Southwest Region

Harvesting of winter cereal crops continues across the region with reports of average to above average yields and good quality. With good weather conditions most producers should complete harvest of their winter cereal crops by end of the week. Barley and wheat harvest has also started with average yields and good quality being reported. Desiccation and swathing of spring cereal crops also continues throughout the region. Several producers have been cutting canola. With good weather, most canola in areas south of Highway #1 will be in the swath by end of the week. In areas north of Highway #1, some canola fields still require approximately one more week to mature. Pea harvest is 70% complete with yields average to above average with good quality. Sunflowers continue to bloom with no reports of rust to date. Corn continues in the seed-fill stage with good cob development.

Rainfall over the past couple of weeks has helped pastures that were not overgrazed; however, areas that missed the rains or were overgrazed may need supplemental feed in the near future. Feed supplies still remain a concern and several producers are looking for alternate feed sources such as straw.

Northwest Region

Winter wheat harvest is 60 to 70% complete with average yields being reported. A few fields of spring wheat have been swathed, particularly north of Ste. Rose. Spring wheat desiccation continues. If weather conditions are good some harvest operations should get underway by the weekend. Dry conditions in areas including the Swan Valley may impact yield potential.

Cutting of canola will continue this week. Some canola fields still require one to two more weeks to mature. Cereal silage harvest is in full swing with yields ranging from average to above average.

Pasture conditions have been improved with recent rains with the exception of the eastern side of the region which is suffering from excess moisture. Producers continue to struggle to put up native hay.

Central Region

Winter wheat harvest is complete; the last fields combined had lower grades due to sprouting.

A small amount of spring wheat has been harvested with yields being reported at 45 to 50 bu/ac. Barley is yielding 80 bu/ac and with the recent rains some downgrading has occurred. Canola is being swathed; staging of swathing has been a challenge due to sclerotinia infection.

Early maturing varieties of edible beans are showing yellowing on leaves and pods. White mould is evident in edible beans and soybeans.

Winter cereal seeding has started in the Portage area.

Soybean aphid numbers have increased recently, but with the cooler weather over the past week and soybeans maturing, the risk is lessening.

Second cut alfalfa is still taking place.

Eastern Region

Limited harvesting of winter wheat occurred last week due to intermittent rainfall and wet field conditions. Progress in swathing and combining of early seeded barley was also delayed. Early seeded wheat and oats continue to mature. Swathing of canola occurred on a limited basis due to the weather although as much as 50% of the crop was at the appropriate stage. Staging of canola swathing has been difficult due to sclerotinia infection and uneven crop development. Soybeans are in the R5 growth stage. White mould is evident in some soybean stands.

Sunflowers varied from late R5 to R6 growth stages. Corn is in the blister growth stage. Harvesting activities are expected to become
general this week as fields become passable.

Hayfield conditions are rated as fair with pastureland conditions rated as good. Limited progress was made in haying last week and wet weather continued to deteriorate any second cut hay remaining on the ground. Producers are considering taking a third cut where possible.

Feed supplies remain a concern as a result of reduced first and second cut hay yields, especially with producers in the northeast districts of the region. Producers are looking at alternative feed supplies options.

Interlake Region

Precipitation over the past week has resulted in field travel becoming increasingly difficult. Excess moisture in some areas is hampering harvest operations for annual crops, as well as forage seed fields and hay fields.

Winter wheat harvest is progressing in the south Interlake with yields ranging from 70 to 80 bu/acre. Downgrading has occurred in some samples due to fusarium head blight infection and sprouting. Canola swathing has started with sclerotina damage evident in some fields. Spring wheat is being desiccated.

Timothy seed fields are being harvested. Shelling is evident in areas of aggressive rainfall, combined with over maturity.

Hay harvest is resuming with late first cut in some areas and second cut in others. Access to some fields is still limited due to excess moisture. Native hay harvest is variable with challenges close to water bodies and tributaries. Hay that has been harvested recently is of poorer quality due to rain on swaths and being baled during period of high humidity and poor drying conditions.

Feed and straw supplies remain a concern for beef producers on the east side of the Interlake.

Commodities

Canola

The majority of the canola crop in the province has finished flowering and is in the process of ripening. A number of fields in all areas (except for the northern Interlake) have been swathed, and a few fields in the southwest have been combined.

To assess for time of swathing, canola fields should be scouted starting 7 – 10 days after flowering is complete. Swathing should be targeted around 50-60% seed color change, where 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 a visual guide, visit the Canola Council website for the “Time of Swathing Guide” at https://canola-council.merchantsecure.com/canola-resources/product12.aspx.

Diseased and prematurely ripening plants are becoming obvious as fields ripen. Sclerotinia wilt (basal and mid stalk), early signs of head rot, phoma are starting to appear in fields as well as rust are 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/.

Flax

The majority of flax crop is ripening and fields are 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 is 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 is an indication that fungicide applications may be warranted in future flax crops in that field.

Sunflower

The sunflower crop is flowering and in more advanced fields in the southwest and central regions, flowering is complete. The most notable in sunflower fields at this time is disease. Sclerotinia wilt (basal and mid stalk), early signs of head rot, phoma are starting to appear in fields as well as rust are 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/.
Fruit Crops

Harvesting of day-neutral strawberry fields has started. Berries have been slow to develop with the cool August temperatures. With the swathing and harvesting of forage and canola crops, growers are monitoring for any tarnish plant bug moving into day-neutral strawberry fields.

Chokecherries (wild and orchard) harvesting continues, good yields overall.

Harvesting of early maturing apple varieties has started. Harvest is later than normal as a result of cool summer temperatures. Anticipate average yields and size.

See Prairie Fruit Growers Association website at www.pfga.com for farms open for pre-picked and U-pick fruit sales.

Potatoes

Harvest of processing potatoes for direct off field delivery to processing factories continued last week. Yields are reported to be 300 cwt/A with quality being good. Harvest of tablestock potatoes continued last week as well.

To date no additional cases of late blight have been confirmed in Manitoba. One case was identified from the southern region (Graysville, Morden, Plum Coulee, Rosetown and Winkler area). The other cases were found in the Swan River area. Detailed field scouting for late blight should be continued. At this time of the season many foliar symptoms can be confused with late blight. Proper identification is essential for disease management. Send any suspect plants to the Crop Diagnostic Lab on the University of Manitoba campus (545 University Crescent, Winnipeg, MB R3T 5S6). Contact MAFRI staff to assist in disease identification and to facilitate delivery of samples to the lab.

Producers should continue with a fungicide spray program as top growth needs to continue to be protected right up until harvest is completed. This practice will minimize the risk of late blight spores contacting the tubers at harvest which will reduce the risk of late blight developing in storage and allowing the entry of secondary rot organisms.

To date the numbers of Green Peach Aphids continue to be low this year. One Green Peach Aphid was identified at four of the nine monitoring sites from the suction traps last week. No Green Peach Aphids were found on leaves last week at any of the monitoring locations. The Green Peach Aphids found last week have likely moved out of the canola fields as those fields are being swathed.