Rainfall Hinders Field Crop Harvesting

Days suitable for field work, for the week ending Sunday, October 28, 2007, were 3.5. Topsoil moisture was rated 1% short, 85% adequate and 14% surplus. Irrigation water supply was rated 88% adequate and 12% surplus. There were measurable amounts of rainfall for the week in most localities, with totals ranging from just over one and a half inches to nearly five inches of rain. Temperatures were much above normal during the week in most areas of the Garden State. Wet conditions hindered field work during the latter half of the week. Harvest of field corn and soybeans continued, weather permitting. The planting of cover crops continued. Vegetable harvest continued, with most crops rated in good to excellent condition. Producers were able to make good progress harvesting spinach, cabbage, fall lettuces, broccoli and cauliflower. Cranberry harvest continued, with most of the crop rated in good condition. Apple harvest progressed across the state.

Climate summary for the week ending 8 am 10/29/07

Temperatures averaged much, much above normal averaging 57 degrees North, 60 degrees Central, and 61 degrees South. Extremes were 82 degrees at Canoe Brook on October 24, 2007 and 29 degrees at Flemington on October 29, 2007.

Weekly rainfall averaged 3.60 inches North, 2.18 inches Central, and 2.49 inches South. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 3.53 inches at Flemington on October 26, 2007 to October 27, 2007.

Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 98 percent North, 97 percent Central, and 95 percent South.

Four inch soil temperatures averaged 61 degrees North, 63 degrees Central, and 64 degrees South.