



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 9/28/03

Warm, Wet Conditions Prevail

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending September 28, 2003, there were 5.1 days available for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture was rated 0% very short, 6% short, 67% adequate, 27% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 1% very short, 15% short, 76% adequate, 8% surplus. Pasture condition was rated as 3% very poor, 11% poor, 37% fair, 42% good, 7% excellent. Warmer than average temperatures prevailed last week, along with heavy rain throughout much of New England. Wet conditions delayed harvest activities and field work; still no hard frost in the region. Major farm activities included: cutting haylage and making dry hay; harvesting potatoes, small grains, corn silage, apples, peaches, pears, cranberries and vegetables; finishing harvesting highbush blueberries; desiccating potato vines; spreading manure; applying lime; irrigating cranberry bogs; monitoring fields; performing general farm maintenance.

FRUIT: Apples, peaches and pears were picked last week between showers. There were reports of increased drop due to heavy rains. Plum and fall raspberry harvest started to wind down, and growers finished harvesting highbush blueberries. Red cranberry harvest started in Massachusetts last week and the berries were rated in good condition, with very few frost nights so far.

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2003	2002	5-yr Avg	
Apples	60	55	60	Good/Fair
Peaches	95	99	99	Good/Fair
Pears	45	50	60	Good/Fair
Blueberries Highbush	100	100	100	Good/Fair
Cranberries, MA	10	15	15	Good

VEGETABLES: Brussel sprouts, cabbage, eggplant, kale, peppers, pumpkins, squash, tomatoes and other vegetables were harvested last week. Farmers continued to wrap up sweet corn harvest, on schedule with last year and the five-year average. Growers also cleaned up harvested vegetable fields. Business at roadside stands was variable based on local weather conditions.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil Moisture			
Very Short	0	1	6
Short	6	17	33
Adequate	67	76	57
Surplus	27	6	4
Subsoil Moisture			
Very Short	1	1	28
Short	15	19	32
Adequate	76	77	37
Surplus	8	3	3

FIELD CROPS: A couple of dry days last week allowed for making dry hay. Farmers continued to finish second crop hay harvest. The harvest of third crop hay last week was on schedule at 75 percent complete, and some farms took a fourth cutting. Silage corn yields have been reported as generally above average this year. Wet weather in southern New England slowed potato harvest progress. Maine potato harvest progress caught up with the average of 45 percent, as growers took advantage of the warm, dry days last week. Vine desiccation on late potato varieties continued to wind down. The end of Maine's small grain harvest is in sight, with no more than ten percent remaining to be harvested. Last week's rain provided the necessary damp conditions for taking down tobacco to be stripped and bundled.

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2003	2002	5-yr Avg	
Barley, ME	95	95	95	Good/Fair
Oats, ME	90	95	90	Good/Fair
Potatoes				
Maine	45	35	45	Good
Mass	55	65	70	Good/Fair
Rhode Isl	90	85	80	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	45	50	55	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	95	95	95	Good
Dry Hay				
Second Cut	95	99	95	Good/Fair
Third Cut	75	80	75	Good/Excellent

For the Week Ending Sunday, September 28, 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	50	71	61	+6	2185	+162	901	+155	1.38	+0.61	5	4.66	+1.76	11	
Bangor_Intl_Arp	47	76	62	+8	2158	+314	886	+264	1.20	+0.43	4	3.14	-0.06	9	
Bethel	43	70	58	+4	1891	+75	680	+84	1.92	+1.15	3	5.69	+2.55	9	
Caribou_Municip	42	71	59	+9	1734	+302	619	+241	0.62	-0.15	5	1.09	-2.16	11	
Dover-Foxcroft	39	71	57	+5	1588	+17	506	+54	0.79	-0.12	5	2.09	-1.55	10	
Frenchville	42	69	58	+9	1589	+258	526	+203	0.38	-0.44	3	0.92	-2.54	7	
Houlton	43	73	60	+10	1806	+310	666	+242	0.79	+0.01	4	1.31	-2.08	9	
Livermore_Falls	42	75	59	+8	1953	+413	766	+337	1.55	+0.76	4	4.49	+1.13	10	
Moosehead	40	72	56	+6	1477	+177	470	+160	0.57	-0.27	2	1.89	-1.51	7	
Portland_ME	51	74	62	+7	2140	+266	859	+222	1.20	+0.43	3	4.55	+1.68	8	
NEW HAMPSHIRE															
Benton	40	70	56	+3	1819	+160	643	+167	1.67	+0.97	2	4.57	+1.59	7	
Berlin_AG	43	73	57	+5	1877	+213	679	+182	1.42	+0.72	3	4.68	+1.60	7	
Concord	44	77	62	+7	2430	+406	1086	+347	1.97	+1.34	4	4.50	+1.88	15	
Diamond_Pond	37	68	53	+4	1313	+208	388	+183	1.48	+0.62	4	3.76	-0.02	13	
Keene_AP	45	73	61	+4	2334	+60	981	+69	1.92	+1.28	3	4.21	+1.40	12	
North_Conway	44	72	59	+5	2117	+249	849	+216	1.94	+1.15	4	4.56	+1.36	10	
Rochester	43	76	60	+3	2153	-28	872	+23	2.02	+1.25	4	6.40	+3.41	10	
VERMONT															
Burlington_Intl	43	79	62	+8	2583	+431	1169	+328	0.95	+0.25	4	1.26	-1.84	10	
Island_Pond	40	74	56	+5	1748	+383	608	+283	1.42	+0.72	4	2.45	-0.73	11	
Montpelier	42	70	58	+5	1918	+230	697	+185	1.54	+0.91	5	2.64	-0.06	10	
Pownal	44	73	58	+5	2019	+247	707	+155	2.23	+1.39	4	4.89	+1.34	14	
Rochester	42	72	58	+4	1958	+281	702	+198	2.71	+1.87	4	5.21	+1.65	10	
Rutland_AG	43	74	58	+2	2086	-160	801	-89	1.35	+0.58	4	3.49	+0.13	12	
Sutton	39	71	56	+6	1747	+373	587	+250	1.99	+1.26	4	3.73	+0.50	12	
Townshend_Lake	46	77	60	+4	2146	+16	833	+13	1.97	+1.27	5	4.94	+1.86	14	
MASSACHUSETTS															
Ashburnham	48	73	59	+5	2253	+420	920	+322	2.20	+1.54	5	5.21	+2.49	14	
Boston/Logan_In	58	77	66	+5	2768	+111	1354	+149	1.05	+0.35	1	2.60	-0.26	8	
Greenfield	48	76	61	+2	2458	+4	1052	+14	2.50	+1.73	5	6.64	+3.44	15	
New_Bedford	51	77	65	+3	2509	-188	1145	-95	0.72	-0.02	2	3.85	+0.66	11	
Otis_AFB	54	77	66	+7	2506	+324	1173	+318	0.15	-0.68	1	2.93	-0.21	8	
Plymouth	48	80	64	+6	2410	+177	1067	+173	0.24	-0.67	3	3.13	-0.71	12	
Walpole	49	80	64	+8	2550	+315	1167	+282	0.61	-0.23	1	3.65	+0.18	8	
Chicopee/Westov	45	77	63	+2	2565	-256	1143	-182	3.19	+2.41	5	8.12	+4.82	14	
Worthington	41	73	57	+3	1941	+127	678	+103	1.84	+1.00	5	6.55	+3.12	14	
RHODE ISLAND															
Providence	53	78	67	+7	2770	+238	1342	+228	0.07	-0.70	1	3.23	-0.03	9	
Woonsocket	48	80	65	+8	2516	+315	1137	+294	0.81	-0.03	1	5.47	+1.92	10	
CONNECTICUT															
Bridgeport/Siko	52	79	69	+7	2870	+129	1432	+138	0.85	+0.15	2	3.26	+0.39	10	
Hartford/Bradle	49	80	65	+5	2835	+144	1350	+122	1.84	+1.00	5	7.00	+3.45	16	
Norfolk	45	70	59	+5	2041	+232	742	+169	3.51	+2.60	4	9.02	+5.15	14	
Thomaston_Dam	46	79	61	+4	2525	+336	1096	+263	2.59	+1.68	4	7.07	+3.31	15	
Willimantic	48	77	65	+7	2634	+399	1216	+350	1.16	+0.25	3	5.24	+1.58	12	

STATE WEATHER SUMMARY

For the Week Ending Sunday, September 28, 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	37	76	59	+7	0.13	2.14
NH	32	80	57	+4	1.11	3.04
VT	36	79	58	+5	0.88	5.57
MA	41	81	63	+5	0.08	3.19
RI	48	80	66	+7	0.01	0.81
CT	44	81	64	+5	0.09	3.64

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: Field corn which is now being harvested shows very poor ear development. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Some dry hay made on Monday. Generally 2" rain on Tuesday which really slowed down corn for silage harvest for the balance of the week. Those with sweet corn, peppers and cabbage found markets surprisingly strong. Sunday rains from between 1-4" resulted in isolated flooding in areas west of Hartford. Standing water in fields will reduce chance of harvest and will further deteriorate winter squash and pumpkins yet to be harvested. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Heavy rain on Tuesday stopped field work with flash flooding in areas, good conditions the rest of the week kept corn harvest going. Some hay getting in. Good activity in orchards with pick-your-own. Brisk fruit and vegetable sales from customers who scoot in to buy fresh on their way home from work. **Nancy Welsh/Karen Vozarik (FSA), New Haven:** Some producers in Western part of county just started harvesting eggplant, summer squash and tomatoes. Marketing crops are a problem. Crops are late and consumers don't want it now, they wanted it when it was supposed to be ready. Mums and pumpkins not selling. Cool weather coming, hopefully it will change the consumers' mind set.

MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook: Potato harvest continues. With the good weather growers can be in the fields every day and thereby making good progress getting the crop out of the ground. Quality is good for the most part, but size is a little disappointing on late maturing varieties. Rain fell on Sunday which should improve harvesting conditions. A few applications of vine desiccant still being applied. Fall lime being applied to grain ground. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Harvesting is going excellent. We have had excellent weather, although we are getting rain now that will delay harvest for a few days. Growers are continuing to vine kill late varieties. Canola is approximately 85 percent harvested. Barley and oats are still being harvested - 85 to 95 percent harvested so far. **Donna Lamb (Ext), Piscataquis:** Most fields are too wet to harvest. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Lots of rain over the weekend will put corn silage harvest on hold for a while. Wind and heavy rains on Sunday will make any field work difficult. Cold weather predicted for the end of the week. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Apples showing the effects of this summer's weather. Some orchards have few apples due to poor pollination weather. Apples are small due to weather conditions. Scab on apples also due to weather. Heavy rain all day Sunday, should help wells recover. Pumpkins and corn stalks are available for decorating. **Michael Tardy (FSA), Androscoggin:** The harvest was going well and then the rains came. We'll have to wait and see if the farmers can get on the fields soon. Crops look great but we've heard that some of the silage corn have small or little ears. **Parker Rand (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Fall rains have slowed what appears to be an excellent harvest. With more rain in the forecast, things could turn around. Farm stands are ablaze in fall colors, pumpkins, fresh apples, and the last of the sweet corn. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** There is plenty of water for the end of the crop season water table. Grain corn, soybeans and potatoes remain to be harvested. Silage corn is a bumper crop. Lots of pumpkins for sale. **Laura Rand (FSA), Oxford:** Thoughts are turning to cold weather and potential frost. Farmers are busy spreading manure and tying up loose ends on hay activities. Silage corn and potatoes are being harvested.

MASSACHUSETTS - Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire: Farmers have complained about wet corn ground. Had reports of up to five inches of rain since the 16th. Pumpkin producers very busy picking veggies for sale. Winter squash (blue hubbard, etc) crop looks good. Sweet corn nearly done. Still no frost so things are still green. Foliage is maybe ten percent now. **Kip Graham (FSA), Worcester:** Apple picking still in full swing. Most vegetables harvested and brought to market. Some sweet corn still standing. Winter squash and pumpkins randomly being picked. Much still standing in the fields. Silage corn is being harvested and in full swing. Not too many insect problems being

reported. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Harvesting started for many growers this week. Crops variable, in size and quality. Very few frost nights so far. Irrigation has been necessary. **David Rose (FSA), Bristol:** A good week weather wise. All crops still in good supply. Everything looks pretty good as the season winds down. **John Devine (FSA), Franklin:** Field conditions have gone from bad to impossible after 4 inches of rain on Sunday. It's been so rainy that most farmers are ready to throw out their rain gauges. Since Isabel's departure on 9/18, Franklin County has had over 10 inches of rain! All fall crops have been affected and potential losses could be high. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Rain, rain, and more rain - 3 plus inches fell. All fields are saturated with pools of water in many fields. Growers are going to have a very hard time harvesting potatoes, field corn and other fall crops this coming week. The big question is: How much water can the fall crops absorb before they start to break down? All this rain brought 3 damp days for broadleaf tobacco growers to start taking down their crop and stripping it into bundles for sale. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** Last of sweet corn picked this weekend. Most farm stands and farmers switching over to fall crops as summer crops starting to wind down. Slow weekend sales as weather was definitely a factor - we all need some down time to recharge ourselves for the last final fall push. Pumpkins now getting real orange - and just in time!

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap: Picking McIntosh and Cortland apples, good looking pumpkins, corn stalks, Indian corn, gourds, and remaining summer vegetables. Almost all the second cut hay is finished, many on the third cut. Farmers are starting to get fields cleaned up, soil testing, applying lime and seeding cover crops. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Corn chopping is progressing well, though rainy days have caused some delays. Some baleage being made here and there, regrowth looking good in many places for a possible fourth cutting. Pastures are producing nicely. PYO apple sales in full swing. Vegetable stands harvesting pumpkins while other crops are about done for the year. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Silage corn harvest now in high gear with what looks like a generally good crop coming in throughout the county. A little late crop haying also occurring with some difficulty considering heavy dews, rain showers. No hard freeze as yet. Late season apples, Honey crisp, about ripe, Macs and Cortlands available. Pumpkins, corn stalks, gourds at farm stands with attractive displays. Corn mazes still in operation. Some powdery mildew in pumpkins, but we seem to have escaped the considerable damage reported in other locations. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Corn silage harvest in full swing. Most corn yields have been good to excellent. Rain has slowed work in some fields. Growth on 4th cut is slowing due to cooler weather. Still looks good. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** The grass is still growing, and there may still be yet another cutting of alfalfa for some producers. Corn harvest is in full swing, with a number of producers done or nearly done harvesting. Some sample plots showed corn yields approaching 200 bu per acre, especially on those fields with higher planting populations. No frost yet, and if temperatures remain moderate for a while longer, those taking late cuttings may do well. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Apple harvest is in full swing with most growers concentrating on second picking McIntosh and Gala apples, working on Cortland and Macoun. Fruit size is excellent, but bruising can be a problem. Seeing a high amount of apple drop from heavy rain showers. Fall raspberries and pear harvest continued with peach and plum harvest winding up. Vegetables: Harvesting wide array of vegetables, including warm season vegetables like tomatoes and peppers. Harvesting cabbage, kale, brussel sprouts, winter squash and pumpkins. Good demand for all vegetables continues. Farmers kept busy disking, cleaning up and planting cover crops on harvested fields. Field Crops: Field corn harvest in full swing. Second and third cuts of hay and haylage continue between showers. Some manure spreading on fields taking place. Cover crops were being planted in harvested fields. **David Seavey (Ext), Merrimack:** No frost yet. Apple

harvest and corn harvest continues. Squash and pumpkins are being harvested with more disease than we'd like to see. Some third cut hay brought in. Good silage corn yields reported although some variable due to extreme dry and wet conditions. Winter rye seedings made. Vegetable field cleanup continues. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Weather is warm and no frost yet. Rained this week and on the weekend which slowed traffic at the PYO apple orchards. Harvesting quite an array of vegetables, pumpkins, apples. Haying and chopping corn. Planting cover crops. Liming and spreading manure.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: Cover crops for potatoes doing beautifully, most potatoes harvested. Sweet corn coming down the final leg, plenty of summer vegetables available along with hard squash and pumpkins and gourds. Lots of field corn being chopped. Christmas tree plantations getting the grass cut, finishing up some late pruning and looking forward to some early tagging. **Dexter Miller (RC&D), All Counties:** Sweet corn, tomatoes, and vegetables are still being picked and look to be in great condition. Apples and peaches are excellent in appearance and taste. Many farms are gearing up for harvest festivals, and families visiting see displays of a colorful harvest of fruits, vegetables, mums, gourds, and stalks.

VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille: With the exception of the big rain on Sunday we've had perfect weather for the corn harvest. Yields have been great!! Still some third cut grass to be harvested as the weather permits. Pumpkin harvest about over with better than average yields and quality. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Landowner's are coming down

the home stretch harvesting corn. We received over 2 inches of rain on Sunday which will make conditions a little wet for that remaining corn harvest. All reports say the corn yield is very heavy this year. I haven't heard any corn quality reports yet. There is still a little 3rd and 4th cut hay to harvest but most farms are done for the season. The weather report is saying a possibility of some snow flakes this week so the end of the harvest season is near. **Lynette Hamilton/Perley Sparrow (FSA), Windham:** Heavy rain over the past weekend has slowed down corn harvest. Fall veggies have seen a strong market for wholesale, with slow fall foliage the retail market is slow. **Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Third harvest of haylage complete. Dry hay harvest ended. Harvesting corn silage in full swing. Some manure spreading on hay fields and harvested corn fields. Some primary tillage with moldboard, subsoil or chisel plows. New seedings filled in, mostly no harvest of forage this year. Soil conditions have been very dry, now surface is saturated. **Eric Winchester (FSA) Orange/Windsor:** The last full week of September was cool but not cold. We had 3 days with some good, soaking rains. The sun was out much of the rest of the week. The principal activity this week was chopping corn silage. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Wet week, but lots of corn being chopped. A day of heavy showers or rain, then 2 days of sunny fall days, then another day of moisture. Still no frost, but it is getting so late that any frost will not cut short this growing season. It has been a good growing season. **Heather Darby (Ext), Franklin:** We received some well needed rain last week. This slowed down corn chopping slightly. Most corn yields reported in our area have been above average. Manure is being spread on chopped corn fields. Some third cut hay still being harvested.

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**

Aubrey R. Davis, Director
Statisticians: Emily McAllister, Robin Helrich

Joe Samson, Deputy Director
Stat Assistant: Wayne Colpitt

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