



WEATHER AND CROPS

October 26, 2009

Cooperating with New York Department of Agriculture and Markets
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This is the last edition of the New York "Weather and Crops" for the 2009 season. The New York Agricultural Statistics Service gratefully acknowledges the weekly cooperation of the Agricultural Weather Information Service, Inc., National Weather Service personnel, Agricultural Extension agents, FSA representatives, and independent volunteer observers who collectively make this report possible.

WEATHER: Temperatures averaged above normal for the week in nearly all regions of the state by as much as 5 degrees at Binghamton and Elmira. Growing Degree accumulations dwindled as temperatures dropped and ended up being below normal for the season in most areas. Precipitation ranged from 0.26 inches in Elmira to 2.92 inches in Glens Falls. Most areas received above normal amounts for the week. Totals for the season were above normal in all but a few areas by as much as 8.48 inches.

CROPS: Producers enjoyed 5.0 days that were suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated at 1 percent short, 69 percent adequate and 30 percent surplus. Corn conditions were 8 percent poor, 26 percent fair, 54 percent good, and 12 percent excellent. Hay conditions were 25 percent poor, 37 percent fair, 28 percent good, and 10 percent excellent. The third cutting of alfalfa reached 99 percent complete, equal to the 5 year average progress. Silage corn was 89 percent harvested, behind last year's 94 percent and the average of 92 percent. Grain corn harvest was 13 percent finished, compared to 23 percent last year and the five year average of 31 percent. Ninety-three percent of the potatoes were harvested, behind both last year's 98 percent, and the five year average of 94 percent. Dry bean harvest advanced to 83 percent complete, ahead of both last year's 82 percent, and the five year average of 79 percent. Soybeans were 36 percent harvested, compared to last years 45 percent and the average of 44 percent. The following are comments from across the state: In Albany County farmers were wrapping up the harvest for most crops with the exception of corn for grain. Combining of grain corn was slowed due to higher than desirable moisture levels. Montgomery, Herkimer, and Fulton Counties continued corn silage harvest even though the wet soils were slowing down the process. High moisture corn harvest had begun, and Fulton County was starting to harvest shell corn even with the moisture running at 27 percent. A killing frost in Steuben County pretty much ended the growing season, and grain corn has been slow to harvest due to slow drying conditions. Grain corn moisture percentages in Broome County were running between 33 and 40. There was concern that once the ears start to dry down, the test weight would be low. Cost per point of drying is high so producers were holding off on harvest. Soybean yields were slightly lower than expected, but the test weight was good. Beans were dry, eliminating the need for drying. Soybeans were still not mature in Schuyler County. Some good days in Delaware County allowed a variety of harvesting to occur. Corn silage was chopped, soybeans were harvested, and some late season alfalfa was brought in. Harvest and field work was finishing up in Dutchess County. With continued rain throughout Ontario County, it was challenging to harvest soybeans, but they were being harvested. Some grain corn harvesting was started as well. In Niagara County the soybean and grain corn harvest continued in wet fields. Wheat planting was essentially done. Acreage was down due to wet conditions for planting and inability to harvest soybeans early. Another nice week in St. Lawrence County allowed lots of corn to be harvested, but rain over the weekend almost completely halted field activity. Nice weather conditions in Lewis County allowed corn silage harvest to continue at a fast pace. Silage harvest was completed in Jefferson County, and the combines were rolling through the corn and soybeans. Manure pits were also being emptied. Weather and mud continued to hamper silage harvesting in Cortland County. Grain corn harvest was started, but most producers were waiting for more dry down to limit the use of dryers. The majority of silage corn in Madison County was finished by Friday, and the soybean harvest had begun in the north part of the county. Some soybeans were combined in Washington County, and farmers were just starting to combine corn

FRUIT: Apples were 1 percent poor, 2 percent fair, 10 percent good, and 87 percent excellent. Grapes were 30 percent poor, 33 percent fair, and 37 percent good. Apples were 70 percent harvested, compared with 89 percent last year and the average of 85 percent. Grapes were 83 percent harvested, compared with 95 percent last year and the average of 92 percent. Onondaga County pick-your-own apple operations had a good week, despite the rain on Saturday. In the Lake Erie grape region, growers continued to harvest Concords, as well as late Niagaras. Wine grapes looked OK, but dehydration was becoming more apparent in some blocks. The Finger Lakes grape region welcomed warm temperatures and a break from the rain. Riesling harvest continued, and good quality was reported. Sugar content remained lower than average, with acids higher than usual. The Hudson Valley grape region experienced a warming trend, which helped boost sugars in late red varieties. Freezing nighttime temperatures caused some damage to canopies. In Long Island vineyards, many growers allowed fruit to hang and benefit from the good weather. Chardonnay harvest was winding down, and Merlot harvest was expected to begin soon. Yields were down slightly from average, but fruit quality was good.

VEGETABLE: Vegetable harvest across the state has ended or was drawing to a close. Tomatoes are 100 percent harvested. Onions are 100 percent harvested. Sweet corn harvest was 98 percent complete, behind the 100 percent five-year average. Snap beans are 100 percent complete. Cabbage harvest was 94 percent completed. Cabbage conditions were 1 percent poor, 48 percent fair, and 51 percent good.

LIVESTOCK: Pasture conditions were rated 3 percent very poor, 24 percent poor, 38 percent fair, 30 percent good and 5 percent excellent.

Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, October 25, 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	74	24	48	0	14	2567	+65	1.82	+1.19	28.27	+6.40
Glens Falls	70	22	46	+1	6	2137	-12	2.92	+2.26	26.86	+5.11
Poughkeepsie	77	26	49	0	22	2734	+88	1.69	+0.99	31.95	+6.93
<u>Mohawk Valley</u>											
Boonville	57	26	44	0	1	1522	-152	2.04	+1.03	33.11	+1.55
<u>Champlain Valley</u>											
Plattsburgh	57	26	45	-2	1	2038	-140	1.27	+0.68	22.56	+1.49
<u>St. Lawrence Valley</u>											
Canton	60	22	44	-2	3	1881	-79	1.39	+0.69	24.89	+1.79
Massena	66	21	46	+2	12	2106	+63	1.55	+0.93	22.95	+1.96
<u>Great Lakes</u>											
Buffalo	61	30	51	+3	18	2442	-2	1.22	+0.52	26.91	+4.17
Wales	66	26	48	+3	13	1867	-99	0.90	+0.06	25.82	-1.06
Niagara Falls	62	27	51	+3	23	2440	-13	0.66	+0.03	24.34	+2.21
Rochester	66	27	51	+3	23	2309	-68	0.64	+0.08	21.55	+2.19
Watertown	68	18	49	+3	14	2090	+63	1.20	+0.57	19.96	+1.40
<u>Central Lakes</u>											
Dansville	67	26	50	+2	21	2358	-22	0.73	+0.17	19.42	-1.85
Geneva	70	30	50	+3	24	2269	-80	0.57	-0.06	20.72	-0.48
Honeoye	70	26	50	+1	23	2189	-298	0.43	-0.20	25.31	+4.32
Ithaca	68	23	49	+2	17	2031	-85	0.51	-0.19	23.41	+0.35
Penn Yan	68	28	51	+4	24	2419	+70	0.52	-0.11	18.35	-2.85
Syracuse	67	28	51	+3	16	2560	+165	0.99	+0.29	21.94	-2.15
Warsaw	64	27	48	+3	12	1804	+10	0.89	+0.14	29.16	+4.02
<u>Western Plateau</u>											
Angelica	66	25	49	+4	15	1691	-82	0.74	+0.11	26.36	+2.81
Elmira	69	23	51	+5	26	2262	+30	0.26	-0.37	16.14	-5.27
Franklinville	66	21	47	+4	12	1724	+98	0.62	-0.16	30.91	+5.31
Jamestown	67	24	49	+4	16	2019	+176	0.68	-0.23	30.43	+1.68
<u>Eastern Plateau</u>											
Binghamton	67	31	51	+5	21	2189	+42	1.61	+0.98	25.50	+2.93
Cobleskill	73	26	46	+1	8	1999	+2	1.87	+1.21	26.79	+2.48
Morrisville	66	33	49	+4	12	1897	+3	0.73	+0.00	29.40	+4.69
Norwich	68	23	48	+3	12	1979	-13	1.58	+0.87	32.78	+8.48
Oneonta	70	26	48	+3	12	2050	+223	2.67	+1.90	27.05	+1.16
<u>Coastal</u>											
Bridgehamton	69	32	52	0	28	2704	+126	2.14	+1.35	30.82	+6.89
New York	76	41	57	+3	61	3571	+121	1.62	+0.92	31.41	+6.64

^{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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