



# WEATHER AND CROPS

## October 13, 2009

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Released, October 13, 2009

Week Ending, October 11, 2009

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**WEATHER:** Temperatures and precipitation were around normal for the week. A couple of storm systems impacted the region this past week. The first storm brought strong winds, rain and some thunder for the mid week period. In fact, damaging non thunderstorm wind gusts were observed across the Empire State. The next storm provided additional rainfall for most of the area at the end of last week as a cold front moved across the region. This frontal passage provided much cooler weather heading into the weekend which provided more nightly frost conditions.

**CROPS:** Producers enjoyed 4.2 days that were suitable for fieldwork. Wet fields prevailed. Soil moisture was rated at 2 percent short, 65 percent adequate and 33 percent surplus. Corn conditions were 8 percent poor, 25 fair, 51 good and 16 excellent. The third cutting of alfalfa reached 97 percent complete, equal to the 5 year average progress. Silage corn was 65 percent harvested, behind last year's 76 percent and the average of 79 percent. Grain corn harvest was 3 percent finished, compared to 10 percent last year and 13 percent average. Potatoes were 87 percent harvested, about equal to last year and average. Dry bean harvest advanced to 67 percent complete, ahead of last years 65 percent and the 52 percent average. Soybeans were 17 percent harvested, compared to last years 18 percent and the average of 22 percent. Oat harvest was virtually finished. The following are comments from across the state: Several producers in Jefferson County have finished chopping corn; some are looking at saturated fields. Not a lot of acreage has been combined yet, as corn continues to dry down. A cool and rainy week in St. Lawrence County. Despite the weather, corn chopping still continued. Not much else was being harvested at this stage. Wheat planting continues slowly, soils still wet in Niagara County. Soybean harvest got well under way in Ontario County, as the corn for silage continues to be harvested as well. Some dry warm weather is needed to help the fall harvest. Continuous rain has made for a mud mess in Cortland County. Several farms have resorted to using an extra tractor to pull the tractor with the chopper and wagon through the mud. It has been a mixed week although much better than previous week of continuous rain. This week was mixed with sun and rain. Corn silage harvest continues as a slow pace. Lots of hay re-growth. It remains to be seen how much will be harvested after frost. Soybeans maturing slowly in this area. This past weekend gave farmers in Madison County the weather they were looking for, dry (relatively speaking) conditions, a hard frost, and a rush to chop corn silage. The harvest may be better than what was expected in August, thanks to a delayed hard frost. Corn silage harvest in Albany County was well along following another fairly good week for field work. Silage yields are down compared to some better years. Many of the hay fields that looked like they would never be cut back in July due to the wet weather have been harvested. Dairy farmers continue to struggle with low milk prices. Montgomery, Fulton and Herkimer Counties, chopping in the mud is what everyone is talking about. People continue to report that production is better than they thought it would be. The rain has put a stop to hay harvest and soybean harvest has not begun. No killing frost yet in Steuben County. Harvest is a little behind normal mostly because crops are maturing slowly. In Broome County, aggressive re-growth on both grass and alfalfa has allowed silage harvest of 3<sup>rd</sup> cut grass and 4<sup>th</sup> cut alfalfa. Corn silage tonnages have widely varied based on soils, wetter soils with close to fifty percent harvest of gravel soils due to the excess moisture this year. Corn silage harvest has become difficult due to rains in Delaware County. No frost yet in Dutchess.

**FRUIT:** Apples were 1 percent poor, 1 percent fair, 14 percent good, and 84 percent excellent. Grapes were 23 percent poor, 34 percent fair, 38 percent good, and 5 percent excellent. Apples were 52 percent harvested, compared with 73 percent last year and the average of 70 percent. Grapes were 54 percent harvested, compared with 73 percent last year and the average of 68 percent. Pick-your-own apple orchards continued to be very busy in Albany County. The Lake Erie grape region's weather continued to be mostly rain-filled, cool, and very windy. Niagara harvest was complete and growers were gearing up for Concord harvest. In the Finger Lakes grape region, harvest of early native and hybrid varieties was complete. Many growers were waiting a few more days to start the mid-season and later fruit in order to allow the crop to further ripen. The Hudson Valley grape region saw generally favorable temperatures for brix levels to rise and flavor to develop. Red varieties continued to lag in maturity. In Long Island vineyards, harvest of Sauvignon Blanc and Chardonnay started. The fruit was clean and yields were moderate.

**VEGETABLE:** Most vegetables approached the end of harvest. Cucumber conditions were 26 percent fair and 74 percent good. Lettuce conditions were 87 percent fair and 13 percent good. Tomatoes were 96 percent harvested, behind the 98 percent five-year average. Tomato conditions were 40 percent poor, 16 percent fair, 43 percent good, and 1 percent excellent. Onion harvest was 97 percent complete, up from 93 percent five-year average. Onion conditions were 3 percent fair and 97 percent good. Sweet corn harvest was 93 percent complete, behind the 97 percent harvested last year, and 99 percent five-year average. Sweet corn conditions were 5 percent poor, 26 percent fair, 57 percent good, and 12 percent excellent. Snap bean harvest was 97 percent complete, down from the 99 percent five-year average. Snap bean conditions were 15 percent poor, 36 percent fair, 44 percent good, and 5 percent excellent. Cabbage harvest was 91 percent completed, ahead of the 89 percent five-year average. Cabbage conditions were 35 percent fair, 53 percent good, and 12 percent excellent.

**LIVESTOCK:** No livestock problems reported. Pasture conditions were rated 1 percent very poor, 11 percent poor, 38 percent fair, 42 percent good and 8 percent excellent.

**Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, October 11, 2009**

Station	Temperature (°F)				Growing Degree Days Base 50° <sup>1/</sup>			Precipitation (Inches) <sup>1/</sup>			
	High	Low	Avg	Dep. from Norm	Week	Season	Dep. from Norm	Week	Dep. from Norm	Season	Dep. from Norm
<b><u>Hudson Valley</u></b>											
Albany	69	34	55	+2	38	2553	+87	0.41	-0.22	26.20	+5.59
Glens Falls	69	32	53	+3	27	2131	+2	0.88	+0.25	23.70	+3.24
Poughkeepsie	72	33	56	+3	47	2712	+107	0.88	+0.19	30.01	+6.35
<b><u>Mohawk Valley</u></b>											
Boonville	64	34	47	-2	4	1521	-136	1.87	+0.88	30.92	+1.35
<b><u>Champlain Valley</u></b>											
Plattsburgh	63	38	52	+2	18	2037	-119	0.45	-0.11	20.93	+1.01
<b><u>St. Lawrence Valley</u></b>											
Canton	62	35	49	-1	7	1877	-63	1.29	+0.54	22.87	+1.17
Massena	62	35	52	+3	19	2094	+72	0.77	+0.14	21.27	+1.53
<b><u>Great Lakes</u></b>											
Buffalo	63	38	51	-4	13	2424	+21	1.50	+0.83	25.62	+4.25
Wales	61	39	48	-4	2	1854	-83	1.53	+0.69	24.72	-0.50
Niagara Falls	62	33	51	-4	16	2417	+9	0.58	-0.05	23.64	+2.74
Rochester	62	40	51	-4	15	2286	-48	0.55	-0.01	20.85	+2.56
Watertown	62	40	52	+2	17	2076	+76	0.99	+0.36	18.71	+1.35
<b><u>Central Lakes</u></b>											
Dansville	65	36	50	-4	11	2335	-2	0.79	+0.16	18.17	-1.98
Geneva	62	39	52	-2	16	2245	-65	0.80	+0.15	20.01	+0.07
Honeoye	65	38	51	-4	15	2166	-273	0.52	-0.12	24.68	+4.95
Ithaca	63	35	50	-2	12	2014	-69	0.34	-0.43	22.59	+0.97
Penn Yan	63	38	53	0	26	2395	+85	0.54	-0.11	17.64	-2.30
Syracuse	65	36	54	0	31	2544	+192	0.68	-0.06	20.76	-1.93
Warsaw	58	36	47	-4	2	1792	+20	1.60	+0.83	27.87	+4.20
<b><u>Western Plateau</u></b>											
Angelica	62	36	49	-1	6	1676	-73	0.85	+0.15	24.92	+2.65
Elmira	64	31	52	0	24	2236	+38	0.08	-0.55	15.86	-4.29
Franklinville	61	34	47	-3	1	1712	+107	1.28	+0.44	29.76	+5.77
Jamestown	61	37	49	-3	3	2003	+184	0.94	+0.03	29.09	+2.14
<b><u>Eastern Plateau</u></b>											
Binghamton	61	38	51	-2	15	2168	+48	0.43	-0.21	23.59	+2.28
Cobleskill	67	35	52	+1	18	1991	+19	0.67	-0.03	24.70	+1.71
Morrisville	62	34	51	+1	14	1885	+12	1.30	+0.53	28.18	+4.96
Norwich	66	32	50	0	12	1967	-3	0.74	+0.01	30.85	+7.96
Oneonta	65	33	51	+2	15	2038	+234	0.65	-0.12	24.18	-0.20
<b><u>Coastal</u></b>											
Bridgehamton	72	37	59	+3	64	2670	+153	0.33	-0.37	27.22	+4.81
New York	76	50	63	+4	94	3496	+142	0.12	-0.53	28.98	+5.54

<sup>1/</sup> Season accumulations are for April 1<sup>st</sup> 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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