Weekly Provincial Summary

- Seeding is essentially complete in Manitoba for the 2012 season.
- Majority of crops are either at or ahead of their normal stages of development for this time of year due to an earlier than normal start to seeding.
- Continuing wet and cool weather is starting to impact crop conditions in areas of Manitoba. Crop types such as soybeans, edible beans, canola, peas, flax and corn are showing symptoms of excess moisture stress and slowed crop development. However, a return to warmer temperatures should allow some of the impacted acres to recover.
- Manitoba’s spring and fall cereals appear to be handling the cool, wet conditions and are rated in good condition.
- Weather conditions have also hampered herbicide and fungicide applications, and caused delays in haying progress. Aerial application has increased as some fields remain too wet for ground application.

Southwest Region

The Southwest Region received significant rainfall over the past week with amounts varying from 25 to 100 mm. Some areas are starting to report crop injury due to the excess moisture.

Seeding is essentially complete with the exception of some greenfeed acres remaining; reseeding due to flea beetle and cutworm damage is occurring.

Rainfall and wind has slowed herbicide applications across the region. Changes in herbicide products for the more advanced staging of crops and weeds may be necessary. Approximately 50% of the oilseed crops acres have been sprayed. Powdery mildew and leaf diseases are being reported in winter wheat. Weather conditions are also hampering fungicide applications by ground so aerial applications are occurring. Pastures and haylands are rated in good condition and heat would be welcomed for continued growth. Dugouts in most areas are reporting 100% full.

Northwest Region

Unstable weather conditions, variable humidity and temperatures prevailed across the Northwest Region. General rains and thunderstorms resulted in precipitation ranging from 55 mm up to 100 mm in the Ethelbert and Ste Rose areas. Some hail damage was reported at Ochre River.

While crops were advancing well prior to the rains, crop condition is now being impacted by the excess moisture conditions. More fields now have water ponding and 50 to 75% of soils are considered saturated. Crop yellowing and plant death is evident where the greatest precipitation has occurred over the previous two weeks.

Winter wheat is flowering. Approximately 5 to 10% of spring wheat and barley acres are into flag and heading stages. Some early seeded canola is beginning to early flower while 25 to 35% of acres are in the rosette stages. Field peas are into vegetative stages. Soybeans range from second to fourth trifoliate stages.

Spraying operations throughout the region were sporadic and hampered by poor weather and field conditions. Approximately 80% of the cereal acres have been sprayed for weeds and 75% of the canola acres have received first pass herbicide applications. Improved field and weather conditions are needed for proper application timing. When conditions allowed,
fungicides were being applied on winter and spring wheat. Aerial application is more prevalent. Early in the week, flea beetle activity continued along with cutworm treatments on canola and hemp. Diamondback moth trap counts are increasing in the Ethelbert and Fork River locations.

Hay crops and pastures are in good condition. Initial first cut dairy hay had just begun prior to the rains. Yields are expected to be average to below average. Warmer weather would be welcomed for continued growth. Dugouts are now full. Increased runoff to streams is adding to lake inflows and some flood prone, low lying native hay lands adjacent to the lakes are being impacted.

Central Region

Rainfall accumulations in the Central Region ranged from 25 to 60 mm over the week, with the majority of the rainfall coming this past weekend. Accumulations range from 20 to 35 mm in the Altona, Morris and Carman areas, 25 mm in Portage, Treherne and Elie, 30 to 40 mm in Starbuck and Elm Creek, and 40 to 60 mm in the Somerset and Pilot Mound areas. All areas of the region report some excess moisture conditions and crops are showing signs of moisture stress.

Winter cereals are headed and fungicide applications range from 50 to 100% complete. Physiological leaf spot has been reported in winter wheat. Most fields look lush and thick and monitoring continues for leaf diseases. Some tan spot and powdery mildew is evident below the canopy. Scattered white awns and heads due to frost injury are evident in some winter wheat fields.

In western areas of the region, cereal development ranges from tillering to early heading with majority of acres in the stem elongation stage. In eastern parts of the region, barley and wheat are heading out and oats are in boot to early heading. Overall cereals are looking good in the region. Bacterial blight continues to be seen in oats and other cereal crops. Wheat streak mosaic and barley yellow dwarf continue to be observed.

All of the reseeded canola has emerged and is looking good. Canola crop development ranges from seedling through rosette stage to bolting and early bloom. Fungicide applications for sclerotinia control have started. Monitoring continues for diamondback larvae in canola fields.

Corn ranges from the 4 to 8 leaf stage and has recovered well in areas that were impacted by frost. Growth has been slowed by the recent cool temperatures.

Flax is 10 to 20 cm tall with buds forming on the earliest seeded fields. There are signs of excess moisture stress in a number of fields.

Edible beans are in the unifoliate to first trifoliate stage. Majority of the soybeans are in the second trifoliate stage, ranging from first to third trifoliate. Soybeans are showing signs of yellowing and iron chlorosis due to excess moisture and cool conditions.

Pesticide applications have been hampered by the frequent rainfalls. Herbicide spraying ranges from 80 to 100% complete. Spraying continues in edible beans, along with some second applications in soybeans and canola.

Dairy and export hay harvest has started with much of it put up as haylage/silage. The quality on first cut alfalfa/grass hay crop is good to fair with expected first cut yield ranging from 1.25 to 2 tonnes per acre. Hay crop appears to be average this year with moderate to slow growth. The western area of Pembina Valley has not received adequate moisture for a good first cut and additional precipitation would be welcomed to stimulate growth and re-growth.

Majority of pastures are in good shape. Livestock water supplies are adequate through the region. Dugout levels are two-thirds to three-quarters full in the region, with the exception of dugouts in the RM of Pembina that are 30 to 40% full.

Eastern Region

While there was sporadic rainfall during the week in the Eastern Region, majority of precipitation occurred over the weekend. Amounts ranged from 10 mm to as much as 64 mm. There were also reports of localized heavy rainfall events with up to golf ball sized hail in some northern areas. Topsoil moisture levels on the majority of annual crop land in the Eastern Region are rated as either adequate or surplus. Standing water in fields is prevalent in the northern areas and symptoms of excess moisture stress are evident on crops.

Winter wheat and fall rye crops are in the heading or flowering stages; most advanced acres have completed flowering. Spring cereals are in the stem elongation growth stage. Most of the canola is in the
rosette stage and the early seeded crop has begun to bolt and flower. Flax is in the stem extension growth stage. Field peas and sunflowers are in the vegetative stages. Most soybeans are in the trifoliate leaf stages. In general, the condition of annual crops is rated as good although crop yellowing due to excess soil moisture is now being noted.

Fungicide applications on fall cereals as well as herbicide applications on all crops are at least 85% complete. Further spraying or other field operations will be halted until field conditions dry.

Topsoil moisture in the majority of hay and pasturelands in the Eastern Region is rated as adequate with some dry areas still present in southern areas. First cut for high quality dairy hay had started but rainfall has now stopped these operations. Crop that is in swath is being impacted by the recent rainfall. Overall, first cut is less than 20% complete.

Pasture conditions are generally rated as fair to good although in southern areas some pasturelands are still rated as poor.

**Interlake Region**

Rainfall was moderate across the Interlake Region with localized heavy thundershowers. Rainfall amounts of 40 to 50 mm were received in the eastern portion of the region from Petersfield and Teulon and north to Riverton and Arborg. Western portions of the region near Fisherton and Moosehorn are experiencing excess moisture conditions as those areas received upwards of 70 mm of rainfall.

Winter wheat crops are flowering in the south and beginning to head in the north. Fungicide application continues as weather permits. Aerial application will be the main method of applying pesticides as most fields are too wet for ground equipment.

Canola has generally formed a canopy across the region and is bolting to flowering in the south. Soybeans are at first to second trifoliate stage.

Crops are advancing well with some crop injury expected in areas of excess rainfall. Herbicide application is up to date with only late seeded crops left to spray.

Haying operations were halted during the week due to weather. Alfalfa has started to bloom on some fields. Alfalfa weevils are active with fairly high populations in the Arborg and Riverton areas. Insecticide applications are general on alfalfa seed fields as leaf cutter bee release will soon take place.

Pasture conditions are excellent and water supply concerns are good as adequate rainfall has replenished most surface water sources.