



WEATHER AND CROPS

August 30, 2010

Cooperating with New York Department of Agriculture and Markets
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WEATHER: At the start of the week a slow moving cutoff upper level low pressure area moved from the Great Lakes southeast towards the Atlantic Seaboard. This allowed for a prolonged period of rainfall from Sunday into Monday, some of which was heavy in intensity for central and eastern parts of the state. This rainfall caused minor to moderate flooding for parts of the Mohawk Valley. Light rain fell across southeastern parts of the state on Wednesday as another low pressure area moved up the northeast coastline. By Thursday, most areas stayed dry, but a few light rain showers occurred across the North Country as a weak cold front passed through the region. Finally, the entire state enjoyed dry and quiet weather for Friday into Saturday as high pressure built into the region with the clouds and rainfall, temperatures were below normal for the first half of the week with many areas only reaching the upper 60's to middle 70's for highs. Temperatures remained on the cool side for Thursday and Friday as well with near to slightly below normal temperatures as a cooler air mass pushed into the state in the wake of a cold front. However, temperatures began to warm up on Saturday as southerly flow returned to the region with average temperatures backs near normal levels.

CROPS: There were 5.4 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated 1 percent very short, 5 percent short, 83 percent adequate, and 11 percent surplus. Condition of corn was rated as 3 percent poor, 7 percent fair, 49 percent good, and 41 percent excellent. Soybean condition was 3 percent poor, 11 percent fair, 49 percent good, and 37 percent excellent. Hay condition was 3 percent poor, 15 percent fair, 53 percent good, and 29 percent excellent. Third cutting alfalfa was 84 percent completed, ahead of both last year's 57 percent and the five year average of 62 percent. Third cutting clover-timothy was 66 percent completed, ahead of both last year's 42 percent and the five year average of 45 percent. Ninety-six percent of the oats for grain were harvested, ahead of last year's 77 percent and the five year average of 87 percent. Potatoes were 39 percent harvested, ahead of last year's 35 percent, but slightly behind the five year average of 40 percent. Four percent of silage corn was harvested. The following are comments from throughout the state: Corn silage harvest began in Jefferson County, while other producers continued haying. Some small grain fields were tilled in preparation for winter wheat planting. High rainfall totals in Lewis County led to flooding along Black River and Beaver River. A few farms started corn harvest with more likely to start this week. Corn and hay chopping kept farmers busy in St. Lawrence County with the corn crop 1-2 weeks ahead of normal. A few fields were already pushing 35 percent whole plant dry moisture. The weekend brought a last push for making dry hay in Cortland County, and an excellent finale to a great summer of dry hay making. Many farms were debating whether to take a fifth cutting of hay (haylage) this year. Rainy weather brought no major damage to crops, and the fourth cutting of hay was either already harvested or was in the process of being harvested. A few farmers in Oneida County were looking for a fourth cutting of hay, and producers were predicting an early harvest and an early winter. Great weather for second and third cutting hay in Albany, and the corn continued to look great. Corn was starting to dent in Delaware County, so it won't be long till harvest begins. Dutchess County received some much needed rain, as crop conditions continue to be good for the season. Past rains in Sullivan County gave opportunity for ear rot in silage corn due to previous deer and bird damage. Short day corn will be ready for harvesting this week.

FRUIT: Apples were 1 percent poor, 16 percent fair, 73 percent good, and 10 percent excellent. Grapes were 2 percent poor, 4 percent fair, 51 percent good, and 43 percent excellent. Peaches were 9 percent fair, 88 percent good, and 3 percent excellent. Pears were 2 percent poor, 11 percent fair, and 87 percent good. Apples were 25 percent harvested, compared to 18 percent last year. Grapes were 4 percent harvested, compared to none last year. Peaches were 92 percent harvested, compared to 84 percent last year. Pears were 88 percent harvested, compared to 69 percent last year. In Ontario County, apple and grape harvest has started very early this year. Albany County apple growers reported harvest was going well, with good size and flavor. In the Lake Erie grape region, sugar solids were surging ahead at a rapid pace. In Long Island vineyards, rain brought much needed relief to thirsty vines. Harvest of grapes for sparkling wine started, and fruit quality was excellent.

VEGETABLE: Phytophthora Blight was found in a field of fresh market snap beans in western New York. Reports of Downy Mildew were received from pumpkin growers in eastern New York. Farmer's markets in Northeastern New York began selling squash and pumpkins. Lettuce had reported conditions of 13 percent good and 87 percent excellent. Onion harvest was 46 percent complete, behind the 49 percent five-year average. Onion conditions were 1 percent poor, 10 percent fair, 51 percent good and 38 percent excellent. Cabbage harvest was 75 percent completed, up from 47 percent last year, compared to 47 percent five-year average. Cabbage conditions were 54 percent good and 28 percent excellent. Sweet corn harvest was 68 percent complete, up from 49 percent last year, and 64 percent five-year average. Sweet corn conditions were 5 percent fair, 61 percent good, and 34 percent excellent. Tomatoes were 67 percent harvested, up from 53 percent five-year average. Tomato conditions were 5 percent poor, 11 percent fair, 69 percent good, and 15 percent excellent. Snap bean harvest was 63 percent complete, down from the 66 percent five-year average. Snap bean conditions were 1 percent poor, 8 percent fair, 72 percent good, and 19 percent excellent.

LIVESTOCK: Pastures enjoyed rains and cooler weather that increased feed availability for grazing animals. Pasture conditions were rated 1 percent very poor, 6 percent poor, 30 percent fair, 54 percent good, and 9 percent excellent.

Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, August 29, 2010

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	81	49	66	-3	115	2504	+466	1.13	+0.36	12.40	-4.05
Glens Falls	79	45	65	-2	102	2125	+340	1.08	+0.24	13.65	-2.48
Poughkeepsie	80	49	67	-3	117	2644	+512	4.09	+3.30	13.79	-5.14
<u>Mohawk Valley</u>											
Boonville	75	47	59	-4	66	1690	+283	3.81	+2.60	23.71	+1.51
<u>Champlain Valley</u>											
Plattsburgh	78	52	65	0	110	2047	+236	1.21	+0.28	17.09	+1.43
<u>St. Lawrence Valley</u>											
Canton	78	48	63	-2	90	1992	+367	2.79	+1.81	20.11	+3.73
Massena	80	48	66	+2	112	2129	+418	2.42	+1.53	17.58	+2.61
<u>Great Lakes</u>											
Buffalo	80	51	66	-2	113	2389	+441	0.21	-0.77	18.05	+1.51
Wales	80	47	63	-2	95	1980	+392	0.33	-0.69	16.82	-2.09
Niagara Falls	81	50	66	-2	116	2460	+504	0.45	-0.49	15.09	-0.88
Rochester	82	50	65	-2	109	2415	+532	0.64	-0.15	18.36	+4.14
Watertown	79	43	65	0	105	2136	+489	1.71	+0.87	15.12	+2.25
<u>Central Lakes</u>											
Dansville	80	47	63	-4	94	2275	+379	0.98	+0.21	18.90	+3.34
Geneva	80	52	64	-4	98	2310	+430	1.21	+0.44	20.66	+5.21
Honeoye	81	47	63	-5	94	2269	+309	0.41	-0.36	21.33	+6.02
Ithaca	81	46	63	-4	89	2166	+460	2.41	+1.63	15.76	-0.88
Penn Yan	80	52	65	-3	103	2408	+528	2.57	+1.80	17.59	+2.14
Syracuse	81	52	65	-3	106	2503	+593	4.51	+3.67	20.93	+3.45
Warsaw	78	47	62	-2	82	1934	+461	0.48	-0.43	21.91	+3.76
<u>Western Plateau</u>											
Angelica	80	47	63	0	95	2101	+648	0.69	-0.15	20.51	+3.13
Elmira	82	46	64	-3	101	2305	+502	0.63	-0.07	16.44	+0.57
Franklinville	80	45	62	+1	88	1851	+519	0.17	-0.75	19.41	+1.04
Jamestown	80	46	64	0	97	2098	+603	0.25	-0.81	20.02	-0.47
<u>Eastern Plateau</u>											
Binghamton	77	50	63	-3	93	2283	+531	2.26	+1.49	16.75	+0.02
Cobleskill	79	46	62	-4	82	205	+415	3.43	+2.59	19.28	+1.38
Morrisville	79	48	61	-4	76	1996	+443	3.09	+2.24	22.37	+4.62
Norwich	81	47	62	-3	88	1991	+359	2.11	+1.30	19.07	+1.33
Oneonta	80	47	63	-1	91	2093	+587	3.02	+2.18	21.20	+1.82
<u>Coastal</u>											
Bridgehampton	81	52	69	-2	133	2581	+609	1.23	+0.39	10.49	-7.10
New York	84	64	73	-2	160	3432	+790	2.00	+1.16	12.00	-6.76

^{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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