



WEATHER AND CROPS

September 4, 2012

Cooperating with New York Department of Agriculture and Markets
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Released, September 4, 2012

Week Ending, September 2, 2012

No. 977-20-12

WEATHER: Precipitation for the week was highly variable with the bulk of the precipitation occurring Monday into Tuesday with showers and thunderstorms while much of the rest of the week was dry. The week started out dry with high pressure across the state on Sunday. The showers and thunderstorms on Monday and Tuesday occurred along with a wave of low pressure. High pressure then built across the state on Wednesday and remained in place through Thursday before sliding southeast on Friday. A cold front then dropped southeast from southern Canada Friday morning and through the state by Saturday morning bringing cooler conditions and very little rainfall except for some light showers across far northern New York. Temperatures started the week warm with readings mainly in the 80's Sunday through Tuesday, cooler conditions occurred on Wednesday with highs mainly in the 70's. On Thursday highs were mainly from the mid 70's to mid 80's with highs on Friday and Saturday mainly in the 80's with a few locations topping 90 on Friday.

CROPS: There were 6.3 days suitable for fieldwork during the week. Soil moisture was rated 17 percent very short, 42 percent short, and 41 percent adequate. Hay crops were rated 15 percent poor, 46 percent fair, 32 percent good, 7 percent excellent. Condition of oats was 20 percent fair, 74 percent good, and 6 percent excellent. Oats were 91 percent harvested compared with 85 percent last year and the average of 90 percent. Corn was rated 13 percent poor, 33 percent fair, 47 percent good, and 7 percent excellent. Soybeans were rated 5 percent poor, 29 percent fair, 58 percent good, and 8 percent excellent. The second cutting of alfalfa hay was 100 percent complete, the same as a year ago and ahead of the average of 98 percent. Clover-timothy second cut was 97 percent complete compared with 95 percent a year ago and ahead of the average of 91 percent. The following comments are from our reporters throughout the state: Corn silage harvest continued in Jefferson County with very few choppers idle. Third cutting alfalfa harvest was nearly completed. Growers are waiting for the grass hay crop to grow a little more before they take final harvest. In Lewis County, dry conditions and short forage inventories have lead some farms to begin corn silage harvest. It was another rainless week in St. Lawrence County. Crop conditions have deteriorated modestly during the past week. Niagara County is still in drought conditions and hoping for a little more moisture to encourage any forage growth. In Ontario County, it is unknown at this time whether recent rains helped much with crops that are left to be harvested. Corn silage harvest started during the week but some of the field corn has been too dry to harvest as silage. Yields for most crops are lower than normal due to the drought-like conditions that have been experienced in the area. Haying continued in Otsego County. Some more rain gave relief to crops. In Albany County, fine weather allowed for great dry haymaking for second and third cuttings. Corn chopping was just getting underway. In Fulton and Montgomery Counties, corn silage harvest was taking place on farms that need the feed. Yields are down. All crops continue to improve with rains received during the week. Third and fourth cutting hay are looking pretty good. Soybeans are a question at this time. Washington County farmers have begun chopping corn silage. Some corn planted the first week of May had cobs with no kernels on them. Pollination varied greatly based on the timing and amount of rainfall. All hay and haylage yields after the first cutting have been well below normal. With high grain prices, farmers who are short on forages are concerned about the cost of feeding their animals. In Delaware County, corn is not ready to harvest yet – probably not until the middle of September before it is ready. Those producers who cleaned off after the drought have reported a good stand and third cuttings are producing good yields. Quantity is not the issue but quality is. Dutchess County farmers started to harvest corn for silage with reports of lower than normal yields. Second and third cutting hay have been harvested in the past couple of weeks with cooperative weather. There is a lot of concern about whether feed supplies will be enough to carry through the winter.

FRUIT: Apple harvest was 20 percent complete, behind the 26 percent last year and the 24 percent five year average. Apple conditions were 47 percent poor, 25 percent fair, 26 percent good, and 2 percent excellent. Peach harvest was 85 percent complete, below the 88 percent last year and above the 81 percent five year average. Peach conditions were 27 percent poor, 34 percent fair, 31 percent good, and 8 percent excellent. Pear harvest was 55 percent complete, behind the 57 percent five year average. Pear conditions were 16 percent poor, 26 percent fair, 52 percent good, and 6 percent excellent. Grape harvest was 10 percent complete, ahead of the 9 percent last year. Grape conditions were 27 percent poor, 38 percent fair, and 35 percent good. Strawberry conditions were 21 percent poor, 36 percent fair, 38 percent good, and 5 percent excellent. Fruit harvest continued throughout the state. U-pick apple orchards were open for early season varieties.

VEGETABLE: Vegetable crop harvests continued across the state. Most farm stands were open. Sweet corn was 70 percent harvested compared to 73 percent last year but up from the 67 percent average. Condition of sweet corn was 12 percent poor, 31 percent fair, 54 percent good, and 3 percent excellent. Onions were 50 percent harvested compared to 66 percent last year and 54 percent average. Onions were 4 percent poor, 6 percent fair, 77 percent good, and 13 percent excellent. Snap Beans were 67 percent harvested compared to 61 percent last year and 66 percent average. Condition of snap beans was 5 percent poor, 23 percent fair, 63 percent good, and 9 percent excellent. Cabbage was at 63 percent harvested compared to 71 percent last year and 63 percent average. Condition of cabbage was 11 percent poor, 29 percent fair, 59 percent good, and 1 percent excellent. Tomatoes were 65 percent harvested compared to 51 percent last year and 60 percent average. Condition of tomatoes was 6 percent poor, 22 percent fair, 68 percent good, and 4 percent excellent. Lettuce was 85 percent harvested.

LIVESTOCK: Dry conditions continued in some counties with pastured livestock given supplemental feed. Pasture was rated 11 percent very poor, 33 percent poor, 34 percent fair, 21 percent good, and 1 percent excellent.

Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, September 2, 2012

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 County AP	89	49	71	+6	149	2579	+463	1.29	+0.52	18.16	+1.25
Glens Falls AP	87	43	68	+4	125	2252	+400	0.22	-0.59	16.89	+0.29
Poughkeepsie AP	90	49	72	+5	158	2751	+534	0.54	-0.30	16.52	-2.90
<u>Mohawk Valley</u>											
Boonville	85	45	65	+5	107	1748	+289	0.44	-0.82	16.57	-6.38
<u>Champlain Valley</u>											
Plattsburgh Int AP	86	46	70	+6	138	2167	+289	0.04	-0.84	12.19	-4.01
<u>St. Lawrence Valley</u>											
Canton	85	43	67	+4	117	2048	+361	0.38	-0.60	14.99	-2.01
Massena	89	42	69	+7	136	2196	+423	0.16	-0.75	13.49	-2.05
<u>Great Lakes</u>											
Buffalo Int AP	88	55	71	+6	151	2602	+575	0.10	-0.84	8.73	-8.38
Wales	88	48	66	+3	114	2044	+392	0.11	-0.96	14.75	-4.81
Niagara Falls	88	51	71	+5	145	2537	+503	0.21	-0.72	10.31	-6.21
Rochester NY	93	51	70	+6	145	2537	+578	0.08	-0.69	13.80	-0.89
Watertown Intl	87	46	70	+7	141	2301	+587	0.10	-0.74	12.75	-0.64
<u>Central Lakes</u>											
Dansville AP	94	50	72	+7	154	2621	+648	0.04	-0.73	12.13	-3.90
Geneva Research	91	52	70	+5	144	2407	+450	0.79	+0.02	12.96	-2.96
Honeoye	89	46	68	+2	129	2270	+228	0.30	-0.47	13.58	-2.19
Ithaca Cornell Univ.	89	44	68	+4	125	2228	+454	0.87	+0.04	14.11	-3.04
Penn Yan	93	47	71	+6	151	2517	+560	0.12	-0.65	12.39	-3.53
Syracuse	93	51	73	+8	161	2737	+750	0.74	-0.11	11.77	-6.21
Warsaw	89	48	67	+6	120	1980	+450	0.43	-0.53	17.28	-1.47
<u>Western Plateau</u>											
Hornell Almond Dam	88	44	67	+4	118	2005	+349	0.57	-0.09	16.38	+1.08
Elmira	90	45	70	+6	140	2379	+504	1.45	+0.75	12.80	-3.49
Franklinville	87	42	65	+5	108	1876	+492	0.58	-0.38	17.71	-1.25
Jamestown 4NE	87	45	66	+4	115	2072	+516	0.90	-0.21	16.97	-4.20
<u>Eastern Plateau</u>											
Binghamton/Broo	85	48	68	+5	129	2236	+416	1.83	+1.06	20.17	+2.99
Cobleskill	85	46	67	+4	120	2138	+444	0.95	+0.11	15.57	-2.83
Morrisville	88	47	68	+6	125	1969	+355	0.89	-0.01	16.90	-1.41
Norwich	88	46	67	+4	118	2112	+416	1.18	+0.34	17.88	-0.36
Oneonta	88	44	68	+7	129	2276	+712	1.05	+0.21	16.16	-3.72
<u>Coastal</u>											
Bridgehamton	85	51	72	+4	154	2486	+423	0.27	-0.57	15.44	-2.62
New York LGA	93	66	79	+7	203	3328	+575	0.90	+0.06	18.77	-0.47

^{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.

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To view a map of the U.S. Drought Monitor Index showing U.S. and regional drought conditions please click on the link below.

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>

NASS is currently conducting our annual September surveys on crops and livestock. In the first two weeks of September, NASS is surveying U.S. small grains growers for final production. We are also asking hog producers about their summer pig crop, next year's farrowing intentions, and current inventory. The responses will provide the foundation for 2012 production estimates. All participating farmers should respond. Your information matters!