Weekly Provincial Summary

- Winter wheat harvest is complete in Manitoba with yields ranging from 50 to 100 bushels per acre; average yields are 65 to 70 bushels per acre.
- Harvest of spring wheat, barley, oats, canola and pea crops continues. Spring wheat yields range from 30 to 70 bushels per acre, barley 40 to 100 bushels per acre, oats 45 to 100 bushels per acre, canola 15 to 40 bushels per acre and peas 35 to 45 bushels per acre.
- Quality of spring wheat and canola is good to date, although smaller seed size is noted. For oats and barley, quality is more variable mainly due to low test weights.
- Hot temperatures during flowering and grain filling stages of crop development, moisture stress, and diseases such as root rots, sclerotinia, blackleg and aster yellows, are the main factors impacting yield and quality in 2012.

Southwest Region

Most of the Southwest Region received rainfall over the past week with amounts varying from 5 to 25 mm. The precipitation did slow down harvest of cereal crops but producers continued cutting canola. Winter wheat and fall rye harvest is complete with yields reporting to be average to above average. Winter wheat averaged in the 60 to 70 bu/acre range with average quality and variable protein levels. Fall rye averaged 50 bu/acre with good quality; some areas reported yields in the 70 bu/acre range.

Producers started the spring wheat harvest with yields in the 45 to 55 bu/acre range and good quality. Barley harvest is about 20% complete with reports of a variable crop. Hotter temperatures during the season lowered test weight and yields. Yields to date range from 40 to 60 bu/acre. Several areas reporting barley being graded as feed.

Canola harvest is minimal but most areas are expecting lower yield potential due to disease, insect damage and heat.

Pea harvest is about 80% complete and yields are 35 to 45 bu/acre. Quality is good; however, recent rains may impact quality.

Condition of pastures is being assessed as growing conditions and an early start to the grazing season have impacted carrying capacity. Producers may start feeding in some areas depending upon weather conditions. Dugouts are 70% full.

Northwest Region

Seasonal warm days, cool night temperatures and favourable harvest conditions were general through most of the Northwest Region. On Wednesday, however, an unstable weather system interrupted harvest with occasional thunderstorms and rain showers with precipitation of 10 to 20 mm occurring through the Grandview to Ste. Rose sector. Higher amounts of rain up to 35 mm were reported south of the Grandview area.

The winter wheat, fall rye and pea harvest is nearly complete. Yield of winter wheat is variable from 25 bu/acre to over 75 bu/acre, averaging around the 65 to 70 bu/acre range with good quality.

Spring wheat harvest is 30% complete, primarily in the southern areas of the region. Yields of red spring wheat are also variable ranging from 35 to 55 bu/acre. Majority of crop harvested to date is grading a #2 with very little fusarium, wheat midge damage or ergot.

The majority of canola is maturing with swathing reaching 20 to 50%
completion; combining of canola is in a very early stage. In all of the Northwest, as canola fields are opened up; yield expectations of canola continue to decline further due to significant negative impacts of aster yellows and increased evidence of sclerotinia. Harvest operations are less advanced in the Roblin area and the northern areas from Ethelbert to The Pas. Other crops in the Dauphin/Ste. Rose area including silage corn, hemp and soybeans are advancing to later growth stages under favourable conditions and show good yield potentials.

The generally favourable weather and field conditions allowed greenfeed and native haying operations to continue. Greenfeed and native hay yields are average overall but are lower in those areas that had excess moisture issues. Second cut forages are nearing completion with average quality and yields. With the wheat harvest well underway, good quantities of straw are being baled and collected in good condition. Area supplies of forage are expected to be adequate overall; however, some localized shortages are expected.

Central Region

Rainfall throughout the Central Region this last week was minimal. The areas that received rainfall are reporting amounts up to 10 mm in the Altona-Morris area, 12 to 25 mm in the Portage area, 7 mm at Treherne and 11 mm at Carman. Harvesting of spring cereals and canola continues across the region. Spring wheat yields range from 50 to 70 bu/acre, barley at 55 to 100 bu/acre, oats at 75 to 130 bu/acre and canola at 15 to 35 bu/acre. In canola, high dockage due to small seeds was noted. Preharvest desiccation of edible beans has begun. Early maturing beans types such as light red kidney bean started to be undercut in the Winkler and Altona regions. The first dry beans fields should be harvested by the end of this week. Soybeans reached the R7 growth stage. There are reports of areas in soybean fields prematurely ripening, typically in the transitions areas from field drains to ridges, this can be attributed to saline areas and very low soil moisture levels.

Livestock water continues to be low in most areas with some pumping occurring to fill dugouts. Pastures that have seen higher levels of grazing are showing the most stress and lack of growth. Demand for hay will increase if warm weather persists and producers have to start feeding livestock earlier.

Eastern Region

Varying amounts of rainfall occurred midweek throughout most of the Eastern Region with lower temperatures accompanying that weather system. Cumulative rainfall varied from minimal amounts to over 25 mm. Drier areas in the southern part of the region were noted as receiving 12 to 25 mm.

Most of the red spring wheat was harvested with yields in the 50 bu/acre range and average quality. About 80% of the barley is harvested with reported yields in the 55 to 60 bu/acre range and average quality. Oats are about 80% harvested with yields in the 80 bu/acre range and quality concerns in regards to light bushel weights.

Swathing of canola acres is complete. About 35% of the canola crop is combined. Yield reports range widely from 20 to 35 bu/acre. Majority of flax fields are ripe with some reports of harvesting received. Sunflowers completed flowering and are in the R6 growth stage or transitioning to R7. Soybeans are pod filling. Corn is in either the milk or dough growth stage with some acres in the dent stage.

In regards to winter feed supply level, hay is rated as 25 to 50% adequate, straw at 90 to 100% adequate, greenfeed at 70% adequate and feed grains at 25 to 80% adequate. Availability of livestock water is considered well below normal across the Eastern Region with greater concerns in southern districts.

Interlake Region

Last week the Interlake Region experienced scattered showers followed by strong winds. Rainfall accumulations ranged from 9 to 10 mm and in some areas up to 25 mm were reported. Producers in Gypsumville, Winnipeg Beach, Riverton, Gimli, and Fisher Branch are still experiencing wet conditions and are limited where they can travel with equipment in their fields.

Harvesting of spring wheat is 85 to 90% complete with yields ranging from 40 to 50 bu/acre. Oat harvest continues with yields ranging from 45 to 130 bu/acre with an average of 90 bu/acre. Shattering is noted in oats.
Swathing of canola is on-going with the majority of acres being cut. Reports are coming in of below average canola yields with higher than normal seed dockage. Yields ranging from 8 to 35 bu/acre of canola are reported with average 20 bu/acre.

Hay harvest is still being completed, with second and third cuts coming off at 50% below average. Lack of moisture throughout the summer has taken its toll on pasture and hay fields. Producers in some areas are inquiring about portable watering stations because of the below normal levels of water in dugouts, as well as poor quality of water. In the North Interlake, some producers are still not able to access fields to make first cut or to bale what was cut, due to excess moisture.