



WEATHER AND CROPS

September 16, 2013

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

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WEATHER: The week started out dry with high pressure in control over New York and New England. A warm front brought showers and a few thunderstorms to the state on Tuesday. This boundary moved north of the border and a very hot and humid air mass built in from the mid-Atlantic region. Portions of the Hudson River Valley and the New York City metropolitan area had heat indices in the 100 to 108 degree range. The frontal boundary became stationary near the St. Lawrence River Valley and a series of disturbances moving along it produced strong to severe thunderstorms on Wednesday and Thursday. Isolated to scattered flash flooding occurred across portions of the Finger Lakes, Capital, and mid Hudson Valley Regions. The cold front moved east of the region on Friday. However, an upper level disturbance kept periods of showers going across east central New York to close the work week. High pressure moved back in from the Midwest and Great Lakes region to start the weekend with cooler and drier weather. Precipitation finished in the normal to above normal range across most of the state. Portions of western New York were slightly below normal. Temperatures finished above normal due to the brief hot spell during the middle of the week. Precipitation across the state ranged from 0.28 to 3.28 inches and temperatures ranged from 36 to 95 degrees.

CROPS: There were 4.6 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated 1 percent short, 79 percent adequate, and 20 percent surplus. Oats for grain were 98 percent harvested compared to 99 percent in 2012 and were above the 99 percent five year average. Condition of oats was 14 percent poor, 10 percent fair, 67 percent good, and 9 percent excellent. Hay crops were 3 percent poor, 29 percent fair, 54 percent good, and 14 percent excellent. The second clover timothy cutting was 98 percent complete compared to 100 percent in 2012, and was above the 97 percent five year average. The third clover timothy cutting was 72 percent complete compared to 61 percent in 2012, and was ahead of the 68 percent average. The third alfalfa cutting was 75 percent complete compared to 73 percent in 2012, and was below the 79 percent five year average. Condition of corn was 7 percent poor, 17 percent fair, 54 percent good, and 22 percent excellent. Soybeans were rated 5 percent poor, 14 percent fair, 58 percent good, and 23 percent excellent. Potatoes were 59 percent harvested compared to 67 percent in 2012 and ahead of the 52 percent five year average. The following comments are from our reporters throughout the state: Jefferson County reported corn harvest was underway and the early reported yields were very good. In Lewis County, corn was maturing slowly. Many farmers were waiting for corn to reach the correct dry matter for silage harvest and were becoming anxious about the late start to harvest. In St. Lawrence County, two inches of rain locally put a halt to field activity for a few days. There was a total of about three inches of rain to date for this month. Ontario County reported that corn silage harvest was underway and that the soybeans were turning. Cortland County was hit with another round of high winds and flash flooding, mostly in the southern half of the county. Damage was sustained from the wind bending over corn that was nearing harvest and some stalks were broken. The ground was thoroughly saturated making harvest a struggle. Oat test weights performed in Madison County were light and yield was highly variable throughout the county. Corn chopping got a late start as well. Also, wet conditions delayed hay harvest at the beginning of the week, but more third cutting was cut by the end of the week. Corn development was progressing given the warm weather and a few dairy producers in the northern tier planned to start silage harvest this coming week. Corn silage harvest started all over the Capital District. Montgomery and Fulton Counties corn silage harvest began and haying of all kinds continued. Rensselaer County experienced some severe storms with inches of rain falling Wednesday and Thursday which hindered the progress of field work. Washington County reported some hot and humid weather with several days where strong thunderstorms with high winds moved through. Several farmers reported corn that was blown down. The rain slowed fieldwork. Since the first of the month, the county recorded 3.5 to 4 inches of rain. There were no reports of a killing frost yet and more growing degree days were needed to keep crops maturing. Much corn for silage was still in the milk stage and hadn't yet dented. Dutchess County reported severe thunderstorms made it difficult for farmers to put up dry hay. Corn silage began to be chopped with some put out as feed as feed supplies were running out.

FRUIT: Apples were 26 percent harvested compared to 45 percent in 2012 and below the 36 percent five year average. Apples were rated 1 percent poor, 4 percent fair, 65 percent good, and 30 percent excellent. Peaches were 99 percent harvested compared to 100 percent in 2012 and above the 96 percent five year average. Peaches were 2 percent poor, 5 percent fair, 84 percent good, and 9 percent excellent. Pears were 65 percent harvested compared to 89 percent in 2012 and below the 77 percent five year average. Pears were 7 percent poor, 11 percent fair, 74 percent good, and 8 percent excellent. Grapes were 12 percent harvested compared to 25 percent in 2012 and behind the 19 percent five year average. Grapes were 1 percent fair, 42 percent good, and 57 percent excellent. The following comments are from our reporters throughout the state: Apple and grape harvest was in full swing in Ontario County. In Albany County, apple orchards were very busy this past weekend with "pick your own" activities. The weather was great for farm stands with autumn's cool weather in place. Dutchess County reported that apple harvest was well underway with above average yields. In Suffolk County, harvest continued on Long Island vineyards. Many growers picked Pinot Noir and began to harvest Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc for table wine.

VEGETABLE: Sweet corn was 88 percent harvested compared to 89 percent in 2012, and was above the 86 percent five year average. Sweet corn was 3 percent poor, 11 percent fair, 60 percent good, and 26 percent excellent. Onions were 69 percent harvested compared to 85 percent in 2012, and were behind the 76 percent five year average. Onions were 12 percent poor, 6 percent fair, 26 percent good, and 56 percent excellent. Snap beans were 85 percent harvested compared to 74 percent in 2012, and ahead of the 78 percent five year average. Snap beans were rated 4 percent poor, 33 percent fair, 61 percent good, and 2 percent excellent. Cabbage was 71 percent harvested compared to 75 percent in 2012, and was behind the 75 percent five year average. Cabbage was rated 28 percent poor, 32 percent fair, 19 percent good, and 23 percent excellent. The following comments are from our reporters throughout the state: Ontario County cabbage harvest was in full swing. In Albany County, pumpkins were for sale at the farm stands around the region.

LIVESTOCK: Pasture was rated 1 percent very poor, 9 percent poor, 30 percent fair, 55 percent good, and 5 percent excellent. There were no comments about livestock or pasture condition from our reporters this week

Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, September 15, 2013

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
Albany County AP	93	41	67	+5	119	2665	+391	3.28	+2.58	29.95	+11.73
Watertown Intl	89	38	64	+4	101	2286	+442	0.42	-0.35	17.50	+2.67
Boonville	85	39	57	+0	56	1616	+60	1.41	+0.08	29.64	+4.27
Bridgehampton	85	46	67	+2	119	2432	+179	1.65	+0.81	20.26	+0.63
Binghamton/Broome	88	36	63	+2	95	2197	+240	1.52	+0.72	26.47	+7.82
Buffalo Intl AP	86	46	65	+3	106	2527	+337	0.27	-0.57	21.68	+3.00
Canton	87	38	59	+0	65	1993	+187	1.77	+0.86	23.40	+4.72
Cobleskill	90	37	62	+2	83	2064	+243	0.54	-0.37	25.25	+5.19
Dansville AP	95	42	67	+5	121	2666	+535	0.80	-0.03	16.17	-1.37
Elmira	93	37	65	+4	105	2404	+384	0.88	+0.11	17.86	+0.21
Franklinville	87	35	60	+3	76	1805	+319	1.31	+0.34	24.70	+3.97
Geneva Research	92	43	63	+0	91	2306	+193	0.49	-0.28	22.52	+5.20
Glens Falls AP	91	37	63	+3	91	2320	+337	0.78	+0.05	21.96	+3.98
Honeoye	92	41	64	+0	97	2221	+8	0.54	-0.23	21.08	+3.90
Hornell Almond	92	36	61	+2	81	1956	+178	2.05	+1.28	21.18	+4.52
Jamestown 4NE	90	37	63	+4	89	2136	+460	0.23	-0.89	20.86	-2.35
Niagara Falls	86	45	64	+2	102	2406	+211	0.45	-0.46	22.94	+4.76
Ithaca Cornell	91	37	61	+0	84	2119	+207	0.96	+0.12	24.26	+5.58
New York LGA	94	54	73	+4	163	3449	+453	1.30	+0.48	21.50	+0.72
Morrisville	90	40	62	+3	83	2118	+384	1.27	+0.30	32.08	+12.06
Massena	88	38	61	+2	74	2124	+232	2.63	+1.79	24.39	+7.33
Norwich	91	40	62	+2	84	2074	+251	1.06	+0.15	31.69	+11.80
Oneonta	84	36	59	+1	69	1968	+293	0.95	+0.11	30.34	+8.92
Penn Yan	94	44	66	+4	115	2500	+387	1.25	+0.48	16.95	-0.37
Plattsburgh Intl	93	39	62	+2	83	2142	+133	1.95	+1.20	24.15	+6.54
Poughkeepsie AP	95	41	68	+5	127	2778	+387	0.41	-0.41	26.12	+5.17
Rochester NY	92	45	66	+4	114	2591	+472	0.52	-0.18	21.14	+5.12
Syracuse	94	44	66	+4	113	2638	+493	0.84	-0.07	22.52	+2.87
Wales	88	40	62	+2	85	2053	+274	0.30	-0.82	21.55	-0.05
Warsaw	87	41	60	+2	77	1906	+265	0.46	-0.52	23.40	+2.87

^{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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