WEATHER: The week began with temperatures slightly above normal, with highs well into the eighties. On Tuesday, July 23, a cold front tracked through with a half inch to an inch and a half of rain. Temperatures were a little below normal the rest of the week, with highs in the seventies to lower eighties. Low pressure tracked off the coast Thursday into early Friday with a quarter inch, or less, of rain in Southern New York.

CROPS: There were 5.1 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated 3 percent short, 78 percent adequate, and 19 percent surplus. Oats for grain were 17 percent harvested. Condition of oats was 3 percent poor, 18 percent fair, 67 percent good, and 12 percent excellent. Winter wheat was 85 percent harvested compared to 96 percent in 2012, and was ahead of the 78 percent five year average. Winter wheat conditions were rated 6 percent poor, 17 percent fair, 60 percent good, and 17 percent excellent. Hay crops were 10 percent poor, 29 percent fair, 52 percent good, and 9 percent excellent. The first clover timothy cutting was 95 percent complete compared to 100 percent in 2012 and behind the 98 percent five year average. The second clover timothy cutting was 55 percent complete compared to 70 percent in 2012. The first alfalfa cutting was completed during the week. The second alfalfa cutting was 70 percent complete compared to 84 percent in 2012, and just below the 71 percent five year average. The first cutting of grass silage was completed during the week. Condition of corn was 11 percent poor, 25 percent fair, 43 percent good, and 21 percent excellent. Soybeans were rated 9 percent poor, 24 percent fair, 52 percent good, and 15 percent excellent. The following comments are from our reporters throughout the state: Many parts of Jefferson County were still dry despite the rain received during the week. Hay fields in the area were reported as excellent. In Niagara County, wheat harvest was nearly complete, with good yields and quality. On the farm, corn was well underway, but straw baling was difficult to dry due to wet soils and frequent showers. Dry hay harvest continued in the area at a slow pace due to wet conditions. In Ontario County, intermittent rain showers made it difficult to make dry hay. Field corn was maturing unevenly in the fields. Unexpected showers in Cortland County caught farmers with hay down again. Many farmers struggled to get first cutting while others had a good portion of second cutting complete. Corn looked good in the area; late planted corn reached knee high length. In Madison County, third cutting of grass and alfalfa hay was cut and harvested. At the same time, many farmers finished second cutting, and some still had first cutting left to harvest for mulch or bedding. Wheat harvest was imminent in the northern tier of the county. In portions of the county, wheat production was down and straw was light. Dry weather helped producers in Albany County harvest hay. Corn in the area improved with many fields reaching tassel stage. In Fulton and Montgomery Counties, row crops looked poor and the hay crop was still a mess due to continued wet conditions. Corn was extremely variable in Washington County. Some of the best corn in the county was blown over by wind. One producer in the area reported 100 acres of corn that was blown down due to the weather. Corn was eleven feet tall and still growing, but the root systems were abnormally shallow due to wet soil conditions. Shallow root systems put the corn crop at risk from high winds. Farmers in the county struggled to bale dry hay. Due to low temperatures at night, Delaware County experienced heavy dew on the ground in the morning. The week was a great week to get field work done.

FRUIT: Apple conditions for the week were 5 percent poor, 19 percent fair, 57 percent good, and 19 percent excellent. Peaches were 11 percent harvested compared to the 47 percent five year average. Peaches were 5 percent poor, 12 percent fair, 60 percent good, and 23 percent excellent. Pears were 11 percent harvested compared to a 29 percent five year average and were 7 percent poor, 13 percent fair, 47 percent good, and 33 percent excellent. Sweet cherries were 85 percent harvested, 79 percent in 2012, and below the five year average of 95 percent. Sweet cherries were 35 percent poor, 35 percent fair, 27 percent good, and 3 percent excellent. Tart cherries were 92 percent harvested compared to 63 percent in 2012, and at the five year average. Tart cherries were 48 percent poor, 48 percent fair, 2 percent good, and 2 percent excellent. Grapes were 1 percent fair, 64 percent good, and 35 percent excellent. Strawberries were 33 percent poor, 26 percent fair, 38 percent good, and 3 percent excellent. The following comments are from our reporters throughout the state: In Albany County, apples were sizing well. Several varieties of grapes in the Long Island vineyards in Suffolk County started to ripen. Berries in Pinot Noir started to turn color and soften. Birds will soon be interested in the ripening grapes, so growers will need to apply protective netting in the coming weeks.

VEGETABLE: Sweet corn was 19 percent harvested compared to 9 percent in 2012, and was just ahead of the 18 percent average. Sweet corn was 7 percent poor, 21 percent fair, 52 percent good, and 20 percent excellent. Onions were 12 percent poor, 12 percent fair, and 46 percent good, and 30 percent excellent. Snap beans were 98 percent planted, compared to 100 percent in 2012, and just behind the 100 percent five year average. Snap beans were 8 percent harvested compared to 18 percent in 2012, and were well behind the 27 percent five year average. Snap beans were rated 15 percent poor, 32 percent fair, 48 percent good, and 5 percent excellent. Cabbage planting was completed by week’s end. Cabbage was 6 percent harvested compared to 15 percent in 2012, and well below the 25 percent average. Cabbage was rated 57 percent poor, 19 percent fair, 5 percent good, and 19 percent excellent. The following comments are from our reporters throughout the state: In Ontario County, intermittent rain showers made it difficult to finish planting vegetable crops. Vegetable producers in Albany County harvested a greater variety of summer produce.

LIVESTOCK: Pasture was rated 6 percent poor, 27 percent fair, 56 percent good, and 11 percent excellent.
Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, July 28, 2013

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<th>Station</th>
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<th>Precipitation (Inches)</th>
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/ 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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