Southwest Region

Very little harvest occurred over the past week due to light rains and snowfall in several areas of the region. Most areas in the southern part of the region reported light rain while regions in the north more snowfall was reported with amounts as high as 12 to 15 cm.

Cereal crop harvest is 85 to 90% complete with some later seeded wheat, barley and oats yet to combine. Percentages of cereals to be harvested are higher in the northern part of the region, towards Shoal Lake and north. Yields to date have been average to above average with producers reporting wheat in the 50 bu/acre range, barley in the mid 80 bu/acre, and oats in the mid 90 to 100 bu/acre range. Quality to date has been good with protein levels lower than normal.

Canola harvest is 70 to 75% complete with the higher percentage to be harvested again the northern part of the region, towards Hamiota and north. Yields to date have been average to above average with producers reporting yields in the 50 bu/acre range, barley in the mid 80 bu/acre, and oats in the mid 90 to 100 bu/acre range. Quality has been good and the biggest issue now is to get the crop to dry down after the rain and snow.

Flax harvest is 40 to 50% complete with crop still out throughout the entire region. Yields to date have been average to above average with reports of yields of 30 bu/acre.

There are some reports of difficult harvesting because of the cool conditions and slow dry down of straw.

Peas have been completed with yields reported in the mid to high 50 bu/acre range with good quality.

Sunflowers harvest has not begun but the crop looks to be average to above average. Recent frosts will help bring on the harvest.

Corn silage harvest has begun and yields to date are average, around the 10 to 15 tons/acre. Grain corn harvest has not begun yet.

Pastures are done and some producers have begun feeding on pastures.

Northwest Region

Despite a cool spring with frosts followed by a cool summer with low heat unit accumulation, the long open fall and above temperatures in September helped crop maturity and better yields than expected. Soil moisture conditions range from ideal to saturated. Last week snowfall resulted in accumulations of 10.5 cm across the region with up to 25 cm around Ste. Rose which slowed down harvest and will downgrade crop quality.

Sclerotinia in the Ste. Rose area resulted in yield loss and the later seeded canola has a higher count of green seed. Flax harvest 10% to 50% complete with yield ranging 15 to 25 bu/acre with 60% grading 1CW and 40% 2Can. The cool weather during the flower period increased the yield potential.

Ergot was present in later harvested wheat in the Roblin area. In the Dauphin and Ste. Rose area, fusarium in 30% of HRSW dropped grades from #2 to #3 or feed. Barley harvest 95% complete: average yield of 60 to 75 bu/acre; 10% graded Malt, 70 to 85% graded 1CW, 15% to 20% graded 2CW because of light bushel weight and sprouting. Oats harvest 20% to 98% complete: average yield of 75 to 90 bu/acre; grading 40% to 85% 1CW, 15 to 30% 2CW, and 30% 3CW. Canola harvest 60% to 100% complete: average yield of 40 bu/acre; grading 60 to 100% 1Can and 0 to 30% 2Can and 0 to 10% 3CAN. The cool weather during the flower period increased the yield potential. Sclerotinia in the Ste. Rose area resulted in yield loss and the later seeded canola has a higher count of green seed. Flax harvest 10% to 50% complete with yield ranging 15 to 25 bu/acre with 60% grading 1CW and 40% 2CW.

Heavy harrowing has been done but very little fall tillage and fertilizer application has been done to date.

Winter wheat and fall rye seeded acres are down as a result of the delayed growing season and the late harvest.

For this time of year hay fields and pasture lands are in good condition with the exception of excess moisture in the Westlake areas.

Winter feed supplies will be tight with below normal first cut hay yields and quality and inaccessible.
native hay in low-lying areas adjacent to Lakes Winnipegosis and Manitoba. Overall 20% of the producers will be short of feed supplies with the majority of these in the Westlake and Waterhen areas. Producers are making arrangements for straw and sourcing grain. Second cut hay growth was normal but it was a challenge to get it up in time. Corn silage harvest has just begun; moisture levels are high due to immaturity and the delay in a killing frost until October 12.

Central Region

Although the 2009 crop season has been extremely challenging, many farmers are pleased with the crop harvested to date. Spring flooding, spring frost, cool summer temperatures and frequent rains delayed crop development. Canola and cereal crops did benefit from the cool summer temperatures. Yields have been average to above average in many cases, with the Gladstone area reporting the best yields in memory. However, in some cases lower than average yields were reported, as a result of adverse environmental conditions. Hot temperatures in September benefitted many of the later seeded and long season crops, allowing them to mature, as well as allowing for excellent harvest conditions. Later than normal fall frost in much of the region allowed many crops to fully mature. Maturity of long season crops is still a concern; many acres of soybeans, corn and sunflowers remain in the field. Recent hard frosts will aid in drydown of standing crop; quality is uncertain at this point. Harvest is at a standstill at present due to recent rains.

Wet soil conditions did result in many problems with equipment getting stuck, and ruts are a concern, especially in the heavier clay soils.

Spring wheat yields were generally average to above average, ranging from 25 to 70+ bu/ac. Average yield is 45+ bu/ac. Fields treated with fungicide benefited from quality improvement. The majority of the crop graded 2CW or better. Quality is generally good; concerns with mildew and fusarium head blight has caused significant downgrading in some samples, especially in later harvested crop. Protein levels are lower than average.

Much of the winter wheat was torn up in spring due to winter kill; yields were extremely variable (from 30 to 90 bu/ac) with an average yield of 65 to 75 bu/ac. Protein was low; mildew and sprouting caused downgrading. Fusarium was a problem for crop harvested after the many rains. Limited rye production yielded 60 to 70 bu/ac; quality ranging from below average to very good.

Barley yields were good, ranging from 60 to 120 bu/ac, with most areas reporting an average of 90 bu/ac. Quality is reasonable, with some staining concerns. Selection for malt is limited at this point.

Oats ranged widely this year, with many producers reporting their best yields ever. Yields ranged from 65 to 170+ bu/ac, with average around 100 bu/ac. Quality also variable; ranging from slightly below average to good test weight. Some downgrading due to weathering, mildew and wild oat content; a significant amount is grading 3CW. Canola yields were excellent for the most part, despite the challenges of the season. Some fields required reseeding due to frost damage. Canola benefited from the cooler temperatures; pod and seed set were very good. Yields were variable, ranging from 20 to 70 bu/ac, averaging around 40 to 45 bu/ac. Quality is excellent for the most part, with majority grading #1. Minor green seed issues in late seeded or re-seeded crop. Some crop is still in swath. Sclerotinia and blackleg concerns are more prevalent; insect damage this year was minor.

Flax yields ranged from 20 to 40 bu/ac, averaging 25 to 30 bu/ac. Quality is good. As much as 75% remains to be harvested, although majority of acres in the west are complete.

Peas ranged from 40 to 50 bu/ac with excellent quality.

Edible bean harvest ranges from 60 to 75% complete. Limited reports on yield range from 1500 to 2500 lbs. Quality is average.

Soybean harvest is just starting. Early yields vary from 25 to 40 bu/ac, averaging around 30 bu/ac. Quality is good on the limited acres harvested.

Buckwheat has been swathed.

Canaryseed is mature; no reports to date, but yields are expected to be good.

Potato harvest is close to complete, yields range from 250 to 350cwt. Quality is generally good. Earlier hot weather reduced digging time and caused some storage problems.

Soybean harvest is just starting. Very early yield reports range from 1500 to 1800 lbs/acre. Yields will be affected by sclerotinia head rot.
Corn silage to date ranges from 15 to 18T. Quality is reported as excellent.

Grain corn harvest is just starting. Most fields will have reached maturity at killing frost, but moisture is very high.

Fall cultivation ranges widely, dependent on field conditions. Some farmers report being close to caught up, while others are hindered due to wet conditions as well as the late harvest. Very little post harvest weed control has been done. Fall fertilizing has begun. Corn, sunflower and bean growers are concerned the late harvest will compromise their ability to prepare fields for next year’s crop. Soil testing continues when conditions allow. Manure application continues as conditions allow. Burning of cereal crop residue on heavy clay soils will continue.

Winter wheat and fall rye seeded has declined due to late harvest; fields with required stubble weren’t available during the seeding window.

Pastures and hay fields are in fair to good condition, dugouts are full going into the winter. Late season haying continues; most should wrap up this week. Producers have started supplemental feeding. Good supply of all classes of feed, including straw. Quality is relatively good, with some downgraded due to rain; some surplus hay may be available for sale. Livestock feeding is expected to be similar or lower than last year as herds are culled due to poor demand and returns.

**Eastern Region**

Harvest and field operations slowed significantly last week due to intermittent light rainfall throughout the week and weekend snow fall, which varied from trace to as much as 40 cm of accumulation. Heavy snowfall was particularly noted in the northeast districts. Soil moisture levels range from good in the south to full in central and northern districts of the Eastman region.

Hard red spring wheat in the region had an average yield of 46 bu/acre. Grade breakdown is 10 to 50% 1CW, 40 to 60% 2CW and between 10 and 40% 3CW Feed. Some later harvested spring wheat is being downgraded because of FHB and weathering. Winter wheat had an average yield of 75 bu/acre. Oats harvest is 75 to 95% complete with an average yield of 100 bu/acre. Grade breakdown is 50 to 100% grading 1CW, 40 to 95% grading 2CW and 5 to 10% grading 3CW. Barley had an average yield of 78 bu/acre with 10% going malt, up to 50% grading 1CW and 40 to 100% grading 2CW. Rye had an average yield of 40 bu/acre with 50% grading 1CW, 40% grading 2CW and 10% grading sample. Canola had an average yield of 39 bu/acre with 40 to 100% grading 1CAN, 5 to 40% grading 2CAN and up to 20% grading 3CAN. The canola harvest is 85 to 95% complete. Flax had an average yield of 28 bu/acre with 70 to 100% grading 1CW and up to 30% grading 2 CW. The flax harvest is 40 to 90% complete across the region. Thus far, 20 to 25% of soybeans have been harvested. Average yield has been 34 bu/acre with the crop grading up to 50% 1CAN, 50 to 75% 2CAN and up to 25% 3CAN. Green seed problems in the later seeded crop are expected once harvesting resumes. Sunflower harvesting has not begun. In later planted fields there is some evidence of incomplete head filling. Sclerotinia head rot is becoming a concern in confectionary sunflowers. Corn harvesting has not begun.

Fall tillage varies from being half done in some areas to being caught up in areas that received less precipitation. Very little fertilizer has been put down so far and a limited amount of drainage work has been done. An average amount of fall rye acres were seeded but only about half of the average number of winter wheat acres went in this fall and most winter wheat fields were seeded later than normal.

Hay and pastureland conditions are rated as being in fair to good. Most cows and calves are still on pasture and some feeding on pasture is occurring. Those considering herd reductions or liquidations are being discouraged by current auction mart prices. In southern districts of the region, the supply of good quality is down slightly and there is hay for sale in this area. But in central and northern districts, good quality hay is in very short supply. There should be adequate amounts poor quality hay. Straw supplies look to be good if cattle producers can get it off. Corn silaging is proceeding and some grain corn producers report being approached by cattle producers looking to make silage. Beef producers purchasing hay report being able to find product but at high prices.

**Interlake Region**

Damp conditions prevailed for most of last week with rain and snow over the weekend. Accumulations ranged between 4 to 20 mm in the form of rain and snow. Up to 30 cm of snow fell on the Fisher
Branch/Riverton/Arborg area. Day time temperatures for last week were below the seasonal average. Cool, cloudy weather impeded harvest progress of grain crops. Approximately 15% of the Interlake crop remains unharvested. Crops yet to be harvested include: wheat, canola, oats, flax, soybean, and sunflowers. Fall tillage continues where conditions permit.

Wheat harvest is 95% complete, yielding an average of 45 bu/acre. Grades varied from 30% 2CW, 50% 3CW, and 20% 4CW. Oats is 90% harvested, yielding 85 bu/acre on average. Reported grades are 50% 1CW, 20% 2CW and 30% 3CW and lower. Barley harvest is complete with yields about 50 bu/acre. Most barley was excellent quality. Canola is 95% harvested with an average yield of 30 bu/acre. All canola is expected to grade 1Can. Flax is only 60% harvested and average yields are not yet available.

Hay harvest may be over unless favourable weather returns. Producers are still attempting to harvest low lying areas which were too wet throughout most of the growing season. Pasture conditions are good; however supplemental feeding has started in some locations. Stockpiled grass and second cut hay fields provide late pasture for many producers.