



WEATHER AND CROPS

September 24, 2007

Cooperating with New York Department of Agriculture and Markets
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Released, September 24, 2007

Week Ending, September 23, 2007

No. 977-22-07

WEATHER: A tranquil weather period as high pressure was in firm control most of the time. A cold front did move across the state on Thursday with widely scattered showers and thunderstorms. However, the amounts were quite light and did little to assist with drought conditions across portions of northern and western New York. Temperatures averaged above normal for the week with precipitation below normal.

CROPS: With little or no rainfall in the region, harvesting continued at a rapid pace with near perfect conditions in the fields. There were 6.7 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated as 13 percent very short, 31 percent short and 56 percent adequate. Hay condition was rated as 15 percent poor, 27 percent fair, 40 percent good, and 18 percent excellent. Corn condition was rated as 6 percent poor, 14 percent fair, 44 percent good, and 36 percent excellent. Corn for silage was 44 percent completed ahead of last years 32 percent. Seventy-four percent of potatoes were harvested ahead of last years 51 percent. Dry beans were 39 percent completed compared to 9 percent from last year. Third cutting of alfalfa hay was 88 percent completed behind last years 89 percent. Six percent of soybeans were harvested compared to 5 percent from last year. The following are comments from across the state: Water Supplies in Herkimer County were seriously short. Perfect weather in Delaware County allowed farmers to continue harvesting both hay and corn. The lack of rain in Montgomery and Fulton Counties has kept the hay yield low but hay harvest continued along with the corn chopping. In Otsego County the corn silage continued to be harvested along with some late season hay. Corn silage moisture levels quickly dropped below ideal range in Jefferson County which had some farmers concerned about proper fermentation and the potential for mycotoxins as well as other problems concerned with dry corn silage. Water levels were reported low in the ponds, streams, rivers, and lakes of St. Lawrence County. Very dry conditions in Ontario County have farmers unsure of the yields for corn and soybeans. In Albany County some excellent quality hay was put up last week and the corn chopping was in full swing. The corn yield in Cortland County was producing a bumper crop and the later cuttings of hay may help to even out the overall yield for the year. Soybeans were looking good and were beginning to dry down

FRUIT: Apples were judged to be in 5 percent poor condition, 13 percent fair, 54 percent good, and 29 percent excellent. Apples were 44 percent harvested compared to the average of 40 percent. Grapes were 11 percent fair, 80 percent good and 9 percent excellent. Grapes were 41 percent harvested compared to 22 percent last year at this time. Peaches were 8 percent poor condition, 15 percent fair, 47 percent good, and 30 percent excellent. Pears were 6 percent poor, 31 percent fair, 50 percent good, and 13 percent excellent. The pace of ripening slowed last week with cooler temperatures throughout New York. The Finger Lakes grape region received about a half inch of rain which was welcomed. Vineyards along the northern portion of Seneca Lake and some areas around Keuka Lake however are still showing symptoms of significant drought stress. Niagara harvest is pretty much finished, as are most early red hybrids, with Concorde to follow. Acids are low for this time of year in most varieties. In the Long Island region warm sunny weather continued to provide ideal ripening conditions. Pinot Noir harvest is coming to a close. Harvest of some Chardonnay began. Flavor development in both Chardonnay and Merlot is excellent. Niagara harvest is wrapping up in both the Lake Erie and Niagara regions. Both regions are gearing up for Concord harvest with sugar accumulation moving along slower than expected. Some Chardonnay has been harvested and harvest indicators of Brix are looking favorable for Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and Merlot. Grape harvest is in full swing in Ontario County with good reports on quality and quantity. In the Hudson Valley region dry and very cool nights has helped to develop color and flavor in the grape crop. The harvest has been good so far, with Marechal Foch having been picked recently. Growers are anticipating Chardonnay harvest soon, and are waiting for sugars to build more in Pinot Noir. Apple harvest is on in earnest; quality and quantity is very good in Albany County.

VEGETABLE: Farmers markets and farmstands are at their busiest this time of year. Condition of cucumbers, lettuce, onions, cabbage, sweet corn, tomatoes, and snap beans were all fair to good. Warm dry weather allowed harvest to proceed at a quick pace. Harvesting of tomatoes was 88 percent complete, slightly ahead of the five year average of 87 percent. Harvest of onions was 79 percent complete throughout the state, behind the five year average of 85 percent. Onion harvest was hampered by the wet cool spring and the dry summer. Sweet corn harvest continued and was 93 percent complete. Snap bean harvest was 96 percent complete, ahead of the five year average of 89 percent. Cabbage harvest was 76 percent complete, ahead of the five year average of 73 percent. The dry summer negatively affected yields on almost all of the processing crops. Processing snap beans harvest was about 75 percent harvested, with poor yields reported of around one to two tons per acre. Processing sweet corn was yielding well at about 7 tons per acre. Beet harvest was approximately 60 percent complete, with poor yields around 10 to 11 tons per acre. Carrot harvest began. Poor yields are also expected for the carrots.

LIVESTOCK: Cooler weather has slowed pasture growth and encouraged supplemental feeding of livestock on pasture. Pasture conditions across much of the state were estimated to be in fair condition. Pasture conditions were rated as 11 percent very poor, 24 percent poor, 28 percent fair, 22 percent good, and 15 percent excellent.

Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, September 23, 2007

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	81	40	61	+2	77	2637	+282	0.07	-0.60	24.73	+5.74
Glens Falls	80	31	56	-2	50	2144	+97	0.01	-0.69	17.35	-1.43
Poughkeepsie	82	41	60	-2	71	2824	+344	0.06	-0.71	25.43	+3.60
<u>Mohawk Valley</u>											
Boonville	78	36	57	+3	57	1756	+156	0.00	-1.26	20.64	-6.17
<u>Champlain Valley</u>											
Plattsburgh	85	34	58	+1	63	2054	-19	0.00	-0.68	18.99	+0.60
<u>St. Lawrence Valley</u>											
Canton	82	37	60	+4	75	2089	+225	0.00	-0.88	18.12	-1.57
Massena	83	36	60	+5	75	2127	+179	0.00	-0.80	16.28	-1.70
<u>Great Lakes</u>											
Buffalo	84	44	66	+6	113	2706	+429	0.00	-0.77	11.68	-7.89
Wales	82	35	60	+3	73	2043	+198	0.00	-1.09	14.55	-8.30
Niagara Falls	83	40	64	+4	99	2605	+324	0.00	-0.83	12.35	-6.78
Rochester	85	41	64	+4	98	2708	+502	0.00	-0.67	10.86	-5.93
Watertown	84	37	62	+4	83	2190	+280	0.10	-0.64	10.40	-5.28
<u>Central Lakes</u>											
Dansville	85	37	62	+2	85	2385	+171	0.00	-0.77	13.86	-4.56
Geneva	84	40	62	+3	87	2427	+233	0.00	-0.76	13.84	-4.35
Honeoye	84	35	61	-1	81	2250	-54	0.00	-0.70	16.59	-1.40
Ithaca	84	37	60	+2	74	2187	+204	0.00	-0.84	18.24	-1.40
Penn Yan	86	43	64	+5	102	2635	+441	0.00	-0.76	13.98	-4.21
Syracuse	86	38	63	+3	92	2601	+372	0.00	-0.90	16.15	-4.53
Warsaw	80	35	60	+5	78	2046	+349	0.00	-0.91	17.22	-4.36
<u>Western Plateau</u>											
Angelica	80	31	56	-1	49	1760	+87	0.00	-0.84	17.21	-3.17
Elmira	85	35	60	+2	72	2321	+227	0.00	-0.70	16.53	-1.92
Franklinville	80	33	57	+1	50	1853	+316	0.00	-0.91	16.93	-4.84
Jamestown	82	36	59	+3	67	2067	+331	0.00	-1.09	19.96	-4.50
<u>Eastern Plateau</u>											
Binghamton	82	36	62	+4	86	2390	+364	0.00	-0.77	18.91	-0.62
Cobleskill	80	36	58	0	55	2013	+128	0.25	-0.61	23.84	+2.79
Morrisville	82	38	59	+2	64	1978	+184	0.07	-0.85	20.29	-0.79
Norwich	82	36	57	0	55	2059	+172	0.00	-0.88	21.81	+0.91
Oneonta	86	38	61	+5	75	2490	+761	0.22	-0.62	22.38	0.00
<u>Coastal</u>											
Bridgehamton	78	43	61	-3	81	2637	+280	0.00	-0.77	19.45	-1.07
New York	84	56	69	+3	137	3677	+544	0.26	-0.51	32.65	+10.99

^{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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