



# Newsletter

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## CaroVail

### Agronomy Update

May 13, 2016

#### Locations

##### *Auburn*

55 Columbus St  
Auburn, NY 13021  
315-253-7379

##### *Bernardston*

472 Northfield Road  
Bernardston, MA  
01337  
413-648-9900

##### *Niverville*

831 Route 28  
Niverville, NY 12130  
518-784-9166

##### *Oriskany Falls*

8341 US State Rt 20  
Oriskany Falls, NY  
13425  
315-841-3201

##### *Salem*

4134 State Rt 22  
Salem, NY 12865  
518-854-9446

##### *Tri Valley Crop Ctr*

337 State Hwy 162  
Sprakers, NY 12166  
518-673-5336



## First Cutting

Frank Flis

Despite cool rainy days between 5/3 and 5/9, soil temperatures increased 3 to 5 degrees. With additional sun and warmer temperatures this week, this trend will continue. Increased soil and air temperatures will hasten the maturity of perennial forage. Evaluating stands and purposed use of the forage may help determine a harvest plan.

Maturity stage is the most important factor in determining the forage quality of a given species. In grasses, from the vegetative growth stage to the early boot or flag leaf stage digestibility only drops 2.5-3.0%. But from flag leaf to early head emergence, an additional 7-8% is lost. Mid to late bloom will see another 12-15% drop from the flag leaf stage. Although alfalfa will mature later than grasses, it also will begin to lose quality from pre-bud to bud stage (not only digestibility but also decreasing amounts of protein).



The season so far is favoring good quality as cool temperatures during growth generally produces higher quality forage. Drier conditions early this year, however, may impact volume. Again, it is important to evaluate the crops based on the eventual end-use to determine the best strategy.

Harvest practices can also affect quality. Height of cut will influence regrowth as well as ash content of the forage. Increased ash will not only impact quality but may affect fermentation in storage as well. Leaf shatter and plant respiration after cutting will also modify digestibility, making sure mowing equipment is properly adjusted can reduce those types of losses .

The next few weeks will present opportunities and challenges as well. Take time to evaluate on the run, remembering to keep equipment in good working order to keep things moving and safe .

**Auburn**

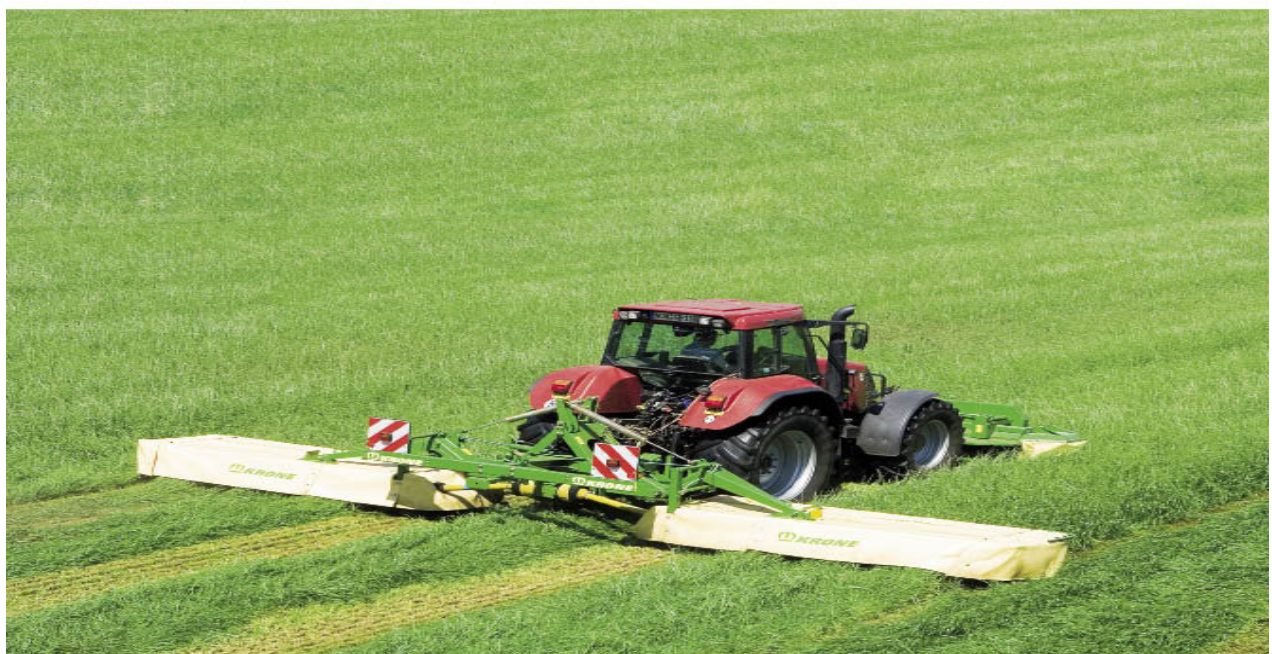
**Bernardston**

**Niverville**

**Oriskany Falls**

**Salem**

**Tri Valley**



# Weather Update

|                | Approx. Weekly Rainfall | Avg expected high Temp next week | Avg expected Low Temp next week | GDD (Base 50) since Jan 1 | GDD (Base 50) since Mar 1 | GDD (Base 50) since Apr 1 | GDD (Base 50) since May 1 |
|----------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Auburn         | 0.72                    | 62                               | 42                              | 75.1                      | 75.1                      | 50.6                      | 14.3                      |
| Bernardston    | 0.70                    | 62                               | 42                              | 90.3                      | 90.3                      | 64.4                      | 11.3                      |
| Niverville     | 0.57                    | 65                               | 44                              | 111.3                     | 111.3                     | 78.4                      | 21.7                      |
| Oriskany Falls | 0.37                    | 58                               | 42                              | 91.5                      | 91.5                      | 54                        | 17.5                      |
| Salem          | 0.68                    | 61                               | 47                              | 82.7                      | 82.7                      | 58.2                      | 14.2                      |
| TVCC           | 0.54                    | 61                               | 42                              | 123.8                     | 123.8                     | 93.5                      | 20.1                      |

Auburn

Bernardston

Niverville

Oriskany Falls

Salem

Tri Valley



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service



## Crop Progress & Condition



**New York**

Blair Smith, State Statistician
10B Airline Drive, Albany, NY 12235
Phone: 518-457-5570 Fax: 800-591-3834

[www.nass.usda.gov/ny](http://www.nass.usda.gov/ny)

Week ending May 8, 2016

*Issued weekly on the internet, April - November  
by the Northeastern Regional Field Office of NASS*

[nassrfooner@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nassrfooner@nass.usda.gov)

Released May 9, 2016

**Good Week for Field Work:** New York had an average of 3 days suitable for field work. Weather was cold and wet this week with several days of gentle rain. Conditions have slowed field work and most crop development. Despite the conditions, hay and winter wheat have progressed well and many pastures were in use. Field activities for the week include tillage, seeding, applying fertilizer, manure and pesticides, repair and maintenance.

### Crop Progress as of May 8, 2016 (in percent)

| Item                        | This Week | Last Week | Last Year | 5 Year Avg. |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| SPRING TILLAGE: SINGLE      | 50        | 42        | 53        | 23          |
| BARLEY: PLANTED             | 36        | 21        | 46        | 18          |
| BARLEY: EMERGED             | 6         | <5        | <5        | <5          |
| CABBAGE: PLANTED            | 12        | <5        | <5        | <5          |
| CORN: PLANTED               | 9         | <5        | 21        | 15          |
| OATS: PLANTED               | 54        | 41        | 52        | 48          |
| OATS: EMERGED               | 14        | <5        | <5        | <5          |
| ONIONS DRY: PLANTED         | 80        | 46        | 59        | 41          |
| POTATOES: PLANTED           | 16        | 10        | 23        | 33          |
| SWEET CORN: PLANTED         | 9         | 6         | 12        | 15          |
| APPLES: GREEN TIP           | 80        | 74        | 75        | 82          |
| APPLES: PINK                | 44        | 38        | 27        | 61          |
| APPLES: FULL BLOOM          | 13        | 7         | 9         | 40          |
| PEACHES: GREEN TIP          | 90        | 79        | 69        | 82          |
| PEACHES: PINK               | 54        | 44        | 19        | 58          |
| PEACHES: FULL BLOOM         | 27        | 17        | 11        | 31          |
| PEARS: GREEN TIP            | 95        | 84        | 68        | 84          |
| PEARS: PINK                 | 57        | 53        | 33        | 64          |
| PEARS: FULL BLOOM           | 38        | 32        | 19        | 33          |
| CHERRIES, SWEET: GREEN TIP  | 78        | 70        | 76        | 82          |
| CHERRIES, SWEET: PINK       | 44        | 26        | 14        | 60          |
| CHERRIES, SWEET: FULL BLOOM | 18        | 11        | 8         | 32          |
| CHERRIES, TART: GREEN TIP   | 74        | 31        | 11        | 71          |
| CHERRIES, TART: PINK        | 20        | <5        | <5        | 59          |

### Soil Moisture for Week Ending May 8, 2016 (in percent)

| Item    | Very Short | Short | Adequate | Surplus |
|---------|------------|-------|----------|---------|
| TOPSOIL | 0          | 7     | 64       | 29      |
| SUBSOIL | 1          | 8     | 67       | 24      |

### Crop Conditions as of May 8, 2016 (in percent)

| Item              | Very Poor | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent |
|-------------------|-----------|------|------|------|-----------|
| HAY, ALFALFA      | 1         | 5    | 44   | 40   | 10        |
| HAY, OTHER        | 1         | 3    | 45   | 44   | 7         |
| OATS              | 0         | 0    | 21   | 71   | 8         |
| PASTURE AND RANGE | 0         | 2    | 39   | 50   | 9         |
| WINTER WHEAT      | 0         | 3    | 25   | 52   | 20        |

*For a complete nationwide weekly weather and crop bulletin, please visit [www.usda.gov/oc/e/weather](http://www.usda.gov/oc/e/weather) and click on "Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin."*