

CROP REPORT #19 – September 3, 2019

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[Reporting Area Map](#)

[Seasonal Report](#)

[Crop Weather Report](#)

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Weekly Provincial Summary

- Harvest progress was limited by periodic rainfall.
- Reports of quality loss in wheat, where swaths remain in fields.
- Crop yields are reported as average to slightly below average in all parts of the province.
- Overall harvest progress is 38% complete, compared to the 3-year average of 51%.
- Hay and forage yields are significantly below average. Producers looking for hay should see the [Manitoba Hay Listing Service](#). For fall and winter planning see resources on [Managing Low Forage Supplies](#) and [FeedPlan Feed Ingredient Cost Calculator](#)

Table 1: Seeded Acreage and Harvest Progress for 2019 Manitoba Field Crops to Date.

Crop	Seeded Acreage	2019 Harvest Progress	3-year Harvest Progress**
Winter Wheat*	34,019	100%	99%
Fall Rye*	94,114	100%	99%
Spring Wheat*	2,971,422	59%	80%
Barley*	351,440	78%	78%
Oat*	539,037	60%	81%
Field Pea*	112,574	98%	100%
Canola	3,217,478	19%	53%
Flax*	47,177	1%	2%
Soybean*	1,388,120	1%	5%
Dry Bean	155,752	1%	2%
Sunflower	65,271	0%	0%
Corn (Grain and Silage)	544,074	1%	0%

Source: MASC Variety Market Share Report - https://www.masc.mb.ca/masc.nsf/mmpp_index.html

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

** Harvest Progress as of first week of September, 2016-2018 Averages from Manitoba Crop Report.

Southwest

Cold and wet conditions persisted most of the week. Moisture received will not benefit most crops at this time, but good for recharging soil moisture reserves. Accumulated rainfall between 5 to 60 mm. Northern parts of the region received more rainfall week compared to southern areas. [Growing Degree Days](#) (GDD) are below normal in most of the region and [Corn Heat Units](#) (CHU) are generally between 92 to 100% of normal.

Very little harvest activity occurred during last week, with little progress percentage change from the previous week. Overall harvest would be about 20% complete with the majority of falling south of the Trans-Canada Highway.

Spring cereals are near or in harvestable stages, with 30% complete south of Hwy 1. Further north, most barley has been done, but very few acres of spring wheat harvested due to high grain moisture content. Some lodging is

visible in wheat and oat fields due to rains and strong winds.

Canola swathing continued last week. Producers who planned to straight cut are now swathing due to weather conditions. Around 70% of fields are swathed while the other 30% are later crops and remain standing.

Soybean crops are changing colour, and most fields are at R7 stage. Some varieties and fields, which got timely moisture, have

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good yield potential. Corn is at R4 to R5 stage, and recent rains are favoring weight gain, but need some heat to mature. Flax fields continue to dry down. Sunflowers are starting to enter R7 (flowering complete), and blackbird feeding may be an issue.

Recent rain events continue to help the fall grazing pastures and has reduced some early fall feeding and water shortage situations. Most feed has been put up except for corn silage. Warm, frost-free weather is needed to finish silage corn crops. Some producers are still looking for ways to help with the feed shortage as most areas reporting reduced yields. Recent rains have filled sloughs and got some streams running again. Dugouts are about 60 to 70 % full.

Northwest

Cool weather with widespread rain over the weekend. An average of 25 to 33 mm rain throughout the region, with the highest amount of 46 mm around Swan River. There was hail mid-week in the Swan River Valley and a frost early Monday morning through Minitonas/Birch River area; damage continues to be assessed. Cool nighttime temperatures are resulting in heavy morning dew further slowing down harvest progress.

Unsettled cool, wet weather delayed overall harvest progress within the region; the best estimate is less than 30% of the crop is combined. Field pea harvest is virtually complete around Roblin with some fields remaining in the Swan River area. Spring wheat crop is generally ripe in the region however; the recent wet weather has caused some sprouting and dry weather is needed for the grain to dry down before combining. Around Roblin, the red spring

wheat is being swathed, in the Swan River area combining has begun. Operations are further ahead in the Dauphin/Ste. Rose area where wheat harvest is nearing completion. Yields are lower where there were dry soil conditions throughout the growing season. The canola crop continues to mature throughout the region and swathing is well underway.

Haying in most of the region is in its final stages this season. Yields were below average throughout the region, on average 30 to 50% of normal. Pastures are in poor shape with a lot of overgrazing occurring due to limited to no re-growth throughout the season. [Grasshoppers](#) in the later part of the growing season are also eating on any re-growth that did occur and are still a problem. Grasses are greening up over the last couple of weeks with some precipitation but cooler days and very cool nights are now limiting growth. Supplementation on pastures is a necessity. Producers are waiting on corn silage harvest to occur to make up the shortage on winter feed supplies. Straw, greenfeed, silage and other forages are being baled as feed sources. Crops intended for grain are being converted and harvested as silage or baled. Livestock water supplies are low, affecting water quality and dugouts are running out of water. With the recent rains over the weekend, it is hoped that the water supplies will start to replenish prior to freeze-up.

Central

Harvest days were few last week with repeated rainfall. The crops were harvested were tough and had to be put on aeration or dried for safe longer-term storage. Precipitation early in the week ranged from 20 to 40 mm across the region. After a couple of days of harvestable conditions, more

rain came on the weekend bringing 5 to 10 mm of precipitation and stalling harvest. Humidity remained moderate with heavy dews most mornings. Topsoil moisture has improved and is rated as fair to good.

Harvest of wheat, oats and barley continues, being much more advanced in the Red River Valley than west of the escarpment. Cereal harvest is overall 60 to 70% complete. In the Red River Valley spring wheat harvest is 80 to 90% complete with 50 to 80 bu/ac, low fusarium. Above the escarpment, spring wheat harvest is 30 to 40% complete and 60 to 90 bu/ac with low, but some fusarium. Protein levels vary from 14 to 15.5%. Harvested barley yielding 80 to 120 bu/ac and low vomitoxin. Oat yields are reported at 100 to 135 bu/ac. Fall rye grain samples have noticeable ergot bodies present.

Corn and soybeans are into the grain fill stage and benefitting from the recent rain but cooler temperatures are delaying maturity.

As the cereal, canola and pea crops are being harvested, much of the straw is being baled to increase wintering feed supplies. Kochia patches are evident in fields with salinity-affected areas. Harrowing of cereal fields follows quickly after harvest to break down and help distribute surface crop residue. Tillage has also been done where conditions are favourable.

Field beans are turning colour and pre-harvest spraying is occurring. Some of the earliest maturity types have already been harvested in the Altona and Portage areas.

Canola swathing is mostly done above and below the escarpment; a good proportion of fields still standing, will be straight combined

when ready. Harvest is about 30 to 40% complete in the Red River Valley and yields ranging widely from 25 to 55 bu/ac due to seasonal moisture variations. Above the escarpment, canola harvest is just starting with early yields reported in the 40 to 50 bu/ac.

Flax is in the boll stage, brown and soon ready to start harvesting. Sunflowers are finished flowering and seed filling conditions have improved with the recent rains. Grasshopper feeding damage has slowed with the cooler temperatures and rain this week.

[Potato](#) seed crops being top killed. Risk for late blight rated medium to high and spraying fungicides recommended as preventative measure. No reports of late blight to date.

Rainfall in the last week has helped improve soil moisture conditions on hay and pasture. Second cut hay fields and pastures that were browned off are now greening up and will provide additional fall grazing. Concern for the critical fall period when cutting alfalfa 4 to 5 weeks before a killing frost as growth may not be sufficient to recharge root reserves. Straw, greenfeed, silage and other forages are being baled as feed sources. Crops intended for grain are being converted and harvested as silage or baled.

Previously low livestock water supplies have improved somewhat with the recent rains.

Cool and wet weather has slowed down grasshopper feeding in crops, hay and pasture.

Eastern

Rainfall accumulations for the week ranged from less than 10 mm to more than 60 mm with the

highest accumulations occurring in northern districts. Most of the rainfall occurred over the weekend. Harvesting of spring cereals and canola resumed towards the end of last week before stopping again due to rainfall. Soil moisture conditions on cropland across the region were rated as 40% surplus and 60% adequate. Soil moisture conditions in hay and pasture lands were rated as 30% adequate, 30% short and 40% very short.

Overall harvest progress is 55%. Spring wheat 85% harvested with an average yield of 60 bu/ac. Quality continued to be good with many samples receiving top grade, but protein levels were mixed with reports ranging from 11% to greater than 13.5%. Oat harvest 90% complete with yields over 100 bu/ac. Canola harvest continued last week in southern and central districts and began last week in northern districts with about 30% of the crop harvested. Initial yield reports ranged from 40 to 50 bu/ac.

Recent rainfall expected to help with seed filling in soybeans and corn. However, some yield potential has been lost in long season crops as lack of timely moisture persisted to the point that soybeans began ripening prematurely as leaf yellowing and leaf drop accelerated.

Corn was in the dough to early dent stages, while [soybeans](#) were at R6 with some early maturing varieties in R7. Sunflowers were in R7 to R8 growth stages

Pasture conditions rated as 10% good, 20% fair, and 70% poor to very poor. Recent rain has replenished dugouts, as they were starting to get low and drying up in some areas. Availability of livestock water was rated as 80%

adequate and 20% inadequate. Winter feed supplies were rated as 60% adequate and 40% inadequate for hay, 80% adequate and 20% inadequate for straw, 70% adequate and 30% inadequate for greenfeed and 80% adequate and 20% inadequate for feed grain.

Interlake

Unsettled weather over the weekend stopped harvest; rainfall amounts ranged from 20 to 65 mm. Precipitation is welcome for pasture regrowth, some later maturing corn, soybeans and corn silage, but too late for most annual crops, greenfeed and this year's hay crop. Rain has been a nuisance for annual crop harvest.

Premature ripening due to dry conditions is evident in soybeans and corn. Rainfall accumulations to date for most of the region are 50 to 75% of normal. Frost was reported in the northwest districts, with some [frost damage to soybeans](#) and forage millet. Soil moisture levels are low, even in areas receiving rains.

Harvest progress estimated at 45 to 55% complete. Peas harvest is 95 to 100% complete, cereals are 75 to 90% complete. Canola is just starting and 20 to 40% complete. Yields are highly variable, but much is coming in at average to slightly below average. Premature ripening has been very evident in all crops, in the driest areas. All crops have been stagey; some fields have been left standing for longer periods to allow green areas to mature.

Flax has been desiccated and harvest will start this week.

Swathing is complete in most of the intended canola acres. Strong winds have blown swaths around,



making combining a challenge. Early yields reported in the 30 to 50 bu/ac, with averages expected at 35 to low 40 bu/ac. Swathing in later seeded and re-seeded canola should start in the next week or two.

Cereal harvest has progressed well. Good quality and weight reported in much of the harvested cereals. Protein levels are average to above average in lower yielding fields. In areas of heavy rainfall, quality of crop still in swath is likely to deteriorate.

In dry areas, soybeans flowers and pods drying off with rapid colour change being seen. Harvesting expected in 10 to 14 days.

Sunflowers continue to mature; backs of heads are yellow. Stands are short. Some corn is starting to shut down; dry conditions are a significant concern for final yield. Cobs formed have fewer rows than average, and in some cases, cobs are extremely small. Silage corn harvest continues, and yields will be lower than normal. Quality will be a concern, with lower energy levels where cob formation is minimal. Early greenfeed has been harvested, although yields are less than average, they will be better than later seeded crops. Some crops intended for grain production have gone for forage.

Extremely dry soils have limited both recovery and growth of hay and pasture, even in areas of recent rain. Rains are beneficial for improving conditions for overwintering of these perennial crops.

Most haying has wrapped up; second cut where taken, has generally been mediocre. Forage availability continues to be a big concern for the region. Yields are extremely variable depending on moisture levels; yields are coming

in at 20 to 60% of average. Some producers are preparing to fertilize forage stands for next year. Almost all pastures have been grazed down; rains will add a few days to pasture grazing. Supplemental feeding will start earlier than normal. Indications of more animals going to market due to lack of feed available. Topsoil moisture for hay and pasture is rated as 30% short and 70% very short.

Dugout levels have declined and some are dry. Water supply is rated as 40% adequate. Both supply and quality remain a concern.