

February 2014 Crop & Weather Roundup

New York (36): New York has continued to stay cold throughout the month of February with significant amounts of snow accumulating in several parts of the state. There were some days of warming and thaw occurred, which then froze again as temperatures dropped below freezing towards the end of the month. Most of the crops in fields are buried under the snow still with farmers not stating too much about the condition of these crops. Farmers growing anything in greenhouses have had a hard time keeping the greenhouses warm with the extreme cold, which is having an impact on crops. There is some concern among dairy farmers about how the cold is affecting their cows and calves, while sheep farmers are worried about how the cold will affect the lambing season. Bee and honey producers are concerned about the survival of their bees and hives after this harsh winter. The biggest affect of this winter seems to be hitting the fruit producers the hardest, as they are reporting significant damage to most fruit trees. Areas near the Great Lakes have reported damage to grape vines which may impact grape and wine production in the future. Overall, this cold, long, tough winter has been hard for many farmers in the Northeast this year and February did not change that pattern. Farmers are busy spreading manure, fixing machinery, moving crops to market, buying seed, attending workshops and starting to plan for this spring's planting season. There are reports of maple producers collecting sap

As of February 28, 2014, the Albany area received 28.1 inches of snow for the month, with the greatest snowfall on February 14th with 14.4 inches of snow. The highest temperature of 51 degrees occurred on February 22nd, while the lowest temperature of -8 degrees occurred on the 12th. The average temperature was 21.9 degrees, which is 4.0 degrees below normal. A total of 3.48 inches of rain fell, which is 1.28 inches above the average. Albany has dealt with fog or mist, sleet, rain and snow throughout most of the month of February.