



AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

TO: Agricultural Service Board
DATE: September 22, 2021
FILE: N/A
SUBJECT: Agricultural Fieldman Report

DIVISION: All

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report provides updates on Agricultural Services matters since the last update provided on May 19, 2021. The Agricultural Service Board (ASB) should be aware of the following items for County Council consideration.

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION:

Administration recommends that the Agricultural Fieldman report be received as information in accordance with Option #1.

BACKGROUND:

Since the last meeting of the ASB, the following highlights have taken place within the Agricultural Services section.

DISCUSSION:

1. Seasonal agricultural operations are nearing completion for the 2021 season.
 - Herbicide application to control prohibited noxious and noxious weeds on County roads is completed on a 3 year rotation. This year the roadside ditches in Divisions 5 & 7 were inspected and spot treated to control invasive weeds. The roadside spraying program began in mid July.
 - Agricultural and Environmental Services cancelled the 2021 Agricultural Tour due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
 - The roadside mowing program will be complete by the end of September. The operators have completed one pass on all roads and completed a second pass in select areas of the County.
 - The grasshopper, elm bark beetle, emerald ash borer and bertha armyworm insect surveys have all been completed and the County remains at a low risk for the insects.
 - The mosquito larvae reduction program in Langdon has been completed for 2021.
 - Currently administration is finalizing the clubroot, blackleg and fusarium head blight surveys throughout the County. To date, one (1) additional canola field has tested positive for clubroot and administration is currently working with the landowners to develop a control strategy.
2. Throughout June and early July, Agricultural Services saw a large increase in calls from residents concerned with the increasing population of spruce budworm in the Bragg Creek area.
 - A consultant was engaged to conduct a larval survey to asses current year population numbers as well as damage to local area spruce trees. Once finalized, the report will be shared with County residents and the ASB for review.
 - A Notice of Motion regarding spruce budworm in the Bragg Creek area was read in at the September 7, 2021 Council Meeting.

Administration Resources

Kristyn Lines, Agricultural and Environmental Services



3. On August 3, 2021 Rocky View County Council declared a municipal agricultural disaster.
 - Low soil moisture in the spring, lack of seasonal rain, and the prolonged heat wave in June and July amplified the challenges farmers and ranchers are now facing. The east side of the County experienced particularly low soil moisture reserves, with much of the area seeing a once in 25-50 year low. The remainder of the County fell between very low “once in 12-25 years” to moderately low “once in 3-6 years” soil moisture reserves.
 - Thirty-seven of 69 municipalities within the Rural Municipalities of Alberta have declared an agricultural disaster in 2021.
 - On August 6, 2021 Alberta announced an AgriRecovery response, the 2021 Canada-Alberta Livestock Feed Assistance Initiative, to help address the extraordinary costs being incurred by Alberta’s livestock producers.
 - i. The response provides support and cash flow for Alberta’s livestock producers to cover extraordinary expenses incurred to feed livestock.
 - ii. AgriRecovery is a federal-provincial-territorial disaster relief framework to help agricultural producers with the extraordinary costs associated with recovering from natural disasters. Eligible costs will be supported on the 60-40 cost-shared federal-provincial basis outlined under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership.
 - In response to the extreme heat and dry conditions faced by Alberta producers:
 - i. AFSC doubled the Low Yield Allowance (LYA) threshold values for clients for salvage their cereal or pulse crop as feed.
 - ii. The threshold values are meant to reflect the approximate cost of harvesting when a crop is not worth harvesting.
 - iii. The assessment can be applied on a per field basis. It does not have to be applied to the entire crop.
 - iv. Low Yield Allowances may be applied to a portion of a field.
 - v. All eligible acres must be put to an alternate use (for feed).
4. In early August a dust issue on TWP RD 252 (West of Hi-Way 22) was brought to Administration’s attention. Agriculture Services has been in communication with Transportation Services to discuss strategies to mitigate the impacts that the dust is having on the agricultural operations in the area.
5. The 2021 Central Region Agricultural Service Board Fall Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 3 in Bashaw Alberta. The format and agenda has not been released but will be shared with the ASB as soon as it is available.
6. Rocky View County is currently seeking one member at large from west of Highway 2 to sit on the Agricultural Service Board. Travis Eklund will have completed the maximum term of six consecutive years on the Agricultural Service Board. Administration would like to thank Travis for his 6 years of dedicated service to the Agricultural Service Board.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

No budget implications.



OPTIONS:

- Option #1 THAT the Agricultural Fieldman Report be received as information.
Option #2 THAT alternative direction be provided.

Respectfully submitted,

Concurrence,

“Kristyn Lines”

“Byron Riemann”

Acting Manager, Agricultural and Environmental Services

Executive Director, Operations

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- Attachment ‘A’ – Spruce Budworm in Alberta
Attachment ‘B’ – Implementing a Spruce Budworm Strategy
Attachment ‘C’ – Agriculture Disaster Declarations by Region
Attachment ‘D’ – AB Crop Report -2021-09-07
Attachment ‘E’ – Agriculture and Forestry Dry Conditions Response
Attachment ‘F’ – Resources for Producers

Spruce Budworm in Alberta

Distribution and host trees

The spruce budworm (SBW, *Choristoneura fumiferana*) is a defoliating insect commonly found throughout Canada in spruce and spruce-fir forests. In Alberta, its larvae primarily feed on the buds and needles of white spruce and balsam fir; however they can also feed on larch and non-native spruces. The SBW plays an important role in Alberta's forests as a nutrient cyclor and as food for other insects and animals like birds.

Life-cycle

Spruce budworm complete one lifecycle per year (Fig. 1). They spend the winter as tiny caterpillars (larvae) hidden in the crevices of the host tree. In early spring, larvae emerge from hibernation and move to new locations on the host tree to feed on old needles or pollen cones. Larvae switch to feeding on elongating shoots and new needles as the season progresses. They will continue feeding and maturing until late June – they stop feeding once they are fully mature (around 20-23 mm long). At this point larvae transform first into pupae and then into adult moths. The moths do not feed on the tree - their main goal is to mate and produce the next generation. Female moths lay eggs on the underside of needles in late July. Immature larvae hatch from these eggs in early August and find locations to overwinter in. They spin a silken cover and remain in this protected location until the following spring.

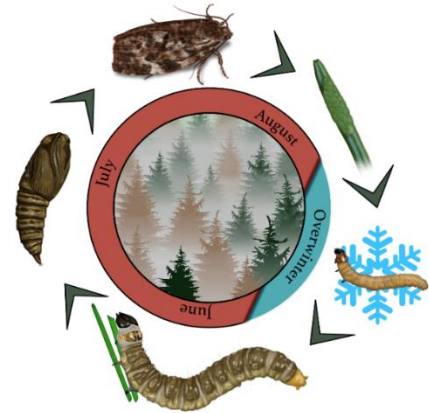


Figure 1. Spruce budworm lifecycle. Credit: Rob Johns, Canadian Forest Service.

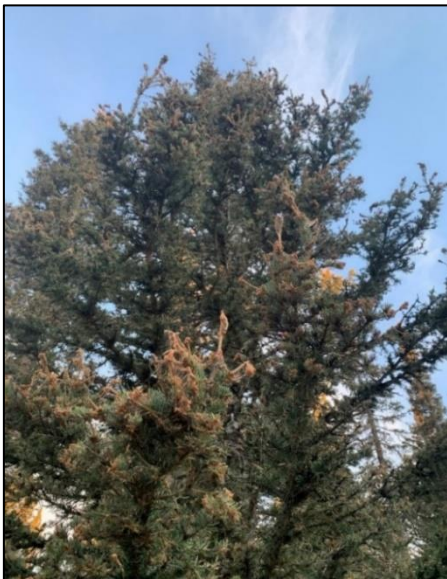


Figure 2. Larval feeding on the terminal branch shoots of this white spruce has created a reddish hue as partially eaten needles dry out and turn red.

Symptoms and damage

Larvae are the damaging life stage and their feeding creates a number of symptoms. Larvae preferentially feed on new growth, which is located in tree crowns and at branch tips - these are the locations where defoliation is most noticeable (Fig. 2). If larvae are numerous, older needles may also be affected. Frass and webbing develops as larvae feed (Fig. 3) and large amounts of webbing can be present during severe defoliation. Tree crowns appear rusty brown when defoliation reaches its peak in late June due to the accumulation of partially chewed needles and buds. In the fall, affected trees take on a greyish appearance when the webbing and dead needles have dispersed by wind.

Spruce budworm do not kill trees in a single year - white spruce are resilient to defoliation. Over-mature spruce and spruce-fir stands are the most susceptible to defoliation by this insect because they can support large numbers of SBW when populations periodically increase in size. However, tree growth is reduced if severe defoliation extends into a second summer. By the fourth consecutive summer of severe defoliation, young trees may begin to die. Larger, mature trees may begin to die after five consecutive years of severe defoliation.

Management

In most instances, management of SBW is not necessary since populations are small and do not pose a risk to our forests. However, when populations erupt and increase to a point where forest values are at risk, management may be appropriate. The approach to management will depend on the intent - either population suppression or foliage protection on high value trees. The control method and timing used for each of these tactics is different. Population suppression involves large-scale, aerial biological spray operations that target mature larvae. Foliage protection is done at a smaller scale and targets younger larvae to prevent defoliation in a given year.

There are important considerations when choosing if or how to manage SBW - the benefit of management must outweigh the cost in terms of dollars and ecosystem impacts. Aerial spray operations are expensive, may harm non-target organisms, and must be precisely timed to maximize the effect. Managing SBW on high-value trees does not affect surrounding populations; therefore, it may need to be done repeatedly over years which increases the cost and harm to the ecosystem.

Insecticide use has ecological implications and should be used with caution. *Bacillus thuringiensis* is the most common insecticide used to control SBW. It is derived from natural bacteria but must be used conservatively because it kills all moths and butterflies that feed at the same time as SBW. Alternatively, broad-spectrum insecticides can be used but are even more harmful since they are not species-specific and kill every insect that encounters the chemical and may impact other forest animals. Runoff into waterways is also a large concern with broad-spectrum insecticides. If feasible the best option for homeowners to protect high-value trees is to spray infested trees with water to knock larvae off. Though this method may need to be repeated, it will do the least harm.



Figure 3. Spruce budworm larva feeding on white spruce needles. Webbing and frass develops as they feed.

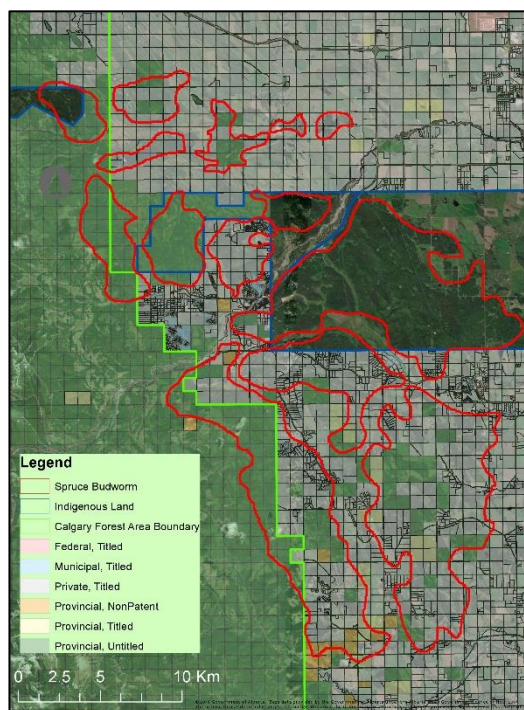


Figure 4. Extent of spruce budworm infestation mapped in July 2021 southwest of Calgary.

Current status

Much of the time SBW populations are small and unnoticeable - populations are held in check by diseases, birds, insect predators and weather events (e.g. late spring frosts, cool wet summers). Nevertheless SBW can undergo periodic increases in population size. These increases are temporary and occur at various spatial scales, from local to landscape. Outbreaks in Alberta have been restricted to northern forests where the last outbreak started in 2008 and collapsed in 2011 after a late spring frost.

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AF) conducts aerial surveys annually to map forest damage on crown land within provincial forest areas. AF will expand the survey in 2021 to cover portions of municipal land adjacent to the forest area in southern Alberta (Fig. 4). SBW populations have been growing within small regions of southern Alberta for the past several years. Since 2018, the infestation has been light-moderate in areas adjacent to the forest area but in 2021, populations around Bragg Creek increased to moderate-severe (Fig. 4). Isolated populations have also been noted in the Sundre region - the extent of defoliation will be assessed in late July. Minimal defoliation has been observed within the Calgary and Rocky Mountain House Forest Areas.

AF recognizes that periodic insect outbreaks are natural events that are critical to maintaining forest health. Although the damage is alarming, it will not cause immediate tree mortality. AF will continue to monitor the situation and provide affected municipalities with guidance on an integrated management approach for SBW.

Notice of Motion: To be read in at the September 7, 2021, Council Meeting
To be debated at the September 14, 2021, Council Meeting

Title: Implementing a spruce budworm study to determine the best approach for future management of the spruce budworm infestation in RVC

Presented By: Councillor Kamachi, Division 1
Reeve Henn, Division 7

WHEREAS over the last few years, an infestation of spruce budworm has been detected on trees in and around the Greater Bragg Creek area. Spruce budworm is a native moth, which primarily attacks spruce (white, black, Colorado) and balsam fir trees in Alberta. It is a wasteful feeder on current year needle growth;

AND WHEREAS Rocky View County conducted a survey in early June to estimate the spruce budworm population density in and around the Hamlet of Bragg Creek. This survey will be used to assess future risk of the spruce budworm;

AND WHEREAS the destruction of spruce trees in the Greater Bragg Creek area could increase the fuel load should a wildfire incident occur;

AND WHEREAS Redwood Meadows conducted two aerial applications of BTK in June to help eradicate the spruce budworm population and RVC is monitoring the outcome, it should be noted that this may or may not be a potential solution but should be one of the directions to determine its effectiveness;

AND WHEREAS on July 6th, Reeve Henn and Councillor Kamachi attended a Bragg Creek resident's town hall to listen to residents' concerns and get feedback from residents to take back to Administration;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Administration be directed to research and develop, with associated costs and timelines, a spruce budworm strategy to manage the threat of deforestation as a result of spruce budworm activity, with a report to brought back to Council for its consideration by the end of November, 2021.

AGRICULTURE DISASTER DECLARATIONS 2021

Declarations by Region:

Southern Region	<u>Cypress County</u>
	<u>Foothills County</u>
	<u>Special Areas No. 2 – pdf</u>
	<u>Special Areas No. 3 – web link</u>
	<u>Special Areas No. 4</u>
	<u>Vulcan County</u>
	<u>MD of Acadia</u>
	<u>Wheatland County</u>
	<u>MD Willow Creek</u>
	<u>County of Newell</u>
Central Region	<u>MD Taber</u>
	<u>County of Paintearth</u>
	<u>Rocky View County</u>
	<u>County of Stettler</u>
	<u>Kneehill County</u>
North East Region	<u>Starland County</u>
	<u>Beaver County</u>
	<u>County of Two Hills</u>
	<u>MD of Wainwright</u>
	<u>County of St Paul</u>
	<u>Lac La Biche County</u>
	<u>Smoky Lake County</u>
North West Region	<u>County of Minburn</u>
	<u>MD Bonnyville</u>
	<u>Brazeau County</u>
	<u>Lac St. Anne County</u>
	<u>Sturgeon County</u>
Peace Region	<u>Yellowhead County</u>
	<u>Grand Prairie County</u>
	<u>MD Fairview</u>
	<u>MD Greenview</u>
	<u>MD Smoky River</u>
	<u>County of Northern Lights</u>
	<u>MD Peace</u>
	<u>Clear Hills County</u>
	<u>Birch Hills County</u>
	<u>Northern Sunrise County</u>

Alberta Crop Report



Crop Conditions as of September 7, 2021

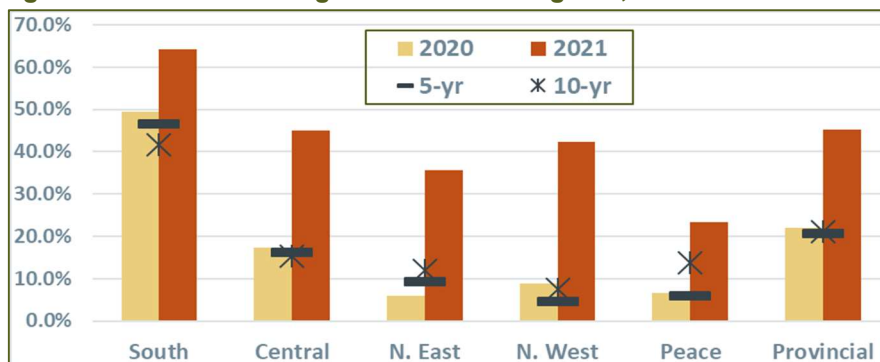
Since the beginning of August, precipitation has shifted from a 'drier than normal' trend to an 'above normal' trend through most of the province, with some exceptions in the North East, North West and Peace Regions. Over this period, precipitation was extremely variable in different regions, but improved soil moisture reserves provincially (see the map), with the South Region improving the most. Surface soil moisture is now rated at 32 per cent poor, 32 per cent fair, 35 per cent good and 1 per cent excellent. Hail was reported in some areas, impacting yields negatively.

Due to favourable weather over the past week, harvest advanced 17 per cent for major crops from a week ago. As of September 7, about 45 per cent of all crops have been combined, more than doubled from last year's progress of 22 per cent, and was ahead of both the 5-year (2016-2020) and 10-year (2011-2020) averages of 21 per cent (See Figure 1). Another 20 per cent of crops are currently in swath, while 35 per cent is still standing. Regionally, harvest has advanced for all regions (See Table 1).

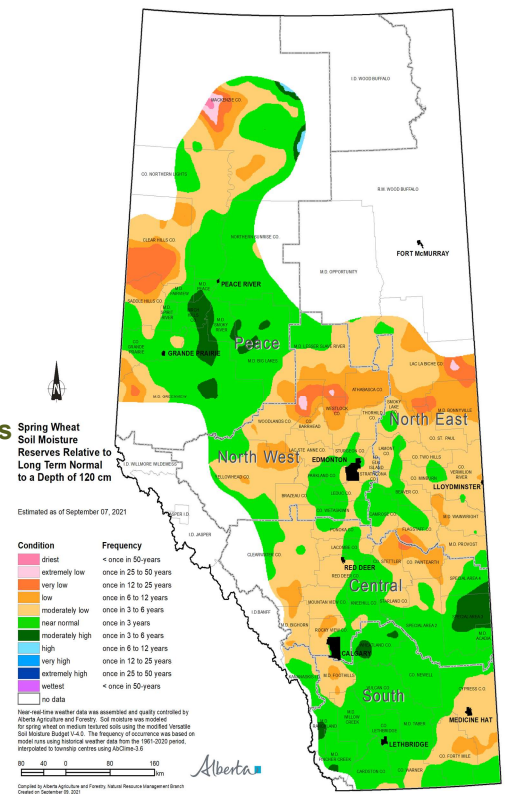
Table 1: Estimates of Crop Harvest Progress as of September 7, 2021

	Per cent of Crops Combined					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat*	60.6%	52.3%	52.9%	65.1%	34.5%	53.9%
Durum Wheat	80.5%	52.3%	---	---	---	76.7%
Winter Wheat	97.5%	96.2%	100.0%	100.0%	---	97.5%
Barley*	69.8%	63.2%	34.9%	56.3%	18.8%	56.0%
Oats*	66.3%	43.2%	19.4%	35.4%	15.3%	29.8%
Fall Rye	100.0%	94.8%	100.0%	100.0%	---	98.6%
Canola*	35.6%	9.5%	10.9%	11.1%	2.6%	13.5%
Dry Peas*	97.9%	95.1%	99.2%	98.2%	74.9%	92.9%
Lentils	84.5%	90.0%	---	---	---	85.2%
Chickpeas	84.6%	95.0%	---	---	---	85.1%
Potatoes	5.7%	25.4%	10.0%	0.0%	---	6.3%
All Crops, Sep 7	64.1%	45.1%	35.6%	42.2%	23.4%	45.3%
Major Crops (*), Sep 7	61.3%	44.1%	35.6%	42.3%	23.4%	42.7%
Major Crops (*), Aug 31	43.5%	27.5%	16.1%	22.8%	17.0%	26.2%
All Crops, Last Year	49.4%	17.4%	6.0%	8.8%	6.6%	21.9%
5-yr (2016-2020) Avg	46.5%	16.2%	9.4%	4.7%	5.9%	20.7%
10-yr (2011-2020) Avg	41.7%	15.2%	12.1%	7.5%	13.8%	21.1%

Figure 1: Provincial & Regional Harvest Progress, 2021 vs 2020 and Averages



Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey



Preliminary dryland yield indices remained similar to two weeks ago. The provincial estimated dryland yield index is estimated at 39 per cent below the 5-year averages and 37 per cent below the 10-year averages (see Table 2). The best yields are in the North West Region (but still 24 per cent below the 5-year averages), while the South Region has the lowest (53 per cent below the 5-year averages). The average yields for potatoes on dryland and irrigated fields are estimated at 11 and 15 tons per acre, respectively. For sugar beets, the average yield is estimated at 28.9 tonnes per acre, while for dry beans it is 26.2 cwt per acre.

The quality for crops harvested so far varies across the province. Provincially, quality for malt barley, the top two grades of spring and durum wheat, oats and dry peas are below the 5-year averages, while feed barley and the top two grades of canola are above average. There are reports of some greens in canola, while some are being graded as sample, due to sprouts in pods.

Table 2: Dryland Yield Estimates as of September 7, 2021

	Estimated Yield (bushel/acre)					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat	17.8	30.9	31.0	45.6	34.8	30.4
Barley	20.7	53.7	44.2	48.2	35.4	40.2
Oats	23.8	49.3	50.4	56.6	46.7	50.1
Canola	17.1	28.7	26.6	33.0	24.8	26.1
Dry Peas	19.8	24.5	28.5	28.8	31.7	25.6
5-year Yield Index	47.0%	59.4%	61.0%	76.2%	69.7%	60.5%
10-year Yield Index	44.6%	63.7%	65.6%	76.1%	73.5%	62.5%

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Across the province, second cut dryland hay is 48 per cent complete (ahead of the 5-year average of 37 per cent), while it has been limited in the South and Peace Regions, given the dry conditions and extreme heat. The provincial average yield for second cut dryland hay is estimated at one ton per acre, below the 5-year average of 1.3 tons per acre. Quality is rated as 42 per cent poor to fair, 54 per cent good and 4 per cent excellent. Second cut hay on irrigated fields is 85 per cent complete, with yield estimated at 1.7 tons per acre, and below the 5-year average of 1.9 tons per acre. Quality for baled irrigated hay is rated as 40 per cent poor to fair, 53 per cent good and 7 per cent excellent.

Pasture growth is minimal in most areas at this point, and heavily grazed pastures are still struggling to recover, even with the recent moisture. Pasture conditions (tame hay numbers shown in the brackets) across the province are now reported as 55 (50) per cent poor, 28 (31) per cent fair and 17 (19) per cent good.

Regional Assessments:

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

- Favourable weather allowed producers to combine an additional 18 per cent of their major crops. Yields are variable across the region, depending on the crop, soil type, amount and timing of precipitation.
- About 64 per cent of all crops are now in the bin (compared to the 5-year average of 47 per cent), seven per cent in swath and 29 per cent still standing.
- Crop quality for harvested crops to date are below their 5-year averages, with the exception of feed barley and the top two grades of canola and dry peas, which are above average.
- Second cut haying is 92 per cent complete on irrigated land (ahead of the 5-year average of 81 per cent), with yield at 1.8 tons per acre, and quality rated as 34 per cent poor to fair, 57 per cent good and 9 per cent excellent. Due to dry conditions, there was no second cut for dryland hay.

- Pasture conditions are rated as 64 per cent poor, 26 per cent fair, and 10 per cent good.

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

- Over the past week, harvest was in full swing in the region, despite some rain showers. An additional 17 per cent of major crops have been combined.
- Regionally, about 45 per cent of crops are now in the bin (compared to the 5-year average of 16 per cent), with another 22 per cent swathed and 33 per cent of crops still standing.
- To date, the quality for the harvested spring and durum wheat, barley and canola are better than their 5-year averages, while oats and dry peas are below.
- Second cut haying on dryland is 80 per cent complete (compared to the 5-year average of 48 per cent), with yield estimated at 1.2 tons per acre and below the 5-year average of 1.5 tons per acre. For irrigated haying, it is 35 per cent complete (compared to the 5-year average of 19 per cent), with yield estimated at 1.2 tons per acre, slightly above the 5-year average of 1.1 tons per acre. Quality for dryland hay (irrigated hay shown in brackets) is rated as 17 (20) per cent poor, 40 (60) per cent fair and 43 (20) per cent good.
- Pasture conditions are rated as 32 per cent poor, 36 per cent fair, and 32 per cent good.

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

- Favourable harvest weather over the past week allowed producers to combine an additional 20 per cent of their major crops, although in some areas, rain put a pause on harvesting operations for a couple of days.
- Overall, 36 per cent of crops have been combined in the region (compared to the 5-year average of nine per cent), with another 30 per cent swathed, and 34 per cent of crops still standing.
- To date, quality for harvested malt barley, the top two grades of oats, canola and dry peas are all above their 5-year averages, and below average for feed barley and the top two grades of spring wheat.
- Second cut haying is 78 per cent complete, ahead of the 5-year average of 25 per cent. Yield is reported at 0.7 ton per acre, below the 5-year average of 1.2 tons per acre, and quality rated as 22 per cent fair, 63 per cent good and 15 per cent excellent.
- Pasture growing conditions are rated as 80 per cent poor, 15 per cent fair and 5 per cent good.

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

- Although rain led to slow progress in the beginning of the past week, great weather over the long weekend allowed harvest operations for major crops to advance by another 20 per cent.
- Regionally, about 42 per cent of crops have now been combined (compared to the 5-year average of five per cent), with another 24 per cent swathed, while 34 per cent of crops are still standing.
- To date, crop quality for harvested malt barley, the top two grades of oats and dry peas are above their 5-year averages, but below average for feed barley, canola number one and the top two grades of spring wheat.
- Second cut haying is 51 per cent complete, compared to the 5-year average of 25 per cent. The yield is reported at 0.9 ton per acre, below the 5-year average of 1.1 tons per acre and quality is estimated at 35 per cent poor or fair, 60 per cent good and 5 per cent excellent.
- Pasture growing conditions are rated as 38 per cent poor, 29 per cent fair and 33 per cent good.

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

- Over the last week, in some areas, rain showers halted harvest operations for a few days. Even so, producers were able to combine an additional six per cent of their crops. Some canola in swath were blown out by high winds.
- About 23 per cent of crops in the region are now in the bin (compared to the 5-year average of six per cent), with another 21 per cent swathed and 56 per cent still standing.

- To date, quality for all crops harvested are below their 5-year averages, with the exception of canola number one and the top two grades of spring wheat, which were above average. No barley was eligible for malt in this region.
- There has not been a second cut haying for the region and pasture growing conditions are rated as 67 per cent poor, 30 per cent fair and 3 per cent good.

Contact

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry
Intergovernmental and Trade Relations Branch
Statistics and Data Development Section
September 10, 2021

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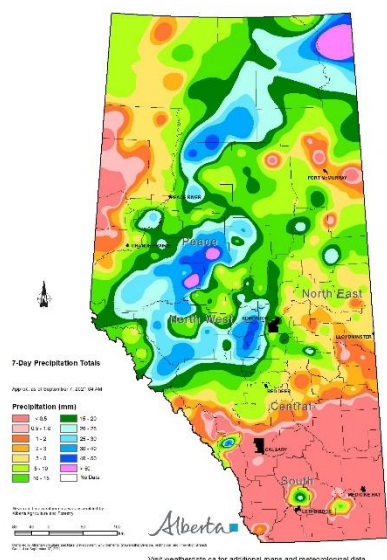
Dry Conditions Response Update

September 7, 2021

Weather update:

Precipitation since August 31, 2021

Precipitation in last 24 hours



AFSC Crop Insurance Activity (as-of September 6, 2021)

AREA	Waiting For Adjuster	In Progress With Adjuster	Inspection Complete	Total
Central	41	64	711	816
North	0	9	84	93
Parkland	94	97	1,033	1,224
South	95	45	820	960
	230	215	2,648	3,093

AFSC has tools and information to their website to assist producers.

- AFSC continues to encourage new clients to visit [AFSC website](#) to get set up as clients and to use the online system “AFSC Connect” and set up for direct deposits to ensure a quick transfer of funds toward the end of the month.
- Stakeholders can apply for the [2021 Canada-Alberta Livestock Feed Assistance Initiative](#) via AFSC’s website.
- A Yield Estimation Calculator is posted on the AFSC main website under the heading “AFSC’s response to 2021 crop conditions”.
- The site includes other resources and information.
 - The purpose of the calculator is to provide our clients (or any producer) with a tool to help them estimate their yields prior to harvest.
 - They may use this estimate for the purpose of determining whether they want to combine it or sell it for feed, or estimating potential yield for production contracting.

Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) Water Program Activity (as-of 9/06/21)

- Project requests received since 7/16/21: 81
- Project requests processed since 7/16/21: 329
- Number of requests in the queue: 48 applications (~\$206K)
 - “queue” includes all applications that have been received, but not yet paid, including those under review.

Water Pumping Program (as-of 9/06/2021)

81 pump jobs completed to-date

- Three new requests
- 32 job scheduled; 8 potentials.

Ag-Info Centre Calls re: dry conditions:

- Calls related to dry conditions – Since ~July 12: 1072
- Calls related to dry conditions - Last 24 hrs: 76

Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP)

- AEP is accepting applications from existing grazing disposition holders for additional grazing capacity to allow livestock from other producers who are in need of additional feed.

Dry Conditions Response Update

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Classification: Public



- Applications for temporary grazing or haying is also available on vacant public lands.
- AEP will also permit grazers in the forest reserve to extend the time for grazing where there is sufficient forage.
- AEP has signed off on the creation of a new temporary streamlined program for temporary diversion licenses for stock watering. Please visit the [AEP](#) site for more information on this program.

Federal Livestock Tax Deferral Program:

- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) has expanded the list of areas designated as eligible for the federal Livestock Tax Deferral Program. Please visit [AAFC](#) site for current municipal listing.

Alberta continues to compile a list of resources for farmers, ranchers and producers on [the Farming in dry conditions webpage](#), including links to [FarmingtheWeb](#), [Farm Mental Health Network](#) and [The Do More Agriculture Foundation](#). This page is updated twice per week.

Natural Resource Conservation Board (NRCB) has provided an update on the confined feeding of cow-calf herds during dry conditions.

Under normal conditions, the confined feeding of cow-calf pairs during the grazing season may be considered a confined feeding operation that requires a permit. Recognising the current circumstances, the NRCB will not require producers to obtain permits, provided the following parameters are met:

- manure must be managed according to Agriculture Operation Practices Act requirements,
- areas used for cow-calf feeding must not pose a risk to surface water or groundwater quality,
- the cow-calf herd must return to grazing when grass is available in 2022, and
- the feeding area must return to its normal use.

Actions anticipated for next period:

- Planning section have drafted Terms and Conditions and application form for the AgriRecovery program and are reviewing with federal counterparts.

Industry involvement:

- The Drought and Excess Moisture Advisory Group (DEMAG), co-chaired by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry and Rural Municipalities of Alberta, meets regularly with stakeholders including the beef and crop sectors for feedback on the severity of the drought and to share information on resources available from the province. Next DEMAG meeting scheduled for September 14, 2021.
- Team Alberta membership includes: Alberta Canola Producers Commission, Alberta Wheat and Barley Commission and Alberta Pulse Growers Commission. Next Team Alberta meeting: scheduled for week of September 20, 2021.

Resources for Alberta Producers during Dry Conditions

Description

This document provides a central location with information and tools to assist with on-farm business management and production issues during dry conditions and periods of business stress. Contact the Ag Info Center at 310-FARM (3276) or aginfocentre@gov.ab.ca if you have questions or require more information. Hyperlinks in this document were last updated on July 15, 2021.

News and Events

- [Nitrogen Management Strategies in Dry Conditions](#)

Situation updates, maps and reports

- [Agricultural Moisture Situation Updates](#)
- [AgroClimactic Information Service \(ACIS\)](#)
- [Alberta Crop Report](#)

Planning and Preparing for Dry Conditions

To assist with decision-making during dry conditions, information and links are available through this page, or by contacting the Ag-Info Centre at 310-FARM (3276) or aginfocentre@gov.ab.ca.

- [Agriculture Drought and Excess Moisture Risk Management Plan for Alberta](#)
- [Drought Proofing Farm Water Supplies](#)

Stress Management

- [Alberta Health Services - Mental Health Resources](#)

- [Alberta chapter of the Canadian Mental Health Association](#)

Business Management

Budgeting information and tools; economics and financial analysis; decision aids; market analysis and outlook; business management strategies.

- [AgriProfit\\$](#)

Water Management

- [Quality Farm Dugouts](#)
- [Remote Pasture Water Systems for Livestock](#)
- [Pasture Pipeline Factsheet](#)
- [Spring Development](#)
- [Water Wells That Last](#)
- [Farm Water Supply Requirements](#)
- [Rural Water Quality Information Tool](#)
- [Water Pumping Program](#)
- [Alberta Irrigation Management Manual](#)
- [IRRI-Cast: Crop Water Use Report](#)
- [Alberta Irrigation Management Model \(AIMM\)](#)
- [Canadian Agricultural Partnership - Water Program](#)

Livestock Management

Maintaining livestock productivity and health; livestock production options/alternatives; feed & fodder alternatives; forage & grazing alternatives.

- [Drought Management Strategies](#)
- [Management Strategies for Cattle during Dry Conditions](#)

Call to action.

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Classification: Protected A



Forage, Hay and Pasture Management

Managing pastures, forages and hay lands to enhance plant health to withstand water stress and help to minimize the herbage reductions.

- [Match Forage Supplies to Livestock Needs Calculator](#)
- [Beefresearch.ca](#)
- [Drought on Pastures and Rangelands](#)
- [Improving Pasture Productivity Pasture Productivity](#)

Crop Management

Maintaining crop productivity and growth; crop production options/alternatives.

- [Annual Crops for Silage](#)
- [Utilizing Annual Cereals for Livestock Feed](#)

Programs & Services

Programs and services available to producers to help manage through periods of business stress

- [Canadian Agricultural Partnership – Water Program](#)
- [Forms, Resources and Guides from AFSC](#)

Wildfires

Wildfires are a hazard that can spring up quickly and cause damage to your farm or acreage. Minimize the risk and reduce potential damage for your family, property and animals. Report wildfires at 310-FIRE.

- [Alberta Wildfire](#) (download the [App](#)) and [Fire Bans](#) websites
- [Alberta Emergency Alerts](#) (download the [App](#))