



# WEATHER AND CROPS

## July 20, 2009

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Released, July 20, 2009

Week Ending, July 19, 2009

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**WEATHER:** Another cool week was experienced across New York. Temperatures averaged 60 to 69 degrees which was 2 to 8 degrees below normal. Growing degree days fell to as much as 129 less than normal. Precipitation was light in most areas. Totals ranged from 0.05 to 1.33 inch. Total rainfall since April 1<sup>st</sup> was as much as 5.31 inches above normal. Only a few areas show a deficit.

**CROPS:** Dry days during the week allowed producers to catch up on dry hay harvest. There were 4.2 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated 1 percent short, 59 percent adequate, and 40 percent surplus. Condition of winter wheat was rated as 5 percent poor, 23 percent fair, 57 percent good, and 15 percent excellent. Oat condition was 4 percent poor, 10 percent fair, 65 percent good, and 21 percent excellent. Condition of hay was 8 percent poor, 24 percent fair, 50 percent good, and 18 percent excellent. Alfalfa 1<sup>st</sup> cutting was 98 percent completed, ahead of last year's 96 percent. Clover-timothy hay was 90 percent harvested, ahead of last year's 88 percent, but behind the five year average of 91 percent. Ninety-eight percent of the grass silage was harvested, above last year's and the five year average of 95 percent. Dry beans were 93 percent planted, below the five year average of 98 percent, and below last year's 96 percent. The following are comments throughout the state: Another week dominated by persistent showers in Jefferson County. Some dry hay was put in between showers, but there has not been a stretch of good haying weather. FSA was filing disaster assessment reports to document the problem with dry hay harvest this year. Heavy rains in Lewis County caused lodging in some small grains. Farms continued 2<sup>nd</sup> cutting as weather allowed. St. Lawrence County had another rainy week, but the corn was doing well despite all the rain. Still need some sun to boost development. The almost daily rainfall continues to make it difficult for farmers to harvest hay in Franklin County. Corn conditions are variable depending on soil types and planting dates, but overall the cool temperatures are having a negative effect on corn and soybeans. Wheat harvest began in Livingston County. Niagara County crops continue to look good, although the rain is making it tough to harvest dry hay. Wheat harvest was well underway in Ontario County, and some dry hay was put up. Chenango County hay fields were "cutup" during harvest due to high soil moisture content. Rain was still causing issues with hay and spraying of crops in Madison County. Corn was looking good, but some soybeans weren't doing as well. Drier weather helped hay production finally get moving in Albany County. Hay quality was adversely affected due to the lateness of harvest. Golf ball size hail hit the capitol region on Thursday. In Montgomery, Fulton, and Montgomery Counties there is a growing concern that the soybeans and a lot of the corn will not get enough growing degree days to bring the crops to maturity. Clouds and showers made it hard for farmers to get hay dry enough to bale in Washington County, but farmers who chop their hay were able to harvest a 2<sup>nd</sup> cutting. Broome County had three record low temperature days, but also had three days without rain which allowed farmers to harvest some dry hay. Hay quality was better than expected due to low temperatures and excess moisture. Cool, cloudy temperatures were hindering crop growth in Schuyler County. Corn was showing a lot of variation in Delaware County due to excessive moisture. Some corn looks excellent, but many fields have wet areas that were yellowed and short. Four days of dry weather in Dutchess County allowed for hay to be put up. Ulster County producers were hit with more hail, although small in size.

**FRUIT:** Apples were 3 percent poor, 13 percent fair, percent 54 good, and 30 percent excellent. Grapes were 18 percent poor, 31 percent fair, 33 percent good, and 18 percent excellent. Peaches were 2 percent poor, 40 percent fair, 36 percent good, and 22 percent excellent. Pears were 4 percent poor, 12 percent fair, 22 percent good, and 62 percent excellent. Sweet cherries were 27 percent poor, 30 percent fair, 28 percent good, and 15 percent excellent. Tart cherries were 26 percent poor, 59 percent fair, 9 percent good, and 6 percent excellent. In the Lake Ontario fruit region, tart cherries were approaching harvest and very susceptible to brown rot. Raspberries were also ripening. The strawberry harvest was complete and growers were doing some weed control. In the Lake Erie grape belt, some potato leafhopper damage was found and grape rootworm was actively feeding in Concord vineyards. There were a lot of Japanese beetles in some vineyard blocks, while overall numbers and injury levels were lower than the last 2 years. On Long Island, grapes developed rapidly with Chardonnay and Pinot Noir in cluster closing. Growers were leafing the cluster zone and hedging. Cluster thinning was starting to take place as well. Hail once again hit the Capital District causing damage to crops. Apples were affected but not as severely as vegetable crops. In Yates County, fruit quality was becoming a concern with continual cool weather.

**VEGETABLE:** Hail the size of a golf ball did damage to sweet corn and vegetable crops in Northern Albany County. Lettuce was 86 percent planted with reported conditions of 27 percent poor, 70 percent fair, 2 percent good, and 1 percent excellent. Onions were 100 percent planted with reported conditions of 12 percent poor, 50 percent fair, 35 percent good, and 3 percent excellent. Sweet corn was 99 percent planted with conditions of 6 percent poor, 22 percent fair, 62 percent good, and 10 percent excellent. Snap beans were 91 percent planted, cabbage was 97 percent planted, and tomatoes were 100 percent planted. Sweet corn harvests were slow but picking up.

**LIVESTOCK:** Pastures remained lush. Livestock across the state enjoyed the growth. Pasture conditions across most of the state were estimated to be in good condition. Pasture conditions were rated 3 percent poor, 11 percent fair, 64 percent good and 22 percent excellent.

**Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, July 19, 2009**

Station	Temperature (°F)				Growing Degree Days Base 50° <sup>1/</sup>			Precipitation (Inches) <sup>1/</sup>				
	High	Low	Avg	Dep. from Norm	Week	Season	Dep. from Norm	Week	Dep. from Norm	Season	Dep. from Norm	
<b><u>Hudson Valley</u></b>												
Albany	82	50	67	-6	122	1212	+15	1.13	+0.43	15.79	+3.81	
Glens Falls	82	45	65	-6	105	1000	-35	0.81	+0.17	13.04	+1.54	
Poughkeepsie	84	50	69	-4	137	1291	+39	1.14	+0.23	18.73	+4.64	
<b><u>Mohawk Valley</u></b>												
Boonville	75	46	60	-7	71	666	-127	0.57	-0.29	18.10	+2.02	
<b><u>Champlain Valley</u></b>												
Plattsburgh	81	50	65	-6	110	930	-129	0.86	+0.20	11.74	+1.22	
<b><u>St. Lawrence Valley</u></b>												
Canton	79	45	63	-7	94	866	-60	1.07	+0.31	14.28	+3.16	
Massena	81	48	65	-6	104	960	-29	1.33	+0.63	12.86	+2.63	
<b><u>Great Lakes</u></b>												
Buffalo	79	52	66	-7	111	1113	-19	0.75	+0.10	9.77	-1.62	
Wales	76	47	62	-7	83	844	-60	0.09	-0.68	13.47	-0.27	
Niagara Falls	81	50	65	-7	110	1116	-29	0.42	-0.20	11.07	-0.15	
Rochester	80	48	64	-7	100	1052	-59	0.22	-0.34	13.52	+3.58	
Watertown	77	47	64	-6	101	915	-10	0.34	-0.06	12.04	+3.00	
<b><u>Central Lakes</u></b>												
Dansville	81	47	62	-9	88	1072	-34	0.16	-0.51	10.25	-1.23	
Geneva	81	51	65	-6	107	1034	-52	0.04	-0.59	11.22	-0.23	
Honeoye	82	46	64	-8	101	1020	-108	0.15	-0.46	14.62	+3.36	
Ithaca	84	43	63	-7	90	917	-65	0.11	-0.66	12.25	+0.12	
Penn Yan	83	51	65	-6	109	1135	+49	0.17	-0.46	10.66	-0.79	
Syracuse	84	54	68	-3	126	1187	+65	0.05	-0.79	11.82	-0.97	
Warsaw	78	48	61	-7	75	796	-43	0.51	-0.25	14.80	+1.50	
<b><u>Western Plateau</u></b>												
Angelica	80	41	59	-8	68	726	-93	0.20	-0.59	11.80	-0.94	
Elmira	87	43	64	-7	96	1046	+0	0.19	-0.58	8.95	-2.86	
Franklinville	77	44	60	-7	70	765	+20	0.12	-0.67	13.49	+0.15	
Jamestown	79	47	63	-5	89	934	+85	0.27	-0.63	13.91	-0.91	
<b><u>Eastern Plateau</u></b>												
Binghamton	82	50	65	-6	103	1037	+26	0.19	-0.58	12.84	+0.57	
Cobleskill	81	46	64	-5	101	931	-6	0.83	+0.06	13.95	+0.62	
Morrisville	79	48	63	-6	90	825	-61	0.45	-0.33	15.58	+2.47	
Norwich	82	41	62	-7	86	904	-31	1.08	+0.31	16.61	+3.23	
Oneonta	82	47	64	-4	98	937	+73	0.84	-0.07	14.97	+0.51	
<b><u>Coastal</u></b>												
Bridgehamton	83	53	70	-3	140	1125	+32	0.00	-0.64	18.54	+5.31	
New York	88	65	76	-2	182	1597	+17	0.05	-0.90	18.68	+4.99	

<sup>1/</sup> Season accumulations are for April 1<sup>st</sup> 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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