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TORNADO PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET

1. DATE AND TIME: July 6, 1983

2. LOCATION OR PATH (attach map): Taber, Alta.

3. PATH LENGTH ☐ NOT KNOWN ☐ <1mi; ☐ 1-4mi; ☐ 5-10mi; ☐ 11-50mi; ☐ LENGTH IF>50mi

4. PATH WIDTH ☐ 5. TORNADO PART OF SQUALL LINE? ☐ YES; ☐ NO; ☐ UNKNOWN:

6. ANY UNUSUAL COLORATION? ☐ YES; ☐ NO; ☐ UNKNOWN

7. ANY UNUSUAL SOUND? ☐ YES; ☐ NO; ☐ UNKNOWN

8. IF ANSWER TO 6 OR 7 YES, ELABORATE;

9. LIST ANY ASSOCIATED PHENOMENA (Such as hail, vivid lightning heavy rain, no rain, etc.)
- hail
- rain

10. TOTAL DAMAGE ESTIMATE $ 11. TOTAL DEATHS

12. TOTAL INJURED 13. TOTAL HOMELESS

14. LIST ALL REFERENCES

15. SUMMARIZE REMARKS PERTAINING TO (a) FUNNEL; (b) INTERESTING OR CAPRICIOUS EVENTS.

b) Pig-shed picked up and dropped on top of silo, irrigation equipment destroyed,

T.D. 124/7250
55/5750 5000 0



John Colville, Calgary Herald

S.D. - July 6/83

The year's first crop of southern Alberta hay considered by agriculture experts to be in poor condition

C.H. July 8/83.

'Jumbled up' weather vents its wrath on Taber

By Bob Beaty
(Herald staff writer)

While twisters in a violent Wednesday night rain and hail storm lifted one Taber area farmer's pig shed and dropped it on top of his 24-metre silo, farmers around Pincher Creek can count the number of raindrops that have fallen on them this year.

Taber, a previously bone-dry area of the province, was the worst hit.

Despite the hail, Taber district agriculturist Carole Rex said farmers still need a good five centimetres of rain.

Rex said the hail and wind storm cut a swath about 25 kilometres long and from one to eight kilometres wide.

Corn plants were stripped down to their stalks, beet and potato plant tops were torn off and cereal crops were driven into the ground, Rex said.

"There is 100-per-cent damage in the storm path," Rex said after completing a tour of area farms.

Hans Visser, 50, the Taber farmer, who woke up this morning and found his pig shed had been thrown on top of one of his silos — leaving a large dent in the silo top and wreckage of the pig shed at the silo base — said the hail and wind also wiped out 480 hectares of corn and barley.

Visser said he wasn't at home when the twisters cut through his farm. But his oldest son Kenneth, 28, drove into the farm yard in a half-ton truck when they hit and he won't forget it, said Hans.

"Ken told me he couldn't control the truck; it just seemed to float in the air for a while," Hans said.

Visser said all of his irrigation equipment, including a 500-metre irrigation boom, was completely wrecked.

"It was devastating. It just wiped out everything we had.

"But at the end of the storm the sun was shining and a rainbow appeared. We believe the Lord is in control of everything so we'll put our faith in Him and start all over again," Visser said.

"It's a jumbled up weather world out there this year," provincial government agrometeorologist Conrad Gietz said Thursday.

"For the last five years we seem to be getting dry spring weather. And this year it's too much rain and too much hail on the heels of a dry spring."

Ed Patching, manager of Alberta's Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation fears a claim record could be set this year.

"Last year we paid out almost $50 million in hail related damage. That's the record so far.

"It's too early to say whether we'll be over that this year, but it doesn't look good," Patching said in a telephone interview from his Lacombe office.

Patching said the worst hit hail areas so far are Taber, Edmonton, Camrose, Stettler, Big Valley, Rockyford and Peace River.

Crops across the province, however, are generally in good condition, Alberta Wheat Pool's statistician Peggy Le Sueur-Brymer said.

The first hay crop is being harvested now by southern Alberta farmers and it is in average to poor condition because of the dry spring weather, she said.

The wet weather in the last month came too late to provide a good first cut of hay, she said, but southern Alberta farmers should be able to harvest a better second cut.

Farmers north of Red Deer weren't so lucky.

"The spring was so dry north of there, the hay crop is almost nonexistent," Le Sueur-Brymer said.

As a result of recent rains, previously dry areas around Grand Prairie, Whitecrout, Edmonton and Coronation, are too wet.

Some fields are completely covered in water around the Edmonton area and crops will be stunted, if not ruined, by the lack of oxygen, said Gietz.

Crops in low lying areas have been completely wiped out by soggy conditions.

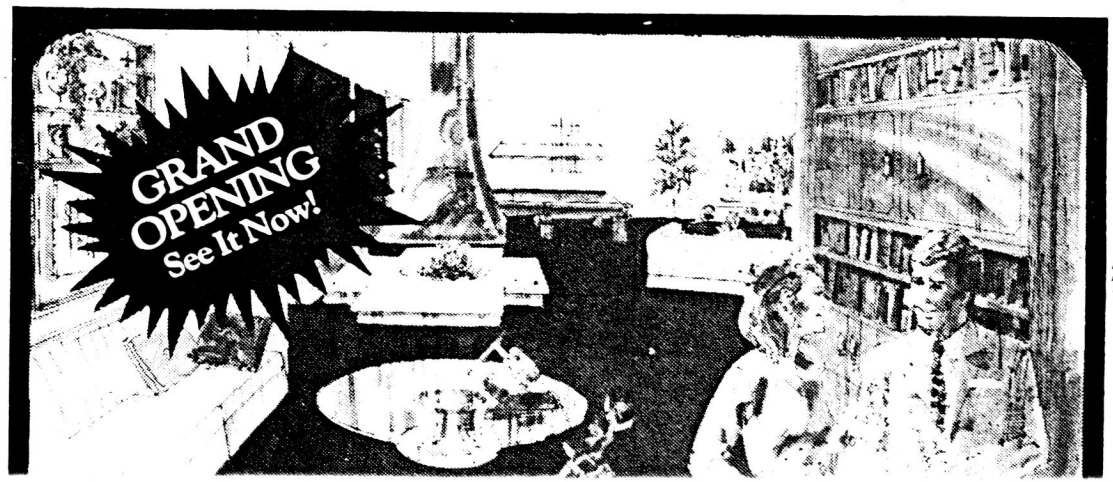
And in the south the opposite is true.

Le Sueur-Brymer said drought-like conditions are apparent in a line running from Pincher Creek to Medicine Hat.

STAMPEDE SPECIALS



APPLE STARTER SYSTEM



S.D. July 6/83

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Tom Walker, Calgary Herald

Hail lashes farm crops

By Don Collins
(Herald staff writer)

The torrential rain and hail storm that turned some Calgary streets into miniature seaways during the supper hour Wednesday may also have taken a toll in farm crops.

Provincial agriculturists said there was no way of making immediate damage estimates because the intensity of the storm varied as it cut a swath through the southern part of the province.

However, there were unofficial reports that some crops may have been wiped out in the Taber district south of Brooks — one of the areas hardest hit by the storm.

High winds were reported to have felled power lines at Taber causing a brief power shortage in the community.

There were no serious problems in Calgary, although the downpour played havoc with the last of the homebound rush-hour traffic. Water quickly covered some roadways to a depth that caused a number of cars to stall, particularly in the south part of the city. Railway underpasses were among the worst problem areas.

While the rain was widespread, the hailstorm followed an uncertain path. It missed some parts of the city, such as the Calgary International Airport, but left piles of hailstones estimated at 15 centimetres in depth along the curbs of streets in the Heritage Park area.

The weather office had expected the worst, issuing a weather advisory at noon for Calgary, Lethbridge and Medicine Hat, and revising it at 3:30 p.m. to a warning of severe thunder storms.

Menacing black clouds moved in almost on cue and in some areas nature unleashed its full fury, complete with thunderstorms, lightning, hail and menacing winds. Just north of Medicine Hat the winds were recorded at 125 kilometres per hour.

The official rainfall at the Calgary airport, where the weather office is located, was only 3.4 millimetres. But weather forecasters say it would have been much higher in harder-hit areas of the city.

Unofficially, 12 millimetres (about half an inch) of rain was reported to have fallen in the Brooks area in a period of 20 minutes.

Gordon Frank, a provincial government district agriculturist at Brooks, said in a telephone interview that some cereal grain may have been flattened by the storm. It was early growth grain and would probably revive, he felt, although it could mean the inconvenience of slow harvesting. Other areas and other types of crops may have suffered worse damage, he said. But that won't be known until later.

Scout stamp unveiled to a roar of thunder

By Richard Hoffman
(Herald staff writer)

KANANASKIS COUNTRY — The XV World Scout Jamboree started with a bang Wednesday when an unexpected thunderstorm marked the official introduction of a commemorative stamp.

The roar of thunder came just seconds after federal cabinet minister Andre Ouellet unveiled the special issue stamp.

Ouellet, who is responsible for the Canada Post Corporation, told a crowd of about 300 Scouts and their leaders that "it's impossible to exaggerate the importance and value of the movement."

The commemorative stamp, designed by Marc Fournier, 12, of Edmonston, N.B., depicted a Boy Scout lowering a Canadian flag over a mountain campsite.

Fournier's drawing was selected from thousands of entries by scouts from across Canada

Contest runner-up was Michael Timms, 9, of Delta, B.C.

After the brief ceremony, hundreds of Scouts stood in line for hours through the almost- continuous drizzle to purchase the collector' item at Canada Post's on-site office.

Woodward's Correction

Re: Food Ad that appeared in Monday's Calgary Herald, July 4th page B3 — Item Fancy Lettuce should have read B.C. grown item. Solid light tuna should have read 7 oz. tin 1.45. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused our customers.

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