

Alberta Crop Report



Crop Conditions as of September 29, 2020 (Abbreviated)

Warm, dry weather last week allowed Alberta producers to make considerable harvest progress. Provincially, producers were able to harvest a further 23 per cent of the crops, bringing the total progress to 68 per cent complete, 22 per cent ahead of the previous five-year average (see Table 1). Regionally, all areas made considerable progress ranging from 31 per cent harvested in the North East, 26 per cent in the Central, 24 per cent in the North West, 17 per cent in the Peace, and to 15 per cent in the South. This puts harvest in all regions well ahead of the previous five-year average. In addition to the crop in the bin, 29 per cent of the canola crop is in the swath, 16 per cent of oats, seven per cent of spring wheat and barley. The remaining dry pea crop has not been swathed at this time.

Table 1: Harvest Progress (Major Crops) as of September 29, 2020

	Per cent of Crops Combined					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat	89.3%	74.8%	71.9%	56.3%	42.3%	71.4%
Barley	97.2%	81.7%	80.0%	63.0%	44.3%	81.8%
Oats	91.6%	68.5%	53.5%	32.2%	36.8%	50.4%
Canola	83.4%	54.4%	53.5%	41.8%	31.3%	53.3%
Dry Peas	99.9%	98.1%	99.8%	97.7%	83.2%	96.0%
Major Crops	90.4%	70.6%	65.6%	52.2%	42.6%	68.4%
Last Week	75.2%	44.8%	34.8%	28.7%	25.5%	45.1%
Last Year	78.9%	23.8%	18.3%	18.5%	16.0%	33.7%
5-Year Average	81.4%	41.6%	33.3%	26.6%	35.7%	46.5%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

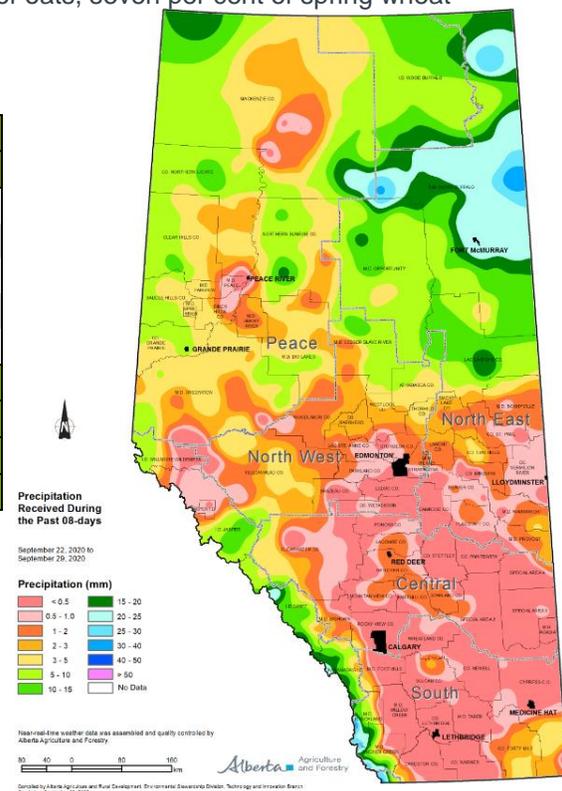
Warm, dry weather with little precipitation was the norm in most of the province last week with most areas receiving 1.0 mm or less (pink shading on Map). The Peace region was the exception where some areas received up to 15 mm of rain (green shading). The current forecast is calling for dry conditions to continue well into next week.

The lack of precipitation resulted in the deterioration of both surface soil (Table 2) and sub-surface moisture ratings this week. While overall 61 per cent of soil moisture rated good/excellent, this is a three-point drop from last week. Likewise, sub-surface moisture rated 66 per cent good/excellent, a one-point drop.

Table 2: Surface Soil Moisture Ratings as of September 29, 2020

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Excessive
South	39.8%	34.8%	24.4%	1.0%	---
Central	6.4%	13.8%	76.8%	3.0%	---
North East	0.9%	20.5%	50.3%	26.2%	2.1%
North West	---	9.7%	4.4%	74.2%	11.8%
Peace	2.4%	17.4%	53.4%	25.4%	1.3%
Alberta	15.1%	22.0%	43.9%	17.1%	1.8%
Last Week	14.8%	19.8%	43.1%	19.8%	2.6%
5-year Average	10.7%	19.8%	46.9%	20.7%	1.8%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey



Pasture conditions have deteriorated somewhat this last week, with reports of grass either going into dormancy or turning yellow due to lack of precipitation. In spite of the challenges, the overall pasture conditions remain strong for this time of year with 20 (26 per cent five-year average) per cent rated poor, 29 (31) per cent fair, 48 (39) per cent good, and three (four) per cent excellent.

Regional Assessments:

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

- With only a few scattered showers in a couple of counties, harvest progress moved 15 points over last week. Farmers are reported to have 90 per cent of major crops in the bin; well over the five- and 10-year averages of 81 and 78 per cent respectively. Peas are now done, barley is 97 per cent complete, followed by oats at 92, spring wheat at 89 and canola at 83 per cent harvested. Dry beans are now 92 per cent complete, with potatoes following closely at an estimated 88 per cent harvested.
- Surface soil moisture ratings are 40 per cent poor, 35 per cent fair, 24 good, with one per cent rated as excellent. Sub-surface soil moisture ratings are at 38 per cent poor, 31 per cent fair, 30 per cent good with one per cent rated as excellent. Overall, ratings have deteriorated somewhat from last week.
- Pastures are going dormant, and ratings are currently 33 per cent good or excellent.
- Fall-seeded crop ratings are 71 per cent good or excellent.

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

- Harvest progress rose an incredible 26 points over last week. Farmers are reported to have 71 per cent of major crops in the bin, significantly above the five- and 10-year averages of 42 and 49 per cent respectively. Peas are nearly done at 98 per cent complete, barley is 82 per cent, followed by spring wheat at 75, oats at 69 and canola at 54 per cent harvested. Combining of the acres west of Highway 2 are behind the eastern areas.
- Surface soil moisture ratings are six per cent poor, 14 per cent fair, 77 good, with three rated as excellent. Sub-surface soil moisture ratings are at seven per cent poor, nine per cent fair, 81 per cent good with three per cent rated as excellent. Overall, the excellent ratings declined slightly to increase good ratings.
- Pastures are going dormant and ratings are currently 71 per cent good or excellent. There are reports of some second-cut hay still being baled in the western counties.
- Fall-seeded crop ratings are 90 per cent good or excellent.

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

- Harvest progress rose a staggering 31 points over last week. Farmers are reported to have 66 per cent of major crops in the bin, significantly above the five- and 10-year averages of 33 and 48 per cent respectively. Peas are done, barley is 80 per cent complete, followed by spring wheat at 72, with oats and canola at 54 per cent harvested, and reports that crops are coming off dry.
- Surface soil moisture ratings are one per cent poor, 21 per cent fair, 50 per cent good, with 26 per cent rated as excellent and two per cent excessive. Sub-surface soil moisture ratings are at one per cent poor, nine per cent fair, 22 per cent good, 66 per cent rated as excellent, and two per cent excessive. Overall, ratings have deteriorated slightly from last week, but remain very positive.
- Pasture growth has stopped and ratings are currently 56 per cent good or excellent. Some producers are turning livestock out onto harvested fields.
- Fall-seeded crop ratings are 87 per cent good with zero rated as excellent.

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

- Warm and windy days have resulted in harvest progressing an amazing 24 points over last week and farmers are reported to have 52 per cent of major crops in the bin, well over the five- and 10-year averages of 27 and 41 per cent

respectively. Peas are nearly done at 98 per cent, barley is 63 per cent complete, followed by spring wheat at 56, canola at 42 and oats at 32 per cent harvested. There are still reports of some wheat coming off tough in the western counties of this region and yields are highly variable due to the drowned acres, which is also contributing the rapid progress of harvest.

- Surface soil moisture ratings are 10 per cent fair, four good, with 74 per cent rated as excellent and 12 per cent excessive. Sub-surface soil moisture ratings are at six per cent fair, six per cent good, 66 per cent rated as excellent, and 22 per cent excessive. Overall, there has been an improvement in the excessive ratings over last week.
- Pasture growth has stopped and ratings are currently 40 per cent good with zero excellent.
- Fall-seeded crop ratings are 72 per cent good with zero rated as excellent.

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

- Scattered and isolated showers across the region have hindered combining for a day or two, but harvest progress did move 17 points over last week. Farmers are reported to have 43 per cent of major crops in the bin, midway between the five- and 10-year averages of 36 and 52 per cent respectively. Peas are 83 per cent done, barley is 44 per cent complete, followed by spring wheat at 42, oats at 37 and canola at 31 per cent harvested.
- Surface soil moisture ratings are two per cent poor, 18 per cent fair, 53 per cent good, 26 per cent rated as excellent, and one per cent excessive. Sub-surface soil moisture ratings are at 23 per cent fair, 52 rated as good, 24 per cent rated as excellent, and one per cent excessive. Overall, there has been an improvement in the excessive ratings over last week.
- Pasture growth has stopped and ratings are currently 71 per cent good or excellent.

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