

## March 2014 Crop & Weather Roundup

New York (36): The month of March was another rough month for farmers in New York. Cold temperatures persisted throughout the month with that resulting in below average temperatures for March. There were some significant snowstorms in March which added more snow to the already snow covered fields. The last weekend in March, rain fell on some parts of New York which is causing some concerns about flooding possibilities. Throughout most of the state snow is still on the ground and the ground itself is still frozen so there is very little field work being done. Wheat and alfalfa stands are still buried under the snow in many places, so it hard for farmers to tell how these crops are doing but some damage is expected. Where wheat and alfalfa stands are not under snow, deer and other animals are feeding on them as it has also been a rough winter for wildlife. There are several reports that grape vines across the state have been hit hard from the cold temperatures with vine damage and bud mortality expected to be significant. Fruit producers are also reporting damages to fruit trees caused by the cold temperatures. Farmers have been able to get some pruning done in the few nice days in March. Reporters have commented about the maple season being delayed several weeks, with little production being done so far this year and maple producers are hoping that there is not a sudden rise in temperatures which would end the season early. Overall this has been a tough winter for farmers and producers in New York with the constant cold temperatures and above average snowfall that has occurred throughout the entire winter. After this long, cold winter farmers are anxious to get out into the fields and get to work.