



WEATHER AND CROPS

September 6, 2011

Cooperating with New York Department of Agriculture and Markets
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Week Ending, September 4, 2011

No. 977-20-11

WEATHER: Hurricane Irene impacted all but the western part of the state with torrential rain producing widespread major and record breaking flooding over the eastern third of the state. The rest of the week was dry as high pressure settled over the region. Rainfall amounts were anywhere from 3 to 14 inches over the eastern part of the state due to Irene and the rainfall tapered off to only a tenth to half an inch over western New York. Temperatures began below normal as Hurricane Irene affected the region on Sunday and temperatures continued below normal into the middle of the week. As the high pressure moved offshore later in the week temperatures returned to near normal levels on Thursday and Friday and above normal by Saturday.

CROPS: There were 4.0 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated as 2 percent short, 71 percent adequate, and 27 percent surplus. Condition of corn was rated as 14 percent poor, 24 percent fair, 51 percent good, and 11 percent excellent. Condition of soybeans was rated as 5 percent poor, 26 percent fair, 57 percent good, and 12 percent excellent. Hay condition was rated as 7 percent poor, 33 percent fair, 53 percent good, and 7 percent excellent. The second cutting of alfalfa was virtually complete. The third cutting of alfalfa was 63 percent complete, behind the 87 percent harvested last year and the 74 percent average. The second cutting of clover timothy was 95 percent complete, behind the 100 percent harvested last year but ahead of the 93 percent average. The third cutting of clover timothy was 54 percent complete, behind the 77 percent harvested last year and the 58 percent average. Silage corn was 6 percent harvested, behind the 12 percent harvested last year. Oats for grain were 89 percent harvested, behind the 99 percent harvested last year and the 93 percent average. Potatoes were 34 percent harvested, behind the 40 percent harvested last year and the 44 percent average. The following are comments from throughout the state: Corn silage harvest was taking place on a few farms in Jefferson County where corn silage inventories were low. Crop conditions were similar to last week in St Lawrence County with little rain. Strong winds did little crop damage locally. Essex County was still feeling the effect of Tropical Storm Irene. There was erosion and deposition on hay fields, especially in the town of Jay. Ontario County experienced sunshine and warmth that continued to improve the corn and soybeans. Steady rain on Sunday made for potentially wet conditions in Cortland County as corn silage harvest and late season hay cuttings approached. Cooler temperatures and shorter days slowed crop maturity. In Madison County, wet weather impacted hay harvest. Tropical Storm Irene just touched the county and 5 percent of standing corn was leaning a bit. Corn silage harvest began, and the northern tier of the county will begin next week. Cropland in Otsego County dried out, only to get soaked again over the weekend. Overall conditions were not bad, and Tropical Storm Irene's impact was mostly high winds. Some crops were hard to harvest, but not destroyed. Tropical Storm Irene caused widespread loss of crops in the Capital area. The Schoharie Valley was particularly hard hit with virtually all of the crops in the valley inundated with flood waters. Much of the corn was flattened, and debris littered the fields. There was widespread farmland damage and some livestock were lost. Roads both on and off farm were damaged, making travel difficult. Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack, Governor Cuomo, Senator Gillibrand, and Congressmen Tonko and Gibson along with NYS Ag Commissioner Aubertine visited the Valley on Saturday and met with farmers. Fulton and Montgomery County cropping came to a standstill as the weather was not good for haying. Corn silage harvest began. Wind caused damage in the uplands, and third cutting hay that flooded by the Mohawk River will have to be cut and removed in hopes of a fourth cutting. Washington County received 3 inches of rain this weekend. All of the cropland along the rivers and streams was flooded to some degree. Some corn was in 6 feet of water. Some corn was knocked over, but the majority was still standing and covered in silt and dirt. Farmers were concerned about the quality of the feed. Tropical Storm Irene affected Delaware and Sullivan Counties where producers reported total losses of some corn and hay fields. In areas where flooding took place, producers were not sure if crops could be harvested until testing was done. The northeastern part of Delaware County was the hardest hit area of the county where there was total devastation, and travel in that area was restricted. The lower Hudson Valley also felt devastating effects from Tropical Storm Irene, which brought 6 – 10 inches of rain, high winds, and flooding. Low-lying crops were devastated by flooding with soil erosion in many areas and gullies in fields. Field crops weathered the storm very well in Dutchess County, but not as well in Ulster County. Damage also existed in Putnam and Westchester Counties due to high winds. Greene County was also hard hit by Tropical Storm Irene. There were lots of crop and livestock losses. Columbia County was less severely impacted, but sustained quite a bit of damage to standing crops.

FRUIT: Apple harvest was 28 percent complete, down from 33 percent previous year but ahead of the from 23 percent average. Apple condition was 9 percent poor, 33 percent fair, 45 percent good, and 13 percent excellent. Grape harvest was 10 percent complete, below the 12 percent from last year. Grape condition was 10 percent fair, 72 percent good, and 18 percent excellent. Peach harvest was 94 percent complete, down from 96 percent last year and above the 79 percent average. Peach condition was 11 percent poor, 26 percent fair, 48 percent good, and 15 percent excellent. Pear harvest was 40 percent complete, behind the 64 percent average. Pear condition was 42 percent fair, 45 percent good, and 13 percent excellent. Fruit damage was still being assessed in most eastern New York areas.

VEGETABLE: Some crops were ruined by harsh rain. Vegetables along flooded river flats were a total loss because of safety concerns for consumers. Lettuce had reported conditions of 4 percent poor, 10 percent fair, 83 percent good, and 3 percent excellent. Onion harvest was 68 percent complete compared to 49 percent last year and 57 percent average. Onion conditions were 5 percent poor, 13 percent fair, 68 percent good and 14 percent excellent. Cabbage harvest was 72 percent completed compare to 77 percent last year and 58 percent average. Cabbage conditions were 16 percent poor, 41 percent fair, and 43 percent good. Sweet corn harvest was 76 percent complete, ahead of 70 percent last year and 70 percent average. Sweet corn conditions were 14 percent poor, 19 percent fair, 63 percent good, and 4 percent excellent. Tomatoes were 52 percent harvested compared to 69 percent previous year and 63 percent average. Tomato conditions were 35 percent poor, 22 percent fair, 39 percent good, and 4 percent excellent. Snap bean harvest was 62 percent complete compared to 67 percent last year and 70 percent average. Snap bean conditions were 13 percent poor, 34 percent fair, 49 percent good, and 5 percent excellent.

LIVESTOCK: Livestock loss reported in some counties due to tropical storm Irene. Erosion in pasture occurred as well. Pasture conditions were rated 2 percent very poor, 11 percent poor, 40 percent fair, 40 percent good, and 7 percent excellent.

Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, September 4, 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 | 82 | 50 | 69 | +3 | 132 | 2593 | +462 | 2.95 | +2.18 | 27.47 | +10.36 |
| Glens Falls | 80 | 50 | 67 | +4 | 116 | 2260 | +395 | 2.28 | +1.48 | 24.95 | +8.14 |
| Poughkeepsie | 84 | 52 | 69 | +3 | 136 | 2708 | +475 | 2.66 | +1.82 | 29.95 | +10.30 |
| <u>Mohawk Valley</u> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Boonville | 79 | 44 | 63 | +2 | 90 | 1703 | +234 | 1.62 | +0.36 | 30.39 | +7.11 |
| <u>Champlain Valley</u> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Plattsburgh | 79 | 50 | 66 | +3 | 115 | 2110 | +219 | 4.10 | +3.23 | 25.20 | +8.80 |
| <u>St. Lawrence Valley</u> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Canton | 83 | 50 | 66 | +4 | 111 | 2080 | +382 | 1.92 | +0.94 | 26.14 | +8.92 |
| Massena | 86 | 51 | 68 | +6 | 125 | 2280 | +495 | 1.09 | +0.19 | 19.00 | +3.26 |
| <u>Great Lakes</u> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Buffalo | 89 | 52 | 72 | +7 | 157 | 2496 | +454 | 0.54 | -0.39 | 24.49 | +7.16 |
| Wales | 87 | 45 | 67 | +5 | 123 | 2037 | +373 | 0.19 | -0.89 | 21.17 | +1.33 |
| Niagara Falls | 90 | 50 | 72 | +7 | 152 | 2432 | +383 | 0.52 | -0.40 | 19.17 | +2.42 |
| Rochester | 89 | 49 | 71 | +4 | 147 | 2458 | +484 | 0.08 | -0.69 | 19.45 | +4.57 |
| Watertown | 84 | 46 | 69 | +6 | 137 | 2187 | +461 | 0.50 | -0.34 | 20.97 | +7.38 |
| <u>Central Lakes</u> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dansville | 93 | 47 | 71 | +4 | 149 | 2687 | +699 | 0.19 | -0.59 | 17.94 | +1.71 |
| Geneva | 89 | 51 | 69 | +4 | 132 | 2371 | +399 | 0.03 | -0.74 | 19.85 | +3.74 |
| Honeoye | 91 | 45 | 69 | +3 | 136 | 2283 | +225 | 0.03 | -0.74 | 22.36 | +6.39 |
| Ithaca | 88 | 47 | 67 | +3 | 117 | 2189 | +402 | 0.81 | -0.03 | 22.88 | +5.52 |
| Penn Yan | 92 | 51 | 71 | +6 | 147 | 2531 | +559 | 0.07 | -0.70 | 15.44 | -0.67 |
| Syracuse | 90 | 51 | 71 | +7 | 150 | 2744 | +742 | 0.86 | +0.00 | 25.79 | +7.57 |
| Warsaw | 89 | 47 | 67 | +6 | 122 | 1968 | +427 | 0.18 | -0.79 | 24.57 | +5.58 |
| <u>Western Plateau</u> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hornell Almond Dam | 90 | 43 | 67 | +4 | 118 | 2069 | +401 | 0.03 | -0.64 | 22.49 | +7.01 |
| Elmira | 91 | 46 | 67 | +3 | 121 | 2371 | +482 | 0.24 | -0.46 | 19.16 | +2.69 |
| Franklinville | 89 | 42 | 66 | +6 | 111 | 1951 | +557 | 0.32 | -0.65 | 27.70 | +8.50 |
| Jamestown | 90 | 45 | 68 | +6 | 127 | 2159 | +592 | 0.51 | -0.61 | 25.72 | +4.27 |
| <u>Eastern Plateau</u> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Binghamton | 85 | 48 | 66 | +3 | 115 | 2235 | +402 | 1.32 | +0.55 | 30.23 | +12.84 |
| Cobleskill | 84 | 47 | 65 | +3 | 110 | 2064 | +358 | 2.57 | +1.72 | 29.22 | +10.59 |
| Morrisville | 87 | 47 | 66 | +5 | 115 | 2046 | +421 | 2.05 | +1.14 | 23.70 | +5.17 |
| Norwich | 85 | 46 | 65 | +2 | 105 | 2076 | +368 | 3.61 | +2.77 | 31.10 | +12.65 |
| Oneonta | 85 | 45 | 64 | +3 | 100 | 2062 | +487 | 1.77 | +0.93 | 31.06 | +10.96 |
| <u>Coastal</u> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bridgehamton | 84 | 54 | 67 | -2 | 122 | 2490 | +410 | 0.00 | -0.84 | 20.68 | +2.37 |
| New York | 84 | 62 | 74 | +2 | 168 | 3149 | +373 | 0.41 | -0.43 | 33.21 | +13.73 |

^{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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