WEATHER AND CROPS  
August 13, 2007

WEATHER: The week started out sunny and dry with a high centered over northern New York. A series of disturbances moved across the region during the week with significant rainfall on the 8th and again on the 10th. Temperatures for the week averaged near seasonal normal with rainfall well above normal in the Hudson Valley but below normal in the Finger Lakes, the Niagara Frontier, and the St. Lawrence Valley.

CROPS: Scattered showers passing through the state helped provide much needed moisture for several counties. There were 5.3 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated as 7 percent very short, 22 percent short and 71 percent adequate. Soybean condition was rated as 3 percent poor, 15 percent fair, 60 percent good, and 22 percent excellent. Hay condition was rated as 7 percent poor, 29 percent fair, 49 percent good, and 15 percent excellent. Corn condition was rated as 2 percent poor, 13 percent fair, 47 percent good, and 38 percent excellent. Second cutting of alfalfa hay was 92 percent complete the same as last year. Fifty percent of the third cutting of alfalfa was harvested compared to 35 percent from last year. Second cutting of timothy hay was 74 percent completed the same as last year. Third cutting of timothy was 29 percent harvested ahead of last year’s 19 percent. Oats were 49 percent harvested behind last year’s 59 percent. Winter wheat was 89 percent complete compared to last year’s 92 percent. Eighteen percent of potatoes were harvested behind last year’s 31 percent. The following are comments from across the state: Cortland County received some much needed rain, but the mowed fields were drying too quickly for haylage. In Herkimer County the corn and soybeans were doing well with the help of warm weather and periodic showers. Rains have been spotty in Onondaga County and the crops are looking stressed. Also in the county, oats were maturing irregularly due to poor emergence and the third cutting of hay was off to a good start but then faltered. Dutchess County received some rain on Friday, but overall conditions looked good throughout the Hudson Valley. Humid weather and showers made it difficult to bale hay in Washington County. Some growers in Jefferson County have indicated that they will be chopping silage in late August due to the excellent condition of their corn. Ontario County was continuing to harvest dry hay. Dry hay continued to be made in Albany County with some excellent quality bales being made. Crops in Montgomery and Fulton County received another shower and continue to look great.

FRUIT: Apples were judged to be in 4 percent poor condition, percent 8 fair, percent 46 good, and 42 percent excellent. Grapes were 5 percent poor condition, 6 percent fair, 56 percent good and 33 percent excellent. Peaches were 12 percent poor condition, 13 percent fair, 25 percent good and 50 percent excellent. Pears were 6 percent poor, 19 percent fair, 37 percent good, and 38 percent excellent. In the Lake Ontario fruit region, some rain was received, but dry conditions still existed throughout the region. In the Southern part of the Lake Erie Grape Belt, 2.32 inches of rain was accumulated so far in August. The growing degree days accumulated since April 1 totaled 1640 through August 8. A few berries were beginning to soften on Vignoles and brix was at 5.7. Early grape varieties like Foch, Aurore, and Fredonia have been softening and changing color for the past several days. Growers were busy scouting leaves for powdery mildew and downy mildew. In St. Lawrence County, a little rainfall and plenty of sunshine kept farmers busy and their roadside stands as well. Grape harvest is expected to begin within a week on the earliest varieties in Onondaga County. In the Hudson Valley fruit region, conditions look good due to the gentle rains received on Friday. Orange County growers continue to wait for the recent rains to sink into the ground.

VEGETABLE: Good rains were received by most of the state last week, alleviating some of the dry conditions. However, the far western counties are still very dry. Farm stands were very busy. Harvesting of tomatoes continued and was 30 percent complete. Condition of tomatoes was mostly good to excellent. Lettuce condition was in fair to good condition throughout the state. Condition of onions was reported to be mostly good. Irrigated onions were growing well in the western counties, but non-irrigated onions were still small. Sweet corn harvest continued and was 34 percent complete. Sweet corn condition was reported to be good to excellent. Snap bean harvest was 40 percent complete with varying yields reported. Snap bean condition was fair to good. Cabbage harvest was 30 percent complete, and condition was good.

LIVESTOCK: Pasture conditions across much of the state were estimated to be in fair condition. Pasture conditions were rated as 4 percent very poor, 14 percent poor, 40 percent fair, 37 percent good, and 5 percent excellent.
## Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, August 12, 2007

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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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