

Issue 18 (Week 37) – September 12, 2023

Crop Report



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Weekly Provincial Summary

- Precipitation was varied across agro-Manitoba this week with values ranging from 0.3 mm to 39.6 mm (**Table 1**). All of the stations in the Eastern region received more than 10 mm precipitation in the past seven days. Gardenton (39.6 mm) 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	Gretna (27.7 mm)	Treherne (6.0 mm)
Eastern	Gardenton (39.6 mm)	Sprague (10.2 mm)
Interlake	Arborg (24.6 mm)	Moosehorn (3.9 mm)
Northwest	Birch River (16.6 mm)	The Pas (0.3 mm)
Southwest	Glenboro (23.0 mm)	Deloraine (5.5 mm)

- Climate normals for total accumulated precipitation from May 1 to September 10 range from 245.4 mm to 357.8 mm, and 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 60% 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 10, 2023 relative to field capacity. Soil moisture levels are variable throughout agro-Manitoba with the majority of the province showing dry conditions at the 30 cm depth. Localized areas are showing very dry 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 10, 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.
- To find interactive soil temperature/moisture and air temperature information see Agri-Maps Current Weather [viewer](#).

Overview

Harvest progress sits at 51% complete across the province (**Table 2**), which is ahead of the 5-year average (42%). Winter wheat and fall rye harvest is complete (100%). Yield reports are averaging about 60 bu/acre for winter wheat and 70 bu/acre for fall rye. Harvest continues in spring cereal crops, with barley at 81% complete, oats at 83% complete and spring wheat at 85% complete. Overall, cereal crops remain in fair to mostly good condition.

Table 2: Percentage Harvest Completion by Crop and Region to September 12, 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	70	90	97	90	80	85
Barley	65	75	97	90	85	81
Oats	70	75	97	90	90	83
Field Pea	100	100	100	100	100	100
Canola	30	15	60	25	10	35
Soybeans	4	-	30	2	-	11
Dry Beans	40	-	60	-	5	56
Regional AVG	42	48	68	48	44	51

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

Corn is mainly in the R5 (dent) growth stages. Canola crops ranged from the swathing/pre-harvest application stage to harvest ready. A limited number of very late seeded canola acres were in late pod fill with straw and pod colour change ongoing. Canola harvest continues with approximately 35% of the acres being harvested across the province. Field pea harvest is complete. Soybean fields are mostly in the R7 to R8 growth stages with harvest progress sitting at 11% provincially. The central region is most advanced at 30% complete.

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

- Harvest of winter wheat and fall rye is complete (100%). Yield reports for winter wheat range from 50 to 65 bu/acre and fall rye in the 60 to 90 bu/acre range.
- 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**).
- Corn fields are in the R5 (dent) stage.

Table 3: Spring Wheat Quality Rating by Region

	Southwest	Northwest	Central	Eastern	Interlake
Excellent	-	10%	-	10 %	-
Good	40%	60%	40%	90%	75%
Fair	50%	30%	50%	-	25%
Poor	10%	-	10%	-	-
Very Poor	-	-	-	-	-

Oilseeds

- Canola harvest has started with approximately 35% of the acres being harvested provincially and 60% complete in the Central region, and all regions reporting the start of canola harvest. 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 has begun with approximately 20% of the acres being harvested. The crop remained in fair to mostly good condition.

Pulses and Soybeans

- Field pea harvest is complete. Yield reports in the Southwest and Central regions are in the 40 to 55 bu/acre range, whereas the Northwest region is in the 60 to 70 bu/acre range.
- Soybean fields are mostly in the R7 to R8 growth stages with some harvest progress at 11% provincially. The Central region is most advanced with 30% complete. Yields have been variable and dependent upon summer rainfall. Yield ranges from 20 to 35 bu/acre being reported at this early stage. Overall crop condition remains good.
- Dry bean harvest is approximately 40% complete. Yield ranges from 1000 lbs/acre to 2400 lbs/acre are being reported. Yields and quality are variable and dependent on summer rainfall. Recent rainfall has rehydrated the seed and has allowed for more favorable harvest conditions.

Forages & Livestock

Forages

- Corn silage harvest began on fields that received less precipitation throughout the summer, and is expected to ramp up throughout the remainder of the region by mid-week. Initial reports on yield have been favorable. Corn silage harvest operations have started this week in the Dauphin area.
- Beef producers continue to work on second cut from fields that are predominantly grass and are baling straw as it becomes available. A handful of producers are beginning to move cattle onto fenced hayfields or harvested cropland to graze available regrowth and/or stubble.
- Forage growth on hay and pasture is slow due to dry conditions and nearing the end of the growing season. Rain has provided some regrowth.

Special Note:

- Alfalfa is in the [critical harvest fall period for alfalfa](#) and cannot be cut until after a killing frost without increased risk of winterkill.
- Grazing of sorghum and sorghum sudan regrowth should not occur before the new regrowth is at least 24 to 30 inches tall to reduce the risk of [prussic acid poisoning](#).

Livestock

- Grass conditions on pasture are variable and highly dependent on moisture levels, grazing management strategy, and soil type.
- Some producers are supplementing hay on pasture to ensure nutrient requirements of cattle are being met and to take pressure off the grass.
- Water levels in dugouts are low. This is of particular concern on pastures located in areas that have consistently missed out on rain.
- Producers are moving cattle to fall grazing areas. Grass calves and spring calves have started to hit the markets. Pastures have a new sense of green in the stand due to the recent rainfall. Herds are in good condition and are requiring supplemental feeding in the pasture in some cases.
- Fly pressure continues to be an issue.
- Producers are taking inventory of their feed supplies to determine if sourcing additional supplies is needed.

Regional Comments

Southwest

A good week of harvest in the Southwest region but with some pocket areas that have slower progress due to high humidity and showers. Rain in the various areas of Southwest region on Sunday night delayed harvest for a couple of days. Producers continued with pre-harvest on later seeded cereals and the canola crop. Swathing of canola still happening as producers try to work with uneven crop maturity.

Fall rye and winter wheat harvest is complete in the southwest and yields look to be average with good quality. The pea harvest is complete. Quality is good. Yield looks to be average with good quality around 45 to 50 bu/acre.

Spring wheat harvesting continued this week with several producers getting to 75% complete. Yields look to be average to slightly above average with 13.5% protein on the harvested fields. Yield reports are 55-75 bu/acre range, depending upon the moisture conditions during the growing season.

Barley harvest is 70% complete. Quality and yields are average with some yellowing of the kernels. Oat harvest continued this week and is 75% complete. Producers were able to get at standing crop faster than swathed crops but by midweek, all fields were dry. Yields look about average and samples are showing effects of the recent moisture.

Canola harvest is 30% complete. Yield range is 35 to 45 bu/acre. Most of the canola crops are in the seed color change to mature. Some producers are swathing and in several fields, a pre-harvest application was done.

Soybeans are at late R6 to R7 stage. Some reports of early seeded soybean fields being harvested but less than 5%. Recent rain has helped pod fill and later seeded beans. Corn silks have dried and are filling cobs so at R6-7 stage. Heights are variable due to dry weather conditions. Corn silage is underway with 25 to 30% complete.

Sunflowers are in the R8 stage. Black birds have returned to sunflower and some oat crops. Perhaps 10% damage already in some oilseed sunflower crops. Flax crops are in the brown boll seed color stage.

Northwest

Another good week of harvest progress, with the exception of a pause for rain midweek. Daytime temperatures have been in the mid to high 20's, while overnight temperatures have cooled off significantly. A light touch of frost was reported in some areas in Swan Valley early Wednesday morning. It is unknown if any damage occurred at this time. Frost was also reported on Monday morning in The Pas. Heavy dews in the morning have made for a later start in the day. Shorter days have also narrowed the harvest window as crops get tough in the evening. Birch River received the highest precipitation amount in the Northwest region, while The Pas received only trace amount. Post-harvest field work has been occurring.

Spring wheat harvest had another good week of progress, with most areas approximately 90-95% done. Harvest in The Pas is slightly behind that. Yields have been ranging from 50 to 90 bu/acre, while some fields have done poorer and some better. Quality has been good, with mostly grading #1 and # 2 Canada. Some baling has been able to happen after the combine for those that put up straw.

Canola harvest is nicely underway across the region and is approximately 15% complete and just starting in The Pas. Desiccation and swathing have continued as crops reached appropriate stages. Initial yield reports have ranged from 40 to 55 bu/acre. We anticipate to see good canola harvest progress if conditions cooperate this week.

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

Soybeans are in the R7-R8 stage and are moving towards maturity. Flax fields are near ready for harvest.

Central

Many locations across the Central region received rainfall at levels which delayed harvest progression, with the highest amounts being Gretna (27.7 mm), Snowflake (26.7 mm), Emerson (26.3) and Pilot Mound (26.1mm). Most crops are too close to maturity to benefit from this rainfall; however, producers with pasture were grateful. Even with the rain, significant harvest progression took place last week. The cooler mornings resulted in significant dews, which delayed harvests into the afternoon, at times as late as 3pm. Over the coming week, the remaining cereals will most likely be harvested, and progress will be made with regards to canola, flax, dry bean and soybean harvest.

Harvest of spring cereals is mostly complete, with spring wheat, oat and barley harvest sitting at around 97%, with most of the regions remaining cereals in the north western reaches of the central region. Almost all fields in the Pembina Valley are complete. Spring wheat yields are highly variable, depending mostly on how much rainfall the crop received during the growing season. Most spring wheat yields have ranged from 35 to 65 bu/acre, but yields have been ranged from as low as 16 bu/acre in extreme cases and as high as 95 bushels per 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 is between 70 and 100 bu/acre.

Corn continues to quickly approach harvest, with fields either at R5 (dent) or in the case of the earlier maturing hybrids, R6 (physiological maturity). Most of the crop looks promising; however, fields that have received the least

amount of rainfall are in the poorest condition. Most silage corn fields are rapidly approaching harvest, with a number of producers harvesting over the past week, yields ranging between 13 to 15 tonne/acre.

Canola harvest continues, with harvest progress at approximately 60% for the region. The proportion of canola harvested in the Pembina Valley is closer to 80%, and is approximately 20 to 30% around Portage, Gladstone and Holland. 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 30-40 bu/acre 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 20% harvested. Most flax fields are at stage 12 (seed ripe), with a few fields at stage 11 (brown capsule). Sunflower fields are at the R9 (bracts becoming yellow and brown).

Soybean harvest has begun in the central region, with approximately 30% harvested, with most soybean between R7 (one or more brown pod on the main stem), with mid and early maturing varieties at or approaching R8 (95% brown pod). Early soybean yields are mostly between 20 to 30 bu/acre. It is possible that fields that received more rainfall during the season may receive higher yields. Cutting and harvest are underway for dry beans, with harvest standing at approximately 60%. Edible bean yields range from 1000 to over 2000 lbs/acre with approximately 60% harvested in the region. White mould has been noticeable in some soybean and dry bean fields.

Bailing of straw is underway, especially for producers using straw for cattle bedding or feed. Producers have also been harrowing cereal and canola stubble, testing soils for nutrients levels, and ditching.

Eastern

Rainfall accumulations over the reporting period ranged from 12 to 40 mm with virtually all of this rain occurring last Tuesday as part of widespread rainstorms and showers that touched every district. The rainfall event delayed progress on harvest for at least a couple of days in most areas but dry soils previous to the rain helped with restoring field access. Throughout the rest of the week, localized light showers and drizzle in some districts further delayed progress. At the same time, day and nighttime temperatures remained at seasonal levels and some days saw elevated humidity and/or heavy morning dews that meant later starts to harvest. Regardless, by the end of last week, harvesting was widespread with producers making significant progress each day. Fall tillage, fall fertilizer application and soil testing were also ongoing. Isolated instances of relatively light frost were reported at the end of last week but no crop damage was expected given that long season crops like corn, soybeans and sunflowers were well advanced.

Spring wheat harvest was about 90% 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. Oat harvest was about 90% complete with yields at around 130 bu/acre on average and good bushel weights. Barley harvest was also about 90% complete with yields averaging out at around 100 bu/acre. Spring cereal harvest is expected to wrap up this week.

Corn fields were in the R5 (dent) growth stage with starch accumulating. Recent warm weather and stronger winds have sped up the drying process. Some of the early maturing hybrids are close to the R6 ("black layer" or physiological maturity). 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 of the crop over the next two weeks. 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 of drying time. Canola harvest became general as the week went on with about 25% of acres harvested. Initial yield estimates were around 55 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 about 90% complete with only late seeded fields left to consider. Agronomists noted that timing pre-harvest herbicide applications has been challenging this year because of the unevenness of crop development found in many canola fields which has led to delays.

Flax crop growth stages ranged from late stage 11 (brown capsule) to stage 12 (seed ripe) with lots of variability being noted in fields. Growers were monitoring crop development and the weather while making plans for desiccation of the crop over the next two weeks. The crop remained in fair to mostly good condition.

Soybean harvest had begun last week with less than 5% of acres harvested. Most soybean fields were somewhere in the 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 had begun last week 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 North Interlake region continues to receive spotty rain with scattered thundershowers. Arborg area received about 24mm of rain last Tuesday, which delayed harvest progress and affected grain quality on swathed crops. Over the weekend, showers prevented growers from combining. Producers are having a difficult time harvesting dry grain due to high humidity and heavy dew in the morning. Most crops are past the stage of benefiting from the rainfall.

Spring wheat harvesting continues and is about 80% complete. Yields reported are in the 65-80 bu/acre range. Some producers report spring wheat yield to be below and slightly above average depending on rainfall, though quality is good and grading (# 1 and 2). Protein ranges from 13.9 to 15.5%, dependent on yield. Producers reported some bleaching on wheat after last week's storm and rainfall.

Oat harvesting continues with yields ranging from 100-170 bu/acre and is about 90% done. Barley harvest is advancing well, with yields to date ranging from 60- 80 bu/acre. Some oats are being reported as light, but most are a good test weight.

Soybeans are turning rapidly in most fields. Most soybeans are in the R7 to R8 stage. Majority of fields looking above average. Edible bean harvest has started in Fisher branch and Vidor area and will continue over the next few weeks.

Canola harvesting has started nicely at about 10% complete but swathing and desiccating is still ongoing. Overall the canola crop is looking good.

Silage corn harvesting has started in some areas of the North and South Interlake with yields ranging from 14 to 15 tonnes per acre.