



WEATHER AND CROPS

September 30, 2013

Cooperating with New York Department of Agriculture and Markets
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WEATHER: Most of the week was dry as high pressure dominated the weather across New York State. Temperatures averaged below normal during the early portion of the week with several locations across western and northern portions of the state experiencing frost and freeze conditions. Temperatures warmed to near average by the end of the week. Precipitation across the state ranged from none to 0.98 inches.

CROPS: There were 6.1 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated 3 percent short, 83 percent adequate, and 14 percent surplus. Hay crops were 2 percent poor, 21 percent fair, 63 percent good, and 14 percent excellent. The third clover timothy cutting was 83 percent complete compared to 82 percent in 2012, and was ahead of the 81 percent average. The third alfalfa cutting was 92 percent complete compared to 87 percent in 2012, and was ahead of the 91 percent five year average. Condition of corn was 5 percent poor, 16 percent fair, 50 percent good, and 29 percent excellent. Silage corn was 51 percent harvested compared to 69 percent in 2012 and below the 55 percent five year average. Corn for grain was 2 percent harvested compared to 8 percent in 2012 and behind the 4 percent five year average. Soybeans were rated 3 percent poor, 16 percent fair, 51 percent good, and 30 percent excellent. Soybeans were 2 percent harvested compared to 11 percent in 2012 and were below the 6 percent five year average. Potatoes were 79 percent harvested compared to 72 percent in 2012 and ahead of the 67 percent five year average. The following comments are from our reporters throughout the state: In Jefferson County, a nice stretch of dry weather was favorable for dry hay and corn silage harvest. Niagara County reported soybean harvest began, corn silage harvest was nearly done, wheat planting began, and hay drying continued. Silage corn, grass haylage, and dry hay harvest continued in Ontario County and last week marked the beginning of soybean harvest. Producers reported good quality and yield on these crops. In Cayuga County, the weather was great for field work and a lot of ground was covered in the past few days. Cortland County reported it was finally a rain free week, but mud holes remained. Corn silage was running full speed, corn was drying quickly, and blight was spreading as well. Corn knocked down during the wind storm was proving a challenge to harvest. Hay dried enough to bale. In Madison County, corn silage harvest proceeded in small areas. A killing frost was experienced last week, but mostly in the county's northern tier. Much of the corn for silage in the county's southern half was still too wet to harvest. Hay harvest was the primary work done this past week. Albany County reported silage harvest was nearing completion after a week of near perfect weather. Excellent weather for making hay had farmers making some high quality forage this past week. Montgomery and Fulton Counties continued to have some of the best weather of the season which helped finish corn and the third cutting of hay was very good. In Rensselaer County, farmers had good weather to get corn harvested and many were baling and chopping third or fourth cutting of hay. Washington, Warren, and Saratoga Counties reported a beautiful week of weather. A lot of corn silage was chopped this past week and some farmers harvested haylage, balage, and baled hay as well. Corn silage yields varied greatly depending on soil type and the amount of rain. Many fields had spots where the corn died or was short and yellow due to excessive moisture. The excessive rainfall leached out fertilizer and herbicide in some fields. These fields in turn had weed control problems and the corn was yellowish due to lack of nitrogen. There was a light frost in some areas. Corn blight was also an issue, with some fields looking like the plants were completely dead.

FRUIT: Apples were 53 percent harvested compared to 76 percent in 2012 and below the 56 percent five year average. Apples were rated 6 percent fair, 61 percent good, and 33 percent excellent. Pears were 71 percent harvested compared to 96 percent in 2012 and well below the 93 percent five year average. Pears were 4 percent poor, 15 percent fair, 67 percent good, and 14 percent excellent. Grapes were 50 percent harvested compared to 63 percent in 2012 and ahead of the 46 percent five year average. Grapes were 1 percent fair, 41 percent good, and 58 percent excellent. The following comments are from our reporters throughout the state: Ontario County reported producers were busy harvesting apples and grapes with good yield and quality. In Albany County, apple orchards were very busy with "pick your own" operations. Suffolk County reported that the harvest continued on Long Island vineyards. Blocks of Chardonnay and Riesling were picked. Fruit quality was very good due to a long stretch of sunny and dry weather.

VEGETABLE: Sweet corn was 97 percent harvested compared to 99 percent in 2012, and was above the 95 percent five year average. Sweet corn was 4 percent poor, 12 percent fair, 50 percent good, and 24 percent excellent. Onions were 81 percent harvested compared to 95 percent in 2012, and were behind the 86 percent five year average. Onions were 9 percent poor, 42 percent fair, 39 percent good, and 10 percent excellent. Snap beans were 90 percent harvested which was equivalent to 2012, and behind the 92 percent five year average. Snap beans were rated 2 percent poor, 29 percent fair, 66 percent good, and 3 percent excellent. Cabbage was 85 percent harvested compared to 91 percent in 2012, and was ahead of the 84 percent five year average. Cabbage was rated 27 percent poor, 31 percent fair, 21 percent good, and 21 percent excellent. The following comments are from our reporters throughout the state: Ontario County was busy with cabbage harvest with producers reporting good quality and yield. In Albany County, farm stands had one of their busiest weekends of the year with fine weather for families to get out and enjoy the fall foliage and the farmer's harvest.

LIVESTOCK: Pasture was rated 1 percent very poor, 13 percent poor, 21 percent fair, 57 percent good, and 8 percent excellent. The following comments are from our reporters throughout the state: Albany County reported pastures were slow to re-grow with dry conditions prevailing.

Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, September 29, 2013

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
Albany County AP	73	40	55	-3	36	2772	+370	0.00	-0.63	30.87	+11.34
Watertown Intl	73	31	52	-5	24	2370	+422	0.00	-0.70	19.04	+2.76
Boonville	66	32	49	-5	12	1660	+35	0.03	-1.15	30.70	+2.89
Bridgehampton	71	42	56	-6	43	2536	+114	0.00	-0.77	21.04	-0.14
Binghamton/Broome	69	38	53	-4	28	2274	+208	0.01	-0.74	27.05	+6.88
Buffalo Intl AP	75	40	57	-3	47	2646	+317	0.00	-0.74	24.62	+4.42
Canton	71	34	50	-5	15	2095	+198	0.02	-0.81	27.09	+6.69
Cobleskill	70	37	52	-4	18	2126	+203	0.00	-0.82	25.46	+3.71
Dansville AP	75	38	56	-3	45	2789	+524	0.00	-0.73	16.92	-2.12
Elmira	71	36	54	-4	29	2487	+349	0.00	-0.70	18.90	-0.15
Franklinville	71	32	51	-4	13	1843	+277	0.00	-0.91	25.86	+3.31
Geneva Research	71	41	54	-4	31	2386	+143	0.05	-0.65	23.39	+4.60
Glens Falls AP	73	32	52	-4	18	2390	+307	0.00	-0.69	22.57	+3.20
Honeoye	74	33	51	-9	17	2298	-62	0.02	-0.68	21.89	+3.30
Hornell Almond	70	34	51	-5	13	2000	+123	0.00	-0.72	21.87	+3.72
Jamestown 4NE	73	35	54	-2	31	2208	+436	0.00	-1.04	22.25	-3.10
Niagara Falls	73	38	54	-5	35	2501	+168	0.00	-0.76	24.71	+4.93
Ithaca Cornell	70	34	51	-6	19	2175	+150	0.00	-0.78	25.40	+5.10
New York LGA	73	50	63	-3	91	3653	+432	0.00	-0.74	22.50	+0.21
Morrisville	71	36	52	-4	21	2183	+355	0.00	-0.90	33.52	+11.67
Massena	72	38	51	-4	18	2197	+217	0.05	-0.70	26.45	+7.83
Norwich	73	37	53	-3	29	2136	+212	0.01	-0.82	32.31	+10.70
Oneonta	70	34	49	-5	6	2003	+242	0.00	-0.80	30.74	+7.68
Penn Yan	71	39	55	-3	36	2612	+369	0.00	-0.70	17.63	-1.16
Plattsburgh Intl	70	39	53	-3	22	2218	+108	0.00	-0.63	24.49	+5.56
Poughkeepsie AP	73	37	56	-3	45	2896	+363	0.00	-0.75	26.82	+4.35
Rochester NY	74	40	55	-5	36	2702	+443	0.00	-0.63	22.36	+5.03
Syracuse	73	41	55	-4	37	2750	+470	0.00	-0.84	23.26	+1.86
Wales	72	34	52	-4	25	2126	+242	0.00	-1.02	22.79	-0.93
Warsaw	70	38	52	-3	23	1975	+246	0.00	-0.87	24.45	+2.13

^{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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