



WEATHER AND CROPS

October 17, 2011

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WEATHER: High pressure dominated the first half of the week with dry weather and above normal temperatures. High pressure moved east of New England by the mid week and low pressure passed south of Long Island with some rain Wednesday into Thursday. A strong low pressure system moved into the Great Lakes region on Friday. The occluded front and strong upper level low gave periods of moderate to heavy rain across the state to close the week. Temperatures for the week finished above normal and precipitation was normal to above normal except across extreme northern New York where precipitation was below normal near Massena.

CROPS: There were 4.5 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated 1 percent short, 56 percent adequate and 43 percent surplus. Condition of corn was rated as 14 percent poor, 28 percent fair, 49 percent good, and 9 percent excellent. Condition of soybeans was rated as 8 percent poor, 25 percent fair, 57 percent good, and 10 percent excellent. Hay condition was rated as 10 percent poor, 27 percent fair, 51 percent good, and 12 percent excellent. The third cutting of alfalfa hay was 93 percent complete, behind the 99 percent harvested last year and the 98 percent average. The third cutting of clover timothy was 83 percent complete, behind the 91 percent harvested last year and the 96 percent average. Silage corn was 82 percent harvested, behind the 95 percent harvested last year and the 85 percent average. Grain corn harvest was 10 percent complete, compared to 27 percent last year and the average of 18 percent. Potatoes were 82 percent harvested, compared with 70 percent last year and the average of 86 percent. Soybean harvest was 20 percent complete, behind last year's 29 percent and the average of 28 percent. Dry bean harvest stood at 58 percent complete, compared with 62 percent last year and the average of 66 percent. The following are comments from our reporters throughout the state: In Jefferson County, heavy rains and wet field conditions stopped most field harvesting operations. Soybean harvest started. Crop conditions in St. Lawrence County continued essentially unchanged, though rains late in the week plus a moist forecast may spell the end to fall hay crop harvest. Lots of corn silage was being harvested after a killing frost. In Genesee County, some additional wheat planting was accomplished early in the week before rains moved in. Fourth cut hay harvest continued during the early half of the week. Soybean harvest moved rapidly early in the week. Corn grain harvest started. Ontario County experienced dry, warm weather during the beginning of the week that allowed for planting cover crops, harvesting 3rd and 4th cuttings of hay, chopping corn for silage and the harvest of soybeans for grain. The latter part of the week halted activity with cold, wet windy weather conditions. Wet weather in Cayuga County delayed harvest of grain corn and soybeans. Some farmers were harvesting soybeans first this year, and planning on corn grain harvest in November. More rain continued to hamper crop harvests in Cortland County. More haylage/baleage needs to be harvested, but cannot get a long enough dry spell. Corn was difficult to harvest in the mud. In Madison County, an inch of rain and scattered showers didn't impact the continued harvest of hay and corn. Corn yields were still good. Corn silage harvest continued in Otsego County with fair yields. Soybean and grain corn harvest was beginning. Wet conditions continued to make this a difficult crop year in Schoharie County. Debris clean up, field repairs and crop salvage were all going on at once. Harvests in Fulton and Montgomery Counties lasted until Thursday and then shut down waiting for sunshine and no rain. In Saratoga County, corn silage harvest moved ahead slightly with drier fields being finished up. No dry hay was baled during the week as field and general weather conditions did not allow. Over an inch of rain in Washington County made fieldwork difficult. Corn silage harvest continued to be a challenge due to wet fields. In Broome County, clear skies at the beginning of the week allowed some producers to harvest 3rd cut grass on drier fields that could be accessed without causing severe ruts in the fields. High moisture corn grain harvest started in a few fields that were not flooded. Initial yield reports indicate almost a fifty percent lower than normal yield due to late planting and the drier than normal July. Dutchess County had a quiet work week with warm temperatures and some rain showers, but producers were able to get in and harvest hay and corn.

FRUIT: Apple harvest was 71 percent complete, behind the 82 percent previous year and 74 percent average. Apple condition was 16 percent poor, 22 percent fair, 41 percent good, and 21 percent excellent. Grape harvest was 86 percent complete, above the 82 percent last year and 76 percent average. Grape condition was 13 percent poor, 15 percent fair, 68 percent good, and 4 percent excellent. Pear harvest was complete. In Albany County, apple harvest and u-pick were in full swing. In Long Island vineyards, harvest of white varieties was winding down while the first blocks of Merlot were picked.

VEGETABLE: Harvesting of this year's vegetable crops neared completion. Tomatoes, sweet corn, onions, and snap beans all passed the 97 percent completion mark. Cabbage was 81 percent harvested, behind last year's 96 percent and the average of 97 percent. Pumpkins are somewhat scarce as a result of the growing season. In Schoharie County, producers continued to work to correct damage by the storms. Debris clean up, field repairs, and crop salvage are all occurring at once. Farmers are also looking for and purchasing crops to replace those that were lost.

LIVESTOCK: Pastures slowed down and supplemental feeding of hay started. Pasture quality remained in excellent condition, however, some pastures were excessively wet and did not allow cattle access to utilize the grasses. Pasture conditions were rated 5 percent very poor, 13 percent poor, 34 percent fair, 38 percent good, and 10 percent excellent.

Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, October 16, 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	83	49	63	+13	93	3147	+664	1.52	+0.89	36.08	+15.02
Glens Falls	78	44	59	+12	67	2706	+567	1.46	+0.83	33.73	+12.82
Poughkeepsie	82	47	63	+12	89	3303	+679	0.79	+0.14	40.85	+16.73
<u>Mohawk Valley</u>											
Boonville	75	40	56	+10	52	2014	+349	2.48	+1.50	40.46	+10.19
<u>Champlain Valley</u>											
Plattsburgh	77	41	59	+11	62	2507	+340	1.22	+0.66	31.82	+11.50
<u>St. Lawrence Valley</u>											
Canton	76	45	57	+10	54	2488	+538	1.60	+0.90	30.96	+8.76
Massena	79	44	60	+13	71	2725	+693	0.87	+0.24	22.94	+2.75
<u>Great Lakes</u>											
Buffalo	80	48	62	+11	89	3029	+606	1.38	+0.73	30.27	+8.43
Wales	77	43	58	+9	61	2414	+463	2.71	+1.89	27.69	+1.89
Niagara Falls	80	47	61	+10	81	2922	+493	0.94	+0.34	25.02	+3.70
Rochester	81	47	61	+10	82	2953	+599	1.17	+0.65	25.46	+6.81
Watertown	76	47	61	+13	79	2637	+624	2.50	+1.94	28.61	+10.85
<u>Central Lakes</u>											
Dansville	83	43	61	+10	79	3210	+853	1.18	+0.60	23.05	+2.50
Geneva	80	43	59	+9	66	2794	+466	1.22	+0.59	26.03	+5.64
Honeoye	81	43	59	+8	68	2709	+248	1.54	+0.91	28.30	+8.12
Ithaca	79	46	59	+10	61	2585	+487	1.43	+0.67	35.22	+13.06
Penn Yan	81	48	61	+11	79	3014	+686	0.98	+0.35	22.22	+1.83
Syracuse	81	48	62	+11	88	3294	+922	0.90	+0.20	33.58	+10.39
Warsaw	77	39	57	+10	58	2306	+524	3.10	+2.36	31.85	+7.66
<u>Western Plateau</u>											
Hornell Almond Dam	80	42	56	+8	49	2422	+481	1.41	+0.85	29.84	+10.23
Elmira	80	43	59	+10	66	2815	+601	1.27	+0.64	30.06	+9.46
Franklinville	79	41	56	+9	45	2289	+674	1.90	+1.06	34.15	+9.56
Jamestown	79	41	57	+9	55	2560	+730	1.63	+0.74	31.58	+4.00
<u>Eastern Plateau</u>											
Binghamton	78	45	59	+10	67	2652	+519	1.47	+0.84	48.89	+27.13
Cobleskill	78	45	59	+10	65	2460	+476	1.38	+0.70	40.34	+16.87
Morrisville	79	42	58	+11	63	2437	+554	2.11	+1.34	36.67	+12.90
Norwich	83	39	58	+10	60	2477	+496	1.25	+0.55	43.52	+20.13
Oneonta	78	42	58	+11	57	2463	+648	1.66	+0.92	43.69	+18.79
<u>Coastal</u>											
Bridgehamton	80	53	64	+10	100	3147	+603	0.59	-0.12	26.21	+3.29
New York	85	55	67	+9	117	3909	+514	0.76	+0.13	41.92	+18.03

^{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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