



New England Agricultural Statistics



Aubrey R. Davis, Director

Phone: 603-224-9639

Fax: 603-225-1434

www.usda.gov/nass

nass-nh@nass.usda.gov

22 Bridge St. 3rd Floor
P.O. Box 1444
Concord, NH 03302

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

Volume 25, Number 26

(<http://www.nass.usda.gov/nh/cwxyyearsmain.htm>, May – October)

October 24, 2005 – 4 pm

For week ending 10/23/05

Crop Weather

First Major Frost

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending October 23, 2005, there were 4.5 days suitable for field work. Topsoil moisture was rated 29% adequate, 71% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 41% adequate, 59% surplus. Pasture condition was rated 10% very poor, 19% poor, 32% fair, 31% good and 8% excellent. In southern New England, partly cloudy skies arrived at the beginning of the week and remained until the weekend. In northern New England, the week began with light rains which hindered field work until mid-week. Cool, wet weather arrived during the weekend to all areas, causing some water levels to pass flood stage. On Thursday and Friday, the first heavy frost arrived to the region and snow fell in the mountains. Farmers were busy cleaning debris from flooding and estimating storm damage. Farm activities included chopping corn silage where soil permitted, cleaning and putting away equipment, mowing and discing fields, spreading lime, spreading manure on dry fields, and tilling crops. Producers harvested a variety of fruits and vegetables.

FRUIT: The first heavy frost arrived to the region late in the week. Fruit growers were busy harvesting fruit. Apple harvest was starting to wind down as only late maturing varieties remained to be picked. The recent rainfall and heavy winds caused some apple droppings. Pear harvest was completed in all states except for Connecticut, where all growers should finish shortly. Cranberry growers were busy harvesting more than usual at this time of year. The last two weeks of rain hindered growers from dry harvesting. Maine wild blueberry growers were busy flail mowing fields where land was not too soft and not too green.

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2005	2004	5-yr Avg	Fruit Size	Condition
- Percent Harvested -					
Apples	90	95	95	Avg	Good/Fair
Pears	99	95	95	Avg/B. Avg	Fair/Good
Cranberries, MA	90	90	85	Avg/B. Avg	Good

VEGETABLES: The recent rains caused some damage to late planted vegetable crops in parts of the region. In addition, the rains have hindered sales at farm stands and farmers' markets. Farmers' markets and roadside stands continued to be full of pumpkins, mums, and fall vegetables as businesses will close for the winter. Producers were busy harvesting brussel sprouts, cabbage, eggplant, kale, pumpkins, and winter squash. Farmers were also busy mowing and discing fields, and cleaning and putting equipment away.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	0	0	1
Adequate	29	31	95
Surplus	71	69	4
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	0	0	1
Adequate	41	43	96
Surplus	59	57	3

FIELD CROPS: The recent rainfall has saturated fields, hindering harvest in some parts of the region. Maine oats and barley harvest has come to a halt due to soft fields; therefore, no equipment can access the fields. Maine potato growers were able to harvest some potatoes during the week on dry soil and also before the weekend rain arrived. More nice dry days are needed to finish the harvest. Massachusetts potato growers made progress with the harvest even though conditions were very difficult from the recent flooding. The crop conditions varied in the region from very poor to good. Farmers that had corn on dry soil were busy combining. Some reports of corn fields along river beds were still under water. Most of the corn silage harvested in the region with only corn grain left to harvest. Another wet week limited any progress for cutting hay in the region. Both, second and third cutting of hay progress remained the same as the previous week. A few farmers might cut some more second and third cutting of hay that is if the field conditions improve. Tobacco growers in the Connecticut River Valley are concerned about the recent rain causing mold to grow in the sheds.

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2005	2004	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Harvested --				
Barley, ME	95	100	100	Fair
Oats, ME	95	100	100	Fair
Potatoes				
Maine	95	100	100	Good
Mass.	90	95	95	Poor
Field Corn	90	95	95	Good/Excellent
Dry hay, 2 nd cut	99	100	100	Good/Excellent
Dry hay, 3 rd cut	90	95	90	Good

This is the final New England Crop Weather report for 2005. This weekly report would not have been possible without the voluntary efforts of our reporters. We wish to thank all of them for their help in making this a timely, accurate report. We look forward to their continued support next May, when the 2006 crop season begins.

Although every report is important, special recognition is deserved by those who have been able to respond on a regular basis throughout the six-month growing season. Reporting is a significant commitment, and their faithful cooperation helps the New England Crop Weather release to be a consistent, high quality product.

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics
Prepared By AWIS, Inc.

For the Period: Monday October 17, 2005
To: Sunday October 23, 2005

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	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	INCHES			INCHES		
MAINE														
Augusta State_A	29	57	47	-1	2356	+266	1039	+293	1.02	+0.11	4	11.99	+8.68	15
Bangor_Intl_Arp	27	60	47	+1	2313	+412	975	+353	0.70	-0.07	3	11.23	+8.26	13
Bethel	27	56	45	-2	2081	+218	828	+232	1.05	+0.15	3	9.23	+5.93	11
Caribou_Municip	31	61	44	+3	1843	+395	686	+308	1.01	+0.31	2	8.37	+5.56	10
Dover-Foxcroft	29	54	44	+1	1745	+150	589	+137	0.35	-0.49	3	8.18	+4.81	13
Frenchville	33	51	43	+3	1814	+471	680	+357	1.40	+0.70	4	7.74	+4.78	14
Houlton	25	56	43	+1	1854	+340	697	+273	0.79	+0.06	3	6.87	+3.96	11
Livermore_Falls	22	55	43	-1	2124	+559	895	+466	1.15	+0.27	5	10.34	+7.02	13
Moosehead	25	52	41	-2	1609	+292	521	+211	0.66	-0.11	6	7.63	+4.54	15
Portland_ME	28	59	46	-2	2356	+421	1033	+396	1.21	+0.30	1	12.56	+9.27	10
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	26	55	42	-4	2052	+346	817	+341	1.23	+0.46	4	9.51	+6.63	14
Berlin_AG	28	56	43	-1	2073	+373	823	+326	0.83	-0.01	4	8.81	+5.69	12
Concord	27	62	48	+2	2655	+568	1242	+503	1.18	+0.43	3	13.34	+10.55	13
Diamond_Pond	26	48	38	-4	1537	+419	486	+281	0.91	+0.07	4	7.84	+4.48	14
Keene_AP	28	63	47	-2	2641	+278	1226	+310	0.96	+0.26	2	13.91	+11.16	12
North_Conway	28	59	46	+2	2302	+389	990	+357	1.26	+0.30	5	10.73	+7.19	13
Rochester	27	58	46	-3	2396	+128	1076	+224	1.08	+0.08	2	14.72	+11.14	11
VERMONT														
Burlington_Intl	30	56	46	+0	2816	+595	1381	+540	1.46	+0.83	5	6.07	+3.48	16
Island_Pond	27	51	41	-2	2004	+610	785	+460	3.20	+2.48	5	9.71	+6.89	14
Montpelier	26	59	44	-1	2377	+640	1043	+531	1.66	+1.03	5	7.67	+5.15	17
Pownal	31	60	45	-1	2391	+562	1007	+455	1.77	+0.93	4	12.71	+9.37	17
Rochester	27	59	44	-1	2300	+570	988	+484	2.78	+1.94	5	9.15	+5.79	15
Rutland_AG	28	60	45	-4	2481	+139	1133	+233	2.04	+1.41	4	9.56	+6.88	16
Sutton	26	50	40	-2	1968	+572	763	+426	2.50	+1.73	6	8.80	+5.84	17
Townshend_Lake	29	60	46	-1	2462	+255	1100	+277	1.18	+0.41	3	10.83	+7.95	15
MASSACHUSETTS														
Ashburnham	32	62	47	+2	2557	+670	1166	+568	1.10	+0.33	2	12.38	+9.50	13
Boston/Logan_In	30	67	53	-1	3032	+208	1535	+307	1.08	+0.32	2	8.02	+5.16	11
Greenfield	31	65	49	-3	2709	+133	1260	+209	1.65	+0.88	2	11.29	+8.21	13
New_Bedford	31	67	51	-4	2770	-114	1303	+33	0.73	-0.08	1	11.34	+8.33	12
Otis_AFB	34	64	53	+3	2993	+691	1452	+587	0.43	-0.47	3	8.14	+4.73	14
Plymouth	30	65	50	-1	2735	+390	1323	+420	0.56	-0.35	3	9.32	+5.73	14
Walpole	32	66	50	+3	2912	+583	1437	+543	1.18	+0.27	2	12.34	+8.91	13
Chicopee/Westov	30	67	50	-3	3103	+122	1537	+187	1.09	+0.25	2	13.82	+10.66	13
Worthington	29	61	46	-2	2305	+420	962	+387	1.31	+0.47	4	16.53	+13.24	17
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	36	67	52	+0	3224	+545	1668	+534	1.09	+0.25	2	13.18	+9.98	14
Woonsocket	33	67	50	+2	2918	+633	1420	+574	1.13	+0.22	2	13.42	+9.90	13
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	43	71	54	+0	3375	+446	1715	+387	0.73	+0.03	2	10.92	+8.17	15
Hartford/Bradle	34	69	51	+0	3313	+495	1709	+467	1.12	+0.33	2	12.60	+9.39	12
Norfolk	32	59	46	+0	2414	+545	1023	+450	0.93	+0.02	3	12.67	+9.15	14
Thomaston_Dam	36	66	50	+1	2927	+627	1410	+564	0.86	-0.05	3	14.77	+11.23	15
Willimantic	33	67	50	+0	2969	+624	1430	+554	0.73	-0.21	2	11.19	+7.52	13

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.

Copyright 2005. AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.
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.

STATE WEATHER SUMMARY

For the Week Ending Sunday, October 23, 2005

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	L	HI	AV	DF	LO	HI
ME	22	61	44	-1	0.35	1.76
NH	15	68	44	-1	0.83	3.40
VT	22	62	44	-1	0.02	4.41
MA	27	69	50	+0	0.09	1.65
RI	33	67	51	+0	0.76	1.13
CT	30	71	50	+0	0.60	1.12

Prepared by AWIS, Inc.

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

CONNECTICUT - Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland: Another soggy weekend has passed but no more flooding thank goodness. Most crops are in and farmers are picking up plastic mulch off fields and putting machinery away. There is much concern over broadleaf tobacco becoming moldy in sheds due to continued wet weather. Identified some severe erosion on farm roads and a couple burst dams for ponds in the area. Combines still in sheds as soils too wet to allow picking of field corn. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Very wet. Late planted tomatoes wiped out because of heavy rain. Business is slow at the vegetable stands on weekends due to cold, wet weather. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Some corn waiting to be picked for grain, water still in some fields, clearing debris from flooded fields, damage to farm roads and some erosion. Good apple picking, first frost, time changes soon. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** All in all this was a very poor growing season in New Haven and Middlesex counties. The weekend weather has been very uncooperative for the sale of fall decorative crops and apple picking. Prices have been poor and compounded by the high cost of fuel. We have not had a killing frost to date and that is unusual. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Hay rides to and through pumpkin patches were popular this past week as folks shook off the 2 weeks of rain. Field work was hampered by muddy conditions.

MAINE - Steve London, Southern Aroostook: Potatoes and small grains: Saturated fields. Conditions good for harvesting crops, but unsure of unharvested crops. **Leslie Nelson (NRCS), Piscataquis:** More rain over the weekend kept fields saturated. Harvest of potatoes and corn silage progressing very slowly. **Donald Burke (FSA), Waldo:** Silage corn harvest continued during the week as weather permitted. Most corn is harvested. Rain on Sunday and more rain in the forecast during the week. October will be one for the record books, just like April and May! Have a safe winter and we'll look forward to reporting crops in the spring. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Flail mowing is underway on blueberry fields, but most land is too soft and the plants are too green for burning. Some areas had a light frost mid-week. Spreading manure remains to be done before the ground freezes. The growing season is ending, the same way it began with record setting rain. Who knows what next year will bring. Think spring! **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** The first frost hit the area last week ending the growing season. Poor weather continues to plague pick your own apples, pumpkins and corn maze operators. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** We had a hard frost and frozen ground on Saturday. Apple harvest is done. Grain corn is drying down in the field. All of this rain is making it hard to empty manure pits. Spreading is causing rutting in many fields. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Oxford County producers have reported several fields are very muddy and unable to harvest some crops due to more wet weather. Pumpkins & squash being harvested and marketed throughout the county. Oxford County received more rain this past weekend and more on the way. **Laura Rand (FSA), Androscoggin:** Producers are reporting very wet soils and have been working on finishing touches of harvest. Rainfall has hampered outside farming activities, first hard frost this week.

MASSACHUSETTS - Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire: Cold and rainy, drizzly on and off all week with short patches of sun. We had our first countywide hard frost. Windy conditions early in the week knocked off lots of leaves and downed a few trees. The foliage has been lackluster and very very late affecting the tourist flow. Farm stands are wrapping up with fall vegetables, flowers and Halloween decorations. Arthur is retiring after 23 years as CED and many years before that on the FSA County Committee. His dedication to this crop weather survey has been strong and he encourages all those who don't report regularly to do a better job next year! Have a great winter! **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: More harvesting of berries being done than usual at this time, as growers wait and wait for better color. Had very dangerous frost night Thursday into Friday. Growers doing dry harvesting tried to catch up after last week's consecutive rainy days. Handlers reporting that the crop may be as much as 35% below the August estimate. This may be the final harvest for those growers on the edge. Things looked so promising back in June, only for this to happen. **Jason Otto (FSA), Bristol:** Fall is finally

here. Local farm stands had another wet weekend. All sales are slow and there is no time left to recover. **John Devine (FSA), Franklin:** Farmers in Franklin County spent the week assessing damage and trying to figure out how to harvest water-logged crops. Silage and grain planted on river-bottom land is either loaded with silt or still under water. High winds have affected all unharvested fruit crops. Apple producers are reporting that tons of fruit were blown off the trees. Right now, producers are trying stabilizing erosion damage before the ground freezes. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Another week with added rainfall. Harvesting grain corn, potatoes, greens, cabbage and pumpkins. Harvesting is difficult because of the very wet conditions. Tobacco growers continue bundling their crop for sale. Many farmers are cleaning and putting their equipment under shelter. Spreading manure and applying a cover crop on harvested fields continues. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** Spotty killing frost in this area, still harvesting eggplant and a few tomatoes. Last of fall raspberries and cranberries. Pumpkin sales somewhat off from last year, mums way off as everyone seems to be selling them. Most winter squash sold and farmers getting a breather from field work with all this rain. Bringing in firewood and general public concern about heating oil prices and fearing long cold winter. **NEW HAMPSHIRE - Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll:** Frost at long last, two nights of fly killing and mosquito freezing weather finally arrived this week. Every thing else wrapped up for the year. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Fall like weather all week, cool temps, with the first frost Thursday night. We had first snowflakes of the season falling Sunday morning. Not too much going on in the field, farmers spreading manure, maybe try for a fourth cutting on alfalfa in a week or two, but that's about it. Farmstands are closing for the winter, and orchards finishing up with late varieties. As always, it was an interesting crop season. See you next year. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Colder, wet weather prevails; sodden fields hamper field work significantly. Unharvested corn in low lying fields well under water to tassel. Ponding of fields along CT River appears to be worse as one progress's southward from North Stratford. Wet fields, corn for silage standing in water along the Androscoggin River as well. All tributaries seen running high at midweek. First hard freeze at end of week, quite late for Coos county. High water, trees, wood, other debris left in field from flooding will make harvest of remaining corn silage questionable and no doubt adversely affect forage quality. It's a hard end to the season. Evergreen boughs starting to head south for the winter decoration market. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** So far for the month of October we have received slightly over 7.25 inches of rain. Field conditions are generally a little on the wet side. Fortunately most of the corn is cut. Those few with some left to chop are fighting the weather. There is still some 4th cut alfalfa out there to cut. We got our first frost on October 21st, and our first snow fall on the 22nd. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Killing frost occurred Thursday night, Friday morning and the next night. Fruit: Apple harvest winding up. Finish harvesting Red Delicious, Rome and other late maturing apples varieties. Only the final picking of Golden Delicious and Fuji remains. Pear harvest is done. Cleaning up drop apples and putting away orchard equipment. Vegetable: Continue harvesting cool season crops like cabbage, kale, brussel sprouts, cauliflower, lettuce and greens. Farmers kept busy pulling plastic mulch & tomato stakes, mowing and disking fields, cleaning up fields, planting cover, and putting away equipment. Field Crops: Corn silage cutting is nearly completed. With all the rain in past two weeks farmers cannot get into fields to finish corn chopping and clipping hayfields. **Sadie Puglisi (Ext), Merrimack:** The season is almost done. One more week of farmer's markets. Squash, pumpkins and some potatoes are at the markets now. Some pockets of frost last week. People are planning for next year. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Rain, cold, windy and occasional sun; harvesting apples and PYO apples operations were busy on Saturday. Pumpkins, winter squashes, mums, ornamental corns available at different retail outlets. Chopping corn. Spreading lime, cleaning vegetable fields that are not muddy. **Pam Marvin (FSA), Sullivan:** All this rain has made it difficult for last fields of corn to be cut. Ground is saturated. Third cut of hay is held up also. We experienced a good frost late in the week. The pumpkin crop is very abundant this year. Assessments of damaged fields in the southern half of the county from heavy rain two weeks ago is ongoing. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** A welcome break from the rains. However we got our first freeze of the season this week. Fruit growers continued to harvest late apple varieties. Apple picking at pick your own operations was affected by the last one and half weeks of rains

resulting in many drops at most farms. This week customers were back trying to pick the last apples of the season. Growers busy picking for storage and for making cider. Vegetable harvesting is winding down. Growers harvesting cool season vegetables, such as cabbage and broccoli. Pumpkin sales were still going strong.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: Catching up on lots of field work, chopping field corn and getting in some third cut. PYO apples still going strong and a good crop of pumpkins add to the fall PYO. Roadside stands are filled with fall mums, fruits and vegetables.

VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille: The week ended on a wintry note with up to 6 inches of snow in this part of the state. Slow week for field work as many fields were still drying out from heavy rains a week ago. Corn silage harvest almost completed. Looks like its going to be difficult to harvest any more grass this season. Overall, it has been a great year for crops in this area. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Crop harvest is nearly complete. A few farms may cut some fourth cut hay if the weather improves. Field conditions are very wet now with the recent rain. We got two days of killing frost so the growing season

is finally over. Most farms are spreading some manure to get their manure storages ready for winter. Pastures are still doing well for this time of year but this should begin to change with the recent frost. **Perley Sparrow (FSA), Windham:** Corn harvesting pretty much complete and good yields. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** First frosts of the fall on this week, Two mornings of 25 degrees. This is very unusually late. Another 1.5 inches of rain on Saturday night, brooks bank full again. Snow in higher elevations, 4 inches in places. Fields soaked, some folks trying to spread manure on drier ground. Had 3 sunny days, some were doing some last minute haying. A good growing season- heat, moisture, length of season. **Heather Darby (Ext), Franklin:** Wet weather has delayed field operations. Most corn silage has been chopped but grain crops such as soybean and corn remain in the field. Very little manure has been spread and farmers are concerned about finishing spreading before the winter ban. Some fall tillage has been done but not as much as usual at this time. Cover crops are up on many fields in this area. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** All fields seeded to winter rye. A real good cover crop for the winter. Plenty of rain and warm weather has made for good growth on all fields. Rain for the week totaled 2.775 inches. A real good garden season for year 2005. Everything is winding down to October 31 closing. Have a good winter.

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
Travis Averill, Statistician

Gerald Tillman, Deputy Director
Lynne Arsenault, Stat Assistant

PRESORTED
FIRST CLASS
POSTAGE & FEES PAID
USDA
PERMIT NO. G-38

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
POST OFFICE BOX 1444
CONCORD, NH 03302-1444
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED