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TELEGRAPHIC CROP REPORT - PRAIRIE PROVINCES

This is the tenth of the 1976 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 Atmospheric Environment Service, Department of the Environment.

SUMMARY

Prairie Provinces. - Harvesting operations are well under way in all districts with the exception of the Peace River and other northern areas of Alberta where rains have delayed progress. Swathing is virtually completed. Yields and quality are reported to be above average. Pastures are generally dry excepting some northern districts.

Manitoba. - Manitoba farmers have almost completed harvesting operations with the exception of some late-seeded crops and flaxseed. Production, yields and quality are all above average. Work is now under way harvesting the sugar beet and corn silage crops. Fall work is well advanced and in the southwest region the fall rye crop is in good condition. Pastures, however, are poor and many cattle are on dry feed.

Agriculture Division
Crops Section

5-3102-508

Saskatchewan. - Ideal harvesting weather has permitted approximately 90 per cent of the crop to be combined. Quality and yields throughout the province are reported to be well above average. Pastures are very dry in most districts.

Alberta. - Frequent showers continue to delay harvesting operations in the Peace River and northern regions of Alberta. Dry weather is needed since most fields are too soft to support harvesting equipment. In the central and southern regions weather conditions have been more favourable and most crops have been swathed. Threshing operations are progressing well and some farmers have completed their harvesting. Frost was reported in all regions on September 8 but damage was light and generally restricted to gardens. Livestock throughout the province are in good to excellent condition. Pastures are reported as fair to good.

Precipitation and Temperature Data, Prairie Provinces(1)

	Unweighted Average Precipitation		
	Per cent variation from normal(2)		
	Man.	Sask.	Alta.
April 1, 1976 - September 13, 1976	- 23	+ 4	+ 16
April 1, 1976 - September 6, 1976	- 20	+ 6	+ 16
April 1, 1976 - August 30, 1976	- 19	+ 8	+ 14
April 1, 1975 - September 15, 1975	+ 23	+ 18	+ 11

	Mean Temperature		
	°C. variation from normal(2)		
	Man.	Sask.	Alta.
For the week ending - September 13, 1976 ...	+ 4.9	+ 2.5	+ 0.2
For the week ending - September 6, 1976	+ 2.0	+ 3.5	+ 4.1
For the week ending - August 30, 1976	+ 2.8	+ 2.2	+ 1.0
For the week ending - September 15, 1975 ...	- 1.0	+ 1.4	+ 1.4

(1) Source: Atmospheric Environment Service.

(2) Positive sign indicates above normal and negative sign indicates below normal.

MANITOBA

At Altona harvesting of cereals, rapeseed, field peas, flaxseed and canary seed is completed. Most of the black beans have been cut and a few fields have been combined with average yields reported. Sclerotinia wilt and blackbirds have severely damaged sunflowers. Fall work is well advanced with most fields having been worked over once or twice and applications of fertilizers and chemicals are now in progress. In the Morden district the grain harvest is nearly complete and rapeseed harvesting is also well advanced with good yields reported. Potato growers are digging their crops and yields are only fair. Pastures are very poor with many cattle on dry feed. Soils are very dry in most places.

In the southwest corner of the province at Melita 85 to 90 per cent of the cereals have been harvested with yields running a little below average. Flax and rapeseed are now being combined. An estimated 25 per cent of the fall field work has been carried out. Pastures are in good condition but fall rye has suffered some injury by high winds blowing sand both last week and the week before.

Farmers in the Selkirk district have completed 90 per cent of their harvesting activities with flaxseed being the only major crop not yet finished. Fall tillage is progressing well but pastures are in very poor condition and dry feeding is taking place in most areas. Very little second crop hay has been cut with yields poor to very poor. Those cattle which are not being fed are losing condition. Potato harvest will probably begin this week if conditions remain favourable. Some 95 per cent of the crop has been harvested at Stonewall with most of the wheat grading number one. It is estimated that 80 per cent of the straw baling has been carried out and about 40 per cent of the fall field work is finished. Pastures are poor with most producers feeding. At Portage la Prairie the grain harvest is complete with only flaxseed and buckwheat still to be combined. Sub-soil and surface moisture are very poor with farmers feeding hay to cattle on pasture. Wells for watering livestock are starting to give out due to a low water table.

Around Brandon farmers have completed harvesting except for flaxseed. Clear, warm weather without rain has resulted in a good quality grain harvest. Forage crop re-growth is fair but pastures are only fair to poor. Fall tillage is 50 per cent completed.

In the Interlake district at Teulon harvesting is completed except for a small acreage of flaxseed. About 40 per cent of the fall tillage has been carried out. Pasture conditions are fair and farmers have now baled most of the second cut hay crop. Farther north at Arborg good weather has allowed harvesting to advance rapidly with 95 per cent of the crop swathed and 85 per cent combined. Yields of later-harvested crops are below average. Baling of straw is nearing completion and an estimated 40 per cent of the fall cultivation has been finished. Ploughing, however, is difficult due to the dry conditions. A few farmers have seeded fall rye. Pastures remain poor with dry feeding necessary while cattle conditions vary from fair to excellent.

In the Neepawa district 95 per cent of the combining has been completed with only late-seeded cereals, flaxseed and sunflowers remaining. Yields are quite variable. Pastures are depleted with cattle being fed supplementary feeds or grazing on stubble. At Minnedosa 85 to 90 per cent of the crops have been combined and fall tillage operations are well under way. Seeding of fall rye is completed with the

crop emerging well. Fall chemical control of thistles is being undertaken. Pasture conditions are poor. In the Russell district farmers have almost finished combining with only oilseeds remaining. Straw baling is under way but showers have interrupted activity. Yields are above average for all crops but dockage at elevators is also above average. Frost has caused little damage. Second cut hay has been disappointing and pastures are in poor shape. Fall tillage is well under way.

Reports from Dauphin indicate that harvesting is 90 per cent completed with average yields and excellent quality reported. Fall work is well advanced. Pastures are poor to fair. Conditions are extremely dry in the southeast part of the district. Very little frost has been reported to date. At Swan River harvesting is estimated to be 90 per cent complete with above average yields and quality reported except for rapeseed which is below average. Fall work is well advanced and fall rye has emerged. Good quality and quantity of forage supplies are reported.

SASKATCHEWAN

Harvesting operations are progressing well at Indian Head with approximately 90 per cent of the grains combined. Yields and quality of grain are well above average in this area. Fallow fields are in good condition.

In the south-central area at Gravelbourg harvesting operations are completed with above average yields reported. All crops were harvested dry and the grain is of good quality. No rainfall has been received since the beginning of harvest and summerfallow fields are very dry.

At Shaunavon in the southwest harvesting is 90 per cent completed with better than average yields. The seeding of fall rye and winter wheat is in progress. Livestock is in good condition. At Swift Current where quality is excellent and yields well above average combining is 90 per cent completed. Some barley is reported to be low in bushel weight. Pastures are very dry but ample forage is available. In the Leader area harvesting is completed except for isolated fields. Yields and grade were generally good.

At Melville in the east-central district harvesting is 90 per cent completed with good yields and most grains harvested in dry condition. Oilseeds also yielded well and are of top quality. Favourable weather at present will permit harvesting to be completed.

In the Saskatoon district 90 per cent of the cereals and rapeseed and half of the flaxseed are harvested. Favourable weather has permitted the crop to be taken off dry and yields and grades are better than expected. Pastures are very dry.

Our correspondent at Rosetown in the west-central district reports harvesting about 90 per cent completed. All grains are of top quality with most wheat grading number one and most barley grading malting. Harvesting is now delayed by approximately 5 mm. of rain but will continue shortly weather permitting. Most summer fallows are black but some need to be worked again. In the Scott area warm dry weather has permitted harvesting to be 80 per cent completed. Most of the wheat is grading number one with high yields reported. Summerfallows have become quite weedy but moisture conditions are good.

In the northeast at Melfort harvesting is 85 per cent completed with yields and quality high. There has been no killing frost and the second cut of hay is

average. There has been less seeding of winter wheat than in 1975 due to the severe winterkill last year. However, a few fields have been seeded and are emerging.

ALBERTA

In the southeast part of the province at Medicine Hat harvesting has virtually been completed the exception being in the Cypress Hills area where some crops have yet to be combined. Generally the harvest has been above average in the area.

Our correspondent at Lethbridge in southwest Alberta reports the harvesting of cereals and rapeseed is nearing completion. High average yields and quality are being realized. Harvesting of main crop potatoes has started. Seeding of fall rye and winter wheat is mostly done. Pastures are in excellent condition and soil moisture is good. At Cardston harvesting is general while swathing is 90 per cent completed. Yields are reported to be above normal. Some slight hail damage has been reported on the eastern edge of the district. The second cutting of forage crops is now completed. All livestock are in good condition and pastures are holding well. Ten days of good weather will complete harvest. The end of this week will see harvest complete except for some flaxseed in the Claresholm area. Farmers are busy sowing winter wheat and baling straw. The weather has been exceptional for harvest. Pastures are much improved following the August rains.

Harvesting in the Vulcan area in south-central Alberta is 90 per cent completed with crop yields better than expected. Harvesting should be completed with five or six days of good weather. Hay and pasture conditions are described as poor as a result of the long, dry summer.

At Eckville in the west-central part of the province showery weather has been delaying harvesting operations. Swathing is completed while combining is 40 per cent completed. Pastures are holding up well and some second cut alfalfa has been baled. Summerfallow is in good condition. Warm, dry weather is now needed.

In the Peace River district at Beaverlodge, continued wet weather has brought harvesting to a standstill. About 20 per cent of the swathing is completed while less than 10 per cent of the combining has been finished to date. At Fort Vermilion harvest is approximately 60 per cent completed. Weekend rains have delayed combining until later in the week. Yields are above average and quality is good. Approximately one week of good weather is required to finish harvesting.

The Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation reports the following hail storms: September 6, a small isolated storm damaged crops 12 miles north of Evansburg; September 7, light damage was inflicted on crops in the Sundry area while another localized evening storm with small stones and high winds caused light damage to the crop north of Claresholm.

Precipitation and Temperature Data, Prairie Provinces(1)

Données sur les précipitations et la température provinces des prairies(1)

Province and crop district — Province et district agricole		Station	Precipitation — Précipitations			Mean temperature week ending 8 a.m. September 13 — Température moyenne semaine se terminant 8 a.m. le 13 Septembre Normal — Normale	
			Week ending 8 a.m. September 13 1976 — Semaine se terminant 8 a.m. le 13 Septembre 1976	Total since April 1 — Total depuis le 1er avril	Normal since April 1 — Normales depuis le 1er avril	degrees — degrés C.	
mm							
MANITOBA							
1	Boissevain	N	233.1	333.9	17	12	
	Pierson	1.5	261.0	290.0	16	12	
2	Baldur	4.1	250.4	394.1	16	12	
	Pilot Mound	4.6	233.6	378.4	17	12	
3	Altona	2.0	246.0	317.8	18	13	
	Deerwood	..	45.5(2)	364.0	..	13	
	Graysville	5.1	233.7	329.6	19	12	
	Morden	4.3	183.6	343.9	19	13	
	Morris	0.5	221.7	329.6	19	13	
	Plum Coulee	3.0	288.5	338.4	19	13	
	Portage la Prairie	2.0	236.0	366.3	18	13	
	Roland	6.1	212.5	310.0	18	13	
	Stonewall	6.6	238.0	376.9	18	12	
5	Emerson	3.3	320.0	349.0	19	13	
	Steinbach	trace	269.2	363.2	14	12	
	Winnipeg	6.6	327.1	348.2	19	13	
	Starbuck	6.9	322.5	364.4	18	13	
6	Pinawa	2.5	333.6	341.8	18	12	
	Sprague	8.1	329.5	386.8	16	11	
7	Virden	1.3	216.8	323.6	16	12	
8	Brandon	0.5	244.7	326.1	16	12	
	Cypress River	2.8	271.3	323.4	17	12	
9	Gladstone	..	131.1(2)	313.2	..	11	
10	Birtle	1.5	237.4	338.3	16	11	
	Rosburn	4.8	299.6	368.5	15	11	
	Russell	1.8	306.3	273.9	15	11	
11	Dauphin	7.9	276.8	327.9	17	12	
12	Arborg	0.3	176.3	310.6	16	12	
	Gimli	2.3	221.8	336.8	17	12	
13	Swan River	2.0	322.9	303.1	15	11	
	The Pas	2.1	332.2	278.1	13	10	
14	Grass River	0.8	163.5	316.9	17	11	
AVERAGE — MANITOBA — MOYENNE			3.2	260.3	336.5	16.9	12.0

SASKATCHEWAN

1A	Carlyle	1.5	332.4	297.0	14	11
	Estevan	trace	238.3	281.4	17	13
	Oxbow	..	159.9(2)	270.1	..	11
	Willmar	1.5	258.0	287.2	..	11
1B	Broadview	1.1	233.6	308.4	16	11
	Moosomin	1.5	273.4	330.1	15	11

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Province and crop district — Province et district agricole	Station	Week ending 8 a.m. September 13 1976 — Semaine se terminant 8 a.m. le 13 Septembre 1976	Total since April 1 — Total depuis le 1 ^{er} avril	Normal since April 1 — Normales depuis le 1 ^{er} avril	1976	Normal — Normale
					degrees — degrés C.	
SASKATCHEWAN — Continued — suite						
2A	Yellow Grass	4.3	336.7	270.2	15	12
	Weyburn	2.0	361.2	266.9	15	12
	Midale	1.0	265.9	284.0	16	12
	Amulet	3.0	298.9	272.5	16	12
2B	Moose Jaw	1.3	300.1	245.6	16	13
	Regina	1.3	307.3	268.6	16	12
	Francis	..	304.4(2)	269.9	..	11
	Indian Head	1.6	309.3	268.8	15	11
3AS	Ormiston	1.0	272.2(2)	248.5	14	12
	Cardross	3.0	261.0	261.0	14	12
	Rock Glen	3.0	311.2	268.8	15	12
3AN	Gravelbourg	trace	147.1(2)	235.7	14	12
	Coderre	4.3	193.6(2)	246.1	14	12
	Chaplin	3.3	237.7	244.7	13	12
3BS	Shaunavon	1.3	239.9	233.9	13	12
	Aneroid	1.6	193.5	211.6	14	12
	Instow	..	116.1(2)	235.5	..	12
3BN	Swift Current	1.3	258.3	251.2	13	12
	Pennant	trace	215.2	235.1	18	12
	Elrose	6.9	259.4	212.6	14	12
4A	Maple Creek	7.6	202.5	219.1	13	13
	Consul	3.8	167.3	190.1	10	12
4B	Leader	1.5	267.0(2)	217.6	13	13
5A	Cupar	2.3	310.2	274.8	15	12
	Balcarres	N	294.5(2)	257.4	..	12
	Lipton	..	323.6(2)	266.1	..	12
	Yorkton	2.0	242.1	273.0	15	11
	Bangor	..	23.3(2)	271.6	..	11
5B	Wynyard	0.5	264.3	261.7	15	11
	Foam Lake	N	293.7	253.5	14	11
	Kuroki	trace	295.0	284.0	14	10
	Kamsack, Cote	2.1	275.2	255.7	14	11
6A	Davidson	4.6	323.4	241.1	13	11
	Strasbourg	3.6	243.9	271.2	15	12
	Watrous	5.1	267.5	260.6	13	12
	Penzance	1.8	218.4(2)	249.0	17	11
6B	Harris	6.1	255.6	217.6	12	11
	Outlook	7.2	234.1	216.1	13	12
	Saskatoon	6.1	206.4	198.6	13	12
	Elbow	6.9	229.3	214.3	15	12
	Tugaske	5.1	226.8	253.3	14	12
	Dundurn	5.6	226.6	231.3	16	12
	Alsask	3.3	189.1	187.2	12	12
7A	Kindersley	5.0	293.9	204.0	14	12
	Rosetown	5.1	199.4	237.0	13	12

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					mm	degrees — degrés C.
SASKATCHEWAN — Concluded — fin						
7B	Macklin	12.9	322.5	253.8	12	11
	Denzil	11.9	147.5	250.2	12	11
	Scott	7.9	255.7	243.6	12	10
	Biggar	6.4	230.6	241.3	13	11
8A	Hudson Bay	3.6	358.9	284.3	14	10
	Prairie River	5.1	247.4	283.9	12	10
	Nipawin	8.4	281.5	258.2	14	11
8B	Humboldt	..	269.5(2)	229.6	..	11
	Melfort	5.3	286.9	239.5	13	11
9A	North Battleford	14.7	277.8	238.1	13	11
	Prince Albert	1.8	250.1	247.6	13	11
9B	Meadow Lake	11.2	333.7	320.2	12	9
	Waseca	..	298.4(2)	288.1	..	10
AVERAGE — SASKATCHEWAN — MOYENNE		38.6	263.3	253.0	14.0	11.5
ALBERTA						
1	Empress	N	142.2(2)	161.2	13	12
	Foremost	6.7	239.4	213.4	13	13
	Hanna	15.0	218.2(2)	238.8	13	10
	Manyberries	6.3	226.2	260.3	11	13
	Medicine Hat	4.8	238.0	217.3	14	13
2	Brooks	3.1	254.9	232.3	12	12
	Gleichen	7.6	255.9	273.2	11	11
	Vauxhall	2.0	170.8	215.8	12	12
	Raymond	..	165.6(2)	278.5	..	12
	Lethbridge	11.2	266.7	274.5	13	13
	Elnora	9.4	233.2	280.7	..	11
	Queenstown	7.6	239.9(2)	293.3	12	11
3	Calgary	23.7	321.6	307.8	11	11
	Cardston	17.3	348.0	249.8	13	11
	Pincher Creek	22.1	351.8	321.1	12	11
	Fort MacLeod	9.4	329.3	287.5	13	13
	Claresholm	56.9	374.4	288.8	13	12
	High River	27.9	403.8	328.3	12	11
	Olds	14.5	352.4	325.3	8	10
4	Alliance	18.5	206.8(2)	282.0	11	11
	Coronation	12.7	250.5	239.3	11	11
	Hughenden	20.6	349.3	263.2	12	11
	Lloydminster	..	267.7(2)	282.7	..	11
	Stettler	12.7	299.8	288.2	9	11

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		Week ending 8 a.m. September 13 1976 — Semaine se terminant 8 a.m. 1e 13 Septembre 1976	Total since April 1 — Total depuis le 1er avril	Normal since April 1 — Normales depuis le 1er avril	1976	degrees — degrés C.
			mm			
ALBERTA — Concluded — fin						
4	Vegreville	18.3	299.0	293.4	10	11
	Ranfurly	16.8	286.0(2)	293.0	11	10
	Vermilion	18.3	373.6	273.1	11	10
5	Edmonton	20.4	354.1	315.8	10	11
	Lacombe	10.2	352.3	314.9	9	10
	Red Deer	16.6	307.3	310.3	9	11
	Rocky Mountain House	19.4	496.4	373.4	9	10
	Gwynne	9.1	288.8(2)	318.3	9	11
6	Campsie	3.6	311.2(2)	304.3	9	9
	Edson	9.9	411.8	369.7	9	9
	Elk Point	15.0	362.5(2)	297.7	10	9
	Whitecourt	6.1	390.8	347.0	9	9
7	Beaverlodge	..	386.2(2)	262.2	..	10
	Chipewyan	3.8	220.7	179.8	9	8
	Ft. Vermilion	..	354.7(2)	209.8	..	8
	Grande Prairie	22.9	402.1	250.3	11	9
	High Prairie	..	426.6(2)	267.0	..	9
	Peace River	4.8	344.1	205.7	10	10
	Rycroft	..	33.8(2)	229.2	..	10
AVERAGE — ALBERTA — MOYENNE		13.7	317.9	274.4	10.9	10.7

(1) Source: Atmospheric Environment Service. —Service de l'environnement atmosphérique.

(2) Incomplete; not included in average. —Incomplet, non compris dans la moyenne.

.. Figures not available. —Données indisponibles.

N Nil. —Néant.