Southwest Region
Scattered showers over the past week brought 10 - 15 mm in most areas with some areas reporting more.

Cereal crops in the region are done flowering and are in the filling stage with some early crops in the late milk to soft dough stage. Canola crops are finishing blooming with some of the early seeded crops complete. Later seeded and reseeded canola is in the full bloom stage. Most flax crops are flowering with some of the earlier crops almost finished. Sunflowers are in the R2 – R4 stage and corn is a couple of weeks from tasselling. Peas are podding with some of the early fields turning and are a couple of weeks from desiccation. Preharvest glyphosate applications will start this week on winter wheat fields. In some areas winter wheat and fall rye have been swathed.

The majority of first cut hay is complete with most producers reporting average to below average yields with good quality. For producers with dairy quality hay, the second cut has started and yields are looking average. Rainfall received has helped pastures in some areas, but pastures which have been over grazed, or where producers put cattle on early are browning off and will not last much longer. There are several reports of grasshoppers in the southwest and reducing pasture quality.

The biggest concern for most producers is the lack of heat and the delayed maturity of the crop. Most producers are hoping that the area remains frost free until the first week of September to bring crop in.

Northwest Region
Rainfall amounts across the region ranged from almost 19 mm in Roblin, 13- 25 mm in the Swan Valley, just over 25 mm in Dauphin, 13-44 mm in Ste Rose and up to 63 mm North of Ste. Rose.

Cereal crops are headed out and 40-70% are beginning to fill. Cooler growing conditions have favoured canola growth and majority of the crop is podding, and beginning to form seeds. The exception is the late seeded crop in McCreary/Laurier areas. Bertha Armyworm counts are well below threshold. The much needed moisture will help crops in seed development. Some fusarium treatments are underway in Dauphin area.

Haying was not able to progress much in the past week as consistent rains have not allowed for proper drying. Progress stands about 75% complete. Hay yields down in Ste. Rose and area by about 2/3 – 3/4 of normal. Hay still laying in swaths has lost most of its nutrient value and as standing hay continues to mature, with nutrient value declining. Pastures are in fair condition.

Central Region
Sunny skies and cool temperatures prevailed for most of the week. Rainfall was spotty, ranging from 10-45 mm. Hail caused significant damage in a few fields in the last 10-14 days on the east side of the region. The ongoing cooler temperatures are worrisome, particularly as we are moving into the shorter days of August. Crop growth is slowed with the cooler temperatures, and risk of frost on delayed crops is a concern for many.

Canola continues to bloom; the earliest seeded crop is podding and done flowering. Cereals range from heading to soft dough, and are relatively clean of disease. No reports of leaf or stem rust to date. Soybeans and edible beans are flowering and pod formation has started. Sunflowers range widely in height; with the most advanced at the R5 stage. The earliest corn fields are just starting to tassel. The latest seeded flax fields are in early flower; earliest seeded are close to completion of flowering.

Fusarium head blight incidence is observed as low. Grasshoppers continue to be a problem in localized areas, with significant damage reported in some areas.

High humidity and wet weather has caused some problems with haying. First cut hay crop have yielded well,
but quality variable depending on rain. Second cut alfalfa is growing well; cutting has started. Beef quality hay is almost complete. Most pastures are in good shape; growth has suffered with cool temperatures and excess moisture. Some pastures in the southwest part of the region could use more rain. Dugouts are full.

All crops would benefit from warmer temperatures: soybeans, edible beans, sunflowers and corn in particular.

**Eastern Region**

Heat accumulation across the region was approximately 60% of normal last week. Some advance in the development of warm season crops was observed but these crops remain significantly delayed. Soil moisture conditions are rated as full across the region with as much as 45 mm of rainfall in some districts. Rainfall accumulations were extremely variable. Standing water is observed in some fields along with crop yellowing and stunting.

Crop development throughout the region remains variable. Barley is most advanced with the majority of fields headed out and filling. Spring wheat is about 85% heading and filling while Oats is about 80% heading and filling. Spraying for fusarium head blight in later seeded wheat fields continues. Early seeded canola is has pod fill, but over half of the acres are in the still flowering. Producers are assessing the economic benefit of spraying the later flowering canola for sclerotinia. Many late seeded canola fields are thin and damaged from excess moisture. Soybeans are in the R2-R3 stage. Their advance in maturity is likely due to day length effects in spite of the cool growing conditions. Soybeans remain short (12 to 24” tall) and immature for this time of year. Field peas are primarily pod filling but still flowering. Flax is flowering. Corn is starting to tassel. Sunflowers are at the R2-R3 stage. Flowering periods for cool season crops like canola, flax and field peas are longer than normal this year, which producers are hoping translates into above average yields.

Hayfield and pastureland conditions are rated as good. Hay yields thus far are below normal with alfalfa yields at 1.5 tons/acre and alfalfa/grass stands producing 2 tons/acre. Progress on second cut is repeatedly delayed because of weather conditions. Overall, about 80% of total hay production is up.

Most crop producing farmers concerns remain focused on the delayed and short stature of warm season crops. Corn, soybeans and sunflowers will require above normal temperatures for the rest of the summer and an exceptionally long growing season to reach maturity. The risk of an early frost is on everyone’s mind as we move into August. Beef and dairy producer concerns remain focused on a potential feed shortage due to the decreased yield of the delayed first cut and the slow growth of the second cut.

**Interlake Region**

Precipitation for the past week ranged from 18 to 100 mm of rain from spotty showers with general rains on Friday and overnight Sunday. The heaviest rains fell northwest of Riverton. Day time temperatures for the week were moderate.

The maturity of winter wheat crops varies throughout the south Interlake with some fields at the soft dough stage. The most advanced and earliest planted spring wheat crops are in the late milky dough stage. Later planted wheat fields are less advanced. Late seeded feed grains and greenfeed are in the four leaf to shot blade stage.

The earliest planted canola fields are almost finished flowering, while later planted canola is still blooming. In the north, cooler weather has been beneficial to canola crops as these crops have filled in and are looking much better. The earliest sunflower fields are at the R4 stage.

A long frost free fall will be needed to allow for maturity on many fields. Alfalfa seed crops are showing poor seed set as leaf cutter bees have not been active due to cool weather. Producers are once again considering harvesting as forage crops.

Haying progressed very little over the week as scattered showers deterred activity. Heavy rains have caused water ponding on most northeast fields, making field travel impossible for several weeks. Haying is estimated to be about 60% complete across the north Interlake.