

Moisture Situation Update – September 11, 2014

Synopsis

Over the past several days, cold, wet weather has dominated the skies across most of the province. In the wake of this latest system, skies cleared overnight (September 10th), and temperatures plummeted, leaving all but a few areas of the province untouched by frost. The coldest temperatures in the agricultural areas were recorded throughout large parts of the lake country, well north of the Yellowhead Highway, between Edmonton and Lloydminster. Here, many areas saw temperatures dip to below -7°C.

Along with this system, most of the province saw some form of precipitation ranging from a few mm in the central Peace Region to over 70 mm across the foothills, northwest of Calgary. In addition snow fell in many areas west of Highway 2 from as far south as Lethbridge to at least as far north as Edson. It is estimated that some areas may have seen upwards of 20 cm of snow on the ground.

Lowest recorded temperatures September 6 to Sept 11, 2014

- In the early morning hours of September 11th, several areas saw temperatures dip below the -6°C mark. These include:
 - A large portion of the lake country, north of Highway 16
 - In and around Grande Prairie
 - The western portions of the extreme northern Peace Region
 - Many locations west of Highway 2 spanning a large area between Red Deer and the US border.
- Most areas of the province, north of Calgary and west of Highway 2, (between Calgary and Lethbridge) saw “killing” frosts, of -2°C or more.

6-day precipitation accumulations as of September 11, 2014—see map

- Precipitation was heaviest just northwest of Calgary, in and around Water Valley, where several stations recorded 80 mm more of precipitation, with some areas estimated to have received up to 20 cm of snow.
- Across a large portion of Central Alberta, precipitation totals topped 30 mm or more.
- Most areas south of Edmonton and north of Calgary received at least 20 mm.
- Throughout much of the southern region precipitation totals ranged from 10-20mm
- A large area running through the central Peace Region, over to Cold Lake remained relatively dry with several stations reporting less than 5 mm.

Interesting Facts

- Many stations across the mountains reported temperatures below -10°C with -13.3°C recorded at the Evan Thomas Creek station, located in the mountains, south of Kananaskis
- Across the agricultural areas, the Abee AGDM station recorded the lowest temperature with the mercury registering -9.9°C early in the morning of September 11th.
- The Altawan Evaporation station, south of the cypress hills was the “warmest” location with temperatures only dipping to +0.9°C in the morning of September 11th.
- The Spionkop Creek station recorded the greatest amount of precipitation, topping 88 mm of total accumulation measured between September 6th and September 11th, 2014.

Additional maps can be found at www.agriculture.alberta.ca/maps

Near-real-time hourly station data can be viewed/downloaded at 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)

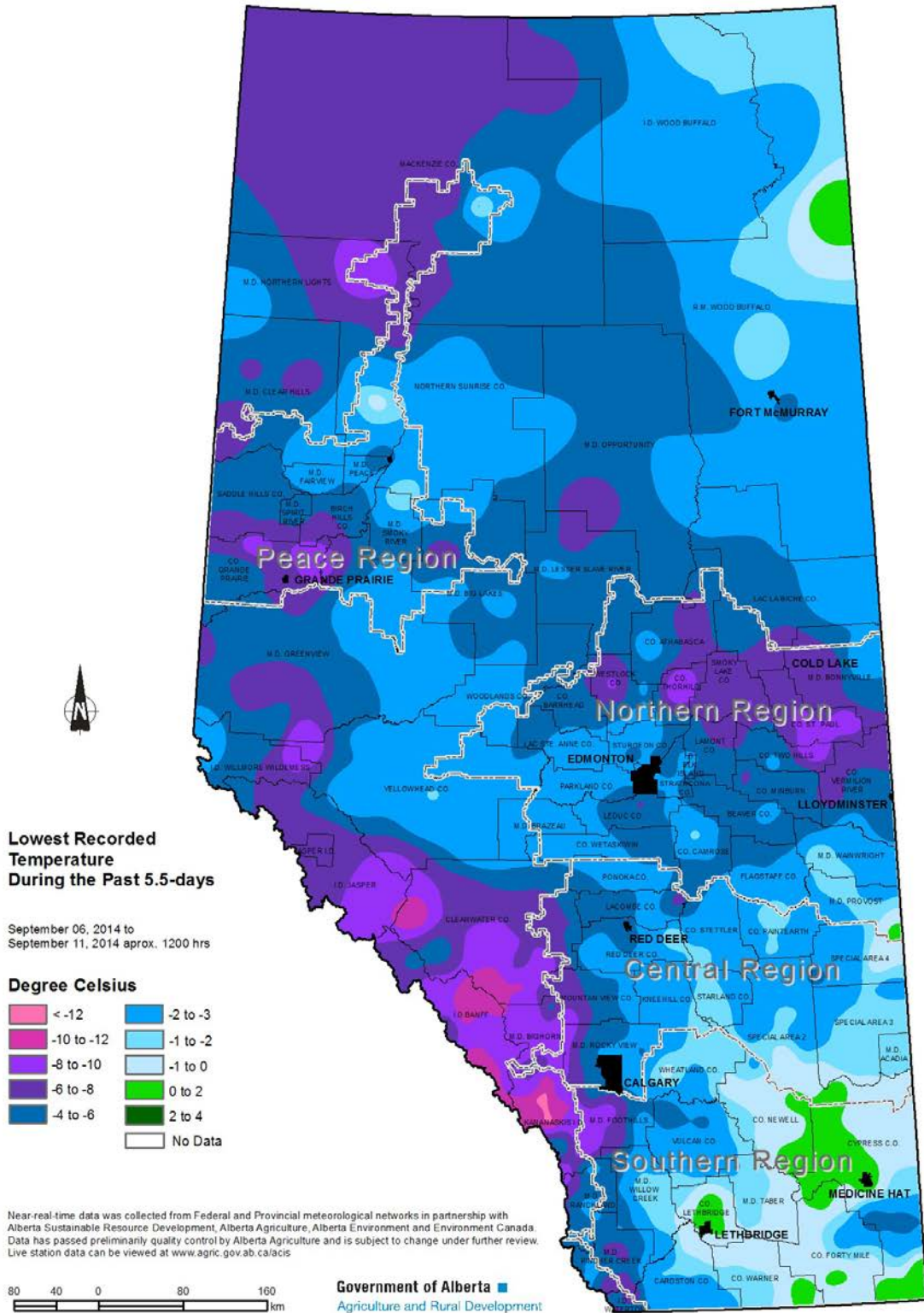
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Compiled by Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, Environmental Stewardship Division, Technology and Innovation Branch
Created on September 11, 2014

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