Southwest Region

The Southwest Region received 15 to 60 mm of rainfall over the past week with the major event occurring on the weekend. There was little change in seeding progress across the region. Some producers worked on planting greenfeed but rainfall brought seeding operations to a standstill. All crops are showing the effects of the wet conditions with several fields yellowing from water-logged soils and nutrient deficiencies. Warm dry weather at the start of the week allowed some in crop spraying to occur. Majority of crop that was broadcast seeded still requires more time for establishment.

Winter wheat and fall rye are starting to head with crops looking average to above average in most areas. Fungicide applications have begun.

Pastureland remains extremely wet in most areas. Higher pastureland is showing good growth; however, growth in areas with standing water is being impacted. The hay crop is looking good. 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. Several producers are looking at different options for haying, including silage or round bale silage. Flooding from the Souris River is a concern for agricultural land.

Northwest Region

The Northwest Region saw seasonal temperatures, windy conditions and unsettled weather that brought up to 25 mm of rain late in the week.

Through the Roblin and Swan River areas crops are developing well; 80% of the wheat acres are at the tillering stage and 95% of the canola acres are past cotyledon stage. Crop staging in the later seeded, eastern areas of the region is generally less advanced with cereal crop staging varying from pre-emerge to early tillering. Some seeding of greenfeed acres is underway, as well as other short season crops. Uneven germination and soil crusting continues to be of concern. Canola which was broadcast seeded and harrowed is reported to be germinating well. Crop yellowing due to excess moisture and possible nutrient losses are most prevalent in the eastern areas of the region.

This week’s rain and wind have delayed some in-crop herbicide treatments. In-crop spraying is 50 to 80% complete. Some field rutting from application equipment is evident because of wet field conditions.

Flea beetle activity has increased and Diamondback moth trap counts are very low. Bertha armyworm is starting to appear in the Swan River area. Spring crop diseases have not been reported to date.

Generally, hay and pastures continue to improve and are in good condition. Initial dairy quality forage harvest is underway.

The higher pastureland and both the improved and native forage areas adjacent to Lakes Winnipegosis, Manitoba and Dauphin, are also improving. However, low lying lands and high lake water levels continue to cause flooding concerns for adjacent native pasture and forage availability and access.

Central Region

Rainfall across the Central Region was variable with rainfall amounts ranging from 15 to 70 mm. Most of the accumulation came mid-week with additional accumulation over the weekend.

A significant number of acres will remain unseeded with the highest incidence in the northwest part of the region. Corn, soybean, edible bean, flax, pea and sunflower acres are down from initial seeding intentions. Some greenfeed acres are being seeded where conditions allow.

Warmer temperatures encouraged both crop and weed growth. However, many fields are now yellowing due to excess moisture stress with standing water in the wettest areas. Crop emergence is patchy and thin, also as a result of
excess moisture in many fields. Some stands are declining with the additional moisture.

Crop staging varies widely with late seeded crops just germinating. Fall rye is headed out; winter wheat is in the early to fully headed out stage. Corn is up to V3 stage, canola is as advanced as early bolting/early bloom, and the earliest seeded cereals are in the boot to flag leaf stage. Some barley is starting to head. Soybeans range up to the early second trifoliate stage. Edible beans are in first trifoliate stage. Sunflowers are emerging to V4 stage. Potatoes have emerged. A low number of acres of peas and flax are reported with fair emergence. Broadcast seeded canola is seeing variable results with some fields establishing well while others are not. Broadcast seeded fields sown just prior to seeding deadlines saw seed stranded in dry soil; rains may improve potential on these fields.

 Herbicide applications continue but producers and custom applicators struggle due to poor weather and field conditions. Ruts are a problem in many fields, and in worst cases, access is an issue. Some crops are developing past the stage for timely herbicide applications. Crops and weeds are under stress in many fields; poor weed control and crop injury concerns are issues being faced. Advanced weeds are causing problems on broadcast seeded fields that had no tillage or preseed burnoff. Weed species that flourish in wet conditions such as dandelions, thistles, curled dock, quackgrass, barnyard grass, are common. Weed issues will continue to be a concern through the season.

 Most winter wheat in the eastern areas of the region has received fungicide application for fusarium head blight. As winter wheat heads out in the western areas, fungicide applications will continue. Leaf spotting diseases are evident in spring wheat. Floa beetle pressure is higher towards Portage and surrounding areas; insecticide applications are being made as needed. Diamondback moth counts are generally low, as are Bertha armyworm moth counts. Alfalfa for dairy quality has started to be cut; quality will be impacted due to rain. Dairy producers are putting up first cut silage of 1.5 to 1.75 T/ac. Straight alfalfa/grass yields are 2 T/ac. 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. Many pastures are lush, but with standing water and soft ground, not all are accessible or usable.

 Eastern Region

 Rainfall amounts ranged from 12 to 75 mm throughout the Eastern Region, bringing an end to fieldwork for the week. Progress had been steady up until Tuesday/Wednesday when the rain showers moved in. Field spraying and haying equipment were busy making up for lost time from the prior rainfall accumulations.

 Early seeded spring annual crops continue to make steady progress throughout the week while late seeded crops are being impacted by soil crusting and further precipitation.

 Wheat crop staging ranges from 5% emerged to 95% in the 4 leaf, 2 tiller stage. Leaf spot diseases have been found in some fields with infection levels varying. Barley fields are similar in staging as wheat with no noticeable diseases reported yet. Oat fields are mostly in the 4 leaf, 1 tiller stage with no leaf diseases present. Canola crop staging varies with some in the 2 true leaf stage while other fields are in the 10 to 15% bloom stage. The early seeded canola has handled the recent weather conditions well while late seeded canola is being impacted by the prolonged excess moisture. Flax acres are limited but are faring well with a crop height of 15 to 22 cm. Soybeans are in the second trifoliate stage. Corn growth development ranges from the V3 to V4 stage. Sunflowers are mostly in the V3 stage.

 Winter wheat crop conditions are still rated as good across the region. Most fields are entering flowering stages and are receiving fungicide treatments for fusarium head blight. Field scouting is reporting further occurrences of downy mildew and tan spot. Hay field conditions vary from good to poor across the region. Haying progress ranged from just beginning to as much as half of the alfalfa crop harvested. Alfalfa silage was yielding approximately 3T/ac (wet) or 1 T/ac dry. Haying will continue this week but drying conditions have been poor and challenges with making dry hay are being reported. Poor hay quality has been reported for dairy farmers in the areas of Grunthal and La Broquerie due to excess moisture. Silage harvested is low quality for many and may become a feed supply issue this fall.
Pastureland conditions were rated as good.

**Interlake Region**

Precipitation over the past week in the Interlake Region ranged from 0 and 26 mm.

Seeding progress of late seeded grain and greenfeed crops continued in the Arborg, Riverton and Fisher Branch areas through the week. Herbicide application was general; however, field rutting is evident on most fields. Crop condition is variable in the Arborg, Riverton and Fisher Branch areas. About 20% of early seeded crops are in good condition. Across the region, early planted canola fields are bolting and are starting to flower. Winter wheat crops are heading out and fungicide application continues.

Haying operations are underway in most areas. Round bale silage is the most used storage choice. Field operations are hampered by wet areas within the field and scattered showers. Dairy producers have made exceptional progress over the past week. Results are limited but reports are of above average yields.

Pasture conditions remain poor as periodic rains offset any drying progress. Horse flies are a common concern for many cattle with producers using control measures for the problem.