



Saskatchewan Hay & Pasture Report

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Note from the Saskatchewan Forage Council

Reports are starting to come in regarding hay yields from around the province (see crop reports section for estimates from each region). It looks like for the most part, yields are good. This may put some producers in a position to market hay and although an oversupply in Saskatchewan may drive prices down in this province, there may be opportunities to market hay into other regions. The extreme drought in the southern US has had a significant impact on hay markets - a topic you can read more about in an article below. In addition, this issue of the *Saskatchewan Hay & Pasture Report* presents articles on summer field tours, research on cutting times of alfalfa and the usual market information.

As always, 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.

Saskatchewan Agriculture Crop Report (for periods ending August 15 and August 22, 2011)

Southeastern Saskatchewan: *Week ending August 15, 2011*

Thunderstorms rolled through the region with varying amounts (nil to 35 mm) of precipitation recorded. High winds also caused some hay windrows to blow. Crop reporters have indicated that hay yields are variable across the region. Estimated average hay yields are as follows: dry land alfalfa and alfalfa/brome stands 2.1 tons per acre, dry land greenfeed 1.9 tons per acre and other tame hay 1.8 tons per acre. On hay land and pasture, topsoil moisture is rated as three per cent surplus, 78 per cent adequate and 19 per cent short with crop district 3ASE reporting 31 per cent short.

Week ending August 22, 2011

Thunderstorms rolled through some areas in the region, dropping varying amounts of precipitation (nil to 28 mm). On hay land and pasture, topsoil moisture is rated as two per cent surplus, 69 per cent adequate and 29 per cent short. Crop district 3ASE is reporting 38 per cent short of topsoil moisture on hay and pasture. Ninety-nine per cent of cattle producers have indicated adequate water supply for their livestock. Pasture conditions in the region are rated as seven per cent excellent, 78 per cent good, 14 per cent fair and one per cent poor.

Southwestern Saskatchewan:***Week ending August 15, 2011***

Thunderstorms rolled through some areas in the region dropping large amounts of rain, ranging from 3 to 84 mm. Estimated average hay yields are predicted as follows: dry land alfalfa 1.9 tons per acre, alfalfa/brome stands 2.1 tons per acre, dry land greenfeed 2.2 tons per acre and other tame hay 1.8 tons per acre, irrigated alfalfa and alfalfa/brome 3 tons per acre. Hay land and pasture topsoil moisture conditions are 72 per cent adequate and 28 per cent short with crop district 4A reporting 40 per cent short on topsoil moisture.

Week ending August 22, 2011

Most areas recorded little rain for the week (nil to 29 mm), allowing producers to keep to the fields. The Assiniboia area reported 18 mm, the Mankota area 29 mm, the Lisieux and Vanguard areas 4 mm. Hay land and pasture topsoil moisture conditions are 53 per cent adequate, 44 per cent short and three per cent very short. Crop district 4A is reporting 46 per cent short on topsoil moisture in hay and pasture land. Ninety-nine per cent of cattle producers have indicated adequate water supply for their livestock. Pasture conditions in the region are rated as 11 per cent excellent, 62 per cent good, 24 per cent fair and three per cent poor.

East-Central Saskatchewan***Week ending August 15, 2011***

Thunderstorms were reported and most areas received rain again this week, however amounts range from nil to 77 mm. Crop districts 5A and 5B received more rain than crop district 6A. Estimated average hay yields are as follows: dry land alfalfa and alfalfa/brome 1.9 tons per acre, dry land greenfeed 2.4 tons per acre and other tame hay 1.9 tons per acre. Hay land and pasture topsoil moisture is rated as 14 per cent surplus, 71 per cent adequate and 15 per cent short.

Week ending August 22, 2011

Thunderstorms were reported and most areas received rain again this week, however amounts range from nil to 32 mm. Hay land and pasture topsoil moisture is rated as three per cent surplus, 70 per cent adequate, 24 per cent short and three per cent very short. Crop district 6A is reporting 47 per cent short of topsoil moisture on hay and pasture land. All cattle producers have indicated adequate water supply for their livestock. Pasture conditions in the region are rated as 12 per cent excellent, 64 per cent good, 21 per cent fair and three per cent poor.

West-Central Saskatchewan***Week ending August 15, 2011***

Spotty thunderstorms slowed haying and harvest operations for a little while in some areas. Precipitation reported ranged from nil to 58 mm. Estimated average hay yields are as follows: dry land alfalfa 2 tons per acre, alfalfa/brome 1.8 tons per acre, dry land greenfeed 2.2 tons per acre and other tame hay 1.5 tons per acre, irrigated alfalfa 2.4 tons per acre and irrigated alfalfa/brome 2.5 tons per acre, irrigated greenfeed 3.3 tons per acre. Hay land and pasture topsoil moisture is rated as four per cent surplus, 82 per cent adequate and 14 per cent short.

Week ending August 22, 2011

Most areas received some rain last week. Precipitation reported ranged from nil to 12 mm. Hay land and pasture topsoil moisture is rated as two per cent surplus, 76 per cent adequate and 22 per cent short. Ninety-nine per cent of producers have indicated adequate water supply for their livestock. Pasture conditions in the region are rated as 18 per cent excellent, 67 per cent good and 15 per cent fair.

Northeastern Saskatchewan***Week ending August 15, 2011***

The north east region recorded some rain over the past week (range from nil to 14mm), but not as much as areas to the south. Estimated average hay yields are as follows: dry land alfalfa 2.1 tons per acre, alfalfa/brome 2 tons per acre, dry land greenfeed 3.4 tons per acre and other tame hay 1.7 tons per acre. Hay land and pasture topsoil moisture is rated as four per cent surplus, 87 per cent adequate, seven per cent short and two per cent very short.

Week ending August 22, 2011

Most areas in the northeastern region reported rain for the week ranging from nil to 31 mm. Hay land and pasture topsoil moisture is rated as two per cent surplus, 90 per cent adequate, six per cent short and two per cent very short. All producers have indicated adequate water supply for their livestock. Pasture conditions in the region are rated as 15 per cent excellent, 67 per cent good and 18 per cent fair.

Northwestern Saskatchewan***Week ending August 15, 2011***

A week of very little rain is just what producers needed to continue with haying operations in the northwest region. Most areas recorded amounts below 4 mm but ranged from nil to 32mm. Estimated average hay yields are as follows: dry land alfalfa 1.4 tons per acre, alfalfa/brome 1.3 tons per acre, dry land greenfeed 1.8 tons per acre and other tame hay 1.1 tons per acre. Pasture and hay land topsoil moisture conditions are two per cent surplus, 94 per cent adequate, three per cent short and one per cent very short.

Week ending August 22, 2011

Most areas reported rain for the week ranging from nil to 39 mm, with most areas recording less than 10 mm. Pasture and hay land conditions are one per cent surplus, 94 per cent adequate and five per cent short. Ninety-seven per cent of livestock producers have indicated adequate water supply for their livestock. Pasture conditions in the region are rated as four per cent excellent, 67 per cent good, 25 per cent fair and four per cent poor.

Estimated Saskatchewan Regional Hay Yields* (tons/acre)

Region	Alfalfa	Alfalfa/Brome	Greenfeed	Other Tame Hay	Irrigated Alfalfa	Irrigated Greenfeed
South East	2.1	2.1	1.9	1.8	-	-
South West	1.9	2.1	2.2	1.8	3.0	-
East-Central	1.9	1.9	2.4	1.9	-	-
West-Central	2.0	1.8	2.2	1.5	2.45	3.3
North East	2.1	2.0	3.4	1.7	-	-
North West	1.4	1.3	1.8	1.1	-	-

*Based on Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture Crop Report for August 9 - 15, 2011

Saskatchewan Pasture Condition* (%)

Region	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
South East	7	78	14	1
South West	11	62	24	3
East-Central	12	64	21	3
West-Central	18	67	15	-
North East	15	67	18	-
North West	4	67	25	4

*Based on Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture Crop Report for August 16 - 22, 2011

Opportunities to Market Hay Outside our Borders?

Saskatchewan Forage Council

With the abundance of moisture in many areas of Saskatchewan, some forage producers may be blessed with an oversupply of hay this year. Those interested in selling some of this “extra” forage may look to markets outside of Saskatchewan where prices work in their favour. There are already reports from the southern States, particularly Texas and Oklahoma where hay is extremely short. As well, there may be demand for hay from Manitoba where many hay fields were underwater or completely saturated for most of the season.



Photo Credit:
Saskatchewan
Forage Council

In talking with forage specialists in Manitoba, the Interlake and West Lake areas will likely face an extreme shortage of hay this fall as many acres in this area were flooded throughout the growing season. Producers in these areas often rely on native hay growing along the lake borders that this year are simply not harvestable. Inland areas have dried over the summer and where producers were able to make hay, yields have been excellent and quality is generally good as well. Some producers are reporting 4-6 bales per acre (3-6 tons/acre). However, a second cut in this area is unlikely and due to the fact that many producers depleted their stocks due to a slow spring, it is likely that many areas of Manitoba will see a shortage of hay.

The south west area of Manitoba was particularly hard hit by flooding this year and will likely be short of hay this fall. It is difficult to put a price on hay in Manitoba at the current time as movement is limited. Many producers are waiting for flood assistance dollars to be received before making any major purchases of feed. At this time it is unclear when this flood assistance will be distributed. There may also be programs in place to ease freight costs for hay making greater transport distances feasible. Once a price is better established, Saskatchewan forage producers should watch this market for opportunities to deliver hay.

Reports from the US indicate that hay production is down considerably due to a combination of factors including widespread drought in the southern Plains and a marked decrease in forage acres across the country. The recently released USDA August 1, 2011 Crop Production Report indicates that supply could be as tight as during the 1988-1989 season. This is attributed to low yields, low production and low supply.

Hay markets in Texas and Oklahoma are particularly short and there is hay moving from Canada into these states. Reports from the Yorkton area indicate that good quality alfalfa and alfalfa/mix hay is demanding \$150/ton at the stack to move into southern markets.

Forage exporters also mention that there is considerable demand from the Middle East, China and India for quality hay. Hay from the US and Australia is moving into the Middle East and China, but there appears to be insufficient supply of good quality hay in the US to fill the demand from these countries.

So for the forage producer in Saskatchewan with excess hay to market, there may be the question, “How do I access these markets?” First, if all you have are large round bales, export or US markets will likely not be a fit for you. Large round bales are problematic for shipping as they are often over width and over height requirements. Although trucking restrictions have been relaxed in several of the southern US states, there will still be requirements in the northern states that transported hay will have to adhere to. Large round bales are better suited to local markets or shipping into Manitoba. To connect with buyers in Saskatchewan visit the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture’s [Feed and Forage Listing](#) or the classifieds section in publications such as The Western Producer to find buyers in Western Canada. Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives also maintains a [Forage Classified](#) site where buyers and sellers can connect.



Forage quality is also a big consideration when selling and pricing hay into specific markets including the dairy and horse markets. Specific requirements are often set out by the buyer and if hay falls short of these requirements, prices will be adjusted downward, or in severe cases, delivery of the product may be refused. Be sure to know what your buyer is looking for and be prepared to provide feed test results and other documentation where necessary.

As with most facets of business, caution should be exercised when entering new markets and dealing with new customers. Working with a hay broker is suggested if you are a first time exporter and are considering shipping hay into the US. Going this route will ensure a layer of protection between you and the final customer and will provide some insurance for your product. A broker will also arrange for transport that will comply with all regulations in the jurisdictions the hay will pass through. Before shipping, be sure to work out a payment plan with the broker including firm dates for delivery of the hay and payment for the product. You will also want to get several references. Due to the current market situation, there are some sharks in the water, so find out who you are dealing with prior to doing any business.

If you do choose to deal directly with the customer it is highly recommended to take payment prior to shipping product. The Manitoba Forage Council has excellent information on their website regarding shipping of hay into the US and some of the considerations for a seller when going this route. Click on the following link to find more information on this subject: <http://www.mbforagecouncil.mb.ca/resources/marketing/hay-transport-information/>.

It appears that there will be markets for **good quality** hay. With some preparation, legwork and a bit of research, you may be able to capitalize on these markets if you have excess hay to sell on your farm this year.

Bales Left in the Field

Andre Bonneau, PAg

Forage Management Specialist, Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture

In late summer, we see many bales left sitting out in the fields. While hay bales may make the countryside more scenic, we may not realize the cost of leaving the hay on the field longer than necessary. Once the bales have cooled, the bales can be taken to the feed-yard and stacked. Unless the bales are used for bale grazing, leaving that hay out in the fields until freeze-up can prove expensive.

In many parts of the province, most of the cost of a hay bale is in cutting and baling, not the forage itself. Depending on yield, it can cost up to \$30 to cut and roll a 1500-pound bale. If the bale is valued at \$55, the forage in the bale is worth \$25. When about half the cost of the bale is spent on cutting and baling, it makes good sense to protect those bales as much as possible.

Damage to the stand

The forage plants smothered by a hay bale will be suppressed until the bale is removed. The longer the bale stays in one spot, the less likely the forage will recover and the area could become a prime site for weed invasion. Often, dandelion infestations in alfalfa stands come from areas where the alfalfa was stressed and suppressed.

Research from Wisconsin has shown that wheel traffic does less damage to the alfalfa stand early in the regrowth period. In other words, the larger the alfalfa plant, the more damage wheel traffic will do to it. This can be very important if a second cut is planned for mid-August.

Damage to the bale

Bales left in the field often flatten out and soften. Loading, handling and hauling those bales can be difficult as some of the bales will fall apart and dry matter losses will increase.

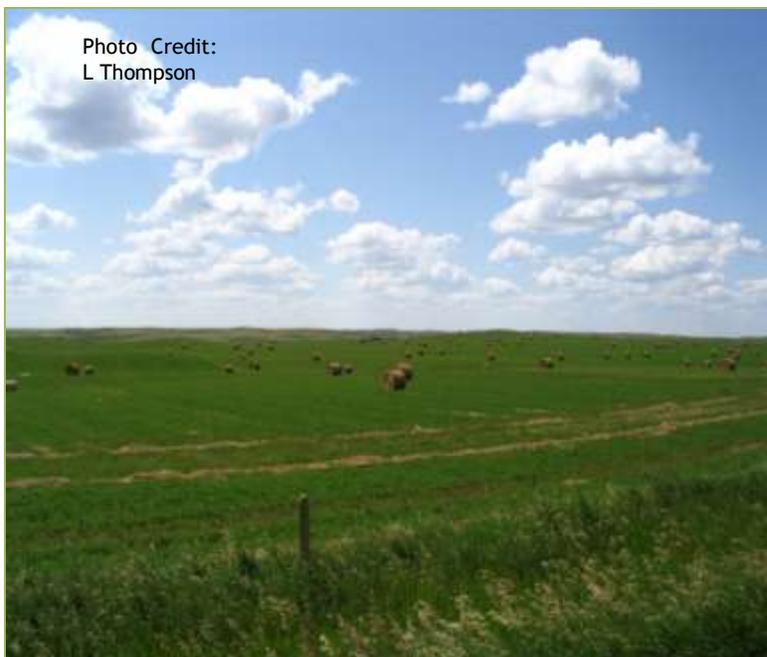


Photo Credit:
L Thompson

A bale left in the field is exposed to the elements in all directions. If three inches of the outside surface of a 5 x 6 bale is spoiled, it represents about 30 per cent of the hay in that bale. In a 1,500-pound or 682 kilogram bale, a 30 per cent loss represents 450 pounds (204 kilograms) of hay. Storing bales reduces the number of exposed surfaces and can reduce losses, especially if shelter can be provided.

To minimize losses, research suggests bales should be stored end-to-end with the rows spaced one to two feet apart. The purpose is to minimize the amount of snow that sits on the hay and allow the snow-melt and

rain to run off as quickly as possible.

Some producers store bales in the “Mushroom” style, where the bottom bale is on end while the top bale lies on its side. This style provides less protection than end-to-end, especially if the rows are tight to each other. It’s been found that the bottom bales tend to act as a wick and draw moisture from the ground. However, it is popular as it can still shed some water, take up less space and the twine doesn’t freeze to the ground.

If the bales are stored for short periods, the rows are spaced and the majority of the bales will be used before spring melt, either style is acceptable.

Save money!

Hauling bales through the snow, especially if you have to plough your way to the bales adds a lot of expense to the hay.

Hay is expensive to put up. Leaving hay out on the hay field can cause deterioration and dry matter losses. Bales can also damage the forage stand and add expense to your forage production costs.

For more information contact the Moose Jaw Regional Office at 1 866 457-2377.

Saskatchewan Ranchers Honoured by the CCA

Brian and Glenys Weedon of the Weedon Ranch are the 2011 recipient of The Environmental Stewardship Award (TESA). A national award presented by the Canadian Cattlemen’s Association (CCA), TESA recognizes innovative sustainable management practices and stewardship initiatives that ensure a sustainable future for the beef cattle industry.

The Weedons received their award August 10, 2011 during the annual TESA event held during the CCA semi-annual meeting and International Livestock Congress in Calgary.

For the full press release from the CCA, [click here](#).

What is the best Cutting Time for Alfalfa?

Dr. Peiqiang Yu

Department of Animal and Poultry Science, University of Saskatchewan

Researcher Dr Peiqiang Yu, Ministry of Agriculture, Strategic Research Chair and co-workers at University of Saskatchewan conducted a series of experiments to determine the effect of cutting stage on quality and nutrient composition of two varieties of alfalfa. They found that the variety had minimal effects on nutritional values; however, cutting time had a significant impact on chemical composition, protein and carbohydrate fractions and ruminal nutrient degradation.

Two varieties (Pioneer and Beaver) and three cutting stages (early bud, late bud and early bloom) at three different locations in SK were used in this research. The effect of cutting stage on chemical composition is presented in Table 1.

As alfalfa matured, ash and crude protein (CP) decreased, soluble CP (SCP) and acid detergent insoluble protein (ADIP) increased. However, neutral detergent fibre (NDF) and acid detergent fibre (ADF) were affected very little by cutting stage.

Table 1. Effect of cutting stage on chemical composition

Cutting stage	Ash (% DM)	CP (% DM)	NDF (% DM)	ADF (% DM)	SCP (% CP)	ADIP (% CP)
Stage 1	10.2	20.2	49.3	32.0	49.3	3.5
Stage 2	9.8	19.0	47.0	29.4	51.3	5.2
Stage 3	9.3	17.6	52.0	31.5	60.0	17.1

Fractional techniques can be used to examine ruminal degradation of protein and carbohydrates contained in alfalfa. Protein can be divided into soluble (PA), rapidly degradable (PB1), intermediate degradable (PB2), slowly degradable (PB3) and undegradable (PC). Carbohydrates can be categorized into rapidly degradable (CA), intermediate degradable (CB1), slowly degradable (CB2) and unfermentable (CC). The effect of cutting stage on sub-fractions is presented in Table 2.

Table 2. Effect of cutting stage on fractions of protein and carbohydrate

Cutting stage	PA (%CP)	PB1 (%CP)	PB2 (%CP)	PB3 (%CP)	PC (%CP)	CA (%CHO)	CB1 (%CHO)	CB2 (%CHO)	CC (%CHO)
Stage 1	49.3	0.0	14.1	33.1	3.5	35.6	1.51	24.5	38.5
Stage 2	51.2	0.1	13.7	30.7	5.2	39.1	1.48	26.4	33.0
Stage 3	34.8	25.2	5.2	17.7	17.1	33.4	1.53	31.3	33.8

All protein fractions were similar between stage 1 and 2 except for PC (3.5 vs. 5.2 %CP). However, the protein fractions in stage 3 differed from those in stage 1 and 2 (PA: 49, 51 vs. 35; PB1: 0, 0.1 vs. 25; PB2:14, 14 vs. 5; PB3: 33, 31 vs. 18; PC: 4, 5 vs. 17 % CP). These results indicate that as alfalfa maturity advanced, the soluble fraction (PA), the intermediate degradable fraction (PB2) and slowly degradable fraction (PB3) fraction decreased, the content of the rapidly degradable fraction (PB1) and undegradable PC fraction increased.

Cutting stage had an effect on the rapidly degradable CA fraction (36, 39 and 33 %CHO) and CC fraction (39, 33 and 34%CHO) for stage 1, 2 and 3, respectively. No effect on rapidly degradable CB1 and slowly degradable CB2 fractions was noted. The results of this study indicated that the changes in CHO fraction were slight as plant maturity advanced.

Researchers also studied the cutting stage on in vitro rumen degradability, the results of which are shown in Table 3. In vitro rumen degradability of dry matter (IVDMD) and neutral detergent fibre (IVNDFD) were similar between cutting stage 1 and 2. However, as alfalfa maturity further advanced, IVDMD and IVNDFD were significantly reduced (stage 3).

Table 3. Effect of cutting stage on in vitro rumen degradability of dry matter (IVDMD) and neutral detergent fibre (IVNDFD) after 24 and 48 h incubation

Cutting stage	IVDMD24, %	IVDMD48, %	IVNDFD24, %	IVNDFD48, %
Stage 1	41.4	50.3	39.1	41.3
Stage 2	43.4	50.5	43.9	42.8
Stage 3	38.1	46.0	34.4	38.4

In conclusion, the stage of cutting had a significant impact on the chemical composition, protein and carbohydrate fractions and in vitro rumen degradability. According to this research, the best cutting time appears to be stage two which corresponded to the late bud stage.

ADOPT Field Days Highlight Producer Focused Demonstration Projects

Saskatchewan Forage Council

ADOPT (Agricultural Demonstration of Practices and Technologies) is a Federal/Provincial initiative which has been in place since 2009. The ADOPT program is intended to accelerate the transfer of knowledge to Saskatchewan farmers and ranchers. This program offers funding to help producer groups evaluate and demonstrate new agricultural practices and technologies at the local level.

Participants on August 9 tour.
Photo Credit: S. Sawatzky, AAFC-AESB



In cooperation with industry partners, the Saskatchewan Forage Council is currently working on several ADOPT projects that highlight common issues for forage producers across the province. One way these projects are being showcased for producers is through field days such as the ones recently held in August of this year.

On August 9, 2011, the Saskatchewan Forage Council (SFC) hosted a field day in the Rosetown area with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture and the Southern Eagle Creek Watershed (SECW)

group. The SECW works with producers in the Rosetown area on projects and initiatives aimed at improving water quality, riparian and pasture health and helping producers improve their operations overall. This tour highlighted four ADOPT sites including:

- Establishing cicer milkvetch using trampling from bale grazing (SFC)
- Eco-Buffer Demonstration (SECW)
- Nutrient and yield effect of bale grazing on hay fields (SFC)
- Comparison of chemical and biological control of scentless chamomile in pasture stands (SFC)

In addition, a project site initiated by SECW looking at re-contouring and re-vegetating a washout was included on the tour.

This successful tour saw participants transported by bus between demonstration sites where they could view the initial results of each project and direct questions to the producer co-operators and technical advisors. Participants were provided with a summary of each project ([click here](#) to view a copy from the Saskatchewan Forage Council website) to review prior to arrival at each of the sites. Tour

organizers reported a turnout of approximately 30 people with a mixture of grain and cattle producers. There was plenty of discussion and questions at each site with tour participants particularly enjoying the chance to talk with the producer who undertook the demonstration.



Ryan Sommerfeld, producer co-operator at cicer establishment site during August 23 tour.

Photo credit: Glenn Barclay, Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture

On August 23, the SFC hosted a field day in the Medstead area in cooperation with Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture and Cavalier Agrow. This tour included stops at the following ADOPT sites:

- Establishing cicer milkvetch using trampling from bale grazing
- Brush control option on pasture land

In addition, an Agri-Environmental Group Plan site looking at fencing to exclude wildlife and a corn variety trial initiated by Cavalier Agrow were included on this tour.

Turnout for this tour was excellent with over 30 people in attendance. Those on the tour enjoyed the opportunity to ask questions and participate in discussions regarding production practices and sharing ideas on ways to reduce costs on cattle operations. Also on this tour were AEGP technicians from the Parkland and North Saskatchewan River Watershed groups.

Producers interested in upcoming ADOPT tours should check the Saskatchewan Forage Council website's [upcoming events section](#) on a regular basis. Information on ADOPT projects including final results are also posted on the SFC website as they become available. For more information on AEGP activities and programs check the [PCAB website](#), or contact one of the following Technicians:

Southern Eagle Creek AEGP (Rosetown area)

Lexie Adamson - AEGP Technician
306-831-6009 eaglecreekwatershed@hotmail.com

North Eagle Creek AEGP (North Battleford area)

Ashley Roy - AEGP Technician
306-656-4440 northerneaglecreek@gmail.com

Parkland AEGP (Prince Albert, Spiritwood areas)

Angela Vaadeland - AEGP Technician
306-469-7167 aegp.parkland@gmail.com

North Saskatchewan River AEGP (Lloydminster, Meadow Lake areas)

Annette Smith - AEGP Technician
306-441-4066 ca.smith@sasktel.net

Drought Withers Smallest US Hay Crop in Century

The smallest U.S. hay crop in more than a century is withering under a record Texas drought, boosting the cost of livestock feed for dairy farmers and beef producers from California to Maryland.

The price of alfalfa, the most common hay variety, surged 51 percent in the past year, reaching a record \$186 a short ton in May, government data show. Hay and grass make up about half of what cattle eat over their lifetimes, so parched pastures are forcing ranchers to find alternative sources of feed, pushing some spot-market corn to the highest ever.

[Read more...](#)

Saskatchewan Hay Market Report

Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture

www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/FeedForageListing

As listed Thursday, August 25, 2011

	Listings	Listings Priced	Tons Listed	Tons Priced	Lowest Price/ton	Highest Price/ton	Weighted Average Price/ton
Alfalfa	17	12	15,761	15,761	\$40	\$75	\$68
Brome/ Alf	33	23	10,256	10,256	\$25	\$75	\$53
Other	4	2	1,175	1,175	\$40	\$53	\$53
Organic Alfalfa	0	-	-	-	-	-	-

USDA Market News Service Hay Report

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) collects a wide variety of information from hay markets across the country. Presented below is information from those jurisdictions closest to Saskatchewan. For complete USDA hay market listings, please visit the [USDA Market News](#) webpage.

**Wyoming, Western Nebraska, and Western South Dakota
Weekly Hay Summary (Week ending August 27, 2011)**

Dennis Widga, Torrington, WY

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

Trade and movement fairly active. Demand very good with very good buying inquiries noted in all areas. Hay prices firm. Very good interest noted from out-of-state hay buyers. Good weather has helped hay production as second and some third cutting is completed in eastern Wyoming and western Nebraska. Grasshoppers reported to be a growing problem in several areas.

Weekly Montana Hay Report (Week ending August 26, 2011)*Justin Lumpkin, Billings, MT*www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/bl_gr310.txt

Compared to last week: Hay prices steady to firm. Trade activity moderate to active with majority of inventories moving out of state. Demand good to very good. Hay supplies throughout the state are abundant on Good quality alfalfa and grass hay, however Premium to Supreme quality alfalfa supplies are somewhat limited in availability. Producers commenting on previously flooded hay fields being out of production for a year or more.

Prices are for the week ending August 27, 2011

	Eastern Wyoming	Central & Western Wyoming	Western South Dakota	Montana
Alfalfa				
Supreme	\$180.00-205.00	\$250.00-	-	\$175.00-
Premium	\$150.00-190.00 \$140.00*	\$170.00 \$210.00*	\$100.00 - 150.00	\$100.00 - 125.00 \$150.00-165.00*
Good	-	\$130.00-200.00	\$80.00 - 105.00	\$80.00-100.00
Fair -Good	\$130.00-150.00	\$85.00 - 105.00	\$70.00	\$70.00 - 80.00
Mixed Grass	-	-	\$65.00 - 70.00	
Grass	-	-	\$65.00	\$75.00-95.00 \$125-150.00*
Alfalfa/Grass	\$120.00	\$175.00	\$60.00 - 125.00-	-
Timothy	-	-	-	\$150.00-180.00*-
Greenfeed	\$60.00	\$105.00 - 120.00	-	-
Straw	\$55.00	-	-	-

All prices in U.S. dollars per 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

Thank you to the Saskatchewan Forage Council Supporters:



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