



WEATHER AND CROPS

September 27, 2010

Cooperating with New York Department of Agriculture and Markets
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Week Ending, September 26, 2010

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WEATHER: A weak cold front on Sunday brought light rain showers to western New York dissipating as it moved eastward across central New York. This was followed by high pressure on Monday and Tuesday before another cold front slowly moved through New York on Wednesday. This front produced some showers and thunderstorms late Wednesday especially for areas in southern New York. High pressure once again crested over the northeast briefly on Thursday, sliding off the Atlantic Coast Friday which allowed for southwest winds to usher in abnormally warm temperatures. Friday night another cold front moved through the area producing little if any rain over New York. Cooler, less humid air filtered in behind the front on Saturday with gusty northwest winds. Temperatures averaged below normal with below normal temperatures for the terrain early in the week as areas of the Adirondacks received frost and freeze conditions Monday night into Tuesday morning. Late in the week temperatures increased to above normal with maximum temperatures a good 15 to 20 degrees above normal on Friday. Precipitation generally averaged below normal with the exception in western portions of the state.

CROPS: There were 6.1 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated 4 percent very short, 12 percent short, 74 percent adequate, and 10 percent surplus. Condition of corn was rated as 3 percent poor, 12 percent fair, 51 percent good, and 34 percent excellent. Soybean condition was 3 percent poor, 13 percent fair, 42 percent good, and 42 percent excellent. Hay condition was 9 percent poor, 24 percent fair, 48 percent good, and 19 percent excellent. Third cutting alfalfa was 97 percent completed, ahead of both last year's 93 percent and the five year average of 90 percent. Third cutting clover-timothy was 87 percent completed. Potatoes were 65 percent harvested, behind both last year's 66 percent, and the five year average of 66 percent. Seventy-seven percent of silage corn was harvested ahead of both last year's 33 percent, and the five year average of 46 percent. Seven percent of the grain corn was harvested. Dry beans were 34 percent harvested behind both last year's 55 percent, and the five year average of 35 percent. Soybeans were 8 percent harvested ahead of both last year's 2 percent, and the five year average of 6 percent. The following are comments from throughout the state: Silage harvest was winding down in Jefferson County with reports indicating "a lot of grain" in the silage, and some high moisture shelled corn was combined. Finishing corn harvesting was a top priority in St. Lawrence County before the fields get too wet. Grain corn harvest was progressing rapidly in Genesee County, and yields were excellent on early planted corn. Soybean harvest started and was proceeding rapidly with many producers indicating they intend to plant winter wheat after soybean harvest. Corn silage harvest was nearly complete, and the wheat planting was far ahead of normal. Harvest was well underway in Niagara County, and the corn yields looked good so far. Corn and soybean harvest was well underway in Ontario County. It was an excellent week for corn chopping in Cortland County, and moisture levels have reached the range for high moisture corn harvest. Most of the corn silage in the northern half of Madison County was harvested, and the warm weather was really helping to dry down the grain corn. Excellent conditions for harvest continued in Otsego County, but some farmers still want a frost to dry corn stalks down. Corn chopping was going well in Albany County where good yields were the norm, and yields of 20 tons per acre were reported. Montgomery and Fulton Counties continue to harvest corn silage and grain corn was moving along, as well as fourth cutting alfalfa hay. Washington County had another dry week as producers continued corn silage harvest, started grain corn harvest as well. Corn was drying down fast on early planted fields in Steuben County, quite a bit of winter wheat was planted. Small pockets of Broome County received a light frost in the early part of the week, but dry weather with warming temperatures by the end of the week allowed more grass dry hay to be harvested, as well as fourth cutting alfalfa to be chopped. Harvest was progressing well in Dutchess County. Temperatures were unusually warm in both Sullivan and Delaware County with little to no rain during the day, but some night showers.

FRUIT: Apples were 4 percent poor, 11 percent fair, 63 percent good, and 22 percent excellent. Grapes were 2 percent poor, 5 percent fair, 52 percent good, and 41 percent excellent. Peaches were 1 percent poor, 12 percent fair, 79 percent good, and 8 percent excellent. Pears were 2 percent poor, 11 percent fair, 79 percent good, and 8 percent excellent. Apples were 59 percent harvested. This is ahead of the 37 percent last year and the five-year average of 42 percent. Grapes were 33 percent harvested. This is ahead of the 24 percent last year and comparable to the five-year average of 35 percent. Peaches were 99 percent harvested, compared to 99 percent last year. Pears were 94 percent harvested, compared to 89 percent last year. Apple harvest continued across the state, with U-pick and farm stands busy. In the Lake Erie grape region, some Concord vineyards were in a holding pattern for sugar, color, and flavor accumulations, while others were moving to the point of becoming over mature. In the Finger Lakes grape region, some of the first Riesling fruit was harvested. Cool weather has really slowed things down. Grapes continued to ripen in the Hudson Valley, and a number of white varieties were harvested over the past week including Cayuga White, Chardonnay, and DeChaunac. On Long Island, grape harvest was in a lull, with the last few Chardonnay blocks harvested.

VEGETABLE: Harvest continued to progress. Lettuce had reported conditions of 1 percent fair, 12 percent good, and 87 percent excellent. Onion harvest was 73 percent complete this year, behind the 89 last year and 86 percent five-year average. Onion conditions were 6 percent fair, 27 percent good, and 67 percent excellent. Cabbage harvest was 81 percent completed, up from 78 percent last year, compared to 76 percent five-year average. Cabbage conditions were 20 percent fair, 65 percent good and 15 percent excellent. Sweet corn harvest was 91 percent complete, up from 87 percent last year, but behind the 92 percent five-year average. Sweet corn conditions were 1 percent poor, 7 percent fair, 81 percent good, and 11 percent excellent. Tomatoes were 94 percent harvested, up from 88 percent five-year average. Tomato conditions were 6 percent poor, 14 percent fair, 70 percent good, and 10 percent excellent. Snap bean harvest was 91 percent complete, behind the 92 percent five-year average. Snap bean conditions were 2 percent poor, 3 percent fair, 94 percent good, and 1 percent excellent.

LIVESTOCK: No livestock problems reported. Livestock farmers were tucking water due to very dry conditions in Rensselaer County. Pastures were not regrowing due to the very dry weather in Albany County. Pasture conditions were rated 4 percent very poor, 10 percent poor, 34 percent fair, 45 percent good, and 7 percent excellent.

Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, September 26, 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	86	39	65	+7	106	2971	+591	0.01	-0.63	12.75	-6.51
Glens Falls	85	32	59	+4	69	2478	+412	0.03	-0.67	14.61	-4.47
Poughkeepsie	87	39	67	+8	119	3128	+620	0.18	-0.59	14.26	-7.90
<u>Mohawk Valley</u>											
Boonville	82	40	57	+4	52	1945	+332	0.08	-1.15	26.94	-0.38
<u>Champlain Valley</u>											
Plattsburgh	81	36	60	+4	70	2422	+329	0.37	-0.28	19.41	+0.75
<u>St. Lawrence Valley</u>											
Canton	84	37	57	+2	49	2356	+474	0.50	-0.35	21.58	+1.53
Massena	87	36	60	+5	71	2509	+544	0.58	-0.19	21.03	+2.72
<u>Great Lakes</u>											
Buffalo	88	44	65	+6	104	2817	+513	0.31	-0.46	19.94	+0.04
Wales	86	38	59	+3	65	2289	+423	0.20	-0.86	19.44	-3.86
Niagara Falls	88	42	64	+5	98	2887	+579	0.25	-0.55	16.72	-2.74
Rochester	89	43	63	+4	95	2826	+592	0.25	-0.39	20.07	+3.01
Watertown	88	37	61	+5	78	2519	+589	0.12	-0.59	17.66	+1.68
<u>Central Lakes</u>											
Dansville	91	42	65	+7	106	2703	+462	0.11	-0.65	21.66	+2.92
Geneva	88	42	60	+2	73	2672	+452	0.16	-0.57	22.39	+3.90
Honeoye	89	42	60	0	73	2631	+298	0.11	-0.59	23.50	+5.21
Ithaca	89	35	60	+4	73	2507	+502	0.02	-0.79	16.99	-2.98
Penn Yan	90	43	63	+6	96	2824	+604	0.04	-0.69	18.86	+0.37
Syracuse	90	42	64	+5	98	2931	+675	0.08	-0.79	23.41	+1.37
Warsaw	84	41	59	+4	62	2228	+514	0.24	-0.66	24.06	+2.10
<u>Western Plateau</u>											
Angelica	87	39	61	+6	80	2434	+744	0.15	-0.66	22.28	+1.57
Elmira	92	34	63	+6	93	2676	+559	0.00	-0.70	17.08	-1.67
Franklinville	84	38	60	+6	71	2119	+567	0.21	-0.70	23.04	+0.88
Jamestown	86	41	62	+7	85	2428	+673	0.56	-0.50	23.40	-1.51
<u>Eastern Plateau</u>											
Binghamton	88	38	63	+7	95	2658	+611	0.02	-0.75	17.19	-2.67
Cobleskill	86	37	61	+5	77	2387	+482	0.06	-0.78	19.92	-1.49
Morrisville	83	38	57	+2	54	2262	+450	0.04	-0.87	24.30	+2.83
Norwich	90	37	61	+5	81	2320	+413	0.00	-0.85	20.26	-1.00
Oneonta	86	37	61	+7	81	2439	+693	0.00	-0.83	22.16	-0.57
<u>Coastal</u>											
Bridgehampton	81	44	67	+6	122	3091	+700	0.00	-0.77	13.90	-6.95
New York	90	59	74	+9	169	4122	+943	0.20	-0.57	12.78	-9.21

^{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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