

Crop Weather



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For week ending 9/7/08

Warm and Sunny Week, Rainy Weekend

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending September 7, 2008, there were 6.3 days available for field work across New England. Pasture condition was rated 6% poor, 24% fair, 66% good and 4% excellent. The week began with partly cloudy skies and average to above average high temperatures ranging from the mid-70s to mid-80s. Nighttime lows were below average to average in the upper 40s in the North to low 60s in the South. Thursday and Friday were hot and humid with high temperatures reaching into the low 90s in some areas. Nighttime lows were also above average in the 60s. Tropical storm Hanna moved into New England overnight on Friday bringing a significant amount of rain to the area. Rainfall through Sunday morning totaled anywhere from 1.0 to 7.0 inches causing small streams spill over their banks. Wind gusts were minimal and no significant flooding occurred. Many farmers welcomed the rain as crops were in need of relief from the previous two weeks dry weather.

FRUIT: The apple harvest continued throughout New England last week with Cortland, McIntosh, Marshall, Ginger Gold, Honeycrisp and Gala varieties available at roadside stands and farmers markets. Recent sunny weather helped to size the apples up during the past few weeks. The peach and pear harvests continued last week with both crops ahead of last year and normal and reported in good to fair condition. Massachusetts cranberries continued to grow in size and ripen last week, however fruit rot is on the increase. The highbush blueberry harvest is almost done for the season in some areas. Maine's wild blueberry harvest was nearly complete last week with berries reported to be average in size and in good condition.

VEGETABLES: Sweet corn continued to be a common crop at roadside stands and farmer's markets. This year's harvest was on par with last year and ahead of normal at the end of the week. Heavy rains and minor winds caused some sweet corn blow down. Some vegetable operations started to clean up their fields last week, but vegetables could still be found at stands. Beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, cucumbers, greens, peppers, radishes, tomatoes, summer squash, zucchini, and other vegetables were still being harvested last week. Winter squash and pumpkins were also being harvested last week.

FIELD CROPS: Weather during the first part of the week allowed farmers to continue harvesting their field crops. Shade tobacco harvest was nearly complete at week's end and some farmers were busy mowing stalks. Broadleaf tobacco was also near completion at the end of the week and rated in fair to good condition. Dry hay harvest continued throughout the region. Some areas were able to clean up the last of the first cut, however some fields remain standing. Field corn benefited from the rain this weekend, but the crop still varies in developmental stage. Some areas began chopping corn for silage last week, while others still have to wait. Potatoes continued to be harvested in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Maine's potato harvest is slowly progressing. Maine oat and barley harvests made significant progress last week.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
Percent			
Topsoil Moisture			
Very Short	1	1	14
Short	8	14	43
Adequate	72	82	42
Surplus	19	3	1
Subsoil Moisture			
Very Short	1	1	11
Short	7	11	36
Adequate	76	84	53
Surplus	16	4	0

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Size	Condition
	2008	2007	5 -yr Avg		
Apples	20	20	20	Average	Good/Fair
Peaches	90	75	80	Average	Good/Fair
Pears	30	15	20	Average	Good/Fair
Blueberries					
Highbush	90	95	95	Average/Above	Good/Excellent
Wild, ME	99	100	100	Average	Good
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-	Average/Above	Good

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2008	2007	5-yr Avg	Condition
Barley, ME	75	30	65	Fair/ Good
Oats, ME	50	50	50	Good/Fair
Potatoes				
Maine	5	<5	5	Fair/Good
Mass	35	20	30	Good
Rhode Island	70	70	60	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	<5	15	5	Good
Sweet Corn	85	85	80	Good
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	95	90	90	Fair/Good
Shade	95	95	95	Good/Fair
Dry Hay				
First Cut	99	100	99	Fair
Second Cut	85	90	90	Good/Fair
Third Cut	35	55	40	Good/Excellent

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics
Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday September 1, 2008
To: Sunday September 7, 2008

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				CUM SINCE MAR 1 GROWING DEGREE DAYS				1-WEEK PRECIP			4-WEEK CUM PRECIP		
	-----				BASE-50F		BASE-60F		TOTAL	DFN DAYS		TOTAL	DFN DAYS	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	INCHES			INCHES		
MAINE														
Augusta_State_A	55	87	69	+7	2006	+150	835	+120	3.38	+2.68	1	4.58	+1.64	12
Bangor_Intl_Arp	50	85	68	+8	1895	+200	758	+158	2.69	+1.89	1	3.64	+0.53	7
Bethel	51	81	67	+7	1681	+4	597	+19	2.24	+1.42	1	3.18	-0.35	7
Caribou_Municip	42	79	63	+6	1503	+145	500	+125	0.06	-0.78	1	0.91	-2.65	9
Dover-Foxcroft	46	83	64	+6	1581	+113	540	+95	1.26	+0.35	1	1.72	-1.75	9
Frenchville	42	75	62	+6	1357	+96	410	+89	0.06	-0.85	1	2.60	-1.12	11
Houlton	40	79	63	+6	1466	+47	484	+64	0.74	-0.17	1	1.22	-2.47	8
Livermore_Falls	48	87	67	+9	1751	+308	659	+236	2.73	+1.85	1	4.13	+0.43	9
Moosehead	47	78	62	+6	1286	+65	366	+59	0.90	+0.04	1	1.57	-1.81	9
Portland_ME	53	88	69	+7	1959	+248	808	+191	5.52	+4.82	2	6.79	+4.11	7
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	49	81	66	+7	1599	+57	515	+48	1.14	+0.34	1	2.81	-0.69	7
Berlin_AG	47	81	65	+7	1641	+88	535	+46	1.19	+0.35	1	2.32	-1.42	8
Concord	48	89	70	+9	2114	+251	928	+213	5.20	+4.50	2	6.51	+3.60	11
Diamond_Pond	47	79	63	+8	1167	+122	270	+65	0.20	-0.83	2	1.82	-2.65	8
Keene_AP	45	88	69	+9	2023	+320	863	+277	3.10	+2.35	2	4.75	+1.36	8
North_Conway	53	84	67	+7	1770	+35	628	+9	2.50	+1.66	1	3.63	+0.09	8
Rochester	51	89	70	+7	2152	+160	960	+147	5.05	+4.29	2	6.62	+3.49	7
VERMONT														
Burlington_Intl	52	89	71	+9	2199	+209	970	+159	0.04	-0.80	1	1.14	-2.45	6
Island_Pond	44	83	66	+9	1533	+258	504	+187	0.06	-0.83	1	2.12	-1.99	9
Montpelier	50	85	68	+9	1813	+246	679	+184	0.21	-0.53	3	2.37	-0.98	14
Pownal	49	86	69	+9	2031	+399	845	+313	2.84	+1.93	3	5.28	+1.44	14
Rochester	47	88	67	+8	1676	+131	589	+106	0.47	-0.48	1	2.39	-1.67	9
Rutland_AG	47	87	68	+5	1791	-266	663	-186	1.05	+0.14	1	3.01	-0.75	5
Springfield_VT	48	86	70	+9	2003	+309	823	+247	2.46	+1.61	2	5.26	+1.68	13
Sutton	47	80	66	+9	1508	+218	471	+141	0.06	-0.83	2	1.46	-2.59	9
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	61	89	74	+7	2551	+174	1310	+194	2.20	+1.45	2	4.06	+1.06	8
Fitchburg	56	89	73	+10	2418	+726	1168	+585	3.86	+3.16	2	6.79	+3.80	10
Greenfield	47	85	69	+4	2075	-150	849	-132	3.72	+2.88	3	4.29	+0.98	9
New_Bedford	53	83	71	+2	2246	-155	1083	-55	2.16	+1.30	2	7.74	+3.98	10
Otis_AFB	57	81	71	+6	2108	+153	990	+186	1.35	+0.58	2	4.50	+1.40	10
Plymouth	56	86	71	+7	2279	+265	1115	+267	4.01	+3.03	2	5.44	+1.65	9
Walpole	54	85	71	+7	2343	+305	1132	+287	3.49	+2.58	3	6.74	+3.10	11
Chicopee/Westov	48	88	71	+4	2307	-239	1069	-168	5.24	+4.40	3	7.18	+3.90	10
Worthington	49	83	68	+7	1792	+132	658	+107	4.34	+3.44	3	6.27	+2.62	9
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	56	87	74	+8	2664	+396	1378	+342	4.07	+3.23	2	4.68	+1.32	8
Woonsocket	54	87	71	+7	2336	+330	1114	+307	3.25	+2.34	2	5.98	+2.34	10
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	62	86	76	+7	2754	+314	1465	+280	2.99	+2.28	3	4.02	+1.18	8
Hartford/Bradle	52	89	74	+8	2647	+203	1350	+189	5.26	+4.35	3	7.36	+3.88	9
Norfolk	51	82	68	+8	1947	+284	794	+241	4.55	+3.55	3	9.03	+4.88	10
Thomaston_Dam	52	87	72	+8	2325	+341	1087	+301	5.05	+4.07	3	7.19	+3.27	10
Willimantic	49	87	72	+8	2423	+399	1154	+335	3.88	+2.97	2	5.37	+1.80	10

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 7, 2008

STATE	AIR TEMPERATURES				PRECIPITATION	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	40	89	66	+6	0.00	6.71
NH	39	90	67	+8	0.20	5.37
VT	44	89	68	+8	0.00	2.84
MA	45	89	70	+7	0.09	5.24
RI	54	87	72	+7	1.77	4.07
CT	49	89	72	+7	2.76	5.26

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

CONNECTICUT - Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland: Shade tobacco is nearly completely harvested and mowing stalks was noticeable last week. Some corn silage was chopped as some farmers were "opening up" fields. For some weather damaged fields crops like peppers, tomatoes and vine crops were getting final picking. Tropical storm Hanna dropped between five and six inches in the area however wind was not much of an issue for power outages and such. Small streams did over top their bank and have since receded. All fields are very wet. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Saturday's heavy rainstorm has caused puddling in some fields. Vegetables continue to be plentiful, but there have been reports of smaller sized tomatoes. Sweet corn continues to be excellent, and orchards are reporting good to excellent crops of apples, peaches, and pears. Corn chopping is just getting underway, which is about 10 days later than normal. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Started picking Cortland apples, winter squash, sugar pumpkins; the week started with good weather, haying, chopping grass; Saturday and Sunday brought remnants of Hannah with heavy rain and wind, early on Saturday, rain softened the ground and prepared fields for the four inches that came overnight into Sunday. Crops did pretty well, some blow down in sweet corn and field corn but not significant damage, string beans whipped around by gusts, some runoff of farm roadways; but fortunately it was not too harsh for maturing crops. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** The weather was nice and unusually warm for most of the week. Tropical Storm Hanna brought heavy rains and wind into both New Haven and Middlesex County at the end of the week. Rainfall measured anywhere from three to six inches. The affects are not known at this point in time. Vegetable crops were already suffering from too much rain and fairly widespread disease due to wet conditions. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Hannah was more rain than wind thankfully. Field corn has just dented...still a lot of drying needed; meaning corn harvest is still a week or more away.

MAINE - Pam Hickey (Ext), Aroostook: Fungicide applications. Early chip stock harvested; oats and barley still being harvested. Canola starting to be harvested; broccoli continuing to be harvested. Crops still looking good. **Steve London, Aroostook:** There are green peach aphids showing up. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Tropical storm Hanna dumped four to seven inches of rain Saturday night. Soils are now saturated on many fields. Apples are looking good; the recent sunny weather has helped with the apples sizing up. Silage is looking good for the most part. Hopefully, fields will not be too wet to harvest. **Maria Granger (FSA), Kennebec:** While good weather has been in our area for a couple of weeks now, there are farmers still trying to get first cut hay in and there are numerous reports of reduced quality. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Approximately three inches of rain fell late Saturday evening into early Sunday morning. Although this hindered field activities for Sunday, overall this rainfall will not hurt crops or field work in this area as this rain was needed. Pumpkins are now available at local farm stands and the harvest of winter squash is underway as well. The apple harvest is just really getting underway with some early McIntosh varieties now being harvested. Good weather is forecasted for most of the upcoming week. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Good weather last week and more hay and haylage were harvested. Lots of rain on Saturday night will slow down field activities for this coming week.

MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: We had a sunny, breezy week ending with five plus inches of rain Friday night and Saturday from Hurricane Hanna. More field work was done with hay made and corn cut. Cover crops are seeded and emerging. Apples are a bumper crop, peaches and pears are good. More reports of low quantity and poor quality hay from this season's early and constant rain. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** The weather for the week was dry and sunny, until Saturday night to Sunday morning in which five inches

of rain fell. Growers are harvesting broccoli, cabbage, collards, winter squash, potatoes, tomatoes, apples, pears and pumpkins. **Janice Barnes, Franklin:** Six days of suitable field work with heavy rain on Saturday. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Harvesting will begin on a limited basis this week. Berries continue to size and color. The most rainfall from Hanna occurred in the northern part of the industry - only one half inch in most of the acreage. Fruit rot is on the increase. Most growers seem happy with their crops at this point.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap: Harvesting early apples. Sweet corn, tomatoes, peppers and many summer vegetables are being picked. Some are working on the second hay cutting, others barely got the first one in. Fall mum sales have started. **Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll:** Hot, sunny and dry most of the week. The remains of Hurricane Hanna roared through on Saturday night and brought four inches of rain to Southern Carroll County. Rain was needed, as pastures and hay fields were showing drought stress. Apples and mums are current favorites at the Farm Stand. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Mostly warm and sunny during the week, with heavy rains on Saturday but not a lot of flooding. Some fields have been on the dry side, but there are still plenty of muddy spots on heavier soils. Field corn looking good. Third cutting alfalfa & grass haylage all done. Some vegetable operations starting to clean up fields, though there are still plenty of veggies to be found. Apple harvest progressing well, blueberries almost done for the season. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Another good week of sunny, somewhat windy weather. Lots of hay being mowed, tedded and baled. Field corn also growing well, generally milk-sage but variable depending on planting time, varieties some showing beginning of dent. Farm stands and markets doing brisk business, good quantities of sweet corn available. Late season pests; fall webworms fairly common. Seeing signs of nitrogen deficiency in a few crops, corn, pumpkins, possibly weather cost cutting effects. Weather turns cooler, wetter late in the week with soaking rain Saturday in what had been looking like powdery dry top soil. Color in the hills beginning, mums and pumpkins for sale starting to look like autumn. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending September 6th, we had 6 days of good weather. Producers who could get out and put up hay did. Some fields or parts of fields remain too wet. The well drained river bottom fields are looking good. Some of the less well drained upland fields still have access problems. Rutting and excess moisture at the surface have hampered hay making activities on these soils. The sun and decent weather provided a needed boost. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Dry week until the deluge of rain occurred on Saturday, September 6. Vegetables: Irrigating crops beginning of the week. 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 cleaning up harvested fields and planting cover crops. Diseases have killed some 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, plums/prunes and fall raspberries. Irrigating, weeding and fertilizing strawberry beds. 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 where the silage corn looking outstanding. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Harvesting fall raspberries, late blueberries varieties, apples, peaches, plums, sweet corn, tomatoes, whole array of vegetables. Irrigating and monitoring pests. Soils are dry and the rain on Saturday evening until very early Sunday helped (even though it came heavy as downpour). Pasture looks tired. Haying being done and corn silage harvest started soon. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** It has been very dry for the last few weeks, but we had some soaking rains on Saturday. It was a great week for haying. Vegetable growers were

irrigating their crops due to the dry weather and therefore the Saturday rains were a good relieve for growers. Growers continued to harvest an array of vegetable crops, and both farm stands and farmers markets were full with all kinds of vegetables. Fruit growers were harvesting apples and late peach varieties. Blue berry harvesting was winding down and growers were harvesting just few of late varieties. Garden centers were selling mums, pumpkins and other fall crops including corn stalks for fall decoration. Those that are growing poinsettia were monitoring the seasonal progress of the crop.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: Potato harvest coming along well, busy getting in second cut before rain hits on the weekend, sweet corn, tomatoes, cukes and all summer vegetables doing great. Field corn benefited from the rains this weekend. Most didn't have any winds to speak of. Markets doing well, getting ready for the autumn displays.

VERMONT - Jeffrey Carter (Ext), Addison: Harvesting hay resumed this week. Finish first cut after so much rain. Spreading manure on hay fields after harvest. Corn crop getting ready to harvest. Still yields very low. New seeded hay field's initial harvest, very weedy and not very good stands this year. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Another excellent growing week. Dry until showers on Saturday. Many farmers have completed their second cut of hay, large yields. Corn is coming along, no frost yet. A hint of colors in the higher elevations. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Who would have thought that we would be asking for a little rain. Pastures and ledges are actually showing some brown spots

because of needing some moisture. Not going to be a problem being so late in the summer season. Heard some results of feed samples for third cut and are very good on protein levels. The sunny weather gave a little protein boost on the last cutting of third cut harvest. Corn is still finishing off very nicely and would repeat from last week that holding off on harvest would pay big dividends. Potatoes are still the topic in the garden world and harvest reports are still very good. Apples are still a little slow to start; however, the fall air will soon move in and get the pick your own orchards moving along. **John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille:** This area of the state received a very small amount of rain over the weekend so conditions remain quite dry. Many are slightly delaying corn silage harvest to gain some ear maturity. Several large farms have finished 3rd cut while everyone else was finishing up second cut last week. Pastures could use some rain which is not likely this week. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Continued good weather this week has allowed farmers to catch up on hay harvest. Most have now completed second crop. The fields are drying out as well. Corn is in the milk stage to early dent. I haven't seen any harvesting yet but expect it will begin soon. The corn crop varies quite a bit this year in quantity. Corn on the lighter soils has done much better than on the heavier wetter soils. Pastures are not bad for the time of year but the grass re-growth has slowed significantly. **Julie Jacque (FSA), Windham:** Another good week to get caught up on harvesting, especially in anticipation of the weekend rain predicted to come in from Hurricane Hanna. Hay, pumpkins, kale, pears, apples, peaches, eggplant, tomatoes, peppers, cabbage are all being harvested. Sales seem to be good.

August 2008 CROP WEATHER SUMMARY: The first half of August was marked by daily rain showers and cool temperatures while sunny skies, warm temperatures and minimal rain dominated the second half of the month. August began wet with high temperatures below average to average in the 70s and average nighttime lows in the mid-50s to mid-60s. Severe thunderstorms on August 7 and 8 produced dime-size hail, damaging fruit, vegetable, and tobacco crops. Total precipitation for the week ranged from 0.58 to 4.38 inches. Rain continued into the second week of August, adding 0.03 to 5.00 inches of precipitation to the monthly total. Some areas experienced severe weather on August 16 with up to five inches of rainfall in a two hour time period. Damage to corn and apple crops from these storms was reported. Abundant rain severely limited harvesting as many fields were too wet to bring in equipment and many crops showed signs of damage and disease pressure due to excessive moisture. Skies cleared up across New England during the third week of August. High temperatures were average for the week in the mid-70s to low 80s across New England with average overnight lows in the low 50s to low 60s. Partly cloudy skies dominated the weather pattern for the rest of the month providing excellent weather for making hay and harvesting other crops. August ended with light rain showers on Saturday and partly cloudy skies and wind on Sunday. Total rainfall for August ranged from 3.15 to 4.92 inches throughout New England. Highbush blueberry harvest was 90 percent harvested at month's end, on schedule with last year but behind normal. The crop was rated in good to excellent condition. Maine wild blueberry harvest was 95 percent harvested by the end of the month, on par with last year and normal. Berries were rated in good condition. Peaches were rated in good to fair condition with 90 percent of the crop harvested at the end of August, ahead of last year and normal. Pear harvest began mid-August and was 25 percent harvested by month's end, ahead of last year and normal. At month's end, Massachusetts cranberries were reported in good condition with average to above average sized berries. Maine potato growers were gearing up for harvest at the end of August and vine desiccation was underway. The crop was rated in fair to good condition and farmers were active spraying to control late blight. Massachusetts potatoes were 30 percent harvested at month's end, ahead of last year and normal. Rhode Island potatoes remained in good to excellent condition and were 45 percent harvested by the end of August, behind last year but on par with normal. Maine barley was 35 percent harvested at month's end and rated in fair to good condition. Maine oats were 15 percent harvested and rated in good to fair condition at the end of August. Sweet corn harvest was 80 percent harvested by month's end, ahead of last year and normal. The crop was rated in good to excellent condition. Field corn harvest was just getting underway at the end of the month and was rated in good to excellent condition. Broadleaf and Shade tobacco harvests were 90 percent harvested at month's end. Broadleaf tobacco was rated in fair to good condition due to early crop damage from hail while Shade tobacco was rated in good to fair condition. The first cut of grass for dry hay was 95 percent complete at the end of August, behind last year and normal and rated in fair condition. The second cut was 80 percent harvested, behind last year and normal and rated in good condition. The third cut harvest began by mid-August and was 30 percent harvested by month's end, behind last year but on par with normal and rated in good to excellent condition.

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