



WEATHER AND CROPS

August 3, 2009

Cooperating with New York Department of Agriculture and Markets
10B Airline Drive, Albany, New York 12235
(518) 457-5570 · (518) 485-8719 FAX · www.nass.usda.gov

Released, August 3, 2009

Week Ending, August 2, 2009

No. 977-15-09

WEATHER: During this time period a series of frontal boundaries tracked across the region with occasional showers and thunderstorms. In fact, abundant moisture in the atmosphere brought heavy rainfall for the eastern half of the state where flooding conditions were observed during the second half of the week. There were even several reports of severe weather coinciding with the heavy rainfall events. The western half of the state did not receive nearly as much rainfall and limited severe weather. After a cool start to this past week, temperatures climbed to near normal levels.

CROPS: Another week of scattered showers moved through the region hindering dry hay harvest. There were 3.5 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil Moisture was rated 1 percent short, 59 percent adequate, and 40 percent surplus. Condition of soybeans was 9 percent poor, 32 percent fair, 46 percent good, and 13 percent excellent. Corn condition was rated as 1 percent poor, 10 percent fair, 49 percent good, and 40 percent excellent. Hay condition was 16 percent poor, 28 percent fair, 40 percent good, and 16 percent excellent. Winter wheat was 77 percent harvested, compared with last year's 61 percent. Eleven percent of the oats were harvested, behind last year's 22 percent. The second cutting of alfalfa was 56 percent harvested, behind last year's 59 percent. Fourteen percent of the third cutting of alfalfa was completed, compared with 11 percent from last year. Second cutting of timothy hay was 40 percent completed, compared with last year's 41 percent. Third cutting of timothy hay was 12 percent harvested, behind last year's 13 percent. The following are comments from across the state: Warmer weather improved soybean and corn condition in Franklin County. Although the corn is significantly shorter than normal for this time of year, some of it was beginning to tassel. Almost daily rainfall was still making it difficult to harvest dry hay, and there are reports of blight in the potatoes. Oats should be ready to combine in the coming week if the weather permits. Niagara County's grain corn started to tassel, but had inconsistent height from the almost constant rain. Some of the soybeans looked very good, and some of them looked to be underwater. Continued rain in Ontario County made it very challenging to harvest dry hay, and is now impeding the winter wheat harvest. Oat harvest has just begun. Potatoes in Chenango County were affected with the late blight. Corn was in various stages of growth in Cortland County, but the recent warmth had helped. The early planted had tasseled, and the late planted had reached knee high. Good, dry hay has been impossible to harvest, and there is still lots of 1st cutting still standing, while other fields are on 2nd or 3rd cuttings. Oats and barley were turning, and looking good. Madison County needs some warm, dry weather, but the oats looked good. Excessive rains have caused serious losses to many crops in Albany County. Hay has been very hard to harvest. Concern was growing in Montgomery, Fulton, and Herkimer Counties that there is not going to be enough growing degree days to bring crops to maturity. Continuing wet weather in Saratoga County made it difficult if not impossible to harvest dry hay. Second and or 3rd cut haylage has been difficult to harvest as well. Most crops were growing well in Steuben County with the slightly warmer temperatures last week. Early corn was silking, and wheat was being harvested whenever the showers stopped long enough for it to dry. High winds in Broome County laid down a lot of oats on Sunday. Schuyler County had rain every day. Very little quality forage was being made in Delaware County, and almost all other crops were suffering ill effects of excess moisture. Along with the rain this week, northern parts of Dutchess County received hail which damaged field corn. Ulster County received a lot of rain causing flooding conditions. Fields were saturated in Orange County. Stunted corn was the norm, and many fields never got planted or had to be replanted. Warmer weather in St Lawrence County helped the corn crop, but most of the county was still wet. Rain continued to hamper the forage harvest in Lewis County. Corn and soybeans were still lagging behind in Jefferson County due to the prolonged period cool weather. This has been a banner year for haylage harvest since growing conditions have been ideal for cool season grasses and legumes.

FRUIT: Apples were 1 percent poor, 2 percent fair, 16 percent good, and 81 percent excellent. Grapes were 18 percent poor, 39 percent fair, 36 percent good, and 7 percent excellent. Peaches were 2 percent poor, 22 percent fair, 46 percent good, and 30 percent excellent. Pears were 9 percent poor, 14 percent fair, 23 percent good, and 54 percent excellent. Sweet cherries were 66 percent poor, 11 percent fair, 14 percent good, and 9 percent excellent. Tart cherries were 2 percent poor, 21 percent fair, and 77 percent good. Apples were 7 percent harvested, compared with 1 percent last year. Peaches were 20 percent harvested, compared with 16 percent last year. Pears were 8 percent harvested, compared with 13 percent last year. Sweet cherries were 91 percent harvested, compared with 79 percent last year. Tart cherries were 77 percent harvested, compared with 59 percent last year. In the Lake Ontario fruit region, growers scouted their orchards for apple scab, codling moth, and oriental fruit moth. In strawberries, root weevil activity picked up. Rain continued in the Hudson Valley, and small fruits were negatively affected with more rain than normal. In the Lake Erie grape belt, vines and weeds continued to grow in the rain. Weed management continued to be very difficult. The warm weather and ample rain in Long Island vineyards helped grapevines fill the trellis. Cluster zone leafing was done, and periodic hedging of the canopy was ongoing.

VEGETABLE: Sweet corn harvest continued but still behind schedule. Tomatoes have been affected by late blight throughout Central and Eastern New York. Tomatoes were 5 percent harvested, down from 23 percent harvested last year. Tomato conditions were 21 percent poor, 45 percent fair, 31 percent good, and 3 percent excellent. Lettuce conditions were 6 percent poor, 8 percent fair, 15 percent good, and 71 percent excellent. Onion harvest was 5 percent complete, down from 22 percent harvested last year. Onion conditions were 30 percent fair, 35 percent good, and 35 percent excellent. Sweet corn harvest was 11 percent complete, down from 19 percent harvested last year. Sweet corn conditions were 3 percent poor, 17 percent fair, 63 percent good, and 21 percent excellent. Snap bean harvest was 15 percent complete, down from 31 percent harvested last year. Snap bean conditions were 5 percent poor, 42 percent fair, 46 percent good, and 7 percent excellent. Cabbage harvest was 16 percent completed, down from 24 percent harvested last year. Cabbage conditions were 16 percent poor, 40 percent fair, 39 percent good, and 5 percent excellent.

LIVESTOCK: Pasture growth is abundant from the wet summer. Pasture conditions across most of the state were estimated to be in good condition. Pasture conditions were rated 1 percent very poor, 2 percent poor, 19 percent fair, 57 percent good and 21 percent excellent. In Broome county cows are showing signs of feet and hoof problems from the extremely wet pastures.

Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, August 2, 2009

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	85	57	73	+1	161	1519	+13	4.08	+3.34	20.48	+7.06	
Glens Falls	84	55	71	+1	145	1279	-36	2.62	+1.88	16.23	+3.29	
Poughkeepsie	87	61	74	+2	168	1604	+30	1.15	+0.31	22.18	+6.37	
<u>Mohawk Valley</u>												
Boonville	79	56	66	-1	111	876	-149	1.09	+0.16	19.85	+1.93	
<u>Champlain Valley</u>												
Plattsburgh	85	58	71	+2	150	1206	-138	0.96	+0.16	13.72	+1.68	
<u>St. Lawrence Valley</u>												
Canton	83	59	71	+3	147	1137	-52	0.78	-0.05	15.54	+2.82	
Massena	84	61	72	+3	154	1249	-14	0.59	-0.18	14.10	+2.39	
<u>Great Lakes</u>												
Buffalo	82	61	72	+1	151	1394	-39	0.13	-0.66	12.35	-0.53	
Wales	81	57	68	+1	128	1079	-77	0.16	-0.65	14.88	-0.44	
Niagara Falls	83	57	72	+1	154	1399	-45	0.48	-0.23	15.49	+2.93	
Rochester	85	59	71	+2	149	1331	-67	0.41	-0.26	16.05	+4.81	
Watertown	85	60	71	+3	150	1203	+12	0.22	-0.30	13.35	+3.36	
<u>Central Lakes</u>												
Dansville	83	56	69	-3	134	1320	-76	1.47	+0.84	13.06	+0.32	
Geneva	85	58	71	+1	148	1315	-65	1.76	+1.13	13.79	+1.08	
Honeoye	83	56	71	-2	148	1299	-134	1.98	+1.35	18.58	+6.10	
Ithaca	84	53	69	+1	137	1177	-71	2.02	+1.26	14.40	+0.74	
Penn Yan	84	59	71	+1	148	1419	+39	1.01	+0.38	12.20	-0.51	
Syracuse	87	59	73	+3	160	1490	+76	1.65	+0.84	13.90	-0.54	
Warsaw	80	57	68	+2	127	1024	-53	0.64	-0.13	17.31	+2.52	
<u>Western Plateau</u>												
Angelica	81	51	65	-2	106	919	-138	1.37	+0.60	13.83	-0.45	
Elmira	86	54	70	0	140	1323	-3	1.06	+0.36	10.26	-2.96	
Franklinville	81	55	67	+2	119	980	+16	1.83	+1.01	16.96	+2.03	
Jamestown	82	56	69	+3	130	1165	+78	1.80	+0.89	17.79	+1.19	
<u>Eastern Plateau</u>												
Binghamton	83	56	69	-1	137	1298	+12	2.08	+1.31	15.43	+1.62	
Cobleskill	84	55	70	+2	137	1186	-4	2.07	+1.31	17.36	+2.50	
Morrisville	81	56	68	+1	131	1069	-67	2.23	+1.46	18.66	+4.01	
Norwich	84	55	69	+2	134	1154	-39	4.06	+3.36	20.94	+6.13	
Oneonta	84	56	70	+4	139	1197	+95	2.19	+1.35	17.34	+1.20	
<u>Coastal</u>												
Bridgehamton	85	65	76	+4	180	1456	+52	0.40	-0.30	22.14	+7.56	
New York	89	69	79	+3	205	1975	+17	3.76	+2.85	23.74	+8.23	

^{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.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT www.nass.usda.gov/ny AND CLICK ON "SUBSCRIBE TO NY REPORTS" FOR INSTRUCTIONS ON GETTING FREE ELECTRONIC SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THIS REPORT. YOU MAY ALSO VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO ACCESS ALL OUR REPORTS WHICH ARE AVAILABLE FOR FREE ONLINE.