

# Issue 23(Week 42) – October 17, 2023

## Crop Report



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### Weekly Provincial Summary

- Only small amounts of precipitation were observed across agro-Manitoba this week with values ranging from 0 mm to 2.8 mm (Table 1). No precipitation was reported by our stations in the Interlake.

**Table 1. Seven-day accumulated precipitation in Manitoba's Agricultural Regions.**

Region	Wettest Location last Week	Driest Location last Week
Central	Emerson (2.8 mm)	Several (0 mm)
Eastern	Sprague Lake (0.5 mm)	Several (0 mm)
Interlake	---	All (0 mm)
Northwest	Swan River (1.9 mm)	Several (0 mm)
Southwest	Oakburn (0.7 mm)	Several (0 mm)

- Climate normals for total accumulated precipitation from May 1 to October 15 range from 292.8 mm to 418.8 mm, and are based on 30-year historical data. Total accumulated rainfall remains variable across agro-Manitoba. Areas of the province near Fisherton have received more than 100% of normal precipitation since May 1. Much of the Central region's accumulated precipitation is between 50% and 70% compared to the 30-year average.
- Soil Moisture 0 - 30 cm shows a regional representation of soil moisture conditions for the top 30 cm on October 15, 2023 relative to field capacity. Soil moisture levels are variable throughout agro-Manitoba with the majority showing optimal to wet conditions. Localized areas are showing dry or very dry conditions relative to field capacity at the 30 cm depth.
- Soil Moisture 0 - 120 cm shows a regional representation of soil moisture conditions for the top 120 cm on October 15, 2023 relative to field capacity. The majority of the province is showing optimal to wet conditions to the 120 cm depth. Some areas of the Northwest and a few localized regions are showing dry or very dry conditions.
- To find interactive soil temperature/moisture and air temperature information see Agri-Maps Current Weather [viewer](#).

## Overview

Limited harvest progress over the last week due to widespread rainfall across the province. Harvest progress sits at 90% complete across the province (**Table 2**), which is ahead of the 5-year average (86%). Harvest has wrapped up for most of the spring cereal crops, with barley at 100% complete, oats at 100% complete and spring wheat at 99% complete. Overall, cereal crops remain in fair to mostly good condition. Grain corn harvest continues and is sitting at 23% complete. Canola harvest continues with approximately 94% of the acres being harvested across the province. Soybean harvest continues, sitting at 81% provincially.

**Table 2: Percentage Harvest Completion by Crop and Region to October 17, 2023**

Crop	Southwest	Northwest	Central	Eastern	Interlake	MB AVG
Winter Wheat	100	100	100	100	100	100
Fall Rye	100	100	100	100	100	100
Spring Wheat	100	99	100	100	100	99
Barley	100	100	100	100	100	100
Oats	100	100	100	100	100	100
Field Pea	100	100	100	100	100	100
Canola	90	95	98	96	90	94
Soybeans	70	80	90	85	85	81
Corn	5	-	50	25	30	23
Sunflowers	-	-	40	30	15	22
Dry Beans	100	-	98	-	100	98
<b>Regional AVG</b>	86	95	97	91	97	90

Crops still unharvested, or negligible acres displayed as – or omitted from this table.

## Cereals

- Spring wheat yields range from 35 to 80 bu/acre, with highs of 90 bu/acre in areas that received more moisture and lows of 16 bu/acre in drier areas. Protein levels range from 13.5% and higher and grading #1 or #2 Canada. Oat yields range from 80-130 bu/acre, with yield reports of 60 bu/acre in drier areas. Barley yields range from 70 to 100 bu/acre.
- The spring wheat quality is rated as mostly fair to good (**Table 3**).
- The majority of grain corn has reached maturity. Approximately 50% of grain corn has been harvested in the Central region and 23% provincially. Early yield reports ranging from 80 to 200 bu/acre.

**Table 3: Spring Wheat Quality Rating by Region**

	Southwest	Northwest	Central	Eastern	Interlake
Excellent	-	10%	-	10 %	-
Good	40%	60%	40%	90%	90%
Fair	50%	30%	50%	-	10%
Poor	10%	-	10%	-	-
Very Poor	-	-	-	-	-

## Oilseeds

- Canola harvest continues with approximately 94% of acres being harvested provincially. Overall crop condition ranged from fair to mostly good. Reported canola yields range from 20-60 bu/acre.
- Flax crop is at stage 12 (seeds ripe). Flax harvest continues with approximately 54% of acres being harvested provincially. Yields range from 20 to 25 bu/acre.
- Sunflower harvest has started with approximately 22% complete in the province. Yields range from 2600 to 3000 lbs/acre with good quality.

## Pulses and Soybeans

- Soybeans are mostly in the R8 growth stage, with harvest progress at 81% provincially. Yields have been variable and dependent on summer rainfall. Yield ranges from 20 to 30 bu/acre on the earliest harvested fields to 30 to 40 bu/acre on fields harvested over the last week.
- Dry bean harvest is approximately 98% complete. Yield ranges from 1200 to 2500 lbs/acre.

## Forages & Livestock

### Forages

- Some producers are supplementing hay on pasture to ensure nutrient requirements of cattle are being met. Others have moved cattle onto fenced hayfields or harvested cropland to graze available regrowth and/or stubble. Producers grazing regrowth on annual crops are exercising caution and monitoring for nitrates.
- Producers are reminded to feed test forage supplies early to allow more time for ration planning and feed sourcing if necessary.
- Most greenfeed has been taken off. Yields are good, and will help to supplement alfalfa and grass hay supplies. Alfalfa seed harvest is 100% complete. Yields report below average on older stands while new stands are reporting some near average yields. Timothy seed harvest is 100% complete.
- Hay levels are rated at 40% surplus, 50% adequate and 10% short. Straw, green feed and feed grains are all rated at 100% adequate.

### Livestock

- Grass growth on pasture is minimal as we progress further into fall and have begun experiencing frost events.
- Many annual crop grain fields have lots of regrowth from the combines, and would be an opportunity for additional grazing days if it were fenced. Some are taking advantage of this. Care must be taken this time of year with forages, due to frost and nitrates.
- Water supplies are in fair supply, with dugouts at 60% capacity. Souris River is below normal flows, as creeks are not flowing. Water levels in dugouts are low but continue to hang on.
- Herds in good condition. Many producers have also begun weaning calves.
- The status of individual pastures remains highly dependent on soil type, moisture levels and grazing management strategy exercised throughout the summer.
- Continuing to haul cattle off pastures to winter accommodations. Hay bales are being hauled off fields.

## Regional Comments

### Southwest

Mostly dry and sunny during last week in the southwest region. Minor showers in some areas as well which gave some break in harvest but most of the time good progress. A number of producers have finished their crops and doing some fall fertilizer application and other field operations. Producers who have crops like soybean, corn and sunflower are working in the fields and trying to finish the fields accordingly. Weather is cooperating well this week for harvest so far. Temperatures were variable last week, with below zero temperatures and frost some nights. Daytime temperatures were double digits most of the days.

Canola harvest is 90% done. Yield reports range from 25 to 55 bu/acre, depending upon the variety and growing conditions of that particular area.

Flax harvest continues with 50% complete. Yields ranging from 20 to 25 bu/acre. Most soybeans are R8-R9 stage. Harvest progress is estimated at 70% complete, with most producers finished but with some just starting. Early yields reported in the 25 to 35 bu/acre range. Quality is overall good.

Most sunflowers are at R9 stage. Desiccation application continues. Harvest is expected to start soon. Recent frost will help to dry down the crop. Grain corn harvest is also getting started with estimated progress of 5% complete.

### Northwest

Some harvest progress was made over the week, however was slow due to cloudy conditions and heavy dews in the mornings narrowing the harvest window. Precipitation was minimal across the region with Swan River receiving the highest at 1.9mm. A mostly cooler week with a couple of warmer days, with Alonsa and Swan River reaching 16°C for the highest. Overnight temperatures reached down below zero with Alonsa dipping down to -5.2°C. Fall field work is ongoing, including harrowing, post-harvest herbicide application and fertilizing.

Spring wheat harvest nears completion with approximately 99% done. Yields have been ranging from 50 to 90 bu/acre, while some fields have done poorer and some better. Some spring wheat remains to be harvested in The Pas.

Canola harvest continued over the week and is approximately 90-95% complete. Yield reports have averaged from 40 to 55 bu/acre, while some crops have yielded below 40 bu/acre and some above 55 bu/acre. Reports of green stems making harvest challenging.

Soybean harvest progress is approximately 80% complete. There has been some challenges with plants not drying down and staying green. Yields have been average to above average at around 45-50 bu/acre, with some yielding lower due to lack of rain.

### Central

It was a dry week for most in the Central region, with most producers not receiving any measurable precipitation. The only location in region to receive rainfall was Emerson, receiving only 2.8 mm. There were several frost events last week, with the entire central region dipping below zero at least once. The west of the region received the coolest temperatures, with Baldur receiving a minimum temperature of -6.2°C. Temperatures rose to the low to mid-teens during the day. This dry, sunny weather provided many opportunities for harvest, and enabled the dry down of the remaining crop. Corn and sunflowers benefitted especially from the frosty nights. The warm days and

sunshine combined with available soil moisture has resulted in strong emergence of fall rye, winter wheat, and cover crops.

Producers took advantage of the dry spell to carry out necessary field operations including stubble management of cereal, soil testing, ditching, or applying phosphorus, potash or manure. Producers are also taking the opportunity to winterize their farm as cooler temperatures will soon reach agro Manitoba.

Corn harvest made swift progress last week, 50% of corn is harvested so far. The proportion harvested is closer to 65% in the Pembina River Valley, and closer to 30% in the northern and western reaches of the central region around Holland and Austin. Fields that have received the least amount of rainfall are in the poorest condition, and yields vary greatly. Some yields are as low as 80 bu/acre to as high as 200 bu/acre depending on how much moisture the crop received throughout the growing season.

Silage cornfields are now harvested with only a few fields remaining in the north and west of the central region. Silage corn yields have ranged between 13 to 16 tonne/acre.

Canola harvest is complete in the Pembina Valley and around Carman. In the region around Holland, Austin and Gladstone there remains a greater proportion of the crop yet to be harvested. Some of these fields have experienced a high degree of lodging. Yields vary greatly, between 20 and 55 bu/acre, with averages closer to the 30 to 40 bushel range. Some fields still achieved high canola yields, with some in the north of the region around Elie achieving 70 bu/acre yields, and around Portage 60 bu/acre in some cases.

Flax harvest is almost complete in the south of the central region, but in the north west of the region, some areas sit at 90%.

Sunflower harvest is well underway in the Pembina Valley, where approximately half of sunflowers are now harvested. However, towards the north of the central region only a few producers have started to harvest their sunflowers. Dry down was accelerated with a few recent frost events, combined with the dry weather, and warm sunny days. Reports of large amounts of blackbirds feeding on sunflowers have been reported, but overall producers are reporting better yields than they were initially expecting when they considered the rainfall they received this year.

Approximately 90% of soybeans have been harvested with soybean yields between 20 to 40 bu/acre. The proportion harvested is higher in the Pembina valley where approximately 98% of soybeans are harvested, and lower around Gladstone and Holland at 80%. Only a few dry bean fields remain, mostly in the north of the central region, around Elie and Portage. Edible bean yields range from 1800 to 2500 lbs/acre, with the lowest at around 750 lbs/acre and the highest at around 3250lbs.

## **Eastern**

No appreciable rainfall occurred across the Eastern region during the reporting period. Widespread frost occurred overnight from Monday to Tuesday of last week with temperatures as low as -6.5°C being reached in some districts. Most areas experienced at least -4°C with the duration of the frost event lasting several hours ensuring a thorough killing frost had occurred. For the remainder of the reporting period, day and nighttime temperatures remained in the seasonal range. Much of the week saw cloudy conditions but skies became sunnier and drying conditions began to improve over the weekend. Producers across the region were able to return to harvesting and fieldwork with those in central and southern districts returning earlier compared to those in northern districts where greater rainfall amounts had occurred during the previous week. Producers were hoping for continued rain free

weather so that they can wrap up harvest and fieldwork and were making good use of every hour given the mixed weather forecast for the upcoming week.

Corn fields were at physiological maturity and drying down as weather allowed. The majority of the crop remained in good to excellent condition. Yield reports were good averaging 150 bu/acre with good test weight at 55 to 57 lbs/bu. About 25% of corn acres have been harvested thus far.

Canola harvest was nearing completion with less than 5% of acres left to be combined. Yields ranged from 50-60 bu/acre on average with good quality. Canola harvesting was expected to wrap up this week if weather allows.

Harvest of sunflowers was about 30% complete with yields ranging from 2600 to 3000 lbs/acre with good quality. The remaining sunflower harvest was expected to advance rapidly this week if weather allows.

The flax crop was at stage 12 (seed ripe) and had dried down. Harvest began late last week with about 50% of the limited acres of this crop completed. No yield or quality reports available as of yet.

Soybean harvest was estimated at 85% complete. Yield reports ranged from low to mid 30 bu/acre to as high as 60 bu/acre depending on the variety and the rains received over the growing season. The average yield for the area was estimated at 45 bu/acre.

### **Interlake**

Harvest continues, with good progress regardless of spotty showers in some areas of the Interlake region. Soybeans, grain corn, sunflowers, and canola still left to harvest.

Temperatures are extremely variable, with daytime highs ranging from low to high teens. Overnight lows dipped well below 0°C, with a few reports of frost injury in some areas in the Interlake region. Average daily temperatures range from 6°C to 10°C. Frosts have aided crop dry down in mature crops.

With much of the cereal and canola harvest complete, producers have moved on to soybeans and are making post-harvest weed control applications.

Soybean harvesting is well underway and is about 85-90% complete. Soybean yields range from 40 to 60 bu/acre depending on the amount of rainfall. There is still green in the stalks making for tough combining.

Canola harvest sits at 90% complete with an average yield of 45 to 65 bu/acre. Canola harvesting is expected to be wrap-up this week if the weather is suitable.

Sunflower fields have been well desiccated at the R7-R9 growth stage. Harvest has started with approximately 15% complete.

Corn has advanced to the physiological maturity stage and is drying down. Many of the corn crops appear in good to excellent condition. Harvest has started in some areas and is about 30% complete with no quality concerns.