



WEATHER AND CROPS

May 17, 2010

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WEATHER: The week started out on the chilly side with a Canadian high pressure system moving across the region with temperatures 10 to 15 degrees below normal. Frost advisories and freeze warnings were needed for the nights of May 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th. A low moving south of the region on the 12th brought rainfall to all the region except the far north with fairly substantial amounts over central and western New York. This was followed by a warm front the night of the 13th resulting in temperatures above normal on Friday the 14th with highs in the mid and upper 70's from Albany south with some low 80's in the lower Hudson Valley and the NYC Metro area. Passage of a cold front and an upper trough later on Friday resulted in cooler weather for Saturday.

CROPS: Despite showers moving across the state, hay harvest began in several counties. There were 4.6 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated 3 percent short, 78 percent adequate, and 19 percent surplus. Condition of winter wheat was rated as 1 percent poor, 11 percent fair, 61 percent good, and 27 percent excellent. Oat condition was 10 percent fair, 71 percent good, and 19 percent excellent. Corn planting was 58 percent completed, ahead of both last year's 54 percent, and the five year average of 55 percent. Ninety-five percent of the oats were planted, ahead of both last year's 93 percent, and the five year average of 91 percent. Potatoes were 57 percent planted, behind last year's 68 percent, but slightly ahead of the five year average of 56 percent. Twelve percent of the soybeans were planted, behind both the previous year's 22 percent, and the five year average of 20 percent. The following are comments from throughout the state: Dutchess County received some much needed rain on the 12th and 13th which assisted in seed germination and seedling growth. Grass hay was cut and put into storage in Delaware County. Schuyler County received a frost on May 10th. Broome County's hay was starting to be harvested on Friday. Farmers in Washington County were busy planting corn and soybeans, or cutting or chopping hay. Hay harvest began in Jefferson County and some of the early planted corn had emerged. Lewis County farmers were at all stages of corn planting, with most being 2/3 completed. A few farms were also beginning to harvest grass hay. Some corn in St. Lawrence County was up about an inch or so. It was a slower week in the county with very cold weather earlier in the week followed by a couple of fair sized showers which hampered planting and tilling. Some much needed rain fell in Erie County last week, but was accompanied by cold, windy conditions. Haylage harvest began in Genesee County, and the corn planting was far ahead of normal. Much of the corn was in spike to first leaf stage, and the stands were excellent. Soybean planting was well underway, and the wheat heads will be emerging this week. There were concerns from producers in Ontario County that hops and field corn may have been adversely affected by the multiple days of frosts last week. Wet weather slowed planting progress in Cayuga County. Some producers in Chenango County were holding off planting corn due to the cold weather, but the 1st grass hay harvest was underway. The earliest hay crop harvest was beginning in Cortland County after a heavy wet snow on mother's day and two hard frosts put hay development at a standstill or made it go backwards. Burnt leaves for both grass and alfalfa were easy to find. Snow that fell in Madison County two weeks ago affected the sunflowers. Much needed sun and heat in Oneida County should move spring planting along this week. Cool weather in Otsego County had kept plant growth slow, and the rain slowed field work last week. Several growers reported that all their corn was planted. Haylage harvest began in Albany and Schoharie Counties. Haying and soybean planting will begin on a lot of farms in Montgomery and Fulton Counties in the coming week. Corn planting was in full swing, and there was corn up in the river flats in Montgomery County. Haylage harvest started this week in Saratoga County with average to below average grass yields, and average to above average legume yields.

FRUIT: Apples were at 96 percent full bloom and 95 percent petal fall, compared to 79 and 54 percent last year. Peaches were at 97 percent full bloom and 96 percent petal fall, compared to 78 and 69 percent last year. Pears were at 95 percent full bloom and 92 percent petal fall, compared to 77 and 72 percent last year. Sweet cherries were at 95 percent full bloom and 88 percent petal fall compared to 94 and 88 percent last year. The Finger Lakes region received multiple mornings of frost. Many producers in Ontario County were concerned that strawberries, grapes, and peaches were adversely affected. Cayuga County reported severe frost damage on strawberries and limited damage on other crops. Madison and Oneida Counties were affected by frost and snow. Damage to the strawberry crop was expected. Apples, blueberries, and strawberries were damaged in Onondaga County due to snow May 9 and 10 and frost May 8 – 13. In the Capital region, frost and freezes at the beginning of the week also caused damage. Strawberries and pears were affected in Albany County, while apple, cherry, peach, pear, and strawberry crop damage was being analyzed in Saratoga County. There was also concern for fruit crops, especially apples and strawberries, in Washington County. The below freezing temperatures on Monday and Tuesday affected apples, strawberries, and blueberries in Broome County. First blooms on strawberries were showing black. Approximately 50 percent of blueberry blooms were frozen off. Apples in the lower valley were thinned, while the upper hillsides do not appear affected. In the Hudson Valley, serious frost conditions existed on May 10 and 11. Dutchess and Ulster Counties had many reports of frost damage to apples, peaches, pears, cherries, strawberries, and blueberries. High winds also knocked fruit together and shredded leaves. Columbia County was still assessing damages to tree and small fruit. On Long Island, grape shoot growth was rapid and Chardonnay shoots ranged from 10 to 18 inches. Due to early budbreak, vine growth was progressing well ahead of average.

VEGETABLE: Vegetables were slightly damaged in Central and Eastern New York due to freeze and high winds. The stunted crops may have a later first picking. Transplants are also getting put in the ground. Sweet corn was at 19 percent planted, up from 17 percent previous week and compared to 39 percent previous year, and 40 percent for the five year average. Onions were at 75 percent planted, up from 70 percent previous week and compared to 95 percent previous year. Onion planting in Orange County is complete. Snap beans were at 12 percent planted, up from 10 percent last week and compared to 8 percent previous year, and 24 percent five year average. Cabbage was at 25 percent planted, up from 16 percent last week and compared to 35 percent last year and 30 percent five year average.

LIVESTOCK: Pasture conditions were considered to be in good condition in most areas. Pastures were very short in Madison County, especially if they weren't "added to" with a shot of urea and were grazed continuously. Pasture conditions were rated 1 percent very poor, 1 percent poor, 20 percent fair, 58 percent good, and 20 percent excellent.

Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, May 16, 2010

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	75	29	50	-8	27	247	+120	0.61	-0.16	2.82	-1.87
Glens Falls	75	26	48	-7	24	185	+91	0.27	-0.56	3.37	-1.43
Poughkeepsie	80	28	51	-7	32	299	+143	0.71	-0.27	2.87	-2.85
<u>Mohawk Valley</u>											
Boonville	69	27	43	-10	7	126	+62	0.76	-0.22	4.77	-2.12
<u>Champlain Valley</u>											
Plattsburgh	71	29	48	-7	22	158	+63	0.09	-0.54	3.32	-0.92
<u>St. Lawrence Valley</u>											
Canton	65	27	46	-8	9	166	+86	0.30	-0.33	3.46	-0.89
Massena	67	27	49	-7	21	170	+78	0.05	-0.51	2.48	-1.45
<u>Great Lakes</u>											
Buffalo	65	33	49	-8	15	218	+101	0.89	+0.19	4.64	+0.20
Wales	68	27	45	-10	8	176	+94	1.11	+0.34	4.96	-0.62
Niagara Falls	69	28	49	-8	15	229	+100	0.91	+0.28	4.74	+0.09
Rochester	73	32	49	-8	18	265	+130	0.70	+0.11	3.79	-0.18
Watertown	66	25	48	-6	16	174	+90	0.30	-0.30	2.90	-0.95
<u>Central Lakes</u>											
Dansville	76	28	47	-10	16	225	+104	1.16	+0.53	4.09	-0.16
Geneva	76	31	47	-8	17	230	+118	1.06	+0.43	4.20	-0.18
Honeoye	76	27	47	-9	21	249	+134	0.90	+0.29	4.45	+0.08
Ithaca	79	27	47	-8	23	220	+125	1.01	+0.29	4.43	-0.10
Penn Yan	78	32	50	+6	28	266	+154	0.89	+0.26	3.88	-0.50
Syracuse	79	31	49	-8	23	264	+131	0.82	+0.12	3.70	-1.29
Warsaw	70	29	44	-9	7	167	+97	1.16	+0.39	5.72	+0.59
<u>Western Plateau</u>											
Angelica	76	28	46	-7	15	188	+119	1.29	+0.66	4.96	+0.79
Elmira	80	26	50	-6	29	243	+138	1.00	+0.30	4.46	+0.20
Franklinville	74	24	44	-8	12	141	+88	1.34	+0.57	5.58	+0.54
Jamestown	74	26	46	-7	13	179	+107	1.47	+0.63	5.65	-0.11
<u>Eastern Plateau</u>											
Binghamton	77	30	47	-9	23	267	+167	1.07	+0.30	4.45	-0.39
Cobleskill	78	28	46	-9	15	172	+85	0.74	-0.06	3.61	-1.47
Morrisville	78	29	46	-9	14	171	+90	0.83	-0.01	5.47	+0.55
Norwich	80	26	46	-9	20	163	+72	0.96	+0.12	4.96	-0.30
Oneonta	76	29	47	-7	16	179	+102	0.92	-0.06	5.19	-0.48
<u>Coastal</u>											
Bridgehamton	71	36	52	-4	28	232	+136	0.63	-0.21	3.53	-2.45
New York	82	43	58	-4	56	482	+246	0.41	-0.44	4.47	-1.34

^{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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