

**State of Maine  
Drought Task Force  
Report on Current Hydrologic Conditions  
September 8, 2022**

*Drought conditions have gradually eased across southern and central portions of the state during August 2022. This report serves to inform Drought Task Force members and the public of current drought conditions, reservoir levels, precipitation, temperature forecasts, and the online resources used to monitor these conditions.*

### **Overview**

- The [U.S. Drought Monitor](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/) reports that 39.5% of the state is Abnormally Dry (12 of 16 counties), 5.73% is in Moderate Drought (10 of 16 counties), and 3.42% is in Severe Drought (7 of 16 counties) by area. Conditions are not expected to improve in the short term.
- An estimated 28% of Maine's population resides in abnormally dry or drought-stricken regions.
- The majority of streamflows in Maine are in the normal range, or even above normal.
- Groundwater monitoring wells in areas experiencing the worst drought conditions vary from normal along the I-295 corridor to below normal just west of the I-95 corridor.
- After 8 September, an area of high pressure will move over the state, bringing dry conditions and warmer than average temperatures through early next week.
- 87 privately owned wells have run dry during this year, primarily in southern and central Maine
- Drought has increased farm operating costs, particularly for labor and diesel fuel.
- Drought-related mitigation projects may be eligible for FEMA mitigation funding programs. Contact [Maine's State Hazard Mitigation Officer](#) for more details.
- The next Drought Task Force report will accompany a virtual meeting on 6 October, 2022

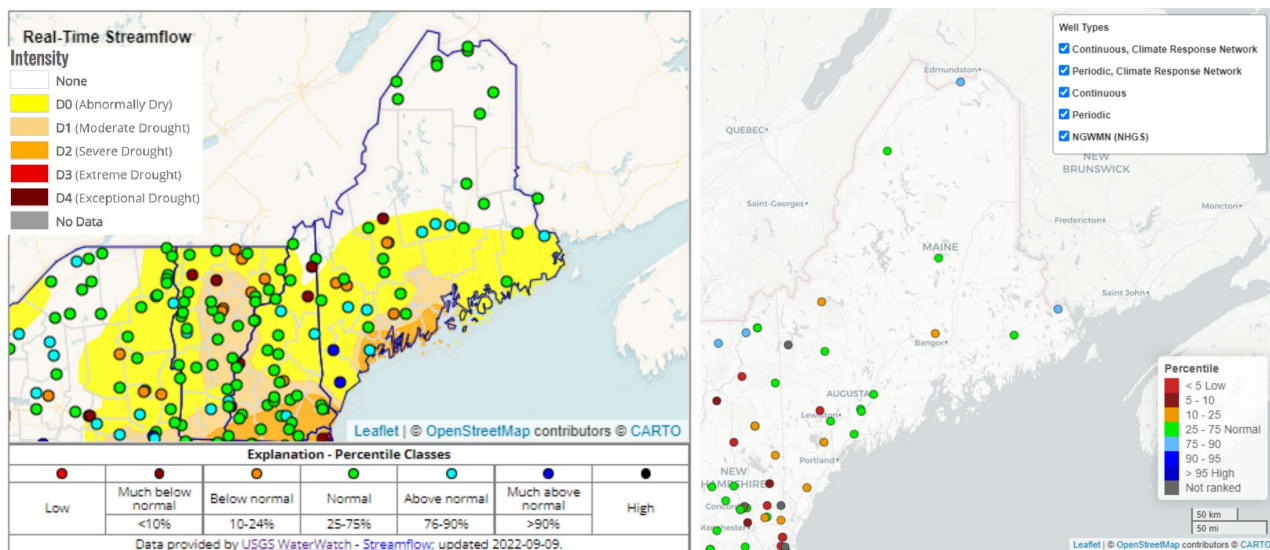


Figure 1: USGS maintains real time surface level water (left, shown here overlain on US Drought Monitor Map) and groundwater information (right). U.S. Drought Monitor: <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>; Water Watch: [waterwatch.usgs.gov](https://waterwatch.usgs.gov/); Ground Water Watch: [groundwaterwatch.usgs.gov](https://groundwaterwatch.usgs.gov/), Northeast DEWS Dashboard: <http://nedews.nrc.cornell.edu/>

**Access Drought Task Force reports here: [www.maine.gov/mema/hazards/drought-task-force](http://www.maine.gov/mema/hazards/drought-task-force).** This report summarizes information presented by Task Force members on current hydrologic and drought conditions as of this date. Task Force partners will report any drought-related impacts for which they are notified.

### **Current Hydrologic Conditions**

#### **Stream Flows**

Since the last DTF meeting in August, streamflows have improved due to several recent rain events. Currently, the majority of long-term monitoring stations in Maine are in the normal range, or even above normal (based on a 7-day average). The only exceptions to this are a small number of regulated stations. This improvement has really been in place since late August, and is a promising trend with potential for additional rain and cooling temperatures in the fall months.

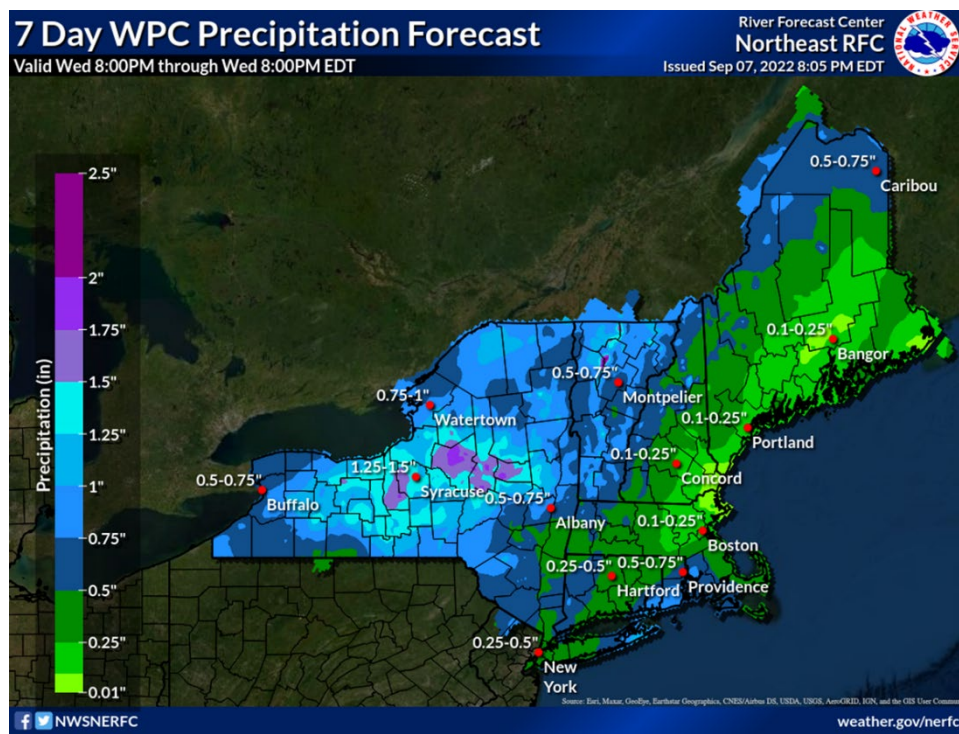
### **Ground Water**

For many of the continuous monitoring wells in Maine, September and October bring the lowest groundwater levels we'd expect throughout the year. This puts us in a situation where we are expecting below normal, or even record low, groundwater conditions during some of the lowest levels of the year. Conditions are variable statewide, with normal to above normal levels in northern and eastern Maine. The remainder of the wells, in the area of Maine experiencing the worst drought conditions in 2022, vary from normal along the I-295 corridor to below normal just west of the I-95 corridor. Of particular concern is the area around Oxford, where monitoring well ME-OW1214 has been showing the lowest months on record since May, based on 42 years of record at the site. However, these and many other monitoring wells have showed small amounts of recharge from rain over the last two weeks.

As a replacement for USGS Groundwater Watch (discontinued in September), New England conditions can be viewed here: [https://newengland.water.usgs.gov/web\\_app/GWW/GWW.html](https://newengland.water.usgs.gov/web_app/GWW/GWW.html)

### **Weather Review and Outlook**

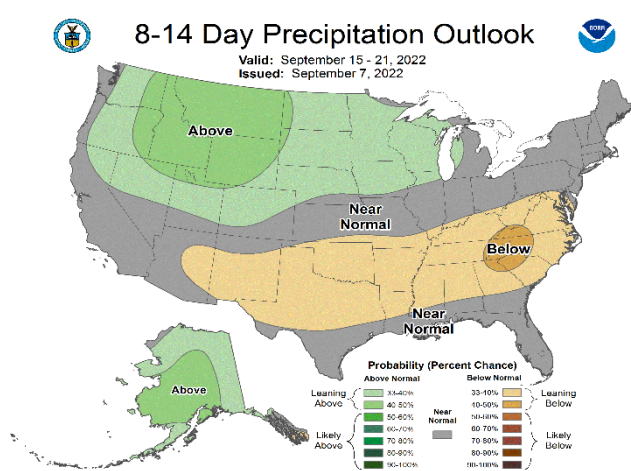
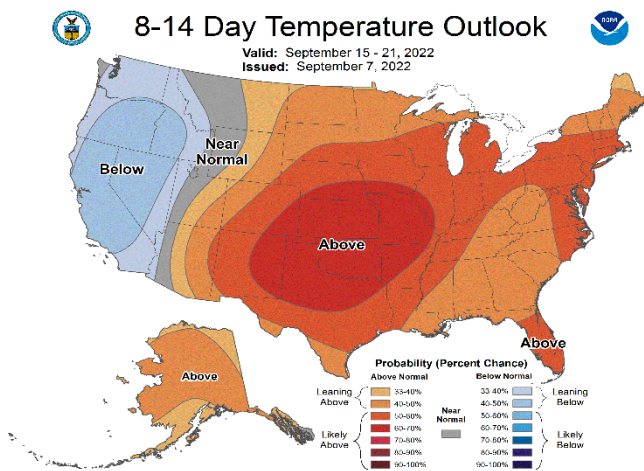
One week outlook: Today, a weak front is expected to cross Maine, but this front will bring little precipitation. The most likely scenario for precipitation from this front brings less than 0.25", mainly over the North Woods. After Thursday, an area of high pressure will move over the state, bringing dry conditions and warmer than average temperatures through early next week. A front is expected to cross the state and bring rainfall to most of the area next week. The timing on this front is uncertain, and rain could begin as early as Tuesday afternoon but is more likely to begin Wednesday and last through Thursday.



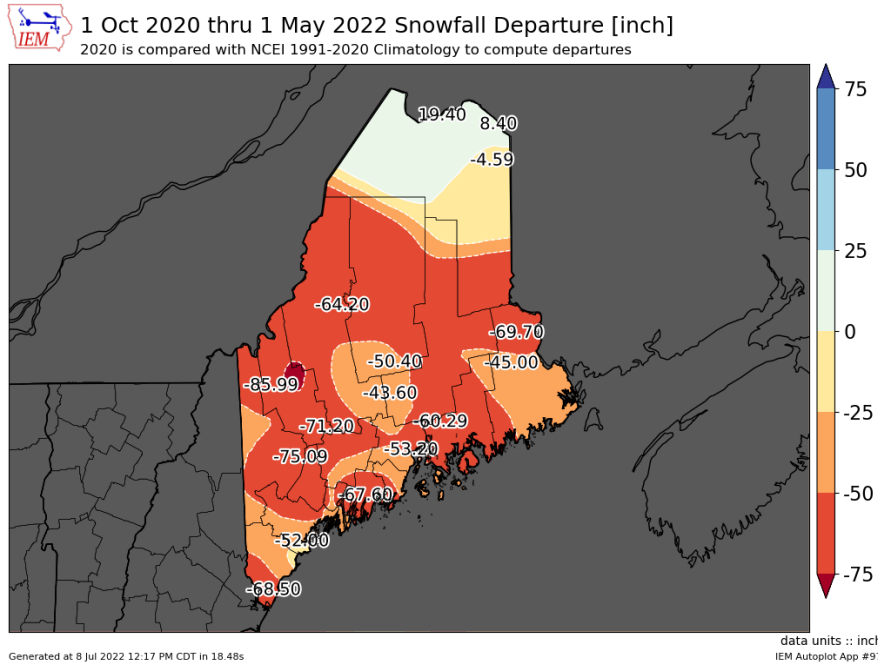
Two+ week outlook: After the front moves through next week, the forecast is more uncertain heading into the third week of September with the chance for more rain by the following weekend. There are

currently no strong signals for drier than normal conditions headed into the second half of the month. Seasonal outlooks for precipitation do not include potential tropical systems, so any system that forms could significantly change the outlook as we head into the third week and beyond.

2022 Precipitation (inches) ending Sept 7, 2022						
Station	Last 30 Days		Since Jan 1		Since Oct 1	
	Observed	Departure	Observed	Departure	Observed	Departure
Bangor Area	4.28	+1.26	26.32	-0.17	36.74	-1.89
Caribou Area	3.51	+0.06	29.41	+2.40	37.91	-0.04
Houlton Airport	5.33	+2.03	27.30	+1.81	34.68	-1.83
Millinocket Area	5.95	+2.35	28.60	+1.03	38.88	-0.79
Portland Area	6.95	+3.50	26.80	-4.23	41.19	-3.84
Rangeley	6.06	+1.33	28.48	+0.18	35.66	-4.23

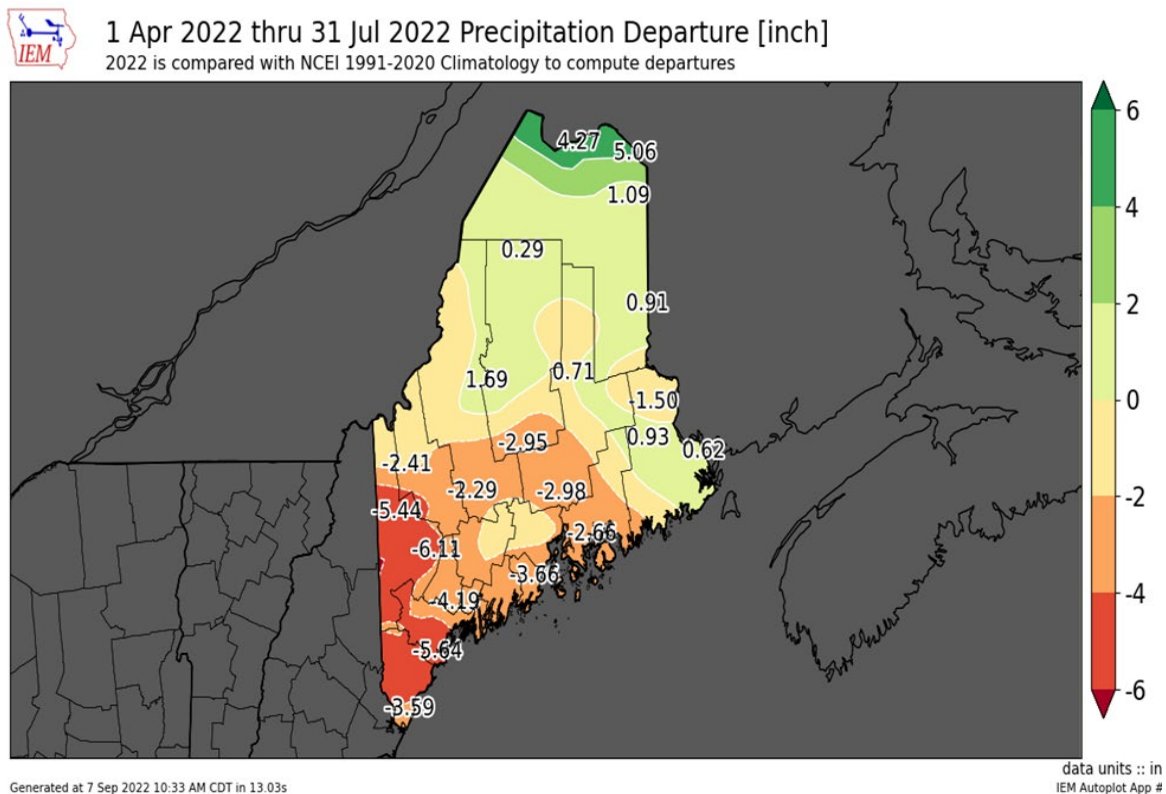


**Winter Overview:** The winter’s snowfall deficit across all but northern Maine played a role in the re-emergence of drought in 2022. For most sections in Maine, winter failed to deliver the expected amount of snowfall with snowpacks well below normal by spring. Most areas received near normal precipitation in the course of the winter season, though in central and southern Maine it frequently fell as rain due to warm temperatures. Overall, seasonal snowpack was 1 to 3 feet below normal in southern and central Maine. The exception to this was in Aroostook County where snowfall was more than a foot above average. If one combines the snowfall deficits from the winter 20-21 and 21-22, the departures are 4 to 7 feet below normal for many portions of the state.



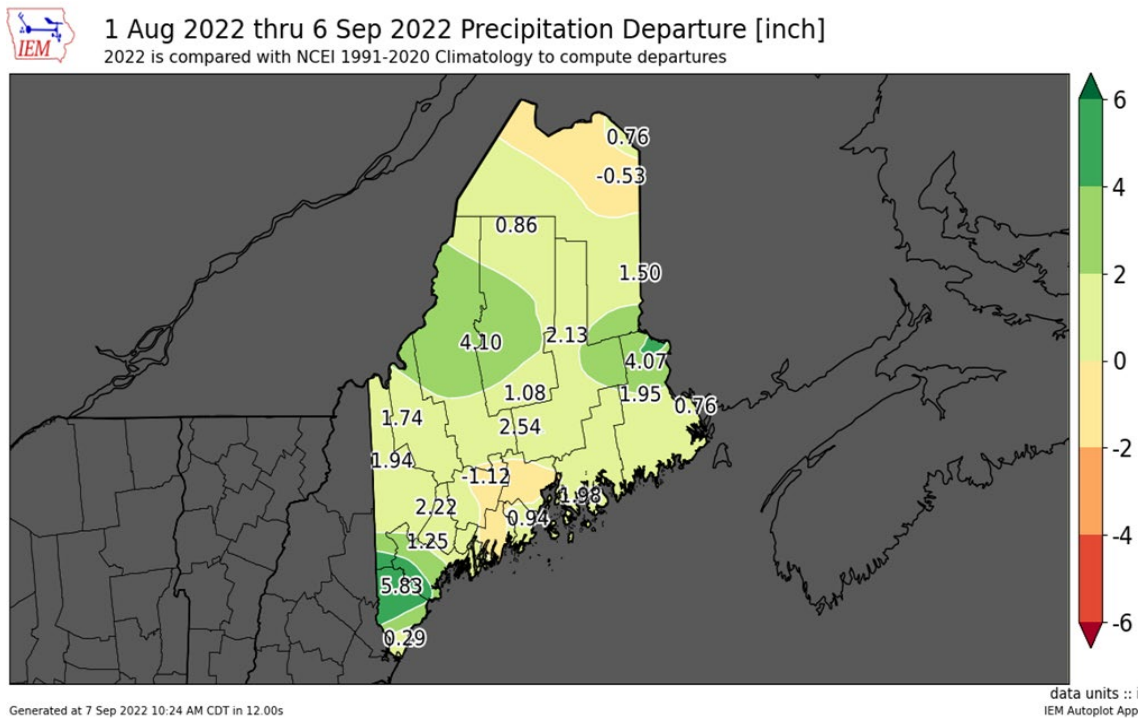
**(SNOWFALL DEPARTURE GRAPHIC IS ACCUMULATED DEFICITS FOR THE PAST 2 WINTERS)**

Spring Overview: The spring thaw arrived approximately 2 to 4 weeks early for all but northern Maine, resulting in an earlier than normal discharge along area waterways. The rest of spring lacked the typical rain frequency resulting in below average precipitation for most areas in April and May.



Summer Overview: Rainfall deficits began in the spring across central and southern Maine, however the drying of surface water accelerated in mid June when temperatures began to warm and water demands grew. Most areas of Maine received one to two inches below normal rainfall in June, apart from the Aroostook County. In July, above normal rainfall extended across northern Maine including

parts of western Maine Lakes Region. From the foothills southward precipitation was near normal with totals generally 75% and 125% of normal. Below normal rainfall, from 50% to 75% of normal, were common across southern Maine though spotty storm activity led to wide distributions in these areas. Temperatures meanwhile soared, with southern Maine 4-5°F above normal. Subsequently, evaporation measured between 5 and 6 inches for the month, exceeded precipitation amounts for most of the state resulting in a net loss in surface water.



In August, the weather pattern did an abrupt U-turn for many areas across the state. The Mid-Coast and Northern Aroostook county were the two areas to receive below normal precipitation. Meanwhile, Central Maine and York County received 4+ inches above normal. This helped bring those areas closer to normal for the season, although parts of southern Maine were far enough behind normal that they still show a deficit. The Mid-Coast and parts of the Western Maine Mountains and foothills have the largest rainfall departures for the year. Overall, the month of August and early September have been a positive trend for most of the state in regards to precipitation departures. The rain this week was especially beneficial due to the soaking nature of the rainfall that allowed the precipitation to penetrate into the soil. Even with the increased rainfall, temperatures in the month of August remained well above normal for Western Maine with positive anomalies of 3 to 5 degrees. Augusta had their 2<sup>nd</sup> warmest August on record and Portland had their 8<sup>th</sup> warmest August on record. The summer as a whole ended up being the 2<sup>nd</sup> warmest on record for Portland. These warm temperatures continued the anomalous evaporation rates, which had a negative impact on the recorded precipitation anomalies and surface water.

### Headwater Storage Levels

- **Presumpscot River** – The water level at Sebago Lake on 9/6/2022 was 263.68 feet, 0.5 feet below the 19-year lake level average. The area received 1.61” of precipitation last week. Flow from Sebago Lake was increased to 408 cfs total to ensure DO targets are met in the Presumpscot River.
- **Androscoggin River** – The Androscoggin River basin is 78.5% full which is 6.4% above the long-term average. Rangeley Lake is down 0.49 feet from full pond with an outflow of 20 cfs, Mooselookmeguntic is down 2.24 feet with an outflow of 500 cfs, Richardson Lake is down 4.12 feet with an outflow of 500 cfs, Azischohos is down 7.49 feet with an outflow of 340 cfs, and Errol

is down 2.15 feet with an outflow of 1,500 cfs. River flows remain stable at Gorham and Auburn, discharging 1,550 cfs. And 1,850 cfs respectively. River flows at Rumford are falling but are currently at 1,700 cfs.

- **Kennebec River** – The Kennebec River basin is 82.1% full, 10.5% above the long-term average for this time of the year. Brassua is down a total of 6.76 feet from full pond with an outflow of 1,995 cfs, while storage impoundments at Moosehead Lake are down 0.88 feet with an outflow of 3,507 cfs. Flagstaff Lake is down 2.95 feet with an outflow of 325 cfs. River flows are discharging 4,000 cfs at Solon, 4,620 cfs at Madison and 5,050 cfs at Weston. The minimum outflow at Messalonskee Stream exceeded the inflow at Messalonskee Lake (Snow Pond) because of minimal precipitation, resulting in an exceedance of drawdown on July 11th. The facility continues to release only the minimum flow and will not operate hydroelectric facilities until the pond level increases.
- **Penobscot River** – The Penobscot River basin is 72.1% full, 0.6% below the long-term average for this time of year. Storage for the West Branch of the Penobscot is 40.44 BCF, on target with the long-term average. Water levels are currently lower than normal in both the Ripogenus and North Twin impoundments. Recent rain events have raised Dole Pond to a level above the target elevation of 1,406 feet, so flow is set to the minimum, 15 cfs, to conserve water for the flow increase in September. Recent rain events improved conditions in the upper Penobscot River Basin, and normal operations have resumed at the Seboomook impoundment, releasing 500 cfs minimum flow.
- **Union River** – The Union River basin is 37.6% full, which is 13.4% below the long-term average. Graham Lake is currently down 1.44 feet from the long-term average elevation.
- **St. Croix River** [reported 8/31/2022] – East Grand Lake is 70.91% full, 2.8% below the long-term average for this time of the year, and outflow is 263.5 cfs. West Grand is 66.58% full, 5.14% below the long-term average for this time of year, and outflow is 673 cfs. Vanceboro (Spednic) is 73.27% full, 2.1% below the long-term average for this time of year, and outflow is 271 cfs. Grand Falls is 81% full, while downstream flow is 2146 cfs.
- **Aroostook River** – The Scopan Lake water level was 602.21 feet on 9/6/2022, 0.66 feet above the water level at the same time last year.

## **Drought Impact Sectors**

### ***Public Water Suppliers***

The Maine CDC Drinking Water Program (DWP) has not received any new reports of water quantity issues from public water systems since mid-August. The Stonington Water Company issued emergency mandatory water use restrictions on July 21, 2022, that are still in effect.

### ***Private Well Owners***

87 privately owned wells have reportedly run dry during this year; the majority of which were reported in Cumberland, York, Kennebec, Lincoln, and Knox Counties. Of these wells, 89% are residential. Maine homeowners with dry wells are encouraged to report this information to the Dry Well Survey and review assistance programs: <https://maine-dry-well-survey.maine.hub.arcgis.com/>. Mainers can dial 211 or 1-877-463-6207, or they can text a Maine zip code to 898-211 for assistance with filling out this survey.

For low income homeowners requiring assistance with dry private wells (including drilling a well deeper, drilling a new well, laying pipes to the home, associated labor costs, etc.) please refer to the [USDA Single Family Housing Repair Program](#) or the [Maine State Housing Authority Home Repair Program](#).

### ***Agricultural and Environmental Conditions***

Despite recent rain events, severe (D2) drought conditions remain in portions of 7 counties along the coast from York County to Penobscot Bay. This is the sixth continuous week of severe drought in these counties; an additional two weeks will be needed to trigger emergency assistance from USDA.

For farmers that have invested in irrigation and soil health practices, crops are looking good. Drought has increased operating costs, particularly for labor and diesel fuel. For farmers who have not invested in irrigation, the outlook is for reduced quantity and quality of yields.

In August of 2022, Governor Mills signed legislation establishing the Maine Farmer Drought Relief Grant Program to support Maine farmers in identifying and accessing new water sources to overcome the adverse effects of drought conditions. **The program is currently not funded.** DACF will develop the rules governing this grant in 2023 to be prepared to launch the program when funding is made available.

Potential applicants can stay informed on the development of the funding opportunity by signing up for the ARD's Agricultural Grants email list (<https://www.maine.gov/dacf/about/grants/>). Farmers seeking alternative funding options for irrigation and water access are encouraged to contact Alex Redfield, Farm Viability and Farmland Protection Specialist, at (207) 592-0640 or [alexander.redfield@maine.gov](mailto:alexander.redfield@maine.gov) to discuss other potential funding sources. Farmers should contact their local USDA Farm Service Center to review possible federal sources of technical and financial assistance.

Maine Farm Bureau has provided a comment on the Supply Chain and Drought Impacts in the state: Definitely seeing a decrease in crop production. The drought significantly impacted the wild blueberries and hay. Waiting to see how other crops will be impacted.

Bob Davis of Maine Farmers Exchange has provided a comment regarding Supply Chain and Drought Impacts approaching the harvest season: "We have received timely rains here in the County. Everyone got about 1.5 inches Monday night. It was a little dry in some areas and broccoli was being irrigated, but I think the potatoes have not seen much irrigation water. Our crop yield will be down a little, as we received too much rain during the planting season and there were washouts, drown outs and seed rot. The USDA said that we planted 5,000 acres more this year than last year, but I am skeptical of that number. When harvest is completed we will see how full the storages are and that will be the true story."

Maine started the 2022 growing season with relatively good water conditions for planting. However, throughout summer, various parts of the state have experienced prolonged periods of moderate (D1) and severe (D2) drought.

The Department encourages farmers to conserve water wherever possible. Farmers should contact their local USDA Farm Service Center to review possible federal sources of technical and financial assistance.

**York County is now eligible for Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL) through a Secretarial Disaster Designation for several New England counties. Currently no other Maine counties are eligible for this program.** York County was made eligible by being adjacent to a New Hampshire county with D2 conditions exceeding 8 weeks. A [Secretarial Disaster Designation](#) is triggered for severe drought, through a fast track process when a county meets the D2 (Severe Drought) drought level for eight consecutive weeks or a higher drought intensity value (D3 or greater) for any length of time. In Maine, if D3 conditions are not met, farms in impacted areas are at least 8 weeks out from a designation.

Secretarial Disaster Designations immediately trigger the availability of low-interest FSA [Emergency \(EM\) loans](#) to eligible producers in all primary and contiguous counties impacted by drought. EM loan funds may be used to:

- Restore or replace essential property;
- Pay all or part of production costs associated with the disaster year;
- Pay essential family living expenses;
- Reorganize the farming operation; and
- Refinance certain debts.

Additional programs that may become available if drought conditions worsen include:

- [Livestock Forage Program \(LFP\)](#) - provides payments to livestock producers for grazing losses. Producers report their grazing acres to their local county office. Payments are based on the number of cattle, acres grazed and the severity of the drought. D2 triggers one month of payments, D3 triggers three months. Payment rates are established by the FSA National Office in Washington, DC.
- [Emergency Livestock Assistance Program \(ELAP\)](#) – provides financial assistance to livestock producers for losses resulting from the additional cost of transporting water to livestock due to an eligible drought. Payments are made on a per gallon amount hauled. Producers will need to provide supporting documentation showing the gallons of water hauled.
- [Emergency Conservation Program \(ECP\)](#) – provides cost share, up to 75% of the producers actual costs, to provide emergency water during periods of severe drought (specifically for grazing and confined livestock and for existing orchards and vineyards). Approved practices and measures may include:
  - installing pipelines or other facilities for livestock water or existing irrigation systems for orchards and vineyards
  - constructing and deepening wells for livestock water
  - developing springs or seeps for livestock water.
  - ECP can also be requested if the rainfall in the county is reduced by an average of 40% for 4 months. We are currently looking into this for some of the southern counties.

### **Wildfire Conditions**

*Comparison to previous years:*

- **2022:** [596 fires have occurred as of September 8, 2022.](#)
- **2021:** 650 wildfires for the year. Maine started receiving rain in July to the end of the year to keep wildfires in check and occurrence low.
- **2020:** 1,154 wildfires for the year. Record high wildfire occurrence. Maine experienced drought conditions during this year. More people were at home due to COVID utilizing wildland fire to work around the home.

Current wildfire numbers for the year are marginally higher than last year, but right around the average. 60+ fires have occurred since last month. Intermittent rains, particularly in western Maine, have affected recent wildfire occurrence. Wildfires were located where the lightning occurs, typically along the edges of storms. Some of these can rekindle after conditions again dry. There have been 10-12 lightning strikes in the areas missed or receiving light rain. Rains help, but there is a need for steady drenching rains. Cooler temperatures have improved firefighting conditions. A 10-acre fire on last day of August triggered by lightning occurred in an old harvest cut north of Greenville. All other fires have been only around a tenth of an acre thanks to quick response from MFS. Other fire concerns in fall include potential spreading from backyard brush fires. Some of our biggest historic fires have occurred in fall.

*May report:* May was a busy month for Maine Forest Service (MFS). The state was experiencing dry weather along with being prior to green up, (new grass and leaves out). By the end of May MFS had reported on 357 wildfires. Most were contained to under ¼ acres. One of significant was a fire in Amity resulting from a permitted burn that escaped the landowners control and burnt 20 acres. Another 41



acre wildfire is still under investigation. A railroad company started 4 wildfires along the tracks ranging from 1 acre to 5 acres. Debris burning continues to be the leading cause of wildfires escaping.

*June report:* After vegetation green up, wildfire activity slowed down. There were 58 additional wildfires in June statewide.

*July report:* July saw very little in precipitation. Wildfire activity increased. To date, 533 total wildfires occurred burning more than 351 acres. The surface fuels, grass leaves and small brush are drying out. Scattered and isolated rainfall is keeping the danger level at moderate, but if an ignition source is introduced, a wildfire could easily start due to the lack of moisture. Heavy short rainfall tends to runoff and not soak into the ground. There is an increase of roadside fires. Some were related to arson, but others were related to mechanical malfunctions. Lighting activity picked up in the south during the storm/wind events mid-month around the Sebago Lake area. On the last day of July there has been a wildfire in the Greenville area as the result of metal (track) on rock that sparked into an 8-acre fire. As the drought/dryness continues the larger fuels become more readily available to burn, the intensity of wildfires can increase, wildfires may burn deeper into the ground and are harder to extinguish. The expectation is for increase in wildfire activity as the drought continues.

Refer to the Maine Forest Service [Fire Weather](#) map for daily updates on regional fire danger classes.

### **Mitigation Grants**

Hazard mitigation is any sustainable action that reduces or eliminates long-term risk to people and property from future disasters. Mitigation planning breaks the cycle of disaster damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage. Local governments, including cities, townships, counties, special district governments, state agencies, and tribal governments, may be eligible to apply for FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) and Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grants for drought-related mitigation actions. Please contact Heather Dumais ([heather.dumais@maine.gov](mailto:heather.dumais@maine.gov)), State Hazard Mitigation Officer, or visit [MEMA's Mitigation Grants webpage](#) for more information on these programs and sub-applicant eligibility.

### **Drought News: Local/National**

Articles predating September 8, 2022 meeting

- [Recent rains have diminished Maine drought](#)
- [Recent rainfall likely eases drought in southern Maine](#)
- [Dinosaur tracks from 113 million years ago uncovered due to severe drought conditions](#)
- [Maine farmers to receive \\$20M for infrastructure improvements](#)
- [This crucial Maine crop has avoided the worst of Maine's drought](#)
- [Amid drought, Poland Spring wants to extract more water in Hollis](#)
- [Aroostook's potato crop has escaped drought conditions](#)
- [Mainers are taking extreme measures as drought saps well water](#)
- [Mainers continue to see drought amid dry wells](#)
- [Maine's drought is devastating wild blueberry crops on the Blue Hill Peninsula](#)
- [The drought is forcing Maine anglers to change where and when they fish](#)
- Drought disaster declared in Rhode Island; Massachusetts city restricts water use: <https://www.pressherald.com/2022/08/23/drought-disaster-declared-in-rhode-island-massachusetts-city-restricts-water-use/>
- Maine's drought is causing apples to ripen early: <https://www.bangordailynews.com/2022/08/19/business/maine-drought-apples/>
- American farmers are killing their own crops and selling cows because of extreme drought: [https://www.wmtw.com/article/american-farmers-are-killing-their-own-crops-and-selling-cows-because-of-extreme-drought/40920919?utm\\_campaign=snd-autopilot](https://www.wmtw.com/article/american-farmers-are-killing-their-own-crops-and-selling-cows-because-of-extreme-drought/40920919?utm_campaign=snd-autopilot)

- With low water exposing junk and rocks, VT city finds opportunities: <https://www.necn.com/news/local/with-low-water-exposing-junk-and-rocks-vt-city-finds-opportunities/2807270/>
- Rare August Nor'easter to bring drought help to Maine: <https://www.newscentermaine.com/article/weather/local-weather/rare-august-noreaster-brings-drought-help-to-maine-portland-bangor-arostook-county-storm-rain/97-1c121245-0aa7-479f-a35f-1cd1b84b4d68>
- Maine livestock producers could face hay shortage this winter due to drought: <http://observer-me.com/2022/08/16/news/maine-livestock-producers-could-face-hay-shortage-this-winter-due-to-drought/>
- Honey bees are another victim of Maine's drought: <https://www.mainepublic.org/environment-and-outdoors/2022-08-15/honey-bees-are-another-victim-of-maines-drought>
- Hot weather fuels algal blooms in Casco Bay that may be killing soft-shell clams: <https://www.pressherald.com/2022/08/15/soaring-temperatures-may-have-caused-large-algal-blooms-and-soft-shell-clam-deaths/>
- Private wells running dry in Maine as drought persists: <https://www.pressherald.com/2022/08/15/private-wells-running-dry-in-maine-as-drought-persists/>
- Aroostook's potato crop has escaped drought: <https://www.bangordailynews.com/2022/08/15/news/arostook/arostooks-potato-crop-has-escaped-drought-joam40zk0w/>
- The drought is forcing Maine anglers to change where and when they fish: <http://observer-me.com/2022/08/12/news/the-drought-is-forcing-maine-anglers-to-change-where-and-when-they-fish/>
- Mainers are taking extreme measures as drought saps well water: <https://wgme.com/news/local/mainers-are-taking-extreme-measures-as-drought-saps-well-water>
- The warming Gulf of Maine has contributed to Maine's recent hot weather: <https://www.mainepublic.org/environment-and-outdoors/2022-08-11/the-warming-gulf-of-maine-has-contributed-to-maines-recent-hot-weather>
- Maine's drought is devastating wild blueberry crops on the Blue Hill peninsula: <https://www.mainepublic.org/environment-and-outdoors/2022-08-10/maines-drought-is-devastating-wild-blueberry-crops-on-the-blue-hill-peninsula>
- Community comes together to help Gray farmer whose well dried up: <https://wgme.com/news/local/community-comes-together-help-gray-farmer-well-dried-up-water-goats>
- Maine livestock producers could face hay shortage this winter due to drought: <https://www.mainepublic.org/environment-and-outdoors/2022-08-08/maine-livestock-producers-could-face-hay-shortage-this-winter-due-to-drought>

#### Articles predating August 4, 2022 meeting

- Drought conditions fuel Maine wildfire: <https://www.necn.com/news/local/drought-conditions-fuel-maine-wildfire/2797253/>
- Persistent drought in Maine: <https://www.pressherald.com/2022/07/31/maine-has-another-month-of-well-below-average-rainfall-as-drought-persists/>
- Southern Maine farms impacted by drought: <https://wgme.com/news/local/we-are-praying-for-rain-rain-drought-hurting-some-southern-maine-farms>
- Maine DEP warns of impacts to surface waters from drought and irrigation practices <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MEDEP/bulletins/3267d09>

#### **About this Report**

**Current information represents a “snapshot” of conditions throughout the state for the date of reporting.** This report provides information on the preliminary effects of the drought and more

monitoring must be done to assess potential impacts if the situation worsens. These conditions will be monitored, and the Drought Task Force will monitor the situation until warning indicators subside.

The Maine Drought Task Force is composed of representatives from major river basin management operations, utility operators as well as state agencies and federal agencies. The Task Force is convened when necessary based on drought threat, and members will stay in close communication until the dry conditions subside.

## Information Resources

Please refer to these sources for more information on current water conditions:

- Maine Drought Task Force website, with links to other reports and drought monitoring resources: <https://www.maine.gov/mema/hazards/drought-task-force>
- Drought.gov site for the State of Maine: <https://www.drought.gov/states/maine>
- Northeast DEWS: <http://nedews.nrcc.cornell.edu/>
- National Integrated Drought Information System: <https://www.drought.gov/current-conditions>
- U.S. Drought Monitor: <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/CurrentMap/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?ME>
- Well monitor data: [https://newengland.water.usgs.gov/web\\_app/GWW/GWW.html](https://newengland.water.usgs.gov/web_app/GWW/GWW.html)
- Streamflow data: <https://waterwatch.usgs.gov/?m=real&r=me>
- Streamflow data aggregated by watershed: <https://waterwatch.usgs.gov/index.php?m=dryw&r=me>
- Maine Cooperative Snow Survey: [https://www.maine.gov/dacf/mgs/hazards/snow\\_survey/](https://www.maine.gov/dacf/mgs/hazards/snow_survey/)
- NWS Gray short- and long-term forecasts: <https://forecast.weather.gov/product.php?site=NWS&issuedby=GYX&product=AFD&format=CI&version=1&glossary=1&highlight=off>
- NWS Caribou short- and long-term forecasts: <https://forecast.weather.gov/product.php?site=NWS&issuedby=CAR&product=AFD&format=CI&version=1&glossary=1&highlight=off>
- USDA farm assistance and loan programs: <https://www.farmers.gov/protection-recovery/drought>
- CoCoRaHS local volunteer weather condition monitoring: <https://www.cocorahs.org/maps/conditionmonitoring/index.html>

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