



WEATHER AND CROPS

September 29, 2008

Cooperating with New York Department of Agriculture and Markets
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Week Ending, September 28, 2008

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WEATHER: Temperatures averaged above seasonal levels for the week. Precipitation averaged well below normal across western and northern New York, but well above across southern New York, particularly Long Island. The warmest temperatures occurred from the middle of the week until the end, especially across western and eastern New York. Cooler temperatures were observed across Long Island. High pressure dominated the early and mid period with a cold front tracking across the region on Sunday. Late in the period, upper level disturbances and the effects of Hurricane Kyle brought rain to the state. Patchy frost also occurred across portions of the Lake George and Saratoga region and the deeper valleys of central New York.

CROPS: Harvesting progressed with near ideal weather conditions. Rain moved in over the weekend to hinder progress. There were 5.3 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated as 6 percent short, 85 percent adequate and 9 percent surplus. Hay condition was rated as 10 percent poor, 21 percent fair, 52 percent good, and 17 percent excellent. Alfalfa third cutting reached 93 percent complete, ahead of the average progress of 87 percent. Corn condition was rated as 4 percent poor, 10 percent fair, 52 percent good, and 35 percent excellent. Silage corn harvest advanced to 45 percent complete, behind the average rate of 59 percent finished. Potatoes were 75 percent dug compared to the average of 73 percent. Dry beans were 38 percent harvested, ahead of the 27 percent average. The following are comments from across the state: Corn silage harvest was in full swing in Steuben County, and the dry weather caused most crops to ripen fast. Corn was drying down in Delaware County, and harvest was steadily underway. Ontario County had a productive harvest week with several rain free days in a row. The soybean harvest started and the corn for silage continued to be chopped. Corn silage harvest got off to a great start in Cortland County with the dry weather, but the corn condition has varied greatly with gravel ground corn being dry and wet ground corn being too green. Wheat planting continued in Madison and Onondaga Counties. Also in Onondaga County the hay crop was coming in really well. Silage harvest continued in Albany County with yields being very good for the most part. Wheat planting was at 75 percent in Niagara County, and the grain corn and soybean harvest began. A lot of haylage and corn silage was harvested in Clinton County. Lewis County corn harvest slowed because of mud, and the downed corn from the recent wind storm. Corn was harvested whether it was at proper maturity or not due to wind damage and presence of frost. Jefferson County corn growers affected by the recent wind storm harvested corn at an agonizingly slow pace. Normally, a self-propelled chopper can harvest 4 acres per hour, but due to the downed corn the rate of harvest dropped to 1.25 acres per hour. This increased fuel consumption, and on top of this a light frost hit most of the area.

FRUIT: Apples were in 17 percent poor condition, 21 percent fair, 49 percent good, and 13 percent excellent. The harvest was 48 percent complete, behind the average of 52 percent. In Albany County, good color was reported in the apple crop. Peaches were 25 percent poor, 27 percent fair, and 48 percent good. Harvest was at 94 percent, behind the average of 98 percent. Pears were 44 percent poor, 27 percent fair, and 29 percent good. Pears were 86 percent harvested, in line with the 5-year average. Grapes were in 11 percent poor condition, 20 percent fair, 58 percent good, and 11 percent excellent. Grapes were 55 percent harvested, above the average of 32 percent. In the Finger Lakes, Niagara, Pinot noir, Pinot gris, and some Chardonnay were harvested, with good ripeness and flavor development. The Lake Erie region also harvested Niagara. Most growers were optimistic about fruit quality this year, although there were some cases of bunch rot appearing. In the Hudson Valley, the Chardonnay harvest started a few days earlier than desired due to the wet weekend weather. In Long Island vineyards, harvest of whites began. Vineyards showed some downy mildew, and birds and deer continued to be an issue.

VEGETABLE: Cabbage harvest was underway in central New York and snap bean harvest neared completion. Tomatoes were 82 percent harvested, up from 76 percent harvested last year. Tomato conditions were 19 percent poor, 24 percent fair, 54 percent good, and 3 percent excellent. Lettuce conditions were 55 percent fair, 40 percent good, and 5 percent excellent. Cucumber conditions were 12 percent poor, 53 percent fair, 31 percent good and 4 percent excellent. Onion harvest was 86 percent complete, down from 88 percent harvested last year. Onion conditions were 3 percent poor, 21 percent fair, 72 percent good, and 4 percent excellent. Sweet corn harvest was 91 percent complete, up from 89 percent harvested last year. Sweet corn conditions were 2 percent poor, 19 percent fair, 58 percent good, and 22 percent excellent. Snap bean harvest was 96 percent complete, down from 97 percent harvested last year. Snap bean conditions were 3 percent poor, 24 percent fair, 58 percent good, and 15 percent excellent. Cabbage harvest was 70 percent completed, down from 86 percent harvested last year. Cabbage conditions were 2 percent poor, 17 percent fair, 65 percent good, and 12 percent excellent.

LIVESTOCK: Pasture growth continues to slow across state. Pasture conditions across most of the state were estimated to be in good condition. Pasture conditions were rated 3 percent poor, 23 percent fair, 60 percent good and 14 percent excellent.

Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, September 29, 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	76	44	61	+4	79	2765	+363	0.58	-0.50	22.84	+3.40
Glens Falls	74	32	57	+3	51	2193	+110	0.29	-0.40	21.48	+2.21
Poughkeepsie	77	45	60	+2	70	2834	+301	1.34	+0.59	26.62	+4.26
<u>Mohawk Valley</u>											
Boonville	73	37	55	+3	40	1721	+96	0.55	-0.63	27.88	+0.22
<u>Champlain Valley</u>											
Plattsburgh	74	32	56	+1	50	2110	0	0.36	-0.27	19.57	+0.72
<u>St. Lawrence Valley</u>											
Canton	75	31	56	+2	46	2111	+214	0.37	-0.46	20.34	+0.02
Massena	78	33	57	+4	56	2112	+132	0.25	-0.50	18.09	-0.45
<u>Great Lakes</u>											
Buffalo	79	47	63	+5	91	2583	+254	0.05	-0.69	21.08	+0.97
Wales	74	39	58	+2	55	1954	+70	0.02	-1.00	23.09	-0.51
Niagara Falls	78	43	61	+3	78	2453	+120	0.04	-0.72	18.42	-1.26
Rochester	79	41	60	+2	72	2668	+409	0.11	-0.52	14.29	-2.96
Watertown	74	35	57	+2	53	2171	+223	0.41	-0.29	19.78	+2.58
<u>Central Lakes</u>											
Dansville	75	39	58	0	58	2378	+113	0.47	-0.26	20.71	+1.75
Geneva	75	41	57	-2	49	2337	+94	0.25	-0.45	18.50	-0.21
Honeoye	78	35	56	-4	44	2268	-92	0.32	-0.38	18.70	+0.20
Ithaca	76	37	58	+2	57	2170	+145	0.50	-0.28	18.26	-1.95
Penn Yan	78	41	61	+4	79	2726	+483	0.54	-0.16	18.00	-0.71
Syracuse	76	41	59	+2	65	2557	+277	0.84	0.00	19.12	-2.17
Warsaw	73	40	56	+3	45	1924	+195	0.27	-0.60	26.19	+3.97
<u>Western Plateau</u>											
Angelica	74	35	56	+2	40	1698	-7	0.43	-0.35	20.48	-0.48
Elmira	78	36	60	+4	71	2356	+218	0.94	+0.24	16.58	-2.39
Franklinville	76	38	57	+4	47	1794	+228	0.11	-0.80	22.60	+0.15
Jamestown	78	40	59	+5	65	2059	+287	0.00	-1.04	19.96	-5.27
<u>Eastern Plateau</u>											
Binghamton	73	44	60	+5	69	2323	+257	0.74	-0.01	19.28	-0.79
Cobleskill	73	36	56	+1	44	2115	+192	0.83	+0.01	25.15	+3.50
Morrisville	74	43	57	+3	52	1978	+150	0.59	-0.31	20.59	-1.17
Norwich	77	38	58	+3	57	2058	+134	0.58	-0.25	17.90	-3.61
Oneonta	77	40	58	+5	59	2405	+644	0.55	-0.25	17.87	-5.09
<u>Coastal</u>											
Bridgehamton	76	45	62	+2	87	2687	+265	2.52	+1.75	23.97	+2.92
New York	80	56	66	+2	111	3641	+421	1.60	+0.86	23.71	+1.54

^{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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