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WEATHER AND CROPS

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

Released, August 22, 2005

Week Ending, August 21, 2005

No. 977-18-05

WEATHER: A cold front stalled over the Ohio Valley and Pennsylvania last Monday. A wave of low pressure moved north along this boundary and combined with an upper level disturbance dropping southward from the St. Lawrence River Valley on Tuesday. Bands of heavy rain showers developed from the Catskills and Lake George area eastward. Rainfall amounts from these bands of heavy rain showers were generally a quarter of an inch to an inch. High pressure moved in from the Great Lakes region in the middle to latter portion of the week with cooler and drier weather. A warm front approached from the upper Mid-Atlantic states and Ohio Valley Friday morning with scattered showers. This boundary lifted north Friday night into Saturday. An area of low pressure moved along this boundary producing showers and thunderstorms from the Mohawk Valley northward across the Adirondacks. Rainfall amounts were roughly a quarter of an inch to an inch and a half this time period. A warm and humid air mass was in place briefly, as a cold front pushed across New York State Saturday night through early Sunday afternoon with scattered showers and thunderstorms. Temperatures were still above normal for the week, despite the brief cool down Wednesday to Friday. Temperatures averaged about two to four degrees above normal. Rainfall was near normal or slightly above normal, except over the Finger Lake region, mid Hudson Valley and Long Island. The western and central Mohawk Valley received some much needed rainfall, but still remains well below normal over the past few months.

CROPS: There were 6.2 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated 19 percent very short, 38 percent short, 42 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus. Oats were 94 percent harvested compared to 54 percent last year. Winter wheat was 97 percent harvested compared to 80 percent last year. Corn was rated 13 percent poor, 30 percent fair, 36 percent good 21 percent excellent. Hay was rated 21 percent poor, 34 percent fair, 38 percent good, and 7 percent excellent. Soybeans were rated 6 percent poor, 29 percent fair, 43 percent good and 22 percent excellent. Alfalfa second cutting was 94 percent harvested. Alfalfa third cutting was 55 percent harvested. Second cutting Clover Timothy was 85 percent harvested. Potatoes were 33 percent harvested compared to 38 percent last year. Following are comments from reporters across the state: In Jefferson County, small grain harvest has wound down (no yield reports yet). Soybeans were beginning to fill pods. Ears were pulling away on the corn crop. In Clinton County, nothing hindered crop harvest. Things looked good all over the region. Some found it hard to find anything to complain about. In Franklin County, the few acres of oats harvested for grain have all been harvested by now. Yields were fair to good. Straw yields were a little off most likely due to oat plant populations. Even on higher seeding rates, germination was just fair. The corn and hay crops continued to look very good. Some fields have shown leafhoppers over the threshold but only in isolated areas. In Ontario County, crops were stressed due to lack of rain. Corn was twisting and the bottom leaves were turning brown and falling off. Yields on dry hay were low. More dry weather had farmers starting corn silage in Tompkins County with Cortland County not far behind. Second cutting had also been thin. Farmers were forced to supplement with hay and silage. Oats and barley were almost done, much of it mixed with weeds that had grown up through. In Madison County, there was some rain, but corn looked a little stressed. In Ostego County, drought and heat forced some early corn harvest, both due to early maturity and salvage. In Albany County, rain received over the last week did much to improve crops that had been affected by the dry weather. Field corn was much improved and was starting to ear up nicely. Some farmers started to chop. Montgomery and Fulton Counties continued to need rain. Corn silage harvest began due to drought conditions drying up the stalks. All hay crops needed rain. In Delaware County, continued dry conditions left corn on gravelly fields dried up. Some corn has no ears. Second cutting of grass was very short. Alfalfa handled the dry weather better for the most part In Orange County, dry down of corn was happening very rapidly. Several farmers started to chop their corn. The kernels were dented and whole plant moisture was in the proper range to harvest.

FRUIT: Apples were judged to be in 13 percent poor condition, 25 percent fair, 50 percent good, and 12 percent excellent. Grapes were 22 percent poor condition, 28 percent fair, 40 percent good and 10 percent excellent. Peaches were 40 percent poor condition, 30 percent fair, and 30 percent good 10 percent excellent. Pears were 10 percent poor, 25 percent fair, 45 percent good, and 20 percent excellent. There were reports of small apple sizes due to the lack of rain, in Ontario County. In the Southern part of the Lake Erie Fruit Region, vineyard berry counts revealed an average of 43 berries per cluster. 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 the Long Island fruit region, there was still no rain. Veraison and bird netting continued.

VEGETABLE: Another great weather week allowed the continuation of crop harvest. Temperatures finally began to moderate with cooler temperatures at night. Warm temperatures this summer pushed maturity of crops along. Tomatoes in Albany County were reported as doing very well due to ideal growing conditions and were nearly 50 percent harvested. Lettuce conditions ranged from poor to good with no reports of excellent. Onions, sweet corn, cabbage and snap beans conditions ranged from poor to excellent and all have reached over 50 percent harvested.

LIVESTOCK: Producers and cattle continued dealing with the hot and humid weather during most of last week. No livestock problems were reported. Pasture condition estimates reflect the slow re-growth associated with this time of year. Pasture conditions were 16 percent very poor, 38 percent poor, 28 percent fair, 16 percent good, and 2 percent excellent.

Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, August 21, 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	85	56	72	+3	153	2295	+399	0.86	+0.03	16.56	+0.99
Glens Falls	83	46	69	+2	134	1937	+275	2.05	+1.21	16.65	+1.48
Poughkeepsie	93	57	72	+2	157	2279	+298	0.27	-0.51	16.68	-1.35
<u>Mohawk Valley</u>											
Utica	82	51	70	+3	142	2092	+369	0.95	+0.11	14.60	-3.01
<u>Champlain Valley</u>											
Plattsburgh	85	49	67	+0	120	1866	+177	0.58	-0.40	16.53	+1.94
<u>St. Lawrence Valley</u>											
Canton	82	44	66	+0	115	1879	+368	0.34	-0.64	13.14	-2.12
Massena	83	44	66	-1	113	1871	+275	0.63	-0.21	13.24	-0.72
<u>Great Lakes</u>											
Buffalo	85	59	72	+3	154	2220	+411	1.21	+0.23	12.48	-2.94
Colden	82	53	69	+4	135	1874	+402	0.76	-0.18	16.34	-1.41
Niagara Falls	87	56	71	+3	149	2298	+480	0.54	-0.37	10.93	-3.97
Rochester	83	57	71	+5	152	2085	+334	1.33	+0.55	13.13	-0.18
Watertown	81	47	68	+2	126	1879	+352	1.14	+0.37	14.27	+2.35
<u>Central Lakes</u>											
Dansville	88	53	70	+3	144	1984	+223	0.15	-0.59	13.24	-1.44
Geneva	83	53	70	+3	142	2074	+328	0.56	-0.14	15.00	+0.42
Honeoye	84	48	69	-1	132	1959	+142	0.02	-0.74	15.21	+0.78
Ithaca	90	49	70	+4	144	1954	+371	0.03	-0.74	13.53	-2.22
Penn Yan	88	55	72	+4	157	2160	+414	0.34	-0.36	13.48	-1.10
Syracuse	84	54	72	+5	156	2302	+525	1.23	+0.46	14.98	-1.55
Warsaw	79	53	67	+3	118	1732	+363	0.15	-0.75	15.31	-1.80
<u>Western Plateau</u>											
Alfred	84	51	69	+5	137	1845	+398	0.74	+0.04	16.15	-0.65
Elmira	89	48	71	+5	151	1989	+313	0.24	-0.45	13.60	-1.47
Franklinville	82	48	67	+4	120	1616	+381	0.25	-0.66	14.34	-2.98
Sinclairville	83	54	69	+5	139	1859	+472	0.76	-0.27	16.14	-3.14
<u>Eastern Plateau</u>											
Binghamton	86	52	71	+5	149	2017	+389	0.09	-0.68	10.84	-5.01
Cobleskill	85	48	69	+3	131	1895	+381	1.39	+0.62	15.37	-1.58
Morrisville	84	52	68	+3	127	1805	+362	1.08	+0.27	15.22	-1.56
Norwich	88	47	69	+4	138	1889	+373	0.74	-0.03	16.66	-0.16
Oneonta	90	54	72	+8	154	2083	+683	1.68	+0.84	20.11	+1.69
<u>Coastal</u>											
Bridgehamton	88	57	73	+3	164	2010	+195	0.07	-0.70	10.80	-5.83
New York	96	69	78	+3	197	2755	+304	3.63	+2.79	14.22	-3.58

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

R33August411

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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