Moisture Situation Update – August 9, 2011

Precipitation since July 25, as of August 8, 2011 -see map

- Over the past two weeks, precipitation accumulations have been extremely variable across the province, ranging from less than 5 mm across parts of the south, to upwards of 70 mm in the Red Deer area, and also across the northeast (Bonnyville and St. Paul areas).
- Precipitation across the Peace Region was moderate, with generally less than 30 mm falling across most areas.

Perspective:

- Typically the first half of August is wetter than the last half and this month marks the beginning of a drying trend for most of the reporting area, with the exception of the Southern Region, where July tends to mark the start of drier conditions.

Soil moisture reserves as of August 8 2011 -see map

- The Northern Peace Region is classified as having 1 in 6 to 1 in 12 year lows. Here, the growing season started off extremely dry with about 30% of normal precipitation received between April 1 and mid June. Solid rains swept the area during the first two weeks in July, but since that time, precipitation has been below normal, but not absent.
- Elsewhere, soil moisture reserves are at least near normal for this time of year across most of the province. A situation we have not seen for some time.
- Many areas are classified as having 1 in 6 year to 1 in 12 year highs with a few areas ranging up to at least 1 in 25 year highs. Some of this moisture is expected to carry over into next spring.

Daily average temperatures relative to normal over the past 15 days -see map

- Central parts of the province have been cool with large parts of Central Alberta seeing temperatures this cool on average, about 1 in 6 years. This is further delaying crops as fall approaches, increasing the risk of frost damage.

Additional Maps can be found at http://www.agric.gov.ab.ca/app116/quick.jsp.

Near-real-time hourly station data can be viewed/downloaded at http://www.agric.gov.ab.ca/app116/stationview.jsp. Note: Data has about a two hour lag and is displayed in MST (add one hour for daylight savings time).

Ralph Wright
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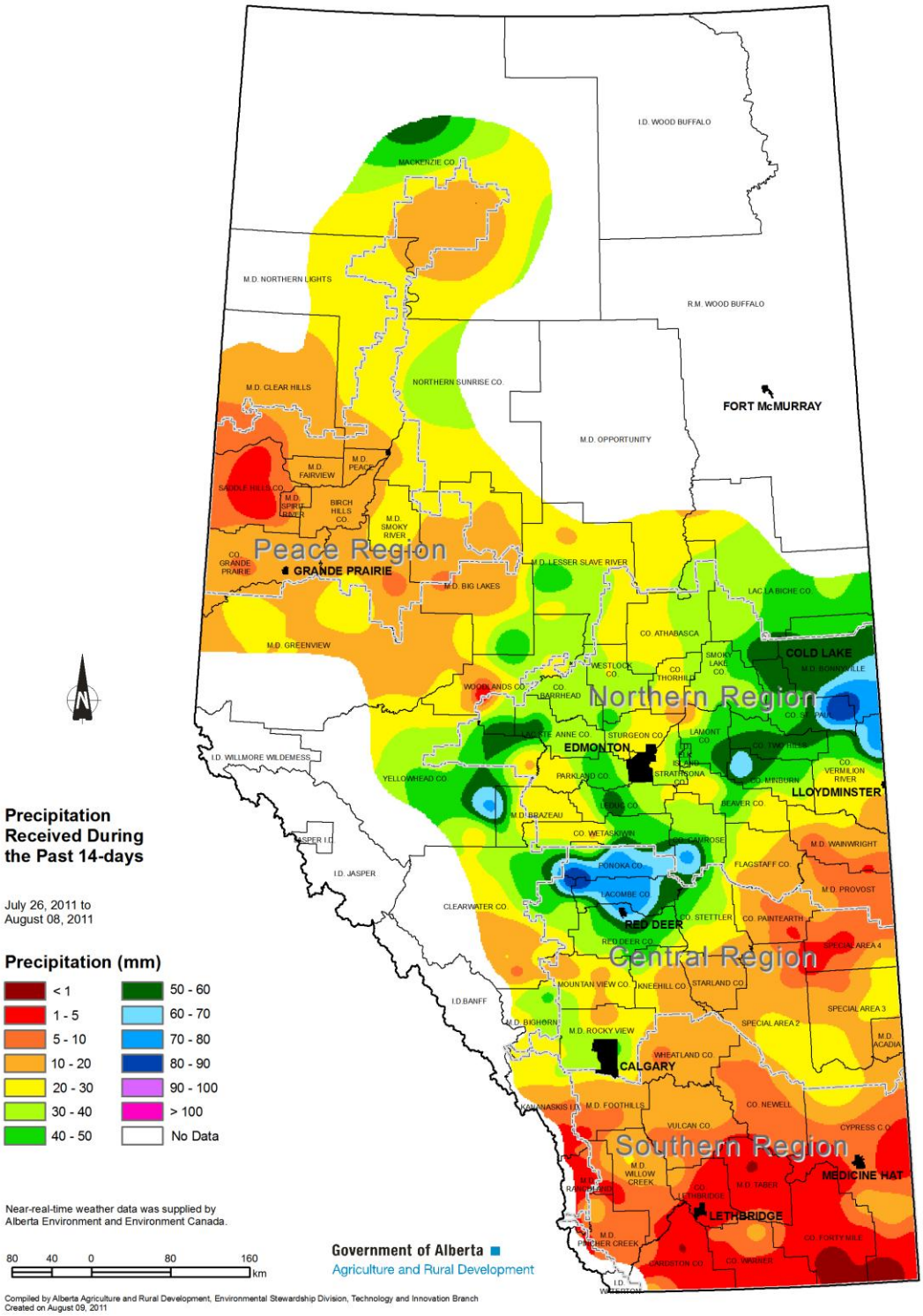

Precipitation Received During the Past 14-days

July 26, 2011 to
August 08, 2011

Precipitation (mm)

< 1	50 - 60
1 - 5	60 - 70
5 - 10	70 - 80
10 - 20	80 - 90
20 - 30	90 - 100
30 - 40	> 100
40 - 50	No Data

Near-real-time weather data was supplied by Alberta Environment and Environment Canada.

80 40 0 80 160 km

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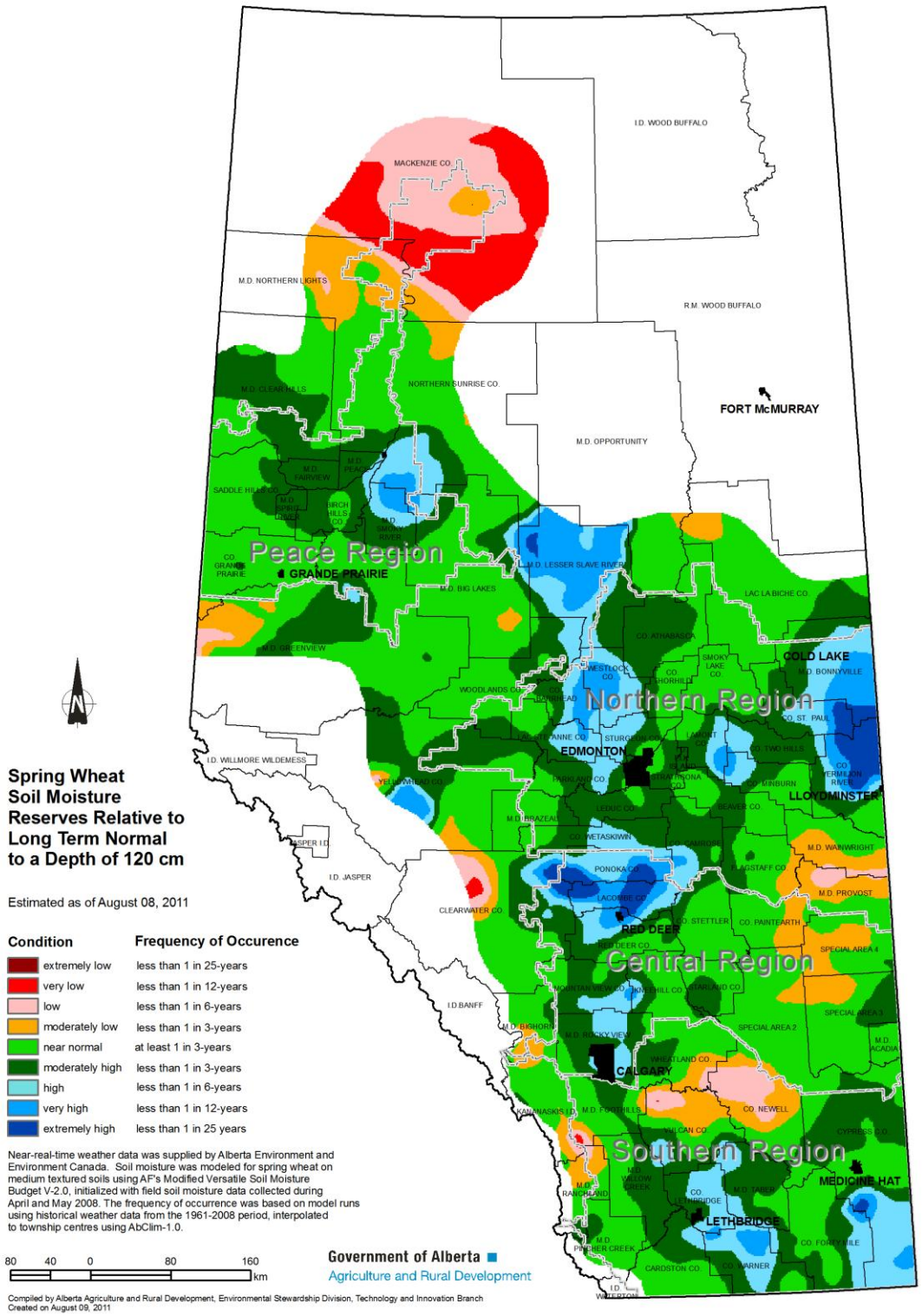
Compiled by Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, Environmental Stewardship Division, Technology and Innovation Branch
Created on August 09, 2011



Spring Wheat Soil Moisture Reserves Relative to Long Term Normal to a Depth of 120 cm

Estimated as of August 08, 2011

Condition	Frequency of Occurence
extremely low	less than 1 in 25-years
very low	less than 1 in 12-years
low	less than 1 in 6-years
moderately low	less than 1 in 3-years
near normal	at least 1 in 3-years
moderately high	less than 1 in 3-years
high	less than 1 in 6-years
very high	less than 1 in 12-years
extremely high	less than 1 in 25 years

Near-real-time weather data was supplied by Alberta Environment and Environment Canada. Soil moisture was modeled for spring wheat on medium textured soils using AF's Modified Versatile Soil Moisture Budget V-2.0, initialized with field soil moisture data collected during April and May 2008. The frequency of occurrence was based on model runs using historical weather data from the 1961-2008 period, interpolated to township centres using AbClim-1.0.

80 40 0 80 160 km

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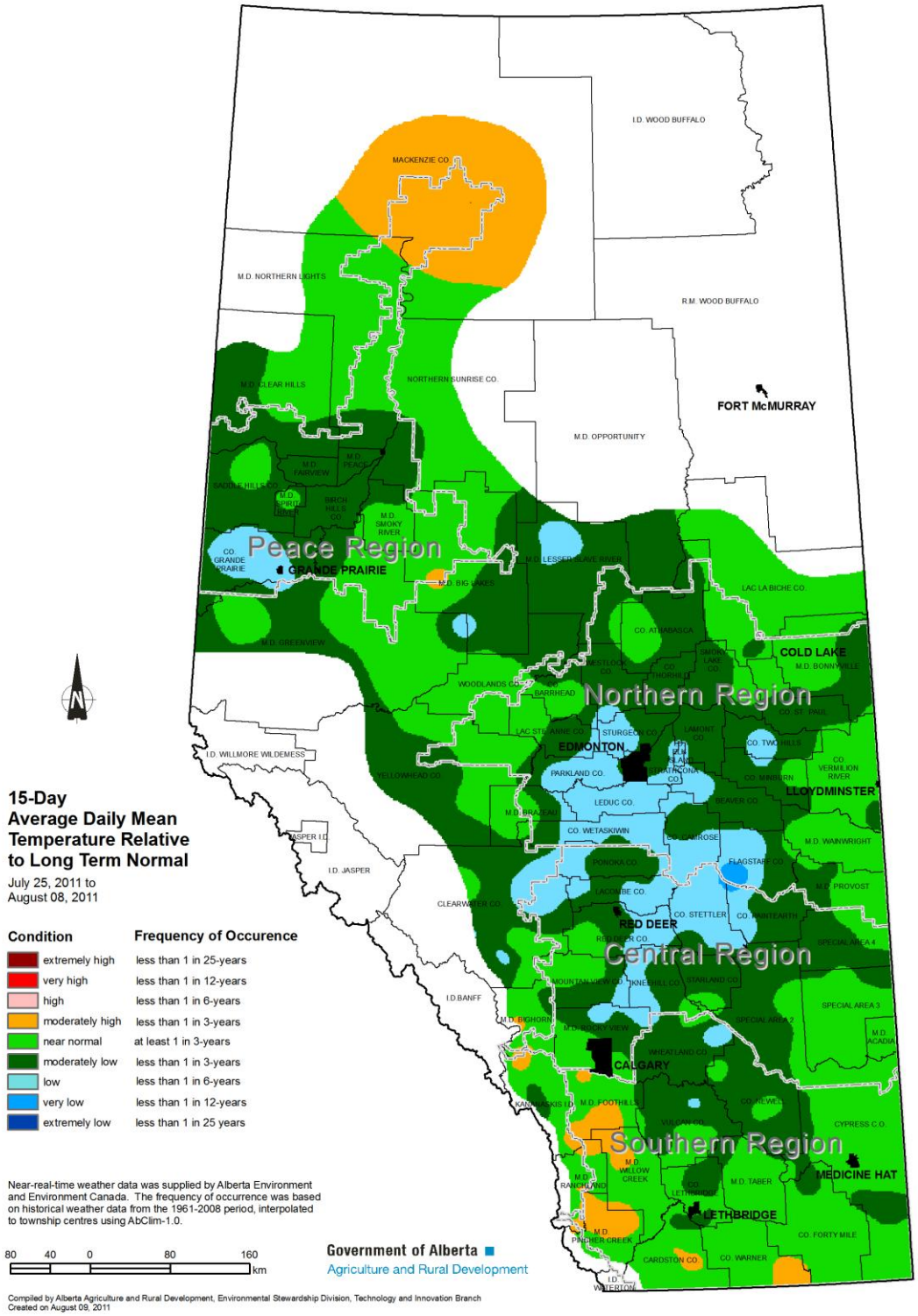

15-Day
Average Daily Mean Temperature Relative to Long Term Normal

July 25, 2011 to
August 08, 2011

Condition	Frequency of Occurence
extremely high	less than 1 in 25-years
very high	less than 1 in 12-years
high	less than 1 in 6-years
moderately high	less than 1 in 3-years
near normal	at least 1 in 3-years
moderately low	less than 1 in 3-years
low	less than 1 in 6-years
very low	less than 1 in 12-years
extremely low	less than 1 in 25 years

Near-real-time weather data was supplied by Alberta Environment and Environment Canada. The frequency of occurrence was based on historical weather data from the 1961-2008 period, interpolated to township centres using AbClim-1.0.

80 40 0 80 160 km

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