Southwest Region
The majority of the region received precipitation over the past week with amounts ranging from 25 to 100 mm.
Cereal crop harvest ranges from 30 to 60% complete with yield and quality being average to above average. The recent precipitation is having an impact on quality of cereal crops with bleaching of spring wheat and staining in barley being reported. Approximately 25% of the canola crop has been harvested south of Highway #1 while a small percentage has been harvested in the northern areas of the region. Canola yields are average to above average.
Pastures continue to support livestock. In response to feed supply concerns, producers in some areas are grazing hay fields after second or third cut.

Northwest Region
Warm temperatures allowed harvest to progress with the exception of the eastern side of the region. Heavy rains September 7 and 8 resulted in accumulations of 35 to 275 mm with Ste. Amelie, Edystone and Cayer the worst hit areas. Hail was reported in Ethelbert.
Spring wheat harvest has started at The Pas; harvest is 45% complete in the Roblin, Ste. Rose and Dauphin areas and 80% complete around Swan River. Yields range from 30 to 60 bu/acre with good quality. Canola harvest has started around Swan River, Dauphin and Ste Rose with yields of 35 to 50 bu/acre. Other areas of the region are 50% swathed. Sclerotinia in canola and fusarium in wheat is showing up in Ste. Rose areas.
Excess moisture in the eastern area has saturated bales in the field and native hay will not be able to be harvested in the Westlake areas. Putting up native hay in Waterhen, Meadow Portage and Crane River will be a challenge.

Central Region
Excellent harvest progress was slowed with rain and cooler temperatures. Rainfall amounts ranged from 10 to 75 mm for much of the region, with areas near the border receiving up to 175 mm. Hail has damaged standing and swathed crop in small areas. Soil conditions are wet causing delays in swathing and harvest.
Many producers are reporting excellent spring cereal and canola yields. Spring wheat yields range from 45 to 75 bu/acre with good quality. Protein is lower than average and fusarium damaged kernels are low. Barley yields range from 60 to 100 bu/acre. Oat yields range from 85 to 150 bu/acre. The majority of canola is swathed. Canola yields range from 25 to 50 bu/acre with average yields of 35 bu/acre.
Most sunflowers are finished blooming; the earliest seeded crop is starting to finish. Sclerotinia head rot is becoming evident in many fields. Soybeans are starting to turn. Some flax has been combined. Edible bean harvest will begin shortly.
Potato harvest continues; most producers will be taking in crop this week.
Haying continues with slow progress due to wet and humid conditions. Wet weather is keeping pastures green and growth adequate, although continuously grazed pastures are beginning to deteriorate.
Winter wheat and fall rye is being seeded. Acres are limited due to late harvest and wet field conditions.

Eastern Region
While harvesting occurred in some districts at the beginning of last week, heavy rainfall at the end of week which resulted in accumulations of 44 to 76 mm range halted harvest operations. Soil moisture status is rated as full.
Winter wheat harvest is complete with yields ranging from 60 to 85 bu/acre. A limited amount of canola stubble being available has greatly limited the amount of winter wheat acres seeded this fall. Approximately 10% of the early seeded spring wheat was harvested with yields ranging from 40 to 60 bu/acre.
Low fusarium head blight levels are being reported. Barley is over 50% complete with yields ranging from 75 to 100 bu/acre. A limited amount of oats has been harvested with yields ranging from 80 to 100 bu/acre. Canola is 75% swathed with 10 to 15% combined. Quality is good with yields ranging from 30 to 50 bu/acre. Early seeded soybeans are in the R6 growth stage with some early maturing varieties moving into R7. Corn is entering the early dent stage.

Hay and pastureland conditions are rated as good. Where good regrowth is occurring, many producers will take a third cut. Cattle producers will be baling straw to supplement feed supplies this winter.

Interlake Region
Precipitation for the past week ranged from 8 mm in the South Interlake to 150 mm in the Gypsumville area.

Harvest progress in the region ranges from 0% in the Arborg area to 50% complete. The most progress has been made in the southern areas of the region. Early seeded spring wheat fields have been harvested; majority of spring wheat crops are mature in the southern areas of the region but require grain and straw to dry down further for harvest operations to start. Swathing of canola crops is about 50% complete and canola crops harvested to date have yielded between 25 and 45 bu/acre. Sclerotinia infection is the limiting factor in the lower yielding canola fields. Barley crops harvested to date are yielding 70 to 90 bu/acre.

Winter wheat is being planted into canola stubble in the south Interlake. Alfalfa seed crops did not set seed due to the excessive moisture in an area extending from Gimli to Ashern. These fields will be harvested as forage hay crops. Alfalfa seed crops in the Moosehorn area have set seed.

Unseeded fields in the north Interlake are being filled with many fields being filled for the first time this season.

Harvest of forage crops and green feed continued to progress over the past week in the north Interlake. Excess moisture in the Arborg and Gypsumville areas has caused hay harvest operations to come to a standstill.

The dry conditions in the southwest has resulted in hay yields 30-75% of normal – with a concern of grasshopper populations in some areas in recent weeks. Hay yields in the northwest ranged from 30-50% of normal - due to dry conditions in the western portions and excess moisture in the eastern portions. Furthermore, overland flooding in the eastern portions has left bales standing in water and native hay stands inaccessible for this year’s harvest. The hay yields in the Interlake region range from normal in the south, to 60-70% of normal in the northwest, and 40-60% in the northeast due to overland flooding and saturated soils. Some shortages in the Interlake may be mitigated by unpollinated alfalfa seed crops being harvested for hay. Eastern hay yields are below average due to intermittent rains and saturated soils; however, moist conditions are providing for reasonable regrowth and third cut options on higher grounds.

Green feed and silage yields are reported as average right from the northwest to the eastern regions. Additionally, cattle producers continue to bale straw to stretch feed supplies this winter.

Low to medium quality (cow) hay is selling between $0.035 to $0.06/lb,
and high quality (dairy) hay is selling for $0.06 - $0.08/lb. Some higher priced hay is moving into the horse industry with lesser amounts is being bought by the sheep and goat industries.

Similar reports of reduce hay yields are being heard from AB and SK, where many producers are electing to down-sizing their herds.

Pastures
Pastures in the southwest are recovering after late season rains; however, moderate to high grasshopper populations (Melita to Russell) combined with poor responses to precipitation has resulted in some producers beginning to graze of second and third cuts of tame hay stands. Pastures in the rest of the province are rated as average after the late season improvement in growing conditions.

Potatoes
A case of late blight from the central region (defined as including Elm Creek, Gladstone, MacGregor, Portage and Treherme) was confirmed today. In order to decrease the risk of late blight entering storage on tubers it is recommended that fields where late blight has been found be top killed prior to harvest. It is also recommended that producers continue with a fungicide spray program as top growth needs to continue to be protected until harvest is completed. The continued protection of potato vines will minimize the risk of late blight spores contacting the tubers at harvest therefore reducing the risk of late blight developing in storage and allowing the entry of secondary rot organisms into tubers. Producers should be looking for late blight infection on tubers during harvest. Images of tubers with late blight can be found at the flowing link; http://www.uiweb.uidaho.edu/ag/plantdisease/plbtuber.htm. As with foliar late blight, correct identification of tuber late blight is critical to managing the disease properly. If you have any suspicious tuber or foliar late samples send them 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.

It was reported last week that some producers began their harvest of potatoes going into storage. The harvest of direct haul potatoes for off field delivery to market continues. It is estimated that the provincial potato harvest is approximately 15% completed.

Aphid numbers increased last week at eight of the nine monitoring sites. At four of the monitoring sites Green Peach Aphids were found. The majority of aphids counted at monitoring sites last week are classified as other (not Green Peach, Potato or Buckthorn Aphids). Aphids can transmit disease to plants as long as the plants still have green foliage in their canopy. Aphid species that are less efficient at transferring disease can do so if they are present in sufficient numbers. The warm temperatures (forecast for most of this week) should allow aphids to continue to be active.