



WEATHER AND CROPS

October 15, 2012

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WEATHER: Temperatures were below normal for most of the week with near seasonable readings occurring mid week. The growing season came to an end Saturday morning across most of New York State as temperatures dropped in the teens and 20's. Only New York City and Long Island have not had a freeze. A couple of cold fronts moved across the state during the week, the first on Wednesday and another Thursday night and Friday both which brought showers to the state. A weak low just off the coast brought unsettled weather to the southeastern portion of state mid week. Otherwise, high pressure was in control.

CROPS: There were 3.7 days suitable for fieldwork during the week. Soil moisture was rated 3 percent very short, 7 percent short, 73 percent adequate and 17 percent surplus. Hay crops were rated 14 percent poor, 41 percent fair, 39 percent good, and 6 percent excellent. Potatoes were 94 percent harvested, ahead of the 79 percent harvested last year and the 85 percent average. Dry beans were 46 percent harvested compared to 54 percent last year and the average of 62 percent. Corn was rated 11 percent poor, 33 percent fair, 49 percent good, and 7 percent excellent. Grain corn was 17 percent harvested, compared with 8 percent last year and the average of 14 percent. Corn for silage was 85 percent harvested compared with 78 percent last year and the average of 82 percent. Soybeans were rated 3 percent poor, 33 percent fair, 57 percent good, and 7 percent excellent. Soybean harvest was 35 percent complete compared with 16 percent last year and the average of 23 percent. The third cutting of alfalfa hay was 97 percent complete compared with 91 percent last year and the average of 96 percent. Clover-timothy third cut was 97 percent complete compared with 83 percent a year ago and the average of 92 percent. The following comments are from our reporters throughout the state: Wet field conditions are posing problems on some farms in Jefferson County. Soybean yield reports are very good but rains have made harvest conditions less than ideal. Corn silage harvest was winding down. Two hard frosts hit parts of Lewis County. In St. Lawrence County, there was no frost as yet near the St. Lawrence River, but a light frost inland earlier in the week. In Genesee County, some additional wheat planting occurred on well drained soils after the soybean harvest. Soybean and grain corn harvest continued between rain periods. The first fall frost was received in Ontario County. Grain corn and soybean harvests continued throughout the county with lower than average yields being reported. Cortland County never received a widespread frost this fall, but a hard killing freeze hit. Warm temperatures followed, making a tough harvest of corn silage in muddy fields. Additional haylage was harvested. In Madison County, corn is yielding better than anticipated. There are some poor yielding fields, but most are getting average yields and some are above average. Soybean harvest was just beginning. Corn silage harvest in Albany County was slowed due to wet field conditions. Grain corn moisture is in the low 20's and high teens in most fields. High moisture corn harvest began in earnest. Montgomery and Fulton Counties had their first killing frost late week. Soybean harvest began. All crops were being harvested as weather permitted. In Broome County, the first frost of the season was actually a killing frost. The growing season came to a quick halt. Intermittent showers made it difficult for hill farmers to complete silage harvest. Delaware County also had a killing frost during the week. There has been plenty of wet weather which has slowed the harvest of corn. Farmers in Dutchess County were trying to get corn silage harvested in between the rain storms that were lingering in the area.

FRUIT: Apple harvest was 89 percent complete, ahead of the 69 percent last year and the 71 percent five year average. Apple conditions were 43 percent poor, 28 percent fair, 28 percent good, and 1 percent excellent. Pear harvest were virtually complete. Grape harvest was 91 percent complete, ahead of the 73 percent last year and above the 72 percent five year average. Grape conditions were 34 percent poor, 18 percent fair, 26 percent good, and 22 percent excellent. The following comments are from our reporters throughout the state: The grape harvest was wrapping up throughout Ontario County with lower than average yields but higher than average quality being reported. In Yates County, the quality of grapes is very good, but quantity is way down based on average yields. In Dutchess County, apple harvest for early varieties is complete. Harvest of red varieties such as Merlot started in Long Island this past week. Harvest will continue for another few weeks.

VEGETABLE: Most vegetables approached the end of harvest. Widespread freeze ended most of the tender vegetable crops. Onions harvested were virtually complete compared to 97 percent last year and the 96 percent average. Snap Beans harvested were virtually complete. Cabbage and tomatoes harvested were also virtually complete.

LIVESTOCK: Pastures were wet. No livestock problems reported. Pasture was rated 6 percent very poor, 30 percent poor, 33 percent fair, 25 percent good, and 6 percent excellent.

Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, October 14, 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	59	25	48	-4	6	3032	+552	0.51	-0.12	24.68	+3.80
Glens Falls AP	58	22	45	-4	4	2582	+445	0.59	-0.04	22.93	+2.21
Poughkeepsie AP	65	27	49	-4	13	3269	+648	0.18	-0.47	23.90	-0.01
<u>Mohawk Valley</u>											
Boonville	55	24	40	-8	0	1967	+303	1.72	+0.74	25.24	-4.74
<u>Champlain Valley</u>											
Plattsburgh Int AP	58	26	46	-4	0	2493	+328	0.33	-0.23	17.13	-3.03
<u>St. Lawrence Valley</u>											
Canton	58	23	42	-7	0	2400	+452	0.83	+0.12	22.62	+0.60
Massena	62	23	45	-4	3	2547	+517	0.74	+0.11	20.13	+0.11
<u>Great Lakes</u>											
Buffalo Int AP	62	30	47	-6	7	3065	+646	0.96	+0.32	15.03	-6.62
Wales	60	25	42	-8	0	2355	+406	0.83	+0.00	20.11	-5.46
Niagara Falls	61	26	45	-8	3	2963	+538	0.66	+0.05	16.44	-4.70
Rochester NY	61	28	46	-7	2	2967	+617	0.55	+0.02	19.77	+1.27
Watertown Intl	61	22	47	-4	4	2698	+687	0.55	-0.04	18.96	+1.36
<u>Central Lakes</u>											
Dansville AP	64	26	47	-6	6	3082	+729	0.23	-0.36	16.51	-3.88
Geneva Research	60	28	45	-7	1	2803	+478	0.43	-0.20	17.04	-3.18
Honeoye	62	26	45	-9	2	2638	+181	0.64	+0.01	19.57	-0.43
Ithaca Cornell Univ.	61	23	44	-8	0	2567	+472	0.31	-0.46	18.92	-3.05
Penn Yan	62	31	47	-5	2	2951	+626	0.29	-0.34	16.85	-3.37
Syracuse	62	29	48	-5	5	3230	+862	1.18	+0.48	16.74	-6.24
Warsaw	58	26	41	-8	0	2269	+489	0.82	+0.07	25.58	+1.59
<u>Western Plateau</u>											
Hornell Almond Dam	61	19	42	-8	0	2291	+352	0.25	-0.31	19.99	+0.54
Elmira	62	20	44	-7	0	2756	+545	0.14	-0.49	17.64	-2.79
Franklinville	60	19	39	-10	0	2129	+516	0.81	-0.03	23.63	-0.74
Jamestown 4NE	61	22	42	-7	0	2379	+551	0.77	-0.13	22.32	-5.02
<u>Eastern Plateau</u>											
Binghamton/Broo	57	26	44	-7	3	2583	+452	0.36	-0.27	24.13	+2.56
Cobleskill	59	23	43	-7	0	2466	+484	0.67	-0.02	21.51	-1.77
Morrisville	59	24	43	-7	0	1550	-331	0.87	+0.10	22.50	-1.07
Norwich	61	24	42	-7	0	2431	+452	0.42	-0.28	22.98	-0.21
Oneonta	63	24	45	-4	0	2662	+849	0.37	-0.38	20.73	-3.97
<u>Coastal</u>											
Bridgehamton	70	30	51	-5	18	2987	+448	0.63	-0.07	19.12	-3.56
New York LGA	69	42	55	-5	33	4071	+685	0.46	-0.17	24.68	+1.00

^{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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