



WEATHER AND CROPS

August 24, 2009

Cooperating with New York Department of Agriculture and Markets
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Week Ending, August 23, 2009

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WEATHER: Large area of high pressure off the east coast of the United States provided very warm and humid conditions. The tropics became active with the first land falling system along the Gulf Coast, of which the remnants tracked off the southeast coast. A cool frontal passage occurred on Wednesday with scattered showers and thunderstorms, however, this frontal boundary lifted north rather quickly for the end of the week with more high humidity values and showers and thunderstorms. Friday and Saturday resulted in a round of severe weather and flash flooding as the combination of Hurricane Bill off the east coast and a frontal boundary approaching from the west kept the region embedded in a moist and unstable atmosphere. Temperatures and rainfall averaged above normal.

CROPS: Another warm week for crop growth, but unfortunately scattered showers limited dry hay harvest. There were 4.6 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil Moisture was rated 2 percent short, 66 percent adequate, and 32 percent surplus. Condition of soybeans was 6 percent poor, 27 percent fair, 54 percent good, and 13 percent excellent. Hay condition was 12 percent poor, 30 percent fair, 41 percent good, and 17 percent excellent. Winter wheat was 98 percent harvested, compared with the five year average of 95 percent. Sixty-five percent of the oats were harvested, behind the five year average of 79 percent. Potatoes were 22 percent harvested, behind last year's 28 percent, and the five year average of 37 percent. The second cutting of alfalfa was 89 percent harvested, slightly behind the five year average of 90 percent. Forty-three percent of the third cutting of alfalfa was completed, compared with 50 percent for the five year average. Second cutting of timothy hay was 70 percent completed, compared with the five year average of 79 percent. Third cutting of timothy hay was 40 percent harvested, ahead the five year average of 33 percent. The following are comments from across the state: A lot of hay was baled in Jefferson County, and the high temperatures helped the corn crop. Really need to avoid a frost until late September early October to ensure maturity for silage and high moisture corn. Small grain harvest was winding down, with the last of the oats to be combined very soon. Sporadic rain continued to disrupt hay harvest in Lewis County, and worries remain over whether or not the corn will reach maturity. A lot of hay was put up in St. Lawrence County, and the hot weather was really moving the corn crop along. Some of the corn and soybean growers in Franklin County may not make it to maturity by harvest time. Oats had excellent yields in Niagara County, but some were delayed in their harvest efforts due to wet conditions. Wet weather continued in Wayne County slowing most field operations. Cortland County's hay and small grain harvest was hindered by frequent rain. Small grain fields seeded with forage have the forage crops overgrowing the grain, so they won't be able to harvest as grain. Soybeans were improving in Madison County, and the hay harvest was still slow. Most large dairy farms were finishing 3rd cutting, while a few mid and small dairies were just getting started on their 3rd cutting. Field corn crop producers in Oneida County are reporting that it will be a late harvest this year. They need as many hot days as they can get to see ear maturity. Farmers continued to catch up on haying in Albany County. Delaware County had rain on and off all last week discouraging farmers from making dry hay. Soil moisture was getting short on well drained soils in Dutchess County, and farmers were still complaining about how hard this summer was for crops. Suffolk County has only received .83 tenths of rain in August, and could really use some rain.

FRUIT: Apples were 1 percent poor, 2 percent fair, 16 percent good, and 81 percent excellent. Grapes were 15 percent poor, 32 percent fair, 41 percent good, and 12 percent excellent. Peaches were 2 percent poor, 8 percent fair, 63 percent good, and 27 percent excellent. Pears were 4 percent poor, 11 percent fair, 53 percent good, and 32 percent excellent. Apples were 15 percent harvested, compared with 12 percent last year and the average of 21 percent. Peaches were 75 percent harvested, compared with 48 percent last year and the five year average of 58 percent. Pears were 65 percent harvested, compared with 32 percent last year and a five year average of 40 percent. In Madison and Albany Counties, apple harvest began, with Paula Reds picked first in Albany. In the Lake Erie grape region, veraison was expected soon. In Long Island vineyards, almost every variety started veraison. Growers continued to hedge canopies in preparation for bird netting, with many blocks already netted.

VEGETABLE: In Central New York sunburned peppers from the hot weather due to lack of mature leaf protection were reported. Reports of fungus and blight problems continue in Western New York for all vegetable crops due to continued rain. Lettuce conditions were 3 percent poor, 3 percent fair, 71 percent good, and 23 percent excellent. Tomatoes were 45 percent harvested, ahead of the 41 percent five-year average. Tomato conditions were 27 percent poor, 47 percent fair, 13 percent good, and 13 percent excellent. Onion harvest was 40 percent complete, up from 35 percent five-year average. Onion conditions were 84 percent fair, 12 percent good, and 4 percent excellent. Sweet corn harvest was 44 percent complete, behind the 58 percent harvested last year, and 54 percent five-year average. Sweet corn conditions were 4 percent poor, 13 percent fair, 74 percent good, and 9 percent excellent. Snap bean harvest was 40 percent complete, down from 58 percent five-year average. Snap bean conditions were 4 percent poor, 19 percent fair, 73 percent good, and 4 percent excellent. Cabbage harvest was 46 percent completed, ahead of the 39 percent five-year average. Cabbage conditions were 7 percent poor, 11 percent fair, 80 percent good, and 2 percent excellent.

LIVESTOCK: Pastures remain better than average given the wet summer. Pasture conditions were rated 1 percent very poor, 3 percent poor, 21 percent fair, 54 percent good and 21 percent excellent.

Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, August 23, 2009

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	91	62	78	+10	198	2013	+80	1.62	+0.81	22.38	+6.59	
Glens Falls	90	55	75	+8	175	1714	+20	0.80	-0.04	17.58	+2.17	
Poughkeepsie	91	66	79	+9	202	2120	99	0.85	+0.08	26.51	+8.26	
<u>Mohawk Valley</u>												
Boonville	85	55	71	+8	149	1242	-93	0.56	-0.59	22.14	+0.98	
<u>Champlain Valley</u>												
Plattsburgh	91	55	78	+8	168	1641	-80	0.17	-0.81	16.32	+1.45	
<u>St. Lawrence Valley</u>												
Canton	88	54	72	+8	158	1451	+0	1.23	+0.25	18.68	+3.14	
Massena	91	54	74	+9	166	1685	+59	1.31	+0.47	17.03	+2.83	
<u>Great Lakes</u>												
Buffalo	88	63	76	+8	185	1881	+36	1.13	+0.15	16.53	+0.83	
Wales	85	59	73	+8	161	1483	-19	0.62	-0.34	18.59	+0.56	
Niagara Falls	88	61	76	+9	184	1877	+23	0.79	-0.12	19.43	+4.27	
Rochester	90	62	75	+9	180	1794	+9	0.45	-0.35	17.31	+3.76	
Watertown	89	54	75	+10	177	1645	+86	0.31	-0.47	14.81	+2.66	
<u>Central Lakes</u>												
Dansville	91	63	75	+8	180	1865	+69	0.56	-0.20	14.99	+0.09	
Geneva	91	62	75	+8	175	1765	-16	0.46	-0.25	16.03	+1.24	
Honeoye	88	60	74	+6	172	1738	-116	0.56	-0.21	20.33	+5.68	
Ithaca	90	62	74	+8	171	1602	-13	0.84	+0.07	16.96	+0.99	
Penn Yan	90	62	75	+8	177	1890	+109	0.74	+0.03	14.32	-0.47	
Syracuse	91	62	77	+10	193	1999	+188	0.50	-0.28	16.14	-0.62	
Warsaw	85	60	73	+9	161	1418	+21	1.03	+0.12	21.68	+4.31	
<u>Western Plateau</u>												
Angelica	84	53	70	+6	138	1276	-101	2.60	+1.76	20.19	+3.53	
Elmira	91	60	74	+7	169	1770	+61	0.84	+0.14	12.55	-2.72	
Franklinville	87	58	72	+10	154	1372	+111	1.59	+0.68	24.51	+6.93	
Jamestown	87	58	73	+9	161	1581	+166	1.56	+0.51	24.02	+4.44	
<u>Eastern Plateau</u>												
Binghamton	86	63	74	+8	169	1734	+74	1.84	+1.07	18.62	+2.55	
Cobleskill	89	61	74	+9	170	1607	+63	1.33	+0.55	19.46	+2.28	
Morrisville	86	61	73	+8	162	1477	+5	0.62	-0.21	20.54	+3.52	
Norwich	89	59	73	+8	161	1564	+18	1.30	+0.53	24.21	+7.17	
Oneonta	89	62	74	+10	171	1626	+198	1.37	+0.53	19.93	+1.27	
<u>Coastal</u>												
Bridgehamton	90	68	79	+9	206	1985	+130	0.00	-0.79	22.30	+5.43	
New York	93	72	83	+9	233	2594	+94	0.93	+0.09	25.67	+7.63	

^{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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