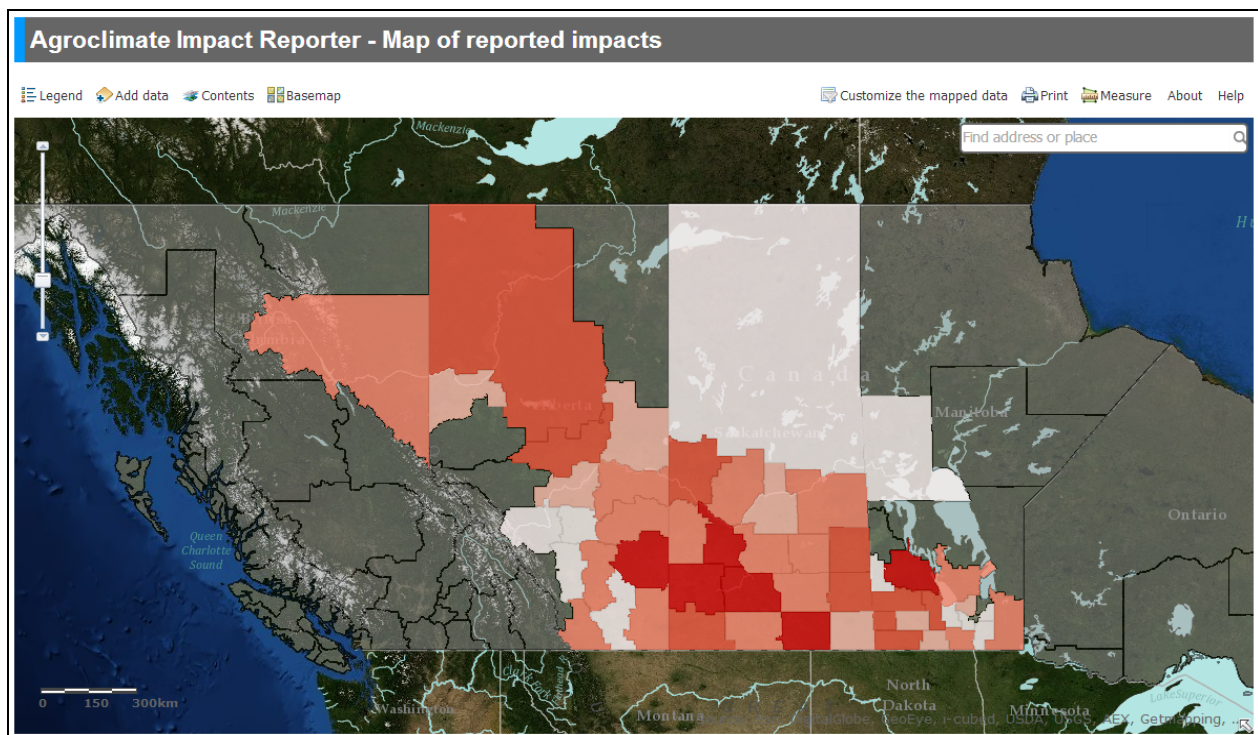




The Agroclimate Impact Reporter

The Agroclimate Impact Reporter (AIR) is an online application designed for the collection and reporting of weather and climate impacts on farm operations across Canada. AIR, available on the Drought Watch website (www.agr.gc.ca/air), produces a live impact map and monthly maps used for decision support. The information in these maps enables producers and scientists at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) to better understand the local and regional effects of agroclimate conditions and identify emerging risks to the broader agricultural sector.



Using the AIR live impact map on the Drought Watch website, users can customize mapped data based on type of impact and severity. In the map above, darker colours indicate areas in which more impacts have been reported.

Extreme weather events and climatic variability can have significant effects on Canada's agricultural sector and the economy. Over the past 10 years, drought, flooding and excess moisture have resulted in large costs to the Canadian economy. Monitoring the impacts of weather on water, soil, and agricultural production is essential for a region's ability to adapt, withstand, and recover from climatic extremes.

AIR is maintained by AAFC's National Agroclimate Information Service (NAIS) of the Agro-Climate, Geomatics and Earth Observations (ACGEO) Division, Science and Technology Branch. NAIS collects data to produce monthly reports on agricultural impacts throughout the growing season. Data are primarily supplied from a network of registered users and supplemented by media reports and anonymous public input. The AIR registered user network is composed of more than 325 active volunteer reporters across the Prairie Provinces - Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and the Peace Region of British Columbia. Throughout the growing season, registered users submit monthly reports on weather conditions and agricultural impacts via the online AIR application or through phone, fax or e-mail. These are then supplemented by media reports and anonymous public input.

On the Drought Watch website, users are able to view counts of the weather impacts, display current or archived information as maps, search reports by impact types, make data queries and overlay other existing or custom geospatial information. Maps of monthly conditions are available through an AIR map selector tool on Drought Watch.

AIR maps are regularly used to help define drought-affected areas in Canada as part of submissions to the North American Drought Monitor. They are also used in assessments for AAFC's financial risk management programs for agricultural producers, such as the Livestock Tax Deferral Provision and Agri-Recovery.

To further improve the AIR map products, NAIS plans to expand the existing group of registered reporters with the ultimate goal of establishing a Canada-wide network.

For more information please contact AAFC's **National Agroclimate Information Service** at nais-snia@agr.gc.ca or visit AAFC's **Drought Watch** website at www.agr.gc.ca/drought.

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For more information, reach us at www.agr.gc.ca or call us toll-free at 1-855-773-0241.