

## Moisture Situation Update – June 3, 2013

### Synopsis:

Late last week a large area stretching from the Cypress Hills all the way up to the central parts of the Peace Region saw appreciable amounts of precipitation, with accumulations ranging from 10 to 60 mm. The greatest accumulations were recorded in the extreme southern parts of the province, along the Milk River Ridge. Since May 1, generally this same large area has seen between 40 to 200 mm of precipitation with the greatest amounts (>180 mm) recorded in the mountains and foothills, southwest of Calgary and west of Olds.

### Forecast from ESRD's fire weather section

- Starting Wednesday, a weak upper low is expected to develop over the northern parts of the province bringing 5-15 mm of precipitation, in the form of widely scattered showers, generally north of the Yellowhead Highway, extending to the northern extremes of the province. On Friday a second system (weak trough) will bring further showers to the southern portions of the province. Looking out over the next week to 10-days, expect conditions to be generally wet; however, significant excessive accumulations are currently not expected. At this time, there appears to be no evidence of a significant drying trend developing in the next 10-days or so.

### 4-day precipitation accumulations May 30 to June 3 2013 -11:00 hrs--see map

- The majority of the precipitation received over the past 4 and a half days fell south of Red Deer and along the foothills as far north as Grande Cache. Many areas received well over 40 mm with several locations between Medicine Hat and Calgary recording over 50 mm.
- The greatest accumulations were recorded along the Milk River, with some stations reporting upwards of 60 mm.

### Precipitation accumulations since May 1, as of June 3 2013 -11:00 hrs --see map

- Cool and dry conditions prevailed throughout most of April; however, the arrival of May marked an abrupt turnaround for most of the province.
- Since the beginning of May, many areas along the foothills, across a large area extending south of the Yellowhead Highway and north of Pincher Creek have seen well over 120 mm.
- In comparison, relatively dry conditions have prevailed through the northeast, Lloydminster to Cold Lake (10-20mm), and through much of the northern parts of the Peace Country (20-40 mm), and as well in some areas north of Medicine Hat along the Alberta/Saskatchewan border (10 to 40 mm).

### Perspective

- Although some areas remain relatively dry, there is still ample time to receive much needed precipitation following this spring's seeding. Hopefully, some of the rain predicted to arrive this Wednesday will fall across these areas.
- Areas that have been wet have apparently not experienced severe, wide spread flooding and this moisture will be valuable if hot and dry conditions begin to develop over the next month or so.

### Interesting facts

- Since the beginning of May three stations recorded just over 200 mm of precipitation. These were located in the mountains and foothills, west of the Town of High River.
- Since the beginning of May four stations have reported less than 10 mm of precipitation, three of these are located in the forested areas in the extreme north, and one at Dewberry, about 50 km northwest of Lloydminster.

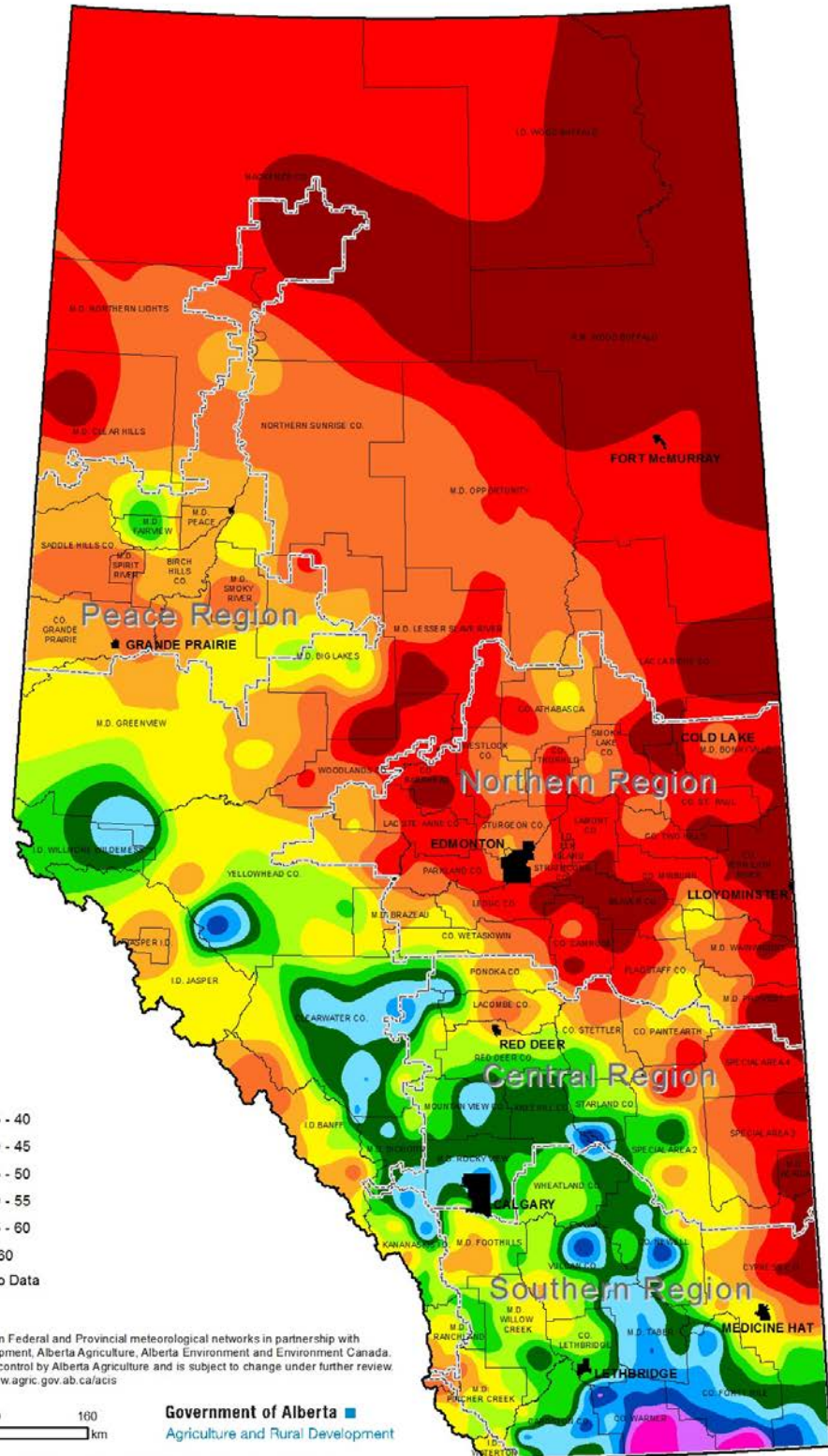
**Additional Maps** can be found at [www.agriculture.alberta.ca/maps](http://www.agriculture.alberta.ca/maps)

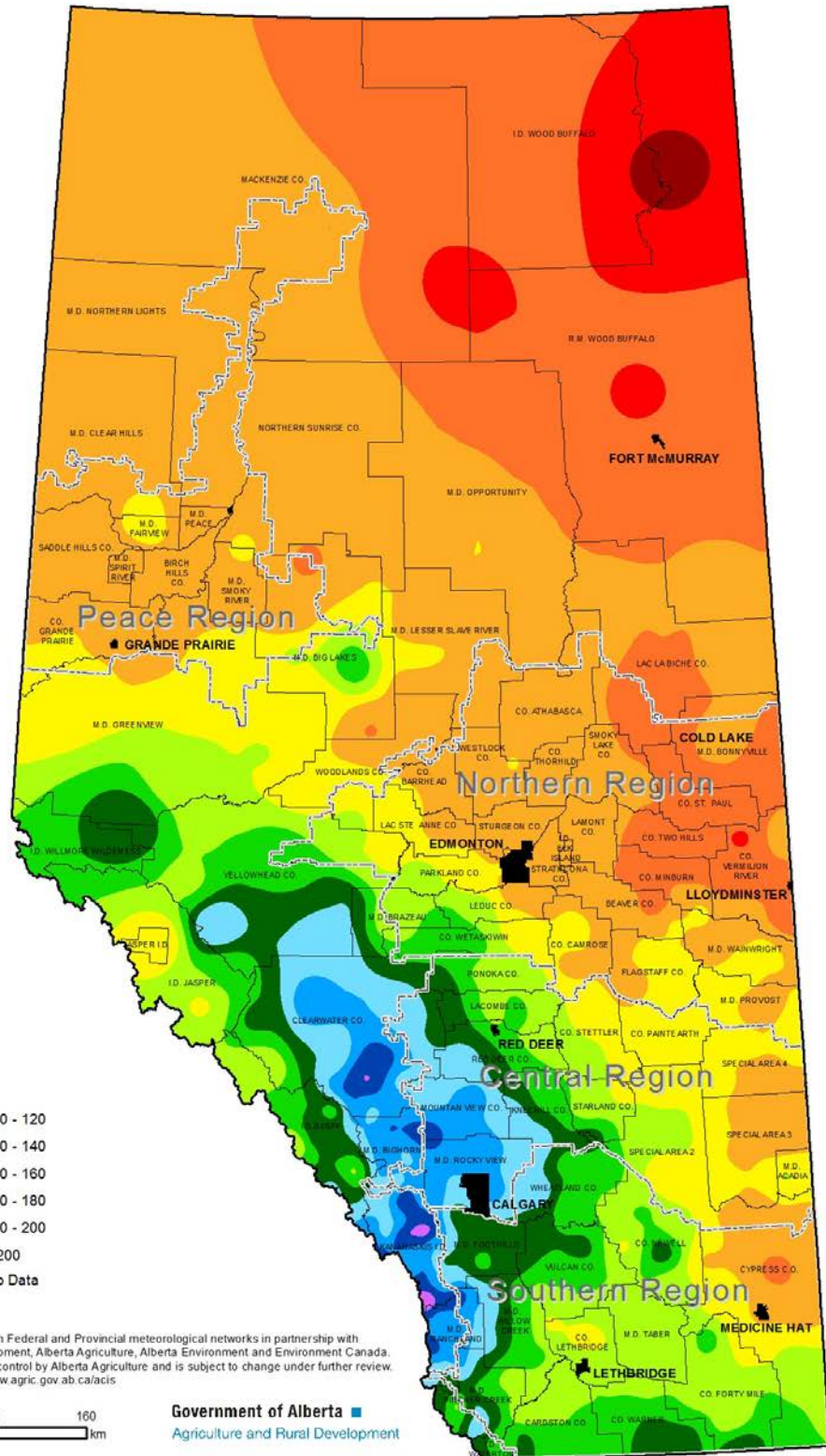
**Near-real-time hourly station** data can be viewed/downloaded at [www.agriculture.alberta.ca/stations](http://www.agriculture.alberta.ca/stations)

Note: Data has about a two hour lag and is displayed in MST (add one hour for daylight savings time)

### Ralph Wright

Agrometeorology Applications and Modelling Section, ARD





**Precipitation Received During the Past 33.46-days**

May 01, 2013 to June 03, 2013 aprox. 1100 hrs

**Precipitation (mm)**

0 - 5	100 - 120
5 - 10	120 - 140
10 - 20	140 - 160
20 - 40	160 - 180
40 - 60	180 - 200
60 - 80	> 200
80 - 100	No Data

Near-real-time data was collected from Federal and Provincial meteorological networks in partnership with Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, Alberta Agriculture, Alberta Environment and Environment Canada. Data has passed preliminary quality control by Alberta Agriculture and is subject to change under further review. Live station data can be viewed at [www.agric.gov.ab.ca/cis](http://www.agric.gov.ab.ca/cis)



Government of Alberta  
Agriculture and Rural Development