

## Moisture Situation Update – July 26, 2014

### Synopsis:

Late last week a large system moved through the province bringing rain to most of the agricultural areas, north of the TransCanada Highway. The hardest hit areas can be found in and around the City of Edmonton, ranging from Westlock to Wetaskiwin and from Stony Plain to Vegreville, with most stations recording 60 mm or more. The greatest amount (98.3 mm) was recorded near Thorsby, just south west of Edmonton. Across the dry central parts of the Peace Region, most areas saw at least 10 mm of rain, with many areas seeing 20 mm or more.

### 3-day precipitation accumulations as of July 26, 2014—see map

- Across the western-half of the Peace Region, most areas saw over 20 mm of rainfall, with the Rycroft AGCM station recording the most at 58.2 mm.
- Areas in and around Birch Hills County have been extremely dry and during this last event saw between 12 to 35 mm. Enough to sustain crop growth for several days, but regular rains over the next three weeks or more, are absolutely necessary to sustain the current crop growth and prevent further moisture stress.
- Across the northern Peace Region, lack of moisture has also been a concern and this storm brought variable rains ranging from 5 mm near Fort Vermillion and La Crete to up to 40 mm at High Level.
- Farther south, across the driest areas of the central parts of the province (Camrose Flagstaff, Settler, Paintearth) total rainfall amounts ranged from 60 mm in northern parts of Camrose County to just over 20 mm through the southern parts of the counties of Stettler and Paintearth.

### Perspective

- While those dry areas in the Peace Region and parts of Central Alberta did get a temporary reprieve from growing moisture stress, crops ideally need at least 25 mm of water per week to sustain good growth. These dry areas are still in need of regular well timed rains over the next three to four weeks. At this time of year, rains need to be capable of soaking the crop canopy, and penetrating into the soil. For this to happen it is desirable to see at least 10 mm or more for each rain event.

### Interesting Facts

- At High Level 20.0 mm was recorded in a single hour on July 25 between 8:00 and 9:00 am
- In and around Edmonton the heaviest rains occurred over a 10-hr period between 5:00 am and 2:00 pm on July 25 (Friday) with at least two stations recording over 50 mm during this time. New Sarepta AGCM recorded 63.5 mm and Legal AGCM 55.1 mm.
- The Thorsby AGCM station recorded over 85 mm during a 20-hr period on Friday.

**Additional maps** can be found at [www.agriculture.alberta.ca/maps](http://www.agriculture.alberta.ca/maps)

**Near-real-time hourly station** data can be viewed/downloaded at [www.agriculture.alberta.ca/stations](http://www.agriculture.alberta.ca/stations)

Note: Data has about a two hour lag and is displayed in MST (add one hour for daylight savings time)

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