



New England Agricultural Statistics Service

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Crop Weather

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For week ending 9/12/04

Wet Week

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending September 12, 2004, there were 5.4 days available for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture was rated 5 percent short, 69 percent adequate, 26 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 5 percent short, 73 percent adequate, 22 percent surplus. Pasture condition was rated 1 percent very poor, 8 percent poor, 18 percent fair, 53 percent good, 20 percent excellent. Remnants of hurricane Frances swept across the six-state region mid-week causing riverbanks to overflow in some locations as well as flooding of fields in other areas. Major farm activities included: desiccating potato vines; monitoring fields; applying pesticides; making hay; harvesting barley, corn silage, oats, apples, peaches, pears, shade tobacco, potatoes, sweet corn and other vegetables.

FRUIT: Harvest was ongoing for apples, peaches, pears, and fall raspberries. Also, harvest of highbush blueberries was completed during the week. Pick-your-own markets are in full swing. Massachusetts cranberries are coloring extremely well and growers anticipate an excellent crop both in quantity and quality. Harvest for fresh fruit is expected to begin this week.

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2004	2003	5-yr Avg	
Apples	30	30	30	Good/Excel
Peaches	95	80	85	Good/Fair
Pears	35	20	30	Good
Blueberries				
Highbush	100	95	95	Good
Cranberries, MA	--	<5	--	Good/Excel

VEGETABLES: Sweet corn harvest remained on schedule with last year and average and has been called one of the best harvest seasons in years. Fall vegetable harvest continued as farm stands have plenty of corn, potatoes, tomatoes, peppers, pumpkins and winter squash available.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
	-- Percent --		
Topsoil Moisture			
Very Short	0	1	0
Short	5	11	21
Adequate	69	69	71
Surplus	26	19	8
Subsoil Moisture			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	5	7	21
Adequate	73	78	75
Surplus	22	15	4

FIELD CROPS: Second and third cut hay made good progress last week as farmers were busy haying in areas that received little or no rain. Silage corn harvest began last week in some local areas and is expected to be in full swing by next week. Maine potato growers continue to apply vine desiccants and are expected to start harvest of potatoes for storage next week; most potatoes had been going directly to processors. Some farmers found it difficult to harvest small grains due to the rains and humidity. Many fields were saturated though the crops remains in good to fair condition. Harvest of shade tobacco was completed and only five percent of Broadleaf tobacco is left to harvest.

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2004	2003	5-yr Avg	Condition
	-- Percent Harvested --			
Barley, ME	80	75	75	Fair/Good
Oats, ME	30	65	65	Fair/Good
Potatoes:				
Maine	5	10	10	Fair/Good
Mass	45	45	50	Good
Rhode Isl	50	65	65	Good
Silage Corn	5	5	20	Good/Excel
Sweet Corn	85	85	85	Good/Excel
Tobacco:				
Shade	100	95	95	Good
Broadleaf	95	95	95	Good
Dry Hay:				
First Cut	99	100	100	
Second Cut	90	95	90	Good/Excel
Third Cut	55	50	55	Good/Excel

For the Week Ending Sunday, September 12, 2004

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

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				CUM SINCE MAR 1				1-WEEK PRECIP			4-WEEK CUM PRECIP			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	GROWING		DEGREE		TOTAL	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL		DFN	DAYS
					BASE -50F	BASE -60F	INCHES	INCHES							
MAINE															
Augusta_State_A	48	75	63	+3	1854	-55	687	-41	1.15	+0.45	2	4.47	+1.58	12	
Bangor_Intl_Arp	43	77	62	+3	1769	+26	653	+43	1.15	+0.31	3	3.65	+0.49	13	
Bethel	44	77	61	+2	1701	-21	559	-28	1.74	+0.97	2	4.62	+1.19	11	
Caribou_Municip	40	75	59	+4	1367	-18	424	+46	1.81	+0.97	3	4.24	+0.73	12	
Dover-Foxcroft	42	73	60	+3	1387	-117	406	-44	1.75	+0.84	3	2.61	-0.91	9	
Frenchville	42	74	57	+3	1255	-32	358	+35	3.25	+2.35	3	5.14	+1.47	11	
Houlton	38	75	61	+6	1419	-28	467	+43	1.88	+1.01	4	5.65	+2.02	13	
Livermore_Falls	41	80	61	+5	1766	+290	644	+216	1.21	+0.37	3	4.35	+0.71	11	
Moosehead	40	79	58	+3	1224	-25	292	-18	1.19	+0.31	4	2.74	-0.66	12	
Portland_ME	45	73	62	+2	1819	+56	684	+57	1.29	+0.59	2	3.74	+1.01	7	
NEW HAMPSHIRE															
Benton	47	75	61	+4	1618	+38	508	+36	1.12	+0.35	2	5.28	+1.88	11	
Berlin_AG	47	79	60	+3	1635	+45	526	+32	1.36	+0.57	2	3.74	+0.16	11	
Concord	45	82	64	+4	2203	+288	934	+208	1.97	+1.30	2	5.04	+2.21	8	
Diamond_Pond	42	71	56	+3	1057	-10	199	-6	1.91	+0.93	4	6.12	+1.80	13	
Keene_AP	46	81	64	+2	2078	-61	815	-73	1.78	+1.07	3	3.53	+0.34	9	
North_Conway	45	77	62	+3	1881	+103	707	+80	2.48	+1.67	4	3.82	+0.36	13	
Rochester	44	79	61	-2	1944	-106	761	-67	2.49	+1.78	2	5.69	+2.66	8	
VERMONT															
Burlington_Intl	50	78	65	+5	2160	+118	915	+92	1.92	+1.11	3	7.16	+3.68	12	
Island_Pond	46	75	62	+6	1487	+181	445	+123	2.58	+1.75	4	6.41	+2.51	14	
Montpelier	47	77	62	+5	1785	+179	635	+133	1.65	+0.95	4	5.01	+1.81	16	
Pownal	49	79	64	+5	1886	+210	646	+105	1.26	+0.35	2	5.19	+1.40	10	
Rochester	50	77	62	+4	1779	+192	615	+123	2.20	+1.29	2	5.77	+1.81	11	
Rutland_AG	49	79	63	+2	1872	-243	671	-194	1.80	+0.93	2	4.62	+0.95	11	
Sutton	46	74	59	+4	1467	+148	420	+85	2.13	+1.30	4	6.01	+2.17	15	
Townshend_Lake	50	79	63	+2	1914	-94	683	-116	2.83	+2.05	2	7.29	+3.87	13	
MASSACHUSETTS															
Ashburnham	47	80	63	+4	2061	+324	810	+219	2.47	+1.77	3	6.79	+3.86	13	
Boston/Logan_In	53	83	67	+1	2496	+37	1184	+37	1.87	+1.17	3	3.81	+0.81	8	
Greenfield	50	81	65	+2	2228	-65	930	-72	2.11	+1.28	2	4.11	+0.81	9	
New_Bedford	46	82	67	+0	2266	-221	980	-192	0.00	-0.82	0	2.04	-1.60	4	
Otis_AFB	50	82	67	+4	2187	+164	953	+130	0.05	-0.72	1	4.00	+0.90	6	
Plymouth	46	81	67	+3	2187	+106	951	+85	0.10	-0.88	3	2.21	-1.63	8	
Walpole	46	81	65	+3	2351	+252	1043	+182	1.11	+0.22	3	3.51	-0.11	9	
Chicopee/Westov	46	81	66	-2	2495	-132	1138	-130	1.73	+0.89	3	3.86	+0.53	9	
Worthington	44	77	61	+2	1810	+102	611	+50	2.54	+1.69	2	5.44	+1.86	10	
RHODE ISLAND															
Providence	50	82	69	+4	2534	+188	1188	+125	0.72	-0.12	3	1.95	-1.41	8	
Woonsocket	45	81	66	+4	2316	+250	1016	+194	1.37	+0.46	3	3.69	+0.05	9	
CONNECTICUT															
Bridgeport/Siko	56	83	70	+3	2710	+183	1337	+116	1.38	+0.62	3	3.14	+0.28	8	
Hartford/Bradle	49	84	68	+3	2645	+127	1272	+87	2.20	+1.29	3	3.67	+0.14	11	
Norfolk	47	75	62	+3	1959	+249	715	+153	2.71	+1.73	2	5.29	+1.19	9	
Thomaston_Dam	48	82	66	+3	2489	+443	1128	+325	1.75	+0.78	4	4.75	+0.84	10	
Willimantic	50	80	67	+5	2388	+301	1051	+214	1.79	+0.88	3	3.44	-0.13	10	

STATE WEATHER SUMMARY

For the Week Ending Sunday, September 12, 2004

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	35	80	60	+2	0.41	3.25
NH	38	82	61	+3	1.12	4.52
VT	44	81	62	+4	0.67	4.39
MA	39	83	66	+3	0.00	2.54
RI	45	82	68	+4	0.16	1.37
CT	46	84	67	+3	0.60	3.05

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 harvest is underway and the crop is excellent. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Corn silage harvest started in Ellington/Somers area. Broadleaf tobacco harvest winding down with most finished. Firing of sheds done sparingly with propane at \$1.35/gal. or more. Pumpkin harvest in full swing, there are questions if the crop will keep or break down. A lot of hay knocked down on Friday and Saturday. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Two days of rain slowed a good start on corn chopping. Corn production much better than last year. Haying, fruit and vegetable picking continues. **Karen Vozarik (FSA), New Haven:** Rains were heavy at times with high humidity. Pumpkins are beginning to show at farm stands. Peaches still being harvested along with tomatoes and other summer vegetables.

MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook: Potatoes and small grains: Next week should see most growers in the fields harvesting potatoes for storage. Previously, most potatoes harvested have gone directly to the processor. Growers are continuing to apply vine desiccants. Still a struggle to harvest small grains due to rain and humidity. Heavy rains have saturated many fields. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Waiting for good weather for harvesting and vine killing. **Albert Dow (NRCS), Piscataquis:** Farmers have been killing potato tops and harvesting grain. Roadside stands are teeming with produce and with buyers. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Heavy rains keep fields wet and waterlogged. Some traditionally wet ground still has some first cutting hay that probably will not be harvested this year. Some corn being harvested, but limited acreage. Apple harvest is gearing up. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Fresh vegetables are still available and corn is still plentiful. Haying continues now that the weather has improved. We had a perfect weekend for outside activities. Another soaker on Thursday from hurricane Frances. **Michael Tardy (FSA), Androscoggin:** Fall is fast approaching. Some producers have started harvesting silage corn; many are talking about starting next week. Apple producers are picking or have their orchards ready for the "pick your own" crowd. Pumpkins, squash and corn stalks are showing up at the farm stands. Harvest season has begun. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** September has supplied the area with the best weather of the summer. Sweet corn and summer crops are still plentiful. Hay that should have been cut much earlier is getting harvested. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Small grain harvest has been completed. Yield and quality is average to above average. Corn is progressing but there is a chance of frost on the way. The apple and highbush blueberry crops turned out to be much better than expected. **Laura Rand (FSA), Oxford:** A great week for getting work done! Producers are busy getting in hay, harvesting vegetables, and getting ready to cut silage corn. Silage corn took a big boost last week and is beginning to look like a real crop. Potato growers are harvesting. Again, cool nights and warm, sunny days.

MASSACHUSETTS - Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire: Not much haying this week, no drying conditions. Field corn drying but only a few fields are denting. Sweet corn in surplus is ready. There was one day with one to two inches of rain, varying county wide; some areas received none. There were windy conditions that day as the remnant of Frances passed through the area in a muggy and tropical stroll through the county. Pick your own markets are going strong. Fall vegetables are beautiful. One producer reported damage to blueberries from migrating bluebirds of all things. **Paul Russell (FSA), Southeast Massachusetts:** Cranberry growers prepare to start harvest as the fruit starts to color. All indications are for an excellent crop both in quantity and quality. Vegetable growers are winding down their harvest; vine crops are affected by blight but in general conditions remain good. Sweet corn growers are wrapping up one of the best harvest seasons in history. Field corn is starting to dry down as the weather cools, generally field corn is excellent. Hay growers are harvesting their third cut, heavy dew made it hard to dry but yields are good to excellent. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: The area received no rain

from the remnants of Frances. Consequently, growers have been on a regular irrigation schedule. Berries are coloring extremely well so far. Size is better than average. Fruit rot has been minimal so far. The first harvesting (for fresh fruit) will begin this week. **David Rose (FSA), Bristol:** Weather has been cooler and dry. Still good weather for making hay. Apple picking is under way. Fall is just around the corner. **John Devine (FSA), Franklin:** After a rainy and wet start, this week ended on a beautiful note. Lots of hay was cut over the weekend and the silage harvest is getting started. Most corn fields look like they're going to have record yields. Fall cleanup and rye seeding has kept many vegetable farmers busy this week. Air-cured tobacco looks very good and should be ready soon. County fairs, balloon festivals, and apple picking kept the roads busy in Franklin County. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** This week's weather brought a few rainy days, a few hot and humid days, and a few cool, dry, fall-weather days. Harvesting potatoes, pumpkins, peppers, winter squash, apples and many more fall crops. Over all crops look good. Tobacco harvest finished and the blueberry crop is coming to an end. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** Just a beautiful New England weekend, but what a week! Heavy rains and wind! Appears storm brought more insect problems in sweet corn. Borer, army worm infestation running from three percent in some corn to 50 percent in others depending on the stage of maturity. Corn growers have to grade each ear otherwise they risk losing customers. Fall squash and apple harvest continues, summer crops still coming on strong but yields starting to weaken. Pumpkins appearing at farm stands along with other fall decorating items. Outstanding consumer response at stands.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap: It must be fall because the apples, pumpkins and winter squash harvests are taking priority. We are finishing up the Paula red harvest and working on early McIntosh and Cortland. In the pastures, recent rain watered in freshly applied limestone and fertilizer. Pastures are quite green and lush. Garden centers are selling mums, pumpkins and corn stalks. **Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll:** Drier weather continues to allow for haying, some excellent second and third cut going in. Vegetables finally got started and are now winding down. Sweet corn still in good shape. It's beginning to look like fall and I don't remember having a summer! **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** A couple of rainy days, but lots of sunshine for most of the week. Early-planted field corn is ready for chopping, and a few farms have begun filling bunkers. Some farms finishing up third cutting haylage, while others are still pecking away at third cut for baleage and dry hay. Farm stands still have lots of corn, tomatoes, and peppers available, and winter squashes and pumpkins are starting to appear. PYO apples in full swing. Garden centers selling lots of mums and asters. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Generally sunny with some rain mid-week to hinder haying activities. No reports of frost yet although, beginning to see some fall color at higher elevations. Corn looks generally good, nice tip fill on those checked however, need more maturity to be fit for silage - no dent yet. Mums and fall asters now being bought at garden centers and nurseries. Sweet corn, pumpkins and other late season veggies available. Few apples - not a good year for them up here. Seems a year for fungal diseases. Powdery mildew knocking down vines on squash and pumpkins quite effectively. Some fields quite saturated, especially in low areas along Connecticut River, hope these will be dry by corn harvesting time. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Heavy rains delayed field work for much of the second half of the week. Corn continues to grow slowly. Regrowth after third cut on alfalfa grass looks good to excellent. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** This past week we had some nice weather, and things had a chance to dry out earlier in the week. However, on Wednesday and Thursday, things got wet again. We received a total of 1.65 inches of rain over a two day period. Temperatures have been a little cooler than we would like, but the corn is still maturing. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Vegetables: Harvesting an array of vegetables: beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, cucumbers, greens, potatoes, radishes, summer squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, zucchini, and

other vegetables. Some farmers are starting to clean up harvested fields and planting cover crops. Mildew has killed most vines on pumpkins and winter squash, farmers are cutting and picking up pumpkins and winter squash to help stop fruit from rotting. Fruit: Orchardists harvesting Marshall, McIntosh, Ginger Gold, Gala and Honeycrisp apples, peaches, and fall raspberries. Identified yellow rust disease on fall raspberries. Field Crops: Farmers are chopping corn silage and hay cutting continued during the week with the second and third cuttings being made. Some spreading of manure on hay fields. **John Porter (Ext), Merrimack:** Apple stands were busy this weekend with pickers and other customers. Markets have sweet corn, pumpkins, mums and squashes. Mix of rain and sun was great for hay fields. **Pam Marvin (FSA), Sullivan:** Hard rains last week slowed down the harvesting of silage corn. Reports of a less than average apple crop due to spring weather at budding time. Blueberry season is over with some reports of mummyberry. Alfalfa re-seeding has been completed and is coming up nicely. Farm stands and farmers' markets are still strong with many summer vegetables still being harvested.

VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille: Somewhat drier week but not hot enough to soak up all the excess moisture from recent rains. The local barley harvest was finally completed. The corn crop appears to be maturing slower than normal with a few producers starting to harvest a few acres. Soybeans are doing well and are starting to dry down. Pumpkin harvest has begun. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Fair

weather this week allowed some harvest of third crop and also fields to dry out a little. Most of the hay left to be harvested is on extremely wet fields. Quantity of third crop is good but I am hearing that the quality is down. Corn growers are nervous about their crop maturing in time. The tonnage looks to be fairly good but the ear size and maturity are behind. Growers are hoping that the frost holds off for a couple more weeks. **Perley Sparrow (FSA), Windham:** Corn silage harvest will be in full swing this week. Some producers are reporting crop loss from bears. Apple harvest is starting to speed up with the cooler nights. The color is almost perfect but producers are reporting that apples bruise easily from a wet growing season. **Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Starting to open corn fields for silage harvest. Still just dented and too wet for harvest. Third cut haylage harvest active; good quality. Pasture regrowth slowed right down for fall. Lots of rust on grass leaves. Some manure spread on hay fields. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Another inch-and-a-half of rain this week. Steady rain with no wash outs, but it did make the ground even softer. Grass continues to grow well, no frost yet. **Chris Benedict (Ext), Chittenden:** Growers have moved into heavy harvest time, with good picking conditions over the weekend. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Seeding rye on fields that have been picked. Still picking a good crop of mid-season sweet corn. Starting to pick winter squash and pumpkins. All crops could stand some sun and warm weather to help with maturing. Received an inch of rain from the hurricane; the land had just started to dry out. Fall season starting with Indian corn, pumpkins, gourds and corn stalks in the market.

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