Southwest Region

Rainfall throughout the Southwest region limited harvest to a few days last week; some harvesting was accomplished on Tuesday and Wednesday and then again on Saturday and Sunday. Frost was recorded on a few days with temperatures dropping as low as -3 degrees Celsius.

Cereal crop harvest ranges between 40 to 65% complete. Many acres have been taken off tough with producers drying grain to safe storage moisture levels. Quality of all cereal crops remaining in the field continues to decline due to weathering. The most harvest progress is seen in wheat with barley and oats sharing the highest percentage remaining to be harvested.

Canola harvest ranges from 10 to 50% complete with yields average to below average. No flax has been harvested to date. The sunflower crop is showing effects of sclerotinia head rot and stem rot; producers are looking at management options to bring the crop in earlier to try and mitigate the effects.

The past week was challenging for producers trying to put up feed. Instead of dry feed, silage was being done. However, producers were finding it difficult to travel on fields with heavy equipment. Frost will reduce the quality of pastures and there has been some producers starting to supplemental feed.

Some winter wheat and fall rye has been planted over the past week but acres were limited.

Northwest Region

General harvesting operations were affected by variable weather and wet field conditions. Frost was recorded with temperatures of -2 to -3 degrees Celsius on Tuesday and Sunday.

Overall harvested acres of wheat range from 75 to 85% complete and canola harvest is 25 to 35% complete. Both crops have below average yields for the region. Higher than average volumes of wheat is grading #2 and #3, while canola is average in quality. Quality and yields are the highest west of Grandview where averages of wheat is 55 bushels/acre and canola at 45 bushels/acre. Until recent heavy rains, the Pas harvest was proceeding favorably with yields and quality somewhat above that area average.

General fieldwork, weed control herbicide applications, straw baling and fall-seeded crop planting also continued. With the exception of the west, all other areas of the region are dealing with some localized harvesting issues with wet field conditions. Producers are relying on aeration or drying of higher moisture samples.

Green feed is being harvested and because of moisture and frost stress, some samples have been submitted for nitrate testing.

Pasture conditions and available forage remains good in most of the region. While more native hay has been harvested, the overall native hay production areas remain negatively affected by summer excess moisture.

Central Region

Harvest progressed intermittently during the sunny and dryer periods of the week; harvest advanced during the earlier part of the week and during the weekend. Frost was reported in the Western part of the region with little impact as most crops are ripe.

Cereal grains harvest is reported to be 95 to 100% complete across the region. Most of the crop was harvested earlier with good grades; only later harvested fields suffered grade loss as rain and wet field conditions resulted in sprouting.

Canola harvest is mostly complete in the Red River Valley while 85 to 95% is completed in the escarpment area. Yields vary most in the Red River valley area due to the drowned out areas of fields. On the escarpment area, yields are above average with good grades.

Flax is mature and harvest is progressing as conditions allow. So far, harvested fields have average to
above yields and good grades. Field beans are reported dry and harvest is underway in the Red River Valley area.

Warm season crops like corn, soybeans, and sunflower are advancing in terms of maturity. Some white mould in the beans and head rot in sunflowers is being reported. Some desiccating of sunflower acres occurred in the Portage area.

New potato harvest is progressing but difficult to impossible in some areas depending on the soil moisture levels.

Seeded winter cereal acreage to date is considered below average due to the delayed harvest and the wet soil conditions. Many fields have standing water in parts of the fields. Field operations are difficult causing ruts in fields and operators getting stuck.

Second cut hay is mostly completed with good yields and quality hay conditions.

Pastures are keeping up with grazing given the good soil moisture status.

Eastern Region

The Eastern region experienced light rain and cooler weather which slowed harvest and haying progress during the week. All areas of the region reported light frost (-1 degrees Celsius) on Sunday morning which lasted 1 to 2 hours. No crop damage was reported to corn and soybeans but wilting of soybeans leaves was apparent in many fields.

Cereals harvest is still ongoing for some isolated areas of the region as weather continues to cause delays. The southeastern portion of the region reported 5% of wheat acres not harvested while northern areas still have as much as 10% of oats and 15% of flax acres still to harvest. Quality remains a concern with swaths lying on the ground creating mildew and sprouting issues in the samples. Remaining canola harvested during the week suffered shattering losses in both swathed and standing canola fields.

Soybean harvest got underway on Friday with early seeded and early maturing varieties harvested with yields reported between 30 to 40 bushels/acre. Field conditions improved by Sunday but challenges are expected in fields with uneven crop maturity.

Sunflowers continued seed filling and yield potential continued to vary greatly because of excess water damage. Corn is maturing.

Winter wheat seedling emergence is good to excellent with plants in the 1 to 3 leaf stage with the majority of the plants in the 2 leaf stage. Winter wheat acres are lower than anticipated in the Eastern region due to poor harvest quality and time constraints this fall.

Hayfield condition improved slightly in southern areas while they deteriorated in the northern areas of the region. Producers continue to struggle making dry hay as quality worsens and excess moisture is creating challenges for hauling bales off the field. Cattle are grazing some fields amongst the bales as producers switch hayland and pastures in an attempt to make feed for the winter.

Interlake Region

Sunny and breezy weather over the weekend allowed for harvest operations to resume. Soils are saturated resulting in harvesting equipment frequently getting stuck in mud.

Harvest is incomplete on most crops. Canola, oats, canary seed, soybeans, sunflowers and some wheat remain unharvested to date. Producers in the Arborg/Riverton/Fisher Branch area are using tracks and four wheel drive equipment to travel on wet cropland. Recent frosts have advanced soybean and sunflower dry down.

Haying progress is limited as most fields are difficult to travel on. Some second cut haylage was harvested over the weekend. Good drying conditions are needed to dry out fields and allow for dry hay harvest. Recent frosts will dessicate some alfalfa fields which could result in leaf drop and loss of quality. Frost has also caused concerns over nitrate levels in greenfeed and swath grazing crops. Straw baling is also difficult as rutted fields and wet conditions interfere with progress.

Pastures are exhibiting much slower growth with the cool weather and shorter days. Alternate grazing plans are beginning as pastures wind down. Producers are moving cattle to hayfields to make use of regrowth. Corn crops that have experienced drowning from excess moisture may be used for grazing as silage harvest will be difficult due to wet conditions.