Weekly Provincial Summary

- Majority of producers continued to make excellent seeding progress across all regions of Manitoba. The Central and Eastern Regions are the most advanced, followed by the Northwest, Interlake and Southwest Regions. Overall, seeding is over 50% complete in Manitoba.
- Topsoil moisture conditions remain variable across Manitoba. Isolated areas in the Southwest and Northwest Regions are reporting wet field conditions while some areas in the Central and Eastern Regions would welcome additional precipitation.
- Rapid and uniform emergence has been reported to date, due to adequate soil moisture levels and warm temperatures.
- Herbicide applications have started on the earliest seeded cereal acres.
- The recent warm temperatures have also benefitted growth on hay and pasture land.

Southwest Region

The Southwest Region saw variable precipitation with some areas receiving little to no rainfall and other areas reporting 10 to 20 mm. However, the rainfall did not stop producers from seeding.

Overall seeding progress in the region varies, with cereal crops at 65 to 70% complete and oilseed crops at 30% complete. Seeding of cereal crops in the Killarney area is 90% complete while oilseed crops is 40 to 50% complete. In the areas north of Souris to Highway #1 and Melita, 30 to 40% of the cereals are seeded respectively, while little to no oilseeds acres has been seeded to date. In the area south of Souris, cereal crops seeding is 80% complete and oilseeds are 20% complete. Through the Hamiota and Shoal Lake areas, producers have seeded 75% of their cereal crops and 10 to 20% of their oilseed crops.

Winter crops are progressing well; majority of acres have been sprayed for broadleaf weed control. Pastures are growing and some producers have started to move cattle to pasture.

Northwest Region

In the southern areas of the Northwest Region, warmer temperatures with drying wind conditions allowed producers to return seeding by mid-week. However, the areas of Swan River and The Pas received upwards of 18 mm of rain through the week which did slow field activity. Generally, soil moisture is adequate across the region. There are some localized wet field conditions throughout the Northwest Region, and in particular at The Pas where seeding has not yet started.

Up to 85% of total acres have been seeded in the Northwest Region with the least progress noted in the northern areas of the region. Approximately 95% of the wheat acres have been seeded with 55% of those acres either emerging or in the seeding stages. Canola seeding is 75% complete with 25% of the acres ranging from emerged to seedling stages. Improved soil conditions and warm temperatures have promoted rapid and even crop germination.

Weed development has also increased rapidly. Pre-seed herbicide applications are general, dependent upon field conditions or seeding date.

Forage and pasture growth is increasing as a result of adequate moisture and warmer temperatures.

Central Region

In the Central Region, rainfall amounts varied from 5 to 15 mm; however, the Pilot Mound area did receive 35 mm of precipitation. Most
producers were able to continue seeding without too much delay. Good seeding progress continues to be made in the Central Region. Seeding of cereals, canola, and corn acres are nearing completion. Seeding of field peas is 95% complete and sunflowers range from 70 to 90% complete. With the warmer soil conditions, soybean seeding is now at 20 to 30% complete. It is anticipated dry bean planting will start this week and continue through the long weekend. With the exception of dry bean acres, it is anticipated most producers will be done seeding by end of the long weekend.

Most areas are reporting rapid and uniform emergence to date. Herbicide applications have started on early seeded wheat acres. There are some reports of canola being sheared off by the recent high winds. Individual field assessments of stands are being done to determine level of impact. There are also reports of significant flea beetle pressure in some fields with some reseeding needed. There have also been reports of grasshopper spraying near the Starbuck area. The winter wheat and fall rye crops continue to look good with fall rye entering the boot stage in some areas. Herbicide applications were completed this past week with good weed control reported.

Forage stands are progressing well, except in areas around Lake Manitoba where hay and pasture lands were impacted by high water levels.

**Eastern Region**

The Eastern Region saw variable rainfall accumulations, ranging from only trace amounts in the most southern areas to 7 to 13 mm in the central and northern areas. Topsoil moisture conditions for the majority of annual cropland are rated as adequate, although there remain significant differences between areas. Drier conditions are noted in the most southern and most northern areas of the region.

Spring seeding progress in the Eastern Region is estimated at 90% complete. The last acres of oats and grain corn are being seeded, canola is 85% complete and soybeans are 60% complete. It is anticipated seeding should be almost done in the upcoming week, dependent upon weather conditions.

Crops continue to emerge; weed control operations have begun on the earliest seeded acres. Fall seeded cereal crops continue to be in good condition with substantial tillering and growth. Fertilizer applications have been completed; weed control applications are ongoing.

Hayland and pasture conditions range from fair to poor due to slow growth. As well, topsoil moisture conditions on the majority of hay and pasture lands remains drier when compared to annual crop land; precipitation would be welcome. Some producers have moved cattle to pasture. Since some dugouts are lower than normal, a few producers are currently investigating alternative water sources.

**Interlake Region**

In the Interlake Region, scattered showers mid-week resulted in accumulations of 5 to 15 mm. Seeding continues with cereals 90% complete with 40% of those acres emerged. Canola seeding is 85% complete where 30% of seeded acres are emerged. Soybean and corn planting are also well underway.

Recent warm conditions are allowing for good crop emergence. Majority of winter wheat fields are at the tillering stage but there are some later fields at the 3 to 4 leaf stage. Herbicide application in winter wheat fields has started. Some winterkill has been reported on a small number of fields; however, majority of acres have survived and are in very good condition.

Rain and warm temperatures have allowed for good forage crop growth. Both hay and forage seed crops are in good condition with some alfalfa crops 15 cm in height. Pasture conditions are also improving as the spring progresses. Lowlands where cattails were the dominant species are reverting back to grasses. Areas around Lake Manitoba that were impacted by high water levels are in poor condition with little grass growth and wet soil conditions.