

## CROP REPORT

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### Southwest Region

Rainfall was general across the Southwest Region over the weekend with amounts ranging from 10 to 20 mm. The precipitation was welcome in most areas. Producers will either start or resume fall work as the rain softened the ground. Harvest is almost complete in the Southwest Region.

Spring cereal acres were down from past years due to wet conditions and late seeding. Spring wheat yields are average to below average at 30 to 40 bushels per acre. Quality is average with fusarium damaged kernels the main downgrading factor. Barley yields are average to below average at 50 to 70 bushels per acre. Quality is average; late seeded barley has low test weight. Oat yields are average to above average at 70 to 100 bushels per acre; quality is good. Late seeded oat crop has low test weight. Winter wheat has average to above average yields of 60 to 80 bushels per acre with good quality. Fall rye has average to above average yields of 40 to 50 bushels per acre with good quality.

Oilseed acres were also down mainly due to wet conditions in the spring. Canola yields are average to below average at 20 to 30 bushels per acre. Quality overall is good; however, late seeded canola has green seed issues. Flax yields are average at 20 to 25 bushels per

acre with good quality. Sunflower harvest is still not complete. Yields to date are below average and quality is average.

Pastureland has declined quickly over the past week and several producers are supplemental feeding. Cattle are being moved off pasture.

### Northwest Region

Warm, dry conditions continued through the week. The Northwest Region received 15 to 25 mm of rain over the weekend. Harvesting of crops is complete through the Swan River and Roblin areas. In the Eastern areas where spring excess moisture delayed seeding, some cereal, canola, hemp, flax and soybean fields remain to be harvested.

For the Northwest Region, yields of hard red spring wheat averaged 45 bushels per acre with 70% grading 1CW. Oats averaged 75 bushels per acre with 70% grading 2CW. Average barley yield is 55 bushels per acre with 75% grading 1CW. Canola graded 90% 1CAN with yields averaging 40 bushels per acre. Swan River and Roblin production is approximately 20% higher than the regional average. In the areas from Grandview and east of the Escarpment to Lake Manitoba, yield and quality averages are 20 to 25% lower than the regional average. Hemp yields

are 600 to 800 pounds per acre; seed size and quality are very good. At Ste. Rose, soybeans yields are as high as 40 bushels per acre; however, area average ranges from 20 to 25 bushels per acre.

Yields were reduced where excess spring moisture resulted in drown-outs, poor root development and nutrient losses. Late seeded crops also saw reduced yields due to heat and drought stress. Fusarium damaged kernels and higher incidence of ergot have been the main downgrading factors in wheat. As well, frost damage on immature crops contributed to light weights in barley and oats and small seed and higher green seed counts in canola.

Yield and quality impacts due to insect pest problems were generally localized. A variety of insects including Bertha armyworm, flea beetles, diamondback moth larvae and Lygus impacted canola production. While some late seeded wheat was sprayed for wheat midge, evidence of seed damage is low. Some treatments for aphids on soybeans and barley also occurred.

Winter wheat acres increased significantly in the Eastern area of the region with many producers planting into unseeded fields. Winter wheat, fall rye and perennial seed forages germinated evenly and are establishing very well.

Surface soil conditions have been dry and soil temperatures remain high. Some fall fertilizing has begun;

with the recent rain and falling soil temperatures, widespread application activities are expected. Most producers are well into fall field work, weed control, straw baling and hauling. Silaging of corn and late seeded greenfeed is continuing.

Winter feed supplies are adequate for the region. Localized shortages exist where Lakes Manitoba, Dauphin and Winnipegosis flooded tame and native hay lands. Overall level of livestock feeding is equivalent to last year, except where flooding has impacted pasture and forage production.

## Central Region

The 2011 cropping season provided many challenges. Spring flooding, excess moisture and cool conditions in spring, followed by dry conditions with little rainfall through the summer and fall, and September frost were all contributing factors to this year's crop yields and quality.

Yields for most crop types are average to below average. There was a wide range of yields, dependent on both amount of rain and time of seeding. There are pockets within the region with excellent yields.

Little to no rain allowed for the easiest harvest in many years. In many areas, this has also meant an early harvest; however, some areas saw a later harvest due to late seeding. Although there was a dip in temperatures in September, damage due to frost was limited as many crops had reached maturity.

Winterkill and spring flooding caused issues for the winter wheat crop. Yields were extremely variable, from 40 to 85 bushels per acre, with an average yield in the 65

to 75 bushels per acre range. Protein ranged from 9 to 11%, with some areas reporting higher than normal proteins; other areas reported lower than normal. There was very little downgrading due to fusarium damaged kernels; quality is generally good. There were limited acres of fall rye, with yields of 50 to 55 bushels per acre reported.

Spring wheat yields varies widely, ranging from 20 to 60 bushels per acre, with most reporting average to below average yields in the 30 to 40 bushels per acre range. Almost the entire crop graded 2CW or better. Quality is generally good with little impact from fusarium head blight. Some ergot has been reported. Protein levels are average, with a range of 12 to 16%, with the highest proteins in the western part of the region. Barley yields range from 50 to 75 bushels per acre. Quality is generally good with low fusarium levels. Oats yields range widely again this year, but have been generally lower than previous years. Yields range from 50 to 110 bushels per acre, averaging between 65 to 75 bushels per acre. Quality is variable. Majority is grading 2CW; downgrading is due to light bushel weight.

Canola yields were disappointing for many. The crop struggled early in the season, and in many cases was severely impacted by the summer's hot dry conditions. Some fields were either reseeded or seeded late due to excess moisture and flooding. Yields are variable, ranging from 10 to 60 bushels per acre, averaging 25 to 35 bushels per acre. Quality is excellent for the most part, with majority grading 1CAN. Green seed issues are showing up in late seeded or re-seeded crop, due to

frost. Many fields had problems with blackleg.

Flax yields range from 13 to 30 bushels per acre, averaging 18 to 22 bushels per acre. Quality is good; only the odd field is left to harvest. Pea yields range from 30 to 40 bushels per acre; harvest is complete. Buckwheat harvest is complete; yields are 20 to 22 bushels per acre.

Edible bean harvest is 99% complete. Yields range from 1100 to 2500 pounds per acre. Some downgrading due to frost has occurred; pink discoloration in pintos, yellow tinge in navies, and some purple seed in blacks.

Soybean harvest is over 95% complete. Yields vary from 15 to 45 bushels per acre, averaging 20 to 30 bushels per acre. Seed size is on the smaller side. Although quality is generally average, there is some downgrading due to green or shrivelled seeds.

Potato harvest is 95% complete; yields range from 200 to 300 cwt. Most areas report average to below average yields; Carberry area was the exception with higher yields. Quality is average to below average, impacted by the hot dry conditions. Frost events to date have not damaged unharvested tubers, although some damage to the tops is seen in the late seeded fields. Digging continues for carrots. Irrigation required for the potato and vegetable crops was more extensive than normal.

Sunflower harvest ranges from 10 to 100% complete; yields range from 1400 to 2000 lbs per acre. Quality is generally good. Frost damage may be an issue in the late seeded fields.



Corn silage harvest continues. Quality is reported as good; yields are average ranging from 10 to 18 MT, averaging around 14 MT. Thirty-five percent of the grain corn crop has been harvested with early yield reports of 80 to 140 bushels per acre. Some lower bushel weights due to the challenges of this year's growing season, including excess moisture and cool conditions in spring, followed by dry conditions in summer and a frost prior to maturity. Damage from Friday's windstorm ranges from minimal impact to as high as 30% in the unharvested crop.

Impact of disease in most crops is lower this year due to the hot dry summer conditions. Root rots were evident in many crops; impact was most significant in the soybean crop, especially coupled with the dry conditions later on. Sclerotinia was evident in all susceptible crops, but at low levels, with little if any impact to yield.

Insect problems included some late spraying in winter wheat headlands for grasshoppers. Also of concern were lygus, bertha armyworm and diamondback moth in canola; lygus, soybean aphid, and spider mites in soybeans, and lygus and banded sunflower moth in sunflowers.

Fall cultivation progress ranges widely, dependent on field conditions. Some producers report being close to caught up, while others continue to be hindered by dry conditions; some report increased wear on shovels due to the poor field conditions. Post harvest weed control is being undertaken as conditions allow. Fall fertilizing has begun, but is being limited in some cases by dry soils and warmer than normal soil

temperatures. Many producers will wait for rain before applying anhydrous ammonia. Some phosphate is being applied. Soil testing continues. Manure application is being made as conditions allow. The percentage of crop residue burned is lower this year, a factor of lower amounts of residue as well as excellent conditions for straw baling and hauling. Soil moisture conditions at present range from good to dry.

Winter wheat and fall rye acres have increased, due to the early harvest and to unseeded acres following spring flooding/excess moisture. Germination and stand establishment ranges from poor to excellent, dependent upon precipitation.

Pastures are in fair to poor condition due to lack of rainfall. Hay fields are in fair to good condition, also suffering from low rainfall. There is a good supply of all classes of feed, including straw, for much of the region. The exception is the northwest area which reports average first cut hay, a reduced second cut, and short supply of straw. All areas report a low third cut due to dry conditions. Shortages of feed will be most significant adjacent to Lake Manitoba. Quality of feed is good as most hay was put up without rain. Extra greenfeed was seeded due to the availability of unseeded acres. There are concerns with nitrate levels. Native hay, where available, had good yield and quality due to drier conditions at harvest time. Livestock feeding is expected to be higher, due to the hot dry conditions and lack of pasture growth in late summer.

## Eastern Region

Harvesting is wrapping up in the Eastern Region last week. With the predominantly favourable weather, many producers with no corn or sunflowers acres are finished harvesting. Variable rainfall and showers over the weekend, along with a drop in temperatures, did slow harvest of the long season crops. Soil moisture levels across the region are rated as dry.

Cereal harvest is complete across the region. Hard red spring wheat yields range from 25 to 60 bushels per acre with 75% grading 1CW and 25% grading 2CW. Oats yields range from 50 to 100 bushels per acre with 40% grading 2CW, 40% grading 3CW and 20% grading 4CW. Barley yields range from 40 to 60 bushels per acre with 10% designated malt, 70% grading 1CW and 20% grading 2CW. Fall rye yields range from 40 to 60 bushels per acre with 75% grading 1CW and 25% grading 2CW. Canola harvest is complete with yields ranging from 15 to 40 bushels per acre with 75% grading 1CAN and 25% grading 2CAN. Flax harvest is 90% complete with yields ranging from 10 to 25 bushels per acre and majority of the crop grading 1CW. Soybean harvest is complete with yields ranging from 15 to 40 bushels per acre with 40% of the crop grading 1CAN and 60% 2CAN. Grain corn harvest is 50% complete with yields ranging from 75 to 125 bushels per acre. Of the crop harvested so far, majority is grading 2CW. Oil sunflower harvest is 60% complete with yields ranging from 1800 to 2500 pounds per acre; majority of crop is grading 1CAN. Confectionary sunflower harvest is only 15% complete with yields



ranging from 1600 to 2300 pounds per acre; majority of crop is grading 1CAN. Harvest of sunflowers has been delayed as a result of the intermittent showers and cool, humid conditions.

An average number of acres were seeded to winter wheat and fall rye this fall. These crops were seeded in a timely manner allowing for good establishment. Fall field work has kept pace with harvest progress. The fall application of anhydrous ammonia has stepped up considerably with the wrap up of harvesting and the recent change in weather conditions.

Hay supplies in the Eastern Region vary on a north-south gradient. In south and central areas supplies will be adequate with hay and straw being offered for sale. In northern areas some producers are short feed due to very poor yielding or absent second and third cuts. These producers will be purchasing feed or selling animals. The amount of pasture feeding of livestock at this time relative to last year has risen at least 10%. Depending on area,

between 25% to 40% of animals are currently on feed.

## Interlake Region

Scattered light showers fell over the weekend in the Interlake Region with accumulations ranging from 3 to 7 mm. Ashern and Moosehorn areas received up to 17 mm of rainfall. Warm dry conditions throughout the week allowed for advances in fall tillage and harvesting. Corn and sunflower harvest continues in the south while harvest of other crops is complete.

Hard red spring wheat yields averaged 30 bushels per acre with 90% grading 1CW. Limited barley acres yielded 60 bushels per acre with most grading 1CW. Oat yields averaged 60 bushels per acre with grades of 2CW. The exception is the late seeded acres which had low test weight. Canola and flax yielded 24 and 18 bushels per acre, respectively. There is very good quality for both crops; green seed counts have been high on late seeded canola as a result of early frost and hot dry weather. Soybean

yields are below average at 24 bushels per acre. Like canola, early frost and dry weather caused green seed counts to be high, resulting in 75% grading 2CAN and 25% grading 3CAN.

Forage grass, alfalfa, and birdsfoot trefoil crops have above average seed yields. Average yields for these crops are difficult to estimate, but some highlights had timothy seed yield over 500 pounds per acre and alfalfa seed yield over 800 pounds per acre. Fall tillage and weed control operations are general. Fall fertilization is apparent on only a small acreage so far. Winter wheat crops are in good condition and some have advanced to the 3 and 4 leaf stage.

Dry conditions has allowed for forage restoration work on many acres affected by previous flooding. Hay and straw transport continue on most farms. Supplemental feeding is occurring on many pastures as grass regrowth has been limited due to lack of timely rains.