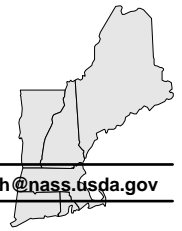




New England Agricultural Statistics



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

Volume 26, Number 19

(Issued weekly on the internet, May – October)

September 5, 2006 – 4 pm

For week ending 9/3/06

A Rainy and Cool Week

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending September 3, 2006, there were 5.5 days available for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture: 3% short, 87% adequate, 10% surplus. Subsoil moisture: 1% short, 88% adequate, 11% surplus. Pasture condition: 7% poor, 25% fair, 49% good, 19% excellent. Overcast and rainy conditions prevailed early in the week. By Wednesday afternoon, skies had cleared across the region, but daytime temperatures remained cool, leaving heavy dews on hay fields. Growers expressed concerns that the lack of heat has hindered the development of fall vegetables and late planted silage corn. In the north, nighttime temperatures fell to the upper 30's and low 40's, although there were no reports of frost received. By week's end, the remnants of tropical storm Ernesto soaked the region, making all field work difficult.

FRUIT: Early apple harvest was in full swing across the region. Apple growers continued picking Paula Reds, while a few growers reported some Macintosh apples coming in this week. Producers in southern states reported damage to apples from high winds and hail. Orchardists also harvested more peaches, plums, and pears. Fall raspberry harvest also continued this week. Cranberry growers, waiting for berries to size and color, anticipate starting harvest next week. Maine's wild blueberry harvest wrapped up this week, with experts believing total production will exceed the July 1 forecast. Highbush blueberry harvest also ended for most this week except for those few growers who have late maturing varieties.

VEGETABLES: Producers continued to harvest a wide array of vegetables this week including beans, beets, cole crops, cucumbers, greens, peas, potatoes, pumpkins, radishes, summer squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, winter squash, zucchini, and other vegetables. Some farmers are starting to clean up harvested fields and planting cover crops. There were reports in Connecticut about tomatoes splitting and rotting due to the rain and some mildew can be found on pumpkins and winter squash. Garden centers were busy selling fall mums, trees, and shrubs.

FIELD CROPS: Hay producers were busy making hay and haylage most of the week. However rain showers at the end of the week, slowed down field activities especially the cutting of hay. Some producers with poorly draining soils are struggling to harvest their hay for the first or second time. Some farmers made new forage seedings this week. Field corn in southern states is nearly ready to cut, but rain late in the week put the corn harvest on hold. Silage corn continues to mature in the north, with conditions ranging widely depending upon whether the crop was planted before or after the heavy spring rain. Potatoes continue to be dug in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Southern Maine, while a limited amount of potato harvesting has begun in Northern Maine. Farmers are desiccating potato vines in preparation for harvest. Oats and barley harvest continued this week, with growers reporting lighter yields than last year. Tobacco growers fired their sheds to remove moisture out of the tobacco.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	0	8
Short	3	2	26
Adequate	87	89	65
Surplus	10	9	1
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	0	8
Short	1	2	22
Adequate	88	87	68
Surplus	11	11	2

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	- Percent Harvested -			Fruit Size	Condition
	2006	2005	5-yr Avg		
Apples	20	15	20	Average	Good
Peaches	85	80	75	Average	Good
Pears	15	10	20	Average	Good/Fair
Blueberries					
Highbush	99	95	95	Average	Good/Excellent
Wild, ME	100	99	99	Above Avg/ Avg	Good
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-	Average	Good/Excellent

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	--Percent Harvested--			Condition
	2006	2005	5-yr Avg	
Barley, ME	85	60	65	Good/Excellent
Oats, ME	45	50	40	Good/Excellent
Potatoes				
Maine	-	-	5	Good/Excellent
Mass	20	25	25	Good/Fair
Rhode Island	35	45	40	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	-	-	<5	Fair/Good
Sweet Corn	80	70	75	Good
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	90	90	90	Good/Fair
Shade	90	90	90	Fair/Good
Dry Hay				
First Cut	99	100	99	Fair/Good
Second Cut	85	80	85	Good/Fair
Third Cut	25	35	40	Good/Fair

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

For the Period: Monday August 28, 2006
To: Sunday September 3, 2006

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 INCHES		DFN	DAYS
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN				INCHES	DFN		
MAINE															
Augusta State A	48	75	60	-6	1961	+167	858	+160	0.57	-0.14	3	3.72	+0.73	12	
Bangor Intl_Arp	46	76	59	-4	1902	+264	796	+210	0.21	-0.56	3	2.16	-0.92	11	
Bethel	48	73	59	-4	1735	+111	687	+122	0.34	-0.53	1	1.87	-1.73	6	
Caribou Municip	40	70	57	-3	1595	+272	571	+201	0.15	-0.73	2	2.47	-1.14	13	
Dover-Foxcroft	43	69	55	-7	1428	+3	507	+70	0.90	+0.00	3	1.74	-1.67	8	
Frenchville	43	70	57	-2	1472	+243	493	+177	0.19	-0.72	3	1.87	-1.85	11	
Houlton	37	70	55	-5	1608	+226	606	+192	0.35	-0.56	3	2.05	-1.64	12	
Livermore Falls	40	73	58	-3	1773	+372	717	+301	0.33	-0.58	2	2.40	-1.33	10	
Moosehead	40	71	55	-4	1358	+172	462	+160	0.45	-0.39	1	2.21	-1.15	8	
Portland_ME	47	78	61	-4	1940	+289	844	+242	0.69	-0.01	2	1.97	-0.66	7	
NEW HAMPSHIRE															
Benton	43	73	58	-3	1638	+141	633	+176	0.36	-0.50	2	2.43	-1.16	8	
Berlin AG	41	71	57	-4	1629	+121	622	+142	0.27	-0.62	1	3.23	-0.61	7	
Concord	42	79	61	-4	2145	+340	992	+293	0.42	-0.28	3	2.42	-0.54	11	
Diamond Pond	38	67	54	-4	1159	+141	355	+155	1.00	-0.08	1	5.73	+1.14	9	
Keene AP	43	75	61	-5	2017	+6	901	+50	0.37	-0.42	4	2.90	-0.55	9	
North Conway	43	76	59	-4	1887	+204	790	+183	0.38	-0.48	3	1.61	-1.98	9	
Rochester	45	78	59	-7	2005	+80	888	+96	0.55	-0.22	2	2.27	-0.92	8	
VERMONT															
Burlington Intl	43	74	62	-3	2219	+289	1044	+250	0.67	-0.21	2	3.20	-0.44	9	
Island Pond	36	74	57	-3	1550	+312	566	+254	0.44	-0.53	4	2.28	-2.00	9	
Montpelier	41	74	61	-1	1875	+354	766	+281	0.52	-0.28	4	2.17	-1.28	14	
Pownal	43	77	60	-3	1828	+247	750	+230	0.81	-0.14	4	3.90	+0.01	11	
Rochester	41	77	59	-4	1711	+215	668	+196	0.35	-0.64	3	2.05	-2.09	9	
Rutland AG	41	74	60	-6	1890	-101	795	-33	0.57	-0.34	4	2.09	-1.71	10	
Springfield_VT	43	74	60	-3	1998	+356	878	+314	0.96	+0.06	5	2.86	-0.77	15	
Sutton	41	73	57	-3	1495	+241	526	+201	0.44	-0.52	4	3.27	-0.95	9	
MASSACHUSETTS															
Boston/Logan_In	55	74	65	-6	2461	+172	1265	+186	0.77	+0.01	3	2.99	+0.02	10	
Fitchburg	49	76	62	-1	2357	+717	1181	+609	1.71	+0.99	4	4.37	+1.28	13	
Greenfield	46	76	62	-6	2155	+6	1000	+46	1.25	+0.45	4	4.23	+0.92	15	
New Bedford	50	77	64	-7	2200	-108	1040	-57	1.80	+0.88	4	3.79	-0.04	9	
Otis AFB	50	72	64	-3	2127	+247	973	+194	1.28	+0.51	4	3.40	+0.30	11	
Plymouth	50	74	63	-4	2203	+262	1066	+242	0.97	-0.01	4	3.48	-0.23	11	
Walpole	50	76	62	-4	2285	+315	1125	+301	1.17	+0.26	4	4.67	+1.07	13	
Chicopee/Westov	47	79	63	-8	2278	-180	1079	-121	2.10	+1.26	3	5.12	+1.89	10	
Worthington	44	77	60	-4	1818	+212	765	+228	2.04	+1.13	4	5.32	+1.61	11	
RHODE ISLAND															
Providence	55	77	65	-5	2574	+391	1316	+313	1.45	+0.61	4	3.70	+0.37	10	
Woonsocket	47	77	62	-5	2284	+346	1117	+331	1.66	+0.75	4	5.73	+2.09	11	
CONNECTICUT															
Bridgeport/Siko	59	77	66	-5	2596	+250	1320	+178	7.67	+6.97	5	9.65	+6.77	11	
Hartford/Bradle	51	81	65	-4	2607	+245	1346	+217	1.91	+1.00	4	4.69	+1.31	10	
Norfolk	50	76	61	-3	1954	+344	870	+329	2.37	+1.32	4	5.85	+1.69	11	
Thomaston Dam	52	76	63	-3	2289	+373	1096	+332	2.91	+1.93	5	5.68	+1.79	14	
Willimantic	50	79	64	-3	2386	+433	1166	+370	1.64	+0.73	5	3.92	+0.35	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.

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STATE WEATHER SUMMARY

For the Week Ending Sunday, September 3, 2006

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	L	HI	AV	DF	LO	HI
ME	35	79	58	-5	0.00	1.26
NH	32	82	59	-4	0.27	1.42
VT	36	78	59	-4	0.23	0.96
MA	42	81	63	-4	0.53	2.11
RI	47	77	64	-5	1.45	2.46
CT	47	81	64	-5	1.55	7.67

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 is nearly ready to cut. Heavy rain is forecast for this weekend. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Cooler than normal and some showers also. Spared the heaviest of showers and wind from tropical storm Ernesto. Some started to open up corn fields but most are waiting for corn to mature. Fair season is upon us with the Big E just around the corner. **Frank Himmelstein (Ext), New London:** Fall-like conditions and lack of heat did not help growth and maturation of silage corn. Ears look small on much of the corn planted earlier in the season. June planted corn looks good but depending on ear production tonnage may be significantly reduced. Overall not a good week for haymaking. Long range forecast for next week does not bode well for growing or harvesting conditions. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Chopping corn. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Some field corn is looking tall, good ear development, maturing, getting ready to be chopped. Other fields are short, small ears, not very attractive feed prospects. Cider apples \$1.60/bushel, one orchard had one to 50 hail hits on each apple, can't even use them for cider as the apples are to dry. Grapes hit with starlings three weeks earlier than usual, netting and using bird deterrents till crop is harvested beginning next week and going till mid October by maturity of variety. Pumpkin vines almost gave up with all the rain and very hot weather that hampered pollination. Sprayed several times with fungicide brought them back but pumpkins are maturing at smaller sizes and earlier than normal. Put up electric fence to protect pumpkins from deer browse. Squash wholesaling over \$25.00 a 1/2 bushel this time of year \$5.00 is usually a good price but not much squash to harvest as the vines are all done, along with most of the cucumbers. Starlings also stripped the top four inches of a field of Indian Corn, bird control barely deterred their activity. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** This has been a rainy and cool week. There were a lot of reports about tomatoes splitting and rotting due to the rain. Well over three inches of rain was reported throughout New Haven and Middlesex Counties. Wind from the fringes of tropical storm Ernesto was strong along the shoreline bringing down some leaves and small branches on Saturday. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Corn harvest is still on hold. Late planted corn is still not mature and rain late in the week made filed conditions impossible even if the corn was ready. Hopefully thins will dry out from Ernesto before John makes his way to the Northeast.

MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook: Potatoes and small grains: A limited amount of potato harvesting has begun. Growers continue to harvest small grains. Some lime is being spread and fall tillage continues. Most potato harvesting equipment is ready to go. Processors are expected to begin receiving green harvest Shepodys next week. Soil conditions very dry, limiting tuber bulking on later maturing varieties such as Russet Burbank. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Farmers are applying vine desiccation, harvest soon to begin. Canola is still being harvested, at 40%. Barley is almost done and oat harvesting has begun. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Oats and barley are of good quality, but the yields look lighter than last year. Some early potatoes being dug. Farmers starting to do quite a lot of top kill to get ready for harvest. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis:** Many fields still have very wet areas that heavy equipment can not go through. Farmers have sprayed potatoes to kill tops. Sweet Corn harvest is in full swing. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Lots of second cutting hay is being baled. Cool weather conditions don't favor corn silage development. Some forage seedings going in. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Vegetables still growing but many are slow especially cole crops and sweet corn. Some first cut hay may never get cut. Two inches of rain fell during the week. Several days of cool, overcast weather. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Harvest of the wild blueberry crop has been completed in Maine. The consensus is that the crop will be between 80 to 90 million pounds which is above the earlier estimate of 75 million pounds. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Cool, wet weather continues. Many vegetables are having disease problems. The pumpkin crop will be down this year. Silage corn looks awful short in many fields, yields for some

producers will be half of normal production. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Androscoggin/Franklin:** Silage corn is putting on a good season end growth. Oats and Barley are pretty well in. Squash crop was plentiful and of good size. The firewood market is tight and prices are high. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Oxford County producers have been busy harvesting vegetables. Oxford County received rain over the weekend. Apples are starting to be harvested now through out the county. **Laura Rand (FSA), Androscoggin:** This past week was a mixture of warm days and very cool nights. No reports of frost received, however, temps were often down in the high 30's and low 40's. Squash and pumpkins are beginning to show up at farms stands. Sweet corn still being harvested. Looking for warm September days and cool nights to bring the crops to harvest.

MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: An average week for this time of year. Summer crops still being harvested, tomatoes, peppers, summer squash, cukes, sweet corn etc. Apples are being harvested and look good. Blueberries finishing their season. Some rainfall, high wind at weeks end downed some trees. Folk aren't expecting winter squashes and some pumpkins to fully develop by season's end due to the late start because of excessive spring rains. Some are turning in their crops and doing field prep already for seeding cover crops. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: A decent dose of rainfall was received from the remnants of Ernesto. Water supplies are in good shape as we enter frost protection time and water harvesting. Growers are waiting for berries to size and color. Some harvesting will ensue next week. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Franklin/Hampshire/Hampden:** Cool, fall-like temperatures this week with another rainy, damp weekend. Tobacco growers are firing their sheds to remove moisture out of the tobacco. Harvesting of winter squash, pumpkins, cabbage, potatoes, apples and raspberries. With the cool, damp weather conditions, farmers are seeing more fungi disease in fall crops. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** Sweatshirt weather is here. Just when you think things couldn't get worse for area growers, rainy Labor Day weekend hits. Some sweet and silage corn laid flat from winds and soaking rains. Retail sales for area corn rebounded on Monday but big retail sales were missed by many as weather was a factor. Pumpkin harvest showing up at farm stands as growers try to jump start sales once again. "Local Produce" at area stores just awful-we better get our act together. Shelf space for local produce dwindling. Much crop damage to fruit from high winds, apples in particular. Spraying continues on all crops-great year for chemical companies.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap: Fall raspberries are just starting and apple harvest is underway. Late season vegetables are being picked. Most everyone has their second cutting of hay done. Pastures look great. Now is a good time for soil testing and liming if necessary. **Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll:** Cool wet weather prevails, summer has ended too soon! Early apples coming in. Hay that was rained on a few times finally made it out of the field. Pumpkins haven't done well, folks looking for a supply for the fall season. Mums coming along nicely. Farmer's Market still reporting brisk business. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** A number of overcast days, a few sunny ones, and one rainy one, with cool temperatures throughout. Field corn is continuing to dent, and harvest should begin soon. Last of third cutting haylage harvested, poor conditions for dry hay. Still lots of vegetable crops available, though some are tapering off too. More apples showing up in farm stands and farmer markets. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Cool, foggy mornings this week, generally decent weather for hay making and the County Fair. Rain at the end of the week. Field corn generally at milk-stage, some a little further along but quite a variability considering weather and mix of planting dates. Re-growth on pastures and meadows coming along nicely, should be some late cut hay if season is long enough. No frosty yet, veggies doing well, sweet corn late season types. Mildew in pumpkins which look down in production this year. Seeing more of the smart weed, lady's thumb weed family this season. Growing degree days at Lancaster Station 1555. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Second cutting

finishing up and third cutting continuing as weather permits. Re-growth on alfalfa grass fields is very good due to sufficient moisture. Corn continues to mature. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** The week of August 27th, again provided us with some good days for field work. A couple of days of rain helped the well drained soils on some farms, while further frustrating farmers with more poorly drained soils. Many of the farms with soils that are not as well drained are still struggling to harvest their hay for the first or second time. Some producers are wondering if they will even be able to get a crop off some of their fields before the fall. In either case, Hay quality will be poorer for a number of farms due to the rainy weather that we had from May through July. The early planted corn generally looks good. The corn that was planted after the rains started has not done as well. A shortage of feed is a major concern for a number of producers. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Vegetables: Harvesting an array of vegetables: beans, beets, cole crops, cucumbers, greens, peas, potatoes, pumpkins, radishes, summer squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, winter squash, zucchini, and other vegetables. Mildew can be found on pumpkins and winter squash. Some farmers are starting to clean up harvested fields and planting cover crops. Fruit: Orchardists harvesting peaches, plums, and finished picking Paula Red apples. Orchardists busy monitoring for pests, summer pruning trees, mowing orchard floors, fixing up orchard roads and move bins into the orchard. Highbush blueberry harvest over except for those few growers who have late maturing varieties, and fall raspberry harvest continued. Field Crops: Hay cutting continued during the week with the second and third cuttings being made. Some spreading manure on hay fields. Farmers making new forage seedings. Corn looks good to excellent. **Sadie Puglisi (Ext), Merrimack:** Apples are being picked and there's still some peaches and blueberries on the market. Cool temperatures continued this past week, but mostly clear to cloudy skies. Hay and silage being cut. Squashes and pumpkins on the market along with mums. It looks like fall. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Apple season is officially here starting with a cold and rainy week-end. Picking different apple varieties, peaches, plums, grapes, blueberries, fall raspberries, and whole array of vegetables. Haying and making haylage too. Farmers' markets and farmstands have a lot to offer. Garden center now offering mum and many other fall ornamental plants. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** Nice week for field work. Hay producers were busy making hay and haylage most of the week. However rain showers at the end of the week, slowed down field activities especially the cutting of hay.

Fruit growers were busy harvesting peaches and early apples. Vegetable growers harvesting an array of vegetable crops including pumpkins and sweet corn. Garden centers busy selling fall mums trees and shrubs.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: Lots of rain at the beginning and the end of the week making all work difficult. Harvesting all summer vegetables and continue to try to bale some hay. Apple and peaches coming in and they look good. Potatoes being dug and considering the wet season, they don't look too bad. Some oats coming up on nursery land, pumpkins and winter squash near ready.

VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille: There was a lot of mowing activity last week in anticipation of the Labor Day rains. Grass growth has generally slowed as fall like conditions start to take hold. Corn yields are going to be highly variable this year with grain content being less than desired for those who could not plant timely. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Autumn is definitely approaching. The dew stays on the grass for most of the day now. There are not very many more days to dry hay. Second crop hay is done and some third crop has been harvested. Most farmers I have talked to are pleased with the quantity and quality of the hay crop. Third crop hay also looks good. The corn continues to grow although it has slowed with the cooler weather. Even the best corn fields will probably have a lower than normal yield. Pastures continue to produce well. Aside from the mud it has been a good grazing year. **Terence Bradshaw, Univ of Vermont:** Early harvest is continuing. Growers have finished Paula Red pickings and Macs are just now coming in. Very good size and color reported. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Still seeding rye on harvested fields. No frost yet but temps in the 30's this a.m. Too much rain and damp weather hurt lettuce, swiss chard and early cabbage, but finishing nice crop of broccoli and cauliflower. Rain was 0.508 inches for the week. A little rain at this point helped to mature crops. Picking excellent mid-season sweet corn. Beans have done very good this season. Digging a nice crop of early potatoes. Fall season coming fast with cooler nights and county fairs all over Vermont. **Jeff Carter, UVM Extension:** Hay harvest continues between rain showers. Ground still wet and heavy dews slow drying. Alfalfa re-growth good, grass re-growth slow and rust starting on grass. Corn crop is maturing with heavy yield losses. Many fields will yield less than five ton/acre silage. Best corn on river soils and still not up to normal yield. Poor first crop hay and lack of corn silage in county is a concern for farmers and feed consultants.

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**

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