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Seasonal Summary Crop Report

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2022 Provincial Summary

- A very wet spring set the tone for the 2022 growing season, leading to overland flooding, saturated soils and delayed seeding, by up to four weeks behind normal in some areas. A warm and moderate summer followed in July, allowing crops to nearly catch up to 'normal' development for that time, followed by a later start to harvest with a few rain delays leading to an extended harvest.
- Heavy rainfall from multiple storm systems from April through mid-June brought near-record amounts of water for that timeframe, leading to some locations accumulating over 300% of normal rainfall for the month of May. While all of agro-Manitoba was faced with wet soils and delayed seeding, local districts surrounding Lake Manitoba and the northern Interlake faced the most severe conditions, leading to over 880,000 unseeded acres reported across the province.
- A complete reversal of spring 2021 conditions meant that seeding was delayed well into May (Table 1), and early seeded crops struggled with cool, saturated conditions more than later crops, which quickly caught up.
- The spring was a challenging time for farm operators and equipment. Very long working hours led to exhaustion in an effort to seed crops while soil and weather conditions permitted.
- Flea beetles and grasshoppers were the main insect pests of concern this year, with flea beetles causing severe damage to many early canola crops, resulting in multiple foliar insecticide applications.
- Timely rains arrived in July and August across most of Manitoba, allowing many crops to achieve average to above average yields, while the Northwest region was drier with lower yields.
- A lengthy and drawn-out harvest began later than normal, due to late seeding and late September rains, with the bulk of harvest only starting the second week of September and continuing until the end of October (Table 2).
- Crop harvest saw the largest increase between Sept. 6 to 13 with approximately 17% of the crop harvested during that time, consisting primarily of spring wheat, barley, oats and the earliest canola crops (Figure 1).
- Cattle producers had much better alfalfa, hay, greenfeed, and silage production than they did in 2021, with average quality. Many producers were able to take multiple cuts, and rebuild feedstocks reduced to zero following the severe shortage from last winter.
- Fall fertilizer and pre-seed herbicide application has been widespread this fall, but proceeded at a slower pace than previous years due to the delay in harvesting. Many fields have been worked, but no fertilizer applied to date.
- Top soil (0 to 30 cm) moisture relative to field capacity remains dry to optimal in much of western Manitoba, and wet in the Eastern/Interlake regions. Rain is needed help recharge soil reserves for the 2023 crop.

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Manitoba

- Total accumulated growing degree-days (GDD) reached a high in Manitoba of 1976 GDD at Winkler, followed by Morden (1971) and Altona (1920). Arborg had the greatest increase over normal GDD accumulation at 122% of normal, while Windygates was the lowest in Manitoba at 89%.
- Precipitation as a percentage of normal reached a high of 158% at Richer (618 mm) in the Eastern Region and a low of 75% at Melita (240 mm) in the Southwest Region.

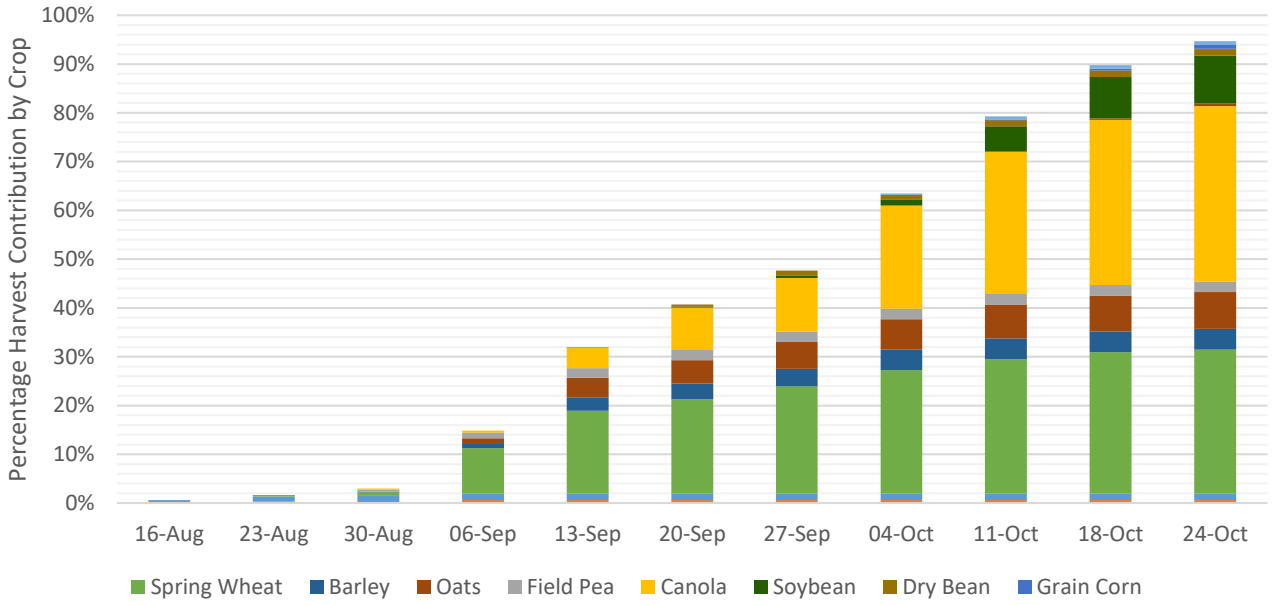
Table 1: 2022 Percentage Seeding Progress Completion Compared to Preceding Years

Seeding Week Number (Week:Month)	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	5-Year Average
< May 1st	0	2	<1	5	1	2
18 (1:05)	0	18	9	20	26	15
19 (2:05)	4	44	42	50	55	39
20 (3:05)	10	76	65	84	80	63
21 (4:05)	40	91	88	94	94	81
22 (1:06)	65	96	96	98	99	91
23 (2:06)	87	99	97	99	99	96
24 (3:06)	91	100	100	100	100	98
at June 30th	93	100	100	100	100	99

Table 2: 2022 Percentage Harvest Progress Completion Compared to Preceding Years

Harvest Week Number (Week:Month)	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	5-Year Average
<August 1st	0	1	0	0	<1	0
31 (1:08)	0	1	1	0	1	1
32 (2:08)	0	5	2	4	4	3
33 (3:08)	1	21	5	16	29	14
34 (4:08)	1	30	13	25	43	23
35 (1:09)	3	35	26	38	58	31
36 (2:09)	15	50	39	40	67	42
37 (3:09)	32	65	56	46	71	54
38 (4:09)	40	78	70	58	73	64
39 (1:10)	47	91	84	65	78	73
40 (2:10)	63	95	95	71	80	81
41 (3:10)	79	96	98	74	84	86
42 (4:10)	90	96	98	77	90	90
at October 31st	95	96	98	85	97	94

Figure 1: Cumulative Harvest Progress Contribution by Crop Type and Date in Manitoba in 2022



Cereals

Winter Cereal Grains

- Average yields were common in winter wheat, excessive spring moisture did negatively affect some crop stands in poorly drained areas, and average yields were near 65 bu/acre with variable quality.
- Fall rye crops performed well across all regions of the province, with average yields between 70 to 90 bu/acre with slightly elevated levels of ergot over previous years.
- High straw volumes from winter cereals spurred many farms to bale those fields.
- Planted acres of winter cereals appear in average condition heading into fall freeze-up, additional moisture is necessary for many of those fields.

Spring Cereal Grains

- Many farmers had spring wheat yields exceed expectations, resulting in a generally high-quality, average to above-average yielding crop between 60 to 70 bu/acre.
- Protein levels in spring wheat ranged from 13.0 to15.5%, with most CWRS crops above 14%. Protein reduction and downgrading occurred on some late-harvested wheat that had been rained on in swath.
- Barley yields averaged between 60 to 70 bu/acre, with some exceptions. Quality was good.
- Oat yields were slightly less than expected, given the lushness of many crop stands, averaging 120 to 130 bu/acre. Late-harvested oats remaining in swath for several weeks saw quality reductions due to staining.
- Test weights in oats ranged between 44 to 48 lbs/bushel.

Corn

- Corn acreage declined from expected acres as producers switched acreage into shorter-season crops as seeding delays mounted in spring.
- Committed corn growers planted corn crops first when they were able to get on the field, and most corn crops reached full maturity, with yields ranging from 100 to 190 bu/acre across the province, with the majority of acres in the Central region averaging close to 160 bu/acre, with good quality and test weight.

Oilseeds

Canola

- Extreme flea beetle pressure set upon earlier-planted canola crops that struggled to grow through cool, wet soils in early to mid-May, leading to multiple foliar insecticide applications or a very late reseed.
- Supply chain and manufacturing constraints prevented a readily-available supply of key herbicides in Manitoba, limiting the number of canola acres that could be sprayed (or sprayed twice).
- Strong winds initiated a widespread lodging event in mid-bloom canola in July, leading to a flat canola crop at harvest across many geographies. Lodged canola may have increased the prevalence of sclerotinia and other diseases in 2022, and led to lower realized yields due to challenging growth and harvest methods.
- Average canola yields were slightly disappointing to many producers, when crop biomass appeared much better than average. Average yields vary, with a 20 to 60 bu/acre spread across much of the province, and provincial average yield expected to be 42 bu/acre.
- Late (June) seeded canola crops dried slowly following wet September weather, and many crops required supplemental drying or aeration.

Flax & Sunflowers

- A delayed spring benefitted many flax growers, and flax emerged very quickly after being planted into warm, moist soils. Crops appeared thick and uniform in most fields, and producers were pleased with higher average yields than they've seen in recent years.
- Average flax yields varied by region, but provincially averaged between 30 to 35 bu/acre, with many crops yielding above that.
- Limited in-crop herbicide options favoured a large shift to herbicide-tolerant oilseed-type sunflowers taking over 90% of the market.
- Sunflowers appeared in good condition throughout the growing season, with seeds filling and fewer 'blanks' than last year.
- Sunflowers have been very slow to dry down in the Eastern and Interlake regions due to repeated rains, but yields are reported to be near 2,300 lbs/acre across the province.

Pulses

Field Peas

- Excess moisture caused drowned-out spots in peas more frequently than in other crops, but average yields remained high, generally between 50 to 60 bu/acre on lighter land, and 70 to 80 bu/acre on heavier ground.
- Pea aphids required careful scouting in 2022, and some fields were sprayed for aphids. Nearly all crops received a fungicide application for mycosphaerella blight (ascochyta).

Soybeans

- Soybean acreage reduction was noticeable this spring, as many farmers and retailers attempted to reduce planting of long-season crops and varieties in favour of wheat, oats or canola.
- Those soybeans that were planted were generally sown earlier than other oilseed crops in an attempt to ensure they reached maturity before the fall frost.
- Very few aphid problems reported this year, and some fields were sprayed for grasshoppers.
- Adequate heat accumulation and timely rains in August helped produce some excellent soybean yields across the province, where early-season soybeans were yielding between 40 to 50 bu/acre, while long-season soybeans were yielding between 50 to 65 bu/acre, both with good crop quality.

- Soybean yields vary widely in the Northwest, from 20 to 60 bu/acre, while the provincial average is expected to surpass the last provincial record of 42 bu/acre set in 2016.

Dry Edible Beans

- Dry beans performed well in 2022, despite reduced acres due to crop choice shifts, and have had very good yields reported, with many bean classes yielding between 2,000 to 3,000 lbs/acre.

Forages & Livestock

Forages

- Producers began turning cattle out to pasture early this year, to alleviate feed shortfalls from the poor production in 2021.
- Pastures and hayfields rebounded remarkably well from the severe water shortage last year, and produced average to above average forage volumes, keeping up with grazing pressure.
- Silage and greenfeed yields have met expectations, with corn silage yields between 14 to 18 tonnes/acre.

Livestock

- September grazing was able to overcome pasture production in most areas as soils dried and weather cooled, and cattle were being supplemented or brought back to winter feeding areas slightly earlier than usual.
- Water supplies for livestock have remained adequate to surplus throughout the entire year, and are going into fall freeze up between 60 to 85% of capacity, depending on the area.

Regional Summaries

Southwest Region

The growing season had a slow and delayed start in 2022 in the Southwest region, with above normal spring moisture and cooler temperatures throughout the region. Excess rainfall in late April until June meant that crop seeding progress was staggered and later than normal, up to 4 weeks behind in some cases. The extreme above-average rainfall in the early part of the growing season translated into a year that largely remained above-average by October 31, despite having a normal July, August and September. Rainfall accumulation from May 1 to October 30 in the Southwest ranged from 75% of normal at Melita, to 147% of normal at McAuley with most locations having over 110% of normal, averaged across the growing season.

Much of the region was two to three weeks behind normal seeding progress this year, with many farmers only starting to plant the last week of May. Rapid seeding progressed occurred in early June, but persistently wet soils and low-lying areas were unable to be planted before the crop insurance deadline. Some seeding continued after the extended coverage crop insurance deadlines passed. Germination and crop growth for early-seeded crops, particularly canola, was slower than for crops planted later that quickly caught up those planted earlier.

Flea beetles were a major pest issue in canola again in 2022, forcing many farms to spray foliar insecticides two or more times to control the large flea beetle population decimating the early-planted canola. Reseeding did occur on a number of canola fields, but many growers chose to leave the crop considering the very late seeding dates and risk of not having the crop reach maturity before a fall frost. Grasshoppers were the secondary insect pest of concern, with spraying reported on a number of crops across the region at different times. Other insects were generally not of economic consequence.

Timely rains arriving as part of larger rainfall systems fell in June and July, benefitting crops with regular moisture. As part of these larger systems, strong winds or hail caused some crop damage, and an intense wind in mid-July spurred a significant lodging event for many canola crops, most of which were in mid-bloom at the time. This resulted in a slower canola harvest, with combine operators forced to deal with a flatter crop than normal, as well as a rise in the amount of sclerotinia infection.

Disease incidence in most crops was lower than farmers expected, given the wet soil conditions early in the year, but soils had dried by mid summer and fungal diseases in many crops was limited to the level of infection seen in 2020, with some variation. Farmers applied foliar fungicides to most wheat and canola crops this year, since market economics favoured high returns and outweighed the expense and risk of not protecting the crop quality. Blackleg prevalence did increase to 67% on canola crops in the Southwest, the highest of the regions in Manitoba. Heat blast was limited in 2022.

Total heat accumulation for the year was up to a high of 113% of normal growing degree-day (GDD) at Wawanesa, to a low of 96% normal GDD at Oakburn.

A delayed seeding window, coupled with late September rain translated into a delayed and extended harvest period. Generally good weather allowed crops to be harvested as soon as they reached maturity, with very good crop quality and average to slightly above average yields. Fall rye and winter wheat had reduced acreage in the region this year, and average yields were 70 and 55 bu/acre, respectively. Field peas averaged 50 to 60 bu/acre, while spring wheat yielded between 60 to 70 bu/acre, and protein ranging between 13 to 14%. Most spring wheat graded 1 CWRS.

Barley crops had average yields, between 70 to 80 bu/acre, but staining was apparent on fields that had been in swath and were rained on. Oats had average yields, between 100 to 110 bu/acre, with good test weight. Canola crops were highly variable, depending on flea beetle damage and excess moisture stress. Yields ranged from 30 to 55 bu/acre on average, with most achieving the top two grades. Large drowned-out areas in fields lowered average yields. Late canola crops were harvested along PTH 16 after the killing frosts in late September, but reported yields and quality have been very good considering the lateness and risk of immaturity.

Flax crops had very good yields, between 30 to 40 bu/acre, with the main harvest issue being very green straw. Soybeans had an excellent year in the Southwest, seeing average yields between 40 to 45 bu/acre. Minor frosts in early September had no adverse effect on crop quality or yield. Grain corn yields are still being evaluated, with yields reported between 100 to 150 bu/acre and seed moisture between 18 to 25%. Sunflower harvest also continues, with average yields expected near 2,300 lbs/acre.

Alfalfa and hay output was substantially better than in 2021, with average to above average yields. Many producers took more than one cut, and quality was good. Silage corn yields are reported at 14 to 20 tonnes/acre. Pastures performed well, but overgrazing and dry conditions affected late-season output.

Northwest Region

A late spring, with heavy snowfall last winter, set the growing season behind early this year. Cool temperatures, late snowmelt and late Colorado-low snowstorms across much of the region created challenges with getting crops seeded in time. Another large weather system brought heavy rain across the region mid-May, causing overland flooding and washing out local roads, culverts, and bridges. Later in the summer, several more extreme rainfall/hail events occurred, but were confined to localized areas.

Strong winds were an issue this spring, causing some sandblasting of newly emerged crops, together with a tornado in the Benito/Durban area decimating several fields and farmyards.

Seeding conditions improved starting in the Swan Valley and Roblin districts, and those crops were the first to be planted. Field peas and wheat were the first crops in the ground, followed by much switching back-and-forth between canola, soybeans and other crops as fields were assessed on a case-by-case basis in order to proceed. Seeding progressed well in the Carrot River Valley around The Pas once snowmelt was gone.

Winter cereals performed with mixed results, winter wheat yielding 70 bu/acre on average, while fall rye only yielded 50 bu/acre. With a large number of unseeded acres in the Dauphin to Grandview area due to wet spring conditions, there is an anticipated bump (50%) in winter wheat acres, while winter cereal acres are expected to remain steady in the rest of the region.

Spring wheat in the region did really well throughout the year. Although fields were seeded approximately three weeks later in the south and eastern part of the region, all crops were able to advance to maturity and harvested. The average yield across the entire region was 75 to 85 bu/acre, with some fields reporting above this average. Over 85% of the spring wheat crop graded as a 1 CW; 10% as 2 CW and 5% as 3 CW. Barley averaged 70 to 90bu/acre; 75% graded as 1 CW and the remainder at 2 CW. Oats mostly did well and averaged 120 to 140 bu/acre. However, there were exceptions. The majority of the oats graded as 2 CW and the remainder at 3 CW.

While some pea fields did well, the remainder was below average. Average yields for the region on poorer condition fields were 35 to 45 bu/acre and better condition fields averaged 55 to 65 bu/acre, nearly all grading 2 CW.

Canola brought many challenges again this season. Slow germination, intense flea beetle pressure, strong winds and stagey fields were the main concerns to start. The latter half of the season faced flea beetles on adult canola plants, lygus bugs and dry conditions. Poorer canola fields yielded 20 to 30 bu/acre; while average yields were 35 to 40 and the better fields averaged 50 bu/acre. Canola did really well in The Pas and the average yield there was 50 bu/acre. Canola quality was very good.

Soybean seeding was a challenge due to wet and delayed spring conditions, with the majority of soybean crops planted before crop insurance coverage deadlines. Although cool spring temperatures made for slow growth, eventually the heat we received mid-summer and timely rains allowed the crop to catch up and set good pods. Nearly all soybeans graded as 2 CAN, with the remainder as 3 and 4 CAN. There was some flax grown in the region. The average flax yield was approximately 35 to 40 bu/acre and it graded 90% at 1 CW.

Very few acres of grain corn were planted in the Northwest, but those fields averaged 150bu/acre.

Disease pressure in crops varied across the region. Drier mid to late summer conditions reduced the amount of sclerotinia infection, but verticillium stripe was evident, but not as pronounced as it was in recent years. Fusarium head blight prevalence was low across the region, but lodging was common in cereals and led to some challenges and yield loss at harvest. Late-seeded crops remained green well into September, and oats in particular was susceptible to lighter test weights and green seed. Crown rust was also reported in several oat fields.

Later in September, dry weather prevailed later into fall and fieldwork advanced quickly. Topsoil conditions are currently dry across the entire region.

Livestock producers have benefitted from more favourable moisture conditions this year compared to 2021, and winter feed supplies have increased with higher forage yields and better quality. Due to feed shortages from 2021,

feed supplies are adequate, but not excessive. Carryover stocks have not been replenished to the level producers would like to be at to sustain through a longer winter with harsh conditions.

Central Region

The 2022 crop year began with an extremely challenging and wet spring. A very dry 2021 gave way to high overwinter snowfall followed by a series of Colorado lows in the spring. A number of Central region locations received over 500% of normal precipitation for April resulting in overland flooding.

More than a dozen municipalities in the central region declared states of emergencies and experienced damage to key infrastructure including roads and culverts. The resulting poor condition of gravel and dirt roads reduced field access in many regions. The flooding also affected major road and rail routes, delaying shipment of agricultural commodities and inputs.

Seeding delays were widespread, with some farms altering their intended crop to select one that would take less time to mature. A small amount of planned corn, sunflowers, or pea acres gave way to canola, spring wheat, and oats. Fewer farmers switched from soybeans into shorter season crops, since soybeans are chosen by their relative maturity, appropriate for their growing location. Many corn farmers switched out of longer season corn hybrids to a shorter CHU hybrids at the beginning of the season to ensure that they would reach maturity. Some of these crop shifts caused supply constraints for retailers, with trouble sourcing enough seed and chemical control to cover the additional canola and cereal acres.

Once field conditions allowed farmers prioritized the planting of corn, field peas, soybeans, potatoes, and dry edible beans ahead of spring wheat or canola, especially as the insurance coverage seeding date deadlines approached. Seeding progress varied greatly across the region, with some areas being nearly complete, while others only a few miles away were just beginning, due primarily to variation in soil type, topography and weather.

Several farmers were not able to seed before the MASC insurance cut off dates. Many fields in North Norfolk, Portage la Prairie and Westlake-Gladstone, and adjacent to the Red River were seeded after the MASC extended coverage deadlines or not at all.

However, once farmers were able to plant emergence was very good and crops grew quickly due to the abundant moisture. Spotty emergence was common wherever water pooled for a short time and crop stands were noticeably thinner in those areas. It was common for wet spots and low-lying areas to be left unseeded to maximize planting efficiency. Many of these areas became overgrown with weeds later in the season.

Winter cereal survivability was surprisingly good, with only a few drowned out spots in areas with ponding water. Some winter cereals that were initially planted to provide soil cover as a cover crop survived well over the winter and were grown to harvest. Spring growth was slower than normal, due to wet conditions and cool days. A warm summer with adequate moisture allowed for the crop to recover from a delayed start. High humidity did result in some instances of foliar disease in dense canopies of fall rye and winter wheat so some farmers applied foliar fungicide application at the flag leaf and head emergence stages.

Farmers were generally pleased with crop development. During the growing season fields received abundant rainfall which resulted in easily accessible moisture throughout the growing season. However high rainfall led to widespread nitrogen fertilizer losses, via leaching or denitrification. In-crop nitrogen-deficiency symptoms were not uncommon, often in combination with other symptoms of crop stress due to saturated soils.

There were some instances of lodging due to extreme winds. Some winds topped 100 km/hour around Pilot Mound and Holland. The intensity of lodging varied greatly and depended on crop growth stage and type. The worst effected were spring wheat and canola crops, but some winter cereals, oats, and corn were affected. Most crops recovered, with cereals recovering better than lodged canola.

Hail events were uncommon and for the most part light in intensity and many of the crops affected were able to be harvested.

Cattle producers entered 2022 short on feed supplies, due to a dry 2021 followed by a late grazing season putting pressure on already stretched feed resources. Pasture regrowth was delayed by 2 to 3 weeks due to the weather and many fields were too wet to allow livestock to enter. In some cases, entire paddocks were completely underwater. Many farmers had to find extra feed for their cattle and retailers reported extra sales of pelleted feed. Some paddock and winter-feeding areas became very wet and muddy, compromising calf health and leading to increased mortality due to pneumonia and diarrhea. Approximately 10% of first cut hay was not baled due to repeated rains and wet weather.

A warm season with adequate rainfall allowed adequate growth and kept up with grazing pressure until mid-September, and benefitted from a fall that allowed for an extended grazing season. One benefit of the excessive rainfall was that all creeks, streams, dugouts and sloughs retained enough water throughout the season for cattle.

Corn silage harvest is complete with yields averaging 16 tonnes/acre. Second and third-cut hay has resulted in a surplus feed for winter. Cattle will continue to fall graze stockpiled grass until the snow flies.

Harvest was much later this year due to a combination of delayed seeding, high humidity and frequent rains that have slowed crop dry down. Swathing of canola and cereals and preharvest herbicide applications in wheat were more common this year to advance crop dry down.

Winter wheat yield ranged from 70 to 90 bu/ac, averaging 80 bu/ac. Fall rye averaged 70 bu/acre. Test weights were good, as were falling numbers for rye. Ergot levels in rye were low, and grain quality for both crops were good, with very low fusarium-damaged kernels (FDK) and vomitoxin levels.

Spring Wheat yields were very good, ranging from 40 – 85 bu/ac, averaging 65 bu/ac. Some farmers even achieved yields of 95 bu/ac. Protein ranged between 12.5 to 14.3%, with good falling numbers. There were slightly higher fusarium damaged kernels than in recent years, and a small number of farms had a low incidence of ergot. Grain had low DON (deoxynivalenol) levels, and most spring wheat was graded № 1 CWRS. Barley yields ranged from 70 to 100 bu/ac, with the majority falling around 85 bu/acre. Quality was very good. Some farmers switched to oat production this year over other cereals due to oats being more tolerant of excess moisture. Yields averaged around 140 – 180 bu/ac, with the average being closer to 150 bu / ac. Most oats were graded at the highest designation.

Canola yields were slightly disappointed with the yields given how strong the crop appeared, but yields are still better than they were in 2021. Yields were seen in the range of from 20 to 60 bu/acre, averaging 42 bu/acre. Canola quality was good with most farmers receiving a crop grading of 1 CAN. Dockage was higher than normal, and some farms were concerned about heat spoiling in the bin if aeration is not adequate.

Flea beetle pressure was heavy in many areas, but this varied greatly by location, with some fields requiring multiple foliar insecticide applications while nearby fields at similar stages only saw minor damage. A sizable portion of canola crops were reseeded, either due to poor emergence or flea beetle damage.

Flax harvest is complete, with good harvest quality. Flax yields were observed in the range of 35 to 55 bu/acre, with an average of 42 bu/acre.

Soybean harvest reported yields averaging 45 bu/acre and good quality. A small number of farmers sprayed for soybean aphids in the east of the region and around Carman. Dry edible bean harvest is complete. Yields were very high and farmers are generally pleased. Yields averaged 2,300 lbs per acre and high quality.

Peas had decent yields of around 50 bu/acre, and good quality of 2 CAN. There were isolated cases of pea aphids reaching economic threshold levels and a small proportion of crops were sprayed.

The sunflower harvest is continuing, with harvest 80% complete. With the exception of a heavy rainfall event towards the end of October, harvest has progressed efficiently. Yields are in the range of 1700 to 2500 lbs/acre for oil sunflowers and good test weight, and good quality.

The corn harvest is continuing, with harvest 70% complete. With the exception of a heavy rainfall event, towards the end of October, harvest has progressed efficiently. Often the only factor limiting corn harvest is waiting for the kernel to dry, and the availability of drying capacity. Yields have been in the region of 160 to 180 bu/acre, with the average being closer to 160 bu/acre. At the beginning of corn harvest corn was being harvested as high as 30% moisture. However, currently harvested corn is in the region of 17 to 22% moisture.

Potato harvest is complete. Potatoes yields varied greatly depending on how the conditions were when they were planted. Processing potato yields are for the most part below average, yielding on average 280 cwt/acre with good quality. Table potatoes had above average yields, yielding on average 310 cwt/acre with good quality. There were some issues with seed rot resulting from wet conditions, but late blight was not an issue this season, although some producers have had issues with the Colorado potato beetle.

Farmers are still working on tillage, ditching, and tile drainage as the soils remain workable. Improved straw choppers and chaff spreaders have improved the spread of crop residue to the soil requiring less tillage to incorporate, however farmers, especially in the heavier soils of the Red River Valley, are favoring tillage as an attempt to ensure the soil warms up adequately in the fall and dries out as farmers anticipate winter snowfall.

Many farms have now completed fall manure or nitrogen applications. Soil temperatures remain relatively low so fall fertilization should avoid most of the conversion of nitrogen fertilizer into less stable forms. Some farmers are waiting until spring to see if fertilizer prices come down.

Not many farmers practiced residue burning this year, with tillage being the preferred method to tackle crop residues. Some farmers did burn excessive trash that was deposited along the edge where spring water pooled in fields, especially in ditches and along rivers.

Winter cereals seeded acres are reportedly down this fall due to a late harvest of previous crops. Establishment this fall has been good due to adequate moisture for most of the season, however many of the crops remain small, with many not yet reaching the three leaf stage.

Eastern Region

A challenging growing season for many farms in the Eastern region, generally driven by weather conditions and the short window available to complete a long list of tasks. Frequent and abundant rainfall led to a delayed seeding season, much like the rest of the province, but rains throughout the summer downgraded cut hay quality and impeded field access. Wet conditions throughout the growing season did present many problems but most crops responded well to the moisture levels and yielded well. In general, crops harvested before the end of September were better quality. Some cereals, particularly late harvested spring wheat and oats, suffered quality downgrades because of delayed harvesting due to prolonged wet weather.

Wet conditions in spring and summer caused many farmers to anticipate severe plant disease problems, but impacts were less than expected. In general fusarium head blight infection was not as bad as expected given the wet growing conditions and high humidity. Most wheat fields did receive a fungicide application to help mitigate the disease risks. Some root rots in soybeans in flooded areas but those types of areas were generally a loss. Fungicide use was widespread, particularly for sclerotinia prevention in canola. Despite widespread fungicide use, sclerotinia development was dramatic in thick canopy canola fields where spray misses occurred, or were not sprayed. Sclerotinia infection was noticeable in sunflowers as basal stalk rot and head rot. Some fields of confectionary

sunflowers in particular were hard hit by sclerotinia stem and head rots and some root rots. Disease levels in sunflowers were higher overall compared to the last few dry years but was not a great concern in all fields.

Winter wheat yields averaged 65 bu/acre. Quality was 90% 1 CWRW and bushel weight was good, with the remainder grading 2 CWRW. There is an estimated 20% further decrease in fall 2022 seeded acres. Fall rye average yields ranged from 45 to 75 bu/acre, depending on local conditions. Fall rye seeded acres have dropped by an estimated 45% in the region for 2023.

Spring wheat yields average 70 to 75 bu/acre. Quality was generally good 1 CW (85%) with the remainder CW Feed (15%). Oats yield average 120 bu/acre, primarily milling grade with 10% graded as feed.
Canola yield average was in the 50 bu/acre range. Despite added insect and disease pressure of a wet growing season, crop quality was all 1 CAN. Soybean yield average was near 45 bu/acre, most producers were happy with the yields given the late seeding and wet growing season conditions. Limited flax is grown in the Eastern region but yields were good averaging at 25 bu/acre. Quality was 1 CW (100%).

Corn harvest is still ongoing, with average yields between 140 to 175 bu/acre with varying bushel weights. As a rule the earlier the corn was sown the better it has performed. Sunflower harvest is estimated at 20% completion across the region. Average yields of 2,000 to 2,300 lb/acre.

Producers are expecting a busy wrap up of the growing season this week before the forecast changes. Lots of fall tillage has been done and is ongoing as the soil dries enough to permit cultivation and anhydrous ammonia application. A limited amount of broadcast phosphate and potash is being applied. Those farms that have maintained P and K levels are taking advantage of soil nutrient building when compared to fertilizer input prices.

Most cattle have been brought home from pasture, slightly earlier than normal, but pasture production slowed to the point where overgrazing shorted paddock feed supplies. Haying season was frustrating when it came to maintaining forage quality and putting up dry hay but volumes were average to above average. Winter feed supplies adequate for beef and dairy producers. Supplementation with high energy feedstuffs (grain) will likely be necessary with beef herds to obtain a suitable ration to maintain cow health.

Interlake Region

Unpredictable weather dominated the growing season in the Interlake, where each season was delayed and compacted, and farmers were stressed and tired attempting to make seeding and harvest progress. A considerable amount of snowmelt and heavy rainfall amounts this year led to high water levels across the region, leaving many fields and pastures saturated, and overland flooding widespread in both the south and north Interlake. A very wet winter led to a challenging start to seeding. Rains continued to damage infrastructure and crops in the northern Interlake. Some farmers reported nitrogen deficiency in corn, where excessive rains had led to poor root growth, nitrogen leaching, and lack of good growing conditions for stressed crops. Continued rainfall affected seeding activities in parts of the Interlake region, particularly along both sides of Lake Manitoba, and into the Fisher Branch/Fisherton area towards Arborg. Limited seeding was achieved that area, given the continually wet soils. Some farmers managed to seed canola prior to crop insurance seeding deadlines on June 20, while others continued seeding beyond coverage dates. The Interlake was the wettest region on average across Manitoba, receiving between 103% (Clarkleigh) and 162% (Riverton) of normal rainfall between May 1 and October 30.

Seeding started in the south Interlake in mid-May, late compared to previous years. Wet and cold weather delayed seeding by up to 3 weeks compared to normal. Planting proceeded on a patchwork basis, crop-by-crop and field-

by-field as conditions became favourable. Several days of drying weather were needed before most fields could be seeded. Seeding progress in the south Interlake amounted to nearly 90% of acres seeded, while continued wet weather and slow drainage in the northern part of the region had about 65% of the crop planted. Some growers sourced other crop or forage seed with their retailers, looking at late barley for grain or greenfeed, and planting millet or sorghum as a cattle feed and to soak up moisture and cover ground. Overall, regional seeding progress reached 85% done, with variation between farms. A number of farms in the northern districts west of Arborg towards Fisher Branch and Lundar had only a small portion of their farms seeded. Fewer days with highs above 30°C than in 2021 helped crops to push through late seeding and grow rapidly, with good to very good yields reported. Strong commodity prices have helped make up for yield shortfalls in some areas and boosted farm profits where yields were better.

Spraying for flea beetles and grasshoppers was widespread across the region, with variable results. Saturated canola fields suffered more from excess moisture than flea beetles. Approximately 50% of fields remained unseeded west of Arborg towards Fisher Branch and Lundar, and crops that had been planted suffered greatly from excess rains and lack of drainage. Conditions in the south Interlake were better, where crop growth was more uniform, but large drowned-out spots were noticeable. Approximately 25% of fields remained unseeded in the Petersfield-Matlock-Winnipeg Beach area. Fungicide applications on cereals and oilseeds continued in this region, with aerial applications done on fields not suited for ground travel. Armyworms were reported in the region, with limited insecticide applications at the time. Grasshopper insecticide applications took place in cereals and soybeans, mainly with headland applications although entire fields were sprayed where populations are higher.

Winter cereal harvest was completed in the region, with good yields, up to 100 bu/acre in fall rye, and 80 bu/acre in winter wheat. Drowned out areas were the lowering field averages, but remaining areas did quite well despite the excess moisture conditions this year. Spring wheat yields ranged from 50 to 80 bu/acre, averaging 70 bu/acre. Producers reported tough grain and straw as the crop has not yet dried down fully, which led to short harvesting days and portions of fields being left to dry down further. Some fields had significant drowned out areas due to earlier excessive rains, which impacted average yields. Most wheat crops were very good quality. Anything harvested before the mid-August rains had very good protein and colouration. After the rains and high humidity, protein loss and bleaching was apparent, but most still graded 1 CWRS. Wheat protein ranged from 13.5 to 15%.

The south Interlake further along with harvest progress throughout the year, partly due to earlier and better seeding conditions. This resulted in higher average yields and harvest completion than the northern Interlake. Spring wheat crops were harvested, with CWRS protein content ranging between 12.3 and 15.5% in the region, averaging about 13.5%. Yields were between 40 to 75 bu/acre with good test weight. Canola yield averages ranged from 10 to 45 bu/acre, depending on severity of moisture stress. Harvest progress was low to advance in late September, with many crops harvested tough, wheat between 16 to 20% moisture and canola between 11 to 12.5%. Farmers used natural aeration and supplemental grain drying to condition grain to safe storage levels. A killing frost on September 22 and 26 made green crops easier to harvest, but some oats and flax still had green straw, resulting in slow threshing. Wet weather slowed harvest progress throughout October resulting in a slow climb to achieve full harvest completion. By October 31, all crops were 99% harvested. Average yields for the region for wheat was 70 bu/acre, barley was 85 bu/acre, and oats was 135 bu/acre. Canola averaged 35 bu/acre, while soybeans did 40 bu/acre. Grain and silage corn made up the bulk of the remaining crop still in the field, with about three weeks of harvesting left for grain corn, while silage corn was approximately 80% done. The crop overall was slightly above average.

Fall fertilizer and tillage is roughly 75% complete by this time. October rainfall put a stop to fieldwork and fields are now wet and short drying days are not doing much to dry the fields. Tillage and fall fertility was a challenge with 1.5 mm of rain last week with little drying weather.