



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, October 15, 2006

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WEATHER: High pressure remained over the northeast and Mid-Atlantic region to open the week before a dry cold front moved across New York Monday night into Tuesday morning. A strong low pressure system moved through the central Great Lakes region on Wednesday. The warm front east of the low produced very heavy rainfall over portions of southern New York and Long Island Wednesday night into Thursday morning. A potent cold front moved across upstate New York Thursday morning into the afternoon with a frigid air mass behind the boundary. A lake effect snowstorm occurred over extreme western New York and the Niagara Frontier into Friday. Locations near Buffalo had 1 to 2 feet of heavy wet snow. The unseasonably cold air mass in the wake of the cold front produced frosts and freezes Friday and Saturday mornings over much of New York State including the Capital Region, Mid Hudson Valley, and lower Catskills. Precipitation was well above normal over western New York and Long Island. Most other locations had normal to slightly below normal values except over northern New York and portions of the Finger Lake Region where precipitation was below normal. Temperatures were near normal to slightly below normal for the week.

CROPS: There were 5.1 days suitable for fieldwork. Topsoil moisture was rated 68 percent adequate and 32 percent surplus. Corn condition was reported as 11 percent poor, 26 percent fair, 46 percent good, and 17 percent excellent. Potato harvest was 82 percent complete compared with 83 percent last year. Soybeans were 33 percent harvested slightly ahead last year's 30 percent. Silage corn harvest reached 83 percent complete behind last year's 91 percent. Grain corn harvest was 17 percent complete compared with 24 percent last year. Dry beans were 65 percent harvested, behind last year's 82 percent. Following are comments from reporters across the state: In Jefferson County silage harvest was completed for practical purposes; several producers were combining high moisture shell corn and soybeans. Reported yields on silage and HMSC were above average. No report on soybeans yet, but the crop looked good. Overall, this was a very good crop year. Producers were also busy with fall tillage, emptying manure pits and spreading lime. St. Lawrence County producers were pretty much done harvesting corn. Weather was very unpredictable. Lots of rain and very little sunshine. A couple of light frosts. Winter wheat planting was done. Much needed sunshine assisted Ontario County farmers in getting their fall crops harvested out of the fields. Corn and soybeans continued to be harvested with good yields reported. More hard frost in Cortland County helped to dry the corn for silage and grain, both were harvested. Good weather last week in Madison County helped haying get done. Corn harvest moved along. Albany County, corn harvest neared completion with yields on average, fair to good. Good hay is in short supply with prices strong. In Montgomery and Fulton Counties, the grain corn harvest started as well as soybeans. Soybeans looked very good. Dry hay harvests this week as well as haylage to make up for the poor yield corn silage. Cattaraugus County continued to slow harvest of most crops, but the area was spared the heavy snows that fell north of us. Harvesters kept slogging away in Chautauqua County.

FRUIT: Apples were judged to be in 6 percent poor condition, 25 percent fair, 44 percent good, and 25 percent excellent. Apple harvest reached 78 percent finished compared to 67 percent last year and 77 percent for the average. Grapes were 19 percent poor condition, 32 percent fair, 21 percent good and 28 percent excellent. Grape harvest reached 78 percent finished compared to 85 percent last year and 80 percent for the average. In the Lake Erie fruit region, continued rains slowed grape harvest. However, Concord Brix levels increased. According to the Fredonia Vineyard Lab, Concords were at 16 to 17 Brix. Chautauqua growers are thankful that vineyards escaped the Buffalo snowstorm. In the Southern Part of the Lake Erie Grape Belt, Concord levels were at 15 Brix in some blocks. In the Finger Lakes Fruit Region, grape harvest was in full swing and looked good especially after all of the wet weather received. In the Lake Champlain fruit region, the apple crop was lighter, but had good fruit size and color. In the Hudson Valley fruit region, growers stated apples in excellent conditions and the apple harvest was at peak levels. In Albany County, farm stands were doing well selling apples. In the Long Island Fruit Region, grape harvest was progressing and grapes appeared in good quality.

VEGETABLE: Farm stands were doing a good business selling apples, pumpkins, and fall produce. Dutchess pumpkin farmers were reported to be happy with their crops, but pumpkin farmers in other parts of the state were not doing as well. Lettuce, tomatoes, cucumbers, cabbage and snap bean condition were all reported as fair to good. Sweet corn condition was reported to be good to excellent. Onion condition was 15 percent poor, 52 percent fair, and 23 percent good. Sweet corn acreage virtually complete similar to last year's progress. Snap bean harvest was complete. Cabbage harvest was almost 92 percent complete, slightly below last year's figure of 94 percent but higher than the 5-year average of 87 percent. Onion acreage was reported to be 98 percent harvested. Harvest of onions in Madison County was still progressing slowly due to the field conditions.

LIVESTOCK: Pastures were rated as 5 percent very poor condition, 9 percent poor, 31 percent fair, 33 percent good, and 22 percent excellent. Pasture conditions improved slightly from the previous week. Cooler temperatures slowed pasture growth and encouraged supplemental feeding for livestock on pasture.

Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, October 15, 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
Hudson Valley											
Albany	77	29	52	+1	30	2809	+329	0.52	-0.11	31.11	+10.14
Glens Falls	74	24	49	0	19	2293	+156	0.40	-0.23	29.52	+8.70
Poughkeepsie	78	31	53	+2	37	2938	+317	1.44	+0.79	35.94	+11.92
Mohawk Valley											
Utica	73	27	51	+2	33	2433	+177	0.18	-0.55	29.31	+4.39
Champlain Valley											
Plattsburgh	76	29	50	+2	22	2438	+273	0.31	-0.25	20.84	+0.60
St. Lawrence Valley											
Canton	69	33	50	+3	26	2258	+310	0.44	-0.27	20.48	-1.62
Massena	70	29	50	+3	25	2313	+283	0.11	-0.52	21.47	+1.37
Great Lakes											
Buffalo	69	32	52	-1	35	2793	+374	4.30	+3.66	27.64	+5.90
Wales	70	30	49	-1	24	2086	+137	1.27	+0.44	27.68	+1.99
Niagara Falls	72	33	52	-2	36	2681	+256	2.24	+1.63	23.53	+2.29
Rochester	76	34	54	+2	43	2898	+548	0.74	+0.21	25.73	+7.15
Watertown	68	36	51	+2	25	2380	+369	0.87	+0.28	19.59	+1.91
Central Lakes											
Dansville	77	30	51	-2	35	2446	+93	0.54	-0.05	27.15	+6.68
Geneva	75	28	51	-2	32	2420	+95	0.44	-0.19	25.81	+5.51
Honeoye	77	28	51	-2	35	2400	-57	0.37	-0.26	22.47	+2.38
Ithaca	74	28	50	0	28	2251	+156	0.14	-0.63	26.51	+4.45
Penn Yan	78	30	54	+3	42	2622	+297	0.30	-0.33	19.28	-1.02
Syracuse	75	28	54	+2	39	2739	+371	0.21	-0.49	29.10	+6.01
Warsaw	73	30	49	0	26	1998	+218	1.39	+0.64	32.36	+8.27
Western Plateau											
Angelica	75	30	48	-1	20	1831	+73	0.71	+0.03	27.53	+4.88
Elmira	78	30	52	+3	38	2333	+122	0.15	-0.48	26.87	+6.36
Franklinville	74	30	49	+2	28	1912	+299	1.00	+0.16	28.51	+4.04
Jamestown	77	32	50	+1	30	2179	+351	0.53	-0.37	25.47	-1.87
Eastern Plateau											
Binghamton	74	29	52	+3	39	2309	+178	0.24	-0.39	32.95	+11.28
Cobleskill	75	30	50	0	18	2173	+191	0.28	-0.41	30.47	+7.09
Morrisville	71	26	49	+1	26	2005	+124	0.41	-0.36	38.29	+14.63
Norwich	77	28	50	+2	26	2179	+200	0.36	-0.34	35.30	+12.01
Oneonta	76	30	52	+4	28	2511	+698	0.08	-0.67	34.32	+9.52
Coastal											
Bridgehamton	74	33	56	+1	46	2871	+332	0.57	-0.13	39.20	+16.39
New York	80	45	62	+4	84	4027	+640	2.30	+1.67	34.22	+10.42

^{1/} Season accumulations are for April 1st to date. Weekly accumulations are through 7:00 AM Sunday Morning. R45Oct417

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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