

# Issue 19 (Week 38) – September 19, 2023

## Crop Report



[Reporting Area Map](#) [Seasonal Reports](#) [Crop Weather Report](#) [Weekly Weather Maps](#)

### Weekly Provincial Summary

- Precipitation was varied across agro-Manitoba this week with values ranging from 0 mm to 16.5 mm (**Table 1**). The highest amounts of precipitation in the past seven days was in the Southwest, and areas surrounding Lake Manitoba. Alexander (16.5mm) received the most precipitation.

**Table 1. Seven-day accumulated precipitation in Manitoba's Agricultural Regions.**

Region	Wettest Location last Week	Driest Location last Week
Central	Portage (12.0 mm)	Gretna (0.8 mm)
Eastern	Lac Du Bonnet (9.7 mm)	Sprague Lake (0.6 mm)
Interlake	Moosehorn (9.3 mm)	Teulon (0.6 mm)
Northwest	Amaranth (10.2 mm)	The Pas (0 mm)
Southwest	Alexander (16.5 mm)	Shoal Lake (0 mm)

- Climate normals for total accumulated precipitation from May 1 to September 17 range from 258.8 mm to 373.0 are based on 30-year historical data. Total accumulated rainfall remains variable across agro-Manitoba. Total precipitation in a few areas of the Central region, including Morden is less than 100 mm. Areas of the province near Fisherton have received more than 100% of normal precipitation since May 1. Much of the Central region's accumulated precipitation remains below 50% compared to the 30-year average.
- Soil Moisture 0 - 30 cm shows a regional representation of soil moisture conditions for the top 30 cm on September 17, 2023 relative to field capacity. Soil moisture levels are variable throughout agro-Manitoba with the majority of the province showing dry to very dry conditions at the 30 cm depth. Localized areas are showing optimal to wet conditions relative to field capacity.
- Soil Moisture 0 - 120 cm shows a regional representation of soil moisture conditions for the top 120 cm on September 17, 2023 relative to field capacity. The majority of the province is showing optimal to dry conditions to the 120 cm depth. Some areas of the Southwest and a few localized regions are showing wet conditions.

- Percent Normal Accumulated Growing Degree Days represents the variation of accumulated Growing Degree Days (GDD) from the historical record over a 30-year period from May 1 – September 17. All locations, have accumulated more than 100% of the 30 –year average since May 1. The majority of agro-Manitoba has accumulated more than 110% of normal GDD.
- To find interactive soil temperature/moisture and air temperature information see Agri-Maps Current Weather [viewer](#).

## Overview

Harvest progress sits at 64% complete across the province (**Table 2**), which is ahead of the 5-year average (54%). Harvest continues in spring cereal crops, with barley at 95% complete, oats at 95% complete and spring wheat at 93% complete. Overall, cereal crops remain in fair to mostly good condition.

**Table 2: Percentage Harvest Completion by Crop and Region to September 19, 2023**

Crop	Southwest	Northwest	Central	Eastern	Interlake	MB AVG
Winter Wheat	100	100	100	100	100	100
Fall Rye	100	100	100	100	100	100
Spring Wheat	85	95	99	95	90	93
Barley	90	95	99	100	95	95
Oats	90	95	99	100	95	95
Field Pea	100	100	100	100	100	100
Canola	55	45	75	35	35	55
Soybeans	15	-	45	10	1	21
Dry Beans	60	-	75	-	20	72
Regional AVG	59	62	77	55	57	64

*Crops still unharvested, or negligible acres displayed as – or omitted from this table.*

Many corn fields had achieved growth stage R6 and were drying down. Canola harvest continues with approximately 55% of the acres being harvested across the province. Soybean fields are mostly in the R7 to R8 growth stages with harvest progress sitting at 21% provincially.

Producers are encouraged to scout their fields for weeds that have escaped control. This is an important part of integrated pest management. Waterhemp has been found in the Central and Eastern regions and producers should seek identification of any unusual pigweeds in their fields.

## Cereals

- Spring wheat yields range from 35 to 70 bu/acre, with highs of 90 bushels and a low of 16 bu/acre in the driest regions. Protein levels range from 13.5% and higher and grading #1 or #2 Canada. Oats have been yielding 90 to 130 with highs of 170 bu/acre, with some in the driest areas as low as 60 bu/acre being reported. Barley yields are between 70 and 100 bu/acre.
- The spring wheat quality is rated mostly fair to good (**Table 3**).
- Many corn fields had achieved growth stage R6 ("black layer" or physiological maturity) and were drying down.

**Table 3: Spring Wheat Quality Rating by Region**

	Southwest	Northwest	Central	Eastern	Interlake
<b>Excellent</b>	-	10%	-	10 %	-
<b>Good</b>	40%	60%	40%	90%	90%
<b>Fair</b>	50%	30%	50%	-	10%
<b>Poor</b>	10%	-	10%	-	-
<b>Very Poor</b>	-	-	-	-	-

## Oilseeds

- Canola harvest continues with approximately 55% of the acres being harvested provincially and 75% complete in the Central region. Overall crop condition ranged from fair to mostly good.
- Sunflower fields are transitioning from the R9 (bracts becoming yellow and brown (growth stage). The crop remained in good to excellent condition.
- Flax crop growth stages ranged from late stage 11 (brown capsule) to stage 12 (seed ripe) with lots of variability being noted in fields. Flax harvest in the Central region continues with approximately 40% of the acres being harvested. The crop remained in fair to mostly good condition.

## Pulses and Soybeans

- Soybean fields are mostly in the R7 to R8 growth stages with some harvest progress at 21% provincially. Yields have been variable and dependent upon summer rainfall. Yield ranges from 20 to 30 on the earliest harvested fields to 30 to 40 plus bu/acre over the last week. Overall crop condition remains good.
- Dry bean harvest is approximately 72% complete. Yield ranges from 1200 lbs/acre to 2500 lbs/acre are being reported.

# Forages & Livestock

## Forages

- Corn silage harvest is well underway throughout the eastern region. Unfortunately, operations were interrupted on Thursday and Friday of last week due to scattered rain showers. There is a big push to get dryer fields chopped and into piles before forecasted rain hits again towards the end of this week.
- Straw is being baled for bedding and for cattle feed.
- Beef producers continue to chip away at second cut from fields that are predominantly grass and are baling straw as it becomes available.
- Some producers are considering taking second cut on alfalfa fields that are in full bloom towards the end of this week. This is because we are coming close to three weeks past the critical harvest date of September 1<sup>st</sup>, the alfalfa's root reserves should be well charged, and minimal regrowth is expected.
- Forage growth on hay & pasture is mostly finished due to dry conditions and nearing the end of the growing season.
- Light frost in parts of the region in the Northwest region have producers concerned over [nitrates](#) in their annual crop silage and greenfeed still standing, and are advised to feed test their annual crops for nitrates prior to feeding

## Livestock

- Some producers are supplementing hay on pasture to ensure nutrient requirements of cattle are being met and to take pressure off the grass. A handful of producers are beginning to move cattle onto fenced hayfields or harvested cropland to graze available regrowth and/or stubble.
- Water levels in dugouts are low. This is of particular concern on pastures located in areas that have consistently missed out on rain.
- Grass conditions on pasture are dwindling as we progress further into the fall and plant growth naturally slows. The status of individual pastures continues to be highly dependent on moisture levels, grazing management strategy, and soil type.
- Some producers are hauling cows home and taking calves to the auction marts.
- Flies are still out in abundance, grasshoppers chewing down what little is left of pastures.
- Several producers are moving cattle to fall grazing areas and more cattle are hitting the auction marts as producers take advantage of the wet days to work with livestock.
- Pastures have a new sense of green in the stand due to the recent rainfall in the Southwest region.

## Regional Comments

### Southwest

Humid and wet weather early last week in the Southwest. The majority of the region received 5 to 15 mm of rain. The temperature was also starting to decrease during the day and night. There was below-zero temperatures for a few hours in some parts of the region. A slower week of harvest as some rains during the week and cloudy days reduced harvest hours for producers. The maximum daytime temperature was 27.4°C and the minimum -2.6°C recorded during last week.

Spring wheat harvesting continued this week with several producers achieving up to 80 to 85% complete. Yields look to be average to slightly above average with a good 13.5% protein. Yields range from 55 to 75 bu/acre, depending upon the moisture conditions during the growing season. Barley harvest is 90% complete. Quality and yields are average. Oat harvest is 90% complete. Producers can get at standing crops faster than swathed crops

but by midweek, all fields were dry. Yields look to be average and recent rains are affecting the quality of the grains.

Canola harvest is 55% complete. The yield range is 35 to 45 bu/acre. Canola that remains to be harvested is what was seeded after the May long weekend, which is highly variable and needs time to mature.

Soybeans are at the late R7 to R8 stage. Temperatures were below zero in some areas during the night but no major damage to soybean crops at this stage. Harvest is 15% complete. No yield reports yet. Recent rain has helped pod fill and later seeded beans.

Corn is physiologically mature with the black layer in the seed, heights are variable due to drought conditions, silage is past its optimum stage, and now producers are more on the dry side at 50% moisture or less. Corn silage is underway at approximately 70% complete.

### **Northwest**

Another good week of harvest progress, with a slight pause at the end of the week due to rain. Most of the region received frost early in the week, with varying temperatures. Alonsa weather station recorded the lowest overnight temperature at -2.9 °C. Some frost damage were evident in corn and soybean crops, depending on the stage of crops and degree of frost. Daytime temperatures reached mid to high 20's over the weekend and continued to contribute to good harvest conditions. Yields continue to vary widely and dependent on early season rains.

Spring wheat harvest had another good week of progress, with most areas approximately 95 to 97% done. Harvest in The Pas is slightly behind that at approximately 70% complete. Yields have been ranging from 50 to 90 bu/acre, while some fields have done poorer and some better. Initial reports of quality have been good, however some reports of lower protein.

Canola harvest continued over the week and is approximately 40 to 45% complete. Desiccation and swathing continue as crops reach appropriate stages. Yield reports have averaged from 40 to 55 bu/acre, while some crops have yielded below 40 bu/acre and some above 55 bu/acre.

Field pea harvest is 100% complete. Yields are variable and are mostly dependent on precipitation through the season. Fields with little precipitation ranged from 40 to 45 bu/acre while better fields at 60 to 70 bu/acre. Baling of pea straw is occurring. Some post-harvest field work has been done as crops are removed.

Soybeans are now mostly in the R8 stage and are moving towards maturity. A small start to harvest in the Dauphin area. Some crops may have been touched by frost, but unknown if any damage at this time.

Seeding of fall seeded crops started last week across the region.

### **Central**

Spotty rain showers halted harvest for some, with Portage farmers receiving the most rainfall at 12mm. However, sunny weather allowed producers to quickly return to fields and farmers made decent progress with canola, flax, dry beans, soybean, and potato harvest. Localized frosts are helping to dry down leaves on some crops, with some areas receiving several hours below freezing. Baldur (-3.3°C), Gladstone (-3.3°C), and Treherne (-1.7°C) reported the coldest temperatures.

Harvest of spring cereals is mostly complete, with spring wheat, oat and barley harvest sitting at around 99%. The few remaining fields are in the northwestern reaches of the Central region. Spring wheat yields are highly variable, depending mostly on how much rainfall the crop received during the growing season. Most spring wheat yields



have been in the region of 35 to 65 bu/acre, but yields have ranged from as low as 16 bu/acre in extreme cases to 95 bu/acre only a few miles away. Oats have been yielding 80 to 130 bu/acre, with some in the driest areas as low as 60 bu/acre. Barley between 70 and 100 bu/acre.

Corn continues to approach harvest, with fields maturing with the back layer visible in kernels. Most of the crop looks promising, however, fields that have received the least amount of rainfall are in the poorest condition. Most silage cornfields are rapidly approaching harvest, with approximately 60% harvesting already complete and yields ranging between 13 to 15 tonne/ac.

Canola harvest continues, with harvest progress at approximately 75% for the region. Pre-harvest herbicides and swathing is complete. Harvest is expected to quickly progress next week. Yields vary greatly, between 20 and 55 bu/acre, with averages closer to the 30 to 40 bushel range. Some fields still achieved high canola yields, with some in the north of the region around Elie achieving 70 bu/acre yields, and around Portage 60 bu/acre in some cases. Flax harvest is underway, with approximately 40% harvested. Sunflower fields are at the R9 (bracts becoming yellow and brown).

Soybean harvest continues with approximately 45% harvested. Most soybeans are between R7 and R8 (95% brown pod). Earliest soybean yields are mostly between 20 to 25 bu/acre. Over the last week, yields have improved to the 30 to 40 bu/acre range. Cutting and harvest are underway for dry beans, with harvest standing at approximately 75%. Edible bean yields are in the region of 1200 to 2500 lbs/acre.

## **Eastern**

Rainfall accumulations over the reporting period ranged from trace amounts to less than 10 mm. Most of these accumulations occurred as intermittent showers or drizzle that touched every district in the region from Thursday to Saturday of last week. This rainfall, coupled with seasonal to below seasonal temperatures slowed harvest and field work progress. Localized light frosts occurred on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings last week. No yield or quality losses were expected to result from these events given that crop were well advanced but damage to top leaves on corn and soybeans was noted in some fields. Producers look forward to making significant progress on canola and soybean harvest this week if weather allows.

Spring wheat harvest was about 95% complete. Average yield on spring wheat has been better than expected at around 70 bu/acre with 13.5% or higher protein levels and grading #1 or #2 Canada. Oat harvest was complete with yields at around 130 bu/acre on average and good bushel weights. Barley harvest was also complete with yields averaging out at around 100 bu/acre. Spring cereal harvest is expected to wrap up this week if weather allows.

Many corn fields had achieved growth stage R6 ("black layer" or physiological maturity) and were drying down. Crop advancement slowed somewhat due to the weather over the last week. The majority of the crop remained in good to excellent condition. A limited number of fields on lighter soil profiles located in low rainfall areas were showing signs of moisture stress and drying down prematurely.

Sunflower fields were at the R9 (bracts becoming yellow and brown (growth stage). Producers were monitoring bract colour change and the weather while making plans for desiccation. Because of the weather last week, crop advancement slowed but desiccation of some crops could begin this week if weather is supportive. The crop remained in good to excellent condition.

Most canola crops in the region were harvest ready or close to harvest ready and needing only a bit more dry-down time. There was limited progress on canola harvest last week because of the weather with about 35% of



acres now harvested. Current yield estimates were around 60 bu/acre on average with good quality. Canola harvesting is expected to become the main focus of growers this week if the weather is suitable. Swathing and pre-harvest herbicide applications were essentially complete.

Flax crop growth stages ranged from very late stage 11 (brown capsule) to stage 12 (seed ripe) with lots of variability being noted in fields. Because of the weather last week, crop advancement slowed but desiccation of some crops could begin this week if weather is supportive. The crop remained in fair to mostly good condition.

Soybean harvest had begun last week with about 10% of acres harvested. Most soybean fields were somewhere in the very late R7 (one or more brown pods on the main stem with lots of leaf drop) to R8 (95% brown pod/physiological maturity) and drying down. Some pre-harvest applications will continue on select fields to either control rank weed growth or desiccate the crop and speed up harvest. Overall crop condition remained good on most fields

### **Interlake**

The South Interlake area received about 4mm of rain. Some producers in both the south and north Interlake reported frost at -2°C occurring the middle of last week. Producers are reporting no damage by frost due to crop advancement/maturity stage. Daytime temperatures have declined to a certain extent with average daytime high temperatures falling below 20°C.

Last week saw limited harvest activity, following light showers on and off midweek in the Interlake region. In general, harvest progress varied across the region depending on moisture, variety, and seeding dates. Cereal harvest is near complete with, an increasing number of producers done, and working on canola or waiting for soybeans. Harvesting should be widespread by next week if weather conditions become favorable.

Spring wheat harvesting is well underway. Spring wheat average yield between 65 to 80 bu/acre, mostly all #1 Canada. High-test weights and proteins 13.9 to 15.5% with the average being 14.5%. Estimated harvest completion at 90% and expected to wrap up by next week. Many producers are reporting dealing with tough straw, and harvesting grain that is not dry. Grain quality has been good to date, but there are concerns that grain quality may start to drop with recent wet weather.

Oats are coming off with average yields ranging from 140-170 bu/acre and estimated completion at 95%. Some oats are being reported as light, but most are adequate in weight. Barley average yields are 60-80 bu/acre, with good test weights. Harvest completion stands at 95%.

Most soybeans are at R7-R8 to reaching physiological maturity soon. Majority of fields have brown pods, with dropped leaves and are drying down. Harvest of early maturing varieties has started in the Teulon area at about 1% complete but majority of fields are still 2 to 3 weeks away from harvest.

Canola yields are better than expected, late July rains helped canola to fill. Canola yields range from 40 to 55 bu/acre with estimated completion at 35%. Canola harvesting is expected to be widespread this week if the weather is suitable.

Silage corn harvesting has started in some areas of the north and south Interlake with yields ranging from 14-15 tonnes/acre. Good progress chopping silage corn in the Arborg area.