



U.S. Department of Agriculture  
National  
Agricultural  
Statistics Service  
New York Field Office

## WEATHER AND CROPS

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Week Ending, September 4, 2005

No. 977-20-05

**WEATHER:** The week started out with a weak frontal system approaching from the west on Sunday. The front stalled just west of the region as the remains of tropical storm Katrina came ashore on the Gulf Coast and moved north to join up with the trough over the lower Ohio Valley and brought a flow of warm and very moist air into the region. The storm moved northeast over extreme western New York and up the St. Lawrence Valley Wednesday bringing very heavy rain to western and northern parts of the state. By Thursday morning it was in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and well out of the picture. A second cold front moved across the region Friday ushering in much cooler air from Canada and high pressure moved in over the region Saturday. Temperatures over the area averaged about 4 degrees above normal near Buffalo but were 7 or more degrees over the Hudson Valley with the warmest being 80 at New York City. Precipitation was much above normal almost everywhere except in the mid Hudson region and hardly any rain was measured in New York City and western Long Island where only 0.02 was measured at Islip for the whole week. In contrast close to four inches fell in a broad swath from the Finger Lakes north to the St. Lawrence Valley.

**CROPS:** There were 4.4 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated 8 percent very short, 13 percent short, and 72 percent adequate and 7 percent surplus. Oats were 97 percent harvested compared to 85 percent last year. Winter wheat was 100 percent harvested compared to 99 percent last year. Corn was rated 15 percent poor, 23 percent fair, 39 percent good and 23 percent excellent. Hay was rated 20 percent poor, 38 percent fair, 34 percent good, and 8 percent excellent. Soybeans were rated 6 percent poor, 29 percent fair, 51 percent good and 14 percent excellent. Alfalfa second cutting was 98 percent harvested. Alfalfa third cutting was 65 percent harvested. Second cutting Clover Timothy was 90 percent harvested. Potatoes were 50 percent harvested compared to 55 percent last year. Following are comments from reporters across the state: In Jefferson County, choppers rolled through corn fields. The remnants of hurricane Katrina that brought heavy rains put chopping on hold with no additional significant problems. The corn silage harvest continued. In Lewis County, despite 5-7 inches of rain that fell, many engaged in corn silage harvest that resulted in above average yields. In St. Lawrence County, the rainy weather was much needed. Corn harvest was well underway. The corn crop was excellent. Clinton County reported less than 1 percent of field corn harvested. Parts of the county received 3 inches of rain, much less than 60 miles south. In Ontario County crops were assisted by the rain. Harvest of corn for silage started and looked good so far. Fallout from hurricane Katrina brought 3 to 4 inches of rain spaced over 12 hours. This was seen as the only benefit received from this hurricane. Historically, significant rain in New York State aside from wet year weather systems came from tropical disturbances in late summer. In Cortland County, heavy rains from Katrina finally gave a good soaking to the area. Due to the ground being so hard and dry, much of it was runoff, but hay grounds soaked up enough to turn green again. Silage chopping was moving along with decent yields. Gas prices were putting farmers in a pinch. Gas was needed to get to the fields to harvest crops to pay for the gas. In Herkimer County, heavy rains helped ground water. Corn silage was being chopped. In Madison County, rain arrived in part of the county. Corn silage began and yields were high. In Albany County, showers were followed by near ideal weather that helped farmers with timely harvesting and improved quality. Corn chopping was in full swing, yields were variable depending on where the rains hit. Some yields were excellent while other fields were only fair. In general, it was an above average year. In Montgomery and Fulton Counties, fields finally received much needed rain. The hay crop was responding. Corn harvest was beginning around the county.

**FRUIT:** Apples were judged to be in 11 percent poor condition, percent 23 fair, 53 percent good, and 13 percent excellent. Grapes were 15 percent poor condition, percent 18 fair, percent 49 good and 18 percent excellent. Peaches were 25 percent poor condition, 20 percent fair, 42percent good and 13 percent excellent. Pears were 7 percent poor, 28 percent fair, 48 percent good, and 17 percent excellent. In the Lake Erie fruit region, Niagara grape harvest was expected to begin sometime next week. In the Southern part of the Lake Erie Belt, downy mildew was observed on the grape crop. This past week's weather provided favorable conditions for downy mildew leaf infections to occur. Observed new oil spots and sporulation on leaves close to the ground, were observed on Niagara grapes. According to the Fredonia Vineyard Lab, Hurricane Katrina brought 3.68 inches of rain. This rain, however, and an expected sunny, warm forecast appeared to look good for the grape crop. In the Lake Ontario fruit region, apple and grape harvesting began. In Albany County, apple harvest was going strong; early variety picking was still occurring. The apples were sweet, showed good color and the quality was also good.

**VEGETABLE:** The movement of Katrina through the area brought some much-needed rain in the middle of the week, with a cooling trend following the rain. In Albany County, sweet corn sales were brisk and the quality was very good. Tomato sales were reported as strong all summer. Reports of onion, sweet corn, cabbage and tomato conditions were mostly good across the state, while snap beans have decreased somewhat in quality to mostly fair to good. Harvest was proceeding as expected, with sweet corn across the state greater than 80 percent harvested. The tomato harvest reached a 75 percent harvest level, while onions were almost 70 percent harvested. The harvest of snap beans and cabbage is ongoing.

**LIVESTOCK:** Pastures improved slightly from a week earlier as early week rains promoted growth. Conditions were rated as 21 percent very poor, 29 percent poor, 39 percent fair, and 11 percent good. More rain and cool weather will help with re-growth. Cooler weather with less humidity helped livestock conditions.

**Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, September 4, 2005**

Station	Temperature (°F)				Growing Degree Days Base 50°			Precipitation (Inches)			
	High	Low	Avg	Dep. from Norm	Week	Season 1/	Dep. from Norm	Week	Dep. from Norm	Season 1/	Dep. from Norm
<b><u>Hudson Valley</u></b>											
Albany	86	56	73	+8	161	2591	+460	1.72	+0.95	18.29	+1.18
Glens Falls	82	53	70	+7	139	2183	+318	2.49	+1.69	19.40	+2.59
Poughkeepsie	89	54	74	+7	166	2588	+355	0.74	-0.10	17.57	-2.08
<b><u>Mohawk Valley</u></b>											
Utica	83	55	70	+6	140	2352	+413	2.24	+1.25	17.52	-1.99
<b><u>Champlain Valley</u></b>											
Plattsburgh	81	56	70	+7	139	2122	+231	3.11	+2.24	19.66	+3.26
<b><u>St. Lawrence Valley</u></b>											
Canton	83	52	69	+6	132	2122	+424	3.94	+2.96	17.14	-0.08
Massena	84	54	69	+7	136	2118	+333	3.68	+2.78	17.28	+1.54
<b><u>Great Lakes</u></b>											
Buffalo	82	58	69	+4	137	2488	+446	3.00	+2.07	16.04	-1.29
Colden	83	54	67	+5	123	2104	+440	3.81	+2.73	20.37	+0.53
Niagara Falls	85	56	70	+5	139	2569	+520	2.92	+2.00	14.28	-2.47
Rochester	86	58	70	+6	143	2360	+386	3.03	+2.26	16.29	+1.41
Watertown	81	52	68	+5	130	2119	+393	4.52	+3.68	19.03	+5.44
<b><u>Central Lakes</u></b>											
Dansville	88	53	68	+3	130	2229	+241	4.30	+3.52	17.91	+1.68
Geneva	84	58	70	+5	139	2336	+364	3.00	+2.23	18.13	+2.02
Honeoye	86	51	68	+2	127	2195	+137	4.13	+3.36	19.59	+3.62
Ithaca	82	53	69	+6	138	2199	+412	2.91	+2.07	16.65	-0.71
Penn Yan	86	59	71	+6	150	2439	+467	3.78	+3.01	17.46	+1.35
Syracuse	84	58	72	+6	152	2594	+592	3.70	+2.84	18.89	+0.67
Warsaw	83	53	67	+6	123	1953	+412	3.85	+2.88	19.49	+0.50
<b><u>Western Plateau</u></b>											
Alfred	83	52	67	+6	122	2069	+441	3.75	+2.98	20.09	+1.81
Elmira	83	51	69	+5	132	2231	+342	3.03	+2.33	16.68	+0.21
Franklinville	83	49	64	+4	103	1804	+410	4.18	+3.21	18.97	-0.23
Sinclairville	83	52	67	+5	119	2081	+514	3.58	+2.46	19.95	-1.50
<b><u>Eastern Plateau</u></b>											
Binghamton	81	56	69	+6	135	2267	+434	3.82	+3.05	14.78	-2.61
Cobleskill	85	54	69	+6	131	2132	+426	1.47	+0.62	17.45	-1.18
Morrisville	82	54	68	+6	129	2034	+409	2.95	+2.04	18.35	-0.18
Norwich	83	51	68	+6	131	2120	+412	4.15	+3.31	20.84	+2.38
Oneonta	84	56	71	+10	149	2359	+784	2.16	+1.32	22.53	+2.43
<b><u>Coastal</u></b>											
Bridgehamton	86	58	75	+7	174	2344	+264	0.42	-0.42	11.22	-7.09
New York	90	70	80	+8	209	3163	+387	0.06	-0.78	14.28	-5.20

1/ Season accumulations are for April 1<sup>st</sup> to date.

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The information contained in this weekly release is obtained from reports from Cornell Cooperative Extension agents, USDA Farm Service Agency agents, 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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