



WEATHER AND CROPS

USDA, Agricultural Statistics Service, NY Field Office, N.Y. Dept. of Agriculture and Markets, Division of Statistics
Cooperating with
U.S. Dept. of Commerce, NOAA National Weather Service and Cornell Cooperative Extension

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Week Ending, September 17, 2006

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WEATHER: High pressure dominated the region the first half of the week bringing us the first frost of the season across portions of the North Country. A slow moving surface and upper level system plagued the region for the latter half of the week bringing rain Thursday and Friday. Some areas received heavy rainfall especially across portions of eastern Long Island.

CROPS: Wetness limited farmers to 3.7 days suitable for fieldwork. Topsoil moisture was rated as 3 percent short, 58 percent adequate and 39 percent surplus. Hay was in 11 percent poor, 28 percent fair, 45 percent good, and 16 percent excellent condition. Corn condition was reported as 8 percent poor, 20 percent fair, 49 percent good, and 23 percent excellent. Third cutting was nearing completion. Potato harvest passed the half-way mark. Soybeans harvest was just started. Silage corn harvest reached 16 percent complete behind last years 45 percent. Following are comments from reporters across the state: Corn silage harvest continued in Jefferson County, but several have indicated that the crop hasn't dried down enough yet. Soybeans continue to turn. Others were still haying. Lots of corn chopping going on. Producers seem to be worried that we will have a wet fall. Corn is ready so now's the time to get started. Corn chopping in full swing in St. Lawrence County. A great week for fieldwork in Clinton County until rain Thursday shut things down for a couple of days. Corn silage maturity continues to run a bit ahead of normal for corn planted the first half of May. There will be much less corn grain harvested in the region this year, both because of late planting and because much of the crop normally harvested for grain is being used on farm or sold for silage. Some flash flooding and excessive amounts of rain hit parts of Ontario County Thursday evening. Corn for silage continued and was being hampered by wet fields. The hay continues to get rained on making for quality problems. The rain has also slowed the ability for farmers to plant cover crops and winter crops. Harvest machinery in Wyoming County pretty much at a stand still due to regional rainfall of the week. Estimate 2 days of drying air would get the work moving forward again. Silage harvest was slowly starting in Cortland County, hay was still coming along. A few fields of first cutting were getting caught up, for mulch hay. Lots of baleage being made just to get the hay off before the next rain shower comes through. Escaping a freeze has been helpful to much late planted corn in Herkimer County. Cool, damp conditions persist in Madison County. Silage corn harvest started and it was drier than anticipated. In Montgomery and Fulton Counties things just stood still for the week. Corn silage harvest started for earlier planted corn in Saratoga County. Yields are average. Once that is harvested producers are switching back to 3rd cutting haylage harvest, waiting for later planted corn to mature. When conditions are agreeable, dry hay harvest is attempted, although weather conditions lately have not been the best for dry hay harvest. Farmers were starting the corn harvest in Delaware County where fields are accessible due to wet conditions.

FRUIT: Apples are 38 percent harvested compared to 26 percent harvested last week. Apples were judged to be in 8 percent poor condition, 29 percent fair, 51 percent good, and 12 percent excellent. Grapes were 3 percent poor condition, 30 percent fair, 48 percent good and 19 percent excellent. Peaches were 7 percent poor condition, 25 percent fair, and 68 percent good. Pears were 4 percent poor, 22 percent fair, 60 percent good, and 14 percent excellent. Apple color is looking good in Wayne County. In the Lake Erie fruit region, Niagara harvest got started. The ripening process of the grape crop was assisted by warmer temperatures. Concord harvest will begin sometime during the week of the 25th. In the Finger Lakes fruit region, farmers were waiting for some heat and dry weather to help ripen many varieties. Harvest for most varieties was still a few weeks away. In the Long Island fruit region, early harvest of sparkling wine varieties began.

VEGETABLE: Harvesting advanced rapidly. Onions were in 25 percent poor condition, 45 percent fair, 28 percent good and 2 percent excellent. Sweet corn was in mostly good condition as were tomatoes, cucumbers, cabbage, and snap beans. Tomato harvest reached 78 percent complete, onions 82 percent, sweet corn 85 percent, snap beans 70 percent, and cabbage 55 percent. The Madison County cabbage harvest looks good. Onions in this area have a lot of green spots. Once harvest is complete loss levels can be accessed. In Ontario County rain and coolness slowed the maturation of snap beans and sweet corn. Wet soils created challenging conditions for harvesting processing snap beans, sweet corn, and carrots. Roadside stands across the state continued selling a variety of fresh vegetables.

LIVESTOCK: Pastures were rated as 3 percent very poor condition, 8 percent poor, 27 percent fair, 46 percent good, and 16 percent excellent. Cooler weather and excessive moisture caused conditions to decline. Livestock benefited from the cooler temperatures.

Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, September 17, 2006

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	75	43	61	-1	81	2599	+303	0.94	+0.24	27.12	+8.70
Glens Falls	73	33	58	-3	55	2151	+150	0.72	+0.01	26.62	+8.44
Poughkeepsie	75	41	61	-3	79	2711	+296	4.44	+3.64	32.10	+10.93
<u>Mohawk Valley</u>											
Utica	71	42	59	-2	68	2248	+159	0.35	-0.70	26.69	+5.23
<u>Champlain Valley</u>											
Plattsburgh	75	39	59	-2	62	2277	+250	0.25	-0.48	19.79	+1.98
<u>St. Lawrence Valley</u>											
Canton	72	32	57	-2	53	2110	+288	1.09	+0.18	15.76	-3.18
Massena	69	36	57	-3	50	2160	+252	0.74	-0.10	19.58	+2.28
<u>Great Lakes</u>											
Buffalo	71	46	62	-1	84	2594	+380	2.40	+1.57	19.41	+0.50
Wales	70	41	59	-1	64	1970	+173	0.79	-0.33	22.74	+0.82
Niagara Falls	72	45	61	-2	80	2484	+266	0.76	-0.13	17.52	-0.90
Rochester	72	45	63	+1	93	2655	+512	2.20	+1.50	22.41	+6.19
Watertown	72	35	59	-2	63	2201	+339	1.73	+0.96	15.61	+0.56
<u>Central Lakes</u>											
Dansville	71	43	60	-2	74	2274	+121	1.29	+0.48	23.88	+6.12
Geneva	72	41	59	-4	63	2249	+114	1.96	+1.19	22.78	+5.24
Honeoye	72	37	59	-5	65	2236	-1	2.05	+1.29	19.58	+2.19
Ithaca	72	41	59	-2	65	2098	+166	0.54	-0.30	24.79	+5.87
Penn Yan	71	41	60	-2	75	2414	+279	1.16	+0.39	17.02	-0.52
Syracuse	74	43	61	-1	82	2515	+348	1.08	+0.17	26.72	+6.81
Warsaw	66	39	56	-3	47	1892	+235	1.02	+0.05	26.83	+6.03
<u>Western Plateau</u>											
Angelica	71	41	57	-2	50	1740	+106	0.89	+0.05	23.69	+4.03
Elmira	72	41	60	-1	73	2162	+122	0.60	-0.15	25.59	+7.74
Franklinville	72	41	58	+1	59	1803	+303	1.12	+0.17	23.29	+2.30
Jamestown	73	49	61	+3	78	2047	+355	0.65	-0.47	20.43	-2.98
<u>Eastern Plateau</u>											
Binghamton	72	44	58	-3	60	2138	+162	0.99	+0.21	30.03	+11.16
Cobleskill	75	37	56	-4	46	2039	+200	0.99	+0.08	27.95	+7.63
Morrisville	71	40	57	-3	52	1891	+141	0.76	-0.22	35.28	+14.98
Norwich	72	40	58	-2	56	2047	+206	1.22	+0.31	31.81	+11.66
Oneonta	76	40	60	+2	69	2339	+649	1.47	+0.63	31.46	+9.80
<u>Coastal</u>											
Bridgehamton	72	45	61	-4	80	2594	+313	6.31	+5.48	37.35	+17.49
New York	79	56	67	-2	123	3576	+544	1.23	+0.43	30.86	+9.86

^{1/} Season accumulations are for April 1st to date. Weekly accumulations are through 7:00 AM Sunday Morning. R38Sept417

The information contained in this weekly release is obtained from reports from Cornell Cooperative Extension agents, IUSDA 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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