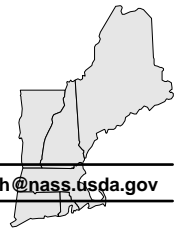




New England Agricultural Statistics



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September 17, 2007 – 4 pm

For week ending 9/16/07

Fall is in the Air

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending September 16, 2007, there were 5.4 days suitable for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture was rated 2% very short, 22% short, 75% adequate, and 1% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 5% very short, 20% short, 75% adequate, and 0% surplus. Pasture condition was rated 1% very poor, 20% poor, 43% fair, 31% good, and 5% excellent. Fall weather was definitely in the air last week. High temperatures ranged from the mid 60s to low 70s. Low temperatures ranged from the upper 40s to low 50s. Several areas across New England were hit with the first frost of the season during the week; no major damage to crops was reported. Much needed rain fell on Monday and Tuesday and again on Saturday. Rainfall averaged from a half inch to over five inches in some areas. The moisture was very beneficial to soil conditions and pasture regrowth, but most reporters stated the rain was too late to benefit drought-stressed crops. The fair conditions on Sunday kept farm stands and pick-your-own operations very busy.

FRUIT: The rainfall this past week was much needed in the orchards across New England. The apple and pear harvests progressed nicely last week and both were 30 percent complete at week's end. The peach harvest was winding down and was 85 percent complete by Sunday. The highbush blueberry harvest should be nearly complete by the end of this week. Cranberry growers completed the white cranberry harvest and began the harvest of early ripened berries. Some growers reported the lack of rain over the past couple of weeks hindered the harvest since there was not enough water in reserves to flood the beds.

VEGETABLES: Fall vegetable harvests continued this past week. Farm stands were busy this past weekend, selling pumpkins, squash, and fall decorations. The broccoli harvest in Maine was in full swing. The sweet corn harvest was 90 percent complete by the end of the week and was reported in good to fair condition. Growers were busy picking sweet corn, pumpkins, squash, potatoes, and a wide array of seasonal produce. The rainfall over the past week helped replenish irrigation reserves. When the weather permitted, farmers were busy cleaning up harvested fields and planting cover crops.

FIELD CROPS: The rain brought much needed moisture to pastures this past week, greening up the fields. Farmers in southern areas reported the rain was too late to benefit field corn, but northern areas reported the rain would help the corn mature and be ready for harvest this week. The silage harvest was 30 percent complete by week's end and the crop was reported in good condition. Today is the first "Picker's Special" for potato growers in Maine. The Massachusetts and Rhode Island potato harvests were 35 and 85 percent complete, respectively. Both states were ahead of last year and normal. Both shade and broadleaf tobacco harvests were complete in Massachusetts and nearly complete in Connecticut. The weather conditions during the middle of the week were conducive to putting up dry hay and harvesting the second and third cuttings of hay.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	2	14	0
Short	22	43	6
Adequate	75	42	86
Surplus	1	1	8
Subsoil			
Very Short	5	11	0
Short	20	36	3
Adequate	75	53	87
Surplus	0	0	10

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Size	Condition
	2007	2006	5-yr Avg		
Apples	30	40	35	Average/Above	Good
Peaches	85	95	90	Average	Good
Pears	30	55	40	Average	Good/Fair
Blueberries					
Highbush	99	100	99	Average	Good
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-	Average	Good/Excellent

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2007	2006	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Harvested --				
Barley, ME	55	95	85	Good
Oats, ME	65	85	70	Good
Potatoes				
Maine	<5	5	10	Good
Mass	35	25	40	Good
Rhode Island	85	70	70	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	30	10	15	Good
Sweet Corn	90	90	90	Good/Fair
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	95	99	99	Good
Shade	99	100	100	Good
Dry Hay				
Second Cut	95	95	95	Good/Fair
Third Cut	65	45	55	Good/Fair

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

For the Period: Monday September 10, 2007
To: Sunday September 16, 2007

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				CUM SINCE MAR 1 GROWING DEGREE DAYS				1-WEEK PRECIP			4-WEEK CUM PRECIP		
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS
MAINE														
Augusta State A	44	70	59	-2	2095	+158	880	+146	1.83	+1.13	5	2.50	-0.36	11
Bangor Intl Arp	38	70	58	-2	1918	+150	749	+135	0.91	+0.07	4	1.65	-1.54	9
Bethel	40	71	56	-4	1702	-44	602	+12	1.54	+0.77	4	2.52	-0.85	9
Caribou Municip	34	70	54	-1	1540	+142	502	+124	0.91	+0.07	6	2.28	-1.20	11
Dover-Foxcroft	36	70	54	-3	1480	-42	418	-34	0.77	-0.14	3	1.79	-1.76	9
Frenchville	35	68	53	-2	1380	+81	404	+81	1.04	+0.17	5	2.79	-0.82	11
Houlton	32	70	55	+1	1536	+75	515	+91	0.52	-0.32	4	3.21	-0.36	10
Livermore Falls	35	70	56	-1	1692	+199	617	+188	1.61	+0.77	5	3.55	-0.03	10
Moosehead	35	70	53	-2	1283	+20	324	+14	1.27	+0.42	5	5.18	+1.78	10
Portland_ME	40	71	58	-2	2053	+263	842	+211	1.86	+1.16	5	2.01	-0.75	8
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	40	72	56	-2	1659	+59	568	+93	3.46	+2.71	6	6.20	+2.88	11
Berlin AG	37	73	55	-2	1608	-1	542	+45	1.83	+1.06	4	2.55	-0.94	9
Concord	36	77	59	-1	2264	+322	1028	+297	2.30	+1.66	5	2.51	-0.26	7
Diamond Pond	36	70	51	-3	1115	+38	259	+54	2.36	+1.41	6	3.53	-0.67	12
Keene AP	36	73	60	+2	2173	+401	959	+362	2.12	+1.42	4	2.55	-0.60	7
North Conway	39	73	56	-3	1761	-40	639	+9	1.78	+1.00	5	2.78	-0.62	9
Rochester	40	76	58	-4	2100	+19	907	+73	2.25	+1.55	5	2.45	-0.54	6
VERMONT														
Burlington Intl	40	73	59	-2	2341	+272	1095	+266	1.34	+0.56	4	1.61	-1.81	8
Island Pond	37	72	55	+0	1523	+202	470	+145	2.45	+1.65	6	4.05	+0.30	12
Montpelier	37	72	57	+0	1919	+292	756	+251	1.84	+1.17	5	2.34	-0.74	9
Pownal	37	70	59	+1	1947	+247	765	+221	2.83	+1.92	5	3.90	+0.14	12
Rochester	36	75	57	+0	1755	+146	628	+133	2.75	+1.85	5	3.25	-0.64	7
Rutland AG	37	72	57	-5	1917	-229	755	-117	2.12	+1.28	5	3.45	-0.16	10
Springfield_VT	36	72	59	+0	2123	+361	925	+337	2.46	+1.62	5	2.75	-0.75	7
Sutton	34	69	54	-2	1572	+238	502	+165	1.85	+1.05	5	3.00	-0.70	11
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	50	76	64	-2	2770	+266	1413	+251	1.63	+0.93	4	1.67	-1.30	6
Fitchburg	40	76	61	+3	2577	+816	1260	+666	1.91	+1.21	5	2.21	-0.69	7
Greenfield	39	73	60	-4	2194	-137	927	-85	2.66	+1.86	5	3.09	-0.18	7
New Bedford	40	79	63	-4	2410	-125	1118	-72	1.54	+0.75	5	1.55	-2.00	6
Otis AFB	45	79	63	+0	2199	+139	958	+126	2.38	+1.61	4	2.49	-0.61	6
Plymouth	42	75	62	+0	2399	+282	1120	+245	2.91	+1.93	5	2.92	-0.95	6
Walpole	42	75	61	+0	2510	+378	1204	+336	1.69	+0.83	4	1.92	-1.67	5
Chicopee/Westov	37	75	60	-6	2430	-242	1150	-133	2.21	+1.37	5	2.44	-0.92	7
Worthington	36	71	57	-3	1884	+150	716	+151	2.08	+1.24	5	2.11	-1.44	6
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	48	80	66	+1	2829	+440	1443	+366	2.49	+1.65	4	2.50	-0.86	5
Woonsocket	41	75	63	+2	2510	+411	1185	+357	2.61	+1.70	4	2.66	-0.98	5
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	47	83	67	+0	2806	+231	1409	+170	1.70	+0.95	4	2.57	-0.30	6
Hartford/Bradle	43	85	65	+2	2869	+310	1485	+288	0.87	-0.04	4	1.15	-2.41	7
Norfolk	42	80	60	+2	2118	+384	899	+334	1.54	+0.56	4	2.12	-1.95	7
Thomaston Dam	42	80	63	+2	2471	+392	1150	+338	0.75	-0.19	4	1.33	-2.55	7
Willimantic	41	86	64	+2	2564	+442	1236	+390	2.13	+1.22	3	2.26	-1.34	5

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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Prepared by AWIS, Inc.

STATE WEATHER SUMMARY

For the week ending Sunday, September 16, 2007

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	L	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	30	75	55	-2	0.52	2.82
NH	23	77	56	-2	0.00	4.58
VT	31	75	56	-2	1.34	2.94
MA	31	82	61	-1	1.26	4.36
RI	41	80	64	+0	1.40	2.61
CT	38	89	64	+1	0.73	3.55

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:

Dairy farmers are busy chopping field corn for silage. Fields are dry so the harvest is progressing smoothly. We have not had a frost yet. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Nice rain on Tuesday and Friday night helped settle the dust. The rain was too late for most crops but pastures did show signs of greening up. Harvesting of all vegetables and apples and pears continued. Some dry hay put up later in the week, mostly second cutting. Great weather over the weekend for local fairs and the Big E. First frost of the season in outlying areas but none in the CT River Valley for Hartford County on Monday morning. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Silage Corn desperately needed the rain we received this week. Corn was curling. Rain came at just the right time for the apples. Sweet corn is still available. Producers busy chopping corn, harvesting 3rd cutting and vegetables. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Rain at last brought relief to crops with one and three quarters to three inches throughout the county. Corn from eight to 12+ inches in height. Ear size from six inches to 14 inches, filled in and mature or near mature. Apples are good, peaches are ending. Vegetables in various stages, butternut squash good, pumpkins matured. Pasture is very poor. Hay fields re-growing in anticipation of a third cutting. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** Storms brought rain to the two county areas this week ranging from one to two and a half inches in some areas. It is really too late to improve crop conditions at this point. The silage corn harvest was slowed down due to the rainy conditions mid-week, but picked up again later in the week. Vegetables continue to be harvested and are plentiful. The orchards are in full swing with pick-your-own and wholesale harvesting. The fruits are nice and sweet and beautiful. Mums and pumpkins are showing up in all the farm stands and markets. Cooler weather indicates that fall is in the air. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Corn silage harvest is about half complete. Several big farms are finished with some smaller farms with late planted fields not started yet.

MAINE - Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook: Today is the first Picker's Day Special. Broccoli harvest is continuing. It was cold last week, with frost showing up this morning. Rained all day Saturday. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis:** We had a wide spread light frost. Sweet corn harvest is about over. Pumpkins and winter squash harvest is in full swing. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Corn silage harvest has started. Some rains have produced some nice third cutting hay/haylage. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Approximately an inch of rain fell in this area earlier this week which was a welcome relief for farmers as conditions were very dry. Pumpkin and apple harvest are in full swing while the harvest of sweet corn is nearly complete. Farmers are extremely busy finishing up harvesting of most crops. Silage corn harvest is planned to start on Saturday of this week. Luckily this area has not been affected by frost yet and although a cool night is predicted for this evening we should not go below freezing. Warm temperatures and dry conditions are forecasted for the remainder of this week. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Androscoggin/Franklin:** Pick your own apple operations are in full swing. Grass is still very green in this area. There was a very large hay crop this year. **Laura Rand (FSA), Androscoggin:** Potatoes, pumpkins, squash, and corn are being harvested with a vengeance! Weather conditions remain dry even with rainfall on Saturday. Farm stands are an array of fall colors with pumpkins, squash, corn, and fall flowers being

displayed. The upcoming week should provide for great harvest weather.

MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: We wanted rain and got it, 5+ inches with two days of heavy rain and wind. Though it is too late for some tender crops it saved others. There was erosion noted with the storms on tilled fields. Temps moderated then went low with frost advisories and patchy frost in the elevations. There is a drop in farmers' market attendance with the end of the tourist season but local sales are good. Everybody should come down to the BIG E in Mass. thru Sept. 30! **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: White berry harvest finished up, early harvest began last week. Two days provided a much needed soaking, beneficial for the plants and for the water supplies. Some growers could not harvest beds last week because there wasn't enough water to flood. **Emily Tchorz (FSA), Bristol:** One day of heavy rains last week helped the water levels for producers with irrigation capability and brought much needed relief to our very dry county. The relief comes very late in the season, however all crops continue to suffer from the high heat and lack of rainfall throughout August and into September. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Franklin/Hampshire/Hampden:** It rained and all farmers loved it. Harvesting of all fall crops is in full swing.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap: We finally got some much needed rain. Fall crops are growing well. Pumpkins matured earlier than normal. Heavy crop of winter squash. Farmers are still harvesting later varieties of sweet corn and cutting corn stalks for fall decorations. Garden centers and farm stands are stocked with apples, cider, pumpkins, mums, corn stalks, Indian corn and winter squash (give it time for the flavor to develop!). **Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll:** Cooler, wetter conditions prevail. Pastures and hay fields recovering as well as can be expected. Sweet corn winding down and apples are in full swing. The last of the high bush blueberries should be in this week. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Some good soaking rain early in the week followed by bright sunny weather and cooler temperatures. The big push has begun for chopping field corn. A little bit of third cutting hay/baleage taken here and there. Some veggie crops starting to wind down, but farm stands and farmer markets still going strong. Apple harvest is going well, with great PYO weather over the weekend. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Cooler, wetter week with heavy downpours, inches of rainfall accumulated. Haying is still being done, but weather conditions hampering these activities. More field corn moving towards milk to soft dough stage, but slowly. Could use a couple more weeks of hot weather to yield a mature crop. Very good re-growth of hayland and pastures, also summer seedings. Hard freeze predicted for Sunday night. Garden stands and farm markets still busy with lots of sweet corn. Late season veggies available. Mums, pumpkins and corn stalks are in abundance for decoration market. Hillsides and low lying areas showing signs of fall colors. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Corn harvest is in the very early stages. Opening up fields, etc. Corn is maturing slowly but much is in the late dough, early dent stage. Later corn is still in the late milk stage. Fourth cut re-growth of alfalfa grass looks good to excellent. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** Last week was wet to start and wet at the end. The total rain fall for the week starting September 9th was almost two and a half inches. The weather in the middle of the week was great for field work. Corn was being chopped and there is still haylage going into the bunkers. The overall corn crop looks good. Ear development looks to be above average in general. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Apple harvest is in full swing with most growers concentrating on second picking McIntosh and

picking Cortland apples, also harvesting Gala and Honeycrisp apples. Fruit size is good. Fall raspberries and pear harvest continued with peach and plum harvest winding down. Vegetables: Harvesting a wide array of summer and fall vegetable crops. Farmers are starting to clean up harvested fields and planting cover crops. Pumpkin crop and winter squash yields vary from field to field. Field Crops: Farmers starting to chop corn silage during the week and hay cutting continued between rain showers with the second and third cuttings being made. Cover crops were being planted in harvested fields. **Dorothy Perkins (Ext), Merrimack:** We got our first light frost last night in the valleys. Silage harvest has started. Pumpkins are coming in out of the fields and mums are moving. I've seen many cordwood trucks delivering wood which means our summer is over. Overall growers are reporting good growing conditions this year. The apple harvest looks like its going to be as productive as the rest of the crops this year. The rain last week helped the pastures which were starting to suffer from lack of moisture. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Apple harvest continued along with fall raspberries, pumpkins, and a whole array of vegetables. Peach harvest is almost done. Rain on Monday and the soaking rain on Tuesday helped crop a lot. Amount of rain varied from area to area. Monitoring for pests. Cleaning some vegetable fields and planting cover crops. Hay and haylage being done. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** Rain showers were welcome relief after a few weeks of dry weather. Grass in pastures and hayfields is now growing again after weeks of stress due to dry weather. Peach harvesting is now winding down and fruit growers are now busy with apple harvest. Vegetable growers continued to harvest an array of vegetable crops, including sweet corn and pumpkins. Growers were also plowing in harvested fields of sweet corn and planting cover crops. Garden centers were busy selling fall mums. Greenhouse growers continued to monitor the progress of their poinsettia crop.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: Rain at the beginning of the week and at the end was welcomed for pasture condition, field corn, and sweet corn. Haying and potato harvest were stalled due to wet weather. Not much third cut hay being done, but lots of pumpkins and summer vegetables around.

VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille: The week came to an end with a soaking rain. Not only was the rain welcomed, but with cooler temps we should see an increase in third cut grass yields. Folks are getting geared up for corn silage harvest. There are some nice pumpkins this year that are just starting to be harvested. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** We encountered our first killing frost on the 16th. Most all areas were hit. Farmers have begun to cut corn in earnest. Crop looks to be very good. The ears are well formed and mature. The grain yield should be fairly good. Other than corn there is some third and fourth cut haying being harvested. Pastures are doing well considering the time of year. **Jeffrey Carter (Ext), Addison:** Continued harvest of corn silage. Dry matter content to 32% even though ears seem wet. Whole plant drydown pronounced this year after very dry soil conditions and extended lack of rain in August. Most hay harvest done. Some manure spread on hay fields. **Julie Jacque (FSA), Windham:** Much needed rain fell uniformly over the county late in the week. Vegetable farmers wrapping up with harvest of squashes and pumpkins. Apple crop seems to be doing well. Hay farmers report a 40 %loss on second cut production. Corn silage chopping going on and some farmers considering drying down corn for grain. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Received a couple of inches of rain this week, it was welcomed. Farmers continue with some haying and are beginning to chop corn for silage. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Finished haying for mulch hay. Still seeding winter rye as fields are picked. Early seeded fields showing a nice green cover. Started digging and bagging early potatoes. Rain for the week, 2.493 inches. A good rain first of week, just what was needed. Market full of good fall crops, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, cucumbers, and broccoli. Pumpkins, squash, gourds, and corn stalks beginning to fill the display of a fine harvest.

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