



WEATHER AND CROPS

September 2, 2008

Cooperating with New York Department of Agriculture and Markets
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Week Ending, August 31, 2008

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WEATHER: The week began with a cold front tracking through the region. The cold front had no precipitation associated with it and temperatures cooled to slightly below normal for the first part of the week. High pressure controlled our weather through much of the week with temperatures gradually warming to a little above normal by the end of the week. Another cold front tracked through the region Saturday night pushing offshore Sunday. Once again, the cold front had no precipitation associated with it and high pressure built into the region Sunday.

CROPS: Another week of near perfect weather allowed farmers to catch up on forage harvest. There were 5.9 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil Moisture was rated 11 percent short, 76 percent adequate, and 13 percent surplus. Condition of soybeans was 3 percent poor, 10 percent fair, 52 percent good, and 35 percent excellent. Corn condition was rated as 3 percent poor, 9 percent fair, 45 percent good, and 43 percent excellent. Hay condition was 11 percent poor, 20 percent fair, 47 percent good, and 22 percent excellent. Winter wheat was 97 percent harvested, compared with last year's 100 percent, and the five year average of 97 percent. Eighty-seven percent of the oats were harvested, behind last year's 90 percent, and behind the five year average of 88 percent. The second cutting of alfalfa was 94 percent harvested, behind last year's 99 percent, and behind the five year average of 94 percent. Sixty-five percent of the third cutting of alfalfa was completed, the same as last year, and ahead of the five year average of 58 percent. Second cutting of timothy hay was 81 percent completed, compared with last year's 97 percent, and a five year average of 85 percent. Third cutting of timothy hay was 55 percent harvested, ahead of last year's 43 percent, and the five year average of 36. Thirty-eight percent of the potatoes were harvested, compared to 43 percent from last year, and the five year average of 47 percent. The following are comments from across the state: Hay yields were high in Lewis County, but the quality varied as a result of the late harvest due to rainy weather in July and August. Corn in Clinton County needs some warm weather to mature since it is at least one week late in most cases. Essex County finished up the first cutting of grass hay. Producers in Franklin County are catching up on making hay. Niagara County sowed alfalfa and prepared fields for planting winter wheat. Corn and soybean fields looked good in Ontario County except for the stressed fields that were previously hit by hail storms. Cayuga County corn and soybean yields look excellent, but the development for both has been slowed. Fields of 4th cutting alfalfa were cut in Chenango County with excellent yields. Small grain harvest was nearly complete in Cortland County, and 2nd and 3rd cutting dry hay was harvested. Early planted corn in Sullivan County was ready to harvest for silage.

FRUIT: Apples were in 26 percent poor condition, 19 percent fair, 39 percent good, and 16 percent excellent. Grape condition was 11 percent poor, 25 fair, 52 good, and 12 excellent. Early maturing apple varieties were being picked. Harvest reached 16 percent complete, behind the average of 31 percent. Grape harvest was also underway. In the Lake Erie region sunny days have started the ripening process and a few varieties were being picked. Veraison on Long Island progressed nicely with whites finished and reds past the halfway mark. Harvest was underway in the Finger Lakes region. Excellent conditions for grape development and ripening persisted in the Hudson Valley. Most varieties had passed veraison. Peach harvest was 59 percent finished compared with the average of 65 percent. Sweet cherry and tart cherry harvests were virtually completed.

VEGETABLE: A blend of sunshine and rain helped crops across the state. A report from Cayuga Co., in central New York, says sweet corn harvesting looks "excellent". Tomatoes were 64 percent harvested, up from 48 percent harvested last year. Tomato conditions were 11 percent poor, 19 percent fair, 64 percent good, and 6 percent excellent. Lettuce conditions were 17 percent poor, 15 percent fair, 60 percent good, and 8 percent excellent. Onion harvest was 59 percent complete, up from 42 percent harvested last year. Onion conditions was 3 percent poor, 8 percent fair, 81 percent good, and 8 percent excellent. Sweet corn harvest was 70 percent complete, up from 69 percent harvested last year. Sweet corn conditions were 1 percent poor, 9 percent fair, 58 percent good, and 32 percent excellent. Snap bean harvest was 69 percent complete, equal to the percent harvested last year. Snap bean conditions were 4 percent poor, 13 percent fair, 71 percent good, and 12 percent excellent. Cabbage harvest was 57 percent completed, up from 54 percent harvested last year. Cabbage conditions was 3 percent poor, 13 percent fair, 73 percent good, and 11 percent excellent

LIVESTOCK: Pastures remained in good condition. In Albany County the pastures remain above average for the year, but growth has slowed with the reduced rainfall of late. Pasture conditions were rated 1 percent very poor, 4 percent poor, 16 percent fair, 59 percent good and 20 percent excellent.

Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, August 31, 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	83	48	68	+2	129	2331	+245	0.03	-0.74	19.55	+2.86
Glens Falls	81	44	65	+1	110	1868	+42	0.01	-0.82	19.30	+2.92
Poughkeepsie	83	50	68	-1	123	2408	+224	0.27	-0.55	20.75	+1.57
<u>Mohawk Valley</u>											
Boonville	78	44	61	-1	78	1474	+35	0.39	-0.85	24.87	+2.28
<u>Champlain Valley</u>											
Plattsburgh	82	42	64	-1	101	1783	-69	0.07	-0.83	18.02	+2.06
<u>St. Lawrence Valley</u>											
Canton	83	41	63	0	93	1823	+160	0.14	-0.84	17.96	+1.24
Massena	82	42	64	-1	97	1788	+39	0.00	-0.91	16.09	+0.81
<u>Great Lakes</u>											
Buffalo	83	51	67	+1	124	2146	+150	1.66	+0.70	17.66	+0.81
Wales	81	45	62	-2	86	1662	+35	1.08	+0.03	20.48	+1.24
Niagara Falls	82	49	66	-1	112	2062	+58	0.35	-0.59	15.63	-0.63
Rochester	85	48	66	0	115	2259	+330	0.07	-0.70	12.82	-1.65
Watertown	81	46	64	-1	98	1836	+148	0.51	-0.33	17.09	+3.94
<u>Central Lakes</u>											
Dansville	86	46	64	-3	98	2023	+80	1.38	+0.61	18.21	+2.40
Geneva	85	47	65	-3	103	2005	+78	1.12	+0.35	16.50	+0.80
Honeoye	85	42	63	-5	95	1940	-70	0.94	+0.17	17.81	+2.26
Ithaca	84	43	63	-3	91	1845	+97	0.38	-0.43	16.39	-0.52
Penn Yan	87	49	66	0	113	2322	+395	2.01	+1.24	16.26	+0.56
Syracuse	87	47	66	-1	112	2172	+215	0.37	-0.47	16.83	-0.90
Warsaw	84	46	63	+1	93	1644	+136	1.00	+0.06	24.21	+5.74
<u>Western Plateau</u>											
Angelica	83	41	60	-3	75	1454	-34	1.38	+0.54	17.10	-0.56
Elmira	89	42	65	-2	103	1986	+139	0.70	+0.00	14.85	-1.24
Franklinville	83	43	61	-1	77	1524	+160	0.77	-0.17	19.03	+0.35
Jamestown	82	45	63	0	93	1731	+199	0.36	-0.73	18.10	-2.75
<u>Eastern Plateau</u>											
Binghamton	82	48	64	-1	101	1948	+154	1.02	+0.25	16.37	-0.59
Cobleskill	83	44	64	0	98	1799	+130	0.34	-0.50	21.99	+3.83
Morrisville	80	44	63	-1	89	1676	+86	0.17	-0.71	18.50	+0.45
Norwich	84	43	62	-2	87	1745	+74	0.71	-0.13	16.22	-1.78
Oneonta	83	44	63	+2	94	2034	+492	0.15	-0.69	15.33	-4.31
<u>Coastal</u>											
Bridgehamton	81	51	67	-2	124	2237	+210	0.40	-0.44	17.23	-0.59
New York	85	62	74	+2	172	3040	+331	1.89	+1.05	17.94	-1.06

^{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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