

The Saskatchewan Hay and Pasture Report

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Editors' Note

Welcome to the Saskatchewan Forage Council's *Saskatchewan Hay and Pasture Report*. As usual, we are pleased to bring you timely updates and production information for another forage growing season. In this first issue of 2009 we present articles on the forage crop outlook for 2009, tips for establishing forage crops, including an article looking at short-lived grasses as companion crops, information on cost-sharing programs offered by the government that can benefit forage and livestock producers, information on availability of DUC land for hay or grazing this summer and reminders about Saskatchewan Crop Insurance deadlines for forage insurance programs. Read on to learn about the current market situation for the Saskatchewan Forage Industry.

We welcome your feedback and encourage anyone interested in being placed on our email distribution list to contact the SFC at office@saskforage.ca. You may also want to visit our website www.saskforage.ca for regular news and information related to the forage industry.

Leanne Thompson
Saskatchewan Hay and Pasture Report Editor

Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture Crop Report For week ending May 25, 2009 and week ending June 1, 2009

South Eastern Saskatchewan: *Week ending May 25*

Temperatures were still cool and below normal with windy conditions. There were some nights where temperatures dipped below zero for a time. There were some reports of frost damage to alfalfa stands, but in general the days are starting to warm up. Most of the region had rain showers. The areas around Moosomin, Whitewood and Glenavon received 17 mm of rain. Several other areas received above 10 mm of rain. Topsoil moisture conditions for hay and pasture land are 79% adequate and 18% short. Livestock water supplies are rated as 97%

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adequate. Pasture conditions in the area are rated as: 8% excellent, 43% good, 27% fair and 18% poor. Reporters indicated the cool spring has delayed growth in the pastures.

Week ending June 1

Conditions during the day were seasonal and windy. Temperatures dipped below zero during a couple nights in some areas. In the Weyburn area, the temperature one night fell to -3°C. Hay and pasture land topsoil moisture conditions are 57% adequate and 38% short. Only trace amounts of rain fell in the region. Some areas are reporting that dry conditions are delaying crop development. Farmers are busy controlling weeds, land rolling and moving cattle to pasture.

South Western Saskatchewan:

Week ending May 25

Weather conditions were generally cool and windy at the start of the week with spotty thundershowers and warmer weather toward the end of the week. The area received an average of 14 mm of rain. Moisture was welcomed. Topsoil moisture conditions on hay and pasture land are rated as 59% adequate, 29% short and 11% very short. Availability of livestock water supplies are 82% adequate and 18% inadequate. Pasture conditions are being reported as 32% good, 45% fair, 11% poor and 11% very poor. Early seeded crops are emerging. There were some reports of frost damage; however it is too early to assess the extent of the damage. Farmers are seeding, rolling, taking cattle to pasture, controlling gophers, and applying weed control products when weather allows.

Week ending June 1

Weather conditions were generally warm and windy and cooling off at night. Very little rain fell in the region. There was frost in some areas. The area around Maple Creek had one night with the temperature dipping to -3°C. Topsoil moisture conditions on hay and pasture land are rated as 51% adequate, 28% short and 21% very short. It is too early to tell the extent of the frost damage. Pastures and hay crops in some areas are slow to grow and in need of moisture. Farmers are controlling weeds in crop when weather allows, taking cattle to pasture and controlling gophers.

East Central Saskatchewan:

Week ending May 25

Temperatures were cold and windy with some areas receiving rain and snow. The area received an average of 8 mm of rain. The area around Craik received 35 mm in two days. Hay and pasture topsoil moisture conditions are 77% adequate and 21% short. Pasture conditions are reported as 19% good, 38% fair and 35% poor. The cool spring has resulted in limited pasture growth. Livestock water supplies are rated as 99% adequate. Some crops and alfalfa had frost damage. Farmers were busy with pre seed weed control, and taking cattle to pasture. Some are still feeding cows at the yard, as pastures have had a slow start.

Week ending June 1

The days were windy and it was a bit warmer compared to last week. Temperatures dipped below zero for a few nights in some areas. Very little rain was recorded in this region. Hay and pasture topsoil moisture conditions are 61% adequate and 36% short. It is too early to assess the extent of the frost damage to crops. Farmers were busy with in crop weed control and taking cattle to pasture. Dandelions are reported to be a problem this year.

West Central Saskatchewan:***Week ending May 18***

Cool and windy days made up the majority of the week, with some moisture and warmer temperatures toward the end of the week. The region received an average of 4 mm. Many areas are still in need of rain. Hay and pasture land is sitting at 33% adequate, 44% short and 23% very short. Topsoil moisture conditions have declined since last week's Crop Report. Pasture conditions for the region are 6% good, 35% fair, 43% poor and 16% very poor. These percentages have decreased in the good condition rating, and increased in the fair, poor and very poor since the end of April. Availability of livestock water supplies are rated as 83% adequate and 17% inadequate.

Week ending June 1

Warmer and windy days made up the majority of the week. Some areas received trace amounts of rain. There were a couple of incidences of frost at night where temperatures were -1 and -4°C. Hay and pasture land topsoil moisture is sitting at 6% adequate, 37% short and 56% very short. Moisture is very much needed.

North Eastern Saskatchewan:***Week ending May 18***

The nights were generally cool, with warmer days towards the end of the week. The areas around Vonda and Alvena received an average of 15 and 19 mm of rain, respectively. There are still areas where moisture is needed. Hay and pasture land topsoil moisture conditions are 54% adequate and 44% short. Pasture conditions have declined from the end of April. Forty-five per cent is rated in good condition, 12% fair, 22% poor and 20% very poor condition. Livestock water availability is reported as 99% adequate.

Week ending June 1

The nights were generally cool, with warm, windy days. There are still areas that would appreciate a good rain. There were areas that reported light to fairly heavy frost during a couple nights. Temperatures at times during the nights ranged from 0 to -5°C. Hay and pasture land topsoil moisture conditions are 36% adequate, 50% short and 16% very short.

North Western Saskatchewan:***Week ending May 25***

Cool conditions and frost at night was reported. Some areas did receive rain or snow, while others are still very dry. The moisture that fell was definitely welcomed. The Duck Lake and Medstead areas received 22 mm. Debden and Hafford received 32 and 17 mm, respectively. The hay and pasture topsoil moisture conditions are 46% adequate, 35% short and 18% very short. Pasture conditions are 14% good, 31% fair and 46% poor. Availability of livestock water supplies is 93% adequate. Farmers are busy seeding, controlling weeds and gophers.

Week ending June 1

Warm days and light frost at night was reported. Some areas did receive some rain, while others are still very dry. The moisture that was received was definitely welcomed. The hay and pasture topsoil moisture conditions are 36% adequate, 54% short and 9% very short. Hay and pasture have very slow growth and are in need of moisture. Farmers are busy seeding crops for green feed, controlling weeds and gophers

Forage and Pasture Outlook for 2009

*Michel Tremblay, Provincial Forage Specialist
Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture*

These days it is pretty risky trying to forecast anything, be it the weather, financial markets or energy prices. Many experts have been proven wrong over the last little while. Predicting what will happen in Saskatchewan's hay industry can sometimes be just as tricky. Ultimately, any market is defined by the fundamentals of supply and demand.

Factors that influence production and the beef cattle market, the primary consumer of Saskatchewan's forage production, are the primary forces determining hay prices. Some of the factors that will contribute to hay prices are discussed below:

Precipitation

Fall, winter and spring precipitation are the major factors contributing to forage yields. Snow accumulation helped to recharge soil moisture levels in many areas over the winter, but the western side of the province continues to have fair to poor soil moisture levels. Surface soil moisture levels continue to decline in many areas due to minimal rainfall this spring. Rainfall within the next few weeks will be required to achieve an average hay crop in dry areas.

Provincial stubble subsoil moisture levels can be viewed at:

www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/Production. Follow the link to Crops – Seeding, then [Stubble Subsoil Moisture Map](#).

Temperature

Like annual crops, forages require heat to grow and develop. This spring has been cool and growth of forages has been about two weeks later than normal. Cool season perennial forage species achieve the majority of their growth early in the season. Continued cool temperatures will likely reduce first cut hay yields.

Carryover Feed Supplies

From 2004 to 2007, hay yields in Saskatchewan were above average, which resulted in growing hay inventories and downward pressure on prices. Yields were moderate last year, with most regions reporting average or below average yields. The last two winters were cold, drawing down feed supplies.

The cool spring experienced last year and now this year has delayed cattle turn out and has lengthened the feeding period. Some hay moved into Manitoba to backfill for significantly lower hay production in the province last year due to flooding. All these factors have reduced hay supplies and have caused an upward trend in hay prices early in this year.



The long winter of 2008-2009 has resulted in accelerated reduction of hay supplies.
Source: Saskatchewan Agriculture.

Livestock market trends

Many factors have been influencing cattle markets recently. Profitability, or lack thereof, will eventually impact on feed markets. Recently, reduced profitability has resulted in a reduction in herd size. From January 1, 2008 to January 1, 2009 the number of cattle and calves in Saskatchewan decreased from 2.87 million head to 2.65 million head, a reduction of eight per cent. More recently, cattle prices have been improving with 400-500 pound steers selling for an average of \$125.86/hwt in mid-May, compared to \$104.31/hwt in mid-May of 2008. D1 and D2 cow average prices increased from \$35-59/hwt to \$46.75-60/hwt during the same period. In the short term, the herd reduction will result in less demand for feed.

Annual crop market trends

Perennial forage acres sat at historic highs until high cereal, oilseed, and pulse crops increased competition for acres in late 2007 and going into 2008. Forage acres were removed and replaced with annual crops. Reduced forage acres will result in reduced hay supplies. Adverse weather can result in damaged field crops being salvaged as feed, but few frost or weather-damaged annual crops have moved into the feed market over the last couple of years. Of course, poor harvest weather can change the dynamics of the feed market quickly.

Conclusion

Many factors influence hay prices. In 2009, supplies of carryover hay are relatively low, and growing conditions so far have not been favorable for development of above average hay yields. On the demand side, the provincial herd size has decreased over the last year, resulting in increased demand. Although cattle prices have improved somewhat recently, ultimately the level of profitability of cattle production will dictate how high hay prices will go.

Funding Available for On-Farm Projects Through Canada-Saskatchewan Farm Stewardship Program (CSFSP)

The provincial government announced in April that as part of the Growing Forward Initiative, Saskatchewan will be continuing Environmental Farm Planning, Group Planning and the adoption of Beneficial Management Practices that were introduced under the previous Agricultural Policy Framework. The goal of the Environmental Farm Plan and the Canada-Saskatchewan Farm Stewardship Program (CSFSP) is to help producers address on-farm environmental risk through cost-sharing of improvement projects.

Producers who complete an Environmental Farm Plan will again be eligible to apply for cost-sharing of various projects under the Canada-Saskatchewan Farm Stewardship Program. Projects that fall under the defined Beneficial Management Practices (BMP's) of the program are then subjected to review by a peer-review panel. Cost-sharing percentages generally range from 30-60% refunded for most BMP's, with a few at 75%. The farm maximum for funding under this program is \$50 000/operation.

A few changes have been made to the program, the most notable being that as of April 1, 2009 (CSFSP) will now be delivered by Provincial Council of ADD (Agriculture Development and Diversification) Boards (PCAB), who have taken over administration of the program from PFRA. Also, while most of the previous BMP's will still be available under this program, PCAB is currently working on revision of several BMP's to better address the issues of environmental

concern. There is a list of BMP's currently on the PCAB website at www.saskpcab.com and the fully revised guide with a complete description of each BMP will be available soon.



Photo credit: Leanne Thompson, SFC

Examples of BMP's which forage and livestock producers may be interested in include, planting forages for buffer establishment to protect stream banks and lake shores; improved water systems and watering site management to protect high risk marginal soils, stream banks and lakeshores; fencing of livestock fields to improve pasture health, control invasive plants, or improve water site management; using of portable windbreaks to relocate winter sites away from the yard; perennial forage establishment on high risk soils; integrated pest management options for control of leafy spurge and scentless chamomile; improvements to irrigation equipment to improve efficiency and many others.

PCAB's Advisors are available to assist producers in the awareness of BMP's and implementation for the agricultural operations. Many BMP's can be implemented on farm with minimal cost or time. Advisors can help producers connect to the technical resources or people who may be needed to help plan

or implement a BMP. For example, an Advisor could connect a livestock producer to a technical specialist to help improve grazing systems.

Uptake of the Environmental Farm Plan has been tremendous over the past few years. Since its inception, 10 278 farms have completed an Environmental Farm Plan in Saskatchewan. If you want more information about Environmental Farm Plans, Canada-Saskatchewan Farm Stewardship program or BMP's, please contact PCAB or visit their website:

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Establishing a Forage Crop

Michael Champion – Ducks Unlimited Canada

The following article provides some tips on how to lower risk while establishing forage crops. During times of drought there are increased risks associated with seeding forages aside from the obvious reduction in available moisture. These risks include, but are not limited to, increased insect and weed pressure.

A producer should not make the decision to seed a forage crop on an impulse based on the prior year's growing conditions. Instead, the decision should be based on the goals of the farm.

In other words, if increasing forage acreage on your farm is not part of the plan on your farm, deciding to do so in hopes of capturing high prices from the previous year may leave you disappointed if prices do not remain high. Also, things like chemical residue from last year may be present and not accounted for when seeding forages on impulse. For more information on soil residuals for various herbicides, please consult the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture's 2009 Guide to Crop Protection or seek the advice of an agrologist.

Weed control is critical prior to the seeding of any forage crop. Weed control should start the year before seeding with a pre or post-harvest glyphosate application. If this is cost restrictive, a pre seeding glyphosate application should be considered. Focusing on perennial weeds such as Canada thistle, dandelion, quackgrass and annual foxtail barley, will give a producer better overall weed control instead of focusing on the wild oats, millet (green foxtail) and kochia which are easier weeds to get rid of in a forage crop.



Photo Credit: Leanne Thompson, SFC

Annual weeds are usually only a problem in the establishment year and are easily killed with the rates of glyphosate associated with control of thistle, dandelion and foxtail barley. If a field has a lot of thistle or dandelion in it, a pre or post-harvest application the previous year is recommended, as spring control on these plants is more difficult. Foxtail barley is readily controlled with a mid May glyphosate application.

Preparation of the seedbed is the next issue to consider when seeding a forage crop. The seedbed should be firm to allow shallow seed placement and promote sufficient seed contact with moist soil. Pre-seeding burnoff with full rate of glyphosate or a tillage operation is recommended to reduce weed competition in the first year. If glyphosate is used the seedbed will be ready for seeding one week after the application. However, if tillage is used there will be a loose seedbed, which will need a harrow packing operation. If seeding into a loose seedbed there will be difficulty in controlling seeding depth, leading to uneven seed placement. Poor seed/soil contact is a common problem when seeding into loose seedbeds. Adequate seed/soil contact is important as the soil holds all the nutrients that the germinating seed needs to establish and eventually start photosynthesizing.

Seed placement has been a common cause of failure in forage stand establishment. Generally, seed depth should be no less than 0.25 inches (clay soil) and no more than 1.25 inches (sandy soil). The smaller the forage seed the more critical it is that the seed be close to the soil surface. Seeing a bit of seed on the surface of the ground while seeding does not always mean that the implement is not seeding deep enough. If 5% to 15% of the seed remains on the surface, chances are good that the remaining seed was placed at the correct depth.

Seeding early in the spring to take advantage of spring moisture often allows the seedling adequate moisture to get up and growing prior to summer drought. However, dormant seeding when soil temperatures are below five degrees Celsius is an acceptable alternative. When seeding forages the equipment must have accurate metering, good depth control and adequate packing to ensure optimum conditions for the germinating seed. Row spacing is generally based on moisture conditions (based on the soil zone) but generally should not exceed eighteen

inches or be closer than six inches. Wider row spacing is preferable for hay stands as it allows alfalfa to develop into robust plants and remain in the stand longer.

Selecting the right forage for the site will reduce the chance of failure. Forage selection should be based on soil characteristics, topography and climate rather than on what the producer would like to see growing. Choosing a grass or legume that is adapted to your site's specific conditions will greatly improve the chance of successful establishment. Soil conditions such as salinity or alkalinity should be considered separately as should any portion of a field that is regularly flooded.

With the conditions that are brought about with a drought, grasshopper populations increase. When this happens, there is more pressure put on establishing grasses. Control of grasshoppers in the establishment year is crucial to the success of the forage. Control can be achieved on young grasshoppers with bran bait; however, once the grasshoppers are mature control becomes quite expensive with the use of chemical being the most economical. Once they begin to fly, the economics of control may become limiting.

The decision not to seed should not be made overnight. If conditions are not optimal, seeding can still be done successfully, albeit at a higher risk. However, if conditions are extremely poor, considering a fallow operation or a more competitive cash crop may be wise. Drought, on its own is often not enough to cause a complete failure when seeding a forage crop. Yet, when accompanied by increased weed and insect pressure, failure can happen seemingly overnight.

The preceding is designed to answer some of the most frequently asked questions about forage establishment, the dates mentioned and costs implied are only estimates. Every situation is different and if you are seriously considering seeding forages, consultation with an extension agrologist or one of the agrologists at Ducks Unlimited Canada is recommended.

Establishment of Perennial Forage Crops Using Fast-Growing Short-Lived Grasses as Companion Crops.

*Bruce Coulman - University of Saskatchewan and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
(This paper was presented at the International Grassland Congress, Hohhot, China in July, 2008.)*

In the prairie region of western Canada, companion crops, usually small grain cereals, are often seeded with slow establishing perennial forage species to provide economic return in the year of establishment. Westerwolds ryegrass (*Lolium multiflorum*) is a fast establishing, high yielding forage grass that behaves as an annual in western Canada, which has the potential for use as a companion crop. Previous work showed that westerwolds ryegrass reduced the establishment of several grasses in the drier soil zones of western Canada (Jefferson et al. 2000; Jefferson et al. 2005). The objective of this study was to compare the density and forage yields over three years of newly seeded stands of alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*), meadow brome (*Bromus riparius*) and alfalfa-meadow brome mixtures established with and without a Westerwolds ryegrass companion crop in two soil zones.

Trials were seeded at Saskatoon, Sk (dark brown chernozem) and Melfort, Sk (thick black chernozem) in May of 2003 and 2004 in randomized complete block designs with four replicates. Perennial species (alfalfa cv AC Grazeland and meadow brome cv Paddock) were seeded at a rate of 100 seeds m⁻¹ in rows spaced 30 cm in plots of 1.2 X 6.0 m. In the alfalfa-

meadow brome grass mixture treatment, 50 seeds m^{-1} of each species were used. Westerwolds ryegrass cv Avance was mixed with the perennial species at rates of 30, 12 and 0 seed m^{-1} . In the year of establishment, dry matter yields (one or two cuts) and stand densities of each species were determined. Dry matter (DM) yields (two cuts each year) were taken in the two years following establishment. Yields of treatments with westerwolds ryegrass companion crops were expressed as a percentage of the same species with no companion crop.

The presence of a westerwolds ryegrass companion crop significantly increased the DM yield of meadow brome grass and alfalfa stands in the year of establishment (Table 1). In the year after establishment, DM yields were reduced in meadow brome grass stands established with a companion crop, while alfalfa DM yields were only reduced at the highest companion crop seeding rate. Year 3 and total (3 year) DM yields were not different between the two companion crop and no companion crop treatments in both alfalfa and meadow brome stands. For meadow-brome alfalfa mixtures (data not shown), results were identical to the pure meadow brome grass stands. For stand densities (data not shown), the number of established alfalfa and meadow brome grass plants was usually reduced under the westerwolds ryegrass companion crop, regardless of the seeding rate.

Table 1. Dry matter yields of meadow brome grass and alfalfa stands established with a Westerwolds ryegrass companion crop expressed as a percentage of the no companion treatment.

Species	WR seeding rate (seeds m^{-1})	Yield (% of no WR companion crop)			
		Seeding year	Year 2	Year 3	Total (3 years)
Meadow brome	30	156*	58*	108	98
	12	214*	77*	98	100
	0 (DM yield kg ha^{-1})	2067	9540	5819	17425
Alfalfa	30	191*	78*	90	98
	12	154*	84	93	98
	0 (DM yield kg ha^{-1})	2871	8418	10095	21384

WR=Westerwolds ryegrass; *Significantly ($p < 0.05$) different from the no companion crop treatment

The use of a westerwolds ryegrass companion crop, seeded with meadow brome grass or alfalfa increased DM yields in the seeding year and decreased yields in the second year of the stand. Third year yields and three year total yields were not different from a seeding where no companion crop was used. Use of a westerwolds ryegrass companion crop provides increased forage yields in the establishment year without compromising total forage yields over the life of the stand.

References

- Jefferson, P.G., Coulman, B.E. and Kielly, G.A. 2000. Agron. J. 92: 1291-1293.
 Jefferson, P.G., Lyons, G., Pastl, R. and Zentner, R.P. Can. J. Plant Sci. 85: 135-146.

Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program

A province-wide Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program (FRWIP) was announced by the government of Saskatchewan in April of 2009 as part of the Growing Forward initiative from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. This FRWIP is based on the program of the same name that was offered last year in select RM's only. The goal of the new province-wide program is to support the development of secure water sources in Saskatchewan to expand the livestock industry, encourage rural economic activity and mitigate the effects of future drought. Farmers, ranchers, Rural Municipalities (RMs) and Indian Bands across Saskatchewan are eligible for funding.

Funding for this program is cost-shared between the federal and provincial governments.

The program has two main sections, a community-based component and an on-farm component. The community based component will allow RM's and Indian Bands in Saskatchewan to source funding for non-potable community well and water projects. Eligible projects under this component will be cost shared to cover up to two-thirds of eligible project costs to a maximum of \$150 000/project.



Photo credit: Leanne Thompson, SFC

The on farm component of the program is intended to develop non-potable water supplies for agricultural use to meet the needs of agricultural producers in Saskatchewan. For individual ranchers or farmers this may include project such as:

- Small-diameter and large-diameter on-farm wells
- Shallow buried pasture pipelines
- Deep buried pasture pipelines
- Deep buried pipelines that connect to an established municipal water source
- Dugouts

FRWIP will provide a cost-sharing grant to cover up to one-half of eligible project costs. The maximum grant for all eligible projects approved under FRWIP is \$60,000 per applicant over the four years of the program (to March 2013).

Eligible costs include:

- Groundwater exploration (maximum three test holes prior to seeking assistance from recognized technical experts)
- Well drilling and construction
- Screening
- Pumps
- Trenching
- Shallow buried pipelines and installation
- Deep buried pipelines and installation
- Subscription or hook-up fees to an existing pipeline

- Storage tanks (minimum 1,000 gallons/4,500 litres) associated with a well or pipeline project
- Solar or wind powered pumps
- Dugout excavation
- Fencing or other infrastructure to exclude livestock from a new or expanded water source

Please note that power installation, power hook-ups, generators, water bowls and water troughs are not eligible for funding.

Before starting a project, you should be aware of FRWIP requirements as well as ensuring your project has any necessary Saskatchewan Watershed Authority Ground Water and/or Surface Water Approvals, meets the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act and meets any other standards or approvals as required by law. For assistance in determining if your project will require any of these approvals, please contact the FRWIP program, the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority or the Agri-Environmental Services Branch (formerly PFRA).

Applications are available at Rural Municipalities and on the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture website at www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca or by calling toll free at 1-877-874-5365.

For more details on part of the FRWIP, call the Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program toll-free at 1-877-874-5365.

Duck Unlimited Canada Land Available

Submitted by Ducks Unlimited Canada

Ducks Unlimited Canada will again have pasture and hay land available to Saskatchewan producers in 2009. Over 15,000 acres of Ducks Unlimited Canada habitat projects have already been committed to local producers, mostly through long-term grazing agreements.

Another 21,000 acres of land located throughout the province will be tendered for hay in early July. In order to allow nesting birds enough time to hatch their eggs and safely leave their nests, haying will only be allowed after July 20th in parkland areas and after July 14th in southern areas of the province.

All interested producers should contact their nearest Ducks Unlimited Canada office for more information on this hay tender.



Humboldt: (306) 682-1650
Melfort: (306) 752-2791
North Battleford (306) 445-2575 ext 2
Regina: (306) 569-0424
Saskatoon: (306) 665-7356
Wadena: (306) 338-3677
Yorkton: (306) 782-2108

Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Deadlines:

The following is a list of Saskatchewan Crop Insurance deadlines to keep in mind for forage crops in the upcoming months.

June 10, 2008 – Yield loss coverage becomes effective on winter wheat and fall rye grazed and/or cut for feed.

June 20, 2008 – Under forage establishment benefits option, seeding deadline for acres seeded in 2008.

- Deadline to submit forage establishment benefit claims and gopher damage claims for crops seeded in 2007.

June 25, 2008 – deadline to submit seeded acreage report for 2008 (excludes greenfeed).

June 30, 2008 – deadline to seed greenfeed crops covered by forage insurance.

- Deadline to submit all greenfeed establishment claims

July 5, 2008 – deadline to report seeded greenfeed acres.

For more information on Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Programs and deadlines visit their website at www.saskcropinsurance.com.



Saskatchewan Hay Market Report

Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture

www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/FeedForageListing

Baled Forage Prices (dollars per metric Ton) to June 2, 2009

	Listings	Listings Priced	Tons Listed	Tons Priced	Lowest Price/ton	Highest Price/ton	Weighted Average Price/ton
Alfalfa	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Clover	1	1	158	158	\$80	\$80	\$80

USDA Market News Service Hay Reports

USDA Market News Service

Wyoming, Western Nebraska, and Western South Dakota Weekly Hay Summary

Dennis Widga, Torrington, WY

www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/to_gr310.txt

Trade and movement slow. Demand moderate to good. Prices mostly steady to weak. Good moisture reported in all areas. Outlook for cutting hay looks good.

Weekly Montana Hay Report

Justin Lumpkin, Billings, MT

www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/bl_gr310.txt

Hay prices steady with very limited current sales. Demand light for available supplies. Trade activity nearly at a standstill with hay supplies almost depleted with limited supplemental feeding occurring. Moderate to light buyer inquiries on new crop offerings, however most producers are reluctant to set prices at this time.

	Eastern Wyoming	Central & Western Wyoming	Western South Dakota	Montana
Alfalfa				
Supreme	-	-	-	-
Premium	\$150.00	\$140.00-150.00	\$85.00-120.00	\$125.00
Good	\$120.00	\$120.00-140.00	\$70.00-90.00	\$110.00-120.00
Fair -Good	\$90.00-120.00	\$98.00-110.00	\$50.00-70.00	\$105.00-110.00
Mixed Grass	-	\$100.00-120.00	\$80.00	
Grass	\$100.00	-	\$60.00-75.00	\$85.00-105.00
Straw	\$60.00	-	-	\$40.00
Alfalfa/Grass	-	\$85.00-115.00	\$70.00-120.00	-

All prices in U.S. dollars per ton FOB stack in medium to large square bales and rounds unless other wise noted.

Hay Quality Designations - Physical Descriptions:

Supreme: Very early maturity, pre bloom, soft fine stemmed, extra leafy - factors indicative of very high nutritive content. Hay is excellent colour and free of damage. Relative Feed Value (RFV): >185

Premium: Early maturity, i.e., pre-bloom in legumes and pre head in grass hays; extra leafy and fine stemmed - factors indicative of a high nutritive content. Hay is green and free of damage. RFV: 170-185

Good: Early to average maturity, i.e., early to mid-bloom in legumes and early head in grass hays; leafy, fine to medium stemmed, free of damage other than slight discoloration. RFV: 150-170

Fair: Late maturity, i.e., mid to late-bloom in legumes and headed in grass hays; moderate or below leaf content, and generally coarse stemmed. Hay may show light damage. RFV: 130-150

Utility: Hay in very late maturity, such as mature seed pods in legumes or mature head in grass hays, coarse stemmed. This category could include hay discounted due to excessive damage and heavy weed content or mould. RFV: <130

Thank you to Saskatchewan Forage Council's Annual Sponsors:



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Conserving Canada's Wetlands



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