



WEATHER AND CROPS

September 28, 2009

Cooperating with New York Department of Agriculture and Markets
10B Airline Drive, Albany, New York 12235-0001
(518) 457-5570 · (518) 485-8719 FAX · www.nass.usda.gov

Released, September 28, 2009

Week Ending, September 27, 2009

No. 977-23-09

WEATHER: It was a mild week across southern and western sections of the state where temperatures averaged a few degrees above normal while northern and eastern sections of the state were near normal. Precipitation for the week ended up being normal or above normal in most areas mainly due to rainfall late Saturday and Saturday night. The week started out cool and dry Sunday morning with frost in some areas but temperatures quickly rebounded as a large ridge of high pressure built along the northeast coast and then moved out to sea by the middle of the week. A low pressure system moved into the eastern Great Lakes Wednesday morning with mild conditions across the state ahead of this system. The low pressure system brought some rain to the state with the most rain across western and central sections which were followed by a cold front that pushed through the state by Thursday morning. This was followed by a large area of high pressure which moved south from Canada bringing cool conditions to the state on Friday and Saturday with some frost in places on Saturday morning. Rain fell across the state late Saturday and Saturday night ahead of a low pressure system which moved east from the Ohio Valley.

CROPS: Another near perfect week for fieldwork, and harvesting activities. There were 5.6 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated 14 percent short, 79 percent adequate, and 7 percent surplus. Condition of soybeans was 7 percent poor, 26 percent fair, 55 percent good, and 12 percent excellent. Hay condition was 8 percent poor, 25 percent fair, 53 percent good, and 14 percent excellent. Condition of corn was 7 percent poor, 22 percent fair, 56 percent good, and 15 percent excellent. Oat harvest was completed. Potatoes were 67 percent harvested, behind both the five year average of 74 percent, and last year's 73 percent. Ninety-four percent of the third cutting of alfalfa was completed, ahead of both the five year average of 88 percent, and last year's 92 percent. Silage corn was 36 percent harvested behind both last year's 42 percent, and the five year average of 47 percent. Fifty-eight percent of the dry beans were harvested, ahead of both the five year average of 28 percent, and last year's 37 percent. The following are comments from across the state: Frost across Jefferson County last weekend helped dry down the corn for silage, but left soybean growers wondering what to do with an immature crop. Most of Lewis County received a killing frost leaving many undeveloped acres of corn. Despite the frost many corn fields for dry matter were still not dry enough for silage harvest. Many acres intended for corn grain will likely be chopped for silage given the frost. St. Lawrence County got much needed rain for forage and small grain seedings. Despite the rain, plenty of crops were harvested, both corn and soybeans. Rain helped the wheat germination and summer seedings in Niagara County. The silage harvest continued, but grain corn and soybean harvest had not started yet. In Ontario County, corn for silage continued to be harvested. As soon as the weather cooperates the soybean harvest should begin. Cayuga County was now seeing lots of field corn diseases and "premature death" of the plants due to the combined stresses of nitrogen deficiency, fungal diseases, and a lack of growing degree days. Corn silage harvest began in Cortland County. There was a patchy, light frost across the county, but still no widespread killing frost which was good news since a lot of corn has a way to go till black layer. A lot of late hay cutting was done in the last two weeks, and most of it was chopped or wrapped because dry down was so tough. Fourth cutting of hay was underway in Madison County, and the silage harvest was progressing. Corn chopping was in full swing in Albany County with yields being reported as good, but not great. Hay making continued with some nice second and third cutting being made. In Montgomery, Fulton, and Herkimer Counties the corn silage harvest was well underway. Soybeans continue to worry producers. Saratoga County had some scattered light frosts in the higher elevations, but no killing frost, so the growing season continues. A large amount of silage was harvested, and farmers are continuing to bale hay. Washington County farmers continued to make progress chopping corn silage. Hay harvest was winding down in Steuben County, but there are quite a few fields that will be harvested after frost or corn silage harvest. Corn silage maturity was good for most of Delaware County. Frost touched some areas again. Dry weather continued in Dutchess County, and the harvest was progressing.

FRUIT: Apples remained in 1 percent poor condition, 2 percent fair, 12 percent good, and 85 percent excellent. Grapes were 2 percent poor, 30 percent fair, 53 percent good, and 15 percent excellent. Apple harvest reached 38 percent finished, behind last year's 46 percent and the average of 49 percent. Peach and pear harvests were virtually finished. Grapes were 26 percent harvested, behind last year's 50 percent and the average of 37 percent. Pick-your-own apple operations were in full swing. Ideal weather enabled picking to progress rapidly. On Long Island, harvest of grapes for sparkling wine has taken place. Bird pressure remained high. Early ripening wine grape varieties were starting to be harvested in the Lake Erie growing region. Harvesting of Niagara and Concord acreage will begun in a few days. Weed control has been a problem due to wet weather experienced for much of the summer.

VEGETABLE: Pumpkin, winter squash, and sweet corn were moving quickly from markets as harvest continued. Cucumber conditions were 20 percent fair, 77 percent good, and 3 percent excellent. Lettuce conditions were 27 percent fair, 67 percent good, and 6 percent excellent. Tomatoes were 92 percent harvested, ahead of the 88 percent five-year average. Tomato conditions were 37 percent poor, 19 percent fair, 26 percent good, and 18 percent excellent. Onion harvest was 89 percent complete, up from 86 percent five-year average. Onion conditions were 30 percent fair, 41 percent good, and 29 percent excellent. Sweet corn harvest was 88 percent complete, behind the 91 percent harvested last year, and 93 percent five-year average. Sweet corn conditions were 5 percent poor, 24 percent fair, 53 percent good, and 18 percent excellent. Snap bean harvest was 91 percent complete, down from the 94 percent five-year average. Snap bean conditions were 7 percent poor, 43 percent fair, 49 percent good, and 1 percent excellent. Cabbage harvest was 78 percent completed, ahead of the 77 percent five-year average. Cabbage conditions were 33 percent fair, 53 percent good, and 14 percent excellent.

LIVESTOCK: No livestock problems reported. Pasture remains better than average given the ample rainfall throughout the summer. Pasture conditions were rated 2 percent very poor, 7 percent poor, 32 percent fair, 49 percent good and 10 percent excellent.

Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, September 20, 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	80	37	62	+4	83	2475	+87	0.64	+0.01	24.85	+5.50	
Glens Falls	77	31	58	+3	61	2082	+10	0.49	-0.21	20.57	+1.39	
Poughkeepsie	82	37	62	+3	86	2616	+96	0.62	-0.15	28.71	+6.44	
<u>Mohawk Valley</u>												
Boonville	75	36	55	+3	40	1510	-107	1.25	+0.03	25.41	-2.08	
<u>Champlain Valley</u>												
Plattsburgh	75	33	58	+3	64	2002	-97	1.01	+0.37	18.96	+0.21	
<u>St. Lawrence Valley</u>												
Canton	75	35	56	+2	48	1843	-44	1.10	+0.26	19.94	-0.23	
Massena	78	33	59	+4	67	2047	+77	1.05	+0.28	19.41	+0.99	
<u>Great Lakes</u>												
Buffalo	78	45	65	+7	110	2378	+64	1.79	+1.03	19.44	-0.56	
Wales	78	40	61	+5	79	1833	-39	0.54	-0.50	20.40	-3.04	
Niagara Falls	80	43	65	+7	108	2365	+48	0.80	+0.01	21.35	+1.78	
Rochester	80	39	64	+5	97	2240	-3	0.92	+0.29	18.59	+1.44	
Watertown	78	33	61	+6	81	2029	+93	0.90	+0.20	16.26	+0.18	
<u>Central Lakes</u>												
Dansville	83	39	61	+3	83	2290	+41	0.88	+0.13	16.23	-2.61	
Geneva	82	41	62	+4	86	2201	-27	1.06	+0.34	18.03	-0.56	
Honeoye	83	35	62	+3	85	2125	-217	1.03	+0.33	22.96	+4.57	
Ithaca	82	37	60	+4	72	1982	-30	1.22	+0.42	20.77	+0.69	
Penn Yan	83	37	64	+6	100	2341	+113	0.84	+0.12	16.34	-2.25	
Syracuse	83	40	64	+5	98	2480	+216	1.43	+0.57	18.70	-2.46	
Warsaw	76	42	60	+6	73	1774	+55	0.96	+0.07	23.74	+1.66	
<u>Western Plateau</u>												
Angelica	79	40	61	+7	76	1650	-45	0.86	+0.06	22.44	+1.62	
Elmira	83	34	61	+4	82	2191	+67	0.86	+0.16	15.34	-3.51	
Franklinville	78	34	59	+6	66	1696	+139	0.80	-0.11	26.81	+4.52	
Jamestown	78	43	62	+7	87	1983	+222	1.22	+0.17	26.43	+1.37	
<u>Eastern Plateau</u>												
Binghamton	78	41	60	+4	73	2130	+76	1.16	+0.39	22.12	+2.15	
Cobleskill	78	34	58	+2	60	1948	+37	0.53	-0.31	22.89	+1.36	
Morrisville	77	42	59	+4	61	1852	+34	1.18	+0.27	24.21	+2.61	
Norwich	79	35	57	+2	56	1938	+25	1.18	+0.34	28.34	+6.96	
Oneonta	79	37	58	+4	59	2002	+251	1.18	+0.36	22.29	-0.55	
<u>Coastal</u>												
Bridgehamton	83	43	64	+3	98	2549	+147	0.26	-0.51	24.16	+3.20	
New York	82	55	69	+5	136	3317	+124	0.62	-0.14	27.58	+5.49	

^{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.