



WEATHER AND CROPS

May 23, 2011

Cooperating with New York Department of Agriculture and Markets
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Week Ending, May 22, 2011

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WEATHER: A slow moving low pressure system near the Mid-Atlantic region produced periods of rainfall during the entire week. Some thunderstorms developed Thursday and Friday associated with the cut-off low pressure system with very heavy rainfall. The thunderstorms repeatedly moved over the same area resulting in some flash flooding in central and eastern New York. A cold front moved through late Saturday with a brief period of dry weather to close the week. Precipitation was much above normal for the week and temperatures finished close to normal.

CROPS: Across the state, rain continued to hamper planting and the first cutting of hay. Topsoil moisture was rated as 33 percent adequate and 67 percent surplus. There were 1.8 days suitable for fieldwork. Hay was rated as 6 percent poor, 20 percent fair, 54 percent good, and 20 percent excellent. Winter wheat was rated 7 percent poor, 45 percent fair, 40 percent good, and 8 percent excellent. The first cuttings of alfalfa, clover timothy, and grass silage were just starting. Corn was 24 percent planted, behind last year's 71 percent and the average of 71 percent. Oats were 42 percent planted, well behind the 98 percent planted a year ago and the 96 percent average. Potatoes were 57 percent planted, behind last year's 69 percent and the average of 67 percent. Soybeans were 3 percent planted, behind the 27 percent planted a year ago, and the 34 percent average. The following are comments from throughout the state: Rain continued to hamper field operations in Jefferson County. Some early planted corn began to emerge, and grass hay was nearing peak quality but wet fields delayed harvest. Grass hay was also ready for harvest in Lewis County, but rain dominated the week. Fieldwork was only possible on very well drained soils. St Lawrence County farmers had no relief from the rain, and were doing their best to continue preparations for planting. Essex County was still very wet and a very small amount of crops were going in, while some small farms were planting small quantities by hand. Field conditions were still very wet in Franklin County. Genesee County had continued rain that resulted in wet soils and little field activity. Some manure spreading took place. Erie County continued to receive rain. Rain in Ontario County halted planting and field preparations. New seedings of hay fields were not completed this spring due to continued rain. Excessive moisture restricted planting in Cayuga County. Fields with low spots had standing water, but some planting occurred on well-drained soils. Rain in Cortland County resulted in little planting progress. Farms varied from no planting to completely done. Corn was estimated as half planted. Grass hay was at peak quality, but farmers were unable to take a first cutting due to the soggy fields and no chance of the grass drying down. Madison County farmers were plowing around wet spots in fields, but the rainy weather prevented plantings of small grains. The very first hay went down over the weekend. Excessive moisture in Oswego County restricted planting, and low spots in fields had standing water. Hay was growing in Otsego County, but planting remained slow. Corn emerged from the ground in Fulton and Montgomery Counties. Grass hay was also ready, and harvest should have begun. Prevented planting was looking more like a reality. Rensselaer County fieldwork was at a standstill due to wet conditions. Continued wet conditions in Saratoga County left farmers at a standstill with very little progress made towards planting. Hay crops were maturing rapidly, but no harvest took place on the saturated fields. There was concern about delayed haylage and dry hay harvest, since it would set back successive cuttings. Grass was starting to head out in Washington County, but the fields were too wet to cut. Corn planting was at a complete standstill. Hail was reported on Friday evening in parts of Columbia County. Broome County farmers were making a choice of attempting hay or trying to finish planting corn. Grass hay started to head out. Rain continued in Schuyler County. Rain kept farmers in Delaware County off the fields as the first cutting of hay matured. Some producers tried to change their type of corn seed but were unable to do so. Showers and wet conditions continued to hamper fieldwork in Sullivan County, while some fields were able to be planted. Hay harvest windows were still minimal due to showers. Dutchess County experienced a full week of rain. Fieldwork for the first cutting of hay and corn planting was delayed due to wet fields.

FRUIT: Apples were at 76 percent full bloom and 54 percent petal fall, compared to 99 and 98 percent last year. Peaches were 85 percent full bloom and 52 percent petal fall, compared to 98 and 97 percent previous year. Pears were 87 percent full bloom and 49 percent petal fall, compared to 98 and 97 last year. Sweet cherries were 95 percent full bloom and 74 percent petal fall, compared to 98 and 96 percent last year. Tart cherries were 95 percent full bloom and 85 percent petal fall. In Long Island vineyards, Chardonnay grapes had reached 6-12 inches. Shoots looked a little anemic but there was still ample shoot growth. In Broome County, apple producers were concerned that pollination will be low, even though the amount of blossoms was above normal. With the heavy rains, pollinator activity has been minimal.

VEGETABLE: Planting continued for all vegetable crops. Sweet corn was at 27 percent planted, up from 25 percent previous week and lower than 40 percent previous year, and 51 percent for the five-year average. Onions were at 65 percent planted, up from 62 percent previous week and well below the 90 percent previous year and 85 percent for the five-year average. Snap beans were at 8 percent planted, up from 6 percent last week and compared to 15 percent previous year, and 28 percent for the five-year average. Cabbage was at 13 percent planted, up from 5 percent last week and well below 45 percent last year and 43 percent five-year average. Lettuce was at 40 percent planted compared to 16 percent previous week. Tomatoes were at 13 percent planted compared to 9 percent last week.

LIVESTOCK: Pasture condition was rated at 1 percent very poor, 7 percent poor, 25 percent fair, 54 percent good and 13 percent excellent. Pastures are growing well but remain wet. Cows that have been tuned out on pastures were cutting up fields and turning everything to mud. Livestock were starting to experience hoof problems due to wet conditions on pastures.

Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, May 22, 2011

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	76	51	61	+3	80	293	+112	3.73	+2.96	9.26	+3.91
Glens Falls	76	49	60	+3	70	215	+77	3.32	+2.48	9.27	+3.75
Poughkeepsie	78	52	63	+3	90	334	+119	3.75	+2.77	9.53	+2.97
<u>Mohawk Valley</u>											
Boonville	74	43	56	+3	50	128	+33	2.65	+1.67	14.06	+6.33
<u>Champlain Valley</u>											
Plattsburgh	75	45	57	+1	56	173	+34	1.96	+1.33	10.94	+6.16
<u>St. Lawrence Valley</u>											
Canton	73	44	57	+2	53	187	+69	2.39	+1.72	10.59	+5.66
Massena	76	44	58	+2	61	195	+61	1.60	+1.04	8.89	+4.48
<u>Great Lakes</u>											
Buffalo	73	43	55	-4	42	234	+67	2.65	+1.95	10.97	+5.93
Wales	74	42	53	-3	33	167	+47	1.58	+0.78	10.93	+4.66
Niagara Falls	76	43	55	-4	47	203	+22	2.88	+2.24	9.85	+4.65
Rochester	76	42	56	-3	57	227	+40	1.59	+0.96	8.87	+4.36
Watertown	74	43	57	+3	60	187	+65	1.43	+0.80	9.40	+5.01
<u>Central Lakes</u>											
Dansville	80	45	59	+2	63	283	+112	1.47	+0.84	7.53	+2.74
Geneva	76	43	57	0	59	218	+58	1.43	+0.76	8.67	+3.71
Honeoye	76	42	56	-3	50	208	+44	1.61	+0.98	8.76	+3.85
Ithaca	76	44	58	+3	60	206	+69	3.25	+2.48	11.56	+6.37
Penn Yan	77	44	59	+2	63	235	+75	1.25	+0.58	8.27	+3.31
Syracuse	79	50	62	+5	88	332	+145	1.61	+0.88	11.61	+5.99
Warsaw	74	39	52	-3	38	148	+44	1.57	+0.80	10.97	+5.18
<u>Western Plateau</u>											
Hornell Almond Dam	76	41	55	-1	43	165	+44	1.81	+1.11	11.22	+6.51
Elmira	79	46	60	+4	69	234	+83	2.36	+1.64	9.68	+4.80
Franklinville	76	42	55	+3	40	150	+69	2.86	+2.08	13.52	+7.81
Jamestown	76	43	55	+2	43	188	+82	1.40	+0.50	11.40	+4.86
<u>Eastern Plateau</u>											
Binghamton	75	47	58	+1	57	211	+67	2.36	+1.59	13.29	+7.79
Cobleskill	73	48	58	+2	54	173	+46	1.76	+0.92	8.74	+2.94
Morrisville	75	48	58	+3	57	171	+52	1.57	+0.73	10.24	+4.60
Norwich	80	51	61	+5	78	204	+73	2.14	+1.30	11.81	+5.83
Oneonta	76	51	60	+6	70	195	+82	3.95	+2.97	13.64	+7.13
<u>Coastal</u>											
Bridgehamton	73	50	59	+2	61	225	+84	2.97	+2.13	6.33	-0.37
New York	76	51	60	-3	75	373	+58	2.80	+1.96	8.85	+2.32

^{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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