Southwest Region
The Southwest Region received little to no precipitation until the weekend when most areas received 20 to 35 mm. Harvest of cereal crops is varied with the southern areas of the region being more advanced. Killarney area is reporting 70% complete of cereal crops with only the later seeded cereal acres remaining. In the west and northern areas of the region, the percentage of harvest complete is reduced with Hamiota and Shoal Lake areas reporting 25 to 30%. Yields are extremely variable and quality in most areas is average to above average.

The majority of the canola crop is being swathed with only the later seeded crops remaining. Harvest of early seeded canola has brought a wide range of yields; yields range from 10 to 30 bushels/acre with some producers reporting 40 bushels/acre. Yields of late seeded fields will be affected by insect pressure.

Winter wheat and fall rye is being planted in several areas. Most of the planting is occurring on unseeded acres. Germination looks good to date.

Pasture conditions will improve from the recent rains; however, several areas are reporting that pasture productivity was impacted by dry conditions and that producers may have to start supplemental feeding by the end of the month.

Northwest Region
Scattered showers near the start of the week and heavier rainfall near the weekend has put a halt to harvest operations over most of the Northwest Region. Soil conditions are rated as adequate to excessive in some areas.

Spring wheat harvested to date is good quality with very low incidence of disease. The heavy rainfall has resulted in more lodging of wheat acres. The wet conditions may also result in quality issues, such as bleaching, in some wheat fields.

Approximately 30 to 65% of the canola crop was swathed with about 10% combined. Reported yields range from 25 to 40 bushels/acre. Canola fields continue to be monitored for bertha armyworm and diamondback moth. A heavy infestation of lygus bugs is confirmed in a canola field near Laurier. Sclerotinia is evident in some canola fields throughout the region.

Winter wheat planting in the Dauphin area is underway with the number of planted acres expected to be above normal. Some of the winter wheat crop has emerged.

Second cut hay operations were near complete when halted by the rain. However, the rainfall benefited growth on pasture fields. Surplus pasture is being hayed. Silage operations in the southern part of the region are just beginning.

Central Region
All areas of the Central Region received some rainfall over the past week. Western areas closer to the border saw the most rain, with Kaleida reporting 90 mm; Portage 38 mm; Treherne 25 to 35 mm; Starbuck 30 mm; Carman 20 mm; Altona-Winkler-Morden 14 to 20 mm; Morris-Letellier 8 to 12 mm. The precipitation will provide some relief from the dry conditions and is welcomed by some of the later seeded crops and forages. The moisture will also help some pastures and has improved conditions for fall field work and for seeding winter wheat.

Harvest continues and crops are maturing quickly with hot conditions and low humidity. Pre-harvest glyphosate applications for weed control and harvest management continue. Producers are easily keeping up with harvest this year, due to the sunny and relatively dry weather.

Harvest progress varies widely due to early season excess moisture and subsequent late seeding in many areas. Cereal harvest ranges from 50 to 95% complete; canola harvest is 30 to 75% complete. Wheat yields range from 30 to 60 bushels/acre; barley 50 to 80
bushels/acre; and oats 75 to 110 bushels/acre. Quality is generally average, although some light weights and lower proteins are noted. Some downgrading due to rain is reported in the northwest part of the region. In general, impact of disease is much lower than in the past several years due to this summer’s hot and dry conditions.

Canola yields range from 10 to 55 bushels/acre; average yields are expected to fall in the 20 to 40 bushels/acre range. Peas are yielding 25 to 50 bushels/acre. Cutting of edible bean fields may start this week. There has been a rapid change in soybeans; harvest could start as early as mid-September. Sunflower fields are close to finished flowering and heads are a good size. Insect monitoring continues in late seeded canola, soybean and sunflower fields. Some spraying for lygus bugs in canola has been done. Corn fields are maturing quickly; kernels are starting to dent and dry down.

Direct delivery potato harvest is under way. Potatoes going into storage will start later this week or next week with the crop expected to be average or below average due to hot dry conditions and later seeding.

Winter wheat seeding continues and the recent rains may encourage more producers to seed. Acreage is expected to increase from previous years due to an early canola harvest as well as to the significant number of fields that were too wet to seed this crop year.

More fields are being worked as conditions have improved with the rain. Repairs to field drainage required after spring flooding have begun.

Many annual and perennial weeds are showing up in fields. Weed control has been a challenge due to conditions and with many crop stands on the thin side, high weed pressure is evident.

Second cut haying is near complete with good quality but lower yields due to the dry conditions. More rainfall is needed before any third cut can be considered. Moderate rainfall has helped pastures to green up again but growth is slow. Supplemental feeding may be required earlier than normal. Greenfeed is being harvested with some acres being put up as silage.

Eastern Region
Weather in the Eastern Region was sunny and warm last week with rainfall occurring on the weekend. Rainfall accumulation amounts varied greatly ranging from 8 to 13 mm in southern areas and from 15 to 35 mm in northern areas. Soil moisture is rated as dry throughout the region. The rainfall did encourage winter wheat seeding and fall tillage operations. Drought stress symptoms and indications of lost yield potential continued on long seasoned crops like soybeans, corn and sunflower. Harvesting of spring wheat is approximately 90% complete across the region with yield reports ranging from 25 to 60 bushels/acre. Barley harvesting is 75 to 80% complete with yields ranging from 40 to 60 bushels/acre with average quality. Oat harvest is approximately 75% complete with yields ranging from 50 to 100 bushels/acre. Below average quality issues continue to be noted.

Canola swathing was completed across the region last week with 75% of the crop harvested. Yield reports are in the 15 to 35 bushels/acre range with fairly consistent reports of lower yields in the later seeded crop. Overall quality was rated as average.

All soybean crops demonstrated some evidence of leaf drop and colour change last week. Crop growth stages ranges from late R5 to R7 with variety and soil moisture status having a significant impact on maturity progress. In the shorter seasoned varieties, leaf drop and crop maturity is proceeding rapidly in the hot, dry weather pushing some fields well into the R7 stage. Harvest for those acres is not far off if current weather conditions persist. Early seeded sunflowers are at the R7 growth stage while the later seeded crop is in the R6 stage. Corn maturity ranges from R4 to R5 stage.

Hay field conditions range from good to poor across the region. Pastureland conditions are rated as poor to fair with concern expressed about the dry conditions limiting productivity. Dugouts are getting low in some areas.

Interlake Region
Much needed rain came late in the week across the Interlake Region. Rainfall amounts ranged from 14 mm in Eriksdale to 32 and 42 mm in Moosehorn and Selkirk respectively. Northern and southern areas received higher amounts than the central areas.

Rain was welcome on swathed canola as green seeds were noted during the hot dry weather. Swathing of late seeded canola is
general. Zebra caterpillars are abundant and have caused damage on canola and flax and some producers have applied insecticide. Soybeans are changing color as these crops are nearing maturity. Seeding of winter wheat is on-going with some acres already emerged. Most seeding to date is on unseeded acres. Greenfeed harvest is underway with variable yields; millet and oats are yielding better than barley. Most greenfeed is being harvested as chopped or round bale silage, but with hot dry weather in the forecast, some will be harvested as dry feed. Hay harvest is almost complete. Some low lying areas are only now accessible and producers are harvesting cat tails and old growth from these areas so forage restoration can begin. Most of this vegetation will be used as bedding as forage value will be very low.

Pastures have responded to the rain but regrowth will be minimal as days are short and the grass has been impacted by the hot dry conditions over the summer months. Some producers anticipate pastures will be done by the end of September. Hay land grazing or feeding will be the alternatives to normal pasture grazing.