

Alberta Crop Report



Crop Conditions as of September 8, 2020

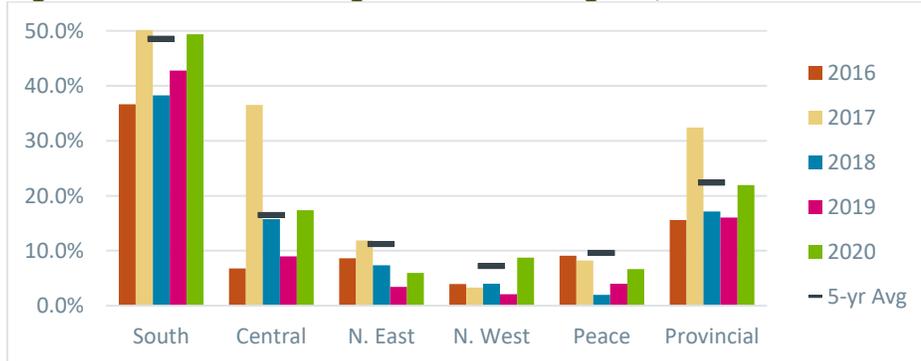
Over the month of August, generally dry conditions prevailed throughout most parts of the province. This was especially helpful in the western and northern parts of the province, where there was a need for less precipitation. Since end of the August, parts of Alberta have received moisture, with the southern half receiving 20 to 30mm. The second frost of the season happened on September 8, after the brief one on August 31, with many areas (particularly in the southern half of the province) experiencing freezing temperatures as low as -4°C (see the map). It is still too early to determine if there was any crop damage as a result.

Precipitation over the past week has slowed down harvest progress in most areas across the province, particularly in the North East, North West and Peace Regions. As of September 8, about 18 per cent of major crops are now in the bin (up eight per cent from a week ago). For all crops, 22 per cent have been combined, compared to 15 per cent in 2016, 32 per cent in 2017, 17 per cent in 2018, 16 per cent in 2019 and the 5-year (2015-2019) average of 22 per cent (See Figure 1). Regionally, when compared to the 5-year averages, harvest progress is ahead in the Southern, Central and North West Regions and behind in the North East and Peace (See Table 1).

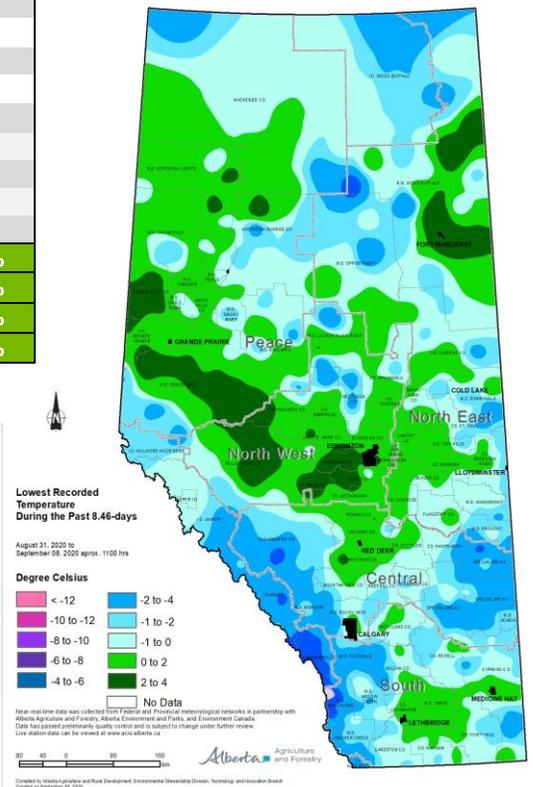
Table 1: Estimates of Crop Harvest Progress as of September 8, 2020

	Per cent of Crops Combined					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat*	37.6%	9.4%	2.5%	6.3%	6.2%	13.5%
Durum Wheat	58.1%	59.8%	---	---	---	58.3%
Winter Wheat	92.4%	91.1%	100.0%	---	---	92.4%
Barley*	69.1%	21.2%	5.3%	14.9%	3.5%	31.5%
Oats*	61.2%	15.2%	0.3%	5.0%	0.5%	9.1%
Fall Rye	95.7%	88.9%	100.0%	---	---	93.9%
Canola*	17.6%	2.1%	0.3%	2.6%	0.4%	4.1%
Dry Peas*	97.2%	77.9%	64.1%	54.8%	32.1%	71.3%
Lentils	89.9%	100.0%	---	---	---	91.3%
Chickpeas	54.0%	100.0%	---	---	---	55.6%
Flax	8.6%	2.4%	0.0%	---	---	6.7%
Potatoes	17.6%	0.0%	---	20.0%	---	16.9%
All Crops, Sep 8	49.4%	17.4%	6.0%	8.8%	6.6%	21.9%
Major Crops (*), Sep 8	46.9%	15.1%	5.9%	8.7%	6.6%	18.4%
Major Crops (*), Sep 1	29.1%	8.0%	4.9%	7.5%	6.0%	10.3%
5-yr (2015-2019) Avg	46.4%	15.4%	12.3%	8.3%	9.7%	22.1%

Figure 1: Provincial and Regional Harvest Progress, 2016-2020



Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey



Second cut dryland hay across the province is 39 per cent completed (on par with the 5-year average), while it has been limited in the Southern Region given dry conditions over the month of August. The provincial average yield for first cut dryland hay is estimated at 1.5 tons per acre, above the 5-year average of 1.1 tons per acre. Also, the quality of the baled dryland hay is rated as 30 per cent poor to fair, 57 per cent good and 13 per cent excellent. Second cut haying in irrigated fields is 71 per cent complete, with yield estimated at 1.6 tons per acre (below the 5-year average of 1.9 tons per acre) and quality is rated as 17 per cent poor to fair, 66 per cent good and 17 per cent excellent.

Dryland yield estimates improved slightly from the previous estimates reported on August 25, with yields 16 per cent higher than the short-term averages and 14 per cent above the long-term averages (See Table 2). Yields for the Southern, Central and North East Regions are 49 per cent, 19 per cent and nine per cent, respectively above the 5-year averages. For the North West and Peace Regions, yields are 14 per cent and five per cent below. The provincial average yields for potatoes on dryland and irrigated fields are estimated at 10.9 and 16.1 tons per acre, respectively. Yields for irrigated dry beans are estimated at 28.4 hundredweight per acre and 28 tonnes per acre for sugar beets.

Table 2: Dryland Yield Estimates as of September 8, 2020

	Estimated Yield (bushel/acre)					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat	54.1	65.4	54.9	58.5	41.1	55.9
Barley	75.8	86.5	77.2	44.6	50.7	74.3
Oats	78.0	83.3	93.9	85.1	84.7	86.6
Canola	44.4	49.5	42.3	33.6	34.2	41.4
Dry Peas	51.1	47.0	45.1	33.1	38.6	45.2
5-year Yield Index	148.7%	118.6%	109.2%	85.9%	94.7%	116.2%
10-year Yield Index	131.9%	122.0%	110.7%	83.7%	99.0%	114.1%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Regional Assessments:

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

- Precipitation over the last weekend hindered harvest progress in most counties, yet producers were able to combine an additional 18 per cent of their major crops. Yields across the region vary and in some cases have been impacted by late summer heat and now are lower than what was expected earlier in the season. Forage and greenfeed production are expected to make some extra inventory for carry over.
- About 49 per cent of all crops are now in the bin, 12 per cent have been swathed and 39 per cent still standing.
- For the harvested portion of crops, quality is above the provincial 5-year averages for all crops.
- Second cut dryland hay is limited in the region, as hot dry conditions over the past month impacted growth, reducing potential yield. On irrigated land, second cut hay is 79 per cent complete, with yield reported at 1.7 tons per acre and quality rated as 1 per cent poor, 17 per cent fair, 66 per cent good and 16 per cent excellent.
- Pasture conditions are reported as 31 per cent poor, 37 per cent fair, 30 per cent good and 2 per cent excellent.

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

- Harvest has been progressing with fall seeded crops, barley and dry peas and swathing the other crops is under way. Cutting, balling and silaging greenfeed crops is also progressing. Rain showers halted harvest operations in most areas over the weekend, but harvest has progressed seven per cent over the past week.
- Overall, about 17 per cent of major crops are combined, with 15 per cent swathed and 68 per cent still standing. About 90 per cent of fall seeded crops and more than three quarters of dry peas are now in the bin.
- Quality for harvested crops so far in the region is above the provincial 5-year averages. About 52 per cent of harvested dry peas is graded as No. 1, 43 per cent as No. 2, four per cent as No. 3 and about one per cent as feed.

- Second cut haying operation progress is at 39 and 15 per cent for dryland and irrigated fields, respectively. Average yield is estimated at 1.7 tons per acre for dryland and 1.3 tons per acre for irrigated (both above the 5-year averages). Quality is rated as 80 per cent good to excellent for dryland hay and 90 per cent for irrigated hay.
- Pastures need moisture to get restored from dry conditions over the month of August. Pasture growing conditions are reported as 13 per cent poor, 10 per cent fair, 69 per cent good and 8 per cent excellent.

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

- Lands in wet areas are drying and fields are getting ready for harvest. Poor weather over the last week allowed for only one per cent of major crops to be harvested, but swathers made 18 per cent progress from a week ago. About 71 per cent of all crops are still standing, with 23 per cent swathed and six per cent harvested. Nearly two thirds of dry peas, five per cent of barley and all fall seeded crops are now in the bin, with 40 per cent of canola swathed.
- Quality for harvested dry peas is reported at 83 per cent graded as No. 2 and the rest graded as No. 3 or feed. For the rest of crops the harvested portion is so small to be representative of crop quality in the region.
- Second cut haying is 37 per cent complete, with yields reported at 1.1 tons per acre, on par with the 5-year average. The quality is rated as 32 per cent fair, 41 per cent good and 27 per cent excellent.
- Pasture conditions are rated as 7 per cent poor, 16 per cent fair, 65 per cent good and 12 per cent excellent.

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

- Cold wet days slowed harvest progress over the past week with only one per cent of major crops taken off. Overall, 70 per cent of crops are still standing, 21 per cent in swath and nine per cent harvested. Over one half of dry peas, 15 per cent of barley and 20 per cent of potatoes are now in the bin, with 46 per cent of canola swathed.
- Crop quality is expected to change, as more crops get combined, yet the quality for harvested crops in the region is below their provincial 5-year averages. For dry peas so far, 21 per cent is graded as No. 1, 60 per cent as No. 2 and 19 per cent as No. 3.
- Second cut haying is behind and only 15 per cent complete, with the yield for the baled portion reported at 1.7 tons per acre, above the 5-year average of 0.8 tons per acre. Quality is estimated at 34 per cent fair, 49 per cent good and 17 per cent excellent.
- Pasture growth conditions are rated as 1 per cent fair, 48 per cent good and 51 per cent excellent.

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

- Precipitation over the last week delayed combining in most fields, while swathing was under way. Over the past week, producers have combined an additional one per cent of their crops. Overall, 70 per cent of crops are still standing, 23 per cent in swath and seven per cent harvested. About one third of dry peas are now in the bin, with 45 per cent of canola swathed.
- The quality for harvested dry peas is above the provincial 5-year averages. About 39 per cent of dry peas is graded as No. 1, 46 per cent as No. 2 and 15 per cent as No. 3.
- Haying has been in full swing and second cut operations are now 78 per cent complete with the average yield estimated at 1.4 tons per acre. Quality is rated as 35 per cent poor to fair and 65 per cent good to excellent.
- Pasture growth conditions are rated as 4 per cent poor, 16 per cent fair, 76 per cent good and 4 per cent excellent.

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