

## FINAL CROP REPORT OCTOBER, 2006

The 2006 harvest was earlier for Saskatchewan farmers than it has been for the past several years, according to Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food's final crop report for the year.

In the central and northern regions of Saskatchewan, spring for some farmers began with harvesting the 2005 crop left out from last fall. In April, precipitation was well above normal in the southern and east central regions of the province. Excessive rainfall continued in eastern Saskatchewan in the latter part of May.

Seeding activity began during the second week in April in the southwest. By the end of May, 80 per cent of the crop had been planted, which compares to the five-year (2001-2005) average. Wet weather in June continued to delay seeding in the east central and northeastern regions. It was estimated that approximately two million acres were not seeded due to saturated field conditions.

Farmers seeded an estimated 33.6 million acres, the least amount of acres seeded since 1999. Hot, dry

weather in July and August diminished the yield potential, but pushed crop development ahead.

Harvest proceeded earlier across the province than it has for a few years.

Over 40 per cent of the harvest was completed by the end of August. By mid-September, over 90 per cent of the harvest was complete, with the remainder stalled by rain. To date, approximately 500,000 acres have yet to be harvested.

Crop reporters expect that farmers will harvest 24.96 million tonnes of the major grains, oilseeds, and specialty crops for the 2006 crop year. The production estimate is two per cent above the 10-year (1996-2005) average of 24.56 million tonnes, and 19 per cent below 2005 production of 30.66 million tonnes.

Quality of the 2006 crop is above average. Downgrading came from insects, hail, and weathering in late-harvested crops.

The hay crop was generally good this year. Provincially, the first and second cuts of brome/alfalfa hay on dry land averaged 1.6 imperial tons

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per acre, above the 10-year average of 1.0 imperial tons per acre. Quality was expected to be generally good to excellent. Southwestern farmers experienced below average hay crops due to dry spring soils.

*At this time, Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food would like to acknowledge our valued crop reporters, who so generously volunteered their time to provide the detailed information used in producing the weekly Crop Report. We greatly appreciate your contribution and thank you for your ongoing commitment.*

Saskatchewan Crop Insurance reminds customers that coverage for the 2006 crop year ends November 15. **November 15 is the deadline to file all production declarations and post-harvest claims.** Claims submitted between November 16 and December 31 will have indemnities reduced by 25 per cent. Claims are not accepted after December 31.

A Crop Insurance contract provides you with a yield guarantee at a designated grade. If the grade of your harvested production is lower than your designated grade, you will be compensated for the reduction in quality in any claim calculation.

If putting your insured crop to an alternate use (any use other than combining) you must contact your customer service office for an appraisal prior to putting it to that alternate use. The appraisal will be used to calculate any claims.

If you will not complete harvest by the deadline, request an extension of insurance at your customer service office by November 15 to be covered for yield and grade losses incurred over winter.

The Wildlife Damage Compensation Program is administered by Crop Insurance and available to all Saskatchewan producers. If you detect damage due to wildlife in your crops, contact your customer service office immediately.

### 1 Year Ago

Harvest progress was at 94% with north eastern regions at 78% complete.

Waterfowl, wild game and weathering caused the majority of the crop damage.

The province was 98% complete by October 30, 2005

## **Precipitation**

According to Saskatchewan Watershed Authority's April, 2006 report, winter precipitation totals in the grainbelt region generally varied from below normal in southern areas to well above normal in central and northern areas.

Runoff was generally finished across southern and western areas of the province by early April. High flows were experienced at that time in central areas (Davidson – Outlook) causing water to flow over some roads and flooding of some agricultural lands. North central and north eastern areas remained snow covered in early April. By the third week in April, most creeks and rivers in east central and north eastern areas of the grainbelt had recorded their peak levels.

Precipitation during April was quite extreme throughout the province, with many areas receiving double, triple, or more than normal rainfall. In the grainbelt region, southern and east central areas received well above normal precipitation while north western areas received well below normal precipitation.

Precipitation during May was variable across the province. Southern grainbelt areas saw somewhat below normal precipitation with north and central areas generally receiving well below normal precipitation. In east central areas, excessive rainfall on wet soils near the end of May generated significant runoff.

Precipitation during June varied from normal to above normal. Central areas of the grainbelt received well above normal precipitation. Heavy rains created additional runoff in some areas and flooding of low lying agricultural areas adjacent to creeks.

Precipitation during July and August was predominantly the result of thunderstorm activity and, as such, rainfall amounts varied greatly locally as well as regionally. In July, precipitation was generally well below normal across the grainbelt region. In August, precipitation varied from well below normal across the southern grainbelt region to near normal in northern grainbelt areas to above normal in west central areas.

September precipitation continued to be variable. Southern areas saw near normal precipitation while central and northern areas experienced well above normal precipitation.

Many northern and central areas have snow cover at the time of this report.

During the growing season (April 1 to July 31), precipitation as a percentage of normal varied from lows of 64% in the Coronach area (CD 3asw), 73% in the Maple Creek area (CD 4a), and 85% in the Estevan area (CD 1a) to highs of 155% in the Moose Jaw area (CD 2b), 152% in the Saskatoon area (CD 6b), and 148% in the Indian Head area (CD 2b).

## **Seeding**

In the fall of 2005, just over 1% of the crop was not harvested due to poor weather conditions, the majority in central and northern regions. About one-third of that was combined in the spring, the rest being damaged by weathering and wildlife. Seeding activity in the province began during the second week in April in the southwest. By the end of April, 3% of the 2006 crop had been planted. By mid-May, about 25% of the crop had been planted. Cool temperatures, dry soil conditions in the south and very wet soil conditions in the north delayed seeding progress. By the end of May, 80% of the crop was seeded. By June 11, the provincial seeding progress was at 94%. Individual crop districts less than 90% completed included CDs 5 and 8a. Some RMs were less than 50% seeded because of saturated fields. It was estimated that about 2 million acres were unable to be seeded.

## **Crop Damage**

Throughout the growing season, sources of weather damage were wind, heat and drought stress, frost, flooding, and hail. Results of these conditions were lodging, shelling, sprouting, bleaching, staining, scattering of swaths, reduced yields, and reduced bushel weights. Hail in August devastated many crops in the west central region. Some east central areas experienced significant hail damage in July and some south eastern areas experienced significant hail damage at harvest.

*From entomologist, Scott Hartley:* Saskatchewan and the Prairies experienced a warmer, drier growing season in 2006 compared to the cooler, moister conditions during the past 2 years. The higher temperatures resulted in quicker development of crops and insects.

Wireworm infestations continue to be a growing problem in many crops, although cereals tend to be the most affected. Cutworms also caused extensive damage to seedlings in 2006.

The warm, dry conditions in 2006 were more favourable for flea beetle populations which appeared to be on the increase. The most notable infestations were in the southeast, but with good vegetative growth, the canola was able to withstand the beetles feeding and little chemical control was reported in Saskatchewan. Canola and mustard crops in southwest Saskatchewan were infested with high populations of cabbage seedpod weevil. Although most of the insecticide application was reported in the Maple Creek area, economic populations were found as far east as Gull Lake and Webb. The warm temperatures in spring resulted in an earlier and rapid emergence of Bertha armyworm moths in June with a peak prior to mid-July. Insecticide application, largely by air, began later in July and continued into August. In some cases more than one application was required to control the worms. Some of the worst areas include Duck Lake, Rosthern and the North Saskatchewan River across through Birch Hills. Tisdale, Hudson Bay and

other locations in the northeast and east central regions reported high numbers and severe crop damage. There were also reports of Bertha armyworms in flax and alfalfa. Cabbage root maggots were reported infesting fields in some locations.

High aphid populations were observed in a number of field crops in July. Aside from the annual infestations of aphids in canary seed, aphids in pea crops have become more frequent. In 2006, pea, lentil, flax, and canola were affected in eastern areas of the province.

The wheat stem sawfly continued to be a problem for wheat producers in 2006. High infestations were found throughout the province, including more northern regions of the grainbelt. The wheat midge is back as a serious pest of wheat in Saskatchewan. The worst affected areas were in the eastern half of the province, but economic infestations were reported in central and northeast regions as well.

There were reports of severe damage to alfalfa stands in southeast Saskatchewan from alfalfa weevils.

Crop reporters also noted that insects in stored grain, particularly outside grain piles, are a problem. Farmers are also dealing with hot grain in storage because of warm harvest temperatures.

Gophers were a huge problem in the southwest and damaged a lot of crop.

*From plant pathologist, Penny Pearse:* Spring conditions in 2006 were moist and temperatures warmed quickly, resulting in rapid and uniform crop emergence. Fortunately, this translated into few seedling blight and establishment issues this spring. The exceptions to this were in the northeast and east central regions, where some fields were too wet to seed, or if they were seeded, experienced root rots and crop yellowing. June conditions were moist and warm in many regions, resulting in lush and rapid crop development, which in turn favoured disease. However, warm and dry weather began in July, when most crops were actively flowering, alleviating many of these disease concerns. Some of the disease issues in 2006 were as follows:

The disease, fusarium head blight in cereals, was surprisingly low, especially in areas where it is typically a concern such as the southeast and east central regions. The only hot spots identified were a few fields under irrigation.

Disease incidences in canola were very low, with only trace amounts of sclerotinia stem rot observed. Other diseases such as blackleg, alternaria pod spot, and aster yellows were also identified, but at low levels. Floret blasting from heat and insect damage (primarily from Bertha armyworm) were commonly observed.

Leaf rust over-wintered on winter wheat in the Holdfast area, which was believed to be a first

report for such an occurrence in Saskatchewan. Stripe rust was expected to have over-wintered in the more southern regions. More early and severe development of stripe rust in the southeast and east central regions was noted than ever before.

Tan spot developed early on wheat once again in 2006, as it was favoured by the moist spring conditions. However, tan spot, septoria, and spot blotch incidences were greatly reduced once drier conditions began in July. There was more physiological leaf spot witnessed in cereals early in the season. This symptom is caused by a nutrient deficiency, environment damage, or a potential herbicide/surfactant burn, rather than a disease pathogen.

Ascochyta blight in chickpea was once again very common in all chickpea producing regions. Symptoms were observed as early as

the first week in June. Disease control in some varieties proved to be a challenge this season, even with multiple fungicide applications.

Antracnose in lentils was expected to be more of a problem, but many lentil growers seemed to have a handle on the disease, and the weather cooperated with drier conditions in July.

The warm days and cool nights favoured powdery mildew infection in some pea cultivars. For the most part, the disease developed late enough in the season to not cause significant damage. Powdery mildew may have been a contributor to some of the combine fires.

Blossom blight in caraway developed early and was quite severe in areas that received more moisture. Some caraway growers experienced devastating yield losses this year from this disease.

## Harvest/Production

Harvest operations got underway in late July with 1% of the 2006 crop reported to be harvested by July 30<sup>th</sup>. By the end of August over 40% of the crop was off and by mid-September, 90% of the crop had been harvested. Then, cool, wet weather stalled harvest in many areas and by the first of October, only another 2% was added to the harvesting total.

Eastern and northern regions are again very wet this fall. Fields are not rutted up as badly as in the fall of 2005 since there was a longer period of favourable harvest weather, but some crop still remains out and there are concerns of how soon they will be able to get on the land in the spring.

Over 500 000 acres remain to be harvested from the 2006 crop. Growth in swaths will add to the challenge of harvesting.

Saskatchewan farmers are expected to harvest 24.96-million tonnes of the major grains, oilseeds, and specialty crops for the 2006 crop year. The 2006 production estimate by crop reporters is 2% above the 10-year (1996-2005) average of 24.56 million tonnes, and 19% below 2005 production of 30.66 million tonnes.

On a provincial basis, all yield estimates are expected to be somewhat above average, except for durum, triticale, and lentils. The north eastern area of the grainbelt reported the highest average yields for spring

2006 Saskatchewan Crop Production Estimates						
	2006			1996-2005 Average		
	hvst acres '000	bu/ac	prod'n '000 t	hvst acres '000	bu/ac	prod'n '000 t
Winter wheat	275	38.7	290	133.5	35.5	129.4
Spring wheat	10 525	30.7	8 790	10 222.0	30.1	8 435.5
Durum	3 600	28.3	2 775	4 626.0	29.9	3 759.2
Oats	1 720	63.0	1 670	1 565.5	58.9	1 427.3
Barley	3 220	51.2	3 590	4 241.0	48.8	4 523.0
Fall rye	150	32.8	125	148.5	30.9	119.8
Triticale	20	27.6	15	28.5	35.8	25.9
Flax	1 580	18.7	750	1 184.0	18.4	555.3
Canola	6 250	26.1	3 700	5 485.0	23.6	2 969.0
Field peas	2 710	29.8	2 200	1 991.0	29.6	1 590.9
Subtotal	30 050		23 905	29 625.		23 535.3
		lb/ac			lb/ac	
Mustard	262	799	95	520.0	778	183.8
Sunflowers	35	1 260	20	35.3	1 074	16.8
Lentils	1 410	1 063	680	1 300.0	1 078	642.8
Canary seed	295	1 009	135	441.0	893	178.1
Chickpeas	305	904	125	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Subtotal	2 307		1 055	2 296.3		1 021.5
Total	32 357		24 960	31 921.3		24 556.8



wheat, durum, oats, barley, and canary seed. The south western area reported the lowest average yields for all crops except lentils.

### Quality

Crop quality was much better in 2006 than it has been for a couple years, due mainly to dry harvest weather.

The spring wheat crop is estimated to be 57% No. 1 Canada Western (CW), compared to 49% 1 CW for the 10-year (1996-2005) average. The overall quality of the durum crop is expected to be 60% 1 CW for 2006, compared to 39% for the 10-year average.

Thirty-two per cent of the oat crop is expected to grade 1 CW, compared to the 10-year average of 27%. Malting barley grade for the 2006 crop is expected to be above the 10-year average – 47% versus 30%. Eighty-five per cent of the triticale crop is expected to grade 1 Canada. There is no 10-year crop report average for triticale.

Eighty-nine per cent of the flax crop is expected to grade 1 CW,

above the 10-year average of 80%. Canola is also above average – 88% for the 2006 crop versus the 10-year average of 75%.

Most specialty crops came in with above-average quality. The mustard crop is expected to grade 84% 1 Canada versus the 10-year average of 74%. With just over half of the sunflowers combined, 36% of that crop is expected to grade 1 Canada, compared to 71% for the 10-year average. The lentil crop is expected to grade 94% in the top two grades, compared to the 10-year average of 73%. The pea crop is expected to grade 92% in the top two grades, compared to the 10-year average of 81%. The chickpea crop is expected to grade 67% 1 CW. There is no 10-year average for chickpeas.

The quality of fall seeded crops was estimated to also be above-average. The rye crop was expected to grade 98% in the top two grades versus the 10-year average of 88%. Winter wheat crops were expected to grade 68% 1 CW versus 49% for the 10-year average.

More of the lower grading crops were harvested in the northern and east central areas of the grainbelt. More of the higher grading crops were harvested in the southern grainbelt.

### Hay/Pasture/Winter Feed

Cutting of the 2006 hay crop began in mid-June. By mid-July, over 60% of the first-cut had been baled or put into silage. At the end of July, 92% of the first cut and 3% of the second cut had been harvested. By mid-August, 96% of the first cut and 14% of the second cut were complete. Many reporters did not expect a second cut of hay in their district.

Across the province, the first and second cuts of brome/alfalfa hay on dryland averaged 1.64 imperial tons per acre, above the 10-year average of 1.06 imperial tons per acre. Yields were above average across most of the province, ranging from an average high of 2.48 imperial tons per acre in the northeast to an average low of 0.97 imperial tons per acre in the southwest.

2006 Harvested Grains, Oilseeds, and Specialty Crops Grade Estimates																
per cent																
		2006	2005	1996-05 avg.		2006	2005	1996-05 avg.		2006	2005	1996-05 avg.				
Winter wheat	1CW	68	37	49	2CW	28	46	32	CWFd	4	17	19				
Spring wheat	1CW	57	18	49	2CW	32	25	20	3CW	9	40	17	CWFd	2	17	14
Durum	1CW	60	26	39	2CW	31	37	26	3CW	7	26	21	Oth (4&5)	2	11	14
Oats	1CW	32	22	27	2CW	47	45	33	3CW	16	26	30	4CW	5	7	10
Barley	S.S.&S.	47	22	30	1CW	44	50	49	2CW&Sa.	9	28	21				
All rye	1CW	71	51	61	2CW	27	31	27	3CW	2	13	8	Sample	0	5	4
Triticale	1Can	85	65	n.a.	2Can	13	14	n.a.	3Can	2	17	n.a.	Sample	0	4	n.a.
Flax	1CW	89	83	80	2CW	10	14	13	3CW	1	2	4	Sample	0	1	3
Canola	1Can	88	85	75	2Can	10	11	15	3Can	2	3	6	Sample	0	1	4
Mustard	1Can	84	77	74	2Can	15	18	18	3Can	1	3	5	4Can&Sa.	0	2	3
Sunflowers	1Can	36	74	71	2Can	64	25	25	Sample	0	1	4				
Lentils	1Can	58	28	40	2Can	36	37	33	E3 &3Can	6	29	21	Sample	0	6	6
Field peas	1Can	54	37	45	2Can	38	41	36	E3 &3Can	6	14	12	Sample	2	8	7
Chickpeas	1CW	67	39	n.a.	2CW	25	44	n.a.	3CW	5	14	n.a.	Sample	3	3	n.a.

Pastures were slow to develop as dry conditions in the south and cool weather and very wet conditions on the eastern side and into the northwest hampered growth. Pasture conditions at the end of May had improved from the end of April, with over 80% of the reporters rating pastures in their area in good to excellent condition. By the end of June, pasture conditions had improved even more and 92% were reported to be in good to excellent condition. Conditions declined significantly by the end of July, with 33% of reporters giving the good to excellent rating. By the end of August, only 24% of reporters were giving a good to excellent rating. Rainfall in September improved pastures slightly and 33% of reporters rated pastures in good to excellent condition at the end of September.

Water supplies for livestock is a concern for many southern producers going into the winter as sloughs and dugouts are dry or very low.

Winter feed supplies are rated as adequate to surplus by over 90% of reporters. The highest ratings of inadequate hay, greenfeed, and feed grain came from the southwest. The highest ratings of inadequate straw came from the northeast. Feed grain supplies will be dependent on grain prices.

### Fall-seeded crops

The area seeded to winter wheat in Saskatchewan is estimated to rise to 310 000 acres, an increase of just over 3% from the fall of 2005. Fall rye plantings are expected to decrease to 185 000 acres, down 8% from the fall of 2005. Winter wheat acreages are expected to be up in the southwest, northeast, and east central regions. The largest increase in winter wheat acres is expected in the east central region, while the largest decrease is expected in the southeast. Fall rye acreages are expected to be up in the east central region, while the largest decrease is expected in the southeast. Dry fall soil conditions in the southeast were primarily responsible for reduced fall seeded acreage.

### Moisture

Topsoil moisture conditions on crop land are rated as adequate by 58% of reporters, as surplus by 20% of reporters, and as short or very short by 22% of reporters. Ninety-five per cent of north eastern reporters rate topsoil moisture conditions as surplus. Over 50% of south eastern reporters rate topsoil moisture conditions as short or very short.

Topsoil moisture conditions on hay and pasture land are rated as adequate by 58% of reporters, as surplus by 14% of reporters and as short or very short by 28% of reporters. Over 75% of reporters in the northeast rate topsoil moisture conditions as surplus. Over 70% of reporters in the south east rate topsoil moisture conditions as short or very short.

Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food will be collecting information on subsoil moisture to produce a map for November 1, 2006.

*Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food has over 280 crop reporters around the province who contribute to this report. Over 150 reporters have been with the program for at least 10 years – and over 60 of those have been with the program for over 20 years.*

#### 2006 Saskatchewan Dryland Hay Yield Estimates

Alfalfa	Brome/ Alfalfa	tons per acre		Greenfeed
		Other Tame	Wild	
1.67	1.64	1.28	1.19	1.79

#### 2006 Fall Plantings

	2006	2005	1996-05 Avg.
	acres		
Winter wheat	310 000	300 000	153 500
Fall rye	185 000	200 000	202 500

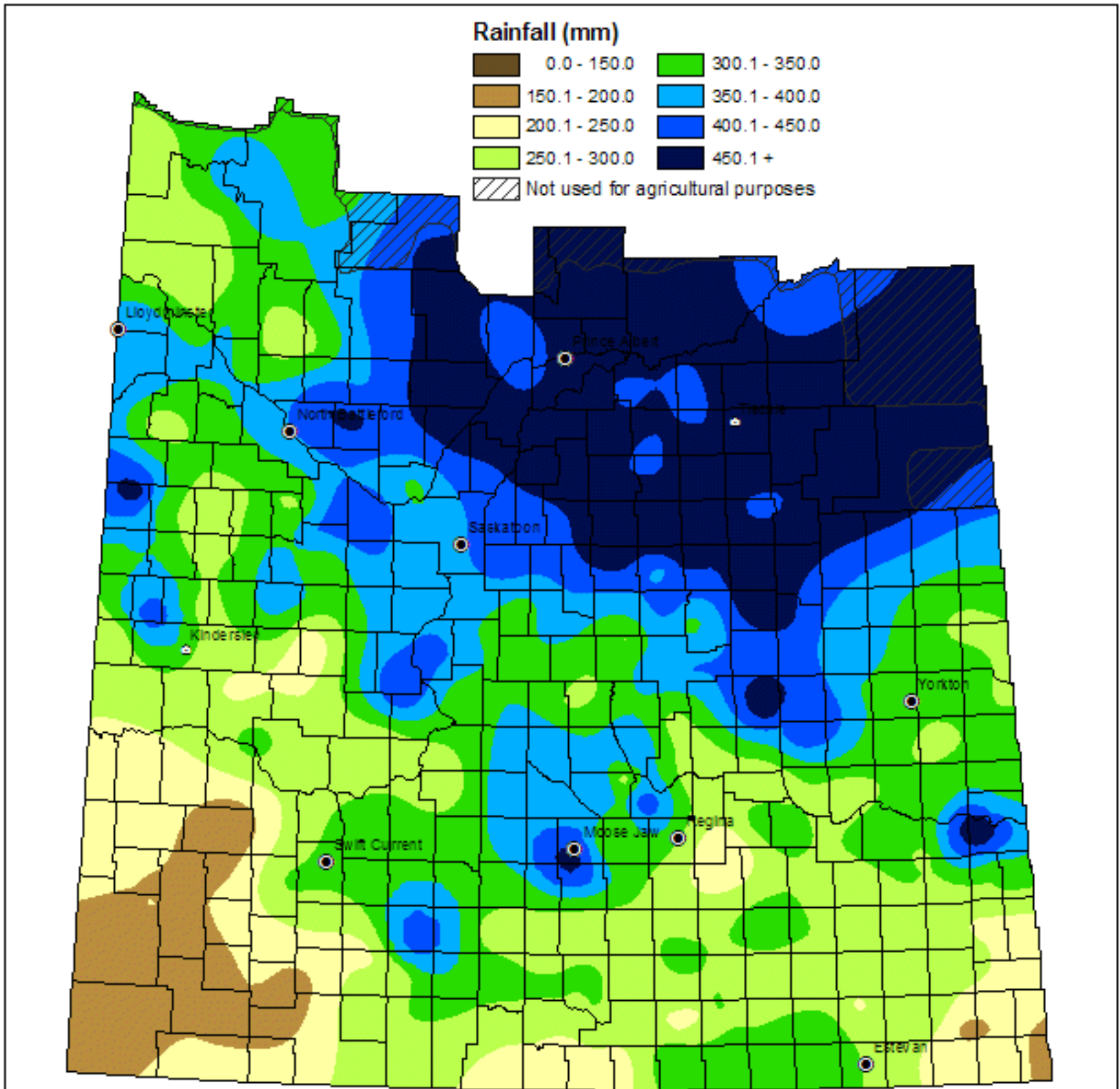






# Cumulative Rainfall

From: April 1, 2006  
To: October 14, 2006

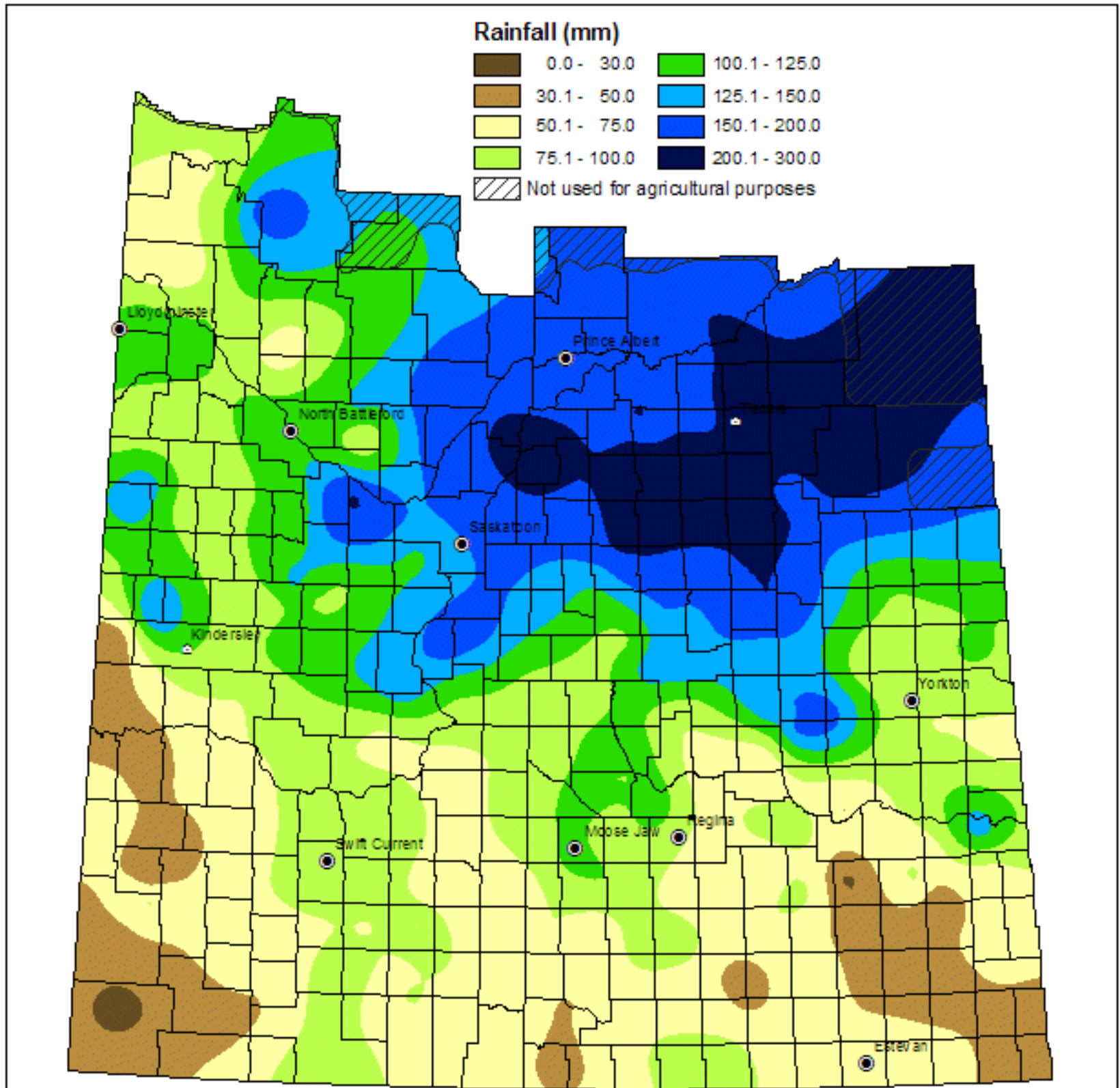


NOTE: Since techniques used to smooth the transition between zones can affect the values in localized areas, this map should be used for regional analysis only.

# Cumulative Rainfall

From: August 26, 2006

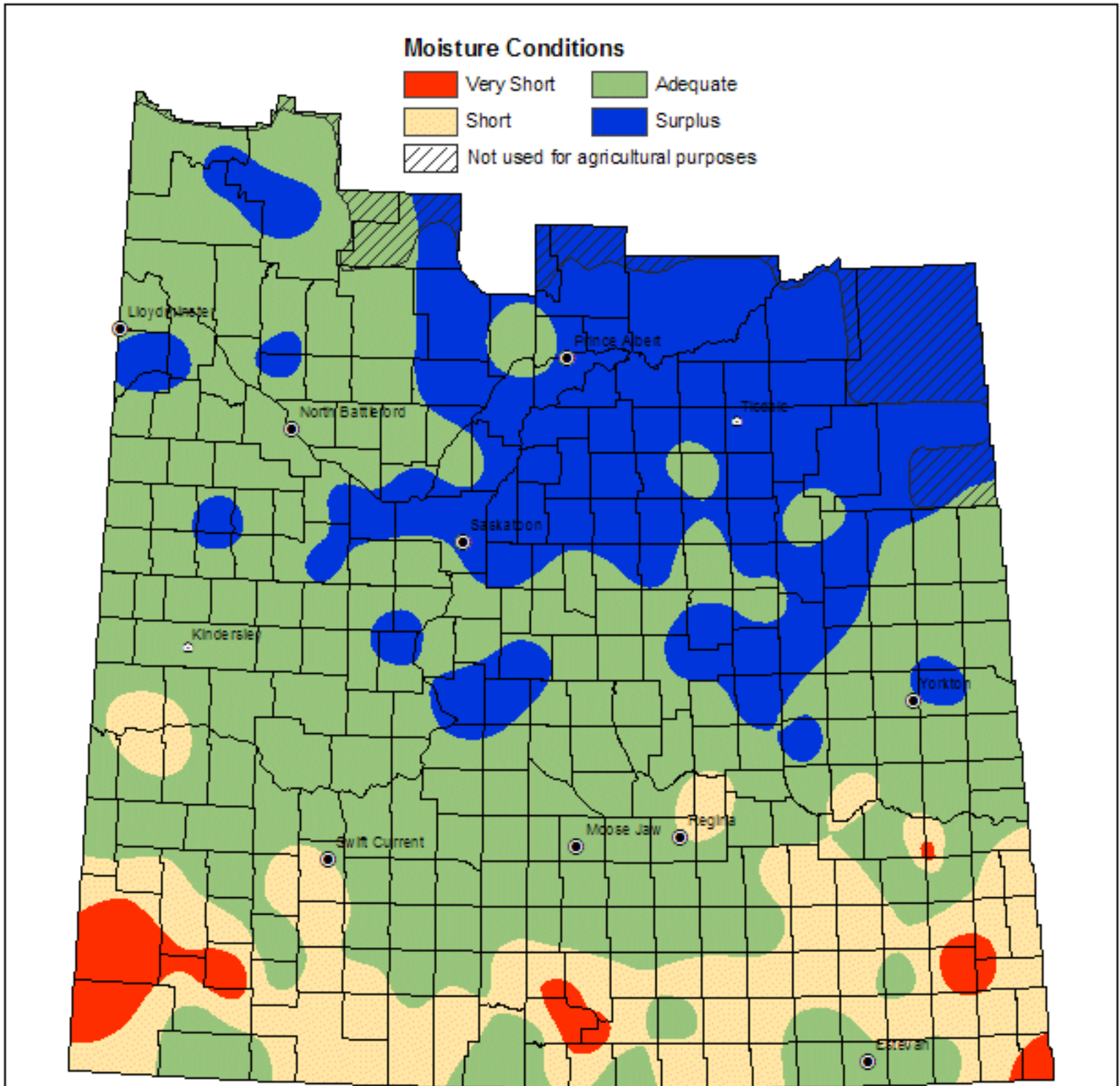
To: October 14, 2006



NOTE: Since techniques used to smooth the transition between zones can affect the values in localized areas, this map should be used for regional analysis only.

# Crop Land Topsoil Moisture Conditions

## October 15, 2006

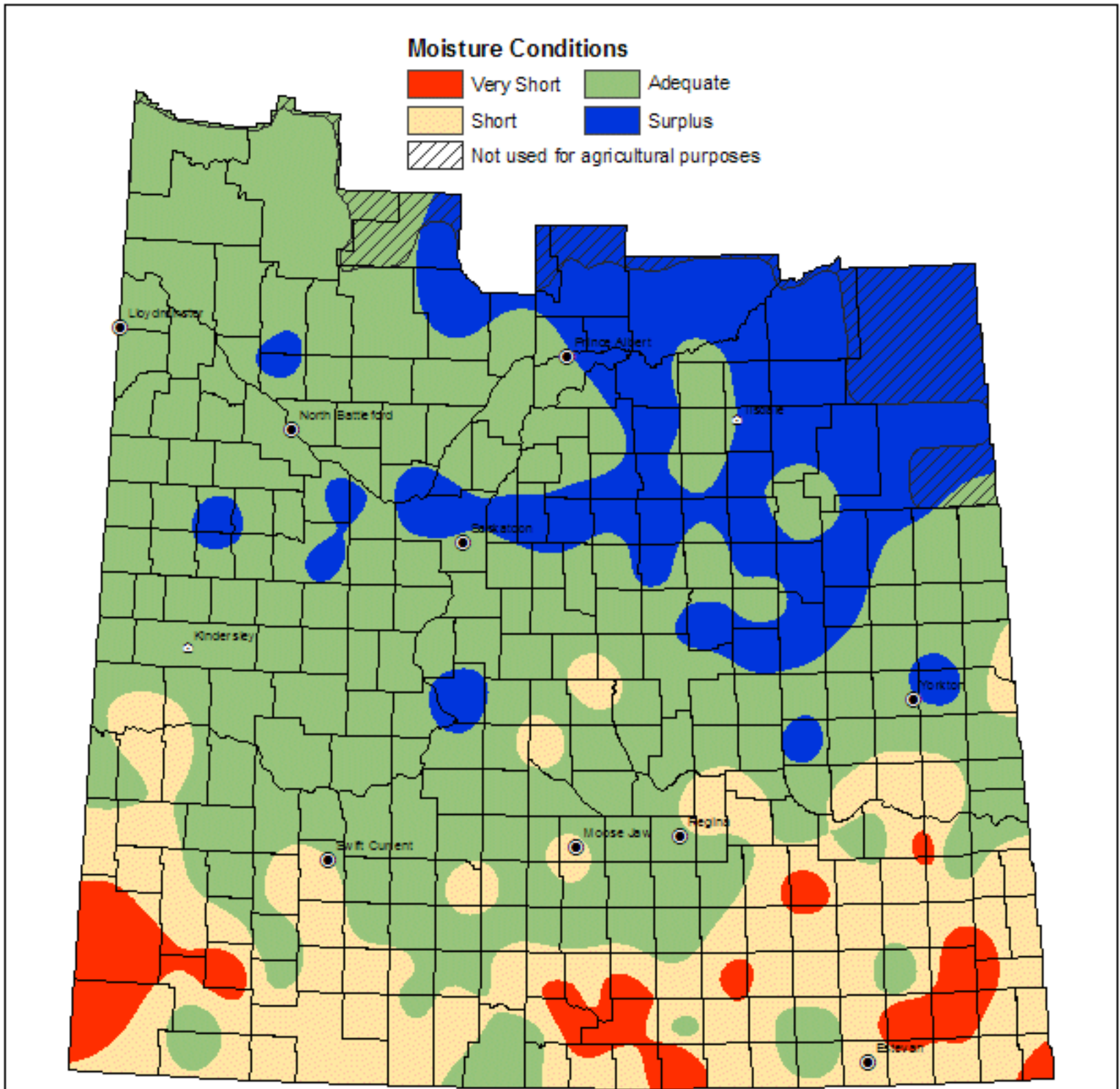


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# Hay and Pasture Topsoil Moisture Conditions

## October 15, 2006

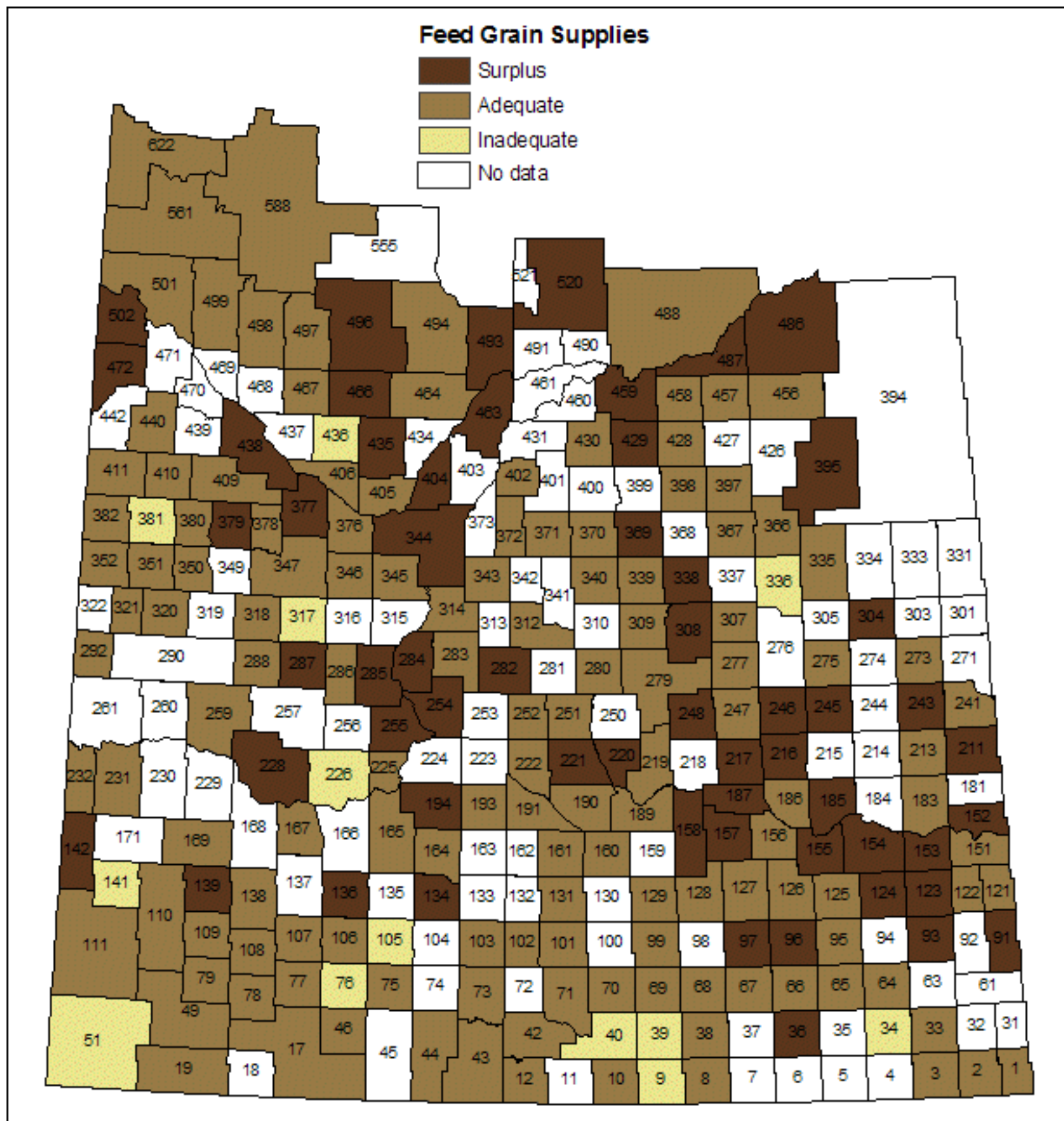


NOTE: Since techniques used to smooth the transition between zones can affect the values in localized areas, this map should be used for regional analysis only.



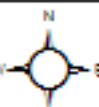
# Winter Feed Supplies - Feed Grain

October 15, 2006



Saskatchewan  
Agriculture  
and Food

0 25 50 100 150 200  
Kilometers



Feed supply data - SAF Crop Report Database  
Base Geospatial Data provided under license to SAF,  
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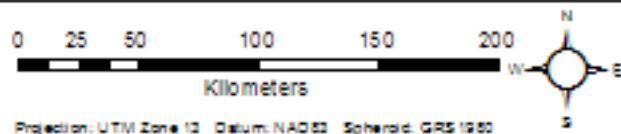
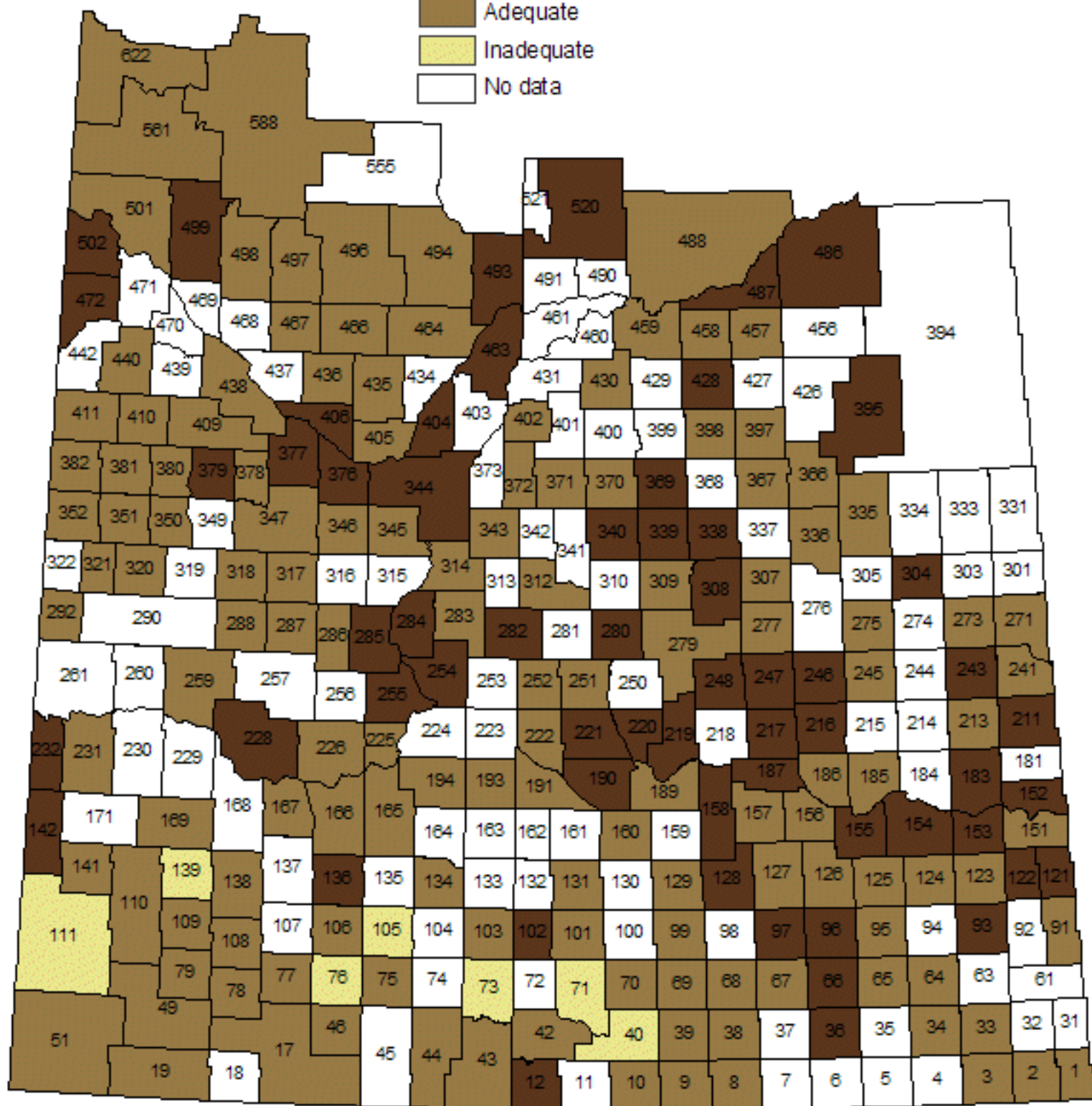
Prepared by: Geomatics Services Date: October 24, 2006

# Winter Feed Supplies - Greenfeed

October 15, 2006

## Greenfeed Supplies

- Surplus
- Adequate
- Inadequate
- No data

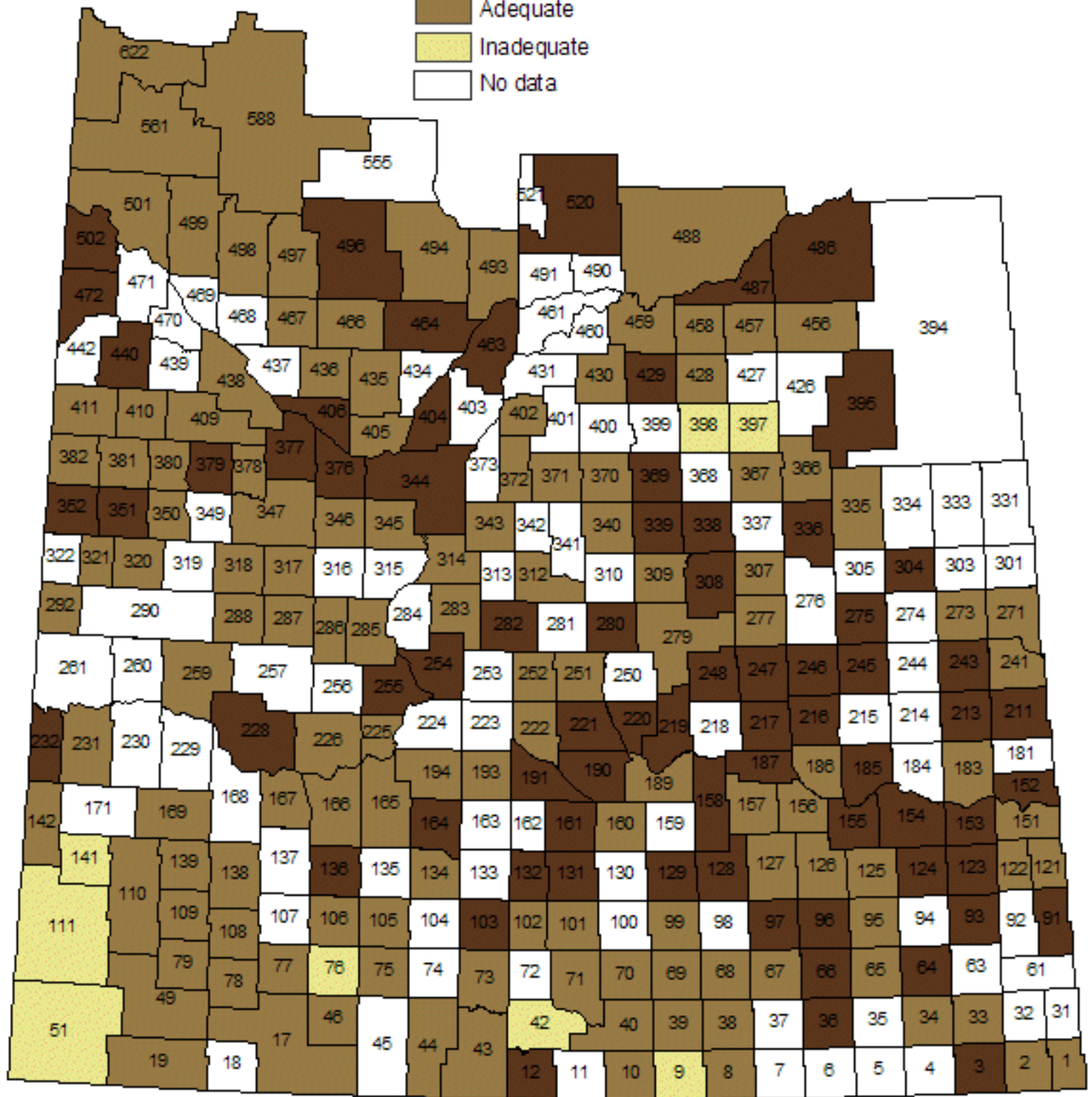
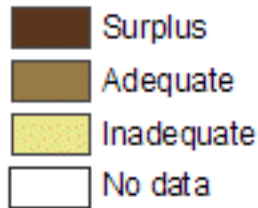


Feed supply data - SAF Crop Report Database  
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 Prepared by: Geomatics Services Date: October 24, 2006

# Winter Feed Supplies - Straw

October 15, 2006

## Straw Supplies





# Winter Feed Supplies - Tame Hay

October 15, 2006

