

# Alberta Crop Report



## Crop Conditions as of August 25, 2020

Favorable weather conditions, particularly in South and Central regions, have allowed most Alberta producers to start harvesting spring seeded crops. Early harvest progress in all regions are close to the previous five-year (2015-19) average (Table 2). Provincially, eight per cent of the crop has been harvested to date (six per cent of major crops). South Alberta is farthest advanced with 24 per cent of the crop being combined (21 per cent of major crops). Central Alberta has five per cent of the crop combined (four per cent of major crops). Variable weather conditions experienced during the last few weeks in the northern regions of the province has resulted in less than two per cent of crops combined in each area.

**Table 1: Regional Crop Condition Ratings as of August 25, 2020**

	Per cent rated in Good to Excellent Condition					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat*	86.5%	93.3%	83.6%	53.0%	63.6%	80.5%
Durum Wheat	91.5%	69.6%	---	---	---	88.5%
Barley*	87.4%	94.1%	72.8%	22.0%	53.1%	77.3%
Oats*	87.5%	89.7%	79.7%	32.5%	62.3%	66.3%
Winter Wheat	86.9%	66.6%	89.5%	---	---	85.9%
Mixed Grain	80.0%	91.2%	---	32.2%	---	82.9%
Canola*	81.9%	94.5%	71.5%	28.8%	60.1%	70.1%
Dry Peas*	87.9%	89.1%	77.9%	26.4%	53.9%	74.8%
Lentils	90.3%	72.7%	---	---	---	87.8%
Chickpeas	89.8%	60.0%	---	---	---	88.7%
Mustard	70.6%	70.0%	---	---	---	70.4%
Flax	76.3%	81.0%	100%	---	---	79.6%
Potatoes	90.0%	100.0%	---	35.0%	---	86.9%
<b>All Crops</b>	<b>86.6%</b>	<b>92.3%</b>	<b>76.9%</b>	<b>36.0%</b>	<b>59.8%</b>	<b>76.4%</b>
<b>Major Crops (*)</b>	<b>85.7%</b>	<b>93.5%</b>	<b>76.8%</b>	<b>36.0%</b>	<b>59.8%</b>	<b>75.3%</b>
<b>Last Year</b>	<b>50.1%</b>	<b>84.6%</b>	<b>80.9%</b>	<b>43.9%</b>	<b>65.3%</b>	<b>66.6%</b>
<b>5-year Average</b>	<b>46.7%</b>	<b>60.3%</b>	<b>70.4%</b>	<b>52.7%</b>	<b>62.0%</b>	<b>58.2%</b>
<b>10-year Average</b>	<b>64.5%</b>	<b>71.6%</b>	<b>76.1%</b>	<b>66.0%</b>	<b>60.0%</b>	<b>68.6%</b>

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Annual crop conditions of good to excellent stayed relatively static at 76 per cent as compared to the last report (Table 1), with the only movement being a one-point decrease in the North East offset by a two-point increase in the North West region. Pasture and Hay conditions continue to be well above average but have showed deterioration due to the lack of precipitation and high temperatures. Provincially pasture ratings fell 13 points to 73 per cent good or excellent. This is still well above the previous five-year average of 43 per cent. Hay growth ratings fell six points to 82 per cent good or excellent. This is still well above the previous five-year average of 49 per cent.

Provincially, surface soil moisture ratings are reported at six per cent poor, 18 per cent fair, 41 per cent good, 29 per cent excellent and six per cent excessive. The South has higher levels of poor and fair (54 per cent) which gradually changes as you go north to higher good to excellent ratings, with excessive surface soil moisture at six per cent in the North East and Peace regions, while the North West continues to battle at 34 per cent excessive. The rains in the past week have overlooked the South and Central regions while providing 25 to 80 mm (blue areas on Map) to the northern regions.

**Table 2: Harvest Progress (Major Crops) as of August 25, 2020**

	Per cent of Crops Combined					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat*	14.3%	0.5%	---	---	1.0%	3.7%
Barley*	18.2%	1.0%	---	---	0.4%	6.1%
Oats*	23.5%	0.4%	---	---	0.2%	1.8%
Canola*	0.0%	0.3%	---	---	---	0.1%
Dry Peas*	80.2%	44.4%	1.4%	1.8%	1.5%	37.6%
Major Crops*	20.8%	4.0%	1.4%	1.8%	1.0%	6.0%
All Crops	24.0%	5.0%	1.4%	1.8%	1.0%	8.4%
5-Year Index	23.2%	2.9%	1.8%	1.4%	2.7%	8.3%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

**Table 3: Dryland Yield Estimates (Major Crops) as of August 25, 2020**

	Estimated Yield (bushel/acre)					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat	49.9	64.7	55.6	58.7	41.6	55.1
Barley	71.5	86.2	77.6	44.5	55.6	73.4
Oats	71.0	82.5	94.9	83.1	77.2	84.2
Canola	42.6	49.5	42.4	32.9	29.7	40.2
Dry Peas	49.3	46.7	44.4	33.3	28.3	42.3
5-Year Index	143.2%	120.9%	109.3%	85.4%	87.4%	114.3%
10-Year Index	126.3%	122.1%	111.6%	82.6%	90.4%	111.6%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

With more crop in the bin and acres closer to harvest, the provincial yield estimates have risen slightly since the last report and are now estimated at 114 per cent of the five-year index (Table 3). The South region is still inflating that average with yields at 143 per cent of the five-year index, followed by the Central region with 121 per cent and North East at 109 percent. The excessive moisture conditions suffered across much of the North West and Peace has resulted in yield estimates below the five-year index at 85 and 87 per cent respectively.

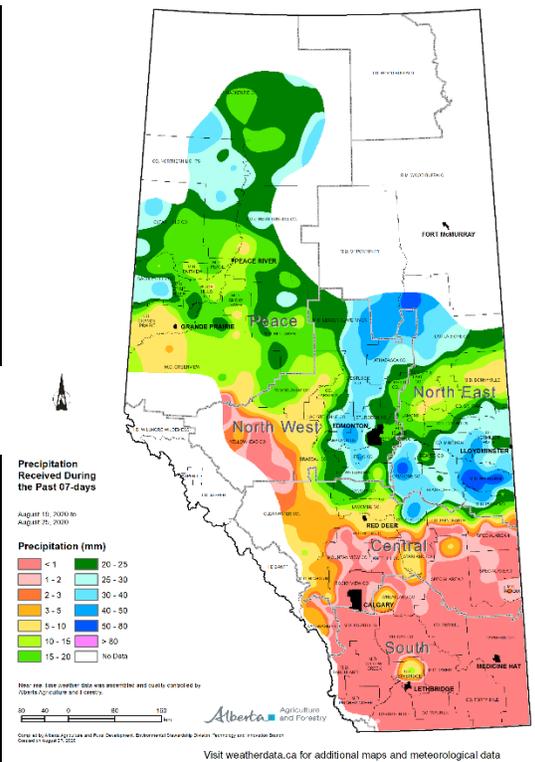
## Regional Assessments:

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

- Dryland crop ratings of 87 per cent good and excellent are 11 points above the provincial average and 40 points higher than the region's five-year average. A spike in grasshoppers has been reported in some counties.
- Harvest progress is 24 per cent combined and seven per cent swathed. Sugar beet harvest has not yet begun, while the processing pea harvest is nearing completion with processing corn slated to start next week.
- Anticipated dryland yields for the major crops are well above the provincial average.
- Irrigated yield estimates for almost all crops are above the five-year average, while only chickpeas and dry beans are slightly below their five-year. Sugar Beets are estimated at 28 tonnes per acre, slightly above the five-year average.
- Pasture ratings are now three per cent poor, 43 per cent fair, 48 per cent good, with six per cent excellent.
- Hay ratings are now four per cent poor, 42 per cent fair, 47 per cent good, with seven per cent excellent.
- Surface soil moisture rated as poor/fair is 54 per cent with sub-surface moisture rated at 40 per cent poor/fair.

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

- Dryland crop ratings of 92 per cent good and excellent are 16 points above the provincial average and 32 points higher than the region's five-year average.
- Harvest progress is five per cent combined and two per cent swathed.
- Anticipated dryland yields are slightly above the provincial average.



- Irrigated yield estimates for spring wheat, barley and canola are all above their five-year average.
- Pasture ratings are now eight per cent poor, 14 per cent fair, 62 per cent good, with 16 per cent excellent.
- Hay ratings are now six per cent poor, 11 per cent fair, 65 per cent good, and 18 per cent excellent.
- Surface soil moisture rated as good/excellent is 79 per cent with sub-surface moisture rated at 87 per cent.

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

- Dryland crop ratings of 77 per cent good and excellent are slightly above the provincial average and seven points higher than the region's five-year average.
- Harvest progress is one per cent combined and less than one per cent swathed.
- Anticipated dryland yields are slightly below the provincial average.
- Pasture ratings are now one per cent poor, nine per cent fair, 64 per cent good, with 26 per cent excellent.
- Hay ratings are now one per cent poor, six per cent fair, 70 per cent good, and 23 per cent excellent.
- Surface soil moisture rated as good/excellent is 90 per cent with six per cent excessive, and sub-surface moisture rated at 91 per cent good/excellent and five per cent excessive.

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

- Dryland crop ratings of 36 per cent good and excellent are 40 points below the provincial average and 17 points below the region's five-year average.
- Harvest progress is two per cent combined and less than one per cent swathed.
- Anticipated dryland yields are well below the provincial average.
- Pasture ratings are now
- one per cent fair, 35 per cent good, with 64 per cent excellent.
- Hay ratings are now 32 per cent good, and 68 per cent excellent.
- Surface soil moisture rated as good/excellent is 66 per cent with 34 per cent excessive, and sub-surface moisture rated at 59 per cent good/excellent and 41 per cent excessive.

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

- Dryland crop ratings of 60 per cent good and excellent are 16 points below the provincial average and two points below the region's five-year average. MacKenzie County is reporting some significant bertha armyworm activity.
- Harvest progress is one per cent combined and five per cent swathed.
- Anticipated dryland yields are well below the provincial average.
- Pasture ratings are now two per cent poor, 13 per cent fair, 77 per cent good, with eight per cent excellent.
- Hay ratings are now seven per cent poor, 12 per cent fair, 73 per cent good, and eight per cent excellent.
- Surface soil moisture rated as good/excellent is 87 per cent with six per cent excessive, and sub-surface moisture rated at 94 per cent good/excellent and three per cent excessive.

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