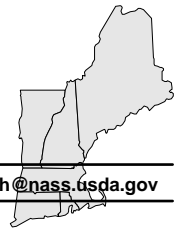




# New England Agricultural Statistics



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For week ending 10/14/07

## Harvest Nears Completion

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:** For the week ending October 14, 2007, there were 5.0 days suitable for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture was rated 4% very short, 22% short, 70% adequate, and 4% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 6% very short, 21% short, 71% adequate, and 2% surplus. Pasture condition was rated 3% very poor, 15% poor, 34% fair, 45% good, and 3% excellent. Last week began with average to above average high and low temperatures, varying widely from the 50s into the 80s. Much needed rain fell throughout the region Monday through Friday, totaling anywhere from 0.5 to 2.5 inches. However, the rain was localized and some areas remained dry at week's end. For areas that received rain, the much-needed moisture arrived too late to benefit crop growth, but did help replenish dwindling reservoirs. Weekend temperatures were average to below average, ranging in the upper 40s to upper 50s. The first major frosts of the season were experienced in the northern states, but southern states have not reported any killing frosts yet. The partly sunny skies and cooler temperatures provided great weekend weather, and farmer's markets and pick-your-own operations were busy.

**FRUIT:** The apple harvest was active between showers and was 80 percent complete at week's end. Although the crop is reported in good condition, growers reported experiencing some fruit bruising and an excessive amount of drops due to the previous stretch of dry weather. The Massachusetts cranberry harvest was in full swing, with 70 percent of the crop in, on target with last year and normal. The rain helped to replenish low water supplies, but growers reported needing a lot more rain to complete the harvest. The first frosts of the season helped to bring color to the berries.

**VEGETABLES:** The vegetable harvest continued over the past week as no major killing frosts hit the area. Farmer's markets provided cabbage, kale, Brussels sprouts, winter squash, tomatoes, garlic, and pumpkins. Decorative fall crops have also been very popular at farm stands. Sweet corn harvest was complete in most areas and should be 100 percent picked by the end of next week. Vegetable growers were busy removing plastic mulch and tomato stakes, planting cover crops on harvested fields, and putting away harvesting equipment.

**FIELD CROPS:** Field corn was 90 percent harvested at week's end, ahead of last year and normal. The wet conditions in the beginning of the week slowed the second and third cuttings of hay and did little to improve the crop conditions. The rain provided sufficiently damp conditions to take down and bundle tobacco. Potato harvests in Maine, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island neared completion by week's end. Yields were rated average to above average and all three crops remain in good to excellent condition. Farmers were busy seeding cover crops on harvested fields, spreading manure, and plowing and liming fields.

### SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
<b>Topsoil</b>			
Very Short	4	9	0
Short	22	32	5
Adequate	70	58	84
Surplus	4	1	11
<b>Subsoil</b>			
Very Short	6	7	0
Short	21	30	1
Adequate	71	62	87
Surplus	2	1	12

### FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Size	Condition
	2007	2006	5-yr Avg		
Apples	80	90	85	Average/Above	Good
Pears	90	99	90	Average	Good/Fair
Cranberries, MA	70	70	70	Average/Below	Good/Excellent

### FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

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

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

For the Period: Monday October 8, 2007  
To: Sunday October 14, 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
<b>MAINE</b>														
Augusta State A	40	60	52	+2	2369	+290	964	+218	2.65	+1.81	5	4.73	+1.61	11
Bangor Intl_Arp	40	62	51	+2	2160	+268	815	+193	2.51	+1.81	6	3.29	+0.31	8
Bethel	39	66	50	+2	1911	+54	649	+53	2.13	+1.29	6	2.81	-0.34	9
Caribou Municip	35	59	47	+3	1693	+245	529	+151	1.55	+0.87	3	2.71	-0.19	6
Dover-Foxcroft	34	59	49	+3	1646	+51	442	-10	1.45	+0.65	2	1.55	-1.91	3
Frenchville	32	57	45	+1	1511	+168	423	+100	0.95	+0.22	4	1.90	-1.24	6
Houlton	29	59	48	+3	1715	+201	553	+129	1.81	+1.11	5	2.04	-0.99	7
Livermore Falls	36	62	50	+5	1878	+314	652	+223	2.96	+2.12	4	3.63	+0.37	7
Moosehead	36	59	47	+3	1432	+115	352	+42	2.68	+1.94	5	3.49	+0.31	8
Portland_ME	37	64	53	+3	2318	+392	913	+276	4.17	+3.35	6	5.73	+2.65	9
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>														
Benton	29	60	49	+1	1837	+140	604	+128	1.93	+1.23	6	3.11	+0.31	11
Berlin AG	34	61	49	+3	1778	+83	573	+76	1.38	+0.61	5	2.35	-0.63	7
Concord	32	66	53	+4	2568	+491	1135	+396	1.81	+1.11	6	2.81	+0.16	9
Diamond Pond	31	61	45	+3	1244	+126	276	+71	1.63	+0.79	7	3.34	-0.09	11
Keene AP	30	68	54	+6	2472	+588	1057	+455	0.86	+0.16	5	1.30	-1.36	8
North Conway	37	62	50	+3	1969	+62	691	+58	1.69	+0.80	6	2.54	-0.77	11
Rochester	38	60	51	-1	2358	+107	993	+141	1.51	+0.60	5	2.84	-0.45	7
<b>VERMONT</b>														
Burlington Intl	32	66	52	+3	2642	+434	1188	+347	0.93	+0.30	6	2.65	-0.07	10
Island Pond	33	60	48	+3	1700	+309	499	+174	1.87	+1.17	6	3.49	+0.66	10
Montpelier	31	61	51	+4	2168	+440	823	+311	1.45	+0.82	6	3.26	+0.74	10
Pownal	33	68	52	+5	2212	+393	839	+287	1.82	+0.98	4	2.48	-0.88	9
Rochester	29	67	51	+3	2006	+285	686	+182	2.05	+1.21	7	3.87	+0.51	11
Rutland AG	29	65	51	+0	2160	-161	813	-87	1.54	+0.90	6	2.52	-0.37	10
Springfield_VT	32	68	53	+5	2404	+529	1008	+412	1.79	+1.02	6	2.90	-0.19	10
Sutton	29	61	48	+5	1750	+354	531	+194	0.78	+0.01	7	4.10	+1.15	11
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>														
Boston/Logan_In	44	65	57	+2	3182	+398	1581	+353	1.02	+0.32	6	1.17	-1.63	7
Fitchburg	34	66	54	+6	2923	+1045	1398	+800	1.36	+0.66	6	1.40	-1.32	7
Greenfield	32	72	55	+3	2505	-44	1014	-37	1.23	+0.46	5	1.58	-1.50	8
New Bedford	34	70	56	-2	2753	-85	1251	-17	0.75	-0.02	6	0.86	-2.11	8
Otis_AFB	41	66	55	+2	2531	+255	1075	+210	1.41	+0.57	6	1.49	-1.80	7
Plymouth	35	65	55	+2	2749	+427	1261	+358	0.97	+0.11	6	1.21	-2.42	8
Walpole	35	62	54	+3	2848	+538	1337	+443	1.11	+0.27	6	1.14	-2.22	7
Chicopee/Westov	29	75	57	+2	2790	-153	1291	-57	0.83	+0.06	6	1.27	-1.88	8
Worthington	33	72	53	+4	2136	+265	787	+212	2.01	+1.20	5	2.23	-1.06	8
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>														
Providence	38	75	59	+4	3258	+612	1620	+486	0.54	-0.26	5	0.60	-2.53	6
Woonsocket	35	67	55	+5	2860	+589	1319	+473	0.50	-0.41	6	0.52	-2.94	7
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>														
Bridgeport/Siko	42	89	63	+7	3260	+377	1602	+277	1.21	+0.55	4	1.44	-1.31	7
Hartford/Bradle	37	84	60	+7	3314	+523	1686	+444	1.24	+0.47	3	1.31	-2.00	5
Norfolk	37	75	54	+6	2416	+557	999	+426	2.26	+1.42	5	2.72	-0.86	7
Thomaston Dam	37	80	58	+7	2838	+563	1284	+438	2.13	+1.29	5	3.20	-0.35	8
Willimantic	33	83	58	+6	2954	+632	1400	+524	0.45	-0.46	4	0.75	-2.91	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, October 14, 2007

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	29	68	49	+2	0.95	4.17
NH	18	69	50	+3	0.50	2.99
VT	25	70	50	+3	0.78	2.73
MA	29	79	55	+3	0.62	2.01
RI	35	77	58	+4	0.50	0.57
CT	33	89	59	+7	0.23	3.44

**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:**

We got some much needed rain this week. Overall, it has been an excellent growing season. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** A few showers Thursday and Friday amounted to about one inch of rain. Corn silage harvest complete but for a few farms. Waiting for grain corn to dry down more. Apple harvest continues and pumpkins are in good supply at farm stands. A great fall weekend with cooler temps and a northerly breeze. Broadleaf tobacco farmers took advantage of the damp to take down tobacco for stripping. Tobacco buyers out at farms to look at crop. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Small amount of rain that fell last week was a welcomed event. No frost yet. Harvesting of hay and vegetables continues. Wells used for watering cattle in some areas are being monitored closely. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Dry weather continues with less than an inch of rain from four different showers. Corn chopping, spreading manure, and applying cover crops. Some apple varieties dropping a little. Picking apples continues and vegetables about done. Weekends have been good for retail. Very little frost, cooler nights, and days warmer than average. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** Fall weather arrived this week and brought with it some misty, damp weather. There was some measurable rain at the end of the week which helped ease the dry conditions, but we have a long way to go before we reach our normal levels of precipitation. Harvesting of fall crops continued. Pumpkin picking is bringing a lot of people out to the farms. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Rain comes finally - too little too late to help any crops. Some reservoirs came up noticeably though. Field crops have pretty well wrapped up. A few vegetable operations still picking sweet corn and a few other crops since frost hasn't put an end to the season.

**MAINE - Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** The majority of farmers are done harvesting crops in Aroostook County. Just a couple of the larger farms have a day or two left for harvest of crops. Harvest season went very well. Dry weather allowed for steady harvest. Minor issues with some bruising because of dry weather. No disease issues noted. Oats, barley and potatoes were average to above average for yields of these crops. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potato harvest has finished with average yields and excellent quality. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Finally received some much needed rain, so it slowed the end of the corn harvest. Cover crops being planted. Fall harvest continues. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Almost all crops, with the exception of apples, have been harvested in Knox and Lincoln Counties. The apple harvest should continue for another couple of weeks. Pumpkin and squash crops are still being transported to local markets. This area received almost 3 inches of rain on Friday. We continue to have beautiful fall days and have not had a frost yet. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** The area received three to four inches of rain on Friday, luckily all the silage harvesting had been completed. The warm weather this fall has supplied farmers' markets with more vegetables than normal this fall. It looks like frost will hit the area this week. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Androscoggin/Franklin:** Pick your own apple and pumpkin operations are still very busy. The large amount of rainfall received Friday was very welcome. Grain corn & soybeans remain to be harvested. **Laura Rand (FSA), Penobscot:** Warm days, warm nights persist. Rain on Friday provided some relief from dry conditions. Potatoes, squash, pumpkins, apples are all in the finishing

touches of being harvested.

**MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire:** A rainy week ending with a final shower and much wind as the incoming weather shifted to the northwest. Two to three inches of rain fell with daytime temps in the 50's, night temps in the high 30's to low 40's. No field work to speak of this week but most silage is already cut. Orchards are wrapping up their season and it is pumpkin time. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Harvesting continues with short crops the typical situation. Quality is average. Decent color, as there have been several frost nights. Some rain earlier last week helped, but much more is needed. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Franklin/Hampshire/Hampden:** It was a rainy week which made excellent tobacco damps for area farmers. Vegetable growers are still harvesting potatoes, parsnips, carrots, apples, and other fall crops.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE - Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll:** Cool wet conditions prevail. Still no significant frost, but it can't be far away. Fall foliage at peak over the weekend, beautiful fall days Saturday and Sunday. Leaf peepers out in full force. Pastures still growing slowly. Farm stands have plenty of pumpkins, winter squash, mums and corn stalks available. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Much cooler this week, and the first frost on Saturday morning. Silage corn and most of third cutting all done, a few farms may try to get a little bit of fourth cutting as haylage or baleage. Farm stands mostly selling fall crops. Ideal PYO apple weather. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Weather trending cooler and wetter with heavy winds at times. Corn silage harvest continues at a good pace with more than half probably chopped and packed into silos at this point. Apples also being marketed from orders. Honeycrisp variety now ready for picking. Good supply of pumpkins, corn stalks and mums available locally. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Corn silage harvest continues and nears completion. Yields vary but in general are good to very good. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** Last week brought us a considerable amount of rain. The warm weather appears to be at an end. Topsoils are fully replenished and in some areas saturated to the point of being inoperable. Rainfall levels were variable around the county, with some areas reporting as little as two inches and some over four inches. Some farmers are still waiting to put up some late cut rowen, if the weather allows. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Pear harvest is done. Apple harvest is in full swing with the end in sight. Harvesting Red Delicious, Rome and other late maturing apples varieties. Only the final picking of Golden Delicious and Fuji remains. Cleaning up drops and putting away orchard equipment. Farm stands and pick-your-own apple operations had a beautiful weekend! Vegetables: Farmers kept busy working on pulling plastic mulch and tomato stakes, planting cover crops, and putting away equipment. Good demand for all vegetables continues where we still have not had a major county wide frost. Growers are harvesting wide array of vegetables including: cabbage, kale, Brussel sprouts, winter squash and pumpkins along with the tail end of warm season crops. Field Crops: Silage corn chopping continues with the end in sight and seeding cover crops on harvested fields. Some manure spreading and incorporating in soil is taking place. **Dorothy Perkins (Ext), Merrimack:** The growing season is winding down and the valley got a light frost last night. Almost all of the corn silage is harvested and hay is all put up. Pasture plant growth is very slow now but there are still suitable grasses for livestock to eat. It's a good time to soil test those pastures and get your lime requirements down so the pH can adjust over the winter. Field cleanup and cover cropping should

be considered right now also. Building organic matter and lowering disease levels for next year's crops. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Harvesting apples, fall raspberries, pumpkins, tomatoes, greenhouse tomatoes, winter squashes, garlic, leafy greens. PYO apples almost done. Cleaning vegetable fields. Plowing and liming fields and spreading manure. Haying and haylage being done and chopping corn continues. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** We had rain showers throughout the week. Field corn producers were busy cutting the corn for silage and spreading manure. Fruit growers busy harvesting apples. Vegetable growers harvesting late sweet corn and late cool climate vegetables such as broccoli, kale and other greens. Farm stands were busy with pumpkins and fall mums. Greenhouse growers monitoring the season progress of poinsettias.

**RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport:** Some rain mid-week helped pastures and some digging of nursery stock. Cool nights have helped with moisture and still could use more rain. Getting in the last of some sweet corn and harvesting cole crops and winter squash. Pumpkin harvest is lighter than normal, but apples and pears look pretty good. Stands busy and stocked with great local harvest.

**VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille:** Weather patterns have returned to normal October patterns.

Very light frost in many locations last Saturday morning, but not hard enough to kill most growing plants. Corn silage harvest is winding down and the soybeans planted in this area are about ready for harvest. Excellent yield this year for soybeans. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** The cropping season is winding down here. Almost all of the corn has been harvested. A little fourth cut hay will still be cut. Landowners are getting their manure pits empty before the State spreading ban goes into effect. All in all, I think it has been a very good crop year. Most farms will be going into winter with plenty of high quality feed. It has also been a good pasture year here. Adequate rain but not flooding conditions. Pastures still remain decent since we have not had a killing frost in most places. **Julie Jacque (FSA), Windham:** Cool wet weather moved in for the week. Weekends were still good for fall customers to keep crops moving. Kale, cabbage and other cool crops looking good for harvesting. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Finally a week with above average rainfall. Killing frost in many locations. Corn silage harvest nearly done, haying too. Farmers emptying manure storages. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** 95% of all harvested fields seeded to winter rye with good germination. Early seeded fields with good green growth for a nice winter cover crop. A remarkable fall, no frost yet, broke all our records for number of days picking sweet corn. Potatoes, pumpkins and squash all harvested, stored and ready for sales. Started squash sales yesterday. Garden markets full of fall decorations and late fall produce. Time to decorate for Halloween.

#### September 2007 Crop Weather Summary:

Temperatures at the beginning of September varied widely, ranging from the upper 60's to low 90's. Skies were partly cloudy throughout the first part of the month, but much needed rain fell in the northern states on September 8 and 9. Southern states received very little to no rain, leaving most areas very dry and crops showing signs of drought stress. Cooler temperatures arrived mid-month and several areas across New England were hit with the first frost of the season. Heavy rain fell on September 11 and 12, ranging from 0.5 inches to over five inches in some areas. The moisture was beneficial to replenish parched soils and accelerate pasture regrowth, but for many areas, the rain arrived too late to benefit drought-stressed crops. The end of the month saw average temperatures, with highs in the upper 70's and lows in the 50's. Some areas experienced record high temperatures on September 24 and 25. Scattered thundershowers on September 27 and 28 brought much needed moisture to the area, but also caused hail damage in northern states.

Lack of adequate rainfall in September hindered field corn development and pasture regrowth. Rainfall at most locations was one- to four-inches below normal. However, the beautiful fall weather kept farm stands and pick-your-own operations busy throughout the month. Farmers took advantage of the dry weather to harvest crops and complete field work. Field corn was 60% percent picked, ahead of last year and normal due to the dry conditions during the month. The potato harvests in Maine, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island had outpaced last year and normal at month's end and condition ratings were all good to excellent. The oat and barley harvests in Maine had neared completion at the end of the month, on target with last year and normal. Dry weather throughout September provided good curing conditions for tobacco crops. Rain at the end of the month offered the first tobacco damp of the season and growers began bundling their crops for sale. Second cut of dry hay was 99 percent complete by the end of September, slightly ahead of last year and normal. Third cut was 80 percent complete by the end of the month. Hay yields were expected to be lower than normal due to the lack of rain. The peach harvest was complete the last week of September. Sweet corn harvest had drawn to a close by month's end; the crop was reported in good to excellent condition throughout the growing season. Apples and pears were at 55 percent and 60 percent harvested, respectively. Dry weather forced many orchardists to irrigate and several growers reported a higher incidence of drops. The cranberry harvest in Massachusetts was underway mid-month and in full swing by the end of September. Fruit size was off on early harvested berries due to lack of rain in August and early September. Overall cranberry condition ranged from good to excellent at month's end, with cool nighttime temperatures enhancing berry color.

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