



WEATHER AND CROPS

August 11, 2008

Cooperating with New York Department of Agriculture and Markets
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Week Ending, August 10, 2008

No. 977-16-08

WEATHER: The week featured upper level disturbances providing showers and thunderstorms across much of the state each day with all locations receiving measureable amounts. Some locations received well above normal rainfall while others received less than the normal. A cold front pushed through Tuesday night and Wednesday cooling temperatures slightly. More cooling was noted by late in the week with the upper level low and associated cloudiness more or less stuck in place. High temperatures averaged a few degrees below normal each day with low temperatures at the start of the week being slightly above normal with a cooling trend through the week, so that lows by week's end were slightly below normal.

CROPS: Scattered showers continued to plague hay producers, as storm systems kept moving through making it impossible to bale dry hay. Corn and soybeans continued to look good. There were 3.2 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated 2 percent short, 50 percent adequate, and 48 percent surplus. Condition of soybeans was 9 percent fair, 57 percent good, and 34 percent excellent. Corn condition was rated as 1 percent poor, 8 percent fair, 51 percent good, and 40 percent excellent. Hay condition was 21 percent poor, 19 percent fair, 44 percent good, and 16 percent excellent. Winter wheat was 71 percent harvested, compared with last year's 89 percent, and the five year average of 73 percent. Thirty-five percent of the oats were harvested, behind last year's 48 percent, and behind the five year average of 48 percent. The second cutting of alfalfa was 71 percent harvested, behind last year's 89 percent, and behind the five year average of 80 percent. Twenty-five percent of the third cutting of alfalfa was completed, compared with 45 percent from last year, and the five year average of 28 percent. Second cutting of timothy hay was 58 percent completed, compared with last year's 71 percent, and a five year average of 65 percent. Third cutting of timothy hay was 19 percent harvested, behind last year's 27 percent, but ahead of the 15 percent five year average. Eleven percent of the potatoes were harvested, compared to 17 percent from last year, and the five year average of 24 percent. The following are comments from across the state: Washington County had thunderstorms nearly every day with hail damage reported on Wednesday. Oat and barley harvest is underway in Steuben County, and if the weather will cooperate the third cutting of alfalfa looked very good. Suffolk County saw some isolated hail on Friday and Sunday. Parts of Oneida County were hit with high wind and hail causing severe damage to corn fields. Hail damage to oats and corn was also reported in Madison County. Cortland and Chenango Counties also had hail from Sunday's storm with damage just being reported. Rain every day this week prohibited dry hay harvest in St. Lawrence County where there could be a shortage this fall. In Jefferson County, farmers have switched from dry hay to baleage due to the persistent rains. Haylage and wheat harvests in Niagara County had excellent yields.

FRUIT: Apples were 24 percent poor, 22 percent fair, 40 percent good and 14 percent excellent. Grapes were 14 percent fair, 54 percent good, and 32 percent excellent. Peaches were 19 percent poor, 18 percent fair, 29 percent good, and 34 percent excellent. Pears were 27 percent poor, 28 percent fair, 34 percent good, and 11 percent excellent. Tart cherries were 91 percent harvested, sweet cherries were 91 percent harvested, peaches were 31 percent harvested, pears were 24 percent harvested, and apples were 6 percent harvest. All were behind last year's progress. Finger Lakes grape region, plant growth has benefited from large amounts of rainfall and warm temperatures. On Long Island, veraison was commenced in many blocks, accompanied by a few downpours.

VEGETABLE: Vegetables were hit with heavy rain all week making harvest difficult due to wet conditions. Tomatoes were 33 percent harvested, up from 30 percent harvested last year. Tomato conditions were 3 percent poor, 21 percent fair, 71 percent good, and 5 percent excellent. Lettuce conditions were 2 percent poor, 24 percent fair, 74 percent good, and 0 percent excellent. Onion harvest was 26 percent complete, down from 35 percent harvested last year. Onion conditions were 1 percent poor, 7 percent fair, 88 percent good, and 4 percent excellent. Sweet corn harvest was 29 percent complete, down from 35 percent harvested last year. Sweet corn conditions were 2 percent poor, 12 percent fair, 63 percent good, and 23 percent excellent. Snap bean harvest was 40 percent complete, up from 38 percent harvested last year. Snap bean conditions were 6 percent poor, 12 percent fair, 61 percent good, and 21 percent excellent. Cabbage harvest was 28 percent completed, up from 27 percent harvested last year. Cabbage conditions were 2 percent poor, 10 percent fair, 72 percent good, and 16 percent excellent.

LIVESTOCK: Pastures remained in good condition and were standing up to grazing thanks to the abundant rainfall. In Jefferson County, the cattle can't keep up with the lush pasture growth. Pasture conditions were rated 1 percent very poor, 3 percent poor, 20 percent fair, 55 percent good, and 21 percent excellent.

Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, August 10, 2008

| Station | Temperature (°F) | | | | Growing Degree Days Base 50° ^{1/} | | | Precipitation (Inches) ^{1/} | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|-----|-----|----------------------|---|--------|----------------------|---|----------------------|--------|----------------------|
| | High | Low | Avg | Dep. from Norm | Week | Season | Dep. from Norm | Week | Dep. from Norm | Season | Dep. from Norm |
| <u>Hudson Valley</u> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Albany | 83 | 56 | 71 | 0 | 151 | 1955 | +257 | 0.45 | -0.32 | 17.36 | +3.04 |
| Glens Falls | 81 | 50 | 67 | -3 | 122 | 1552 | +65 | 1.98 | +1.17 | 16.40 | +2.53 |
| Poughkeepsie | 87 | 57 | 72 | -1 | 153 | 2028 | +255 | 0.65 | -0.19 | 18.52 | +1.74 |
| <u>Mohawk Valley</u> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Boonville | 77 | 52 | 64 | -2 | 103 | 1233 | +67 | 2.91 | +1.88 | 21.33 | +2.25 |
| <u>Champlain Valley</u> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Plattsburgh | 78 | 52 | 66 | -3 | 115 | 1469 | -47 | 1.04 | +0.13 | 17.05 | +3.94 |
| <u>St. Lawrence Valley</u> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Canton | 78 | 54 | 66 | -2 | 113 | 1515 | +167 | 1.90 | +0.99 | 17.72 | +3.92 |
| Massena | 79 | 55 | 67 | -1 | 124 | 1482 | +53 | 0.71 | -0.12 | 15.22 | +2.54 |
| <u>Great Lakes</u> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Buffalo | 85 | 56 | 70 | 0 | 144 | 1762 | +144 | 0.94 | +0.04 | 13.48 | -0.45 |
| Wales | 81 | 51 | 65 | -3 | 105 | 1393 | +81 | 2.09 | +1.23 | 18.59 | +2.29 |
| Niagara Falls | 83 | 53 | 69 | -2 | 130 | 1705 | +77 | 1.18 | +0.35 | 14.12 | +0.61 |
| Rochester | 85 | 56 | 69 | 0 | 138 | 1895 | +323 | 1.99 | +1.23 | 12.18 | +0.06 |
| Watertown | 82 | 56 | 68 | -1 | 127 | 1527 | +170 | 1.81 | +1.14 | 15.16 | +4.40 |
| <u>Central Lakes</u> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dansville | 83 | 54 | 67 | -3 | 124 | 1698 | +123 | 2.15 | +1.45 | 16.00 | +2.44 |
| Geneva | 82 | 56 | 67 | -3 | 124 | 1676 | +116 | 2.33 | +1.64 | 14.67 | +1.17 |
| Honeoye | 83 | 53 | 67 | -5 | 120 | 1615 | -6 | 1.64 | +0.94 | 15.69 | +2.41 |
| Ithaca | 82 | 55 | 66 | -2 | 115 | 1551 | +138 | 1.13 | +0.36 | 15.58 | +1.02 |
| Penn Yan | 83 | 58 | 70 | 0 | 138 | 1963 | +403 | 1.39 | +0.70 | 13.36 | -0.14 |
| Syracuse | 84 | 57 | 69 | -1 | 136 | 1822 | +230 | 1.55 | +0.78 | 15.19 | -0.13 |
| Warsaw | 82 | 52 | 64 | -3 | 100 | 1363 | +141 | 4.18 | +3.34 | 21.77 | +6.02 |
| <u>Western Plateau</u> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Angelica | 79 | 50 | 63 | -3 | 94 | 1216 | +15 | 1.88 | +1.11 | 15.41 | +0.22 |
| Elmira | 83 | 53 | 68 | -2 | 124 | 1670 | +172 | 2.46 | +1.77 | 13.82 | -0.21 |
| Franklinville | 81 | 49 | 64 | -1 | 101 | 1273 | +174 | 1.09 | +0.24 | 16.44 | +0.52 |
| Jamestown | 81 | 53 | 66 | 0 | 114 | 1442 | +207 | 1.43 | +0.46 | 16.78 | -0.93 |
| <u>Eastern Plateau</u> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Binghamton | 81 | 55 | 66 | -3 | 116 | 1636 | +181 | 1.04 | +0.31 | 13.88 | -0.78 |
| Cobleskill | 82 | 50 | 67 | -1 | 122 | 1506 | +157 | 0.89 | +0.12 | 20.62 | +4.87 |
| Morrisville | 79 | 54 | 65 | -2 | 109 | 1400 | +112 | 1.38 | +0.61 | 16.96 | +1.41 |
| Norwich | 83 | 50 | 67 | -1 | 119 | 1464 | +112 | 0.28 | -0.43 | 13.38 | -2.24 |
| Oneonta | 90 | 52 | 69 | +3 | 135 | 1719 | +469 | 0.23 | -0.61 | 13.27 | -3.82 |
| <u>Coastal</u> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bridgehamton | 82 | 57 | 71 | -2 | 146 | 1845 | +243 | 3.21 | +2.46 | 16.16 | +0.79 |
| New York | 88 | 66 | 77 | +1 | 190 | 2518 | +322 | 0.72 | -0.12 | 13.59 | -2.89 |

^{1/} Season accumulations are for April 1st to date. Weekly accumulations are through 7:00 AM Sunday Morning

The information contained in this weekly release is obtained in cooperation with Cornell Cooperative Extension, USDA Farm Service Agency, the National Weather Service, Agricultural Weather Information Service and other knowledgeable persons associated with New York agriculture. Their cooperation is greatly appreciated.

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