Weekly Provincial Summary

- The continuing warm weather is advancing crops quickly, allowing producers to make excellent progress with haying operations and permitting fungicide applications to continue.
- Generally, the condition of most crop types is rated as good. For some crop types, symptoms of heat and moisture stress are becoming evident. Precipitation would be welcomed in many areas.
- A strong weather system passed through southern and western areas of Manitoba on July 4. In the Central Region, the system resulted in hail that caused damage to crops ranging from light to severe.

Southwest Region

Several rainfall events over the past week in the Southwest Region resulted in amounts ranging from 5 to 75 mm. Some areas also reported hail with crop damage still being assessed. The warm weather over the past week has advanced crops. In the Assiniboine Valley, crop, hay and pastureland have been impacted by flooding.

Most cereal crops in the Southwest Region are heading with several fields done flowering. Fungicide applications are nearing completion. The majority of the canola crop is flowering and several fields have been sprayed for disease. Areas of the fields that were affected by flea beetle, cutworms and high moisture are evident. Early seeded flax fields are blooming and producers are applying fungicides.

There are no major insect issues to date, although there are high levels of bertha armyworm moths reported in traps. Monitoring also continues for diamondback moths.

First cut hay is 50% complete with most producers reporting average yields with good quality. Pastures are benefitting from the heat and most areas are reporting good quality. Dugouts are reported to be 80 to 100% full.

Northwest Region

Recent warm temperatures aided crop development across the Northwest Region. Poor plant stands and drowned out areas are evident in canola fields as a result of excess moisture. In The Pas, canola fields still have extremely wet areas.

Cereal staging ranges from heading/flowering in The Pas to fields in the milk stage at Swan River, Roblin and Dauphin. Canola staging is more variable with a few fields podding in Dauphin, then a range from rosette to bolting to the majority of acres flowering. High temperatures during the flowering period may affect canola yield potential. Fungicide application is ongoing for both cereals and canola crops, with some being applied aerially.

Haying operations have just begun across the region with the exception of The Pas. The first cut yields are average to below average with yields ranging from 1.4 to 2.0 tons per acre. Native pastures and hayland are still showing the effects of excess moisture from last year, particularly at The Pas and along the lakes in the region.

Central Region

Continued warm temperatures have allowed for rapid crop growth and development in the Central Region. Most areas received minimal precipitation last week. However, areas south and west received significant rain in the storm system that went through on July 4 with rainfall amounts ranging from 15 up to 100 mm. Hail damage from south of Crystal City through Snowflake to Mowbray (south of Darlingford) ran in a swath up to four to six miles wide. Many claims have been filed with MASC-Somerset with damage
ranging from light to complete. Most areas in the Central Region would welcome rainfall for continued crop development. For some crops on lighter textured soils, symptoms of heat and moisture stress are becoming evident.

Winter wheat is in the milk to soft dough stage. Pre-harvest glyphosate applications are starting to take place. Producers are monitoring carefully as colour change is progressing rapidly with the hot temperatures, while kernels may be less advanced in maturity. Spring cereals staging range from flowering to early soft dough stage. Barley and oats development ranges from stem elongation to early milk stage. Most oats are in the milk growth stage with some heat blasting in panicles noted. Across the region most of the canola is transitioning from flowering to pod filling. High levels of flower drop are noted. Flax is transitioning from flowering to boll filling. Sunflowers are in the bud stage and soybeans are flowering. 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. Rain would be welcomed in most areas.

In northern areas of the region, grain producers are monitoring insect levels. Spraying for armyworms in spring cereals and forage seed crops is occurring. Some limited spraying for grasshoppers has also happened. Increased defoliation levels in soybean fields by green cloverworm and grasshoppers have been noted. The presence of lygus bugs in some canola fields has also been reported.

First cut haying has been proceeding across the region with between 60% and 90% of the crop cut or baled. Overall quality is rated as good with expected average yields rated at 1 to 1.5 ton per acre for alfalfa, 1 to 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.

The condition of the majority of hay and pasture lands is rated as fair to good but concerns regarding drier condition have been noted. Availability of livestock water is being monitored as dugout levels are below average in some areas of the region.

Eastern Region

Rainfall accumulation last week in the Eastern Region followed a north-south gradient. Northern areas received less than 10 mm on average, central areas generally received 10 to 20 mm and southern areas received anywhere from 10 mm to over 25 mm. About 80% of winter wheat crops are in the dough stage. The majority of red spring wheat acres are in the milk stage with some transitioning to early dough. The majority of barley acres are in the milk and early dough growth stages. Most oats are in the milk growth stage with some heat blasting in panicles noted. Across the region most of the canola is transitioning from flowering to pod filling. High levels of flower drop are noted. Flax is transitioning from flowering to boll filling. Sunflowers are in the bud stage and soybeans are flowering. 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. Rain would be welcomed in most areas.

Interlake Region

Hot and humid conditions prevailed for the week across the Interlake Region. Unsettled weather conditions did result in very isolated thundershowers causing rainfall accumulations of 6 mm in the southern areas. Winter wheat is beginning to ripen while spring cereal development ranges from most acres finished flowering to early dough stage on remaining acres. Canola and flax crops are flowering. Soybean
growth stage ranges from fourth to sixth trifoliolate. Fungicide application on canola continued through the week. Winter wheat, spring cereals and timothy seed crops have been affected by armyworm feeding with insecticide application taking place on many acres. Insect populations are also high on alfalfa seed crops with continued monitoring and control taking place. Haying progress is excellent with yields average to below average. Older stands of hay are low yielding and would benefit from restoration. Pasture conditions are rated as good but the hot, dry conditions will result in slow regrowth of grass species. Surface water supplies are below average with some producers utilizing other sources for watering.