

Alberta Crop Report

Crop conditions as of September 5, 2023

Harvest has continued to progress quickly in regions where there are still dry conditions such as the southern half of the province. Progress remains slow in the North West and North East where cool and wet conditions have caused a delay in maturity, lodging and difficulty accessing fields. Overall, 35 per cent of all crops are combined provincially, 8 and 9 per cent ahead of the 5-year and 10-year average, respectively (see Table 1). The majority of progress is from the South Region, which is 71 per cent complete, 20 per cent ahead of the 5-year average. The Central and Peace Region are also ahead of their historical averages as the Central Region progressed 12 per cent since last week to 29 per cent of major crops combined and the Peace Region progressed 17 per cent to be complete 24 per cent of major crops. Provincially, combining of winter wheat, fall rye, dry peas and lentils are all over 85 per cent complete. As for the other major crops, such as spring wheat, barley, oats and canola, there is still over 50 per cent left to combine of each crop.

Crop quality estimates are starting to be reported and hard red spring wheat ratings are consistent with the 5-year average as 61 per cent is rating 1 CW. Durum is rating 52 per cent as 1 CW, down 9 per cent from the 5-year average. However, only 23 per cent of barley is rated as malt quality, down 10 per cent from the 5-year average. Oats are below their 5-year average of 47 per cent as 41 per cent is rating 1 CW. As for canola, 73 per cent is rated as 1 CAN, 14 per cent less than the 5-year average. Finally, 21 per cent of dry peas are rated 1 CAN, 10 per cent less than the 5-year average.

Table 1: Estimates of Crop Harvest as of September 5, 2023

| | Per cent of Crops Combined | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---------|--------|--------|-------|---------|
| | South | Central | N East | N West | Peace | Alberta |
| Spring Wheat* | 76.2% | 35.6% | 7.9% | 14.0% | 42.5% | 36.2% |
| Durum | 79.0% | 80.9% | - | - | - | 79.3% |
| Barley* | 81.7% | 37.0% | 15.0% | 24.0% | 35.7% | 45.9% |
| Oats* | 68.2% | 25.7% | 1.6% | 6.6% | 27.1% | 15.5% |
| Canola* | 45.7% | 6.2% | 1.8% | 0.0% | 1.5% | 10.0% |
| Dry Peas* | 99.3% | 89.6% | 83.9% | 74.7% | 71.2% | 87.2% |
| Mustard | 63.6% | 68.3% | - | - | - | 64.7% |
| Flax | 23.7% | 0.0% | 0.0% | - | - | 17.4% |
| Potatoes | 5.6% | 3.9% | - | 17.3% | - | 6.5% |
| Chickpeas | 54.9% | 97.7% | - | - | - | 58.1% |
| Lentils | 91.5% | 90.0% | - | - | - | 91.3% |
| All Crops, September 5 | 71.1% | 31.4% | 9.0% | 11.8% | 23.6% | 34.7% |
| Major Crops (*), September 5 | 70.9% | 28.6% | 8.9% | 11.4% | 23.6% | 30.5% |
| Major Crops (*), August 29 | 49.5% | 17.0% | 3.6% | 3.8% | 6.4% | 17.9% |
| 5-year All Crops (2018-2022) | 51.2% | 25.4% | 13.6% | 14.3% | 8.7% | 26.8% |
| 10-year All Crops (2013-2022) | 48.2% | 21.3% | 14.9% | 12.5% | 15.8% | 26.0% |

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Dryland yield indices have either stayed stable or slightly increased since last report. Currently, the provincial yield index of 88 indicates that yields are estimated to be 12 per cent below the 5-year average (see Table 2). The best yields are seen in the North West, estimated to be 12 per cent above the 5-year average. The North East and Peace Regions are estimated to yield 4 per cent and 10 per cent below the 5-year average yield index, respectively. However, the South and Central Regions' yield indices indicated that crops are estimated to yield 32 per cent and 21 per cent below the 5-year yield index, respectively. For major crops, all yield indices are indicating estimated yields within 10 per cent of their 5-year averages, except for spring wheat which is estimated to be 16 per cent below the 5-year average yield and canola which is estimated to be 11 per cent below the 5-year average yield.

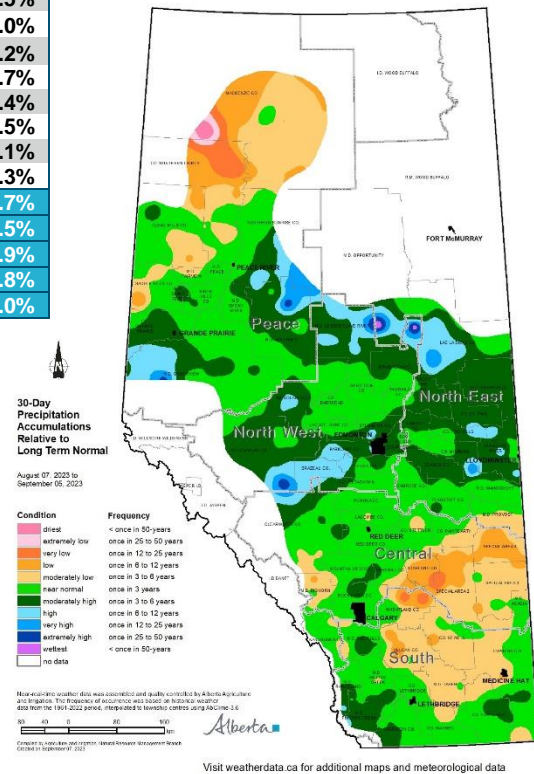


Table 2 below contains bushel/acre yield estimates for major crops across regions. The 5-year yield index can be interpreted as the following; if the estimated dryland 5-year yield index of major crops in the South Region is 67.7, that indicates that provincial yields are estimated at 32.3 per cent below the 5-year average or 67.7 per cent of the 5-year average.

Table 2: Regional Dryland Yield Estimations as of September 5, 2023

| | Estimated Dryland Yield (bushels/acre) and Index for Major Crops | | | | | |
|---------------------|--|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| | South | Central | N East | N West | Peace | Alberta |
| Spring Wheat | 25.2 | 38.7 | 44.3 | 54.7 | 41.9 | 39.7 |
| Barley | 30.8 | 64.8 | 74.3 | 83.7 | 52.5 | 57.5 |
| Oats | 30.1 | 62.8 | 88.6 | 98.9 | 60.9 | 78.6 |
| Canola | 19.6 | 33.6 | 38.4 | 39.5 | 32.0 | 33.4 |
| Dry Peas | 23.6 | 36.6 | 45.7 | 38.7 | 40.1 | 34.9 |
| 5-year Yield Index | 67.7 | 79.3 | 96.4 | 111.8 | 90.4 | 88.0 |
| 10-year Yield Index | 60.0 | 78.6 | 95.0 | 103.4 | 94.0 | 85.3 |

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Precipitation over the past week was focused mostly on the Central Region and western part of the South Region, receiving 10-40 mm. Light showers of 3 to 15 mm were experienced in the North West and North East, while the rest of the South and Peace Regions experienced 0 to 2 mm. Surface soil moisture rated good to excellent increased 1 per cent provincially while sub-surface soil moisture rated good to excellent decreased 2 per cent. Currently, surface soil moisture (5-year average in brackets) is rated 31 (21) per cent poor, 28 (28) per cent fair, 29 (39) per cent good, 9 (10) per cent excellent and 2 (2) per cent excessive (see Table 3). Sub-surface soil moisture (5-year average in brackets) is rated 36 (24) per cent poor, 28 (29) per cent fair, 29 (33) per cent good, 8 (12) per cent excellent and 0 (1) per cent excessive.

Table 3: Alberta Surface Soil Moisture Ratings as of September 5, 2023

| | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent | Excessive |
|-------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| South | 60.0% | 31.5% | 8.6% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| Central | 36.4% | 39.2% | 23.9% | 0.5% | 0.0% |
| North East | 7.0% | 21.1% | 59.9% | 11.2% | 0.8% |
| North West | 0.2% | 9.5% | 44.9% | 28.4% | 17.0% |
| Peace | 6.7% | 20.0% | 35.4% | 35.4% | 2.6% |
| Alberta, September 5 | 31.2% | 28.1% | 29.3% | 9.0% | 2.3% |
| Alberta, August 29 | 31.3% | 28.9% | 28.8% | 8.2% | 2.8% |
| 5-year (2018-2022) Avg | 20.6% | 28.0% | 39.0% | 10.2% | 2.2% |
| 10-year (2013-2022) Avg | 17.5% | 23.9% | 42.0% | 14.6% | 1.9% |

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Pasture and tame hay condition ratings slightly decreased across the province over the last week with the largest declines occurring in the North West and North East. Currently, pasture (5-year average in brackets) is rated at 40 (31) per cent poor, 35 (33) per cent fair, 25 (31) per cent good, and 1 (5) per cent excellent. While there has been some pasture regrowth, it has slowed as fall approaches. Areas that have seen frost over the last week will also see a halt in growth. Currently, tame hay (5-year average in brackets) is rated at 29 (26) per cent poor, 37 (30) per cent fair, 32 (37) per cent good and 2 (7) per cent excellent. Across the province, 32 per cent of second cut acres are still left to cut and bale and while yields are estimated to be above average at 1.1 tons per acre, areas with high moisture are struggling to get hay to dry.

Regional Assessments:

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

- Combining progressed 21 per cent for major crops over the last week and is now 71 per cent, 20 per cent ahead of the 5-year average.
- Canola, chickpeas, flax, and dry beans have the most crop left to combine. There have been a few reports of heavy smoke slowing harvest progress by limiting sunshine and daytime heating.
- Grasshoppers have been reported to be over threshold in some areas.

- A warm, dry week ended with cooler weather and scattered showers, leaving soil moisture levels stable. Surface soil moisture is currently rated at (sub-surface in brackets) 60 (66) per cent poor, 32 (26) per cent fair, 9 (7) per cent good, 0 (1) per cent excellent and zero per cent excessive.
- Pasture growth conditions (tame hay conditions in brackets) are rated as 67 (70) per cent poor, 27 (26) per cent fair, 6 (5) per cent good, and 0 (0) per cent excellent.

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

- Harvest is progressing well in most areas, though wide spread smoke and changing weather has slowed down maturing and progress in parts of the region.
- In the Central Region, 31 per cent of all crops are harvested, ahead of the 5-year average of 25 per cent.
- Surface soil moisture conditions (sub-surface in brackets) is currently rated at 36 (37) per cent poor, 39 (35) per cent fair, 24 (29) per cent good, 1 (0) per cent excellent and 0 (0) per cent excessive.
- Second cut hay is nearly complete at 88 per cent cut and baled. Yields are at 1.3 tons per acre, slightly below the 5-year average of 1.4 tons per acre. Pasture growth conditions (tame hay conditions in brackets) are rated as 37 (30) per cent poor, 35 (35) per cent fair, 28 (33) per cent good, and 1 (3) per cent excellent.

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

- After a warm and dry start to the week, frost was experienced around the region, but it is too early to know the impact. Harvest progress has been affected by light moisture and cooler weather and is only 9 per cent complete, behind the 5-year average of 14 per cent.
- Surface soil moisture conditions (sub-surface in brackets) are currently rated at 7 (19) per cent poor, 21 (29) per cent fair, 60 (44) per cent good, 11 (8) per cent excellent and 1 (0) per cent excessive.
- Second cut hay is 62 per cent complete and yield is at 1 ton per acre, above the 5-year average of 0.9 tons per acre. Pasture growth conditions (tame hay conditions in brackets) are rated as 16 (17) per cent poor, 42 (46) per cent fair, 42 (37) per cent good, and 0 (1) per cent excellent.

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

- Some parts of the region experienced a hot and dry week allowing for combines to get in the field, while some areas remain so wet there were reports of lodging crops starting to sprout and mold due to high moisture levels. There were also reports of hail and frost around the region.
- Harvest progress is at 12 per cent complete for all crops and is slightly behind the 5-year average of 14 per cent.
- Surface soil moisture (sub-surface soil moisture in brackets) is currently rated at 0 (3) per cent poor, 10 (21) per cent fair, 45 (53) per cent good, 28 (23) per cent excellent and 17(0) per cent excessive.
- Second cut hay is 61 per cent complete, with yield at 1 ton per acre, above the 5-year average of 0.8 tons per acre. Pasture growth conditions (tame hay conditions in brackets) are rated as 13 (12) per cent poor, 50 (46) per cent fair, 37 (42) per cent good, and 0 (1) per cent excellent.

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

- Good conditions have allowed combining to progress 17 per cent since last week to 24 per cent complete, ahead of the 5-year average of 9 per cent.
- Dry conditions caused minimal change in soil moisture from last week. Surface soil moisture (sub-surface soil moisture in brackets) is currently rated at 7 (7) per cent poor, 20 (20) per cent fair, 35 (38) per cent good, 35 (35) per cent excellent and 3 (0) per cent excessive.
- Pasture growth conditions (tame hay conditions in brackets) are rated as 14 (16) per cent poor, 34 (32) per cent fair, 45 (45) per cent good, and 7 (7) per cent excellent.

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