



WEATHER AND CROPS

August 29, 2011

Cooperating with New York Department of Agriculture and Markets
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Released, August 29, 2011

Week Ending, August 28, 2011

No. 977-19-11

WEATHER: A cold front brought showers and strong to severe thunderstorms to New York on Sunday. Some very heavy rainfall occurred with the thunderstorms over portions of central and eastern New York. High pressure moved over state on Monday through Wednesday with cooler and drier weather. Another cold front moved across the state with showers and thunderstorms on Thursday. High pressure briefly crested over the northeast Friday into early Saturday. The outer bands of Hurricane Irene brought some moderate to heavy rainfall into Long Island and southern New York late on Saturday. Temperatures were near normal across the state this week. Rainfall was above normal over portions of Long Island, the lower to Mid-Hudson Valley, the eastern Catskills and parts of the Capital District. Precipitation was near normal or slightly below normal in most other locations.

CROPS: There were 5.0 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated as 5 percent short, 73 percent adequate, and 22 percent surplus. Condition of corn was rated as 10 percent poor, 26 percent fair, 48 percent good, and 16 percent excellent. Condition of soybeans was rated as 5 percent poor, 25 percent fair, 59 percent good, and 11 percent excellent. Hay condition was rated as 3 percent poor, 31 percent fair, 59 percent good, and 7 percent excellent. The second cutting of alfalfa was 99 percent complete, ahead of the 96 percent average. The third cutting of alfalfa was 59 percent complete, behind the 65 percent average. The second cutting of clover timothy was 94 percent complete, ahead of the 86 percent average. The third cutting of clover timothy was 47 percent complete, in line with the average. Silage corn was 4 percent harvested, in line with the 4 percent harvested last year. Winter wheat harvest was virtually complete. Oats for grain were 76 percent harvested, behind the 95 percent harvested last year and the 86 percent average. Potatoes were 33 percent harvested, behind the 38 percent harvested last year and the 38 percent average. The following are comments from throughout the state: In Jefferson County, some corn growers were ready to begin chopping corn, but much of the crop was far from ready to chop. There was an abundance of rain in St Lawrence County. Wednesday brought high winds and rain, which hampered fieldwork in poorly drained fields. All crops around the county looked great. Most corn was at least 6 feet high and will be ready to chop before long. Essex County received over 6 inches of rain due to Tropical Storm Irene. The corn and soybean crops in Ontario County appeared to be improving, but producers were still unsure of yields. Cortland County received 2 inches of rain from Tropical Storm Irene. Hay harvest was progressing slowly, along with the small grain harvest. Hay regrowth looked great with plenty of moisture and slightly cooler temperatures. Most oats were harvested, but straw may have been soaked by hurricane fallout. Corn made good progress on maturity, and late planted corn was in the blister stage now. Earlier planted corn was starting to dent. Corn silage harvest began late week on a couple farms, while the first wave will begin in early September. Soybeans podded well and started to fill nicely. Soybeans and corn were shorter this year. Madison County received spotty showers during the week and about 3 inches of rain on Sunday. Rain was needed, and it was a fairly gentle rain that soaked into the ground. Condition of corn continued to vary. Tropical Storm Irene was kind to Otsego County, which received more wind impact than flooding. Tropical Storm Irene caused fields to flood in Rensselaer County, and many crops were lost. In Saratoga County, field corn held up well, but soybeans may have taken a hit from the Tropical Storm. There was flooding and some corn damaged due to the high winds of Tropical Storm Irene in Washington County. The county received over 6 inches of rain. Intermittent rain showers in Broome County limited hay harvest. Many slurry stores were emptied onto last week's harvested hay fields. Crop conditions varied in Sullivan and Delaware Counties. Sullivan crops appeared to be in rougher shape than Delaware. Dutchess County received some rain during the week. Producers were happy with their crops, as the rains came before the crops were too stressed to recover. The county was awaiting damage reports from Tropical Storm Irene.

FRUIT: Apple harvest was 21 percent complete, down from 24 percent previous year but up from 18 percent five year average. Apple condition was 7 percent poor, 36 percent fair, 44 percent good, and 13 percent excellent. Grape harvest was 5 percent complete, above the 4 percent from last year. Grape condition was 15 percent fair, 67 percent good, and 18 percent excellent. Peach harvest was 74 percent complete, down from 91 percent last year and above the 67 percent average. Peach condition was 1 percent poor, 28 percent fair, 55 percent good, and 16 percent excellent. Pear harvest was 34 percent complete, down from the 52 percent average. Pear condition was 49 percent fair, 40 percent good, and 11 percent excellent. Grape harvest started in Ontario County. The apple crop in Saratoga County had slight damage due to wind and rain from Hurricane Irene. In Long Island vineyards, damage reports were still coming in and the early report was wind and rain damage to most vines.

VEGETABLE: Sweet corn, along with other vegetables, was damaged due to Irene. Lettuce had reported conditions of 16 percent fair, 83 percent good, and 1 percent excellent. Onion harvest was 62 percent complete compared to 45 percent last year and 43 percent average. Onion conditions were 5 percent poor, 13 percent fair, 68 percent good and 14 percent excellent. Cabbage harvest was 67 percent completed compare to 74 percent last year and 50 percent average. Cabbage conditions were 14 percent poor, 40 percent fair, and 46 percent good. Sweet corn harvest was 64 percent complete compared to 61 percent last year and 61 percent average. Sweet corn conditions were 14 percent poor, 21 percent fair, 62 percent good, and 3 percent excellent. Tomatoes were 48 percent harvested compared to 65 percent previous year and 52 percent average. Tomato conditions were 5 percent poor, 16 percent fair, 65 percent good, and 14 percent excellent. Snap bean harvest was 57 percent complete compared to 61 percent last year and 60 percent average. Snap bean conditions were 12 percent poor, 31 percent fair, 53 percent good, and 4 percent excellent.

LIVESTOCK: Pastures were very wet. Pasture conditions were rated 2 percent very poor, 12 percent poor, 41 percent fair, 40 percent good, and 5 percent excellent.

Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, August 28, 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	83	52	71	+3	145	2461	+440	3.34	+2.57	24.52	+8.18	
Glens Falls	81	49	68	+3	131	2144	+373	2.00	+1.16	22.67	+6.66	
Poughkeepsie	85	51	71	+3	151	2572	+458	5.36	+4.58	22.29	+8.48	
<u>Mohawk Valley</u>												
Boonville	75	47	62	-1	89	1613	+217	1.82	+0.62	28.77	+6.75	
<u>Champlain Valley</u>												
Plattsburgh	79	50	67	+2	120	1995	+198	0.48	-0.46	21.10	+5.57	
<u>St. Lawrence Valley</u>												
Canton	79	49	65	+2	107	1969	+357	1.19	+0.21	24.22	+7.98	
Massena	83	50	68	+4	124	2155	+457	1.09	+0.21	17.91	+3.07	
<u>Great Lakes</u>												
Buffalo	81	56	70	+3	139	2339	+408	1.78	+0.80	23.95	+7.55	
Wales	78	51	65	0	106	1914	+340	2.16	+1.15	20.98	+2.22	
Niagara Falls	82	55	70	+3	140	2280	+340	1.34	+0.41	18.65	+2.82	
Rochester	80	53	69	+3	131	2311	+444	1.92	+1.12	19.37	+5.26	
Watertown	80	49	67	+2	120	2050	+417	0.71	-0.12	20.47	+7.72	
<u>Central Lakes</u>												
Dansville	83	54	70	+3	139	2538	+658	1.28	+0.51	17.75	+2.30	
Geneva	80	54	67	0	122	2239	+375	1.13	+0.37	19.82	+4.48	
Honeoye	80	52	68	-1	125	2147	+204	1.32	+0.55	22.33	+7.13	
Ithaca	80	48	66	+1	115	2072	+381	1.18	+0.41	22.07	+5.55	
Penn Yan	82	53	69	+3	135	2384	+520	0.90	+0.14	15.37	+0.03	
Syracuse	83	56	71	+4	147	2594	+700	1.72	+0.89	24.93	+7.57	
Warsaw	76	50	64	+1	97	1846	+385	1.89	+0.98	24.39	+6.37	
<u>Western Plateau</u>												
Hornell Almond Dam	81	47	65	+1	107	1953	+372	0.96	+0.36	22.46	+7.65	
Elmira	83	47	67	+2	123	2250	+462	1.21	+0.51	18.92	+3.15	
Franklinville	80	48	64	+3	101	1840	+519	1.50	+0.59	27.38	+9.15	
Jamestown	82	50	66	+3	112	2032	+550	1.39	+0.34	25.21	+4.88	
<u>Eastern Plateau</u>												
Binghamton	78	51	67	+2	121	2120	+383	1.85	+1.08	28.91	+12.29	
Cobleskill	80	52	67	+2	118	1954	+338	3.28	+2.45	26.65	+8.87	
Morrisville	81	47	67	+4	119	1931	+391	1.48	+0.64	21.65	+4.03	
Norwich	83	48	66	+2	115	1971	+353	2.14	+1.34	27.49	+9.87	
Oneonta	80	46	66	+3	111	1962	+468	2.79	+1.95	29.29	+10.03	
<u>Coastal</u>												
Bridgehamton	86	55	73	+3	160	2368	+415	3.12	+2.28	20.68	+3.21	
New York	86	65	75	+2	178	2981	+362	6.66	+5.82	32.80	+14.16	

^{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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