

Alberta Crop Report



Crop Conditions as of September 15, 2020 (Abbreviated Report)

Over the past week, the southern half of the province remained dry, receiving less than one mm of rain. Across the northern half of the province light showers provided up to 5 mm of precipitation throughout most parts of the North East, North West and Peace Regions, with the northern areas of the Peace receiving up to 15 mm (see the map). Harvest operations had been progressing in most parts of the province until the end of last week. Cold, cloudy weather then persisted for a few days across most of the province, resulting in high humidity and poor harvest conditions. These factors, along with heavy dews especially in the northern parts, have hampered harvesting progress over the past week. However, the forecast is promising for next week, with the exception of a disturbance that is forecast to move through the Peace Region and parts of the North East this coming weekend. Most producers should be able to advance harvest.

Despite less favorable harvest conditions over the past week, producers across the province were able to combine an additional 12 per cent of their major crops. Overall, about 30 per cent of major crops have now been harvested, on par with both the 5-year and 10-year averages (see Table 1), while 24 per cent are in swath. About 46 per cent of major crops remain standing, down 18 per cent from last week. When compared to the 5-year averages (2015-2019), harvest progress is on par in the Southern Region and ahead in the Central and North West Region, by three and two per cent respectively. Harvest progress is behind in the North East Region by one per cent and in the Peace by three per cent. Please note that the 5-year average includes three challenging harvest seasons in 2016, 2018 and 2019. Provincially, 82 per cent of dry peas, 47 per cent of barley, 27 per cent of spring wheat, 16 per cent of oats and 13 per cent of canola are now in the bin. Also, 47 per cent of canola, 15 per cent of barley, 12 per cent of spring wheat and 13 per cent of oats have been swathed.

Table 1: Estimates of Crop Harvest Progress as of September 15, 2020

	Per cent of Crops Combined					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat	54.9%	26.2%	15.5%	13.4%	11.8%	26.9%
Barley	82.1%	42.6%	22.0%	25.1%	7.8%	47.0%
Oats	70.2%	22.4%	11.0%	9.1%	5.1%	16.0%
Canola	34.3%	8.7%	9.9%	7.4%	3.9%	12.5%
Dry Peas	99.8%	86.6%	87.8%	71.9%	45.0%	82.0%
Major Crops, Sep 15	60.8%	28.8%	18.1%	15.7%	12.1%	30.0%
Major Crops, Sep 8	46.9%	15.1%	5.9%	8.7%	6.6%	18.4%
5-yr (2015-2019) Avg	61.0%	25.6%	19.1%	13.5%	15.0%	29.6%
10-yr (2010-2019) Avg	52.1%	24.8%	22.5%	15.9%	26.5%	30.0%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Pastures are still mostly green, especially in the northern parts of the province, but growth has slowed due to colder temperatures and shorter day length. Currently, pasture growing conditions are rated as 19 per cent poor, 24 per cent fair, 49 per cent good and eight per cent excellent (see Table 2). Similarly, tame hay growing conditions are reported as 15 per cent poor, 19 per cent fair, 51 per cent good and 15 per cent excellent.

Although changes in soil moisture level at this point in the season do not play a significant role in crop development, data indicates that soil moisture levels in all regions have declined over the past week, following the same trend as in

previous weeks. This is especially welcome in the northern half of the province, where producers have had challenges with excessive soil moisture during the season. Surface soil moisture is currently rated as 16 per cent poor, 18 per cent fair, 39 per cent good and 24 per cent excellent, with three per cent rated as excessive (see Table 3).

Table 2: Pasture Growing Conditions as of September 15, 2020

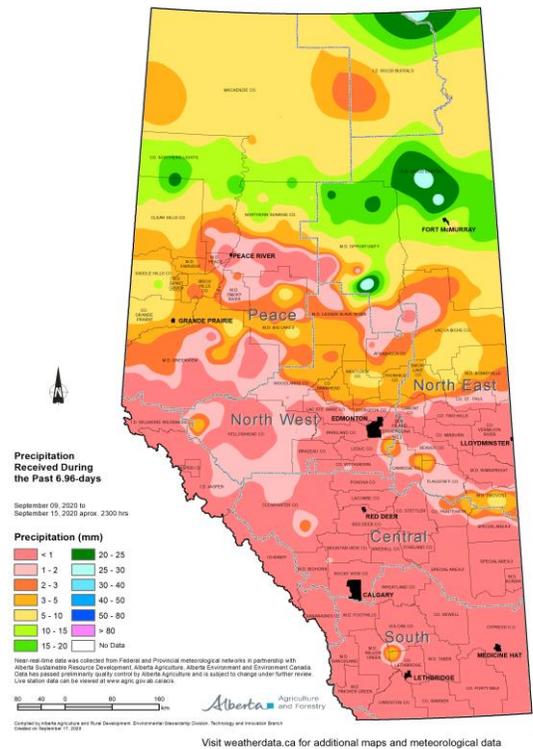
	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
South	33.0%	36.5%	28.6%	1.8%
Central	12.5%	10.5%	70.3%	6.8%
North East	6.9%	22.6%	67.2%	3.2%
North West	16.8%	18.0%	14.0%	51.3%
Peace	9.7%	16.7%	72.2%	1.4%
Alberta	19.3%	23.5%	49.3%	7.8%
5-yr (2015-2019) Avg	28.7%	31.9%	35.5%	3.9%
10-yr (2010-2019) Avg	25.0%	33.6%	37.3%	4.0%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Table 2: Surface Soil Moisture Ratings as of September 15, 2020

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Excessive
South	40.3%	32.9%	25.9%	0.8%	0.0%
Central	9.5%	16.8%	58.7%	15.0%	0.0%
North East	0.9%	7.5%	49.8%	37.5%	4.3%
North West	0.0%	0.2%	3.6%	78.0%	18.3%
Peace	1.3%	10.2%	52.5%	33.8%	2.2%
Alberta	16.0%	17.7%	39.5%	23.7%	3.1%
5-yr (2015-2019) Avg	16.6%	21.3%	41.9%	18.1%	2.1%
10-yr (2010-2019) Avg	14.6%	21.4%	44.4%	17.7%	1.9%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey



Regional Assessments:

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

- Although most areas in the region did not receive more than one mm of precipitation over the past week, harvest has been slowed by cool and damp conditions after rain the previous week. Harvest advanced an additional 14 per cent of major crops from a week ago. The hot temperatures in August changed the potential for a great crop year in some fields to an average one, particularly for wheat and canola, since moisture was limited to finish filling the heads.
- Regionally, 29 per cent of crops are still standing, 10 per cent are swathed and 61 per cent combined (on par with the 5-year average and nine per cent ahead of the 10-year average of 52 per cent).
- All dry peas, 55 per cent of spring wheat, 82 per cent of barley and 70 per cent of oats are in the bin. About 34 per cent of canola has now been combined and another 14 per cent swathed.
- Pasture growing conditions are reported as 33 per cent poor, 36 per cent fair, 29 per cent good and 2 per cent excellent.

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

- Conditions in the region remained dry and soil moisture levels continue to decline, although some areas had scattered showers. In some fields, crops are still green, and those are likely to be swathed and used for feed grain. Harvest progressed 14 per cent from a week ago.
- Regionally, 43 per cent of crops are still standing, 28 per cent swathed and 29 per cent combined (three and four per cent ahead of the 5-year and 10-year averages, respectively). About 87 per cent of dry peas, 26 per cent of spring wheat, 43 per cent of barley and 22 per cent of oats are now in the bin. Nearly nine per cent of canola has been harvested and another 52 per cent swathed.

- Pasture growing conditions are reported as 13 per cent poor, 10 per cent fair, 70 per cent good and 7 per cent excellent.

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

- Harvest in most areas was underway until cool, cloudy and damp weather slowed harvest operations. Fields in the northern parts of the region received 3-5 mm of precipitation. Some harvested grains need to be dried and yields are lower than what was expected earlier in the season. Producers over the past week harvested an additional 12 per cent of major crops.
- In this region, 48 per cent of crops are still standing, 34 per cent swathed and 18 per cent combined (one per cent behind the 5-year average of 19 per cent and four per cent behind the 10-year average of 22 per cent).
- About 88 per cent of dry peas, 16 per cent of spring wheat, 22 per cent of barley and 11 per cent of oats are now in the bin. Almost 10 per cent of canola has been combined and another 56 per cent is in swath.
- Pasture growing conditions are reported as 7 per cent poor, 23 per cent fair, 67 per cent good and 3 per cent excellent.

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

- Harvest was progressing early in the week before cooler conditions and light rain halted the operations, especially in the northern and western parts of the region which received about 5 mm of precipitation. Regionally, harvest advanced an additional seven per cent for major crops from a week ago. Some harvested cereals in tough condition need to be dried.
- In this region, 57 per cent of crops are still standing, 27 per cent swathed and 16 per cent combined (two per cent behind the 5-year average of 14 per cent and on par with the 10-year average).
- About 72 per cent of dry peas, 13 per cent of spring wheat, 25 per cent of barley and nine per cent of oats are now in the bin. About seven per cent of canola has been combined and another 54 per cent is in swath.
- Pasture growing conditions are reported as 17 per cent poor, 18 per cent fair, 14 per cent good and 51 per cent excellent.

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

- Over the past week, showers and cool weather have hindered harvest progress, but producers were able to combine an additional six per cent of their crops.
- Overall, 61 per cent of crops are still standing, 27 per cent swathed and 12 per cent combined (three per cent behind the 5-year average of 15 per cent and 14 per cent behind the 10-year average of 26 per cent).
- About 45 per cent of dry peas, 12 per cent of spring wheat, eight per cent of barley and five per cent of oats are now in the bin. Almost four per cent of canola has been harvested and 52 per cent is in swath.
- Pasture growing conditions are reported as 10 per cent poor, 17 per cent fair, 72 per cent good and 1 per cent excellent.

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