



# WEATHER AND CROPS

## August 22, 2011

Cooperating with New York Department of Agriculture and Markets  
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Week Ending, August 21, 2011

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**WEATHER:** A slow moving low pressure tapped into a deep plume of tropical moisture and brought heavy rainfall from the Hudson Valley eastward into New York Sunday into Monday. Record breaking rainfalls were noted from New York City north to Albany with some localities close to New York City reporting close to 10 inches of rainfall! Lesser, but still more significant amounts were noted northward, more in the two to five inch range. Drier weather returned Tuesday into Wednesday. Then another weaker but slow moving disturbance brought scattered showers and thunderstorms on Thursday into Friday, some with locally heavy rainfall especially in sections of the Mid-Hudson Valley where Doppler estimated up to 4 inches of rain fell in central Dutchess County. Most places received less than an inch of rainfall through the two-day period. Dry weather returned to close out the week on Saturday. Overall temperatures were close to normal, slightly above for overnight lows but afternoon highs averaged slightly below normal.

**CROPS:** There were 4.5 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated as 3 percent very short, 14 percent short, 73 percent adequate, and 10 percent surplus. Condition of corn was rated as 12 percent poor, 29 percent fair, 49 percent good, and 10 percent excellent. Condition of soybeans was rated as 6 percent poor, 32 percent fair, 51 percent good, and 11 percent excellent. Hay condition was rated as 6 percent poor, 37 percent fair, 50 percent good, and 7 percent excellent. The second cutting of alfalfa was 98 percent complete, ahead of the 93 percent average. The third cutting of alfalfa was 49 percent complete, behind the 53 percent average. The second cutting of clover timothy was 89 percent complete, ahead of the 80 percent average. The third cutting of clover timothy was 41 percent complete, ahead of the 39 percent average. Winter wheat was virtually complete, but ahead of the 97 percent average. Oats for grain were 60 percent harvested, behind the 90 percent harvested last year and the 77 percent average. Potatoes were 32 percent harvested, ahead of the 30 percent harvested last year and the 31 percent average. The following are comments from throughout the state: Jefferson County's soybean crop looked really good and benefited from the August rain. Late summer seedings were looking good. It was a good week for crops in St. Lawrence County with evening rain, plenty of sun, and warm temperatures. Corn was at least six to seven feet high with lots of tasseled ears. Niagara County finally received a quality rainfall. Producers in Ontario County were unsure how the corn and soybeans will fair due to the growing season conditions this year. April and May were extremely wet and cold. June and July were extremely hot and dry, and August has received almost double the normal amount of rain. Farmers did indicate that forage and dry hay yields had suffered up to fifty percent. Rain last week prevented farmers in Cayuga County from getting started in earnest on 3<sup>rd</sup> cutting. Oat harvest was nearly complete. A possible tornado went through Wayne and Northern Cayuga County Sunday evening bringing heavy rain, high winds, and hail. Reports as of Monday morning stated some corn and soybean fields were totally flattened. Chenango County received some much needed rain. The quality and quantity of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> cuttings increased due to rainfall, which was a concern given the quality of the 1<sup>st</sup> cutting. Hay and corn were looking excellent in Cortland County. Some corn continues to look poor due to an early stunted growth. Small grains were ready to start harvesting, but need a few dry days to allow farmers to begin. Madison County had some hail reported, but no reports of damage yet from a storm on Friday. Corn crop continued to improve in Albany County as warm weather and ample moisture provided excellent conditions for growth. Corn chopping could begin as soon as next week in early planted fields. Montgomery and Fulton County's row crops continue to catch up, however everyone is nervous about an early frost. It continues to be a challenge to harvest dry hay. Violent storms in Broome County on Friday brought high winds, hail, and flash flooding to many parts of the county. The extent of crop damage was still being assessed. Third cutting alfalfa/grass production is half of normal, but with timely rains a 4<sup>th</sup> cutting should be ready before a frost or freeze. Silage corn was starting to dent and moisture testing was showing corn to be about 75 percent moisture. Second cutting grass production was almost 100 percent completed. It was a very wet week in Delaware and Sullivan Counties, which affected haying for many producers.

**FRUIT:** Apple harvest was 16 percent complete, up from 15 percent previous year and 14 percent five year average. Apple condition was 9 percent poor, 28 percent fair, 52 percent good, and 11 percent excellent. Grape condition was 15 percent fair, 70 percent good, and 15 percent excellent. Peach harvest was 70 percent complete, behind 83 percent last year and ahead of the 59 percent five year average. Peach condition was 13 percent poor, 4 percent fair, 64 percent good, and 19 percent excellent. Pear harvest was 27 percent complete, down from the 46 percent five year harvest. Pear condition was 6 percent fair, 73 percent good, and 21 percent excellent. In Long Island vineyards, white grape varieties were through veraison and reds, such as Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon were progressing nicely. Growers were also finishing up protective bird netting. Apples were continuing to size well in Albany County.

**VEGETABLE:** Vegetable producers continued to harvest crops. Lettuce had reported conditions of 3 percent fair, 56 percent good, and 41 percent excellent. Onion harvest was 54 percent complete compared to 35 percent last year and 32 percent five-year average. Onion conditions were 2 percent poor, 5 percent fair, 80 percent good and 13 percent excellent. Cabbage harvest was 48 percent completed compare to 63 percent last year and 43 percent five-year average. Cabbage conditions were 7 percent poor, 19 percent fair, 73 percent good, and 1 percent excellent. Sweet corn harvest was 48 percent complete compared to 56 percent last year and 49 percent five-year average. Sweet corn conditions were 8 percent poor, 17 percent fair, 64 percent good, and 11 percent excellent. Tomatoes were 41 percent harvested compared to 52 percent previous year and 40 percent five-year average. Tomato conditions were 4 percent poor, 14 percent fair, 57 percent good, and 25 percent excellent. Snap bean harvest was 37 percent complete compared to 50 percent last year and 48 percent five-year average. Snap bean conditions were 6 percent poor, 15 percent fair, 77 percent good, and 2 percent excellent.

**LIVESTOCK:** Carefully maintained rotational pastures were looking good. Overgrazed pastures were slow to rebound. Pastures were staying up with grazing livestock with lots of soil moisture and cooler temperatures. Pasture conditions were rated 6 percent very poor, 21 percent poor, 33 percent fair, 36 percent good, and 4 percent excellent.

**Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, August 21, 2011**

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	86	58	71	+2	149	2316	+420	3.10	+2.27	21.18	+5.61
Glens Falls	84	55	69	+3	135	2013	+351	3.35	+2.51	20.67	+5.50
Poughkeepsie	85	58	72	+2	152	2421	+440	1.62	+0.84	21.93	+3.90
<b><u>Mohawk Valley</u></b>											
Boonville	79	55	66	+2	112	1524	+215	0.97	-0.16	26.95	+6.13
<b><u>Champlain Valley</u></b>											
Plattsburgh	87	52	69	+3	133	1875	+186	0.61	-0.37	20.62	+6.03
<b><u>St. Lawrence Valley</u></b>											
Canton	83	52	68	+3	131	1862	+351	1.43	+0.45	23.03	+7.77
Massena	86	49	71	+5	146	2031	+435	0.24	-0.60	16.82	+2.86
<b><u>Great Lakes</u></b>											
Buffalo	85	63	73	+4	159	2200	+391	0.35	-0.63	22.17	+6.75
Wales	84	57	68	+3	129	1808	+336	0.27	-0.67	18.82	+1.07
Niagara Falls	86	61	73	+5	164	2140	+322	0.14	-0.77	17.31	+2.41
Rochester	86	60	72	+5	155	2180	+429	1.36	+0.58	17.45	+4.14
Watertown	83	55	71	+5	145	1930	+403	1.36	+0.59	19.76	+7.84
<b><u>Central Lakes</u></b>											
Dansville	87	58	72	+4	155	2399	+638	1.08	+0.34	16.47	+1.79
Geneva	84	60	71	+3	146	2117	+371	3.15	+2.45	18.69	+4.11
Honeoye	87	56	70	+2	144	2022	+205	1.04	+0.28	21.01	+6.58
Ithaca	84	53	69	+3	133	1958	+375	1.84	+1.07	21.13	+5.38
Penn Yan	86	60	72	+5	157	2249	+503	2.03	+1.33	14.47	-0.11
Syracuse	88	60	73	+6	162	2447	+670	0.75	-0.02	23.21	+6.68
Warsaw	82	57	67	+3	123	1749	+380	2.21	+1.31	22.50	+5.39
<b><u>Western Plateau</u></b>											
Hornell Almond Dam	85	51	67	+3	125	1846	+365	2.25	+1.69	21.50	+7.29
Elmira	86	52	70	+3	142	2127	+451	2.01	+1.32	17.71	+2.64
Franklinville	83	51	67	+5	120	1739	+504	1.97	+1.06	25.88	+8.56
Jamestown	84	53	68	+4	129	1920	+533	1.43	+0.40	23.82	+4.54
<b><u>Eastern Plateau</u></b>											
Binghamton	82	55	68	+2	129	1999	+371	1.53	+0.76	27.06	+11.21
Cobleskill	83	55	67	+2	124	1836	+322	3.53	+2.76	23.37	+6.42
Morrisville	83	54	68	+4	131	1812	+369	1.32	+0.51	20.17	+3.39
Norwich	84	54	68	+3	127	1856	+340	0.54	-0.23	25.35	+8.53
Oneonta	85	55	68	+4	129	1851	+451	1.05	+0.21	26.50	+8.08
<b><u>Coastal</u></b>											
Bridgehamton	85	58	72	+1	153	2208	+393	1.66	+0.89	17.56	+0.93
New York	85	65	75	-1	179	2803	+352	3.79	+2.95	26.14	+8.34

<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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