Weekly Provincial Summary

- Hot, dry conditions across most of Manitoba allowed for excellent harvest progress over the past week.
- Harvest of spring cereals ranges from 85 to 100% complete and canola harvest ranges from 50 to 100% complete. The harvest of spring cereals and canola is the most advanced in the Central and Eastern Regions, followed by the Interlake, Northwest and Southwest Regions.
- Flax, edible beans and soybean harvest is just underway.
- Grain corn and sunflower crops are maturing quickly.
- Seeding of winter wheat continues across Manitoba. It is anticipated that winter wheat acres will increase as a result of availability of stubble from early-harvested canola crops, good yields and quality of the 2011/12 crop, and strong commodity prices.
- Precipitation would be welcomed to aid in winter wheat stand establishment, fall field work and replenishing soil moisture reserves and dugouts.

Southwest Region

Little to no rainfall was reported throughout the Southwest Region, resulting in excellent harvest progress. Harvest is 70% complete in the region.

Spring wheat harvest is 80% complete with producers reporting average yields in the 40 to 50 bu/acre range with good quality. Barley harvest is 90% complete with reports of below average yields in the 40 bu/acre range and poor quality due to light weight and fusarium head blight. Oat harvest is 80% complete with yields below average and low test weights.

Canola harvest is 50% complete and to date yields are average to below average in the 20 to 30 bu/acre range; some producers are reporting higher yields with good quality. There was wind damage to canola reported last week. Producers have started to harvest flax and initial reports are below average yields.

Some of the later seeded crops are looking better so reported yield averages will change as harvest continues. Sunflowers, corn and soybean crops look good.

There is potential for several acres to be sown to winter wheat and fall rye.

The heat and wind from last week has impacted growth on pastures, hayland and sloughs. Dugouts are 50 to 60% full.

Northwest Region

Harvest progress throughout the Northwest Region continued with above seasonal daytime temperatures and drying conditions. Cooling nights with a few overnight periods of dew only slightly delayed early morning combining starts.

Occasional periods of high winds have caused canola swaths to move and pile up with some localized losses due to shattering. Soil moisture levels are beginning to reach lower levels, especially on the lighter texture or better drained soil types.

Harvest of all seeded acres is 75 to 80% complete on a regional basis. The most advanced area is the southeast sector where only later seeded cereals and canola remain, along with the maturing hemp, soybeans, buckwheat, flax and corn silage acres. The Roblin, Swan River and The Pas areas are progressing well; however, the greater regional portion of unharvested acres reflect later seeding and crop development delays due to early growing season and excess moisture challenges.

Widely variable harvested crop yield reports continue; bushel weights
and quality are average but variable as well. Regional averages are around the 45 to 50 bu/acre for spring wheat, barley yields are 44 to 50 bu/acre and oat yields are 85 to 90 bu/acre.

Approximately 65 to 70% of canola is combined and around 5% of canola remains to be swath. The regional canola yield is averaging 25 to 27 bu/acre with a range from 18 to 50 bu/acre.

Post-harvest field tillage work is more advanced in the south and eastern sectors where more combining is completed. Some pre-harvest applications are still underway through the northwest sectors.

Across all areas, good quantities of straw continue to be baled and removed from fields in good condition. Some forage is being taken as a late second cut. There are concerns of localized shortages reported from those areas which had excess moisture issues and previous lake flood effects on production. Silage corn harvest has not begun. Pasture conditions are declining under continuing dry fall conditions.

**Central Region**

Hot dry weather continues in the Central Region. Most of the region is waiting for rain to aid in fall field work and improve seedbed and germination conditions for fall cereals.

Harvest of spring cereals and canola continues. Most of the acres in the eastern parts of the region are complete, with the last of the re-seeded canola being harvested. A number of those fields are yielding better than the earlier seeded canola. Western areas are well advanced with cereal harvest at over 95% complete; canola is over 80% harvested. Quality is generally good, although canola dockage is higher than average due to small seeds. Flax has turned and harvesting is starting, with yields in the 10 to 20 bu/acre range.

Edible bean harvest continues in the Altona and Winkler areas, Carman area harvest has wrapped up, while Portage area is harvesting light reds and navies. Yields are respectable, especially given the dry conditions. Pinto yields are as high as 2000 lbs/acre and navies and blacks are as high as 2200 to 2500 lbs/acre.

Soybeans are as advanced as the R8 growth stage, or 90% brown pod. There are also reports of areas in soybean fields that are prematurely ripening. A number of the early seeded and early maturing varieties are turning rapidly with the hot dry conditions. Early harvest reports are in the 25 to 30 bu/acre range.

Corn is denting; the yield potential in fields will be impacted by poor moisture conditions. The backs of sunflower heads are turning yellow and desiccation applications are being planned.

Early potato yields and quality are average to above average. The storage Russet Burbank crop is more variable and is showing indications that quality will be affected by the heat and dry conditions.

Field work is progressing slowly and postharvest weed control is limited due to dry conditions. Some field ditching is being done. Winter wheat seeding continues, with increased acres going in.

Pasture growth is slow. Those that are rotationally grazed or have lower stocking rates are in better condition, but most pastures continue to be impacted by the hot dry conditions. Third cut alfalfa has begun in some areas, while second cut hay continues in others, and is close to being complete. Yields are below normal. Hay supplies are tight and prices are higher as a result. Producers are looking at options to extend the feed supplies.

Livestock water continues to decline in most areas with some pumping occurring to fill dugouts. Some Gladstone producers are cleaning out dugouts with low water levels.

**Eastern Region**

Parts of the central and southern areas of the Eastern Region received trace amounts of rainfall last week.

About 95% of the canola crop is harvested. Yields range from 22 to 35 bu/acre. Sunflowers are in the R8 growth stage. Most soybeans are in the R7 growth stage but fields in R8 are noted. Corn is transitioning from R5 dent stage to R6. Maturity in sunflowers, corn and soybeans is occurring quickly due to hot dry conditions. Lots of progress with winter wheat seeding was noted last week.

In regards to winter feed supply level, hay is rated as 25 to 50% adequate, straw at 80 to 90% adequate, greenfeed at 70% adequate and feed grains range from 25 to 80% adequate. The lowest feed supply level ratings are from southern areas of the region.

The condition of the majority of pasturelands in the Eastern region is rated as poor to very poor.
Availability of livestock water is rated as 30 to 50% inadequate across the region.

**Interlake Region**

Good harvest conditions prevailed through the week in the Interlake Region with light variable showers on the weekend. Most areas received trace amounts of precipitation while the Arborg area received 5 mm. Wet field conditions continue to restrict harvest in the Riverton area and areas northwest of Fisher Branch. Canola and cereal harvest is almost complete in the northern areas of the region and are complete in the south. Soybean harvest could begin in about a week in the south but will depend on seed moisture content.

Fall tillage and post harvest herbicide application are general across the region. Winter wheat seeding began last week.

Corn silage harvest is underway in the South Interlake. Hay harvest continues across the region. Second cut yields are below average and no second cut is expected in the south west portion of the region due to dry conditions. The exception is the Riverton area which has second cut hay yields which are above average. Pasture conditions are variable as dry areas are experiencing little regrowth and pasture shortages are expected. Most of the region is expecting pasture carrying capacity to be average. Water supply shortages are reported in south and western portions of the region.