



WEATHER AND CROPS

October 19, 2009

Cooperating with New York Department of Agriculture and Markets
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Week Ending, October 18, 2009

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WEATHER: Temperatures for the week averaged nearly ten degrees below normal. The week was also fairly dry except for Long Island where 0.7 to 1.5 inches fell mostly on the 15th and the upper Genesee and Allegheny Valleys where 0.4 to 0.8 inches of rain fell on the 15th, 16th, and 17th. The week began with a cold frontal passage on Sunday the 11th. That was followed by a deep upper trough with a surface high for Monday thru Wednesday. Many areas across the state experienced a hard freeze on Monday morning recording lows in the 20's to around 30. A low moved up along the coast Thursday spreading rain across most of the region but especially over Long Island and parts of far western New York. This was followed by another deep trough over the Great Lakes which brought continued unseasonable cold into the region.

CROPS: Producers enjoyed 4.4 days that were suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated at 1 percent short, 70 percent adequate and 29 percent surplus. Corn conditions were 7 percent poor, 26 percent fair, 52 percent good, and 15 percent excellent. Hay conditions were 16 percent poor, 36 percent fair, 36 percent good, and 12 percent excellent. The third cutting of alfalfa reached 98 percent complete, equal to the 5 year average progress. Silage corn was 78 percent harvested, behind last year's 86 percent and the average of 88 percent. Grain corn harvest was 7 percent finished, compared to 17 percent last year and the five year average of 22 percent. Dry bean harvest advanced to 72 percent complete, behind last years 75 percent, but ahead of the five year average of 67 percent. Soybeans were 17 percent harvested, compared to last years 28 percent and the average of 32 percent. The following are comments from across the state: Jefferson County corn silage harvest was quickly winding down, but the grain corn looked to need some more drying time. Silage harvest continued in Lewis County even with the muddy field conditions. Weather was cooperating with the farmers in St Lawrence County allowing lots of corn chopping. Erie County experienced its first snowfall on Thursday. A freeze last Monday and this morning ended the growing season in Niagara County. Soybean and grain corn harvest were in full speed mode. Producers in Ontario County were reporting that soybeans and grain corn were not ripening with the wet, cool weather, and therefore was delaying the fall harvest. The first snowfall in Cortland County blanketed the area in wet, heavy snow, but melted the next day. After the snow melted, farmers were back to chopping corn. Mud was still causing problems accessing the fields. Weather was creating harvesting problems for soybean producers in Tompkins County, and restricting the planting of winter wheat on the same ground. Another rainy week combined with two hard frosts set the wheels in motion for harvesting corn silage in Madison County. Some more hay was harvested this week. Good fall weather helped with the corn harvest in Albany County. Grain corn moisture remains above normal, which has slowed combining in an effort to reduce drying costs. Montgomery, Fulton, and Herkimer Counties had heavy frosts starting last Monday, and the cold temperatures and precipitation prohibited much harvesting. Saratoga County had a killing frost last Monday and several frosts after that effectively ending the growing season. Some corn was still green in Washington County, but the frost should help dry it down. Corn silage tonnages on gravel or well-drained soils in Broome County were running in the mid to high 20 tons/acre, but yields on poorly drained soils were between 8-10 tons/acre. Crops were still not mature enough to harvest in Schuyler County. Some progress was made with corn silage in Delaware County, and Otsego County's soybeans were ready for harvest. Dutchess County had frost throughout the week, and the corn was being chopped for silage. Farmers were noticing that corn was very spotty in the middle of the fields.

FRUIT: Apples were 1 percent poor, 1 percent fair, 19 percent good, and 79 percent excellent. Grapes were 26 percent poor, 36 percent fair, 33 percent good, and 5 percent excellent. Apples were 62 percent harvested, compared with 80 percent last year and the average of 79 percent. Grapes were 58 percent harvested, compared with 90 percent last year and the average of 85 percent. Broome County apple harvest continued as one of the best ever, even with early hail damage. In the Lake Erie grape region, harvesters were out in full force. The region saw freezing or nearly-freezing temperatures, but most vineyards appeared to be in decent shape. The Finger Lakes grape region experienced cool, cloudy weather, and temperatures dropped close to the freezing mark. No significant damage to leaves was reported. Concord harvest continued in full swing, but brix numbers were struggling to move higher. Riesling harvest was beginning in a few vineyards. Frosts were common in the northern Hudson Valley grape region, while the southern part of the valley was spared. Whites and early season reds were in good shape, while there were concerns about the late reds ripening. In Long Island vineyards, the harvest of Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc was in full swing, and decent yields were reported. Growers were pleased with fruit quality, as intense flavors were nicely balanced with crisp acidity.

VEGETABLE: Several hard frosts put an end to the growing season for vegetable producers in New York. Vegetable harvest across the remainder of the state has ended or was drawing to a close. Tomatoes are 100 percent harvested, ahead of the 99 percent five-year average. Onion harvest was 99 percent complete, up from 97 percent five-year average. Sweet corn harvest was 95 percent complete, behind the 99 percent harvested last year, and 100 percent five-year average. Snap beans are 100 percent complete. Cabbage harvest was 92 percent completed, even with the five-year average.

LIVESTOCK: Pasture is slowing down dramatically. Hay feeding has taken the place of pasture. Pasture conditions were rated 2 percent very poor, 14 percent poor, 43 percent fair, 34 percent good and 7 percent excellent.

Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, October 18, 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	56	28	41	-10	0	2553	+64	0.25	-0.38	26.45	+5.21
Glens Falls	56	24	39	-10	0	2131	-11	0.24	-0.39	23.94	+2.85
Poughkeepsie	63	29	44	-8	0	2712	+82	0.25	-0.41	30.26	+5.94
<u>Mohawk Valley</u>											
Boonville	48	23	35	-11	0	1521	-146	0.15	-0.83	31.07	+0.52
<u>Champlain Valley</u>											
Plattsburgh	53	23	38	-10	0	2037	-134	0.36	-0.20	21.29	+0.81
<u>St. Lawrence Valley</u>											
Canton	50	24	36	-11	0	1878	-75	0.27	-0.43	23.50	+1.10
Massena	51	22	37	-11	0	2094	+58	0.13	-0.50	21.40	+1.03
<u>Great Lakes</u>											
Buffalo	51	32	40	-12	0	2424	-5	0.07	-0.60	25.69	+3.65
Wales	49	28	37	-13	0	1854	-101	0.20	-0.62	24.92	-1.12
Niagara Falls	52	29	40	-12	0	2417	-18	0.04	-0.56	23.68	+2.18
Rochester	50	28	40	-12	0	2286	-74	0.06	-0.45	20.91	+2.11
Watertown	51	23	37	-12	0	2076	+59	0.05	-0.52	18.76	+0.83
<u>Central Lakes</u>											
Dansville	50	28	37	-15	0	2335	-28	0.56	+0.00	18.73	-1.98
Geneva	51	28	39	-12	0	2245	-89	0.14	-0.49	20.15	-0.42
Honeoye	50	27	38	-15	0	2166	-302	0.20	-0.43	24.88	+4.52
Ithaca	52	28	38	-12	0	2014	-89	0.31	-0.43	22.90	+0.54
Penn Yan	52	27	40	-11	0	2395	+61	0.19	-0.44	17.83	-2.74
Syracuse	53	30	41	-11	0	2544	+166	0.19	-0.51	20.95	-2.44
Warsaw	46	27	35	-13	0	1792	+6	0.40	-0.32	28.27	+3.88
<u>Western Plateau</u>											
Angelica	50	29	37	-11	0	1676	-88	0.70	+0.05	25.62	+2.70
Elmira	54	25	40	-10	0	2236	+17	0.02	-0.61	15.88	-4.90
Franklinville	47	27	36	-12	0	1712	+93	0.53	-0.30	30.29	+5.47
Jamestown	49	30	37	-11	0	2003	+169	0.66	-0.23	29.75	+1.91
<u>Eastern Plateau</u>											
Binghamton	52	30	38	-11	0	2168	+31	0.30	-0.33	23.89	+1.95
Cobleskill	53	24	37	-13	0	1991	+3	0.22	-0.44	24.92	+1.27
Morrisville	49	32	40	-9	0	1885	-2	0.49	-0.27	28.67	+4.69
Norwich	54	27	38	-11	0	1967	-18	0.35	-0.35	31.20	+7.61
Oneonta	54	38	38	-10	0	2038	+219	0.20	-0.54	24.38	-0.74
<u>Coastal</u>											
Bridgehamton	65	38	48	-6	6	2676	+123	1.46	+0.73	28.68	+5.54
New York	65	39	50	-8	14	3510	+101	0.81	+0.18	29.79	+5.72

^{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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