



# WEATHER AND CROPS

## September 19, 2011

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Released, September 19, 2011

Week Ending, September 18, 2011

No. 977-22-11

**WEATHER:** The week began warm with above normal temperatures. A cold front brought light to moderate rain to the area September 13-15. Temperatures were below normal the last part of the week. During the cool snap, patchy frost was reported in all but the far southeast and isolated freezes occurred in the Adirondack and Catskill Mountains.

**CROPS:** There were 5.2 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated as 1 percent short, 65 percent adequate, and 34 percent surplus. Condition of corn was rated as 12 percent poor, 29 percent fair, 50 percent good, and 9 percent excellent. Condition of soybeans was rated as 6 percent poor, 24 percent fair, 57 percent good, and 13 percent excellent. Hay condition was rated as 12 percent poor, 30 percent fair, 49 percent good, and 9 percent excellent. The third cutting of alfalfa was 76 percent complete, behind the 95 percent harvested last year and the 87 percent average. The second cutting of clover timothy was 98 percent complete, behind the 100 percent harvested last year, but in line with the 98 percent average. The third cutting of clover timothy was 62 percent complete, behind the 86 percent harvested last year and the 80 percent average. Silage corn was 16 percent harvested, behind the 55 percent harvested last year and the 27 percent average. Oats for grain harvest was virtually complete. Potatoes were 45 percent harvested, behind the 52 percent harvested last year and the 56 percent average. Dry beans were 16 percent harvested. The following are comments from throughout the state: Corn silage harvest was in full swing in Jefferson County. Field conditions were ideal for harvest. In Lewis County, corn silage harvest began on earlier planted corn. There was a concern about grain corn reaching maturity. Patchy frost occurred on Thursday and Friday nights. Corn silage harvest began on a few farms in St Lawrence County. Some forages were still being chopped for hay crop silage. Field conditions continued to be very good. Winter wheat planting began in Genesee County. Field conditions were excellent. Most corn still needed time to reach physiological maturity. Silage harvest proceeded as the corn matured. In Cayuga County, some corn silage harvest occurred on farms that ran out of inventory. In Chenango County, producers were attempting to recover from remnants of Tropical Storm Lee. It was a good week for late season hay cutting and chopping corn silage in Cortland County. Soybeans and grain corn began to turn with the arrival of colder temperatures. Early planted corn was ready and potentially drier than anticipated because of mid-season drought and season long stress. Hay and haylage harvest continued. Extra forage was being put up to prepare for a shortage due to farms in other counties losing their crops in floods. Madison County had lots of hay down and corn silage harvest was underway. There was still a considerable amount of very green corn in the county. Most soybean fields began to turn or were mostly yellow and drying down. There was a tinge of frost on Saturday in low spots. Fields in Otsego County dried out some. A half inch of rain on Thursday washed some silt off crops. There was a touch of frost in low lying areas. Farmers in Albany County continued to recover from the effects of Tropical Storm Irene. Many acres of corn will not be harvested. Farmers were making second and third cutting of hay on dry fields. Corn silage harvest began in Montgomery and Fulton Counties, while many were waiting for the ground to dry out. The first hay was cut since the storm. The ground in Rensselaer County was still very wet, making corn and hay harvest difficult. Washington County had a dry week. Corn silage began, but it was taking much longer than usual due to wet field conditions. Farmers that usually chopped directly into trucks had to use dump wagons to get the corn out of the field without getting stuck. Northern Corn Leaf blight was discovered in the county. Corn with the blight looked like it had been hit by frost, but no frost was reported yet. In Broome County, chopping began on corn that was not flooded from the remnants of Tropical Storm Lee or blown down by Tropical Storm Irene. Wet conditions on the hillsides created some difficulty in reaching the corn. Schuyler County had a few minor showers, but overall the week was very good for haylage chopping, and corn silage harvest started. In Columbia and Greene Counties, corn for forage and grain that was not lost in the flooding was in good shape, but the fields were so wet, farmers had trouble harvesting. Tropical Storm Lee finished out many producers in Delaware County. Producers may still harvest their corn, but it was questionable if it would be okay or not. Sullivan County took a small hit compared to many other eastern counties. Tropical Storm Irene's winds affected corn and hay and there was some minor flooding from the remnants of Tropical Storm Lee, but overall the producers were very lucky. Crops in the lower Hudson Valley continued to be monitored following Tropical Storms Irene and Lee, and producers were in the fields assessing damage.

**FRUIT:** Apple harvest was 40 percent complete, behind the 47 percent previous year but ahead of the 37 percent average. Apple condition was 11 percent poor, 30 percent fair, 43 percent good, and 16 percent excellent. Grape harvest was 28 percent complete, ahead of the 26 percent last year. Grape condition was 14 percent fair, 68 percent good, and 18 percent excellent. Peach harvest was complete. Pear harvest was 80 percent complete, comparable to the 79 percent average progress. Pear condition was 43 percent fair, 41 percent good, and 16 percent excellent. In Ontario County, grape producers reported splitting due to the recent rains in the area. In Cayuga and Albany Counties, apple harvest was in full swing. In Long Island vineyards, harvest of grapes for sparkling wine was finishing up.

**VEGETABLE:** Irene and Lee have significantly decreased harvestable vegetable acres. Lettuce had reported conditions of 1 percent poor, 2 percent fair, 56 percent good, and 41 percent excellent. Onion harvest was 73 percent complete, ahead of the 63 percent last year but behind the 76 percent average. Onion conditions were 2 percent poor, 7 percent fair, and 91 percent good. Cabbage harvest was 87 percent completed compare to 80 percent last year and 69 percent average. Cabbage conditions were 14 percent poor, 28 percent fair, 55 percent good, and 3 percent excellent. Sweet corn harvest was 94 percent complete compared to 89 percent last year and 86 percent average. Sweet corn conditions were 23 percent poor, 24 percent fair, 49 percent good, and 4 percent excellent. Tomatoes were 66 percent harvested compared to 93 percent previous year and 84 percent average. Tomato conditions were 25 percent poor, 25 percent fair, 43 percent good, and 7 percent excellent. Snap bean harvest was 71 percent complete compared to 88 percent last year and 85 percent average. Snap bean conditions were 14 percent poor, 36 percent fair, and 50 percent good.

**LIVESTOCK:** Grass pasture production was above normal with lots of grass, however, pastures were so wet that livestock access was being limited in order to keep pastures from being destroyed. Pasture conditions were rated 4 percent very poor, 16 percent poor, 34 percent fair, 38 percent good, and 8 percent excellent.

**Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, September 18, 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>Hudson Valley</b>											
Albany	83	42	62	+0	86	2799	+492	0.27	-0.43	31.75	+13.23
Glens Falls	81	37	60	+1	72	2437	+428	0.99	+0.29	29.27	+10.99
Poughkeepsie	83	40	63	+0	92	2934	+507	0.13	-0.66	35.63	+14.35
<b>Mohawk Valley</b>											
Boonville	76	33	54	-3	46	1828	+254	0.59	-0.71	34.26	+8.35
<b>Champlain Valley</b>											
Plattsburgh	83	36	58	-2	64	2268	+233	0.66	-0.06	27.51	+9.60
<b>St. Lawrence Valley</b>											
Canton	80	35	59	+0	72	2263	+433	1.11	+0.20	28.03	+8.96
Massena	82	33	58	+0	64	2440	+525	0.28	-0.56	20.71	+3.29
<b>Great Lakes</b>											
Buffalo	81	43	61	-2	80	2689	+464	0.30	-0.52	25.46	+6.44
Wales	80	37	56	-4	52	2176	+370	0.88	-0.24	22.76	+0.68
Niagara Falls	81	40	60	-3	75	2609	+380	0.31	-0.57	19.86	+1.32
Rochester	83	41	60	-3	71	2630	+476	0.41	-0.29	21.11	+4.76
Watertown	80	35	58	-2	61	2346	+475	0.59	-0.18	22.54	+7.38
<b>Central Lakes</b>											
Dansville	85	42	61	-1	80	2880	+716	0.45	-0.35	19.18	+1.31
Geneva	83	42	59	-4	61	2528	+382	0.68	-0.09	23.65	+6.00
Honeoye	83	36	59	-5	64	2443	+194	1.15	+0.40	24.63	+7.14
Ithaca	82	39	59	-2	63	2347	+406	0.48	-0.36	29.31	+10.27
Penn Yan	83	40	60	-2	73	2711	+565	0.56	-0.21	18.33	+0.68
Syracuse	86	41	61	-2	82	2940	+762	0.27	-0.64	29.65	+9.61
Warsaw	78	38	56	-3	50	2087	+423	0.89	-0.07	26.30	+5.37
<b>Western Plateau</b>											
Hornell Almond Dam	82	38	58	-2	60	2216	+413	0.59	-0.18	24.58	+7.59
Elmira	82	38	59	-2	70	2552	+502	0.79	+0.05	25.70	+7.75
Franklinville	79	36	57	-1	55	2096	+589	0.87	-0.07	29.52	+8.40
Jamestown	80	39	58	-1	61	2319	+619	0.94	-0.18	27.86	+4.17
<b>Eastern Plateau</b>											
Binghamton	78	39	58	-3	63	2394	+409	1.43	+0.66	41.74	+22.76
Cobleskill	79	37	58	-2	61	2222	+375	0.36	-0.55	34.41	+13.96
Morrisville	81	38	58	-1	61	2204	+446	0.50	-0.47	30.42	+9.99
Norwich	81	37	57	-3	59	2241	+392	0.31	-0.60	39.32	+19.04
Oneonta	81	37	57	-1	58	2221	+524	0.24	-0.60	38.72	+16.94
<b>Coastal</b>											
Bridgehamton	81	47	67	+3	119	2736	+442	0.00	-0.82	23.91	+3.94
New York	86	52	69	+1	137	3440	+390	0.02	-0.77	37.42	+16.31

<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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