

...Farmers

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nice first cutting of hay, but I don't think we'll have a second," Tetor said.

Dairy farmers who are forced to buy feed for their animals instead of growing it for themselves are hit hardest by conditions like this, Tetor said, as well as consumers who may find themselves paying more for produce.

Ken Migliorelli, a Tivoli vegetable farmer who routinely travels to New York City to sell his produce in the city green markets is also hard hit. "I can't say how I'm going to do until Thanksgiving," Migliorelli said, "but my sales are down 50%."

And the fall plantings of Swiss chard, broccoli and lettuce may not happen if it doesn't rain soon. "I'll do the best I can. When God gives you lemons, you make lemonade."

Red Hook fruit farmer Norman Greig uses irrigation to keep his pick-your-own berries going. But for the hay and corn he doesn't irrigate, things are bad. "We had a good first and second cutting of hay," Greig said. "The third cutting is nonexistent."

Fruit damage

For Red Hook fruit farmer John

Hardeman, the damage from the lack of rain may extend into next year. His apple and peach trees start forming buds for next year's fruit now, and if they don't get enough rain, it could be bad.

"If the tree goes into a stress situation, they won't form buds," Hardeman said.

At the same time, this year's crop could be a lot smaller. Fruit won't get as big without sufficient rain, Hardeman said. "We're dealing with it the best we can, but if it doesn't rain, I lose on the size of the fruit."