Weekly Provincial Summary

- The continuing warm and dry weather conditions are advancing crops, allowing producers to make good progress with haying operations, and permitting herbicide and fungicide applications to continue.
- The favourable weather conditions also are allowing crops impacted by excess moisture to continue their recovery. However, there are portions of fields that are still showing symptoms of excess moisture stress.
- Strong weather systems passed through parts of the Southwest, Northwest and Central Regions which did cause damage to trees and farm infrastructure. Only impact to crops noted to date is temporary lodging of the more advanced crops and some hail damage.

Southwest Region

Rainfall over the past week in the Southwest Region consisted of thunderstorms and spotty showers, with many areas reporting no rainfall. A strong weather system that saw high winds and 20 to 25 mm precipitation in the northern areas of the region resulted in damage to shelterbelts and farm infrastructure.

All cereal crops are advancing well with the earliest crops heading and the later crops in the flag leaf stage. Several producers have been applying fungicides for disease control. Early seeded canola crops are bolting and in some areas are being sprayed for disease. Later seeded canola crops are cabbaging and covering the ground. Damage from flea beetles, cutworms, and excess moisture is evident in some fields. Corn and sunflowers have benefited from the heat over the past week and are progressing well. Producers started haying over the past week with several starting early due to alfalfa weevil. Yields are average to below average and quality is rated as good. Pastures in most areas are rated as good. Dugouts are full to 75% full.

Northwest Region

Ample moisture and warm temperatures encouraged rapid plant growth and development across the Northwest Region. Earlier in the week, high winds and precipitation associated with a strong system resulted in some temporary lodging of headed out crops, as well as damage to shelterbelts and farm infrastructure. While fields have dried, the later seeded canola is showing symptoms of excess moisture including drowned outs areas and poor crop development. Cereal crop yellowing has improved significantly. Field conditions at The Pas remain wetter than the rest of the Region. Herbicide applications are complete. Fungicide application is general on cereals and canola with approximately 35% of applications on cereals and 20% of canola completed. Aerial applications have been utilized in many cases to ensure application at proper crop staging. In The Pas, spray conditions are difficult with wet fields and advanced weed staging. Hay and pasture growth has improved across all areas of the region. Haying operations are more general with the favourable conditions. The yields of first cuts are average. The high stream and reservoir water flows out of the Duck Mountain area are reducing; however, affected flooded and low lying pasture and hay lands remain wet and production is expected to be reduced.

Central Region

Warm temperatures over the past week in the Central Region moved crops along rapidly. Most areas received no rainfall. However, areas south of Morden received 12 to 30 mm of rain on Monday afternoon,
along with high winds which damaged some trees.
Winter wheat is in the milk to soft dough stage. Towards the end of this week, application of pre-harvest glyphosate may occur on the most advanced fields. Spring cereals look lush and green with staging of the spring wheat ranging from heading to early milk stage. Barley and oats crops range from stem elongation to early milk stage on the earliest planted fields. Overall spring cereals look good but would welcome precipitation during the grain filling stages.
Edible beans are in the third to fourth trifoliate stage. Soybeans are starting to flowering with most of the beans growing out of the iron chlorosis that has been seen in previous weeks. Corn has seen good recovery and rapid growth with the warm temperatures. The last application of glyphosate is taken place in soybean and corn fields where it is deemed necessary. These warm season crops are generally looking good as a result of the warm weather.
Fungicide application is complete on the spring cereals. Producers are focusing on spraying canola for sclerotinia; progress is at 60 to 70% complete and will continue throughout the remainder of this week. Some reports of flower loss due to hot, dry conditions may impact yield but overall crop looks good. Monitoring continues for diamondback larvae in canola fields.
Hay crop yields are average to slightly below average. Moisture is needed for regrowth for a second cut. Livestock water supplies are tight and dugout levels are below average. Some producers are utilizing other sources for watering.

**Eastern Region**

Most areas of the Eastern Region received no significant rainfall as warm, sunny weather continued throughout last week. About 70% of the winter wheat crop is in the dough stage with the balance transitioning from milk to dough stage. The majority of spring wheat is in the heading/flowering growth stage and transitioning rapidly to the milk stage. Fungicide applications for fusarium head blight are mostly complete. Heading and flowering is also occurring on the majority of barley acres across the region with the most advanced crop in the milk and early dough growth stages. Most oats are in the heading/flowering growth stage with panicle emergence expected soon on the balance of the crop. Fungicide applications for fusarium head blight continued in oats and barley. Across the region most of the canola is flowering and fungicide applications for sclerotinia are occurring. The most advanced canola is transitioning to pod filling. Flax is flowering, as are field peas. Sunflowers and soybeans are in the vegetative stages. Corn is in the V6 to V13 growth stages. In general, the condition of annual crops is rated as good. Crops are noted as moving through developmental stages rapidly in the warm, sunny conditions.
Grain producers will continue fungicide applications in the coming week where weather and crop staging allows and conditions deem it necessary.
First cut haying has been proceeding across the region with at least 60% of the crop cut or baled. Overall quality is rated as good with expected average yields rated at 1 ton/acre for alfalfa, 1.2 ton per acre for grass/alfalfa, 0.75 ton per acre for other tame hay and 0.5 ton per acre for wild hay. Hay yields are lower than expected in areas that experienced drier conditions. Pasture conditions are generally rated as fair to good, although in southern areas some pasturelands are rated as poor.

**Interlake Region**

Hot and sunny conditions prevailed for most of the week in the Interlake Region. Strong winds with rain passed through the northwest portion of the region on Wednesday morning resulting in 12 mm of precipitation. Crops are advancing rapidly with warm moist weather. Recovery of crops affected by excess moisture along the eastern portion of the region is apparent. Corn is generally ‘knee-high’ while soybeans are at the second to fourth trifoliate stage with some flowering. Canola and flax are flowering. First pass herbicide application occurred on weather delayed fields while second pass herbicides on soybeans took place. Fungicide application on cereal and canola crops was general through the week.
Leaf cutter bee release on alfalfa seed crops is complete. Insecticide application on timothy seed to control army worms has been reported in the Riverton area.
Haying progress was general as good weather persisted mainly through the week. High humidity on the weekend did cause delays in hay drying. Some producers are reporting hay yields below
expectations, mainly in the RM of Armstrong. Dry conditions and the need for forage restoration are the main causes.

Alfalfa weevils are quite active and causing some damage to hay crops. Pasture production is excellent. There are some parts of the region that may need to explore alternative water supplies for livestock as dugout levels are below average for this time of year.