

## CROP REPORT #22 – September 29, 2020

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### Weekly Provincial Summary

- Harvest completion sits at 80%, ahead the three-year average of 73% at this time.
- Temperatures have been highly variable across the entire province, with cold, windy days, interspersed by warm and calm. Conditions have been favourable for a timely harvest, with good field access and fall fieldwork being completed.
- Canola harvest is nearly complete, with soybean harvest underway. Canola quality has been good, with average yields. Soybean yields have been higher than expected in many areas, and have been a pleasant surprise to many. Quality reports are good, with occasional late-season soybeans showing some green seed issues due to frost.

**Table 1: Seeded Acreage and Harvest Progress for 2020 Manitoba Field Crops to Date.**

Crop	Seeded Acreage†	2020 Harvest Progress
Winter Wheat*	29,223	100%
Fall Rye*	94,114	100%
Spring Wheat*	2,776,228	97%
Barley*	382,853	98%
Oats*	652,100	96%
Field Pea*	155,865	100%
Canola	3,371,145	85%
Flax*	49,805	51%
Soybean*	1,095,136	42%
Dry Bean	185,109	85%
Sunflower	90,341	0%
Grain Corn	306,770	1%
Potatoes††	70,000	75%

†MASC Seeded Acreage Report (31-Aug-2020)

†† Potato seeded acreage based on Keystone Potato Producers estimate.

\*Indicates total acreage of commercial, pedigreed seed and organic seeded acres.

\*\* Harvest Progress as of first week of August 2017-2019 Averages from Manitoba Crop Report.

### Southwest Region

Mostly cloudy and some rainy weather last week in the Southwest region. Between 5 to 15mm rain fell in different areas of the region but strong winds allowed for rapid drying. Areas in the southwest corner of the region are reporting shortages of water for livestock due to lack of a substantial rain for more than 6 to 8 weeks. Soil surface

moisture is also depleting and it may cause some germination issues to winter seeded crops. Recent showers will help in these conditions.

Overall Harvest is 70 to 75% complete. Harvest progress is coming along well in all areas of the region. Many producers have

completed their harvest on schedule this year.

Canola harvest is 65 to 70% complete. Yields are modest to below average at 35 to 50 bu/acre. There are scattered reports of excellent yield and quality, depending on variety and management.

Soybean harvest is 30 to 35% done. Yield and quality is good so far as these fields were least affected from frost.

Silage corn is 50% complete. Yields and quality are rated as average to above average. No reports of grain harvest yet.

More straw and slough hay was baled this week. Not many cattle producers in the Southwest reporting feed shortages. Several producers selling hay and straw. Dugouts are at 70% capacity.

## Northwest Region

Warm dry conditions for most of the week helped harvest move along efficiently. Last Monday saw daytime temperatures reach upper 20's, with McCreary recorded at 28°C. The rest of the week saw nice harvest weather for the most part. Cool and windy conditions settled in for the weekend, with some precipitation in areas slowed things down temporarily; Inglis and San Clara received the most precipitation – 6.8 and 8 mm respectively. Strong winds late last week caused some canola swaths to blow in the Swan Valley region.

Spring Wheat harvest is mostly complete across the region, with the exception of The Pas, and 98 to 99% complete across the rest of the Northwest Region. Yields range from 60 to 90 bu/acre.

With recent weather conditions cooperating for most of the week, canola harvest was able to progress nicely. Approximately 80% of the canola is harvested in the Roblin area; 70% harvested in the Swan Valley region and more advanced in the Dauphin region. Yields have been reported from poor to average across the region, with some fields doing well and averaging better.

Yields for most of the region range 40 to 60 bu/acre.

Soybean harvest has just begun in the Swan Valley while the crop remains standing in the Roblin area. Soybean harvest in the Dauphin region is underway. Flax harvest is mostly complete in Roblin and Swan Valley region, no reported yields as of yet. Fababeen harvest is underway in the Swan Valley region.

Post-harvest field operations continue as time and conditions allow. Baling of cereal straw and majority of late seeded annual greenfeed has been completed with most of bales hauled into the feed yards. Second cut alfalfa hay harvest continues and corn silage harvest is ongoing with average yields. Dry matter losses are being seen from frosted corn plants losing leaves. With minimal forage growth, pasture conditions are declining quickly and supplemental feed will be required earlier than normal. Water conditions are low to adequate.

## Central Region

Good harvest progress this past week with little rain received at 1 to 8 mm, low to mid-twenties daytime high temperatures and moderate winds continuing. Many growers are reporting to be done or nearly harvest. Topsoil is dry and where tillage is done, it is sometimes causing lumpy surface conditions. Volunteer grain growth is poor given the dry topsoil conditions.

Canola harvest is mostly done in the region with the exception of the odd field remaining. Canola yields reported range from 40 to 50 bu/ac yields or in the average range with good quality grain. Flax harvest continued with good yield reports in the 35 to 45 bu/ac range.

Industrial hemp harvest progressed well and is mostly completed. Buckwheat fields are swathed. Sunflowers are progressing into the R7 to R8 stage as plants mature. Some desiccation products applied as more sunflower fields have reached maturity.

Soybeans are mature and harvest is about 50 to 60% done with reported yields in the 35 to 50 bu/ac range depending on rainfall received. The earlier September frost did not seem to cause much damage to the soybeans. Edible beans harvest is progressing well with about 80 to 90% done across the region and the balance expected to be harvested this week. Yields reported are above average, ranging from 1800 to 2000 lbs/acre. Later planted field beans west of the escarpment suffered frost injury earlier in September causing severe downgrade and a number of fields have been written off.

Much of the potato harvest is done in the Carberry area and about 60 to 75% done in the Carman area. Overall estimate on potato harvest completed is around 75%. Very good harvest conditions compared to last year when rainfall was abundant and fields were wet.

Producers are looking at taking a late season second or third cut now that there has been a frost. Frost has producers concerned over [nitrates](#) in their uncut green feed or crop regrowth. Wild hay cutting is finishing up and corn silage chopping has begun. Water sources on pasture are adequate but some are getting low. Pasture growth is slowing and are grazed down where rainfall was lacking for optimal regrowth. Pastures are running out of grass due to dry conditions and the lateness in the season. Cattle grazing stubble and second cut on hayfields to extend the grazing season are doing well.

## Eastern Region

Overall, significant harvest progress was made with harvest and fall fieldwork although work had to stop in some districts at some point over the weekend because of rainfall. Producers were anxious to finish harvest and were hoping for suitable weather going forward. The recent killing frost has accelerated dry down in warm season crops including soybeans, corn and sunflower.

Across the Eastern region, overall harvest completion was estimated at 75%. Canola harvest across the region was at least 95% complete with most remaining unharvested acres in northern districts. Yield reports continued to range from 25 to 50 bu/ac with good quality. Overall, producers are viewing canola yields as being average at best and are somewhat disappointed.

Soybean harvest was about 60% complete with some producers expecting to finish harvesting soybeans this week if weather allows. Yield reports ranged from 35 to 60 bu/acre with many producers noting that their yield expectations were being exceeded and that they were anticipating higher than average overall yields for their soybean crop this year. However, those in southern districts that experienced significant excess soil moisture earlier in the growing season and those in areas that experienced the driest soil moisture conditions during flowering and pod fill are experiencing below average yields. As well, in some areas it has been noted that very short to shorter season varieties have under performed relative to longer season varieties. This has been attributed to August rainfall arriving too late for some varieties to make effective use of it. Overall, quality of harvested soybeans was rated as good. There have been some

reports of higher levels of green seed showing up in some samples. The recent killing frost has been identified as the cause but, at this time, this issue is not expected to be a significant quality problem.

Since the killing frost, cornfields have been drying down. Some hybrids did reach black layer or physiological maturity before the frost while others were not quite there. Test weight and quality is expected to vary from field to field and the situation will clarify once harvest proceeds. Producers are waiting for additional dry down before harvest begins in earnest. Desiccation of sunflowers was completed last week. Good progress was made on fall fieldwork including fall banding or broadcast/incorporating of phosphorus and potash.

Across the Eastern region, overall feed harvest was close to complete. Good progress on baling of remaining second cut beef hay was made. Yields continued to range from 50% below average to average with good quality. Corn silage was complete. Pasture conditions continued to deteriorate being mostly fair or poor. In response, calves continued to be shipped to market. Baling and hauling of straw was close to complete. Livestock water supply was rated as adequate.

## Interlake Region

Harvest continues; many producers are caught up on cereals and canola, and are well into the soybeans. Heavy dews and nuisance rains have continued to limit harvest hours, but crop moisture levels have dropped. Progress has been made on fall tillage. Most areas are looking for rain – post-harvest – to benefit soil moisture levels for next year, and improve tillage conditions in some soils.

Temperatures have been extremely variable, with daytime highs ranging from low teens to high 20s. Overnight lows have settled to just above 0°C to slightly below. Average daily temperatures range from 12°C to 14°C, higher than last week. Frosts have aided crop dry down in mature crops.

Cereal harvest for many in the region is complete; overall progress is estimated at 95+% done. Yields have generally been good; strong winds did cause yield loss in some circumstances. Straw has been baled immediately following cereal harvest; yield is better than recent years. Some post-harvest weed spraying is also occurring.

Canola harvest is estimated at 80 to 90+% complete. Yield reports range from 25 to 55 bu/ac; with average yields expected to be in the 35 to 45 bu/ac range. Disappointing yields are reported due to strong winds that caused damage to both standing and swathed canola, following a season of many stresses – cool conditions and spring frosts, dry conditions, and significant insect pressure. Some of the reseeded canola is yielding better, especially with timely rains early on.

Flax harvest continues, with yields ranging from 20 to 45 bu/acre.

Most soybeans are R8. Harvest progress is estimated at 50 to 60% complete, with some producers just starting and others finished. Early yields reported in the 20 to 55 bu/ac range. Average is expected to end up at 35 to low 40-bushel range, similar to canola. Some scattered reports of frost damage, mostly on longer season varieties that were still quite green. Some of the later maturing varieties benefited from the late rains. Conditions for harvest much better than last year; reduced struggle with wrapping as straw is easier to handle. Some



reports of green seeds in sample, currently not expected to be a problem. Frost damage reported on edible beans.

Most sunflowers are at R9. Desiccation applications continues. Harvest is expected to start in 7 to 10 days. Corn silage chopping continues, with some areas complete. Yields are variable, dependent on rainfall amounts through the growing season. Early reports of 9 to 19 tonnes/acre. Grain corn is at R5, harvest may start in the next week or two; moisture reported at 23 to 28%. Leaf browning due to frost is evident.

Alfalfa seed harvest continues, with early yield reports of 400 to 600 lbs/acre. Fall rye and winter wheat are in, with good emergence. Later seeded fields would benefit from rain to aid emergence.

Most greenfeed harvest is complete. Producers are trying different mixes, including oat/pea, in addition to single crop greenfeed. Yields are good, and will help to supplement alfalfa and grass hay supplies. Hay yields have been extremely variable, dependent on rains. Winterkill last year has made producers more hesitant to cut at this time of year. Forage shortages are expected, but supplies will be somewhat better than last year. Annual crop silage has taken the pressure off for many producers. Earlier rains helped pastures, but some cattle are now being taken off as conditions decline. Some supplemental feeding, also some cattle moved onto harvested fields. Livestock water supply is currently adequate; some dugout levels have improved with recent rains, while others are reported as getting low.