Southwest Region

Another week of wet weather in the Southwest Region limited any progress in seeding. The region received about 30 to 120 mm of rain with Wednesday reporting the largest rain event. All runways and ditches were running and many roads were once again closed in several Rural Municipalities.

In areas south of Highway #1 overall seeding progress remains at 25% complete. Seeding progress in the Melita/Tilston/Waskada/Deloraine areas is 10% complete, Killarney/Boissevain/Minto at 25%, Souris south/Elgin/Wawanesa at 40%, Souris north/Alexander/Griswold at 5%, Virden/Reston/Miniota at 25% and Brandon/Rivers at 55% complete.

In areas north of Highway #1 overall seeding progress is at 55% complete. Seeding progress in Hamiota/Oak River is at 40% complete, Shoal Lake/Minnedosa/Newdale at 55%, Russell at 75% complete.

Wet conditions have started to affect crop development in several areas; symptoms include yellowing and slow growth.

Early seeded cereals are in the 3 to 5 leaf stage and need to be sprayed as weeds are growing quickly. Canola development ranges from emergence to 3 to 4 leaf stage. Canola seeded by plane seems to be emerging well and the next issue for these crops is to get fertilizing and weed control done. Significant pressure on canola from flea beetles was reported over the past week.

Winter wheat and fall rye in the region is doing well with some fields starting to head. Application of fungicide will be needed shortly so if field conditions remain wet application will be done by air.

Hay land crops have progressed well and an average yield is forecasted for those acres able to be harvested. However, the concern in most areas is either flooding or saturated field conditions will make harvest difficult, therefore impacting the ability to obtain good quality hay.

Pasture land that is not flooded is doing well. However, the past rainfall events have resulted in more acres to be under water and in some areas the grass is starting to yellow. Some producers still have a large portion of their pastures under water and are grazing their hay land. This will create issues for future grazing and feed for the winter.

Northwest Region

Beginning early Monday morning to mid-week, The Pas and Roblin areas had up to 25 mm of rain with Swan River receiving 50 mm. Approximately 40 to 50 mm of rain also affected the existing wet areas east of the Riding and Duck Mountains to Lake Manitoba.

Unsettled weather and light scattered showers continued through most of the region through the week.

Overall seeding progress is 50% complete in the eastern areas of the region. No field and seeding operations were able to be done this week. Seeded estimates range from lows of 35 to 50% complete around Gilbert Plains, Ethelbert, Fork River, Ste Rose and Dauphin areas. Grandview is up to 75% complete. Many fields had been sprayed and prepared for seeding when the rain arrived. With variability of soil textures and drainage features, excessive rains have prevented some producers from seeding any land. Reports indicate that in some areas of the region significant acres of canola has been broadcast seeded and harrowed.

Related to the difficult seeding conditions in the eastern areas, crop staging is variable with about 75% of the crop is emerged. Slow, uneven germination and soil crust continues to be of concern. Many of the seeded fields are wet with the recent rain. In addition to many unseeded potholes, standing water and saturated soil is drowning out emerging crop. Localized heavy downpours have also caused some erosion of fields and crop loss.

In the Roblin and Swan River areas, crop conditions are very good and planting is complete. The crop staging of wheat up to 80% tillering
and canola staging is 60% of the acres are past cotyledon stage around Swan River. The Roblin area crops are more advanced. Germination has been very even and in-crop spraying is underway. This week’s rain has delayed some in-crop herbicide treatments. Some crop yellowing in wetter low spots reported around Swan River. The Pas is almost completed seeding and hay lands are drying.

Flea beetle activity has increased but Diamondback moths trap counts remain very low across the region. Spring crop diseases have not been reported to date. Fungicide treatments in winter wheat have begun.

Generally, in the areas where the soil and moisture conditions are more favorable, hay and pasture fields continue to improve from the recent heat and are in good condition. The eastern areas of the region, especially through the Westlake sector, pasture land and both the improved and native forage remains wet with some standing water. Continuing rains and high water levels on Lakes Winnipegosis, Manitoba and Dauphin continue to cause flooding concern for adjacent native pasture and forage availability and access. In addition, increased annual crop acres are impacted by overland lake flooding preventing seeding or access to fields which otherwise might have been seeded.

Central Region

Rain showers were variable with a few areas seeing very little accumulation; however, much of the region saw amounts of 25 to 65 mm. Areas closer to Lake Manitoba received 75 to 100 mm of precipitation. As a result, field activity was limited. Warmer temperatures encouraged both crop and weed growth; some fields are yellowed due to excess moisture. Seeding is wrapping up with arrival of crop insurance deadlines, although some greenfeed acres will go in.

Seeding progress in the Starbuck area is approximately 80 to 85% complete, St. Francis/Cartier/Grey RM's at 50%, Morden/Morris/Altona at 98%, Somerset/Pilot Mound at 70 to 75%, Treherne at 85 to 90%, Carberry at 100%, Gladstone at 25 to 35%, and Portage at 75% complete. A significant number of acres will remain unseeded. Corn, soybean, edible bean, flax, pea and sunflower acres are lower than initially intended.

Reseeding is occurring for a number of different crops; some fields have been reseeded to the same crop while majority of others have changed to canola.

Fertilizer applications continue on fields that were seeded under adverse conditions. There are concerns about crop damage and field conditions, as well as timely rains.

Crop staging varies widely with late seeded crops just germinating. Fall rye is headed out; winter wheat is in flag to early heading. Corn is up to three leaves, canola is as advanced as cabbaging/early bolting, and the earliest seeded cereals are starting to tiller. Soybeans have emerged and starting into early first trifoliate stage. Sunflowers and potatoes are emerging. A low number of acres of peas and flax are reported, with fair emergence. Broadcast canola is seeing variable results with some fields establishing well while other fields are not.

Some later seeded areas will have challenges with spray timings, and later in the season harvest timing, due to variability of crop stages within fields.

Herbicide applications continue, with timely spraying a struggle in many cases due to weather conditions. Some crops are developing past the stage for timely herbicide applications. The wet weather is also resulting in weed concerns; weeds that flourish in wet conditions such as dandelions, thistles, curled dock, quackgrass, barnyard grass are common. Weed issues will be a concern through the season with uneven crop emergence and weather challenges.

Some fungicide applications have been made to winter wheat with more to come in the next week to 10 days. Leaf spot diseases are evident in spring wheat.

Flea beetles are chewing on canola and may be more of a problem with spotty emergence and slow growth. Perimeter spraying of fields is occurring, particularly in western areas of the region. Higher pressure from flea beetles is noted towards Portage and surrounding areas. Diamondback moth counts are generally low, as are Bertha armyworm moth counts.

Harvest of alfalfa for dairy quality has started; quality will be impacted by the recent rains. Hay is starting to be cut as grasses are headed and alfalfa is starting to bloom.

Pastures are maintaining growth with rain and warmer temperatures; some low lying pastures are suffering from excess moisture.
Eastern Region
Rainfall amounts over the region varied significantly with most areas seeing relatively low amounts ranging from 2 to 12 mm. In these areas seeding occurred as producers tried to get in any final acres. Also, spraying was very general for both herbicides and fungicides. Weed pressure is quite high and producers had to rush to be timely with herbicides. As well, some producers applied additional nitrogen on cereal and canola crops.

There are areas north, east and southwest of Beausejour that saw repeated accumulations of 25 mm or more over the past two weeks that has kept producers out of the fields. In these areas, soils are saturated and any rainfall quickly makes them inaccessible. Some producers in these areas are only 50 to 75% seeded. It is expected that very little seeding progress will be made given the arrival of crop insurance deadlines. Possibly some oats or cereals for greenfeed may go in. Overall soil moisture status is rated as full across the region.

Across the majority of the region, emergence of wheat ranged from 40 to 100% depending on how much early seeding occurred. Early seeded crop growth stage was as advanced as 5 leaves, 2 tillers. Tan spot has been found in some fields with infection levels variable. A similar situation exists for barley and oats where emergence ranges from 25 to 100% and 60 to 95%, respectively. Early seeded barley is tillering while oats is in the 3 to 4 leaf stage. Canola ranged from 50 to 100% emerged with the earliest seeded crop starting to bolt while most of the crop was in the 2 to 6 leaf stage. Flea beetle damaged has often been observed and some insecticide application has occurred. Early seeded but very unevenly emerged crops were particularly vulnerable. Flax ranged from 20 to 100% emerged with the earliest seeded crop 3 to 4 inches tall. Soybeans are 70 to 100% emerged with the earliest seeded crop in the first trifoliate. Corn is 100% emerged with growth ranging from the V3 to V8 stage. Sunflowers are mostly emerged with the earliest planted crop in the V2 to V3 stage. Overall crop emergence has varied a great deal depending upon soil conditions at time of seeding and how long soils have remained saturated. In some areas of the region crop emergence and establishment looks very strong. However, in areas that have received more rainfall over the past month, emergence and growth stage within fields varies considerably. Many plants are stressed from excess moisture and are growing slowly. Crops appear to be more advanced in the southern areas of the region.

Winter wheat crop conditions are rated as good across the region. Head emergence is occurring in most fields with some fields advanced to fully headed out. Fungicide applications for Fusarium Head Blight may begin by the end of this week. In areas of the region with greater cumulative rainfall amounts, field scouting is revealing the occurrence of downy mildew and tan spot. In some fields these diseases have been quite extensive and advanced.

Hay field conditions continue to be rated as good across the region. Haying progress ranges from just starting to as much as a third of the alfalfa crop harvested. Alfalfa silage is yielding approximately 3T/ac (wet) or 1 T dry. Haying will continue this week; however drying conditions have been poor and challenges with making dry hay are being reported. Timothy fields are headed out and alfalfa is in the early flower stage. Pasture land conditions are rated as good.

Interlake Region
Heavy rain fell over the majority of the region on Monday evening. Amounts ranging from 25 to 150 mm were reported in the South Interlake. The hardest hit area was near Argyle and Balmoral. Rainfall across the North Interlake ranged from 0 to 50 mm. Hardest hit areas were the Eriksdale, Moosehorn and Fisher Branch areas. The Arborg/Riverton and Selkirk areas received the least amount of rain over the week.

Seeding progress for the South Interlake is estimated to be 85% complete and the North Interlake is estimated at 45% complete. The Arborg/Riverton areas are over 70% complete while the Fisher Branch area is less than 20% complete with no further progress expected. The Ashern area is at 40% complete. Reseeding of drowned out crops, or crops impacted by seed rot, is occurring in many areas around the Interlake. Seeding of greenfeed crops is expected after the June 20th deadline.

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Herbicide applications were general over the weekend in the Arborg/Riverton area as well as other areas which were dry enough to support field equipment. Fungicides are being applied to winter wheat crops. Alfalfa seed field scouting is showing few insects of concern.
Herbicides are being applied where equipment can travel. Haying has begun across the region with most fields harvested as round bale silage. Yields are below normal but quality is generally above normal. Older stands are in need of rejuvenation as excess moisture has restricted removal of these stands. New stands are producing very good yields. Pastures are being impacted across much of the region due to wet conditions. For livestock, wet areas are difficult to cross, limiting access to good grass and causing over grazing of high ground. There are reports of foot rot and leg injuries due to poor pasture conditions.