



U.S. Department of Agriculture
National
Agricultural
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New York Field Office

WEATHER AND CROPS

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USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, N.Y. Dept. of Agriculture and Markets, Division of Statistics
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U.S. Dept. of Commerce, NOAA National Weather Service and Cornell Cooperative Extension

Released, August 15, 2005

Week Ending, August 14, 2005

No. 977-17-05

WEATHER: From the Mohawk Valley south, including nearly all of western New York, the region was in an unseasonably warm and humid air mass most of the week. Daily mean temperatures for the week were well above normal, by 6 to 12 degrees in most locations. Rainfall was near normal or above normal at most locations across the state due to the convection at the end of the week. Portions of the Mohawk River Valley received a half an inch to an inch and a half of rain Friday and Friday night. Several rounds of strong to severe thunderstorms occurred south of the Mohawk River Valley and the Capital Region Friday through Sunday.

CROPS: There were 6.3 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture supplies were rated 28 percent very short, 41 percent short, 30 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus. Oats were 70 percent harvested compared with 44 percent last year. Winter wheat was 89 percent harvested compared with 58 percent last year. Corn was rated 9 percent poor, 29 percent fair, 46 percent good, and 16 percent excellent. Hay was rated 26 percent poor, 39 percent fair, 32 percent good, and 3 percent excellent. Soybeans were rated 2 percent poor, 34 percent fair, 49 percent good, and 15 percent excellent. Alfalfa second cutting was 93 percent harvested. Alfalfa third cutting was 40 percent harvested. Second cutting Clover-timothy was 80 percent harvested. Potatoes were 25 percent harvested compared with 24 percent last year. Following are comments from reporters across the Empire State: It was another warm week in Jefferson County. Haying and small grain harvests continued. Corn ears were filling out well. In Lewis County, high temperatures and no rain kept the balers going all week long. St. Lawrence County could use a little rain. Topsoil was starting to get a little dry. Overall, crops were doing well. In Clinton County, crops continued to look very good. Spotty showers helped keep things green. In Ontario County, some much needed rain helped distressed crops and came just in time. Harvest of wheat and oats was coming to a close. Drought conditions now exist in Wyoming County and throughout Western New York, and is beginning to exhibit negative impacts. In Cortland County, the lack of rain in the past two weeks has corn starting to curl. Rumors of an early corn harvest will likely be true. Scattered showers are intense but short lived - not enough to soak the ground. Pastures were turning very brown. Second cuttings also have come off shorter than usual, lacking the moisture for growth. Pastures were being supplemented with an already limited hay supply. Straw was also short. Drought conditions continued in Herkimer and Otsego counties. In Madison County, pastures for rotational grazing were poor. Corn was curling. Rain is needed. Weekend rains in Albany County brought widespread relief to areas suffering from lack of moisture. Many places had not seen appreciable rain in several weeks. The corn crop will likely be negatively affected by the lack of rain of late. This dry period did provide a lengthy time slot for producers to harvest dry hay, albeit, somewhat past prime. In Montgomery and Fulton counties, farmers were becoming nervous about the corn and soybeans. What was an excellent crop three weeks ago is now under some real stress. Saratoga County is also in need of rain or crop yields will suffer. Third cut alfalfa/legume haylage harvest was 40 percent complete with varying reports of yield and maturity. Second cut baled hay harvest neared completion, also with varying reports of yield and maturity.

FRUIT: Apples were judged to be in 6 percent poor condition, 22 percent fair, 55 percent good, and 17 percent excellent. Grapes were 3 percent poor condition, 34 percent fair, 36 percent good and 27 percent excellent. Peaches were 15 percent poor condition, 40 percent fair, 42 percent good and 3 percent excellent. Pears were 5 percent poor, 34 percent fair, 37 percent good, and 24 percent excellent. In the Lake Erie fruit region, color change has occurred in some of the red varieties at the Vineyard Lab. Fredonia grapes were well into veraison, most clusters had at least 1 or 2 berries showing some color. Cabernet Sauvignon varieties also showed color as well. The average date of veraison in Fredonia was set as August 23rd, however, at this point veraison has appeared to already be ahead of schedule. Also in the Lake Erie region vineyards, black rot showed up, despite less than an inch of rain received in the past 3 and a half weeks after bloom. According to the Fredonia Vineyard Lab, the average number of leaves 2 centimeters or greater was 17 leaves per shoot. The average shoot length was 116.8 centimeters in the center vineyard. In Albany County, the first apples of the year were being picked. In the Long Island fruit region, vines on dry sites were showing signs of drought stress, even in some irrigated vineyards. Growers were selectively thinning or dropping crops on more stressed vines. Veraison continued in many varieties including Chardonnay, Merlot and Cabernet. Cab Franc, Sauvignon Blanc and Petit Verdot were close to color change, but had not yet transpired.

VEGETABLE: There have been spotty showers that helped keep things green in some areas of the state. Scattered showers were intense, but short lived. There was not enough to soak the ground and the rain came rather late to notably change the yields of many vegetable crops still in their vegetative phases. In the Northern and Western parts of the state, vegetable crops were coming on strong and into full swing harvest. Reports from Albany County indicated sweet corn was of good quality and plentiful. The road side stands were very busy with visitors. Albany County also reported that the tomato crop was the best seen in several years. However, in Saratoga County, sweet corn producers were having a tough time keeping up with harvest due to the heat and humidity. Tomatoes and onions were approximately 30 percent harvested while sweet corn and snap beans were over 40 percent harvested.

LIVESTOCK: Producers and cattle alike continued battling the heat and humidity. Pasture condition estimates reflect the slow re-growth associated with this time of year as well as the extended dry period. Pasture is being supplemented by an already limited hay supply. Pasture conditions were 22 percent very poor, 33 percent poor, 28 percent fair, 15 percent good, and 2 percent excellent.

Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, August 14, 2005

| Station | Temperature (°F) | | | | Growing Degree Days Base 50° | | | Precipitation (Inches) | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|-----|-----|----------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|----------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|--------------|----------------------|
| | High | Low | Avg | Dep. from Norm | Week | Season 1/ | Dep. from Norm | Week | Dep. from Norm | Season 1/ | Dep. from Norm |
| <u>Hudson Valley</u> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Albany | 91 | 68 | 79 | +10 | 207 | 2142 | +383 | 0.41 | -0.36 | 15.70 | +0.96 |
| Glens Falls | 91 | 55 | 76 | +9 | 186 | 1803 | +262 | 0.59 | -0.25 | 14.60 | +0.27 |
| Poughkeepsie | 96 | 64 | 79 | +8 | 206 | 2122 | +285 | 0.44 | -0.40 | 16.41 | -0.84 |
| <u>Mohawk Valley</u> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Utica | 92 | 59 | 77 | +8 | 191 | 1950 | +353 | 0.93 | +0.09 | 13.65 | -3.12 |
| <u>Champlain Valley</u> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Plattsburgh | 89 | 59 | 75 | +7 | 174 | 1746 | +176 | 0.14 | -0.80 | 15.95 | +2.34 |
| <u>St. Lawrence Valley</u> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Canton | 88 | 65 | 75 | +9 | 180 | 1764 | +365 | 0.29 | -0.63 | 12.80 | -1.48 |
| Massena | 90 | 58 | 75 | +8 | 180 | 1758 | +277 | 0.44 | -0.40 | 12.61 | -0.51 |
| <u>Great Lakes</u> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Buffalo | 89 | 63 | 77 | +8 | 190 | 2066 | +388 | 0.39 | -0.55 | 11.27 | -3.17 |
| Colden | 89 | 58 | 74 | +8 | 170 | 1739 | +377 | 0.92 | +0.03 | 15.58 | -1.23 |
| Niagara Falls | 92 | 61 | 77 | +8 | 193 | 2149 | +462 | 0.51 | -0.35 | 10.39 | -3.60 |
| Rochester | 92 | 62 | 77 | +9 | 191 | 1933 | +306 | 0.61 | -0.16 | 11.80 | -0.73 |
| Watertown | 87 | 54 | 74 | +8 | 172 | 1753 | +343 | 0.10 | -0.61 | 13.13 | +1.98 |
| <u>Central Lakes</u> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dansville | 92 | 57 | 75 | +7 | 178 | 1840 | +208 | 0.83 | +0.13 | 13.09 | -0.85 |
| Geneva | 90 | 60 | 76 | +7 | 183 | 1932 | +315 | 1.27 | +0.57 | 14.44 | +0.56 |
| Honeoye | 91 | 55 | 75 | +5 | 174 | 1827 | +146 | 0.44 | -0.26 | 15.19 | +1.52 |
| Ithaca | 91 | 59 | 76 | +9 | 183 | 1810 | +344 | 0.14 | -0.63 | 13.50 | -1.48 |
| Penn Yan | 91 | 64 | 77 | +9 | 193 | 2003 | +386 | 0.11 | -0.59 | 13.14 | -0.74 |
| Syracuse | 93 | 61 | 78 | +9 | 196 | 2146 | +497 | 0.76 | -0.01 | 13.75 | -2.01 |
| Warsaw | 86 | 60 | 73 | +8 | 162 | 1614 | +347 | 0.84 | +0.00 | 15.16 | -1.05 |
| <u>Western Plateau</u> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Alfred | 89 | 57 | 74 | +9 | 170 | 1708 | +368 | 1.06 | +0.36 | 15.41 | -0.69 |
| Elmira | 93 | 57 | 77 | +9 | 188 | 1838 | +285 | 1.44 | +0.78 | 13.36 | -1.02 |
| Franklinville | 89 | 52 | 72 | +8 | 153 | 1496 | +355 | 1.28 | +0.40 | 14.09 | -2.32 |
| Sinclairville | 88 | 57 | 74 | +8 | 166 | 1720 | +437 | 0.97 | -0.01 | 15.38 | -2.87 |
| <u>Eastern Plateau</u> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Binghamton | 90 | 63 | 77 | +9 | 188 | 1868 | +359 | 0.81 | +0.09 | 10.75 | -4.33 |
| Cobleskill | 90 | 59 | 76 | +10 | 184 | 1764 | +364 | 0.12 | -0.65 | 13.98 | -2.20 |
| Morrisville | 88 | 58 | 74 | +8 | 167 | 1678 | +342 | 0.48 | -0.29 | 14.14 | -1.83 |
| Norwich | 90 | 55 | 75 | +8 | 175 | 1751 | +348 | 0.12 | -0.62 | 15.92 | -0.13 |
| Oneonta | 92 | 64 | 78 | +12 | 194 | 1929 | +632 | 0.55 | -0.29 | 18.43 | +0.85 |
| <u>Coastal</u> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bridgehamton | 93 | 65 | 79 | +8 | 204 | 1846 | +178 | 0.07 | -0.70 | 10.73 | -5.13 |
| New York | 100 | 75 | 85 | +10 | 246 | 2558 | +283 | 0.04 | -0.80 | 10.59 | -6.37 |

1/ Season accumulations are for April 1st to date.

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The information contained in this weekly release is obtained from reports from Cornell Cooperative Extension agents, USDA Farm Service Agency agents, 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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