



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

## WEATHER AND CROPS

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Week Ending, September 11, 2005

No. 977-21-05

**WEATHER:** High pressure dominated the weather picture across New York State last week resulting in mainly dry weather with temperatures slightly above normal. A cold frontal passage on Thursday brought the week's only precipitation. The front kicked off shower activity across northern and western New York, but failed to produce any rainfall elsewhere. The lack of rainfall in eastern and southern New York pushed rainfall deficits for the week to three quarters to one inch. Temperatures generally averaged one to two degrees above normal across the state. A cool down following the frontal passage brought widespread low temperatures in the 30's Sunday morning across northern New York with scattered reports of readings in the 30's across western, central, and eastern New York. Sub freezing readings were confined to only the coldest locales such as Saranac Lake.

**CROPS:** There were 6.4 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated 20 percent very short, 28 percent short, and 49 percent adequate and 3 percent surplus. Oats were virtually all harvested compared to 90 percent last year. Corn was rated 10 percent poor, 23 percent fair, 43 percent good and 24 percent excellent. Silage Corn was 30 percent harvested. Hay was rated 14 percent poor, 38 percent fair, 41 percent good, and 7 percent excellent. Alfalfa third cutting was 73 percent harvested. Potatoes were 47 percent harvested compared to 59 percent last year. Following are comments from reporters across the state: In Jefferson County, corn silage harvest continued. Ears dried down very fast, with reports of grain moisture below 28 percent. Early reports of 20 plus tons per acre were recorded. Soybeans turned with good yields predicted. The hay crop was excellent, with very good re-growth. Hay mows and silos were full, with some producers ready to market surplus hay. In St. Lawrence County, producers were chopping corn. Some reported excellent quality and quantity of corn. In Clinton County, a quarter inch of rain was expected to slow field activity for a only half a day. Many farmers started corn silage harvest. In Franklin County some corn was harvested. Moistures were still high. Four inches of rain fell from Hurricane Katrina fell along with an additional 0.5 inches. The corn absorbed 4-5 points of moisture from this rain event. Of the corn harvested, yields were good. In Ontario County, sunshine and warm temperatures that came after the rain helped crops. In Cortland County, it was another week without any rain, but heavy fog and dew helped the grass stay green. Corn silage harvest was under way. Some operators were just getting a second cutting from their fields while others were working on a third. Soybeans were starting to turn. In Ostego County, corn silage bunks were filled as fast as dry matter numbers climbed. In Albany County, very dry conditions persisted throughout the region. Corn chopping was in full swing with good yields. Corn was drying down fast. Second and third cutting hay was made without interference of rain so quality was good. In Montgomery and Fulton Counties, the corn silage harvest picked up with some harvest complete. In Saratoga County, some farms completed corn silage harvest with average to above average yields reported. Late season 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> cut baled hay was harvested with average yield and good quality. In Cattaraugus County, farms were busy with 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> cutting. Corn silage harvest was started. In Delaware County corn silage harvest was underway with a variation in crop quality.

**FRUIT:** Apples were judged to be in 15 percent poor condition, 33 percent fair, 39 percent good, and 13 percent excellent. Grapes were 22 percent poor condition, 28 percent fair, 40 percent good and 10 percent excellent. Peaches were 50 percent poor condition, 35 percent fair, and 15 percent good. Pears were 11 percent poor, 34 percent fair, 45 percent good, and 10 percent excellent. In the Lake Erie fruit region, berry measurements were taken at the Fredonia Vineyard Lab. The most recent measurements showed this year's berry weight was still less than the six-year average. The smaller berries generated an increased sugar concentration because of the reduced berry volume. In the Lake Ontario fruit region, apple and grape harvesting was still underway. In Yates County, grape harvest was also underway with some Cayuga white, and some Niagara being harvested. The harvest schedule for Yates County appeared to be running a week or two early. The quality and ripeness was progressing well, however, the Red hybrid, Cayuga white, and all of the vinifera varieties were expected to be low in volume. In the Long Island fruit region, ripening was proceeding at an amazing pace though sugars appeared to be ahead of flavor, aroma and tannin development. Harvest was expected to begin in the next few weeks for sparkling varieties and whites. Unlike most seasons, bird pressure was light this year.

**VEGETABLE:** After the passing of Katrina through the area, sunshine and warm temperatures helped the crops along in their progress and also helped the farmers with the harvest. However, the sunshine and warm temperatures did not help the very dry conditions that persist throughout Albany, Schoharie, and Schenectady Counties. Farm stands are still busy with freshly-harvested produce. Reports of lettuce condition were mostly fair to good, while onions, sweet corn, tomatoes, cucumbers, cabbage and snap beans were in mostly good condition. However, reports of Orange County onions showed very small size due to drought with approximately 70 percent of the acreage harvested. The harvest is continuing with tomatoes, sweet corn and snap beans acreage almost 85 percent harvested. Cabbage harvest is ongoing.

**LIVESTOCK:** New York cattle welcomed cooler temperatures and lower humidity last week. No livestock problems were reported. Pasture condition estimates reflect the slow re-growth associated with this time of year. Pasture conditions were 19 percent very poor, 36 percent poor, 27 percent fair, 17 percent good, and 1 percent excellent.

**Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, September 11, 2005**

| Station                           | Temperature (°F) |     |     |                      | Growing Degree Days<br>Base 50° |              |                      | Precipitation<br>(Inches) |                      |              |                      |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|-----|-----|----------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|----------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|--------------|----------------------|
|                                   | High             | Low | Avg | Dep.<br>from<br>Norm | Week                            | Season<br>1/ | Dep.<br>from<br>Norm | Week                      | Dep.<br>from<br>Norm | Season<br>1/ | Dep.<br>from<br>Norm |
| <b><u>Hudson Valley</u></b>       |                  |     |     |                      |                                 |              |                      |                           |                      |              |                      |
| Albany                            | 84               | 45  | 66  | +3                   | 113                             | 2704         | +477                 | 0.00                      | -0.71                | 18.29        | +0.47                |
| Glens Falls                       | 80               | 36  | 61  | -2                   | 75                              | 2258         | +314                 | 0.01                      | -0.76                | 19.41        | +1.83                |
| Poughkeepsie                      | 86               | 45  | 67  | +3                   | 120                             | 2708         | +370                 | 0.00                      | -0.84                | 17.57        | -2.92                |
| <b><u>Mohawk Valley</u></b>       |                  |     |     |                      |                                 |              |                      |                           |                      |              |                      |
| Utica                             | 80               | 42  | 62  | -2                   | 87                              | 2439         | +413                 | 0.03                      | -1.02                | 17.55        | -3.01                |
| <b><u>Champlain Valley</u></b>    |                  |     |     |                      |                                 |              |                      |                           |                      |              |                      |
| Plattsburgh                       | 82               | 40  | 61  | -2                   | 78                              | 2200         | +230                 | 0.09                      | -0.70                | 19.75        | +2.56                |
| <b><u>St. Lawrence Valley</u></b> |                  |     |     |                      |                                 |              |                      |                           |                      |              |                      |
| Canton                            | 80               | 39  | 60  | -2                   | 71                              | 2193         | +422                 | 0.96                      | +0.02                | 18.10        | -0.06                |
| Massena                           | 80               | 40  | 60  | -2                   | 70                              | 2188         | +331                 | 1.37                      | +0.53                | 18.65        | +2.07                |
| <b><u>Great Lakes</u></b>         |                  |     |     |                      |                                 |              |                      |                           |                      |              |                      |
| Buffalo                           | 80               | 52  | 67  | +3                   | 119                             | 2607         | +467                 | 0.07                      | -0.80                | 16.11        | -2.09                |
| Colden                            | 79               | 47  | 63  | +2                   | 92                              | 2196         | +455                 | 0.09                      | -1.03                | 20.46        | -0.50                |
| Niagara Falls                     | 81               | 49  | 65  | +2                   | 108                             | 2677         | +531                 | 0.31                      | -0.60                | 14.59        | -3.07                |
| Rochester                         | 81               | 48  | 64  | +1                   | 101                             | 2461         | +392                 | 0.04                      | -0.70                | 16.33        | +0.71                |
| Watertown                         | 79               | 39  | 59  | -3                   | 67                              | 2186         | +381                 | 0.04                      | -0.76                | 19.07        | +4.68                |
| <b><u>Central Lakes</u></b>       |                  |     |     |                      |                                 |              |                      |                           |                      |              |                      |
| Dansville                         | 83               | 45  | 65  | +2                   | 105                             | 2334         | +251                 | 0.00                      | -0.84                | 17.91        | +0.84                |
| Geneva                            | 80               | 45  | 63  | -1                   | 93                              | 2429         | +363                 | 0.02                      | -0.75                | 18.15        | +1.27                |
| Honeoye                           | 82               | 40  | 61  | -4                   | 81                              | 2276         | +116                 | 0.00                      | -0.77                | 19.59        | +2.85                |
| Ithaca                            | 81               | 39  | 62  | -1                   | 84                              | 2283         | +413                 | 0.00                      | -0.84                | 16.65        | -1.55                |
| Penn Yan                          | 81               | 46  | 65  | +2                   | 107                             | 2546         | +480                 | 0.00                      | -0.77                | 17.46        | +0.58                |
| Syracuse                          | 82               | 44  | 64  | 0                    | 100                             | 2694         | +597                 | 0.00                      | -0.91                | 18.89        | -0.24                |
| Warsaw                            | 77               | 47  | 62  | +3                   | 87                              | 2040         | +432                 | 0.00                      | -0.98                | 19.49        | -0.48                |
| <b><u>Western Plateau</u></b>     |                  |     |     |                      |                                 |              |                      |                           |                      |              |                      |
| Alfred                            | 80               | 44  | 62  | +2                   | 87                              | 2156         | +455                 | 0.04                      | -0.80                | 20.13        | +1.01                |
| Elmira                            | 81               | 38  | 62  | -1                   | 88                              | 2319         | +343                 | 0.02                      | -0.72                | 16.70        | -0.51                |
| Franklinville                     | 79               | 41  | 61  | +2                   | 74                              | 1878         | +422                 | 0.13                      | -0.85                | 19.10        | -1.08                |
| Sinclairville                     | 79               | 48  | 63  | +3                   | 93                              | 2174         | +534                 | 0.12                      | -1.00                | 20.07        | -2.50                |
| <b><u>Eastern Plateau</u></b>     |                  |     |     |                      |                                 |              |                      |                           |                      |              |                      |
| Binghamton                        | 78               | 43  | 63  | +2                   | 95                              | 2362         | +446                 | 0.00                      | -0.82                | 14.78        | -3.43                |
| Cobleskill                        | 82               | 40  | 62  | +1                   | 85                              | 2217         | +434                 | 0.00                      | -0.91                | 17.45        | -2.09                |
| Morrisville                       | 78               | 42  | 62  | +2                   | 83                              | 2117         | +419                 | 0.02                      | -0.91                | 18.37        | -1.09                |
| Norwich                           | 80               | 40  | 62  | +2                   | 87                              | 2207         | +422                 | 0.00                      | -0.91                | 20.84        | +1.47                |
| Oneonta                           | 84               | 44  | 65  | +6                   | 105                             | 2464         | +822                 | 0.00                      | -0.84                | 22.53        | +1.59                |
| <b><u>Coastal</u></b>             |                  |     |     |                      |                                 |              |                      |                           |                      |              |                      |
| Bridgehamton                      | 83               | 47  | 66  | 0                    | 116                             | 2460         | +266                 | 0.00                      | -0.84                | 11.22        | -7.93                |
| New York                          | 87               | 62  | 75  | +5                   | 172                             | 3335         | +415                 | 0.00                      | -0.84                | 14.28        | -6.04                |

1/ Season accumulations are for April 1<sup>st</sup> 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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