



WEATHER AND CROPS

August 31, 2009

Cooperating with New York Department of Agriculture and Markets
10B Airline Drive, Albany, New York 12235-0001
(518) 457-5570 · (518) 485-8719 FAX · www.nass.usda.gov

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Week Ending, August 30, 2009

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WEATHER: The week began with Hurricane Bill moving east of the Gulf of Maine and a cold front bringing showers to eastern New York. A large dome of cool Canadian high pressure dominated the weather over New York into the mid week with cool and dry weather. A weak cold front brought some light scattered showers on Wednesday before high pressure came back in on Thursday. The cold front returned northward as a warm front Friday into Saturday with a soaking moderate to heavy rainfall for the region. Tropical Storm Danny weakened and passed east of upstate New York and Long Island on Saturday. Rainfall for the week was normal to above normal across central and eastern New York as well as Long Island. Precipitation was generally below normal over northern and portions of western New York. Temperatures were near normal or slightly above normal.

CROPS: Cool temperatures have growers concerned about crop maturity, but hay/haylage harvest continued. There were 4.3 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil Moisture was rated 1 percent short, 67 percent adequate, and 32 percent surplus. Condition of soybeans was 8 percent poor, 29 percent fair, 49 percent good, and 14 percent excellent. Hay condition was 11 percent poor, 30 percent fair, 40 percent good, and 19 percent excellent. Winter wheat was 99 percent harvested, ahead of last year's 97 percent, but the same as the five year average. Seventy-nine percent of the oats were harvested, behind both the five year average of 88 percent, and last year's 85 percent. Potatoes were 37 percent harvested the same as last year, but behind the five year average of 44 percent. The second cutting of alfalfa was 93 percent harvested, slightly behind the five year average of 94 percent, but the same as last year. Fifty-nine percent of the third cutting of alfalfa was completed, the same as the five year average, but behind last year's 63 percent. Second cutting of timothy hay was 73 percent completed, behind both the five year average of 85 percent, and last year's 79 percent. Third cutting of timothy hay was 42 percent harvested the same as the five year average, but behind last year's 53 percent. The following are comments from across the state: In Jefferson County, the temperatures dipped into the low 40s which didn't help crop maturity. Some producers have started harvesting corn silage; most were still focused on hay/haylage harvest. Hay harvest continued in Lewis County, but the cool weather did not help the corn, which was still behind. St. Lawrence County had a great week for fieldwork with a couple of cool mornings, but no reports of any frost. A lot of hay was being put up, but the recent cool spell was not what the late-maturing corn needed. Cool, wet conditions continued in Niagara County slowing the corn maturation, and some diseases began showing in soybeans. Rain made it difficult for Ontario County to make good quality dry hay. Showers throughout the week in Cortland County left standing water on fields. Small Grain harvest was slowed and hay lay on the ground getting rained on repeatedly. Many farmers in Madison County are concerned that by the first full moon in September there could be a serious frost issue if we have clear, cloudless weather. Another week of poor haying weather and cool temperatures has caused concern over whether or not the corn and soybean crops will reach maturity in Montgomery, Fulton, and Herkimer Counties. Most crops looked good in Steuben County. Some reports that the hay quality was down this year even though the quantity was higher. Scattered showers in Delaware County prevented a lot of field work this week, frustrating farmers in their attempts to harvest hay and small grains. Clear skies in Dutchess County allowed farmers to catch up on their haying and push the growth of crops that were lagging behind in development.

FRUIT: Apples were 8 percent poor, 13 percent fair, 44 percent good, and 35 percent excellent. Grapes were 13 percent poor, 34 percent fair, 41 percent good, and 12 percent excellent. Peaches were 2 percent poor, 8 percent fair, 43 percent good, and 47 percent excellent. Pears were 2 percent poor, 14 percent fair, 29 percent good, and 55 percent excellent. Apples were 19 percent harvested, compared with 15 percent last year and the average of 24 percent. Peaches were 85 percent harvested, compared with 58 percent last year and the average of 66 percent. Pears were 70 percent harvested, compared with 36 percent last year and the average of 46 percent. The Lake Erie grape region was nearing veraison. Several of the hybrids were softening and ripening. Growers in the Finger Lakes were getting ready to begin harvest on early grape varieties. In Long Island vineyards, veraison was moving slowly in some varieties. Though whites are usually well ahead of reds, many blocks were progressing at similar rates. Bird pressure was also high. A lack of rainfall led to thirsty birds that have been attacking grapes through the protective netting.

VEGETABLE: Vegetable plant ripening in Western New York was slowed down due to rain and cool evening temperatures. Late blight reports on vegetable crops continued. The pumpkin crops in Dutchess County are off to a good start. Lettuce conditions were 1 percent poor, 8 percent fair, 37 percent good, and 54 percent excellent. Tomatoes were 59 percent harvested, up from 54 percent five-year average. Tomato conditions were 21 percent poor, 27 percent fair, 20 percent good, and 32 percent excellent. Onion harvest was 50 percent complete, up from 48 percent five-year average. Onion conditions were 83 percent fair, 12 percent good, and 5 percent excellent. Sweet corn harvest was 50 percent complete, behind the 69 percent harvested last year, and 66 percent five-year average. Sweet corn conditions were 2 percent poor, 9 percent fair, 70 percent good, and 19 percent excellent. Snap bean harvest was 51 percent complete, well behind the 71 percent five-year average. Snap bean conditions were 6 percent poor, 42 percent fair, 49 percent good, and 3 percent excellent. Cabbage harvest was 47 percent completed, up from 46 percent five-year average. Cabbage conditions were 3 percent poor, 4 percent fair, 86 percent good, and 7 percent excellent.

LIVESTOCK: Pasture is still heavy. Pasture conditions were rated 2 percent very poor, 4 percent poor, 24 percent fair, 52 percent good and 18 percent excellent.

Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, August 30, 2009

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	82	53	68	+1	128	2141	+87	1.49	+0.72	23.87	+7.31	
Glens Falls	80	45	64	-2	102	1816	+17	2.33	+1.49	19.91	+3.66	
Poughkeepsie	85	56	69	+2	136	2256	+106	0.77	-0.03	27.28	+8.23	
<u>Mohawk Valley</u>												
Boonville	75	43	61	-2	77	1319	-99	1.72	+0.50	23.86	+1.48	
<u>Champlain Valley</u>												
Plattsburgh	80	44	64	-2	97	1738	-87	1.33	+0.41	17.65	+1.86	
<u>St. Lawrence Valley</u>												
Canton	77	42	62	-3	85	1626	-12	1.34	+0.36	20.02	+3.50	
Massena	79	43	64	0	98	1783	+59	0.12	-0.78	17.15	+2.05	
<u>Great Lakes</u>												
Buffalo	76	54	66	-2	110	1991	+27	1.12	+0.14	17.65	+0.97	
Wales	75	53	63	-2	91	1574	-27	0.83	-0.20	19.42	+0.36	
Niagara Falls	76	56	66	-2	113	1990	+18	1.12	+0.18	20.55	+4.45	
Rochester	78	53	65	-2	110	1904	+5	0.34	-0.44	17.65	+3.32	
Watertown	79	41	65	+1	110	1755	+94	0.40	-0.44	15.21	+2.22	
<u>Central Lakes</u>												
Dansville	81	53	65	-2	110	1975	+63	0.34	-0.43	15.33	-0.34	
Geneva	80	52	65	-2	107	1872	-24	0.72	-0.05	16.75	+1.19	
Honeoye	79	51	64	-4	101	1839	-138	1.51	+0.74	21.84	+6.42	
Ithaca	80	51	65	-1	108	1710	-10	2.13	+1.34	19.09	+2.33	
Penn Yan	79	50	66	-1	113	2003	+107	0.86	+0.09	15.18	-0.38	
Syracuse	81	49	66	-1	117	2116	+190	1.04	+0.20	17.18	-0.42	
Warsaw	75	52	63	0	93	1511	+26	0.88	-0.04	22.56	+4.27	
<u>Western Plateau</u>												
Angelica	75	50	63	0	92	1368	-97	0.95	+0.11	21.14	+3.64	
Elmira	81	50	66	+1	117	1887	+69	1.52	+0.82	14.07	-1.90	
Franklinville	76	49	62	+1	89	1461	+118	0.94	+0.01	25.45	+6.94	
Jamestown	78	52	64	+1	98	1679	+171	0.96	-0.11	24.98	+4.33	
<u>Eastern Plateau</u>												
Binghamton	77	53	65	0	107	1841	+75	1.56	+0.79	20.18	+3.34	
Cobleskill	79	46	64	0	103	1710	+67	1.89	+1.05	21.35	+3.33	
Morrisville	79	49	64	+1	101	1578	+12	1.89	+1.03	22.43	+4.55	
Norwich	80	50	66	+2	112	1676	+31	2.68	+1.86	26.89	+9.03	
Oneonta	80	51	65	+3	110	1736	+218	0.88	+0.04	20.81	+1.31	
<u>Coastal</u>												
Bridgehamton	89	60	72	+4	159	2144	+153	0.63	-0.21	22.93	+5.22	
New York	87	66	75	+3	180	2774	+109	0.73	-0.11	26.40	+7.52	

^{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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