



AGENDA

Agricultural Service Board Meeting
January 23, 2025
Immediately following the County Council Meeting

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Changes to Agenda and Adoption of Agenda**
- 3. Confirmation of Minutes**
 - 3.1 December 11, 2024 Agricultural Service Board
- 4. Delegations**
- 5. Reports for Discussion**
 - 5.1 Coyote Harvest Incentive Program
Administration Presenter:
Quentin Bochar, Manager of Agriculture and Municipal Services
 - 5.2 Draft Strategic Plan for Agricultural Services Board
Administration Presenter:
Quentin Bochar, Manager of Agriculture and Municipal Services
- 6. Reports**
 - 6.1 Agricultural Fieldman
- 7. Correspondence and Information Items**
 - 7.1 Moisture Situation Update as of December 11, 2024
- 8. Adjournment**



AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
December 11, 2024

Members Present: Member Joey Nafziger
Member Eric Anderson
Member Roger Konieczny
Member Cliff Wowdzia
Member Tara Kuzio
Member Carl Ogrodnick
Member Kevin Bentley

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

1 CALL TO ORDER

Agricultural Service Board Chairperson Member Anderson called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

2 ADOPTION OF AGENDA

2024-ASB001

Moved by: Member Wowdzia

THAT the December 11, 2024, Agricultural Service Board meeting Agenda be adopted as presented.

Carried

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

4 DELEGATIONS

5 REPORTS FOR DISCUSSION

5.1 Future of the Agricultural Service Board (ASB) for the County of Minburn

Administration Presenter:

Cheryl Spencer Morley, Spencer Morley Consulting

Member Nafziger joined the meeting at 1:49 p.m.

Member Konieczny left the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

Member Konieczny returned to the meeting at 2:04 p.m.

2024- ASB002

Moved by: Member Nafziger

THAT a Vision and Mission Statement be established for the Agricultural Service Board and further the Agricultural Service Board determine three top strategic areas of focus moving forward.

Carried

5.2 ASB Terms of Reference

Administration Presenter:

Quentin Bochar, Manager of Agriculture and Municipal Services

2024-ASB003

Moved by: Member Ogradnick

THAT Administration prepare an RFD recommending Council approve the ASB Terms of Reference as presented, and that shall include an ASB membership consisting of the whole of County Council.

Carried

5.3 Warble Control Area Bylaw

Administration Presenter:

Quentin Bochar, Manager of Agriculture and Municipal Services

2024-ASB004

Moved by: Member Bentley

THAT Administration prepare an RFD recommending Council approve a bylaw to rescind Warble Control Bylaw No. 668-1971.

Carried

2024-ASB005

Moved by: Member Konieczny

THAT Administration prepare an RFD recommending Council approve a bylaw to rescind Amendment to Warble Control Bylaw No. 679-1972.

Carried

5.4 Establishing an Agricultural Appeals Board

Administration Presenter:

Quentin Bochar, Manager of Agriculture and Municipal Services

2024-ASB006

Moved by: Member Wowdzia

THAT Administration prepare an RFD recommending Council approve Bylaw No. 1357-24 to Establish an Agricultural Appeals Board.

Carried

5.5 Weed Control Bylaw

Administration Presenter:

Quentin Bocher, Manager of Agriculture and Municipal Services

2024-ASB007

Moved by: Member Nafziger

THAT Administration prepare an RFD recommending Council approve Bylaw No. 1354-24 to rescind Weed Control Bylaw No. 714-1973.

Carried

6 REPORTS

6.1 Agricultural Fieldman

Administration Presenter:

Quentin Bocher, Manager of Agriculture and Municipal Services

2024-ASB008

Moved by: Member Konieczny

THAT the Agricultural Fieldman report be accepted as presented.

Carried

2024-ASB009

Moved by: Member Kuzio

THAT the next Agricultural Service Board meeting be held on January 23, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.

Carried

7 **CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION ITEMS**

8 **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairperson Member Anderson declared the meeting adjourned at 2:56 p.m.

Chairperson

Chief Administrative Officer



AGRICULTURE SERVICE BOARD DISCUSSION PAPER

Topic: Coyote Harvest Incentive Program

Date: January 23, 2025

Background

After receiving direction from Council to investigate the feasibility of a harvest incentive program with APOS funding, administration contacted the Executive Director of the Alberta Professional Outfitters Society (APOS). Administration was also contacted by a Director of the APOS Board to discuss a Coyote Control Program for Minburn County.

Information for the Committee

It is suggested that once information is received from the Executive Director of APOS regarding a joint Municipal/APOS Coyote Harvest program, then Administration can proceed developing a Harvest Incentive Program policy like the County of Minburn Beaver Harvest Incentive program.

Coyotes are part of the natural environment and therefore play a critical role in wildlife dynamics. Problems occur when the population dynamics become unbalanced. When this occurs as in the case of coyotes, not only are other wildlife populations affected, but also agricultural livestock and in extreme cases, even humans.

Recommendation

THAT ASB recommend to administration to investigate and develop a Coyote Harvest Incentive Program policy pending funding availability from APOS.

Attachment:

N/A



AGRICULTURE SERVICES BOARD STRATEGIC PLAN DISCUSSION PAPER

Topic: Draft Strategic Plan for Agricultural Services Board

Date: January 23, 2025

Background

At the December 11, 2024 ASB meeting, there was discussion about the future of the ASB and the priorities Council want to see in the new strategic plan. Council agreed they were interested in more education and outreach as well as agricultural sustainability, pest and weed management.

Based on the discussion, a draft strategic plan has been created and there is a need to approve the draft plan so it can be circulated to key community stakeholders for feedback.

Information for the Committee

The draft strategic plan will consist of some background on the County's agriculture practices and trends, summary of conversations with the local agricultural societies and Lavoy Action Society, summary of conversations with members of Council and draft vision, mission, values and priorities.

For the purposes of today's ASB discussion, the focus should be on the draft vision, mission, values and priorities.

Once the vision, mission, values and priorities are approved, the draft strategic plan will be finalized, graphically designed and prepared for public circulation by the end of January/first week in February. Feedback from key community stakeholders on the draft plan will be requested in February so the plan can be finalized and implemented by March 2025.

For grant purposes, the plan must be for 2025-29 and adjustments can be made throughout 2025-29 based on the will of the ASB. Regular updates on the progress of the priorities will be provided to Council.

Recommendation

THAT the Agriculture Service Board recommend administration prepare an RFD for a future Council meeting to approve the vision, mission, values and strategic priorities for the ASB as presented.

Draft Vision:

To cultivate a resilient, sustainable agricultural sector that drives economic growth, preserves environmental health, and fosters community engagement.

Draft Mission:

To provide leadership, education, and resources that support sustainable farming practices, promote economic viability, and ensure environmental stewardship.

Values:

Sustainability – Committing to environmentally responsible practices that ensure the long-term health of agricultural ecosystems and resources.

Collaboration – Building strong partnerships with farmers, community stakeholders, and other organizations to address agricultural challenges and opportunities.

Integrity – Operating with honesty, transparency, and fairness in decision-making and interactions with stakeholders.

Innovation – Encouraging the adoption of new technologies and farming practices that improve efficiency, productivity, and environmental stewardship.

Education – Promoting continuous learning and knowledge sharing to empower farmers and rural communities with the tools and information they need for success.

Priority 1: Agricultural Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship

Goal: Promote environmentally sustainable agricultural policies and practices.

Actions:

- Conserve wetlands and riparian areas.
- Ensure a drought management plan is in place.
- Encourage water conservation practices in farming including implementing water-efficient irrigation systems and assessing water availability regularly.
- Provide guidance on sustainable crop rotation and pest management.
- Stay current on Provincial Acts, regulations and land use policies.
- Ensure strong internal policies and programs to support responsible agricultural land production.
- Enforce policies and bylaws that are mandated by the Agricultural Service Board Act, Weed Control Act, Agricultural Pest Act, Soil Conservation Act, and Animal Health Act.

Measures of Success: Compliance with legislation and increased adoption of soil and water conservation.

Priority 2: Pest and Weed Management

Goal: Maintain effective control of agricultural pests and weeds.

Actions:

- Implement regular inspections and enforce the Weed Control Act and Agricultural Pests Act.
- Offer education on identifying and managing invasive species. Include education on early detection and rapid response to invasive species to prevent the spread of new pests.
- Develop a monitoring system to track the effectiveness of pest and weed control measures over time.
- Collaborate with neighboring municipalities on regional pest control initiatives.

Measures of Success: Reduced number of invasive species reports, improved community compliance with pest control regulations.

Priority 3: Education and Outreach

Goal: Provide ongoing education, outreach and advocacy for the local agricultural and rural communities.

Actions:

- Host information and training sessions on rural living, innovative farming techniques, pest management, grant opportunities and soil health.
- Create partnerships with agricultural research and government bodies to deliver workshops.
- Provide timely and regular communication to the community on the County's agricultural services' initiatives and progress.
- Explore digital platforms and online resources to expand outreach and education to a broader audience, especially younger farmers or those in remote areas
- Foster peer-to-peer learning by encouraging mentorship programs where experienced farmers can share knowledge with newcomers or younger generations.

Measures of Success: Increased attendance at educational events, increased awareness of County's agricultural services, low level of complaints among farming community and increased number of new collaborations formed through outreach efforts.

Agricultural Fieldman Report

Agriculture Service Board Update:

July

- Bertha Army Worm surveys are complete with no threat of an outbreak for the season.
- Roadside Spraying was completed on July 31, 2024.
- Roadside Mowing Started on August 1, 2024. Approximately 20-25% completed.
- Parks and recreation mowing has been completed:
 - Lavoy 4 passes
 - Wapasu 4 passes
 - Ranfurly & Minburn 2 passes
 - Ranfurly and Minburn Truck fills 2 passes
 - Lavoy Sewer Lagoon 2 passes

August

- Alberta Wheat and Canola Crop surveys are complete and will be sent in as soon as they dry.
- Roadside Mowing Started on August 1, 2024. The mowing should all be completed approximately Sept 12, 2024.
- Parks and recreation mowing has been completed:
 - Lavoy 2 passes
 - Wapasu 2 passes
 - Ranfurly & Minburn 2 passes
 - Ranfurly and Minburn Truck fills 2 passes
 - Lavoy Sewer Lagoon 2 passes
 - Hwy 16 signs 2 passes
- Continuing with Quality Control checks on the work that has been done by the mowing and spraying contractors.
 - Hwy 16 signs 2 passes

September

- Roadside Mowing was completed Sept 12, 2024.
- Parks and recreation mowing was completed on Sept 16, 2024.
- Creating a TOR for the Agriculture Service Board.
- Creating a By-Law for the Agricultural Appeal Board.
- Investigating requests for brushing at various locations in the county.
- Investigating weed complaints from residents at various locations in the county.
- Dealing with Beaver plugged culverts, and investigating complaints of beaver issues, in various locations in the county.

October

- Attended the NE ASB Regional Conference in Czar, AB on October 25, 2024. There were two resolutions passed by the delegates.
- Investigating requests for brushing at various locations in the county.
- Map and list for the brushing program is being compiled and getting ready to commence with the 2024/2025 brushing season.
- Clearing Beaver plugged culverts, and investigating complaints of beaver issues, in various locations in the county.
- Road Construction crop damage and land disturbance claims are completed for the 2024 projects.

November

- Investigating requests for brushing at various locations in the county.
- Map for the 2024/2025 brushing season was sent out to members of Council.
- Clearing Beaver plugged culverts, and investigating complaints of beaver issues, in various locations in the county.
- Attended the Innisfree Seed Cleaning Plant AGM November 19, 2024

December

- Brushing Program has commenced, starting with remaining 2022 projects.
- Continue investigating requests for brushing at various locations in the county.
- Seed Cleaning Plant inspections were completed on December 2, 2024.
- Attended the Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen (AAAF) In-Service Training (IST) December 3-5, 2024.
- Attended ASB meeting December 11, 2024.
- Working on the ASB grant application for the 2025-2029 cycle.
- Start advertising campaign for a virtual Working Wells water workshop for Feb 13, 2025

2025 ASB Provincial Conference

Opportunity for ASB members to provide feedback on the ASB Conference, January 20-22, 2025, Edmonton, and if any follow-up is needed by administration.

Moisture Situation Update

As of December 11, 2024

Synopsis (maps 1 and 2)

So far this winter (November 1st to Dec 11th), approximately 60% of the province has received at least average precipitation accumulations relative to the 1961-2023 period (**Map 1**). Much of the east-half of the province has received well above average moisture, ranging up to over 200% of average across parts of the North East Region and through parts of the Southern Peace Region. In contrast, conditions have remained drier than average across the western portions of the province affecting the North West, Central and Southern Regions, along with parts of the Northern Peace Region. Despite some spells of warm weather and partial melting of accumulated snows, most of the agricultural areas currently have near normal snowpacks for this time of year (**Map 2**). Along the east-half of the province, between Cold Lake and the US border, many areas are experiencing snow packs this deep, on average less than once in 6 to 12 years. Similarly, snowpacks across the extreme southern portions of the Peace Region have exceeded once in 3 to 6 year highs in some locations. However, snowpacks are still below normal across the extreme southern portions of the Southern Region and along the western portions of the Central Region.

Its still very early in the winter season, but for most agricultural lands, this marks a promising start towards building healthy and much needed snowpacks, ahead of this year's spring melt. . Hopefully we can remain in this general pattern over the next several months and that this wet trend also begins to extend to those areas that are still in a dry pattern.

90-day Precipitation Trends (maps 3 and 4)

Over the past 90-days a large strip of land running along the foothills between Edson and the US border has remained relatively dry, with the direst areas located west of Red Deer (**Map 3**). Across this large area, several isolated locations have seen less than 50% of average precipitation, including lands in and around Sundry, and several locations scattered through the southwestern portions of the Southern Region, have received less than 40 mm of moisture (**Map 4**). Farther west across the mountains, conditions have been much wetter, with several high elevation stations recording over 160 mm of precipitation. Currently two mountain stations have recorded more than 300 mm of precipitation over the last 90 days, Three Isle lake (324mm) in the Kananaskis region and Gardiner Head Waters (312 mm), located near the continental divide south west of Pincher Creek. Across the eastern-third of the province, stretching up from the US border nearly as far north as Fort McMurry, several stations have recorded more than 130% of average precipitation, with some isolated areas, exceeding 200% of Average (**Map 4**). Similarly, much of the south-half of the Peace Region has received above average precipitation, particularly across the southwest, which is a welcome trend given the previously dry conditions have persisted for several months prior to this.

365-day Precipitation Trends (map 5)

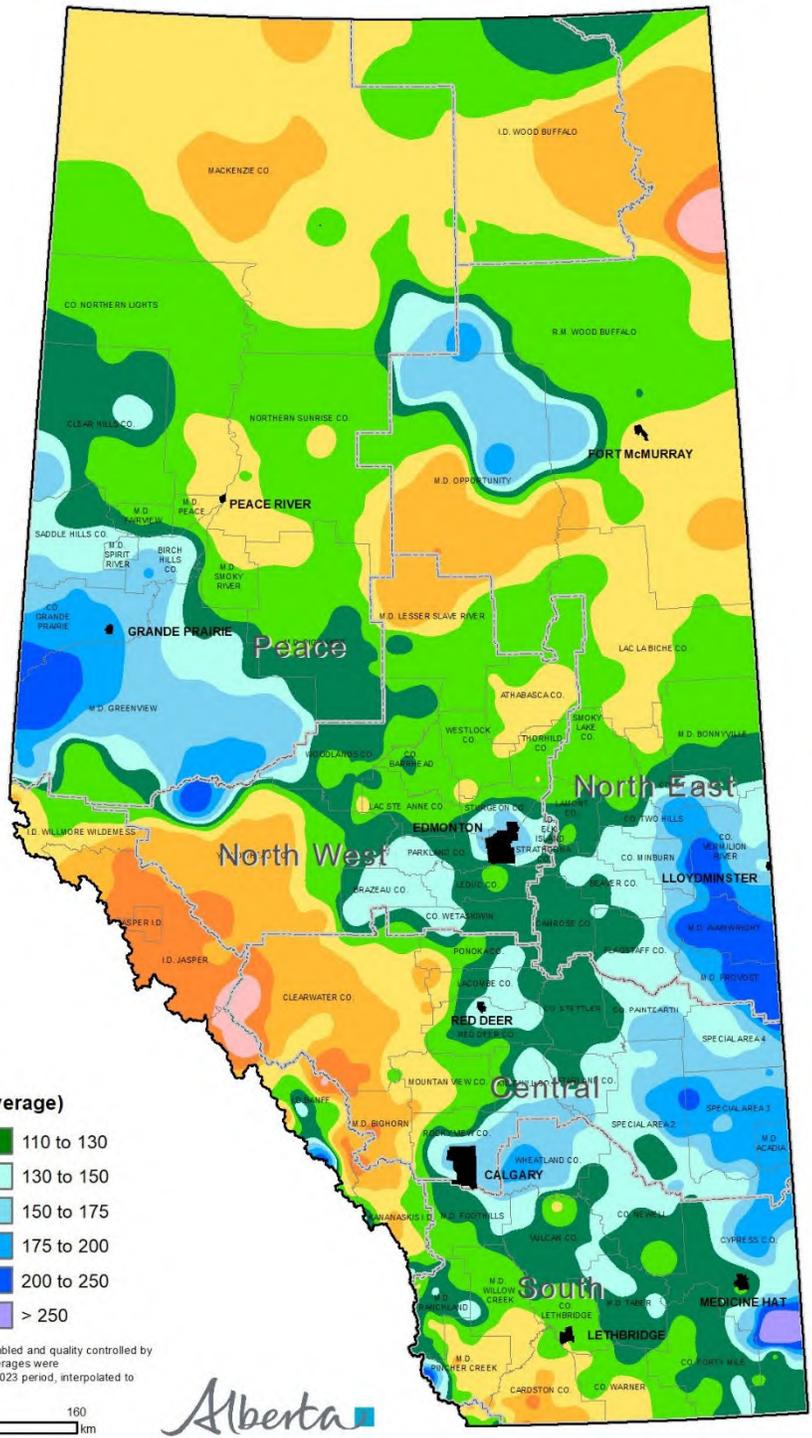
Year over year, conditions are quite variable with large precipitation deficits still persisting across much of the North West Region, western portions of the Central Region and through much of the western half of the Peace Region (**Map 5**). Additionally, a relatively large portion of the southwestern corner of the Southern Region is still very dry. Currently, the direst areas are experiencing at least once in 25-year lows (year over year) and these are located north of Fort Vermillion, in and around Red Deer, and just northwest of Grande Prairie.

Perspective (Maps 6, 7 and 8)

Winter (November to March) is a relatively dry season in Alberta (**Map 6**), and as such even above average moisture over this time frame is typically not enough to make a significant impact on "year to date" moisture deficits. For example, across the Central Region just over 15% of the average annual moisture falls during the winter (**Map 7**) and for most of the province lying south of Olds much of this is lost to evaporation/sublimation during warm and or windy spells. However, across the Peace Region winter moisture tends to be very important for the annual water cycle as it is retained on the land until spring and released rather suddenly as the weather warms. Many areas up here rely on

deep snows to renew the land in the spring, and at least 25% of their annual moisture falls during this time frame. For agriculture, May June and July remain the most important months for receiving precipitation with more than 50% of the annual moisture falling through the Central Region and at least 40% of it falling across most of the Peace Region (**Map 8**).

Next year's cropping season is still months away and there is ample time to receive moisture. As always at this time of year we can only be patient and hope that sufficient moisture comes in a timely fashion for next year's growing season.



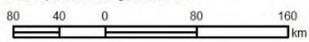
Cold Season Precipitation Departures to Date

November 01, 2024 to
December 11, 2024

Precipitation (% of Average)

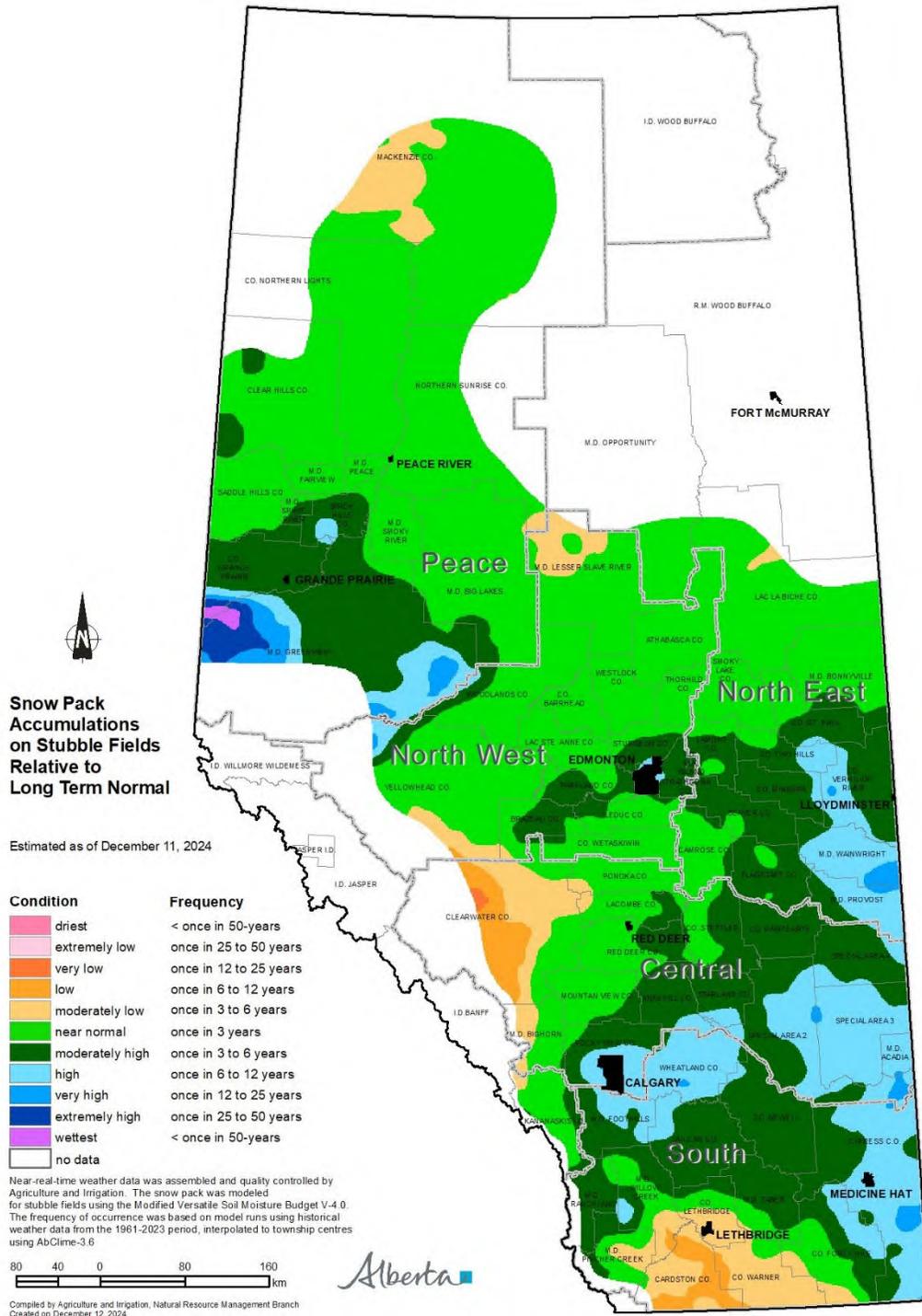
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> < 10 10 to 30 30 to 50 50 to 70 70 to 90 90 to 110 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 110 to 130 130 to 150 150 to 175 175 to 200 200 to 250 > 250
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Near-real-time weather data was assembled and quality controlled by Agriculture and Irrigation. Historical averages were based on weather data from the 1961-2023 period, interpolated to township centres using AbClimate-3.6

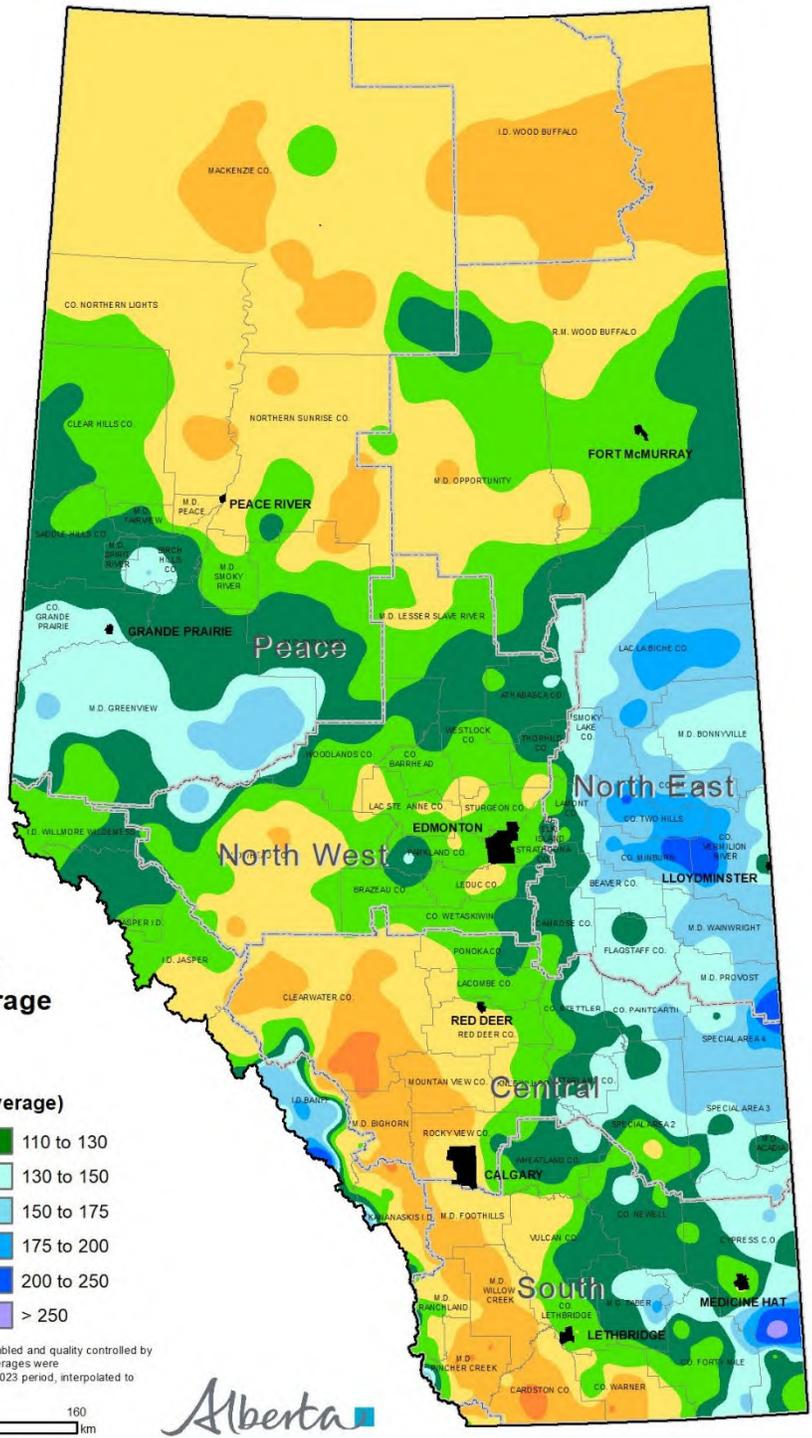


Compiled by Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation, Natural Resource Management Branch
Created on December 13, 2024

Visit weatherdata.ca for additional maps and meteorological data



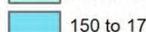
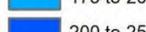
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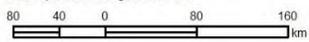
90-Day Precipitation Accumulations Percent of Average

September 13, 2024 to
December 11, 2024

Precipitation (% of Average)

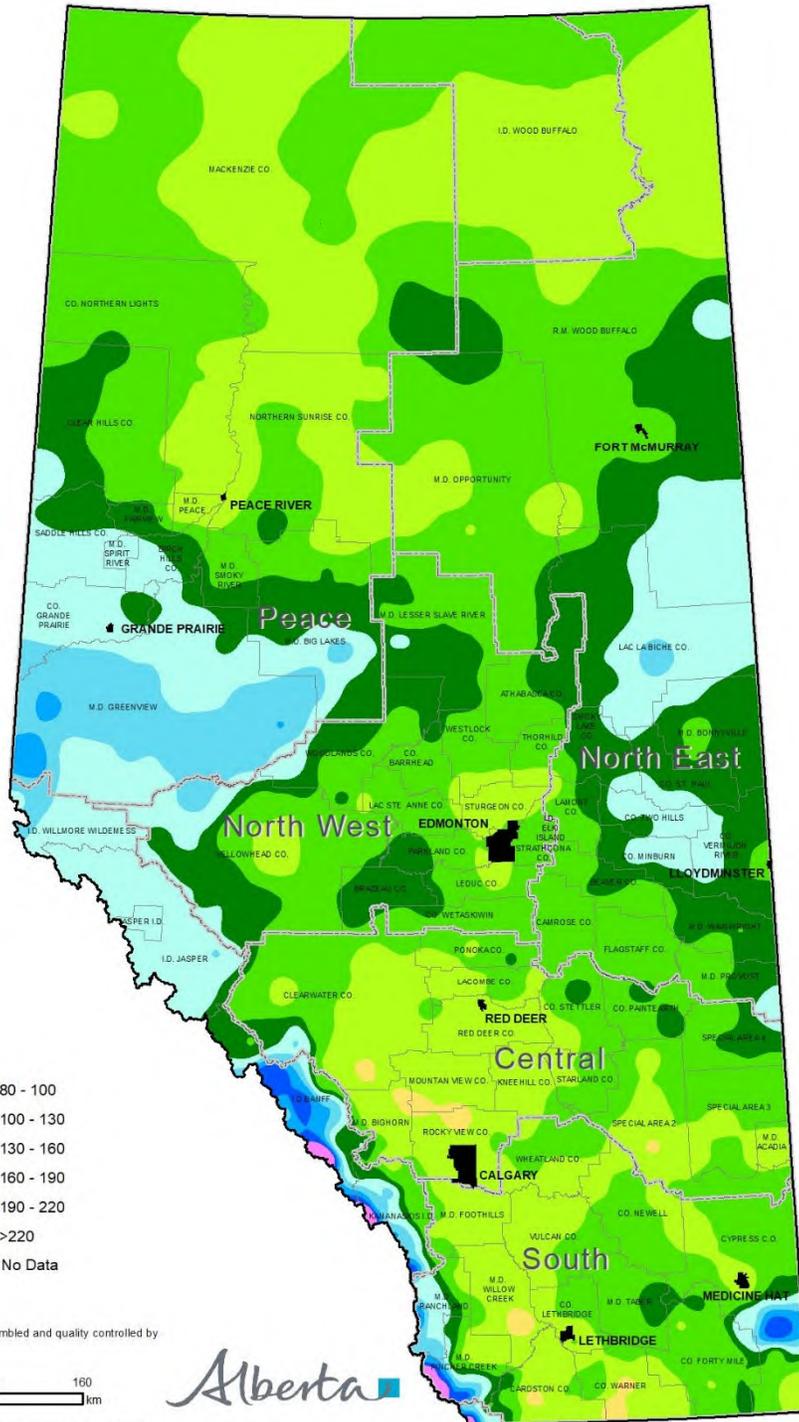
	< 10		110 to 130
	10 to 30		130 to 150
	30 to 50		150 to 175
	50 to 70		175 to 200
	70 to 90		200 to 250
	90 to 110		> 250

Near-real-time weather data was assembled and quality controlled by Agriculture and Irrigation. Historical averages were based on weather data from the 1961-2023 period, interpolated to township centres using AbClimate-3.6



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Precipitation Received During the Past 90-days

September 13, 2024 to December 11, 2024

Precipitation (mm)

	< 5		80 - 100
	5 - 10		100 - 130
	10 - 20		130 - 160
	20 - 30		160 - 190
	30 - 40		190 - 220
	40 - 60		>220
	60 - 80		No Data

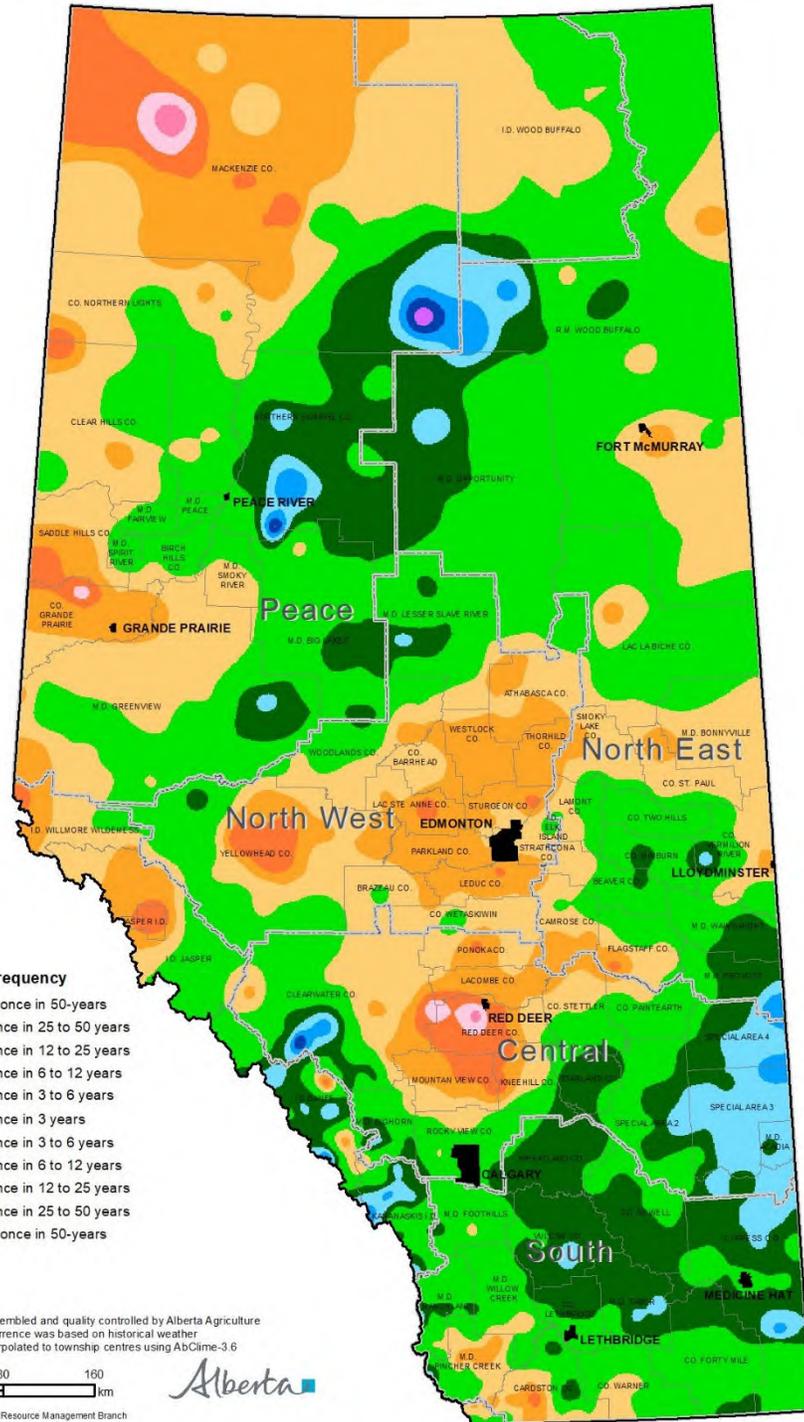
Near-real-time weather data was assembled and quality controlled by Agriculture and Irrigation.



Compiled by Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation, Natural Resource Management Branch
Created on December 13, 2024



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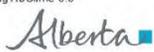


**365-Day
Precipitation
Accumulations
Relative to
Long Term Normal**

December 13, 2023 to
December 11, 2024

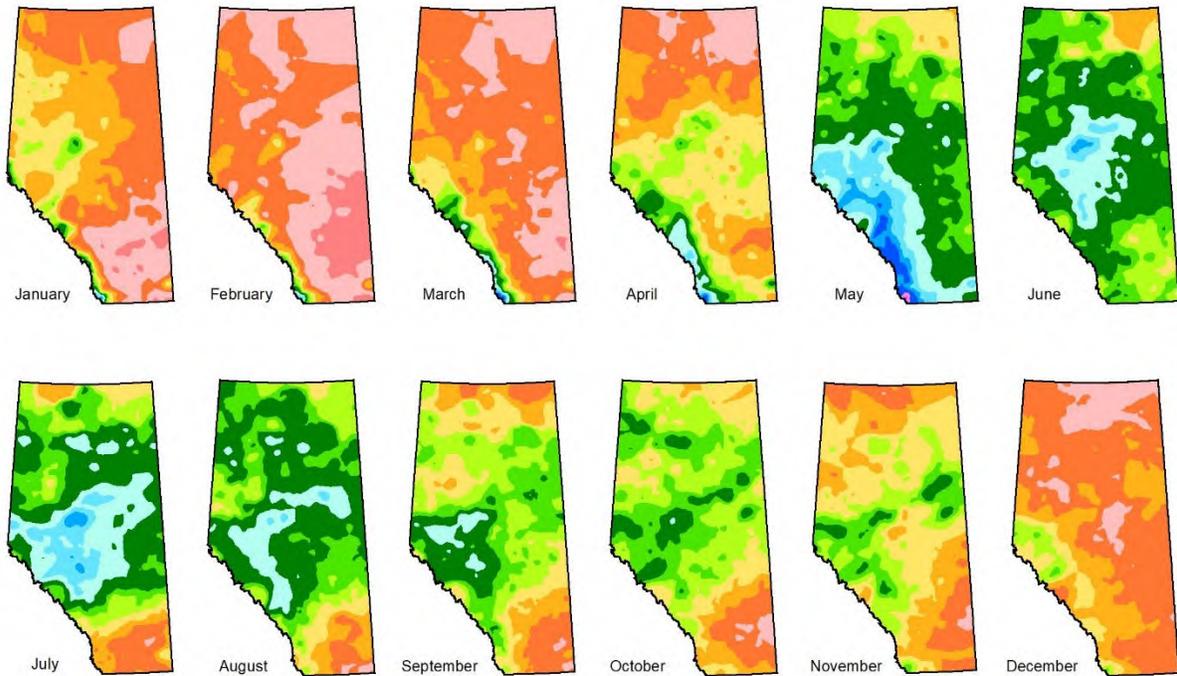
Condition	Frequency
	driest
	extremely low
	very low
	low
	moderately low
	near normal
	moderately high
	high
	very high
	extremely high
	wettest
	no data

Near-real-time weather data was assembled and quality controlled by Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation. The frequency of occurrence was based on historical weather data from the 1961-2023 period, interpolated to township centres using AbClima-3.6



Compiled by Agriculture and Irrigation, Natural Resource Management Branch
Created on December 12, 2024

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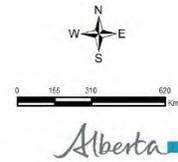
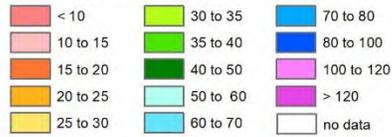
Percentage of Average Annual Precipitation falling in Winter

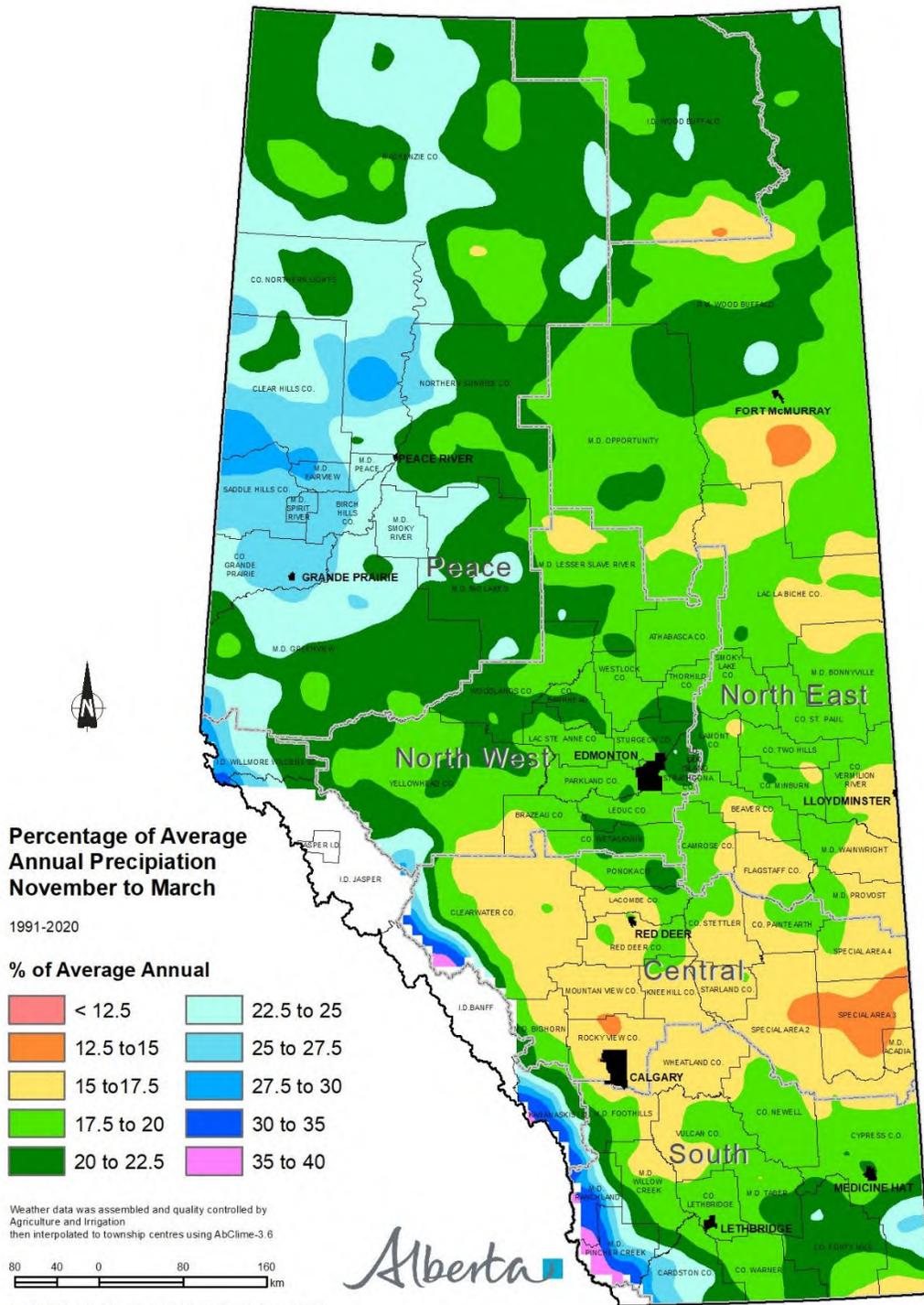
Nov-March 1991-2020

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

Compiled by Agriculture and Irrigation, Natural Resource Management Branch
Created on November 26, 2024

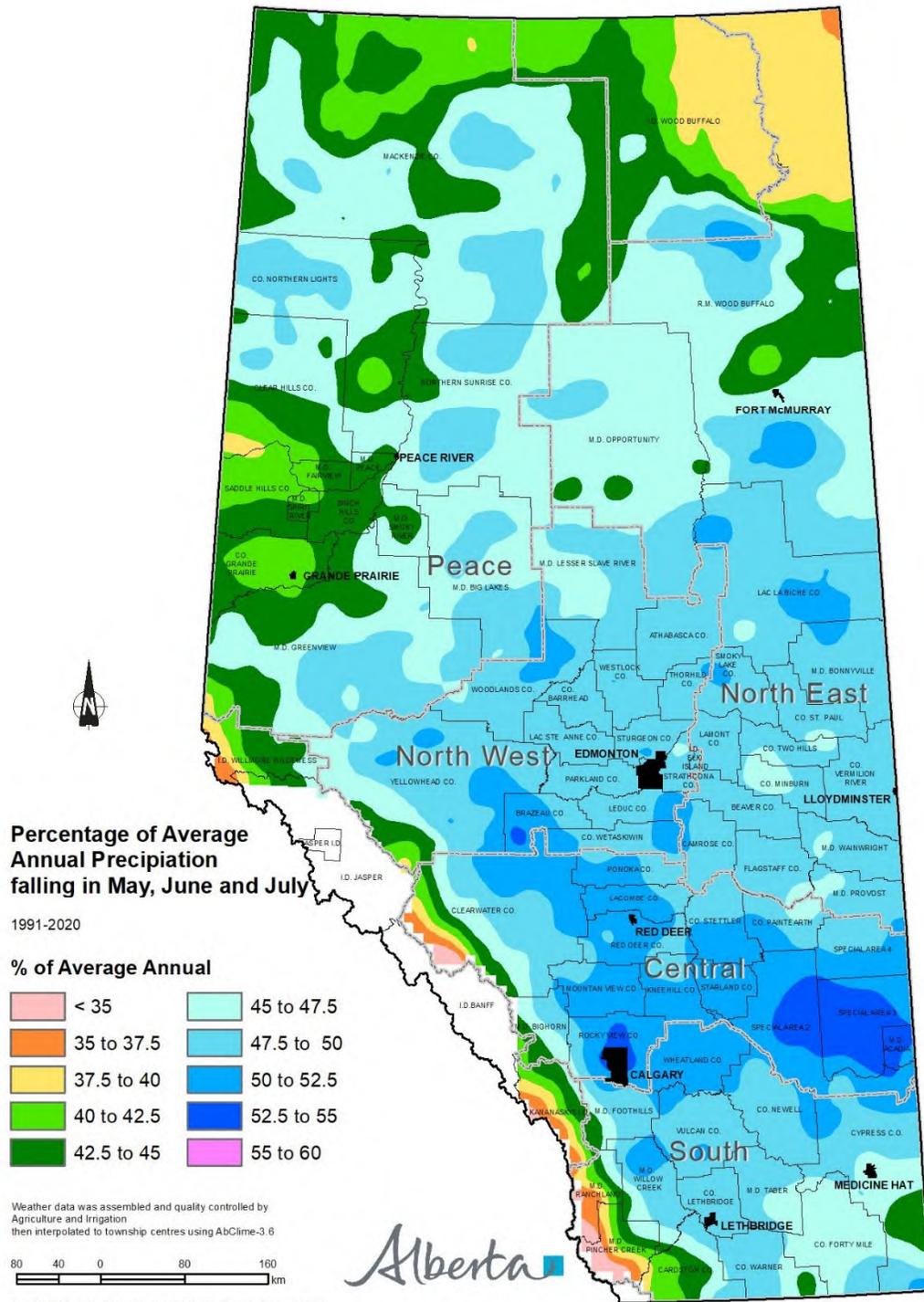
Precipitation (mm)





Alberta

Visit weatherdata.ca for additional maps and meteorological data



Alberta

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