

## Moisture Situation Update – June 26, 2013

### Synopsis:

Since late May 2013, above normal precipitation has continued to fall across much of Alberta, with the most notable event being the severe flooding through the High River-Calgary region. Since late May some high mountain stations west of Okotoks have recorded upwards of 500 mm of precipitation.

Currently, a large system is situated over the southern parts of the Peace Region with some areas expected to receive up to 100 mm of rain. As of June 25, 2013 7:00 am, Environment and Sustainable resource Development (ESRD) issued a high stream flow advisory for the Smoky River and its tributaries upstream of Watino. See <http://www.environment.alberta.ca/forecasting/advisories/130625a.pdf>

With the exception of the recent severe flooding, most of the agricultural areas in the province are benefiting from regular, above average rains. Growing season precipitation received to date is at least near normal across most of the province, with the exception of a few dryer than normal areas north of the Yellowhead Highway.

**Forecast from Environment Canada: Rainfall warning for Peace River-Fairveiw-High Prairie-Manning as of 10:25 MDT Wednesday June 26, 2013:** “Heavy rain continues today. A trough of low pressure continues to bring significant rainfall to areas around Peace River and portions of the Slave Lake and Wabasca regions. Some locations have received over 40 millimeters of rain since last evening. Total amounts of 50 to 75 millimeters of rain is expected with this system, however, local amounts could reach 100 millimeters. Rain will end this evening in the Slave Lake region. In the Red Earth and Peace River regions, most rain will fall today with showers persisting into Friday.” As this system moves off on Friday, most of the province is expected to clear as a high pressure system begins to build. By Tuesday July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 30 C plus weather is forecast for much of the province from High Level to Medicine Hat.

### 36-day precipitation accumulations May 21 to June 26, 2013 -11:00 hrs–see map

Starting on or about May 22, unusually wet weather moved into the province bringing rain to all areas. Since that time, the hardest hit areas can be found along the foothills between Edson and Calgary, with many stations reporting well over 400 mm of precipitation.

Most of the agricultural areas have received over 90 mm of precipitation which is ample moisture to sustain good crop growth. Areas in and around Cold Lake, the northern Peace Region and in the County of Woodlands remain relatively dry, with only 40 to 60 mm being recorded; however, this is still adequate moisture to sustain crop growth.

### Growing Season Precipitation Relative to Long Term Normal April 1 to June 25, 2013 - see map

Most of Alberta’s agricultural areas have seen at least near normal precipitation accumulations over the growing season. Still some areas remain relatively dry with 1 in 6 year lows found the St. Paul area and two small pockets of one in 12-year lows north and north east of Whitecourt.

### Interesting facts

During the period, of May 21 to June 24<sup>th</sup>, the greatest amounts of precipitation were recorded at Little Elbow summit (517 mm) followed by Burns Creek (495 mm) and Forget me Not Mountain (474 mm), all located west of Okotoks and all above 1500 meters in elevation.

- Between June 18<sup>th</sup> and June 21, Bruns Creek station recorded 358 mm with 213 mm falling over a 15 hour period spanning June 19 1900 to June 20 0900 MST.

Data is raw and preliminary in nature and subject to further review. Additional maps can be found at [www.agriculture.alberta.ca/maps](http://www.agriculture.alberta.ca/maps)

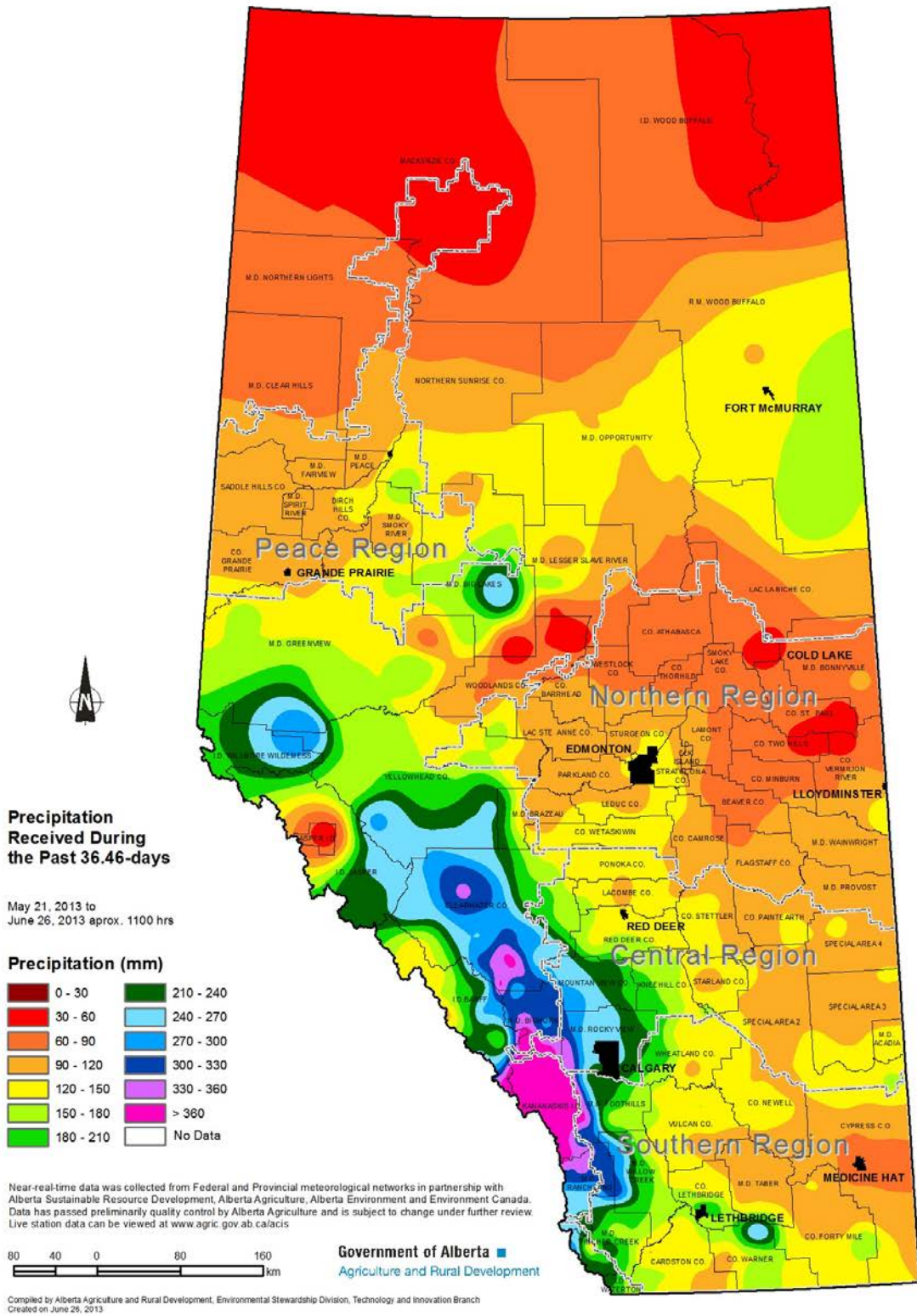
**Near-real-time hourly station** data can be viewed/downloaded at [www.agriculture.alberta.ca/stations](http://www.agriculture.alberta.ca/stations)

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

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