



WEATHER AND CROPS

August 4, 2008

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Week Ending, August 3, 2008

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WEATHER: Much of the week featured near seasonable temperatures with rainfall at or above normal levels. A series of cold fronts moving from west to east were accompanied by scattered showers and thunderstorms. A low pressure system developed along one of these cold fronts on Saturday bringing more widespread showers and thunderstorms to the state along with locally heavy rainfall.

CROPS: Another week of scattered showers moved through the region hindering dry hay harvest, but the continuing rain has corn and soybean fields looking good. There were 4.0 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil Moisture was rated 3 percent short, 61 percent adequate, and 36 percent surplus. Condition of soybeans was 1 percent poor, 10 percent fair, 56 percent good, and 33 percent excellent. Corn condition was rated as 1 percent poor, 10 percent fair, 49 percent good, and 40 percent excellent. Hay condition was 16 percent poor, 25 percent fair, 37 percent good, and 22 percent excellent. Winter wheat was 66 percent harvested compared with last year's 81 percent. Twenty-three percent of the oats were harvested, behind last year's 20 percent. The second cutting of alfalfa was 69 percent harvested, behind last year's 82 percent. Twelve percent of the third cutting of alfalfa was completed compared with 41 percent from last year. Second cutting of timothy hay was 42 percent completed compared with last year's 62 percent. Third cutting of timothy hay was 15 percent harvested behind last year's 18 percent. Eight percent of the potatoes were harvested compared to 4 percent from last year. The following are comments from across the state: Continued precipitation in Cayuga County made field work very difficult. Jefferson County baled straw. Sporadic rain continued to frustrate farmers in Lewis County trying to put up dry hay. Fields have a surplus of water in St. Lawrence County, but not any flooding. Farmers in Clinton County were able to harvest some haylage in between showers. Wheat harvested in Essex County had sprouted, reducing its value, and the rain slowed progress in straw harvest. Wheat harvest continued and the oat harvest started in Ontario County, but rain showers made this challenging. Wheat straw got wet in Cayuga County and there are still some fields with first cutting hay still to be cut. Oats are almost ready for harvesting in Cortland County, and third cutting of haylage was underway. Rain stalled the small grain harvest in Fulton and Montgomery Counties. Haying continued in Steuben County after two weeks of rainy weather. Sullivan County remains dry and needs some rain for continued corn growth.

FRUIT: Apples were 28 percent poor, 28 percent fair, 37 percent good and 7 percent excellent. Grapes were 6 percent poor, 21 percent fair, 55 percent good, and 18 percent excellent. Peaches were 26 percent poor, 28 percent fair, and 46 percent good. Pears were 35 percent poor, 36 percent fair, and 29 percent good. Tart cherries were 60 percent harvested, sweet cherries were 80 percent harvested, peaches were 18 percent harvested, and pears were 15 percent harvested. All were behind last year's progress. In the Lake Ontario fruit region, blueberry harvest was well underway, summer raspberries were still producing fruit, and strawberries were being renovated. Plum pox virus was found in Williamson, NY. In the Finger Lakes grape region, assessments from a mid-July hail storm showed damage primarily near Keuka Lake, with numerous torn leaves and broken shoots. On Long Island, vineyards were seeing some berry moth damage. In the research vineyard, Pinot Noir and Dornfelder were starting to color. Whites were just turning soft.

VEGETABLE: Reported crop damage from the second severe hail storm in central New York has slightly affected crop conditions. Tomatoes were 25 percent harvested, down from 29 percent harvested last year. Tomato conditions were 3 percent poor, 25 percent fair, 67 percent good, and 5 percent excellent. Lettuce conditions were 23 percent fair, 73 percent good, and 4 percent excellent. Onion harvest was 24 percent complete, up from 22 percent harvested last year. Onion conditions were 7 percent poor, 15 percent fair, 74 percent good, and 4 percent excellent. Sweet corn harvest was 20 percent complete, down from 31 percent harvested last year. Sweet corn conditions were 2 percent poor, 17 percent fair, 58 percent good, and 23 percent excellent. Snap bean harvest was 33 percent complete, up from 25 percent harvested last year. Snap bean conditions were 9 percent poor, 13 percent fair, 63 percent good, and 15 percent excellent. Cabbage harvest was 26 percent completed, up from 19 percent harvested last year. Cabbage conditions were 2 percent poor, 15 percent fair, 70 percent good, and 13 percent excellent.

LIVESTOCK: Pastures remained in good condition and ample growth has allowed for a good livestock rotation. Pasture conditions were estimated to be in good condition. Pasture conditions were rated 1 percent very poor, 8 percent poor, 20 percent fair, 51 percent good and 20 percent excellent.

Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, August 3, 2008

Station	Temperature (°F)				Growing Degree Days Base 50° ^{1/}			Precipitation (Inches) ^{1/}				
	High	Low	Avg	Dep. from Norm	Week	Season	Dep. from Norm	Week	Dep. from Norm	Season	Dep. from Norm	
<u>Hudson Valley</u>												
Albany	84	61	73	+1	159	1804	+254	0.49	-0.27	16.91	+3.36	
Glens Falls	83	56	69	0	138	1430	+76	0.00	-0.76	14.42	+1.36	
Poughkeepsie	91	59	74	+2	168	1875	+256	0.91	+0.07	17.87	+1.93	
<u>Mohawk Valley</u>												
Boonville	77	55	66	-1	111	1130	+73	0.60	-0.35	18.42	+0.37	
<u>Champlain Valley</u>												
Plattsburgh	84	55	70	0	140	1354	-30	0.92	+0.10	16.01	+3.81	
<u>St. Lawrence Valley</u>												
Canton	78	57	68	-1	130	1402	+177	0.93	+0.08	15.82	+2.93	
Massena	80	55	69	+1	139	1358	+57	0.45	-0.32	14.51	+2.66	
<u>Great Lakes</u>												
Buffalo	82	62	72	+2	155	1618	+143	0.78	-0.03	12.54	-0.49	
Wales	79	57	68	+1	128	1288	+96	0.86	+0.03	16.50	+1.06	
Niagara Falls	81	56	71	0	149	1575	+89	1.04	+0.30	12.94	+0.26	
Rochester	82	62	72	+3	156	1757	+319	0.60	-0.09	10.19	-1.17	
Watertown	78	56	69	0	133	1400	+171	0.17	-0.39	13.35	+3.26	
<u>Central Lakes</u>												
Dansville	84	58	71	0	149	1574	+138	1.22	+0.57	13.85	+0.99	
Geneva	82	59	71	+1	147	1552	+132	0.28	-0.35	12.34	-0.47	
Honeoye	82	57	71	-2	145	1495	+20	0.39	-0.25	14.05	+1.47	
Ithaca	82	56	69	+1	136	1436	+150	0.69	-0.08	14.45	+0.66	
Penn Yan	85	61	73	+4	163	1826	+406	1.74	+1.11	11.97	-0.84	
Syracuse	82	57	72	+3	157	1686	+232	0.57	-0.22	13.64	-0.91	
Warsaw	79	57	67	+1	122	1263	+153	1.27	+0.50	17.59	+2.68	
<u>Western Plateau</u>												
Angelica	82	51	67	0	119	1122	+33	0.28	-0.49	13.53	-0.89	
Elmira	86	56	71	+2	149	1546	+181	0.32	-0.38	11.36	-1.98	
Franklinville	80	53	66	+2	117	1172	+178	0.23	-0.61	15.35	+0.28	
Jamestown	83	55	69	+3	135	1328	+207	0.47	-0.44	15.35	-1.39	
<u>Eastern Plateau</u>												
Binghamton	81	59	70	+1	142	1520	+196	0.14	-0.63	12.84	-1.09	
Cobleskill	81	54	68	+1	130	1384	+158	0.36	-0.40	19.73	+4.75	
Morrisville	81	56	69	+2	132	1291	+121	0.76	-0.04	15.58	+0.80	
Norwich	84	55	69	+2	138	1345	+116	0.34	-0.36	13.10	-1.81	
Oneonta	88	58	72	+6	155	1584	+448	0.09	-0.75	13.04	-3.24	
<u>Coastal</u>												
Bridgehamton	87	57	74	+2	169	1699	+251	2.83	+2.13	12.98	-1.67	
New York	90	68	80	+4	209	2328	+317	0.72	-0.18	12.87	-2.77	

^{1/} Season accumulations are for April 1st to date. Weekly accumulations are through 7:00 AM Sunday Morning

The information contained in this weekly release is obtained in cooperation with Cornell Cooperative Extension, USDA Farm Service Agency, 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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