

# Alberta Crop Report



## Crop Conditions as of August 27, 2019

As harvest gradually continues, overall provincial crop conditions saw little change since the last report and are above both the 5 and 10-year averages. The provincial average is skewed by the Central and North East regions high numbers as compared to the lower numbers found in the Peace, South and North West (See Table 1). The season's early dry conditions in the South and the contrasting wet conditions in the North West have had a substantial impact on crop conditions. Taking into consideration that the majority of crops are still standing the early provincial dryland yields on major crops are projected to be 104.9% of the 5-year and 106.3% of the 10-year index. As expected the South and North West indexes are much lower (See Table 2).

**Table 1: Regional Crop Condition Ratings as of August 27, 2019**

	Per cent rated as Good to Excellent Condition					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat	53.4%	83.4%	85.3%	49.5%	68.3%	70.8%
Durum Wheat	38.3%	48.5%	---	---	---	39.6%
Barley	53.8%	90.1%	75.6%	41.9%	68.5%	69.6%
Oats	57.4%	82.0%	81.2%	53.1%	65.1%	69.1%
Canola	53.4%	89.3%	80.2%	42.7%	63.9%	69.2%
Dry Peas	49.1%	78.8%	67.3%	18.7%	61.7%	58.1%
Mustard	32.9%	40.0%	---	---	---	35.4%
Flax	58.3%	71.7%	100.0%	10.0%	---	65.6%
Potatoes	92.0%	100.0%	---	10.0%	---	87.9%
Dry Beans	63.3%	---	---	---	---	63.3%
Chickpeas	26.5%	25.0%	---	---	---	26.4%
Lentils	27.8%	45.1%	---	---	---	30.6%
Mixed Grain	77.0%	92.1%	---	---	---	91.7%
<b>Average</b>	<b>50.1%</b>	<b>84.6%</b>	<b>80.9%</b>	<b>43.9%</b>	<b>65.3%</b>	<b>66.6%</b>
<b>5-year Average</b>	<b>51.8%</b>	<b>57.4%</b>	<b>70.6%</b>	<b>59.8%</b>	<b>57.6%</b>	<b>59.3%</b>
<b>10-year Average</b>	<b>63.9%</b>	<b>64.7%</b>	<b>69.3%</b>	<b>63.0%</b>	<b>57.1%</b>	<b>64.5%</b>

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

**Table 2: Dryland Yield Estimates (Major Crops) as of August 27, 2019**

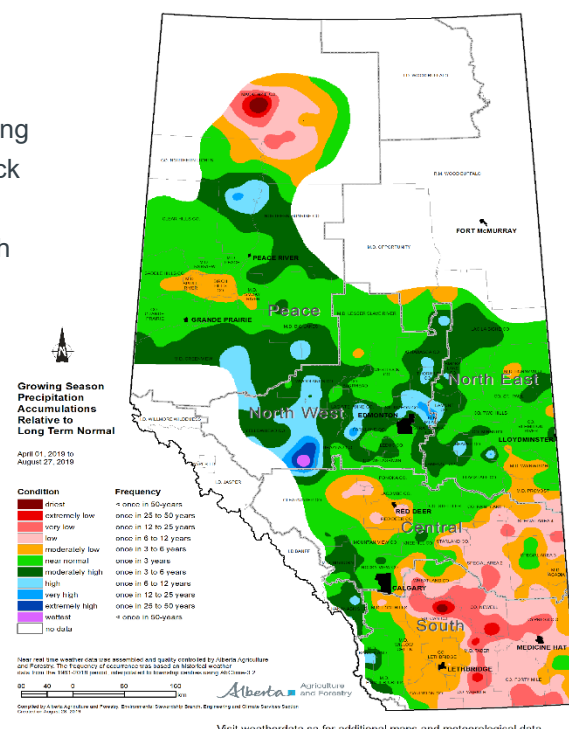
	Estimated Yield (bushel/acre)					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat	34.5	57.2	54.0	53.6	47.7	49.8
Durum Wheat	26.8	32.2	---	---	---	27.5
Barley	46.1	83.9	81.5	60.6	60.1	68.6
Canola	30.3	47.6	44.4	38.7	37.8	40.8
Dry Peas	28.6	45.0	44.2	39.1	43.2	38.2
<b>5-year Yield Index</b>	<b>86.8%</b>	<b>117.9%</b>	<b>113.2%</b>	<b>90.1%</b>	<b>111.3%</b>	<b>104.9%</b>
<b>10-year Yield Index</b>	<b>81.2%</b>	<b>121.3%</b>	<b>119.3%</b>	<b>91.7%</b>	<b>115.3%</b>	<b>106.3%</b>

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

The variable weather experienced across the province has producers hoping the unwelcomed frost holds off and the wet fields see some drying. The lack of and the abundance of moisture in areas has been hampering crop and hay operations (See the Map). Producers in some areas are struggling with first cut and others are uncertain if a second cut will be had. Hay ratings of poor for the province are at 10 per cent, fair at 29, good at 47 and 14 per cent rated as excellent. Current pasture poor ratings are at 17, fair at 33, good at 38 and 12 per cent rated as excellent.

Surface soil moisture rated as poor is at 8 per cent, 23 fair, 45 good, 19 excellent with 5 rated as excessive. Subsurface soil moisture rated as poor is at 9, 24 fair, 41 good, 24 excellent followed by 2 per cent rated as excessive.

## 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)

- Dryland crop ratings of 50 per cent good and excellent are below the provincial average of 67 and slightly lower than the regions 5-year average of 52 per cent. Sugar beets are 83 per cent rated as good and excellent, potatoes are at 92 followed by dry beans at 63 per cent.
- Dryland harvest progress is 24 per cent combined and 8 swathed.
- Anticipated dryland yields for major crops are below the provincial average.
- Irrigated yield estimates for spring wheat, durum and barley are all above the 5-year average while canola and sugar beets are a couple of points below. Peas, flax, potatoes, beans and mustard are in line with their 5-year average while chickpeas are 8 points behind.
- Currently 28 per cent of pastures are rated poor, 37 rated fair, and 35 per cent rated good and excellent.
- Hay poor ratings are now at 18, fair 39, with 43 per cent rated as good and excellent.
- Surface soil moisture rated as poor/fair is 63 with subsurface soil moisture rated at 70 per cent poor/fair.

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

- Dryland crop ratings of 85 per cent good and excellent exceed the provincial average of 67 and are 28 points above the regions 5-year average of 57 per cent as well as 20 points ahead of the 10-year average of 65.
- Dryland harvest progress is currently 3 per cent combined with no swathing as of yet.
- Anticipated dryland yields for major crops exceed both the provincial average and 5-year average.
- Irrigated spring wheat yields are reported at 2 points below the provincial average and at par with the 5-year average.
- Currently 19 per cent of pastures are rated poor, 42 fair and 39 rated as good.
- Hay ratings are now at 14 poor, 28 fair, with 58 per cent rated as good and excellent.
- Surface soil moisture rated as good/excellent is at 75 per cent with subsurface soil moisture rated at 70 per cent good/excellent.

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

- Dryland crop ratings of 81 per cent good and excellent are above the provincial average of 67 as well as both the 5-year average of 71 per cent and the 10-year average of 69 per cent for this region.
- Dryland harvest progress is at 3 per cent combined with practically nothing swathed.
- Anticipated yields for major crops surpass the provincial 5-year and the 10-year averages.
- Currently 2 per cent of pastures are rated poor, 14 fair, 46 rated as good with 38 as excellent.
- Hay ratings are now at 5 poor, 21 fair, with 74 per cent rated as good and excellent.
- Surface soil moisture rated as good/excellent is 87 per cent with 9 per cent reported as excessive. Subsurface soil moisture rated at 96 per cent good/excellent and 2 per cent excessive.

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

- Dryland crop ratings of 44 per cent good and excellent are below both the provincial average of 67 and fall 16 points behind the region's 5-year average of 60 per cent. There is also a decline of 19 points below the 10-year average for good and excellent condition ratings of 63 per cent.
- Harvest has yet to begin. Producers are concerned that access to wet fields will remain limited.
- Anticipated yields for spring wheat are above the provincial 5 and 10-year average. Barley is 8 points below the provincial average, and 5 points below both the 5 and 10-year averages. Canola and pea numbers are similar to the provincial 5-year and 10-year averages.
- Currently there are no reports of pastures rated as poor, fair ratings are 14, with 42 per cent rated as good and excellent rated as 45.
- There are no reports of poor hay, fair ratings are 15, with 65 per cent rated as good, and 20 as excellent.
- Surface soil moisture rated as good is 13 per cent, excellent 54 and excessive estimated at 32 per cent. Subsurface soil moisture rated at 14 per cent good, 75 excellent and 10 per cent excessive.

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

- Dryland crop ratings of 65 per cent good and excellent are above the provincial average of 67 and the 5-year average of 58 per cent.
- Harvest has yet to commence for this reporting period.
- Anticipated yields for spring wheat are below the provincial average and above the 5 and 10-year by 10 points. Barley is below all averages, canola is below the provincial and 5-year, but in line with the 10-year. Peas are comparable to all averages listed.
- Currently 7 per cent of pastures are rated poor, 38 fair, 46 rated as good and 9 per cent excellent.
- Hay poor ratings are now at 7 poor, 41 fair, with 52 per cent rated as good and excellent.
- Surface soil moisture rated as good/excellent is 73 with subsurface soil moisture rated at 76 per cent good/excellent.

## **Contacts**

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