



WEATHER AND CROPS

August 15, 2011

Cooperating with New York Department of Agriculture and Markets
10B Airline Drive, Albany, New York 12235
(518) 457-5570 · (518) 485-8719 FAX · www.nass.usda.gov

Released, August 15, 2011

Week Ending, August 14, 2011

No. 977-17-11

WEATHER: A series of low pressure systems moved across the region during the week with seasonable temperatures much of the time. The week started very warm but with the passage of frontal boundary Monday a more seasonable airmass was ushered in. The passage of a cold front Wednesday night brought a noticeably less humid and cooler airmass to the region. High pressure moved eastward across the region late in the week and dominated the weather into the weekend. Temperatures dropped into the 50's and 40's Thursday night across most of the area for the coolest night since mid July. A complex low pressure system evolved and approached the region returning humid and wet weather over the weekend.

CROPS: There were 5.1 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated as 8 percent very short, 25 percent short, 62 percent adequate, and 5 percent surplus. Condition of corn was rated as 11 percent poor, 34 percent fair, 45 percent good, and 10 percent excellent. Condition of soybeans was rated as 8 percent poor, 35 percent fair, 48 percent good, and 9 percent excellent. Hay condition was rated as 8 percent poor, 37 percent fair, 50 percent good, and 5 percent excellent. The second cutting of alfalfa was 97 percent complete, ahead of the 88 percent average. The third cutting of alfalfa was 36 percent complete, behind the 41 percent average. The second cutting of clover timothy was 85 percent complete, ahead of the 73 percent average. The third cutting of clover timothy was 27 percent complete, behind the 29 percent average. Winter wheat was 99 percent harvested, behind the 100 percent harvested last year, but ahead of the 92 percent average. Oats for grain were 53 percent harvested, behind the 78 percent harvested last year and the 59 percent average. Potatoes were 14 percent harvested, behind the 24 percent harvested last year and the 23 percent average. The following are comments from throughout the state: The crops in Jefferson County continued to look better with the recent rains. The soybean crop looked very good. St Lawrence County received rain that ended any dry weather threat for the time being. All crops looked great. Third cut alfalfa benefitted from the rain and corn made good progress. Niagara County and northern Orleans County were still dry. Third cuts were low yielding. New seedings were planted, with those planted before the half inch of rain off to a good start. Ontario County experienced heavy rain storms. The rain was needed, but the downpours caused some washouts. Rain came just in time for Wayne County where drought effects remained. Rain across Cayuga County improved crop condition. Chenango County received a decent amount of rain, although spotty in some parts. Some farmers still needed more. Rain in Cortland County rehydrated the corn and soybeans. Corn ears were filling out okay and late planted corn started to pollinate about 1 month behind earlier corn. Soybeans were podded up nice and needed to fill. Hay growth and regrowth was on the up side, after 2nd and 3rd cutting alfalfa and grass yields were as low as 25% of normal. Oat acreage was way down and harvest was underway. Winter wheat harvest was complete in Madison County, with most straw harvested as well. There were still a lot of oats to be harvested. Corn continued to look very good, but there were concerns about late planted corn maturing before the first killing frost. Rain across Oswego County improved conditions. The moisture levels in Otsego County improved crops across the board. Farmers were waiting for a break in the weather to harvest more small grains and later cuttings of hay. Good summer growing conditions in Albany County continued to help improve the corn crop. Most fields tasseled, except for the latest planted corn. The few oat fields were yielding well, and oat prices were going up due to the scarcity of grain. Not much harvesting was done in Montgomery and Fulton Counties. Hay growing was good, but those trying to make hay were struggling with rain. Rensselaer County corn producers were concerned about less corn acreage due to weather conditions and how that will affect livestock producers. The late planted corn and soybeans in Washington County were coming on strong. Late planted crops needed more rain to reach maturity and full yield potential before frost. Rain fell almost every day in the northern part of Seneca County, however the southern end did not receive any rain. Showers continued to be hit and miss in Delaware and Sullivan Counties. Hay, for the most part, was plentiful, but due to delayed harvest and untimely rains, the quality was poor. Delaware County corn growers had corn quality as good as or better than last year. Sullivan County soils were not handling excessive moisture well and corn was just okay. Some areas were tasseling out at 3 feet tall. Late planted corn condition will depend on the weather and frost. Heavy rains in Dutchess County helped corn continue to grow. Hail was reported in some parts of the Dutchess and Ulster Counties. Second cutting was in progress and oats were harvested. Rainfall was plentiful in Suffolk County and temperatures were moderate for the season thus far.

FRUIT: Apple harvest was 14 percent complete, up from a previous year and five year average of 12 percent. Apple condition was 7 percent poor, 44 percent fair, 41 percent good, and 8 percent excellent. Grape condition was 15 percent fair, 77 percent good, and 8 percent excellent. Peach harvest was 61 percent complete, down from 79 percent last year but above the 50 percent five year average. Peach condition was 8 percent poor, 31 percent fair, 47 percent good, and 14 percent excellent. Pear harvest was 20 percent complete, down from the 35 percent five year harvest. Pear condition was 41 percent fair, 46 percent good, and 13 percent excellent. Tart cherry harvest was complete. In Long Island vineyards, most varieties were progressing through veraison, some of the later reds were in the early stages. Bird depredation was at a minimum.

VEGETABLE: Farm stands are busy selling sweet corn, tomatoes and a variety of other summer vegetables. Lettuce had reported conditions of 3 percent poor, 18 percent fair, 77 percent good, and 2 percent excellent. Onion harvest was 38 percent complete compared to 24 percent last year and 30 percent five-year average. Onion conditions were 5 percent poor, 16 percent fair, 65 percent good and 14 percent excellent. Cabbage harvest was 43 percent completed compare to 51 percent last year and 35 percent five-year average. Cabbage conditions were 20 percent poor, 63 percent fair, 16 percent good, and 1 percent excellent. Sweet corn harvest was 36 percent complete compared to 44 percent last year and 36 percent five-year average. Sweet corn conditions were 9 percent poor, 22 percent fair, 61 percent good, and 8 percent excellent. Tomatoes were 31 percent harvested compared to 42 percent previous year and 32 percent five- year average. Tomato conditions were 4 percent poor, 15 percent fair, 72 percent good, and 9 percent excellent. Snap bean harvest was 30 percent complete compared to 45 percent last year and 40 percent five- year average. Snap bean conditions were 10 percent poor, 38 percent fair, 46 percent good, and 6 percent excellent.

LIVESTOCK: Pastures were generally in fair to good condition. Pasture conditions were rated 9 percent very poor, 17 percent poor, 41 percent fair, 31 percent good, and 2 percent excellent.

Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, August 14, 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	88	54	72	+2	155	2167	+408	0.30	-0.47	18.08	+3.34	
Glens Falls	84	50	70	+2	143	1878	+337	0.78	-0.06	17.32	+2.99	
Poughkeepsie	88	54	73	+2	164	2269	+432	1.41	+0.57	20.31	+3.06	
<u>Mohawk Valley</u>												
Boonville	79	51	65	-1	105	1412	+201	1.51	+0.45	25.98	+6.29	
<u>Champlain Valley</u>												
Plattsburgh	83	55	70	+3	143	1742	+172	1.54	+0.60	20.01	+6.40	
<u>St. Lawrence Valley</u>												
Canton	82	55	68	+2	129	1731	+332	1.85	+0.93	21.60	+7.32	
Massena	86	52	71	+4	146	1885	+404	1.88	+1.04	16.58	+3.46	
<u>Great Lakes</u>												
Buffalo	84	57	71	+2	149	2041	+363	1.43	+0.49	21.82	+7.38	
Wales	82	52	67	+0	122	1679	+317	1.10	+0.21	18.55	+1.74	
Niagara Falls	83	54	70	+1	144	1976	+289	0.56	-0.30	17.17	+3.18	
Rochester	84	54	70	+2	143	2025	+398	2.03	+1.26	16.09	+3.56	
Watertown	85	56	70	+3	144	1785	+375	3.26	+2.55	18.40	+7.25	
<u>Central Lakes</u>												
Dansville	87	53	71	+3	149	2244	+612	1.85	+1.15	15.39	+1.45	
Geneva	83	56	70	+0	140	1971	+354	1.85	+1.15	15.54	+1.66	
Honeoye	82	51	68	-3	127	1878	+197	3.62	+2.92	19.97	+6.30	
Ithaca	83	48	68	+0	127	1825	+359	0.72	-0.05	19.29	+4.31	
Penn Yan	84	54	70	+2	144	2092	+475	0.35	-0.35	12.44	-1.44	
Syracuse	85	59	73	+4	161	2285	+636	2.43	+1.66	22.46	+6.70	
Warsaw	83	51	66	+1	117	1626	+359	0.79	-0.05	20.29	+4.08	
<u>Western Plateau</u>												
Hornell Almond Dam	83	47	67	+1	123	1721	+350	0.78	+0.22	19.25	+5.60	
Elmira	85	49	70	+2	140	1985	+432	0.65	-0.01	15.70	+1.32	
Franklinville	83	49	66	+2	115	1619	+478	0.92	+0.04	23.91	+7.50	
Jamestown	85	52	69	+3	132	1792	+509	1.00	+0.02	22.39	+4.14	
<u>Eastern Plateau</u>												
Binghamton	80	52	68	+0	127	1870	+361	3.32	+2.60	25.53	+10.45	
Cobleskill	83	51	68	+2	131	1712	+312	0.23	-0.54	19.84	+3.66	
Morrisville	83	52	68	+2	127	1681	+345	0.95	+0.18	18.85	+2.88	
Norwich	84	50	68	+2	129	1729	+326	0.42	-0.32	24.81	+8.76	
Oneonta	87	50	68	+3	130	1722	+425	0.78	-0.06	25.45	+7.87	
<u>Coastal</u>												
Bridgehamton	88	53	74	+3	168	2055	+387	1.04	0.27	15.90	+0.04	
New York	90	67	78	+3	198	2624	+349	5.31	+4.47	22.35	+5.39	

^{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.

Visit our website at www.nass.usda.gov/ny and click on “Subscribe to NY Reports” for instructions on subscribing electronically. You may also visit our website to access all our reports which are available for free online.