

Alberta Crop Report

Crop conditions as of August 13, 2024

Harvest has officially begun with some areas more than half way done winter and fall cereals. Many pulses are nearing ready or desiccating and other crops are only a few weeks out from maturity. Provincially, all crop harvest is 3 per cent complete, on schedule with the historical average. Most of this progress is seen in the South Region which has 5 per cent of major crops harvested and 7 per cent of all crops, on track with the 5- and 10-year average (see Table 1). While most other regions have started harvesting winter wheat, fall rye and possibly pulses, the largest progress among them is only 3 per cent of all crops in the Central Region and 2 per cent in the Peace Region. Both the North West and North East Regions have less than one per cent of crop combined. Spring cereals are currently in soft dough stage, slightly ahead of their 5-year average of early dough. Major broadleaves are 98 per cent podding, ahead of the 5-year average of 90 per cent due to warm weather pushing crops out of flowering.

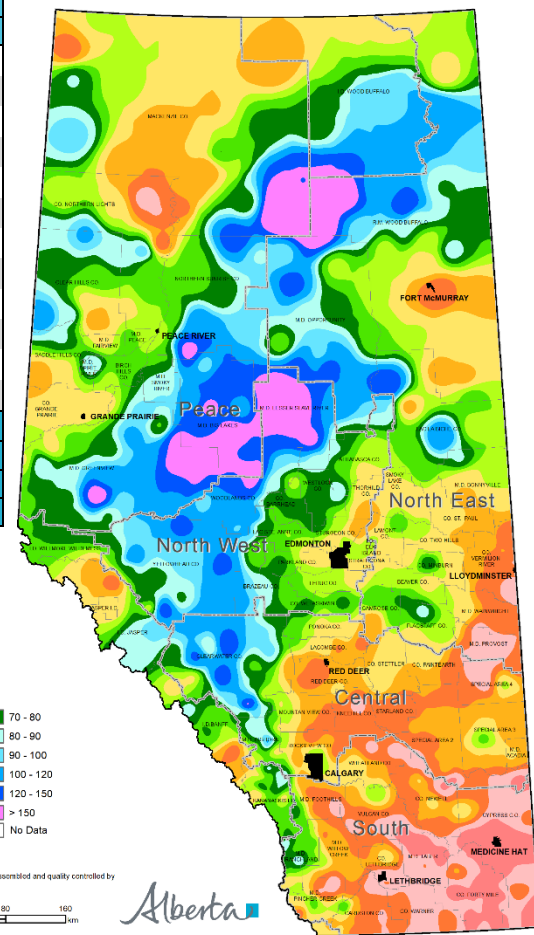
Crop conditions are currently rated 44 per cent good to excellent, decreasing for the fourth consecutive week and 2 per cent from last week. Currently, the highest regional rating is in the South where major crops are rated 60 per cent good to excellent; followed by the Peace (54 per cent good to excellent), the North East (51 per cent good to excellent), the North West (29 per cent good to excellent) and then the Central Region (rated 21 per cent good to excellent).

Table 1: Estimate of Crop Harvest as of August 13, 2024

	Per Cent of Crops Combined					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat *	0.1%	0.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.7%	0.3%
Durum	0.4%	0.0%	-	-	-	0.3%
Barley *	5.5%	2.3%	0.2%	0.0%	1.1%	2.6%
Oats *	0.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%
Winter Wheat	56.9%	40.5%	0.0%	88.1%	25.0%	57.4%
Fall Rye	63.5%	28.5%	0.0%	77.9%	-	53.3%
Spring Triticale	0.0%	0.0%	-	-	-	0.0%
Mixed Grain	-	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	-	0.0%
Canola *	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%
Dry Peas *	29.8%	24.9%	2.3%	4.2%	17.9%	20.6%
Lentils	28.3%	27.9%	-	-	-	28.2%
Chickpeas	0.7%	0.0%	-	-	-	0.7%
Major Crops (*), August 13	5.4%	2.7%	0.1%	0.2%	2.1%	2.3%
All Crops, August 13	7.3%	3.1%	0.1%	0.5%	2.1%	3.2%
5-year (2019-2023) Avg	7.1%	1.3%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	2.4%
10-year (2014-2023) Avg	6.9%	0.8%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	2.2%

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Precipitation this past week ranged from 3 mm to 15 mm around the South, Central, North West and Peace while some pockets got less than 1 mm. Most of the North East Region received less than 5 mm. While temperatures did cool down and light showers brought relief to crops that were maturing faster than normal, both surface and sub-surface soil moisture conditions continued to decline. Regional surface soil moisture rated good to excellent is reported as (change since last week) 34 (-1) per cent good to excellent in the South, 27 (-11) per cent good to excellent in the Central Region, 35 (-6) per cent good to excellent in the North East, 23 (-20) per cent good to excellent in the North West and 48 (-11) per cent in the Peace (see Table 2). Provincially, surface soil moisture (5-year average) is rated as 29 (22) per cent poor, 39 (25) per cent fair, 31 (35) per cent good, 2 (14) per cent excellent and 0 (4) per cent excessive. Sub-surface soil moisture (5-year average) is rated as 32 (20) per cent poor, 43 (27) per cent fair, 24 (35) per cent good, 1 (15) per cent excellent and 0 (2) per cent excessive.



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Table 2: Alberta Surface Soil Moisture Ratings as of August 13, 2024

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Excessive
South	30.4%	36.1%	32.8%	0.7%	0.0%
Central	34.2%	39.0%	26.2%	0.6%	0.0%
North East	27.7%	37.7%	34.1%	0.6%	0.0%
North West	32.7%	44.5%	21.3%	1.5%	0.0%
Peace	9.2%	42.4%	40.7%	7.4%	0.3%
Alberta	29.0%	38.8%	30.7%	1.5%	0.0%
5-year (2019-2023) Avg	22.3%	25.0%	35.1%	13.8%	3.8%
10-year (2014-2023) Avg	19.9%	25.3%	37.0%	14.6%	3.1%

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Dryland yield estimates have declined slightly since last reported two weeks ago (apart from the Peace Region). Within the province, the Peace and South Region are expecting above average yields while the North West is on par with the 5-year average (see Table 3). Regarding the South Region's expectation of yields 26.7 per cent above the 5-year average yield, it is important to remember that it is specific to that region's historical yields as when compared to the rest of the province. The Central and North East Regions are expecting yields to be 7 and 8 per cent below their respective average.

Table 3: Regional Dryland Yield Estimations as of August 13, 2024

	Estimated Dryland Yield (bushels/acre) and Index for Major Crops					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat	45.8	48.2	46.2	51.0	46.7	47.2
Barley	57.9	59.7	63.3	65.2	55.6	60.0
Oats	55.0	64.1	74.6	79.6	59.2	69.9
Canola	31.2	33.7	35.3	36.3	33.8	34.2
Dry Peas	35.9	37.2	40.3	38.4	39.7	37.8
5-year Yield Index	126.7	92.7	92.3	99.4	102.6	102.2
10-year Yield Index	114.0	90.6	91.5	91.1	100.9	97.5

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Pasture and tame hay conditions continued to decline this week across the province (apart from tame hay in the North East which was stable). First cut dryland hay is 99 per cent complete and averaged 1.5 tons per acre, above the historical averages of 1.4 tons per acre. The highest yields were seen in the North West and North East Regions at 1.6 tons per acre and the lowest was in the Peace Region at 1.3 tons per acre. Within the province, 47 per cent of producers say they will get a second cut of hay but only 16 per cent is currently cut. So far, second cut has averaged 0.9 tons per acre, below the 5- and 10-year average of 1.1 tons per acre. Irrigated first cut in the South averaged 2.6 tons per acre and second cut is half done, averaging 2.1 tons per acre, above the 5- and 10-year average of 1.7 and 1.9 tons, respectively. Regionally, tame hay (5-year average) is rated as 34 (34) per cent good to excellent in the South, 11 (58) per cent good to excellent in Central, 24 (54) per cent good to excellent in the North East, 28 (68) per cent good to excellent in the North West, 58 (49) per cent good to excellent in the Peace (See Table 4). Regionally, pasture (5-year average) is rated as 36 (32) per cent good to excellent in the South, 22 (52) per cent good to excellent in Central, 34 (58) per cent good to excellent in the North East, 24 (65) per cent good to excellent in the North West, 59 (50) per cent good to excellent in the Peace.

Table 4: Tame Hay Conditions as of August 13, 2024

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
South	36.4%	29.3%	33.6%	0.6%
Central	41.4%	47.7%	10.9%	0.0%
North East	46.5%	29.5%	23.9%	0.0%
North West	51.6%	20.5%	27.6%	0.4%
Peace	8.4%	34.1%	50.3%	7.2%
Alberta	37.3%	33.3%	27.9%	1.5%
5-year (2019-2023) Avg	19.9%	27.1%	43.7%	9.4%
10-year (2014-2023) Avg	20.4%	28.0%	41.7%	9.8%

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Regional Assessments:

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

- Major crops are rated as 60 per cent good to excellent down from 66 per cent good to excellent last week. The South Region has combined 57 per cent of winter wheat, 64 per cent of fall rye, 30 per cent of dry peas and 28 per cent of lentils.
- Rain showers brought relief to some areas, finally slowing crops that were maturing faster due to heat. Damaging hail as well as damaging winds were reported in a few areas. Sub-surface soil moisture is currently rated (5-year average) as 27 (33) per cent poor, 49 (38) per cent fair, 23 (26) per cent good, 0 (3) per cent excellent, and 0 (0) per cent excessive.
- While pasture and tame hay are currently stagnant, recent moisture and cooler temperatures could improve fall regrowth.

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

- Harvest is underway as crops are turning quickly. Yields vary around the region as in the east there are reports of excellent yields while the west side of the region experienced very damaging hail. Yields in several areas have been affected by dry conditions and heat with many crops too advanced to improve.
- Continued reports of additional silaging, swath grazing, greenfeed and baling of poor crops. It is reported alfalfa looks better than predominately grass fields and producers are waiting a few weeks before harvesting second cut.
- Central Region sub-surface soil moisture is currently rated (5-year average) as 52 (18) per cent poor, 35 (26) per cent fair, 13 (44) per cent good, 1 (11) per cent excellent, and 0 (1) per cent excessive.

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

- Dry pea desiccating and harvesting is just starting in the North East. Cereals are ripening quickly but are missing kernels throughout heads due to high temperatures during the reproductive stages. Some of these poor cereals are being silage to salvage and produce additional feed due to lack of forage crops. Canola is ripening fast as well as a few reports of fields that are still in flower after receiving hail damage earlier in the season. These fields will need good weather throughout September to mature.
- Sub-surface soil moisture is currently rated (5-year average) as 26 (15) per cent poor, 40 (21) per cent fair, 34 (34) per cent good, 0 (28) per cent excellent, and 0 (2) per cent excessive.

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

- Some canola is trying to flower again after aborting pods during high heat and cereals are missing kernels. Yields vary throughout the region due to scattered moisture and seeding time differences.
- While silage is in full swing, second cut hay is slow to regrow after dry conditions in July.
- There was scattered moisture over the past week, but many areas remain in poor condition. Sub-surface soil moisture is currently rated (5-year average) as 32 (4) per cent poor, 46 (18) per cent fair, 20 (35) per cent good, 1 (31) per cent excellent, and 0 (12) per cent excessive.

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

- Winter wheat and dry pea harvest are 25 and 18 per cent complete, respectively. Canola is also starting to be swathed.
- There was some rain over the past week in the north and east part of the region and the south east part is considered to have adequate moisture. However, many areas around the region are considered dry.
- Sub-surface soil moisture is currently rated (5-year average) as 5 (13) per cent poor, 45 (22) per cent fair, 43 (42) per cent good, 6 (22) per cent excellent, and 0 (1) per cent excessive.

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