



WEATHER AND CROPS

August 18, 2008

Cooperating with New York Department of Agriculture and Markets
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WEATHER: A cold front along with an area of low pressure provided the region with rainfall to start the week. In its wake, cooler weather as high pressure moved in for the mid week period. A storm developed over the southeast United States and tracked northeast off the Atlantic seaboard Thursday and Friday. Although, some scattered showers and thunderstorms did occur across the Empire State. Then a few weak troughs of low pressure impacted the region the remainder of the week with widely scattered showers and thunderstorms. Temperatures averaged below normal with precipitation near normal.

CROPS: Storms continued to move through hampering dry hay harvest. There were 3.3 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil Moisture was rated 1 percent short, 53 percent adequate, and 46 percent surplus. Condition of soybeans was 1 percent poor, 9 percent fair, 45 percent good, and 45 percent excellent. Corn condition was rated as 2 percent poor, 8 percent fair, 42 percent good, and 48 percent excellent. Hay condition was 23 percent poor, 26 percent fair, 36 percent good, and 15 percent excellent. Winter wheat was 82 percent harvested, compared with last year's 95 percent, and the five year average of 86 percent. Fifty-five percent of the oats were harvested, behind last year's 76 percent, and the five year average of 67 percent. The second cutting of alfalfa was 79 percent harvested, behind last year's 94 percent, and the five year average of 86 percent. Thirty-seven percent of the third cutting of alfalfa was completed, compared with 51 percent from last year, and the five year average of 38 percent. Second cutting of timothy hay was 61 percent completed, compared with last year's 84 percent, and a five year average of 74 percent. Third cutting of timothy hay was 25 percent harvested, behind last year's 34 percent, but ahead of the 21 percent five year average. Twenty percent of the potatoes were harvested, compared to 34 percent from last year, and the five year average of 33 percent. The following are comments from across the state: More heavy rains in Jefferson County have saturated the fields making them unable to support heavy equipment till they dry out. Some of the corn fields have standing water and their condition has declined due to this. Lewis County is looking forward to this week's forecast to be able to harvest forage again, even though they will still need a day or two to dry out. Clinton County had lots of rainy days making it hard to make hay crop silage and almost impossible to make dry hay. Essex County was still wet, but was beginning to dry out by week's end. Cayuga County continues to be very wet, and if they don't dry out soon then they will have difficult wet harvest conditions. A few dry days in Cortland County had hay down waiting to be baled. It will need extra drying time due to late cutting making it thick. Hail has damaged oats, soybeans, and apples in Madison County. Hop harvest began in Onondaga County two weeks ago, and farmers were talking about wheat planting. Another wave of hail in Otsego County has damaged small grains, and reduced corn yield potential in isolated locations. Part of Herkimer County was hit with hail destroying the corn crop. Field corn in Saratoga County looks very good, but is very slow in maturing due to a lack of heat. Areas of Dutchess County reported hail mixed in with the rain they received.

FRUIT: Apples were 15 percent poor, 17 percent fair, 52 percent good, and 16 percent excellent. Grapes were 5 percent poor, 13 percent fair, 54 percent good, and 28 percent excellent. Peaches were 20 percent poor, 17 percent fair, 42 percent good, and 21 percent excellent. Pears were 4 percent poor, 18 percent fair, 56 percent good, and 22 percent excellent. Tart cherries were 93 percent harvested, sweet cherries were 93 percent harvested, peaches were 38 percent harvested, pears were 28 percent harvested, and apples were 11 percent harvested. All were behind last year's progress. In Madison County, another hail storm damaged apples. In Onondaga County, grapes were in veraison, and harvest for early varieties will start at the end of August. Downy mildew, powdery mildew, and botrytis were causing some problems. In Long Island vineyards, abundant rainfall led to rapid shoot growth. Most growers were keeping up with disease management. Growers continued to hedge canopies in preparation for bird nets. Bird pressure has been variable, ranging from light to moderate.

VEGETABLE: Heavy rain had saturated most fields. Hail damage in Suffolk County was reported for lettuce and cabbage. Tomatoes were 37 percent harvested, up from 31 percent harvested last year. Tomato conditions were 4 percent poor, 29 percent fair, 51 percent good, and 16 percent excellent. Lettuce conditions were 2 percent poor, 24 percent fair, 74 percent good, and 0 percent excellent. Onion harvest was 38 percent complete, down from 40 percent harvested last year. Onion conditions were 4 percent poor, 10 percent fair, 73 percent good, and 13 percent excellent. Sweet corn harvest was 41 percent complete, down from 45 percent harvested last year. Sweet corn conditions were 2 percent poor, 12 percent fair, 48 percent good, and 38 percent excellent. Snap bean harvest was 48 percent complete, up from 41 percent harvested last year. Snap bean conditions were 5 percent poor, 20 percent fair, 53 percent good, and 22 percent excellent. Cabbage harvest was 36 percent completed, down from 38 percent harvested last year. Cabbage conditions were 6 percent poor, 15 percent fair, 70 percent good, and 9 percent excellent.

LIVESTOCK: Pastures remained in good condition. In Jefferson County some pastures became saturated from the abundant rainfall. Pasture conditions were rated 1 percent very poor, 8 percent poor, 18 percent fair, 49 percent good and 24 percent excellent.

Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, August 17, 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	78	55	67	-4	116	2071	+232	2.16	+1.35	19.52	+4.39
Glens Falls	76	48	64	-5	100	1652	+41	1.24	+0.40	17.64	+2.93
Poughkeepsie	81	56	68	-4	128	2156	+235	1.83	+1.02	20.35	+2.76
<u>Mohawk Valley</u>											
Boonville	77	50	61	-4	80	1313	+45	2.57	+1.47	23.90	+3.72
<u>Champlain Valley</u>											
Plattsburgh	76	53	64	-4	103	1572	-67	0.33	-0.65	17.38	+3.29
<u>St. Lawrence Valley</u>											
Canton	76	46	62	-5	86	1613	+149	0.54	-0.42	16.50	+1.74
Massena	77	46	63	-4	94	1576	+28	0.11	-0.73	15.33	+1.81
<u>Great Lakes</u>											
Buffalo	78	54	66	-4	114	1876	+122	2.38	+1.40	15.86	+0.95
Wales	73	50	61	-6	79	1472	+46	0.41	-0.50	19.00	+1.79
Niagara Falls	79	52	65	-5	106	1811	+48	0.93	+0.03	15.05	+0.64
Rochester	79	55	67	-2	116	2011	+312	0.28	-0.49	12.46	-0.43
Watertown	77	48	63	-5	95	1622	+144	0.58	-0.17	15.74	+4.23
<u>Central Lakes</u>											
Dansville	78	52	65	-5	106	1804	+97	0.33	-0.38	16.33	+2.06
Geneva	77	54	65	-5	107	1783	+91	0.55	-0.15	15.22	+1.02
Honeoye	78	52	65	-6	104	1719	-41	0.86	+0.13	16.55	+2.54
Ithaca	77	48	63	-5	97	1648	+114	0.21	-0.56	15.79	+0.46
Penn Yan	78	54	66	-3	115	2078	+386	0.70	0.00	14.06	-0.14
Syracuse	77	54	66	-3	115	1937	+214	0.76	-0.01	15.95	-0.14
Warsaw	76	50	62	-4	84	1447	+120	0.97	+0.10	22.74	+6.12
<u>Western Plateau</u>											
Angelica	75	47	60	-5	74	1290	-17	0.08	-0.71	15.49	-0.49
Elmira	78	50	64	-4	103	1773	+148	0.17	-0.49	13.99	-0.70
Franklinville	75	49	61	-3	81	1354	+158	0.46	-0.45	16.90	+0.07
Jamestown	76	51	63	-3	91	1533	+190	0.65	-0.35	17.43	-1.28
<u>Eastern Plateau</u>											
Binghamton	75	50	64	-4	98	1734	+156	1.19	+0.43	15.07	-0.35
Cobleskill	76	52	63	-4	92	1597	+132	1.03	+0.26	21.65	+5.13
Morrisville	76	50	63	-3	91	1491	+93	1.28	+0.50	18.24	+1.91
Norwich	78	50	64	-4	97	1561	+93	1.88	+1.11	15.26	-1.13
Oneonta	80	51	65	-2	105	1824	+467	1.18	+0.34	14.45	-3.51
<u>Coastal</u>											
Bridgehamton	82	58	70	-2	143	1988	+236	0.64	-0.13	16.83	+0.66
New York	84	63	74	-2	170	2688	+313	2.46	+1.62	16.05	-1.27

^{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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