Southwest Region
There was little to no rainfall across the region allowing for good harvest progress. Cereal crops are 80 to 85% complete; yields are average and quality is average to below average due to several rain showers. Canola harvest is 80% complete with yields average to below average with reports that later seeded canola has been impacted by frost. Flax harvest is 70% complete and yields are average to below average with reports of disease affecting yields in most areas. Sunflower producers are just starting harvest. Corn silage has begun with reports of good yield and good quality. Several producers are looking at fall weed control.

Most cattle producers are moving cows off pasture as pasture land is done for year. Some producers have started to feed.

Northwest Region
Harvest and fall field operations proceeded through the entire week with above normal daytime temperatures and drying winds. Harvest of cereals and canola is complete in most of the region. Season long excess moisture through the Dauphin, Fork River, Ethelbert, McCreary and Swan River areas have some limited acres and localized wet field conditions with unharvested late seeded barley, oats and canola crops. Very little flax has been swathed to date. Regional cereal yields are estimated at 40 to 45 bu/ac for hard red spring wheat, 45 to 50 bu/ac for extra strong wheat, 55 bu/ac for barley, and oats at 75 to 85 bu/ac. Canola averaged approximately 30 to 35 bu/ac. Reported crop yields and quality averaged higher through the Roblin area. Variability characterized yield and quality ranges through the rest of the region. Yield averages of industrial hemp are variable and low, ranging from 100 to 250 pounds/acre, reflecting wet growing season conditions and extensive field drown-outs. However, seed quality and size is very good.

Weathering was a major degrading factor on cereals with grades below normal. Quality of canola was 95% #1CAN. Fusarium was present at average frequency and reported to be at lower levels overall. Increased levels of cereal leaf disease, mildew, Sclerotinia and higher weed dockage levels are reflective of the difficult field and weather conditions during the application periods. Extensive fieldwork, fall weed control applications, straw baling and removal has been completed. Fall fertilizer applications have begun.

Corn silage is drying down and green feed is being harvested. Available straw for livestock is lower than normal throughout the eastern cereal crop areas. Late season alfalfa and hay has been harvested, generally lower yields are reported. Fall pasture conditions and available forage is good in most of the region. Additional native hay has been harvested even though quality is reduced. Localized winter-feed supply shortages is expected and some livestock feeding is occurring in the eastern section of the region which suffered from early season excess moisture.

Central Region
The 2010 crop season has been challenging. Although there have been some nice surprises, many producers comment on mixed results. Yields are average for the most part, with a wide range of yields in all crops varying according to both amount of rain and time of seeding. Many of the consistently higher yields have been seen on the west side of the region, but there are areas throughout the region where producers have had poor yields due to excess moisture. Spring flooding and frequent, often heavy, rains affected both crop yield and quality. Heavy rains in late August and September interrupted harvest for an extended period, and resulted in downgrading of crop quality, especially of later seeded crops. A recent extended warm dry spell has allowed for most producers to catch up on harvest, and to get a start on field work.
Wet soil conditions have resulted in many problems with equipment getting stuck, and ruts are a concern, especially in the heavier clay soils. Although there was a dip in temperatures in September, damage due to frost was limited. Unfortunately, there are some fields that still have standing water, where harvest is next to impossible.

Spring wheat yields varied widely, ranging from 20 to 65 bu/ac. Average yields is in the 40 to 45 bu/ac range. Eastern parts of the region saw average to below average yields; western areas had average to above average yields, with variability due to where and when the rains fell. In most cases, 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 about 10% of the crop, especially in later seeded/harvested crop. Protein levels are average.

Much of the winter wheat was torn up in spring due to winter kill; yields were extremely variable ranging from 40 to 85 bu/ac with average yields in the 55 to 65 bu/ac range. Mildew, sprouting and fusarium resulted in downgrading, with the majority of the crop grading as feed. Limited rye production yielded 75 to 85 bu/ac; majority with good quality.

Barley yields ranged from 40 to 100 bu/ac, averaging 70 to 80 bu/ac. There was some sprouting due to rains.

Oats ranged widely again this year, with a number of producers reporting excellent yields. Yields ranged from 65 to over 170 bu/ac, with the average at 100 bu/ac.

Quality is variable, ranging from below average to good test weight; lower than 2009. Majority are grading 2CW; a significant amount are downgrading due to weathering, mildew and sprouting.

Canola yields were better than expected in many cases, despite the challenges of the season. Some fields were reseeded or seeded late due to excess moisture. Yields were variable, ranging from 15 to 60 bu/ac, averaging 30 to 40 bu/ac, with the best yields in the western areas. Quality is excellent for the most part with majority grading #1. Minor green seed issues in late seeded or re-seeded crop, as well as some sprouting in crop coming off now. Many fields had problems with sclerotinia and blackleg.

Flax yields ranged from 15 to 40 bu/ac, averaging 20 to 25 bu/ac. Quality is good.

Peas range from 45 to 55 bu/ac, majority with excellent quality. A small percentage remains to be harvested.

Edible bean harvest is about 95% complete. Limited reports on yield range from 1200 to 2200 lbs, with lower yields in the south. Quality is average. White mould has been a concern.

Soybean harvest is 75 to 95% complete, with excellent progress made in the last 7 to 10 days. Yields vary from 25 to 50 bu/ac, averaging 35 to 40 bu/ac. Quality is excellent. Seed size is on the smaller side. Some concerns with white mould, but much less than 2009.

Buckwheat harvest is about 50% complete; yields are average 25 bu/ac.

Potato harvest is 80 to 90% complete; yields range from 240 to 400cwt. Quality is generally good. Wet soils continue to hamper digging. Wet conditions at harvest and late blight are expected to cause storage problems.

Sunflower harvest ranges from 20 to 90% complete; yield reports range from 1200 to 1500 lbs/ac, in some cases up to 2000 lbs/acre. Yields and quality are affected by sclerotinia head and stem rot, especially in eastern areas.

Corn silage harvest continues. Quality is reported as excellent, yields are average to very good, ranging from 10 to 18 MT, averaging 14 MT. Some may harvest silage fields for grain, depending on what the weather brings. In the wettest spots in fields, some silage corn has been left unharvested, and producers will try to graze it later.

Ten to twenty percent of the grain corn has been harvested with early yield reports of 120 to 140 bu/acre and moisture contents below 30 percent.

Fall cultivation progress ranges widely, dependent on field conditions. Some producers report being close to caught up, while others continue to be hindered due to wet conditions as well as the late harvest. Ruts in many fields are causing problems. Post harvest weed control is being undertaken as conditions allow. Fall fertilizing has begun, but is being limited by wet soils. Soil testing continues where possible. Manure application continues as conditions allow. Burning of cereal crop residue on heavy clay soils continues.

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

Exceptional weather throughout the week was instrumental in making significant progress in harvesting the remaining crops in the Eastern region. The lack of precipitation coupled with daytime highs in the mid 20’s all week improved soil moisture conditions enough to allow producers the opportunity to begin fall tillage and field drainage work. In some low lying areas, excess moisture continues to create harvesting challenges for producers and their equipment. The southeastern region of Eastern continues to struggle with the remaining acres of oats, canola and flax left to harvest with deteriorating yield and quality.

Cereals grains harvest is nearly 100% complete with the exception of some oat fields in isolated areas of the region. Oat harvested acres are 99% complete with remaining acres still in swath suffering mildew concerns. Oat yields range from lows of 30 bu/ac in northern regions to highs of 120 bu/ac in southern regions of the district with reports of light test weight samples from the entire region. Overall wheat yields ranged from 15 to 60 bu/ac with below average quality reported in northern districts while southern areas reported average yields and quality. Oilseed harvest is 95% complete with canola and flax remaining. Canola yields range from 5 to 45 bu/ac with average quality. Flax is yielding between 5 to 25 bu/ac with average quality.

Significant progress was made in the soybean harvest for the remaining areas of the region as it nears completion. Average yields range from 15 to 40 bu/ac with reports of extreme variability outside of this range. Quality was generally good for all areas of the region. Sunflower harvest is 25% complete with varying yield reports of 1000 lbs/ac or less due to excess water damage. Corn harvest is 10% complete with yields ranging from 100 to 150 bu/ac with moisture levels ranging from 22 to 25% and average quality. The recent weather improvements allowed producers the opportunity to focus some attention on field work and ditching. Winter wheat and rye seedling emergence continued with many fields now having crop in the 2 to 3 leaf stage. Progress in general fieldwork increased as compared to last week due to the absence of significant precipitation in some parts of the region.

Promising weather all week allowed some producers to make significant progress in baling hay and making silage. Second cut is now finally complete and others were trying to wrap up third cut (baling and silage) while some producers were supplementing feed on pastures. Quality continued to be an issue for all hay being produced while the conditions of the pastures continued to deteriorate due to excess moisture and overgrazing.

Warm, sunny and dry weather still remained the main focus of producers last week.

Interlake Region

Weather continued to be favorable for harvest with warm and dry conditions prevailing during the past week. Most grain producers have finished their harvest as progress ranges from 80 to 100% complete. Crops remaining to be harvested are a small portion of soybean and sunflower acres as wet field conditions are hampering harvest.

Hard red spring wheat yields averaged 28 bu/ac with grades varying from 2CW to CW Feed. About 70% of the crop graded CW Feed while 15% graded 2CW and 15% 3CW.

Oat yields averaged 45 bu/ac with 15% grading 1CW with the balance of the crop grading poorly. Barley yielded 40 bu/ac with grades 1 and 2 CW at 40% of the crop each and 20% grading sample. Fusarium and sprouting were the main reasons for downgrading in all cereals.

Canola yields averaged 24 bu/ac while grades were 65% 1CAN and 35% 2CAN. Sprouting was the main reason for lower yields and grades. Sclerotinia stem rot was also a concern as timely fungicide applications were not applied due to field conditions. Flax yields on average were 16 bu/ac while grades were quite good with most grading 1CW.

Soybean yields were quite good, averaging 32 bu/ac with very good quality. Sunflower harvest is still underway with preliminary yields in the 1100 lb/ac range. Canary seed yields are strong at or near 1000 lb/ac. It is expected that quality of canary seed and sunflowers may have deteriorated with the prolonged harvest.

Most of the corn silage crop has been harvested and should be completed by mid week as the wetter parts of fields continue to dry down to support the harvest equipment.

Fall field work is continuing as the fields dry down.
Second cut haying continues with good quality as weather cooperates. Straw and low quality feeds are also being baled and removed from fields. Alfalfa seed harvest is complete. Some fields have been baled as forage due to poor seed set or poor quality seed. Supplemental feeding on pastures is becoming apparent as pasture growth declines.