

Moisture Situation Update – October 6, 2015

Synopsis:

Over the weekend, much of the west-half of Alberta experienced another round of wet weather, further delaying harvesting efforts for those that still had to get their crops off the land (**see map 1**). Generally, precipitation was greatest across the west-half of the province, with parts of southern Alberta, and the northern and southern Peace Region receiving upwards of 20 mm of precipitation. Across the mountains and foothills west of Calgary some stations recorded well over 40 mm of precipitation. Most other areas west of Highway 2, including much of the Peace Region were relatively wet, receiving between 5 to 15 mm. In contrast, much of the east-half of the province (from Calgary all the way up to Fort McMurray) was relatively dry, with most areas receiving less than 3 mm and many locals within this large area experiencing little or no precipitation at all.

While the wet spell that has lingered across much of the province since the beginning of September is hampering harvesting efforts, it has helped pastures in many areas. Additionally, many previously dry areas are seeing soil moisture levels improving, which should be of some benefit during the early part of next year's growing season.

According to Environment Canada's forecast, looking as far ahead as Monday, October 12, expect warm and dry conditions to prevail across most of the province, as far north as the Town of Peace River. Temperatures across the north-half of the province should reach well into the upper teens and temperatures across the south should be trending up into mid 20's. In contrast, across the northern Peace Region, cloudy skies and cooler temperatures are expected to prevail with a chance of showers beginning Thursday night and continuing into Sunday.

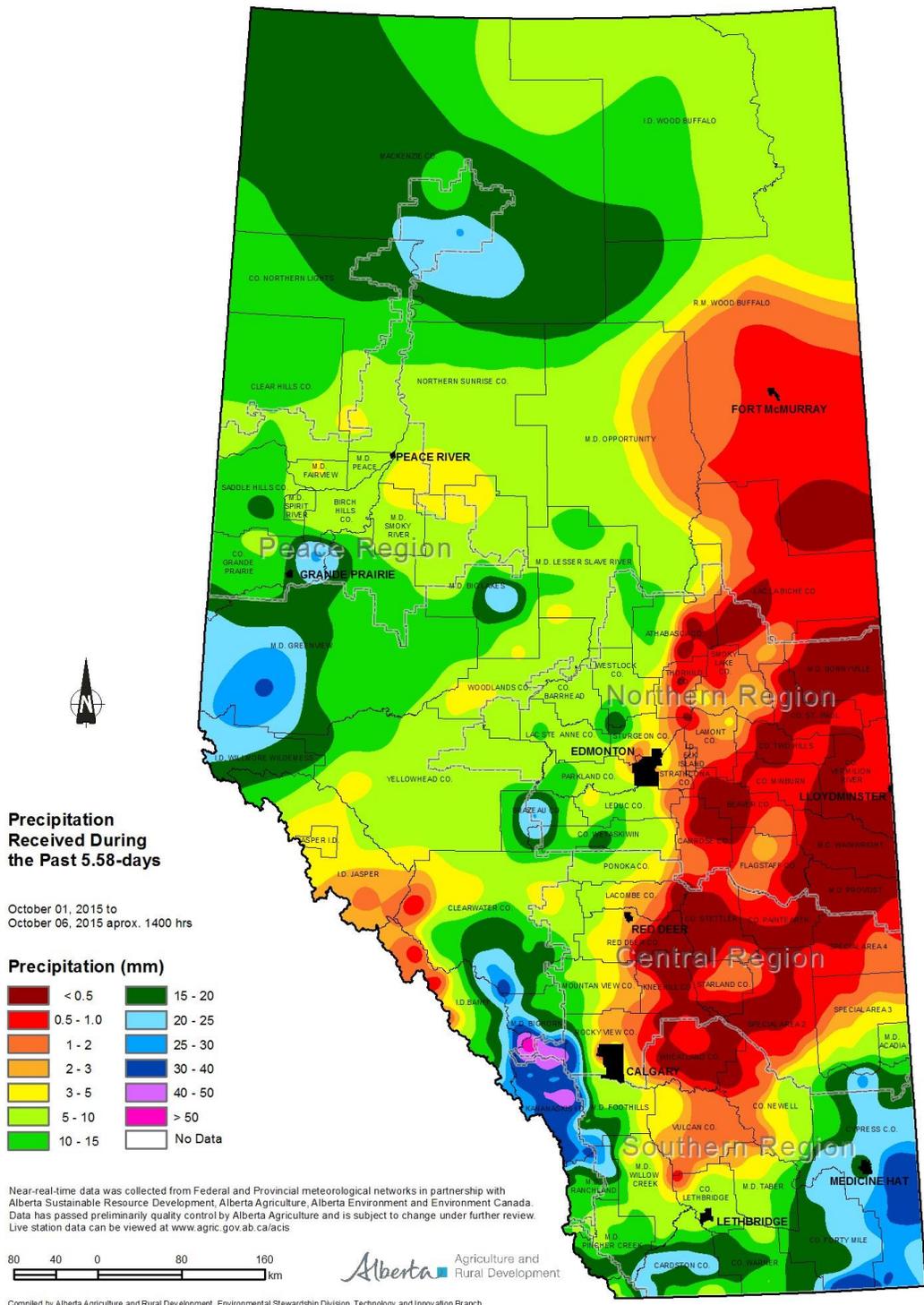
Additional maps can be found at www.agriculture.alberta.ca/maps

Near-real-time hourly station data can be viewed/downloaded at www.agriculture.alberta.ca/stations

Note: Data has about a two hour lag and is displayed in MST (add one hour for daylight savings time)

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