



WEATHER AND CROPS

October 18, 2010

Cooperating with New York Department of Agriculture and Markets
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Week Ending, October 17, 2010

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WEATHER: The week started off with high pressure over the northeast and dry conditions with seasonable temperatures. A weak cold front moved through on Monday providing mainly light rainfall to the southern half of the state. High pressure built back in for Tuesday with seasonable temperatures persisting. Wednesday featured plenty of sunshine with high pressure overhead. Thursday into Thursday night, a developing storm system brought rain to the area from south to north. The storm strengthened into a powerful nor'easter by Friday which gave most of the central and eastern part of the state a soaking rainfall. The heaviest rain fell across eastern areas with the season's first snowfall in portions of the Adirondacks. Cold temperatures and windy conditions were also experienced through Friday night. The nor'easter pulled away into the Canadian Maritimes on Saturday leaving dry but breezy and cool conditions for the first half of the weekend. Temperatures averaged near normal for much of the week, except slightly below normal towards the end of the week. Precipitation was generally close to normal except above normal in the eastern portion of the state associated with the nor'easter that brought a widespread soaking rainfall.

CROPS: There were 4.2 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated 1 percent short, 53 percent adequate, and 46 percent surplus. Condition of corn was rated as 2 percent poor, 21 percent fair, 53 percent good, and 24 percent excellent. Soybean condition was 2 percent poor, 19 percent fair, 43 percent good, and 36 percent excellent. Third cutting alfalfa was 99 percent completed, ahead of both last year's 98 percent and the five year average of 98 percent. Third cutting clover-timothy was 91 percent completed. Potatoes were 70 percent harvested, behind both last year's 87 percent, and the five year average of 89 percent. Ninety-five percent of silage corn was harvested ahead of both last year's 76 percent, and the five year average of 86 percent. Twenty-eight percent of the grain corn was harvested, ahead of both last year's 6 percent and the five year average of 19 percent. Dry beans were 64 percent harvested behind both last year's 71 percent, and the five year average of 71 percent. Soybeans were 30 percent harvested ahead of last year's 17 percent, and the same as the five year average. The following are comments from throughout the state: Combines continued to roll through corn and soybean fields in Jefferson County with wet field conditions making soybean harvest difficult and combines leaving behind big ruts in many fields. Most areas of Lewis County have received a killing frost, and many producers were waiting for soils to dry out to continue grain harvest. Farmers in St. Lawrence County were kept busy chopping corn and spreading manure, although many fields were too wet to work without leaving deep ruts. Corn silage was essentially done in Genesee County, and the grain corn harvest continued with high yields reported. Soybean harvest was proceeding well ahead of normal with good yields. Ontario County continued to experience on and off again rain showers making the fall harvest of dry beans, soybeans, and grain corn challenging. Conditions have also prevented the plantings of winter wheat. Progress continued on silage harvest in Cortland County, and combining of grain corn resumed on fields dry enough to support the equipment. Soybean harvest began in Madison County. Dairy crops in Otsego County were pretty well set for the year, and grain crops were drying down well as harvesting continued. Silage harvest was nearly complete in Albany County with good yields and quality being reported. Grain harvest was progressing well with low grain corn moisture in corn coming out of the field. Rain slowed down harvesting in Fulton and Montgomery Counties. Corn for silage was all but done, and grain corn and soybean harvest was being held up by the rain. At this time the problem with any hay harvested was finding storage space. Grain corn yields were reported as good in Washington County and some corn was below 20% moisture. Showers in Broome County slowed down farmers finishing the last of the fields of corn silage. Early reports of grain harvested indicated high test weights and tonnages. Soybean production on fields that were not flooded was 20 percent higher than last years. Harvesting continued of grain corn in Dutchess County, and soybean harvest began.

FRUIT: Apples were 5 percent poor, 15 percent fair, 62 percent good, and 18 percent excellent. Grapes were 3 percent poor, 11 percent fair, 54 percent good, and 32 percent excellent. Pears were 16 percent poor, 11 percent fair, and 73 percent good. Apples were 83 percent harvested, compared to 61 percent last year and the 5-year average of 73 percent. Grapes were 84 percent harvested, compared to 57 percent last year and the 5-year average of 79 percent. Pears were 99 percent harvested, compared to 100 percent last year and the 5-year average of 97 percent. Apple harvest continued across the state. In Albany County, apple harvest was nearing completion. Quality continues to be very good with high demand. Statewide, grape harvest was also coming to a close. In the Lake Erie grape region, Concord harvest was wrapping up, and late season reds were the only varieties still hanging in the vineyards. Some Finger Lakes vineyards have finished harvesting, while others focused on harvesting late season reds. The Hudson Valley harvest has drawn to a close. In Long Island vineyards, harvest of Merlot and other red wine grapes continued.

VEGETABLE: Most vegetable crops were almost fully harvested. Farm stands were busy with fall sales. Onion harvest was 96 percent complete, behind the 97 percent five-year average. Cabbage harvest was 96 percent completed, up from 92 percent last year, compared to 92 percent five-year average. Sweet corn harvest was 99 percent complete, up from 98 percent last year, and the 98 percent five-year average. Tomato harvest was complete. Snap bean harvest was completed.

LIVESTOCK: Pastures improved in Albany County with rains and cool temperatures. Pasture conditions were rated 2 percent very poor, 23 percent poor, 27 percent fair, 40 percent good, and 8 percent excellent.

Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, October 17, 2010

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	67	34	51	0	14	3106	+620	0.97	+0.34	21.57	+0.42
Glens Falls	66	29	47	-2	4	2577	+436	1.12	+0.49	22.41	+1.41
Poughkeepsie	74	34	53	+2	25	3285	+658	1.39	+0.74	20.79	-3.43
<u>Mohawk Valley</u>											
Boonville	61	31	44	-3	0	1987	+321	0.73	-0.25	35.53	+5.12
<u>Champlain Valley</u>											
Plattsburgh	67	30	47	-2	10	2514	+345	1.95	+1.39	25.90	+5.50
<u>St. Lawrence Valley</u>											
Canton	62	31	45	-3	0	2412	+460	1.46	+0.76	29.40	+7.10
Massena	65	33	49	+2	11	2598	+564	1.26	+0.63	28.52	+8.24
<u>Great Lakes</u>											
Buffalo	68	35	51	-1	22	2906	+480	0.50	-0.16	22.67	+0.73
Wales	68	30	47	-3	8	2337	+384	0.61	-0.21	23.21	-2.71
Niagara Falls	72	32	51	-1	25	2983	+551	0.71	+0.11	19.34	-2.07
Rochester	70	34	51	-2	15	2920	+563	0.64	+0.13	24.12	+5.40
Watertown	61	29	48	-2	4	2597	+582	1.32	+0.75	24.64	+6.80
<u>Central Lakes</u>											
Dansville	74	34	51	0	25	2803	+443	0.55	-0.02	26.40	+5.77
Geneva	69	35	49	-3	6	2757	+426	0.87	+0.24	28.47	+7.99
Honeoye	72	31	51	-2	14	2707	+242	0.56	-0.07	28.42	+8.15
Ithaca	68	29	46	-4	2	2577	+476	0.89	+0.14	23.96	+1.70
Penn Yan	72	35	50	-1	12	2923	+592	0.53	-0.10	23.77	+3.29
Syracuse	67	35	51	-1	13	3041	+666	1.31	+0.61	28.58	+5.29
Warsaw	67	33	47	-1	10	2269	+485	0.80	+0.07	29.13	+4.84
<u>Western Plateau</u>											
Angelica	72	32	48	+1	12	2495	+733	0.59	-0.07	27.54	+4.71
Elmira	75	31	50	+1	20	2782	+565	0.69	+0.06	23.06	+2.37
Franklinville	73	27	47	-1	9	2158	+541	0.23	-0.61	26.21	+1.50
Jamestown	76	32	49	+1	15	2486	+654	0.50	-0.39	27.32	-0.39
<u>Eastern Plateau</u>											
Binghamton	67	32	49	0	15	2753	+618	0.85	+0.22	24.47	+2.62
Cobleskill	65	31	47	-3	3	2465	+479	0.90	+0.23	28.23	+4.67
Morrisville	62	31	45	-4	2	2314	+429	2.47	+1.70	33.06	+9.18
Norwich	69	29	46	-3	3	2397	+414	1.17	+0.47	27.08	+3.59
Oneonta	67	32	47	-1	5	2518	+701	1.33	+0.59	30.67	+5.66
<u>Coastal</u>											
Bridgehampton	72	39	54	-1	28	3301	+752	2.18	+1.46	19.47	-3.56
New York	77	50	61	+4	78	4418	+1016	1.72	+1.09	19.06	-4.92

^{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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