

CROP REPORT #24 – October 13, 2020

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Weekly Provincial Summary

- Harvest completion sits at 95%, well ahead the three-year average of 79% at this time.
- Fall fieldwork continues on harvested fields, anhydrous ammonia applications have started. Some producers are delaying fieldwork and fertilizer application until after a rain, which is hoped for to soften soil surfaces and seal in fertilizer.
- Soybean harvest is virtually complete, with some soybeans remaining in the field in the Swan Valley.
- Corn harvest rapidly progressed over Thanksgiving weekend, with many producers finishing and grain moisture ranging from 18 to 24%. Grain dryers have been going, though for significantly less time than last year.
- Cattle are being removed from community and private pastures, and back to overwintering yards. Greenfeed silage supplies have boosted some farmers' outlook for overwintering feedstocks, though pastures are often in fair to poor condition, with very dry surfaces.

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

Crop	Seeded Acreage†	2020 Harvest Progress	3-Year Harvest Progress Average**
Winter Wheat*	29,223	100%	100%
Fall Rye*	94,114	100%	100%
Spring Wheat*	2,776,228	99%	100%
Barley*	382,853	99%	100%
Oats*	652,100	99%	100%
Field Pea*	155,865	100%	100%
Canola	3,371,145	98%	87%
Flax*	49,805	86%	88%
Soybean*	1,095,136	92%	70%
Dry Bean	185,109	100%	88%
Sunflower	90,341	43%	9%
Grain Corn	306,770	49%	18%
Potatoes††	70,000	100%	ND

†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

Cold and dry conditions prevailed much of last week. Daytime highs reached double digits, but overnight lows dropped below freezing throughout the week. A few showers fell in some areas but overall dry conditions persisted,

which is causing germination issues for fall seeded crops and shortage of water for livestock as well. Dry weather allowed farmers to continue harvest activities without major issues. Soil moisture in most of the region is short at this time.

Some good rains in fall will help to maintain the water table heading into winter.

Overall harvest is 90 to 95% done in the southwest region.

Cereal harvest in the region is complete; overall progress is estimated at 95 to 100% done. Yield and quality is good.

Canola harvest is 95% done. Yield reports are average to above average. Quality is also good. There are some green seed issues in late seeded fields, which were badly hit by early September frosts. Flax harvest continues, with yields ranging from 20 to 30 bu/acre.

Soybean harvest progress is estimated at 85 to 90% complete, with yields reported in the 35 to 45 bu/ac range. Quality is better than expected by many with the majority of fields are coming out fine after the earlier frost events.

Most of sunflowers are at R9 stage and ready to harvest. Some harvesting done in southern areas and average yields reported to date. Corn silaging continues, with some areas complete. Yields are variable, depending on the area and moisture accumulation.

Grain corn harvest is 40 to 50% done. Most corn is coming off the field with lower than normal moisture. Grain drying time has been reduced as a result.

Producers are doing fall fieldwork and applying fertilizer. Soil temperatures are starting to drop. Pasture water access is a concern in some areas. Producers moving cows to fall or winter grazing areas and yards will alleviate some of this concern. Several producers are marketing calves. Overwintering feed supplies are reported as adequate for many. Several producers are selling bales and forage prices have started to come down.

Northwest Region

Weather conditions were steady this week allowing harvest operations to near completion throughout the Northwest region.

There were a couple of nice warm days with temperatures near 20°C, but most days hovered around 10°C cooling to below zero overnight. The weekend brought strong winds and cloudy weather. Frost and heavy dew most mornings delayed early morning starts for producers wrapping up harvest operations. There were scattered isolated rain showers that slowed, but did not halt harvest progress. Some grain that did not come off dry is under aeration.

Harvest of the spring wheat crop is generally complete across the region. There was steady progress of the canola harvested this past week with approximately 95 to 99% of the canola harvested. However, there remain some fields, both standing and swathed, that need to dry down, periodic rains have kept harvest material just tough enough that harvest is challenging. These reseeded/late-germinating canola fields are still not quite ready for harvest. Yields are poor to average across the region, with some fields doing well and averaging better. Yields for most of the region range from 40 to 60 bu/acre.

Soybeans are ripe and harvest is 75% complete in the Swan Valley and 99% complete in the Roblin area with yields ranging from 35 to 40 bu/acre. Flax harvest is mostly complete in Roblin and Swan Valley, no reported yields as of yet. Fababeen harvest is wrapped up in the Swan Valley and lentils are harvested.

There was good progress on post-harvest field operations this past week with fields prepared for spring. Anhydrous applications have started, especially with forecasted cooling temperatures.

Corn silage harvest is nearing completion with yields at average to above average. Remaining winter-feed supplies and straw are being

hauled off fields to wintering areas. With pasture conditions deteriorating, herds are being supplemented or being moved to their extended grazing sites. Rainfall is needed to replenish the soils and watering holes. Dugouts are low.

Central Region

Good harvest conditions continued last week with only some soybeans, sunflower and corn remaining in the field. Little rain received in the 1 to 4 mm range for most areas, mid teens to low-twenties daytime high temperatures and moderate winds continuing. Many growers are done or wrapping up harvest operations. Volunteer grain and weed growth was poor this fall given the dry topsoil conditions.

Corn harvest progressed well across the region ranging from 20% done in the Portage area to 60% in the Altona area. Yield reports vary from 130 to 160 bus per acre range. Grain moisture is in the high teens to low 20s for grain moisture.

Canola harvest is done in the region. Canola yields reported range from 35 to 50 bu/ac yields or in the average range with good quality grain. Flax harvest is also done with good yield reports in the 35 to 45 bu/ac range. Industrial hemp harvest is completed. Sunflower harvest progress well with around 50% done. Yield reports are in the 2,500 to 2,700 lbs/ac and seed moisture in the 10 to 13% range.

Soybean harvest is mostly done with reported yields in the 35 to 50 bu/ac range depending on rainfall received during the season. Edible beans harvest is considered done. Yields reported are above average at about 1800 to 2000 lbs/acre.

Potato harvest is considered done. Fall rye was being planted in many

harvested potato fields to help prevent wind erosion over fall into spring.

Soil sampling is ongoing. Fieldwork is occurring along with a start of fertilizer application. Topsoil is dry and where tillage is done, it is sometimes causing lumpy surface conditions. Some growers are delaying fieldwork given the dry conditions. A good rain would help to mellow the ground surface and facilitate field operations. Surface drainage maintenance is going on while field conditions allow. Winter cereal emergence is poor given the dry topsoil conditions at seeding and since.

The fall roundup continues on Manitoba's community pastures and calves are being weaned/marketed. Late second or third cut hay harvest is finished. Manure is being hauled out from corrals and applied to fields. Producers are feed testing winter-feed supplies including for nitrates in green feed or crop regrowth intended for grazing.

Corn silage harvest is mostly complete and yields have been average except where they were hurt by the early frost.

Most water sources on pasture will last until the cattle are removed.

Cattle are being supplemented on pastures that are out of grass due to a combination of dry conditions and the lateness in the season. Grazing of stockpiled grass will continue through October where grass is sufficient. Cattle moved off perennial summer pastures are grazing stubble and second cut on hayfields to extend the grazing season.

Eastern Region

Across the Eastern Region, significant progress with harvest and fall fieldwork continued. There were occasional interruptions from

time to time in some districts because of isolated rain showers but downtime was limited. Overall harvest completion was estimated at 90%.

Soybean harvest was virtually complete with only limited unharvested acres remaining in some northern districts. Yield reports ranged from 35 to 60 bu/acre with the overall average yield for the region somewhere between 40 and 45 bu/acre. Quality of harvested soybeans was reported as good.

Grain corn harvest was about 50% complete with the greatest progress made in southern and central districts. Yield reports ranged from 130 to 150 bu/acre with moistures around 20%. Test weight reports ranged from 51 to 55 lbs/bu.

Sunflower harvest was about 35% complete with individual producer progress ranging from 20 to 50% complete. Yield reports for both oil and confectionary sunflowers ranged from 2500 to 3000 lbs/acre with good quality. Producers noted that sunflower dry down varied widely from field to field requiring them to repeatedly test fields over time. Some of the crop was harvested at 12% moisture or lower with aeration being used to further dry the crop. At the same time, other fields tested at 18% moisture or greater with producers choosing to give such fields more time to dry down.

Good progress was made on fall fieldwork with fall nitrogen applications in full swing.

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. Pasture conditions continued to deteriorate

being mostly fair or poor. In response, calves continued to be shipped to market. Feeding on pasture was becoming more general. Hauling of straw was close to complete. Livestock water supply was rated as adequate.

Interlake Region

Harvest continues; many report being done or close to complete. Some soybeans and seed alfalfa still to go, with the odd cereal and canola field remaining. Good start on sunflowers and grain corn. Field tillage and surface drainage operations are ongoing. Some rain would be beneficial to improve tillage conditions where big clods are being pulled up. Rain would also improve conditions for fall fertilizer operations.

Temperatures have been warmer, with daytime highs in the teens. Overnight lows dropped below freezing, but averaged 2° to 4°C over the week. Average daily temperatures ranged from 8.5°C to 10.5°C. Frosts have aided crop dry down in mature crops. Trace rainfall for most.

Some post-harvest weed spraying has taken place. Fall granular herbicide applications have begun. Soil testing continues. Broadcast fertilizer applications have been challenged by continuous windy conditions. Anhydrous ammonia applications are being made. Some producers are waiting, as soil conditions are dry and preventing furrow sealing. Many have been able to do more than one tillage pass. Some are choosing to reduce tillage operations to maintain soil moisture.

Canola harvest is estimated at >95% complete. Some yields better than expected, with average expected to be in the 35 to 45 bu/ac range. Flax harvest continues, with yields ranging from 20 to 45



bu/acre. Some disappointing yields due to pasmo.

Soybean harvest has progressed well, and is over 90% complete. 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 or on headlands, and areas delayed by grasshopper injury. An area on the west side of the region stretching north from Warren had more extensive frost injury. Some of the later maturing varieties benefited from the late rains. Conditions for harvest are 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. Some growers have been more aggressive at harvest following last year's challenging harvest conditions. Frost damage reported on edible beans.

Much of the sunflower harvest in the southern part of the region is complete. Some excellent early yield reports in an area receiving more rain. Most corn silage chopping is complete. Yields are extremely variable, dependent on rainfall amounts through the growing season. Reported range of 9 to 20 tonnes/acre, with better yields recently reported. Some silage corn will be left standing for combining, due to sufficient supplies. Grain corn harvest continues, with several producers in the south part of the region complete or wrapping up their acres. Early yield reports of 110 to 130 bu/acre, moisture at 20 to 22%, and decent weights reported at this time. Moisture reported at 20 to 28%; some corn is going into the dryer, but some are taking it off dry. Some corn stover is being baled for cattle producers.

Alfalfa seed harvest continues, with early yield reports of 300 to 600 lbs/acre. Fall rye and winter wheat are in, with good emergence. Later seeded fields would benefit from rain to aid emergence; showers and heavy dews have been beneficial. Forage shortages are expected, but supplies for most are better than last year. Hay prices are more reasonable as a result. Many report adequate supplies for winter, and do not need to purchase additional supplies. Annual crop silage has taken the pressure off for many producers. Earlier rains helped pastures, but some cattle are now being taken off as pasture conditions decline. Concern has been expressed regarding pasture condition going in to next year. 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.