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National
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WEATHER AND CROPS

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Week Ending, August 28, 2005

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WEATHER: A strong upper level low brought widely scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms to northern New York between Monday and Wednesday. A large dome of cool, Canadian high pressure brought dry weather to the entire region Thursday to Saturday. Saturday night through Sunday a weakening cold front brought showers to the state. The showers were the heaviest across extreme eastern New York, east of the Hudson River Valley on Sunday. Temperatures for the week started out slightly cooler than normal, but a gradual warm up later in the week brought temperatures back to normal or slightly above normal values for the week. The lone exception, where temperatures were above normal by about 5 degrees was western Long Island. Precipitation was below normal for the majority of the locations for the entire week.

CROPS: There were 6.5 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated 20 percent very short, 50 percent short, and 30 percent adequate. Oats were 95 percent harvested compared to 72 percent last year. Winter wheat was 99 percent harvested compared to 97 percent last year. Corn was rated 13 percent poor, 23 percent fair, 40 percent good and 24 percent excellent. Hay was rated 24 percent poor, 35 percent fair, 37 percent good, and 4 percent excellent. Soybeans were rated 5 percent poor, 30 percent fair, 42 percent good and 23 percent excellent. Alfalfa second cutting was 95 percent harvested. Alfalfa third cutting was 60 percent harvested. Second cutting Clover Timothy was 88 percent harvested. Potatoes were 44 percent harvested compared to 51 percent last year. Following are comments from reporters across the state: In Jefferson County, some producers chopped corn silage. The corn crop looked fantastic with many corn fields at 71 to 72 percent moisture. In Lewis County, third cutting of hay was in full swing. Everyone was surprised to find how fast corn was drying down. In St. Lawrence County, corn was ready to be chopped. Some soybeans were harvested. The weather was great despite the need for a little rain. In Clinton County, corn was maturing well. At least an inch of rain was needed for any farmer to take a fall harvest of alfalfa or grass. In Franklin County, corn was starting to mature. Moistures were in the 70 to 74 percent moisture range. Potato leaf hoppers and other insects and pests were staying well below the threshold. In Cortland County, it was another dry week. Corn, although appearance was bad on the outer rows, was fine for silage as there was still enough sugar in the stalk and the summer heat grew it tall. Less grain was the result of shorter ears with less tip fill. Oat harvest was finishing up, with a lot of weeds mixed in. In Herkimer County corn silage harvest had started. Rain was needed for many wells. In Albany County, continued dry weather helped with the dry hay harvest but hurt corn yields. The chopping of silage corn started. Potatoes were dug. In Fulton and Montgomery County, corn harvest was started. It continued to be very dry and water was hauled as supplies dried up. In Saratoga County, corn silage harvest started with early reported yields average to above average. Dry down of the crop prompted a week to 10 day earlier harvest.

FRUIT: Apples were judged to be in 6 percent poor condition, 34 percent fair, 48 percent good, and 12 percent excellent. Grapes were 22 percent poor condition, 35 percent fair, 33 percent good and 10 percent excellent. Peaches were 20 percent poor condition, 40 percent fair, and 40 percent good. Pears were 13 percent poor, 47 percent fair, 27 percent good, and 13 percent excellent. In the Southern part of the Lake Erie Fruit Belt, vineyard berry counts revealed an average of 43 berries per cluster. Some color development would be expected in the next few days. Despite the dry weather, bunch rot was beginning to appear on Chardonnay and other wine grape varieties with compact clusters. According to the Fredonia Vineyard Lab, veraison was announced this past weekend. Most farmers have had a good quality apple crop in Wayne County; however, there has been a concern about size due to the dry weather. Reports of a warm spring caused judgment on chemical thinner application difficult. Therefore, producers may have applied too much or too little chemical thinning agents to the apple orchards. In Albany County, some apple harvesting took place, but apple size was still an issue where it had not rained. In the Long Island fruit region, veraison really progressed in the early part of the week for grapes. Bird nets were still being applied and growers were hedging. There was still no rainfall, but growers were hopeful of a few expected showers this week. In Suffolk County, sunny dry weather continued to be the predominant weather pattern. Vineyards were thriving though growers had been irrigating more than usual. Many varieties were in the middle of or already through veraison.

VEGETABLE: Dry weather continued through the week, allowing crop harvest to advance. Local farmstands are in full swing with a big variety of produce available. The beginning of potato harvest is in progress, and winter squash are appearing on the local markets. Onion, sweet corn, snap beans, cabbage and tomato conditions are mostly good across the state. Sweet corn across the state is over 60 percent harvested, while Orange County onions are 50 percent harvested. Snap beans are 90 percent harvested. The cabbage crop is 75 percent harvested, and the tomato harvest is more than 50 percent complete.

LIVESTOCK: Producers and cattle caught a bit of a break from the hot and humid weather. No livestock problems were reported. Pasture condition estimates reflect the slow re-growth associated with this time of year. Pasture conditions were 20 percent very poor, 37 percent poor, 29 percent fair, and 14 percent good.

This report is available on our website and by email free of charge. Please visit our website at www.nass.usda.gov/ny/ for further information.

Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, August 28, 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	86	52	69	+2	135	2430	+409	0.01	-0.76	16.57	+0.23
Glens Falls	86	46	65	-1	107	2044	+273	0.26	-0.58	16.91	+0.90
Poughkeepsie	89	53	70	+2	143	2422	+308	0.15	-0.63	16.83	-1.98
<u>Mohawk Valley</u>											
Utica	83	49	67	0	120	2212	+374	0.68	-0.23	15.28	-3.24
<u>Champlain Valley</u>											
Plattsburgh	84	49	66	+1	117	1983	+186	0.02	-0.92	16.55	+1.02
<u>St. Lawrence Valley</u>											
Canton	84	46	66	+2	111	1990	+378	0.06	-0.92	13.20	-3.04
Massena	86	46	66	+2	111	1982	+284	0.36	-0.52	13.60	-1.24
<u>Great Lakes</u>											
Buffalo	86	53	69	+2	131	2351	+420	0.56	-0.42	13.04	-3.36
Colden	82	48	65	+1	107	1981	+407	0.22	-0.79	16.56	-2.20
Niagara Falls	87	52	69	+2	132	2430	+490	0.43	-0.50	11.36	-4.47
Rochester	85	52	69	+3	132	2217	+350	0.13	-0.67	13.26	-0.85
Watertown	83	46	66	+1	110	1989	+356	0.24	-0.59	14.51	+1.76
<u>Central Lakes</u>											
Dansville	86	46	67	-1	117	2101	+221	0.37	-0.40	13.61	-1.84
Geneva	86	51	68	+1	123	2197	+333	0.13	-0.63	15.13	-0.21
Honeoye	84	44	65	-4	109	2068	+125	0.25	-0.52	15.46	+0.26
Ithaca	83	45	65	-1	107	2061	+370	0.21	-0.56	13.74	-2.78
Penn Yan	85	52	68	+2	129	2289	+425	0.20	-0.56	13.68	-1.66
Syracuse	84	53	70	+3	140	2442	+548	0.21	-0.62	15.19	-2.17
Warsaw	82	47	64	+1	98	1830	+369	0.33	-0.58	15.64	-2.38
<u>Western Plateau</u>											
Alfred	82	46	64	0	102	1947	+404	0.19	-0.52	16.34	-1.17
Elmira	86	43	66	-2	110	2099	+311	0.05	-0.65	13.65	-2.12
Franklinville	81	41	62	-1	85	1701	+380	0.45	-0.46	14.79	-3.44
Sinclairville	81	48	65	+2	103	1962	+480	0.23	-0.82	16.37	-3.96
<u>Eastern Plateau</u>											
Binghamton	84	51	66	+2	115	2132	+395	0.12	-0.65	10.96	-5.66
Cobleskill	83	50	65	+1	106	2001	+385	0.61	-0.22	15.98	-1.80
Morrisville	82	51	64	0	100	1905	+365	0.18	-0.66	15.40	-2.22
Norwich	84	47	64	-1	101	1990	+372	0.03	-0.77	16.69	-0.93
Oneonta	86	50	68	+6	127	2210	+716	0.26	-0.58	20.37	+1.11
<u>Coastal</u>											
Bridgehamton	92	56	73	+3	160	2170	+217	0.00	-0.84	10.80	-6.67
New York	95	67	78	+5	199	2954	+335	0.00	-0.84	14.22	-4.42

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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