

Alberta Crop Report



Crop Conditions as of September 3, 2019 (Abbreviated Report)

As expected, most of the harvest that has taken place is in the South region despite spotty showers and morning dew. Currently the provincial harvest of 8 per cent complete falls almost 6 points below the 5-year average of 14 and is a couple of points lower when compared to the 11 per cent that was combined at this time last year (see Table 1). As crop immaturity and wet fields persist, general harvest of major crops in the North East and North West has yet to commence, with very little taking place in the Peace.

While harvest is delayed in the North East and North West regions, there is a bit of haying occurring with condition estimates predominately good and excellent. Whereas the South's hay conditions lean more toward poor and fair ratings, hay in the Peace region is decent, rated as mostly fair to good.

Table 1: Regional Harvest Progress (Major Crops) as of September 3, 2019

	% Combined					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat	22.5%	0.9%	---	---	1.0%	5.8%
Barley	29.4%	1.9%	---	---	0.8%	9.9%
Oats	34.3%	0.2%	---	---	1.2%	2.7%
Canola	8.3%	---	---	---	---	1.5%
Dry Peas	82.2%	33.6%	16.2%	1.7%	7.0%	41.5%
Regional Average	28.7%	3.2%	1.0%	0.1%	1.2%	8.0%
Last year	29.1%	7.8%	5.0%	1.8%	1.2%	10.6%
5-year Average	31.2%	8.1%	6.1%	4.6%	14.2%	13.7%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Across the province crops are also being silaged, baled and swath grazed as some producers are in need of livestock feed. The varied showers are keeping pastures and hay green which is good, never the less warm dry days are needed to get the hay up. Hay poor condition ratings are 9 per cent, fair 30, good ratings are 47 and excellent ratings are 14. Pasture poor ratings are 17 per cent, fair 33, good 40 and 10 per cent rated as excellent (see Table 2).

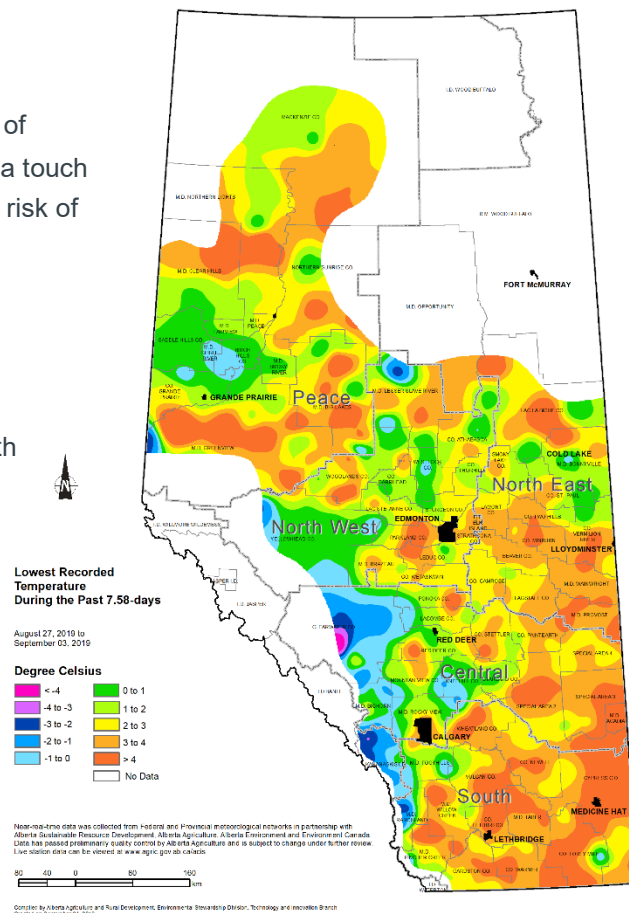
Table 2: Regional Pasture Condition Ratings as of September 3, 2019

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
South	25.2%	39.4%	31.6%	3.8%
Central	21.9%	40.1%	37.9%	---
North East	2.2%	15.4%	50.1%	32.4%
North West	---	14.5%	65.7%	19.8%
Peace	7.2%	38.0%	45.5%	9.3%
Alberta	16.7%	33.2%	40.7%	9.5%
5-year Average	27.9%	31.0%	34.3%	6.8%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

As a whole, each region of the province has experienced some form of moisture throughout the week, from either rain or even a few getting a touch of hail. A saving grace of the showers is they are helping to keep the risk of fires down.

As fall approaches, recent summer evenings have been generating cooler overnight climate conditions sparking frost concerns in small pockets right across the province. A relatively large stretch of the foothills in Central region saw temperatures falling below freezing with a small area dropping below minus 4 as indicated in dark pink (see map). The South region foothills also saw some low temps, while the majority of the region has stayed above freezing varying a few degrees here and there as represented in orange and yellow. The Peace and North East regions circled the minus 1 zone as represented in light blue on the map.



Regional Assessments:

The 2019 Alberta Crop Report Series continues to provide summaries for the following five regions:

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

- Harvest progress for major crops is 29 per cent combined falling only 2 points below the 5-year average of 31. Swathed crops are at now 10 per cent which falls 6 points below the 5-year average of 16.
- Canola crop harvest progress is 8 per cent combined and 16 swathed. Spring wheat is 23 per cent combined and 8 swathed. Barley estimates are 29 combined and 10 per cent swathed. Combined oats are 34 per cent with 9 swathed. Peas are 82 per cent combined and 2 swathed.
- Early potato harvest is under way and the late potato harvest will begin in about 10 days. The processing pea harvest is complete and processing corn harvest started today. Lots of Hail damage on specialty crops.
- Surface soil moisture rated as poor is 16 percent, fair 46, good 36 with 2 rated as excellent. Subsurface soil moisture rated as poor is 19, fair 48, 32 good with 1 per cent rated as excellent.
- Pasture rated as poor is currently at 25, fair is 39, good ratings are 32 with 4 per cent as excellent.
- Hay ratings of poor are 17, fair ratings are 40, 39 rated as good with excellent rated as 4 per cent.

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

- Harvest progress for major crops is 3 per cent combined as compared to the 5-year average of 8.
- Swathed crops are also 3 per cent and are 12 points below the 5-year average of 15.
- Canola harvest has yet to begin with 4 per cent swathed. Peas are 34 per cent combined and 2 per cent swathed. Cereal harvest is well behind the 5-year averages across the board.
- Surface soil ratings of poor are 2 per cent, 14 rated as fair, 63 rated as good, with 21 per cent rated as excellent. Subsurface soil moisture poor ratings are 9, fair at 30, good ratings are 51, excellent ratings are 10.
- Pasture rated as poor are 22 per cent, fair at 40, good ratings are at 38.
- Hay poor ratings are 14, fair at 29, good at 54 with 3 per cent rated as excellent.

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

- Very little harvest underway with estimates in at 1 per cent combined as compared to the 5-year average of 6.
- Swathed numbers are reported at 3 per cent and are 17 points lower than the 5-year average of 20.
- Peas harvest is at 16 per cent combined, 6 per cent of canola is swathed and 5 per cent of barley.
- There are no reports of poor surface or subsurface soil ratings. Surface soil fair ratings are 4, good ratings are 52, 36 per cent are rated as excellent with 8 per cent rated as excessive. Subsurface soil fair ratings are 3, good are 42, excellent ratings are 54 and 1 per cent rated as excessive.
- Pasture poor condition ratings are 2 per cent, fair are 16, good 50 with 32 rated as excellent.
- Hay poor condition ratings are 5 per cent, fair are 21, good 32, and excellent 42.

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

- Reported estimates for both combined and swathed major crops are essentially zero as compared to the 5-year average of 5 per cent combined and 12 per cent swathed for this reporting period.
- The region has ample moisture and surface soil moisture rated as good is 16, excellent 61 and 23 per cent excessive. Subsurface soil moisture good ratings are 22, excellent 68 with 10 per cent excessive.
- Pasture condition ratings of fair are 15, good 65 and excellent 20 per cent.
- Hay condition ratings of fair are 16, good 66 and excellent 18 per cent.

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

- Harvest progress for combined major crops is 1 per cent as compared to the 5-year average of 14. Swathed crops are at 3 per cent which is 18 points below the 5-year average of 21.
- Peas are 7 per cent combined and 5 per cent of canola is in the swath.
- Surface soil moisture poor ratings are 1 per cent, 18 fair, good 61, excellent 12 with 8 rated as excessive. Subsurface soil moisture poor ratings are 6 per cent, 20 fair, 55 good, 17 excellent and 2 per cent rated as excessive ratings.
- Pasture poor condition ratings are 7 per cent, 38 fair, 46 good, and 9 rated as excellent.
- Hay poor condition ratings are 7 per cent, 40 fair, 44 good, and 9 rated as excellent.

Contacts

Agriculture Financial Services Corporation
Business Risk Management Products Unit
Lacombe, Alberta

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J. Sanden & Z. Sangster
Product Coordinators
Email: jackie.sanden@afsc.ca
Email: zsuzsanna.sangster@afsc.ca

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