

Moisture Situation Update – August 25, 2014

Synopsis

Late last week cooler air moved into the province, bringing light frosts to much of the Peace Region, as well as some isolated areas between Athabasca and Red Deer. This cooler air also brought significant rains to many areas south of Red Deer, with upwards of 100 mm recorded through parts of southern Alberta.

Forecast from ESRD's Fire Weather Section (special thanks to Nick Nimchuck aka: the IRON Rooster)

- Starting this Wednesday (August 27, 2014), a cold front is set to sweep through the province from the northwest. The northern Peace Region may see light rains with 5 mm or so possible. With this system, the southern Peace Region is expected to see the greatest accumulations, with 15 mm or so possible for the Grande Prairie/Swan Hills area.
- By Friday the front should have made its way southward across the entire province, with some areas likely to see light rains in the 5 mm range.

Lowest recorded temperatures over the past 5-days as of August 25, 2014

- Many areas across the Peace Region saw light frosts recently, with the Ballater AGCM station recording the lowest temperature (-2.3°C) during the early morning of August 22. Overnight this same station experienced temperatures below the zero mark for roughly 3-hrs.
- Elsewhere, several smaller pockets of frost were recorded in several locations north of Red Deer, with no stations recording temperatures cooler than -2°C.

11-day precipitation accumulations as of August 25, 2014—see map

- Since the last report (August 13, 2014), the Peace Region has remained dry, with most areas recording less than 5 mm of precipitation. The greatest accumulation within the agricultural area was recorded at the Valleyview AGDM station where a total of 16.5 mm fell, during two separate events.
- North of Red Deer, most areas remained dry, with the exception of those areas in and around the foothills where many stations recorded upwards of 30 mm or more, with the greatest accumulations recorded at the Eta Lake Auto station (50 km west of Drayton Valley) where nearly 95 mm fell on August 16th.
- South of Red Deer, most areas saw over 20 mm with the highest accumulations recorded between Drumheller and Medicine Hat; the Buffalo AGCM station reporting a total of 101.5 mm, with 84.8 mm falling during a 3-hour period during the late evening of August 19th.

Interesting Facts

- Across most of the agricultural areas of the Peace Region frosts of -2°C or colder, prior to August 25 are relatively rare events, estimated to occur on average only once in 50-years.
- In comparison by August 25th, a frost of 0°C or colder is estimated to occur on average about once in 8-years for Grande Prairie and once in 6-years for High Level.

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)

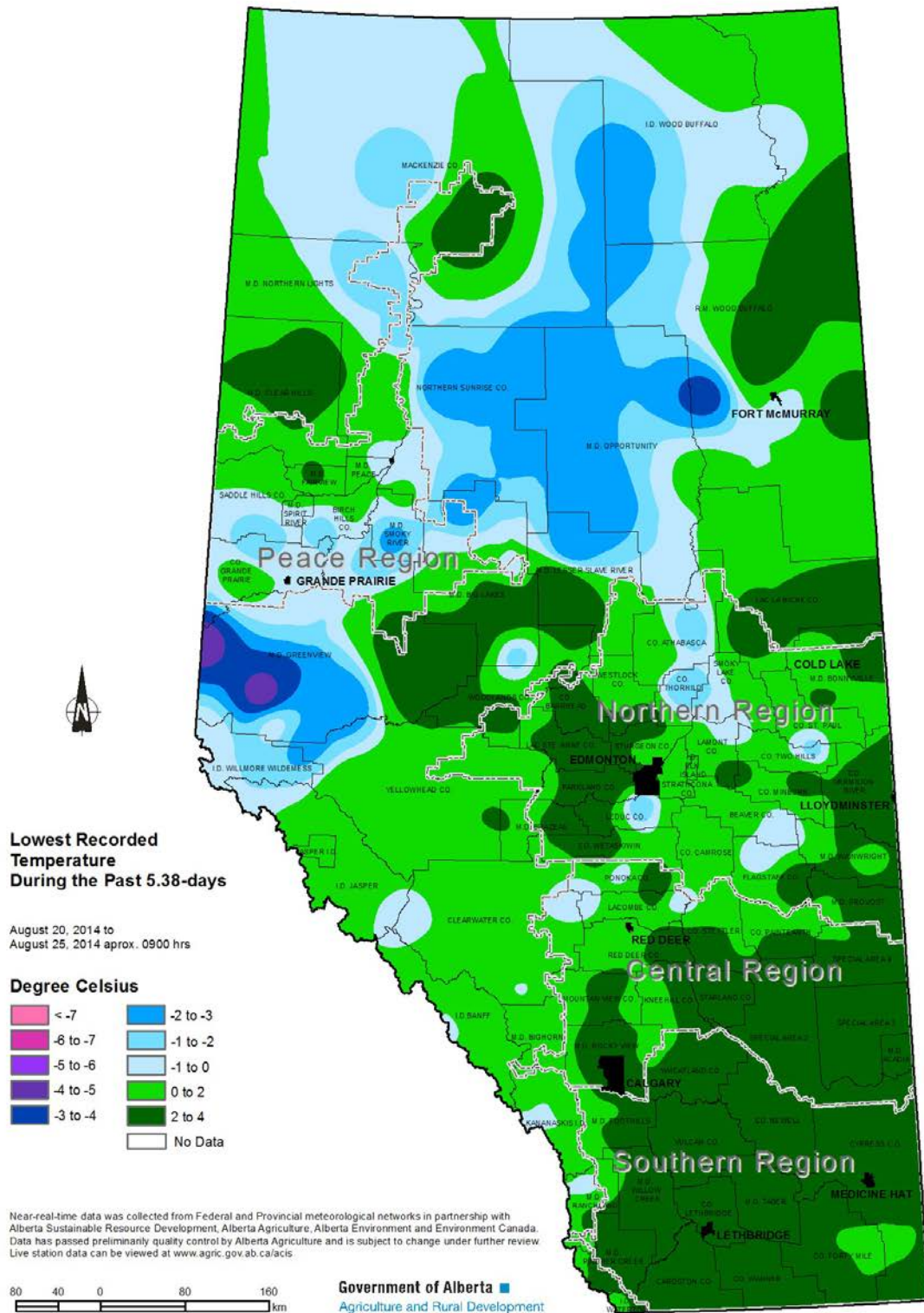
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