Manitoba

CROP REPORT #12 – July 16, 2019

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Reporting Area Map

Seasonal Report

Crop Weather Report

Weekly Provincial Summary

- Most areas of Manitoba received good amounts of rainfall this past week, with localized areas reporting surface runoff and standing water.
- Corn and soybean crops have experienced significant growth; early seeded cereals area reaching the dough stages and most canola is flowering, with the earliest seeded crops just starting to come out of flower.
- Hay and forage yields are less to significantly less than normal across the entire province, with shortages most severe in the Interlake region.

Southwest

Rainfall accumulation was widely variable with 6 to 130 mm falling across the region. Southern parts of the region received more with severe thunderstorms around Glenboro and Mountainside. There are some reports of standing water in fields but most moisture was absorbed into the soil. Northern areas in the region near Russell, St. Lazare, and Shoal Lake could use more rain in coming days. Localized hail was reported along PR 355. Soil moisture conditions in southern areas of the region is rated as 30% surplus and 70% adequate while the northern areas of the region rated as 80% adequate.

Cereal crops have improved and are headed. Fungicides on spring wheat occurring, given elevated fusarium head blight (FHB) risk, as well as for protection from leaf disease. Timely, adequate rainfall has improved crop yield potential, after low rainfall experienced this spring. Some cereal crops are entering the milk stage for wheat and soft dough in barley. Winter cereals are at hard dough stage. There are some late tillers in fall rye crops that flowering above the canopy of main stem heads. Most fall rye crop is at hard dough stage, which is earlier than normal and may be due to delayed rains.

Nearly all canola at full bloom. Some fungicide applications occurring, when stands are good. Still some thin stands due to poor germination/insect pressure this spring. Most fair stands are branching profusely and filling in. Hot weather may be causing some flower blast. Early seeded flax is in full to late bloom. Stands look tall and full, with low disease pressure.

Peas are in full bloom to mid pod stage, some mycophaerella-ascochyta seen and fusarium root rot starting to show up in low spots of the fields, as well. No aphids yet. Intercropped peas-oats and peas-canola are looking very promising.

Soybean crops ranging to early R1 to R2 stage. Lower root nodule counts in some fields ranging from 2 to 6 per plant, but larger than normal. Symptoms of iron deficiency chlorosis in saline areas. Soybeans benefitting from warmer, moist conditions.

Sunflowers are at the R1 to R2 stage and about 130 cm tall. Small grasshoppers and thistle caterpillars present. Stagey emergence early in spring causing irregular stands, where some plants are behind, ranging from V4 to V8. Corn ranges from V10 to V12. Patchy development in field areas, some with limited nutrients with nitrogen and sulfur deficiency symptoms.

Quinoa is in early to late flower stage (about 120 cm tall), stem boring fly has eggs, and larvae can be found within the stems.

Bertha armyworm moth counts are rising in the Southwest, but still well below threshold. There are isolated reports of diamondback moth larvae feeding, but no reports of spraying. Grasshoppers feeding has been noted, but recent rains are helping keep numbers under control.

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Rains since mid-June have helped pastures and hay production. Haying has started with yields reported to be below average. Precipitation has boosted dugout levels, but not yet fully recharged. The far southwest corner of Manitoba and south of Riding Mountain National Park are still drier than the rest of the region. Some producers have begun hauling water and some native hay will not be worth cutting. Most annual crops seeded for greenfeed and silage are doing well.

Northwest

Generally good growing conditions in the Northwest region last week and crops progressing normally. Daytime temperatures hovered around 30°C and there were widespread rain showers. Rainfall amounts ranged from ~38 mm in the Dauphin/Ste. Rose/Laurier area; Roblin 4 to 13 mm; Swan River and Grandview about 19 mm; and Birch River/The Pas approximately 25 to 28 mm. Minitonas area received the most rainfall last week at 48 mm. These showers have helped crops to advance however; some of the drier parts of the region still need additional moisture. Soil moisture conditions around Dauphin/Ste. Rose area continue to be short; Swan River soil moisture is 90% adequate, soils in The Pas and Roblin are 100% adequate.

There was good progress in crop growth in the region although where it has been dry, fields are looking patchy and thin. Most fields look clean with good weed control. The canola crop continues to advance and with the exception of some later seeded fields that are still bolting, almost 100% of fields are flowering. Spring cereals are heading with 40% of the crop in the milky dough stage. Field peas in the region are 25 to 40% podded. Soybeans are flowering in the Roblin area and are in fair condition; around Swan River they are still in the vegetative stage. The lentil crop is 100% flowering, 20% of the flax crop is flowering. Silage corn around Roblin is in good to poor condition.

Diamondback moth larvae are present in some fields and producers are encouraged to scout their fields for these pests before making spray decisions. Fungicide applications are occurring as conditions and staging allows. Variable weather is causing fluctuations to the fusarium head blight (FHB) risk map for the region and producers are encouraged to check the Manitoba Agriculture FHB risk map when making spray decisions. Generally, crops in the Northwest region are in average condition, although where drier, the crop is below average.

Some hay has been harvested with grass hay yields 30 to 50% of normal and newer stands with more alfalfa yielding 50 to 60% of normal. Producers are waiting for forecasted unstable weather to settle prior to cutting more hay. Spotty rain showers are welcome since primarily hot and dry conditions are starting to affect growth in both annual crops and in perennial forage fields. Pastures grazed early in the spring are starting to regrow with the limited additional moisture. Dugouts remain low.

Pastures and wild hay are very poor north of Dauphin and in the Rorketon, Alonsa, Crane River and Ethelbert areas. Most shallow dugouts and creeks are dry. There is minimal regrowth on earlier grazed pastures in these areas. Grasshoppers are also a major concern.

Central

Seasonal temperatures prevailed, greatly benefitting crop growth and development. An early week rain shower system brought moderate to heavy precipitation to the south and east part of the region. Another thunderstorm system on the weekend brought more rain to the south and western parts of the region this time. Precipitation received ranged from 35 to 152 mm. Highest rainfall along the Red River causing water to back up in fields and ditches not able to handle the abundant rain. The Gladstone to Lakeland area remains well below normal for seasonal precipitation.

As a result of the heavy rains and wind events, lodging has become evident in some cereal fields, but not widespread. Wheat, oats and barley are growing well with the early barley starting to turn color as it matures. Disease pressure has been low to date, given prevailing dry conditions, but current moisture conditions are favourable for disease development. Fungicide applications have been going on cereals at flag leaf and anthesis to protect against FHB. Overall, fewer fungicides have been applied to crops this season due to the dry conditions. Corn growth is accelerating and staging varies from V9 to V10. Second pass herbicide applications are considered done to late maturing crops like corn and soybeans.

Fall rye fields are turning colour rapidly, while winter wheat is in the early soft dough stage.

A number of canola fields above the escarpment were partially reseeded and have different stages of development as the season progresses. Canola is most advanced in the Red River Valley with many fields in late flowering to podded while some

bolting to early flowering above the escarpment on reseeded portions. Fungicide applications on canola were being applied over the past ten days. Flax is flowering and foliar fungicides application is ongoing. Sunflowers range from V10 to early bud formation (R1).

Potato fields are flowering and showing good growth with the recent rains and warmer conditions. Irrigation of potato and vegetable fields is occurring where needed to maintain soil moisture and support growth.

Field peas are growing well in the early flowering to early podding stage. Fungicide applications have been occurring on field peas to prevent foliar disease development. Soybeans are as much as 60% in flower (R1) in the Altona area compared to areas above the escarpment still in the vegetative stage to early flowering stage. Iron deficiency chlorosis (IDC) symptoms are still noticeable in soybean fields but fading.

Bertha armyworm trap counts remain relatively low. Grasshopper spraying has now come to an end as the population has been brought under control and crops are able to grow well. Thistle caterpillars have been noticed on soybean and sunflower fields at below economic threshold levels.

Good progress has been made on the first cut hay crop. Yields are 25% to 50% of normal, as a results of dry conditions since spring. Second cut hay prospects are better where rains were significant; otherwise, hay fields are browning. Pasture growth and hay yields are best in the south-central part of the region and yields are better than expected.

Pastures are browning off and regrowth is minimal or non-existent in drier areas. Producers are expressing concern with the poor hay crop and feed shortages. Straw will be needed and baled as a source of roughage. Culling of dry and open cows, or partial herd liquidation has begun and will increase if conditions remain dry.

Livestock water supplies are getting low affecting water quality and dugouts are running dry where rains did not occur.

Eastern

Rainfall across the region last week ranged from 35 mm to over 150 mm, with all districts receiving significant rainfall. The most accumulation occurred in southern and central districts, but total rainfall amounts were highly variable, even within local areas. Severe and sometimes isolated thunderstorms over the weekend that resulted in sudden downpours and high winds. Limited reports of wind and hail damage to crops. Field access is limited in some areas, as soil moisture conditions and standing water is still present in spots. Crop yellowing in low field areas was noted, particularly for soybeans. Significant runoff occurred in the Aubigny to St. Pierre Jolys area due to short and intense bursts of rain. Soil moisture conditions on cropland across the region were rated as 25% surplus and 75% adequate. Soil moisture conditions in hay and pasture lands were rated as 90% adequate and 10% short. Daytime and nighttime temperatures were normal to above normal for the majority of last week. Plant growth continued at a rapid pace, particularly for warm season crops.

Due to rainfall, fungicide applications stopped last week with, but many producers completed their intended fields. A few additional applications on reseeded canola by plane will wrap up this week. Lots of scouting for grasshoppers occurring in areas and limited amounts of insecticide applications in cereals were done. While grasshoppers were present in many fields, the actual amount of crop damage was highly variable and rarely approaching threshold levels. There was also very limited spraying of soybeans to prevent further defoliation from green cloverworm and thistle caterpillar. The presence of armyworms in cereals at below threshold levels was noted.

Winter wheat in milky dough stage, and spring cereals have completed flowering and moving into the milk stage. Corn growth stage ranged from V9 to V11 and most soybean crops ranged from the R1 to early R2 growth stages. Sunflowers were at the R1 growth stage. Except for reseeded crops, canola fields ranged from 60% to 95% flowered with pods being set

Hayfield condition rated as 20% good 40% fair, 20% poor and 20% very poor with pasture conditions rated as 10% good, 50% fair, 20% poor and 20% very poor. Beef producers have started first cut with most saying yield was 50% to 60% of normal. Livestock are being rotated through pastures as rains have helped improve growth. Grass hay fields were ready for cutting, but unstable weather halted any hay being put up. Hay fields fertilized with hog manure were looking good with average to above average yields. Half of first cut hay was still standing, and 10% cut and 40% baled or silaged. Quality was rated as good. Alfalfa hay yield was one tonne per acre on average. Average grass/alfalfa hay yield was 0.75 tonne per acre. Dugouts were replenished with last week's rain and availability of livestock water was rated as 100% adequate.

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Interlake

Crop growth has improved with rain and warmer temperatures. All areas received welcome rain, with most recording 25 to 60 mm. Some areas had as much as 90 mm. Some thundershower activity led to surface runoff, many report steady rains that were able to soak in. Rainfall has been very beneficial, but regular rains will be necessary to take crops to harvest. Growing degree days and corn heat units are creeping up to close to normal. Precipitation continues to be below normal, ranging from 39 to 73%. Topsoil moisture is currently adequate for 60 to 75% of the crops and short to very short for the remaining acres.

Rains will help with grain fill; but most crops are stagey. Stands are poor in areas of lowest rainfall. Peas and flax have fairly even stands and are progressing well. Any planned fungicide treatments have been made. Flax is flowering and bolls have formed. Most fields are on the short side. Peas also shorter than normal, and in full flower/podding. Sunflowers are growing well, and buds are forming. Flowering in canola is on the decline, pods are forming. Flowering period has been on the shorter side; some fields were starting to shut down before the rains came last week. Reseeded canola is looking very good after the rains, and has rapidly progressed to the rosette/early bolt stage. Most soybeans are at R1; majority of fields are short. Some iron deficiency chlorosis (IDC) is evident, but less than previous years. Nodulation is generally reported as excellent. Most corn – both grain and silage, has improved in both growth and colour, and has jumped in height with the rains and warm temperatures. Tasseling will begin shortly. Cereals have rapidly advanced; most are in the milk stage, with winter wheat in to early soft dough. Fungicide applications for fusarium head blight are complete; with fewer acres than normal treated due to dry conditions. Premature heading due to dry conditions has been seen in the northwest, particularly on late seeded cereals. Fall rye is starting to turn; and winter wheat is seeing some colour change. The earliest seeded spring wheat is close behind. Crops have dried out on sandy ridges, evident in cereals and canola.

Barley silage will be cut soon, followed by oat/pea silage later. Some alfalfa was terminated after first cut, and seeded to barley or oats for greenfeed. Stands in the northwest are often poor; if there was enough moisture for germination it was inadequate for further growth.

Grasshoppers are being monitored closely, and some headlands and fields have received insecticide application. Concern has been mostly in cereal and forage grass fields. Damage is being done on pastures as well, making poor conditions worse. Armyworms have been reported in a few wheat and barley fields and are being closely monitored. Most diamondback moth larvae have matured to the pupal or cocoon stage. No reports yet of next generation feeding. Bertha armyworm counts are low. Some thistle caterpillar reported in soybeans.

Rains have greened up some pastures, but in the driest areas growth and development has stalled. Many continue to just hang on. Grasses have headed prematurely and are drying down. First cut hay continues, yields are extremely variable depending on moisture levels; reports are 30 to 60% of average production. Second cut will be limited, if any, due to lack of regrowth, and some will limit cutting to improve winter survival of these stressed acres. Some old stands won't even get a first cut. Close to 50% of native hay acres will not be cut due to poor stands. As crops are short, availability of cereal straw will be limited. There will be demand for corn stover and other roughage. Pastures are rated as fair (30%), poor (20%) to very poor (50%). Hay fields rated as fair (30%), poor (20%) to very poor (40%). Topsoil moisture for hay and pasture is rated as 70% short and 30% very short.

Livestock water supply is rated as 70% adequate. Water hauling to pasture troughs is occurring in north Interlake. Concern over adequate supply is increasing with continued dry conditions. The recent rains have not provided much relief.