



WEATHER AND CROPS

September 22, 2008

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Week Ending, September 21, 2008

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WEATHER: Temperatures averaged slightly above seasonal levels for the week with below normal precipitation across much of the state. The warmest temperatures occurred early in the period through Monday before a cold front tracked east accompanied by scattered showers. In the wake of this front, high pressure dominated the state for the rest of the week along with cooler temperatures which averaged near or slightly below seasonal levels. Widespread frost occurred across portions of the southern and western Adirondacks and northeast Catskills ending the growing season. Patchy frost also occurred across portions of the Lake George and Saratoga region.

CROPS: Harvesting progressed rapidly under ideal weather conditions, but high winds from the remnants of Hurricane Ike damaged crops, especially corn in some regions. There were 6.2 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated as 12 percent short, 80 percent adequate and 8 percent surplus. Hay conditions ranged from fair to excellent. Alfalfa third cutting reached 87 percent complete, slightly ahead of the average progress of 82 percent. Corn condition was rated as 4 percent poor, 12 percent fair, 46 percent good, and 38 percent excellent. Silage corn harvest advanced to 22 percent complete, behind the average rate of 30 percent finished. Grain corn harvest has not yet started. Oat harvest was finished. Potatoes were 58 percent dug compared to the average of 66 percent. Dry beans were 30 percent harvested, ahead of the 18 percent average. Soybean harvest was just getting underway. The following are comments from across the state: In a "New York minute", southern Jefferson County's corn crop was transformed from an excellent crop to a twisted, bent, broken, flattened acreage that left growers in shock. Nearly all of the acreage in southern portion of the county was affected. Damage ranged from slightly leaning to snap off below knee level. Producers have been purchasing different chopper heads or attachments to try to glean what they can from the crop. In addition to the corn damage, there were reports of calves that were tied to calf hutches being strangled when the wind blew the hutches over. Corn in Lewis County has suffered damage from a wind storm as well as a spotty frost that affected some corn. Unfortunately much of this damaged corn had not reached proper stage development from silage harvest and will have to be harvested at a less than ideal maturity. Reports are that various areas were hit with the high winds and apparently some fields were heavily damaged. A very good week in Essex County, but most farms were still cutting 1st cutting hay and many were doing silage corn. Corn silage harvest proceeding rapidly in Niagara County. Wheat planting proceeding rapidly. Hay crop harvest continuing. Ontario County experienced some crop damage from the wind storm. Silage harvest has started in Cayuga County and is going great. Soybeans are drying down. Silage harvest in Cortland County has begun. Third and fourth cutting were well underway. Warm temperatures helped move corn and soybean maturity along. Corn silage harvest began in Madison County. Haying is nearing completion. Silage harvest was underway in Onondaga County but corn was drying quickly. Wheat planting started. It is dry in Otsego County but not a big concern at this point. Hay and corn silage moved well. Excellent weather in Albany County provided the opportunity for farmers to chop corn and continue to make dry hay and haylage. Another great week for crops in Montgomery and Fulton Counties. Hay harvest continues and corn silage harvest got underway. In Herkimer County there was some corn damaged by high winds. It was an excellent week for corn silage and hay harvesting in Saratoga County. Dry down of corn also continued. Dry hay harvest was given a boost and most farmers were finishing up haylage harvest. A good weather week in Washington County enabled farmers to chop corn silage, bale hay, and chop 3rd cutting haylage. Good harvesting weather in Chautauqua County after the remnants of Ike went through. A few reports of wind damage to corn with stalks blown over. High winds occurred in Schuyler County. Some corn may have been knocked down, but no major losses have been reported.

FRUIT: Apples were in 22 percent poor condition, 25 percent fair, 45 percent good, and 8 percent excellent. The harvest was 34 percent complete, behind the average of 44 percent. In the Lake Ontario fruit region, fruit harvest continued. Peaches were 19 percent poor, 29 percent fair, 47 percent good, and 5 percent excellent. Harvest was at 89 percent, behind the average of 95 percent. Pears were 39 percent poor, 30 percent fair, and 31 percent good. Pears were 67 percent harvested, down from the average of 83 percent. Grapes were in 9 percent poor condition, 27 percent fair, 51 percent good, and 13 percent excellent. Grapes were 18 percent harvested, down slightly from the average of 22 percent. In the Finger Lakes, the weather was dry and sunny, making harvest a lot easier. Cayuga White, Baco, and Seyval were among the varieties being harvested. Botrytis continued to be a concern in many vineyards. The Lake Erie region harvested more hybrids this week. Due to the winds associated with Hurricane Ike, rows of vines were literally blown over in a couple of vineyards. In the Hudson Valley, Seyval Blanc was being picked, and the quality of the grapes was reported as excellent. In Long Island vineyards, the sunny and dry weather provided great ripening conditions. Bird pressure increased recently, and growers saw some damage.

VEGETABLE: Cabbage is doing well with little to no insect problems. Tomatoes were 76 percent harvested, down from 86 percent harvested last year. Tomato conditions were 19 percent poor, 29 percent fair, 47 percent good, and 5 percent excellent. Onion harvest was 74 percent complete, down from 76 percent harvested last year. Onion conditions were 5 percent poor, 14 percent fair, 72 percent good, and 9 percent excellent. Sweet corn harvest was 89 percent complete, down from 92 percent harvested last year. Sweet corn conditions were 1 percent poor, 11 percent fair, 63 percent good, and 25 percent excellent. Snap bean harvest was 95 percent complete, equal to percentage harvested last year. Snap bean conditions were 3 percent poor, 23 percent fair, 67 percent good, and 7 percent excellent. Cabbage harvest was 65 percent completed, down from 73 percent harvested last year. Cabbage conditions were 2 percent poor, 13 percent fair, 71 percent good, and 14 percent excellent.

LIVESTOCK: Pasture growth continued to slow. Pasture conditions were estimated to be in good condition. Pasture conditions were rated 5 percent poor, 23 percent fair, 56 percent good and 16 percent excellent. Jefferson County reported the loss of some calves from the windstorm that moved through on Monday.

Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, September 29, 2008

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	85	40	62	+2	82	2686	+340	0.00	-0.68	22.26	+3.45	
Glens Falls	83	32	57	-2	54	2142	+102	0.07	-0.63	21.19	+2.61	
Poughkeepsie	86	41	61	0	81	2764	+294	0.00	-0.77	25.28	+3.67	
<u>Mohawk Valley</u>												
Boonville	82	35	54	-2	33	1682	+87	0.20	-1.06	27.33	+0.85	
<u>Champlain Valley</u>												
Plattsburgh	83	33	57	-1	57	2060	-6	0.08	-0.61	19.21	+0.99	
<u>St. Lawrence Valley</u>												
Canton	82	30	55	-2	45	2065	+207	0.42	-0.47	19.97	+0.48	
Massena	84	30	56	-2	51	2056	+114	0.38	-0.43	17.84	+0.05	
<u>Great Lakes</u>												
Buffalo	86	46	63	+3	90	2492	+225	0.13	-0.65	21.03	+1.66	
Wales	83	40	58	-1	54	1899	+61	0.20	-0.90	23.07	+0.49	
Niagara Falls	85	43	61	+1	80	2375	+104	0.11	-0.73	18.38	+0.54	
Rochester	87	40	62	+1	84	2596	+400	0.00	-0.68	14.18	-2.44	
Watertown	86	31	58	0	61	2118	+215	0.12	-0.63	19.37	+3.87	
<u>Central Lakes</u>												
Dansville	86	37	60	-2	70	2312	+107	0.18	-0.59	20.24	+2.01	
Geneva	85	39	59	-2	64	2288	+103	0.02	-0.75	18.25	+0.24	
Honeoye	86	34	60	-2	73	2224	-70	0.00	-0.71	18.38	+0.58	
Ithaca	87	33	58	-2	57	2113	+138	0.09	-0.75	17.76	-1.67	
Penn Yan	87	39	62	+2	83	2647	+462	0.00	-0.77	17.46	-0.55	
Syracuse	88	37	60	-2	71	2492	+273	0.00	-0.91	18.28	-2.17	
Warsaw	82	41	57	+1	52	1879	+188	0.11	-0.81	25.92	+4.57	
<u>Western Plateau</u>												
Angelica	82	33	56	-1	44	1658	-9	0.11	-0.73	20.05	-0.13	
Elmira	87	32	60	+1	69	2285	+199	0.01	-0.69	15.64	-2.63	
Franklinville	81	36	57	+2	53	1747	+216	0.25	-0.66	22.49	+0.95	
Jamestown	83	38	59	+2	63	1994	+265	0.08	-1.02	19.96	-4.23	
<u>Eastern Plateau</u>												
Binghamton	86	38	59	+1	66	2254	+236	0.04	-0.73	18.54	-0.78	
Cobleskill	84	35	58	0	57	2071	+193	0.06	-0.81	24.32	+3.49	
Morrisville	83	39	57	-1	50	1926	+139	0.02	-0.91	20.00	-0.86	
Norwich	86	35	57	-1	54	2002	+122	0.05	-0.84	17.32	-3.36	
Oneonta	90	38	60	+5	73	2346	+623	0.00	-0.84	17.32	-4.84	
<u>Coastal</u>												
Bridgehamton	76	44	62	-1	88	2600	+255	0.00	-0.78	21.45	+1.17	
New York	89	54	69	+2	134	3530	+414	0.00	-0.77	22.11	+0.68	

^{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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