Weekly Provincial Summary

- Winter wheat harvest continues in Manitoba with favourable weather conditions. Yields are ranging from 50 to 100 bushels per acre with good test weights, low levels of fusarium damaged kernels and protein levels ranging from 8 to 13%.
- The hot weather conditions continue to advance crops quickly. Swathing of the earliest seeded spring wheat, barley and canola fields has started.
- Symptoms of heat and moisture stress, including flower loss, leaf rolling, incomplete seed development and premature ripening are evident in many crop types. Impact to yields remains undetermined at this point.
- Continuing wet conditions in the northern areas of the Northwest Region are impacting crop yield potentials.
- In other areas of Manitoba, precipitation would be welcome to aid in grain filling, regrowth on pastures and hay fields, and continued growth in the warm season crops such as grain corn, sunflowers, edible beans and soybeans.

Southwest Region

Most areas in the Southwest Region reported rainfall over the past week with amounts from 10 to 20 mm. Early seeded cereal crops are starting to turn with the majority of the cereal crops fully headed and in the dough stage. Most of the cereal crops are in good condition. Symptoms of fusarium head blight are starting to show up in several fields. There are also reports of root rot in several fields as white heads are evident. Desiccation of winter wheat has started and a good portion of acres will be completed by the end of the week. Fall rye is turning and some producers may start swathing by the middle of the week.

Majority of canola crops are going out of bloom with some later seeded crops in full bloom. Bertha armyworms are being reported in several areas with spraying being done this past week. Aster yellows symptoms are showing up with levels higher than normal; impact to yields not yet determined. Flax crops are looking good and most are almost done flowering. Aster yellows are also evident in several flax fields.

Sunflowers and corn benefited from the recent warm weather.

First cut hay is 80% done and yields to date are reported to be average to below average. Seed weevil and winter kill of alfalfa have impacted yields. Some of the earlier cut alfalfa is approaching staging for second cut.

Pastures are doing well in most of the region and dugouts are about 80% full.

Northwest Region

Throughout the Northwest Region, above seasonal temperatures and high humidity prevailed through the southern sector with mid-week precipitation amounts ranging from 15 to 35 mm with local reports as high as 75 mm. The Swan River area received upwards of 75 mm rain along with local amounts as high as 200 mm, including some hail. The extent of water ponding in fields has increased, adding to the existing excess moisture soil conditions. Crop yield potentials are expected to be impacted through the area from Ethelbert to Swan River due to wet soil moisture conditions.

Some desiccation applications on winter wheat and fall rye are completed as many fields are beginning to ripen. Approximately 80 to 90% of spring wheat is into
dough stage and 60 to 65% of canola is podded. Silage corn, soybeans and other cereals are developing quickly and are advancing well where field conditions are favourable. Much of the hemp crop is into flowering and seed development staging.

Fields continue to be scouted for aphids, lygus bugs and bertha armyworms. As canola fields develop, aster yellows are becoming more evident throughout the region with some fields showing significant levels. Fungicide treatments for sclerotinia are complete. In the northern areas of the region, timing delays and non-treatments have occurred due to poor weather and wet field conditions.

Haying operations in the southern sectors continue with approximately 20% of first cut remaining and 55% is baled and ensilaged. High humidity and rain affected dry down and harvest operations. Hay yields continue to be average or below average. Forage quality has declined with maturity and weathering. The hay harvest is less advanced in northern areas where wet field conditions are more extensive. Low lying native hay stands along Lake Manitoba and Lake Winnipegosis remain poor.

Central Region

Hot weather continues to rapidly advance crops in the Central Region. Most of the region received little or no rain, other than some isolated showers and storms. Accumulations were 10 mm or less. Elm Creek area was the anomaly with 28 mm, as were areas near Morden that received amounts up to 33 mm with severe weather that also included high winds and hail. Isolated hail and wind has resulted in some crop lodging.

Areas in the region that have received rains in significant amounts – Somerset-Pilot Mound and south, as well as some fields in Starbuck area – have lush looking crops. Many areas however would benefit from additional rain as some crops are being impacted by the heat and lack of moisture as seed fill is being affected. However, winter wheat harvest is benefiting from the current weather conditions.

Winter wheat is mature and harvest continues. There are a few lower yields in the 50 bu/acre range in areas that missed many of the rains. The majority, however, are coming off at 70 bu/acre to 100 bu/acre, averaging in the 75 to 85 bu/acre range. Quality is good to excellent with little to no fusarium head blight reported. Protein levels range from 8 to 13% with most in the 8 to 10% range. Spring wheat and barley fields are turning. Preharvest applications in wheat are taking place and swathing in both crops will begin this week. Oats are at milk stage to almost ripe. Overall spring cereals look good but could use rain to help with seed fill on the later seeded fields. Some fields are ripening prematurely due to moisture stress and high temperatures.

Some reports of flower loss in canola due to the hot, dry conditions may have an effect on yield. Late seeded fields are in full flower; earliest seeded fields finished flowering as much as three weeks ago. Swathing has started in some of the earliest seeded fields. Monitoring continues for diamondback larvae in canola fields and some damage is visible, although most fields are below threshold. Aster yellows are evident in most fields at higher levels than previous years. Hot weather has caused fields to mature more rapidly than normal and those on lighter soils are showing the effects of hot dry conditions with flower and pod abortion. Pod colour change is deceiving in some fields; pods are yellow while seeds are still green.

Flax continues to flower and bolls have formed. Edible beans and soybeans are flowering and pods are forming. Some fields are being impacted by dry conditions. Where moisture conditions are better, edible bean rows have closed and producers have applied fungicide for white mould control. Septoria brown spot is showing up on lower leaves in some fields. Overall both crops are looking good with the warmer temperatures where moisture is adequate. Edible beans are at 30 to 50% flower and pin beans are visible. Soybeans are at the R3 stage.

Sunflowers are in bud to early flower. Some evidence of sunflower bud moth, banded sunflower moth and grasshoppers can be seen. Corn is tasselling. Some fields are being impacted by lack of rainfall.

Grasshoppers are showing up in fields. Lygus numbers are generally low although isolated fields have numbers high enough to warrant control measures. Insect monitoring continues in crops; many beneficial predators are present.

Haying progress has been excellent in most areas. Condition of hay crop has been generally good, depending on the area; areas of St. Alphonse to Glenboro and up to Gladstone seem to be the driest, with
Gladstone area reporting reduced yields. Yields have been average to below average. In the south, west to east between Mather and Darlingford have good moisture levels for pasture and hayland. Greenfeed is being cut due to lower yields. Moisture is needed for most fields for a good second cut. Second cut amounts to date are below average to poor.

Warm weather and lack of rainfall has hampered pasture regrowth. Livestock water supplies are tight and dugouts are below average levels. Producers are dependent on other sources for watering such as wells and creeks.

Eastern Region

Last week saw continued sunny and hot conditions across the Eastern Region. In some southern and central districts rainfall accumulations ranging from 5 to 18 mm occurred.

Most of winter wheat crops are mature and harvesting is underway. Reported yields range from 60 to 80 bu/acre. Bushel weights are in the 60 lb range with very low levels of fusarium head blight. Harvesting will proceed quickly this week if the weather holds. About 70% of the red spring wheat is in the dough stage with some early seeded fields starting to ripen. The majority of barley acres have moved quickly through the dough stage and are ripening. The majority of oats acres are in the dough stage with the remainder in late milk. Heat blasting in panicles continues to be noted. Across the region canola is pod filling. Flax is at the boll filling growth stage. Sunflowers are in the R4 stage of bud or the R5 stage of flowering. Soybeans, while still showing flowers, are in the podding growth stage. Corn is in the tasseling/silking growth stage. In general, the condition of annual crops is rated as good but the condition ratings of cereals, canola, flax, soybeans and grain corn are reduced to reflect the stress occurring because of high daytime temperatures and reduced rainfall. In northern districts, grain producers remain concerned about insects. Spraying for lygus bug in canola continues where levels deemed it necessary.

For beef producers, first cut hay is close to complete. In central areas, beef and dairy producers are completing second cut baling. As well, second cut silaging by dairy producers has been completed. For beef hay, overall quality is rated as fair to good with expected average yields rated at 1 to 1.5 ton/acre for alfalfa, 1 to 1.2 ton/acre for grass/alfalfa, 0.75 ton/acre for other tame hay and 0.5 ton/acre for wild hay. It was expected that about 10 to 20% of haylands will not be cut due to dry conditions. Some producers are not expecting a second cut opportunity on some haylands if precipitation does not occur. Some reports of feeding on pasture in southern districts are noted. Availability of livestock water is below average across the Eastern Region.

Interlake Region

Hot and humid conditions prevailed through the week in the Interlake Region. A general rainfall was received this past Monday throughout the majority of the Interlake along with 18 mm rainfall early Thursday morning in various locations through the Interlake. Winter wheat crops are maturing with pre-harvest desiccation still taking place. Harvest of winter wheat started late this past week. Yields vary from 70 to 100 bu/acre with good bushel weights and very little fusarium head blight reported to date.

Other cereal crops have completed flowering and are in the milk to dough stage. Some barley fields were swathed over the weekend. Many fields of cereals were still being sprayed for armyworms throughout the Arborg, Fisher Branch, Riverton, Gimli and Teulon districts. Damage is evident on many fields of cereals, established timothy seed and seedling grass crops.

Majority of canola flowering is complete across the region. Swathing of early seeded canola has started in the Teulon area. The majority of canola will start to be swathed within two weeks. Producers continue to scout canola for bertha army worm, zebra caterpillars and diamondback larvae as they have been found in many canola fields.

Soybeans are progressing well with the warm weather and good soil moisture. Corn is at the tassel stage and sunflower crops are headed out and growing rapidly with the recent rains and heat conditions.

Haying continues with weather delays due to scattered showers and high humidity. The Fraserwood/Narcisse area hay harvest is further delayed because of excess rainfall after the recent heavy thunder showers. Hay yields on older stands are well below
Dairy quality second cut harvest is underway with some dairy farms already finished second cut and looking for a third cut. Greenfeed oats and barley were put up this past week as chopped or round bale silage with above average yields being reported.