



WEATHER AND CROPS

USDA, Agricultural Statistics Service, NY Field Office, N.Y. Dept. of Agriculture and Markets, Division of Statistics
Cooperating with
U.S. Dept. of Commerce, NOAA National Weather Service and Cornell Cooperative Extension

Released, August 21, 2006

Week Ending, August 20, 2006

No. 977-18-06

WEATHER: The week featured seasonable summer weather with two significant cold frontal passages providing just about all the precipitation. The week started with a chilly morning on Sunday August 13th with many stations reporting temperatures in the 40's and some spots in the Adirondacks as low as the upper 30's. A quick warm up sent temperatures well into the 80's by Monday afternoon ahead of the first cold front passage. The air behind this front originated in southern not northern Canada which translated to normal temperatures Tuesday through Friday as high pressure sprawled across the state. Clouds and rain associated with the second front and low pressure region held temperatures in the 70's for many spots on Saturday. Just like last week rainfall for the week was focused primarily around both frontal passages. The first frontal passage on Monday night led to rainfall amounts of generally around a quarter of an inch. The second cold frontal passage brought the lion share of rain to the state. This front was a slow mover and produce a tropical connection that resulted in heavy rainfall across primarily central and eastern portions of New York State. Binghamton reported a record rainfall on Saturday with 2.73 inches. A general one to 3 inches of rain fell across this region with lesser amounts around half an inch noted in western New York State. Since conditions had been somewhat dry prior to this rainfall no major flooding was reported. Heavy rain continued overnight Saturday into the beginning of the next week.

CROPS: Warm, sunny conditions provided 5.9 days suitable for fieldwork. Topsoil moisture was rated as 17 percent short, 77 percent adequate and 6 percent surplus. Hay was in 11 percent poor condition, 31 percent fair, 45 percent good, and 13 percent excellent. Third cutting was 60 percent complete compared to 53 percent a year ago. Winter wheat was 96 percent harvested compared to 86 percent last year. Corn condition was 10 percent poor, 20 percent fair, 43 percent good, and 27 percent excellent. Oats were 79 percent harvested compared to last years 91 percent. Soybeans were in 5 percent poor condition, 11 percent fair, 56 percent good, and 28 percent excellent. Potatoes were 35 percent harvested, ahead of last years 32 percent. Following are comments from reporters across the state: Another dry week in Jefferson County allowed hay baling to continue, but crops really need a good soaking rain. Corn continues to look good, but some fields show stress from lack of water. Sure could use some rain in Lewis County. Fields are dry and dusty but the weather has been great for hay harvest. Rain is expected for the weekend in St. Lawrence County. At this time, most of the county could use a little rain. Water levels in major rivers and lakes are extremely low, small streams and creeks have nearly all dried up. Most crops are excellent, even the late planted corn. We need a 2-3 day soaker in St. Lawrence County. Corn was rolling due to lack of moisture. A great week for fieldwork in Clinton County. More first cut hay might have been made last week than any week since June. Corn planted in May continues to make good progress, but that planted in July continues to look almost hopeless. A good week for making hay and haylage in Franklin County. Corn conditions still remain variable based on when it was planted and soil types. The off and on rain showers have made the corn and soybean crops look good but still has made it difficult to harvest dry hay in Ontario County. The rain has helped with the quantity of hay but has made quality a challenge. Another dry week in Cortland County for catching up the hay harvest. Corn on dry ground could use some rain, but most all corn looks excellent. Replanted corn looks well, considering it was planted in July. Rain on Saturday really helped to give everything a good soaking. Barley was nearly done and oats were coming along in harvest. Dry weather at the beginning of the week in Albany County allowed producers to continue making hay, many farmers now have completed 1st cutting, several weeks late due to the wet conditions this spring. Corn is maturing, although somewhat slower than the past couple years. No chopping of corn has started yet. Fulton and Montgomery Counties continued to harvest dry hay and row crops are looking better. An inch to inch and a half of needed rain in Steuben County on Saturday should keep the pastures growing and the corn filling out. Most crops are in good condition with corn looking very good in many areas of the county.

FRUIT: Apples were judged to be in 7 percent poor condition, 21 percent fair, 45 percent good, and 27 percent excellent. Grapes were 4 percent poor condition, 25 percent fair, 33 percent good and 38 percent excellent. Peaches were 25 percent fair, 25 percent good and 50 percent excellent. Pears were 5 percent poor, 25 percent fair, 33 percent good, and 37 percent excellent. In the Lake Ontario fruit region, peach harvest was underway and the peaches looked great. Pest management was not over yet due to increased pressure from oriental fruit moth, codling moth, and lesser apple worm. In the Lake Erie fruit region, color change for Concorde will be close to average. Grape harvest has an expected average scheduled start date also. Some farmers were still concerned about black rot showing up in their vineyards. The warmer temperatures and extended wetting periods have all led to long infection periods for black rot. More susceptible varieties will be monitored to limit powdery mildew infections in the vineyards. In the Southern part of the Lake Erie Belt, farmers were observing some coloring in a very small percentage of Concord berries by the lake. Early varieties have already turned and have begun to ripen. In the Finger Lakes fruit region, many varieties were at or past veraison. Farmers will be busy identifying and thinning lagging clusters to improve uniformity of ripening. In Albany County, apple harvest has begun and the color looks good. In the Long Island fruit region, hedging and bird netting were in full swing. All varieties were in veraison.

VEGETABLE: Vegetable harvesting shifted into high gear under ideal weather conditions. Tomatoes were 30 percent harvested compared with 45 percent last year. Onion harvest reached 35 percent finished, sweet corn 45 percent, snap beans 51 percent and cabbage 25 percent. Progress lagged last year for all crops. Most sweet corn being sold in St. Lawrence County seems to be small ears, but still very good. Farmstands were buzzing with people in Albany County with people out searching for local produce. Sweet corn prices remain good.

LIVESTOCK: Pasture condition was rated as 9 percent poor, 30 percent fair, 44 percent good and 17 percent excellent. Slightly cooler weather eased the stress on livestock.

Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, August 20, 2006

| 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 |
| Hudson Valley | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Albany | 86 | 53 | 72 | +3 | 154 | 2185 | +308 | 1.63 | +0.80 | 24.32 | +8.86 |
| Glens Falls | 83 | 45 | 68 | +1 | 125 | 1829 | +184 | 0.76 | -0.08 | 24.68 | +9.63 |
| Poughkeepsie | 89 | 52 | 73 | +3 | 163 | 2272 | +311 | 1.82 | +1.03 | 23.55 | +5.63 |
| Mohawk Valley | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Utica | 84 | 51 | 69 | +1 | 132 | 1893 | +187 | 1.18 | +0.34 | 24.20 | +6.71 |
| Champlain Valley | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Plattsburgh | 85 | 51 | 70 | +4 | 144 | 1933 | +260 | 0.74 | -0.24 | 18.77 | +4.32 |
| St. Lawrence Valley | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Canton | 87 | 52 | 70 | +5 | 141 | 1803 | +307 | 0.25 | -0.73 | 13.44 | -1.68 |
| Massena | 86 | 51 | 69 | +4 | 138 | 1848 | +268 | 0.26 | -0.58 | 17.76 | +3.92 |
| Great Lakes | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Buffalo | 85 | 55 | 71 | +3 | 150 | 2182 | +391 | 0.68 | -0.30 | 13.20 | -2.08 |
| Wales | 82 | 47 | 66 | -1 | 112 | 1647 | +190 | 1.18 | +0.25 | 18.22 | +0.61 |
| Niagara Falls | 85 | 55 | 70 | +2 | 144 | 2079 | +279 | 0.74 | -0.17 | 13.67 | -1.10 |
| Rochester | 88 | 55 | 72 | +5 | 155 | 2209 | +475 | 0.43 | -0.34 | 17.49 | +4.30 |
| Watertown | 86 | 51 | 70 | +4 | 139 | 1858 | +347 | 0.39 | -0.38 | 11.75 | -0.06 |
| Central Lakes | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dansville | 87 | 46 | 67 | -2 | 125 | 1897 | +154 | 1.05 | +0.32 | 17.49 | +2.92 |
| Geneva | 87 | 51 | 68 | -1 | 127 | 1895 | +167 | 0.73 | +0.03 | 16.63 | +2.15 |
| Honeoye | 84 | 48 | 68 | -2 | 128 | 1884 | +86 | 0.54 | -0.21 | 13.97 | -0.35 |
| Ithaca | 84 | 47 | 68 | +2 | 124 | 1749 | +182 | 1.77 | +1.00 | 20.38 | +4.74 |
| Penn Yan | 84 | 54 | 70 | +2 | 142 | 2027 | +299 | 1.22 | +0.52 | 11.66 | -2.82 |
| Syracuse | 86 | 54 | 71 | +3 | 147 | 2113 | +354 | 0.60 | -0.17 | 23.44 | +7.02 |
| Warsaw | 81 | 49 | 66 | +2 | 111 | 1573 | +218 | 1.16 | +0.27 | 20.54 | +3.56 |
| Western Plateau | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Angelica | 83 | 43 | 63 | -2 | 95 | 1451 | +116 | 1.64 | +0.83 | 17.22 | +0.92 |
| Elmira | 88 | 46 | 69 | +2 | 132 | 1778 | +119 | 1.88 | +1.20 | 19.19 | +4.22 |
| Franklinville | 82 | 46 | 65 | +2 | 104 | 1493 | +271 | 1.40 | +0.49 | 16.64 | -0.55 |
| Jamestown | 84 | 45 | 66 | +2 | 116 | 1679 | +306 | 0.70 | -0.32 | 15.11 | -3.90 |
| Eastern Plateau | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Binghamton | 80 | 53 | 68 | +2 | 128 | 1801 | +189 | 3.15 | +2.38 | 25.19 | +9.45 |
| Cobleskill | 82 | 49 | 67 | +2 | 123 | 1726 | +228 | 1.25 | +0.48 | 23.80 | +6.96 |
| Morrisville | 84 | 50 | 67 | +2 | 119 | 1598 | +170 | 1.50 | +0.70 | 30.91 | +14.25 |
| Norwich | 83 | 45 | 66 | 0 | 116 | 1704 | +204 | 1.92 | +1.15 | 25.65 | +8.94 |
| Oneonta | 86 | 50 | 70 | +5 | 139 | 1964 | +578 | 1.33 | +0.49 | 26.04 | +7.74 |
| Coastal | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bridgehamton | 83 | 53 | 71 | 0 | 150 | 2134 | +340 | 1.52 | +0.75 | 25.00 | +8.48 |
| New York | 89 | 71 | 79 | +4 | 201 | 2971 | +545 | 0.18 | -0.66 | 25.94 | +8.26 |

^{1/} Season accumulations are for April 1st to date. Weekly accumulations are through 7:00 AM Sunday Morning. R32August418

The information contained in this weekly release is obtained from reports from Cornell Cooperative Extension agents, IUSDA Farm Service Agency agents, 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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