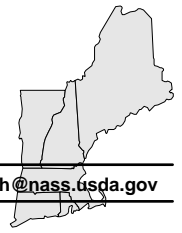




New England Agricultural Statistics



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September 11, 2006 – 4 pm

For week ending 9/10/06

Apples, Like the Weather, Are Now Crisp!

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending September 10, 2006, there were 5.9 days available for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture: 2% short, 92% adequate, 6% surplus. Subsoil moisture: 1% short, 90% adequate, 9% surplus. Pasture condition: 3% poor, 20% fair, 59% good, 18% excellent. This week's weather was marked by morning fog, warm days and cool nights. High temperatures across the region ranged in the mid to upper 70's for most of the week, while temperatures at night fell into the 50's in the south and in the 40's in the north. Showers passed through all six states on Tuesday afternoon, and heavy thunderstorms moved across the region on Saturday evening leaving fields wet and muddy. By Sunday, cooler air from Canada arrived, keeping temperatures well below normal throughout the day. Frost and freeze warnings were posted for Sunday night into Monday morning for northern low-lying areas.

FRUIT: More apples arrived at farmstands this week, with growers harvesting Marshall McIntosh, Ginger Gold, Gala, and Honeycrisp varieties. Orchardists were concerned about the amount of apple drop observed. Producers in Maine reported this year's crop may be lighter due to poor pollination, wet conditions, and damage from hail. Fruit growers also harvested more peaches, pears, plums, and fall raspberries. Cranberry harvest is anticipated to start this week.

VEGETABLES: Local farm stands are full of color with beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, cucumbers, greens, mums and fall decorations, potatoes, radishes, summer squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, zucchini, and other vegetables; however, excess moisture from earlier in the year has caught up to many vegetable growers. Pumpkins and winter squash across the region are showing a lot of powdery mildew. Connecticut growers reported widespread losses on tomatoes due to disease. Some farmers started to clean up harvested fields and plant cover crops.

FIELD CROPS: Nicer weather this week allowed for more second and third cut hay and haylage to be harvested where conditions allowed. Re-growth in many areas is said to be good to excellent, but the arrival of cooler weather has slowed the growth of both hay and field corn. Some chopping of early field corn began this week, with many growers reporting that fields need more maturity. The quality of field corn ranged widely across the region, with some wetter areas never recovering from rain early in the season. Small grain harvest in Maine continued this week, with barley harvest 90 percent complete and oat harvest reaching the three-quarter mark. A small percentage of early maturing potatoes were harvested in Northern Maine this week, while most growers were still killing vines in preparation for harvest. In southern areas of the region, potato harvest continues to go well, with growers in Rhode Island reporting better than expected conditions.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	0	12
Short	2	3	35
Adequate	92	87	52
Surplus	6	10	1
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	0	10
Short	1	1	26
Adequate	90	88	63
Surplus	9	11	1

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	- Percent Harvested -			Fruit Size	Condition
	2006	2005	5-yr Avg		
Apples	30	25	25	Average	Good
Peaches	90	90	85	Average	Good
Pears	55	15	25	Average	Good
Blueberries					
Highbush	99	99	99	Avg/Above Avg	Good
Wild, ME	100	100	100	Above Avg/ Avg	Good
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-	Average	Good/Excellent

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2006	2005	5-yr Avg	Condition
	--Percent Harvested--			
Barley, ME	90	80	75	Good
Oats, ME	75	65	55	Good/Excellent
Potatoes				
Maine	5	<5	5	Good/Excellent
Mass	25	35	40	Good
Rhode Island	60	65	65	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	5	10	10	Fair/Good
Sweet Corn	85	80	85	Good/Fair
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	95	95	95	Good/Fair
Shade	95	95	95	Fair/Good
Dry Hay				
First Cut	99	100	100	Fair/Good
Second Cut	90	85	90	Good
Third Cut	40	40	50	Good

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

For the Period: Monday September 4, 2006
To: Sunday September 10, 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	47	80	65	+4	2068	+190	895	+174	1.41	+0.71	4	3.94	+1.02	12	
Bangor Intl_Arp	46	79	66	+5	2012	+297	836	+232	2.24	+1.42	5	4.04	+0.91	13	
Bethel	46	76	62	+2	1820	+124	706	+124	0.88	+0.08	3	2.31	-1.18	7	
Caribou Municip	39	76	59	+3	1661	+291	584	+207	0.78	-0.06	3	2.14	-1.40	11	
Dover-Foxcroft	43	76	60	+2	1501	+18	519	+72	0.96	+0.05	4	2.68	-0.81	11	
Frenchville	38	75	58	+2	1529	+257	504	+181	1.10	+0.19	4	1.63	-2.08	11	
Houlton	41	79	63	+7	1702	+271	636	+214	1.25	+0.35	5	2.60	-1.08	13	
Livermore Falls	47	80	63	+6	1866	+409	743	+318	1.35	+0.49	4	3.15	-0.53	10	
Moosehead	40	78	59	+3	1421	+188	469	+160	0.61	-0.27	4	2.25	-1.15	9	
Portland_ME	53	80	65	+4	2045	+312	879	+258	0.99	+0.29	4	2.85	+0.15	10	
NEW HAMPSHIRE															
Benton	45	77	61	+3	1715	+157	642	+173	0.87	+0.09	4	2.92	-0.54	9	
Berlin AG	45	75	60	+2	1703	+134	628	+137	0.57	-0.25	4	3.11	-0.57	8	
Concord	46	84	64	+3	2242	+357	1019	+299	0.79	+0.09	2	2.97	+0.08	10	
Diamond Pond	42	70	56	+1	1200	+145	355	+150	0.78	-0.23	5	5.73	+1.32	10	
Keene AP	48	81	63	+0	2112	+8	926	+47	0.33	-0.41	3	3.12	-0.16	11	
North Conway	49	79	62	+3	1976	+223	811	+188	1.11	+0.27	3	2.32	-1.20	9	
Rochester	53	79	63	-1	2096	+80	912	+93	0.88	+0.14	3	2.81	-0.28	9	
VERMONT															
Burlington Intl	47	80	65	+3	2324	+312	1079	+262	0.70	-0.14	3	3.58	+0.01	9	
Island Pond	43	75	59	+3	1617	+329	573	+254	0.38	-0.49	3	1.92	-2.11	10	
Montpelier	43	77	62	+3	1957	+374	780	+281	1.01	+0.29	4	2.80	-0.49	14	
Pownal	49	78	62	+2	1912	+262	765	+229	0.69	-0.22	3	3.97	+0.15	11	
Rochester	46	79	62	+3	1794	+231	681	+194	0.69	-0.24	4	2.25	-1.77	10	
Rutland AG	48	80	63	-1	1981	-100	816	-40	1.23	+0.33	3	3.07	-0.66	11	
Springfield_VT	46	81	63	+3	2091	+379	901	+321	1.19	+0.35	4	3.69	+0.13	16	
Sutton	39	75	59	+2	1559	+257	530	+198	0.45	-0.42	3	2.09	-1.88	10	
MASSACHUSETTS															
Boston/Logan_In	57	84	68	+2	2591	+180	1325	+196	0.21	-0.52	2	3.16	+0.16	11	
Fitchburg	51	82	65	+6	2466	+755	1220	+633	0.89	+0.19	3	4.97	+2.01	13	
Greenfield	51	81	64	-2	2254	+1	1029	+39	1.33	+0.49	5	5.04	+1.73	16	
New Bedford	51	80	65	-4	2309	-127	1079	-73	0.49	-0.35	2	3.41	-0.31	10	
Otis AFB	55	77	66	+1	2238	+255	1014	+202	0.80	+0.03	2	2.79	-0.31	12	
Plymouth	53	82	65	+2	2312	+270	1105	+249	0.27	-0.71	2	3.64	-0.17	12	
Walpole	54	82	66	+3	2396	+333	1166	+314	0.31	-0.60	2	4.61	+0.97	12	
Chicopee/Westov	50	84	64	-4	2376	-203	1107	-143	0.52	-0.32	3	5.64	+2.34	13	
Worthington	48	79	61	-1	1895	+215	776	+221	0.53	-0.35	3	5.59	+1.98	13	
RHODE ISLAND															
Providence	57	82	68	+2	2701	+401	1373	+325	0.47	-0.37	2	3.67	+0.31	10	
Woonsocket	54	83	66	+3	2399	+368	1162	+349	0.89	-0.02	2	5.49	+1.85	12	
CONNECTICUT															
Bridgeport/Siko	58	82	68	+0	2724	+248	1378	+178	0.24	-0.49	2	9.86	+7.02	11	
Hartford/Bradle	53	85	67	+2	2728	+254	1397	+226	0.21	-0.70	3	4.85	+1.35	11	
Norfolk	52	77	62	+2	2041	+358	888	+331	0.68	-0.30	3	5.99	+1.86	12	
Thomaston Dam	54	81	65	+2	2398	+388	1135	+341	0.31	-0.67	4	5.93	+2.01	16	
Willimantic	53	82	66	+3	2497	+447	1207	+380	0.40	-0.51	3	4.20	+0.63	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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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, September 10, 2006

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	L	HI	AV	DF	LO	HI
ME	35	82	62	+3	0.07	2.24
NH	28	90	61	+2	0.33	1.91
VT	36	84	61	+2	0.12	2.09
MA	47	84	65	+1	0.21	1.33
RI	54	83	67	+2	0.33	0.89
CT	50	85	65	+1	0.07	0.68

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

CONNECTICUT - Marsha Jette (FSA), New London: Some towns in the southern most part of the County have completed silage corn harvest with varying tonnage due to different planting dates and soil. Third cutting of hay just about complete with some producers expecting a fourth cutting. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Peaches pretty much picked. PYO apples have started, some unexplained dropping on Macs. Mums are selling well. Making cider. Field corn chopping is a little on the green side. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** All vegetable crops are suffering due to excess moisture and disease. Reports of widespread losses on tomatoes. The harvest season is coming to a rapid, abnormally early end. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** A number of complaints about weed size. We are seeing giant ragweed approaching 12 feet tall. Canada Thistle was over three feet tall in one field I visited this past week. Barnyard Grass and Fall Panicum also seem much larger than "normal".

MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook: Potatoes and small grains: A limited amount of potato harvest continues. Most potatoes harvested are being delivered to the processor. Yield and quality good. Fall tillage continues. Some lime spreading. Small grain harvest continues. Yields of early maturing potato varieties very good. But later maturing varieties will be smaller in size as they did not bulk up due to the dry weather. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** All farmers are vine desiccating their fields of potatoes. Oats and barley still being harvested; also broccoli harvesting still continuing. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Farmers are vine killing, getting ready for harvest. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis:** Some low areas had frost early this morning. Thunderstorms this weekend have left fields wet and muddy. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Some nice weather allowed for second and/or third cutting hay and haylage to be harvested. Looks like another good week ahead. Some corn being chopped to get some fermented silage in the bunker. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Pumpkins and winter squash just starting to be harvested. Apple harvest started Labor Day. Appears crop will be short due to cold, wet weather during pollination and throughout summer months. Farmers still trying to harvest hay crop. Some fields are still too wet to harvest. Weed control measures on blueberry fields underway now. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Apple harvest is in full swing. Apples are about one week early this year. Pumpkins are arriving at farm stands for sale. Vegetables are just about all done for the year. Frost is in the forecast for tonight for some areas. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Androscoggin/Franklin:** It is apple picking time. The crop is mixed. There was some hail damage and poor pollination in some areas. The general crop is above average in size. The apples, like the weather, are now crisp! Looks like frost may be on the way. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Oxford County had a good week weather wise. Apples have started to be harvested through out the County. Sweet corn still going strong in places. Harvesting of hay still ongoing. Potato crop looking good. Overall a good week. Parts of Oxford County received a heavy thundershower over the weekend with wind and heavy rain. **Laura Rand (FSA), Androscoggin:** Cool nights and warm days have been the norm. Farmstands are an array of color with tomatoes, squash, pumpkins and fall flowers. Some producers have begun harvest of potatoes and a few have started silage harvest. All

are hoping for a long and warm fall for extra growing conditions.

MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: Mild weather and cool temperatures moderated by week's end but slowed down development of what will be the last hay cut this year. Sweet corn is still growing and selling but we are in the last days of that. Farmstands continue to do well with vegetables and apples. Chrysanthemums are selling well. Quality of silage corn varies from very poor in north county to average and excellent in south county. Harvesting should begin this week. Finished veggie fields are being turned under, manured and cover cropped. We have frost predicted for the coming week. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Growers are getting everything ready for harvest. Some growers will begin dry and wet harvest mid-week. Color has a way to go...cool nights this week will help. Rot levels are low so far. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Franklin/Hampshire/Hampden:** Fall harvest is in full swing. Harvesting apples, peaches, winter squash, pumpkins, mums, potatoes, parsnips and many more fall crops. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** Pumpkins coming in from fields, size and quality show growing season challenges. Winter squash starting to ripen up and early varieties harvested as well. Sweet corn harvest continues, summer crops really diminishing in yield as shorter days and cool weather has set in. Fall decorations and mums add much color to a lackluster year.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll: Cool wet weather feels like late September early October! Color beginning in swampy areas, brilliant reds and yellows. Won't be long now we'll be digging out the winter woolies! Squash and pumpkins showing lots of powdery mildew, pumpkins are going to be tough to come by this fall. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** A little rain here and there, but generally pleasant conditions. Corn chopping has just started, a number of fields still need a bit more maturity. A little bit of 3rd cut hay and haylage harvested as conditions allow. Fewer vegetables, more apples starting to show up at farmstands. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Mixed and cooler weather conditions with temps dipping down into the low 30's this Sunday night into Monday. No reports of frost damage, but expect there is some. Some nice round bales coming in, other fields being mowed for late season harvest. Field corn generally at milk stage or better. Mums and pumpkins for decoration at market, farmstands and nurseries. Sweet corn available. Season winding down, typical later summer pests. Fall webworm rather common this year. Growing degree days at Lancaster at 1609 for Sept. 11, a.m., nearly 100 growing degree days less for this time of year. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Hay and haylage harvest continuing. Regrowth (3dr and 4th) is good to excellent. Cooler temps late in the week have slowed growth of corn. Corn looks good in many areas but still poor in the wetter fields. It never recovered from the early damage. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** Things are kind of continuing in the same pattern over the last couple of weeks. Some hay fields are still waiting to be harvested due to wet soils. Corn on the early planted fields looks good. Corn on the later planted fields has some progress to go. **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 many pumpkins and winter squash vines, so farmers are starting to cut and pickup fruit. Fruit: Orchardists harvesting Marshall McIntosh, Ginger Gold, Gala and Honeycrisp apples, peaches, plum/prunes and fall raspberries. Apple drop have orchards concerned, many are being pushed off due to large size of the fruit and due to windy days. Field Crops: Farmers hay cutting continued during the week with the second and third cuttings being made. Starting to get ready for chopping corn silage. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Great week-end for Pick-Your-Own. Harvesting apple, peaches, grapes, fall raspberries, an array of vegetables, sweet corn and tomatoes. Farmstands, farmers' markets and garden centers busy. Chopping corn, haying. and cleaning some vegetable fields.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: Harvesting summer vegetables, tomatoes are less than

ordinary; the weather really had an affect on them. Sweet corn, squashes and cole crops doing well. Did some haying this week and got in some third cut. Potatoes going well and did better than expected. Some good dry weather this week helped. Roadside stands are getting fuller with mums and fall decorations. They are hoping to make up the loss from the spring flower season.

VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille: Some of the early planted corn for silage was harvested last week. Conditions were good for more second cut and some third cut of grass. Temperatures are cooling with lots of morning fog. Reports of light frost in normally colder areas this morning. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** I noticed patches of frost on the ground on my drive into work today. Some farmers have begun to harvest their corn crop. Other work in the county this week has been harvesting third crop hay.

AUGUST CROP WEATHER SUMMARY: Oppressive heat and thunderstorms at the start of August gave way to cooler and drier conditions as the month progressed. Although rainfall was not as substantial as earlier in the season, sporadic shower and thunderstorm activity throughout the month slowed field work and frustrated hay producers, who were challenged to make dry hay between the rains. The first cut of hay was nearly complete by the end of the month, the second cut progressed to 80 percent harvested, while the third cut had begun for most growers by month's end. Growers were disappointed with the quality of the first cut, but were more optimistic with the second and third. Broadleaf and Shade Tobacco harvest in the Connecticut River Valley progressed well in August, with 90 percent of the crop harvested by month's end. In Southern Maine, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island, potato harvest was in full swing by the end of the month, with growers reporting good to excellent conditions. Potato growers in Northern Maine kept busy this month spraying pesticides on a five-day schedule to stay ahead of late blight outbreaks in the state. Small grain harvest in Maine began two weeks ahead of schedule. Growers reported the barley and oat quality to be good to excellent, but yields appeared to be lower than last year. Field corn continued to grow during August, albeit slowly with the fall-like days and cool nights. Growers were concerned that short stalk size and small ears would lead to low yields. A wide variety of summer vegetables were available in farm stands throughout the month, with sweet corn reported to be selling at a higher price than normal. Pumpkin and squash growers reported problems with mildew and fungus as a result of the rainy summer weather. Cranberry growers in Massachusetts sprayed for fireworm and watched for showers to add size to the fruit. Pears and early season apples arrived on farm stands by mid-month, but growers in Southern states were concerned about damage to fruit from high winds and hail from the month's storms. Peach harvest was in full swing in August, with three-fourths of the crop picked by month's end. Highbush blueberry and raspberry harvest continued throughout the month, with many producers reporting a good crop. Maine Wild Blueberry harvest began and ended a week earlier than normal this year. Cool evening temperatures and rainfall at the start of August improved berry size and quality.

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