

CROP REPORT

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Issue 25

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Weekly Provincial Summary

- In Manitoba, the majority of acres have been harvested. The remaining crops to be harvested are mainly sunflowers and grain corn, with a few acres of soybeans, potatoes and alfalfa seed.
- Crop yields in Manitoba were variable in 2012, largely dependent upon the amount and timing of precipitation during the growing season, temperatures during flowering, and level of disease pressure.
- Crop quality for the majority of crop types was average to above average, due to lower than normal disease pressure and good weather conditions during harvest. Smaller seed size was noted for some crop types.
- Recent precipitation was welcomed. It will aid in germination and emergence of winter wheat and fall rye, fall field work, fertilizer applications, and replenishing soil moisture reserves.

Southwest Region

Majority of the 2012 harvest is complete in the Southwest Region with only sunflowers and the odd field of corn still to be done.

Winter wheat had a good year with average yields ranging from 60 to 75 bu/acre with good quality. Fall rye yields averaged 45 to 55 bu/acre with good quality.

Hard red spring wheat averaged 40 to 55 bu/acre with good quality. Most is grading 1CW with high protein levels. Barley averaged 45 to 60 bu/acre with average to below average quality due to lighter bushel weights. Oat yields were variable with the average being 60 to 70 bu/acre. Average to below average quality was reported; hot and dry conditions resulted in light bushel weights.

Canola yields varied with the average ranging from 25 to 35 bu/acre with good quality. Yields were impacted by disease and a

poor start in the spring (flea beetle and cutworm damage).

Flax yields averaged 20 to 25 bu/acre with good quality. Disease and dry conditions reduced yields.

Soybeans averaged 30 bu/acre with good quality. Dry conditions in August impacted yields.

Corn yields are averaging 130 bu/acre with good quality. Most acres of grain corn are harvested in the Southwest and producers will probably look at increasing acres next year. Corn silage yields were above average this year at 14 tonnes/acre with good quality reported.

Sunflowers are 20% harvested with yields looking to be average to slightly above average with good quality.

Winter wheat and fall rye acres are down 20 to 30% in the region due to the dry conditions.

Alfalfa and alfalfa hay first cut yielded 1.5 tonne/acre. Very little second cut was done due to dry

conditions. Any second cut done occurred in only alfalfa fields; yields were 0.5 tonne/acre with excellent quality.

Dry conditions this fall allowed producers to cut slough and marsh hay of average to below average quality. Frost and dry conditions reduced quality.

Hay supply in the Southwest Region looks to be adequate with most producers that needed to source feed having done so. An October start to winter feeding may put pressure on supplies.

Pastures in the Southwest are done for the season and most producers have started to feed or move cows to other areas. Water supply is a concern as most dugouts and sloughs are low. Producers in some areas are hauling water and some areas are trying to fill dugouts for winter watering.

Little to no fall work is done due to the dry conditions. The recent rainfall may allow some producers



to start. Most producers have completed fall weed control.

Northwest Region

Below average temperatures and variable rains are reported in the Northwest Region. With a prolonged fall period of dry and favourable seasonal conditions, harvest is complete in all areas.

Average yield of hard red spring was approximately 40 bu/acre with 40% of the crop grading 1CW. Oats averaged 80 bu/acre with 60% grading 2CW. Average barley yield was 50 bu/acre with 75% grading 2CW. Heat and moisture stress contributed to light weights in barley and oats. In general, low incidence of fusarium, ergot and wheat midge was reported.

Canola graded 90% 1CAN with yields averaging 23 bu/acre. Canola yields and quality were impacted by heat stress, higher incidence of asters yellows, and a variety of insect pest problems including Bertha armyworm, flea beetles and lygus bugs.

Coincidental with a significant area acreage increase, soybean average yields ranged above 45 bu/acre with very good quality.

Hemp yields are 800 to 1100 lbs/acre; seed size and quality is very good.

Area production and quality of all crops are higher in the southern sector and reflect more favourable seasonal growing conditions, as compared to the area from Ethelbert to The Pas where season long precipitation has been significantly higher than normal. Yields of many crops were reduced where excess spring moisture resulted in drown-

outs, poor root development and nutrient losses.

Winter wheat and fall rye seeded acres have decreased by at least 20% from last year due to dry soil conditions. Plant emergence to date is somewhat uneven.

Surface soil conditions are dry and soil temperatures remain high. The recent rain and falling soil temperatures have not been sufficient to initiate general fall fertilizing application activities. Supplies are in position and as soil conditions improve, applications are expected. Other fall field work, weed control, straw baling and hauling is completed.

Silaging of corn and late seeded green feed is completed, with average to above average quality and yields. Winter feed supplies are adequate for the region. With excellent cereal harvest conditions, straw supplies are adequate and of good quality. Localized forage shortages exist where excess spring moisture events and previous years flood impacted tame and native hay lands exist, adjacent to Lake Manitoba, Dauphin and Winnipegosis.

Currently, livestock feeding is slightly higher than last year due to pastures being impacted by lack of fall moisture limiting forage growth, in addition to the areas with previous flood impacted pasture and forage production. Dugout water supplies are mostly adequate; however, the extended dry period has reduced availability to a degree.

Central Region

The 2012 crop season was one of challenges and surprises. Minimal snow cover, and warmer than

average late winter temperatures allowed for an early start to seeding; seedbed conditions were excellent. The warm temperatures in April didn't hold and a cold wet stretch of weather followed in May. Other stresses included high wind conditions, late May and early June frosts, and insect damage to seedling crops. Some re-seeding did result. Excess moisture conditions continued through to early July which was then followed by an extended period of hot dry conditions. Crops matured rapidly allowing for an early harvest and crops came off in good condition. Although there was a decrease in temperatures in September, there was essentially no crop damage due to frost, as crops had attained physiological maturity. Rain and snow late last week was the first significant precipitation in many weeks; amounts ranged from 20 to 50 mm in most areas.

Harvest of winter wheat started in mid-July, with the majority of acres completed by early August. Yields ranged from 50 to 95 bu/acre with average yield falling in the 75 to 85 bu/acre range. Protein ranged from 9 to 13.7%; many reports of high yields and high proteins combined. The crop graded 2 CWRW or better; very little downgrading due to fusarium head blight and quality is generally good to excellent. There were limited acres of fall rye, with yields of 50 to 60 bu/acre reported.

Spring wheat yields varied widely, ranging from 30 to 70 bu/acre with most reporting 50 to 55 bu/acre, average for their areas. Variability in yields was due to where and when the rains fell; and many report yields were impacted due to late season lack of rainfall. The entire crop graded 2CW or better, with a higher



than average amount grading 1CW. Quality is good to excellent, with little if any impact from fusarium. Protein levels in many samples are quite high. Average for the region is in the 14 to 15.5% range.

Barley yields ranged from 40 to 95 bu/acre, with the majority in the 70 to 85 bu/acre range. Quality is generally good with low fusarium. Some lighter bushel weights were noted as a result of dry conditions.

Oats ranged widely again this year, and yields have been generally lower than previous years. Yields ranged from 50 to 160 bu/acre, averaging between 90 to 100 bu/acre. Majority is grading 2CW; downgrading is due to light bushel weights. Higher yields and good bushel weights were seen in areas receiving timely rains.

Canola yields were disappointing for many. The crop struggled early on; seed sat in cold ground for an extended period, making it more susceptible to flea beetle and seedling diseases. High winds damaged plants as did late May/early June frost. Some fields were reseeded due to the early season stresses. Many fields had issues with disease including blackleg and aster yellows. Levels of aster yellows were much higher than normal. Yields were variable, ranging from 15 to 50 bu/acre, averaging around 25 to 30 bu/acre. Yields did improve as harvest progressed, but high temperatures and dry conditions had a significant impact on final yields, in addition to the early season stresses. Quality is excellent for the most part, with majority grading 1CAN. Downgrading was due to dockage as a result of small seed in the sample.

Flax yields ranged from 10 to 28 bu/acre, averaging 15 to 20 bu/acre. Quality is good.

Peas averaged 35 bu/acre.

Edible bean harvest is complete. Yields range from 1200 to 2500 lbs/acre, averaging 1800 lbs/acre. Quality is good, with some reports of cracked seed coats or green seeds.

Soybean harvest is almost complete. Yields vary from 20 to 50 bu/acre, averaging between 25 to 30 bu/acre. Higher yields were obtained in areas received timely rains. Seed size is on the smaller side. Quality is good.

Buckwheat harvest is complete. Acres more than doubled from 2011; yields are average to below average due to dry conditions. Quality is good.

Potato quality was variable. Dryland tubers were misshapen. Some quality issues also in the irrigated crop. Yields were average to above average.

Sunflower harvest ranges from 60 to 90% complete; yield reports range from 1800 to 2200lbs/ac. Quality is generally good.

Grain corn harvest continues; yields range from 70 to 140 bu/acre, with average yields to date of 100 bu/acre. Quality is good.

Impact of disease in most crops is lower due to the hot dry conditions. Root rots were evident in many crops, both early on, and later in the season when soils dried out. Sclerotinia was evident in all susceptible crops, but at very low levels, with little if any impact to yield. Blackleg was a significant issue in many canola fields. Aster yellows was evident in every canola field, and is believed to be an issue

in other crops as well, including cereals, flax and carrots.

Insect problems have included some late spraying in winter wheat headlands for grasshoppers. Also of concern were flea beetle, diamondback moth and bertha armyworm in canola; spider mites in soybeans (headlands), and lygus and banded sunflower moth in sunflowers.

Fall cultivation ranges widely, dependent on field conditions. Some producers report being close to caught up, while others continue to be hindered by dry conditions. Post harvest weed control is being undertaken as conditions allow. Fall fertilizing has begun on a very limited basis; the recent rain and snowfall should allow fall cultivation to resume and anhydrous ammonia applications to begin. Soil testing continues. Manure application is being made as conditions allow. The percentage of crop residue burnt is lower this year, due primarily to the early harvest as well as excellent conditions for straw baling as trucks were loaded in fields with no evidence of ruts. Demand for straw is good, due to ongoing dry conditions through much of the central and northern American states. Soil moisture conditions at present range from adequate to dry, dependent on rainfall.

Acres of winter wheat and fall rye seeded this fall have increased, due to the early harvest and good yields of this year's crop. In some cases, acres are as much as double the average for the area. Germination and stand establishment is variable; good to excellent with timely rains and good soil moisture, uneven and poor where rainfall has been negligible.



Pastures are in fair to poor condition, due to lack of rainfall. Hay fields are in fair to good condition, also suffering from low rainfall. There is a reasonable supply of all classes of feed, including straw, for a portion of the region, but a number of areas report some concerns with feed supply. Producers are looking at stretching the winter feed supplies with ammoniation of straw or the application of liquid protein supplement (molasses). Quality of feed is good, as most hay was put up without rain. Livestock feeding is expected to be more widespread than last year, and above the long term average, due to the hot dry conditions, and lack of pasture growth in late summer.

Subsoil moisture is depleted and requires recharge in much of the region. Dugouts and wells are lower than normal for this time of year. Dugouts are being deepened and new ones are being constructed.

Eastern Region

Precipitation in both snow and rain over the weekend in the Eastern Region was welcomed.

Across the region, winter wheat average yield was 80 bu/acre with most of the crop grading 2 CWRW. Hard red spring wheat average yield was 50 bu/acre with 40% of the crop grading 1 CW and 60% grading 2 CW. Oats average yield was 90 bu/acre with 60% of the crop grading 2CW and the balance grading either 3CW or 4CW. Barley average yield was 55 bu/acre.

Canola harvest is complete. Average yield was 25 bu/acre with 50% of the crop grading 1CAN and the balance grading 2CAN.

Flax harvest is also complete. Average yield was 15 bu/acre with about half the crop grading 2CW and the balance grading 3CW.

Soybean harvest is about 95% complete. Average yield is 35 bu/acre with most of the crop grading 2CAN.

Corn harvest is about 70% complete. Average yield is 110 bu/acre with most of the crop grading 2CW.

Sunflower harvest is about 65% complete. Oilseed sunflower average yield is 2500 lbs/acre with most of the crop grading 2CAN.

Overall, the effects of disease on crop quality were minimal due to the dry conditions during most of the growing season. Probably, the most notable disease issue was aster yellows in canola. In terms of the effects of weather on crop quality, higher than normal dockage occurred in canola due to pepper-sized seed. As well, thin seed in both oats and flax was noted. High sunflower seed quality and higher protein levels in some red spring wheat were also noted.

In southern districts of the Eastern Region, most fall fieldwork was at a standstill last week because of dry soil conditions. In central and northern districts, fall fieldwork progressed at a steady pace and most acres were cultivated. In these districts, fall banding of fertilizer was also proceeding and activity increased with cooler temperatures. Not much fall spraying had occurred because of limited weed growth in the dry conditions previous to the weekend.

In southern districts, first cut average forage yield was 1 ton/acre for alfalfa, 1.2 ton/acre for

brome/alfalfa, 0.75 ton/acre for other tame hay, 0.5 ton/acre for wild hay and 1.5 ton/acre for greenfeed. Second cut average alfalfa yield was 0.5 ton/acre.

Winter feed supplies in southern and central districts of the Eastern Region were rated as 80 to 100% inadequate for hay, mostly adequate for straw and greenfeed and at least 80% inadequate for feed grain. Given the dry conditions during the growing season, the feeding of livestock began four to six weeks earlier than last year. While many were already feeding cattle on pasture, the weather over the past weekend increased the amount of feeding that was occurring. Producers were expecting to market their calves earlier this fall in an attempt to conserve feed supplies.

Interlake Region

Dry conditions prevailed until Thursday when snow and rain fell across the Interlake Region. Accumulations of snow ranged from minimal amounts to 15 cm in the north east portion of the region.

Harvest is 95% complete with some corn and sunflowers left in the South Interlake, and some soybeans and alfalfa seed remaining in the North Interlake. Yield summary for annual crops is as follows: winter wheat 65 bu/acre, fall rye 85 bu/acre, spring wheat 40 bu/acre, oats 70 bu/acre, barley 60 bu/acre, flax 20 bu/acre, canola 28 bu/acre, field peas 38 bu/acre, soybeans 35 bu/acre, corn 100 bu/acre, and confection sunflowers 2000 lbs/acre.

Fall tillage is 80% complete as conditions have been too dry for effective results. Fall fertilization has not yet started due to dry conditions.



Feeding on pastures is general grazing hayfields or stockpiled
except for those producers that are forages.