway. Oat and barley growers in Maine completed another 20 percent of their harvest last week. The two crops remain in good to excellent condition. Maine potato growers are applying vine desiccants in preparation for harvest; harvest was ten percent complete as of Sunday. Tobacco harvest in the Connecticut River Valley is nearly complete - Connecticut growers are close to being done, harvest in Massachusetts is over.

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2002	2001	5-yr Avg	
Barley, ME	75	75	60	Good/Excellent
Oats, ME	50	65	55	Good/Excellent
Potatoes				
Maine	10	5	5	Good/Fair
Mass	45	40	50	Good/Fair
Rhode Isl	60	70	45	Good/Fair
Silage Corn	10	20	10	Fair/Good
Sweet Corn	85	85	80	Fair/Good
Tobacco				
Shade	99	90	99	Good/Fair
Broadleaf	99	95	95	Good/Fair
Dry Hay				
Second Cut	95	90	85	Good/Fair
Third Cut	60	50	50	Fair

For the Week Ending Sunday, September 8, 2002

The 42 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_State_A	52	84	65	+3	1956	+100	874	+159	0.23	-0.47	2	1.05	-1.89	6	
Bangor_Intl_Arp	40	84	63	+2	1836	+141	784	+184	0.38	-0.42	3	1.10	-2.01	11	
Bethel	36	90	64	+3	1730	+53	688	+110	0.08	-0.74	2	0.66	-2.87	9	
Corinna	37	84	60	+0	1653	+43	620	+90	0.31	-0.59	2	0.98	-2.54	6	
Dover-Foxcroft	41	80	61	+2	1396	-72	462	+17	1.22	+0.31	2	1.71	-1.76	6	
Frenchville	50	78	63	+7	1325	+64	473	+152	0.30	-0.61	2	2.55	-1.17	7	
Houlton	49	78	63	+7	1472	+53	526	+106	0.29	-0.62	2	0.59	-3.10	7	
Livermore_Falls	33	90	62	+4	1783	+340	751	+328	0.22	-0.66	3	0.74	-2.96	9	
Moosehead	38	82	62	+5	1312	+91	409	+102	0.01	-0.85	1	0.51	-2.87	4	
Portland_ME	46	80	64	+2	1918	+207	829	+212	0.55	-0.15	3	1.74	-0.94	7	
NEW_HAMPSHIRE															
Benton	43	83	62	+3	1701	+159	662	+195	0.00	-0.80	0	1.28	-2.22	5	
Berlin_AG	40	82	62	+4	1635	+82	605	+116	0.00	-0.84	0	0.39	-3.35	4	
Concord	40	85	65	+3	2188	+325	1033	+318	0.26	-0.44	3	2.16	-0.75	10	
Diamond_Pond	39	75	59	+4	1144	+99	329	+124	0.05	-0.98	1	0.65	-3.82	5	
Keene_AP	37	82	63	-2	2118	+39	953	+81	0.00	-0.76	0	3.42	+0.08	7	
North_Conway	43	85	63	+3	2010	+275	911	+292	0.03	-0.81	1	1.00	-2.54	9	
Rochester	42	83	64	-1	2115	+123	967	+154	0.26	-0.50	2	2.21	-0.92	8	
VERMONT															
Burlington_Intl	41	87	66	+5	2220	+230	1055	+244	0.00	-0.84	0	1.03	-2.56	6	
Island_Pond	38	81	62	+5	1521	+246	540	+223	0.00	-0.89	0	1.01	-3.10	4	
Montpelier	42	82	63	+4	1750	+183	681	+186	0.00	-0.74	0	1.33	-2.02	6	
Pownal	43	81	61	+0	1808	+176	714	+182	0.03	-0.88	1	2.26	-1.58	7	
Rochester	40	88	64	+4	1756	+211	698	+215	0.01	-0.94	1	1.37	-2.69	5	
Rutland_AG	40	85	64	+0	1864	-193	763	-86	0.00	-0.91	0	1.17	-2.59	4	
Sutton	42	82	62	+6	1575	+285	566	+236	0.00	-0.89	0	0.53	-3.52	6	
Townshend_Lake	44	83	63	+0	2015	+63	877	+93	0.16	-0.67	3	3.44	-0.08	10	
MASSACHUSETTS															
Ashburnham	44	82	63	+2	2091	+399	932	+349	0.30	-0.40	3	3.24	+0.25	11	
Boston/Logan_In	52	82	68	-1	2663	+286	1398	+282	1.26	+0.51	4	3.27	+0.27	11	
Greenfield	45	83	64	-2	2297	+72	1087	+106	0.26	-0.58	3	2.99	-0.32	12	
New_Bedford	46	82	66	-3	2395	-6	1139	+1	1.41	+0.55	4	2.13	-1.63	11	
Otis_AFB	50	81	67	+2	2287	+332	1075	+271	1.04	+0.27	4	2.19	-0.91	9	
Plymouth	44	82	66	+1	2290	+276	1087	+239	1.72	+0.74	4	3.03	-0.76	13	
Walpole	46	85	65	+1	2385	+347	1171	+326	0.88	-0.03	3	3.47	-0.17	9	
Chilmark/Westov	45	86	65	-4	2540	-6	1287	+50	0.27	-0.57	2	2.06	-1.22	9	
Worthington	40	81	61	+0	1875	+215	783	+232	0.20	-0.70	3	2.94	-0.71	9	
RHODE_ISLAND															
Providence	53	84	68	+2	2676	+408	1406	+370	1.26	+0.42	4	2.65	-0.71	10	
Woonsocket	46	84	65	+1	2371	+365	1151	+344	1.25	+0.34	3	3.88	+0.24	9	
CONNECTICUT															
Bridgeport/Siko	54	86	68	-1	2736	+296	1443	+258	2.50	+1.79	3	5.15	+2.31	9	
Hartford/Bradlee	47	86	67	+1	2705	+261	1418	+257	0.86	-0.05	3	2.80	-0.68	8	
Norfolk	46	82	64	+3	2129	+466	951	+398	0.59	-0.41	3	3.59	-0.56	11	
Thomaston_Dam	45	82	63	-1	2361	+377	1124	+338	1.35	+0.37	3	3.89	-0.03	10	
Willimantic	45	82	65	+1	2411	+387	1172	+353	1.25	+0.34	4	3.25	-0.32	10	

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 WEATHER SUMMARY
 For the Week Ending Sunday, September 8, 2002

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	31	90	62	+3	0.00	1.25
NH	30	90	62	+2	0.00	0.26
VT	32	88	63	+3	0.00	0.16
MA	39	89	65	+0	0.04	1.90
RI	46	84	67	+0	1.25	2.76
CT	44	86	65	-1	0.59	3.74

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 - Howard Rood (FSA), Fairfield/Litchfield: We had several showers this week. Rain was too late for some crops, but will help late vegetable and fruit crops. Field corn looks good. Farmers are just beginning to harvest field corn. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** A great week to chop; trucks roll continually as fields are devoured. Corn is sporadically good to very poor, uneven maturity. Rain delayed some field starts. The chopping race with nature and equipment is on. Early apples good, nectarines and peaches doing well, chrysanthemums ready to enhance the landscape. **Nancy Welsh/Karen Lockman (FSA), New Haven:** Nights and mornings have been cool. Days are still warm into the 90's. There will be very few Howden pumpkins due to the lack of rain. Corn stalks and pumpkins being sold at farm stands. Sweet corn is starting to wind up. Field corn started being chopped. **Joyce Meader (Ext), Windham:** Harvested corn silage is on the wet side, but grain looks of average maturity (dented). Stalks on the immature side. Not a bumper crop, but average height on non-droughty fields. Clipped grass is greening up nicely with recent rainfall.

MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook: Potatoes: Limited potato harvesting continues both for processing and growers market. More vine desiccation. Harvesting small grains. Growers delaying desiccating late varieties hoping to get more size on tubers. Some areas received some rainfall this past week. Other areas remain very dry. Yield will suffer. Contract growers are finding they need to harvest more acres than normal to get enough yield to fill contracts. **Steve London (Ext), Southern Aroostook:** Grain and early potatoes for processing being harvested, good quality on both. We had 0.6 inches of rain this week that was long overdue, still could use some more. **Albert Dow (NRCS), Piscataquis:** Potato farmers are killing potato tops in preparation for harvest. Very little rain fell even with a whole day of drizzle. **Donna Lamb (Ext), Piscataquis:** The soil is very dry. Small areas of some corn fields were hit by frost and yet Sunday saw temperatures in the 90's. **Janet King (FSA), Somerset:** Very dry in Somerset County. Producers are starting to chop corn. Pumpkins and squashes are early this year. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Dry weather continues. Some rain last week helped a little, but the heat has helped to erase any benefit. Corn chopping will begin soon. Apple harvest has started. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Harvesting of squash has just started. Corn silage is looking better after rain, but ear development is very small. Conditions are still very dry. **Michael Tardy (FSA), Androscoggin:** The season is winding down. Several silage corn producers have told me they will be harvesting next week. Apples are ready for all the "city folk" to pick from the tree at the "pick your own" places. Market garden farmers are moving tomatoes, cukes and squashes. Sweet corn is still being smothered with butter and salt in homes around the county. The dry weather has done its damage and the farmers will just do what they can with the crops. **Parker Rand (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Hay is showing some growth from last week's rain, for silage it's too little too late. Even corn that looks good has no ears, or no grain on the ear. Irrigated crops are doing well and farm stands are selling sweet corn, squash, tomatoes, and cucumbers. **Gary Raymond/Elaine Moceus (FSA), Franklin:** Very light showers on Tuesday and Wednesday, but with such dry conditions, it didn't seem to make a difference. More rain is needed! **Laura Rand (FSA), Oxford:** Things are extremely dry! No rain in sight. Silage and sweet corn showing signs of stress with some sweet corn never maturing before drying up. Farm stands are beginning to display pumpkins and squash.

MASSACHUSETTS - Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire: Still haying. Orchardists starting to pick apples and other fruit. Not much picking of fruit in our county. Some sweet corn being picked with added meat. Rain was from 1 to 3 inches this week. Still hot. **Paul Russell (FSA), Southeast Massachusetts:** Cranberry harvest is underway with growers selected to harvest white fruit. The harvest of red fruit will begin any day, some concerns over the lack of water available for harvest. Growers may have to wait

until we get some rain to fill their reservoirs. Growers are concerned with the quality of fresh fruit because of some insect damage and undersized fruit. Hay is hard to make as we are getting a heavy dew every morning, but there isn't much hay to harvest anyway. Vegetables are winding down with the last harvest of sweet corn, which is average at best, and harvest of pumpkins and winter squash, which will be an extremely poor crop. **Kip Graham (FSA), Worcester:** Nicer weather towards the end of the week helped get third cutting of hay moving right along. Most of the vegetables are coming to an end and still in full harvest. It was nice field working weather. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: White berries (primarily Stevens) harvested last week; these berries will be used for white cranberry juice. Good ripening conditions this week with bright sunny days and cool nights. No frost nights so far. The rainfall helped greatly but we need much more. Berry size is better than I thought it would be. **David Rose (FSA), Bristol:** Everyone is still harvesting all crops. More farmers have started to chop corn. Peach harvest just about over. Apple and pear harvest well underway. **John Devine (FSA), Franklin:** This has been an excellent week for harvesting third cut hay. Cool and dry weather during the first half of the week was followed by hot and humid conditions. This was also perfect weather for the Franklin County Fair and the Massachusetts Balloon competition. The fall-crop harvest is in full swing now and roadside stands have been very busy. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Everyone is harvesting fall crops including mums, pumpkins, winter squash, potatoes and many more fall crops. Dairy farmers started harvesting silage corn and are finishing up on their third cutting of hay. Many farmers are reporting crop yields are down slightly due to this year's dry weather conditions. Broadleaf tobacco is curing in the barns nicely. Many harvested fields are being seeded with a fall cover crop since it rained last week. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** Again, another week without rain. Pumpkins breaking color and sugar pumpkins already turned. Fall armyworms beginning to be a real problem in sweet corn. Consumer demand for summer crops (particularly corn) this weekend very strong. Mums and perennials hot items as well. Lawns and some pastures made small comeback (at least they're green). Getting ready to harvest fall squash.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap: Harvesting Paula red apples, fall raspberries, and late varieties of highbush blueberries. Vegetables ripening quickly due to warm weather. Irrigation running constantly. Field and sweet corn losses are great due to drought. Third cut hay in a few places. Waiting for rain to do fall pasture seeding. **Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll:** Cool weather early in the week, close to frost in a few locations, HOT on the weekend! Apples, pears and winter squash taking severe wildlife damage. The lack of rain must be tightening up the wild food supply. The little bit of rain we had was great, but we sure could use more. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Rain early in the week helped, but more wouldn't have hurt. Farmers still plugging along with harvest of second and third cuttings for dry hay; third cutting alfalfa and grass haylage done. Despite dry weather this season, most field corn looks pretty good - ears are in late dough stage, and some kernels starting to dent. Farmers continue to gear up for chopping. Harvest of sweet corn, tomatoes, and other vegetables continues. Apple harvest starting to get busy. Blueberry harvest starting to wind down. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Scattered light frost throughout the county, somewhat harder up north. Nice second cut hay crop continues to be taken. Field corn looking pretty good as ears begin to fill out, helped along by some fairly warm days. Reports of bear feeding in it. Plenty of sweet corn, various other summer veggies at farm stands. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Still very dry. Very little grass growth in the last week. Some growth on alfalfa. Corn in some fields is turning brown due to dryness and heat. Summer seedlings finishing up; getting ready for corn harvest. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Peach, pear, plum and fall raspberry harvest continued. Starting Marshall McIntosh and Gala apple harvest. Vegetables: Harvesting wide array of summer and

fall vegetable crops. Farmers kept busy irrigating crops not harvested and starting to cleaning up harvested fields. Field Crops: Hay cutting continued. Farmers making new forage seedings. Farmers starting corn silage harvest, many corn fields showing drought stress. **David Seavey (Ext), Merrimack:** Apple harvest has begun. Blueberry harvest completed. Fall raspberries harvested. Irrigated tomatoes and squash are thriving in the hot, sunny weather. Farmers continue to monitor and spray for pests. Needed rainfall helped re-growth of hayfields. Some hay being cut. The amount of rainfall varied from town to town. Drought conditions continued to take their toll on crop yields. Field corn harvest delayed due to lack of ear development. **Pam Marvin (FSA), Sullivan:** Reports from blueberry producers puts this year's yield as very good. Picking is over and the cleanup begins. Still receiving reports of water sources running dry. Harvesting of silage corn has begun. The condition of this year's crop is all over the place from stalks with no ears to average looking fields. The yield is definitely lower than normal due to the drought. **NEED RAIN! Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** The week was dry and hot. Some producers started to harvest third cut hay. Vegetable growers continued to harvest various kinds of vegetable crops including sweet corn, tomatoes, peppers, melons, etc. Growers of field cut flowers continued to harvest flowers. The yields are low due to drought and heavy competition from weeds. Fruit growers continued with the harvest of early apple varieties. They also continued to irrigate where possible.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: Rainfall early week gave a slight respite, however not enough to rescue many crops. Potato crop looks off, weed control in sweet corn affected yields, some haying being done. The cooler weather has been welcomed. Harvesting summer vegetables, with some raspberries and the last few blueberries. **Marilu Soileau (FSA), All Counties:** Showers and thunderstorms early in the week helped some crops and settled the dust, but it's too late for most crops. Silage corn harvest is beginning.

VERMONT - John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille: Hot, dry weather continued for another week. Third cut grass has seen reduced yields but excellent harvest conditions. Producers of corn silage started to get serious about harvest last week as many fields on well drained soils were prematurely drying. **Bill Snow (Ext), Orange:** Another dry week with high heat on the weekend drying things out faster. Corn drying down fast. Yields maybe affected. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Lack of rain has made conditions very dry. Regrowth on hayfields have been stunted. In some cases the fields have turned brown. Most cattle on pasture are being fed supplemental feed from the barn. Many landowners are finding the fields very rough from the ruts made in June that have now hardened to concrete. Corn still look good in most places. Some corn is as high as 14 feet. Ears are in milk stage. **Lynette Hamilton (FSA), Windham:** Farmers are cutting corn. Apple producers report that the apples they are picking are excellent, but production is spotty because of the frost in May. Manure spreading and liming on some fields. **Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Just started to harvest corn silage. Most plants not mature yet, some fields with dead stalks from drought. Grass growth very weak, alfalfa looks strained. Pasture is dry dust. New seedings coming under heavy weed pressure. Ponds very low. **Richard Noel, Franklin/Grand Isle:** Weather is excellent for doing all types of field work. Corn harvest begun, plants starting to die because lack of rain. A lot of third cut hay going in and quantity is low, but extremely high in quality. Legumes good, grass dormant. Rain is needed badly. Some wells beginning to run short! **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Very hot weekend. We did get 0.6 inches of rain last week, first moisture in several weeks. Hot weather is encouraging corn to mature and allowing farmers to hay. Some are starting to spread manure. **Maria Garcia/Chris Benedict (Ext), Chittenden:** Little moisture this week. Got extremely hot and humid towards the end of the week. Apples are coming in despite hot, dry conditions.

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