

The Saskatchewan Hay and Pasture Report

Volume 9 Number 2

Saskatchewan Forage Council

July 8 2008

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Editors' Note

Welcome to the Saskatchewan Forage Council's July issue of the *Saskatchewan Hay and Pasture Report*. As we enter July, producers are busy in the hay fields putting up this year's crop and livestock producers are managing pastures to get the most grazing possible this summer. As hay yields are predicted to be below average this year across most of the province, producers, agronomists and market watchers are all predicting higher hay prices in the coming days. This could mean good news for hay growers, but where will excess hay come from if yields are lower than normal in most regions and will livestock producers be able to justify high priced hay for cattle this winter?

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
Number 12 (week ending June 22, 2008) and Number 13 (week ending July 6, 2008)

South Eastern Saskatchewan: ***June 22, 2008***

Topsoil moisture conditions deteriorated on hay and pasture land, with 76% of the land rated as having adequate topsoil moisture compared to 93% last week. Many areas are looking for more rain. First-cut haying is just getting underway with less than 1% of the crop cut. Most farmers expect low-yielding hay crops, even with the previous week's rain. Pastures have improved, but are still short.

July 6, 2008

Topsoil moisture conditions on hay and pasture land saw a significant decline. The adequate category decreased from 91% in the previous week to 42%. Haying operations made some progress in the southeast with eight per cent baled or silaged and a further 16% lying in the swath. Quality is generally expected to be good. Reporters estimate that dry land brome/alfalfa will yield 1.0 tons per acre.

South Western Saskatchewan:***June 22, 2008***

Topsoil moisture conditions deteriorated slightly on hay and pasture land with 87% of the land rated as having adequate topsoil moisture, compared with 93% last week. Gophers damaged crops across the southwest during the past week. Gophers are moving back and re-infesting land where control measures had been taken. Some fields in the Rush Lake area have been treated up to four times. Haying operations are just getting underway with less than 1% of the hay cut. Hay crops are very short.

July 6, 2008

Conditions were drier this week on hay and pasture land with 44% of reporters rating topsoil moisture as adequate, compared to 60% last week. Grasshopper damage was reported in RM 228 around Tyner. Damage from gophers was reported across the region. Haying operations are well underway in the southwest with 10% of the crop baled or put into silage and a further 20% lying in the swath. Quality is generally expected to be good. Reporters estimate that dry land brome/alfalfa will yield 0.94 tons per acre.

East Central Saskatchewan:***June 22, 2008***

Topsoil moisture conditions deteriorated on hay and pasture land, with 83% of the land reported as having adequate topsoil moisture, compared to 92% last week. Some harvesting of the 2008 hay crop has begun, with about 3% of the hay cut. Most reporters expect that the hay crops will be below average yield. Some hay land will not be able to recover enough for a crop to be harvested.

July 6, 2008

Conditions were drier on hay and pasture land with 48% of reporters rating topsoil moisture as adequate, compared to 76% last week. Some reports of aphids and alfalfa weevils were made. Haying operations are going well, with 3% baled or silaged and a further 13% cut. Quality is expected to be good. Reporters estimate that dry land brome/alfalfa will yield 0.98 tons per acre.

West Central Saskatchewan:***June 22, 2008***

Topsoil moisture conditions deteriorated on hay and pasture land with 29% of the land rated as having adequate topsoil moisture compared to 52% last week. Three per cent of the 2008 hay crop has been cut or baled. Yields are expected to be well below normal.

July 6, 2008

Conditions are poor on hay and pasture land with 20% of reporters rating topsoil moisture as adequate. Cutting and baling of the 2008 hay crop is well underway with 11% baled or silaged, and a further 25% cut. Quality is generally expected to be fair to good. Reporters estimate that dry land brome/alfalfa will yield 0.65 tons per acre, the lowest average yield in the province.

North Eastern Saskatchewan:**June 22, 2008**

Topsoil moisture conditions are drier on hay and pasture land with 41% of the land reported as having adequate topsoil moisture compared to 66% last week. Significant rain is needed soon for some crops. Some farmers have begun cutting the 2008 hay crop in CD 8b. Hay crops are expected to yield below average.

July 6, 2008

Conditions remained almost the same on hay and pasture land this week with 21 % of reporters rating topsoil moisture as adequate, compared to 22% last week. Good haying progress was made with 9% of the 2008 crop baled or silaged and a further 17% lying in the swath. Quality generally ranges from fair to excellent. Reporters estimate that dry land brome/alfalfa will yield 0.72 tons per acre.

North Western Saskatchewan:**June 22, 2008**

Topsoil moisture conditions were drier on hay and pasture land with 13% of the land rated as having adequate topsoil moisture compared to 17% last week. Crops and pastures are burning in the Speers area. Haying operations have not yet started in the northwest, but hay crops are poor and expected to yield well below average. Pastures are also very poor and cattle are quickly going through what grass there is. Gophers caused crop damage in the North Battleford and Medstead areas. Some greenfeed was still being planted.

July 6, 2008

Conditions dropped slightly on hay and pasture land with 23 % of reporters rating topsoil moisture as adequate, compared to 27% last week. Haying operations are well underway with 7% of the crop baled or silaged and 16% lying in the swath. Quality is expected to be fair to excellent. Reporters estimate that dry land brome/alfalfa will yield 0.82 tons per acre.

Hay Drying Factors and their Effects on Producing Quality Hay

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

From standing crop to the cow's stomach, the goal of conscientious hay growers is to minimize dry matter losses as the crop is cut, cured, baled, transported and finally fed. One of the points at which large dry matter losses can occur is when the crop is cut and field cured to a moisture content that will allow for storage with minimal risk of spoilage. Curing hay in the field exposes it to dry matter losses due to post-cut plant respiration, microbial degradation, and bleaching and leaching due to sun and rain. Extended drying times increase losses due to respiration within the plant (greatest immediately after cutting, when moisture content is high), microbial activity, and oxidation of vitamins and minerals. When



drying a hay crop, the primary goal is to reduce the amount of time required to field cure hay to the desired moisture content to as short a time as possible. Some factors to consider when reducing drying times include:

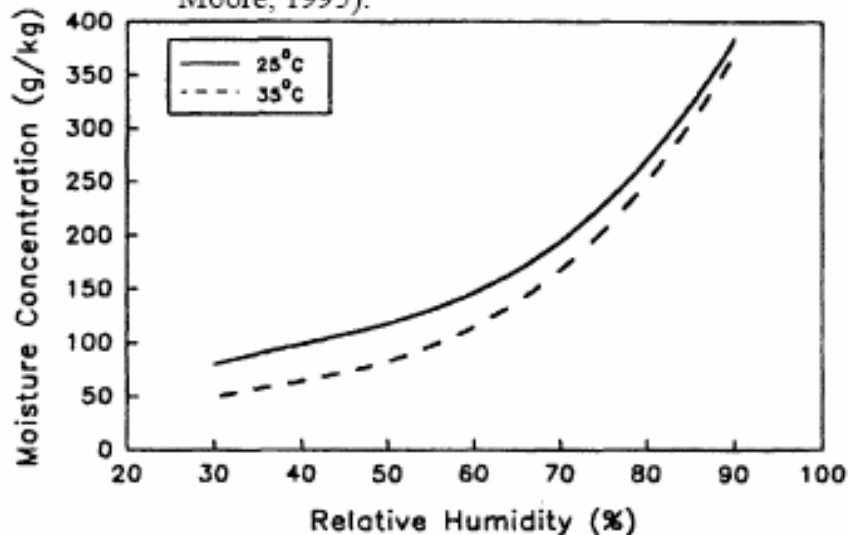
Temperature

Higher air temperatures will result in faster drying, but relative humidity will have a significant impact on drying rates at a given temperature.

Relative Humidity

Drying rate is inversely proportional to relative humidity. Drying rates and equilibrium moisture levels at a given temperature will vary according to RH %.

Figure 5. Equilibrium moisture content of hay is proportional to the relative humidity in the air and the air temperature (Collins and Moore, 1995).



Timing of Cutting

Crop development can have a significant impact on how quickly hay will dry down. As the hay crop matures, the moisture content of the crop declines. Pre-boot grass has a moisture content of 80-90%. Boot stage grass has a moisture content of 70-80%, Flowering grass has a moisture content of 50-70%, and grass in the seed set stage of development can have 50% moisture, or less. Cutting at a later stage of development, in order to reduce field curing time has to be balanced with the fact that forage quality declines as the grass plant matures.

Conditioning

Successful conditioning occurs when 90% percent of the stem is cracked or exhibits a reduction in rigidity, but with less than 5% of the leaves exhibiting signs of bruising or blackening. Conditioning roller gap and roller pressure should be set to achieve these results. Conditioning

action should be checked in each field, as crop kind, windrow size, stem diameter, maturity level of the crop and moisture content of the crop will all have an impact on conditioning action. Windrows should be made as wide as possible to speed drying.



Photo credit: M. Tremblay, SMA

Correct spacing and tension on the conditioning rollers (left), adjustment of the crop deflector (top) and windrow forming shields (right), result in quick drying with minimal crop damage.

Packaging

Bale type will dictate safe moisture levels for storage. Generally, small, medium and large square bales will safely store at 15% moisture, hard core round bale at 18% and soft core round bales at 20% moisture.

Additives

Hay preservatives can be added to hay at baling to reduce microbial activity, thereby reducing dry matter losses. Acid based additives reduce microbial activity by reducing the pH of the hay. Biological additives have cultures of organisms that inhibit harmful fungal growth. Cost has to be considered against the value of quality hay.

Consideration of the above factors will allow for the producer to minimize field drying time and dry matter losses and maximize feed quality and yield, given the prevailing climatic conditions.

Wildlife lands and Ducks Unlimited Canada Land open for Haying and Grazing

Saskatchewan Wildlife Lands

On June 12, 2008 the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment announced that about 90,000 acres of Fish and Wildlife Development Fund lands would be opened to grazing from June 15 to September 15 as a temporary measure to deal with dry conditions.

"Given the dry conditions in southern Saskatchewan, good pasture land for cattle is in short

supply," Agriculture Minister Bob Bjornerud said. "We are very thankful for this partnership, which will help relieve some of the pressure producers in drought areas are facing.

"Conditions have been established to ensure habitat is protected on any lands that are grazed," Environment Minister Nancy Heppner said. "Although opening wildlife land to grazing will help producers, that access must be balanced with the need to protect the long-term health of the habitat."

The Ministry of Environment purchases wildlife lands through the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund, with monies received from sale of hunting and fishing licences. They are managed for maintaining or improving wildlife habitat. Livestock producers will be responsible to provide any required temporary fencing or water improvements.

Dave Arneson, Habitat Ecologist for Saskatchewan's Ministry of Environment, confirms that there are still many acres available through this offering. At this time only 8 quarters had been spoken for. He attributes the small response from producers to this offering to the fact that some areas received timely rains and producers were able to send or leave cattle on pastures that were previously looking poor. Also producers are responsible for any fencing and water development necessary on this land and the cost and time involved in preparing these areas for grazing could also be deterring some people.

Tenders will be accepted right up to the deadline when livestock must be removed from the Wildlife lands on September 15, 2008. Interested producers can contact their local Ministry of Environment office (numbers listed below). Eligible lands can be viewed on the Ministry of Environment web site at www.environment.gov.sk.ca. Lands are being allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

Assiniboia - 642-7242	Melfort - 752-6214
Battlefords - 386-2212	Melville - 728-7480
Beauval - 288-4710	Moose Jaw - 694-3659
Big River - 469-2520	Moose Mountain - 577-2600
Blackstrap - 492-5675	Moosomin - 435-4545
Buffalo Narrows - 235-1740	Nipawin - 862-1790
Candle Lake - 929-8400	North Battleford - 446-7416
Chitek Lake - 984-2343	Outlook - 867-5560
Christopher Lake - 982-6250	Pelican Narrows - 632-5510
Creighton - 688-8812	Pierceland - 839-6250
Cumberland House - 888-5810	Pike Lake - 933-6966
Cypress Hills - 662-5435	Pinehouse - 884-2060
Dorintosh - 236-7680	Porcupine Plain - 278-3540
Duck Mountain - 542-5500	Preeceville - 547-5660
Estevan - 637-4600	Prince Albert - 953-2322
Fort Qu'Appelle - 332-3215	Regina - 787-2080
Greenwater Lake - 278-3515	Rowan's Ravine - 725-5200
Hudson Bay - 865-4400	Saskatoon - 933-6240
Humboldt - 682-6726	Shaunavon - 297-5433

Kindersley - 463-5458	Southend - 758-6255
LaRonge - 425-4234	Spiritwood - 883-8501
Leader - 628-3100	Stony Rapids - 439-2062
Lloydminster - 825-6430	Swift Current - 778-8205
Loon Lake - 837-2410	Wadena- 338-6254
Maple Creek - 662-5434	Weyburn - 848-2344
Meadow Lake - 236-7557	Yorkton - 786-1463

Ducks Unlimited Canada Land

In June, 2008 Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) announced that due to the fact that many areas of Saskatchewan were experiencing well below average precipitation this spring, they would be opening close to 40,000 acres of land to tenders for grazing and haying. Each year, agriculture plays an important role in managing habitat lands owned by DUC. Periodic grazing or haying of these lands helps to keep them healthy and productive which is vital to achieving one of their important purposes, providing critical habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife.

“We know we’re not going to solve the pasture and feed shortage,” admits Brent Kennedy, DUC’s Manager of Provincial Operations, “but we are glad to help where we can. As a partner on the landscape, DUC recognizes the beef industry’s stewardship and contribution to waterfowl and other wildlife habitat. At Ducks Unlimited we have worked with the livestock industry for decades to support a health landscape that includes perennial cover and wetlands.”

The tendering process for grazing opened June 16 and closed June 25, 2008. A report from DUC indicates that of the approximately 16,000 acres open for tender only 1500 acres were taken up by local landowners. This may be due to the fact that some areas received rains which help the pasture situation, or because of the developments required (fencing or water) to prepare some of this habitat land to accommodate livestock. In speaking with DUC representatives, there has been less interest in grazing opportunities as compared to haying.

Tenders for haying are now being accepted and will close on Thursday July 17, 2008. A complete list of the lands currently available for haying can be found on the DUC website www.yourland.ducks.ca. The tendering process is as follows:

- Tenders close at 1:30 pm (CST), July 17, 2008. Only successful bidders will be contacted after the bid opening.
- Bids will be accepted by mail, fax or phone on a per/acre basis only. Bid forms are available from Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC), please call your local DUC contact.
- The highest or any bid may not necessarily be accepted.
- DUC reserves the right to restrict the amount of land allotted to an individual.
- This listing is preliminary. Lands may be added or removed without notice. Please call to confirm the availability of lands prior to bidding.
- Stated acreages are approximate. Bidders must rely on their own personal inspection of the land.
- Hay dealers are NOT allowed to participate in this tender.
- Haying will take place as soon as possible after July 20, 2008.
- Hay bales must be removed within two weeks after baling is completed.

To inquire about available land, contact your local DUC representative at one of the following numbers:

Area	DUC Contact	Phone Number	Approx Acres Available
Estevan	Vicki East	634-7074	160
Humboldt	Dave Atamanchuk	682-1650	1213
Melfort	Kim Eskowich or Garry Letain	752-2791	2621
North Battleford	Dave O'Bertos	445-2575	558
Saskatoon	John Trevor or Tanya Silvernagle	665-7356	2258
Wadena	Chuck Deschamps	338-3677	8210
Yorkton	Dean Silva	782-2108	2257

Ditch Hay Guidelines for Saskatchewan

With hay shortages being reported across much of Saskatchewan, producers may be looking to salvage hay along provincial right-of ways. There are some guidelines that must be considered if you are going to be cutting hay along ditches this summer. The following information was released by the Ministry of Saskatchewan Highways and Infrastructure on June 19, 2008.

Hay located in the right-of-way area along all provincial highways will be available for salvage by farmers and ranchers. Hay may be salvaged (cut and baled) prior to July 8th by the adjacent landowner. After July 8th any person may salvage the hay without the permission of the adjacent landowner provided the adjacent landowner has not commenced salvage operations. The hay must be cut at a uniform height leaving a neat appearance. Bales of hay must be at least eight meters (26 feet) from the shoulder of the highway. All bales must be removed by August 8th. Bales that are left in a location deemed to be hazardous to motorists may be removed by the Ministry.



For further information, please contact your nearest Ministry of Saskatchewan Highways and Infrastructure office at:

Southern Region	Phone Number	Central Region	Phone Number	Northern Region	Phone Number
Carlyle	453-3453	Yorkton	786-1660	Tisdale	878-8826
Weyburn	848-2439	Wynyard	554-5432	Prince Albert	953-2734
Regina	787-4852	Saskatoon	933-5251	Meadow Lake	236-7850
Moose Jaw	694-3710	Kindersley	462-5505	La Ronge	425-4495
Swift Current	778-8348	North Battleford	446-7760		

Establishment of Native Grass Species in the Black Soil Zone of Saskatchewan and Manitoba – A practical look at the seeding and establishment of native species

Saskatchewan Forage Council

This project aimed to successfully establish six representative sites of native plants in the Black Soil Zone.

Description of Sites:

In total, six sites were chosen in the Black soil zone across Manitoba (2 sites) and Saskatchewan (4 sites). Each field was approximately 40 acres in size to simulate a paddock or hay field. One site in Manitoba was abandoned as the producer was unable to seed due to wet conditions (see Table 1 for description of sites).

Table 1 – Field Locations, Seeding Dates, Methods & Blends

Site	Province	RM	Seed Blend	Date Seeded	Seeding Method	Stand Assessment
Site 1	MB	183	#2	Oct'07	pre-worked, cultivated land, Truax drill	To be completed in spring of '09
Site 2	SK	32	#2	Aug '07	conventional, summerfallow, hoe drill	3 leaf stage, moderate
Site 3	SK	245	#1	June '07	standing stubble , zero till drill	good
Site 4	SK	371	#1	June '07	broadcast and harrow	good
Site 5	SK	436	#1	June '07	broadcast and harrow	good
Site 6*	MB	-	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

* Site 6 was unable to be seeded due to environmental conditions.

Seed Blends:

Five sites were seeded during the 2007 growing season using a native seed blend. The native grass-legume blends (Table 2 and 3) were developed by Ducks Unlimited Canada agrologists using site adapted species and Proven Seed Ecovars. Producers utilized various methods and times to seed their native species blend (see Table 1). Once established, these sites may be

used as a bench mark on how native stands are able to establish and perform in various agricultural uses such as haying or grazing for livestock.

Table 2 - Blend #1 Black Soil Native Mix

Species	Variety	PLS lbs/ac	seeds/ lb	PLS seeds/ sq ft
oats		10.0		
western wheatgrass	WR Poole	1.0	110,000.0	2.5
northern wheatgrass	Co 1	1.7	154,000.0	6.0
slender wheatgrass	Co 1	0.5	159,000.0	1.8
awned wheatgrass	Sprig	0.6	138,000.0	1.9
canada wildrye	Mandan	1.0	115,000.0	2.6
june grass	Canada #1	0.04	1,710,000.0	1.6
rough fescue	Canada #1	0.6	357,000.0	4.9
purple prairie clover	Canada #1	0.3	300,000.0	1.7
green needlegrass	Mallard	2.2	181,000.0	9.1
Total		7.89		31.9

Table 3 - Blend #2 Black Soil Native Mix

Species	Variety	PLS lbs/ac	seeds/ lb	PLS seeds/ sq ft
oats		10.0		
western wheatgrass	WR Poole	1.0	110,000.0	2.50
northern wheatgrass	Co 1	0.75	154,000.0	2.63
slender wheatgrass	Co 1	0.1	159,000.0	0.36
awned wheatgrass	Sprig	0.4	138,000.0	1.25
purple prairie clover	Canada #1	0.25	300,000.0	1.70
little bluestem	Taylor	1.0	260,000.0	5.91
switchgrass	Co 1	0.5	389,000.0	4.42
big bluestem	Co 1	2.5	165,000.0	9.38
side oats gramma	Co 1	1.0	191,000.0	4.34
green needlegrass	Mallard	1.0	184,000.0	4.18
Total		8.5		36.67

Establishment:

Each producer, in consultation with forage agronomists, determined the method of seeding to be used on their farm. Glyphosate was applied for pre-seed burn off at each site. Seed cost was approximately \$70/acre and the cost of seeding and pre-seed burn off was approximately \$30/acre for a total cost of \$100/acre to seed these sites. Seeding dates ranged from June to October of 2007. Following seeding, stands were assessed by a Ducks Unlimited agronomist to determine the success of seeding after emergence and later in the season for success of establishment. The fall seeded site (1) was not assessed a second time, as there was not enough growth in the fall of 2007 to warrant a second visit. All sites showed reasonable success in germination of the native seeds and there did not appear to be problems associated with any of the seeding methods. The producer at site 2 found the seed blend was bridging in his drill, so added some wheat seed to alleviate this problem. Early assessments showed northern wheatgrass, slender wheatgrass, western wheatgrass and Canada wildrye dominating

the stands. There were several weed species present in all sites by fall of 2007, however, these are predicted to decline as the native grasses and legumes take hold. Sites 4 and 5 were both grazed in the fall of 2007, however, the majority of the forage for grazing was provided by the oats. All sites will be observed as they continue to establish and as producers begin to utilize these native plots in their operation (for grazing or hay production), productive capability and longevity will also be monitored.



Photo credit: Ducks Unlimited Canada

Site 3 – near Yorkton, SK in RM #245 taken in early June, 2008

Funding for this project was provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Greencover Canada Program. Thank you to our partners on this project: Ducks Unlimited Canada, Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan Watershed Authority, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – Semi-arid Prairie Agriculture Research Centre, Proven Seed/Viterra, Native Plant Solutions, Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture, Manitoba Forage Council, Agri-Environmental Group Plan participants, regional producer grazing and forage clubs in Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

Update on Alberta Forage Conditions

Don Allan, Owner Operator

Allan Hay – Sylvan Lake, AB

Don Allan, of Allan Hay in Sylvan Lake, AB reports that growers in Alberta have seen some weather related difficulties this year. In the west-central region of the province where Allan is based, rainfall at the end of June and cool weather have delayed the first cut of hay.

Allan puts up 800 acres of hay annually, split 50:50 this year between alfalfa-grass mix and straight grass (including orchardgrass, brome, timothy and creeping red fescue). Allan targets the performance horse hay market with his 1,200 to 1,300 lb., net-wrapped round bales. He also sells hay into the dairy market to producers looking for low-potassium hay to feed to closeup dry cows.

Producers in Alberta are reporting that old crop forages are in similar low quantity that producers are reporting in Saskatchewan. Alberta experienced a cool spring as well thus livestock producers were forced to feed their animals longer than normal to allow pastures time to green up. Allan expects hay prices will be significantly higher this year due to the predicted demand. He notes buyers, anticipating a lower supply this year, have already started calling his office asking to be put on a wait list for new crop hay.

"Preliminary reports out of the southern part of the province indicate that dairy quality hay may be up by \$80/T over last year," he says. "We'll get a better idea of where prices are heading over the next couple of weeks as more hay comes off the field."

To contact Don Allan: www.AllanHay.com, phone: 403-887-1728, email: dballan@telus.net

Upcoming Events:

Saskatchewan Forage Council Annual General Meeting July 9, 2008 at Herschel, SK

The day will include pasture and grazing tours, BBQ lunch and presentation of the Forage Industry Innovation Award along with the annual general meeting. SFC members and non-members will be welcome to attend this event. For more information contact the Saskatchewan Forage Council at (306) 966-2148 or e-mail jbruynoooghe@saskforage.ca or visit their website www.saskforage.ca.

Scott Research Farm Field Day July 16, 2008 at AAFC Scott Research Farm on #374, Scott, SK.

For more information contact: Scott Research Farm (306) 247-2011 or Sherrilyn Phelps, Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture at (306) 446-7475 or sherrilyn.phelps@gov.sk.ca.

Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission Field Day July 16, 2008 at Nipawin, SK.

The tour group will meet at 1:00pm in the parking lot of Pickseed in Nipawin. For more information on this event, please contact Nancy Gray at (306) 946-3135 or ngray@sasktel.net

Scott Research Farm Organic Field Day July 24, 2008 at AAFC Scott Research Farm on #374, Scott, SK.

For more information contact: Scott Research Farm (306) 247-2011 or Sherrilyn Phelps, Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture at (306) 446-7475 or sherrilyn.phelps@gov.sk.ca.

**Manitoba Forage Council 2008 Annual Pasture Tour
July 23-24, 2008 - Touring the Central Plains area of Manitoba.**

Bus pick-up at various locations. For more information contact: Holly Troop - Gladstone MARFI (204) 385-6633 or visit the Manitoba Forage Council website at www.mbforagecouncil.mb.ca/upcomingevents/2008/default.aspx

Saskatchewan Hay Market Report
Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture
www.agr.gov.sk.ca/feedforage

Baled Forage Prices (dollars per ton) to July 7, 2008

	# of Listings	Listings Priced	Tons Listed	Tons Priced	Lowest \$/T	Highest \$/T	Weighted Average \$/T
Alfalfa	2	1	114	70	\$60	\$60	\$60
Alfalfa/ brome	6	1	21	21	\$59	\$59	\$59

A recent forage market scan performed in Saskatchewan (data not released) shows that there is currently very little hay moving in Saskatchewan. Most producers are busy putting up this year's crop. Livestock producers who have carryover are holding on to it as hay yields over much of the province are predicted to be below average, or well below average. Hay brokers are holding on to carryover to wait and see how much forage prices go up before pricing existing stocks.

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 remain light. Demand moderate to good. First cutting hay production has started in some areas, while some completed this past week.

Weekly Montana Hay Report
Justin Lumpkin, Billings, MT
www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/bl_gr310.txt

Hay growers busy putting up first cutting of alfalfa. Just a few reported sales. Very good demand in the western part of the state from out of state buyers, good demand in other areas from in state buyers.

	Eastern Wyoming	Central & Western Wyoming	Western South Dakota	Montana
Alfalfa				
Supreme	-	-	-	-
Premium	-	\$130.00-145.00	\$85.00	\$140.00-150.00
Good	\$150.00	-	-	\$70.00-140.00
Fair -Good	\$85.00-90.00		-	
Mixed Grass	\$126.00-140.00	\$110.00-120.00	-	\$80.00*
Alfalfa/Grass		\$90.00-110.00	\$95.00	\$80.00*

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

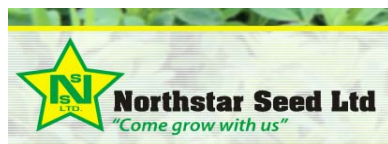
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