



WEATHER AND CROPS

August 16, 2010

Cooperating with New York Department of Agriculture and Markets
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Week Ending, August 15, 2010

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WEATHER: The week began hot and dry with high pressure along the Mid-Atlantic Coast. Temperatures were above normal on Sunday and Monday. A disturbance moving south of a cold front brought some light to moderate rainfall to much of upstate New York. A cold front brought isolated to scattered showers Tuesday into Wednesday. Locations mainly south of the Mohawk River Valley had some showers; some were heavy in intensity in the northern Catskills and across central New York. Cool Canadian high pressure ushered in cool and dry weather to close the week. Temperatures still averaged above normal for the week with precipitation below for most locations.

CROPS: There were 5.6 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated 1 percent very short, 18 percent short, 77 percent adequate, and 4 percent surplus. Condition of corn was rated as 2 percent poor, 14 percent fair, 41 percent good, and 43 percent excellent. Soybean condition was 2 percent poor, 15 percent fair, 41 percent good, and 42 percent excellent. Hay condition was 4 percent poor, 12 percent fair, 55 percent good, and 29 percent excellent. Alfalfa second cutting was 98 percent completed, ahead of both last year's 79 percent and the five year average of 87 percent. Third cutting alfalfa was 60 percent completed, ahead of both last year's 27 percent and the five year average of 39 percent. Ninety-four percent of clover timothy second cutting was harvested, ahead of both last year's 56 percent and the five year average of 71 percent. Third cutting clover-timothy was 46 percent completed, ahead of both last year's 24 percent and the five year average of 27 percent. Eighty-one percent of the oats for grain were harvested, ahead of last year's 46 percent and the five year average of 60 percent. Potatoes were 26 percent harvested, ahead of both last year's 18 percent, and the five year average of 25 percent. The following are comments from throughout the state: Near perfect growing conditions in Jefferson County have corn and soybean crops looking excellent, and will make for an earlier than normal corn silage harvest. Many corn growers are expecting to begin chopping corn sometime in the next couple of weeks. Dry soil conditions were not favorable for the recently planted summer alfalfa, clover, and grass seedings. Humid weather and sporadic rain showers in Lewis County made hay harvest difficult, but rain totals were low resulting in drought stressed corn on some very well drained sandy soils. Weather was excellent in St. Lawrence County with sunshine throughout the week and rain over the weekend, but crops were still in need of rain. Corn chopping started in various parts of the county. Hay crop harvest continued in Genesee County with excellent yields due to good re-growth. Corn and soybean crops were making excellent growth with adequate rainfall during pollination and flowering with few disease or insect problems reported. Third cutting was progressing in Madison County and the crops were still doing great. Wheat harvest was one of the best, and in some of the earliest planted corn, the lower leaves were starting to turn yellow and dry down. A good growing season continues in Otsego County. Most crops have progressed well, and continue to look very good. Another mostly dry week helped with dry hay production in Albany County as second and third cutting hay harvest continued. Corn was maturing given ample growing degree days and mostly adequate moisture. Corn chopping had started. Montgomery and Fulton Counties continued having a great growing season and harvesting conditions. Small grain harvest was wrapping up and there was talk of corn silage being harvested in the next week or so. Dry soil conditions in Rensselaer County had the corn curling, and the hay production was not there due to a lack of rain. Crops were starting to show stress from lack of moisture in Washington County, and corn was curling on light soils. A good soaking rain would be helpful, but corn and soybeans still looked good on deeper soils where storms had provided adequate moisture. Most crops in Steuben County were maturing quite a bit earlier compared to normal. Soybeans looked very good in most areas and the corn was in good shape. Conditions continue to remain dry for the most part in Dutchess County. A few inches of rainfall assisted the crops, and generally the growers were happier with this season compared to last year.

FRUIT: Apples were 11 percent poor, 16 percent fair, 42 percent good, and 31 percent excellent. Grapes were 3 percent poor, 6 percent fair, 49 percent good, and 42 percent excellent. Peaches were 4 percent poor, 13 percent fair, 81 percent good, and 2 percent excellent. Pears were 2 percent poor, 11 percent fair, and 87 percent good. Sweet cherry harvest was complete. Apples were 12 percent harvested, comparable to last year. Grapes were 1 percent harvested, compared to none last year. Peaches were 80 percent harvested, compared to 59 percent last year. Pears were 75 percent harvested, compared to 26 percent last year. In the Lake Ontario fruit region, oriental fruit moth continued to fly, especially in peaches. In Albany County, apple harvest was in progress with early varieties being harvested. Pears were being picked as well. In Ontario and Steuben Counties, apple and grape harvests were expected to start early. The Lake Erie grape region reported the first signs of veraison for Concords. Growers also found some black rot infections in Concord and Niagara vineyards. Veraison progressed rapidly in Long Island vineyards, with Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon blocks almost fully colored. Bird pressure thus far has been light compared to previous years.

VEGETABLE: Vegetable producers continued harvest of crops. Quality of tomatoes and sweet corn in Eastern New York ranged from good to excellent. Late Blight was confirmed in Washington County. Lettuce had reported conditions of 4 percent poor, 14 percent fair, 36 percent good, and 46 percent excellent. Onion harvest was 25 percent complete, behind the 32 percent five-year average. Onion conditions were 1 percent poor, 2 percent fair, 95 percent good, and 2 percent excellent. Cabbage harvest was 52 percent completed, ahead of the 40 percent last year, compared to 32 percent five-year average. Cabbage conditions were 1 percent poor, 3 percent fair, 69 percent good, and 27 percent excellent. Sweet corn harvest was 45 percent complete, up from 20 percent last year, and 37 percent five-year average. Sweet corn conditions were 2 percent poor, 14 percent fair, 64 percent good, and 20 percent excellent. Tomatoes were 43 percent harvested, up from 31 percent five-year average. Tomato conditions were 5 percent poor, 12 percent fair, 65 percent good, and 18 percent excellent. Snap bean harvest was 45 percent complete, up from 41 percent five-year average. Snap bean conditions were 9 percent poor, 34 percent fair, 49 percent good, and 8 percent excellent.

LIVESTOCK: Pastures were hurting due to dry conditions, and supplemental feeding of animals on pasture began. Pasture conditions were rated 1 percent very poor, 12 percent poor, 29 percent fair, 50 percent good, and 8 percent excellent.

Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, August 15, 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	91	63	76	+7	185	2241	+462	0.21	-0.57	11.02	-3.84
Glens Falls	88	58	73	+6	162	1897	+338	0.08	-0.76	10.82	-3.63
Poughkeepsie	93	56	76	+5	182	2369	+511	0.18	-0.66	8.24	-9.13
<u>Mohawk Valley</u>											
Boonville	81	59	69	+5	137	1527	+301	0.56	-0.51	19.38	-0.47
<u>Champlain Valley</u>											
Plattsburgh	82	55	70	+2	139	1816	+228	1.54	+0.59	15.39	+1.64
<u>St. Lawrence Valley</u>											
Canton	82	57	70	+4	142	1795	+379	0.86	-0.07	16.51	+2.09
Massena	86	56	72	+5	156	1902	+404	0.82	-0.02	14.83	+1.59
<u>Great Lakes</u>											
Buffalo	87	65	76	+7	182	2125	+428	0.36	-0.59	16.73	+2.15
Wales	85	61	73	+7	162	1755	+377	0.10	-0.80	14.71	-2.23
Niagara Falls	88	63	77	+8	187	2189	+483	0.48	-0.39	13.23	-0.89
Rochester	86	63	75	+7	175	2163	+518	0.51	-0.26	16.64	+4.00
Watertown	87	60	74	+7	169	1901	+474	0.26	-0.46	12.89	+1.63
<u>Central Lakes</u>											
Dansville	85	59	72	+4	157	2048	+397	0.50	-0.20	16.18	+2.14
Geneva	85	60	73	+5	165	2077	+441	0.31	-0.39	16.84	+2.86
Honeoye	85	57	73	+4	162	2035	+334	0.60	-0.10	18.56	+4.79
Ithaca	86	54	72	+5	154	1933	+450	0.25	-0.52	12.46	-2.63
Penn Yan	85	58	74	+5	169	2158	+522	0.37	-0.33	14.16	+0.18
Syracuse	89	62	75	+7	181	2249	+581	0.46	-0.31	15.61	-0.26
Warsaw	82	61	71	+4	149	1733	+451	0.25	-0.59	18.96	+2.63
<u>Western Plateau</u>											
Angelica	85	58	72	+7	155	1873	+611	0.58	-0.19	17.97	+2.26
Elmira	91	60	74	+7	171	2054	+483	0.50	-0.15	14.54	+0.07
Franklinville	85	54	70	+6	141	1642	+487	0.48	-0.41	17.25	+0.71
Jamestown	85	55	73	+7	160	1861	+563	0.45	-0.53	18.25	-0.14
<u>Eastern Plateau</u>											
Binghamton	89	60	73	+5	159	2051	+524	0.43	-0.30	13.45	-1.74
Cobleskill	86	55	71	+5	147	1844	+427	1.40	+0.63	14.89	-1.40
Morrisville	85	57	71	+6	147	1811	+459	0.75	-0.02	18.59	+2.51
Norwich	88	49	71	+5	147	1782	+362	0.96	+0.21	15.84	-0.32
Oneonta	87	56	71	+6	151	1876	+564	0.86	+0.02	16.27	-1.43
<u>Coastal</u>											
Bridgehampton	88	52	74	+3	172	2274	+585	0.00	-0.77	9.10	-6.87
New York	93	68	80	+5	212	3063	+762	0.11	-0.73	9.76	-7.32

^{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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