

Alberta Crop Report

Crop conditions as of September 10, 2024

Harvest of all crops provincially is 55 per cent complete, ahead of the 5- and 10-year averages of 32 and 28 per cent, respectively (see Table 1). Hot weather during the growing season followed by dry weather during the harvest season, has allowed combining to progress well ahead of historical averages in each region. In the South Region, which already normally leads provincial harvest progress, combining is 72 complete, significantly ahead of its 5-year average of 59 per cent. This is followed by the Central Region at 66 per cent combined (5-year average of 31 per cent), the North East and North West at 42 per cent combined (5-year average of 15 and 16 per cent, respectively). The Peace Region has combined 37 per cent of its crops, compared to its 5-year average of 15 per cent. Specific provincial crop progress is furthest ahead for dry peas, which are 97 per cent combined and mostly complete in all regions except for the Peace, followed by lentils at 88 per cent combined, durum at 72 per cent combined and barley at 71 per cent combined.

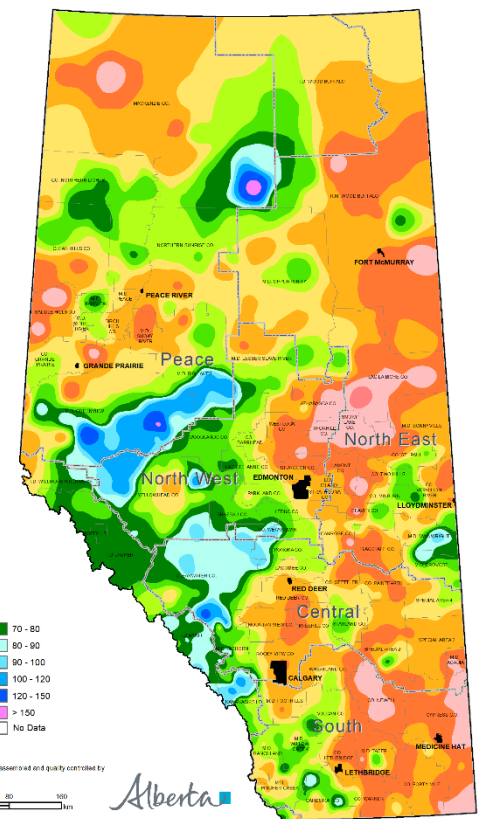
Table 1: Estimate of Crop Harvest as of September 10, 2024

	Per Cent of Crops Combined					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat *	79.4%	80.6%	64.7%	52.8%	56.9%	69.8%
Durum	69.9%	81.9%	-	-	-	71.7%
Barley *	86.9%	83.2%	44.6%	55.7%	50.8%	71.3%
Oats *	79.5%	59.6%	32.0%	37.2%	40.0%	41.6%
Canola *	39.6%	25.5%	13.8%	21.8%	9.8%	20.9%
Dry Peas *	99.0%	99.9%	99.1%	100.0%	86.6%	97.0%
Lentils	87.1%	94.0%	-	-	-	88.4%
Chickpeas	63.9%	100.0%	-	-	-	66.7%
Mustard	63.1%	58.6%	-	-	-	62.2%
Flax	21.6%	39.2%	0.0%	-	-	19.1%
Potatoes	10.0%	0.0%	-	6.7%	-	9.4%
Major Crops (*), September 10	73.7%	65.0%	41.9%	41.6%	36.7%	54.1%
All Crops, September 10	71.8%	65.7%	41.9%	41.6%	36.8%	55.4%
5-year All Crops (2019-2023) Avg	59.4%	30.6%	14.6%	16.3%	14.9%	31.9%
10-year All Crops (2014-2023) Avg	51.9%	23.8%	15.4%	13.5%	17.7%	28.3%

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

The first crop quality estimates of the harvest season have been reported and major crops are rating lower than their 5-year average. Bushel weights are lighter than average due to spring moisture that encouraged tillering and then heat stress and drought stress when crops were filling. As well, hail that occurred around the province has affected grade along with expected yields. The affects will be difficult to determine until harvest is completed. So far, 52 per cent of hard red spring wheat is estimated at 1 C.W., compared to the 5-year average of 63 per cent. The region with the highest amount of 1 C.W. spring wheat is the North East with 71 per cent and the lowest is the Peace Region with 10 per cent.

Provincially, 41 per cent of durum (compared to a 5-year average of 60 per cent) is rating 1 C.W. For durum, 88 per cent is rated 1 C.W. in the Central Region and 32 per cent in the South. For barley, 25 per cent (5-year average of 32 per cent) is rating malt quality whereas 49 per cent (5-year average of 57 per cent) is rating 1 C.W. The highest amount of malt rated barley is seen in the Central region with 38 per cent malt. The highest amount of 1 C.W. rated barley is in the Peace Region at 72 per cent. As for oats, 34 per cent is estimated to be 1 C.W. compared to the 5-year average of 46 per cent. The highest amount of 1 C.W. oats is estimated in the Peace with 49 per cent and the lowest is in the North East at 11 per cent. Provincial canola is estimated to be 73 per cent 1 Can. compared to the 5-year average of 85 per cent. The largest amount of 1 Can. is estimated to be in the Central and North East Regions, both with 90 per cent quality rated 1 Can. and the lowest is in the Peace with 42 per cent rated 1 Can. Dry Peas are estimated to have 18 per cent rated as 1 Can. compared to the 5-year average of 30 per cent. The highest (lowest) amount of 1 Can. rated dry peas is in the Central (Peace) Region with 36 (1) per cent.



Precipitation Received During the Past 30-days
August 12, 2024 to September 10, 2024

Precipitation (mm)
 < 10
 10 - 20
 20 - 30
 30 - 40
 40 - 50
 50 - 60
 60 - 70
 70 - 80
 80 - 90
 90 - 100
 100 - 120
 120 - 150
 > 150
 No Data

Hourly-reading weather data was assembled and quality controlled by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.
 Created by Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation, Lethbridge, Peace Area Management District
 Created on September 10, 2024

Visit weatherdata.ca for additional maps and meteorological data

Precipitation over the last week was limited for most of the province. A strip of Central Region received showers ranging from 1 mm to 20 mm. The Peace Region received between 1 mm and 40 mm with the majority of those showers being in the north half of the region. The west edge of the North West Region also received a few mm. While other areas around the region mentioned light showers in their reports, they were not enough to accumulate or cause delays. Provincial surface soil moisture is rated (last week's rating) 31 (24) per cent poor, 40 (42) per cent fair, 29 (34) per cent good, 1 (0) per cent excellent and 0 (0) per cent excessive (see Table 2). Provincial sub-surface soil moisture is rated as 33 (30) per cent poor, 45 (46) per cent fair, 22 (23) per cent good, 0 (1) per cent excellent and 0 (0) per cent excessive. While moisture conditions slightly declined since last week, they have been quite stable since the beginning of August.

Table 2: Alberta Surface Soil Moisture Ratings as of September 10, 2024

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Excessive
South	29.9%	42.1%	27.3%	0.7%	0.0%
Central	37.2%	33.4%	29.4%	0.0%	0.0%
North East	32.4%	47.7%	19.9%	0.0%	0.0%
North West	35.9%	42.8%	20.4%	0.9%	0.0%
Peace	5.0%	37.8%	55.0%	2.2%	0.0%
Alberta	30.5%	40.3%	28.7%	0.6%	0.0%
5-year (2019-2023) Avg	21.9%	26.6%	38.2%	10.9%	2.4%
10-year (2014-2023) Avg	19.4%	24.7%	39.5%	14.2%	2.1%

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

The 5-year dryland yield index for major crops is stable since last reported at 99.1 per cent (see Table 3). The North West and Peace Regions are also expected to be within marginal range of their 5-year average. The Central Region is estimated to yield 13 per cent below the 5-year average as well as the North East is estimated to yield 12 per cent below the 5-year average. The South Region is expected to yield 22 per cent above the 5-year average index. Individual crops expected to yield above their 5-year average yield index include durum (37.8 per cent above), winter wheat (31.8 per cent above), fall rye (8.2 per cent above), spring triticale (47 per cent above), dry peas (4.3 per cent above), lentils (7 per cent above), chickpeas (2.1 per cent above) and mustard (34.9 per cent above). The majority of other crops are estimated to have yields comparable with their 5-year average index.

Table 3: Regional Dryland Yield Estimations as of September 10, 2024

	Estimated Dryland Yield (bushels/acre) and Index for Major Crops					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat	43.1	46.1	43.7	53.8	46.0	45.6
Barley	55.1	58.9	61.9	71.7	57.0	59.6
Oats	53.6	62.0	70.1	80.5	58.3	68.2
Canola	29.4	30.2	34.5	36.1	33.1	32.8
Dry Peas	38.7	36.6	34.1	38.0	39.3	37.5
5-year Yield Index	121.9	87.1	88.3	103.3	101.2	99.1
10-year Yield Index	109.7	85.5	87.5	94.2	99.6	94.5

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Pasture and tame hay conditions rated good to excellent were relatively stable since last week due to the combinations of scattered light showers and moderate temperatures. As expected, dryland second cut yields of 0.9 tons per acre for the province were below the 5-year average of 1.1 tons per acre. The highest yields were in the Peace Region averaging 1 ton per acre followed by 0.9 tons per acre in both the North East and North West Regions. The Central and South Region had second cut hay yields of 0.8 and 0.7 tons per acre, respectively. Provincial second cut quality was rated as 4 per cent poor, 55 per cent fair, 29 per cent good and 12 per cent excellent. Of all hay production in Alberta, 47 per cent of producers said they would harvest a second cut and of that, 65 per cent is complete. Of the irrigated hay acres, 10 per cent reported the plan to harvest a second cut which is 92 per cent complete, averaging 2.2 tons per acre. Regional tame hay conditions rated good to excellent (5-year average) are currently 28 (22) per cent in the South Region, 21 (48) per cent in the Central Region, 8 (45) per cent in the North East Region, 26 (62) per cent in the North West Region and 53 (45) per cent in the Peace Region. Pasture conditions rated good to excellent (5-year average) are currently 32 (20) per cent in the South Region, 19 (41) per cent in the Central Region, 16 (46) per cent in the North East Region, 22 (58) per cent in the North West Region, and 54 (45) per cent in the Peace Region.

Regional Assessments:

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

- Harvest is progressing quickly around the region with many warm days. Currently, major crop combining is 74 per cent complete, ahead of the 5-year average of 57 per cent. Due to variability in maturing caused by late seeding and differing conditions, some fields are getting swathed instead of straight cut.
- Hot afternoons and cool evenings have led to some showers around the region but nothing that significantly impacted moisture. Showers in the upcoming forecast will be beneficial for fall seeded crops. Sub-surface soil moisture (5-year average) is rated as 34 (44) per cent poor, 47 (38) per cent fair, 20 (18) per cent good, 0 (1) per cent excellent and 0 (0) per cent excessive.

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

- Major crop harvest is 65 per cent complete in the Central Region ahead of the 5-year average of 29 per cent.
- Reports indicate presence of flea beetles, grasshoppers, hessian flies and sawfly in different parts of the region.
- Some parts of the region report that recent rains have rejuvenated pastures and boosted hay but other areas continued to turn cows out onto fields due to feed concerns and low harvest value.
- Central Region sub-surface soil moisture is currently rated (5-year average) as 47 (22) per cent poor, 37 (31) per cent fair, 16 (43) per cent good, 0 (5) per cent excellent, and 0 (0) per cent excessive.

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

- Major crop harvest progress is at 42 per cent for major crops in the North East, ahead of the 5-year average of 15 per cent. Dry pea harvest is nearly complete and spring cereals are making significant progress. Canola is 14 per cent combined and 45 per cent in the swath. More dry and warm weather will be conducive to these swaths drying.
- Some second cut hay is being taken; however, producers have noted that it is thinner than expected due to the lack of moisture since first cut.
- Sub-surface soil moisture is currently rated (5-year average) as 27 (17) per cent poor, 57 (17) per cent fair, 17 (37) per cent good, 0 (28) per cent excellent, and 0 (1) per cent excessive.

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

- Major crop combining is at 42 per cent complete in the North West, ahead of the 5-year average of 16 per cent. Spring wheat and barley are 53 and 56 per cent combined, respectively, while 50 per cent of canola is still in the swath. Dry peas harvest is complete in the North West.
- Second cut hay is well underway, but yields are low, and some farmers are not even cutting due to thin second growth.
- There was scattered moisture over the past week, but many areas remain in poor condition. Sub-surface soil moisture is currently rated (5-year average) as 38 (4) per cent poor, 44 (16) per cent fair, 17 (40) per cent good, 1 (32) per cent excellent, and 0 (9) per cent excessive.

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

- Warm and dry weather has allowed harvest to progress quickly and is currently at 37 per cent complete in the Peace, ahead of the 5-year average of 15 per cent. Harvest progress is being led by dry peas at 87 per cent combined followed by spring wheat at 57 per cent combined. Canola is only 10 per cent combined but 54 per cent is currently in the swath.
- Sub-surface soil moisture is currently rated (5-year average) as 1 (18) per cent poor, 38 (24) per cent fair, 58 (42) per cent good, 3 (16) per cent excellent, and 0 (1) per cent excessive.

Contact

Agriculture and Irrigation
Trade, Economics and Data Analytics Branch
Statistics and Data Development Section

Brooklyn Wong
Crop Statistician
Phone: 780-422-2887
Email: brooklyn.wong@gov.ab.ca

Our thanks to Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen and AFSC staff for their partnership and contribution to the Alberta Crop Reporting Program. Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation compiles the climate map.

The contents of this document may not be used or reproduced without properly accrediting AFSC and the Government of Alberta.