Southwest Region

Seeding is about 10% complete throughout the region with some areas reporting as high as 30%. Warm dry weather at the beginning of the week helped to dry fields allowing producers to seed, but wide-spread weekend rainfall brought seeders again to a standstill.

Field operations began slowly, but activity increased rapidly during the week in most of the region; where tillage, pre-seed weed control, fertilizer application and seeding occurred in all areas. The activities were promoted by warm and windy weather earlier in the week, which extensively improved soil conditions.

Rainfall over the weekend stopped seeding operations, with the majority of rainfall occurring in the Dauphin region and light amounts in other areas. All areas experienced cold temperatures over the weekend, with some localized reports of frost.

Weed growth is developing rapidly. Diamondback moths are very low and have just begun showing in monitoring traps.

Pasture and forage development has improved with drying conditions and warm temperatures.

Central Region

Overall, 50-60% of the crop is seeded; where percentage crop acres vary depending on area. Cereals are 70-80% seeded, canola is 50%, corn is 75%, soybeans are 30% and potatoes are 60%. The crop seeded the first week of May is emerging after the week of warm weather. Cereals are first to second leaf, corn first leaf and canola emerging.

General rainfall on May 21 was around 38-50 mm and high as 75 mm southwest of Carman. The rainfall resulted in seeding set-backs in most areas at least until Thursday, including fields where flood waters had receded and were days away from being seeded.

Pasture and hay fields are doing well for moisture, but are behind normal because of cooler early May temperatures. Warm weather last week has increased growth in pastures allowing cattle to be moved and cut down on use of winter feed.

Eastern Region

Across the majority of the region, 25-40% cereal acres were seeded; Vita area was reported 80-90% complete. Canola acres seeded are 30-40%; soybean and sunflower seeding at 30-50%; corn planting varied from 60-100% between districts.

Very good emergence has been noted on early seeded wheat and canola fields, but some fields have exhibited uneven emergence due to excess moisture combined with cool
soil in low lying areas. Grass seed fields began greening up.

Seeding resumed early in the week with steady progress until trace amounts of rain fell Friday evening. Rain on Saturday completely stopped producers, with rainfall accumulations ranging from 18-25 mm throughout the region. Standing water is evident on many fields.

Winter wheat crop conditions are fair to good across the region, with stand losses due to flooding occurring in some areas. Fertilization of winter wheat is almost complete while some herbicide spraying for broadleaf weeds reported in some areas.

Hay field condition is rated as good with growth now evident and showing potential for good yield. Pastureland condition is rated as good. Pastures are starting to green up, but demonstrating slow growth. Producers are seeding drier fields first and are changing crop types to keep up with the seeding progress. No significant cropping changes are considered yet, except for talk about switching to earlier maturing varieties if rain persists into next week. A long stretch of warm, sunny weather is needed for seeding to be completed and for crops to emerge quickly and make up for lost time.

**Interlake Region**

Seeding area ranges between 20–30% completed on most farms, with progress more advanced in areas at higher elevations and with better drainage. Seeding occurred quickly, favored by sun and wind throughout the week allowing for strong drying conditions. Soil moisture across the region is high and field operations were limited to higher, better drained soils.

Weed growth is advanced making pre-seed herbicides necessary on many fields. Spring fertilizing of winter wheat continued.

Rainfall over the weekend ranged from 6-25 mm across the region with the higher amounts falling in the south Interlake. Weekend rains will delay field operations for several days.

Fertilization of hayland and tame pastures was accelerated with the weekend rain forecast. Tame hay growth is very good with alfalfa reaching up to 20 cm in height. Pasture growth is good with most cattle being turned out. Feeding areas are very wet with severe ruts from feeding operations.

Flooding around Shoal Lake and near Lake Manitoba has caused re-location of several cattle herds that were stranded.

Movement of cattle was hampered by poor road conditions around flooded areas, but many roads are being repaired to facilitate the movement of cattle trailers.

The high water level forecast for Lake Manitoba has reduced the acres available for summer pastures. Producers in those areas are making alternate summer pasture arrangements by booking cattle in community pastures, renting pastures or fencing haylands for summer grazing.