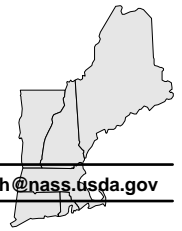




New England Agricultural Statistics



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Crop Weather

(Issued weekly on the Internet, May – October)

October 9, 2007 – 4 pm

For week ending 10/7/07

Excellent Harvest Conditions Continue

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending October 7, 2007, there were 6.5 days suitable for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture was rated 9% very short, 32% short, 58% adequate, and 1% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 7% very short, 30% short, 62% adequate, and 1% surplus. Pasture condition was rated 3% very poor, 21% poor, 37% fair, 36% good, and 3% excellent. The first part of the week began with average temperatures and cloudy skies and mid-week was unseasonably warm and dry. Record high temperatures (mid-80s) were broken or matched all over New England. The warm, dry weather was beneficial to field corn growth and putting up dry hay, but most areas were in need of rain. Rain fell on Saturday and Sunday, ranging from 0.01 inches to over 0.5 inches. The rain hindered field work and slowed down activity at farmers' markets and pick-your-own operations. After the rain fell, temperatures were once again seasonal, ranging from the low 60s to mid 70s for the highs and the mid 30s to low 60s for the lows. Most reporters stated more rainfall is needed before winter.

FRUIT: The warm, dry weather over the first part of last week helped advance the apple, pear, and raspberry harvests. Both apple and pear harvests were still behind last year and the five-year average at week's end. Apple producers reported that the warm weather ripened the fruit early and the dry weather caused a large amount of drops. However, the quantity and quality of the crop were very good overall. The Massachusetts cranberry harvest was well underway and 40 percent complete by Sunday. Cranberry producers need more rain to replenish water supplies for harvest.

VEGETABLES: The warm weather over the past week spurred growth on the last of the vegetable crops. Farmers were still harvesting tomatoes, cucumbers, squash, pumpkins, peppers, cabbage, kale, and Brussel sprouts. Sweet corn was 99 percent complete at week's end and was reported in good condition. Reporters stated most crops were once again showing signs of drought stress due to the lack of rain. Vegetable growers were busy disking, cleaning up harvested fields, and planting cover crops.

FIELD CROPS: By the end of the week, the field corn harvest was well ahead of last year and the five-year average and was 85 percent complete. Dry, warm conditions in the beginning of the week improved maturity on some of the later planted corn fields. However, hay fields and pastures were very dry and re-growth was slow. Both the second and third cut hay harvests were winding down by week's end and were reported in fair to good condition. The rain over the weekend once again provided good tobacco damp conditions and growers were busy taking down and bundling the crop. Maine potatoes advanced to 90 percent dug by week's end, with dry soils allowing harvest to proceed at a fast pace. (Correction to week ending September 30, 2007: Maine potatoes - 70 percent harvested). The potato harvests in Massachusetts and Rhode Island were also nearing completion and were 85 and 95 percent dug, respectively. Farmers were busy seeding cover crops and spreading cow manure on harvested fields.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	9	4	0
Short	32	23	1
Adequate	58	73	89
Surplus	1	0	10
Subsoil			
Very Short	7	3	0
Short	30	21	1
Adequate	62	76	87
Surplus	1	0	12

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Size	Condition
	2007	2006	5-yr Avg		
Apples	65	85	75	Average/Above	Good
Pears	90	95	80	Average	Good/Fair
Cranberries, MA	40	60	40	Average	Good/Excellent

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2007	2006	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Harvested --				
Oats, ME	100	100	95	Good
Potatoes				
Maine	90	80	80	Good/Excellent
Mass	85	70	75	Good
Rhode Island	95	95	95	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	85	65	70	Good/Excellent
Sweet Corn	99	99	99	Good
Dry Hay				
Second Cut	99	99	99	Good
Third Cut	85	80	85	Good/Fair

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

For the Period: Monday October 1, 2007
To: Sunday October 7, 2007

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
MAINE														
Augusta State_A	46	80	61	+9	2350	+288	964	+218	0.58	-0.19	3	3.91	+0.93	11
Bangor Intl_Arp	40	79	59	+7	2143	+266	815	+193	0.05	-0.68	1	1.69	-1.43	6
Bethel	38	80	57	+7	1899	+54	649	+53	0.25	-0.52	1	2.22	-0.86	7
Caribou Municip	35	76	55	+8	1692	+248	529	+151	0.00	-0.70	0	2.07	-0.99	9
Dover-Foxcroft	34	77	55	+7	1643	+54	442	-10	0.16	-0.68	2	0.93	-2.64	5
Frenchville	33	74	54	+8	1511	+170	423	+100	0.00	-0.77	0	1.99	-1.29	7
Houlton	33	78	56	+9	1712	+203	553	+129	0.00	-0.73	0	0.75	-2.42	6
Livermore Falls	33	81	56	+8	1864	+307	652	+223	0.40	-0.41	1	2.28	-0.98	8
Moosehead	32	79	54	+7	1428	+115	352	+42	0.24	-0.53	1	2.08	-1.21	8
Portland_ME	44	81	60	+8	2293	+383	913	+276	0.27	-0.50	1	3.42	+0.46	8
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	39	78	58	+8	1828	+143	604	+128	0.69	-0.01	1	4.64	+1.79	11
Berlin AG	35	78	56	+7	1769	+83	573	+76	0.30	-0.46	1	2.80	-0.18	6
Concord	40	85	63	+11	2542	+481	1135	+396	0.40	-0.28	1	3.30	+0.71	8
Diamond Pond	33	78	55	+10	1244	+130	276	+71	0.37	-0.47	1	4.07	+0.53	10
Keene AP	43	82	63	+13	2434	+562	1057	+455	0.07	-0.62	1	2.56	-0.10	7
North Conway	39	79	57	+8	1960	+64	691	+58	0.39	-0.45	1	2.63	-0.57	10
Rochester	40	83	60	+6	2345	+118	993	+141	0.30	-0.54	1	3.58	+0.50	7
VERMONT														
Burlington Intl	47	81	62	+11	2617	+427	1188	+347	1.20	+0.55	1	3.06	+0.19	8
Island Pond	40	76	57	+10	1691	+307	499	+174	0.61	-0.09	1	4.07	+1.14	10
Montpelier	40	80	60	+11	2148	+432	823	+311	0.65	+0.02	1	3.65	+1.09	9
Pownal	41	83	62	+12	2182	+378	840	+288	0.24	-0.58	1	3.49	+0.06	10
Rochester	40	82	61	+11	1980	+272	686	+182	0.42	-0.42	1	4.57	+1.15	9
Rutland AG	41	80	60	+7	2134	-162	813	-86	0.06	-0.64	1	3.10	+0.01	9
Springfield_VT	41	84	62	+12	2374	+512	1008	+412	0.68	-0.09	1	3.57	+0.41	9
Sutton	37	77	57	+10	1739	+350	531	+194	0.71	+0.01	1	5.17	+2.19	9
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	50	86	66	+8	3130	+392	1580	+359	0.00	-0.70	0	1.78	-1.02	5
Fitchburg	40	87	66	+16	2888	+1024	1398	+800	0.00	-0.70	0	1.95	-0.77	6
Greenfield	43	82	62	+7	2457	-60	1009	-38	0.10	-0.67	1	3.31	+0.20	9
New Bedford	37	84	66	+6	2709	-78	1249	-12	0.01	-0.70	1	1.65	-1.34	7
Otis_AFB	41	77	64	+9	2490	+246	1074	+210	0.00	-0.83	0	2.46	-0.76	5
Plymouth	41	83	65	+10	2713	+422	1261	+358	0.01	-0.90	1	3.15	-0.60	7
Walpole	40	87	64	+11	2814	+529	1337	+443	0.00	-0.84	0	1.72	-1.66	5
Chicopee/Westov	41	87	66	+9	2736	-163	1281	-60	0.05	-0.73	1	2.65	-0.57	7
Worthington	41	84	61	+9	2101	+249	783	+208	0.18	-0.62	1	2.30	-1.02	8
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	47	84	67	+10	3195	+589	1610	+482	0.00	-0.77	0	2.55	-0.62	5
Woonsocket	40	85	65	+12	2819	+570	1319	+473	0.00	-0.84	0	2.63	-0.83	5
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	55	81	69	+10	3166	+335	1566	+250	0.01	-0.68	1	1.93	-0.91	7
Hartford/Bradle	44	89	69	+13	3240	+483	1663	+425	0.02	-0.81	1	0.94	-2.51	6
Norfolk	44	80	63	+12	2379	+536	993	+420	0.05	-0.83	1	2.00	-1.72	6
Thomaston Dam	46	84	65	+11	2774	+530	1267	+425	0.01	-0.88	1	1.82	-1.83	7
Willimantic	41	85	67	+13	2889	+597	1382	+507	0.00	-0.91	0	2.43	-1.23	4

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, October 7, 2007

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	L	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	27	82	56	+7	0.00	0.64
NH	32	87	59	+9	0.00	0.85
VT	36	84	59	+10	0.02	1.23
MA	33	88	65	+10	0.00	0.53
RI	40	85	66	+10	0.00	0.00
CT	41	89	67	+11	0.00	0.08

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: The weather has been unseasonably hot and very dry. Field corn harvest is well ahead of usual. Pastures need water. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Another dry and very warm week with record setting new high temps. Many have finished chopping corn silage and silos are covered. Some dry hay baled with very low yields. Animals taken off pasture as there is nothing left to graze. Those that can find rye seed are applying cover crop. **Frank Himmelstein (Ext), New London:** Corn silage harvest is nearly complete in the county. With all fields very dry and little rain for a long time, the harvest moved at a record pace this year. Hay harvest is done for the year for most growers. With essentially no major precipitation for several months, grass re-growth has been slow. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Producers are finishing up silage corn harvest with reports running very good to excellent. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** It continues to be dry. Farmers are chopping corn, baling hay, picking apples, and selling fruits and vegetables at farmers markets. The season is winding down. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** This was another unusually warm and humid week in New Haven and Middlesex Counties. There is still some harvesting of vegetables but everything is showing signs of drought stress. Pumpkins are plentiful along with all the orchard fruits and mums. No sign of frost in the air; it's summer-like out here. **Joyce Meader (Ext), Windham:** No rain last week. Still some corn being chopped. Some will be picked instead. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Farm stands still filled with produce. No frost in most of the area. Still picking sweet corn, tomatoes, cucumbers, squash, pumpkins and other vegetables whose seasons should have ended weeks ago. No rain for months and sweet corn still filling kernels to the ends of the ears has growers pleasantly confused.

MAINE - Steve London, Southern Aroostook: Potato harvest is winding down with average yields and quality very good. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** We need long soaking rains before winter. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Dry weather and warm conditions helped corn silage harvest and improved maturity on some of the late season crops. Wet weather seems on the forecast and is much needed for wells and ponds. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** The harvest of all crops is nearly complete in this area. Ninety-five percent of winter squash and eighty percent of pumpkins have been harvested. Pumpkins will continue to be harvested through Halloween as long as the crop is available. Apple harvest will continue for another three weeks. Now that most crops are harvested the focus is spreading cow manure on crop fields. The area currently is dry, but rain is forecasted for most of this week. We still have not had a hard frost in this area. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** The weather over the weekend changed from summer to fall. Warm weather ripened the apples faster than growers would like. But the crop is of good size and quantity, if you were lucky enough not to get hit with hail. Overall it's been perfect weather for harvesting crops. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Androscoggin/Franklin:** Most crops have been harvested with relative ease during this extended summer period. Grain corn and soybeans are left to go. **Laura Rand (FSA), Penobscot:** Soil conditions are very dry. Weather has been fabulous, however rain is badly needed. Silage, potatoes, pumpkins, squash and fall crops are being harvested. Silage producers are reporting a good crop. Farm stands are an array of fall colors with pumpkins, squash, and asters all being displayed.

MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: Unseasonably warm weather until Saturday then up to 3/4 inch of rain with wind bringing in cooler weather but still humid. No hard frosts yet, still harvesting tomatoes. Most silage corn is cut. Foliage will peak in the coming week. Farmers' markets and farm stands got heavy traffic this holiday weekend. Pumpkin harvest is good but overall smaller in size. Isn't it astonishing how much folks will pay for a bunch of corn stalks or an armful of firewood? **Carolyn DeMoranville (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Harvest well underway - conditions remain dry. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Franklin/Hampshire/Hampden:** Excellent weather for harvesting fall crops. The rainy weekend caused a very good tobacco damp for growers to continue taking down tobacco. Harvesting apples, fall raspberries, peaches, potatoes, winter squash and pumpkins continues.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll: Still no significant frost. Vegetable crops continue to grow despite the late date. Sweet Corn, peppers and tomatoes still popular at the farm stand. Timely rainfall has encouraged pasture re-growth that may help extend the grazing season. Warm temps and blue skies made for a fantastic leaf-peeper weekend. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Abnormally warm weather for much of the week and dry conditions continue. Field corn chopping just about done. Poor re-growth on pastures and hayfields, but decent conditions for wilting haylage/baylage. Fall crops continue to come in. Apple harvesting going well. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Field corn harvest going full-speed with dry weather helping move things along very well. Looks like generally good quality corn silage as most at good stage of development. Manure spreading and field stacking to clean out pits in preparation for winter. Mums, corn stalks, pumpkins in good supply at farmstands. Quite cooperative fall this year has allowed for better than anticipated cropping. No freeze yet in the county other than some cold pockets. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Corn silage continued at a rapid pace. Yields so far have been good to excellent. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** Over the weekend we received variable amounts of rain. Nearly two inches in some locations and less than an half inch in others. Most field work is slowed down due to wet soil conditions. Some corn has not yet been harvested; however most of the river bottom land is done. Corn yields for 2007 were generally very good. Some farmers are still waiting to take a final cutting of haylage before the end of the season, depending on when we get a killing frost. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Pick-your-own apple and farm stand operations had a wonderful Saturday and Sunday. Apple harvest is in full swing with most growers concentrating on strip picking McIntosh apples and working on Cortland and Macoun. Fruit size is good, but bruising can be a problem and orchardists seeing quite a bite of apple drop because of drought. Peach and pear harvests were complete and fall raspberry harvest continues. Vegetables: Great weather and good demand for all vegetables continues. Harvesting a wide array of vegetables including: cabbage, kale, Brussel Sprouts, winter squash and pumpkins along with the tail end of warm season crops. Farmers kept busy disking, cleaning up and planting cover crops on harvested fields. Field Crops: Silage corn harvest is in full swing with the end in sight. The second and third cuttings of hay and haylage continue. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Apples, pears, fall raspberries, and grapes are being harvested as well as tomatoes, sweet corn, greens, winter squashes, and pumpkins. In some areas, dry fields received a good amount of rain Saturday evening into Columbus week-end. Traffic in apple orchards low because of rainy and cool weather.

Hay and haylage being done. Overall pastures look good. Cooler nights so far with no killing frost. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** A very warm week for this time of the year. It was dry most of the week but we had rain showers at the end of the week. Vegetable growers continued to harvest late planted sweet corn and other late vegetables including tomatoes, peppers, and cabbages. Growers also continued to harvest and sell pumpkins. Garden centers were busy selling mums and getting ready for Halloween. Greenhouse growers are monitoring the progress of poinsettia crop. The poinsettia crop is doing well.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: Chopping field corn and finishing up some haying. Third cut was minimum. Still harvesting sweet corn and summer vegetables. Cole crops look good, but only where irrigation is available. Rain would be a welcomed sight!! Winter squashes and pumpkins are being harvested. Cover crop on potato land and field work being done. Roadside stands are full and look great.

VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille: Ideal harvest conditions continued through the weekend. Corn silage harvest is ahead of normal and will be completed ahead of schedule barring an extended rainy spell. Still no general frost in sight so many veggies are still going strong. Corn crop yields have been reported as better than average. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS),**

Orleans: A lot of corn has been harvested in the past two weeks. Excellent weather has made the harvest much easier. I have seen very little wet areas in corn fields. The crop looks really good this year. A lot of growth and ears. The grain ratio should be pretty high. Other than corn, a little haying is still going on. Again the nice weather is allowing dry hay to still be harvested. The pastures are holding their own as well. **Jeffrey Carter (Ext), Addison:** Continued corn silage harvest. Some corn left in field for picking this year. Little harvest of haylage. Finally soaking rains to stop field work. **Julie Jacque (FSA), Windham:** Fair weather continues to allow for customers to be visiting farm stands and orchards. Corn chopping continuing. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** A very warm week, some rain at the end. Still no widespread killing frost. Corn silage harvest nearly done and some late haying continued. Farmers began emptying manure storages. Foliage just past peak, colors fair this year-too dry in the summer. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** All harvested fields seeded to winter rye with good germination and growth. Rain for the week 0.695 inches. Short on water but great weather for harvesting crops. Potatoes all dug, still picking good crop of sweet corn. No frost. So far it has been a great year for all garden crops to mature. Great crop of pumpkins and squash. It is the season to decorate for fall and there is a great selection of fall decorations in the market.

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