



AGENDA

Agricultural Service Board Meeting

June 15, 2026

9:00 A.M.

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Changes to Agenda and Adoption of Agenda**
- 3. Confirmation of Minutes**
 - 3.1 April 16, 2026 Agricultural Service Board
- 4. Delegations**
- 5. Reports for Discussion**
 - 5.1 Strychnine Distribution Procedure
 - 5.2 Agricultural Pest Control Policy
 - 5.3 2026 ASB Resolution Grading Package
- 6. Reports**
 - 6.1 Agricultural Fieldman
- 7. Correspondence and Information Items**
 - 7.1 MD of Greenview Letter re Council Concerns with Proposed Amendments to the Traceability Regulation
 - 7.2 Agricultural Moisture Situation Update April 24, 2026
 - 7.3 Agricultural Moisture Situation Update May 7, 2026
 - 7.4 Agricultural Moisture Situation Update May 20, 2026
 - 7.5 Alberta Crop Report May 12, 2026
 - 7.6 Alberta Crop Report May 19, 2026
- 8. Agricultural Service Board Committee Priority Discussion**
- 9. Closed Session**
 - 9.1 Northern Alberta Farm Family Award
ATIA Section 20(1), Disclosure harmful to personal privacy
- 10. Open Session**
- 11. Motions Arising out of the Closed Session**
 - 11.1 Northern Alberta Farm Family Award
- 12. Adjournment**



AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 16, 2026

Members Present: Chairperson Joey Nafziger
Member Ray Nedzielski
Member Roger Konieczny
Member Allen McCutcheon
Member Tara Kuzio
Member Carl Ogrodnick
Member Jerri Ziegler

Administration Present: Pat Podoborzny, Chief Administrative Officer
Norm De Wet, Director of Operations
Quentin Bochar, Manager of Agriculture and
Municipal Services
Audra Kropielnicki, Executive Coordinator

1 CALL TO ORDER

Agricultural Service Board Chairperson Member Nafziger called the meeting to order at 1:50 p.m.

2 ADOPTION OF AGENDA

2026-ASB001

Moved by: Member Konieczny

THAT the April 16, 2026 Agricultural Service Board Meeting Agenda be adopted as presented.

Carried

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1 December 10, 2025 Agricultural Service Board

2026-ASB002

Moved by: Member Nedzielski

THAT the December 10, 2025 Agricultural Service Board meeting minutes be adopted as presented.

Carried

4 DELEGATION

5 REPORTS FOR DISCUSSION

5.1 Draft Policy: Animal Health Act Response

Administration Presenter:

Quentin Bochar, Manager of Agriculture and Municipal Services

2026-ASB003

Moved by: Member Kuzio

THAT the Agricultural Service Board recommend to County Council that the draft Animal Health Act Response Policy be approved as amended.

Carried

5.2 Shelterbelt/Tree Seedling Program

Administration Presenter:

Quentin Bochar, Manager of Agriculture and Municipal Services

2026-ASB004

Moved by: Member Nedzielski

THAT the Agricultural Service Board accept the shelterbelt program information as presented and further that Administration arranges to schedule a delegation presentation on shelterbelts at the next ASB meeting.

Carried

5.3 Roadside Brushing Program

Administration Presenter:

Norm De Wet, Director of Operations

2026-ASB005

Moved by: Member McCutcheon

The Agricultural Service Board accepted the report as information.

Carried

6 REPORTS

6.1 Agricultural Fieldman

Administration Presenter:

Quentin Bochar, Manager of Agriculture and Municipal Services

2026-ASB006

Moved by: Member Nedzielski

THAT the Agricultural Fieldman report be accepted as presented.

Carried

6.2 2% Liquid Strychnine

Administration Presenter:

Quentin Bochar, Manager of Agriculture and Municipal Services

2026-ASB007

Moved by: Member Kuzio

The Agricultural Service Board accepted the 2% Liquid Strychnine report as information.

7 CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION ITEMS

7.1 Lac La Biche County Letter re On-Farm Slaughter Operations
Licensing Program

7.2 Clearwater County Letter re Federal Funding Cuts to Agriculture and
Agri-Food Canada

7.3 MD of Smoky River Letter re Addition of Kochia as Noxious to
Provincial Weed Regulation

7.4 Northern Sunrise County Letter re Request to Reverse Closure of
the Lacombe Research and Development Centre

7.5 Brazeau County Letter re Support for Unlimited On-Farm Slaughter
Operation License in Alberta

7.6 Swede Midge 2025 Map

7.7 Weed Control Regulations Summary

7.8 MP John Barlow re Letter of Appreciation on Strychnine Advocacy

2026-ASB008

Moved by: Member Konieczny

THAT the correspondence and information items be accepted as presented.

Carried

8. ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Member Nafziger declared the meeting adjourned at 2:52 p.m.

Chairperson

Chief Administrative Officer



AGRICULTURE SERVICE BOARD DISCUSSION PAPER

Topic: Strychnine Distribution Procedure

Date: June 15, 2026

Background

The federal Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) approved the emergency use of 2% liquid strychnine for Richardson's ground squirrel control from March 30, 2026, to November 1, 2027.

Agricultural producers may only obtain 2% liquid strychnine from a municipality located within the approved Emergency Use Registration (EUR) area and must use the product in accordance with the conditions outlined in the emergency registration.

Information for the Committee

The initial batch of 2% liquid strychnine was previously expected to arrive for distribution around mid-June 2026, based on correspondence from Agromax, the Canadian distributor.

The initial allocation for Alberta is estimated to be approximately 800 cases, which will be distributed among roughly 40 municipalities within the Emergency Use Registration (EUR) area. Based on this allocation, municipalities can expect to receive approximately 20 cases of product or less in the initial shipment. Agromax has indicated that additional shipments are anticipated throughout the summer of 2026.

Given the limited initial supply, neighbouring municipalities have adopted a variety of approaches to ensure fair and equitable distribution of product to agricultural producers:

County of Vermilion River

- Producers must submit proof of training by email or in person.
- Certified producers are placed on a waiting list and advised of their position.
- Initial purchase limit of six bottles per producer.
- Product will be sold for \$20.00 per bottle.
- Distribution will begin as soon as product becomes available.
- Empty bottles must be returned before additional product can be purchased.

Beaver County

- Producers must submit a completed training certificate.
- Distribution will occur on a first-come, first-served basis for certified producers, with a waiting list established once supply is exhausted.
- Initial purchase limit of six bottles per producer.
- Product will be sold at cost plus a 15% administration fee.
- Distribution is anticipated to begin after July 15, 2026.
- Empty bottles will be collected and tracked.

M.D. of Wainwright

- The municipality is tentatively considering a lottery system to allocate product.
- Producers may purchase up to one case (24 bottles).
- The timing of product sales has not yet been determined.
- Empty bottles will not be collected.

County of St. Paul

- Producers must submit proof of training by email or in person.
- Certified producers are placed on a waiting list and advised of their position.
- Initial purchase limit of six bottles per producer.
- Product will be sold for \$20.00 per bottle.
- Product will not be distributed between June 15 and July 10, 2026.
- Purchase limits will be reviewed after July 15, 2026, depending on inventory levels.
- Empty bottles will be collected and tracked.

Recommendation

THAT the Agricultural Services Board authorize Administration to distribute 2% liquid strychnine to certified producers upon receipt of proof of certification submitted by email or in person, at a price of cost plus 15%, with an initial purchase limit of six (6) bottles per producer on a first-come, first-served basis, and further that all empty bottles be returned prior to any subsequent purchase.

or

THAT the Agricultural Services Board provide direction to Administration regarding an alternative process for the distribution of 2% liquid strychnine within the County of Minburn.

Attachment:

Producer access to 2 percent liquid strychnine Stewardship Program.
Question & Answers for Agricultural Fieldmen on 2% Liquid Strychnine Concentrate

Producer access to 2 per cent liquid strychnine

Stewardship Program

Emergency Use Registration

Alberta's agricultural producers will have access to one of the most effective tools to control Richardson's ground squirrel (RGS) through an Emergency Use Registration until November 2027.

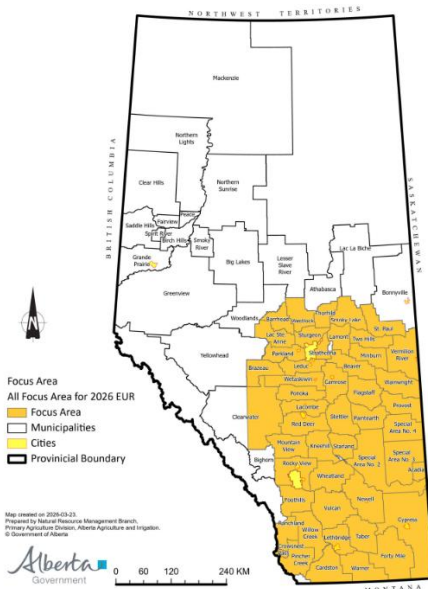
Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation (AGI) is working with the manufacturer to acquire the active ingredient and import it into Canada. Production and distribution of 2 per cent liquid strychnine and across Alberta will follow.

A limited supply of 2 per cent liquid strychnine should be available from late May to early June 2026.

Obtaining 2% liquid strychnine

Agricultural producers may only obtain 2% liquid strychnine from a municipality located in the approved Emergency Use Registration area.

Producers farming or ranching in multiple municipalities can purchase product from their home municipality.



Contact your local municipality for availability and purchasing details.

Purchase requirements

Producers must complete several requirements to purchase 2 per cent liquid strychnine:

- proof of completed training
- an integrated pest management and monitoring plan, including locations of severe infestations
- a signed declaration confirming compliance with label requirements

Municipal staff may be available to assist producers to interpret label and disposal requirements. Purchase will be limited to a maximum purchase of two cases (24 bottles of 250 ml) at one time.

Farmer and rancher applicator training

Compliance with product labels and use restrictions will be an eligibility requirement to gain access to strychnine for Richardson's ground squirrels.

A training program for applicators will be available online through the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM, or sarm.ca) starting May 4, 2026. The course will feature chapter-based modules and knowledge checks, with certificates issued upon completion.

Contact your local municipality if assistance is required to access the training.

Application timing

Use is only permitted during early spring (March 1 – June 15) before vegetation has emerged and in late summer (July 15 to September 1) after vegetation has died down. Spring is the best time to apply strychnine.

Long Term Outlook

AGI and Agricultural Service Boards will:

- support continued access where needed
- ensure protection of wildlife & species at risk
- maintain safe and responsible use.



Question & Answers for Agricultural Fieldmen on 2% Liquid Strychnine Concentrate

Follow up from April 14, 2026 Meeting

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Product Availability and Supply

Q: When will product be available?

A: An initial shipment of product is expected to arrive late May to early June 2026. Two more shipments are expected over the summer. Approximately 800 cases are expected in the first shipment for Alberta with similar amounts in the following shipments.

Q: Will supply be limited?

A: Yes. Initial shipments are limited. We advise judicious allocation due to initial scarcity.

Q: How much is in a case or pallet?

A: Each case contains 24 bottles. A pallet contains 108 cases.

Q: How much does one bottle treat?

A: One kg of grain treated with a 250 mL bottle treats approximately one acre.

Q: Where has strychnine been approved for use?

A: Use is limited to approved municipalities and zones under the EUR. These areas are outlined on the following approved [map](#).

Q: Will additional areas be considered in the future?

A: Yes. Municipalities are encouraged to document Richardson Ground Squirrel infestations, as this data is critical for future EUR applications.

Q: What happens if a jurisdiction is approved to use two per cent liquid strychnine but does not have trained staff/ an Agricultural Fieldmen for distribution?

A: 2% liquid strychnine is only available to a municipality if it meets the requirements of the program for distribution and application such as Pesticide Vendor Registration and required training. It is mandatory that municipalities have a trained and certified individual on staff that meets the requirements of the program.

Q: How long will farmers be able to use this substance?

A: The Emergency Use Registration is effective until November 1, 2027. After this date all unused product must be destroyed.

Q: Where can I find more information on this announcement by Health Canada?

A: The announcement by Health Canada can be found [here](#). Specific label information can be found [here](#). Click on Registration Number 28751 to obtain the approved bottle label.

Vendor Requirements and Responsibilities

Q: Who is an approved vendor for strychnine?

A: Distribution of this product is restricted to Municipalities that hold a Pesticide Vendor Registration issued by Alberta Environment and Protect Areas.

Q: What should my Pesticide Vender Registration include for it to be valid for 2% liquid strychnine sales?

A: A valid vendor registration must specify retail or include strychnine, vertebrate toxicants, or compound 1080. If you are uncertain about your status, please contact Tanya Rushcall by e-mail at tanya.rushcall@gov.ab.ca .

Q: Should the use of 2% liquid strychnine be an Agricultural Service Board/Council decision to distribute in the municipality?

A: We recommend that the decision to become a vendor for the distribution of strychnine should be a Council decision that is supported by the Agricultural Service Board because they are taking on the responsibility for sale and distribution of the product which may be audited.

Q: Who am I allowed to sell 2% liquid strychnine to?

A: The label statement used for 2% liquid strychnine states: *"Only to be used by certified pest control operators, farmers and persons authorized in government approved pest control programs."*

- Someone who qualifies as a "farmer" (commercial agriculturalist) to purchase pesticides/toxicants must provide two of the following:
 - Purchaser's confirmed legal land description
 - Alberta Farm Fuel Benefit number
 - Other information that would verify the purchaser is a commercial agriculturalist.
- 2% liquid strychnine can only be dispensed to someone who meets the above criteria. Acreage owners do not fall under the category of farmers and cannot be dispensed 2% liquid strychnine.

Q: How do I access the mandatory 2% liquid strychnine training for Vendors?

A: ASB staff involved in distribution of 2% liquid strychnine must complete mandatory training. This will be delivered live on April 23, 2026 and recorded for future viewing available upon request. If you would like access to the recorded training video, please contact the Agricultural Service Board Program.

There is a short knowledge test to confirm completion of the training per individual. A link will be provided along with the training video. The Agricultural Service Board Program can be notified through e-mail at ASBProgram@gov.ab.ca.

Q: Where will Strychnine information be stored?

A: Emergency Use Registration requirements and forms will be available and stored on a SharePoint site. AGI will be reaching out to municipalities to determine individuals that require access to the Strychnine Stewardship Program Sharepoint site.

Q: Where can I find information on the 2% liquid strychnine label and brochure?

A: The product label and brochure can be found on Health Canada's website [here](#). Click on Registration Number 28751 to obtain the approved bottle label.

Q: What is the vendor responsible for?

A: Municipalities as vendors are ultimately responsible for:

- Purchase of product from the manufacturer (AgroMax Distributors Inc)
- Proper storage of 2% liquid strychnine
- Ensuring completion, maintenance and uploading of producer forms / reports including:
 - Purchase Information and Treatment Plan
 - Strychnine Use Declaration Form
 - Monitoring Form
 - Evaluation Form
- Distribution of 2% liquid strychnine to their municipal agricultural producers which includes sales as well as ensuring producer forms are completed, verification of producer information and training including:
 - The producer has obtained a training certificate
 - The producer is an eligible agricultural producer
- Distribution of signs
- Gathering and documenting all returned strychnine

Q: Is there a restriction on the amount of strychnine someone can buy?

A: Applicants are limited to a maximum purchase of two cases at a time. Each consisting of 24 bottles of 250 ml 2% liquid strychnine.

Q: Are we able to open boxes to sell individual bottles?

A: Yes, individual bottles are able to be sold.

Q: Can I sell smaller amounts or pre-mix product for eligible applicators?

A: Product cannot be sold in smaller amounts than what is in a bottle or premixed as this is considered decanting. Decanting of rodenticides is a contravention of the federal Pest Control Products Act. Newly packaged rodenticide bait is no longer in approved packaging and may be considered an unregistered pest control product.

Whether you are a retailer, distributor or user of pesticides, decanting applies to everyone. If you have questions, contact the Pesticide Compliance Program: info.pesticides.prairies@hc-sc.gc.ca or visit their website: canada.ca/pesticide-compliance

Producer Purchase Requirements

Q: Who is allowed to purchase 2% liquid strychnine?

A: Only a landowner (commercial agriculturalist) or legally recognized operator (e.g., leaseholder or renter with written agreement) who has completed the required training and is a rate payer of the associated municipality. Proxys are not permitted. The release of 2% liquid strychnine to persons that claim to represent trained applicators is prohibited.

Q: How can a farmer access the Farmer Training Program?

A: The farmer training will be online through a Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) [website](#) starting May 4, 2026. The training will feature chapter-based modules and knowledge checks, with certificates issued upon completion. A pre-recorded presentation will be delivered by James Tansey, Pest Management Specialist, with the Government of Saskatchewan.

Q. How can an Agricultural Fieldmen confirm that a farmer has completed their training?

A. A producer will receive a certificate once they have completed the training. They can provide a copy of their certificate to the municipality at time of purchase or a municipality can confirm their certificate on a SharePoint site that the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) will be managing. Note: There may be a short reporting delay while the certificates are uploaded to this site.

Q: Where does a producer purchase 2% liquid strychnine if they farm in multiple municipalities?

A: Producers must identify **one municipality** (typically their home quarter) from which they will purchase. They may apply product on eligible land in other approved areas.

Q. What does a farmer need to access 2% liquid strychnine?

A. Producers must provide proof of training completion, legal land location, signed declaration form that confirms label compliance and Integrated Pest Management and Monitoring Plans.

Q: Is there a limit to how much a producer can purchase?

A: Yes, Applicants are limited to a maximum purchase of two cases, each consisting of 24 bottles of 250 ml strychnine, at one time.

Q. Does a municipality need to define and confirm a severe infestation?

A. Severe infestations are defined by the 2% Liquid Strychnine Emergency Use Registration map.

Q: Will distribution be first come, first served?

A: No. The intent is to prioritize need, not first-come access, due to limited supply.

Producer Application Requirements

Q: Who is allowed to apply strychnine?

A: Use is restricted to eligible farmers, ranchers or commercial agriculturalist who own land and have completed the mandatory training.

Q: Can hired hands or farm employees apply strychnine?

A: Hired hands or farm employees that are certified pesticide applicators under the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act are permitted to apply strychnine, if they complete the training.

Q: Can family members apply strychnine?

A: The family member must be listed on the land title, lease, or rental agreement. Being a family member alone does not qualify them. To be eligible to use this product, a family member not on title must be a certified pesticide applicator under the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act.

Q: How does this apply to rented or leased land?

A: Renters or leaseholders may apply strychnine if they have a valid written agreement and have completed the required training.

Q: How does this apply to corporations or Hutterite colonies?

A: For Hutterite colonies members are permitted to apply due to how land title is structured. For other corporations/co-ops individuals must be certified pesticide applicators, as there is no single titled landowner.

Q: When is the application window:

A: Use is only permitted during early spring (March 1 – June 15) before national vegetation has emerged and in late summer (July 15 - September 1) after vegetation has died down. Spring is the best time to apply strychnine.

Q: Can product be applied on First Nations' lands?

A: First Nations' lands are outside of the Government of Alberta's jurisdiction. Renters of these lands are encouraged to consult landowners and their rental agreements.

Q: Do farmers need to post signage when treating a RGS colony?

A: Yes, signage must be posted at all treatment sites. Signs can be obtained from the municipality where they purchased 2% liquid strychnine.

Monitoring, Audits, and Compliance

Q: What monitoring is required by the applicator after application?

A: It is recommended that two search areas must be established and monitored twice a day in daylight each day for 7 days following application of strychnine:

1. Targeted search area
2. Broader monitoring area

For all monitoring activities:

- Record date, time, weather conditions, and observations
- Document number and species (if identifiable) of any carcasses found
- Record disposal method

Twice a day monitoring is required when there are economically significant infestations in areas with increased SAR likelihood or near critical habitat.

Q: Who conducts audits or inspections?

A: Random or targeted audits may be conducted by Government of Alberta officials or directed representatives. Officials may conduct audits on a portion of fields treated with strychnine to ensure that the stewardship program eligibility requirements are maintained and label use restrictions have been followed.

The Pesticides Regulatory Directorate (formerly PMRA) may also conduct audits. Vendors are encouraged to follow all product label requirements, verify that applicants meet eligibility requirements, and ensure their processes are well documented to support any audit or inspection activities.

Q: What happens if rules or label directions are not followed?

A: Misusing 2% liquid strychnine – such as applying incorrectly, leaving bait where non-target animals can access it, or using it without proper authorization – can lead to serious consequences under the [Alberta Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act](#) and [Canada Pest Control Products Act](#). Penalties for misuse may include:

- Loss of access to the product and a requirement of the completion of additional training on the Stewardship Program to access strychnine in the future.
- Reporting under pesticide legislation with:
 - Potential provincial penalties of up to \$100,000 for individuals or \$500,000 for corporations.
 - Potential federal penalties of up to \$250,000 for individuals or \$1,000,000 for corporations.

Disposal and Environmental Safety

Q: How must unused product be disposed of?

A: Unused 2% strychnine, unused (mixed) bait, and empty containers (NOT triple rinsed) are considered hazardous waste and must be disposed of through a facility that accepts hazardous waste, through a hazardous waste disposal company, or returned to the manufacturer (please confirm directly with the manufacturer).

Alberta Environment and Protected Areas has a disposal factsheet available here;
<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/pesticide-waste-and-treated-seed-disposal>

Q: How is unused bait disposed of?

A: As per the draft label; spilled, spoiled, uneaten or unused bait can be disposed of by incineration or burial in a pit no less than 46 cm (approximately 18 inches) deep and then covered to prevent access by non-target organisms.

Q: How is rinsate disposed of?

A: Rinsate should be treated similar to unused bait with disposal by burial in a pit no less than 46 cm (approximately 18 inches) deep and then covered.

Q: How are empty containers disposed of?

A: Containers must be triple-rinsed. Once rinsed, they are no longer hazardous and may be disposed of in a Class I or II landfill. It is recommended you confirm with your local landfill that these containers will be accepted at their site.

Q. How long will farmers be able to use this substance?

A: The emergency use registration is valid until Nov. 1, 2027.

Species at Risk

Q: What species at risk are found in my municipality?

A: Species at risk vary by location and may change over time. The most reliable way to determine which species at risk may be present in your municipality is to consult official species-at-risk mapping and information tools, rather than relying on static lists.

Q. How do I find out more information on species at risk?

A: Alberta Species at Risk website – provides information on provincially listed species, recovery plans, and fact sheets.

Alberta Conservation Information Management System (ACIMS) – used by Alberta Environment and Protected Areas for tracking wildlife occurrences.

Species at Risk Public Registry (Government of Canada) – provides federal listings, maps, and species profiles under the Species at Risk Act (SARA).

Q: What do I do if a dead species at risk is brought to the municipal (vendor's) office?

A: If a dead animal that may be a species at risk is brought to your office:

- Do not handle or transport the animal further
- Document the location and circumstances, if known
- Immediately contact Alberta Environment and Protected Areas (Fish and Wildlife) for direction

Dead species at risk must be reported so that appropriate investigation and reporting can occur.

Q: Who do I contact if I suspect an applicator is applying product in an RGS colony frequented by species at risk?

A: If you suspect product is being applied in an area where species at risk may be present:

- Contact Alberta Environment and Protected Areas – Fish and Wildlife
- If there is an immediate concern, contact the Report A Poacher (RAP) line: 1-800-642-3800

These reports allow enforcement and wildlife specialists to assess and respond appropriately.

Q: Is there information on species at risk I can share with landowners?

A: Yes. Vendors are encouraged to share official, plain-language resources, including:

- Alberta species-at-risk fact sheets
- Maps and guidance from Alberta Environment and Protected Areas
- Federal species profiles from the Species at Risk Public Registry

Sharing these materials helps landowners understand their role in protecting wildlife while remaining compliant with pesticide use requirements.

Q. What happens if a non-target animal, including species at risk, are poisoned?

A. As indicated on signed declaration form, all non-target poisoning must be reported to Fish and Wildlife. Municipalities can find their Fish and Wildlife contact [here](#). In the webpage on the Layer List, click on Wildlife Contact District layer and then click on the area that represents your municipality.

This would likely lead to an investigation to ensure that product is being used correctly followed by some coaching and advice from an expert on how to avoid any further non-target poisoning.

Species at risk are managed primarily under the [Alberta Wildlife Act](#) (Part 8: Offenses and Penalties) and accompanying regulations.

- For individuals: fines of up to \$100,000 per offence, with possible imprisonment of up to 1 year.
- For corporations: Fines may exceed \$500,000 for a serious offence.

Penalties may apply when a species at risk is unlawfully harmed under the Canada – [Species at Risk Act](#) (Section 97).

- Individuals may be fined up to \$50,000 and/or imprisoned for up to 1 year; corporations may be fined up to \$300,000
- If the harm caused is serious or deliberate individuals may be fined up to \$250,000 and/or imprisoned for up to 5 years; corporations up to \$1,000,000.



AGRICULTURE SERVICE BOARD DISCUSSION PAPER

Topic: Agricultural Pests Control Policy

Date: June 15, 2026

Background

As part of the Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Grant Program, participating municipalities are required to establish policies and procedures that define service levels related to the Weed Control Act, Agricultural Pests Act, Soil Conservation Act, and Animal Health Act.

The County of Minburn recognizes the potential impacts of agricultural pests and nuisances and will allocate sufficient resources to fulfill its responsibilities under the Agricultural Pests Act.

Information for the Committee

Currently, the County of Minburn has a policy related only to the control of Clubroot. Recent changes regarding the use of pesticides to control pest and nuisance species under the Agricultural Pests Act have highlighted the need for a broader Agricultural Pest Control Policy. To ensure compliance with the requirements of the Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Grant Program, it is recommended that the County adopt a policy establishing its service levels and approach to agricultural pest management. Failure to do so may result in a reduction or suspension of ASB grant funding.

The County employs an Agricultural Fieldman to carry out the duties and functions of the ASB program, including weed control, pest monitoring, soil conservation inspections, and animal disease reporting.

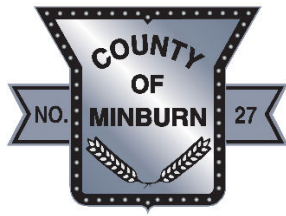
The County currently receives an annual ASB operating grant of \$166,247 to support the delivery of legislated programs and services. Without a policy establishing the County's level of service under the Agricultural Pests Act, Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation may reduce or withhold grant funding.

Recommendation

THAT the Agricultural Service Board recommend to County Council that the draft *Agricultural Pest Control Policy* be approved as presented.

Attachment:

Draft Agricultural Pest Control
Policy



Policy

Agricultural Pest Control

Policy Number:

Approved by Council: TBD

Next Review Date: TBD

Resolution No: TBD

Last Review Date: TBD

POLICY STATEMENT

County of Minburn recognizes the potential severity of damage from agricultural pests and nuisances and will allocate resources through the annual budget process and ASB Grant Program to fulfill its duties under the Agricultural Pests Act.

PURPOSE

As part of the Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Grant Program, participating municipalities are required to have policies and procedures in place to establish their service levels related to the *Weed Control Act*, *Agricultural Pests Act*, *Soil Conservation Act*, and the *Animal Health Act*.

DEFINITIONS

Agricultural Nuisance means the species listed as nuisances in the Agricultural Pests Act.

Agricultural Pest means the species listed as pests in the Agricultural Pests Act.

County means the County of Minburn No. 27.

Pest Control Notice means a notification sent to affected landowners, requesting the control of an Agricultural Pest.

Pest Management means the monitoring, documentation, prevention, and control of an Agricultural Pest and/or Agricultural Nuisance.

RGS means Richardson's Ground Squirrels.

Wildlife Damage means the damage caused to agricultural crops due to wildlife activity.

Agricultural Fieldman means the individual designated by the County to administer and enforce pest management activities under the Agricultural Pests Act.

GOA means the Government of Alberta.

PMD means the Pest Management Directorate of Health Canada.

GUIDELINES

1. For all Agricultural Pests and Agricultural Nuisances, the County will provide education and awareness of proper pest management strategies.
2. The County will conduct pest management activities to monitor, document, and prevent the spread of agricultural pests, as outlined in the Agricultural Pests Act.
3. The Agricultural Fieldman, with direction from the GOA, will conduct monitoring surveys for the detection and monitoring of insect pests including Grasshoppers, Bertha Army Worms, and other insect species listed in the Agricultural Pests Act.
4. The County will investigate and respond to complaints of coyote predation of livestock from producers within the County and, where warranted, coordinate with the GOA or a licensed pest control operator to address confirmed predation issues.
5. The County will assist residents to trap magpies, porcupines, raccoons, and skunks by providing traps and trapping guidance upon request.
6. Subject to authorization from Health Canada's Directorate, and GOA, the County will distribute Strychnine products to eligible agricultural producers for the purpose of controlling RGS. Distribution records shall be maintained in accordance with applicable regulatory requirements.
7. The County will participate in the GOA's Wild Boar Program, including reporting sightings, supporting control operations, and promoting public awareness of wild boar risks.
8. The County will participate in the GOA's Rat Control Program, including conducting inspections, issuing Pest Control Notices to non-compliant landowners, and reporting rat activity to the GOA.
9. The County will assist producers with preventing wildlife damage.
10. Residents and producers may report pest concerns or request assistance by contacting the Agricultural Fieldman at the County office.



Agriculture Service Board DISCUSSION PAPER

Topic: 2026 ASB Resolution Grading Package

Date: June 15, 2026

Background

Annually, the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee (ASBPC) completes an initial grading of the resolutions passed at that year's ASB Provincial Conference and distributes the Resolution Grading Package to Agricultural Service Boards (ASBs) across Alberta for their review, grading, and comments.

Information for the Committee

This package was received on June 3, 2026. The resolutions and responses must be reviewed by the Agricultural Service Board (ASB), and any comments, recommendations, or suggested grading changes should be documented and submitted. The completed grading package must be returned to the ASBPC no later than June 30, 2026, for inclusion in the final Report Card on Resolutions.

Recommendation

THAT the Agricultural Services Board direct Administration to prepare and submit the Board's comments, grading, and recommendations on the 2026 Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee (ASBPC) Resolution Grading Package to the ASBPC prior to the June 30, 2026 deadline.

Attachment:

2026 ASB Resolution Summary Table
2026 Resolution Grading Package
2026 ASBPC Strategic Planning Survey

2026 ASB Resolution Response Summary

Resolution	Request	ASBPC Grade	Key Outcome
1-26 Liquid Strychnine	Continue availability of 2% liquid strychnine for Richardson's Ground Squirrel control beyond 2026.	Responded in Part	Emergency access secured through fall 2027, but long-term availability remains unresolved.
2-26 DEF Exemption	Exempt agricultural equipment from federal NOx emission requirements and DEF systems.	Responded	Governments acknowledged concerns but advised a broad exemption is not possible under current legislation.
4-26 Rural Water Funding	Expand funding to include rural distribution systems and service connections.	Responded	Issue acknowledged; no commitment to fund private service connections.
PC1-26 Rat Control	Review and modernize Alberta's Rat Control Program and create a stakeholder working group.	Responded in Part	Program review being considered, but no formal working group committed.
PC2-26 On-Farm Meat Processing	Review OFSO regulations and reduce red tape for small processors.	Responded	Consultation occurred and slaughter limits paused, but no major regulatory changes announced.
PC4-26 CFIA & PMRA Reform	Improve accountability and responsiveness of CFIA and PMRA and move agencies under AAFC.	Responded in Part	Alberta supports reforms, but no federal commitments have been secured.
E1-26 Biological Control Scientist	Fill the vacant Weed Biological Control Scientist position at Lethbridge.	No Response	No response received from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.
E2-26 Livestock Traceability	Pause proposed traceability regulations and complete further	Responded in Part	Pause achieved, but no commitment to a three-year suspension or

	consultation and risk assessment.		formal risk assessment.
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June Package: 2026 Resolution Grading

Please find attached the 2026 Resolution Response Report and grading package for review by individual Agricultural Service Boards or regions. This package includes the responses received to date, ASBPC's initial grading, and comments intended to support local and regional discussion. The resolution process continues to demonstrate its value as a practical, grassroots mechanism for bringing forward issues that matter to producers, municipalities, and Alberta's agriculture industry. While not every response fully resolves the issue raised, the process is clearly influencing important conversations. Progress has been made on several files, including emergency access to 2% liquid strychnine through fall 2027, the pause on proposed livestock traceability changes, continued provincial advocacy on CFIA and PMRA reform, and active policy discussions on rural water connectivity, rat control modernization, and on-farm meat processing. These outcomes reflect the strength of the ASB system and the value of thoughtful, well-grounded engagement from across the province.

ASBs and regions are encouraged to use this package as a tool for strategic discussion. In addition to grading the responses, please consider what the responses mean for your region, whether further advocacy or information-gathering is needed, and what future resolutions may need to be developed. Completed grading sheets must remain in Excel format and be returned by **June 30** in order to be included in the **Report Card on the Resolutions**, which will be distributed by **September 1**.

For regions completing a collective regional grade, please note that your region can be selected at the bottom of the drop-down menu in the grading sheet. An attendance sheet identifying which municipalities participated in the regional grading discussion must also be submitted. Individual ASBs may still submit their own grading sheet if they wish to register a grade that differs from the collective regional grade.

Thank you for the time, care, and practical perspective you bring to this process. Your engagement helps ensure that ASB resolutions remain grounded in regional realities and continue to support informed, constructive conversations on behalf of Alberta's agriculture industry.

Linda Hunt, Pag.
ASBPC Executive Assistant

DEFINITION OF TERMS

The Provincial ASB Committee has chosen four indicators to grade resolution responses from government and non-government organizations.

Responded

The response addresses the request in the resolution. ASBs are encouraged to comment with their opinion about the response in the "comments" section of the grading sheet.

Responded in Part

The response addresses some of the resolution, but does not address the full request. ASBs are encouraged to comment about their opinion on the response in the "comments" section of the grading sheet.

Did Not Address the Resolution

The response does not address the request, and requires further engagement to clarify the request. Follow up is required to solicit information for the Provincial ASB Committee to make an informed decision on how to proceed.

No Response

The resolution did not receive a response

Resolution Table (ASBPC initial grades)

RESOLUTION	GRADE
RESOLUTION 1-26: EMERGENCY REGISTRATION OF 2% LIQUID STRYCHNINE FOR RICHARDSON'S GROUND SQUIRREL (RGS) CONTROL	In Part
RESOLUTION 2-26: EXEMPTION OF AGRICULTURE EQUIPMENT FROM CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT, 1999 EMISSION LIMITS	Responded
RESOLUTION 3-26: MARKED FUEL PROGRAM REVIEW	WITHDRAWN
RESOLUTION 4-26: RURAL WATER DISTRIBUTION AND CONNECTIVITY FUNDING	Responded
RESOLUTION PC1-26: MODERNIZING ALBERTA'S RAT CONTROL PROGRAM	In Part
RESOLUTION PC2-26: ON-FARM MEAT PROCESSING	Responded
RESOLUTION PC3-26: LEGAL ENTITY ALIGNED WITH ASBs	DEFEATED
RESOLUTION PC4-26: URGENT REFORMS TO CFIA AND PMRA	In Part
RESOLUTION E1-26: VACANT BIOLOGICAL CONTROL SCIENTIST POSITION	No Response
RESOLUTION E2-26: LIVESTOCK TRACEABILITY UPDATE CONCERNS	In Part

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RESOLUTION 1-26: EMERGENCY REGISTRATION OF 2% LIQUID STRYCHNINE FOR RICHARDSON'S GROUND SQUIRREL (RGS) CONTROL

- WHEREAS** 2% liquid strychnine has proven the most effective tool in managing Richardson's ground squirrels in the prairie provinces since about 1928;
- WHEREAS** to help maintain a level of Richardson's ground squirrel infestation below economic threshold as part of an integrated pest management plan;
- WHEREAS** there is still no other product available that is as effective as 2% liquid strychnine; and
- WHEREAS** when handled and used according to label, the off-target impacts have been minimal.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and Health Canada, work with the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) and make 2% liquid strychnine available to farmers/ranchers for the 2026 season and beyond.

SPONSORED BY: Foothills County
STATUS: Provincial and Federal
DEPARTMENT: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada,
Health Canada,
Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation,
Pest Management Regulatory Agency

RESPONSES

AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION:

On October 1, 2025, the governments of Alberta and Saskatchewan jointly submitted an Emergency Use Registration (EUR) request to the PMRA to approve the use of 2% liquid strychnine to control RGS. This request was [denied](#) by the PMRA, disappointing farmers and rural communities. Following this, on February 2, Minister Sigurdson and Minister Marit of Saskatchewan sent a joint letter advocating for the PMRA to reconsider this decision. This is further backed by Premier's Smith's February 12 joint letter with Saskatchewan Premier Moe advocating directly to Prime Minister Carney to grant an immediate 3-year exemption for the use of strychnine. An immediate decision is required to enable access to the product this spring to set our producers up for a successful 2026 growing season.

Alberta remains deeply concerned about the impact of RGS on the province's agricultural sector and is committed to identifying effective management solutions. Alberta continues to advocate for the federal government to provide access to strychnine as an important part of integrated pest management control plans for this pest.

AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD CANADA:

No response

PESTICIDE MANAGEMENT REGULATORY AGENCY:

No response

RESPONSE HEALTH CANADA:

No response

SUMMARY

Overall Assessment: partially met

- Strong advocacy actions taken
Alberta clearly worked with Saskatchewan, submitted an Emergency Use Registrations (EUR), and escalated through ministers and premiers—this aligns well with the request to work with other governments and PMRA.
- Continued commitment and pressure
Ongoing advocacy and recognition of strychnine as part of IPM shows the issue remains a priority.
- Request for “available for 2026 and beyond”
Current access ends November 2027 with no firm commitment to make it available in the future. Political environment may not be as favorable in the future.
- No indication that regulators are working on making the process for EUR better.

Key Observations

The response shows Alberta is dependent on federal approval (PMRA/Health Canada/AAFC), with no confirmed resolution or access secured. Process remains arbitrary and political.

Bottom line:

Alberta made meaningful efforts and advocacy, but since availability has not yet been achieved, the resolution is only partially met (good effort, limited results so far).

INITIAL GRADE ASBPC

RESPONDED

ASBPC COMMENTS

The resolution was graded Responded in Part because Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation provided a substantial response and the requested emergency registration was achieved, but the federal bodies did not send formal responses and the long-term availability component of the request has not been met.

In short: the committee recognized the meaningful outcome and provincial effort, but because not all addressees responded and long-term availability is unresolved.

RESOLUTION 2-26: EXEMPTION OF AGRICULTURE EQUIPMENT FROM CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT, 1999 EMISSION LIMITS

WHEREAS Concerns have been raised about the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of current Government of Canada emissions controls on diesel vehicles and machinery, specifically the use of Diesel Exhaust Fluid (DEF);

WHEREAS Producers in Alberta face expensive repairs and more costly down time dealing with Diesel Exhaust Fluid and cold temperatures;

WHEREAS Producers in Alberta need to stay competitive in the international markets; and

WHEREAS The net environmental benefit of DEF is negligible when considering the environmental impact of break downs, down time, and reduced longevity of equipment.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That Agriculture and Agri Food Canada, Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation, and Alberta Environment work with the Department of Environment and Climate Change Canada to exempt agricultural equipment and vehicles from emission limits for nitrogen oxides (NOx) so that the waste of maintaining diesel exhaust fluid and selective catalytic reduction systems can be eliminated.

SPONSORED BY: Foothills County

STATUS: Provincial

DEPARTMENT: Agriculture and Agri Food Canada, Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation, Alberta Environment and Protected Areas

RESPONSES

AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION:

Agriculture and Irrigation (AGI) has heard from producers and ASBs about Diesel Exhaust Fluid (DEF) use in farm machinery – in particular, concerns related to:

- crystallization and freezing in cold conditions;
- contamination and product degradation;
- sensor and component failures leading to downtime; and
- storage and handling difficulties.

Producers report these complications can lead to significant repair bills – sometimes amounting to thousands or even tens of thousands of dollars – along with lost productivity during critical operating windows. These costs have a real impact on farm profitability.

The *Canadian Environmental Protection Act*, 1999 (CEPA) is federal legislation focused on preventing pollution and protecting the environment and human health to support sustainable development.

- It enables regulations for on-road and off-road vehicles and emission standards for engines to reduce hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides (NO_x), particulate matter and other air pollutants listed in Schedule 1 of the Act.
- It enables regulating greenhouse gas emissions from passenger automobiles and light trucks, and from heavy-duty vehicles and engines.
- DEF enables diesel engines to comply with emission standards by converting NO_x into harmless nitrogen and water.
- Federal emission regulations may have unintended impacts on producer profitability, including operational challenges for producers.

As CEPA is federal legislation, provinces do not have authority to grant DEF exemptions. No Canadian province has received a DEF exemption to date.

Alberta is committed to bringing forward producer concerns in ongoing discussions with federal counterparts and looking at ways to conduct a thorough assessment of potential agricultural exemptions so that actions are supported by evidence and reflect the realities farmers face.

RESPONSE ECCC: (May 14)



Mr. Rob Siewert
Chair, Provincial Committee
Agricultural Service Boards Provincial Committee
c/o Ms. Dawn Fortin
Secretary
asbpc_ea@agriculturalserviceboards.com

Dear Mr. Siewert:

Thank you for your correspondence of February 13, 2026, enclosing Agricultural Service Boards' Resolution 2-26 that requests an exemption from emission requirements related to diesel exhaust fluid under the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999*. I regret the delay in responding.

As you know, off-road diesel engines installed in agricultural tractors are subject to the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999* and the *Off-road Compression-Ignition (Mobile and Stationary) and Large Spark-Ignition Engine Emission Regulations* (CI-LSI Regulations). The CI-LSI Regulations support Canada's commitment to improving air quality by reducing emissions associated with fuel combustion and evaporation, which can result in the formation of ground-level ozone and smog and contribute to adverse environmental and human health impacts.

Federal emissions regulations generally apply to products manufactured in Canada (prior to first retail sale) or imported into the country. Engines subject to the CI-LSI Regulations must, at the time of importation, meet the emission standards that applied at the time of their manufacture.

Current emission standards for compression-ignition (diesel) engines are aligned with those of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which reflect the Tier 4 final standards. The CI-LSI Regulations do not require the use of specific technology (such as the use of diesel exhaust fluid) to meet the prescribed emission standards. These emissions standards are performance-based, and manufacturers are responsible for selecting the necessary and feasible technology to ensure their products comply.

.../2

Only the Governor in Council may, by order, grant a time-limited exemption to a company for a specific product. The requirements to apply for an exemption are set out in section 52 of the CI-LSI Regulations. Exemptions apply only to specific engines from an individual regulated company and cannot be granted for a broad class of products or for a specific region of the country.

Regulation of emissions from vehicles and engines is a shared responsibility between federal and provincial/territorial governments. Requirements or restrictions related to the use or modification of vehicles or engines after first retail sale are generally addressed under provincial/territorial, Indigenous, or municipal jurisdiction.

If you would like more information on federal vehicle and engine emission standards or the exemption process, please contact Mr. Stéphane Couroux, Executive Director for Environment and Climate Change Canada's Transportation Division, at infovehiculeetmoteur-vehiculeandengineinfo@ec.gc.ca. Additional technical data and case studies would be welcome to support further analysis.

I appreciate your taking the time to share the perspectives of the Agricultural Service Boards. Please accept my best regards.

Yours truly,



The Honourable Julie Dabrusin, P.C., M.P.

RESPONSE ALBERTA ENVIRONMENT AND PROTECTED AREAS:

Resent request April 30, No Response

RESPONSE AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD CANADA:

No Response

SUMMARY

Overall Assessment: core request not supported

- Neither response commits to or enables an exemption from NOx emission limits for agricultural equipment. Both maintain the current regulatory framework.

Key Observations

- Jurisdictional limitation emphasized (AGI)
AGI clearly states that emissions standards fall under federal authority (CEPA) and provinces cannot grant exemptions, limiting Alberta's ability to fulfill the request.
- Issue acknowledged but no concrete action (AGI)
AGI recognizes producer concerns and cost impacts of DEF systems and commits only to ongoing discussions and assessment, not action or timelines.
- Federal response reinforces status quo (ECCC)
ECCC emphasizes that emission standards are required for environmental and health reasons, and regulations are performance-based, not tied to specific technologies like DEF.
- Exemption mechanism does not fit the request (ECCC)
Federal rules only allow case-by-case, time-limited exemptions for specific engines/companies, not a broad agricultural exemption, making the resolution's ask impractical under current legislation.
- No commitment to collaborate toward exemption
Neither response demonstrates meaningful progress toward intergovernmental work to secure a sector-wide exemption, which was central to the resolution.

Bottom line

While AGI acknowledges producer concerns and ECCC explains the regulatory framework, neither response advances or enables the requested exemption, and existing federal rules effectively preclude the outcome sought.

INITIAL GRADE ASBPC:

RESPONDED

ASBPC COMMENTS

The resolution was graded Responded because the ministries directly addressed the request, clearly explained the legal and jurisdictional constraints, and set out why the requested blanket agricultural exemption cannot be granted under current law, even though the committee is dissatisfied with the outcome.

RESOLUTION 4-26: RURAL WATER DISTRIBUTION AND CONNECTIVITY FUNDING

WHEREAS Alberta is experiencing prolonged drought conditions, leaving both agricultural producers and rural residents without reliable access to water;

WHEREAS Existing federal and provincial programs fund treatment plants and transmission mains but provide inadequate support for the distribution and service connections that directly reach farms and households;

WHEREAS This funding gap creates affordability barriers, leaves regional transmission systems underutilized, and undermines agricultural production, public health, and rural sustainability;

WHEREAS bridging the gap between funded transmission projects and user connections will maximize the value of federal and provincial investments, reduce long-term operating and maintenance costs, and reduce public health risks associated with private wells of uncertain quality; and

WHEREAS Other jurisdictions have implemented grant or cost share programs to assist property owners with service lateral costs and on lot infrastructure, resulting in improved uptake of centralized services and stronger outcomes for rural residents.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

The Government of Canada and the Government of Alberta expand water infrastructure funding to include distribution and service connections for farms, rural residences, and small communities through an equitable cost-sharing program.

SPONSORED BY: County of Stettler No. 6

DEPARTMENT: Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation
Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors
Alberta Affordability and Utilities
Alberta Infrastructure
Canada Housing and Infrastructure

RESPONSES

AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION:

The Government of Alberta continues to support rural and regional water infrastructure through existing grant programs, including the Municipal Water/Wastewater Partnership and the Water for Life program. These programs are

designed for smaller municipalities and regional water commissions serving populations under 45,000. The programs help ensure that rural communities have reliable drinking water and wastewater systems.

- Recently, AGI has been working closely with Transportation and Economic Corridors (TEC) to identify gaps in the current water-infrastructure programs and to support TEC's work on a potential integrated water program. To help shape this work, TEC surveyed municipalities and regional partners in August 2025 to gather perspectives on both the existing programs and what an integrated approach could look like. TEC is responsible for delivering the current water-infrastructure programs, and any future changes or announcements regarding an integrated water program would come from them.
- Water co-ops also play an essential role in providing reliable water services to farms and rural residences, particularly in areas that are not served by municipal systems. Affordability and Utilities supports the development, operation, governance, and long-term sustainability of rural water co-operatives across the province. The Rural Water Program also provides important support for water co-op systems that benefit rural communities.
- In addition to these municipal programs, AGI and the federal government support agricultural producers directly through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership Water Program. This program provides 50 per cent cost-share funding, up to \$10,000 per water-source development, and up to \$20,000 total for new water-source projects over the program term (April 2023-March 2028). Eligible projects include tie-ins to multi-user water pipelines, improving water security for farm operations.
- AGI is mandated with completing ongoing irrigation modernization commitments and exploring opportunities to further invest in irrigation expansion and water-storage infrastructure.
- Through the Irrigation Rehabilitation Program, AGI provides annual funding to irrigation districts to support upgrades and repairs to conveyance systems. These improvements help ensure efficient, reliable, and secure water delivery across irrigation districts – benefits that extend to rural communities and agricultural users alike.

FURTHER RESPONSE REQUESTED:

AGRIC Minister<AGRIC.Minister@gov.ab.ca>

ASBPC Executive

TEC Minister <Transportation.Minister@gov.ab.ca>

Tue 5/12/2026 10:30 AM

Dear Rob Siewert:

Thank you for your letter from the ASB Provincial Committee requesting clarification regarding the "Integrated Water Program."

Transportation and Economic Corridors (TEC) is mandated with development of an integrated water program that facilitates increased water treatment and distribution for residential, industrial and agricultural water use across Alberta. Inquiries can be directed to Nikolai Thomas, Director of Grant Administration, at Nikolai.Thomas@gov.ab.ca.

Agriculture and Irrigation staff participate in TEC-led multi-departmental discussions about Government of Alberta programs that support various types of water users in the province. These discussions enhance collaboration and contribute to effective and efficient delivery of Alberta government programs.

Agriculture and Irrigation will continue to engage in discussions as requested and identify opportunities to further support agricultural water users.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

Honourable RJ Sigurdson
Minister, Agriculture and Irrigation
AR89877

RESPONSE TRANSPORTATION AND ECONOMIC CORRIDORS:

Thank you for your letter on behalf of the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee regarding Resolution 4-26, passed at the Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference on January 21, 2026. We appreciate you bringing forward the perspectives of agricultural municipalities and producers from across Alberta.

The Government of Alberta recognizes access to reliable and safe water is essential to the long-term sustainability of agriculture, rural residences, and small communities. We understand the intent of the resolution is to seek expanded provincial support for water distribution infrastructure and service connections through an equitable cost-sharing approach.

At present, provincial water infrastructure funding programs are designed primarily to support regional and municipal-scale systems which deliver broad public benefit, with eligibility criteria focused on core infrastructure rather than private service connections. These criteria help ensure funding is allocated in a manner which balances demonstrated need, fiscal responsibility, and consistency across the province.

We acknowledge the ongoing challenges faced by rural landowners and agricultural operations in securing affordable access to water infrastructure.

The Government of Alberta continues to work with municipalities, regional water commissions, and stakeholders to explore opportunities to improve regional collaboration, optimize existing systems, and consider future program design improvements where feasible.

We appreciate the Agriculture Service Board Provincial Committee's advocacy on behalf of Alberta's agricultural community and thank you for sharing this resolution. Your input helps inform ongoing discussions related to rural infrastructure needs and long-term water sustainability.

FURTHER RESPONSE REQUESTED APRIL 30:

NO RESPONSE

RESPONSE AFFORDABILITY AND UTILITIES:

Resent request April 30 - no response

RESPONSE ALBERTA INFRASTRUCTURE:

Resent request April 30 – no response

RESPONSE CANADA HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE:

No response

SUMMARY

Overall Assessment : Partially met (acknowledgement and incremental support, but no expansion to requested scope)

- Existing funding and programs confirmed (AGI)
- Recognition of rural needs and gaps (AGI & TEC)

Key Observations

- Work underway on future program design (AGI & TEC)
Government is exploring an “integrated water program” and reviewing existing programs to identify gaps and improve coordination.
- Ongoing interdepartmental collaboration (AGI follow up)
AGI confirms it is participating in cross-government discussions led by TEC to improve water program delivery.

- No commitment to expand funding to service connections
None of the responses commit to including distribution and on-farm/service connections—the core ask of the resolution.
- Programs still focused on municipal/regional infrastructure (TEC)
Current funding eligibility remains focused on large-scale systems, not farm-level or rural connection costs.
- No clear cost-sharing expansion or new funding announced
While some cost-share programs exist, there is no new equitable cost-sharing model addressing the specific gap identified.
- Future work is exploratory, not actionable
The integrated water program is still in development, with no defined timelines, scope, or confirmed outcomes tied to the resolution.

Bottom line

The responses acknowledge the issue and point to existing supports and ongoing planning, but do not deliver or commit to the requested expansion of funding to include distribution and service connections, resulting in a partially met outcome with limited tangible progress so far.

INITIAL GRADE ASBPC:

RESPONDED

ASBPC COMMENTS

The resolution was graded Responded because the ministries provided clear responses, acknowledged the gaps, and described ongoing program development and coordination, even though they did not commit to the specific expanded funding model requested.

RESOLUTION PC1-26: MODERNIZING ALBERTA'S RAT CONTROL PROGRAM

WHEREAS: the current Rat Program in Alberta was designed in the 1950s and may not fully address the realities of modern pest (rat) management, with emerging challenges both inside and outside the established rat control zone;

WHEREAS: recent years have seen increased rat activity in urban municipalities and regions outside the traditional control zone, with increased and new pathways for rat spread and heightened risk to agricultural and urban infrastructure;

WHEREAS: public awareness efforts, while improved through initiatives like the “Rat on Rat” campaign, require further expansion to ensure both rural and urban Albertans are informed and vigilant;

WHEREAS: an effective provincial strategy depends on the collaborative efforts of the Agricultural Service Boards (ASBs), Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA), Alberta Municipalities (AM), the Alberta Invasive Species Council (AISC), the Government of Alberta (GOA), First Nations and Métis communities (FNM), and the support of surrounding jurisdictions;

WHEREAS: there are identified gaps in training for municipal and pest control staff, particularly regarding rat identification, management, and reporting;

WHEREAS: effective rat management requires current data, including accurate mapping and tracking of high-risk sites such as landfills, recycling facilities, and rail yards, which are currently lacking a comprehensive, province-wide inventory.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation perform a full strategic review and modernization of Alberta's Rat Program, ensuring its effectiveness and responsiveness to current and emerging pest management challenges throughout the province;

FURTHER BE IT

RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

that the Province of Alberta include the creation of a working group composed of members from ASBs, Rural Municipalities of Alberta, AM, AISC, GOA ministries, FNM and adjacent jurisdictions to provide direction and recommendations to the GOA for the modernization of Alberta's Rat Program

SPONSORED BY: ASBPC

STATUS: Provincial

DEPARTMENT: Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Environment and Protected Areas,
Infrastructure, Transportation and Economic Corridors

RESPONSES

AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION:

- A comprehensive review of the Rat Control Program is being considered for summer 2026 to identify modernization opportunities and ensure long-term program sustainability.
- Alberta has operated the Rat Control Program since 1950 with the goal of preventing rats from establishing resident populations within our borders. While rats do occasionally enter the province, “rat-free” means they are detected quickly and eradicated before they can reproduce. Under the *Agricultural Pests Act*, landowners are responsible for controlling rats on their property, while municipalities oversee eradication efforts locally. The province supports this work through coordination, technical expertise, and emergency response when infestations occur.
- A critical component of our prevention efforts is the 600-kilometre Rat Control Zone along Alberta’s eastern border. Municipal and provincial officers conduct routine inspections in this area and implement targeted control measures to ensure Alberta remains rat-free. Every reported sighting is investigated, and more than one rat is considered an infestation requiring immediate action. This coordinated system is recognized internationally and remains foundational to protecting farms, infrastructure, and stored feed supplies across Alberta.
- In 2023, the program was strengthened to address rising pressures on pest-prevention systems. Enhancements included increased funding for bait and equipment, the creation of the Assistant Rat and Pest Specialist position, and support for the Alberta Invasive Species Council’s “Rat on Rats!” public awareness campaign. Since June 2024, the Assistant Specialist proactively inspects recycling and waste-handling facilities – locations that can unintentionally transport rats into the province.
- Alberta’s rat-free status continues to protect rural communities from extensive property damage, contamination and economic losses that other jurisdictions experience as a result of established rat populations.
- Alberta’s success in staying rat-free is a shared success, achieved through the partnership between producers, municipalities and the province. Prompt reporting of sightings, cooperation with inspections and on-farm prevention measures remain vital to maintaining this unique advantage.
- Please continue to report any suspected rat sightings immediately so we can act quickly to protect our farms and communities.

RESPONSE EPA:

Resent request April 30 – no response

RESPONSE TEC:

Regarding PC1-26, Alberta's rat control program is not under the jurisdiction of Transportation and Economic Corridors. However, my colleague the Honourable R.J. Sigurdson, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, will be able to provide a response on this topic.

SUMMARY

Overall Assessment: Partially met (review planned, but key elements not fully addressed)

- Commitment to a program review (AGI)
Agriculture and Irrigation indicates a comprehensive review of the Rat Control Program is being considered for summer 2026, directly aligning with the request for modernization.
- Recognition of program importance and ongoing improvements (AGI)
The response highlights recent enhancements (funding, staffing, inspections, public awareness) and affirms continued commitment to maintaining Alberta's rat-free status.
- Acknowledgement of collaborative model (AGI)
The existing program already involves producers, municipalities, and the province, reflecting some level of multi-stakeholder coordination.

Key Observations

- No commitment to establish a formal working group
The response does not address or commit to creating the requested multi-stakeholder working group (ASBs, RMA, AM, AISC, FNM, etc.), which was a key element of the resolution.
- Review is proposed, not confirmed or scoped
The review is only "being considered", with no defined scope, timeline, or deliverables, limiting confidence in follow-through.
- No response to cross-ministry training/awareness ask
There is no mention of improving awareness among government staff (e.g., inspections, transportation, facilities), which was a specific additional request.

- TEC response does not contribute
Transportation and Economic Corridors indicates the issue falls outside its jurisdiction, providing no substantive input toward the resolution.

Bottom line

The responses partially address the resolution by signaling a potential program review and demonstrating ongoing program strength, but they do not commit to key structural changes (working group, cross-ministry approach, defined modernization plan). The outcome is progress in intent, but limited action on the full scope of the request.

INITIAL GRADE ASBPC

RESPONDED IN PART

ASBPC COMMENTS

The resolution was graded Responded in Part because Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation signaled intent to review the program and recognized its importance but did not commit to the formal collaborative structures or cross-ministry approach requested, and other ministries did not substantively engage with their potential roles.

Keeping the rat free status of Alberta saves every Albertan the added costs associated with rat control which in every other part of Canada is built into the cost of doing business. This is part of the Alberta advantage, and the data is showing that the current Rat Control Zone is effective for the movement of Norway rats from agricultural practices along the eastern border and that confirmed cases of Roof Rats in urban settings are on the rise. Clearly it is a cross ministry effort that is needed to keep the rat free status, and so the letters of request specifically asked that ministries work together to educate and increase awareness of the rat free status, where to report and how to identify rats with staff and the public they work with.

RESOLUTION PC2-26: ON-FARM MEAT PROCESSING

WHEREAS: the On-Farm Slaughter Operation (OFSO) program, introduced in 2020, provides critical opportunities for small-scale livestock producers in Alberta to enhance local food systems, and support economic diversification through direct-to-consumer sales and custom slaughter services for household use;

WHEREAS: regulatory changes implemented on July 2, 2025, including annual slaughter weight limits of approximately 5,000 lbs live weight and restrictions on co-ownership based on animal size, have introduced uncertainty and potential barriers that could reduce viability for small processors by up to 70% in revenue;

WHEREAS: the government's pause on the regulatory changes, following immediate stakeholder concerns about unintended consequences, highlights the program's vulnerability to abrupt policy shifts and the importance of responsive governance in supporting rural agriculture;

WHEREAS: the subsequent online survey and engagement process for OFSO holders and stakeholders, conducted from August 25 to September 22, 2025, aimed to gather input on reducing foodborne illness risks and assessing long-term impacts, but has yet to yield publicly announced outcomes as of December 2025, contributing to ongoing anxiety among small processors;

WHEREAS: the lack of timely updates following the consultation period underscores the need for more transparent and comprehensive evaluations to address persistent red tape, such as stringent licensing prerequisites (e.g., food safety modules, onsite assessments, water testing, zoning compliance, and quarterly reporting), which may disproportionately burden local small processors and hinder their ability to operate efficiently;

WHEREAS: a thorough economic evaluation is essential to quantify the financial impacts of existing barriers and regulatory uncertainties on small processors, including potential revenue losses, investment deterrence, and contributions to Alberta's rural economy, with the explicit goal of streamlining processes, reducing red tape, and fostering sustainable growth in the local meat production sector.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation initiates a comprehensive, transparent, and timely reviews of the On-Farm Slaughter Operation (OFSO) program—including all regulatory changes, licensing requirements, and enforcement measures—be conducted with meaningful stakeholder input, with the aim of minimizing administrative burdens and financial uncertainty for small-scale processors.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

that the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation reduce unnecessary red tape and ensure that regulatory policies do not disproportionately hinder small, rural operators and supports long-term viability, economic sustainability, and growth of Alberta's local meat production while simultaneously meeting traceability and safe food safety requirement.

SPONSORED BY: ASBPC

STATUS: Provincial

DEPARTMENT: Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation,

RESPONSE

AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION:

- The OFSO program was introduced in July 2020 to increase access to local meat. All meat resulting from slaughter under an OFSO licence is uninspected. Therefore, this meat cannot be sold, gifted, bartered or otherwise transferred. It must be returned to the owner(s) of the animal for consumption by their households only.
- In 2024, AGI updated OFSO pre-licensing requirements to support operator compliance and increase consumer confidence. The updates require applicants to successfully complete testing requirements for food safety and water potability, as well as participate in a pre-licensing onsite assessment.
- Pre-licensing requirements are foundational food safety and risk-management practices. These requirements are streamlined, low-cost, and designed to prevent far more serious issues that would create real burdens for small producers. They also protect public health, reduce liability for operators and ensure the OFSO program remains credible and sustainable without adding unnecessary administrative steps.
- In July 2025, the Government of Alberta proposed an annual uninspected slaughter limit of 5,000 pounds for new OFSO licences.
- An annual uninspected slaughter limit was proposed in response to complaints that some OFSOs were slaughtering large numbers of animals, creating concerns about food safety, animal welfare and safe disposal of waste. Introducing limit to control growth in uninspected meat was intended to help minimize the risk of foodborne illness outbreaks and maintain Alberta's reputation as a safe source of high-quality meat.
- The implementation of proposed slaughter limits for new OFSO licences was paused to further engage with licence holders who expressed concern about business impacts. During consultation with OFSO licence holders, commodity groups and the Alberta Meat Facilities Association, AGI collected valuable input that will be used to consider potential improvements to the OFSO program.

- Proposed annual slaughter limits would apply only to uninspected on-farm slaughter and meat processing activities – not to meat products available for sale from local inspected slaughter and meat processing operations. Farmers can continue to sell unlimited amounts of local, inspected meat through their farm shops and various other retail locations throughout the province, provided they have the appropriate licence.
- Alberta has 117 provincially licensed and inspected small-scale abattoirs. The Government of Alberta maintains a [Directory of licensed slaughter operations](#) to help customers find a local abattoir that sources animals from Alberta producers.
- AGI is considering ongoing improvements to the OFSO program to support local food security and create opportunities for small farmers while enhancing the safety of Alberta's meat supply.
- Alberta continually strives to reduce regulatory red tape.

SUMMARY

Overall Assessment: Partially met (engagement and adjustments underway, but no full review or clear red-tape reduction)

- Stakeholder engagement demonstrated
AGI paused proposed slaughter limits and engaged with licence holders and industry groups, indicating meaningful consultation is occurring.
- Ongoing program improvements considered
The ministry notes it is considering improvements to the OFSO program, suggesting openness to modernization.
- Recognition of balancing safety and viability
The response emphasizes maintaining food safety, public confidence, and program credibility, while also supporting local food security and small producers.

Key Observations

- No commitment to a comprehensive, transparent review
There is no clear commitment to a full, formal review of the OFSO program (scope, timeline, or process), which is the primary ask.
- Limited evidence of red tape reduction
While AGI states requirements are “streamlined” and claims ongoing efforts to reduce red tape, no concrete changes or reductions are identified.
- Regulatory approach largely maintained
The response defends current and proposed requirements (e.g., pre-licensing rules, slaughter limits) rather than clearly reducing administrative burden.

- Financial uncertainty concerns not directly addressed
Although consultation occurred, the response does not outline specific measures to reduce cost impacts or financial risk for small operators.

Bottom line

The response shows some responsiveness through consultation and willingness to adjust proposals but does not commit to the comprehensive review or meaningful regulatory relief requested, resulting in a partially met outcome with modest progress but limited structural change.

INITIAL GRADE ASBPC

RESPONDED

ASBPC COMMENTS

The resolution was graded Responded because the ministry directly addressed the issues raised, outlined current policy and consultation efforts, and explained its reasoning, despite not committing to the level of red tape reduction or structural change that some committee members would prefer.

RESOLUTION PC4-26: URGENT REFORMS TO CFIA AND PMRA

WHEREAS: during a meeting with the Alberta Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, it was noted that the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) are not legally enabled to respond to feedback from Canadians, leading to a lack of accountability in their decision-making processes;

WHEREAS: provincial discussions are underway regarding the potential relocation of CFIA and PMRA from Health Canada back to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to better align with agricultural needs and improve responsiveness;

WHEREAS: verifiable case studies from Agricultural Service Boards (ASBs), including examples from poultry and cervid sectors, demonstrate how CFIA's delays in depopulation decisions cause significant business disruptions, increased anxiety among farmers and workers, and animal welfare concerns without consideration for practical on-farm impacts;

WHEREAS: the Federal-Provincial-Territorial (FPT) Working Group on Pesticides Management report explicitly states that PMRA is not legally able to respond to industry feedback, and there are recommendations under discussion at the FPT level for improving CFIA operations;

WHEREAS: in the beekeeper sector, independent peer reviews of CFIA risk assessments revealed biases that were disregarded as "out of scope," while paradoxical policies allow imports of diseased bees from jurisdictions like Italy, New Zealand, and Australia, but restrict disease-free imports from the United States, highlighting the need for mechanisms to address industry concerns and ensure practical, evidence-based mandates;

WHEREAS: a thorough economic evaluation is essential to quantify the financial impacts of existing barriers and regulatory uncertainties on small processors, including potential revenue losses, investment deterrence, and contributions to Alberta's rural economy, with the explicit goal of streamlining processes, reducing red tape, and fostering sustainable growth in the local meat production sector.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That the Government of Canada to urgently implement changes to the mandates, processes, and accountability structures of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA), including enabling legal authority to meaningfully consider and respond to feedback from industry stakeholders and Canadians;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

that the Government of Canada immediately move CFIA and PMRA from Health Canada back under Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to restore alignment with agriculture and improve responsiveness, and that both agencies be legally required to factor in practical on-farm realities, business disruptions, animal welfare, and scientific evidence when making decisions.

SPONSORED BY: ASBPC

STATUS: Provincial, Federal

DEPARTMENT: Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada,
Health Canada, Prime Minister's Office

RESPONSES

AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION:

- The Government of Alberta will continue to advocate to the federal government for policy decisions and actions to consider the economic and regional impact to agriculture. Alberta's commitment to agriculture first does not stop at the provincial border.
- The province has long been advocating for improvements to processes and accountability structures of both the CFIA and the PMRA, including for the transfer of the CFIA and PMRA back under Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.
- Ensuring PMRA and CFIA regulatory decisions are transparent, responsive, and aligned with the needs of those they impact; for example, pushing PMRA to consider economic risk assessments when making decisions on the continuity of vital chemicals to the agricultural industry.
- This is an ongoing effort that we continue to push at meetings between the [Federal, Provincial and Territorial Ministers of Agriculture](#). As a result of Alberta's, and other provinces advocacy, the CFIA is currently under a [regulatory red tape reduction review](#) which is in progress.

RESPONSE AAFC:

No response

RESPONSE HEALTH CANADA:

No response

RESPONSE PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE:

No response

SUMMARY

Overall Assessment: Partially met (strong advocacy alignment, but no direct authority or confirmed outcomes)

- Active provincial advocacy to federal government
Alberta confirms it is actively advocating for changes to CFIA and PMRA mandates, processes, and accountability, aligning directly with the resolution's first clause.
- Support for structural change (agency alignment)
The province explicitly supports moving CFIA and PMRA back under Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, consistent with the resolution request.

Key Observations

- Push for more responsive, practical decision-making
Alberta is advocating for greater transparency, responsiveness, and inclusion of economic impacts and agricultural realities in regulatory decisions.
- Evidence of ongoing national-level engagement
The issue is being raised through federal–provincial–territorial minister meetings, and some progress is noted (e.g., CFIA red tape reduction review underway).
- No direct federal commitment or outcome achieved
The response reflects advocacy only—no confirmation that the federal government will implement the requested reforms.
- Limited detail on stakeholder accountability mechanisms
While broader improvements are supported, there is no clear commitment to legal or structural changes ensuring stakeholder input is formally required.
- No timeline or defined reform process
Actions remain ongoing and undefined, with no clear roadmap for achieving the requested changes.

Bottom line

The response shows strong alignment in intent and advocacy, including support for major structural changes and improved regulatory responsiveness. However, because authority rests with the federal government and no concrete reforms are confirmed, the resolution is partially met—good alignment, but limited tangible results to date.

INITIAL GRADE ASBPC

RESPONDED IN PART

ASBPC COMMENTS

The resolution was graded Responded in Part because Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation showed strong alignment and active advocacy on the requested reforms, but the federal decision-makers did not respond directly and no concrete federal commitments or implemented reforms matching the resolution's full scope were confirmed.

RESOLUTION E1-26: VACANT BIOLOGICAL CONTROL SCIENTIST POSITION

WHEREAS: In 2008 the Canadian Food Inspection Agency estimates the economic cost of invasive plant species in Canada is \$2.2 billion annually.¹

WHEREAS: In 2022 the Alberta Invasive Species Council updated estimated the cost of invasive species to Albertans at \$2.1billion annually.²

WHEREAS: Biological control is a critical tool for managing established invasive plants, particularly in natural landscapes or where chemical and mechanical controls are impractical, cost-prohibitive, or ineffective.

WHEREAS: The Lethbridge Research and Development Centre houses a state-of-the-art quarantine facility specifically designed for rearing and evaluating biocontrol agents.

WHEREAS: The recent retirement of the Weed Biological Control Entomologist Research Scientist, working at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Lethbridge Research and Development Centre has left this pivotal position vacant, halting Canada's capacity to evaluate and approve new weed biological control agents.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST

That Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to immediately fill the vacant Research Scientist - Weed Biological Control position at the AAFC Lethbridge Research and Development Centre, to restore Canada's critical capacity for biocontrol research and protect producers and land managers from the impacts of invasive species.

SPONSORED BY: Municipal District of Ranchland No. 66

STATUS: Provincial

DEPARTMENT: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

RESPONSE

AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD CANADA:

No response

SUMMARY

- Coordinate a letter writing campaign to MPs and Federal/provincial government about this concern. Letters to the staffing decision makers as well.

INITIAL GRADE ASBPC

NO RESPONSE

ASBPC COMMENTS

The resolution was graded No Response because no written reply was received from the responsible federal body, and the committee does not yet have any official information on the status of the position. Further discussion on who to engage with further given the current work being done and the recommendations from the Standing Committee on Agriculture to halt and reverse the planned shutdowns, recognizing that many of the research staff have opted to leave the centres so there maybe an opportunity to fill a position.

RESOLUTION E2-26: LIVESTOCK TRACEABILITY UPDATE CONCERNS

WHEREAS: the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has proposed amendments to Part XV of the Health of Animals Regulations (Identification and Traceability) to expand species coverage, require enhanced movement reporting, premises identification, and digitized record-keeping;

WHEREAS: the stated objective of these amendments is improved disease control and outbreak response, yet significant concerns remain regarding increased workload, cost, and on-farm practicality, particularly in the absence of a clearly defined gap in the existing system;

WHEREAS: Canada's 59 beef trading partners, including the United States, have not raised concerns regarding Canada's traceability system that would threaten market access;

WHEREAS: CFIA engagement on traceability has occurred intermittently since 2013, but formal public input was limited to a 90-day consultation in 2023, generating only 778 submissions nationwide, and the finalization of the regulations has since been paused (as of January 10, 2026) to address stakeholder concerns;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

THAT THE ALBERTA AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARDS REQUEST:

The Government of Canada, specifically the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, and the Government of Alberta suspend the implementation of additional mandatory livestock traceability regulations under Part XV for a minimum three years, and until a comprehensive risk assessment is completed that fully evaluates the impacts on small-scale and mixed farming operations, as well as the broader downstream effects on rural communities.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED

THAT THE ALBERTA AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARDS REQUEST:

The Government of Canada, specifically the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, and the Government of Alberta maintain the pause on the proposed Part XV amendments until regionally representative consultations are completed and producer feedback is incorporated into any revised regulatory framework.

SPONSORED BY: County of Stettler No. 6

DEPARTMENTS: Alberta Agriculture & Irrigation; Alberta Public Safety & Emergency Services, Alberta Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction, AAFC, CFIA, Prairies Economic Development Canada, and Public Health Agency of Canada.

RESPONSES

RESPONSE ALBERTA AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION:

Resolution E2-26: Livestock Traceability Update Concerns

- Due to the deep concerns shared with me by livestock producers and the overall industry, I felt it was necessary to request an immediate pause to the current suite of changes. On January 9, 2026, I also released a [statement](#) asking the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) to take the necessary steps to engage the industry and ensure the changes will not continue to set the industry up for failure and further erode the ability for the Alberta beef industry to compete on the global stage.
- On January 10, 2026, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) confirmed it will pause the publication of traceability regulations to better hear and consider producer concerns.
- While the Government of Alberta supports the importance of maintaining strong export markets and a trusted traceability system, it is essential that federal regulatory changes are practical and supports producers' competitiveness.
- Alberta government remains committed to enhancing traceability outcomes without imposing an undue administrative burden on producers. We will continue to work constructively with our federal partners and industry leaders to find practical solutions that support the long-term success and competitiveness of Alberta's beef industry.
- Agriculture and Irrigation will continue working with industry groups and representative organizations to understand the diverse perspectives of producers.

RESPONSE ALBERTA PUBLIC SAFETY & EMERGENCY SERVICES:

No response

RESPONSE SERVICE ALBERTA AND RED TAPE REDUCTION:

No response

RESPONSE AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD CANADA:

No response

RESPONSE CANADIAN FOOD INSPECTION AGENCY:

No response

RESPONSE PRAIRIES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CANADA:

No response

RESPONSE PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY OF CANADA:

No response

FURTHER RESPONSE REQUESTED TO ABP AND CCA:

The ASB Provincial Committee reached out to the Canadian Cattle Association and the Alberta Beef Producers to inquire what actions that they taken and any responses they may have received to their similar resolutions.

ALBERTA BEEF PRODUCERS RESPONSE:

From Mark Lyseng <MarkL@AlbertaBeef.org>

Date Tue 5/5/2026 9:46 AM

To ASBPC Executive <ASBPC_EA@agriculturalserviceboards.com>

Hi Linda,

Hope all is well.

Through our recent producer meetings, we received a range of resolutions related to traceability. These reflected a variety of perspectives, with differing levels of alignment and detail.

The delegate body determined that these would benefit from further review, and as such, they have been referred to a working group to assess and help inform a path forward. That group is currently being established.

I'll keep you updated as things progress.

Here is the resolution:

Whereas the CFIA has proposed several new regulations and amendments to Animal Traceability in Canada.

Whereas statements have come forward with concerns which included but were not limited to issues around the new regulations, concerns over CFIA, its mandate, enforcement and overreach

Whereas Alberta Beef Producer's mandate is to represent all Alberta beef producers, from smaller or ""lifestyle"" producers who pay-check off to multi-million dollar operations.

Whereas Alberta Beef Producers has an existing policy (Section 24) regarding traceability.

Be it Resolved

Alberta Beef Producers defer all passed resolutions regarding traceability to the Board so that a working committee can be created to better understand producers concerns around the new regulations, investigate the value of animal movement traceability and clarify the CFIA's role and past actions to ensure that ABP policy aligns with the majority of Alberta producers' desired outcomes.

That Alberta Beef Producers requests that CFIA pause implementing or publishing any new regulations until the outcomes of the working group have been presented to the ABP board and communicated through its national partners.

Regards,
Mark Lyseng
Government Relations & Policy, Lead
www.albertabeef.org

CANADIAN CATTLE ASSOCIATION:

NO RESPONSE

SUMMARY

Overall assessment: Partially met (pause achieved, but limited on timelines, analysis, and formal consultation framework)

- Pause on regulatory implementation achieved (AGI)
Alberta requested a pause, and CFIA confirmed it would pause publication of the traceability regulations—directly aligning with the core ask to halt implementation.
- Advocacy for producer concerns and consultation (AGI & ABP)
Both AGI and ABP emphasize the need to hear producer concerns and engage stakeholders before moving forward.
- Recognition of impacts on producers
AGI acknowledges the importance of ensuring regulations are practical and do not undermine competitiveness, while ABP highlights diverse producer concerns requiring further review.
- Industry-led review process initiated (ABP)
ABP is forming a working group to assess traceability concerns, which supports the resolution's intent for further analysis and stakeholder input.
- Alignment on maintaining pause until further work is done (ABP)
ABP explicitly supports pausing new regulations until their review is complete, reinforcing the resolution's second clause.

Key Observations

- No commitment to a defined 3-year suspension (AGI)
While a pause exists, there is no commitment to a minimum three-year suspension, which was explicitly requested.

- No comprehensive risk assessment framework identified
Neither response commits to a formal, comprehensive risk assessment evaluating impacts on small or mixed operations and rural communities.
- Consultation process not clearly defined or guaranteed
Engagement is mentioned, but there is no structured, regionally representative consultation plan or assurance that feedback will be formally incorporated.
- Unclear long-term regulatory direction
AGI signals continued work with federal and industry partners but does not define what a revised framework will look like or how concerns will change outcomes.

Bottom line

The responses successfully achieved a pause and demonstrate alignment on the need for consultation and further review, particularly with ABP initiating an internal working group. However, they do not fully meet the resolution's key requirements—specifically a guaranteed multi-year suspension, a formal risk assessment, and a clearly defined consultation and revision process—resulting in a partially met outcome with meaningful progress but incomplete follow-through.

INITIAL GRADE ASBPC

RESPONDED IN PART

ASBPC COMMENTS

The resolution was graded Responded in Part because Alberta and industry organizations have acknowledged concerns, achieved a pause in implementation, and initiated further work, but there has been no federal response confirming the longer-term suspension, risk assessment, or specific revised framework requested in the resolution.

Alberta Beef Producers committed to keeping the ASBPC in the loop on the actions they are taking, and there was a decision to reach out to the other commodities that are impacted by the traceability discussion (sheep and goats) for a more comprehensive understanding of the situation.

May 29, 2026

ASBPC 2026 Strategic Planning Survey Open June 1-15

The Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee is beginning a strategic planning process in 2026 and is seeking input from ASB members, municipal councillors, Agricultural Fieldmen/AAAF members, GOA ASB Program staff, RMA, and related stakeholders.

The survey is intended to gather individual perspectives on the role of ASBs, the role of ASBPC, ASB and municipal council alignment, communication, and opportunities to strengthen collaboration across Alberta's ASB system.

The survey is not a vote and is not intended to create formal municipal or ASB positions. Results will be summarized for ASBPC by June 30 and will help inform an in-person strategic planning session planned for July or August 2026.

Survey link: [ASBPC 2026 Strategic Planning Survey – Fill out form](#)



On behalf of the Committee,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda Hunt".

Linda Hunt, PAg.



ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Name: Quentin Bochar

Department: Agriculture Services

Reviewed by: Norm De Wet

For Presentation at: June 15, 2026, ASB Meeting

From Date: May 1, 2026

To Date: June 1, 2026

- Seasonal staff started on May 1, 2026.
- Orientations and training have commenced and are nearing completion.
- Hosted and attended the NEAAAF Regional Weed Inspector School on May 12, 2026, in Vegreville.
- Instructed and attended NEAAAF Authorized Assistant Training on May 14, 2026, in Czar.
- Attended NEAAAF Herbicide Stewardship Training on May 19, 2026, at Lac Bellevue Hall.
- Attended the Strychnine Distribution Webinar for Vendors online on May 20, 2026.
- Attended the NEAAAF Strychnine Meeting online on May 22, 2026.
- Contracted hamlet and recreation area mowing has commenced as per the contract.
- Herbicide applications have commenced in municipal hamlets, parks, and open areas.
- Seasonal staff assisted with unplugging culverts and bridges.
- Seasonal staff weed-whipped vegetation and brush around bridges and guardrails.
- The Wapasu Beach playground and volleyball area have been rototilled.



Municipal District of **GREENVIEW**

March 24, 2026

Honourable Marjorie Michel
Minister of Health
Health Canada
Address Locator 0900C2
Ottawa, ON K1A 0K9

Attention: Minister of Health

Re: Council Concerns with Proposed Amendments to the Traceability Regulation

Dear Minister,

On behalf of the Council of the Municipal District of Greenview, we are writing to formally express concern regarding the proposed amendments to the federal Traceability Regulation, particularly as they relate to mandatory reporting timelines, reliance on digital reporting systems, and the resulting impacts on livestock producers operating in northern and rural regions.

The Municipal District of Greenview is a large, predominantly rural municipality in northwestern Alberta with a strong livestock production base. Council is concerned that the proposed amendments do not adequately account for the realities faced by producers in regions where reliable internet and cellular connectivity remain limited or unavailable. Many livestock operations within Greenview are located in remote areas where consistent access to broadband services does not exist, and producers may only have periodic connectivity.

The proposed seven day reporting deadline presents a serious compliance challenge under these conditions. Council is concerned that producers may face enforcement risks or administrative penalties despite making reasonable efforts to comply, simply because of infrastructure limitations beyond their control. Regulatory requirements that rely heavily on timely electronic reporting must reflect current rural connectivity and availability to be both fair and workable.

Council is also concerned about the cumulative impact the proposed amendments will have on the cost of production for livestock producers. Additional administrative requirements, increased record-keeping, investments in technology, potential reliance on third-party service providers, and added labour demands will all contribute to higher operating costs. These added pressures come at a time when producers are already managing rising input costs,

market uncertainty, and narrow margins. For many family-run operations, the financial and administrative burden associated with the proposed changes is significant.

Greenview Council supports the underlying objectives of traceability, including food safety, animal health, and system integrity. However, Council believes these objectives can only be achieved through regulations that are practical, regionally appropriate, and sensitive to the operational realities of northern and rural producers.

Accordingly, Council respectfully urges the federal government to reconsider aspects of the proposed amendments and to incorporate greater flexibility for regions with limited connectivity. This may include extended reporting timelines, alternative or offline reporting mechanisms, or regional accommodations where digital infrastructure does not support the proposed requirements.

Thank you for considering the concerns of Greenview Council and the livestock producers we represent. We would welcome the opportunity to provide further input or participate in continued discussions as these regulatory amendments are considered.

Respectfully,

Ryan Ratzlaff
Reeve
Municipal District of Greenview

cc: Canadian Food Inspection Agency
Provincial Agricultural Service Board Committee
Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen
Alberta Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
Local Members of Parliament
RMA

Agricultural Moisture Situation Update

April 24, 2026

Precipitation

Over the past 30 days, most agricultural areas across the province have received less than 20 mm of precipitation (**Map 1**). A corridor of higher precipitation, ranging from 25 to 50 mm, occurred across the Central Region, extending from Rocky View and Foothills Counties northeast through Wheatland to Special Areas No. 3 and No. 4 and Acadia.

Elevated precipitation was also observed in parts of the North West and North East Regions. Higher precipitation, generally between 30 and 60 mm (**Map 1**), fell across the municipalities of Greenview northeast through Big Lakes and Lesser Slave River, then southeast through Athabasca and Lamont to Vermilion River and Bonnyville. Precipitation totals in these areas were above average for this 30-day period (**Map 2**).

In contrast, portions of South and Peace Regions, including Cardston, Warner, Forty Mile, Cypress, Grande Prairie, Smoky River, Birch Hills, Spirit River, Saddle Hills, Fairview, and Peace generally received less than 15 mm of precipitation (**Map 1**). These amounts were below average for this 30-day period (**Map 2**).

Cold-season precipitation has been moderately high to very high across much of the Peace, North East, and North West Regions compared with long-term normal (**Map 3**). Areas north of a line extending through the municipalities of Greenview, Woodlands, Barrhead, Sturgeon, Lamont, and Vermilion River have received approximately 130% to 250% of normal precipitation (**Map 4**), with cold-season totals exceeding 150 mm (**Map 5**).

Most of the Central Region, along with parts of Forty Mile and Cypress Counties, have experienced near-normal cold-season precipitation (**Map 3**). These areas have accumulated 70 to 100 mm, representing roughly 90% to 130% of normal (**Maps 4 and 5**).

Conversely, the lowest cold-season precipitation relative to normal has occurred across the municipalities of Clearwater, Ponoka, Leduc, Camrose, Flagstaff, Foothills, Willow Creek, Vulcan, Taber, Cardston, Lethbridge, Warner, Newell, and Cypress (**Map 3**). These areas have received less than 90% of normal precipitation (**Map 4**), with much of the South

Region accumulating only 50% to 70% of normal, with some localized areas receiving less than 50%.

Looking ahead to May, forecasts indicate an increase in precipitation across Alberta. Historical patterns also show a notable rise in precipitation during this time of year (**Map 6**). If realized, upcoming moisture will support soil moisture recharge heading into spring.

Temperature

During the cold season, average daily temperatures in municipalities north of a line extending east from Greenview through Yellowhead, Parkland, Camrose, Flagstaff, and Vermilion River ranged from near-normal to moderately cooler than the long-term average (**Map 7**). Several municipalities within the Central Region also experienced near-normal cold-season average daily temperatures.

In contrast, municipalities along the mountains and foothills, as well as much of the Central and South Regions, experienced warm to very warm average daily temperatures relative to long-term normal during the cold season (**Map 7**).

The warmest average daily temperatures occurred along the mountains and foothills, extending from Yellowhead County south through Calgary, into the County of Willow Creek, and eastward toward Cypress County (**Map 7**).

Overall, the cold season was marked by significant temperature variability. Daily mean temperatures frequently shifted from approximately 10 °C below normal to 10 °C above normal within short timeframes. Average weekly temperatures over the past four weeks highlight a less pronounced variability across Alberta since March 25th (**Map 8**).

Snowpack

These pronounced temperature swings have contributed to substantial snowmelt across the province. Several areas have experienced periods of snow accumulation followed by rapid melt. In some locations, surface soils have thawed during warm periods when snow cover was absent.

<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/moisture-situation-update>

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Classification: Public



Most of the province has little to no snow cover, which is normal for this time of the year (**Map 9**). Snowpack accumulation on stubble fields, relative to normal, is highest in municipalities north of a line from Greenview east to St. Paul. In these areas, snowpack water equivalent exceeds 150% of normal (**Map 10**), indicating moderately to extremely above-normal accumulation.

Current forecasts indicate rain and snow over the next few days, meaning many areas are likely to see snow return to the ground, at least in the short term.

365-Day Precipitation Trends

Year-over-year conditions remain highly variable, with substantial precipitation deficits persisting across much of Alberta (**Map 11**). Across most of the Central, North East, North West, and Peace Regions, 365-day precipitation amounts range from moderately low to very low compared with long-term normal. Several areas including parts of the municipalities of Grande Prairie, Greenview, Northern Lights, Camrose, Flagstaff, Beaver, Wainwright, and Provost, are experiencing very to extremely low 365-day precipitation accumulations.

Soil Temperatures

Approximately 36 stations across Alberta have soil temperature sensors installed at 5 cm, 20 cm, 50 cm and 100 cm depths. Soil temperatures, at the 20 cm to 50 cm depth, increased to above zero in southern Alberta starting in mid-March. Soil temperatures, at this same depth interval, across central Alberta to Edmonton, began to move above zero around April 14th. Soil temperature north of Edmonton and into the Peace Region began to warm and move above zero around April 19th and 20th.

As soils thaw, moisture will begin to infiltrate, recharging soil moisture reserves.

Soil Moisture Reserves

Soil moisture reserves have changed since the previous report. Spring wheat soil moisture reserves, relative to long-term normal and assessed to a depth of 120 cm, have begun to improve in parts of the Central and South Regions. Improvements are estimated in some areas within the municipalities of Rocky View, Wheatland, Newell, Special Areas No. 2, No. 3, and No. 4, as well as Acadia, Vulcan, Lethbridge, Taber, and Cypress (**Map 12**).

Near-normal soil moisture reserves to a depth of 120 cm are currently estimated in several areas within the municipalities of Yellowhead, Brazeau, Rocky

View, Wheatland, Starland, the Special Areas (No. 2, No. 3, and No. 4), Acadia, Vermilion River, Lamont, Two Hills, Wainwright, Willow Creek, and Warner. Improvements in these areas have occurred as soils thawed and recent precipitation was able to infiltrate the ground (**Map 12**).

Despite these localized improvements, soil moisture reserves across most of Alberta remain moderately to very low compared with long-term normal (**Map 12**). Conditions are estimated to have declined since the last report in municipalities along the southern border, around the Red Deer area, and north into the Peace Region. Soils in these areas have not been thawed for as long, limiting moisture infiltration to date.

In parts of the South, North West, North East, and Peace Regions, soil moisture reserves are estimated to be extremely low. In these areas, moisture levels at the 120 cm depth are approximately 25 mm to 75 mm below long-term normal (**Map 13**).

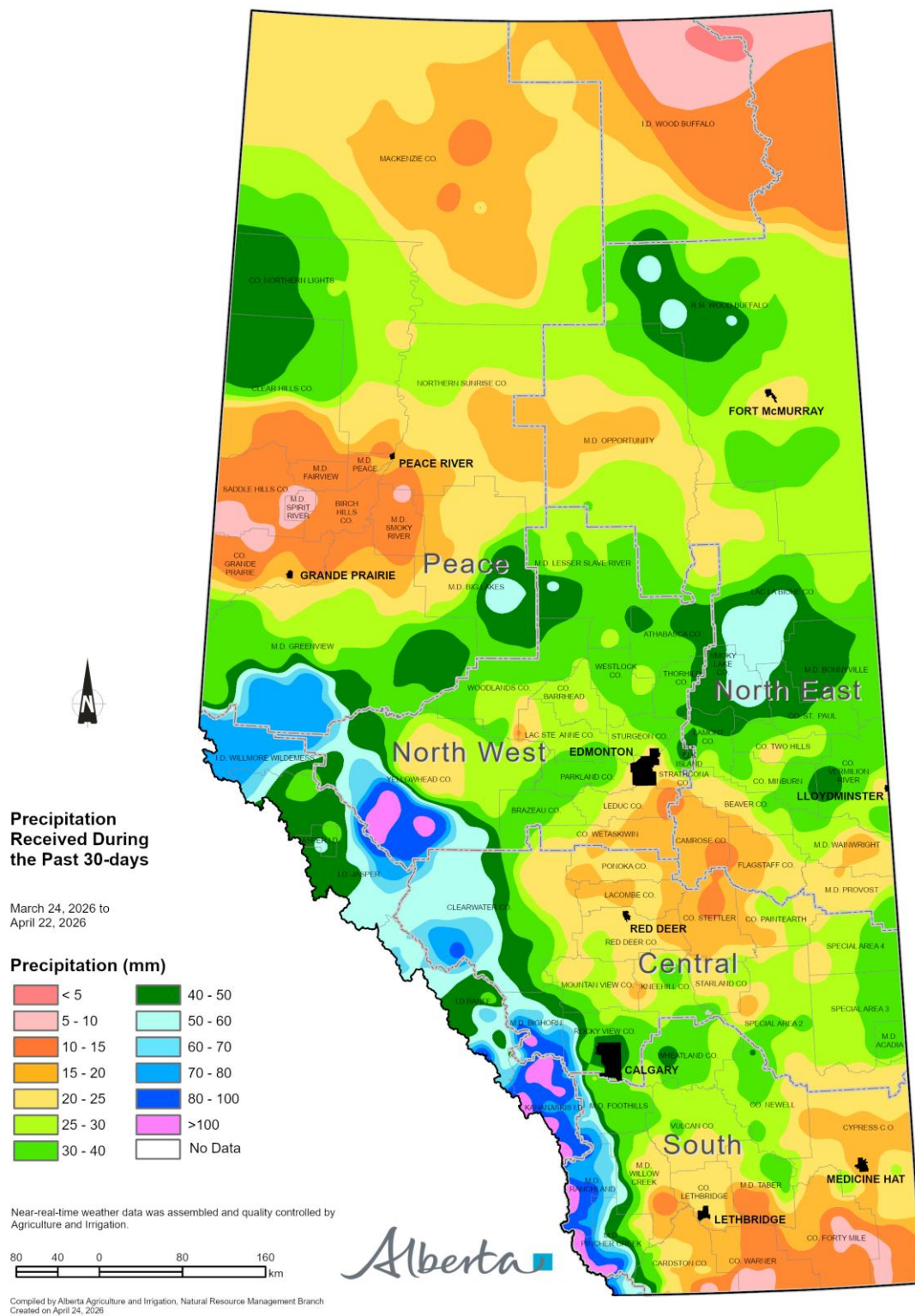
Perspective

Alberta's cold season is typically the driest time of year (**Map 6**), and even above-average precipitation during these months rarely makes up for year-to-date moisture deficits. In the Central Region, only about 15% of annual precipitation normally falls during winter, while the Peace Region receives closer to 25% of its annual total. From an agricultural perspective, May, June, and July are the most critical months for moisture, accounting for more than 50% of annual precipitation in the Central Region and at least 40% across much of the Peace Region (**Map 14**).

Warm and windy conditions this winter have likely increased moisture losses through evaporation and sublimation. Recent warm weather has also led to rapid snowmelt across much of Alberta, which may help recharge dugouts. However, frozen soils have limited soil moisture recharge. In areas south of Edmonton, surface soils have begun to thaw, and recent spring precipitation has resulted in some soil moisture replenishment.

Forecasts continue to suggest the potential for additional rain and/or snowfall. For now, patience remains important, with the hope that timely spring precipitation will help support the upcoming growing season.

Map 1



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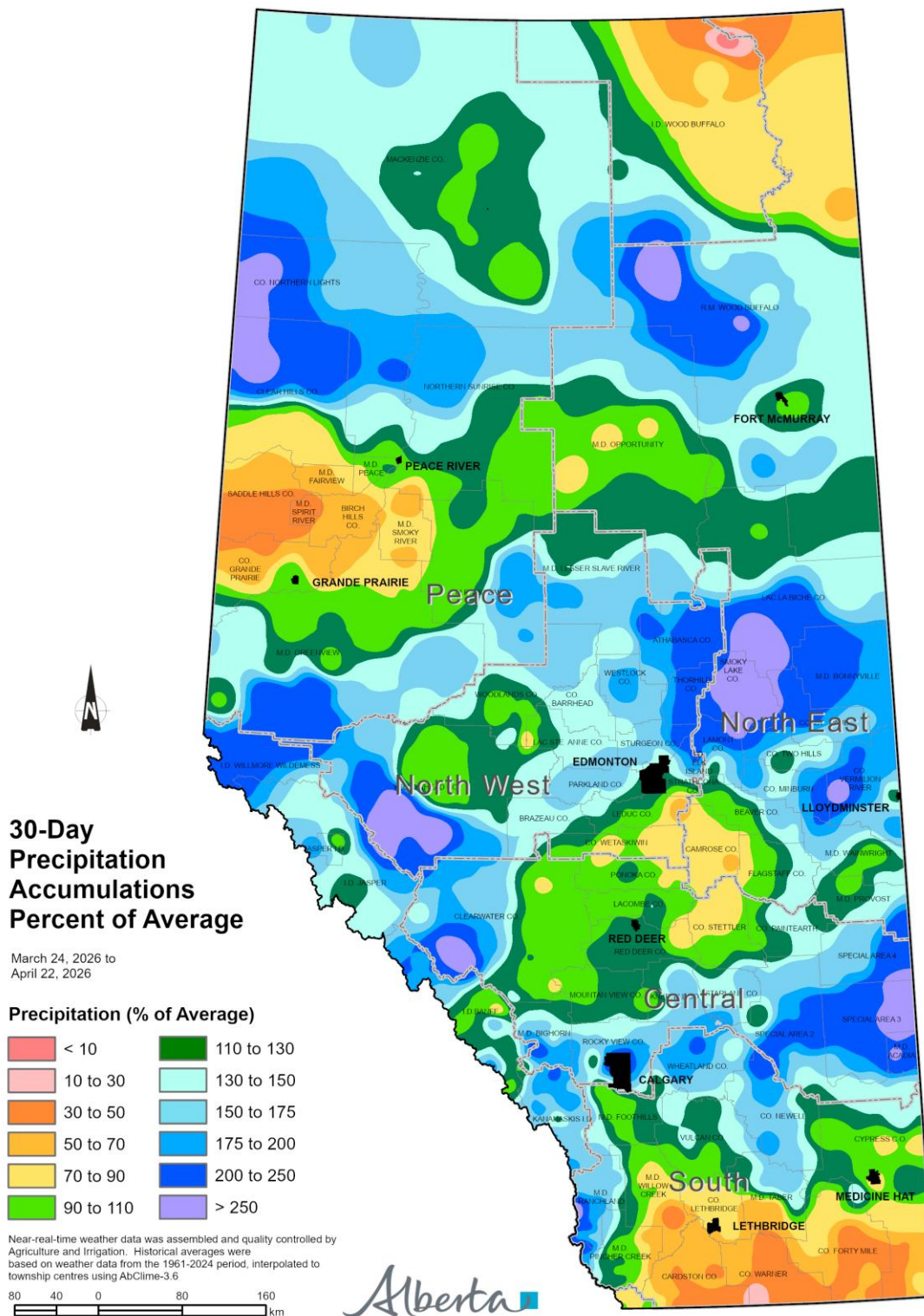
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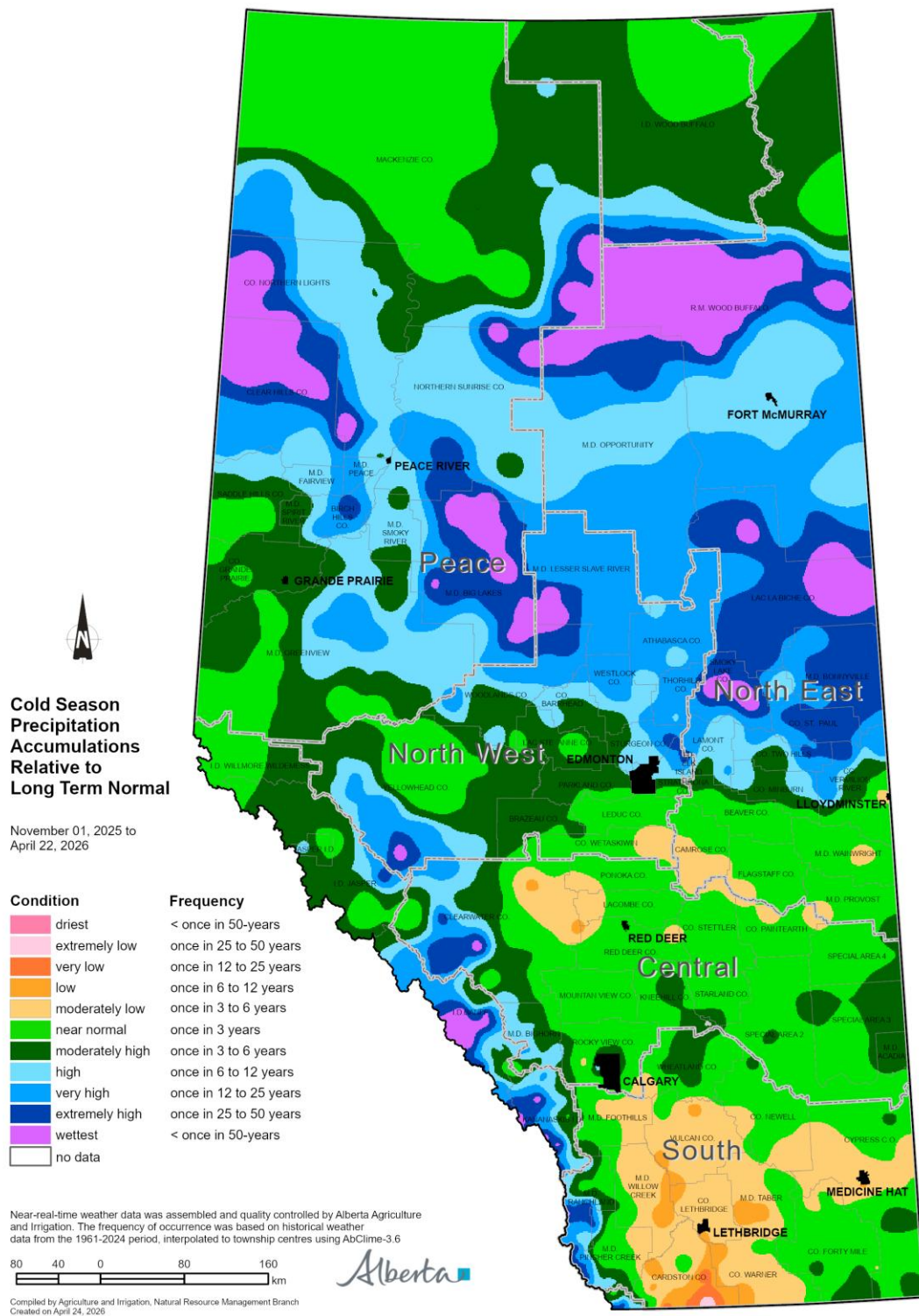
Map 2



Compiled by Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation, Natural Resource Management Branch
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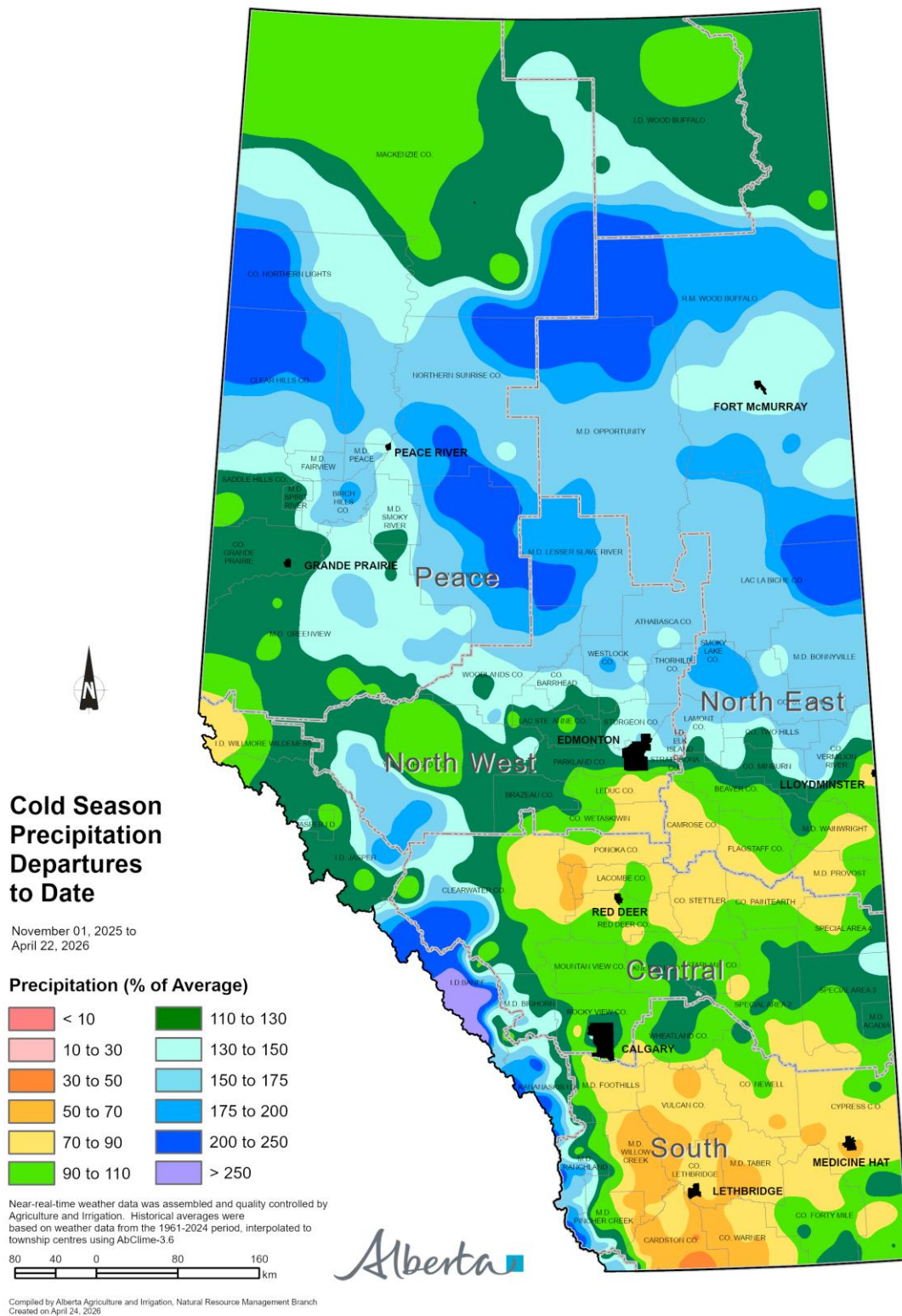
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Map 3



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Map 4



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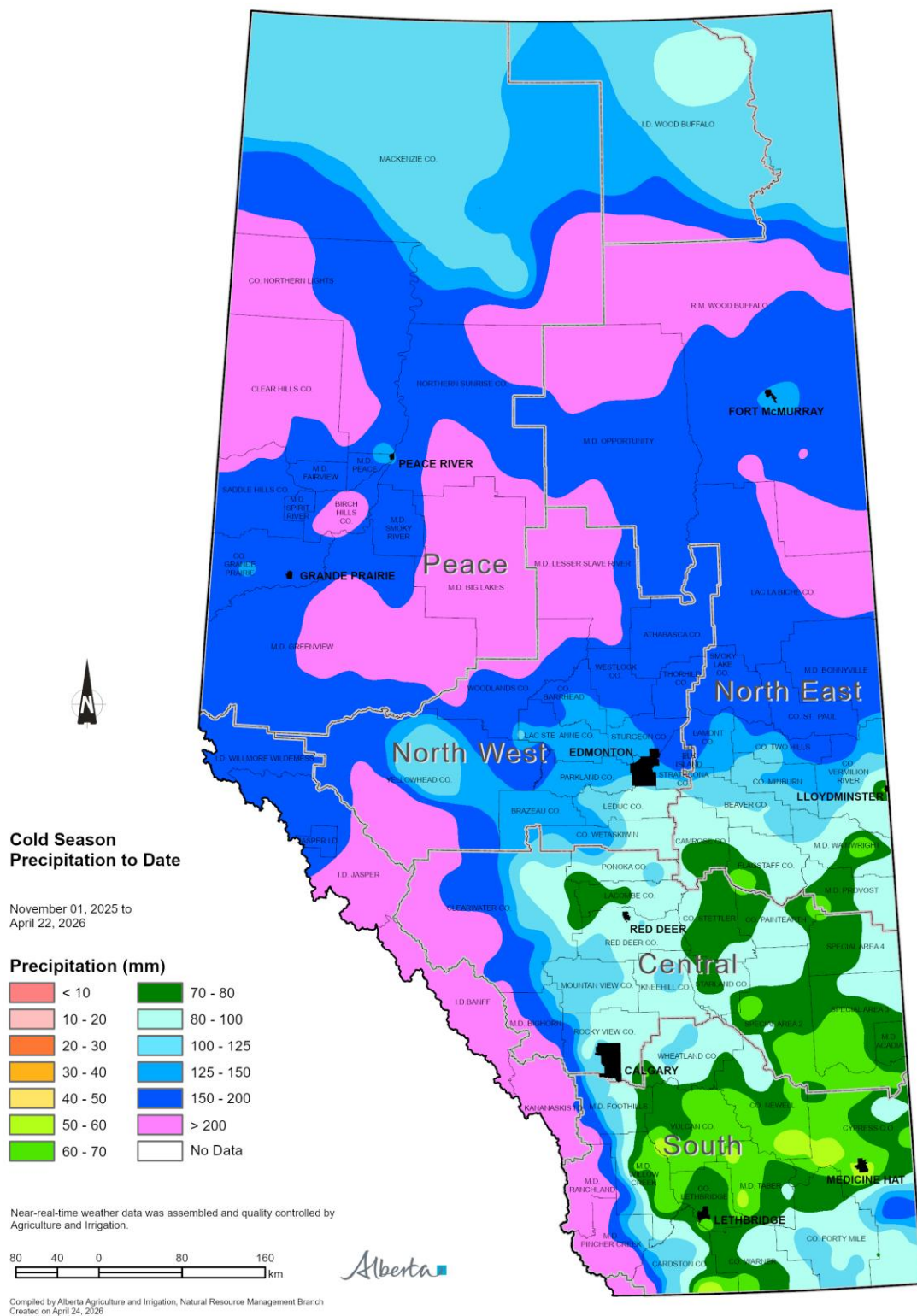
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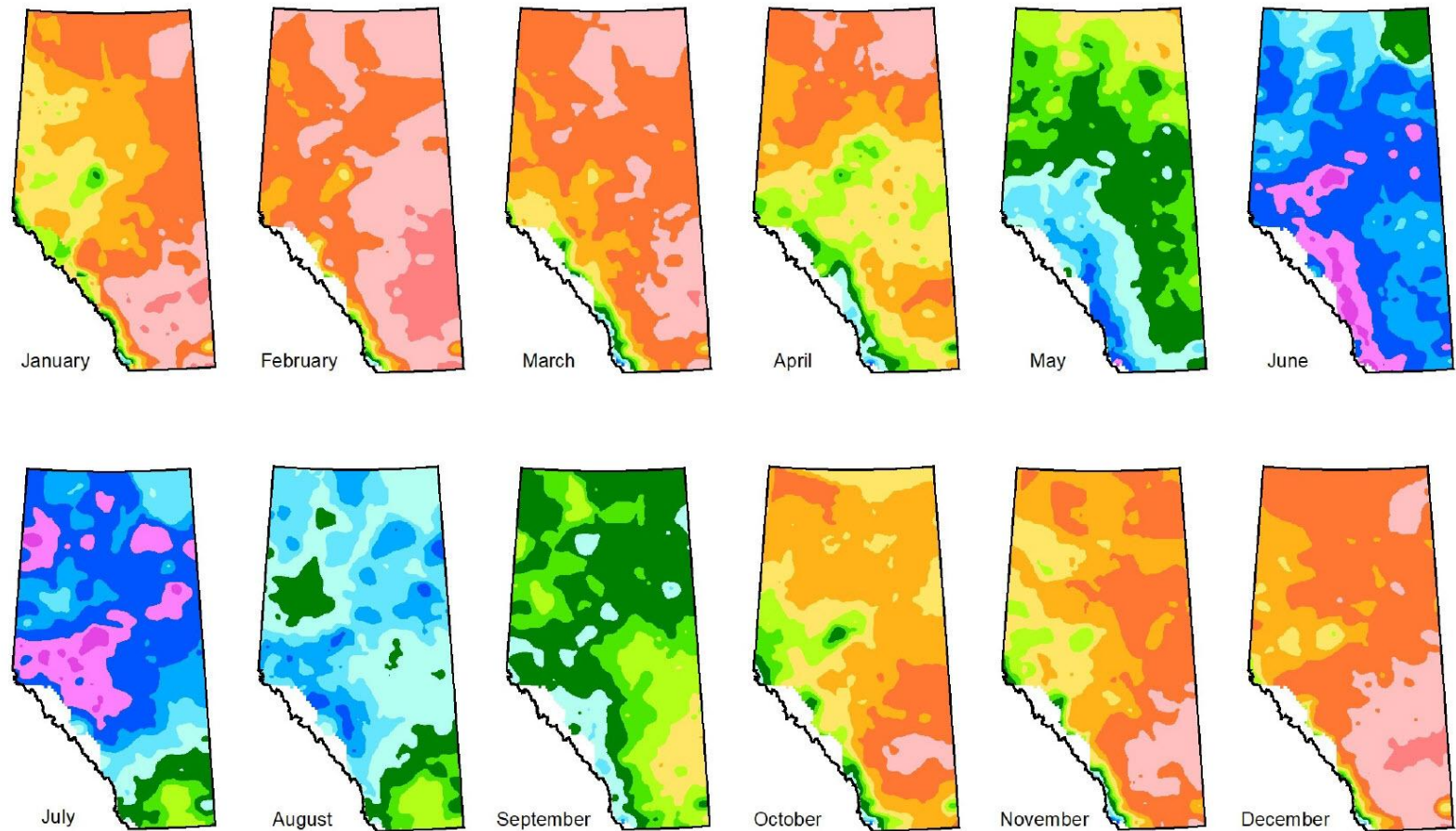


Map 5



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Map 6



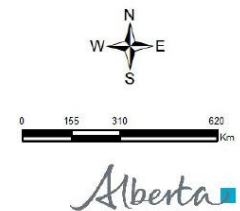
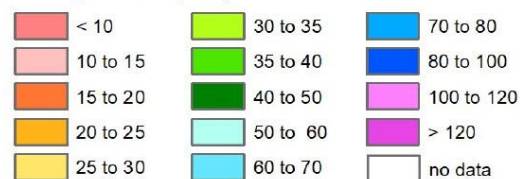
Normal Monthly Precipitation Accumulations

1991-2020

Weather data was assembled and quality controlled by
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then interpolated to township centres using AbClima-3.6

Compiled by Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Economic Development, Natural Resource Management Branch
Created on March 29, 2022

Precipitation (mm)

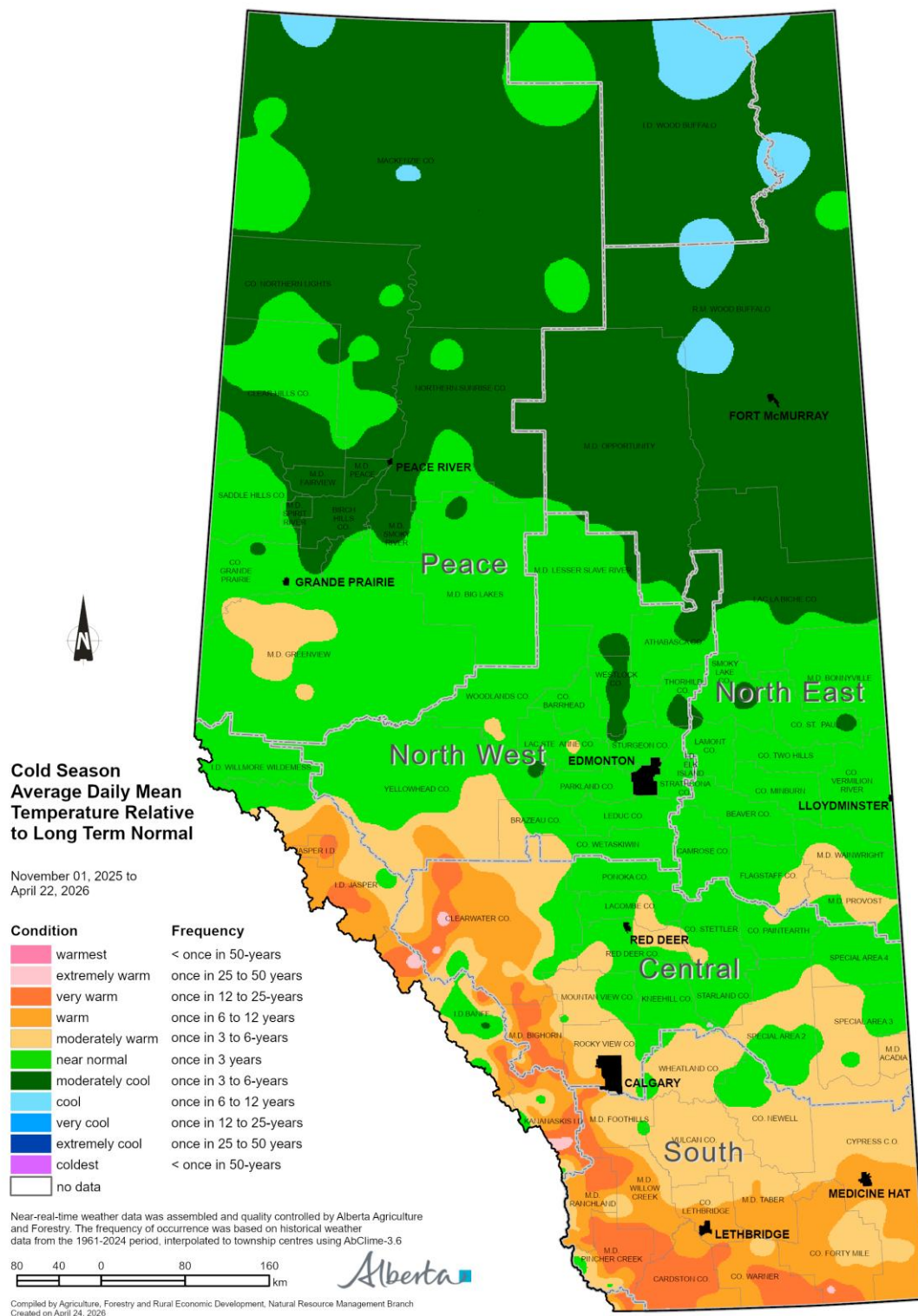


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Map 7



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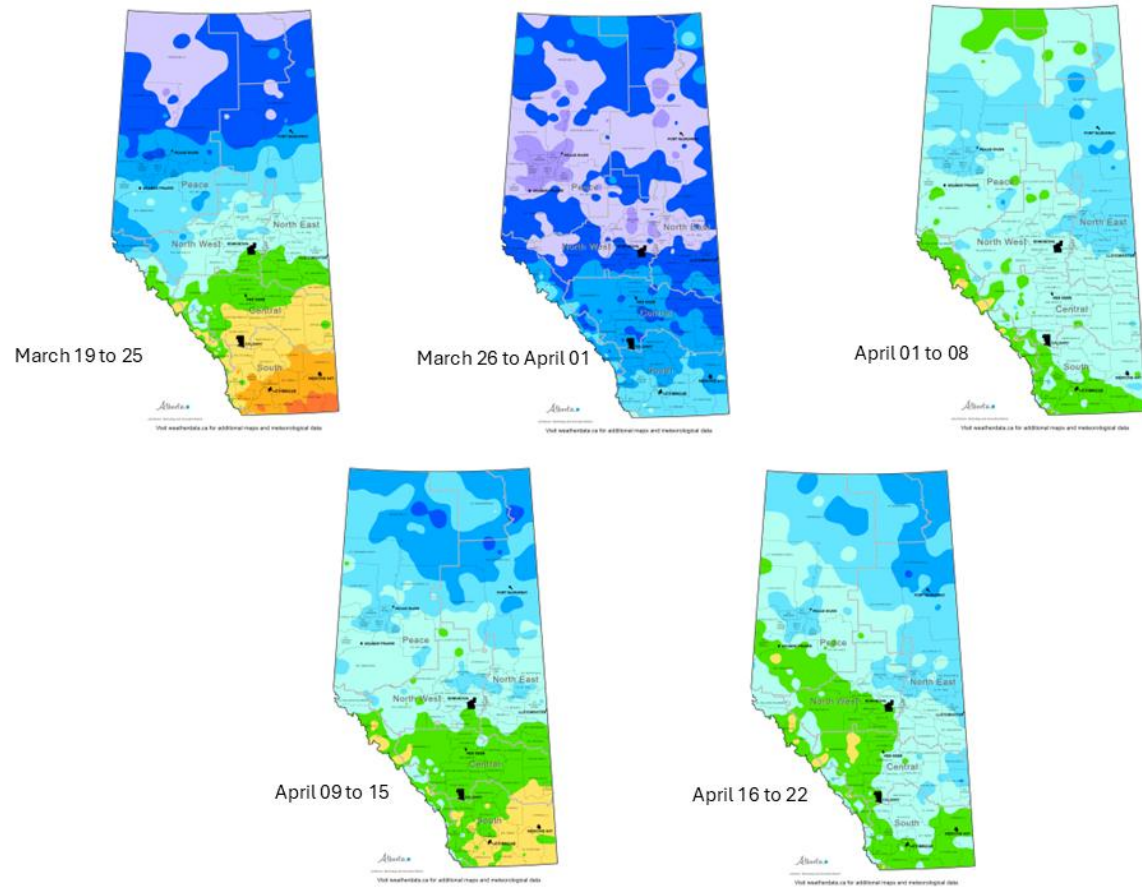
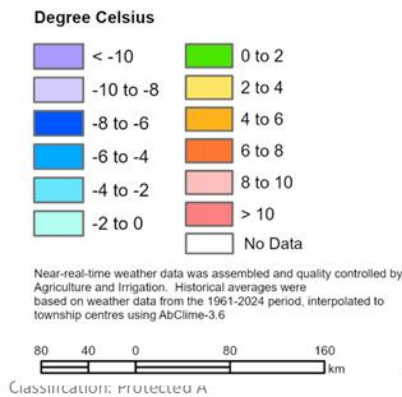


Map 8

Map 8

07-Day
Average Daily Mean
Temperature Departure
From Long Term Average

March 19th to
April 22nd

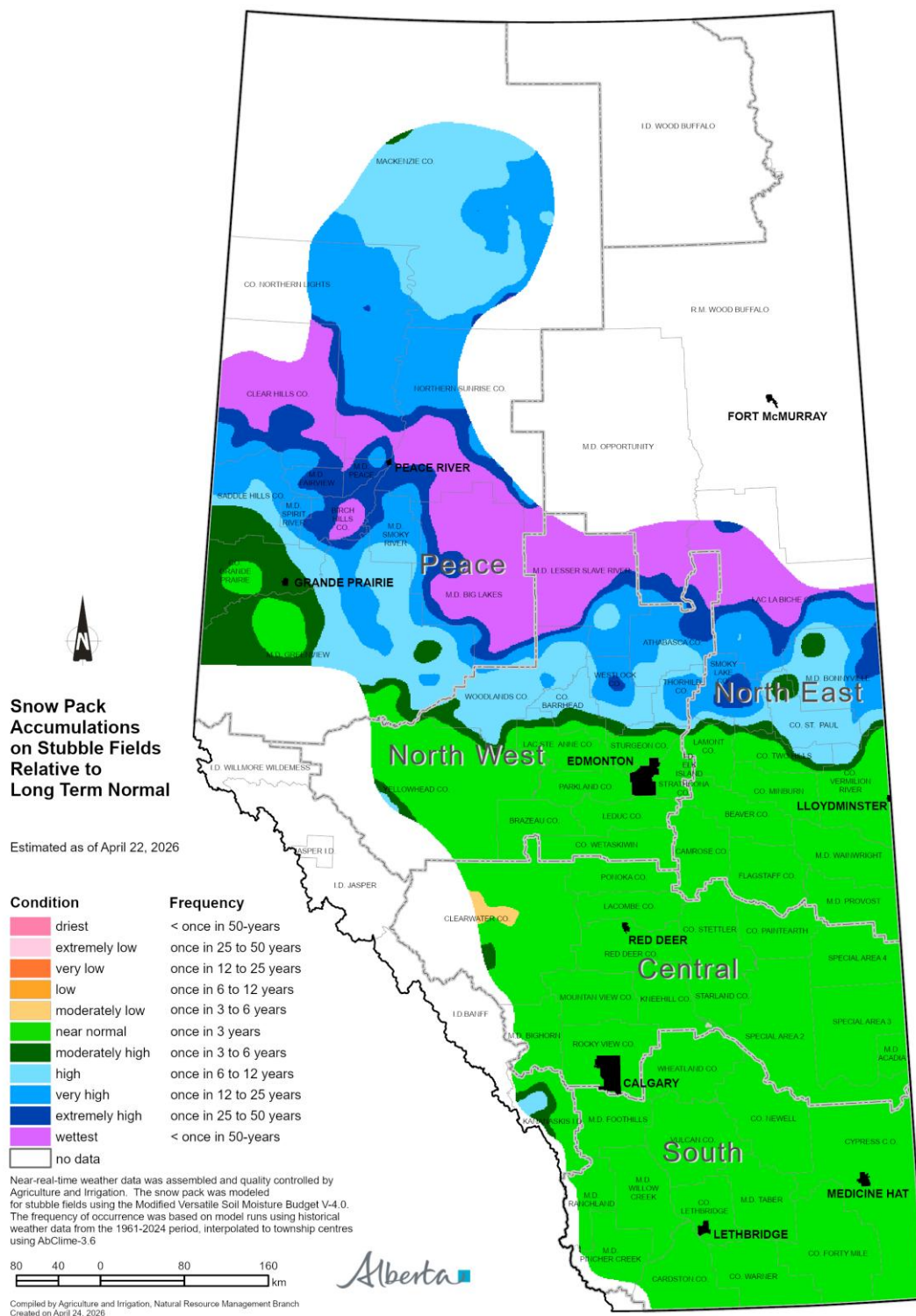


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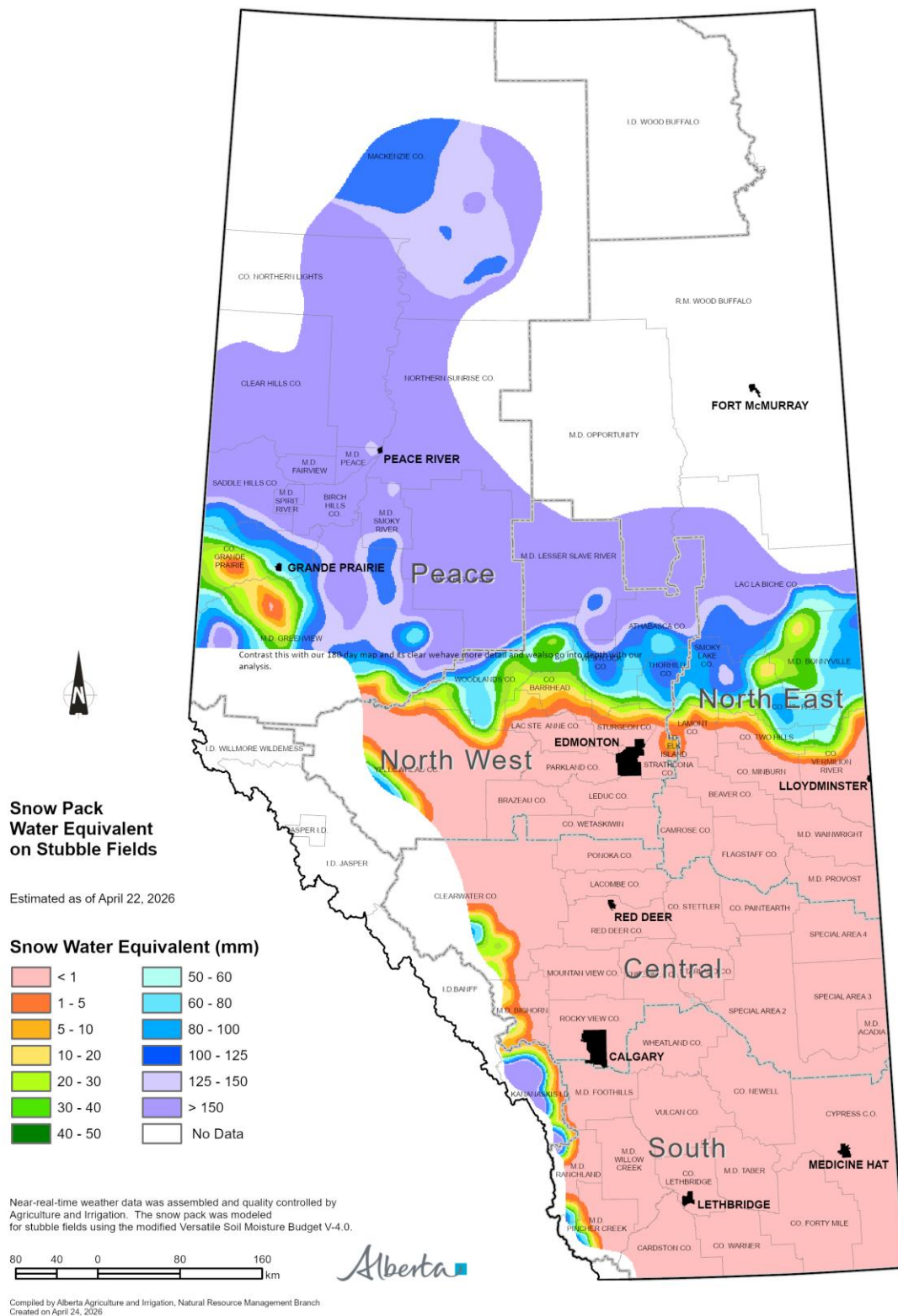
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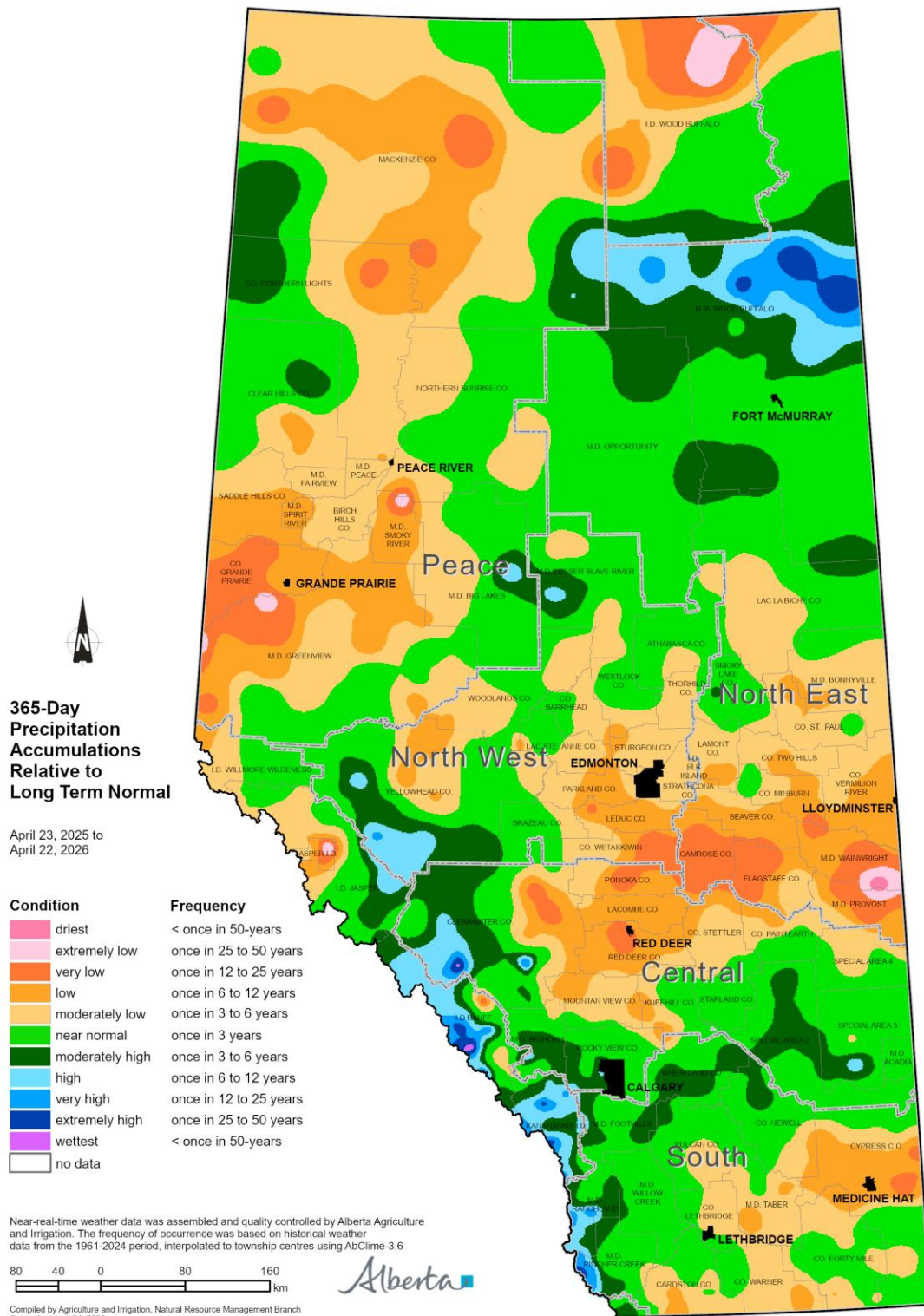
Map 9



Map 10



Map 11



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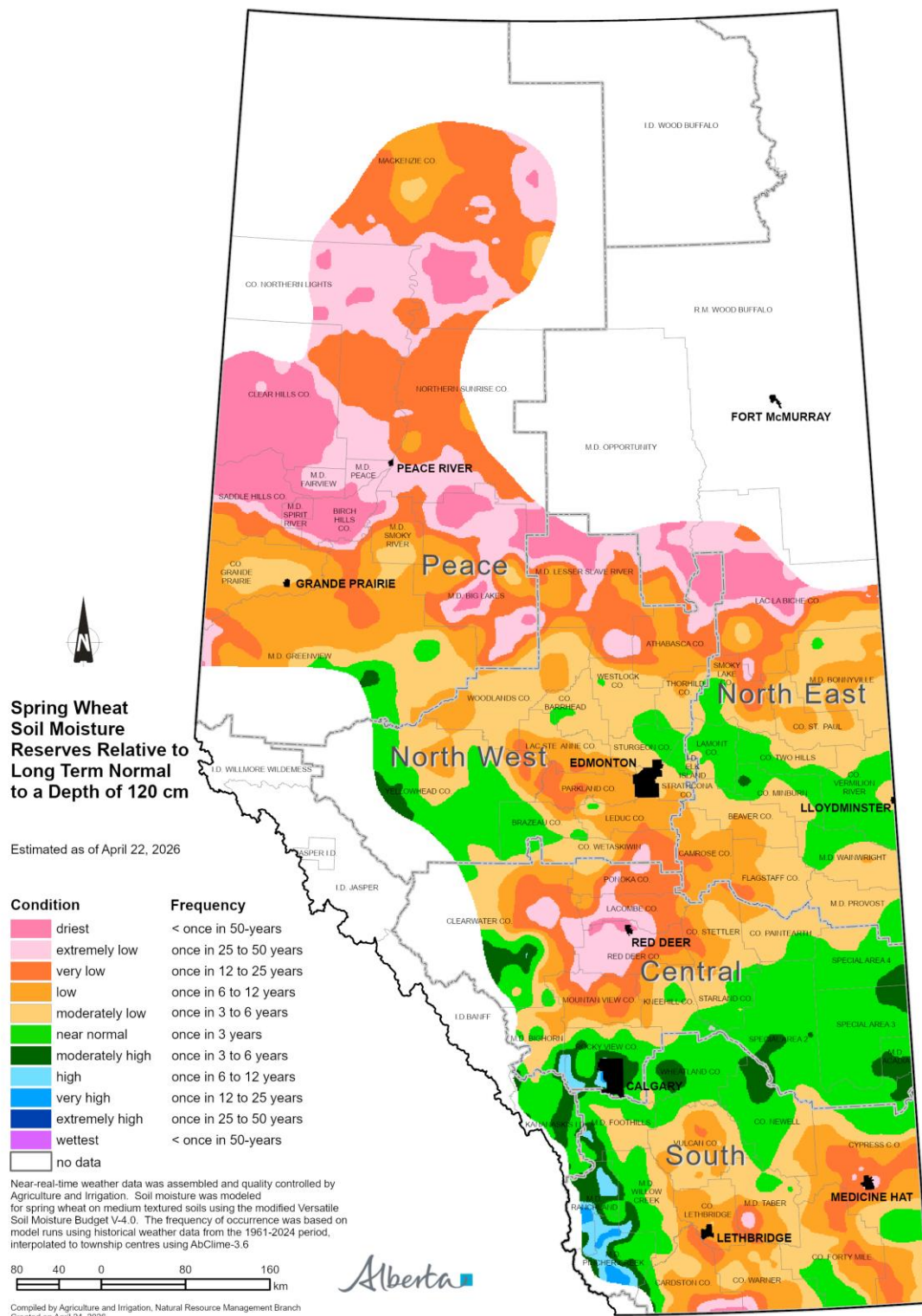
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Map 12



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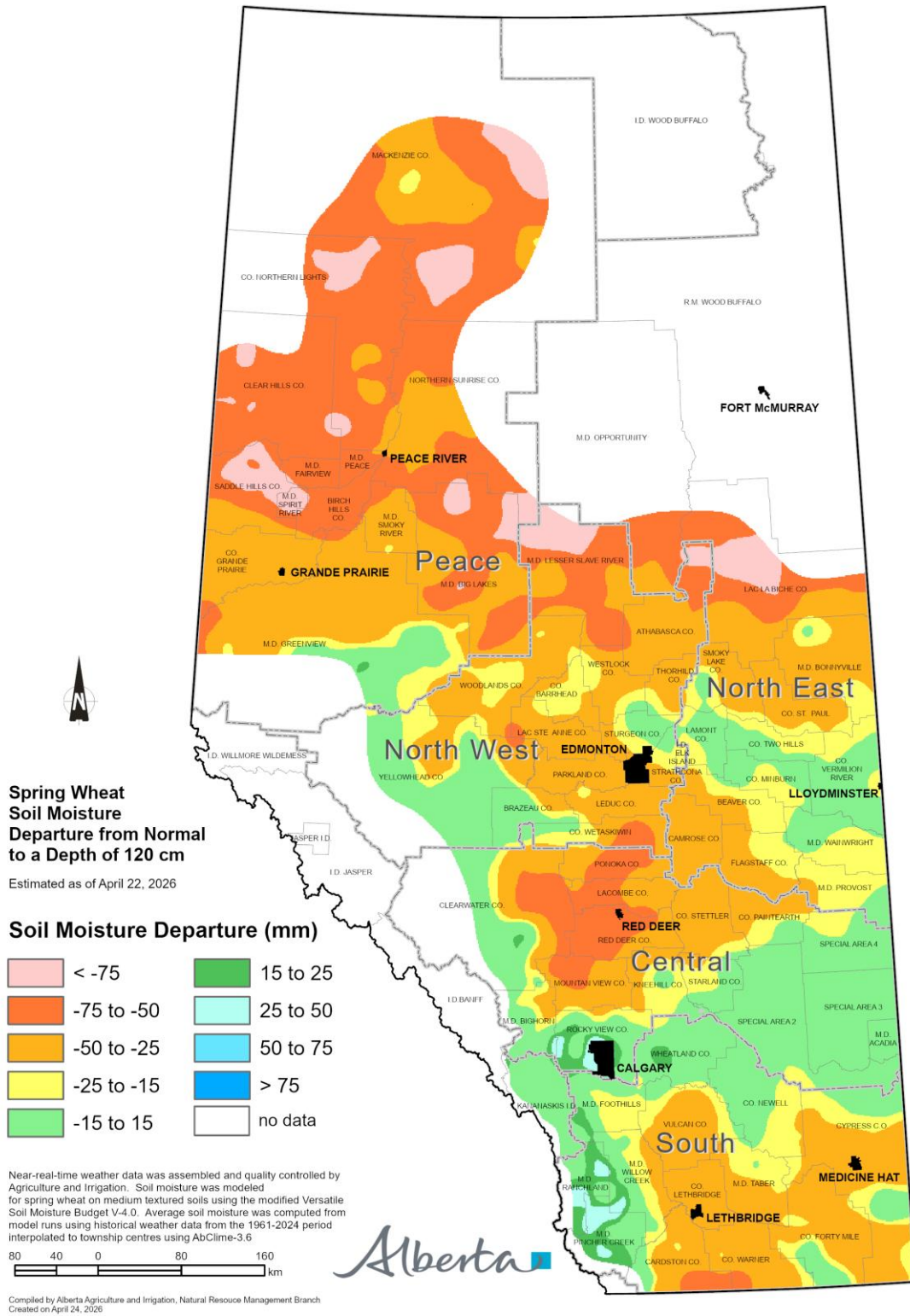
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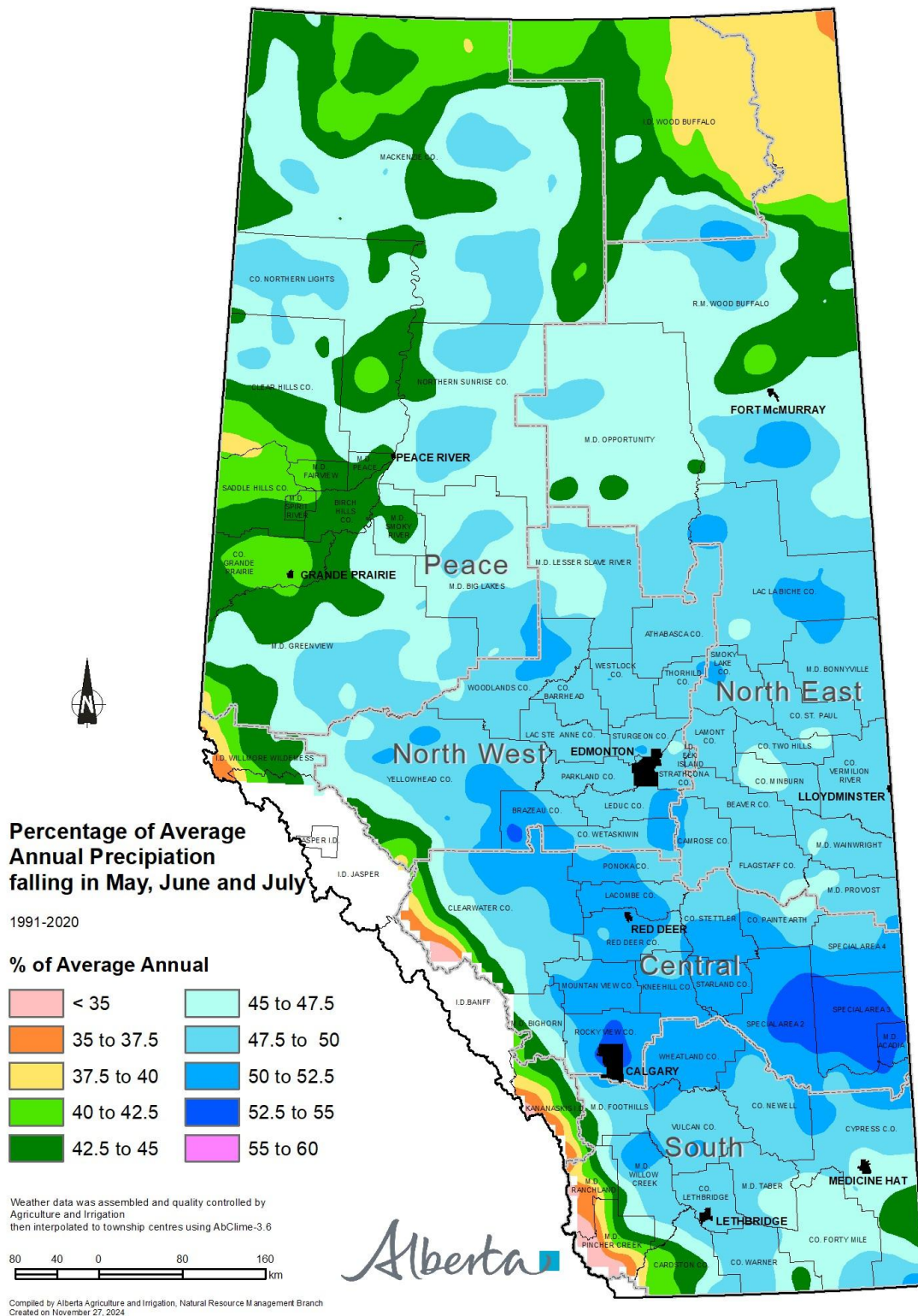
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Map 13



Map 14



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Agricultural Moisture Situation Update

May 07, 2026

Precipitation

Since the April 22 report, scattered precipitation has occurred across Alberta (**Maps 1 and 2**). Precipitation totals were notably higher during the weeks of April 22 and 29 than during the period from April 30 to May 6. In fact, very little precipitation fell across most of the province between April 30 and May 6 (**Map 4**).

The highest precipitation amounts during the week of April 22 to 29 fell largely in non-agricultural areas. Municipalities extending from Greenview south along the mountains and foothills to Cardston received between 10 and 40 mm of precipitation, with isolated areas in Ranchland and Pincher Creek exceeding 40 mm. In the North East Region, municipalities from Vermilion River east to Smoky Lake and north to Wood Buffalo also received 10 to 40 mm, with one isolated area receiving 40 to 50 mm. Precipitation totals during this week exceeded 200 per cent of normal in these areas (**Map 3**).

Some agricultural areas in portions of the North East, Central, and South Regions did receive precipitation during the week of April 22. Amounts generally ranged from 3 to 10 mm, which is below average for most locations at this time of year (**Maps 1 and 3**).

The lowest precipitation totals—less than 3 mm—were observed across much of the Peace Region (**Map 1**). This represents less than 30 per cent of average precipitation for the region and time period (**Maps 1 and 3**). Similarly low totals were recorded across large portions of the North West Region and in parts of the Central and South Regions.

Growing-season precipitation accumulation to date (April 1 to May 6) has been moderately high to high across several municipalities in the North East Region, including parts of Vermilion River, St. Paul, Lamont, Thorhild, Athabasca, Smoky Lake, Bonnyville, Lac La Biche, and Wood Buffalo (**Map 5**). These areas have received approximately 110 to 175 per cent of normal precipitation so far this growing season (**Map 6**). Much of the remaining North East Region has received near-normal growing-season precipitation.

North of Edmonton, as well as in portions of the North West Region, growing-season precipitation has been near normal so far this year (**Map 5**). However, a large area in the central part of the North West Region—

including Yellowhead, Woodlands, and parts of Lac Ste. Anne, Parkland, and Brazeau Counties—is experiencing moderately low precipitation accumulation. These areas have received roughly 30 to 90 per cent of normal precipitation to date (**Map 6**).

The Peace Region received above-normal precipitation during the previous cold season, with the highest totals observed in the central and northern Peace. So far this growing season, areas north of the Peace River have generally received near-normal precipitation (**Map 5**). In contrast, much of the southern Peace Region; from Clear Hills south to Greenview and east through Big Lakes and Opportunity to the southern portion of Northern Sunrise, has received below-normal precipitation. These areas have accumulated less than 50 per cent of normal growing-season precipitation to date (**Map 6**).

In the Central Region, eastern and southern areas, along with a few locations in the South Region, have received near-normal growing-season precipitation (**Map 5**). However, municipalities in the core of the Central Region—including Leduc, Ponoka, Lacombe, Stettler, Camrose, and parts of Red Deer and Clearview—have received below-normal precipitation. Much of this area has accumulated less than 70 per cent of normal precipitation so far this growing season (**Map 6**).

Most of the South Region is also experiencing below-normal precipitation accumulation (**Map 5**). Parts of the municipalities of Cardston, Warner, Forty Mile, and Cypress have received less than 50 per cent of normal growing-season precipitation to date (**Map 6**).

It is important to note that typical spring precipitation across Alberta is relatively limited; April precipitation usually totals only 15 to 30 mm across much of the province (**Map 7**). Historically, precipitation increases substantially in May. Long-term forecasts are currently indicating the potential for above-normal rainfall during May and June.

Temperature

Average daily temperatures so far this growing season have been near long-term normal in municipalities west of a line extending south from Saddle Hills through Greenview, Brazeau, Mountain View, Rocky

View, Foothills, Lethbridge, Taber, and Forty Mile (**Map 8**).

Municipalities east of this line have experienced moderately cool to cool average daily mean temperatures relative to long-term normal (**Map 8**). The coolest conditions occurred along the eastern border, extending from Special Areas and Acadia northward through Beaver and Westlock, and into Opportunity and Wood Buffalo.

Overall, the growing-season 7-day average daily mean temperature has ranged from near normal to moderately cooler than long-term normal (**Map 9**). So far this growing season, the first three weeks experienced near normal to moderately cooler temperatures. One week the province experienced very to extremely cool temperatures relative to normal, while another week was moderately warmer than normal.

365-Day Precipitation Trends

Year-over-year conditions remain highly variable, with significant precipitation deficits persisting across much of Alberta (**Map 10**). In most of the Central, North East, North West, and Peace Regions, 365-day precipitation totals range from moderately low to very low relative to long-term normal.

Several areas; including portions of the municipalities of Grande Prairie, Greenview, Northern Lights, Camrose, Flagstaff, Beaver, Wainwright, and Provost; are experiencing very to extremely low 365-day precipitation accumulations. In contrast, only a few isolated areas across the province show normal to moderately high 365-day precipitation totals compared with long-term normal (**Map 10**).

Soil Moisture Reserves

Estimated soil moisture reserves as of May 6 have changed since the previous report. Spring wheat soil moisture reserves, assessed to a depth of 120 cm and expressed relative to long-term normal, have begun to improve in parts of the Peace Region and in northern portions of the North West and North East Regions as cold-season precipitation continues to infiltrate the soil profile (**Map 11**). Despite these improvements, soil moisture reserves across much of this area remain moderately to very low compared with long-term normals.

Across the Peace Region and northern portions of the North West and North East Regions, soil moisture reserves are estimated to be 60 mm or greater (**Map 12**). This corresponds to a soil moisture

departure of approximately -15 to -50 mm relative to normal at the 120 cm depth (**Map 13**).

South of a line running through the municipalities of Woodlands, Barrhead, Westlock, Thorhild, Smoky Lake, and Bonnyville, spring wheat soil moisture reserves have generally declined relative to long-term normal (**Map 11**). The largest declines are estimated along the southern border of the province, and particularly in and around the Red Deer area.

In parts of the agricultural region south of Edmonton, estimated soil moisture reserves are less than 80 mm, with most areas below 60 mm at the 120 cm depth (**Map 12**). While some locations show only minor departures of -5 to -15 mm from normal, many areas are experiencing more substantial deficits ranging from -25 to -75 mm (**Map 13**).

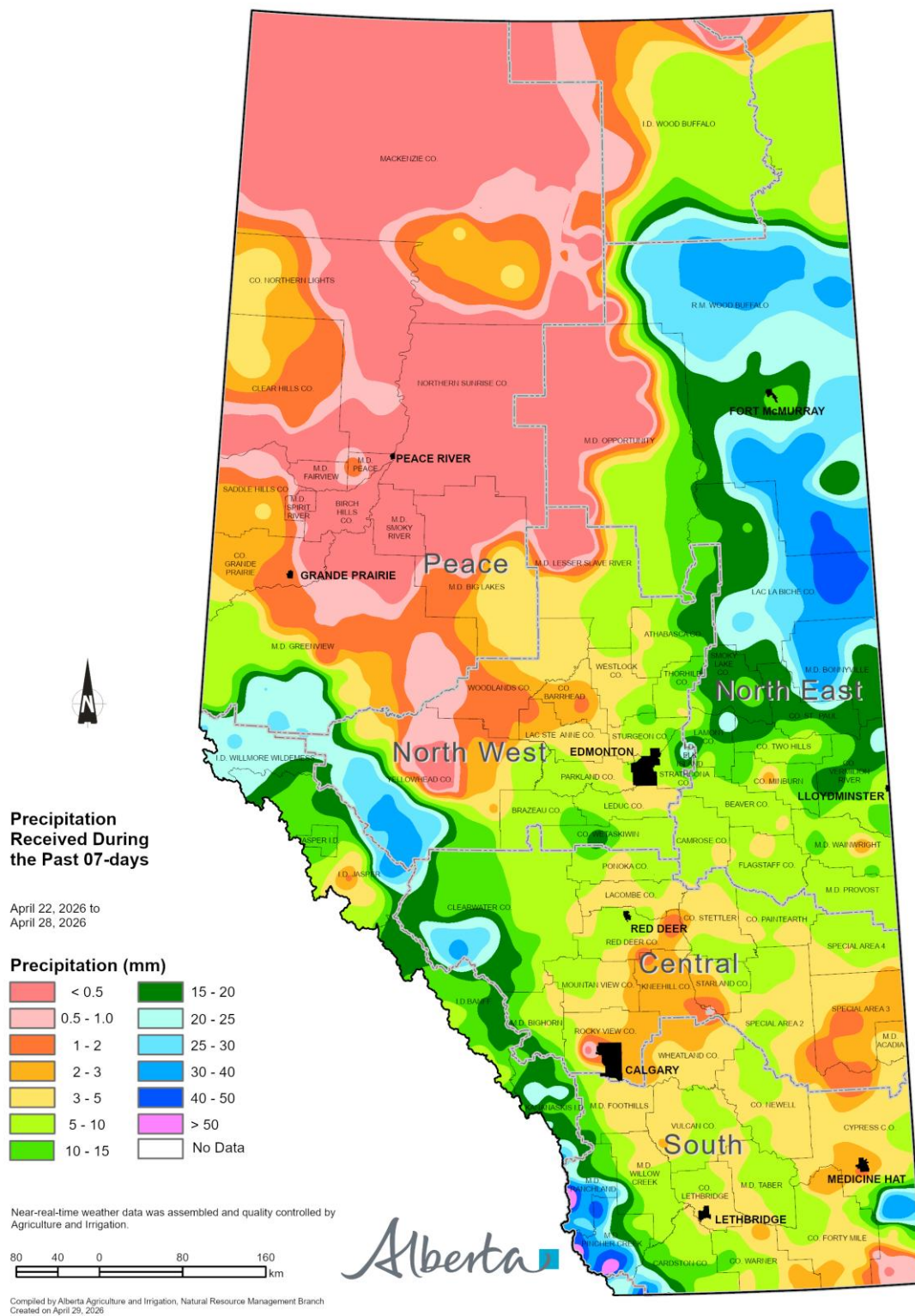
Perspective

Alberta's growing season is just beginning, and the province's wettest period is still ahead (**Map 7**). From an agricultural perspective, May, June, and July are the most critical months for moisture, accounting for more than 50 per cent of annual precipitation in the Central Region and at least 40 per cent across much of the Peace Region (**Map 14**).

Current conditions have been favourable, allowing early fieldwork and seeding to begin and progress rapidly across much of the province. Forecasts continue to suggest the potential for additional rainfall in the coming weeks.

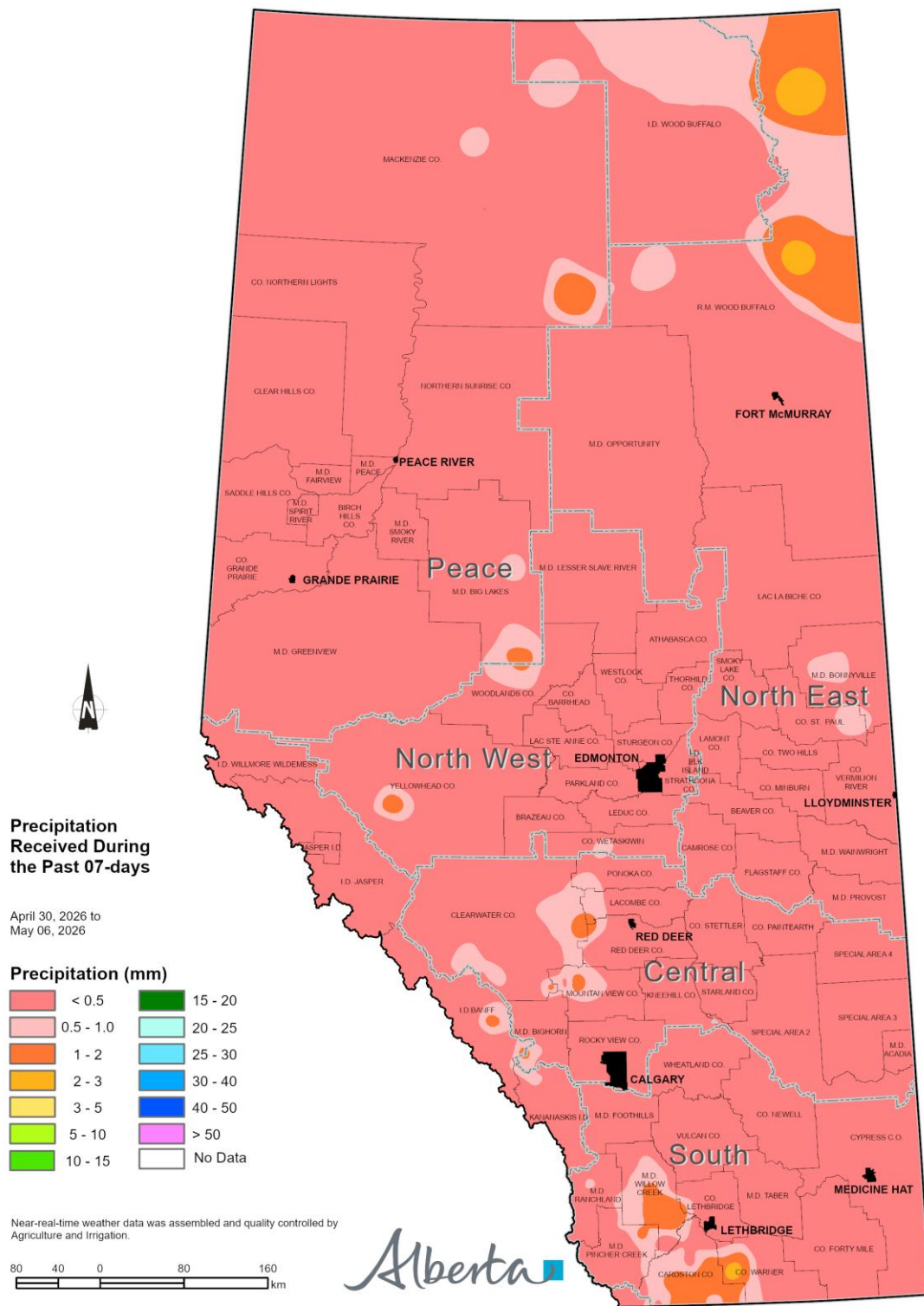
For now, patience remains important, with the expectation that timely spring precipitation will support crop development and help replenish soil moisture reserves, which are essential later in the growing season.

Map 1



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Map 2



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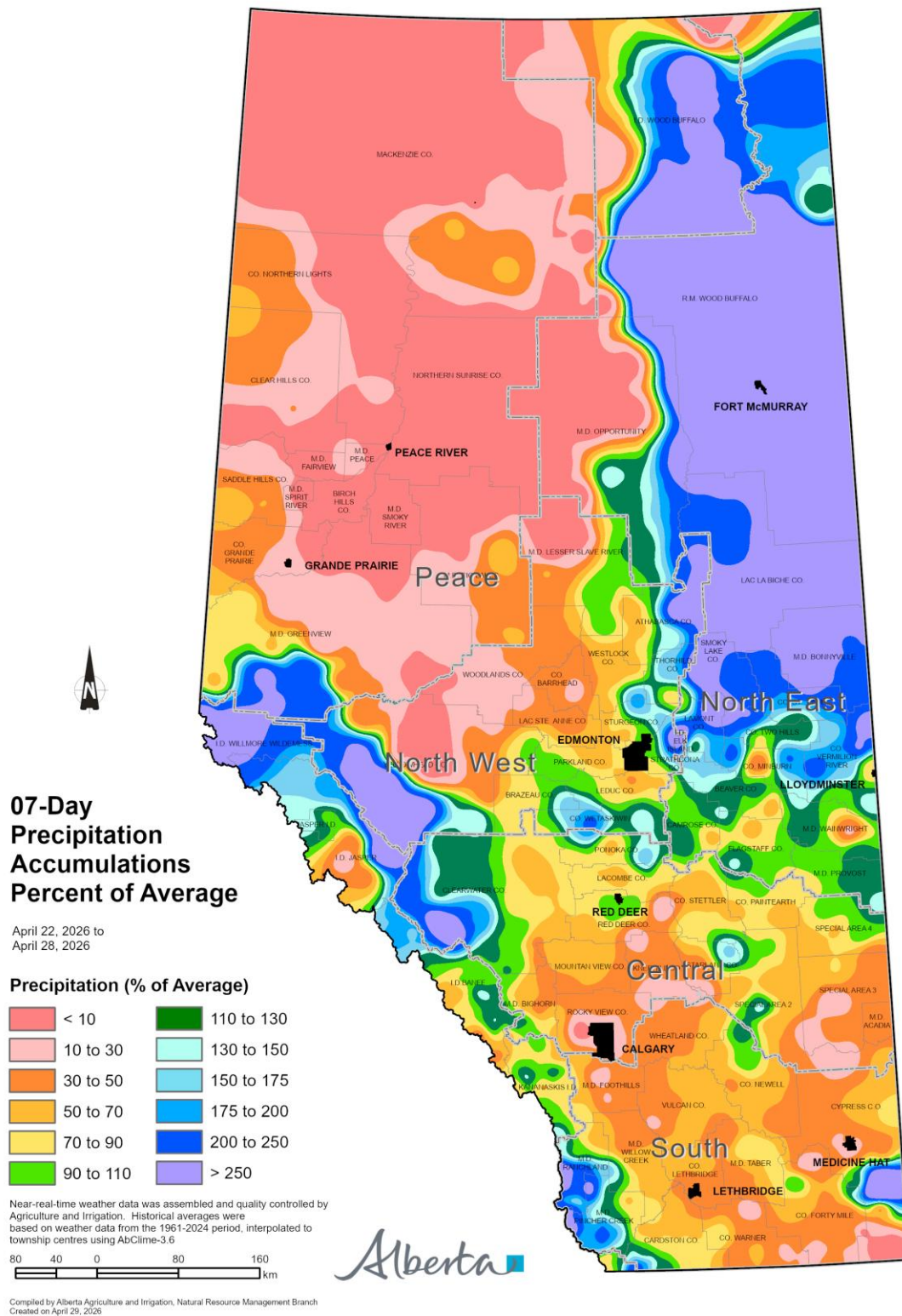
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Map 3



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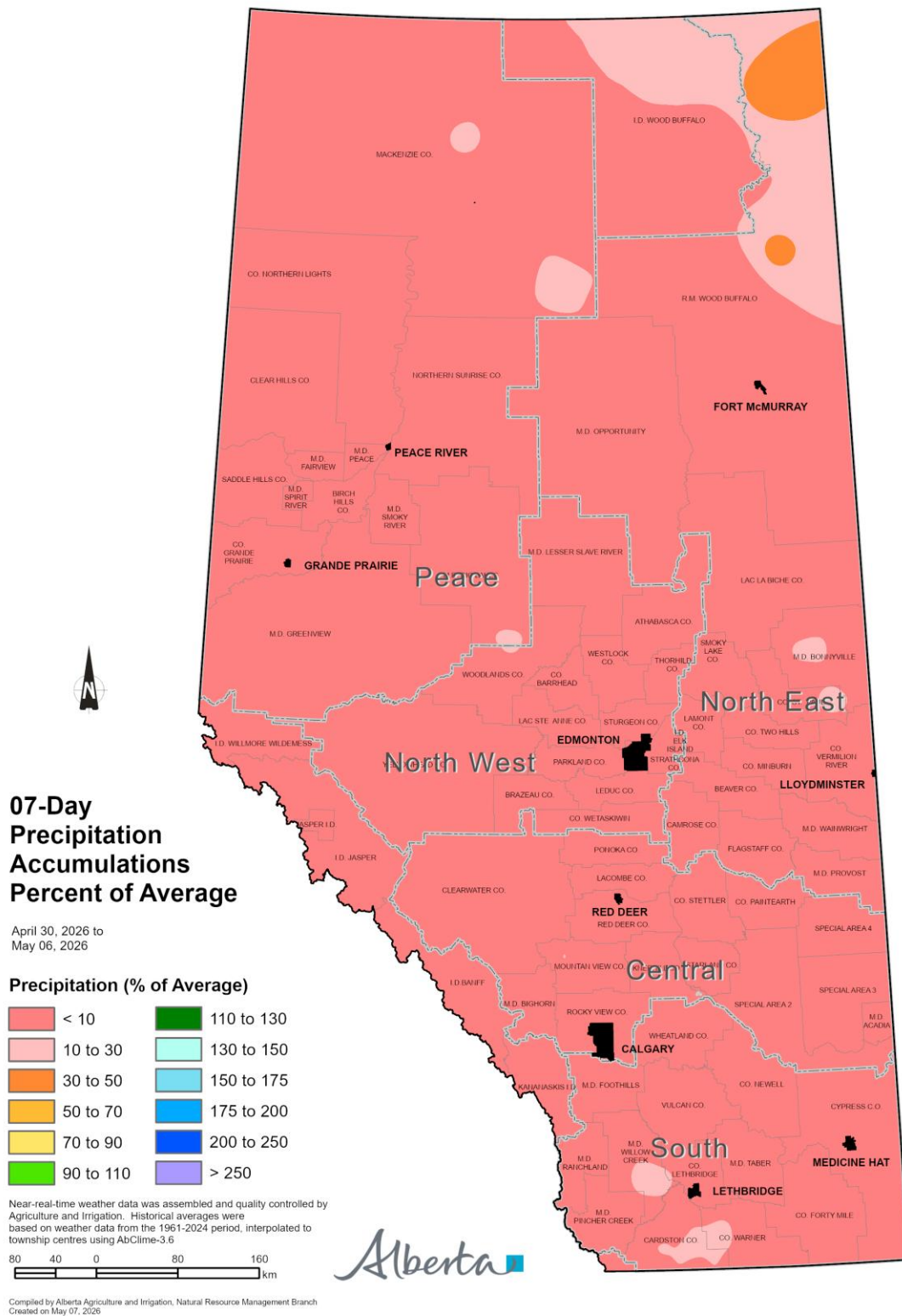
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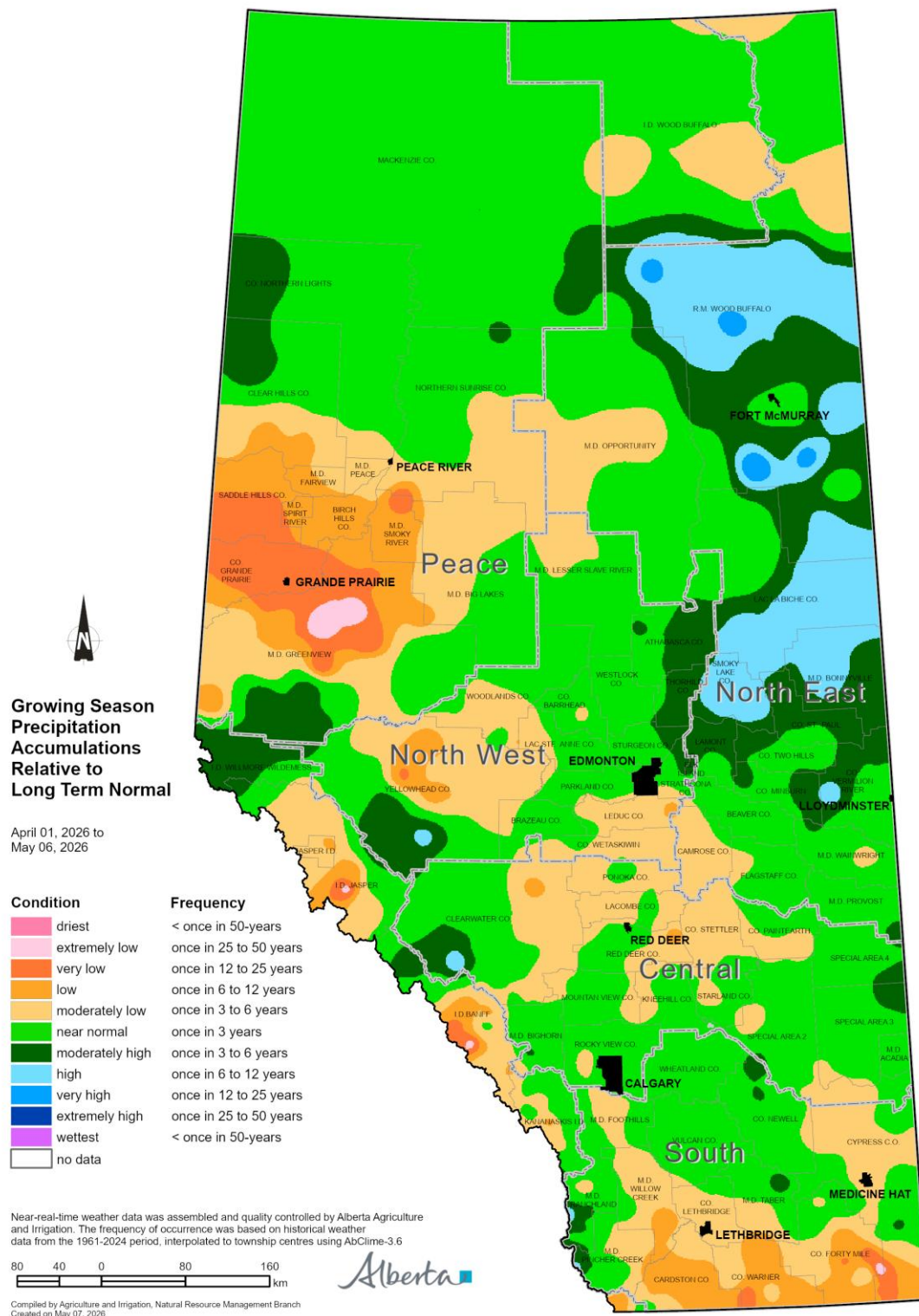
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Map 4



Map 5



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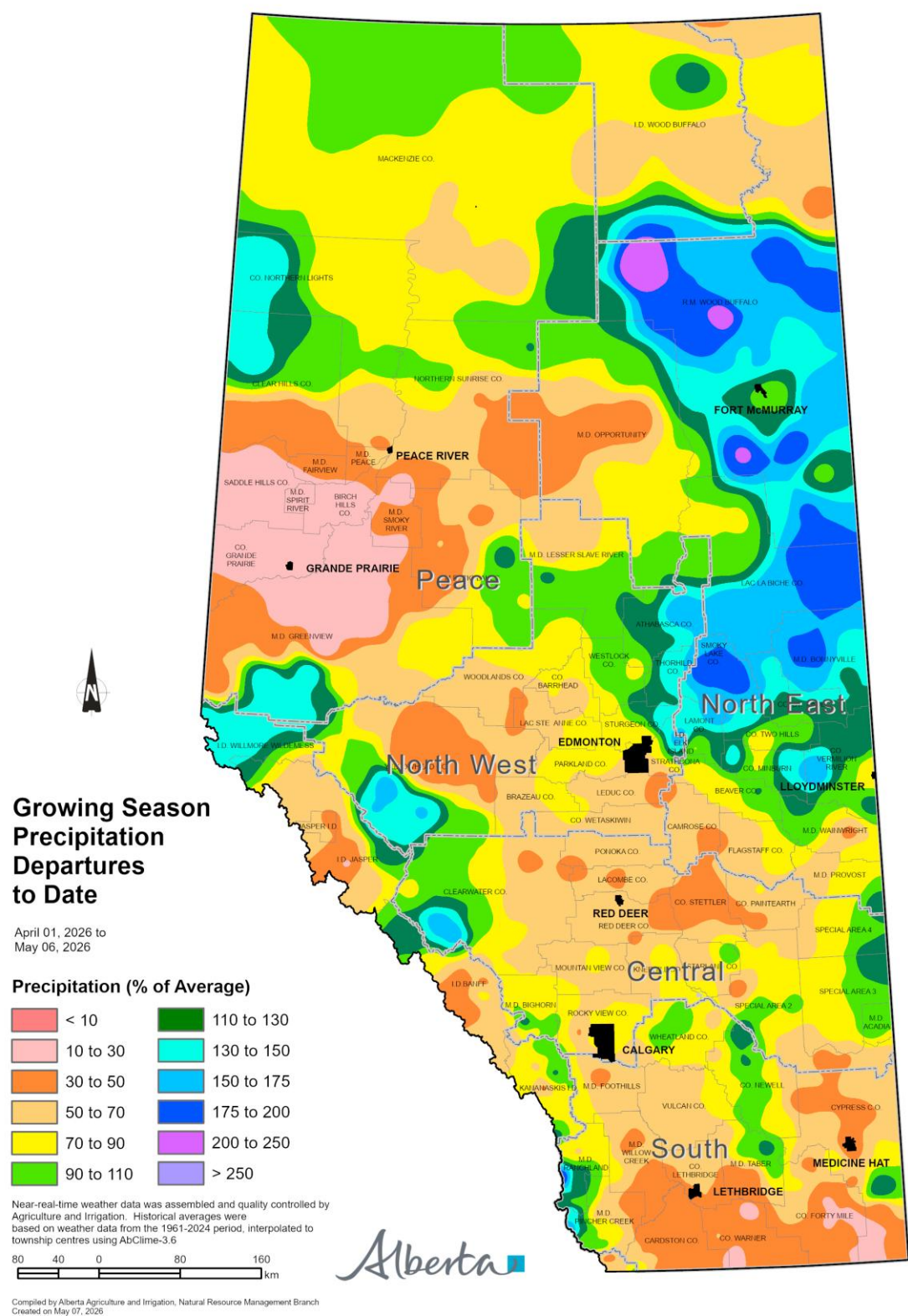
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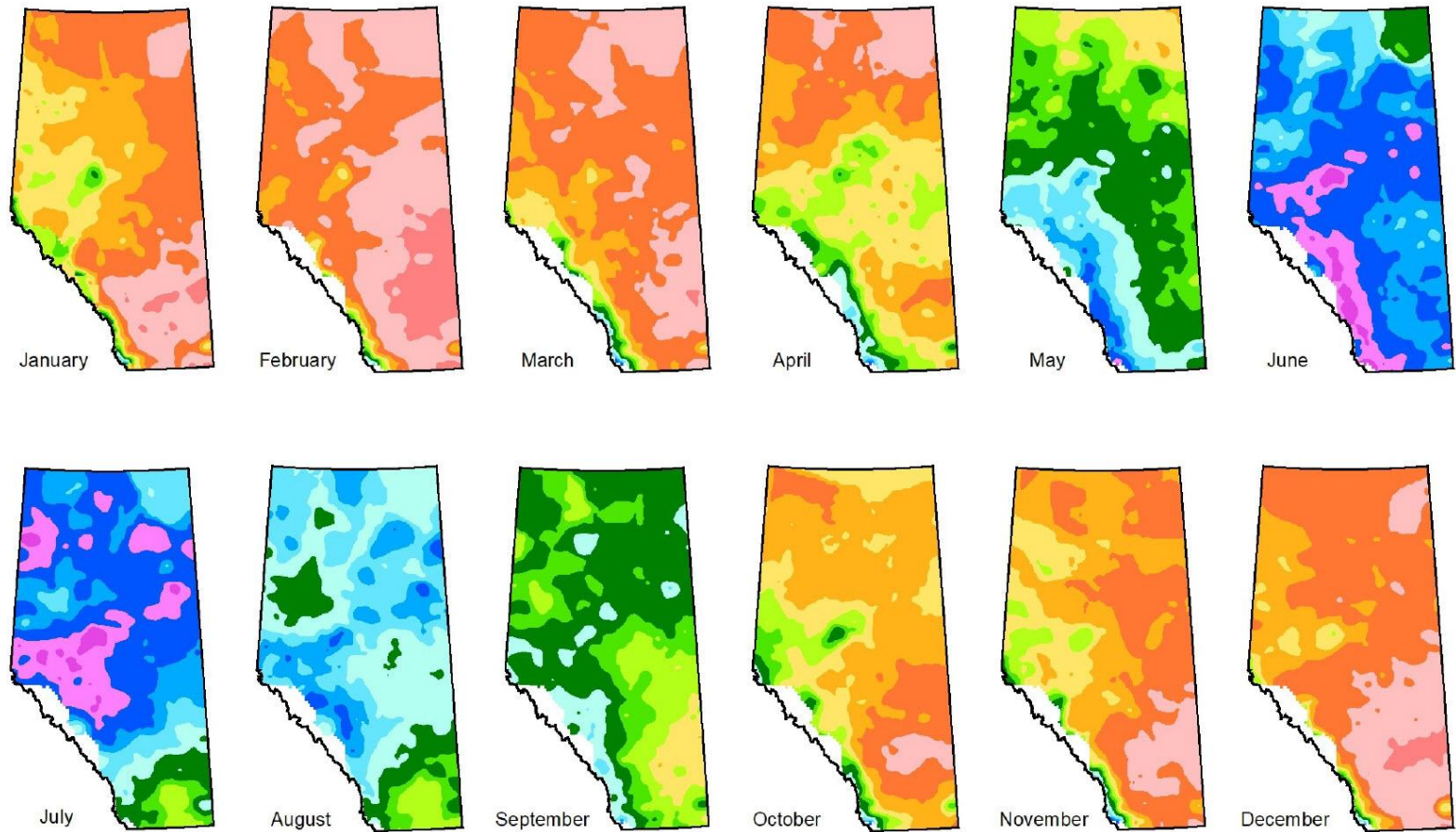
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Map 6



Map 7



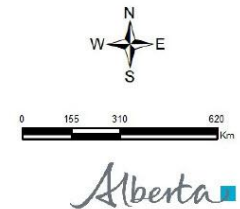
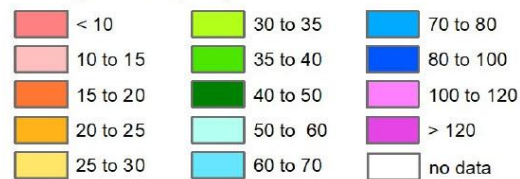
Normal Monthly Precipitation Accumulations

1991-2020

Weather data was assembled and quality controlled by
Agriculture Forestry and Rural Economic Development
then interpolated to township centres using AbClima-3.6

Compiled by Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Economic Development, Natural Resource Management Branch
Created on March 29, 2022

Precipitation (mm)

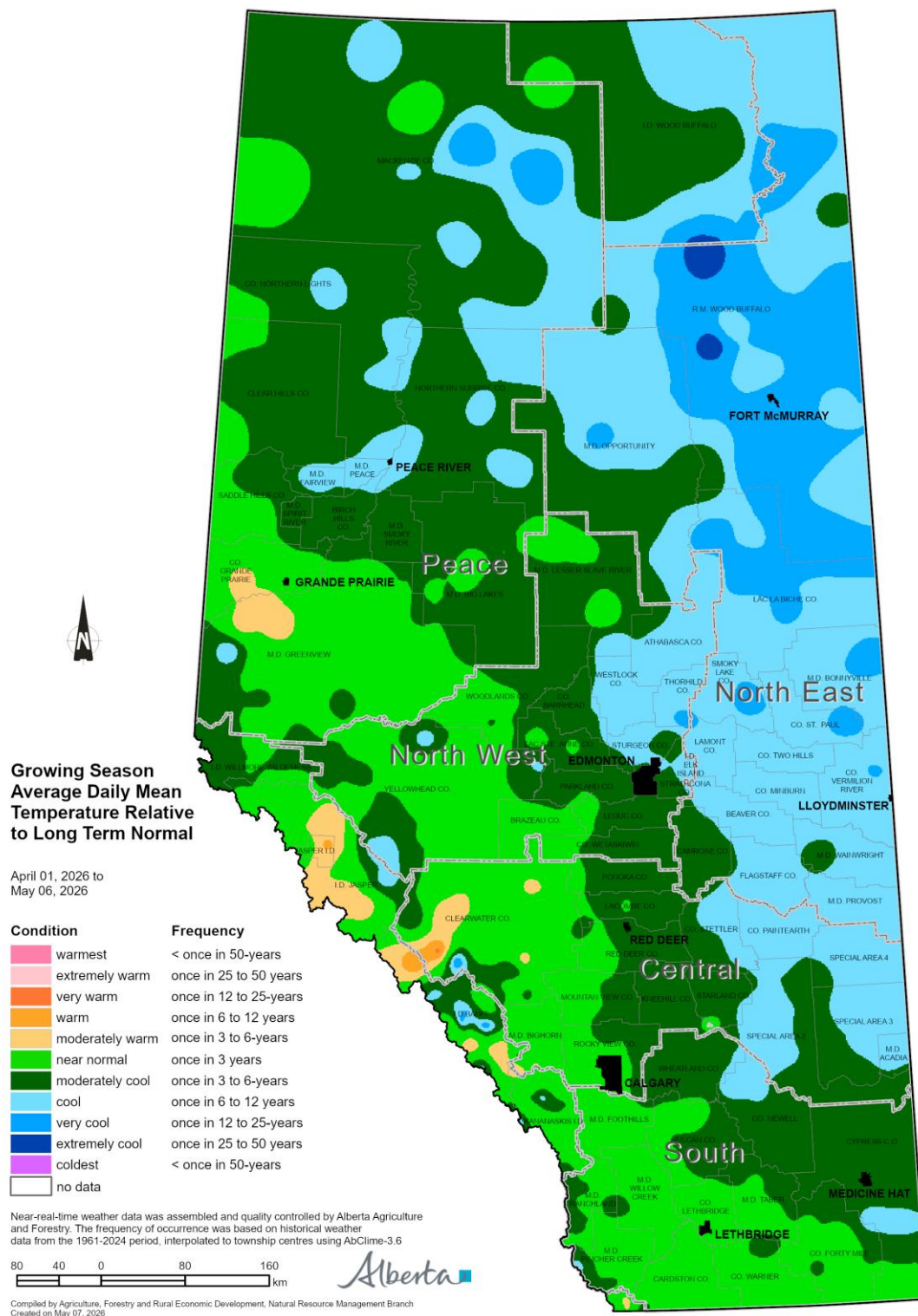


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Map 8



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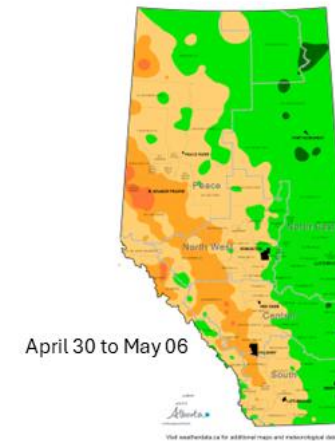
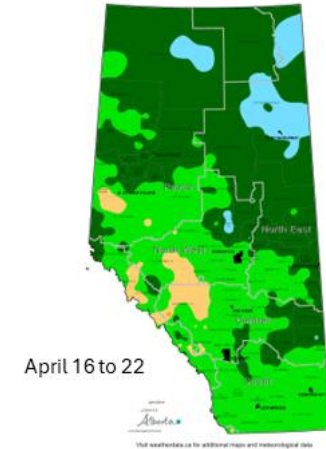
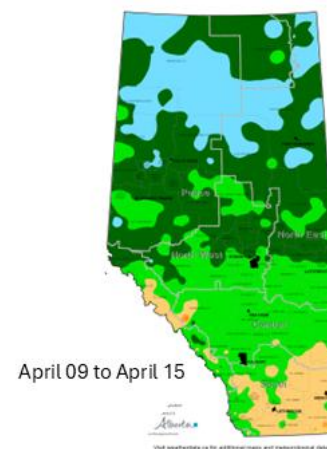
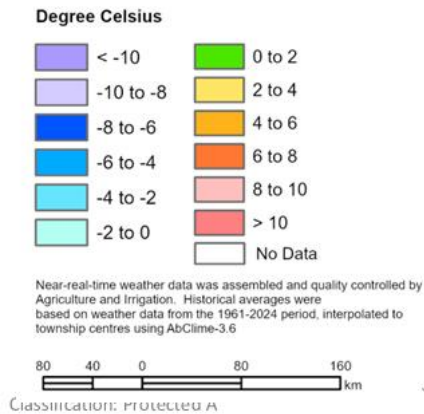


Map 9

Map 9

07-Day
Average Daily Mean
Temperature Departure
From Long Term Average

April 02nd to
May 06th

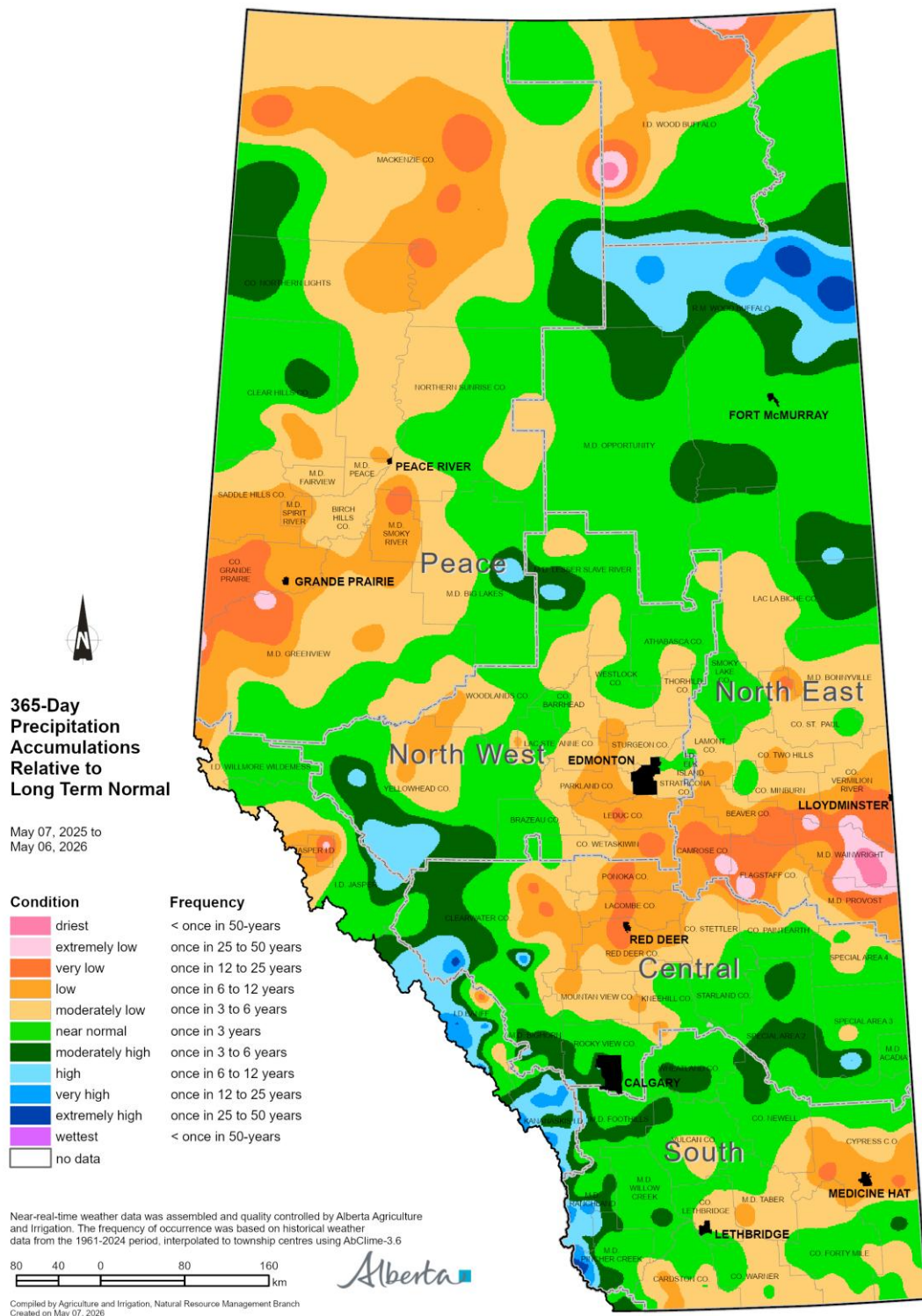


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Map 10



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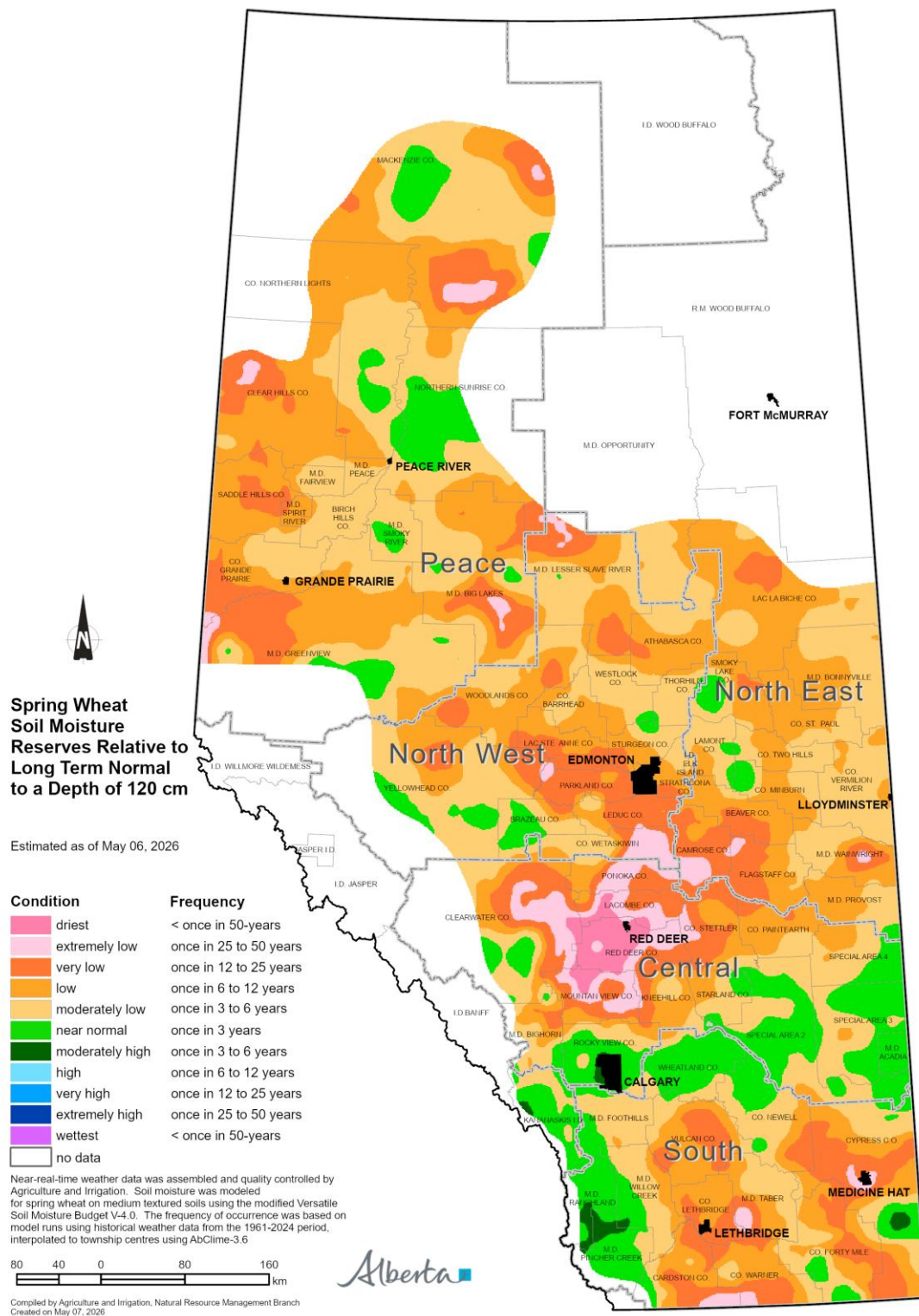
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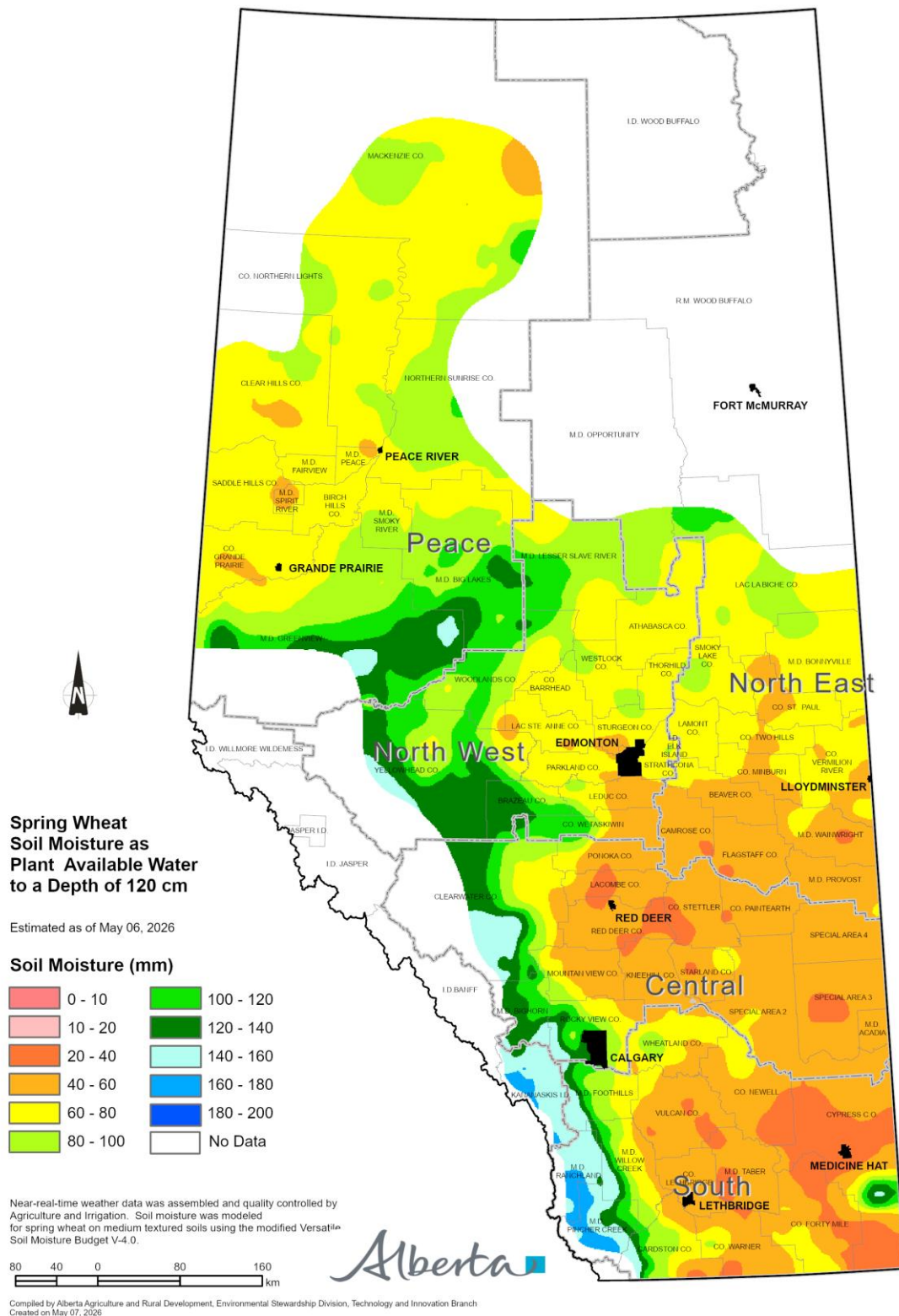


Map 11



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Map 12



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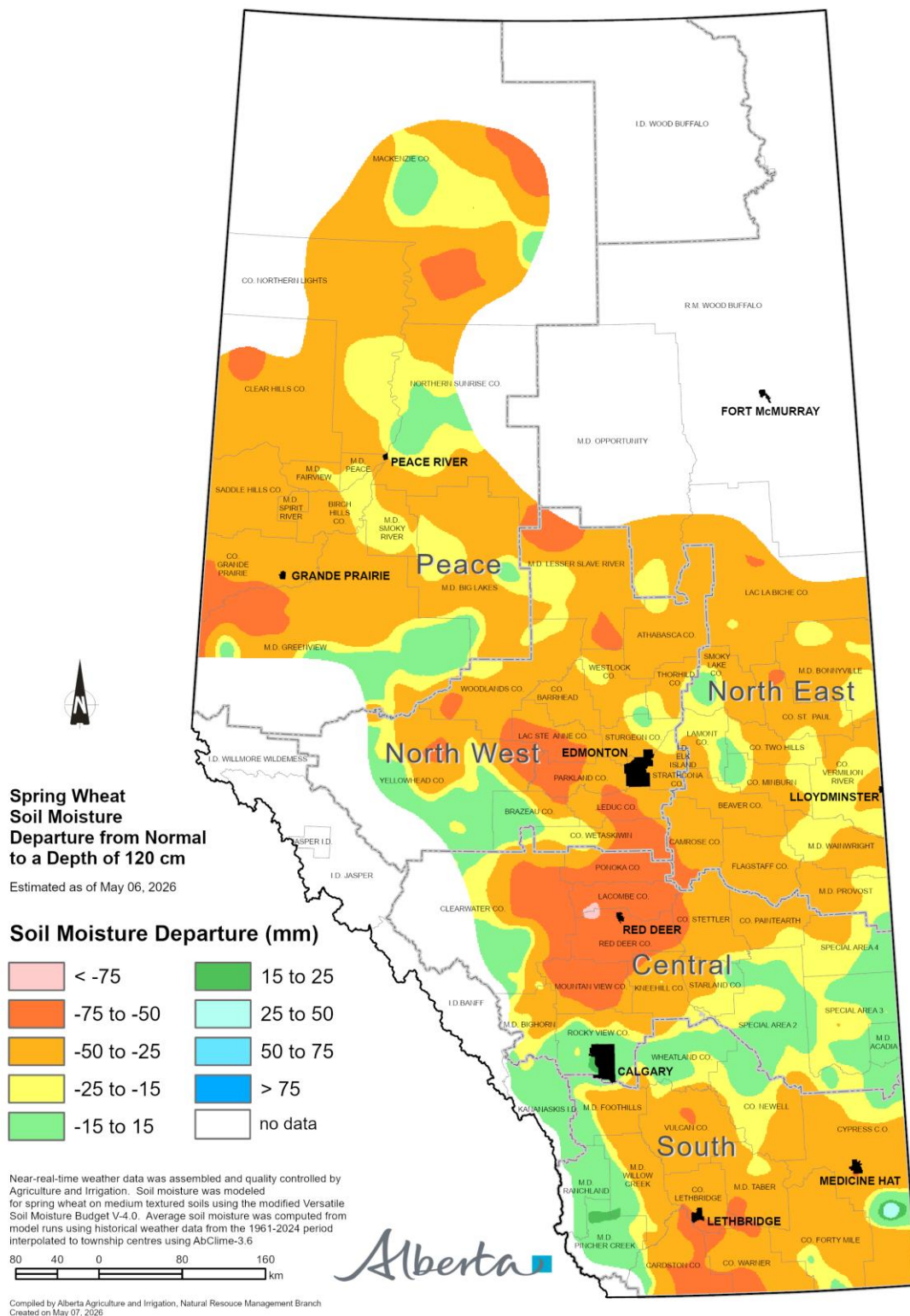
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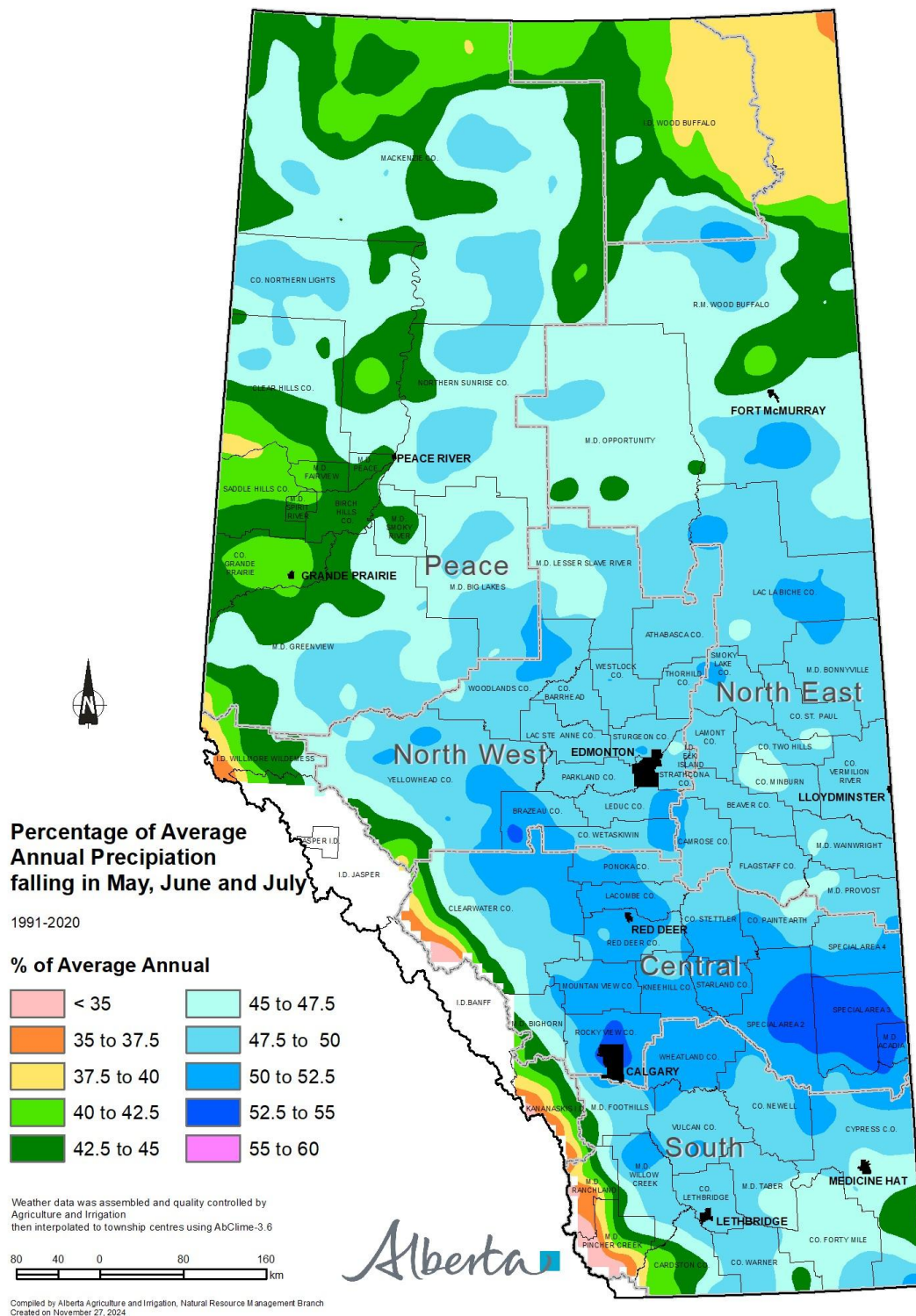
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Map 13



Map 14



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Agricultural Moisture Situation Update

May 20, 2026

Precipitation

Most of the province received some precipitation this past week (**Maps 1**). The highest precipitation fell along the mountains and along a line running diagonally from the County of Northern Lights to the MD of Bonnyville.

In the South Region the highest precipitation fell across the municipalities of Pincher Creek and Kananaskis, in the west, and Cypress, Taber, Newell, and Special Area #2 and #3 (**Map 1**). These areas received 20 to 40 mm, with some localized spots exceeding 40mm of precipitation.

The remaining area in the South Region received less than 20 mm of precipitation (**Map 1**). With several areas within Carston, Warner, and Lethbridge Counties receiving less than 5 mm of precipitation this past week.

In the Central Region the highest precipitation fell in the west across Yellowhead and Clearwater Counties and across Minburn, Vermillion River, and Wainwright to the east (**Map 1**). These areas received 20 to 40 mm, with some localized spots exceeding 40 mm of precipitation. In contrast a large area in the heart of the Central Region received less than 5 mm of precipitation, including the municipalities of Kneehill, Starland, Red Deer, Stettler, Lacombe, Ponoka, Camrose, Wetaskiwin, and Leduc. In between these two areas about 5 to 20 mm of precipitation fell.

Significant rain fell in the municipalities along the eastern half of the North East Region (**Map 1**). The municipalities of Two Hills, St. Paul, Smoky Lake, Lac La Biche, and Bonnyville received more than 20 mm of precipitation, this week. The rest of the Region received 5 to 20 mm of precipitation.

The North West Region did not receive as much rain as the North East, a few areas receiving above 15 mm (**Map 1**). Most of the Region received 5 to 15 mm. The County of Barrhead, and parts of Lac Ste Anne and Woodlands County received less than 5 mm.

Precipitation varied dramatically across the Peace Region (**Map 1**). The highest rainfall in this region fell across the municipalities of Northern Lights, Clearhills Fairview, Peace, and Norther Sunrise. These

municipalities received 20 to 50 mm, with a few areas receiving more than 50 mm of precipitation.

Growing-season precipitation (April 1 to May 20) remains moderately low to low across most of the South, Central, North West, and Peace Regions (**Map 2**). In the South Region, improvements to near normal growing season precipitation were seen in parts of Cypress, Forty Mile, Vulcan, and into the Special Areas. In contrast, some areas with in Cardston, Willow Creek, Lethbridge, and Warner Counties saw a decline in growing-season precipitation accumulation, relative to normal, over the past week. Growing-season precipitation for most of the South Region is 30 to 70 percent lower than average so far this season (**Map 3**).

In the Central Region, there were slight improvements along the eastern and western edges of the Region, as precipitation received this week improved growing-season precipitation levels (**Map 2**). Other areas across the Region did not receive significant rainfall and as a result, growing-season precipitation went from moderately low to low in the heart of the region. Most of the Central Region has received less than 70 percent of normal precipitation (**Map 3**). A large area along Highway 2 and around Red Deer, including Leduc, Wetaskiwin, Ponoka, Lacombe, Red Deer, Camrose, Stettler, Flagstaff, Paintearth, Mountain View, Kneehill, and Starland, has received less than 50 percent of normal growing-season precipitation to date.

In the North West Region only the municipalities of Yellowhead and Willmore Wilderness have near-normal growing-season precipitation or higher (**Map 2**). Most municipalities in the Region have below normal growing-season precipitation. Growing-season precipitation for most of the Region is 30 to 70 percent lower than average so far this season (**Map 3**).

In the southern Peace Region, from Clear Hills south to Greenview and east to Big Lakes, conditions range from very low to extremely low (**Map 2**), with less than 50 percent of normal precipitation accumulated to date for much of the area (**Map 3**). Near normal growing season precipitation has been received in parts of Clearhills, Northern Lights, Northern Sunrise, and Mackenzie.

In contrast to most of the other regions, the entire North East Region has received near-normal to higher than normal growing-season accumulation to date (**Map 2**). The highest growing season precipitation has been received in the municipalities of Smoky Lake, St. Paul, Bonnyville, and Lac La Biche. These areas have received 130 to 200 percent of their average growing-season precipitation to date (Map 3).

It is important to note that precipitation typically increases substantially in May (**Map 4**). Long-term forecasts continue to indicate the potential for rainfall across many areas of Alberta.

Temperature

Average daily temperatures so far this growing season have been near long-term normal across much of the province (**Map 5**). Municipalities east of a line extending from Cypress, Special Areas No. 2 north through Stettler, Camrose, and Westlock, and into Opportunity and Mackenzie, have experienced moderately cool to cool conditions so far, this growing season. Similarly, the central Peace Region, including Smoky River, Fairview, Peace, and Northern Sunrise, have also recorded moderately cooler-than-normal average daily mean temperatures relative to normal.

Only a few scattered areas in municipalities of Grand Prairie, Greenview, Yellowhead, Clearwater, and down to Bighorn, Foothills, Willow Creek, Pincher Creek and Cardston are reporting moderately warmer growing-season average daily mean temperatures relative to long term normal (**Map 5**).

Soil Moisture Reserves

Estimated soil moisture reserves as of May 20 have declined across most of the province since the last report (**Map 6**). However, some areas, particularly in the northern Peace Region, eastern North East Region, and along the western and eastern edges of the North West, Central, and South Regions, have seen improvements in soil moisture relative to long-term normal.

In the Peace Region, soil moisture reserves are estimated to range from 40 to 120 mm (**Map 7**), representing a deficit of approximately 25 to 75 mm below normal at the 120 cm depth (**Map 8**).

In the North West Region, soil moisture reserves are estimated at 40 to 80 mm (**Map 7**), corresponding to a deficit of approximately 25 to 75 mm below normal at the 120 cm depth (**Map 8**).

Across the North East Region, soil moisture reserves are estimated to range from 60 to 120 mm (**Map 7**),

corresponding to a departure of approximately -25 to +15 mm from normal at the 120 cm depth (**Map 8**).

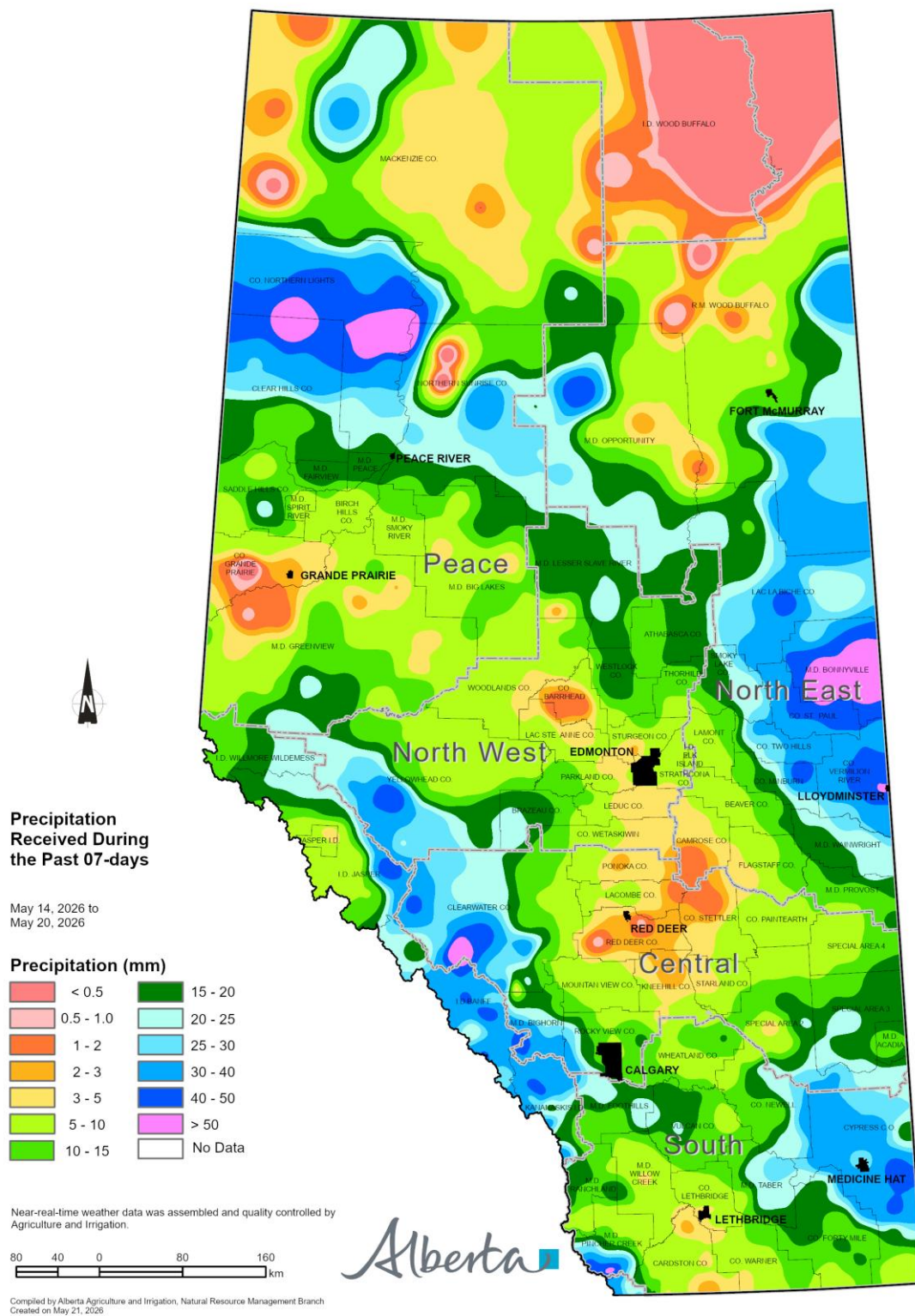
Across most of the Central and South Regions, soil moisture reserves are estimated to be between 40 and 60 mm at the 120 cm depth (**Map 7**), representing a deficit of approximately 25 to 75 mm below normal (**Map 8**). In some areas, reserves are lower, ranging from 20 to 40 mm, which is 50 to 75 mm below long-term normal at the 120 cm depth.

Perspective

Alberta's growing season is just beginning, and the province's wettest period is still ahead (**Map 4**). From an agricultural perspective, May through July are the most critical months for moisture, contributing more than 50% of annual precipitation in the Central Region and at least 40% across much of the Peace Region (**Map 9**).

Forecasts continue to indicate the potential for additional rainfall in the coming weeks. Timely spring precipitation will be key to supporting crop development and replenishing soil moisture reserves, which are critical later in the growing season.

Map 1



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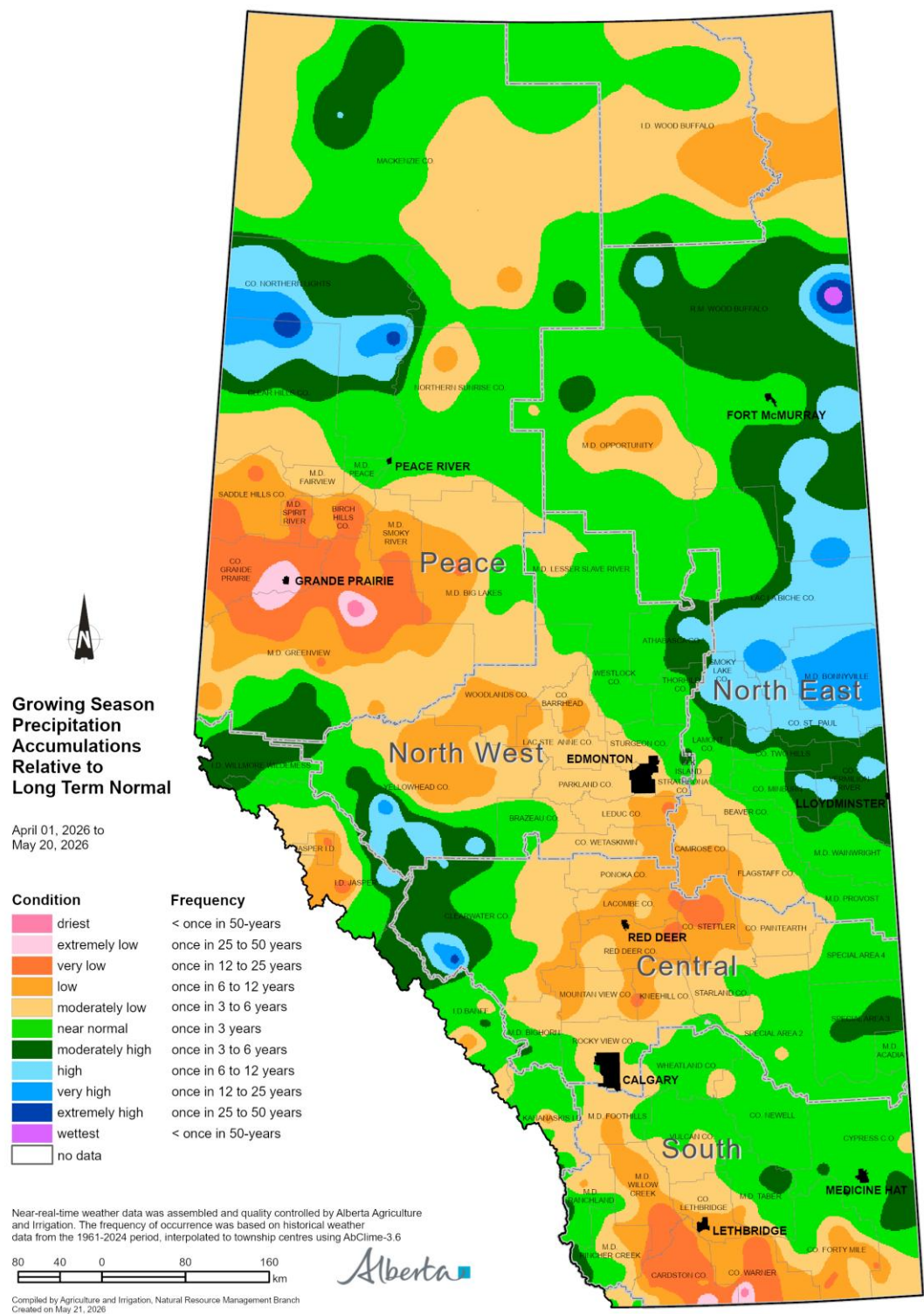
<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/moisture-situation-update>

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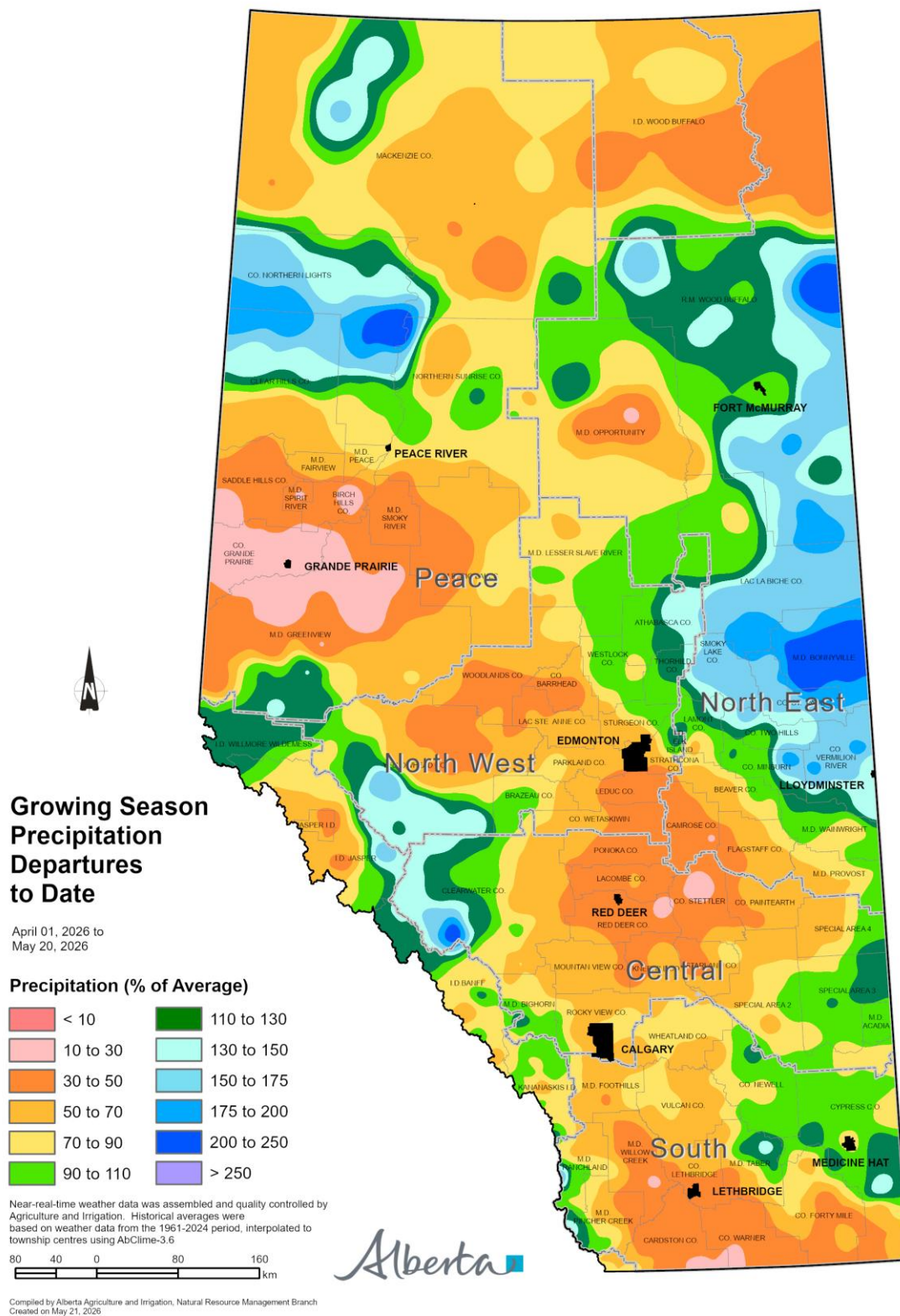


Map 2

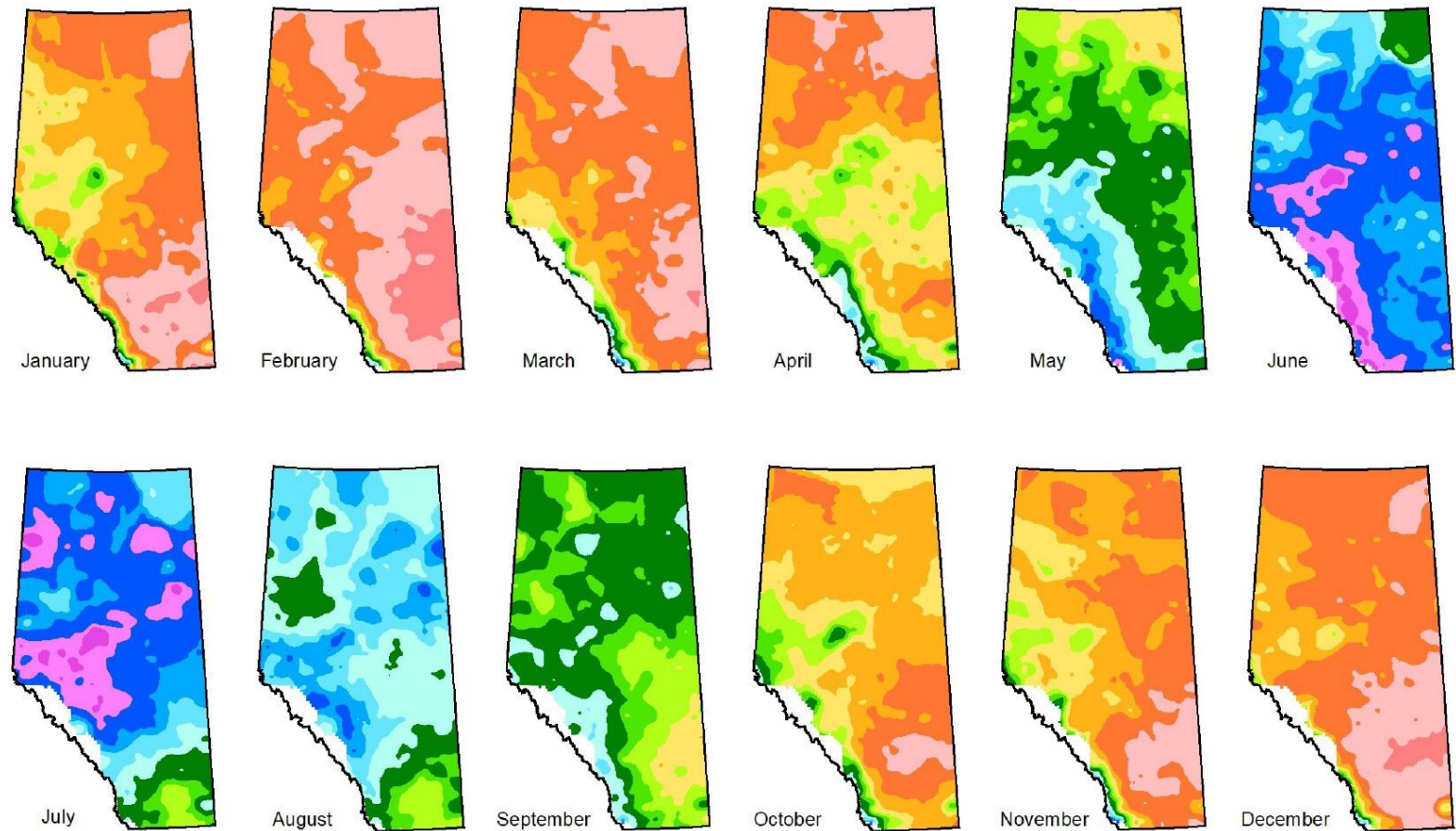


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Map 3



Map 4



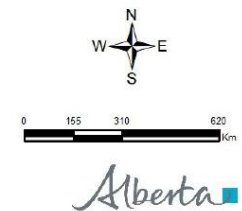
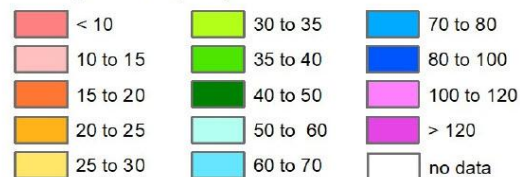
Normal Monthly Precipitation Accumulations

1991-2020

Weather data was assembled and quality controlled by
Agriculture Forestry and Rural Economic Development
then interpolated to township centres using AbClima-3.6

Compiled by Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Economic Development, Natural Resource Management Branch
Created on March 29, 2022

Precipitation (mm)

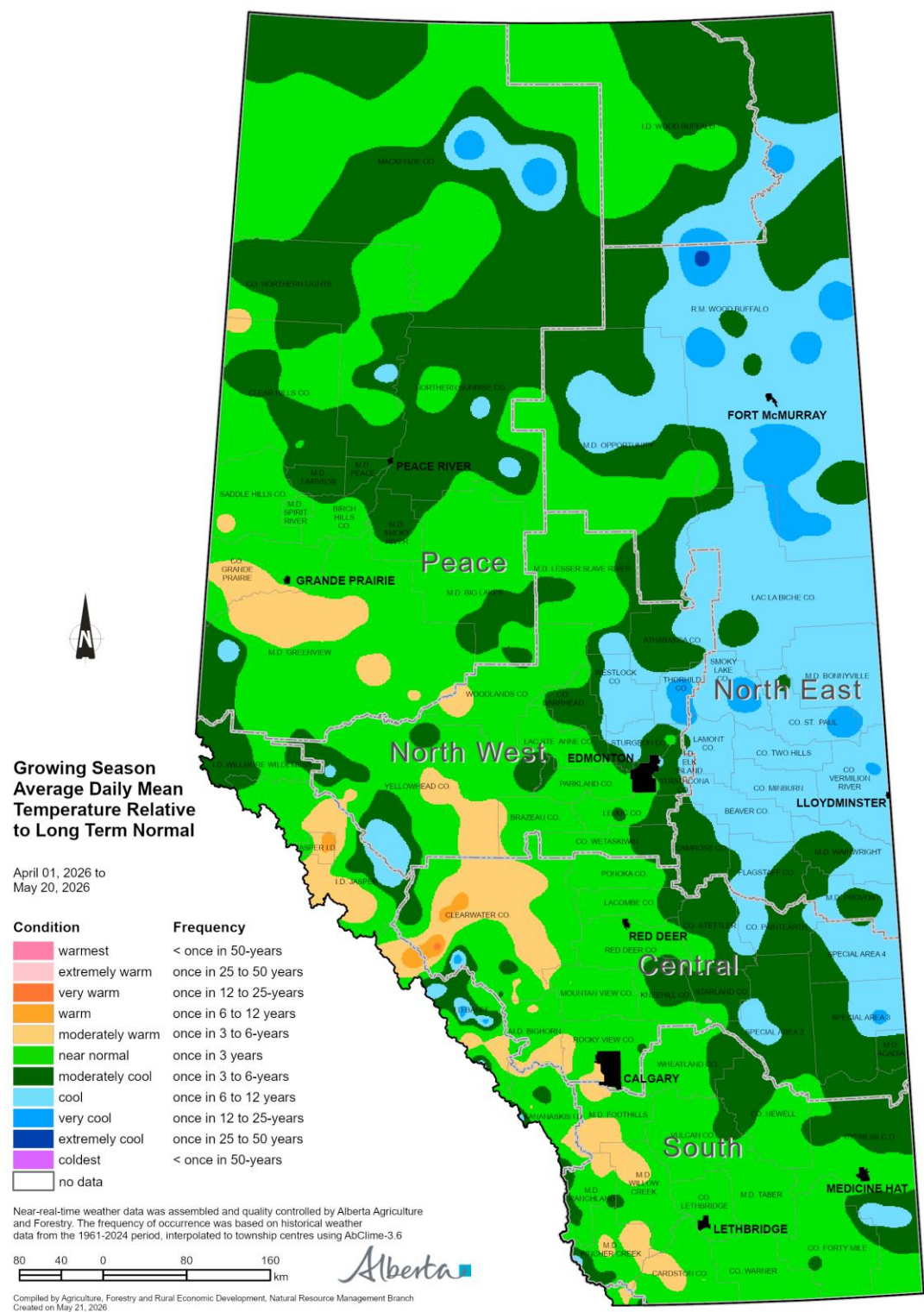


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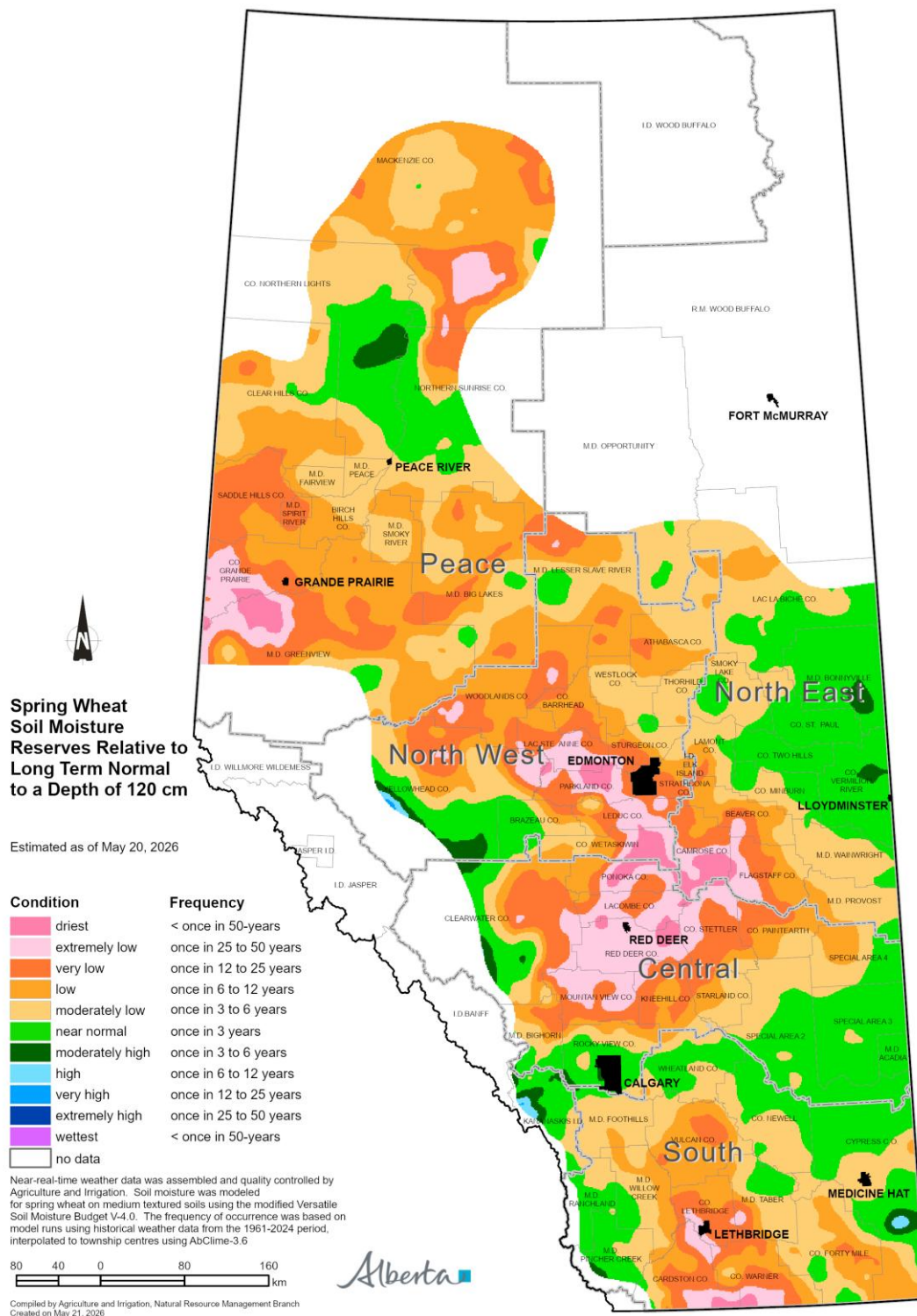
Classification: Public

Map 5



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Map 6



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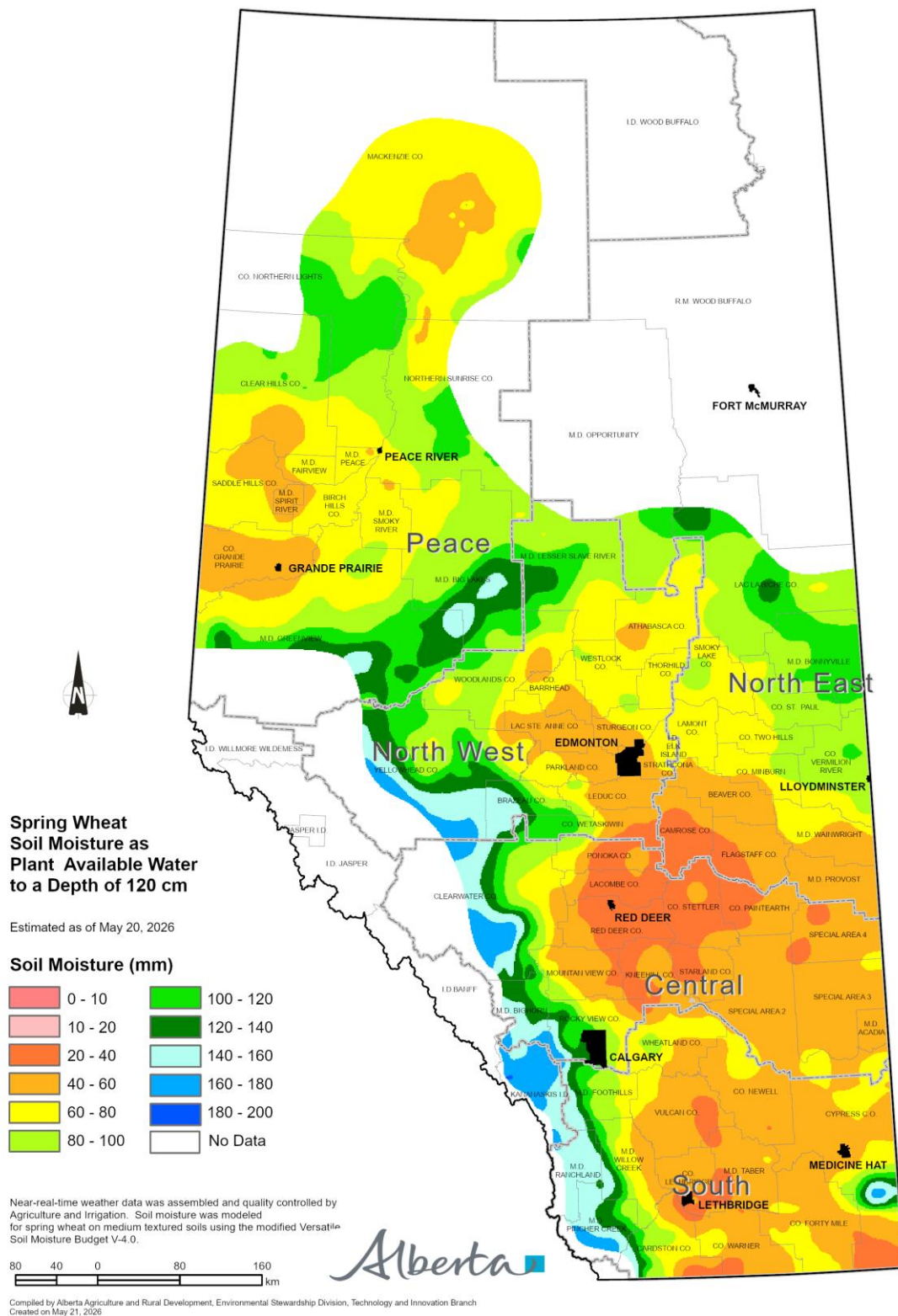
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Map 7



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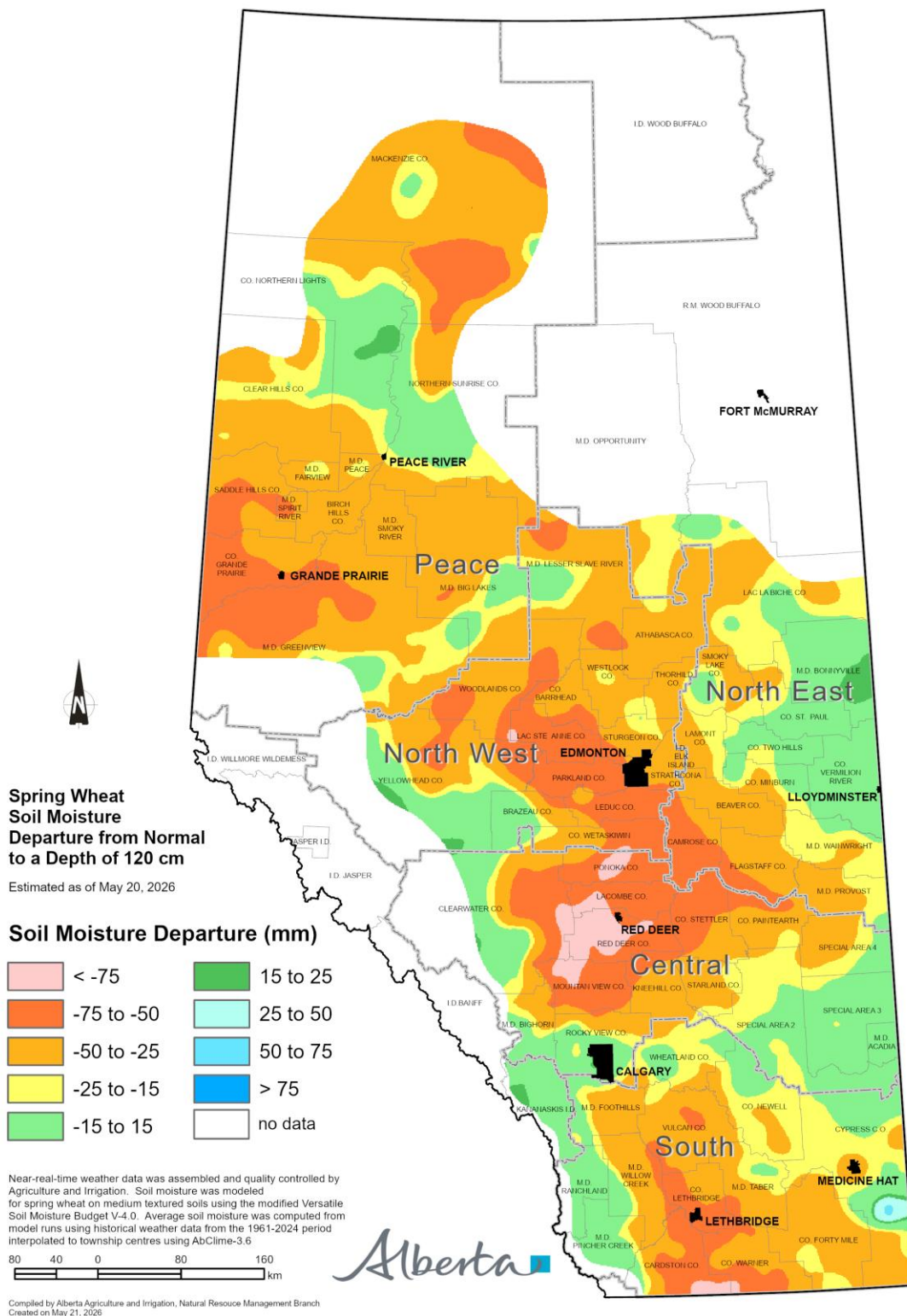
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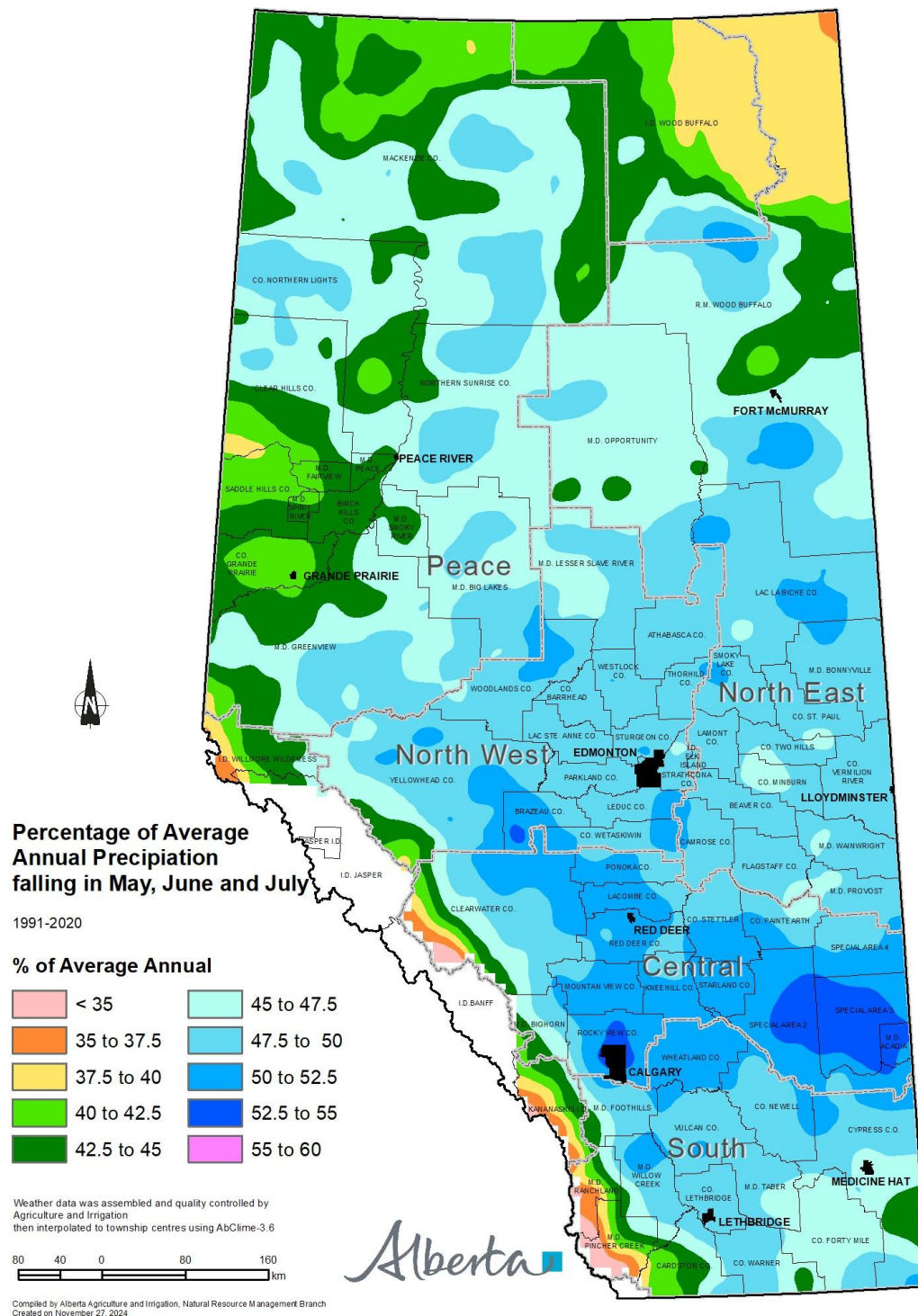
Classification: Public



Map 8



Map 9



Alberta Crop Report

Crop conditions as of May 12, 2026
(Abbreviated Report)

Seeding progress for major crops is 20 per cent complete across the province due to improved conditions; however, it remains below the 5 and 10-year averages (see Table 1). Seeding is 50 per cent complete in the South Region and 21 per cent complete in the Central Region as warm and dry conditions provided excellent seeding conditions. Precipitation in the South and Central Regions would benefit crop emergence and minimize topsoil movement. Warm and windy conditions continued to dry fields in the North East, North West, and Peace regions and seeding has now begun to progress in all areas. Fields in these areas are being seeded as moisture soaks into the soil, with some areas noting fields with significant wet spots still remaining. Seeding progress for major crops by region (5-year average) is reported at 50 (54) per cent in the South Region, 21 (32) per cent in the Central Region, 8 (20) per cent in the North East Region, 7 (20) per cent in the North West Region and 5 (24) per cent in the Peace Region (see Figure 1).

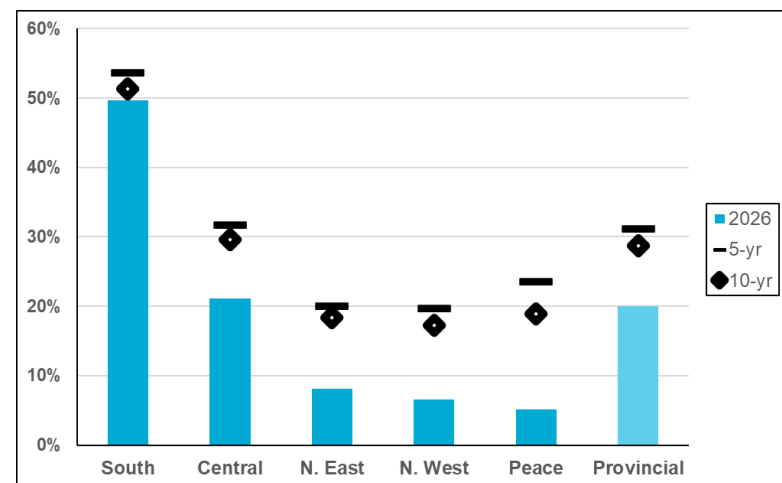
Provincial emergence of major crops is reported at 3 per cent, slightly below the 5-year average of 5 per cent. Currently, crop emergence is reported for the South Region at 12 per cent compared to a 5-year average of 11 per cent. Other regions have reported minimal (less than one per cent) or zero emergence.

Table 1: Alberta Major Crop Seeding Progress as of May 12, 2026

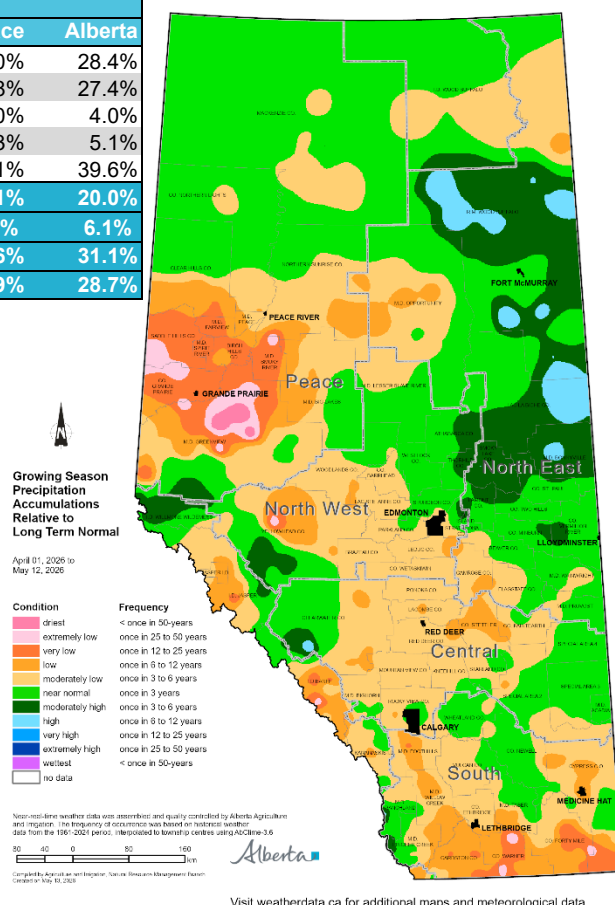
	% Seeded					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat *	55.0%	35.8%	15.0%	14.5%	11.0%	28.4%
Barley *	59.8%	18.6%	5.9%	5.3%	2.8%	27.4%
Oats *	32.1%	14.7%	2.7%	0.5%	2.0%	4.0%
Canola *	25.7%	2.3%	0.3%	0.8%	1.3%	5.1%
Dry Peas *	61.6%	34.0%	32.9%	18.8%	10.1%	39.6%
Major Crops (*), May 12	49.7%	21.1%	8.1%	6.6%	5.1%	20.0%
Major Crops (*), May 5	22.9%	3.5%	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	6.1%
5-year (2021-25) Avg	53.6%	31.7%	20.0%	19.7%	23.6%	31.1%
10-year (2016-25) Avg	51.3%	29.6%	18.4%	17.3%	18.9%	28.7%

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Figure 1: Major Crop Seeding Progress as of May 12, 2026



Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey



Provincial surface soil (0-6") moisture good-to-excellent ratings are reported as 68 per cent, exceeding both the 5-year and 10-year averages (see Table 2). Regional surface soil moisture good-to-excellent ratings (change from last week) are reported at 66 (-2) per cent in the South Region, 66 (-8) per cent for the Central Region, 77 (+3) per cent for the North East Region, 51 (+3) per cent for the North West Region, and 85 (+25) per cent for the Peace Region.

Table 2: Alberta Surface Soil (0-6") Moisture Ratings as of May 12, 2026

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Excessive
South	6.7%	26.9%	56.4%	9.2%	0.9%
Central	16.1%	17.5%	62.0%	4.4%	0.0%
North East	9.0%	11.7%	59.8%	17.4%	2.1%
North West	5.4%	22.6%	19.7%	31.0%	21.4%
Peace	0.0%	1.8%	38.1%	46.8%	13.2%
Alberta	8.9%	18.2%	52.6%	15.8%	4.4%
5-year (2021-2025) Avg	10.6%	32.2%	47.2%	9.6%	0.5%
10-year (2016-2025) Avg	8.6%	27.2%	42.9%	18.0%	3.3%

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Sub-surface soil moisture levels are rated as relatively good this week, supported by the steady infiltration from the spring melt. Provincial sub-surface moisture good-to-excellent ratings were reported as 62 per cent, which is above the 5-year average of 52 per cent and the 10-year average of 59 per cent. Regional sub-surface soil moisture good-to-excellent ratings (change from last week) are reported as 51 (0) per cent in the South Region, 62 (-5) per cent for the Central Region, 63 (+7) per cent for the North East Region, 58 (+3) per cent for the North West Region, and 94 (+9) per cent for the Peace Region.

Pasture growth conditions rated good-to-excellent are above the 5-year average in for all regions, except for the Peace region as soils continue to warm (see Table 3). Provincial good-to-excellent pasture growth is at 56 per cent, ahead of the 5-year average of 47 per cent. Regional pasture good-to-excellent growth conditions (change from last week) are reported as 61 (-6) per cent for the South Region, 65 (-10) per cent for the Central Region, 48 (+10) per cent for the North East Region, 43 (-17) per cent for the North West Region, and 19 (+8) per cent for the Peace Region.

Table 3: Pasture Growth Conditions as of May 12, 2026

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
South	5.7%	32.9%	58.3%	3.1%
Central	12.6%	22.3%	61.3%	3.8%
North East	4.9%	46.8%	42.3%	6.0%
North West	5.8%	51.0%	43.2%	0.0%
Peace	43.2%	37.4%	16.8%	2.6%
Alberta	10.5%	33.6%	52.5%	3.5%
5-year (2021-2025) Avg	17.4%	35.5%	44.3%	2.8%

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Tame hay growth conditions were reported as improving in the North East and Peace regions. The provincial good-to-excellent rating of 48 per cent is higher than the 5-year average of 44 per cent for this week. Regional tame hay good-to-excellent growth conditions (change from last week) are reported as 66 (-6) per cent for the South Region, 52 (-24) per cent for the Central Region, 43 (+8) per cent for the North East Region, 44 (-18) per cent for the North West Region, and 31 (+17) per cent for the Peace Region.

Regional Assessments:

Region One: South (Strathmore, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Foremost)

- Very good seeding conditions are allowing rapid progress, while emergence is noticeably slower due to cooler and drier soils than last year.
- Emergence is reported at 22 per cent for barley, followed by 13 per cent for spring wheat, 8 per cent for dry peas and oats, and 3 per cent for canola.
- Sub-surface moisture is 14 per cent poor, 34 per cent fair, 41 per cent good, 9 per cent excellent, and 2 per cent excessive.
- Conditions of tame hay are reported as 4 per cent poor, 30 per cent fair, 61 per cent good, and 5 per cent excellent.

Region Two: Central (Rimbey, Airdrie, Coronation, Oyen)

- Seeding activities continue to increase as soil temperatures warm and winds rapidly dry standing water pools from fields.
- Emergence of all major crops remains below 1 per cent.
- Sub-surface moisture is 15 per cent poor, 24 per cent fair, 53 per cent good, 8 per cent excellent, and 0 per cent excessive.
- Conditions of tame hay are reported as 18 per cent poor, 31 per cent fair, 49 per cent good, and 3 per cent excellent.

Region Three: North East (Smoky Lake, Vermilion, Camrose, Provost)

- Seeding is slowly getting underway as standing water dissipates as a result of warm winds and soils absorbing moisture.
- All major crops are reported at 0 per cent emergence.
- Sub-surface moisture is 10 per cent poor, 26 per cent fair, 48 per cent good, 15 per cent excellent, and 2 per cent excessive.
- Conditions of tame hay are reported as 5 per cent poor, 52 per cent fair, 38 per cent good, and 5 per cent excellent.

Region Four: North West (Barrhead, Edmonton, Leduc, Drayton Valley, Athabasca)

- All areas are now seeding, with producers selecting fields based on soil temperatures and standing water.
- No crop emergence has been reported for major crops.
- Sub-surface moisture is 4 per cent poor, 37 per cent fair, 26 per cent good, 32 per cent excellent, and 1 per cent excessive.
- Conditions of tame hay are reported as 2 per cent poor, 54 per cent fair, 44 per cent good, and 0 per cent excellent.

Region Five: Peace (Fairview, Falher, Grande Prairie, Valleyview)

- Field conditions continue to limit seeding in all areas, with progress ongoing where conditions allow.
- Emergence of all major crops remains below 1 per cent.
- Sub-surface moisture is 0 per cent poor, 0 per cent fair, 49 per cent good, 45 per cent excellent, and 6 per cent excessive.
- Conditions of tame hay are reported as 38 per cent poor, 32 per cent fair, 27 per cent good, and 4 per cent excellent.

Contact

Agriculture Financial Services Corporation
Product Innovation Department
Insurance Products and Product Innovation Unit

Geoff Backman - Product Coordinator
Michelle Smith – Project Management Analyst
Email: mediainquiry@afsc.ca

Our thanks to Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen and AFSC staff for their partnership and contribution to the Alberta Crop Reporting Program. Agriculture and Irrigation compiles the climate map.

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Alberta Crop Report

Crop conditions as of May 19, 2026

Recent weather has resulted in variable conditions across fields in Alberta. Cool temperatures, strong winds, frost events, and scattered precipitation have influenced seeding progress and early crop development. Provincial seeding for all crops is 53 per cent complete, below the 5- and 10-year averages of 61 per cent and 59 per cent, respectively (see Table 1). Regionally, seeding progress of major crops is most advanced in the South at 80 per cent complete, followed by the Central at 59 per cent. Progress has been slower in the North West, North East, and Peace regions due to a combination of excess moisture in some areas and cool, windy conditions in other parts.

Provincially, spring wheat and dry peas remain the most advanced among major crops, while canola and oats continue to lag due to delayed seeding in most fields. Emergence of all crops in the province is at 13 per cent, below the 5-year average of 20 per cent. Crop development for spring cereals across the province is generally at early vegetative stages, ranging from emergence to the 1–3 leaf stage. Fall-seeded crops are more advanced, ranging from tillering to early stem elongation, and are rated at 63 per cent good-to-excellent. Producers expect continued progress as conditions improve, with warmer temperatures and more consistent moisture needed to support uniform emergence and improved forage growth.

Table 1: Alberta Seeding Progress as of May 19, 2026

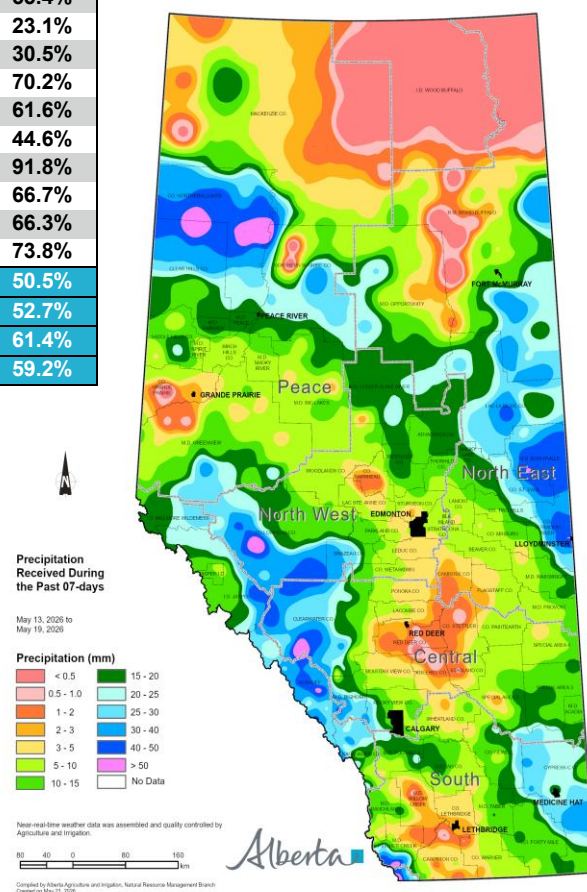
	% Seeded					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spring Wheat *	86.0%	73.6%	62.5%	54.9%	38.7%	66.2%
Durum	81.7%	60.8%	-	-	-	78.4%
Barley *	86.1%	61.5%	22.7%	23.7%	24.5%	55.4%
Oats *	64.4%	47.7%	14.8%	17.0%	24.2%	23.1%
Canola *	66.7%	35.7%	12.7%	18.8%	30.1%	30.5%
Dry Peas *	81.9%	75.8%	70.1%	56.5%	39.7%	70.2%
Mustard	61.6%	-	-	-	-	61.6%
Flax	55.9%	45.0%	0.0%	-	-	44.6%
Potatoes	99.0%	45.1%	-	32.6%	-	91.8%
Chickpeas	67.9%	58.7%	-	-	-	66.7%
Lentils	68.0%	58.2%	-	-	-	66.3%
Corn	96.0%	55.8%	-	70.0%	-	73.8%
Major Crops (*), May 19	80.4%	58.9%	35.6%	32.6%	32.6%	50.5%
All Crops, May 19	78.5%	58.8%	35.6%	32.5%	32.6%	52.7%
5-year All Crops (2021-25) Avg	75.3%	63.3%	53.1%	50.7%	50.9%	61.4%
10-year All Crops (2016-25) Avg	74.9%	60.6%	49.8%	47.5%	48.1%	59.2%

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Localized precipitation was reported across Alberta over the past week. Most regions received light to moderate rainfall, with heavier amounts reported in parts of the Peace Region. However, some areas in the South and Central regions received little to no measurable precipitation, maintaining dry surface conditions. Compared to last week, good-to-excellent surface moisture conditions have improved for most regions, except for the Central and North East regions (see Figure 1). Also, there has been a slight decline in good-to-excellent sub-surface moisture conditions, except for the Peace and North East regions which saw slight improvement. Provincially, good-to-excellent moisture conditions decreased slightly, with surface (sub-surface) moisture conditions rated 12 (12) per cent poor, 18 (27) per cent fair, 55 (49) per cent good, 12 (12) per cent excellent, and 3 (0) per cent excessive (see Table 2). Overall, moisture conditions remain uneven across the province. Areas that received more moisture experienced short-term relief, while drier areas continue to require more consistent rainfall to support crop development.

alberta.ca/alberta-crop-reports

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Figure 1: Surface and Sub-surface Moisture Conditions, May 12 and 19, 2026

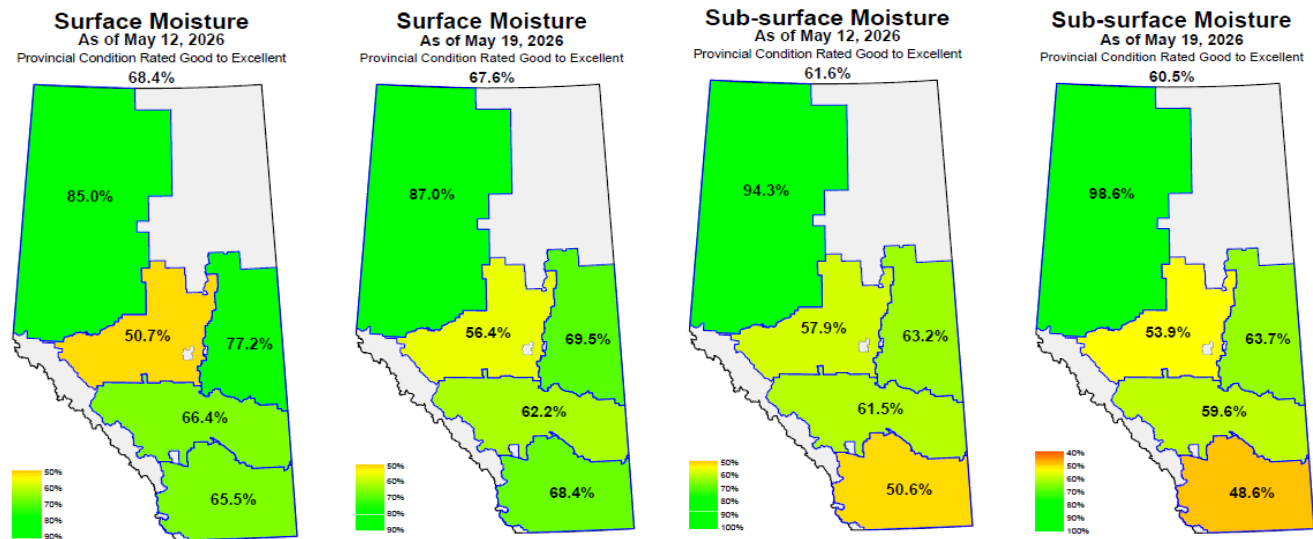


Table 2: Alberta Surface Soil Moisture Ratings as of May 19, 2026

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Excessive
South	8.8%	22.8%	66.7%	1.6%	0.0%
Central	22.3%	15.5%	59.2%	2.9%	0.0%
North East	9.8%	18.0%	52.9%	16.7%	2.8%
North West	9.2%	22.9%	23.5%	32.9%	11.5%
Peace	0.0%	6.3%	48.4%	38.7%	6.6%
Alberta	11.9%	18.1%	55.3%	12.2%	2.5%
5-year (2021-25) Avg	11.9%	30.3%	47.4%	9.8%	0.7%
10-year (2016-25) Avg	11.2%	26.9%	43.5%	15.9%	2.5%

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Pasture and tame hay conditions across Alberta are generally improving following a slow start to the growing season. Recent precipitation has supported forage growth in many areas, although conditions remain variable across most regions. Provincial pasture (tame hay) growth conditions are rated 11 (14) per cent poor, 32 (37) per cent fair, 55 (46) per cent good, and 2 (2) per cent excellent.

Regionally, good-to-excellent pasture conditions are strongest in the Central at 68 per cent, followed by the South at 63 per cent, North West at 44 per cent, North East at 43 per cent, and Peace at 23 per cent (see Table 3). For tame hay, the South and Central regions reported the highest good-to-excellent rating levels at 67 per cent and 52 per cent, respectively, while the Peace Region is the lowest at 33 per cent. Overall, forage conditions are improving with recent moisture, but regional variability persists.

Table 3: Pasture Growth Conditions as of May 19, 2026

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
South	5.9%	30.6%	62.6%	0.8%
Central	12.3%	19.9%	64.0%	3.8%
North East	9.7%	47.4%	41.7%	1.2%
North West	6.5%	49.5%	42.7%	1.3%
Peace	39.5%	37.6%	20.1%	2.9%
Alberta	11.0%	31.9%	55.0%	2.1%
5-year (2021-25) Avg	14.0%	33.6%	49.1%	3.3%
10-year (2016-25) Avg	13.8%	30.9%	49.4%	6.0%

Source: AGI/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Regional Assessments:

Region One: South (Strathmore, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Foremost)

- Seeding for all crops (major crops) is 79 (80) per cent complete, ahead of the 5-year averages of 75 (76) per cent and remains the most advanced region provincially.
- Sub-surface moisture is limited and variable, with strong winds contributing to drying in some areas. Conditions are rated 18 per cent poor, 33 per cent fair, 44 per cent good, 5 per cent excellent, and 0 per cent excessive.
- Tame hay conditions are generally favourable with conditions rated as 5 per cent poor, 28 per cent fair, 66 per cent good and 1 per cent excellent.
- Fall-seeded crops are rated 7 per cent poor, 24 per cent fair, 65 per cent good and 4 per cent excellent.

Region Two: Central (Rimbey, Airdrie, Coronation, Oyen)

- Seeding for all crops (major crops) is 59 (59) per cent complete, slightly below the 5-year average of 63 (63) per cent.
- Sub-surface moisture conditions are mostly low, with scattered precipitation providing some relief. Conditions are rated as 13 per cent poor, 28 per cent fair, 56 per cent good, 4 per cent excellent, and 0 per cent excessive.
- Tame hay conditions are reported as 21 per cent poor, 27 per cent fair, 49 per cent good, and 3 per cent excellent.
- Fall-seeded crops are rated 15 per cent poor, 25 per cent fair, 61 per cent good and 0 per cent excellent.

Region Three: North East (Smoky Lake, Vermilion, Camrose, Provost)

- Seeding for all crops (major crops) is 36 (36) per cent complete, below the 5-year average of 53 (53) per cent.
- Sub-surface moisture is generally adequate to excessive, resulting in delayed field access. Conditions are rated as 10 per cent poor, 25 per cent fair, 52 per cent good, 11 per cent excellent, and 1 per cent excessive.
- Tame hay conditions are reported as 8 per cent poor, 52 per cent fair, 38 per cent good, and 2 per cent excellent.
- Fall-seeded crops are rated 0 per cent poor, 35 per cent fair, 66 per cent good, and 0 per cent excellent.

Region Four: North West (Barrhead, Edmonton, Leduc, Drayton Valley, Athabasca)

- Seeding for all crops (major crops) is 33 (33) per cent complete, below the 5-year average of 51 (51) per cent.
- Sub-surface moisture is variable but generally adequate, with conditions rated 4 per cent poor, 41 per cent fair, 30 per cent good, 24 per cent excellent, and 1 per cent excessive.
- Tame hay conditions are reported as 4 per cent poor, 53 per cent fair, 42 per cent good, and 1 per cent excellent.
- Fall-seeded crops are rated 8 per cent poor, 53 per cent fair, 39 per cent good, and 0 per cent excellent.

Region Five: Peace (Fairview, Falher, Grande Prairie, Valleyview)

- Seeding for all crops (major crops) is 33 (33) per cent complete, below the 5-year average of 51 (51) per cent.
- Sub-surface moisture remains uneven, with localized improvement from recent rainfall. Conditions are rated as 0 per cent poor, 1 per cent fair, 56 per cent good, 43 per cent excellent, and 1 per cent excessive.
- Tame hay conditions are reported as 33 per cent poor, 34 per cent fair, 30 per cent good, and 3 per cent excellent.
- There are no reports on fall-seeded crops for the region.

Contact

Agriculture and Irrigation
Trade, Economics and Data Analytics Branch
Statistics and Data Development Section

Samuel Ampomah
Crop Statistician
Email: TEDA-Branch@gov.ab.ca

Our thanks to Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen and AFSC staff for their partnership and contribution to the Alberta Crop Reporting Program. Agriculture and Irrigation compiles the climate map.

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