



WEATHER AND CROPS

October 24, 2011

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WEATHER: Temperatures for the week averaged above normal with precipitation amounts across the state highly variable. Fast moving weather systems produced rapidly changing weather conditions across the region. However, despite the rapid changes, temperatures across the state averaged 5 to 15 degrees above normal with the warmest day on Thursday as a frontal boundary moved across the region. Showers occurred over some part of the region just about every day. There were thunderstorms across the region as well especially Wednesday and Thursday. The convective nature of the rainfall produced a slightly variable rainfall pattern across the state. Weekly precipitation amounts were between a quarter and three-quarters of an inch at about half the reporting locations, but ranged as high as two inches at the far ends of the state, Buffalo in western New York and Bridgehampton on the eastern end of Long Island.

CROPS: There were 3.7 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated 39 percent adequate and 61 percent surplus. Condition of corn was rated as 12 percent poor, 31 percent fair, 47 percent good, and 10 percent excellent. Condition of soybeans was rated as 8 percent poor, 27 percent fair, 53 percent good, and 12 percent excellent. Hay condition was rated as 11 percent poor, 29 percent fair, 49 percent good, and 11 percent excellent. The third cutting of alfalfa hay was 95 percent complete, behind the 100 percent harvested last year and the 99 percent average. The third cutting of clover timothy was 88 percent complete, behind the 93 percent harvested last year and the 98 percent average. Silage corn was 89 percent harvested, behind the 97 percent harvested last year and the 92 percent average. Grain corn harvest was 20 percent complete, compared to 36 percent last year and the average of 26 percent. Potatoes were 89 percent harvested, compared with 77 percent last year and the average of 90 percent. Soybean harvest was 31 percent complete, behind last year's 55 percent and the average of 43 percent. Dry bean harvest stood at 65 percent complete, compared with 79 percent last year and the average of 76 percent. The following are comments from our reporters throughout the state: In Jefferson County, fields were still very wet despite a couple of consecutive days without rain. Soybean harvest was slowed due to rainy weather. Corn harvest was progressing slowly. It was a very wet week in St. Lawrence County, with rain almost every day. Not a good week for fieldwork. More wet weather in Genesee County slowed grain corn harvest. Some were still finishing silage corn harvest. Wheat planting was likely done. Soybean harvest was slowed due to the wet fields and the wet crop. Hay silage harvest was essentially done. Cool, wet weather in Ontario County continued to slow the harvest of grain corn and soybeans. In Cortland County, harvest continued through the mud. Corn fields were being rutted by equipment getting stuck. Hay was being left unharvested on any field known to be wet. Lighter equipment on drier fields had put up more haylage. Grain and silage trucks were being left on the roads near wet fields, with the tractor or combine driving back to unload, adding wasted time to harvest. In Otsego County, ground was still wet but corn harvest continued. Wet conditions in Albany County continued to make corn harvest difficult. In Montgomery and Fulton Counties, farmers continued to struggle with corn silage harvest due to wet fields. The wetness was also holding back any harvest of hay. In Broome County, what corn silage that remains in the fields that has not been flooded is requiring extra effort and time by producers to harvest with the extreme mud that is in the fields. Corn has dried down very quickly and most is already below the 60 percent moisture level. In Columbia and Greene Counties, corn was drying down fast, but due to wet conditions farmers were not able to finish harvesting. Dutchess County producers were able to get into their fields and chop corn and hay despite some wet weather.

FRUIT: Apple harvest was 77 percent complete, down from 90 percent previous year and 82 percent average. Apple condition was 14 percent poor, 18 percent fair, 36 percent good, and 32 percent excellent. Grape harvest was 90 percent complete, behind the 82 percent last year but ahead of the 87 percent average. Grape condition was 4 percent poor, 10 percent fair, 68 percent good, and 18 percent excellent. Grape harvest was coming to a close in Ontario County. In Long Island vineyards, harvest of red varieties continued. A portion of the Merlot crop was taken, but there are still plenty of Merlot, Cabernet Franc, and Sauvignon on the vine.

VEGETABLE: Harvesting was winding down. Tomatoes, sweet corn, and onions are complete. Cabbage was 82 percent harvested, behind last year's 98 percent.

LIVESTOCK: Pasture conditions were reported as 5 percent very poor, 15 percent poor, 35 percent fair, 35 percent good, and 10 percent excellent. Pasture growth was slowing down significantly requiring that hay be fed to supplement pasture. Grazing was also limited by the extremely wet conditions.

Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, October 23, 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	70	42	56	+8	46	3193	+694	0.26	-0.37	36.34	+14.65
Glens Falls	71	42	54	+8	28	2734	+587	0.26	-0.38	33.99	+12.44
Poughkeepsie	71	43	57	+8	50	3353	+711	0.76	+0.06	41.61	+16.79
<u>Mohawk Valley</u>											
Boonville	59	38	46	+2	0	2013	+341	1.68	+0.69	42.14	+10.88
<u>Champlain Valley</u>											
Plattsburgh	67	32	51	+6	18	2525	+349	0.65	+0.08	32.47	+11.58
<u>St. Lawrence Valley</u>											
Canton	61	39	48	+4	5	2488	+530	1.00	+0.30	31.96	+9.06
Massena	59	36	50	+5	5	2730	+689	0.53	-0.09	23.47	+2.66
<u>Great Lakes</u>											
Buffalo	59	39	50	+1	12	3041	+598	2.06	+1.36	32.33	+9.79
Wales	59	34	47	0	4	2418	+454	1.57	+0.73	29.26	+2.62
Niagara Falls	60	36	49	-1	9	2931	+482	1.19	+0.56	26.21	+4.26
Rochester	61	38	51	+2	12	2965	+592	1.75	+1.20	27.21	+8.01
Watertown	65	45	52	+5	15	2652	+627	1.16	+0.54	29.77	+11.39
<u>Central Lakes</u>											
Dansville	64	38	51	+2	15	3225	+849	0.79	+0.23	23.84	+2.73
Geneva	63	39	50	+2	9	2803	+458	0.79	+0.16	26.82	+5.80
Honeoye	63	35	50	-1	8	2717	+234	1.13	+0.50	29.43	+8.62
Ithaca	66	37	50	+3	11	2596	+483	1.38	+0.68	36.60	+13.74
Penn Yan	63	38	51	+4	17	3031	+686	0.63	+0.00	22.85	+1.83
Syracuse	65	45	54	+5	29	3323	+932	0.56	-0.14	34.14	+10.25
Warsaw	56	33	45	-2	0	2304	+512	1.96	+1.23	33.81	+8.89
<u>Western Plateau</u>											
Hornell Almond Dam	59	31	46	-2	1	2416	+461	1.54	+0.98	31.37	+11.20
Elmira	65	32	50	+3	11	2826	+597	1.17	+0.54	31.23	+10.00
Franklinville	62	31	45	-1	2	2291	+667	1.72	+0.94	35.87	+10.50
Jamestown	66	31	47	+1	5	2565	+724	1.07	+0.16	32.65	+4.16
<u>Eastern Plateau</u>											
Binghamton	61	38	49	+3	11	2663	+518	1.11	+0.48	50.00	+27.61
Cobleskill	68	39	51	+4	14	2471	+476	0.60	-0.04	40.94	+16.83
Morrisville	63	35	47	+2	6	2443	+551	0.79	+0.07	37.46	+12.97
Norwich	64	33	50	+4	7	2483	+493	0.72	+0.02	44.24	+20.15
Oneonta	64	37	50	+4	9	2471	+646	0.56	-0.21	44.25	+18.58
<u>Coastal</u>											
Bridgehamton	69	43	58	+6	58	3205	+633	2.04	+1.27	28.25	+4.56
New York	69	49	60	+5	73	3982	+542	1.10	+0.42	43.02	+18.45

^{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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