

Alberta Crop Report



Crop Conditions as of September 22, 2020

Weather conditions in Alberta have allowed harvest activities to move ahead at a strong pace this week. Last week's major crops in the bin was at 30 per cent, while it is now reported at 45 per cent with 48 per cent of all crops combined (Table 1). This is slightly ahead of both the five- and 10-year averages of 41 and 45 per cent respectively. Crops in the swath are currently at 21 per cent compared to the five- and 10-year average of 25 per cent.

Table 1: Regional Harvest Progress as of September 22, 2020

	Per cent Combined					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat*	70.6%	45.7%	35.0%	29.3%	20.4%	43.7%
Durum Wheat	82.9%	76.2%	---	---	---	82.0%
Barley*	93.0%	62.1%	52.8%	46.0%	26.4%	66.0%
Oats*	79.9%	35.9%	25.1%	17.1%	24.8%	29.1%
Winter Wheat	97.8%	100%	100%	---	---	98.0%
Mixed Grain	45.0%	17.7%	---	---	---	15.6%
Canola*	57.0%	20.7%	22.5%	15.1%	16.7%	26.1%
Dry Peas*	99.8%	94.5%	96.5%	93.7%	67.4%	91.2%
Lentils	96.1%	100%	---	---	---	96.6%
Chickpeas	70.4%	100%	---	---	---	71.4%
Mustard	59.4%	37.0%	---	---	---	52.0%
Flax	38.3%	6.7%	---	---	---	29.1%
Potatoes	75.0%	41.4%	---	75.0%	---	73.4%
All Crops	76.2%	45.8%	34.8%	28.8%	25.5%	47.9%
Major Crops (*)	75.2%	44.8%	34.8%	28.7%	25.5%	45.1%
All Crops Last Year	74.2%	22.2%	15.3%	11.1%	8.3%	32.6%
5-year Average	74.6%	33.3%	26.6%	18.9%	24.1%	40.8%
10-year Average	68.5%	36.8%	35.8%	26.1%	40.3%	45.0%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

The yield index remains well above the five- and 10-year averages; however, it has dropped four points from the last report on September 8 and is now at 112 per cent of the five-year average (Table 2). Central region index has stayed static, while the other four regions have experienced modest drops between four and seven per cent from two weeks ago.

Table 2: Dryland Yield Estimates (Major Crops) as of September 22, 2020

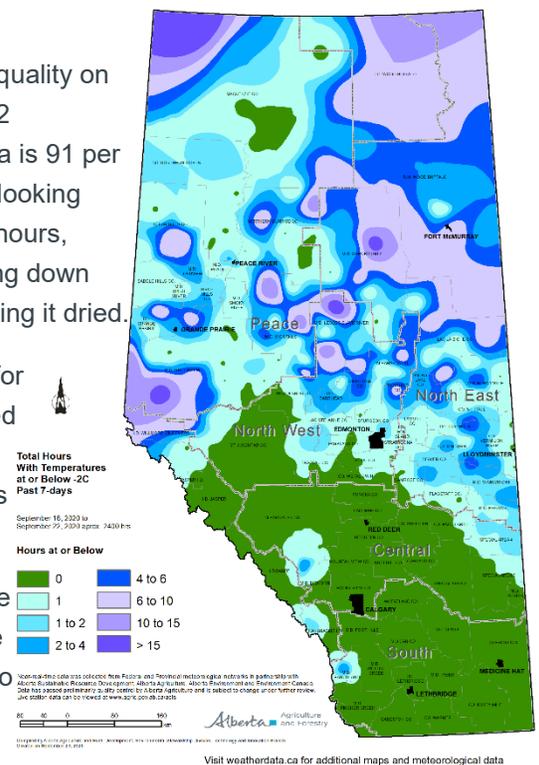
	Estimated Yield (bushel/acre)					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat	53.8	65.4	51.6	52.2	43.6	54.4
Barley	72.6	87.1	75.9	48.0	56.1	74.1
Oats	73.8	83.3	94.3	81.7	77.2	84.0
Canola	41.5	49.6	41.6	32.6	32.9	40.4
Dry Peas	50.2	46.8	42.4	32.0	28.9	42.3
5-Year Index	142.0%	118.6%	104.4%	80.5%	90.5%	112.2%
10-Year Index	127.0%	121.7%	105.6%	79.0%	96.4%	110.6%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

With almost half of the crop now harvested, grades on the major crops are high quality on a provincial average. Spring Wheat is 93 per cent at 1CW and 2CW, Barley at 42 per cent Malt and 51 per cent 1CW, Oats are 68 per cent 1CW and 2CW, Canola is 91 per cent 1CAN with peas being 85 per cent 1CAN and 2CAN. Durum Wheat is also looking excellent at 97 per cent 1CW and 2CW. The smoky conditions, shorter daylight hours, morning dew and scattered showers or rainfall are contributing to crops not drying down as desired in some areas. Producers are taking off tough or damp grain and having it dried.

Soil moisture ratings stayed static on the week at 63 per cent good or excellent for surface, with sub soil moisture at 67 per cent rated good or excellent. Fall-seeded crops are doing well at this time, with 78 per cent rated as good and seven per cent in excellent condition. Pasture is drying off in almost all areas, but continues to be rated high with 55 per cent rated good or excellent condition.

Frost activity was prevalent in the northern areas of Alberta this past week. While the southern areas (green shading on Map) did not experience killing frost, there were extended periods where temperatures dipped below -2C (paler blues one to two hours, darker blues and purple two hours and more).



Regional Assessments:

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

- In spite of cooler evenings and heavy dews reported this week, producers were able to combine an additional 14 per cent of their major crops from a week ago. Harvest of potatoes and dry beans is nearly 75 per cent completed while sugar beets are coming into their normal harvest time.
- The dryland yield index declined to 142 per cent, a seven-point drop from the previously reported index in the September 8 crop report. The reduction was a result of a three-to-four-bushel-per-acre decrease for canola, barley and oats. Irrigated yields for dry beans, potatoes and sugar beets are reported at 2,840 pounds per acre, 16.1 tons per acre, and 28.4 tonnes per acre respectively.
- Crop quality is above the provincial five-year averages for malt barley and the top two grades of hard red spring wheat, durum wheat, oats, and dry peas. About 91 per cent of canola graded 1CAN, slightly above the five-year average, while nine per cent graded 2CAN.
- Pasture growing conditions reported 26 per cent poor, 37 per cent fair, 33 per cent good and four per cent excellent.
- Surface soil moisture conditions (sub-surface shown in brackets) are rated as 39 (36) per cent poor, 34 (30) per cent fair, 26 (32) per cent good, one (two) per cent excellent, and none (none) reported as excessive.

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

- There was warm weather throughout most of the region this week that allowed for continued harvest progress. Only Special Areas 2 and 3 reported any harvest delays due to rain. Producers were able to combine an additional 16 per cent of their major crops from a week ago.
- The dryland yield index remains unchanged at 119 per cent from the previously reported index in the September 8 crop report. The index reflects the yield estimates for the major crops such as spring wheat, durum wheat, barley, and canola all remaining unchanged.
- Crop quality is above the provincial five-year averages for malt barley and the top two grades of hard red spring wheat, durum wheat, oats, and dry peas. About 87 per cent of canola graded 1CAN; lower than the five-year average, while seven per cent graded 2CAN.
- Pasture growing conditions reported 13 per cent poor, 15 per cent fair, 66 per cent good and six per cent excellent.
- Surface soil moisture conditions (sub-surface shown in brackets) are rated as six (six) per cent poor, 14 (nine) per cent fair, 68 (72) per cent good, 12 (13) per cent excellent, and none (none) reported as excessive.

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

- Recent weather has allowed producers to be able to combine an additional 17 per cent of their major crops from a week ago. There have been reports of the crops coming off tough or damp, which will require them to be dried.
- The dryland yield index declined to 104 per cent, a five-point drop from the previously reported index in the September 8 crop report. The index reflects the one-to-three-bushel-per-acre reduction for the major crops such as spring wheat, durum wheat, barley, and canola.
- Crop quality is below the provincial five-year average for malt barley and the top two grades of oats and dry peas, while the top two grades of hard red spring wheat are above the five-year average. 99 per cent of canola graded 1CAN, higher than the five-year average, while only one per cent graded 2CAN.
- Pasture growing conditions reported seven per cent poor, 31 per cent fair, 58 per cent good and four per cent excellent.
- Surface soil moisture conditions (sub-surface shown in brackets) are rated as one (two) per cent poor, 13 (six) per cent fair, 54 (21) per cent good, 29 (69) per cent excellent, and three (two) per cent reported as excessive.

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

- Heavy dews along with cloudy and smoke-filled days hindered harvest in most of the region over the past week. In spite of the challenges, producers were able to combine an additional 13 per cent of major crops from a week ago. There have been reports of crops, especially wheat, coming off tough or damp, which will require them to be dried.
- The dryland yield index declined to 81 per cent, a five-point drop from the previously reported index in the September 8 crop report. The index reflects the six-bushel-per-acre reduction in spring wheat yields.
- Crop quality is below the provincial five-year averages for malt barley and the top two grades of hard red spring wheat, oats, and dry peas. All of the canola graded 1CAN, above the five-year average.
- Pasture growing conditions reported 27 per cent poor, 32 per cent fair, 41 per cent good and none as excellent.
- Surface soil moisture conditions (sub-surface shown in brackets) none (none) reported poor soil conditions, six (six) per cent fair, eight (six) per cent good, 70 (65) per cent excellent, and 16 (23) per cent reported as excessive.

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

- Rain and showers, sometimes heavy, caused delays in some areas. In spite of the precipitation, producers were able to combine an additional 13 per cent of their major crops from a week ago. There were also reports of morning frosts throughout the region, with the lowest temperature being recorded in the M.D of Peace at -8°C.
- The dryland yield index declined to 91 per cent, a four-point drop from the previously reported index in the September 8 crop report. The index largely reflects the 10-bushel-per-acre reduction in the dry pea yields.
- Crop quality is above the provincial five-year averages for the top two grades of hard red spring wheat and oats, while the quality of malt barley and the top two grades of dry peas are below the five-year average. About 80 per cent of canola graded 1CAN; lower than the five-year average, while 16 per cent graded 2CAN.
- Pasture growing conditions reported nine per cent poor, 19 per cent fair, 70 per cent good and two per cent excellent.
- Surface soil moisture conditions (sub-surface shown in brackets) are rated as two (none) per cent poor, 16 (19) per cent fair, 52 (55) per cent good, 27 (23) per cent excellent, and three (three) per cent reported as excessive.

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