Southwest Region
Rainfall accumulations ranged from 10 mm in the Melita area to 60 mm in the northern areas of the region. Winter wheat harvest continued as most producers were harvesting before the rain on the weekend. North of Highway #1 most producers have desiccated winter wheat but very little harvest has been done. Yields to date are average with good quality. The majority of the fall rye crop has been harvested with yields slightly above average and good quality. Barley harvest has started and yields are average. Most cereal crops are ready to be desiccated or swathed. Cereal crops in the northern part of the region are approximately two weeks away from desiccating.

Canola crops are starting to turn. South of Highway #1 some crop is in the swath and a good majority will likely be cut this week. North of Highway #1 producers are approximately one to two weeks away from cutting. No reports of any canola harvested to date.

Producers have been harvesting peas with the majority of the acres done in the south. Most peas north of Highway #1 have been desiccated and will be harvested once the weather permits. Sunflowers are flowering and corn is tasseling. Both crops require several weeks of warm and frost free weather.

Second cut hay is done and yields are below average with good quality. Areas that received rain over the past couple weeks have seen an improvement in pasture conditions.

Northwest Region
Excess moisture in the Westlake area and Waterhen, Meadow Portage and Crane River regions has prevented most ranchers from accessing their native hay meadows. Good drying weather is needed to help with native hay harvest.

Reported tame hay yields are 2/3 to 3/4 of normal. Good tame hay fields that were cut early and had fertilizer applied are showing good second cut regrowth.

Pre-harvest application of desiccants has taken place on a few advanced cereal fields. Fusarium head blight has been reported in some cereal crops. There is the odd canola field being swathed. Cereal and oilseed crops require warm weather to advance to maturity.

Central Region
Rainfall accumulations in the region varied from 40 to 90 mm in eastern areas, while western parts of the region received 15 to 50 mm. Hail was reported in the Brunkild and Morden areas. Rain on August 24 resulted in 10 to 20 mm of precipitation in a strip through Morden-Carman-Brunkild-Starbuck. Winter wheat harvest is progressing with reports of yields ranging from 30 to 90 bu/acre with an average yield of 70 bu/acre. Portage area reports sprouting, mildew, low fusarium and protein at eleven percent. Pre-harvest applications continue in spring cereals. Swathing of barley has started and some combining has been done. Early reports have yields averaging 90 bu/acre. Oat and spring wheat harvest is just starting in western areas; no yield reports to date. Perennial forage crops are being swathed with a small amount harvested.

Canola is maturing with late seeded canola still blooming. Some swathing has started. Blackleg and sclerotinia is being reported in some canola fields, causing lodging concerns.

Corn is in the grainfill stage with the exception of later maturing hybrids or late planted corn. Sunflowers are blooming. Soybeans are starting to form pods and flax fields are close to finishing flowering, with the earliest fields turning. White mould is reported in both edible beans and soybeans.

Haying continues with slow progress due to wet and humid conditions. Cool temperatures are slowing regrowth. Wet weather is keeping
pastures green and growth adequate. Potatoes are being irrigated as needed. Early table harvest has begun.
Grasshoppers are causing some concerns, but not widespread. Uneven crop maturity will present some problems at harvest. Late maturing crops and wet conditions are a concern for most producers.

Eastern Region
The region received rainfall accumulations ranging from 15 to 44 mm last week and heat accumulation remained below normal. Weather conditions are delaying field operations. Harvesting of winter wheat occurred last week. Fusarium damaged kernels and sprouting is evident in harvested samples. Limited barley harvesting occurred with reported yields of 80 to 90 bu/ac. The majority of the barley crop was ripe with swathing and combining proceeding where weather conditions allowed. Most of the wheat and oats were in the soft dough stage with pre-harvest herbicide applications proceeding. Swathing of canola fields occurred. Soybean development ranged from the R4 to R5 growth stages with seed filling evident on some fields. Soybean aphid numbers nearing economic threshold levels were reported in some areas. Producers continue to monitor the situation. Flax continued pod filling. Sunflowers were at the R5.3 to R5.5 stage.

Hayfield conditions were rated as fair with pastureland conditions rated as good. Limited progress was made in haying last week and wet weather has deteriorated second cut hay remaining on the ground. Feed supplies remain a concern with producers as a result of reduced first and second cut hay yields.

Interlake Region
Rain throughout the week brought harvesting operations of hay, forage seed and winter wheat to a halt; however, harvesting resumed Sunday afternoon. Rainfall amounts through the week varied from 12 mm in the Ashern area to 70 mm in the Riverton/Arborg district. Some winter wheat acres were straight combined at tough to damp moisture contents in the Stonewall and Warren areas. Yields range from 65 to 70 bu/acre with sprouting causing downgrading in some samples. Sclerotinia is showing up in many canola fields and white mould has been reported in soybeans. Fusarium head blight has been reported in spring wheat. Crops require warm and dry weather conditions to advance to maturity.

Tall Fescue and timothy forage seed crops harvest continued on Sunday afternoon. Hay fields lying in swaths were raked and baled and round bale silage was made on second cut fields. Feed and straw supplies are a concern for beef producers in the Arborg, Riverton, Gimli and Fraserwood areas as a result of excess moisture limiting haying operations and reduced annual cereal crop acres for straw.

Commodities
Canola

Canola crops in the province range from hanging onto the last few flowers to being swathed. To assess for swathing, canola fields should be scouted starting 7 – 10 days after flowering is completed. Swathing should be targeted around 50-60% seed color change. This means the bottom pods on the main stem have seeds which are black, seeds in the pods in the middle third of the stem are tan colored and seeds on the top third of the stem are an olive green, but firm, will not crush and can be rolled between the thumb and forefinger. For more information and visual guides, visit the Canola Council website for the “Time of Swathing Guide” at https://canolacouncil.merchantsecure.com/canola_resources/product12.aspx.

Diseased and prematurely ripening plants are becoming obvious as fields ripen. Sclerotinia, blackleg, root rot, fusarium wilt and clubroot can all cause premature ripening of canola in the field. Identification of disease presence can help your future canola yields by changing management choices such as crop rotation, variety choice and fungicide use to address the issue. For more information on what to look for visit http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/crops/diseases/.

Flax
The flax crop ranges from finishing flowering to ripening and fields changing color. In preparation for harvest, desiccation or swathing should not occur until 75% of the bolls have turned brown. Diseased spots and premature ripening are appearing in some fields. Walk in and determine the
reason – is it pasmo? It looks like brown spots on the leaves and on the stems, further details at http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/crops/diseases/fac19s00.html. If you are seeing pasmo infections, the disease presence in an indication that fungicide applications may be warranted in future flax crops in that field.

Sunflower
The sunflower crop is flowering, in more advanced fields in the southwest, flowering is complete. The most noticeable things occurring in sunflower fields at this time is disease. Sclerotinia wilt (basal and mid stalk), early signs of head rot, and phoma are starting to appear in fields as well as rust showing up in new fields or advancing in fields sprayed with fungicide earlier in the season. With no fungicide treatment available and being long-lived soil borne diseases, incidence of verticillium and sclerotinia emphasizes the importance of maintaining a 3 or 4 year rotation between sunflowers with non host crops. For more information visit http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/crops/diseases/ and www.canadasunflower.com.

Soybeans
Despite the lateness of the season, soybean fields continue to improve and pod development has been good over the last two weeks. Fields in the area north and east of Winnipeg are not as good or advanced as other areas. Most fields in the province are in the late R4 – R5 stage with 25-40 pods/plant that have a chance of maturing if no frost is received until mid September. Most plants have 2-3 pods/node and 3 seeds/pod but plants are short and pod set is very close to the ground. Soybean aphids have been found at low levels in most areas. Weather has remained cool and wet and the crop is 2-3 weeks behind normal. We are at less than 80% of normal GDD (Growing Degree Days). Fields north of Highway #1 are wet. The crop is very late and an open fall will be needed for the crop to mature.

Potatoes
Harvest of processing potatoes for direct off field delivery to frozen processing factories began last week. Reports from the harvest indicate that the yields ranged from approximately 240 to 250 cwt/ac. The largest tuber reported last week weighed in slightly over 9 ounces. The harvest of tablestock potatoes began last week, with yields reported to be 220 cwt/ac.

Up to the end of last week two cases of late blight have been confirmed in Manitoba. One case is in the southern region (Graysville, Morden, Plum Coulee, Rosetown and Winkler area). The second case is in the Swan River area. Fields should be scouted for late blight lesions. Early detection is important so as to reduce the potential spread of this disease. Late blight is a community disease and all producers need to be vigilant. If late blight is detected, the affected area should be top-killed immediately to reduce further spread. Fungicide applications should continue on the desiccated area until vines are completely dead. If you suspect late blight, please contact MAFRI staff for assistance. Send any suspect plants to the Crop Diagnostic Lab at the University of Manitoba campus (545 University Crescent, Winnipeg, MB R3T 5S6).

One Green Peach aphid was found at two monitoring sites on leaves and one was identified from the suction trap at one location last week. The total number of aphids found compared to the week before was greater at two thirds of the monitoring sites. It is recommended that in your regular field scouting of seed potato fields, checking for aphids be included. The underside of leaves, especially lower leaves, should be checked for aphids.