

Issue 25 – October 13, 2021

Crop Report



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2021 Provincial Summary

- Extremes in weather characterized the 2021 growing season, from extremely dry topsoils in spring, to extreme heat in late June and early July, followed by minimal rain over that time, to above normal rains for the month of August in much of the province.
- A lack of snowmelt and dry soils meant seeding began in early to mid-April, well ahead of the normal generalized start and recent years (Table 1).
- Severe frosts touched down over nearly all of Manitoba between May 26 to 28, causing crop injury, delayed emergence and slow growth in cereals and forages. Many farmers with canola crops struggling against intense flea beetle or cutworm feeding were forced to reseed.
- Much-needed July rains during peak crop water demand and growth failed to arrive, leading to widespread downgrades in crop yield outlook, with many average crop yields well below provincial averages, in turn triggering a high volume of crop insurance claims.
- Late August rains were too late to improve yield prospects for early crops, but did benefit soybeans and sunflowers most noticeably, with reported average yields nearing 30 bu/ac in soybeans and over 2000 lbs/acre in sunflowers.
- A drawn-out harvest started early, due to early seeding and plant shutdown resulting from drought stress and extended into mid-October due to green regrowth hampering crop drydown together with no killing frost to date in much of the province (Table 2).
- Crop harvest took rapid jumps on August 17, September 14, and September 28, when wheat, canola, and soybean crops make the biggest contributions to harvest progress (Figure 1).
- Lower crop yields, despite high quality and record commodity prices will negatively impact farmers' cash flow for this coming year.
- Cattle producers faced serious feed shortfalls due to low forage and pasture yields, and had to supplement cattle for portions of the summer. Recent regrowth has alleviated some pressure, but cattle producers have been creative in finding alternative feeds and stockpiling for winter, baling straw, increased greenfeed, sloughs and bulrushes.
- Fall tillage and fieldwork has progressed, in many cases faster than expected given the dry soil conditions and need for moisture conservation ahead of next year's crop. Fall fertilizer application has begun, but is expected to be slightly reduced in volume given extremely costly fertilizer prices.
- Recent rains are very welcome to help recharge soil moisture ahead of the 2022 crop.
- Total accumulated growing degree-days (GDD) have reached a high in Manitoba of 2117 GDD at Morden, followed by Emerson (2045) and Deerwood (2042). Minnedosa has received the greatest increase over normal GDD accumulation at 125% of normal, while Birch River is the lowest in Manitoba at 98%.
- Precipitation as a percentage of normal reached a high of 118% at Gretna (408 mm) and a low of 52% at Lakeland (174 mm) and 53% at Brunkild (191 mm).

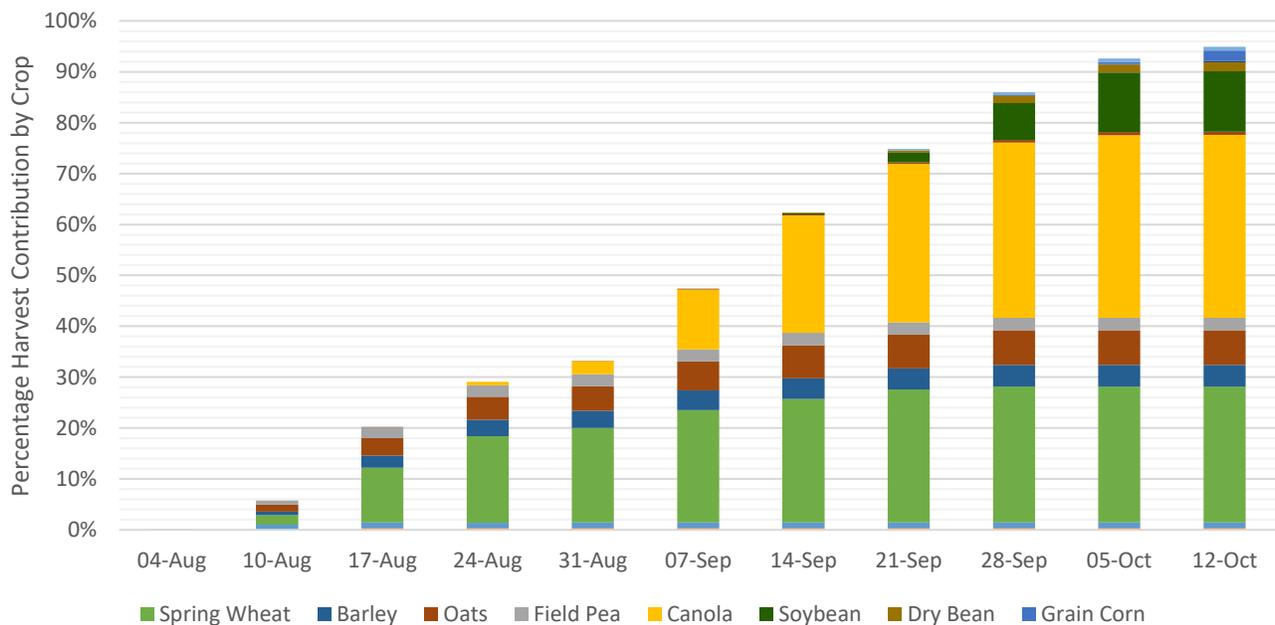
Table 1: 2021 Seeding Progress Compared to Preceding Years

Seeding Week Number (Week:Month)	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	5-Year Average
< May 1 st	2%	<1%	5%	1%	2%	3%
18 (1:05)	18%	9%	20%	26%	30%	21%
19 (2:05)	44%	42%	50%	55%	59%	50%
20 (3:05)	76%	65%	84%	80%	80%	77%
21 (4:05)	91%	88%	94%	94%	95%	92%
22 (1:06)	96%	96%	98%	99%	99%	98%
23 (2:06)	99%	97%	99%	99%	100%	100%
24 (3:06)	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
at June 30 th	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 2: 2021 Harvest Progress Compared to Preceding Years

Harvest Week Number (Week:Month)	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	5-Year Average
<August 1 st	1%	0%	0%	<1%	0%	0%
32 (1:08)	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%
33 (2:08)	5%	2%	4%	4%	1%	3%
34 (3:08)	21%	5%	16%	29%	7%	16%
35 (4:08)	30%	13%	25%	43%	21%	27%
36 (1:09)	35%	26%	38%	58%	44%	39%
37 (2:09)	50%	39%	40%	67%	58%	51%
38 (3:09)	65%	56%	46%	71%	71%	62%
39 (4:09)	78%	70%	58%	73%	73%	71%
40 (1:10)	91%	84%	65%	78%	75%	79%
41 (2:10)	95%	95%	71%	80%	87%	86%
42 (3:10)	96%	98%	74%	84%	93%	89%
43 (4:10)	N/A	N/A	77%	90%	N/A	90%

Figure 1: Cumulative Harvest Progress Contribution by Crop Type and Date in Manitoba in 2021



Southwest Region

Dry soil moisture conditions began the season in the Southwest region this spring. However, subsequent rainfall was inadequate for crop growth and below normal for much of May and July, which was particularly noticeable in areas with lighter textured soils. Most crops were short and many fields were thinner than normal crop establishment.

Spring fertilizer and other field operations went smoothly as the majority of producers put their fertilizer down in the spring. Herbicide applications were little bit challenging this year due to persistent windy conditions, which resulted in higher numbers of drift concerns.

Seeding began slowly for the most farmers due to cold, dry seedbed conditions. Lower than normal snowfall resulted in minimal spring runoff in most of the region. Heavier clay soils were dry. Minimum pre-seed burn-off occurred as there was little weed growth at the appropriate staging. There were very few weed issues in early stages of crop growth. Some reseeded happened in canola crops, especially following the late May frost and unending flea beetle feeding. Hayfields and pastures were also slow to break dormancy and green up.

Pocket areas near Brandon, Souris, Mountainside, and St. Lazare received above normal rainfall for the growing season (May 1 to date), but still had dry periods where rains missed critical crop growth stages. A few areas in

the region had timely rains but most crops missed the moisture at their critical stages of growth – no reports of any excess moisture damage this year except one large thunderstorm near Brandon area, which caused some inland flooding on a very small scale. Most of the region remained very dry and hot throughout the growing season, with scattered rains resulting in high yield variability. Some substantial rains toward end of August helped longer season soybeans, corn, and sunflowers, but caused regrowth issues in canola and volunteer cereals.

Disease impact on crops was less than past years, a result of drier conditions. Fungicide applications were made on most wheat crops, and also some oats and barley. Very few canola fields were sprayed this year due to dry conditions and thinner and stagey stands. Extreme heat at flowering caused significant heat blast and pod abortion in flowering canola. Total heat accumulation for the year was up to a high of 122% of normal growing degree-day (GDD) at Alexander, to a low of 104% normal GDD at Oakburn. Much of this heat arrived during canola flowering, but hot days in late September ahead of any frost boosted numbers.

Herbicide application was a challenge this year across the region. Dry weather meant minimal weed pressure early in the growing season, and producers were hesitant to spray. Later season moisture brought a full spectrum of weeds and control was hard at that

time as crops were quickly growing past safe label stages. Windy conditions were also a factor for delayed herbicide application. Flea beetles were a problem in canola again this year, leading to the majority of farms spraying their fields, on one or more occasions, including some reseeded canola. Grasshoppers were present in every field and damaging cereal and canola crops until harvest forced them to seek other green food sources.

Late-season September rains led to crop regrowth in cereals and canola, leading to harvest management issues. Producers are concerned at how much water (and nutrients) these regrown crops took up after harvest, and the impacts on next year's crop water budget. Crop yields were lower than average due to lack of precipitation, but were extremely variable. Yields were surprisingly good in many cases, given poor looking stands, as well as considering the challenges of the season. However, better yields were generally limited to specific geographies with better in-season rainfall and soil moisture conservation practices.

Good harvest conditions this fall with dry weather helped producers get the crop off in a relatively timely manner. Producers took advantage of the good weather, coupled with drought-stressed crops and began harvest earlier than normal, reaching 54% harvest completion by September 14th.

Winter wheat yielded in the 55 to 60 bu/ac range, following significant stresses last fall and this spring. Fall rye came off in the 60 to 80 bu/ac range. Both crops had good quality, but yields were limited where frosts damaged heads during flowering.

Pea yields ranged from 30 to 50 bu/acre, averaging 40 bu/ac, with excellent quality, but smaller seed size than normal. Flax yields reported were better than last year, ranging from 20 to 45 bu/ac, with very good quality seed.

Most of the early harvested spring wheat graded 1 CW. Protein averaged 13.5% according to many producers. Later harvested wheat had sprouting damage and bleaching where the crop was left in the field due to stagey ripening and sat in swath during a rainstorm. Yields ranged from 30 to 70 bu/ac, averaging 45 to 55 bu/acre.

Barley yielded between 50 to 70 bu/ac, averaging in the 60 bu/ac range, grading 1 CW, with good weight and low vomitoxin. Oats ranged from 50 to 120 bu/ac, and averaged 70 to 100 bu/acre. Test weights varied through harvest, reflecting in-season rainfall amounts. Fewer thins than expected. Downgrading was due to mildew, discolouration and rain/high humidity.

Canola yields ranged from 25 to 55 bu/ac, averaging 30 to 40 bu/ac

with all grain graded 1 CAN. Most of canola was straight cut, after being left in the field longer than normal, allowing green spots and stagey crops time to ripe evenly. There were some regrowth issues in canola as well due to late season rains, which made harvest tricky for some producers. Swathed canola fields suffered shattering losses from wind in some areas. Seeds are smaller than average, as well as lower in oil content due to dry weather conditions.

Some moisture came towards the end of August, which helped soybean crops at their grain filling stage. Seed size is average to slightly smaller. Yields range from 25 to 45 bu/ac, averaging in the low thirties, and the majority of the crop is grading 1 CAN.

Grain corn harvest continues, now over 80% complete, with most producers finished. Yields reported range from 80 to 120 bu/acre. Harvest progress has been good, and pushed to finish ahead of this weeks' rain. Many producers report dry grain and have limited grain dryer use for this year. Test weights are good with no quality issues. Sunflower harvest also continues and is now 60% complete. Yields range from 1800 to close to 2500 lbs/ac, average is expected to be in the 2000 to 2200 lb range. Quality is good.

Pasture regrowth was slow in early spring due to dry and cold

conditions, and has been significantly impacted by dry conditions for much of the last two to three years. Better managed stands performed better, where grazing was rotated. Supplemental feeding on pastures in late July and early August was necessary in some cases. Hay yields were again lower than average, while fertilized stands performed better. Cool, dry conditions in spring prevented a quick regrowth, and lack of summer rains resulted in further crop stunting. Some fields which got timely rains yielded well in second cut.

Silage corn yields are reported at 9 to 20 tonnes/ac, with average yields higher than expected. Forage shortages are still expected. Many fields saw straw baled immediately following cereal harvest; yield is better than recent years. Some producers have started to feed cattle on fall grazing pastures.

Several producers are still short of feed and replacement prices are very high. Many producers are looking at other feed sources but both grain and pellets have gone up in price as well. Native hay yields have been poor in most areas; sloughs are dry. Dugouts are low to almost dry, as there has been minimal rainfall for some time.

Northwest Region

Spring seeding saw dry conditions, especially on the southeast side of

the region, while some of the western and Swan Valley areas saw adequate seedbed moisture due to snowmelt. Cool soil

temperatures, dry soil conditions, a late May frost in some areas and extremely strong wind events affected most crops, most

noticeably affecting canola. Flea beetle pressure on canola was relentless and also contributed to spring reseed decisions, while some fields saw multiple insecticide applications to sustain a healthy crop. In addition, little to no spring precipitation was received and added to crop stresses. When some precipitation was received, it cause “staginess” in some crops which proved to be a challenge through the season. Strong winds and high temperatures also depleted soil moisture conditions as well as posed a challenge for pesticide application. In turn, weed control was less than ideal in some fields.

While precipitation almost reached 90% of seasonal normal accumulation in some areas, the timeliness of precipitation played a big factor this season. Most rainfall fell in mid to late August, too late to contribute to yield production in cereals, peas, and early canola crops. The majority of the region falls into the category of dry to very dry in terms of soil moisture conditions heading into winter. The dry conditions were made apparent this year in terms of production and yield as well as depleted soil moisture conditions and water sources. While some post-harvest fieldwork has been done this fall, some farmers are holding off due to dry conditions. Fall fertilization has been minimal and has picked up now that temperatures have started to cool.

The fall weather cooperated for the most part in order to get the 2021 crop harvested in a timely manner, while few acres of late canola and

soybeans remain standing. The lack of precipitation and warm temperatures seemed to move crops to maturity a little faster this season. Fall precipitation along with warm temperatures caused regrowth in some crops as well as a new flush of weed growth. To this date no killing frost has occurred, only light/damaging frosts.

Field pea yields were lower than normal this year due to lack of moisture. Yields ranged from 35 to 40 bu/ac in the Swan Valley; 30 bu/ac in Roblin; 40 to 45 bu/ac in Dauphin and Grandview. Pea harvest was completed in a timely manner and there were no concerns with grade.

Winter wheat yields ranged from 45 to 55 bu/ac and fall rye ranged from 45 to 65 bu/acre. There were no issues taking off these crops. It is expected that winter wheat acres will increase this year in the Dauphin area.

Spring wheat harvest started out well and part way through the region received some rains, which put a hold on harvest progress. This resulted in downgrading due to sprouted wheat and lower falling numbers. Yields ranged from 60 to 75 in The Pas, 40 to 80 bu/ac in the Swan Valley; 50 bu/ac in Roblin area; 45 to 60 bu/ac in Dauphin area. Approximately half the spring wheat was graded 1CW while the remainder is spread into lower grades. Oat and barley harvest is complete. Lack of moisture has resulted in some oats being light-weight. Late rains also caused issues with regrowth. Oat

yield ranges from 50 to 110 bu/ac across the region. Barley yields range from 45 to 60 bu/ac.

The canola crop had its share of struggles this season starting in the spring, with a lack of moisture causing germination issues and several extreme wind events. Followed by a persistent flea beetle season as well as a late frost in some areas, warranted reseeding in some fields. High temperatures during the flowering period caused significant heat blast, reducing yield potential. The canola crop yields were reflective of the condition of the crop and varied considerably. There were no large concerns with quality downgrading, however there was some damaged canola due to dry conditions and pod drop. Yields in the Swan Valley region ranged from 20 to 35 bu/ac in poorer stands and 40 to 55 bu/ac in better fields; 30 to 40 bu/ac in the Parkland district. There remains a few standing fields of canola across the region which puts harvest progress at 99% complete.

Soybean harvest continues towards completion across the region. Yields across the region range from 25 to 40 bu/ac and were dependant on the timely rains received in August. There are no concerns about soybean grade and green seed this year. Some flax has been harvested while some remains standing due to late rains causing flax to regrow and flower again. Flax yields so far range from 20 to 25 bu/acre.

With dry conditions throughout the season there was very little

disease pressure on crops. The continuous high temperatures, along with lack of precipitation did cause stress on crops in terms of production and yield. Insects of concern in 2021 were cutworms in the spring, flea beetles in spring (requiring multiple applications) as well as late season flea beetles requiring control, grasshoppers and lygus bugs. Grasshopper feeding pressure was intense throughout the season on the east and side of the region and increased as dry conditions were favorable.

Hay yields across the Northwest region were approximately a third of normal with higher yields on newer, well fertilized stands with quality at average to above average. Late regrowth on hay fields is still being harvested. Greenfeed and annual cereal silage crops yielded half to two-thirds of normal. Corn silage yields ranged from two-thirds of average with some fields in the western parts yielding close to average with varying tonnage within a field. Producers short on feed have had to secure alternative feeds such as cattails, bulrushes, straw and different grains. This has been

challenging this year for many cattle producers with the higher prices of hay, straw and grain, as well as freight costs.

Late rains in the season helped pastures sustain herd grazing where some supplemental feeding had been occurring on summer pastures prior to the rains. Recent cooler temperatures have slowed new growth and herds will be moving to wintering or fall grazing sites. Dugouts are low and fall rains and significant snowfall will be required to replenish sources for next year.

Central Region

The 2021 growing season can be characterized as a hot drought. Growing season precipitation in Central region was below average while temperatures and growing degree-day (GDD) were above average throughout the season resulting in stressful growing conditions for crops and forages. Soil moisture was fair to poor in the fall of 2020 going into winter, followed by below normal snowfall resulting in little to no spring runoff available to recharge topsoil moisture and surface water sources.

Spring seeding was off to an early start given the dry field conditions. Cereals went in the ground early with reasonable emergence for the earliest planted fields but poorer for last planted fields as they struggled to establish as topsoil moisture declined. Minimal pre-seed burn off and tillage was done

as weed growth was poor and farmers focused on seeding. Pastures and hay fields were slow to recover from the winter due to cold and dry soils.

Winter cereal survival varied according to fall establishment, which was challenged by dry topsoil conditions leading to delayed and uneven emergence. Due to the poor recovery, many winter cereal fields were terminated early and reseeded to other spring crops. The lack of early spring precipitation was somewhat detrimental to the early growth of winter cereals remaining. Good rainfall came at a critical stage of development in later in May, in time to support plant growth before heading.

Herbicide applications were challenging this year having poor and delayed weed growth in hotter than normal temperatures and stressed crops. Later season weed

growth became a problematic in later maturing crops requiring desiccation before they could be harvested. Variable wind conditions complicated and delayed timely applications for many. Hail events were rare and light in intensity this season.

Later June precipitation helped support many crops that were running out of soil moisture and for some it was the last significant rainfall until harvest. From May 1st to September 30th, every reporting weather station recorded below normal precipitation ranging from 47% in Brunkild to 91% in St-Claude. The season began warm and continued warmer than normal resulting in above normal heat units received ranging from 99% of normal near Windygates to 118% in Lakeland. Poor subsoil moisture availability combined with below average rainfall and above normal temperatures resulted in highly variable growing conditions within

the region with the heart of the region in the Red River Valley suffering effects of the drought most severely. Forest fires burning in the northeastern portion of the province and in Saskatchewan often caused smoky and hazing conditions that shaded the region when winds were favorable. Those days, temperatures were moderated from reaching daytime expected highs.

Perennial forage stands including pastures performed poorly from the start of the season. First cut hay was only 20 to 30% of average in many cases. Later August rainfall helped stimulate forage regrowth, rejuvenating pastures for late season grazing and second and third cut hay yielding relatively good growth and excellent harvest quality forage.

Cereal grain harvest started early in August given the accelerated maturity as a result of stress. Most cereal grain harvest was complete in the Red River Valley by the time later August precipitation came but a substantial portion of cereal grains were still unharvested west of the escarpment and suffered from discoloration and some sprouting. No frost is reported in much of the region as of October 12.

Winter cereal harvested acres were down compared the last few years. Winter wheat yield ranged from 50 to 65 bu/ac, and fall rye ranged from 50 to 80 bu/ac. Test weights were good, as were falling numbers for rye. Ergot levels in rye tended to be lower than in recent seasons. Grain quality was good, with very low fusarium-damaged

kernels (FDK) and vomitoxin levels.

Barley yields ranged from 50 to 100 bu/ac, with the majority falling in the 65 to 75 bu/acre. Quality is very good. Many barley growers made malt quality this year.

Oat yields varied widely from 40 to 130 bu/ac, averaging 80 to 90 bu/acre. Quality was good but higher thin levels reported in some early harvested oats. Most graded at the highest designation, and buyers are eager for supply given the substantial shortfall in yields this year, despite lower test weights in a sizeable number of samples

Spring wheat yields ranged from 20 to 90 bu/ac, with most reporting 45 to 55 bu/ac average. Most CWRS graded 1 CW, with protein at 14 to 15% and some higher. CNHR grades are good, with most reporting a top grade. Fusarium was minimal, with low FDK and vomitoxin levels.

Canola yields were highly variable having significant establishment issues due to dry soils and hot temperatures at emergence and again at flowering combined with extreme flea beetle pressure in many cases resulted in many fields reseeded even after many attempts at controlling flea beetle damage. Cutworms were an issue in a number of fields requiring control treatments. Blackleg was at low levels and not considered a yield limiting factor this year. Sclerotinia was mostly absent although some growers applied prevention measures to fields with higher yield potential. Yields

reported ranged from 15 to 55 bu/ac, averaging 25 to 35 bu/acre. Quality is very good with the majority of the crop grading 1 CAN. Dockage was higher than normal, and some farms are concerned about green dockage causing heat spoiling in the bin if aeration is not adequate.

There were more acres of flax in the region this year. Good harvested grain quality. Reported flax yields ranged from 15 to 28 bu/acre. Flax straw was disposed of via burning. Field pea acreage was higher than last year. Harvested peas yielded well in the 25 to 65 bu/ac range with fair to good harvest quality.

Soybean acres were slightly lower than last year. Plant height was limited by the poor moisture conditions in most parts of the region. August rains came early enough during the seed filling stage of some fields resulting in better than expected yields in some situations. Crops that suffered worse drought conditions yielded poorly and tended to stay green, making harvest of those fields more challenging. Yields range from 15 to 60 bu/ac averaging around 25 to 30 bu/acre. Grain quality is fair to good grading predominantly as 2 CAN. No white mold reported. Iron deficiency chlorosis was noted but affected fields recovered well.

Dry edible beans harvest of early and late maturing types is considered done. Reported yields are in the 1,000 to 1,200 lbs per acre in moisture limited areas and up to 1,600 lbs per acre in areas with better moisture conditions.

Sunflower harvest continues with 25 to 35% complete. Early yield reports to date range from 2000 to 2600 lbs/acre for oil sunflowers and good test weight. Quality is very good.

Grain corn harvest continues; with the region estimated at 35 to 45% complete. Hotter and dryer conditions help with dry down but frost is needed to terminate green plant tissue. Reported yields range from 60 to 140 bu/ac, with average yields to date in the 90 to 110 bus/acre range. Harvested grain moisture levels are in the 20 to 26% range as of October 10.

Potato harvest is mostly complete. Harvesting conditions were very good this fall with reported yields in the below to near average range of 275 to 350 cwt/acre. Late blight was not an issue this season. Impact of disease in most crops was low due to the dryer than normal growing conditions.

Insect issues were widespread, including severe flea beetle pressure in many canola fields forcing reseeding in many cases. Cutworms were also a contributor

to establishment issues of some crops but not as severe as in 2020. Grasshopper populations were notable this year in annual and forage crops. In-season insecticide applications were made to whole fields for grasshoppers control mostly in the Red River Valley, as they moved from cut ditches onto fields. European corn borer were not reported as an issue. Low pheromone baited trap counts for diamondback moth and bertha armyworm resulted in low population levels and no control reported. Cereal armyworm were monitored using pheromone baited traps but were not an issue as they were last year. Soybean aphids were not a factor this year.

Improved straw choppers and chaff spreaders have improved the spread of crop residue to the soil requiring less tillage to incorporate. Post-harvest harrowing stimulated abundant volunteer grain growth with September rains. Tillage or broad-spectrum herbicide applications to terminate plant growth and incorporate crop residue have progressed strategically to protect soil moisture.

Soil testing continues with early results indicating moderate to high residual nitrogen levels post-harvest. Manure applications progressed well this fall as harvest progressed. Soil temperatures remain relatively warm so fall fertilization is somewhat delayed to prevent the conversion of nitrogen fertilizer into less stable forms. Thanksgiving weekend rains helped to improve topsoil moisture conditions but soils still need more to replenish subsoil moisture across the region.

The percentage of crop residue burning was quite low this year given the poorer crop yields and strong demand for straw from livestock operations in need of hay and forage. Much of the available cereal straw has been baled along with other crop types including peas and canola.

Winter cereals seeded acres are reportedly down this fall due to limited winter wheat seed supplies and for relatively lower price offering for rye. Otherwise, establishment conditions were very good this fall with the late August rains. Established fields were in the 3 to 6 leaf stage by early October.

Eastern Region

The 2021 growing season was a challenging one. Seeding began in late April in the Southeast region. Soil moisture levels became a concern in the area very quickly. For the most part soil moisture levels were adequate for germination but with little rain throughout most of May, crops and hayland especially began to show

signs of moisture stress. A severe frost event May 26 to 27 caused some re-seeding of affected canola and soybean crops in northern parts of the region.

June brought flea beetles in canola as the next big challenge for growers. Seed treatment protection began to drop off and

insecticide spraying was required to protect the young plants. Many fields were sprayed more than once, in one of the worst outbreaks in memory. Rainfall throughout June was sporadic at best and came mostly as isolated showers. Weed growth was delayed along with the crop, but herbicide applications was done in a timely

manner. Fusarium head blight (FHB) fungicide applications in spring wheat were applied, given the dry weather, some chose to skip the application due to lower disease pressure.

July moisture conditions did not improve crop growing conditions. Isolated showers were reported but overall most of the region did not receive the precipitation for optimal plant growth. Moisture stress in most crops was evident by the shorter stands and drought-stress symptoms. Extreme heat added further to plant stress and led to pod abortion and heat blast in canola. Farmers yield expectations were lowered as the heat continued for all crops. Many producers chose to skip their fungicide applications in canola due to the very dry weather and low humidity in thinner stands. Other crops like corn, soybean, oats and flax also showed signs of suffering through the heat. Grasshoppers were a major concern in areas as well. Field edges as well as full fields were sprayed to protect the crop.

By August it was evident that the continued dry spell had pushed crops to mature quicker than normal. A late August thunderstorm system brought substantial rain, but was too late for most early season crops. Later season crops like soybeans and sunflowers were able to make use of the moisture. For Corn it may have helped in the kernel filling process but the heat and moisture stress had taken its toll and the yields were reflective.

Winter wheat yields averaged 65 bu/ac, lower than the expected normal average of 75 bu/acre. Quality was 100% 1 CWRW and bushel weight was good. Fall rye averaged 75 bu/ac, below the expected average of 85 bu/acre. Quality was good at 100% rated 1 CW. Field peas yielded 50 bu/ac, below the expected yields of >60bu/acre. No issues with crop quality.

Producers were surprised by the yield and quality of the spring wheat crop. Yield reports average 60 bu/ac, near the norm with good quality and bushel weights. Wheat protein ranged from 10.5 to just over 14%. Oats yields were disappointing overall, yield reports ranged from 50 to 100 bu/ac with a 70 bu/acre average and light bushel weights (37 to 40lb/bu). Overall oats could not handle the heat of the summer and yields were well below the expected average >100bu/acre. Canola yield reports range from 10 to 40 bu/ac averaging 20 to 25 bu/ac; below the expected area average of 50 bu/acre. Canola yielded somewhat better than expected given the growing season issues.

Flax yielded approximately 20 bu/ac, and handled drought stress poorly. Yields were below the average yield expected of approximately 30bu/acre. Flax quality was good at 100% 1 CW, despite challenges where crop regrowth following September rains led to substantial flowering and green boll formation. Most farms chose to desiccate and salvage the mature seed, and

dispose of higher dockage and smaller, lightweight seed out the back of the combine.

Soybean yields ranging from 19 to 42 bu/ac, with good quality. Average yield for the region is 32 bu/ac, on par with the average expected yields for the region. Quality was at 100% 2 CAN. There was a wide range of yields reported but overall producers are happy with the performance of the crop in a moisture stressed year.

Sunflowers handled the moisture deficit stress better than most crops, tapping into moisture lower down in the soil profile. Yields for oilseed varieties are averaging in the 3500 to 4000 lbs/acre, well above the provincial average. Confectionary varieties have not yet been harvested in the region.

Grain corn crops yield reports range from the 70 to 150 bu/acre range with the regional average around the 100 bu/ac mark. Lower yields are disappointing as they are well below the expected area average of 140 bu/acre. Quality is good at 100% of yield at 2 CW with good bushel weight being reported.

Overall crop quality has been good and the weather has had limited effect. Seed size smaller was noted in a range of crops but not to the point of downgrading. Cereals that were not harvested before late August rains did often downgrade to Sample. Dry conditions did cause some light bushel weights in oats but neither of these problems were particularly dramatic. Average spring wheat proteins were in the 11.8 - 12% range with winter wheat around 10.8%.

Reports came in of some discounts for low protein on spring wheat being sold off the combine by some grain companies.

Rainfall over the last week varied from 10 to 32 mm in the region. The rains brought harvesting to a stop although field work and fertilizer applications continued for a time in areas with lower rainfall amounts. Localized mild to moderate levels of frost occurred in some areas but certainly have not had a generalized killing frost yet. Some sunflower and lots of corn is left to be harvested. Harvest will resume as weather permits. Overall producers are feeling good about their progress and look to finishing up.

Interlake Region

A very dry winter with minimal snowfall led to a challenging start to seeding in the Interlake. Overwinter moisture accumulation was less than 40% across the region, leading to limited spring runoff. Dry fields led to an early start to seeding for some, beginning in mid-April, but delayed by a snowfall towards the end of that month. Wheat and pea crops emerged nicely, with better looking stands to start the year than in 2020.

Severe frost arrived in region on May 26 to 27, well after much of the cereal, flax, and canola crop had emerged. Soybean fields were only a day away from being significantly impacted. Reseeding on many canola fields was required, while cereals recovered,

Fall fieldwork is rapidly progressing. Anhydrous ammonia banding will resume once soil surfaces dry, now that soil temperatures are dropping. Overall weather has not been holding back progress and producers have been keeping up. Recent rainfall has stopped things but is helpful for soil moisture recharge.

Cropping plans for 2022 have not changed significantly compared to previous years. Increases in fertilizer prices may shift some acres away from high input using crops but on the whole crop rotations are expected to remain consistent for the region.

but slowly, given the dry soil conditions. Weed growth was minimal this spring, with very few pre-burn herbicide applications. As spring progressed without significant rainfall, it became very evident that farmers with reduced soil disturbance at seeding or less tillage from the previous fall had better crop stands than those with a pre-seed tillage pass. Cool and dry conditions delayed forage growth changed some crop plans to grow more greenfeed.

Strong winds towards late May caused problems, leading to crop injury on last year's canola and soybean stubble, and filled in some seed furrows as well. Crop seeding order was shuffled, and varied widely by individual farm, depending on soil moisture

Supplemental cattle feeding started much earlier than normal due to poor pasture performance throughout the summer. Only recently have pastures been regrowing better and provide a bit of feed. Winter feed supplies are likely adequate because of producer ingenuity. Most cattle producers have figured out a way to get enough feed up despite expensive costs and low hay yields. Feed grains may have to be imported into the area, and will remain tight overwinter. Rain is helpful to improve overwinter pasture survivability and replenish dugouts and sloughs, which are generally low at this time.

conditions and temperature. Canola sowing was spread out, with many fields delayed due to concerns about frost and flea beetle damage. Cold, dry soils led to increased flea beetle damage on slowly emerging canola, in some cases sitting in dry soil for several weeks before emerging.

Scattered thunderstorms made crop growth challenging the entire growing season. Isolated pockets would receive some rain, while only a few miles away, no rain arrived. The south Interlake surrounding Winnipeg received less rain than the Arborg to Fisher Branch area, however rainfall was not distributed evenly when needed in May, June and July, with the majority of the northern Interlake receiving rain in mid

August and later, too late to improve yield outlook in many crops and forages. Continued reseeded was common in canola crops, with a wide range in crop maturity as a result.

Extreme heat in late June to early July led to problems with heat blast and stress affecting canola, flax, and some cereals. Overnight lows above 20°C coupled with no cooling rains or substantial soil moisture led to oilseed crops becoming the most severely affected, resulting in permanent reductions in yield due to pod abortion in canola, poor boll filling in flax, and stunted flower development in sunflowers. Premature ripening in cereal and canola crops was common in the region, with a sizeable number of grain-intended crops were being cut as greenfeed to reduce pressure on grazing pastures and hayfields. Extreme drought conditions continued in midsummer, with many municipalities declaring Agricultural States of Disaster towards late July resulting from insect feeding on crops and pastures, cattle feed shortages, and increasing feed replacement costs.

The impact of disease on crops was much lower than normal, a consequence of drier conditions. Fungicide applications were almost non-existent this year. Fewer canola fields were sprayed than normal, due to dry conditions, and thinner, short stands.

Insect injury on crops was much higher than normal. Cold dry soils delayed canola emergence and

slowed growth, making the crop susceptible to flea beetle injury. Headlands were sprayed more than once in many cases, and entire fields were sprayed. Some canola was reseeded due to multiple stresses of cold soils/poor emergence, flea beetles, cutworms and frost. Cutworms were a problem in several crops. Armyworms caused significant damage in a number of fields including perennial ryegrass, fescue and timothy, spring cereals and hayfields.

Grasshoppers also caused significant problems for many producers. Headlands were sprayed more than once, and entire crops were sprayed, sometimes more than once. All crops were affected, including hay and pastures. In many fields in June and July, grasshopper feeding outpaced forage growth before cattle could graze. Grasshopper injury continued through much of the season. Producers are concerned that insects will continue to be a problem again next season. Significant numbers of beneficial predator insects were evident in fields.

Heat and drought spurred rapid development of most crops, leading to an earlier start to harvest.

As expected, crop yields were significantly lower on average due to lack of precipitation, but were extremely variable.

Field peas started to come off at the beginning of August, with

average yields below normal at 25 bu/acre.

Spring wheat yields ranged from 20 to 60 bu/ac, generally averaging in the low thirties. Smaller kernel size and fewer spikelets per head is the norm, but disease and fusarium damaging is next to zero. Straw was in high demand, with nearly every pea, cereal, and canola field being baled. Oat yields ranged from 50 to 80 bu/ac, with the poorest crops intended for grain cut as greenfeed or silage, bringing average yields slightly higher. Most oats were lightweight, under 40 lbs/bushel. Barley yielded between 20 to 80 bu/ac, averaging mid-40's.

Canola crops suffered more, yields between 5 to 30 bu/ac were common. There was a significant increase in the number of fields desiccated this year, since late August rains spurred regrowth in many canola and flax crops, as well as lush volunteer growth on cereal stubble. Larger oilseed plants with established root systems took much more time to dry down ahead of the combine, and even after harvest, regrew and began to bloom throughout late September and into October. Harvested canola had higher dockage this fall, leading to farmer concerns about green dockage heating in bins, and spoiling high-value canola seed. In some cases, canola crops were written off due to poor yield expectations, and farmers kept the regrowth for cattle greenfeed or silage, or attempted to see if regrowth might ripen in time for a late harvest if a killing frost was late in the year.

As soils dried again, later-season crops stopped actively growing, but remained green. Soybeans, corn, and sunflowers were much shorter than normal, with reduced yield expectations. Towards mid September, soybeans started dropping leaves rapidly, but stems remained green for some time. Kochia, biennial wormwood, thistles, and volunteer canola weed growth made many fields quite dirty, and desiccation was necessary ahead of harvest in some cases. Reported yields ranged from 20 to 40 bu/ac, averaging 30 bu/acre. Higher than expected soybean yields have encouraged producers to include more soybeans in their 2022 rotations.

Harvest of later-season crops has been an extended process. Weather conditions were favourable, however a lack of a killing frost, together with warm days has encouraged regrowth or stay-green effects in some canola, soybeans, and corn. A killing frost

is necessary to dry the last crops down, since desiccants are not fully effective given the cool overnight temperatures and take some time to work.

Fall fertilization work has started, but some producers have been cautious to disturb soil too much, while others have made a lot of progress in general fall tillage, despite dry soils and potential issues next spring. Anhydrous ammonia banding has been slower, given the warm soils to date, but is expected to pick up later this month. High fertilizer prices together with very high soil fertility residual numbers have many producers delaying application, or reducing applied nitrogen to save input costs.

Next year's seeding intentions will firm up over winter, taking in to consideration the dry conditions, soil fertility residual, potential for insect pests, rotation needs and crop prices.

Pasture regrowth was slow due to dry and cold conditions, and has

been significantly impacted by dry conditions for much of the last two or three years. Supplemental feeding of cattle was required in spring until pasture growth was adequate, and again in midsummer. Pastures are rated fair to very poor going into winter.

Hay yields were again much lower than average. Fertilized fields fared better. Cool, dry conditions in spring prevented a quick regrowth, and lack of summer rains resulted in further crop stunting. Good regrowth started after late August rains into September, but stalled without further moisture. Yields are generally one-third to half of normal, but producers are taking whatever cuts they can get due to overall feed shortages. Native hay yields have been poor in most areas; sloughs are dry. Dugouts are low to almost dry, as there has been minimal rainfall for some time, but should have some replenishment after the October rains.