



# WEATHER AND CROPS

## September 12, 2011

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**WEATHER:** The weather during the past week was extremely active across New York State. At the start of the week, strong to severe thunderstorms moved across upstate areas on Sunday. Damaging winds, hail and a tornado affected central, northern and eastern portions of the state along with locally heavy rainfall. A slow moving frontal boundary brought additional rainfall to the area for Monday into Tuesday. As this frontal boundary stalled just south of the region moisture from the remnants of Tropical Storm Lee arrived across the state for Wednesday into Thursday. Heavy rainfall occurred across central and eastern portions of the state. With the ground being saturated from recent rainfall from Hurricane Irene, major flooding occurred across the Susquehanna River Basin as well as many other rivers across the Hudson and Mohawk River drainage basins of eastern New York. High pressure moved into the region for Friday into Saturday allowing for mainly dry weather, although rivers remained above flood stage in many areas through the remainder of the week. Temperatures were quite warm ahead of the frontal boundary to start the week on Sunday especially across central and southern New York. Temperatures remained warm across the New York City and Long Island area into Monday, although they dropped down to near normal for upstate on Monday. With the cloud cover and precipitation, temperatures were near to slightly below normal for the middle of the week across the entire state. Friday and Saturday featured temperatures running close to seasonal averages across the entire state.

**CROPS:** There were 2.9 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated as 2 percent short, 59 percent adequate, and 39 percent surplus. Condition of corn was rated as 12 percent poor, 28 percent fair, 51 percent good, and 9 percent excellent. Condition of soybeans was rated as 7 percent poor, 26 percent fair, 58 percent good, and 9 percent excellent. Hay condition was rated as 12 percent poor, 28 percent fair, 53 percent good, and 7 percent excellent. The third cutting of alfalfa was 67 percent complete, behind the 88 percent harvested last year and the 79 percent average. The second cutting of clover timothy was 97 percent complete, behind the 100 percent harvested last year, but ahead of the 96 percent average. The third cutting of clover timothy was 55 percent complete, ahead of the 54 percent harvested last year but behind the 72 percent average. Silage corn was 7 percent harvested, behind the 29 percent harvested last year. Oats for grain were 95 percent harvested, behind the 99 percent harvested last year and the 97 percent average. Potatoes were 35 percent harvested, behind the 46 percent harvested last year and the 51 percent average. Dry beans were 11 percent harvested. The following are comments from throughout the state: Several farms began chopping corn in Jefferson County. Crop conditions in St Lawrence County continued to be very good. In Essex County, there were several fields of silage corn damaged by the wind and a large potato field flooded with unknown damage. Ontario County producers prepped for fall seedings and were geared up for fall harvest. In Cayuga County, rains from the remnants of Tropical Storm Lee delayed progress on silage and hay harvest. Some producers began 4<sup>th</sup> cut alfalfa as they waited for corn silage to be ready. Tropical Storm Lee poured 7-10 inches of rain in some portions of Chenango County. Some corn was still under water and conditions were very wet. Cortland County received a few light showers from Tropical Storm Irene, but was well soaked from remnants of Tropical Storm Lee. The northern part of the county was wet, and some flooding occurred in the southern part of the county. Some crops were flooded along the Otselic in Cincinnatus and Tioghnioiga River in Marathon. Flood waters continued to rise on Army Corps land above the Whitney Point Dam, drowning almost mature corn and hay crops in the process. The full extent of the damage will not be known until the waters recede, but heavy silt and total loss of crops was expected. For the most part, Madison County was spared from flooding and crop damage. The southern part of the county was the most affected, but flooded creeks had crested and were receding back to normal. Some fields were wet and hay quality was affected. Field corn was beginning to show signs of yellowing leaves, tipping ears, etc. but it's all pretty green still. In Otsego County, storm damage was mostly from flooded crops this time. There was lots of silted corn, but not a lot of structural damage reported so far. Fulton and Montgomery Counties flooded again, and ruined many crops. All cropland was saturated and will require days of drying out before any kind of fieldwork can be done again. Extremely saturated soil conditions existed in Saratoga County due to the rainfall effects of Tropical Storm Irene and the remnants of Tropical Storm Lee. It was difficult for any silage corn or hay harvest because wet fields cannot support harvesting equipment. Field corn losses due to high winds and saturated soils during the storm were in the 10 percent range. Very little flooding occurred except for the Hudson River flood plains, but the damage to cropland and crops was minor. The area needs some warm, dry, and gently windy days to dry out before field crop harvest can begin again. Washington County had 15 inches of rain since August 1. Even with good weather, many fields were still too wet to do fieldwork. Farmers were waiting for fields to dry out before they start chopping corn or resume harvesting hay. With over 10 inches of rain falling Wednesday and Thursday, Broome County suffered severe flooding. All grain corn and soybeans were destroyed. Over 70 percent of corn intended for silage was flooded, with over 50 percent destroyed. Rain occurred almost every day in Schuyler County. There was excessive flooding in Montour Falls, but no reports of damaged crops at this time. Both Sullivan and Delaware Counties were still soaked from Tropical Storm Irene. The remnants of Tropical Storm Lee affected more crop fields than Irene and kept farmers off the fields. Delaware County had flooding throughout the county and damage assessments were being gathered. Corn was damaged by flood waters and hay fields were silted. Sullivan County was a bit luckier this time, but more corn loss due to Irene was reported. In the lower Hudson Valley, Tropical Storm Irene caused terrible damage to crops, fields, homes, and machinery. Ulster County was especially hard hit, although all counties suffered damage and loss of crops. The major concern was that producers would not be able to get into their fields to harvest their crops for a very long time.

**FRUIT:** Apple harvest was 32 percent complete, down from 40 percent previous year but up from 29 percent average. Apple condition was 10 percent poor, 33 percent fair, 44 percent good, and 13 percent excellent. Grape harvest was 20 percent complete, below the 22 percent from last year. Grape condition was 10 percent fair, 71 percent good, and 19 percent excellent. Peach harvest was 98 percent complete, above the 87 percent average. Peach condition was 1 percent poor, 28 percent fair, 55 percent good, and 16 percent excellent. Pear harvest was 75 percent complete, up from the 69 percent harvest. Pear condition was 49 percent fair, 40 percent good, and 11 percent excellent. In Long Island vineyards, growers began harvest on grapes for sparkling wine. The apple crop looked to have not been effected too much by the hurricane last week.

**VEGETABLE:** Acres of vegetables and sweet corn were washed out. Lettuce had reported conditions of 2 percent poor, 6 percent fair, 90 percent good, and 2 percent excellent. Onion harvest was 69 percent complete compared to 59 percent last year and 69 percent average. Onion conditions was 3 percent poor, 8 percent fair, 80 percent good and 9 percent excellent. Cabbage harvest was 75 percent completed compared to 78 percent last year and 64 percent average. Cabbage condition was 6 percent poor, 13 percent fair, and 81 percent good. Sweet corn harvest was 78 percent complete compared to 80 percent last year and 78 percent average. Sweet corn condition was 16 percent poor, 23 percent fair, 58 percent good, and 3 percent excellent. Tomatoes were 61 percent harvested compared to 88 percent previous year and 75 percent five-year average. Tomato condition was 22 percent poor, 26 percent fair, 49 percent good, and 3 percent excellent. Snap bean harvest was 64 percent complete compared to 77 percent last year and 78 percent average. Snap bean condition was 7 percent poor, 20 percent fair, and 73 percent good.

**LIVESTOCK:** Some dairy farms needed to be evacuated in Broome County due to flooding. Pasture condition was rated 4 percent very poor, 17 percent poor, 33 percent fair, 37 percent good, and 9 percent excellent.

**Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, September 11, 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	82	54	67	+4	120	2713	+486	4.01	+3.30	31.48	+13.66
Glens Falls	81	48	65	+4	105	2365	+421	3.33	+2.56	28.28	+10.70
Poughkeepsie	84	57	69	+5	134	2842	+504	5.55	+4.71	35.50	+15.01
<b><u>Mohawk Valley</u></b>											
Boonville	84	44	61	+3	79	1782	+254	3.28	+1.95	33.67	+9.06
<b><u>Champlain Valley</u></b>											
Plattsburgh	84	41	63	+3	94	2204	+234	1.65	+0.86	26.85	+9.66
<b><u>St. Lawrence Valley</u></b>											
Canton	81	43	62	+2	85	2165	+394	1.96	+1.02	28.10	+9.94
Massena	83	40	64	+4	96	2376	+519	1.43	+0.59	20.43	+3.85
<b><u>Great Lakes</u></b>											
Buffalo	80	55	66	+2	113	2609	+469	0.67	-0.20	25.16	+6.96
Wales	78	50	62	+1	87	2124	+383	0.71	-0.41	21.88	+0.92
Niagara Falls	80	52	64	0	102	2534	+388	0.38	-0.53	19.55	+1.89
Rochester	82	50	64	+1	101	2559	+490	1.25	+0.51	20.70	+5.08
Watertown	82	43	64	+3	98	2285	+480	0.98	+0.18	21.95	+7.56
<b><u>Central Lakes</u></b>											
Dansville	85	51	66	+3	113	2800	+717	0.79	-0.05	18.73	+1.66
Geneva	83	48	63	-1	96	2467	+401	3.12	+2.35	22.97	+6.09
Honeoye	85	46	63	-2	96	2379	+219	1.12	+0.35	23.48	+6.74
Ithaca	85	47	63	+2	94	2285	+415	5.97	+5.13	28.85	+10.65
Penn Yan	86	50	65	+2	107	2638	+572	2.33	+1.56	17.77	+0.89
Syracuse	88	50	66	+3	114	2858	+761	3.59	+2.68	29.38	+10.25
Warsaw	82	51	60	-1	69	2037	+429	0.84	-0.14	25.41	+5.44
<b><u>Western Plateau</u></b>											
Hornell Almond Dam	84	47	62	+2	87	2156	+414	1.50	+0.76	23.99	+7.77
Elmira	87	46	66	+3	111	2482	+506	5.75	+5.01	24.91	+7.70
Franklinville	80	50	62	+4	90	2041	+585	0.95	-0.03	28.65	+8.47
Jamestown	80	54	64	+4	99	2258	+618	1.20	+0.08	26.92	+4.35
<b><u>Eastern Plateau</u></b>											
Binghamton	84	49	63	+2	96	2331	+415	10.08	+9.26	40.31	+22.10
Cobleskill	85	47	63	+3	97	2161	+378	4.83	+3.92	34.05	+14.51
Morrisville	85	48	63	+4	95	2141	+443	6.22	+5.29	29.92	+10.46
Norwich	86	52	65	+4	106	2182	+397	7.91	+7.00	39.01	+19.64
Oneonta	84	51	64	+5	101	2163	+521	7.42	+6.58	38.48	+17.54
<b><u>Coastal</u></b>											
Bridgehamton	81	58	68	+2	127	2617	+423	3.23	+2.39	23.91	+4.76
New York	86	62	72	+2	154	3303	+383	4.19	+3.35	37.40	+17.08

<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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