



WEATHER AND CROPS

September 26, 2011

Cooperating with New York Department of Agriculture and Markets
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WEATHER: The week began with slightly below normal temperatures. A warm front tracked through the region early in the week as an upper level cut off low developed in the Midwest and Ohio Valley. The upper low remained nearly stationary to our west, keeping a warm and humid air mass over our region. Temperatures were above normal from the middle of the week through the weekend. Rain fell during the middle and later parts of the week ending before the weekend due to the instability and moisture over the region resulting in afternoon showers and isolated thunderstorms. A half inch to an inch and half of rainfall fell during the week over most of New York State with some isolated amounts around 2 inches.

CROPS: There were 4.5 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated as 69 percent adequate, and 31 percent surplus. Condition of corn was rated as 13 percent poor, 29 percent fair, 49 percent good, and 9 percent excellent. Condition of soybeans was rated as 7 percent poor, 23 percent fair, 57 percent good, and 13 percent excellent. Hay condition was rated as 10 percent poor, 31 percent fair, 51 percent good, and 8 percent excellent. The third cutting of alfalfa was 83 percent complete, behind the 97 percent harvested last year and the 92 percent average. The second cutting of clover timothy was 98 percent complete, behind the 100 percent harvested both last year and on average. The third cutting of clover timothy was 70 percent complete, behind the 87 percent harvested last year and the 85 percent average. Silage corn was 30 percent harvested, well behind the 74 percent harvested last year and the 45 percent average. Grain corn harvest was just beginning in some areas with 1 percent harvested. Potatoes were 49 percent harvested, behind the 63 percent harvested last year and the 65 percent average. Dry beans were 26 percent harvested, compared with 31 percent last year and the average of 34 percent. The following are comments from our great reporters throughout the state: Corn silage harvest in Jefferson County progressed nicely. Later planted corn was still not ready to chop. It was another great week for fieldwork in St. Lawrence County. No frost as yet and none in the near term forecast. Corn silage was getting a slow start and for a good reason – late planting. The area's corn crop looks very good. Wheat planting in Genesee County continued at a fast pace. Early plantings were emerging. High temperatures continued and the chances of corn making physiologic maturity are much improved. June planted corn will be at silage making stage during the upcoming week. August alfalfa-grass seedings looked excellent. Corn silage harvest in Cayuga County accelerated with drier weather over the weekend. Producers in Ontario County started chopping silage with reports of light yields, but may have the potential of good quality. In Cortland County, corn silage harvest was picking up and dry hay/haylage harvest continued. Various farms were harvesting 2nd, 3rd, and 4th cuttings. Madison County farms experienced good weather conditions that helped the corn silage harvest move right along. Lots of hay was done as well. Corn silage was drying down fast in Otsego County as harvest continued in earnest. Most fields were passable. Farmers in the Schoharie Valley and other flood affected areas of the Capital District continued their recovery efforts from the Irene storm damage. Debris clean up continued as corn silage harvest got into full swing. Corn silage prices were increasing due to demand. Yields on fields unaffected by the flooding are turning out better than expected given the late planting dates on many fields. Harvest in Fulton and Montgomery Counties was basically at a standstill. The first corn for grain harvested at 24 percent moisture and a fair yield. It appears there will be a big variation within a field due to the weather. Some corn for silage was harvested with no hay being cut. In Washington County, corn silage harvest made slow progress due to wet field conditions. Most farmers could not chop directly into trucks and were using dump wagons. Wet, soggy weather and ground conditions continued to make corn and hay harvesting a challenge in Saratoga County. Corn silage producers indicated that field conditions require some of the harvesting and hauling equipment to be towed to successfully get the crop off the field and into the bunks for storage. No significant hay harvest has occurred in the past two weeks. Haylage harvest was also halted due to wet weather and lack of drying conditions. In Delaware County, weather was decent for about 4 days and farmers harvested whatever they could knowing there is a shortage of feed. There will be acres of corn silage and hay that will not get harvested this year due to the flooding. In Dutchess County, it was still wet in some places with rain continuing to be a problem for harvesting corn/hay/soybeans. Moisture levels in fields in Sullivan County continued high, with local showers inhibiting harvests. Silage fields were drying quickly for those that planted early and harvest has begun. It was still challenging finding a good window to make dry hay. Some grass silage was chopped due to a window earlier in the week.

FRUIT: Apple harvest was 46 percent complete, behind 57 percent the previous year but slightly ahead of 45 percent average. Apple condition was 11 percent poor, 25 percent fair, 47 percent good, and 17 percent excellent. Grape harvest was 34 percent complete, ahead of the 33 percent last year. Grape condition was 1 percent poor, 14 percent fair, 67 percent good, and 18 percent excellent. Pear harvest was 89 percent complete, up from the 88 percent average. Pear condition was 43 percent fair, 43 percent good, and 14 percent excellent. U-pick apple operations were in full swing in Albany County. In Dutchess and Ulster Counties, apple and grape damage were still being assessed from Hurricane Irene, fruit tree assessment will continue throughout the year. In Long Island vineyards, harvest of grapes for sparkling wine has finished. Harvest for varieties such as Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc will begin over the next few weeks.

VEGETABLE: Sweet corn in some counties was completely down. Lettuce had reported conditions of 6 percent poor, 10 percent fair, 82 percent good, and 2 percent excellent. Onion harvest was 77 percent complete compared to 73 percent last year and 82 percent average. Onion conditions were 9 percent poor, 21 percent fair, 69 percent good, and 1 percent fair. Cabbage harvest was 89 percent completed compare to 87 percent last year and 74 percent average. Cabbage conditions were 15 percent poor, 29 percent fair, 55 percent good and 1 percent excellent. Sweet corn harvest was 96 percent complete compared to 91 percent last year and 90 percent average. Sweet corn conditions were 24 percent poor, 27 percent fair, 45 percent good, and 4 percent excellent. Tomatoes were 74 percent harvested compared to 94 percent previous year and 87 percent average. Tomato conditions were 28 percent poor, 23 percent fair, 48 percent good, and 1 percent excellent. Snap bean harvest was 82 percent complete compared to 91 percent last year and 91 percent average. Snap bean conditions were 23 percent poor, 43 percent fair, 33 percent good, and 1 percent excellent.

LIVESTOCK: Pastures were still wet but conditions improved from last week. Pasture conditions were rated 3 percent very poor, 15 percent poor, 33 percent fair, 40 percent good, and 9 percent excellent.

Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, September 25, 2011

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	40	64	+6	99	2898	+526	1.11	+0.46	32.86	+13.69
Glens Falls	75	36	62	+6	84	2521	+461	1.13	+0.43	30.40	+11.42
Poughkeepsie	79	41	66	+6	113	3047	+548	1.27	+0.50	36.90	+14.85
<u>Mohawk Valley</u>											
Boonville	71	38	56	+3	46	1874	+265	1.67	+0.43	35.93	+8.78
<u>Champlain Valley</u>											
Plattsburgh	73	37	61	+5	78	2347	+260	0.87	+0.21	28.38	+9.81
<u>St. Lawrence Valley</u>											
Canton	73	39	59	+4	67	2338	+462	0.27	-0.59	28.30	+8.37
Massena	76	38	63	+7	90	2530	+570	0.21	-0.57	20.92	+2.72
<u>Great Lakes</u>											
Buffalo	79	51	65	+6	106	2795	+500	1.28	+0.51	26.74	+6.95
Wales	76	44	61	+4	75	2251	+392	0.88	-0.19	23.64	+0.49
Niagara Falls	79	47	64	+5	98	2707	+408	1.70	+0.89	21.56	+2.21
Rochester	79	44	64	+5	101	2731	+506	0.37	-0.28	21.48	+4.51
Watertown	77	42	63	+6	91	2437	+513	0.68	-0.04	23.22	+7.34
<u>Central Lakes</u>											
Dansville	79	44	66	+7	110	2990	+758	0.58	-0.19	19.76	+1.12
Geneva	78	45	62	+3	83	2611	+399	0.71	-0.03	23.36	+4.97
Honeoye	77	37	62	+2	87	2530	+206	0.17	-0.53	24.80	+6.61
Ithaca	76	41	61	+4	79	2426	+428	0.57	-0.25	29.88	+10.02
Penn Yan	78	41	63	+5	93	2804	+592	0.51	-0.23	18.84	+0.45
Syracuse	80	46	65	+6	107	3047	+800	1.19	+0.31	30.84	+9.92
Warsaw	74	45	59	+4	68	2155	+446	0.44	-0.47	26.74	+4.90
<u>Western Plateau</u>											
Hornell Almond Dam	76	38	60	+4	69	2285	+432	0.87	+0.11	25.45	+7.70
Elmira	78	36	62	+5	89	2641	+531	0.61	-0.09	26.31	+7.66
Franklinville	74	37	59	+5	62	2158	+611	0.63	-0.28	30.15	+8.12
Jamestown	75	44	61	+6	82	2401	+652	0.90	-0.17	28.76	+4.00
<u>Eastern Plateau</u>											
Binghamton	73	43	62	+5	82	2476	+436	0.65	-0.12	42.39	+22.64
Cobleskill	79	36	59	+2	63	2285	+386	1.37	+0.53	35.78	+14.49
Morrisville	73	41	59	+3	65	2269	+463	1.46	+0.55	31.88	+10.54
Norwich	76	36	60	+4	70	2310	+409	1.08	+0.22	40.40	+19.26
Oneonta	78	39	61	+6	78	2299	+558	1.54	+0.70	40.26	+17.64
<u>Coastal</u>											
Bridgehamton	79	47	66	+4	114	2850	+470	0.37	-0.40	24.28	+3.54
New York	80	54	69	+4	136	3576	+412	2.23	+1.46	39.65	+17.77

^{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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