



WEATHER AND CROPS

August 25, 2008

Cooperating with New York Department of Agriculture and Markets
10B Airline Drive, Albany, New York 12235
(518) 457-5570 · (518) 485-8719 FAX · www.nass.usda.gov

Released, August 25, 2008

Week Ending, August 24, 2008

No. 977-18-08

WEATHER: The week began with widely scattered thunderstorms across eastern New York, a few of which produced hail. A strong cold front crossed upstate New York from northwest to southeast on Monday into Monday night. Along this frontal boundary, a broken line of showers and thunderstorms brought locally heavy rainfall to some portions of the St. Lawrence Valley and the Adirondack Park. Behind this boundary a large area of high pressure slowly moved across the northeast. This brought dry weather and low humidity for the remainder of the week. Temperatures started the week around normal ahead of the frontal boundary, but the cool high pressure center brought below normal temperatures across much of the state for the middle of the week. Temperatures rebounded to near normal levels for the weekend, as the high pressure shifted offshore and allowed warmer southerly winds to return.

CROPS: A break in the storms finally allowed farmers to harvest dry hay. There were 5.8 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil Moisture was rated 4 percent short, 74 percent adequate, and 22 percent surplus. Condition of soybeans was 3 percent poor, 10 percent fair, 50 percent good, and 37 percent excellent. Corn condition was rated as 2 percent poor, 9 percent fair, 43 percent good, and 46 percent excellent. Hay condition was 13 percent poor, 23 percent fair, 46 percent good, and 18 percent excellent. Winter wheat was 96 percent harvested, compared with last year's 99 percent, and the five year average of 92 percent. Seventy-one percent of the oats were harvested, behind last year's 88 percent, and behind the five year average of 79 percent. The second cutting of alfalfa was 87 percent harvested, behind last year's 96 percent, and behind the five year average of 91 percent. Forty-eight percent of the third cutting of alfalfa was completed, compared with 55 percent from last year, and the five year average of 49 percent. Second cutting of timothy hay was 70 percent completed, compared with last year's 89 percent, and a five year average of 79 percent. Third cutting of timothy hay was 40 percent harvested, ahead of last year's 37 percent, and the five year average of 28. Twenty-nine percent of the potatoes were harvested, compared to 41 percent from last year, and the five year average of 40 percent. The following are comments from across the state: Corn continued to progress in Albany County given the ample rainfall and growing degree days. Delaware County had lots of hay harvested, and the warmer days were good for almost everything. Dutchess County had a perfect week with no rain and nice, hot sunny days. Fields in Sullivan County tend to be on the dry side needing moisture in the coming weeks to move crops along, and corn rootworm is active in hotspots across the county. Hay yields in Niagara County are excellent thanks to excess moisture. Continued excellent moisture for corn and soybeans in Cayuga County has farmers expecting high yields. Hay yields were high in Jefferson County, but the quality will be down due to over-mature hay harvesting. Farmers in Jefferson County are also talking about chopping corn soon, if the dry weather holds. Poor corn with no ears in Essex County may be due to the poor weather conditions.

FRUIT: Apples were 27 percent poor, 23 percent fair, 44 percent good and 6 percent excellent. Grapes were 9 percent poor, 23 percent fair, 52 percent good, and 16 percent excellent. Peaches were 25 percent poor, 25 percent fair, 39 percent good, and 11 percent excellent. Pears were 30 percent poor, 31 percent fair, 36 percent good, and 3 percent excellent. Tart cherries were 95 percent harvested, down from 100 percent last year. Sweet cherries were 96 percent harvested, down from 100 percent last year. Peaches were 50 percent harvested, down from 64 percent last year. Pears were 33 percent harvested, down from 44 percent from last year. Apples were 12 percent harvested, down from 21 percent last year. Spotty hail storms in the Niagara region continued to damage fruit. Albany County began harvesting early apples and pears, while Madison County expected to begin harvest soon. In Long Island vineyards, thunderstorms gave way to sunny and cooler weather. A little downy mildew was seen throughout the research vineyard. Many growers were spraying, and most growers have either finished or almost finished bird netting.

VEGETABLE: Western parts of the state experienced spotty hail and thunderstorms causing moisture problems, while central and eastern New York received a weeks worth of high temperatures. Tomatoes were 45 percent harvested, up from 39 percent harvested last year. Tomato conditions were 6 percent poor, 25 percent fair, 53 percent good, and 16 percent excellent. Lettuce conditions were 20 percent poor, 14 percent fair, 60 percent good, and 6 percent excellent. Onion harvest was 39 percent complete, slightly behind 40 percent harvested last year. Onion conditions were 3 percent poor, 8 percent fair, 80 percent good, and 9 percent excellent. Sweet corn harvest was 61 percent complete, down from 62 percent harvested last year. Sweet corn conditions were 2 percent poor, 12 percent fair, 62 percent good, and 24 percent excellent. Snap bean harvest was 53 percent complete, down from 58 percent harvested last year. Snap bean conditions were 11 percent poor, 17 percent fair, 61 percent good, and 11 percent excellent. Cabbage harvest was 41 percent completed, down from 50 percent harvested last year. Cabbage conditions were 3 percent poor, 14 percent fair, 66 percent good, and 17 percent excellent.

LIVESTOCK: Pastures remained in good condition. Abundant moisture continued to promote growth. Pasture conditions were rated 1 percent very poor, 3 percent poor, 15 percent fair, 58 percent good and 23 percent excellent.

Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, August 24, 2008

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	85	47	69	0	131	2202	+233	0.00	-0.79	19.52	+3.60
Glens Falls	83	44	65	-2	106	1758	+32	1.65	+0.81	19.29	+3.74
Poughkeepsie	86	49	68	-2	129	2285	+226	0.13	-0.64	20.48	+2.12
<u>Mohawk Valley</u>											
Boonville	79	43	62	-2	83	1396	+36	0.58	-0.59	24.48	+3.13
<u>Champlain Valley</u>											
Plattsburgh	87	43	66	-1	110	1682	-70	0.57	-0.40	17.95	+2.89
<u>St. Lawrence Valley</u>											
Canton	83	43	65	-1	106	1719	+149	1.32	+0.34	17.82	+2.08
Massena	87	45	66	+2	115	1691	+35	0.76	-0.09	16.09	+1.72
<u>Great Lakes</u>											
Buffalo	88	51	71	+3	146	2022	+142	0.14	-0.84	16.00	+0.11
Wales	83	43	65	-1	104	1576	+44	0.40	-0.58	19.40	+1.21
Niagara Falls	88	48	70	+3	139	1950	+61	0.23	-0.68	15.28	-0.04
Rochester	87	49	69	+2	133	2144	+325	0.29	-0.52	12.75	-0.95
Watertown	85	42	66	0	116	1738	+149	0.84	+0.04	16.58	+4.27
<u>Central Lakes</u>											
Dansville	87	46	67	-1	121	1925	+95	0.50	-0.27	16.83	+1.79
Geneva	84	49	67	-1	119	1902	+87	0.16	-0.57	15.38	+0.45
Honeoye	86	44	68	-2	126	1845	-45	0.32	-0.45	16.87	+2.09
Ithaca	84	42	65	-2	106	1765	+108	0.22	-0.55	16.01	-0.09
Penn Yan	85	49	68	-1	131	2209	+394	0.19	-0.54	14.25	-0.68
Syracuse	86	48	67	0	123	2060	+215	0.51	-0.29	16.46	-0.43
Warsaw	85	44	65	+2	105	1552	+129	0.47	-0.44	23.21	+5.68
<u>Western Plateau</u>											
Angelica	83	38	62	-2	89	1379	-24	0.23	-0.61	15.72	-1.10
Elmira	87	45	66	-2	110	1883	+142	0.16	-0.54	14.15	-1.24
Franklinville	83	41	63	0	93	1447	+162	1.36	+0.45	18.26	+0.52
Jamestown	85	42	65	+1	109	1642	+199	0.31	-0.74	17.74	-2.02
<u>Eastern Plateau</u>											
Binghamton	82	48	66	-1	113	1847	+155	0.28	-0.49	15.35	-0.84
Cobleskill	82	43	65	-1	103	1701	+127	0.00	-0.80	21.65	+4.33
Morrisville	81	46	64	-2	96	1587	+87	0.09	-0.75	18.33	+1.16
Norwich	84	43	64	-2	99	1660	+84	0.25	-0.52	15.51	-1.65
Oneonta	90	46	66	+3	116	1940	+485	0.73	-0.11	15.18	-3.62
<u>Coastal</u>											
Bridgehamton	84	50	68	-3	125	2113	+218	0.00	-0.81	16.83	-0.15
New York	88	61	75	+2	180	2868	+321	0.00	-0.84	16.05	-2.11

^{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.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT www.nass.usda.gov/ny AND CLICK ON "SUBSCRIBE TO NY REPORTS" FOR INSTRUCTIONS ON FREE E-MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS. YOU MAY ALSO VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO ACCESS ALL OUR REPORTS WHICH ARE AVAILABLE FOR FREE ONLINE.