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Field Crop Reporting Series — No. 14

TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT — PRAIRIE PROVINCES

This is the ninth of the 1972 series of eleven telegraphic reports issued by Statistics Canada, covering crop conditions in the Prairie Provinces. A selected list of crop correspondents chosen from the Federal and Provincial Departments of Agriculture, private crop observers and grain men supply the information on which these reports are based. The weather data included in this release are furnished by the Meteorological Division, Department of Transport.

SUMMARY

Prairie Provinces. — Crop prospects throughout most of the prairies range from fair to good. As a result of recent rains moisture is adequate in most districts except in southern and central Saskatchewan. However, crops are in many instances late and frost damage will be a distinct hazard. Warm weather is now needed. Swathing of fall rye is under way and some early-sown spring cereals have been swathed also. Bertha armyworm infestations in rapeseed have been reported and control measures are being undertaken.

Manitoba. — Recent rains have improved crop prospects in most parts of the province. Cereals are fair to good with fall rye and some early-sown grain crops now being swathed. Most special crops are doing well and the rain will improve the second-cut of hay. Bertha armyworms are active in the Dauphin district, there is some leaf rust reported at Pilot Mound and hail damage has occurred at Russell.

Saskatchewan. — Fair wheat yields are anticipated for the province for wheat. Moisture is generally good with crops up to three weeks late. There has been some frost damage in the north. Swathing has begun in the south with crops patchy but most are average. A bumper crop is expected in the Estevan to Radville area and also from Prince Albert to Rosthern. Crops are thin and conditions dry in the central area including Watrous, Davidson, and Big River where a few cases of frost damage were reported. There has been some minor Bertha armyworm infestations but little damage has occurred.

Agriculture Division
Crops Section

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Alberta. — Crop prospects are generally good although in the western area of the province development is about seven to ten days late and conditions still vary from good to excellent. Rain in the latter part of July saved many crops in the eastern portion of the province and cool cloudy weather with frequent showers has limited insect damage but interfered with haying. Much of the hay will be of poor quality, most of the potatoes, sugar beets, and vegetable crops will yield well. There have been isolated reports of hail damage, and Bertha armyworms have been noted in northeastern districts on rapeseed. Spraying operations commenced last week. Pasture conditions vary from fair to good. An early frost could cause considerable damage to cereal crops.

RUST REPORT

The Canada Department of Agriculture Research Station in Winnipeg reports that leaf rust has developed rapidly and considerable amounts of infection are present in commercial wheat fields. Damage will be light in early plantings but losses may range up to 10 per cent in late fields that are now at the early milk stage. Stem rust of oats is still very scarce but slight to moderate amounts of crown rust occur and may damage late planted fields of oats.

Preliminary Estimates of Sunflower Seed Acreages 1972 Compared with 1971 (1)

Province	1971	acres	1972
Manitoba	155,000		190,000
Saskatchewan	70,800		23,000
Alberta	13,600		4,000
Totals	239,400		217,000

(1) Prepared in the Crops Section, Agriculture Division Statistics Canada, in co-operation with the provincial Department of Agriculture.

MANITOBA

Farmers in the Altona district have combined some early-sown fields of grain and yields of 40 and 50 bushels per acre have been obtained. Flax is now in bloom and the added moisture received last weekend will benefit the sunflower crop. Rapeseed and buckwheat are now in bloom and podding while sugar beets and potatoes are progressing well. At Pilot Mound rye crops are now swathed and early-sown barley is ripe and will be swathed within a week. Moisture supplies are good. Haying has been practically completed with fair to average yields reported. The only threatening insect problem has been the sunflower beetle. Overall prospects are generally very good in spite of fairly heavy leaf rust on Manitou wheat.

Crops in the Selkirk area are ripening well and some fields of rye have already been swathed with average yields expected. In general, it now appears that some cereal crop yields will be average or slightly below average as a result of the drought in the early part of the summer and the heavy competition of weeds such as wild oats. Grass seed crops are now being harvested with poor yields of timothy reported. The second-cut of alfalfa also is being harvested and yields are low although the rains of the past few weeks have made considerable improvement. Present prospects are that total forage supplies in the area will be adequate but quality will be low.

Our correspondent at Brandon reports that crop prospects are average in the area. Rainfall is needed although temperatures continue to be below normal. A limited amount of swathing has been done, mostly of rye. Generally the early-sown crops are ripening slowly. At Neepawa, good moisture conditions have been obtained with one-half inch of rain during the past week. Second-cut hay crop is slow but pastures are adequate. Swathing of rye is well under way and the odd barley field has also been swathed. Reports from Minnedosa indicate that crop conditions have improved and average yields are expected in the district. However, more rain is needed to bring crops to maturity and as plant development is generally late frost will be a real hazard. Rapeseed is podding and yield prospects are average. Fall rye swathing is under way and some harvesting of other crops may be expected by the end of the week.

In the Shoal Lake district crops have improved with general rains. Haying, however, has been delayed and some slough will not be baled as it is under water. Early-sown rapeseed has completed flowering and early barley is ripening. Fall rye is being swathed. Pastures are adequate in the district. At Russell, crop conditions are good and moisture is adequate throughout the district. Warm, dry weather is now needed to ripen crops. Farmers have completed about 75 per cent of their haying and fall rye is swathed. There has been no report so far of Bertha armyworms on rapeseed. Over the past three weeks about ten thousand acres were hailed and damaged 10 to 100 per cent.

In the Dauphin district cold, wet weather is delaying an already late crop. Moisture supplies are satisfactory and sunshine and heat are needed to mature the grain. However, a good average crop is in prospect. Farmers have been spraying late barley to control heavy infestations of aphids and some rapeseed fields will be sprayed for armyworms. Rain has improved pastures. Dull, wet weather continues to delay crop maturity at Swan River and warm sunny weather is urgently required. Aphids are severe on some late barley and Bertha armyworms are appearing on most rapeseed fields in varying degrees. Control measures have taken place in isolated instances for both types of insects.

The unweighted average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 16 per cent below normal compared with 20 per cent below normal a week ago, 19 per cent below normal two weeks ago and in contrast to 26 per cent above normal a year ago. Mean temperature for the week ending August 7 was 8.7 degrees F. below normal compared with 4.1 degrees below normal a week ago and 7.1 degrees below normal two weeks ago and in contrast to 0.3 degree above normal for the week ending August 9, 1971.

SASKATCHEWAN

In the southeast of the province at Fillmore generally cool weather and recent showers have improved crop conditions to better than average. Warm dry weather is needed to mature crops. Early crops are being swathed. A few farmers have cut severe wild oat patches for hay. Some hail damage was reported south of Fillmore over the weekend.

At Val Marie crops look normal and with swathing started, wheat is expected to yield 12 bushels, barley 20, rye 12, and oats 35. Four inches of rain were reported since April 1. The second cutting of irrigated hay will be under way shortly with average tonnage expected. Cattle are still in good condition. Pastures are very dry with rain needed badly. At Eastend, crop conditions have deteriorated due to last week's hot weather and scattered showers will determine above and below normal conditions. Cool weather during the month prevented severe deterioration of sunflower stands. Grasshoppers have seriously damaged oat crops in certain areas. Hail was reported in isolated areas. Pastures and cattle are good.

In the Swift Current district cool weather continues to compensate for the severe lack of moisture. Cereals are estimated at 75 per cent of normal, with further deterioration expected if drought conditions continue. Fall rye harvesting has commenced with estimated yields at 12 bushels per acre. Pastures are poor and haying complete with an average of three-quarters of a ton per acre. At Leader crops are maturing rapidly and swathing of oats and barley is expected to begin in a week. The stand is short but ripening evenly. Kernels are plump and should make a good sample with the yield only average.

At Drake, cool cloudy weather prevails and grain fields are ten days later than usual. An average hay crop is nearly completed. Some early-sown barley is almost ready to swath. The rape blossom stage is 80 per cent completed. Rain is needed for good filling of heads in all grains.

In the Saskatoon area 50 per cent of the rapeseed and 10 per cent of barley acreage are swathed. Wheat and oats are starting to ripen but swathing is not expected to begin for ten days. Bertha armyworms have infested several thousand acres of rapeseed in the Delisle, Askwith and Perdue area west of Saskatoon and control measures have been applied. Infestations have also developed in many other districts, extending from North Battleford across north-central Saskatchewan to Kam-sack, but to date the outbreak is much less severe than last year.

In the west-central area at Rosetown early-seeded wheat and coarse grains are average. Swathing of barley is expected in about ten days. Later crops are better than average. Some frost damage to gardens is reported but grains look more promising. Most farmers are summerfallowing. Pastures are fair but hayland is poor. At Scott, some harvesting of early barley was reported this week. Most cereal crops will be ten days later than usual due to cool wet weather. Rainfall of 3.9 inches has been recorded since the last report. Some leaf rust is in evidence. Hot dry weather is urgently needed. There has been no report of Bertha armyworms recorded here to date.

The following hail storms are reported since the last report: July 17 -- Melfort; July 22 -- Drinkwater, Rowatt, Jameson, Indian Head, Abernethy, Killaly, Bangor, Kuroki, Okla, Spalding; July 24 -- Alsask, Mantario, Laporte; July 25 -- Rockglen, Coronach, Big Beaver, Bengough, Bateman, Gravelbourg, Mossbank, Davyroyd, Readlyn, Viceroy; July 26 -- Mankota, McCord, Glentworth; July 27 -- Radville, Torquay, Vidora, Gull Lake, Golden Prairie, Mendham; July 28 -- Ebenezer, Yorkton; July 29 -- Revenue, Leipzig; August 1 -- Lake Alma, Oungre, Torquay, Simmie, Admiral.

The unweighted average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 10 per cent below normal, compared with 12 per cent below normal a week ago, 14 per cent below normal two weeks ago, and in contrast to 4 per cent above normal a year ago. Mean temperature for the week ending August 7 was 4.9 degrees F. below normal, compared with 2.8 degrees below normal a week ago, 10.0 degrees below normal two weeks ago, and in contrast to 8.2 degrees above normal a year ago.

At Lethbridge, in the southwest heavy rains followed by warm sunny weather have greatly improved crop conditions. Spring wheat and barley are filling well except for some fields which were permanently damaged by early dry weather. Swathing of winter wheat and rye is general while swathing of rapeseed has just commenced. Development of sugar beets is good and some twenty thousand acres have been sprayed for webworm. Early potatoes are being harvested and yields are average. Around Cardston all crops are in very good condition although lodging could be a problem in barley. Swathing of winter wheat has commenced. Haying operations have been completed and yields are reported about average. No hail or insect damage has been reported to date. Livestock are in very good condition. In the Claresholm district the weather has turned very hot and rye and fall wheat are being swathed. Good yields are anticipated for both these crops. Damage from hail and insects is at a minimum. Pastures are still in good condition.

At Brooks in south-central Alberta swathing of dry land crops will be general by next week. Harvesting of seed peas has commenced in irrigated areas and yields are reported to be good. Some white rust is reported in fields of brown mustard. Most of the fall rye crop varies between poor and average. First crop alfalfa yielded very well and harvesting of the second cut will begin next week.

In the Calgary district in the southwest-central part of the province crop conditions are reported to be generally good. Although crops east of Calgary are likely to suffer if the recent warm weather continues without additional rainfall. No substantial rain has fallen within the last week and temperatures have been in the high seventies and low eighties. Little insect or hail damage has been reported to date. Swathing of rye is beginning and barley is just commencing to turn. In general, prospects for cereal crops are average to above average.

In northwest-central Alberta frequent showers have prolonged haying operations and as a result a considerable amount of the crop has been spoiled. Yields were generally above average. Cereal crops are late and lodging is already beginning. No damage from insects has been reported.

In the west-central district around Lacombe, the average temperature for July was 5 degrees below the 64-year average. Cereal crops are heavy but development is about ten days to two weeks behind normal and many fields are already lodging. Haying operations are nearly completed with yields averaging about 1.5 tons per acre and quality was not good due to the wet weather. At Eckville, showery weather has delayed haying operations and quality of the crop has been seriously reduced. Yields have varied between one and two tons per acre. Cereal crops are about average but approximately ten days later than normal. Swathing will commence in about two weeks. Summerfallows are in fair condition and pastures are holding up well.

In the Peace River area around Beaverlodge fescue crops are ready for combining. Most cereals are in the dough stage although wild oats is a problem. Rapeseed is in full bloom. At Peace River intermittent rains are rendering hay operations difficult. Rapeseed has passed the bloom stage and many fields are spotty due to the dry spring. Good yields are anticipated for cereal crops although none have yet started to turn. Pastures are good.

The Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation reports the following storms: July 23 - 1:30 p.m. near Sundre moved eastward in a 6 mile strip to Olds and Elnora. Heavy damage from stones of golf ball size occurred at Olds. July 27 - 2:00 a.m. a storm caused severe damage to mature crops in township 9 range 10 west of the 4th at Bow Island. At 10 p.m. a storm developed at Roselind moved southeast over Forestburg to Galahad causing moderate damage in a strip 5 miles wide. Some damage was also reported from a storm 12 miles long and 6 miles wide centered on the town of Stettler. July 28 - 4:30 p.m. a severe storm at Greencourt moved in a southeasterly direction over a wide front leaving heavy damage in (1) a 10-mile strip from Greencourt to Sangudo (2) a 6-mile strip from Fort Assiniboine to Westlock (3) a 10-mile strip from east of Camrose to Hughenden (4) a wide front from Mundare to Amisk. July 31 - 5:30 p.m. a storm beginning at Vega moved southeast towards Neerlandia, Rossington, Legal, Bonaccord to Namao and at 7:30 p.m. severe losses were reported from Morinville and Namao. Also on July 31 - 9:30 p.m. a storm beginning at Coaldale travelled due east over Taber, Grassy Lake, Burdett to Bow Island. Damage was spotty but severe on winter wheat and fall rye. August 3 - localized damage was reported from storms at Woking and Saint Albert.

The unweighted average precipitation for the province since April 1 has been 2 per cent above normal, compared with 2 per cent above normal a week ago, 1 per cent above normal two weeks ago and 3 per cent above normal a year ago. Mean average temperature for the week ending August 7, 1972 was 1.2 degrees F. below normal, compared with 1.7 degrees below normal a week ago, 8.0 degrees below normal two weeks ago and in contrast to 10.1 degrees above normal for the week ending August 9, 1971.

Precipitation and Temperature Data, Prairie Provinces(1)

Province and crop district	Station	Precipitation			Mean tem- perature	
		Week ending	Total	Normal	week ending	
		8 a.m. August 7, 1972	since April 1	since April 1	8 a.m. August 7 1972	Normal
			inches		degrees F.	
MANITOBA						
1	Boissevain	.62	12.62	9.91	59	66
	Pierson	1.42	10.68	9.25	60	67
2	Baldur	.50	12.28	9.86	58	67
	Pilot Mound	1.09	9.29	9.80	58	67
3	Altona	.30	6.39	9.17	61	67
	Deerwood	N.R.	6.68(2)	9.56	N.R.	69
	Graysville	.46	7.14	8.81	58	67
	Morden	.66	7.57	9.80	60	69
	Morris	.42	5.62	9.07	62	68
	Portage la Prairie	.35	6.81	11.15	60	69
	Roland	.76	7.01	9.33	60	68
4	Stonewall	.34	5.98	10.00	57	67
5	Emerson	.26	6.25	9.53	62	68
	Winnipeg	.42	6.42	9.66	58	68
	Starbuck	N.R.	4.80(2)	9.45	N.R.	67
6	Pinawa	1.27	7.02	6.05	56	67
	Great Falls	N.R.	3.54(2)	7.49	N.R.	67
	Sprague	.31	7.07	10.06	57	65
7	Virden	.36	4.78	9.45	58	67
8	Brandon	.40	7.34	10.15	59	67
	Cypress River	.71	10.13	9.75	58	68
9	Gladstone	.71	7.30	9.72	N.R.	66
10	Birtle	1.18	7.94	9.99	58	65
	Rosburn	N.R.	5.39(2)	9.17	N.R.	64
	Russell	.88	8.88	8.16	56	65
11	Dauphin	.74	7.23	9.82	57	67
12	Arborg	1.16	8.37	9.32	53	65
	Gimli	.78	6.14	9.88	57	67
13	Swan River	.67	9.74	9.44	56	65
	The Pas	.12	8.08	8.17	55	64
MANITOBA AVERAGE		.65	7.85	9.37	58.1	66.8

For footnotes, see page IV.

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Province and crop district	Station	Precipitation			Mean tem- perature	
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		8 a.m. August 7, 1972	since April 1	since April 1	8 a.m. August 7 1972 Normal	
			inches		degrees F.	
SASKATCHEWAN						
1A	Carlyle	.22	10.76	8.67	60	64
	Estevan	1.23	11.71	8.79	61	68
	Oxbow	.99	8.88	7.78	59	65
	Willmar	N.R.	6.75(2)	9.34	N.R.	65
1B	Broadview	1.04	5.84	9.48	59	64
	Moosomin	1.39	7.40	9.79	58	66
2A	Amulet	.08	8.12	8.48	62	N.R.
	Yellow Grass	1.01	8.16	8.53	63	66
	Weyburn	.21	7.99	8.22	62	65
	Midale	.19	9.82	8.18	62	67
2B	Moose Jaw	1.38	8.99	8.01	62	67
	Regina	1.23	8.91	8.31	61	66
	Francis	1.12	7.66	7.86	61	65
	Indian Head	1.40	7.60	8.07	61	65
3AS	Ormiston	.04	7.20	8.45	63	66
	Cardross	.07	10.20	8.51	61	66
	Rock Glen	.02	10.61	8.56	61	N.R.
3AN	Coderre	N.R.	5.53(2)	8.02	N.R.	66
	Gravelbourg	.06	7.66(2)	6.98	62	67
	Chaplin	.63	7.33	7.29	61	N.R.
3BS	Shaunavon	.10	7.28	7.39	61	65
	Aneroid	.06	6.97	7.09	63	66
	Instow	N.R.	7.10(2)	7.42	N.R.	65
3BN	Hodgeville	.04	7.14	7.75	N.R.	66
	Swift Current	.14	6.82	8.23	62	66
	Pennant	.07	5.77	7.34	63	66
	Hughton	.11	4.33(2)	6.70	62	66
4A	Maple Creek	N.R.	7.35(2)	6.83	N.R.	66
	Consul	nil	6.93	6.06	61	65
4B	Leader	.16	4.15	6.44	64	67
5A	Cupar	.39	7.70	7.82	60	66
	Balcarres	.62	5.05	8.29	N.R.	65
	Lipton	.49	10.00	7.55	59	65
	Melville	.68	5.38	8.59	58	N.R.
	Yorkton	.37	5.94	8.59	58	66
	Bangor	.70	7.11	8.83	59	64
5B	Wynyard	.12	5.00	8.07	56	64
	Foam Lake	N.R.	4.54(2)	8.07	N.R.	64
	Kuroki	N.R.	6.00(2)	8.46	N.R.	63
	Kamsack, Cote	.84	4.86	8.02	56	65

For footnotes, see page IV.

Precipitation and Temperature Data, Prairie Provinces(1)

Province and crop district	Station	Precipitation			Mean tem- perature	
		Week ending	Total	Normal	week ending	
		8 a.m. August 7, 1972	since April 1	since April 1	8 a.m. August 7 1972	Normal
			inches		degrees F.	
SASKATCHEWAN — Concluded						
6A	Davidson	.43	4.82	7.81	61	65
	Strasbourg	.21	6.86	8.27	62	64
	Watrous	.12	5.65	7.37	60	65
	Liberty	.59	4.76	7.81	61	N.R.
6B	Harris	.46	7.29(2)	6.61	60	65
	Outlook	.69	5.79	6.65	N.R.	66
	Saskatoon	.34	6.85	6.77	61	66
	Elbow	.42	4.65	7.93	58	65
	Tugaske	.92	5.81	8.06	60	65
	Dundurn	.15	3.88	6.77	60	66
	Kindersley	.19	5.92	6.14	62	65
7A	Rosetown	.25	5.91	7.29	61	65
	Macklin	.49	6.96	7.06	59	64
7B	Denzil	.89	7.17	7.03	59	64
	Scott	1.19	7.25	7.28	58	63
	Biggar	.43	6.78	7.01	59	65
8A	Hudson Bay	.59	6.57	8.82	55	63
	Prairie River	.42	6.23	9.00	52	62
8B	Humboldt	.13	7.63	7.21	58	64
	Melfort	.20	6.69	7.97	55	64
9A	North Battleford	.79	7.05	7.02	60	65
	Victoire	N.R.	4.49(2)	7.56	N.R.	61
	Prince Albert	.04	5.06	7.83	58	64
9B	Waseca	.49	8.14	7.89	58	62
	Meadow Lake	.40	6.35	8.26	60	60

SASKATCHEWAN AVERAGE	.48	7.02	7.82	60.0	64.9
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ALBERTA

1	Empress	.07	2.33	6.66	68	66
	Foremost	.02	6.73	6.97	65	67
	Manyberries	N.R.	4.65(2)	6.26	N.R.	67
	Medicine Hat	.28	6.00	6.62	67	68

For footnotes, see page IV.



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Precipitation and Temperature Data, Prairie Provinces(1)

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		Week ending	Total	Normal	week ending	
		8 a.m. August 7, 1972	since April 1	since April 1	8 a.m. August 7	
			inches		1972	Normal
						degrees F.
ALBERTA — Concluded						
2	Brooks	trace	6.09	6.66	65	66
	Gleichen	trace	6.08	7.94	63	63
	Vauxhall	.19	6.57	6.36	64	65
	Raymond	nil	5.67	7.20	62	65
	Lethbridge	.04	6.74	8.27	67	65
	Trochu	.21	9.71	8.11	N.R.	63
	Queenstown	N.R.	6.43(2)	8.21	N.R.	63
3	Calgary	.09	10.11	9.69	61	61
	Cardston	.75	9.71	9.30	59	63
	Pincher Creek	.44	12.09	9.95	62	62
	Fort MacLeod	.17	7.88	9.30	64	66
	High River	.42	9.49	9.98	59	60
	Olds	.28	13.06	10.13	61	61
	Alliance	.92	10.31	7.49	62	62
4	Coronation	1.29	7.85	7.43	62	62
	Hughenden	.84	9.44	7.50	60	63
	Lloydminster	.35	6.25	7.63	60	63
	Stettler	.29	12.96	8.62	57	62
	Vegreville	.16	6.81	8.21	59	62
	Ranfurly	.34	7.03	8.59	60	61
	Vermilion	.33	7.40	7.80	60	61
5	Edmonton	1.20	12.04	10.09	61	62
	Lacombe	.80	12.44	10.23	61	61
	Red Deer	.80	11.18	11.92	62	61
	Rocky Mountain House	.79	15.91	11.37	60	59
	Wetaskiwin	1.48	10.95	9.86	62	61
	Campsie	1.44	8.32(2)	10.35	60	60
	Edson	.51	13.27	11.13	60	58
6	Elk Point	.41	6.72	8.44	59	60
	Whitecourt	1.21	11.86	10.62	61	58
	Beaverlodge	.16	4.35	7.66	57	59
	Chipewyan	.29	8.12	5.38	53	N.R.
	Ft. Vermilion	.43	3.51	6.39	56	60
	Grande Prairie	.57	7.69	7.62	60	59
	High Prairie	.19	8.66	8.68	59	60
7	Peace River	.18	5.17	6.35	59	59
ALBERTA AVERAGE		.47	8.60	8.42	61.0	62.2

N.R. — No report. (1) Source: Meteorological Service of Canada. (2) Incomplete; not included in average.