

Alberta Crop Report



Crop Conditions as of December 3 – Final Report for 2019

This crop year has been complicated by many and varied weather events in Alberta. While the south and eastern areas experienced a lack of rainfall, the opposite was true for much of the rest of the province who battled too much moisture. The fall season saw cold temperatures, untimely snow and excess moisture resulting in much frustration for producers. Harvest operations started then halted numerous times and many areas were taking off tough and damp grain just to get it off the field. As a result, increased time and input costs for drying grain, moving grain from bin to bin or piling it on the ground is common along the foothills and northern areas of the province.

The cycle of cold then warm continued since the previous report on November 12, bringing moisture with each temperature change culminating in minimal progress on fall harvest operations. South, Central, North East and North West regions progress is less than 1 per cent in the last three weeks, while Peace moved up nearly 3 per cent. Unharvested crop varies widely across the areas with South having 2 per cent remaining, Central and North West both have approximately 7 per cent still out, North East has 13 per cent left with Peace lagging at 32 per cent of acres yet to be combined (see Table). Provincially there is an estimated 10 per cent of all crops that will be out until spring, unless a weather window opens up at some point, and this volume matches the last crop report from 2016.

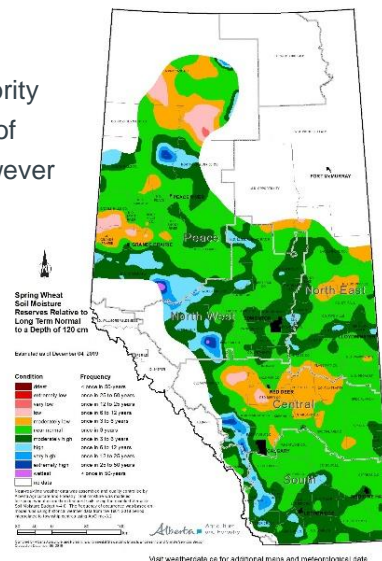
The remaining crops are now snow covered with reports of standing crops lying flat which creates considerable challenges to pick up. Swaths are in somewhat better shape, but either way producers will face losses to both yield and quality and cleaning up the acres left out in the spring will be no small task.

Table: Estimates of Harvest Progress as of December 3, 2019

	% Combined					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat*	97.5%	92.0%	90.0%	95.5%	65.3%	89.8%
Durum Wheat	99.3%	99.6%	---	---	---	99.3%
Winter Wheat	100%	100%	100%	---	---	100%
Barley*	98.6%	94.5%	92.3%	93.6%	56.1%	93.1%
Oats*	97.5%	92.3%	82.9%	93.7%	63.8%	85.3%
Fall Rye	100%	100%	100%	---	---	100%
Triticale	100%	99.8%	---	---	---	99.8%
Mixed Grain	99.0%	95.9%	---	---	---	96.0%
Mustard	98.9%	100%	---	---	---	99.3%
Canola*	95.3%	91.0%	81.7%	91.6%	66.4%	84.5%
Dry Peas*	100%	96.1%	98.7%	99.5%	88.2%	96.7%
Lentils	100%	100%	---	---	---	100%
Chickpeas	100%	100%	---	---	---	100%
Flax	99.1%	73.8%	99.0%	---	---	92.7%
Potatoes	88.7%	100%	---	98.0%	---	89.8%
All Crops this week	97.6%	92.9%	86.9%	93.1%	67.7%	89.6%
Major Crops* this week	97.5%	92.6%	87.1%	93.7%	68.0%	88.8%
All Crops Nov. 29, 2016	100%	93.2%	81.0%	82.4%	84.6%	89.7%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

One positive of the moisture amounts challenging producers during harvest is the sub-soil moisture reserves are currently near normal for the vast majority of Alberta, which will be available for spring seeding (see light green areas of Map). The areas represented in yellow on the map are moderately low, however some of these areas are currently under snow. The most current long-term winter weather predictions are for normal precipitation throughout most of Alberta with a swath across the upper north east with potentials for above normal precipitation. As for temperatures, the eastern half and lower south of Alberta may be above normal with the western side experiencing normal temperatures (as per Environment and Climate Change Canada winter forecast December 2019 – February 2020).



Regional Assessments:

- The **South Region** has seen very little change since three weeks ago in terms of harvest progress. A few acres were cleaned up in a short weather break the third week of November leaving 1 per cent of all crops standing and 1 per cent in the swath. Dry Beans are 97 per cent harvested and sugar beets only 56 per cent harvested. Acres left out for beans, beets and potatoes will not now be harvested, and some producers may put cattle in to graze the poor yielding unharvested crops this winter.
- **Central Region** harvest progress also saw minimal change from the last report on November 12. There are still scattered fields left unharvested, majority of these being west of highway 2. Approximately 3 per cent of acres are standing and 4 per cent in the swath. Producers may try to combine in the spring or those with livestock may choose to use those acres for feed.
- Harvest progress in the **North East Region** was unchanged from the last report and there are many areas with unharvested acres under a snow cover. Estimates show 3 per cent of crop is still standing and 10 per cent remains in the swath.
- The **North West Region** harvest activity was unchanged in the last three weeks given that acres left out are all under snow and ice. Approximately 3 per cent of crop is standing while an additional 4 per cent is swathed. Producers have been keeping very busy drying grain wherever a dryer is available.
- **Peace Region** crops did see a minor increase in harvested numbers over three weeks ago as some areas saw a few days where the weather was nice enough to get the equipment moving. This region has the most unharvested acres with estimates of 20 per cent standing and 12 per cent still in the swath. The majority of acres left out were very wet and are now quite frozen and snow covered, with the ground underneath saturated.

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