



Saskatchewan Hay & Pasture Report

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Note from the Saskatchewan Forage Council

Things in the hay world are heating up! Lately hay has been in the news in more than just Saskatchewan. These days reports are everywhere from the Western Producer, to CNBC! For a crop that normally receives little attention, this is certainly a new thing. Drought in other provinces and in the US has Saskatchewan hay producers sitting in a unique position and many are finding themselves scrambling to keep up. Information on selling hay into the US can be hard to find so we hope to provide some insight on this topic. This issue of the *Saskatchewan Hay & Pasture Report* will provide further details on crop conditions and hay demand in addition to an article on species at risk on pastures and other points of interest from around the forage industry. As always, you will also find a summary of forage market information from Saskatchewan and surrounding jurisdictions.

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 period ending August 20, 2012)

Warm and dry weather in many areas of the province has allowed producers to combine 11 per cent of the 2012 crop. Eighteen per cent is swathed or ready to straight combine, according to Saskatchewan Agriculture's weekly Crop Report.

The five-year (2007-2011) average for this time of year is eight per cent combined and 15 per cent swathed or ready to straight combine. Last year at this time, nine per cent had been combined and 18 per cent swathed or ready to straight combine.

Across the province, topsoil moisture on cropland is rated as five per cent surplus, 72 per cent adequate, 19 per cent short and four per cent very short. Hay land and pasture topsoil moisture is rated as three per cent surplus, 64 per cent adequate, 24 per cent short and nine per cent very short.

Farmers are busy swathing, desiccating and combining and hauling bales.

Last week's crop report (for period ending August 13, 2012) stated that livestock producers were largely finished the haying process and that yield estimates have come in from all regions (see table below).

For a breakdown of regional conditions, please visit the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture's [Crop Report online](#).

Estimated Saskatchewan Regional Hay Yields* (tons/acre)

Region	Alfalfa	Alfalfa/ Brome	Green feed	Other Tame Hay	Wild Hay	Irrigated Alfalfa	Irrigated Alf/Brome	Irrigated Green feed
South East	1.4	1.6	2.0	1.5	1.1	-	-	-
South West	1.2	1.3	1.5	1.2	1.1	1.8	2.3	2.3
East-Central	1.7	1.8	2.3	1.6	1.5	2.0	2.0	2.0
West-Central	1.9	1.8	2.2	1.4	1.6	2.8	3.5	3.5
North East	1.8	1.7	1.0	1.5	1.4	-	-	-
North West	1.5	1.4	1.8	1.0	1.5	-	-	-

*Based on Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture Crop Report for period ending August 13, 2011

Saskatchewan Pasture Condition* (%)

Region	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
South East	18	67	12	3
South West	16	45	32	7
East-Central	21	61	17	-
West-Central	58	41	1	-
North East	26	65	9	-
North West	6	74	18	2

*Based on Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture Crop Report for period ending July 30, 2011

Hay for Sale!

Leanne Thompson - Saskatchewan Forage Council

2012 has been another good year for hay growers in Saskatchewan. With plentiful moisture across much of the province, hay yields are reported as at or near average by Saskatchewan Agriculture. Above average yields in 2011 and a favorable winter in 2011/2012 have many producers sitting on large stocks of hay.

On the flip side, 2012 has been a disastrous year across a wide swath of the US due to drought conditions throughout the corn-belt and many of the southern states. Lack of rain has contributed to poor pasture conditions and huge short falls of hay in areas where many livestock producers depend on it. The USDA reports that hay stocks per animal are at the lowest level in 25 years.

In addition, drought conditions in Ontario have created demand for hay in that province. Recent media reports indicate that hay prices in some areas of Ontario have tripled due to low supplies, reduced hay yields and high demand.

These conditions have resulted in a relatively low value product becoming an in-demand commodity. Saskatchewan hay producers are beginning to capitalize on this

demand by shipping hay into the US and eastern Canada. There are reports from around the province that shipments are going south under various arrangements. Regular calls are being received by both government employees and the Saskatchewan Forage Council from producers interested in selling hay to the US. As this is a relatively new occurrence for Saskatchewan, there are many questions surrounding the process and information can be hard to find.



When considering shipping hay over long distances, the largest hurdle is transportation. Hay is a bulky product and in general the more pounds that can be stacked onto a truck, the better! However, transportation guidelines are very specific for these types of loads and one must be very cautious to follow the letter of the law or face the resulting large fines. In addition, securing payment from a buyer that is hundreds of miles away can be a tricky proposition and sellers should have well defined payment terms prior to any hay being delivered.

One way to connect with buyers is to list your hay online. This is rapidly becoming an important hay marketing tool especially for selling over long distances. There are several sites available including:

www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/FeedForageListing - Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture

www.hayexchange.com - Links US and Canadian buyers/sellers

<http://farmertofarmer.uwex.edu/> - University of Wisconsin

<http://agr.mt.gov/agr/Consumer/HayHotline/> - Montana Government

<http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/feedlist/> - North Dakota State University

<http://www.ontariohaylistings.ca/> - Ontario Forage Council

<http://web2.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/haysearch/index.php> - Manitoba Government

Another alternative is to sell hay into the US through a hay broker. Working with a broker can reduce the risk that a producer assumes as transportation, permits and payment may all be handled by an experienced broker. Recent conversations with three brokers in Saskatchewan that are currently shipping hay into the US provided very valuable insight about the process and what producers can expect when selling hay by this method.

Rayglen Commodities of Saskatoon, Johnston's Grain Marketing of Welwyn and JGL Grain in Moose Jaw have recently added hay to the commodities they market. All three companies report that interest from Saskatchewan hay producers has been strong this year and that shipments are now going into the US and some into Ontario.

Between the three companies, differences in the selling process are noted. While both Rayglen and Johnston's are currently working with US buyers who take ownership of the hay in Saskatchewan, JGL acts as the buyer of the hay. That means payment to Saskatchewan growers will be from US buyers in the case of Rayglen and Johnston's while JGL pays the seller directly. These three companies report that higher quality hay and/or straight alfalfa hay is in the largest demand right now, but that even lower quality hay is expected to move in the future due to high demand.

Prices reported are in the \$50 - \$100/ton range with the higher prices representative of good to premium quality alfalfa in large square bales. Due to issues with transport, large square bales are generally preferred, but large round bales are also being sent south. Depending on the arrangement, hay may be picked up at the seller's yard or may need to be transported to a central loading area. For more information on product specifications and arranging hay shipments contacts include:

Rayglen Commodities - Ric Luimes 1-800-729-4536
rluimes@rayglen.com
www.rayglen.com

Johnston's Grain Marketing - Allan Johnston 1-800-324-7778
allan@ajagra.com
www.ajagra.ca

JGL Grain Marketing - Dalton Barr (306) 692-4911
daltonb@jglgrain.com
www.jglgrain.com

The companies listed here are only a sampling of those that may be available in the province. Sellers are encouraged to explore any and all options that may be available. If you are a hay broker or know of others that should be added to this list, please contact the Saskatchewan Forage Council at office@saskforage.ca or (306) 867-8126. Going forward, the SFC plans to keep a list of hay brokers in Saskatchewan on file to distribute to interested sellers.

Please Note:

The Saskatchewan Forage Council makes no endorsement for any particular company. Individuals must satisfy themselves that any company they deal with is financially sound and is a fit with their individual operation. The Saskatchewan Forage Council recommends you take the necessary precautions to ensure selection of a reputable company to work with.

A Tree Hugger and the Cowboys

Heather Wiebe - Biodiversity Extension Specialist, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Over the past ten years, as a Biodiversity Extension Specialist with AAFC, at times I felt like a circus pitchman from yesteryear shouting: "Species at risk are present because of what you do on the land, *not* in spite of it."



Heather Wiebe speaking at pasture field day.

Photo credit: AAFC

Not that I'm complaining. What biologist has the pleasure of working on 929,000 hectares of predominantly native rangelands, home to 31 species at risk, managed by cowboys with a lifetime of knowledge? Some of these cowboys were surprised to learn a certain bird was in peril, as they've grown up on Community Pastures seeing them frequently. I've always said that these large contiguous blocks of rangelands act like lily pads in a sea of land altered by humans. Species at risk know what habitat they need and find it on Pastures. Species are in decline because there is so very little of lands remaining with the right combination of food,

water, shelter and space.

In the beginning my pitch-line raised eyebrows of the Pasture Managers, Riders and Construction Crews who were rightfully worried when the *Species at Risk Act* was first proclaimed. Will lands be expropriated? Will infrastructure work come to a halt when these species are present? Will enforcement officers be looking over our shoulders? Over the years AAFC has worked through many such scenarios on Community Pastures: fence work, shallow buried pipelines, natural resource extraction, and infrastructure development. We've all become well versed on what can and cannot be done on habitat supporting species at risk. In the last two years I've seen a considerable shift from amplified anxiety to realistic comfort in terms of the Act.

I'm thrilled when I hear new voices selling my pitch. Several times at field days or meetings a question on species at risk has been directed towards AAFC and a Pasture Manager or Land Manager has provided a response which was accurate and eloquent. AAFC cowboys are reporting species at risk sightings, involved in the research occurring in their pastures, and provide a livestock point of view when AAFC reviews recovery documents from Environment Canada and other partners. It makes me smile to see that it has become "we" on this issue rather than tree huggers and cowboys.

The livestock industry and biologist find common ground beyond Community Pasture fences. Conservation and regulatory agencies recognize that healthy, diverse natural ecosystems can also be productive for cattle and the vegetation that supports them. It is not an either or situation, all can benefit from well managed pastures.



*Endangered species are not a myth
Cows and grazing do co-exist with
Abuse your ground and you won't get the same pay
Then this wildlife won't have a place to lay.*

-Dale Colby, Laurier Pasture Manager

Dale Colby - Pasture Manager and Cowboy poet.
Photo credit: AAFC

Twine Recycling Program

Travis Quirk - Provincial Council of ADD Boards

In March of 2011, the Minister of Agriculture announced a one year pilot project for the recycling of grain bags and twine to take place in Saskatchewan. In March of 2012 the pilot program was extended and will continue to March of 2014. The pilot program is funded through the Growing Forward agreement between the provincial and federal government and also by the Provincial Council of ADD Boards, a delivery agent that has been working with provincial and federal governments for numerous years delivering reputable programs such as the Environmental Farm Plan and Canada-Saskatchewan Farm Stewardship Program.

PCAB currently operates six main collection sites within the province that accept

rolled grain bags and twine. They are located at Viscount, Rush Lake, Bienfait (Estevan), Unity, Kelvington and Prince Albert. There are also satellite collection sites located in Cudworth and Humboldt that collect rolled grain bags and also a collection site in Mankota for collecting twine. In addition, PCAB is working with and supporting the Moose Jaw Watershed Stewards Inc., a group which established a grain bag and twine recycling project with collection sites in Moose Jaw, Mossbank and Milestone in 2010.

Hay and straw production in the province is estimated to use approximately 1000 - 1300 tonnes of twine each year plus an estimated additional 200 tonnes of net wrap. Used twine can be problematic on farms as it can get wrapped up on moving equipment and as a hazard to livestock. Some landfills do accept twine but proper disposal is not always available and it becomes problematic in finding a solution to handle the amount of twine used. It is possible to prevent twine from entering the waste system by recycling used twine and promoting recycling by purchasing twine made from recycled material. This encourages good stewardship for an otherwise unused agricultural byproduct. Unfortunately net wrap is not, at this time, suitable for recycling due to the varied compounds within its composition.



Photo credit: Moose Jaw River Watershed

Producers should be mindful that when collecting twine on their farm for recycling it should be clean, dry and free of debris (less than 5%) and collected in a clear plastic bag. Producers who are interested in recycling may contact the collection site closest to them and arrange for a time to pick up a bag used to store twine. Once the collection bag is filled, producers can then drop the bags off at the collection site. Some depots may be holding collection days in which producers can bring their loose twine and have them bagged at the collection site.

Call our office toll free at 1-866-298-7222 or visit our website www.saskpcab.com for more information on the program and contact information for the collection sites.

Large Hay Crops May Have Nutritional Deficiencies

Reprinted from Agriculture Research and Extension Council of Alberta (ARECA) July 31, 2012 issue newsletter

Editor's note: *although this article was prepared for an Alberta audience, Saskatchewan hay producers are experiencing similar conditions so the same principles will apply.*

Ideal growing conditions in many areas of the province should result in above average first cut hay yields. Many people are optimistic that the weather will cooperate and that the hay will be put up with minimal or no rain damage. High yielding forage crops typically have lower nutritional content than hay from years with average or below average yields. Soils contain limited amounts of nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, sulfur and other trace elements needed for plant growth. As these soil nutrients are taken up by the plant, soil reserves are rapidly reduced or depleted.

With higher yields, the nutrients available from the soil are distributed in the plant material, and nutrients are diluted down and are not as concentrated as in other years. For example; protein content in the hay can be at 8 to 10% rather than an average of 12 to 14%. Macro and micro nutrients can be a one third to one half lower than average. With this in mind, the use of a fortified trace mineral salt with selenium is strongly recommended. Blue salt will not meet the animals' trace mineral requirements in most situations.

Photo credit: Leanne Thompson



This year's hay that has a nice smell and good color may not have the kick it needs to keep the cows in good condition and calves growing. Just because the hay is green, does not mean that it has adequate amounts of protein, and energy - the two most important nutrients. Hay that is over mature or if there was cool cloudy conditions for most of the growing season can result in low protein and high fibre (low energy) hay.

As hay matures, protein, energy, calcium and phosphorus levels decline. The reduction in quality becomes more pronounced after grasses have headed out and legumes have set seed. Cut the hay according to maturity and weather conditions not the date on the calendar.

The only way to know what your animals are receiving in their ration is to send samples away for analysis. Spending \$50 to \$60 per sample of hay or silage is the only way to know the quality. Balance the ration and prevent feed related problems before it reduces growth rates, reproduction, or herd health.

Having feed test results available and using the Cowbytes ration balancing program at home, or working with a nutritionist can save money either on the purchases required, or having more pounds of calf for sale in the fall.

Barry Yaremco - Beef and Forage Specialist, Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development

Drought Assistance for US Producers

USDA News Release - August 8, 2012

As part of continuing steps by the Obama Administration to assist livestock producers in response to the historic drought, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today highlighted that USDA will utilize nearly \$16 million in financial and technical assistance to immediately help crop and livestock producers in 19 states cope with the adverse impacts of the historic drought. In addition, USDA will initiate a transfer of \$14 million in unobligated program funds into the Emergency Conservation Program. These funds can be used to assist in moving water to livestock in need and rehabilitating lands severely impacted by the drought. Together these efforts should provide nearly \$30 million to producers struggling with drought conditions.

"President Obama and I continue to work across the federal government to provide relief for those farmers and ranchers who are affected by the severe drought conditions impacting many states across our nation," said Vilsack. "This additional assistance builds on a number of steps USDA has taken over the past few weeks to provide resources and flexibility in our existing programs to help producers endure these serious hardships. As this drought persists, the Obama Administration is

committed to using existing authorities wherever possible to help the farmers, ranchers, small businesses, and communities being impacted."

Yesterday in Washington, President Obama convened his White House Rural Council to review Executive Branch response actions and to develop additional policy initiatives to assist drought-stricken Americans. Following the meeting, the White House announced a number of new measures the Administration is taking, including USDA's assistance for livestock and crop producers, the National Credit Union Administration's increased capacity for lending to customers including farmers, and the U.S. Department of Transportation's emergency waivers for federal truck weight regulations and hours of service requirements to drought-stricken communities. President Obama also stressed the need for the entire Administration to continue to look at further steps it can take to ease the pain of this historic drought.

Within the last month, USDA has opened the Conservation Reserve Program to emergency haying and grazing, has lowered the borrower interest rate for emergency loans, and has worked with crop insurance companies to provide more flexibility to farmers. USDA has also announced the following:

- * Allowing producers to modify current EQIP contracts to allow for grazing, livestock watering, and other conservation activities to address drought conditions.
- * Authorizing haying and grazing of Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) easement areas in drought-affected areas where haying and grazing is consistent with conservation of wildlife habitat and wetlands.
- * Lowering the reduction in the annual rental payment to producers on CRP acres used for emergency haying or grazing from 25 percent to 10 percent in 2012.
- * Simplifying the Secretarial disaster designation process and reduced the time it takes to designate counties affected by disasters by 40 percent.

With the USDA announcement highlighted today, USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will use \$16 million in existing funds from its Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) and Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to target states experiencing exceptional and extreme drought. The states with exceptional, or the most severe, drought are Arkansas, Colorado, Georgia, Kansas, Kentucky and Nebraska. States experiencing extreme drought are Alabama, Illinois, Indiana, Mississippi, Missouri, New Mexico, Nevada, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah and Wisconsin. NRCS state conservationists will announce special signups for WHIP and EQIP funds which will allow eligible producers to apply for selected conservation practices. These practices include prescribed grazing, livestock watering facilities and water conservation practices. Eligible producers also can re-apply for financial assistance to re-install or re-apply failed conservation practices due to drought and modify existing contracts to re-schedule planned conservation practices.

In addition, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) will transfer \$14 million in unobligated program funds into the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP). ECP provides emergency funding and technical assistance for farmers and ranchers to rehabilitate farmland damaged by natural disasters and for carrying out emergency water conservation measures in periods of severe drought. ECP also provides resources to help producers restore livestock fences.

Also today, Vilsack signed disaster designations for an additional 44 counties in 12

The U.S. Drought Monitor indicates that 66% of the nation's hay acreage is in an area experiencing drought, while approximately 73% of the nation's cattle acreage is in an area experiencing drought.

states as primary natural disaster areas due to damage and losses caused by drought and excessive heat. Counties designated today are in the states of Arkansas, Iowa, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma and South Dakota. During the 2012 crop year, USDA has designated 1,628 unduplicated counties across 33 states as disaster areas-1,496 due to drought-making all qualified farm operators in the areas eligible for low-interest emergency loans. The U.S. Drought Monitor indicates that 66 percent of the nation's hay acreage is in an area experiencing drought, while approximately 73 percent of the nation's cattle acreage is in an area experiencing drought. During the week ending Aug. 5, USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) reported that U.S. soybeans rated 39 percent very poor to poor, surpassing the lowest conditions observed during the drought of 1988. NASS also reported that 50 percent of the U.S. corn crop was rated very poor to poor. In addition, 59 percent of the nation's pastures and rangeland are rated very poor or poor.

Visit www.usda.gov/drought for the latest information regarding USDA's drought response and assistance.

Stage Set for Upward Move on Alfalfa Prices

Reprinted from eHay Weekly's August 18, 2012 eNewsletter

By most accounts, the numbers in last week's [Crop Production report from USDA](#) are sure to put upward pressure on U.S. alfalfa prices in the months ahead. The big question is just how far prices might move, says Matt Diersen, ag economist with South Dakota State University Extension.



According to the report, U.S. production of alfalfa and alfalfa-mix hay in 2012 will likely total about 55 million tons, down 16% from last year's total and the lowest production since 1953.

"It's looking like we have a pretty big supply problem shaping up across the U.S.," says Diersen.

To read the full article from eHay Weekly, [click here](#).

Province Consulting with Federal Pasture Patrons

Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture News Release - August 17, 2012

The Government of Saskatchewan will be further consulting with federal pasture patrons on the transition of federal community pastures to patron-controlled ownership and operation.

"We have said all along that the patrons of these pastures are the priority for our government throughout this transition," Agriculture Minister Lyle Stewart said. "Our goal is to ensure patrons are able to continue using these lands and we want to give them every opportunity to have input about the transition of their pastures."

While these consultations continue, the Governments of Canada and Saskatchewan are working to ensure patrons are able to utilize these pastures for grazing in 2013. Both governments are negotiating a memorandum of understanding that will see

federal staff continue to manage these pastures for the 2013 grazing season.

Following the federal government's decision to discontinue the Community Pasture Program, Saskatchewan established an advisory committee made up of industry leaders and cattle producers. The advisory committee recommended the following principles form the framework for this transition:

- Pasture patron groups will have the opportunity to own and operate each pasture;
- Each pasture will be maintained as a complete block;
- Sales will be based on market values; and
- Any sale of native prairie land will be subject to no-break and no-drain conservation easements.

Representatives from each federal community pasture patron group were invited to participate in a conference call in July, and each patron advisory committee chairman has been sent an information package on the transition process.

"We have had numerous inquiries by patron groups who are interested in owning and operating these pastures," Stewart said. "I encourage all pasture patron groups to look into forming legal entities or grazing co-operatives in order to transition these pastures into their hands."

Discussions are ongoing with the federal government and Farm Credit Canada on options for financing plans for patron groups to purchase their pastures.

Saskatchewan Hay Market Report

Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture

www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/FeedForageListing

As listed August 23, 2012

	Listings	Listings Priced	Tons Listed	Tons Priced	Lowest Price/ton	Highest Price/ton	Weighted Average Price/ton
Alfalfa	3	2	965	785	\$58	\$90	\$85
Brome/ Alfalfa	4	1	382.5	22.5	\$120*	\$120	\$120
Organic Hay	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Listings	Listings Priced	Acres Listed	Acres Priced	Price/lb range	Price/ton range	Price/acre range
Standing Forage	4	4	835	835	\$0.01-0.015	-	-

*Small squares

Three pasture listings were also found with only one priced:

- \$1/pair/day

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](http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/to_gr310.txt) webpage.

Wyoming, Western Nebraska, and Western South Dakota Weekly Hay Summary (Week ending August 17, 2012)

Dennis Widga, Torrington, WY

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

Compared to last week: All classes trading steady to firm. With the US Drought Monitor indicating moderate to exceptional drought conditions persisting in areas where 70 percent of the U.S. cow herd is located, hay demand remains strong. Increased demand has caused input costs to continue to rise forcing ranchers and feeders to look into alternative feeds and marketing strategies to try and offset rising breakevens. Demand good on moderate trading activity. Prices are from the most recent reported sales.

Weekly Montana Hay Report (Week ending August 17, 2012)

Justin Lumpkin, Billings, MT

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

Compared to last week: Hay prices traded mostly steady. Trade activity light. Demand very good for all classes. Local and out of state buyers continue pursuing all classes of hay. Producers noted light movement this week, due to a busy grain harvest. Many are still passing current bids, electing to wait for higher prices or keeping the supply for their use.

Prices are for the week ending August 17, 2012

	Eastern Wyoming	Central & Western Wyoming	Western South Dakota	Montana
Alfalfa				
Supreme	\$255	-	-	-
Premium	\$230 - 240	\$200	\$200 - 225	\$200
Good	\$200 - 225	\$180	\$175	\$180
Fair -Good	\$175 - 190	\$180	-	-
Alfalfa/Grass				
Good - Premium	-	\$225 - 250 \$280*	\$125 - 150	\$150 - 200
Fair - Good	-	\$195	\$100 - 105	-
Grass	-	\$150 \$175*	-	-
Oat Hay	-	\$135 - 175	-	-
CRP Hay	-	-	\$140 - 145	-
Timothy	-	-	-	\$240*
Straw	-	-	-	\$80

All prices in U.S. dollars per ton FOB stack in medium to large square bales and or large 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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