Moisture Situation Update - October 17, 2017

Synopsis:

During the middle of last week (October 10th and 11th), wet weather returned to many parts of the province for a few days (see Map 1). Fortunately, for most of the agricultural areas south of the Yellowhead Highway and throughout much of the Peace Region, total accumulations were typically less than 5 mm. However, many areas north of the Yellowhead Highway saw appreciable accumulations, ranging from 15 to 30 mm, with snow falling in some areas and lingering on the ground for a few days.

Discussions with AF's fire weather meteorologists.

Since the weekend, relatively warmer and drier weather has persisted, at least for the time being. However, this trend will end today (October 17th), as an intense system moves in from the west with wind warnings currently in effect across a large portion of the province affecting lands between Slave Lake and south to the US border.

This system is also expected to bring additional moisture to those areas ranging from Edmonton and north up into the Peace Region. Accumulations will be relatively light (5 to 10 mm), with the greatest amounts expected west of Edson (10-15 mm), and in and around Grande Cache (15 to 20 mm). Skies should start clearing again late tonight and into tomorrow morning (Wednesday, Oct 18th).

In behind this system, towards the weekend, expect to see a second moisture bearing event sweep through similar areas, with only minor accumulations expected. Next week, it appears that warmer and drier weather is on the way for the province, with temperatures forecast to climb to near or above seasonal, by mid-week.

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

Note: Data has about a two hour lag and is displayed in MST.

Ralph Wright
Manager, Agro-meteorological Applications and Modelling Section
Alberta Agriculture and Forestry
Phone: 780-446-6831

Map 1

