



WEATHER AND CROPS

September 15, 2008

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Week Ending, September 14, 2008

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WEATHER: The week began with the remains of Tropical Storm Hanna exiting the region. This allowed a weak area of high pressure to build across much of New York State for Sunday and Monday. By Monday night into Tuesday, a cold front pushed swiftly across the state from west to east. This brought a line of heavy showers and thunderstorms to many areas with some localized heavy downpours and frequent cloud to ground lightning strikes. Behind this cold front, a large area of Canadian high pressure built back into the area, keeping mostly sunny skies for the entire state for much of the remainder of the work week. A warm front moved into the region from the west for late Friday into Saturday, bringing a few rounds of showers to all of New York State. Temperatures began the week a tad on the mild side in the wake of Hanna, with highs reaching the upper 70's upstate and lows 80's in southeastern parts of the state. Behind Tuesday's strong cold front, temperatures took a tumble for the middle to later parts of the work week. Many portions of the Adirondacks saw the first freeze of the season on Thursday morning with patchy frost across parts of the St. Lawrence Valley as well. Temperatures returned to a bit above by Saturday, as a strong southerly flow pumped warm and moist air back into the region.

CROPS: Showers over the weekend slowed harvesting of corn silage, but the rest of the week provided near perfect conditions. There were 4.8 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated as 7 percent very short, 83 percent short and 10 percent adequate. Hay condition was rated as 8 percent poor, 28 percent fair, 46 percent good, and 18 percent excellent. Corn condition was rated as 2 percent poor, 10 percent fair, 51 percent good, and 37 percent excellent. Third cutting of alfalfa was 80 percent harvested the same as last year, and ahead of the five year average of 76 percent. Silage corn was 10 percent completed behind last years 23 percent, and the five year average of 16 percent. Oats were 98 percent harvested the same as last years, and ahead of the five year average of 97 percent. Potatoes were 50 percent harvested behind last years 61 percent, and behind the five year average of 57 percent. The following are comments from across the state: Washington County farmers started chopping corn silage, but had to stop because the corn was too high in moisture and the excess moisture was leaking out of the storage structures. Dutchess County received some rain over the weekend, which was well received since there were some dry areas in the county. Corn silage harvest was underway in Seneca, Ontario and Madison Counties. Chenango County producers who began harvesting reported that although the crops looked above average from the outside, once harvest reached the interior of the fields the yields were average and not the bumper crop once thought for 2008. Corn chopping was in full swing in Albany County where yields were very good, and farmers continued to catch up on dry hay making. Montgomery County silage began although most of the corn there and in Herkimer County still needed another week to mature. Corn silage harvest was started in Clinton County where the yields were good, but you can see every wet hole or low area from the pale color of the corn. Rain and humid weather had stalled silage harvest in Lewis County. Jefferson County producers continue to hold off chopping due to wet conditions and immature corn. Some winter small grains and fall seedings were also planted in Jefferson County.

FRUIT: Apples were in 31 percent poor condition, 31 percent fair, 28 percent good, and 10 percent excellent. The harvest was 23 percent complete, behind the average of 40 percent. In the Lake Ontario fruit region, apple harvest continued. Conditions varied due to the hail storms and excessive rain. Peaches were 6 percent poor, 28 percent fair, 55 percent good, and 11 percent excellent. Harvest was at 84 percent, behind the average of 90 percent. Pears were 35 percent poor, 16 percent fair, and 49 percent good. Pears were 47 percent harvested, down from the average of 74 percent. Grapes were in 11 percent poor condition, 26 percent fair, 49 percent good, and 14 percent excellent. Grapes were 8 percent harvested, down from 22 percent last year. In the Finger Lakes, harvest continued in early varieties, while downy mildew posed challenges to growers in their efforts to keep foliage green and functional. The Lake Erie region was harvesting hybrids. In Long Island vineyards, fruit flavors continued to develop nicely in many varieties including Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay and Merlot. Fruit quality looked promising.

VEGETABLE: Vegetable harvest continued throughout the state. Western New York reported varying conditions on vegetables due to the hail storm and excessive rain while Onondaga County, in central New York, reported good conditions with high yields for sweet corn. Tomatoes were 71 percent harvested, down from 77 percent harvested last year. Tomato conditions were 18 percent poor, 29 percent fair, 38 percent good, and 15 percent excellent. Lettuce conditions were 47 percent fair, 45 percent good, and 8 percent excellent. Cucumber conditions were 10 percent poor, 71 percent fair, 14 percent good, and 5 percent excellent. Onion harvest was 72 percent complete, up from 66 percent harvested last year. Onion conditions were 4 percent poor, 5 percent fair, 66 percent good, and 25 percent excellent. Sweet corn harvest was 84 percent complete, down from 87 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 85 percent complete, down from 89 percent harvested last year. Snap bean conditions were 3 percent poor, 16 percent fair, 59 percent good, and 22 percent excellent. Cabbage harvest was 64 percent completed, up from 62 percent harvested last year. Cabbage conditions were 2 percent poor, 9 percent fair, 68 percent good, and 21 percent excellent.

LIVESTOCK: Pasture growth continues to slow across state. Pasture conditions across most of the state were estimated to be in good condition. Pasture conditions were rated 5 percent poor, 23 percent fair, 59 percent good and 13 percent excellent.

Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, September 14, 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	47	65	+3	109	2604	+330	1.46	+0.76	22.26	+4.13	
Glens Falls	76	37	62	+2	83	2088	+105	0.85	+0.12	21.12	+3.24	
Poughkeepsie	80	50	66	+3	112	2683	+292	2.28	+1.46	25.28	+4.44	
<u>Mohawk Valley</u>												
Boonville	73	40	58	+2	59	1649	+93	2.14	+0.81	27.13	+1.91	
<u>Champlain Valley</u>												
Plattsburgh	79	37	61	0	77	2003	-6	1.11	+0.36	19.13	+1.60	
<u>St. Lawrence Valley</u>												
Canton	74	36	59	-1	64	2019	+213	1.34	+0.43	19.68	+1.08	
Massena	74	39	60	+2	75	2005	+113	1.22	+0.38	17.46	+0.48	
<u>Great Lakes</u>												
Buffalo	78	48	65	+2	106	2402	+212	2.97	+2.13	20.90	+2.31	
Wales	75	41	60	-1	70	1845	+66	2.31	+1.19	22.87	+1.39	
Niagara Falls	77	44	64	+1	95	2295	+100	2.08	+1.17	18.27	+0.19	
Rochester	77	44	65	+3	105	2512	+393	1.30	+0.60	14.18	-1.76	
Watertown	76	37	62	+3	88	2057	+213	2.11	+1.34	19.25	+4.50	
<u>Central Lakes</u>												
Dansville	75	45	62	-1	87	2242	+111	1.62	+0.79	20.06	+2.60	
Geneva	75	45	62	0	88	2224	+111	1.53	+0.76	18.23	+0.99	
Honeoye	75	40	62	-2	86	2151	-62	0.38	-0.39	18.38	+1.29	
Ithaca	77	39	61	0	81	2056	+144	0.95	+0.11	17.67	-0.92	
Penn Yan	76	44	64	+2	100	2564	+451	0.70	-0.07	17.46	+0.22	
Syracuse	78	42	65	+3	104	2421	+276	1.40	+0.49	18.28	-1.26	
Warsaw	73	43	60	+1	68	1827	+186	1.55	+0.57	25.81	+5.38	
<u>Western Plateau</u>												
Angelica	73	38	58	-2	56	1614	-5	2.59	+1.75	19.94	+0.60	
Elmira	79	40	63	+2	95	2216	+196	0.53	-0.24	15.63	-1.94	
Franklinville	74	39	59	+2	64	1694	+208	3.18	+2.21	22.24	+1.61	
Jamestown	75	44	61	+2	77	1931	+255	1.78	+0.66	19.88	-3.21	
<u>Eastern Plateau</u>												
Binghamton	76	45	64	+4	99	2188	+231	1.39	+0.59	18.50	-0.05	
Cobleskill	77	41	61	+2	81	2014	+193	1.17	+0.26	24.26	+4.30	
Morrisville	74	44	60	+1	70	1876	+142	1.18	+0.21	19.98	+0.05	
Norwich	76	40	61	+2	78	1947	+125	0.68	-0.23	17.27	-2.52	
Oneonta	80	44	63	+5	89	2273	+598	0.96	+0.12	17.32	-4.00	
<u>Coastal</u>												
Bridgehamton	88	50	67	+2	119	2512	+259	1.16	+0.32	21.45	+1.95	
New York	83	62	72	+3	157	3396	+401	0.88	+0.06	22.11	+1.45	

^{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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