



WEATHER AND CROPS

September 14, 2009

Cooperating with New York Department of Agriculture and Markets
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Week Ending, September 13, 2009

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WEATHER: A Canadian high pressure dominated most of New York State. However, late in the week an area of low off the Mid-Atlantic Coast moved westward to the Delmarva. This low moved little Friday and Saturday and brought rain to the eastern portion of the state. Temperatures were near normal much of the period with below normal readings Friday, September 11th, due to the cloud cover and rain. Precipitation varied across the state with below normal across western New York.

CROPS: Another excellent week for fieldwork, and harvesting activities. There were 6.3 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil Moisture was rated 10 percent short, 83 percent adequate, and 7 percent surplus. Condition of soybeans was 7 percent poor, 26 percent fair, 55 percent good, and 12 percent excellent. Hay condition was 8 percent poor, 27 percent fair, 43 percent good, and 22 percent excellent. Condition of corn was 7 percent poor, 23 percent fair, 52 percent good, and 18 percent excellent. Ninety-seven percent of the oats were harvested, the same as both the five year average, and last year's percent. Potatoes were 52 percent harvested, behind the five year average of 55 percent, but ahead of last year's 49 percent. Seventy-five percent of the third cutting of alfalfa was completed, behind both the five year average of 77 percent, and last year's 79 percent. Silage corn was 4 percent harvested behind both last year's 9 percent, and the five year average of 17 percent. Eighteen percent of the dry beans were harvested, ahead of the five year average of 10 percent. The following are comments from across the state: Producers in Jefferson County were cutting hay, harvesting corn, and the small grain harvest was completed. There was concern for the soybean crop, since a lot fields still need 3-4 weeks to mature. Concerns remain in Lewis County over whether or not acreage intended for grain harvest will mature in time. Some corn silage was harvested in St. Lawrence County, but in many cases the corn was too early in its development. Corn silage harvest was started in Niagara County, and some winter wheat was sown in the higher elevation areas. More and more nitrogen deficiency was showing up in field corn in Cayuga County as the plants move it from the leaves to the grain. Some soybean fields started to turn yellow, while others were still green and looking quite good, showing the recovery hoped for. Cortland County's hay and small grain harvest continued. The first field of corn silage was harvested, but most fields were a few weeks off yet. Silage fields were starting to be harvested in Madison County. Dry hay making continued in Albany County. There was growing concern over the soybean crop in Herkimer, Montgomery, and Fulton Counties as summer slips away and fall rapidly sets in. Farmers in Washington County were able to catch up on haying, and the corn silage harvest was started. Most crops continue to look pretty good in Steuben County, but the dry bean yields were reported as low. Concerns that grain corn will have low test weights due to insufficient growing degree days have Broome County producers worried. There have been some reports of corn in Columbia County not producing ears due to the flooding in July. Late season hay harvest has advanced well in Delaware County, and the corn silage will be ready soon. Farmers were getting in third cutting hay which looked better than the first in Dutchess County, and the corn was looking decent.

FRUIT: Apples were 1 percent poor, 2 percent fair, 16 percent good, and 81 percent excellent. Grapes were 25 percent poor, 28 percent fair, 29 percent good, and 18 percent excellent. Peaches were 9 percent poor, 19 percent fair, 14 percent good, and 58 percent excellent. Pears were 8 percent poor, 12 percent fair, 25 percent good, and 55 percent excellent. Apples were 26 percent harvested, compared with 22 percent last year and the average of 34 percent. Peaches were 96 percent harvested, compared with 82 percent last year and the average of 89 percent. Pears were 75 percent harvested, compared with 47 percent last year and the average of 67 percent. Grapes were 8 percent harvested. Albany County pick-your-own apple operations were in full swing. In the Lake Erie grape region, no rain and plenty of sunshine came just in time for post-veraison ripening. Many varieties quickly accumulated sugar, and the smell of ripening grapes permeated the air. The Finger Lakes grape region enjoyed a spell of warm, dry weather which kept the spread of Botrytis infections under control. However, cool humid nights helped promote new foliar downy mildew infections in some vineyards. Aurora harvest was completed, followed by Elvira, and early Chardonnay and Concords were next in line. In Long Island vineyards, a few mites had popped up, and bird pressure was moderate to heavy. Veraison was slow going in certain red blocks, while other later reds were variable. White varieties were ripening nicely with little to no cluster rot.

VEGETABLE: Another severe outbreak of tomato late blight was reported on Long Island. A commercial crop was so severely infected that all plants were considered unsalvageable. Onion harvest was in full swing with yields and quality all over the map. Cucumber conditions were 3 percent fair, 96 percent good, and 1 percent excellent. Lettuce conditions were 7 percent fair, 21 percent good, and 71 percent excellent. Tomatoes were 84 percent harvested, ahead of the 77 percent five-year average. Tomato conditions were 40 percent poor, 18 percent fair, 14 percent good, and 28 percent excellent. Onion harvest was 85 percent complete, up from 72 percent five-year average. Onion conditions were 2 percent poor, 22 percent fair, 49 percent good, and 27 percent excellent. Sweet corn harvest was 66 percent complete, behind the 83 percent harvested last year, and 83 percent five-year average. Sweet corn conditions were 5 percent poor, 13 percent fair, 60 percent good, and 22 percent excellent. Snap bean harvest was 77 percent complete, down from 80 percent five-year average. Snap bean conditions were 5 percent poor, 13 percent fair, 49 percent good, and 33 percent excellent. Cabbage harvest was 74 percent completed, ahead of the 61 percent five-year average. Cabbage conditions were 16 percent fair, 80 percent good, and 4 percent excellent.

LIVESTOCK: Some fields started to show effects of dry weather. Pasture conditions were rated 1 percent very poor, 5 percent poor, 27 percent fair, 52 percent good and 15 percent excellent.

Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, September 13, 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	76	46	62	-2	88	2327	+76	0.34	-0.36	24.21	+6.19
Glens Falls	78	39	60	-1	73	1967	+3	0.17	-0.58	20.08	+2.30
Poughkeepsie	77	47	63	-2	94	2456	+91	0.70	-0.14	27.99	+7.26
<u>Mohawk Valley</u>											
Boonville	75	42	59	+2	65	1441	-101	0.08	-1.25	24.02	-0.97
<u>Champlain Valley</u>											
Plattsburgh	77	43	60	-1	73	1892	-98	0.00	-0.77	17.65	+0.24
<u>St. Lawrence Valley</u>											
Canton	76	45	60	0	71	1764	-25	0.23	-0.69	18.33	-0.09
Massena	79	44	61	+2	75	1935	+60	0.00	-0.84	17.62	+0.80
<u>Great Lakes</u>											
Buffalo	78	50	66	+3	112	2198	+32	0.00	-0.85	17.65	-0.79
Wales	75	47	62	+1	84	1717	-44	0.00	-1.12	19.84	-1.44
Niagara Falls	79	51	66	+3	111	2186	+15	0.00	-0.91	20.55	+2.63
Rochester	78	49	64	0	97	2082	-13	0.01	-0.71	17.67	+1.85
Watertown	80	39	62	+2	88	1908	+83	0.01	-0.77	15.26	+0.65
<u>Central Lakes</u>											
Dansville	76	50	62	-2	86	2137	+30	0.25	-0.59	15.58	-1.73
Geneva	78	49	63	0	96	2049	-41	0.10	-0.67	16.92	-0.18
Honeoye	79	44	61	-4	78	1987	-200	0.00	-0.77	21.93	+4.97
Ithaca	77	46	62	+1	86	1860	-32	0.32	-0.52	19.44	+1.00
Penn Yan	77	47	63	-1	91	2176	+86	0.29	-0.48	15.49	-1.61
Syracuse	80	49	65	+2	106	2312	+191	0.01	-0.90	17.23	-2.16
Warsaw	75	49	61	+3	78	1660	+35	0.06	-0.92	22.74	+2.49
<u>Western Plateau</u>											
Angelica	76	48	62	+3	84	1520	-83	0.33	-0.51	21.58	+2.40
Elmira	78	47	62	0	87	2052	+54	0.38	-0.38	14.47	-2.96
Franklinville	75	45	60	+2	71	1591	+119	0.10	-0.88	25.98	+5.52
Jamestown	77	47	62	+3	89	1838	+180	0.11	-1.01	25.21	+2.32
<u>Eastern Plateau</u>											
Binghamton	75	50	62	+2	87	2004	+67	0.30	-0.52	20.48	+2.05
Cobleskill	75	42	58	-4	57	1838	+35	1.01	+0.10	22.36	+2.56
Morrisville	75	48	62	+2	81	1739	+23	0.31	-0.64	22.73	+2.99
Norwich	79	43	60	0	74	1827	+22	0.22	-0.69	27.11	+7.48
Oneonta	76	46	61	+2	77	1892	+233	0.20	-0.64	21.01	-0.17
<u>Coastal</u>											
Bridgehamton	76	53	65	-2	108	2362	+138	0.31	-0.53	23.24	+3.85
New York	76	58	68	-3	127	3054	+96	0.55	-0.29	26.95	+6.39

^{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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