

# Alberta Crop Report



## Crop Conditions as of September 1, 2020 (Abbreviated)

Favourable weather conditions were prevalent across the province this past week with nominal amounts of moisture in the predominant growing areas (Map – yellow to pink areas received 10 mm or less of precipitation, light greens between 10 and 20 mm). This enabled harvest operations to progress across the province with the estimate of crops in the bin now at 10 per cent, four points above last week (Table 1). The warmer, drier weather extended into many parts of the North West, North East and Peace regions, advancing crop maturity and producers are desiccating, swathing canola and barley, and combining peas. Field pea harvest is now 55 per cent complete, with South region at 90 per cent, Central at 61 per cent, North East at 38 per cent and North West and Peace following at 16 and 17 per cent respectively. Crops are estimated at nine per cent swathed in Alberta as compared to the five-year average of 13 per cent, with barley on par the five-year average of nine per cent and canola at 16 per cent compared to the five-year average of 23 per cent.

**Table 1: Harvest Progress (Major Crops) as of September 1, 2020**

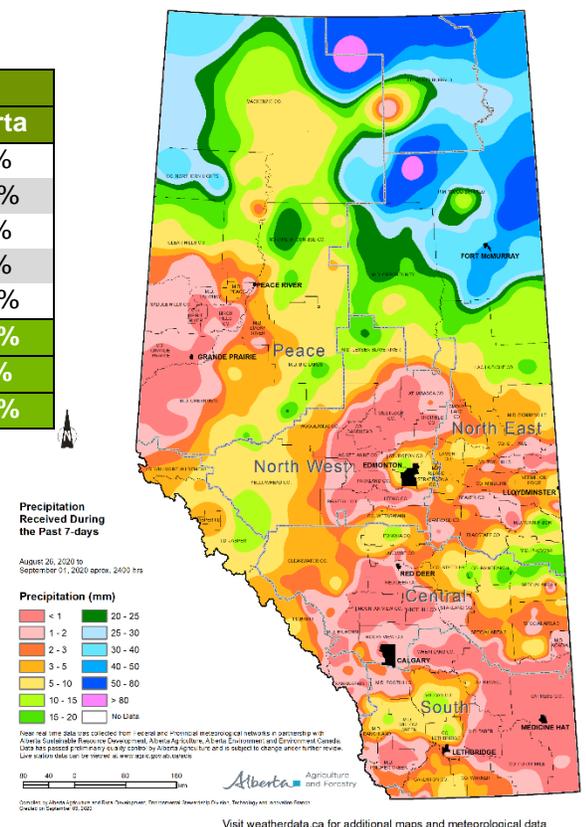
	Per cent of Crops Combined					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat	23.4%	3.2%	0.6%	---	3.1%	7.0%
Barley	30.8%	8.2%	0.7%	5.5%	2.0%	13.2%
Oats	39.3%	3.3%	---	---	0.2%	3.6%
Canola	4.1%	0.5%	---	---	---	0.8%
Dry Peas	90.4%	60.8%	38.0%	15.5%	16.9%	54.9%
<b>Major Crops</b>	<b>29.1%</b>	<b>8.0%</b>	<b>4.9%</b>	<b>7.5%</b>	<b>6.0%</b>	<b>10.3%</b>
Last Year	28.7%	3.2%	1.0%	0.1%	1.2%	8.0%
5-Year Average	33.4%	7.6%	4.4%	3.7%	6.8%	12.5%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

**Table 2: Regional Pasture Conditions as of September 1, 2020**

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
South	4.6%	47.8%	43.8%	3.9%
Central	12.5%	10.0%	66.9%	10.6%
North East	1.7%	10.2%	63.7%	24.4%
North West	---	1.0%	34.8%	64.2%
Peace	2.1%	25.5%	65.6%	6.7%
<b>Alberta</b>	<b>5.7%</b>	<b>24.6%</b>	<b>54.7%</b>	<b>14.9%</b>
5-year Average	29.5%	29.9%	32.7%	7.9%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey



Pasture and hay condition ratings are showing a minor regression from good and excellent ratings to slightly increased fair and poor ratings compared to last week. Pasture is rated as 55 per cent good and 15 per cent excellent, still well above the five-year average of 33 and eight per cent respectively (Table 2). Tame hay ratings follow pasture, and show 57 per cent good with 21 per cent excellent, as compared to the five-year average of 37 and nine per cent respectively. Prolonged periods of little moisture in the South region and counties in the southwestern portion of Central region has resulted in higher poor and fair ratings as vegetation browns off and second cut hay potential is greatly reduced.

Soil moisture conditions have also changed slightly over last week with surface soil moisture currently reported at five per cent excessive, 24 per cent excellent and 43 per cent good relative to last week's numbers of six, 29 and 41 per cent respectively. Sub-surface soil moisture excessive rating improved one point from last week and is now at five per cent, excellent ratings are at 28 per cent compared to last week's 33, with good ratings currently at 45 percent compared to 44 per cent last week. Current pasture and hay ratings are significantly better than the five-year averages for the province.

## Regional Assessments:

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

- Harvest progress for major crops is 29 per cent combined, which is four points below the five-year average of 33 per cent. Swathed crops are now 13 per cent, which is only one point below the five-year average of 14 per cent.
- Canola harvest progress is four per cent combined and 17 per cent swathed. Spring wheat is 23 per cent combined and 10 per cent swathed. Barley estimates are 31 per cent combined and 12 per cent swathed. Combined oats are 39 per cent with 19 per cent swathed. Dry peas are 90 per cent combined with nothing swathed.
- The main potato harvest will start this week. The early sugar beet harvest is scheduled to start September 4. The processing pea harvest is complete and processing corn harvest started last weekend.
- Pasture ratings are now four per cent poor, 48 per cent fair, 44 per cent good, with four per cent excellent.
- Hay ratings are now eight per cent poor, 43 per cent fair, 45 per cent good, with four per cent excellent.
- Surface soil moisture rated as poor/fair is 62 per cent with sub-surface moisture rated at 53 per cent poor/fair.

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

- Harvest progress for major crops is eight per cent combined, which is on the five-year average. Swathed crops are now eight per cent, which is only two points below the five-year average of 10 per cent.
- Canola harvest progress is one per cent combined and 13 per cent swathed. Spring wheat is three per cent combined and three per cent swathed. Barley estimates are eight per cent combined and 13 per cent swathed. Combined oats are three per cent with five per cent swathed. Dry peas are 61 per cent combined and one per cent swathed.
- Pasture ratings are now 12 per cent poor, 10 per cent fair, 67 per cent good, with 11 per cent excellent.
- Hay ratings are now 10 per cent poor, seven per cent fair, 70 per cent good, and 13 per cent excellent.
- Surface soil moisture rated as good/excellent is 79 per cent with sub-surface moisture rated at 86 per cent.

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

- Harvest progress for major crops is five per cent combined, which is one point above the five-year average of four per cent. Swathed crops are now six per cent, which is eight points below the five-year average of 14 per cent.
- Canola harvest has yet to begin with 10 per cent swathed. Spring wheat is one per cent combined and two per cent swathed. Barley estimates are one per cent combined and four per cent swathed. Oats have has yet to begin with one per cent swathed. Dry peas are 38 per cent combined with nothing swathed.
- Pasture ratings are now two per cent poor, 10 per cent fair, 64 per cent good, with 24 per cent excellent.
- Hay ratings are now two per cent poor, 11 per cent fair, 70 per cent good, and 17 per cent excellent.
- Surface soil moisture rated as good/excellent is 90 per cent with five per cent excessive, and sub-surface moisture rated at 93 per cent good/excellent and five per cent excessive.

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

- Harvest progress for major crops is eight per cent combined, which is four points above the five-year average of four per cent. Swathed crops are now 11 per cent, which is four points above the five-year average of seven per cent.
- Canola harvest has yet to begin with 16 per cent swathed. Spring wheat swathing and harvest has yet to begin. Barley estimates are six per cent combined and less than one per cent swathed. Oat swathing and harvest has yet to begin. Dry peas are 16 per cent combined with nothing swathed.

- Pasture ratings are now one per cent fair, 35 per cent good, with 64 per cent excellent.
- Hay ratings are now 32 per cent good, and 68 per cent excellent.
- Surface soil moisture rated as good/excellent is 69 per cent with 31 per cent excessive, and sub-surface moisture rated at 64 per cent good/excellent and 36 per cent excessive.

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

- Harvest progress for major crops is six per cent combined, which is only one point below the five-year average of seven per cent. Swathed crops are now 16 per cent, which is one point above the five-year average of 15 per cent.
- Canola harvest has yet to begin with 28 per cent swathed. Spring wheat is three per cent combined and three per cent swathed. Barley estimates are two per cent combined and two per cent swathed. Combined oats are less than one per cent with two per cent swathed. Dry peas are 17 per cent combined with nothing swathed.
- Pasture ratings are now two per cent poor, 25 per cent fair, 66 per cent good, with seven per cent excellent.
- Hay ratings are now seven per cent poor, 22 per cent fair, 64 per cent good, and seven per cent excellent.
- Surface soil moisture rated as good/excellent is 87 per cent with three per cent excessive, and sub-surface moisture rated at 96 per cent good/excellent and one per cent excessive.

## Contacts

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

**September 4, 2020**

Jackie Sanden – Product Coordinator  
Ken Handford – Product Development Analyst  
Email: [MediaInquiry@afsc.ca](mailto:MediaInquiry@afsc.ca)

Note to Users: The contents of this document may not be used or reproduced without properly accrediting AFSC and Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Economics and Competitiveness Branch, Statistics and Data Development Section