



For Immediate Release

Many Farmers' Fields Submerged After Record-Breaking Rainfall

Chatham, ON (Dec. 1, 2011) – Farmers in southwestern Ontario continue to face Mother Nature's wrath this year. Continuous, intense rain between November 28th and 29th caused extensive flooding, leaving hundreds of acres across the region under water.

Chris Snip, Crop Specialist with AGRIS Co-operative, worries the massive amounts of water could wreak havoc on recently-planted winter wheat.

"With so much of the soil saturated, a lot of the seeds and plants may rot," he said. "Some farmers have written off entire fields already, there's so much water laying on them."

Rainfall totals were between 40 – 80 mm in most areas, according to Weather INnovations Inc., which maintains a network of weather monitoring stations in farmers' fields throughout Ontario. Among the hardest hit locations were Tupperville (103 mm), Kingsville (91 mm) and Kent Bridge (87 mm). Weather INnovations has created a GIS-enhanced map illustrating the rainfall picture across the southwest of the province. See the map below along with a table of total amounts from locations around the area.

Environment Canada meteorologist Geoff Coulson indicated precipitation records were broken in several cities and towns.

"Windsor received 75 mm on November 29th alone," he said, "the wettest day not just for that date but for any single day in the month of November ever. This is now also the rainiest year ever for Windsor – over 1,350 mm with a month still to go." The previous yearly record for rain in Windsor was in 1990, with 1,121 mm total accumulation. Daily rainfall records for November 29th were also set in Ridgeway, London, Sarnia and Delhi, with 62, 54, 51 and 43 mm respectively.

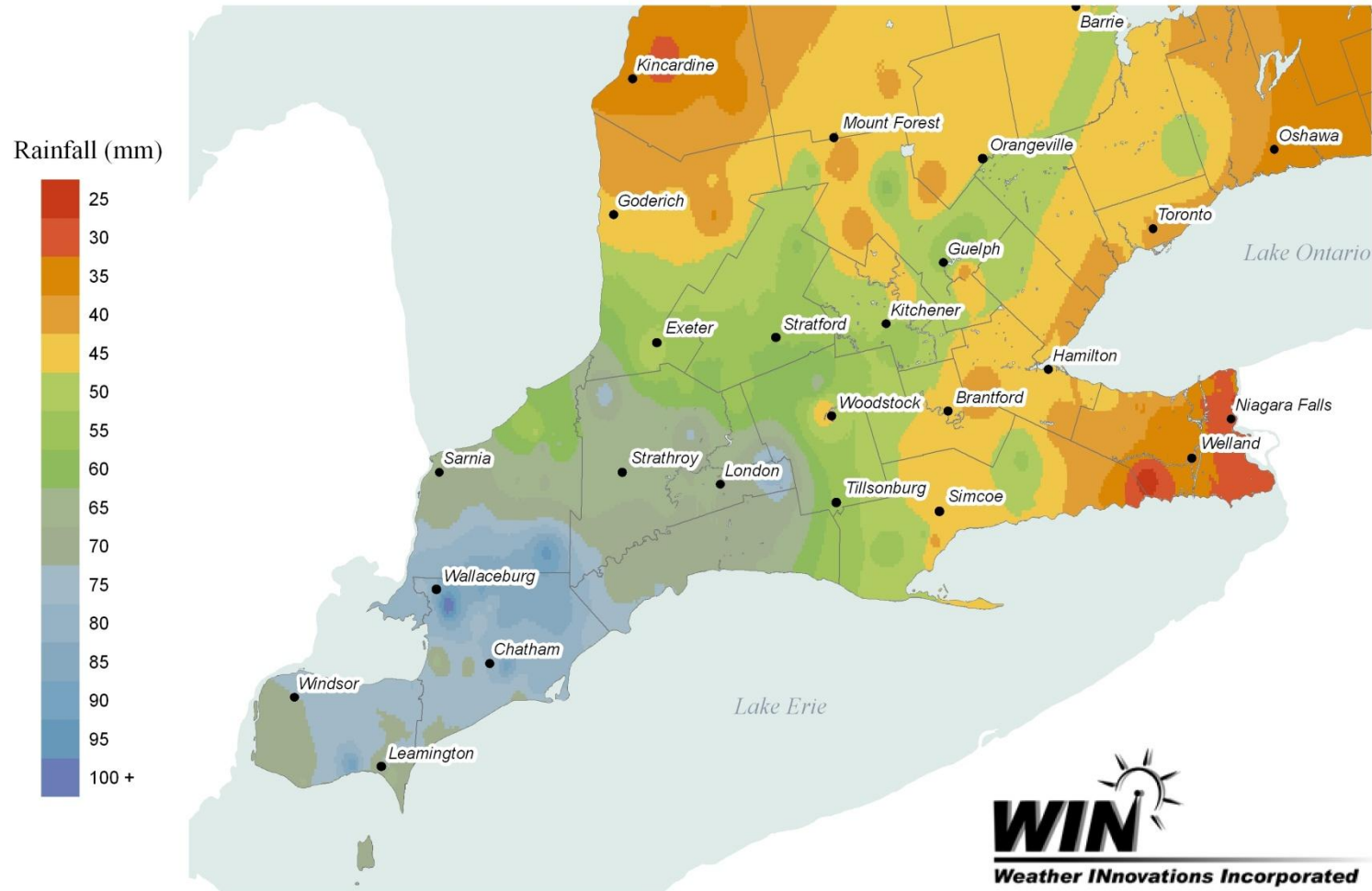
"It's really adding insult to injury," Coulson said, pointing out the several tumultuous wet periods farmers have already endured this year.

Growers that still have corn in their fields are concerned, said Snip. With about 30 per cent of the harvest remaining in West Essex, for instance, many stalks are lodging and cobs are on the ground.

"With all the moisture, if everything freezes they'll be stuck there," said Snip. "And every day that the harvest gets pushed, it's facilitating stalk rot and reducing the quality of the corn."

30hr Accumulated Rainfall, 2011

Nov. 28, 6PM - Nov. 29, 11PM



Rainfall Totals (mm) Nov. 28 - 29			
Beamsville	36.4	Ridgetown	62.4
Blenheim	81.4	Sarnia	50.8
Brantford	39.2	Simcoe	47.4
Brussels	37.4	St. Catharines	43.2
Chatham	79.2	Stoney Point	77.8
Colchester	71.4	Tupperville	102.8
Dresden	88.6	Vineland	41
Exeter	49	Wallaceburg	76.6
Ilderton	73.5	Warwick	69.8
Kent Bridge	86.6	Waterloo	45
Kingsville	91.4	Welland	26
Leamington	78.4	West Lorne	70
London	60.5	Wheatley	76
Niagara Falls	27.2	Windsor	86
Orangeville	42.2	Woodstock	42.8



Weather INnovations Incorporated (WIN) – www.weatherinnovations.com

WIN specializes in providing turnkey weather-based monitoring and modelling solutions for agribusinesses, producer organizations, government agencies, researchers and others. WIN makes models easy to use at the farm level by providing a connection to innovative research with site-specific applications.

For more information, please contact:

Rory Sweeting, Communications & Marketing Co-ordinator – 519-352-5334 ext. 228
rsweeting@weatherinnovations.com