

# Alberta Crop Report



## Crop Conditions as of May 5, 2020

Before the 2020 planting can proceed, many areas of the province have to finish harvesting the 2019 crop. As of the last Crop Report on December 3, 2019, Alberta had 10 per cent of acres left unharvested. The South has mostly wrapped up the 2019 harvest, but as you move north in the province the amount of overwintered crop still out increases (Table 1), with NW and Peace areas furthest behind. The quality of the overwintered production is quite good. Provincially, close to 70 per cent of the spring harvested cereal grains (spring wheat, barley, oats) are coming off as good quality feed. The spring harvested canola is also good quality with 84 per cent coming off as 3 Canada or better.

**Table 1: 2019 Unharvested Crops as of May 5, 2020**

	% of Overwintered Acres Still In Field					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat	0.3%	19.2%	33.5%	67.9%	79.9%	33.9%
Barley	0.6%	12.3%	37.1%	56.7%	82.4%	29.5%
Oats	0.3%	5.1%	36.5%	74.2%	81.2%	56.0%
Mixed Grain	---	1.9%	---	---	---	1.9%
Canola	0.3%	9.6%	23.1%	58.2%	76.0%	35.3%
Flax	1.0%	100.0%	---	---	---	17.1%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

**Table 2: Alberta Seeding Progress as of May 5, 2020**

	% Seeded					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat	31.1%	4.2%	1.6%	0.0%	1.0%	9.2%
Durum Wheat	40.3%	8.3%	---	---	---	36.0%
Barley	26.4%	2.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	9.2%
Oats	20.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.3%
Canola	11.5%	0.1%	0.3%	0.0%	0.4%	2.2%
Dry Peas	42.7%	21.2%	3.1%	0.2%	0.9%	19.9%
Mustard	20.3%	2.0%	---	---	---	14.1%
Flax	13.2%	0.0%	0.0%	---	0.0%	9.6%
Potatoes	59.2%	0.0%	---	0.0%	---	51.5%
Dry Beans	0.0%	---	---	---	---	0.0%
Chickpeas	48.4%	20.0%	---	---	---	47.4%
Lentils	17.2%	15.9%	---	---	---	17.0%
Mixed Grain	15.0%	0.0%	---	---	---	0.3%
<b>Average</b>	<b>28.1%</b>	<b>4.0%</b>	<b>0.9%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0.6%</b>	<b>9.4%</b>
<b>Last Year</b>	<b>48.2%</b>	<b>6.8%</b>	<b>2.1%</b>	<b>1.1%</b>	<b>2.4%</b>	<b>16.4%</b>
<b>5-year Average</b>	<b>36.8%</b>	<b>11.5%</b>	<b>2.0%</b>	<b>1.4%</b>	<b>3.1%</b>	<b>14.2%</b>
<b>May 2, 2017</b>	<b>19.5%</b>	<b>0.5%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>5.7%</b>

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Provincially, seeding is slightly behind schedule with nine per cent of the 2020 crop planted. Progress is being made in the South and Central areas of Alberta: producers in the South have planted 28 per cent of their crop while the Central area has planted four per cent of the acres. As expected, planting is just starting in North East, North West and Peace areas. (Table 2). Fall-seeded crops in Alberta are up and looking good with ratings of 75 per cent good or excellent.

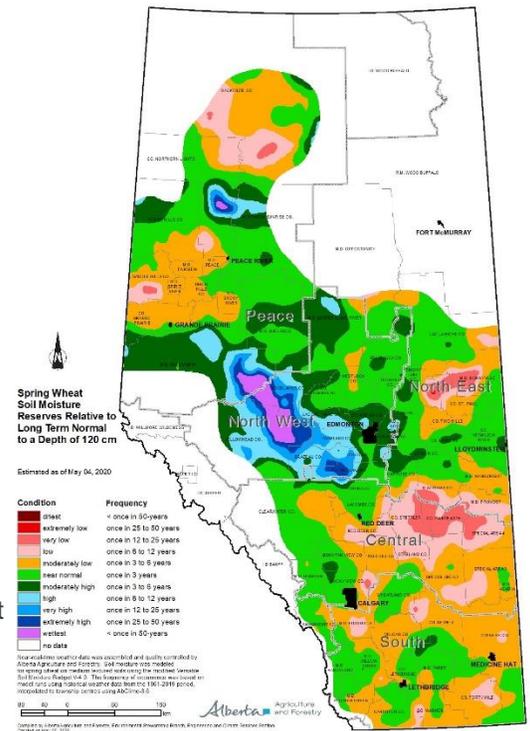
In spite of the cooler spring temperatures, tame hay and pasture growth is close to average this year. Tame hay growth is currently 48 per cent good or excellent as compared to the five-year average of 52 per cent. Pasture growth is 57 per cent good or excellent compared to the historical average of 53 per cent. Forage reserve feedback indicates that approximately 90 per cent of producers have adequate forage to get them through the next few weeks until grazing begins.

**Table 3: Surface Moisture Rating as of May 5, 2020**

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Excessive
South	3.8%	40.9%	45.9%	9.2%	0.2%
Central	0.5%	14.7%	57.1%	25.8%	1.9%
North East	0.9%	4.8%	31.3%	60.4%	2.6%
North West	---	5.2%	5.2%	75.4%	14.2%
Peace	---	0.3%	21.6%	67.6%	10.5%
Average	1.5%	18.7%	38.8%	37.2%	3.8%
5-year Average	5.9%	20.8%	42.8%	22.7%	7.8%
May 2, 2017	0.4%	6.6%	25.8%	44.4%	22.8%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Observers estimate 76 per cent of the province as having good or excellent surface soil moisture (See Table 3). Excessive moisture is a major issue across much of the North West area of the province, as well as parts of the Peace area (see Map), which experienced the bulk of the wet conditions last fall. A significant period of dry, warm weather is needed to allow soils to dry sufficiently to support the weight of harvesting and seeding equipment. Conversely, the areas shaded in pink display moisture levels ranging from six-to-12 and 12-to-25 year lows.



## Regional Assessments:

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

- Seeding progress is currently at 28 per cent complete for all crops, with sugar beets leading at 78 per cent and corn with almost 17 per cent of intended acres now seeded. Approximately four percent of seeded acres have emerged.
- Fall-seeded crops are looking good with an estimated 79 per cent rated good or excellent.
- Surface soil moisture is rated at 55 per cent good or excellent.
- Spring hay growth is currently 74 per cent good or excellent, while pasture is 76 per cent good or excellent.
- As of December 3, 2019, approximately two per cent of acres were left unharvested which are mostly in the bin now.
- Spring thrashed quality is 3 Can or better for 87 per cent of canola; cereals range from 64 to 84 per cent good feed.
- Estimated forage and feed grain reserves are over 80 per cent adequate, with up to nine per cent in surplus.

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

- Seeding progress is currently at four per cent complete for all crops, with negligible acres emerged at this early date.
- Fall-seeded crops are looking good with an estimated 71 per cent rated good.
- Surface soil moisture is rated at 85 per cent good or better.
- Both spring hay and pasture growth is currently 61 per cent good or excellent.

- As of the last crop report, December 3, 2019, approximately seven per cent of acres were left unharvested. Of that 7 per cent, approximately 10 per cent canola, 12 per cent barley and 19 per cent spring wheat are left to harvest. The majority of mixed grain and oat acres were put to another use such as baling.
- Spring thrashed quality is 3 Can or better for 84 per cent of canola; cereals range from 51 to 85 per cent good feed.
- It is estimated that both forage and feed grain reserves are 87 per cent adequate with up to nine per cent in surplus.

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

- Seeding progress is currently one per cent complete for all crops compared to the five-year average of two per cent.
- Fall seeded crops are looking good, with an estimated 74 per cent rated good.
- Surface soil moisture is rated at 94 per cent good or better.
- Spring hay growth is currently 56 per cent good or excellent, while tame pasture is rated 48 per cent good or better.
- As of the last crop report, December 3, 2019, approximately 13 per cent of acres were left unharvested. Of that 13 per cent, approximately 23 per cent of canola, 37 per cent of oats and barley, and 34 per cent spring wheat is left to harvest.
- Spring thrashed quality is 3 Can or better for 86 per cent of canola; cereals range from 71 to 80 per cent good feed.
- Estimated forage (feed grain in brackets) reserves are 78 (79) per cent adequate with up to 17 per cent in surplus.

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

- Seeding progress is currently zero per cent complete for all crops compared to the five-year average of one per cent.
- Surface soil moisture is rated 81 per cent good or excellent, with 14 per cent as excessive.
- Perennials have a slow start, with spring hay growth (tame pasture in brackets) rated 20 (13) per cent good.
- As of the last crop report December 3, 2019, approximately seven per cent of acres were left unharvested. Of that seven per cent, approximately 58 per cent of canola, 74 per cent of oats, 57 per cent of barley and 68 per cent spring wheat is left to harvest.
- Spring thrashed quality is 3 Can or better for 84 per cent of canola; cereals range from 55 to 70 per cent good feed.
- Estimated forage (feed grain in brackets) reserves are 65 (82) per cent adequate with up to 25 (17) per cent surplus.

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

- Seeding progress is currently one per cent complete for all crops compared to the five-year average of three per cent.
- Surface soil moisture is rated at 89 per cent good or excellent, with 11 per cent as excessive.
- Perennials have a slow start with spring hay growth (tame pasture in brackets) rated 21 (23) per cent good or better.
- As of the last crop report, December 3, 2019, approximately 32 per cent of acres were left unharvested. Of that 32 per cent, approximately 76 per cent of canola, 81 per cent of oats, 82 per cent of barley and 80 per cent spring wheat were left to harvest.
- Spring thrashed quality is 3 Can or better for 79 per cent of canola; cereals range 76 to 80 per cent good feed.
- Estimated forage (feed grain in brackets) reserves are 76 (61) per cent adequate with up to 12 (30) per cent surplus.

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