



WEATHER AND CROPS

September 8, 2008

Cooperating with New York Department of Agriculture and Markets
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WEATHER: A large area of high pressure dominated the weather across all of New York State for much of the week. This provided dry weather with a good deal of sunshine. A cold front approached western portions of the state by Friday, bringing a few showers to portions of the Niagara Frontier. On Saturday, much of the eastern and southern portions of the state received heavy rainfall and gusty winds, as the remains of Tropical Storm Hanna moved up the eastern seaboard. Daytime temperatures during much of the week were above normal as flow around the high pressure pumped unseasonably warm air into the region. Many locations outside the Adirondacks, especially by Thursday, saw temperatures at or above the 90 degree mark. High temperatures took a tumble in most places by Saturday, as the clouds and rainfall from Hanna kept temperatures limited to the 70's during the day, although minimum temperatures remained mild in the 60's.

CROPS: Rain over the weekend should promote forage re-growth, but the warm weather throughout the week will help crops reach maturity. There were 6.1 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil Moisture was rated 11 percent short, 82 percent adequate, and 7 percent surplus. Condition of soybeans was 4 percent poor, 8 percent fair, 55 percent good, and 33 percent excellent. Corn condition was rated as 3 percent poor, 8 percent fair, 51 percent good, and 38 percent excellent. Hay condition was 10 percent poor, 24 percent fair, 43 percent good, and 23 percent excellent. Winter wheat was 98 percent harvested, compared with last year's 100 percent, and the five year average of 99 percent. Ninety-four percent of the oats were harvested, the same as last year, and ahead of the five year average of 93 percent. The second cutting of alfalfa was 95 percent harvested, behind last year's 100 percent, and the same as the five year average. Seventy-five percent of the third cutting of alfalfa was completed, ahead of last year's 73 percent, and ahead of the five year average of 66 percent. Second cutting of timothy hay was 85 percent completed, compared with last year's 100 percent, and a five year average of 88 percent. Third cutting of timothy hay was 59 percent harvested, behind last year's 66 percent, but ahead of the five year average of 50. Forty-six percent of the potatoes were harvested, compared to 54 percent from last year, and the five year average of 51 percent. The following are comments from across the state: Jefferson County continued making hay. Lewis County farmers will begin to harvest corn for silage in the next two weeks. Corn silage harvest just started in Niagara County, and the winter barley was planted. Some soybeans in Wayne and Cayuga Counties were showing signs of white mold. Also in Cayuga County, the soybeans were maturing and natural senescence was occurring in some fields. Cortland County had another wonderful week for making hay and harvesting oats. Corn on well drained fields was showing signs of stress as more rain is needed. Corn silage and dry bean harvest began in Onondaga County. Sunny, dry days allowed farmers in Albany County to continue to catch up on dry hay making. Crops on well drained soils in Dutchess County were looking poor after three and a half weeks of no rain. Lack of rain has pushed the dry down in corn plants in Orange County, and corn was experiencing heavy deer damage in some areas of Sullivan County.

FRUIT: Apples were in 18 percent poor condition, 24 percent fair, 51 percent good, and 7 percent excellent. The harvest was 17 percent complete, behind the average of 35 percent. In the Lake Ontario fruit region, apple harvest was in full swing, and apples were plentiful. Processors were taking more hail damaged fruit than previously expected. Peaches were 21 percent poor, 15 percent fair, 59 percent good, and 5 percent excellent. Harvest was at 67 percent, behind the average of 78 percent. Pears were 39 percent poor, 24 percent fair, and 37 percent good. Pears were 46 percent harvested, down from the average of 56 percent. Sweet cherry and tart cherry harvests were complete. Grapes were in 8 percent poor condition, 19 percent fair, 63 percent good, and 10 percent excellent. In the Finger Lakes, grape harvest was underway and looking good. On Long Island, white and early red grapes tasted sweet, though they were still holding on to a little acid. Wet weather this past weekend had negative effects on some grapes, but most will recover with no problems.

VEGETABLE: Sweet corn and snap bean harvests are going well with both producing good yields. Tomatoes were 64 percent harvested, up from 61 percent harvested last year. Tomato conditions were 16 percent poor, 27 percent fair, 53 percent good, and 4 percent excellent. Lettuce conditions were 33 percent fair, 58 percent good, and 9 percent excellent. Onion harvest was 65 percent complete, up from 50 percent harvested last year. Onion conditions were 3 percent poor, 22 percent fair, 68 percent good, and 7 percent excellent. Sweet corn harvest was 76 percent complete, equal to the percent harvested last year. Sweet corn conditions were 1 percent poor, 14 percent fair, 58 percent good, and 27 percent excellent. Snap bean harvest was 84 percent complete, up from 81 percent harvested last year. Snap bean conditions were 1 percent poor, 10 percent fair, 78 percent good, and 11 percent excellent. Cabbage harvest was 57 percent completed, up from 56 percent harvested last year. Cabbage conditions were 3 percent poor, 22 percent fair, 63 percent good, and 12 percent excellent

LIVESTOCK: Late week rainfall improved pasture conditions however; pasture growth continues to slow with drier conditions. Pastures were rated across most of the state were rated in good condition. Pasture conditions were rated 9 percent poor, 19 percent fair, 57 percent good and 15 percent excellent.

Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, September 7, 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	89	51	73	+9	164	2495	+307	1.25	+0.51	20.80	+3.37
Glens Falls	86	48	69	+8	137	2005	+93	0.97	+0.20	20.27	+3.12
Poughkeepsie	90	52	73	+8	163	2571	+276	2.25	+1.41	23.00	+2.98
<u>Mohawk Valley</u>											
Boonville	84	50	66	+7	116	1590	+86	0.12	-1.18	24.99	+1.10
<u>Champlain Valley</u>											
Plattsburgh	86	53	70	+9	143	1926	-12	0.00	-0.82	18.02	+1.24
<u>St. Lawrence Valley</u>											
Canton	87	48	68	+8	130	1953	+212	0.44	-0.53	18.40	+0.71
Massena	91	53	70	+9	142	1930	+102	0.15	-0.71	16.24	+0.10
<u>Great Lakes</u>											
Buffalo	87	53	71	+7	150	2296	+196	0.27	-0.63	17.93	+0.18
Wales	84	48	66	+4	113	1775	+65	0.08	-1.04	20.56	+0.20
Niagara Falls	85	50	70	+5	138	2200	+94	0.56	-0.35	16.19	-0.98
Rochester	91	54	71	+7	148	2407	+377	0.06	-0.71	12.88	-2.36
Watertown	88	49	69	+7	133	1969	+196	0.05	-0.78	17.14	+3.16
<u>Central Lakes</u>											
Dansville	89	51	69	+5	132	2155	+111	0.23	-0.59	18.44	+1.81
Geneva	89	52	68	+5	131	2136	+109	0.20	-0.57	16.70	+0.23
Honeoye	89	47	68	+2	125	2065	-53	0.19	-0.58	18.00	+1.68
Ithaca	88	46	68	+6	129	1974	+139	0.14	-0.70	16.72	-1.03
Penn Yan	90	55	70	+6	142	2464	+437	0.50	-0.27	16.76	+0.29
Syracuse	91	52	70	+7	145	2317	+259	0.05	-0.85	16.88	-1.75
Warsaw	83	51	66	+6	115	1759	+178	0.05	-0.93	24.26	+4.81
<u>Western Plateau</u>											
Angelica	85	45	65	+5	104	1558	-2	0.25	-0.59	17.35	-1.15
Elmira	91	47	69	+6	135	2121	+181	0.25	-0.46	15.10	-1.70
Franklinville	85	46	65	+6	106	1630	+199	0.03	-0.95	19.06	-0.60
Jamestown	87	49	68	+7	125	1856	+246	0.00	-1.12	18.10	-3.87
<u>Eastern Plateau</u>											
Binghamton	88	51	70	+8	141	2089	+207	0.74	-0.05	17.11	-0.64
Cobleskill	86	52	69	+7	134	1933	+181	1.10	+0.21	23.09	+4.04
Morrisville	84	49	68	+7	130	1806	+138	0.30	-0.61	18.80	-0.16
Norwich	87	46	68	+6	125	1870	+116	0.37	-0.51	16.59	-2.29
Oneonta	92	49	71	+11	150	2184	+569	1.03	+0.19	16.36	-4.12
<u>Coastal</u>											
Bridgehamton	82	54	72	+5	156	2393	+246	3.06	+2.22	20.29	+1.63
New York	90	68	78	+7	199	3239	+380	3.29	+2.45	21.23	+1.39

^{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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