



WEATHER AND CROPS

October 3, 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, October 3, 2011

Week Ending, October 2, 2011

No. 977-24-11

WEATHER: The period started out with well above normal temperatures and dry conditions as a ridge of high pressure was positioned along the Atlantic Seaboard through Tuesday. Then a sprawling cut off low pressure system over the Midwest slowly moved eastward into the Great Lakes and northeast, resulting in a prolonged cloudy and wet period from Wednesday through Friday. The entire state received rainfall at some point during this stretch with one to as much as five inches of rain falling. The highest rainfall totals occurred across the southern tier of New York. On Saturday, a cold surge of northerly flow dropped temperatures well below normal but with damp conditions continuing which provided for a very raw day.

CROPS: There were 3.5 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated 49 percent adequate and 51 percent surplus. Condition of corn was rated as 13 percent poor, 30 percent fair, 47 percent good, and 10 percent excellent. Condition of soybeans was rated as 8 percent poor, 24 percent fair, 57 percent good, and 11 percent excellent. Hay condition was rated as 11 percent poor, 33 percent fair, 50 percent good, and 6 percent excellent. The third cutting of alfalfa hay was 84 percent complete, behind the 98 percent harvested last year and the 95 percent average. The second cutting of clover timothy was 98 percent complete, behind the 100 percent harvested both last year and on average. The third cutting of clover timothy was 73 percent complete, behind the 90 percent harvested last year and the 89 percent average. Silage corn was 48 percent harvested, well behind the 83 percent harvested last year and the 62 percent average. Grain corn harvest stood at 1 percent complete, compared to 12 percent last year and the average of 6 percent. Potatoes were 59 percent harvested, compared with 67 percent last year and the average of 72 percent. Soybean harvest was just starting with 1 percent combined, behind last year's 13 percent and the average of 10 percent. The following are comments from our reporters throughout the state: Corn silage harvest continued in Jefferson County. Winter grains that have been planted look very good at this point. In Lewis County, many acres of corn were still too wet for harvest as silage or grain. Half an inch of rain over the weekend in St. Lawrence County was more annoying than troublesome. Corn maturity was progressing very well thanks to warm days and frost-free nights. In Clinton County, hay fields on clay soils were too wet to harvest. In Genesee County, about 60 percent of winter wheat had been planted. Ontario County farmers were harvesting corn silage and some soybeans. With recent rain showers, producers were being challenged on getting winter wheat planted and slowing the harvest of grain corn and soybeans. Another soggy week slowed harvest progress in Cortland County. Dew was setting in early in the evenings, shortening the timeframe to dry any hay crop: thoughts were turning to baleage. Corn silage harvest was difficult due to the wet ground. Chopping patterns were following planting and replanting patterns, further slowing progress by not being able to chop a whole field before moving on. Excessive moisture held up corn silage harvest in Madison County. Some snaplage/high moisture corn harvest was noticed for the first time. No signs of a killing frost as yet, even in the uplands, so later planted corn in those areas is still waiting to be harvested. Corn silage yields were reported relatively good considering late planting and the dry spell this summer. In Otsego County, continued rain made corn harvest difficult. Corn was maturing ahead of ability to harvest. Rains in Albany County also hampered corn silage harvest. In Montgomery and Fulton Counties, corn silage was being harvested when it could be. Fields were wet and holding up hay harvest. Three words sum it up for Rensselaer County – wet, very wet! Not much fieldwork was done in Washington County due to cool, rainy weather. Farmers were considering how to handle corn that was flooded. They are concerned about mycotoxins and molds that may make their cows sick. Corn silage harvest progressed in Schuyler County despite a few more days of heavy rains. Rain continued to be a problem in Columbia and Greene Counties. Corn silage harvest was slow due to wet fields while corn was beginning to dry down fast. Fields were so soaked in Delaware County that it made it difficult to take off hay and/or corn. Producers were creating deep ruts in their fields when they try. Quality was not good on that which producers were able to harvest. In Dutchess County, fields were still too wet to harvest corn. Flash flooding added to existing problems.

FRUIT: Apple harvest was 51 percent complete, down from 72 percent previous year and 57 percent average. Apple condition was 11 percent poor, 26 percent fair, 47 percent good, and 16 percent excellent. Grape harvest was 40 percent complete, behind the 49 percent last year. Grape condition was 3 percent poor, 13 percent fair, 66 percent good, and 18 percent excellent. Pear harvest was 94 percent complete, even with the 94 percent average. Pear condition was 44 percent fair, 43 percent good, and 13 percent excellent. In Ontario County, apple and grape harvest continued. Apple harvest slowed in Albany County due to wet weather. In Long Island vineyards, grape harvest continued.

VEGETABLE: Sweet corn harvest was almost complete in eastern New York. Some pumpkins were left in the field due to damage from storms. Lettuce had reported conditions of 6 percent poor, 9 percent fair, 83 percent good, and 2 percent excellent. Onion harvest was 80 percent complete compared to 79 percent last year and 89 percent average. Onion conditions were 9 percent poor, 21 percent fair, 69 percent good, and 1 percent excellent. Cabbage harvest was 90 percent completed compared to 84 percent last year and 82 percent average. Cabbage conditions were 15 percent poor, 27 percent fair, 57 percent good and 1 percent excellent. Sweet corn harvest was 98 percent complete compared to 96 percent last year and 94 percent average. Sweet corn conditions were 31 percent poor, 35 percent fair, 31 percent good, and 3 percent excellent. Tomatoes were 84 percent harvested compared to 95 percent previous year and 91 percent average. Tomato conditions were 23 percent poor, 21 percent fair, 47 percent good, and 9 percent excellent. Snap bean harvest was 90 percent complete compared to 96 percent last year and 96 percent average. Snap bean conditions were 21 percent poor, 41 percent fair, 37 percent good, and 1 percent excellent.

LIVESTOCK: Pastures were very wet. Pasture conditions were rated 4 percent very poor, 17 percent poor, 33 percent fair, 37 percent good, and 9 percent excellent.

Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, October 2, 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	46	66	+10	111	3009	+587	1.35	+0.72	34.21	+14.41
Glens Falls	81	45	64	+11	99	2620	+522	1.82	+1.15	32.22	+12.57
Poughkeepsie	83	46	68	+11	127	3174	+619	2.73	+2.01	39.63	+16.86
<u>Mohawk Valley</u>											
Boonville	78	36	59	+8	73	1947	+312	1.47	+0.34	37.40	+9.12
<u>Champlain Valley</u>											
Plattsburgh	75	43	60	+7	76	2423	+298	1.88	+1.25	30.26	+11.06
<u>St. Lawrence Valley</u>											
Canton	78	40	60	+8	80	2418	+508	1.03	+0.23	29.33	+8.60
Massena	81	44	63	+10	95	2625	+632	1.13	+0.41	22.05	+3.13
<u>Great Lakes</u>											
Buffalo	83	42	63	+6	95	2890	+539	1.58	+0.87	28.32	+7.82
Wales	79	39	60	+6	80	2331	+431	0.90	-0.07	24.54	+0.42
Niagara Falls	85	42	62	+6	91	2798	+443	1.74	+1.01	23.30	+3.22
Rochester	81	43	63	+6	95	2826	+544	2.09	+1.49	23.57	+6.00
Watertown	82	43	63	+9	98	2535	+571	2.83	+2.16	26.05	+9.50
<u>Central Lakes</u>											
Dansville	82	43	63	+7	97	3087	+801	1.47	+0.77	21.23	+1.89
Geneva	79	42	62	+7	90	2701	+437	1.55	+0.85	24.91	+5.82
Honeoye	81	41	61	+4	88	2618	+234	1.12	+0.42	25.92	+7.03
Ithaca	79	40	62	+7	84	2510	+467	2.70	+1.93	32.58	+11.95
Penn Yan	79	42	62	+7	89	2893	+629	1.65	+0.95	20.49	+1.40
Syracuse	83	43	65	+9	110	3157	+856	1.45	+0.64	32.29	+10.56
Warsaw	77	36	58	+5	65	2220	+478	1.23	+0.39	27.97	+5.29
<u>Western Plateau</u>											
Hornell Almond Dam	80	38	59	+6	72	2357	+465	2.51	+1.82	27.96	+9.52
Elmira	81	42	62	+7	86	2727	+571	2.13	+1.44	28.44	+9.10
Franklinville	80	37	58	+6	68	2226	+648	1.66	+0.78	31.81	+8.90
Jamestown	79	39	60	+6	76	2477	+690	0.69	-0.32	29.45	+3.68
<u>Eastern Plateau</u>											
Binghamton	79	39	61	+7	86	2562	+479	4.83	+4.11	47.22	+26.75
Cobleskill	80	41	62	+8	88	2371	+433	1.90	+1.11	37.68	+15.60
Morrisville	84	38	61	+8	85	2354	+512	2.28	+1.41	34.16	+11.95
Norwich	83	41	63	+9	94	2404	+465	1.62	+0.82	42.02	+20.08
Oneonta	81	42	62	+10	90	2389	+615	1.57	+0.80	41.83	+18.44
<u>Coastal</u>											
Bridgehamton	82	57	70	+11	144	2994	+544	1.05	+0.28	25.33	+3.82
New York	80	50	70	+7	139	3715	+456	1.41	+0.70	41.06	+18.47

^{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.