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[Seasonal Report](#)
[Crop Weather – Seasonal Report](#)

## 2019 Provincial Summary

- Seeding progress began earlier than normal in late April, and quick progress followed in May with 94% of main field crops seeded by the fourth week of May.
- Dry conditions persisted throughout most of the province until early September. Crop yields for spring cereals and canola are average in many areas; however, lower yields were reported for soybeans and some corn due to dry conditions during pod/cob filling. Low disease pressure resulted in good crop quality for early harvested grains; while wet fall weather has seen harvest quality decline for late harvested canola and cereals.
- Harvest in Manitoba has been slow, and challenging fall conditions have limited progress each week. Harvest of cereal crops and field peas is essentially complete. Canola and flax harvest is close to complete but some crops will remain in fields overwinter, and soybean, grain corn and sunflower harvest is ongoing.
- Fall field work including tillage, soil testing, post-harvest weed control, and fertilizer applications of anhydrous ammonia have been reduced from previous years due to wet fields and ongoing harvest.

**Table 1: 2019 SEEDING & HARVEST PROGRESS**

| Seeding Date<br>(Week:Month) | 2019 | 2018 | 2017 | 5-Year Average |
|------------------------------|------|------|------|----------------|
| < May 1 <sup>st</sup>        | 5%   | 1%   | 2%   | 7%             |
| 1:05                         | 20%  | 26%  | 30%  | 27%            |
| 2:05                         | 50%  | 55%  | 59%  | 51%            |
| 3:05                         | 84%  | 80%  | 80%  | 72%            |
| 4:05                         | 94%  | 94%  | 95%  | 88%            |
| 1:06                         | 98%  | 99%  | 99%  | 96%            |
| 2:06                         | 99%  | 99%  | 100% | 99%            |
| 3:06                         | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100%           |
| at June 30 <sup>th</sup>     | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100%           |
| Harvest Date<br>(Week:Month) | 2019 | 2018 | 2017 | 3-Year Average |
| <August 1 <sup>st</sup>      | 0%   | <1%  | 0%   | 0%             |
| 1:08                         | 0%   | 1%   | 0%   | 0%             |
| 2:08                         | 4%   | 4%   | 1%   | 3%             |
| 3:08                         | 16%  | 29%  | 7%   | 18%            |
| 4:08                         | 25%  | 43%  | 21%  | 32%            |
| 1:09                         | 38%  | 58%  | 44%  | 51%            |
| 2:09                         | 40%  | 67%  | 58%  | 56%            |
| 3:09                         | 46%  | 71%  | 71%  | 69%            |
| 4:09                         | 58%  | 73%  | 73%  | 70%            |
| 1:10                         | 65%  | 78%  | 75%  | 76%            |
| 2:10                         | 71%  | 80%  | 87%  | 85%            |
| 3:10                         | 74%  | 84%  | 93%  | 88%            |
| 4:10                         | 77%  | 90%  | N/A  | 88%            |
| 5:10                         | 85%  | 97%  | N/A  | 94%            |
| 1:11                         | 89%  | N/A  | N/A  | --             |
| at November 12 <sup>th</sup> | 91%  | N/A  | N/A  | --             |

**Table 2: Crop Harvest progress by week for October - November 2019**

| CROP           | Seeded Acres | Oct 1      | Oct 8      | Oct 15     | Oct 22     | Oct 29     | Nov 5      | Nov 12     |
|----------------|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Winter Wheat   | 34,019       | 100%       | 100%       | 100%       | 100%       | 100%       | 100%       | 100%       |
| Fall Rye       | 94,114       | 100%       | 100%       | 100%       | 100%       | 100%       | 100%       | 100%       |
| Spring Wheat   | 2,971,422    | 91%        | 95%        | 95%        | 95%        | 97%        | 97%        | 98%        |
| Barley         | 351,440      | 97%        | 98%        | 98%        | 99%        | 99%        | 99%        | 99%        |
| Oats           | 539,037      | 97%        | 93%        | 93%        | 97%        | 99%        | 99%        | 99%        |
| Field Pea      | 112,574      | 100%       | 100%       | 100%       | 100%       | 100%       | 100%       | 100%       |
| Canola         | 3,217,478    | 69%        | 79%        | 80%        | 82%        | 90%        | 91%        | 94%        |
| Flax           | 47,177       | 24%        | 31%        | 45%        | 58%        | 81%        | 85%        | 85%        |
| Soybean        | 1,388,120    | 11%        | 14%        | 30%        | 41%        | 64%        | 75%        | 82%        |
| Dry Bean       | 155,752      | 35%        | 35%        | 60%        | 56%        | 69%        | 69%        | 73%        |
| Sunflower      | 65,271       | 0%         | 1%         | 5%         | 5%         | 22%        | 50%        | 51%        |
| Corn (Grain)   | 416,259      | n/a        | n/a        | 5%         | 5%         | 21%        | 44%        | 47%        |
| Corn (Silage)  | 127,554      | 7%         | 14%        | 35%        | 50%        | 75%        | 81%        | 81%        |
| Potatoes       | 56,182       | n/a        | n/a        | 60%        | 63%        | 75%        | 65%        | 67%        |
| <b>OVERALL</b> |              | <b>67%</b> | <b>71%</b> | <b>74%</b> | <b>77%</b> | <b>85%</b> | <b>89%</b> | <b>91%</b> |

## Southwest Region

Weather conditions were dry and seedbed was very dry causing germination issues for many crops and sometimes resulting in reseeded. Dry conditions persisted most of May and into June.

Total seasonal rainfall of 275mm to 500 mm was recorded throughout the summer to October 20. This amount is near-normal to above normal across much of the region. Adequate rainfall was sufficient to support crop growth on paper, but majority of this moisture came at non-critical growth stages of the crop, causing more harm to crop and other field operations and less benefit to crop yield. Growing degree-days and [corn heat units](#) (CHU) were well below normal in most of the region this year, but near-

normal along the Assiniboine valley, which affected the crop development and maturity.

September was very wet month in western Manitoba, which caused major hurdles in harvesting. Producers were waiting for drier weather and solid ground to travel, and then a snowstorm brought three to four feet of wet, heavy snow across the Southwest over Thanksgiving weekend, and halted all harvesting operations for nearly two weeks. Surface and subsoil moisture remains at optimum to above optimum levels due these fall precipitation events.

Overall harvest is 85 to 90% complete. Pockets around Rossburn, Wawanesa, Minto, and

Boissevain have more than 30% of the crop still in the fields. The latest cold weather is helping some producers who were waiting the ground to freeze over but not helpful for those farmers in the northern areas who are waiting for snow to melt from their canola swathes.

Winter cereals were average to above average yield this year. Harvest was on time or even early in some fields due to dry weather conditions. Yield range was 70 to 80 bu/acre and quality was good. Fusarium head blight (FHB) was minimal this year in winter wheat. Fall rye yielded 75 to 80 bu/acre.

Spring wheat harvest is 95% complete. Harvest done before the October snowstorm yielded very well

and quality was excellent, but the fields harvested after storm lost yield and substantial quality. Overall 60 to 70 bu/ac yield was the norm. Protein level was also good in early harvest reports, from 11 to 14%, but quality seriously deteriorated after the September rains, seeing a drop in falling number corresponding to a rise in sprouted or germinated seeds. Most of the crop remaining after these precipitation events are now feed quality, especially on crops lying in swath.

The majority of the barley crop was harvested before weather issues set in, with good quality and yields averaging 85 bu/ac. Late barley harvested yields dropped to 65bu/acre. Overall 98% crop is done only some isolated fields in badly affected areas are still out.

Oat harvest is 98% complete, about half was harvested before poor weather, yielding near 120 bu/ac, and dropping to 90 bu/ac on late-harvested and moisture afflicted crops. Sprouting and quality deterioration was a significant factor in later harvested crops.

Canola harvest is 90% complete - about 30% was harvested before major weather issues arose. Yields are around 45 to 50 bu/acre. After weather events, yields dropped about 5 to 10 bu/ac, depending on the level of sprouting, shatter damage and seed loss in swath. Most canola was harvested at or just above dry (10% moisture), but some high moisture canola was manually dried. [Cutworms](#) and [flea beetles](#) were major insect issues this year in canola, resulting in many farms reseeding canola crops. High flea beetle pressure resulted in many fields being sprayed twice. [Blackleg](#) was widespread but average infection, while sclerotinia was minimal this year and disease had a low impact on yield. Quality of the canola crop is good based on the Canadian Grain Commission (CGC)

## [Harvest Sample Program Quality Report.](#)

Flax harvest is still underway at 75% done, yielding 25 to 30bu/ac. Quality is good where harvested early. Moulds and mildews have damaged flax crops that lodged under the snow and caused significant losses in seed yield.

Field peas were a big success in the Southwest region this year. Most crops yielded 45 to 55 bu/ac and quality was good to excellent. No major disease issues, as most of the time weather conditions were favorable for peas this year.

Soybean harvest resumed again last week. The harvest is now 75 to 80% complete with yield reports are 25 to 35 bu/acre depending on the variety and moisture conditions during the growing season of that area. Most of the crop is coming off at 16 to 20% moisture range, which has resulted in storage issues for some producers. There are some reports of low protein levels also a concern in some areas as some elevators are asking specific protein percentage. Other than lacking moisture at critical growth stages of the crop, no major issues for soybean this year. Aphid infestation was low to non-existent in 2019.

Progress with corn, and sunflowers has been slow. Overall 43% of corn harvest is done, with grain testing at 25 to 35% moisture, and approximately 160 bu/ac yield. Sunflowers are 38% complete. Sunflowers are tough but harvestable and great quality; some sclerotinia head rot of 3 to 5% of heads. Sunflowers yielding over 2,300 lbs/ac.

The Southwest region started with a cool, dry spring. Though there was average snowfall the winter before there was very little spring surface water runoff in the region, as the summer of 2018 was also very dry.

Hay and forages were slow to put on growth and a few frosts after the forages were up knocked back growth and was particularly hard on alfalfa stands. June looked reasonably promising but hot, dry weather returned in late June and lasted until early September. During the growing season, precipitation was below normal to normal, but less further north against Riding Mountain National Park. In September the rains returned, sometimes with heavy, short duration thunderstorms and by the end of October, the region was well above average precipitation (~130% of average). These rains helped to replenish dugouts and subsoil moisture, which had been running dry but did not really help hay and pasturelands as it arrived too late in the growing season. The wet fall weather halted all field operations with many fields of greenfeed and hay left lying and spoiling in swaths. Fields and roads were too soft for cattle producers to gather and sort cattle for market. While the Southwest fared better than other portions of agro-Manitoba, poor weather still caused feed shortages and many producers needed to find alternative water sources. North of PTH 16 was drier and did not receive the as much fall precipitation as the south, leaving them with poorer conditions going into winter.

## **Northwest Region**

The 2019 harvest is near completion with the exception a few acres where snow halted operations. Most areas of the Northwest region are snow covered at this point.

The red spring wheat harvest is generally complete in the region with average yield for hard red spring wheat is 50 to 75 bu/ac. Grades range with 25% of the crop grading #1 CW, 50% grading #2 CW and the

remainder grading lower. Grades appear to be lower than average this year with the inclusion of falling numbers.

The canola harvest is virtually complete with approximately 99% of the acres combined. Canola yields averaged 50 to 60 bu/ac. The quality of canola harvested is standard for the region with 90% of the crop grading #1 CAN and the balance #2 CAN.

Field pea harvest operations are complete with yields averaging 40 to 80 bu/ac and grading #2 CAN in the Swan River and Roblin areas. Soybeans are 99% complete with yields averaging 35 to 40 bu/ac; 80% of the crop is grading #2 CAN.

The 2019 growing season was a challenge through most of the region, largely due to precipitation and dry soil moisture. In the spring, soil moisture was adequate for most of the region. The exceptions were areas around Ste. Rose/Rorketon where dry conditions from 2018 continued. Soil was wet at The Pas, also from the 2018 season. Before the 2019 cropping season could even begin, the crop left out from 2018 needed to be harvested and field operations completed around Swan River, The Pas and Dauphin. Seeding was well underway by mid-May although conditions were challenging due to dry soils causing germination issues as well as cool overnight temperatures and frosts.

There was some reseeding due to frost around Swan River and Roblin areas. Hot weather as well as ongoing lack of precipitation continued and affected germination and crop establishment through to mid-June. Some areas in the region did receive rain however, the drier areas received the least amount of

precipitation. These conditions continued throughout the growing season. Part way through the season, periodic heavy downpours through the Roblin and Swan River areas replenished soil moisture while conditions remained dry around Dauphin and Ste. Rose. There were hailstorms this season around Roblin, Swan and Ste. Rose at various times during the summer with damage ranging from minimal to significant. Hot, dry conditions caused some pod abortion during flowering on canola; however, yields and quality did not seem to be affected a significant amount. As the season progressed, crops in the region recovered to some extent, but issues with germination, emergence, frost, insects and dry soil conditions became visible and caused stageness in the crop. This variety of staging became a challenge for harvest.

As far as insects in the region in 2019, flea beetles continue to be an issue in emerging canola; there were diamondback moth larvae observed in fields around Swan River; bertha armyworm moth trap count numbers were in the uncertain range in traps around Swan River, Ste. Rose and Ethelbert and thistle caterpillars were observed on soybeans.

The variable moisture caused rapid changes to the fusarium risk map for the region however, for the most part, the dry season did reduce disease pressure. Producers were able to limit the impact of disease and insect pressure due to timely and appropriate application of fungicides and insecticides to susceptible crops at the most beneficial stage. Some anhydrous ammonia has been applied as harvest and field conditions allowed.

There was frost in Swan River in early September and Roblin had frost the end of September, however; the entire region had a killing frost the first week of October. With the exception of The Pas, there was a heavy snowfall the beginning of October as well. Cool weather continued with intermittent snow and rain showers causing challenges and extending harvest operations well into late October with some harvest operations taking place in November. Currently soil moisture conditions rated as average with areas on the western side of the region remaining dry.

Although challenged with a wet snowy fall, much of the fall fieldwork is complete and fields are prepared for spring operations. Most fields in the northwest region are snow covered at this point.

In the Ethelbert, Sifton, Winnipegosis, Rorketon, Eddystone, Ste. Rose and Alonsa areas pasture and forage fields are rated as 99% in poor condition, with re-grazing taking place after the fall green-up. Pasture moisture conditions are rated as 50% adequate, 50% short. Hayfields have absorbed most of the available precipitation that fell in October, with 20 to 30% second cut being harvested. Winter feed stocks for hay are rated as 30% adequate; for greenfeed and feed grain are 50% adequate, and 40% adequate or 60% inadequate for straw stocks. Corn silage harvest continues in these same areas with much of it being too dry now. Yields are reporting coming off at 13 to 20 tonnes/ac. High nitrates in annuals continue to be a major concern.

In the Swan River and Roblin area, throughout the grazing season, pastures were in fair to good condition but had seen more overgrazing through August and September. For the most part, going

into the fall, pasture moisture conditions were adequate. For winter feed supplies, there is an adequate supply of straw and feed grains. Greenfeed yields were average; however, producers struggled to harvest late seeded crops due to poor drying conditions this fall. Producers that rely on alfalfa grass hay based rations will need to source additional feed due to lower first cut hay yields and a minimal second cut taken. Corn silage harvest in this area was completed in October with average yields being reported.

## Central Region

Early in the week, conditions were dry enough to make progress on the remaining unharvested fields. Day and night time temperatures are cold and below normal. Frost has been helping drydown standing corn and sunflowers. Some corn, sunflower and soybeans remain to be harvested, as well as a few fields of flax, cereals and canola. Fieldwork and fertilizer applications have progressed slowly, being delayed from harvest operations and wet soil conditions.

Going into winter 2018, much of the region reported moist topsoil conditions resulting from moderate rainfall following a dryer than normal summer. Spring 2019 melt was slow and delayed due to cold April temperatures. The slow melt, with lack of early spring precipitation provided little spring runoff to recharge surface water sources and some topsoil moisture.

Spring seeding was delayed to late April, due to cold conditions, but picked up rapidly and progressed quickly, having dry field conditions to support field equipment. Overnight spring temperatures continued to dip into the frost range and soils were cold. Some fields were seeded into borderline dry soils, as the spring

progressed without meaningful rains. In some cases poor emergence resulted; precipitation necessary for germination was delayed but tended to even out over time.

Minimal pre-seed burnoff or tillage was done, as farmers focused on seeding while trying to preserve topsoil moisture. Pastures and hay fields were slow to recover due to cool spring temperatures, dry conditions and overgrazing stress from two previous dry seasons.

Winter cereals survival was very good having good snow cover early that persisted well until spring.

Dry conditions prevailed until early June, resulting in some producers seeding deeper than optimal, chasing moisture. Uneven/delayed germination was normal. Weed growth was slow/ delayed resulting in challenges for staging herbicides, and later, fungicides. Temperatures were well below normal for the early part of the season providing slow growing conditions once crops were established.

Herbicide applications were challenging due dry cool conditions, initially limiting weed growth; and in many cases significant weed growth did not occur until after the optimal timing for herbicide application. Variable wind conditions further complicated and delayed timely applications.

Hail events were fewer than normal until late summer when numerous storms caused light to moderate crop damage.

Precipitation continued to be below normal across the region with pockets of dryness more evident in the Gladstone to Plumas and Morris to Altona areas. Late season severe rainstorms hit eastern parts of the region, causing runoff and standing water in fields. Most of the region

received lower than normal rainfall during the growing season, with some areas reporting as low as 35% of normal.

The season started cool but warmed to near normal temperatures combined with sufficient rainfall and somewhat timely rainfall events at appropriate crop stages carried the annual crops relatively well. Perennial forage stands including hay and pastures suffered most from the lack of subsoil moisture reserve and below normal seasonal precipitation. Disease incidence in most crops were low in 2019, due to dry conditions.

Insect issues were variable, with flea beetles causing establishment problems and forced re-seeding in many cases. Cutworms were also a contributor to establishment issues and reseeded of crops. In-season insecticide applications made to whole fields for grasshoppers control in crops and on pasture, hay fields. European corn borer was not a reported issue and diamondback moth larval feeding minimal.

Harvest of winter cereals and spring wheat started in August. Winter cereal acres did well, with winter wheat ranging from 50 to 80 bu/ac, averaging 65 to 75 bu/ac, and fall/hybrid rye ranging from 75 to 105 bu/ac, averaging 95 bu/ac. Test weight was good, as were falling numbers for rye. Ergot levels in rye varied but tended to be higher than in recent seasons. Quality was good, with low FDK and vomitoxin levels.

Spring cereals harvested prior to mid-September had good yields and excellent quality. Barley yields for malt and feed purposes, ranged from 60 to 110 bu/ac, with the majority averaging 80 to 85 bu/ac. Oats ranged from 80 to 150 bu/ac, averaging 105 to 125 bu/ac. Quality was excellent, and some very good

bushel weight reports. Most graded at the highest designation.

Spring wheat yields ranged from 40 to 90 bu/ac, with most reporting 65 to 75 bu/acre average. A majority of CWRS graded #1, with protein at 13 to 15 %. Later harvested CWRS graded #2 because of sprouting. CNHR grades were more variable, with most stations reporting the majority grading #1. Protein was reported as 12 to 14%. Eastern areas reported 50 to 70 bu/ac average yields. CPS wheats were also very good quality, with proteins somewhat higher than CNHRs, and yields somewhat lower. Fusarium was minimal in most cases, with FDK/vomitoxin below 0.5 ppm. Much of the spring wheat crop was harvested tough this season and had to be dried for long term storage.

Canola yields were good, as was quality, a pleasant surprise considering the various season struggles. Many fields were reseeded due to the early season heavy flea beetle pressure, dry soil conditions/poor seedbed/uneven germination having an impact but the below normal precipitation had the biggest yield impact. Blackleg was noted in many fields but not considered a major effect to yield this year. Sclerotinia was present in some fields but at low levels given the predominantly dry conditions. Yields varied widely depending on moisture ranging from 25 to 60 bu/ac, averaging 40 to 45 bu/ac. Quality is very good with the majority of the crop grading #1 CAN. Some later harvested canola suffered from sprouting, resulting in reduced yield but retained quality reasonably well.

Flax quality is very good for the early harvested fields, but the later harvested crop suffered from the wet weather conditions of the fall causing mildew, excessive weathering and low test weight. Many fields located west of the escarpment remain unharvested and are being written off

due to poor seed quality. Harvested flax yields were good with 25 to 35 bu/ac reported. Because of the unharvested 25 to 30% of the crop in the region straw is in short supply for processors this season.

Field pea acres were higher from last year and harvest was early. Peas yielded very well in the 60 bu/ac range with some fields exceeding 70 and 80 bu/ac. Harvested quality is very good.

Soybean harvest is close to complete. Harvest was later than normal, due to the rainy conditions of September and early October snow storm. Harvest progressed as conditions allowed and freezing temperatures improved driving conditions on fields. Below normal seasonal precipitation led to overall lower yields. Higher yields west of the escarpment were obtained benefitting from timely August rains. Yields range from 20 to 55 bu/ac, averaging 30 to 35 bu/ac. Quality is good. Soybean aphid was not a factor this year and minimal white mold reported. Iron chlorosis was not that prevalent, but was still evident in some fields that recovered fairly well. The September rainy conditions caused some pod and stem blight that resulted in some seed decay and quality.

Edible bean harvest has ended, 20 to 25% of fields remain unharvested given the poor fall weather conditions. Fields unharvested west of the escarpment are to be written off. Harvested yields are considered average to below average in the 1,000 to 1,500 lbs/ac. Overall quality much lower than average.

Sunflower harvest continues with 75 to 85% completed. Early yield reports range from 1,600 to 2,500 lbs/ac on confection and oil types. Quality is very good.

Grain corn harvest continues; with the region 70 to 80% complete. Reported yields range from 120 to 160 bu/ac, with average yields to date in the 125 to 140 bu/ac range. Moisture levels vary, but reported in the mid 20s to low 30s as harvest of this crop continues. Corn silage harvest is done. Yield reports are below average due to the dry conditions. Some corn planted for grain was ultimately harvested for silage due to poor yield expectations and a local market local need for cattle feed.

Potato harvest is ended, but 15 to 20% of fields remain unharvested due to wet and frozen soil conditions. There are and will be storage issues given the challenging harvest conditions

Soil testing continues; results are variable. Many reports of low to medium soil test N after a reasonable crop harvested overall.

Post-harvest weed control was limited due to rainy harvest conditions. Good germination for volunteer grain growth has occurred following harvest and regular rains. Fall cultivation is well below normal, due to the delayed harvest and wet field conditions. Fall fertilizing and livestock manure applications are also behind normal, both all due to the wet fall and the major October snowstorm.

Crop residue burning was quite low this year. Demand for straw continues to be strong, and much of the straw has been baled. Excellent straw choppers have improved the ease of returning straw to the soil.

Winter cereals seeded acres are reportedly down again, due to harvest delays and wet September conditions. For those who planted winter cereals, topsoil moisture

conditions were favourable for crop establishment. Germination and stand establishment is good this year. The crop ranges from three leaf to four-leaf stage.

Cattle are being moved from pasture and brought home and put on winter feed. Calves are being weaned, backgrounded or marketed or those still on pasture are being creep fed grain.

Cattle still grazing are either on stockpiled forage regrowth on pasture or on second- or third-cut hay fields. Freezing temperatures are firming up wet hay fields and cattle yards, which is helping to move feed, cattle or manure.

Hay supplies are tight, but quality good for what was harvested during the summer. Livestock producers are having trouble being able to bale additional feed. Some unharvested wheat fields are being harvested as cattle feed/straw.

Greenfeed is showing signs of nitrates because of either dry growing conditions or frost stress. Subsoil moisture is good with the fall rains received. Livestock water supply is also improved with dugouts levels full to nearly full.

## Eastern Region

Over the last week, 1 to 4 mm precipitation occurred across the Eastern Region in the form of intermittent light snowfalls. Daytime and nighttime temperatures are below freezing and this continued to firm up the ground allowing for better combine travel and header flotation. Field rutting has been reduced. Frequent isolated snowfall, has led to snow ingestion by combines with sieves or other components freezing up although this problem lessened as the weather got colder. Harvest progress was steady in the remaining canola, soybeans and, to a lesser degree, corn. Harvested

crop was tough with grain dryers and aeration systems used extensively. Limited dryer capacity restricted the pace of harvest, particularly in corn. Only a limited amount of fieldwork was completed on earlier harvested fields. At first, fields were saturated or very wet when producers wanted to work them and now fields have frozen. A great deal of field work will have to be done in spring before seeding begins.

Wheat, oats and canola harvest is almost complete with most unharvested acres in northern districts. No notable harvest progress was made on remaining cereals with the expectation that the crop left out will overwinter. There was a push last week to finish up canola harvest, especially with the colder temperatures. Even so, a limited amount of swathed canola will likely have to overwinter. Producers focused most of their attention on soybean harvest which was about 85% complete. Average yield was about 35 bu/ac. Because of the depth of snow in some fields, there is an expectation that about 10% of the soybean acres in the Eastern Region will overwinter. There was little progress on sunflower harvest, which remained at about 65% complete. It was noted that producers were moving into their sunflowers as they completed their soybeans. Yields for oils and confections were around 3,000 lbs/ac. About 40% of grain corn acres were harvested, but grain moisture was high with significant drying required. Average yields were about 125 bu/ac with some reports of low bushel weights.

Quality of crop harvested as follows: HRS wheat – 75% #1 CW, 20% #2 CW and 5% CW Feed; Winter Wheat – 100% 2 CWRW; Oats - 95% #2 CW and 5% sample; Canola – 95% #1 CAN and 5% #2 CAN; Soybeans – 100% #2 CAN; Corn – bushel weights below 53 lbs are a growing concern with limited acres harvested

so far. Corn with good bushel weight was grading #2 CW, Sunflowers 100% #2 CAN. Because of excess soil moisture preventing seeding, winter wheat acres anticipated to drop 60% for 2020 with fall rye acres dropping by as much as 90%. In terms of the cropping season, the effects of disease on crop quality were limited because of dry conditions during the growing season.

Weather conditions had the greatest effect on crop quality and yield. Dry conditions during the growing season lowered bushel weights in some of the corn and limited soybean yield in some areas. Persistent rainy weather during the harvest season resulted in sprouting and mildew in cereals and some mould in corn. Late season head rot in sunflowers contributed to yield losses in some fields as well.

Forage yields in 2019 were 50 to 60% of normal with some areas reporting 25% of normal. Alfalfa hay fields were getting yields of 60 to 75% of normal. Second cut in areas that did get rains during the growing season were reporting good yields of 80 to 90% of normal but others were experiencing yields of 50 to 60% of normal.

After the major fall rains and snowstorms, there was a panic on how to get remaining corn silage off. End of October and early November did provide better weather and allowed some corn silage to come off. There is still a significant amount of corn silage that is still unable to be harvested due to it being in standing water. Another year of forage shortfall has increased the value of forages in the Eastern Region. Although fall rains have replenished soil moisture, these rains weren't early enough to help pastures with regrowth for late fall grazing. The availability of livestock water is 100% in the Eastern Region.

## Interlake Region

A cold snap has allowed for harvest progress to continue on frozen ground in the Interlake region, with harvest more than 90% complete. Constraints are due to poor drying conditions, short days and limited drying capacity for brief windows. A few fields of canola, soybeans and sunflower remain to be harvested, along with corn. Fieldwork is limited this year by saturated and now frozen soils. Fertilizer was applied on limited acres for next year's crop.

The crop year in the region, was off to a quick start, similar to much of the province. Dry conditions carried over from last fall to spring, with dust behind the seeders were a common sight. Some of the northern areas of the Interlake were drier, delaying seeding and crop and forage germination and growth. Hot, dry days persisted in June, severely limiting first-cut hay yields. Overnight temperatures continued to dip into the frost range, which stunted alfalfa regrowth in particular.

Annual crops had stagey emergence, due to dry seedbeds and limited precipitation following, to aid germination. Some crop was seeded deep to moisture, delaying emergence. Late-seeded crops sat in dry soil for extended periods. Perennial crops, hay and pasture were slow to break dormancy and green up.

Supplemental feeding of cattle was required until pasture growth was adequate.

Minimal pre-seed burnoff occurred; weed growth at the appropriate staging was limited, and conditions were poor due to dust. Blowing soils caused some crop injury, and erosion was evident. Strong winds continued through the spring and hampered timely in-crop herbicide application operations.

Iron deficiency chlorosis was present in soybean fields, but at much lower levels than last year.

Dry hot conditions rapidly advanced the crop, with most cereals and field peas harvested early, but canola harvest was delayed by the onset of heavy rains and muddy field conditions. Moisture stress was common throughout the region. Rainfall was inadequate for the most part, particularly in areas with lighter textured soils, and premature ripening of crops was common. Most crops were shorter and thinner than normal. Severe thunderstorms and hail resulted in crop losses in some areas. A few areas in the south part of the region received more consistent rainfall - in some cases, excess amounts. The northwest corner of the region received the lowest amounts of precipitation throughout the year.

As expected, crop yields were lower on average due to lack of precipitation, but were extremely variable. The best yields were entirely due to timely rains. Many producers were pleasantly surprised with average to good yields, despite poor looking stands. Harvest progressed in short bursts from mid-September until late October, interrupted by cool temperatures, frequent rain and snowfall. Lodged crop presented harvest challenges. Soil moisture conditions resulted in combining being delayed; a few reports of combines stuck and significant field rutting where machinery travelled. Grain harvested after mid-September required aeration and/or drying. Harvest has dragged on, with producers taking advantage of small windows of favourable weather.

Winter wheat yields were 60 to 75 bu/ac, and fall rye in the 60 to 80 bu/ac range. Field peas ranged from 50 to 55 bu/ac, with excellent quality.

Average yield will be better than last year.

Forage grass seed yields are reported as average to below average. The poorest stands were cut for hay.

On average, 67% of spring wheat graded #1 CW with 15% grading #2 CW and the rest downgraded to feed. Quality was based on sprouts/falling number, with virtually no vomitoxin reported. Proteins were generally good to excellent, averaging 14.5% based on the [CGC Harvest Sample Program Quality Report](#). Oats and barley were generally higher quality, with as much as 50% of barley making malt grade, and 80% of oats graded #2 CW. Spring wheat ranged from 40 to 80 bu/ac, averaging 50 to 60 bu/ac. Barley ranged from 50 to 90 bu/acre. Oats ranged from 60 to 130 bu/ac, averaged 80 to 100 bu/acre. Early harvested fields had some issues with thin kernels and light bushel weight.

Canola yields ranged from 30 to 50 bu/ac, averaging 35 to 40 bu/ac with essentially all graded #1. The move to straight cut harvest and pod shatter resistant varieties allowed stagey crops to stand and ripen, for fewer harvest losses, though swathed fields were present and did suffer losses from wind and hail damage.

Flax yields reported better than last year, ranging from 20 to 30 bu/ac. The CGC reports flax harvest samples averaged 45.7% oil content for #1 CW.

Grain fill in soybeans was noticeably affected by lack of rain in August. Seed size is small. No green seed issues this year. Harvest has been difficult, but quality remains good. Yields range from 20 to 30 bu/acre.



Much of the alfalfa seed crop has been harvested, with average yield in the 300 to 500 lbs/ac range, prior to cleaning. Average yields are typically 150 to 350 lbs/ac, but areas that received more rain will be higher.

Grain corn harvest continues, now over 65% complete. Yields reported to date range from 90 to 140 bu/ac. Average yield for the region forecasted to be 100 to 115 bu/ac. Harvest progress has been limited due to [high grain moisture](#) levels and dryers at full capacity and poor drying weather.

Impact of disease on crops was lower than normal, a consequence of drier conditions. Impact of insect injury on crops was also lower than normal. Scattered cutworm infestations reported. Cold dry soils delayed canola emergence and slowed growth, making the crop susceptible to flea beetle injury. Control measures were required. Some canola was reseeded due to multiple stresses of cold soils/poor emergence, flea beetles and

cutworms. Grasshoppers were more numerous; in most cases only headlands required treatment.

Significant numbers of beneficial predator insects were evident in fields.

Fewer winter cereals were seeded this fall as a result of harvest pressures and inaccessible fields. Fall fieldwork has stopped, and fertilizer application has been limited this fall due to wet fields and now-frozen ground.

Hay yields are significantly lower than average in 2019. Cool, dry conditions in spring prevented a quick regrowth, and lack of summer rains stunted the crop further. Cool, near-freezing overnight temperatures in early August again limited regrowth for subsequent cuts. Poorer stands of oats, wheat and barley were taken for greenfeed. Corn silage harvest was delayed, and some poor grain corn fields were converted to silage, and ended up not being taken due to crop drydown and inaccessible fields, and were harvested as grain on frozen ground.

Considerable acres of native hay were cut and baled due to tame hay shortages, including grasses, rushes, sedges, woody species, and old bottom (areas that were not hayed in recent years). The energy and protein content of this native hay is less than the nutritional requirements of cattle during the coldest months. There will be more feeding of alternative feeds this winter than in recent years, due to feed shortage. Forage samples are being tested for nitrates. Many more are being submitted for analysis of nutrient content for ration balancing. More cereal straw was dropped and baled than in recent years, due to feed shortages.

Some cattle producers will downsize their herds due to feed shortage.