



WEATHER AND CROPS

May 31, 2011

Cooperating with New York Department of Agriculture and Markets
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Week Ending, May 29, 2011

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WEATHER: The week started out fairly dry and cool before a warm front brought isolated showers and thunderstorms Monday night into Tuesday. A warm front lifted north of northern New York and New England on Tuesday. A cold front passed through around Tuesday night with high pressure ridging in south of Hudson Bay with a brief return to seasonable temperatures during the mid week. By Thursday, the cold front lifted north as a warm front with a very active stretch of weather to close the week. Strong to severe thunderstorms impacted much of upstate New York as several waves of low pressure moved along the boundary that became stationary near the St. Lawrence River Valley. The heaviest rainfall from the showers and thunderstorms occurred over the Niagara Frontier, Finger Lakes Region, Adirondacks, and northern New York. The front began to move south of the region by late in the day on Saturday. Precipitation varied widely across the state with the lowest totals across the Capital Region, portions of central New York, and Long Island. Temperatures ended up finishing well above normal for the week.

CROPS: Topsoil moisture was rated as 39 percent adequate and 61 percent surplus. There were 3.7 days suitable for fieldwork. Hay was rated as 6 percent poor, 21 percent fair, 52 percent good, and 21 percent excellent. Winter wheat was rated 6 percent poor, 43 percent fair, 47 percent good, and 4 percent excellent. The first cuttings of alfalfa and clover timothy were 6 percent complete, while grass silage was 11 percent complete. Corn was 43 percent planted, behind last year's 88 percent and the average of 86 percent. Oats were 59 percent planted, well behind the 100 percent planted a year ago and the 99 percent average. Potatoes were 58 percent planted, behind last year's 81 percent and the average of 80 percent. Soybeans were 14 percent planted, behind the 52 percent planted a year ago, and the 55 percent average. The following are comments from throughout the state: Farmers in Lewis County were hindered by rain, but fieldwork progressed as corn and new seedings were planted and haylage was harvested. St. Lawrence County experienced another wet week with little opportunity to do fieldwork. Corn may have been planted in higher elevations, but very few crops were in the ground. Essex County hay was of good quality, but too wet to harvest. It was still too wet to plant corn and other row crops. Some hand planting of vegetables was done. Producers in Erie County were concerned about the inability to plant early crops, especially oats, due to the rain. Off and on rain showers in Ontario County kept most producers out of the fields. Drier weather in Cayuga County improved progress on planting, although some fields remained too wet to work. Most farmers were concentrating on planting before turning to hay and haylage harvest. Short breaks in the rain in Cortland County had farmers working fast to plant crops, while some ground was still too wet to begin tillage. Corn was going in, small grains were being reconsidered, and soybeans were getting started. The first cutting of hay was also started. Spotty rain showers continued in Madison County, which kept farmers from finishing corn planting. The first cutting of hay was harvested as haylage. Otsego County producers were working hard between rain storms. Many planted all they planned, but needed to leave quite a few wet areas. Some hay was cut. Farmers in Albany County were planting where soil conditions permitted. Corn planting remained behind schedule, but progress was made. Hay harvest began in Montgomery and Fulton Counties between the rains. Corn planting continued, but was about 2 weeks behind. No soybeans were planted yet. A break in the weather in Saratoga County allowed some farmers to move ahead with field corn planting. Grass and some alfalfa/mixed legume haylage harvest started on drier fields. Washington County experienced improved weather, with the exception of very heavy rains and high winds on Thursday evening in the northern part of the county. Some farmers planted corn, while others delayed planting to start chopping haylage. Severe storms, including hail, straight line winds, and heavy rains, hit Broome County on Thursday, and ended any hopes of producers finishing corn planting or starting hay harvest. Rains fell just enough in Schuyler County to prohibit fieldwork. Much prevented planting corn was anticipated. Several days of warmth and sunshine helped many Delaware County farmers get their corn planted and start the first cutting of hay, while many fields were still quite wet. First cutting of hay will be of lesser quality than normal. Sullivan County was hit by a severe storm on Thursday with heavy rains, high winds, and hail. An unconfirmed tornado may have also hit the county. Farmers were planting corn and replanting corn, in some cases. Scattered rain storms continued in Dutchess County, while Ulster and Orange Counties were hit with severe weather on Thursday.

FRUIT: Apples were 68 percent petal fall. Peaches were 83 percent petal fall, compared to 99 percent previous year. Pears were 88 percent petal fall, compared to 99 last year. Sweet cherries were 98 percent petal fall, even with last year. Tart cherries were 100 percent petal fall. In Ontario County, mold and mildew were problems for strawberries, fruit trees, and grapes. Some ripe strawberries were spotted and growers were picking their first crop over Memorial Day weekend. Also, large leaf spots caused by the fungal pathogen *Phomopsis* were observed in a strawberry crop being scouted by the IPM program. Petal fall thinning sprays were applied to the apple crop. In Long Island vineyards, shoots were growing rapidly and bloom is still several weeks away.

VEGETABLE: The early field-grown vegetables were harvested while planting continued for other vegetable crops. Sweet corn was at 49 percent planted, up from 27 percent previous week and lower than 51 percent previous year, and 59 percent for the five-year average. Onions were at 94 percent planted, up from 65 percent previous week and below the 98 percent previous year. Snap beans were at 12 percent planted, up from 8 percent last week and compared to 17 percent previous year. Cabbage was at 17 percent planted, up from 13 percent last week and well below 54 percent last year. Lettuce was at 71 percent planted compared to 40 percent previous week. Tomatoes were at 49 percent planted compared to 13 percent last week.

LIVESTOCK: Pasture condition was rated 7 percent poor, 18 fair, 53 good, and 22 percent excellent. Many pastures were still too wet to graze. Growth has been good and grasses were lush.

Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, May 29, 2011

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	86	54	69	+9	137	430	+172	0.08	-0.73	9.34	+3.18
Glens Falls	86	52	68	+9	124	339	+137	0.34	-0.50	9.61	+3.25
Poughkeepsie	87	53	69	+8	134	468	+171	0.21	-0.77	9.74	+2.20
<u>Mohawk Valley</u>											
Boonville	80	48	62	+7	86	213	+72	2.07	+1.06	16.13	+7.39
<u>Champlain Valley</u>											
Plattsburgh	78	49	62	+4	87	260	+56	3.41	+2.72	14.35	+8.88
<u>St. Lawrence Valley</u>											
Canton	76	47	62	+5	88	275	+102	1.63	+0.93	12.22	+6.59
Massena	82	47	63	+5	93	288	+94	1.70	+1.11	10.59	+5.59
<u>Great Lakes</u>											
Buffalo	78	52	65	+6	108	342	+104	2.63	+1.88	13.60	+7.81
Wales	77	48	64	+7	96	263	+88	1.87	+1.02	12.80	+5.68
Niagara Falls	76	50	64	+4	97	300	+45	1.21	+0.51	11.06	+5.16
Rochester	80	51	65	+5	107	334	+75	1.34	+0.71	10.21	+5.07
Watertown	78	49	63	+7	96	283	+106	1.01	+0.38	10.41	+5.39
<u>Central Lakes</u>											
Dansville	86	55	71	+12	146	429	+188	1.26	+0.55	8.79	+3.29
Geneva	85	51	66	+8	115	333	+105	1.21	+0.48	9.88	+4.19
Honeoye	86	50	68	+9	128	336	+102	1.17	+0.49	9.93	+4.34
Ithaca	85	48	66	+9	117	322	+124	1.60	+0.81	12.96	+6.98
Penn Yan	86	51	68	+9	126	361	+133	0.67	-0.06	8.94	+3.25
Syracuse	90	52	71	+11	148	480	+219	0.76	-0.01	12.37	+5.98
Warsaw	77	47	63	+8	96	244	+88	2.71	+1.86	13.68	+7.04
<u>Western Plateau</u>											
Hornell Almond Dam	84	50	66	+9	117	283	+107	1.62	+0.89	12.85	+7.41
Elmira	86	48	68	+10	128	362	+145	1.34	+0.57	11.02	+5.37
Franklinville	79	48	65	+11	108	258	+134	1.61	+0.76	15.13	+8.57
Jamestown	80	51	65	+10	109	297	+141	2.00	+1.06	13.40	+5.92
<u>Eastern Plateau</u>											
Binghamton	83	50	66	+8	115	326	+118	2.43	+1.66	15.72	+9.45
Cobleskill	84	49	67	+9	119	292	+107	0.33	-0.55	9.07	+2.39
Morrisville	81	48	64	+8	102	273	+99	1.23	+0.33	11.40	+4.86
Norwich	85	48	65	+8	109	313	+123	1.42	+0.54	13.23	+6.37
Oneonta	87	49	66	+10	115	310	+144	0.75	-0.23	14.39	+6.90
<u>Coastal</u>											
Bridgehamton	79	50	65	+6	103	328	+122	0.24	-0.60	6.57	-0.97
New York	83	53	69	+5	137	510	+90	0.02	-0.82	8.87	+1.50

^{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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