

Alberta Crop Report



Crop Conditions as of October 12 (Abbreviated Report)

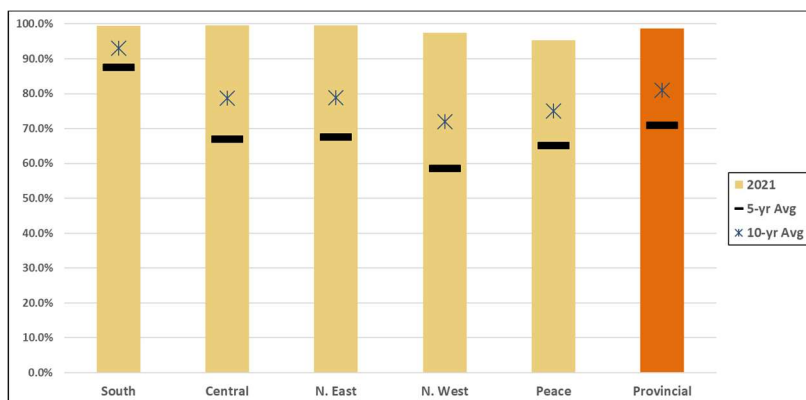
Final Report for 2021

Favourable harvest conditions in 2021 advanced harvesting operations by three to four weeks across the province. While harvest is practically complete in the South, Central and North East Regions, about 98 per cent of crops in the North West Region and 95 per cent of crops in the Peace Region are now in the bin (see Table 1). Provincially, harvest progress is now 99 per cent complete, well ahead of the 5-year average of 71 per cent and the 10-year average of 81 per cent. About 0.5 per cent of major crops are in swath and 0.7 per cent remain standing. When compared to the averages, harvest progress is well ahead for all regions (see Figure 1).

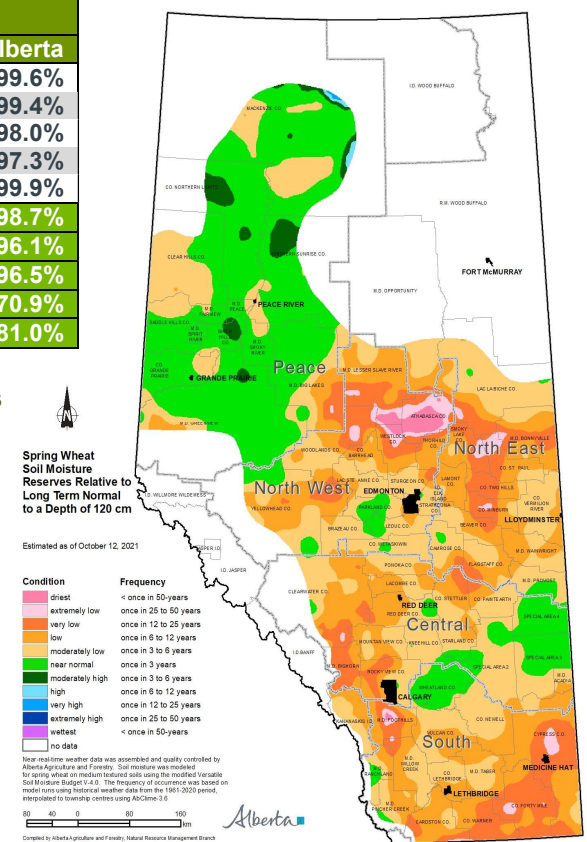
Table 1: Estimates of Crop Harvest Progress as of October 12, 2021

	Per cent of Crops Combined					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat	99.6%	100.0%	100.0%	99.0%	98.2%	99.6%
Barley	99.3%	100.0%	99.8%	99.2%	97.1%	99.4%
Oats	99.9%	99.7%	99.6%	96.1%	96.3%	98.0%
Canola	99.2%	98.9%	99.1%	95.4%	92.0%	97.3%
Dry Peas	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	99.6%	99.9%
Major Crops, Oct 12	99.5%	99.6%	99.6%	97.5%	95.4%	98.7%
Major Crops, Oct 5	98.3%	98.6%	98.2%	92.4%	87.8%	96.1%
Major Crops, Last Year	99.1%	96.4%	97.2%	95.4%	92.0%	96.5%
5-yr (2016-2020) Avg	87.6%	67.0%	67.6%	58.6%	65.2%	70.9%
10-yr (2011-2020) Avg	93.0%	78.7%	78.8%	72.1%	75.0%	81.0%

Figure 1: Provincial and Regional Harvest Progress, 2021 vs Averages



Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey



Weather has started to cool down, with frosts happening overnight. Soil moisture remained poor throughout much of the South, Central, North East and North West Regions and is near normal for the Peace Region and small pockets in the

North West and Central Regions (see the Map on the previous page). Provincial surface soil moisture (sub-surface soil moisture shown in brackets) is currently depleted and rated as 35 (42) per cent poor, 35 (32) per cent fair, 27 (23) per cent good and 3 (3) per cent excellent (See Table 2).

Table 2: Surface Soil Moisture Ratings as of October 12, 2021

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Excessive
South	33.9%	46.3%	19.0%	0.8%	0.0%
Central	27.4%	35.2%	34.7%	2.7%	0.0%
North East	53.9%	18.9%	24.1%	3.1%	0.0%
North West	21.8%	27.4%	38.9%	12.0%	0.0%
Peace	40.1%	33.9%	24.5%	1.4%	0.1%
Alberta	35.6%	34.7%	26.8%	3.0%	0.0%
5-yr (2016-2020) Avg	5.9%	19.3%	47.5%	24.2%	3.1%
10-yr (2011-2020) Avg	11.6%	25.9%	42.6%	18.0%	1.8%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Feed availability is variable across the province, even within municipalities, depending on topography, precipitation received, etc. Some producers have adequate or even surplus feed grain and forages, while others are supplementing their feed shortfalls with straw from their fields, as there has been a substantial amount baled after harvest. In other cases, producers need to buy straw where little crop was harvested. Additionally, cattle in most areas are grazing on harvested fields and producers are cutting and baling harvested fields. Hay and straw are mostly moved locally to minimize trucking costs. Provincially, forage reserves are estimated at 20 per cent deficit, 26 per cent shortfall, 50 per cent adequate, and 4 per cent surplus, while feed grain supplies are 18 per cent deficit, 24 per cent shortfall, 52 per cent adequate and 6 per cent surplus.

Regional Assessments:

Region One: South (Strathmore, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Foremost)

- Harvest of major crops is practically complete. Some light snow and rain have moderated moisture levels, while temperatures are returning to seasonal normal and light frosts have started overnight.
- Forage reserve estimates for this region are 18 per cent deficit, 35 per cent shortfall, 43 per cent adequate and 4 per cent surplus, while feed grain supplies are 18 per cent deficit, 32 per cent shortfall, 45 per cent adequate and 5 per cent surplus.
- Fall-seeded crops are rated as 7 per cent poor, 38 per cent fair, 50 per cent good and 5 per cent excellent.
- Surface soil moisture conditions (sub-surface ratings shown in brackets) are rated as 34 (60) per cent poor, 46 (32) per cent fair, 19 (8) per cent good and 1 (0) per cent excellent.

Region Two: Central (Rimbey, Airdrie, Coronation, Oyen)

- Harvest in the region is virtually complete and producers are progressing with fall fieldwork. In some counties, livestock producers are purchasing feed and straw due to extremely dry conditions and heat stress from the growing season.
- Forage reserve estimates in this region are 10 per cent deficit, 17 per cent shortfall, 65 per cent adequate and 8 per cent surplus, while feed grain supplies are 9 per cent deficit, 15 per cent shortfall, 64 per cent adequate and 12 per cent surplus.
- Fall-seeded crops are rated as 27 per cent poor, 18 per cent fair, 45 per cent good and 10 per cent excellent.

- Surface soil moisture conditions (sub-surface ratings shown in brackets) are rated as 27 (34) per cent poor, 35 (29) per cent fair, 35 (35) per cent good and 3 (2) per cent excellent.

Region Three: North East (Smoky Lake, Vermilion, Camrose, Provost)

- Harvest is almost complete in the region and temperatures are cooling off, with heavier frosts overnight. Cattle are grazing on harvested fields and producers are cutting and baling remaining crop.
- Forage reserve estimates in this region are 23 per cent deficit, 17 per cent shortfall, 58 per cent adequate and 2 per cent surplus, while feed grain supplies are 21 per cent deficit, 16 per cent shortfall, 60 per cent adequate and 3 per cent surplus.
- Fall-seeded crops are rated as 27 per cent poor, 13 per cent fair, and 60 per cent good.
- Surface soil moisture conditions (sub-surface ratings shown in brackets) are rated as 54 (43) per cent poor, 19 (31) per cent fair, 24 (24) per cent good and 3 (2) per cent excellent.

Region Four: North West (Barrhead, Edmonton, Leduc, Drayton Valley, Athabasca)

- With about 98 per cent of crops in the bin, harvest is nearing completion. Less than two per cent of crops are still standing, which include oats and canola fields that were damaged over the growing season, delaying maturity. Some producers are facing feed and hay shortages, which is supplemented by baling some crops remaining or sourcing locally to avoid trucking costs.
- Forage reserve estimates in this region are 47 per cent deficit, 27 per cent shortfall, 25 per cent adequate and 1 per cent surplus, while feed grain supplies are 43 per cent deficit, 24 per cent shortfall, 30 per cent adequate and 3 per cent surplus.
- Fall-seeded crops are rated as 38 per cent fair, 61 per cent good and 1 per cent excellent.
- Surface soil moisture conditions (sub-surface ratings shown in brackets) are rated as 22 (12) per cent poor, 27 (37) per cent fair, 39 (39) per cent good and 12 (12) per cent excellent.

Region Five: Peace (Fairview, Falher, Grande Prairie, Peace River, Valleyview)

- About 95 per cent of crops are now in the bin. Only some late seeded crops and fields with second growth are still to be harvested. While two per cent of crops are in swath, almost three per cent are still standing, including two per cent of spring wheat and barley, three per cent of oats and four per cent of canola.
- Forage reserve estimates in this region are 10 per cent deficit, 39 per cent shortfall, 47 per cent adequate and 4 per cent surplus, while feed grain supplies are 5 per cent deficit, 33 per cent shortfall, 52 per cent adequate and 10 per cent surplus.
- Surface soil moisture conditions (sub-surface ratings shown in brackets) are rated as 40 (36) per cent poor, 34 (39) per cent fair, 25 (24) per cent good and 1 (1) per cent excellent.

Contact

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