

The Saskatchewan Hay and Pasture Report

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Saskatchewan Forage Council

July 16, 2009

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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 issue we present a variety of articles on silage, hay and pasture production in Saskatchewan. You will also find reminders about Saskatchewan Crop Insurance programs relating to forage and livestock feed, details on a research project looking at grazing bloat safe legumes as well as upcoming events in the province. As always there is also a summary of forage markets in Saskatchewan and surrounding areas. Read on for information about the current market situation in 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 July 6, 2009 and week ending July 13, 2009

South Eastern Saskatchewan:

Week ending July 6

Very little rain fell in this region during the week. The region received an average of 4 mm of rain. The Whitewood, Broadview and Tantallon areas received 15, 21 and 26 mm, respectively. Hail was reported in the Minton area. Hay and pasture land topsoil moisture conditions are 36 per cent adequate, 51 per cent short and 13 per cent very short. Some ranchers are planning to sell off some of their cows. Crops are advancing but are uneven and behind.

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Week ending July 13

The weather was cool during the past week, with rain falling over most of the region. Significant hail damage was recorded in the Whitewood, Frobisher and Indian Head areas. There was localized flooding in the Cedoux area. Temperatures dipped fairly low, reaching around 3°C during the weekend. There was a touch of frost in the Kennedy and Alameda areas. Topsoil moisture conditions have improved from last week. Hay and pasture land topsoil moisture conditions are 69 per cent adequate, 25 per cent short and six per cent very short. Haying operations were just nicely underway before the rain fell. Farmers are waiting for things to dry up before continuing (or beginning) haying.

South Western Saskatchewan:***Week ending July 6***

Substantial amounts of rain fell in this region during the week (an average of 21 mm of rain). Areas around Shaunavon, Maple Creek and Coderre received 45 mm, while areas around Admiral and Gull Lake received as much as 50 mm. More rain is needed to continue to develop the crops. There are reports of some dugouts drying up. The Rockglen area received snowbanks of hail and a downpour of rain (around 26 mm). Four inches of rain fell south of Ponteix in a short time causing temporary flooding. Topsoil moisture conditions have improved since last week. Topsoil moisture conditions on hay and pasture land are rated as 48 per cent adequate, 40 per cent short and 12 per cent very short. Gopher poisoning continues. Many farmers were spraying for grasshoppers.

Week ending July 13

The weather was generally cool, with temperatures dipping below zero in some areas of the region. Many parts of the southwest missed the heavier rainfalls, but some areas still received fairly decent amounts of moisture. Topsoil moisture conditions have continued to improve. Topsoil moisture conditions on hay and pasture land are rated as 64 per cent adequate, 32 per cent short and three per cent very short. CD 4A is reporting topsoil moisture conditions on hay and pasture land as 58 per cent adequate and 41 per cent short. Some crops and pastures are benefiting from the recent moisture, but hay crops should have received it three weeks ago or more in CD 3ASW. The recent rains have triggered some second growth in alfalfa in CD 3BS. Some warm and dry weather is needed before farmers continue with haying operations. Many producers are hoping we have a late fall, as most annual crops are two to three weeks behind in development.

East Central Saskatchewan:***Week ending July 6***

The days were generally warm and windy, with a few rain showers in some areas. Nights generally cooled off. The region received an average of 10 mm of rain. Some areas did not receive any rain during the past week. The area around Jedburgh and Imperial received 34 mm. The areas around Rama, Raymore, Kenaston received 18 mm of moisture. Lack of significant moisture in some areas has resulted in slow growth and development of crops, hay and pasture. The areas that received significant moisture have improved crop conditions. Hay and pasture topsoil moisture conditions are 48 per cent adequate, 43 per cent short and nine per cent very short.

Week ending July 13

Cool and wet! The rainfall of the past couple of weeks has greened things up, and crops are looking better. The Kelvington area reported frost on two nights with several areas just above

zero on a few nights. All crop reporters recorded some rainfall. Hay and pasture topsoil moisture conditions are 4 per cent surplus, 74 per cent adequate, 19 per cent short and 3 per cent very short. Hay crops are short, and there is evidence of alfalfa weevils in CD 5A. Warmer weather is needed to dry out hay fields before haying operations can start.

West Central Saskatchewan:

Week ending July 6

The week was generally warm, with showers in some areas. The Dinsmore area received 28 mm; Smiley area - 21 mm; Biggar areas 19 mm and 12 mm; Rosetown area - 6 mm; and Unity area - 21 mm. The moisture received in some areas over the last two weeks has improved crop conditions. Crop reporters are relaying that some crops still have potential to pull off an average yield. On the other hand, there are also reports of crops being cultivated or turning into chem-fallow. Heavy rain and hail in the Battleford area resulted in crop damage. Average topsoil moisture conditions have declined since last week. The area is so severely dry that good rains are needed to improve crop, hay and pasture lands. Hay and pasture land is sitting at 28 per cent adequate, 55 per cent short and 17 per cent very short. Some grasshopper (RM 288 & 317B) and gopher damage (RM 350B) was also reported. Crop development varies from poor to good and ranchers are scrambling for hay.

Week ending July 13

It was cool and wet in the west-central part of the province during the past week. A low of 4°C was reported in the Marengo area. All crop reporters recorded moisture this past week. The Perdue area received 134 mm of precipitation; Harris area, 100 mm; Rosetown area, 145 mm; and the Battleford area, 118 mm. Hail was reported in the Biggar, Scott, Denzil and Battleford areas. Funnel clouds were spotted in the Battleford area. Hay and pasture land topsoil moisture has increased significantly since last week and is now sitting at 2 per cent surplus, 80 per cent adequate, 17 per cent short and 1 per cent very short. Taking a closer look at the topsoil moisture at the crop district level, CD 7A is reporting conditions as 55 per cent adequate and 31 per cent short on cropland, and 58 per cent adequate and 35 per cent short on hay and pasture land. Hay yields are reported as far below average.

North Eastern Saskatchewan:

Week ending July 6

Weather conditions for the past week were warm with scattered thundershowers in some areas. The region received an average of 10 mm of moisture, with some areas not receiving any rain. The Vonda area received 28 mm and the Nipawin area received 31 mm. Areas in both CD's 8A and 8B are in need of rain to improve crop, hay and pasture land conditions. Hay and pasture land topsoil moisture conditions are 44 per cent adequate, 36 per cent short and 21 per cent very short. Reports indicate delayed development of crops and the need for both rain and heat.

Week ending July 13

Weather conditions for the past week were cool, windy and wet. The Bruno area received 40 mm; Codette, 52 mm; and the Arborfield and Vonda areas, 30 mm. Rainfall was uneven, however. The areas around Christopher Lake and Codette received only 2 and 4 mm respectively. Temperatures dipped down to 1°C around Bruno. Hay and pasture land topsoil moisture conditions are 83 per cent adequate and 17 per cent short. The alfalfa is just starting to bloom in CD 8A. Hay yields are reported as below normal.

North Western Saskatchewan:**Week ending July 6**

All reporters recorded some amount of moisture this past week. Many areas recorded under 10 mm (Radisson, Glaslyn, Turtleford, Rapid View) while other areas recorded rain amounts in the 20-30 mm range. The area around Duck Lake received 47 mm; Meadow Lake - 30 mm and Pierceland - 28 mm. Fast rains resulted in some temporary flooding and hail resulted in 5-100 per cent damage in the Speers area. The rain and warmer weather received over the past couple of weeks has improved crops and pastures. Hay fields in some areas are being grazed, as the rain came too late for some hay stands. There are some reports of hay crops beginning to recover from the late/dry spring. The hay and pasture topsoil moisture conditions declined from last week and are reported as 74 per cent adequate and 26 per cent short.

Week ending July 13

Cool and wet conditions were reported during last week. All crop reporters recorded at least 16 mm of moisture, with most reporting 20 to 40 mm. The areas around North Battleford received between 67 and 89 mm; the Radisson area, 54 mm; and Meadow Lake, 55 mm. Hail was reported in the Speers area. A low of 3°C was recorded in the Lloydminster area. Frost was recorded in the Glaslyn and Pierceland areas. The hay and pasture topsoil moisture conditions also improved from last week, and are reported as 89 per cent adequate and 11 per cent short. The hay crop is short and yields are expected to be below average. Heat is needed to advance crops and get haying operations underway.

Haying Progress and Quality – 1st Cut (week ending July 6, 2009)

Region	First Cut (%)			Quality				
	Standing	Cut	Baled or Silaged	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Not Rated
SE	78	16	6	0	65	20	6	9
SW	69	21	10	4	26	46	4	20
EC	94	5	1	0	23	13	15	49
WC	90	8	2	0	10	24	28	38
NE	93	6	1	0	36	18	0	46
NW	99	1	0	0	8	35	9	48
Prov	84	11	5	1	29	27	11	32

Haying Progress and Quality – 1st Cut (week ending July 13, 2009)

Region	First Cut (%)			Quality				
	Standing	Cut	Baled or Silaged	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Not Rated
SE	72	15	13	0	74		0	26
SW	61	18	21	5	32	36	7	25
EC	89	8	3	0	45		0	53
WC	87	9	4	0	11	27	27	34
NE	76	17	7	0	33	33	0	34
NW	97	3	0	0	0	30	8	56
Prov	77	12	10	Provincial average quality not reported				

Prov = provincial average

Producing Quality Barley Silage – The Facts

*Dr. David Christenson, Department of Animal and Poultry Science
University of Saskatchewan*

Barley silage is utilized as a major forage crop in Saskatchewan based on its nutritional quality, consistent yields and production potential as an annual forage.

Barley Silage Varieties

The best variety will vary from region to region of the province, but Rosser and Ranger are two that have worked well on the University of Saskatchewan Farm. These varieties both have a smooth awn so are well accepted, even by young cattle. Cattle may take some time to adapt to varieties with a rough awn, and they have been known to cause mouth ulcers.

Harvest Stage and Cut Length

Ensiling at mid dough stage gives the highest quality forage based on digestibility and voluntary intake by steers. Harvesting at the mid dough stage has also resulted in higher milk yields than harvesting at earlier or later maturities. While mid dough stage is more mature than recommendations from Kansas and other research from farther south, our longer day length and lower growing temperatures delay the increase in lignin and neutral detergent fiber that reduce digestibility and voluntary intake. If the silage is used in feedlot rations or as replacement or part of the forage in rations, the later stage may be acceptable.



Photo Credit: Leanne Thompson, SFC

For barley silage a theoretical cut length of 3/8 inch is recommended. This is short enough for good packing but not so fine as to pass through the rumen too quickly. Longer forage is more difficult to pack and cattle can more easily sort longer particles and leave less palatable parts of the plant.

Nutritional Quality

Good quality barley silage will supply 60 to 66% TDN in the dry matter, with an average of about 64%. High TDN is especially important for dairy cattle and back-grounding rations, but will result in over conditioning of beef cows if the ration is not properly balanced with other forages. Cereal straws contain less than 50% TDN, grass and legume hay are highly variable but are often 55 to 60% TDN on a dry matter basis. Protein content will vary with soil fertility and available nitrogen levels. Protein content may be as low as 9% of dry matter and up to about

14% if very high amounts of manure or other nitrogen has been applied. Protein content of 11.0 to 12.5% is usual in barley silage.

Feed analysis is needed to make effective use of barley silage in a cattle feeding program. This analysis should include, moisture, crude protein (CP), acid detergent fiber (ADF), neutral detergent fiber (NDF), pH, and major minerals such as calcium, phosphorus, magnesium and potassium. Other mineral analysis including trace mineral analyses may be justified if they are known to be a problem in your area. If the field is drought or frost stressed, nitrate may accumulate to toxic levels of 0.5% or more. If the field has experienced stress, testing for nitrates is also recommended.

Storage and the Ensiling Process

Storage in bunker silos or bags is economical and convenient on most farms. High quality silage depends on good harvesting and storage conditions. These conditions result in a high level of lactic acid (3 to 8%) from carbohydrate fermentation. The production of lactic acid should lower the pH to 4.6 or less so that acetic acid, butyric acid and ammonia levels are low or non-existent. High quality silage and high lactic acid production depend on keeping air out of the silo or storage area. If air enters, continued aerobic fermentation produces undesirable acids resulting in an unpalatable end product. Also, if air is present mold may grow on unfermented soluble carbohydrate or on lactic acid.



Photo Credit: Leanne Thompson, SFC

In bunker silos 65% moisture is ideal, but a range of 60 to 70% may be acceptable. Dry forage results in more field loss, while wetter silage may result in seepage and loss of nutrients through leaching. Bagged silage may be successfully made from forage containing lower moisture levels (55% range).

Filling the silo as quickly as possible or packing in a bunker and covering are essential steps in producing good quality silage. Failure to exclude air can result in over heating of the silage. Normal fermentation will increase the temperature to about 35°C. If the temperature goes

over 40°C, there may be heat damage to the protein resulting in reduced digestibility and poor palatability. Heat damage is measured as acid detergent insoluble nitrogen (ADIN). Normal fermentation of the green chop uses about 3% of the forage dry matter. In well managed bunkers, fermentation and spoilage losses are seldom less than 12%. In silos that are filled slowly, or piles that are not well packed and/or poorly covered, losses can be over 25%. Bagged silage losses should be less than 10%.

Managing Pastureland for Biodiversity

*Peggy Strankman, Manager, Environment
Canadian Cattlemen's Association*

Good management is good management. Generally speaking if you have pasture and range in healthy condition you will have good biodiversity there. In most cases, the good management practices that normally support the long term productivity of pasture and range land is what's needed to protect the habitat of mammals, birds, fish, amphibians and plants that depend on native prairie grasslands and riparian areas along creeks and rivers.

Maintaining proper habitat for a wide variety of species simply means applying good range management practices, say both agrologists and biologists. Develop a grazing management strategy that supports the long term productivity and sustainability of the native grass prairie and you have a strategy that benefits most species.

Key elements of grazing management strategies will include:

- Manage rangelands for a high standard of rangeland health.
- Stocking rates which achieve light to moderate grazing intensity to maintain plant vigor, productivity and abundant organic residue in the form of litter.
- Range health parameters can be used to evaluate grazing intensity.
- A flexible approach to grazing management balancing ranch needs with habitat considerations.
- Grazing systems viewed as adaptive strategies that evolve over time to address specific management issues that may have negative impacts on habitat values.
- Fostering patch diversity in the vegetation canopy by managing time of grazing, using light to moderate stocking rates and careful use of livestock distribution tools.
- Desirable livestock distribution would include predominantly health prairie vegetation cover interspersed with patches of moderate to heavily grazed range.
- Deferral of spring grazing will improve plant vigor and productivity of grassland plant communities thereby improving plant cover.
- Deferred rotation grazing may be considered to improve plant vigor and rangeland health of pastures with low range health scores.
- Rest-rotation grazing may be considered to restore degraded pastures where the plant community and litter reserves have been seriously reduced.

Similarly in riparian areas, found along rivers and creeks, many of the same management principles apply as used on native prairie grassland. It is important to balance demand with available forage supply, distribute livestock evenly, avoid grazing during vulnerable periods, and provide amply rest for the forage after grazing. Off-stream watering sources, even without exclusion fencing is a management option that allows use of the riparian area for grazing while still maintaining its environmental functionality.

Based on CCA. Species at Risk – Information for Producers www.cattle.ca.

If you are interested in developing a range plan you may want to contact one of the following agencies in Saskatchewan:

Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture
Agriculture Knowledge Centre
1-866-457-2377

Saskatchewan Watershed Authority
Head office (306) 694-3900

Ducks Unlimited Canada
Regina 1-866-252-3825
Saskatoon 1-866-254-3825



Photo Credit: *Leanne Thompson, SFC*

Saskatchewan Hay Yield Outlook 2009

Paul Jefferson - Western Beef Development Centre

Beef cow-calf producers in the region stretching from Regina to Kindersley should start planning alternative winter feed sources according to Dr. Paul Jefferson, Vice-President of the Western Beef Development Centre.

“Saskatchewan producers who are starting to cut their hay crops will be disappointed with yields this year, especially in this region,” says Jefferson. “Hay yields depend on spring weather conditions, and this year’s cold and dry April through June weather will result in low hay yields.”

Jefferson has been using historical weather and hay yield data to examine long-term trends in hay production for Saskatchewan. By plugging the last three months of weather from 16 sites into a statistical model, he has developed the following hay yield predictions for 2009.

Hay Yield Predictions for Saskatchewan in 2009

Site	% of Long Term Hay Yield	Yield Classification
Yorkton	101	Average
Lloydminster	105	Average
Meadow Lake	102	Average
Prince Albert	108	Average
Saskatoon	85	Below average
Swift Current	72	Below average
Estevan	72	Below average
North Battleford	89	Below average
Maple Creek	88	Below average
Broadview	86	Below average
Wynyard	76	Below average

Regina	51	Well below average
Moose Jaw	40	Well below average
Rosetown	66	Well below average
Kindersley	54	Well below average
Nipawin	51	Well below average

The hay yield predictions are generally consistent with the rainfall tracking by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Drought watch. There is one difference at the Moose Jaw location which AAFC lists as mid-range for rainfall but the WBDC model predicts to be well below-average in hay yield. The difference results from the weighting of precipitation in the WBDC model while the AAFC is based on accumulated rainfall from April 1 to June 30.

Hay supplies for the winter of 2009-2010 will be tight across Saskatchewan. Last winter was long and cold resulting in the depletion of hay and winter feed reserves for many beef cow-calf producers. This means that regions with low hay yields in 2009 will need to source additional feed for the winter of 2009-2010. Adjacent regions may have limited hay supplies for sale based on the model results. Trucking costs from regions with surplus hay will be a deterrent to movement of hay over a long distance.

Beef producers in the affected regions are strongly encouraged to plan for winter feeding alternatives such as crop residues, greenfeed from annual crops, early weaning of calves, and heavy culling of the cow herd this fall. Producers using crop residues for winter cow feeding are reminded to contact a beef nutritionist for ration advice to ensure adequate nutrition of their herd. Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture regional beef specialists can provide this service.

For more information call:

Dr. Paul Jefferson,
Vice-President Operations
Western Beef Development Centre
306-682-3139 or 682-2555
Email: Pjefferson.wbdc@pami.ca
Web: www.wbdc.sk.ca



Hay Preservatives

Andre Bonneau and Christi Winqvist – Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture, Agriculture Knowledge Centre

What are Hay Preservatives?

Hay preservatives are products that allow hay to be baled at higher moisture. There are three types of preservative: organic acids, bacterial inoculants and anhydrous ammonia. When working properly, preservatives limit the growth of moulds in high-moisture forages.

Organic acids

When applied, organic acids produce an acidic environment (low pH) that is not conducive for mould or bacterial growth. Generally, low pH does not affect hay intake in livestock. The two main types of acids that are used as preservatives are propionic and acetic acid. Propionic acid is more effective at controlling mould and bacterial growth and is more common. If necessary, combining the two acids can be quite effective. These acids can be corrosive to the haying equipment if used in their pure form. Buffered acids are a less corrosive option.

Bacterial inoculants

Bacterial inoculants are very similar to silage inoculants. Most contain lactic acid-forming bacteria that compete with mould-forming organisms and help maintain forage quality. Some inoculants contain combinations of bacteria and enzymes. The role of the enzyme is to break down plant cells, making more cellulose and starch available to the lactic acid-forming bacteria. The lactic acid forming-bacteria lower the pH of the hay thus reducing mould formation the same way propionic or acetic acid would.

Anhydrous ammonia

Anhydrous ammonia is more commonly used to improve the feeding value of straw and chaff. It can also be applied to high quality forages to prevent heating and spoilage when baled at high moisture content. Anhydrous ammonia binds to moisture, reducing moisture availability for mould and bacteria growth. It also reduces the number of mould-forming bacteria through sterilization. However, anhydrous ammonia can create a toxic compound if it is applied to high quality forage such as alfalfa. Bales that have been treated with anhydrous ammonia should not be stored for long periods. It is recommended that the hay be used within one to two months.

Preservatives will not increase the feed value of the hay. The role of forage preservatives is to reduce losses due to moulds and heating. Once quality deteriorates, adding a preservative will not enhance the quality. Non-protein nitrogen, such as anhydrous ammonia, can slightly increase the crude protein levels in the hay. Some of the ammonia will bind with plant material and increase the overall protein content of the feed.

Preservatives allow forages to be baled at higher moisture content. There should be less leaf shatter and potentially better quality forage when baling at higher moisture content. However, it is still imperative that proper hay making procedures be followed when harvesting and baling. Preservatives are most effective when the moisture content of the hay is between 20 and 30 per cent. Preservatives are not effective if the moisture content is greater than 30 per cent. The amount of preservative needed will depend on the product and the moisture content of the forage in the swath.

Preservative	Mode of action	Application Method	Moisture Content of Hay	Pros & Cons
Propionic acid	Controls mould and bacterial growth by altering pH.	Liquid - Added before swaths are baled.	Up to 30%	- Can be stored - Corrosive
Acetic acid	Controls mould and bacterial growth by altering pH.	Liquid - Added before swaths are baled.	Up to 30 %	- Can be stored - Corrosive - Not as effective as propionic acid
Buffered Acid (i.e.:	Controls mould and	Liquid - Added before	Up to 30%	- Not as corrosive as

Ammonium propionate)	bacterial growth.	swaths are baled.		concentrated acids - Not as effective as concentrated acids
Bacterial Inoculants	Competes with other micro organisms in the hay	Liquid - Added before swaths are baled	Up to 23%	- Can't be stored - Designed for silage production (aerobic condition with moisture content of 45% or more)
Anhydrous Ammonia	Binds to moisture in hay, making it unavailable to bacteria.	Injected - Into bale or released into covered bale stack.	Up to 30%	- Increases Crude Protein - Can't be used on all hay crops - Can't store treated hay for long periods

For more information, contact:

Agriculture Knowledge Centre

Toll free: 1-866-457-2377

E-mail: aginfo@gov.sk.ca**Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Update on Forage Programs***Saskatchewan Crop Insurance – Head Office, Melville*

Saskatchewan Crop Insurance recognizes that there is a potential for a large number of forage claims in 2009. In order to process claims from dry areas of the Province as quickly as possible, Crop Insurance is initiating a number of practices.

Saskatchewan Crop Insurance customer service offices will monitor their areas for when haying is generally complete. At that point, they will contact all 1400 tame hay, as well as greenfeed customers, to speed the claim filing process.

Some claims will be paid by declaration, where declaration criteria are met. If criteria are not met, adjusters will be sent to producers' fields, where they will count bales, estimate weights and, in some cases, verify bale weights. Any time a customer perceives a shortage in their production, they are advised to contact their local customer service office.

As a regular part of the Crop Insurance program, Crop Insurance customers can graze their forage or annual crops or cut their annual crops for feed.

Saskatchewan Crop Insurance wants to assure producers that it will process claims in a timely fashion. Given the potential forage shortage, Crop Insurance wishes to get money in producers' hands as quickly as possible.

If you have questions or would like clarification regarding any of Saskatchewan Crop Insurance programs, please call 1-888-935-0000 or visit their website at www.saskcropinsurance.com to find a listing for the customer service office in your area.

Evaluating New Sainfoin Varieties/Alfalfa Mixtures to Achieve Bloat-Safe Grazing

*Dr. Alan Iwaasa –Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Research Scientist
Semi-Arid Prairie Agricultural Research Centre (SPARC), Swift Current*

Sainfoin is a perennial forage legume that does not induce bloat. It has been grown in parts of Europe and Asia for hundreds of years and was introduced to North America starting in about 1900. Most of the early introductions were low-yielding and poorly adapted to North American conditions however; recent introductions have shown greater promise and breeding programs have developed better adapted varieties.

Dr. Alan Iwaasa is conducting small plot trials to evaluate three new varieties of Sainfoin that have been selected for improved re-growth, longevity and establishment characteristics. The plots were seeded in 2008 in both monoculture and mixture with various types of alfalfa to determine persistence, forage production and nutritive value under both simulated and actual grazing conditions. Plots will be grazed during the 2009 growing season and cattle will be monitored to determine animal performance and to watch for bloat symptoms.

The main reason for looking at mixtures of Sainfoin and alfalfa is that while sainfoin is a high quality, bloat-free legume, it generally yields only 80% of alfalfa under similar growing conditions. By mixing these two legumes, Dr. Iwaasa will look for ways to optimize forage production while reducing the risk of bloat.

The following varieties are involved in this trial which is being replicated at SPARC in Swift Current and the AAFC Lethbridge Research Station:

AAFC-SPARC

Alfalfa cultivar – AC-Grazeland

Sainfoin cultivar - Nova

Sainfoin germplasm – LRC05-3900, LRC05-3901 and LRC05-3902

AAFC-Lethbridge

Alfalfa cultivar – AC-Grazeland, AC-Blue J and AC-Longview

Sainfoin cultivar - Nova and Melrose

Sainfoin germplasm – LRC05-3900, LRC05-3901, LRC05-3902, LRC-3509, LRC-3401, LRC-3511, LRC-3432 and LRC-3519

Preliminary results from this trial should be available during the winter of 2009-2010.



For more information on this project, please contact Dr. Alan Iwaasa at (306) 778-7251 or Iwaasa@agr.gc.ca.

Upcoming Events:

For more information on these or other upcoming events, visit the Saskatchewan Forage Council Website at www.saskforage.ca.

Indian Head Crop Management Field Day - July 21, 2009

Indian Head Research Farm, Indian Head, SK

For more information contact the Indian Head Agricultural Research Foundation at (306) 695-4200 or visit their website at www.iharf.ca.

Crop Development Centre and Department of Plant Science Field Day – July 21, 2009

Kernen Crop Research Farm, Saskatoon, SK

For more information contact the Department of Plant Science at (306) 966-4958 or gloria.gingera@usask.ca.

East Central Research Foundation Field Day – July 23, 2009-07-16

Canora, SK

For more information contact the East Central Research Foundation at (306) 563-5551 or ecrf@sasktel.net.

2009 Manitoba Provincial Pasture Tour - July 28, 2009

Interlake Region, MB

For more information or to register, contact the Manitoba Forage Council at (204) 726-9393 or mfc@mbforagecouncil.mb.ca. A full agenda is available on their website at www.mbforagecouncil.mb.ca.

Western Canadian Feedlot Management School - July 28-31, 2009

Saskatoon, SK

For more information or to register, contact the Saskatchewan Cattle Feeders Association at (306) 382-2333 or gm@saskcattle.com. For a full agenda visit the website at www.saskcattle.com.

Irrigated Forage Event - August 6, 2009

Outlook, SK

For more information or to register, contact the Canada-Saskatchewan Irrigation Diversification Centre at (306) 867-5500.

Ladies Grazing School – August 6-7, 2009

Val Marie, SK

For more information, or to register contact Julie with PCAB at (306) 264-3884 or Krista with Saskatchewan Watershed Authority (306) 778-8280.

Saskatchewan Hay Market Report

Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture

www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/FeedForageListing**Baled Forage Prices (dollars per metric Ton) to July 15, 2009**

	Listings	Listings Priced	Tons Listed	Tons Priced	Lowest Price/Ton	Highest Price/Ton	Weighted Average Price/Ton
Alfalfa	4	3	909	865	\$90	\$100	\$96
Brome/ Alfalfa	6	3	861	414	\$63	\$100	\$91
Clover	1	1	188	188	\$107	\$107	\$107
Green feed	1	1	360	360	\$108	\$108	\$108
Other	1	1	360	360	\$18	\$18	\$18

USDA Market News Service Hay Reports

USDA Market News Service

For week ending July 10, 2009

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. First cutting well underway with majority now in the bale. Reports are a lot of rained on 1st cutting has been chopped.

Weekly Montana Hay Report

Justin Lumpkin, Billings, MT

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

Hay prices trending lower compared to last week, but market not fully established due to first quotable prices on new crop offerings. When compared to last year established prices, hay prices trending mostly \$10.00 lower on new crop 1st cutting. A large amount of the 1st cutting was showered on which decreased some quality and nutritional values. Some producers are reluctant to sell at established prices this early. These producers are opting to stack and store inventories until they decide to establish a trade. Trade activity and demand light to moderate on new crop 1st cutting offerings. A majority of Hay producers are still waiting patiently to harvest their first cutting due to weather conditions.

	Eastern Wyoming	Central & Western Wyoming	Western South Dakota	Montana
Alfalfa				
Supreme	-	\$152.00-	-	-
Premium	-	\$114.00-120.00	-	\$139.00*
Good	\$114.00	-	\$101.00	-
Fair –Good	\$108.00	-	\$95.00	\$101.00
Grass	-	-	\$95.00-101.00	\$152.00*
Greenfeed	-	\$76.00-82.00	-	
Alfalfa/Grass	\$127.00*-	\$114.00	\$70.00-120.00	\$120.00-127.00

All prices converted to CDN dollars per Metric Ton FOB stack in medium to large square bales and rounds unless otherwise noted.

*small squares

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

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