Saskatchewan Hay & Pasture Report

June 3, 2011
Volume 12, Issue 1

Saskatchewan Forage Council, PO Box 1715, Outlook, SK S0L 2N0
www.saskforage.ca office@saskforage.ca 306.867.8126

Inside This Issue:

Note from the Saskatchewan Forage Council

Welcome to the re-designed *Saskatchewan Hay & Pasture Report*! While the design may have changed, our dedication to the industry and focus on providing forage production and marketing information remains the same. In our first issue for 2011 we have included a number of interesting articles related to the forage situation in the province. You will also find our regular features including Saskatchewan Crop Reports and Hay Market Information. Read on to become informed!

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 May 23 and May 30, 2011)

Southeastern Saskatchewan:
Week ending May 23, 2011
Rainfall in the region ranged from 9 to 55 mm. Precipitation came down very hard over a short time in some areas, causing localized flooding. Some areas have received 206 mm of precipitation since April 1. Farm yards, corrals, pasture and hay land are flooded, partially flooded and/or very soft, making it difficult to feed cattle and manoeuvre equipment. Many cattle producers are still feeding cattle as road access to pasture is limited and pastures are just starting to grow. Topsoil moisture conditions on hay land and pasture is rated as 66 per cent surplus and 34 per cent adequate. Pasture conditions are reported as 42 per cent excellent, 40 per cent good, 16 per cent fair and two per cent poor.

Week ending May 30, 2011
Rainfall in the region ranged from 11 mm to 53 mm. Some areas have recorded over 250 mm of rain since April 1. Many cattle producers are still feeding cattle as road access to pasture is limited. Topsoil moisture conditions on hay and pasture land is rated as 73 per cent surplus and 27 per cent adequate.

Southwestern Saskatchewan:
Week ending May 23, 2011
The southwestern corner of the region received a downpour of over 112 mm of rain on Sunday and Monday. Other areas in the south received significant rainfall as well,

much of it falling over a short period of time. Topsoil moisture on hay land and pasture is rated as 32 per cent surplus, 67 per cent adequate and one per cent short. Livestock water availability is adequate. Pasture conditions are rated as 45 per cent excellent, 51 per cent good and four per cent fair.

Week ending May 30, 2011

Many areas received over 40 mm of rain this past week. Rain was recorded across most of the region and caused large sloughs and saturated field conditions. Crop reporters are indicating a significant number of acres will go unseeded this year. Livestock producers are supplement feeding cattle on pasture until the grass gets a head start. Hay land and pasture topsoil moisture is rated as 38 per cent surplus, 61 per cent adequate and one per cent short.

Newly seeded forage field.
Photo credit: Ducks Unlimited Canada

East Central Saskatchewan

Week ending May 23, 2011

Rain showers rolled through much of the region, delaying field operations. Topsoil moisture on hay and pasture land is rated as 26 per cent surplus, 71 per cent adequate and three per cent short. Many pastures and fields are flooded or inaccessible due to washed out roads. Livestock water availability is adequate. Pasture conditions are rated as 29 per cent excellent, 37 per cent adequate, 26 per cent fair, seven per cent poor and one per cent very poor.

Week ending May 30, 2011

Fields are wet in these districts, but for the most part able to support machinery. A light frost was reported in some areas. Hay land and pasture topsoil moisture is rated as 26 per cent surplus, 71 per cent adequate, and three per cent short.

West Central Saskatchewan

Week ending May 23, 2011

Most of the region received rain showers, ranging in amount from nil to 24 mm. Topsoil moisture conditions on hay and pasture land is rated as six per cent surplus, 80 per cent adequate and 14 per cent short. Ninety-seven per cent of livestock producers are indicating they have adequate water supplies for their livestock, while three per cent are short of water for their animals. Pasture conditions are rated as 32 per cent excellent, 59 per cent good and nine per cent fair. Frost was reported in some areas, although it is too early to tell if there will be any significant damage.

Week ending May 30, 2011

Most areas received very little rain for the week, ranging from zero to 13 mm. Hay land and pasture topsoil moisture conditions are rated as three per cent surplus, 75 per cent adequate and 22 per cent short. A light frost was reported in some areas. Hail was reported in the Conquest area. Heat and a little moisture is needed to get the crop up and off to a good start.

Northeastern Saskatchewan

Week ending May 23, 2011

Rainfall in the region ranged from nil to 8 mm last week. Topsoil moisture on hay land and pasture is rated as 14 per cent surplus, 83 per cent adequate and three per cent short. Frost was reported, with temperatures dipping to -5C in some areas. Livestock have adequate water supplies. Pasture conditions are rated as 20 per cent excellent, 54 per cent good, 23 per cent fair and three per cent poor.

Week ending May 30, 2011

Rain showers rolled through much of the region. Recorded rain ranged from nil to 17 mm. Topsoil moisture on hay and pasture land is reported as three per cent

surplus, 90 per cent adequate and seven per cent short. The frost reported from the previous week caused some damage to emerging crops.

Northwestern Saskatchewan
Week ending May 23, 2011
Very little rain fell last week with precipitation ranging from nil to 9 mm. In some areas, a rain is needed to help the emerging crops and pasture and hay land. Hay land and pasture topsoil moisture is rated as one per cent surplus, 68 per cent adequate, 30 per cent short and one per cent very short. Frost was reported, with temperatures dipping to -4C in some areas. Pasture conditions are rated as 15 per cent excellent, 66 per cent good, 15 per cent fair and four per cent poor. Pastures have been slow to green up, and many livestock producers are still feeding in the yard. All producers are indicating adequate water supplies for their livestock.

Week ending May 30, 2011
Most areas recorded no rain for the week with a range from zero to 10 mm. Most reporters are indicating a rain is needed for the emerging crop and pasture and hay land. Hay land and pasture topsoil moisture is rated as 55 per cent adequate, 44 per cent short, and one per cent very short.
The crop damage from last week's frost has some producers reseeding in some areas. Other producers have indicated damage was minimal.

2011 Forage Outlook

Compiled by the Saskatchewan Forage Council

Hay windrows in the field.
Photo credit:
Leanne Thompson

Predictions for the 2011 forage situation in Saskatchewan mainly depend on weather, carryover, and demand as the major factors.

Rain has been a major part of the weather forecast in many regions of Saskatchewan this spring. As a result, moisture conditions over much of the province are good to excessive both due to high snowfall amounts during the winter of 2010-2011 and higher than normal precipitation this spring. While this plentiful moisture will go a long way to provide forage stands and rangeland a good start this spring, there have certainly been challenges associated with this excess moisture.

Reports from the southeast, southwest, central, east central and northeast areas indicate that moisture is plentiful and soils are saturated in most fields. There is some concern that forage which has been in standing water for extended periods of time may not survive. In the Qu'Applle area, some pastures are completely underwater and alternate grazing locations will need to be found. By contrast, rainfall in the northwest this spring to date has been below average. As a result flooding has not been an issue and has allowed wetter areas from last year to dry up. Some areas are in need of precipitation to move forage growth along. South, central, and northwest regions also report that temperatures have been cool and that due to lack of heat, forage maturity is slow and somewhat behind normal. The north central region reports that stable weather conditions and warm temperatures have forage producers looking for an above average first cut of hay this year.

Regional reports give a general picture for forage stands in good stead with respect to moisture, but that heat is needed to move growth along. Average or above

average yields are expected, but if wet weather persists, putting hay up in good condition will be a challenge.

Excessive moisture during the spring of 2011 has created a significant challenge for many grain farmers and those with annual cropland which was too wet to seed, may now look toward greenfeed as an option.

In 2010, weather certainly was a factor during haying season as rain and high humidity created significant problems during harvest. As a result, the quality of the 2010 hay crop was impacted adversely by the advanced maturity of the crop when harvested, weather damage that occurred when lying in the swath, and, in some cases baling at elevated moisture levels. Forage yields across the province were well above average in 2010 and as a result, carryover is good for most areas. However in places where pastures have been difficult to access this spring, forage stocks will be lower due to longer feeding periods. Many producers are hoping for better quality hay during 2011 to go along with carryover from 2010.

Forage prices are largely determined by demand from livestock producers – primarily the beef sector. Last year, forage supplies were plentiful and as a result, prices were low and in many cases reported to be below cost of production. With average or above average yields expected for the 2011 growing season, forage prices are likely to remain low. According to Statistics Canada, cattle numbers are down 2.5% from January 1, 2010 to January 1, 2011. For this reason, demand for hay in the province is not expected to increase. There may be premiums available for high quality hay this year as it was in tight supply last year. In the southeast, there is some speculation that hay and possibly pasture rental prices will increase due to demand from Manitoba where excessive flooding has caused many livestock producers to relocate their herds and/or import hay.

As it is every year, much of the forage production story is yet to be written. Only time will tell how moisture conditions and temperatures during the coming weeks impact yields and ultimately forage quality. Stayed tuned as the 2011 growing season unfolds - hopefully with a positive end result.

Finding the Best Route – Excess Water Issues

Jeremy Brown, PAg & Stacey Gulka, PAg
Saskatchewan Watershed Authority

A large portion of Saskatchewan is experiencing high water levels again in 2011, much higher than those of us currently on the land are used to, and in some cases, prepared for. An abundance of rain last summer/fall coupled with normal to above normal snowfall and a late spring melt has left many people struggling with high water levels which affect their operations.

The implications of high water levels are real and significant, ranging from roads washed out, yards flooded, or acres of land remaining under standing water. Landowners have to assess their personal situation and determine, “How can we manage around these fluctuations?”

For the most part, the water levels we are experiencing are not unprecedented; but we are much more often dealing with drought and water shortages. It has been at

least a couple of decades since we've seen this amount of precipitation, and our expectations and management practices have adjusted accordingly.

Not surprisingly, this situation has brought to the forefront the topic of altering drainage of water from the landscape. Some are asking what impact existing alterations are having on the flooding issues, while others are investigating options to increase drainage of unwanted water.

Rather than coin drainage as "good" or "bad", it is important to consider the cost-benefit of such projects as well as the opinions, interests, and authorities of all stakeholders. After all, we are all upstream of someone.

Here are a few points to consider:

Findings suggested that restoring small wetlands increased total forage production on the pasture by over 50%

If you do wish to alter the natural flow of water, you should first seek appropriate approvals from the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority and other agencies. Any drainage ditch, berm, or pump that causes water to flow off of your property requires approval. This process is intended to ensure that the project is properly constructed and that other landowners are not negatively affected. Some examples of co-ordinated drainage projects are those designed and operated by various Conservation and Development Districts in the province.

Increased drainage may contribute to flooding problems downstream. A study by Ducks Unlimited Canada in the Broughton Creek watershed in Manitoba calculated that wetland drainage had increased total runoff in that basin by 62%. Functioning wetlands store and slowly release water to creeks. The slow release of water helps trap sediments and pollutants and reduces erosion. In addition, more natural flow rates are more likely to remain in the stream channel, reducing flood intensity downstream.

Landowners dealing with flooded land should consider land-use options and compensation programs available when making management decisions. Some conservation groups have incentive programs for landowners who maintain or restore wetlands, which can compensate for possible loss of production or increased complexity of management.

While fields used for annual crops may be at a disadvantage if there are wet potholes to farm around, hay fields and pasture might benefit from the same. In 2010, the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority did a preliminary study to evaluate forage production on similar pastures, one with ditches to drain the wetlands, the other restored to natural hydrology. The findings suggested that restoring small wetlands increased total forage production on the pasture by over 50%. More work is being done to try and better understand these hydrology/production interactions.

In summary, dealing with excess or unwanted moisture can be a challenging issue. In order to make the best possible management decisions in a given situation, seek out as much information as possible and pencil out the short and long term implications to your decisions. Check with your neighbours and local watershed groups to find out what information and financial tools are available in your area. Our challenging climate will reward those who optimize their land-use and management decisions for the specific situation and "normal" fluctuations.

Native Prairie Appreciation Week 2011 - Step into the World of Native Prairie!

Michelle Clark, SK PCAP Manager

Declared as the third week of June by the Saskatchewan Ministries of Agriculture and Environment since 1999, **Native Prairie Appreciation Week (NPAW**) is dedicated to raising awareness and appreciation of native prairie ecosystems and their importance to Saskatchewan's provincial, environmental and agricultural sectors.

2011 will mark the 13th Annual NPAW running from June 19-25, 2011 and the Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Action Plan (SK PCAP) is encouraging all Saskatchewan residents to get outside and explore native prairie whether it is right in your backyard or a short drive to the country. A list of "20 Ways You and Your Family Can Get Outside and Enjoy/Appreciate Native Prairie" as well as an outline of partner workshops/events Saskatchewan residents can participate in are available on the SK PCAP website at www.pcap-sk.org under *Native Prairie Appreciation Week*.

A poster contest is also being held for children ages 9-17 with winning entries having a choice of prizes including a day in the field with a biologist at Grasslands National Park or Last Mountain Bird Observatory, a day in the field with a botanist learning to identify native plants, a day at a Ranch or a week at a Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation Conservation Camp. The winning posters will also be featured as three new SK PCAP prairie E-cards and used for NPAW 2012 promotion.

For more details, visit the SK PCAP homepage or feel free to contact the SK PCAP Office at (306) 352-0472 or pcap@sasktel.net. Deadline is June 11, 2011 (postdated).

Improving Pasture Productivity

Project Review from the Beef Cattle Research Council (BCRC)

Project Title: Carbon sequestration, methane production and nitrous oxide emissions from cattle grazing native prairie (2.68)

Project Leader: Dr. Alan Iwaasa (AAFC Swift Current)

Background: Forage yields, stand life, and the productivity of grazing animals is largely determined by the forage varieties, fertilization and grazing management practices that a producer chooses to use (as well as the weather). Including a legume like alfalfa or sainfoin in a grass stand generally increases soil nitrogen, forage productivity, and animal gains. Some producers have been reluctant to include alfalfa in pasture mixes because of the increased risk of bloat. Sainfoin has a lower risk of bloat than alfalfa, but may also have lower forage yields and shorter stand life than alfalfa.

Objectives: To evaluate cattle performance, forage productivity and forage persistence in alfalfa-grass and sainfoin pastures.

What they did: These researchers conducted an experiment near Swift Current, Saskatchewan. Pastures containing either sainfoin (Nova) or a mix of alfalfa (Spredor) and hybrid brome grass (AC Knowles) were established and grazed in July for three seasons. Steers were pulled after 60 to 65% of the forage had been consumed. Forage samples were collected and analyzed for crude protein and fibre content. Forage yield, average daily gain, grazing days, and total live weight gain per acre were also recorded.

Steers grazing sainfoin.
Photo credit: AAFC – Swift Current.

What they learned:
Forage yield was 20% higher for the alfalfa-grass pastures (12.6 tons/acre) than the sainfoin pastures (10.7 tons/acre).
Forage quality: the sainfoin samples had lower fibre (ADF and NDF) levels and higher digestibility than the alfalfa-grass samples, but the alfalfa-grass samples had higher protein levels than the sainfoin samples.
Legume persistence: Maintaining legume stands was a challenge in both pastures. Alfalfa and sainfoin plant counts both dropped by 50% over the four years of the grazing trial.
Animal performance: Average daily gain was the same for the sainfoin pasture as for the alfalfa-grass pasture. But cattle were grazed 82% longer on the alfalfa-grass pasture than on the sainfoin pastures (because of differences in forage production), so total live weight gain per acre was 77% higher on the alfalfa-grass pastures (699lb / acre) than on the sainfoin pastures (394 lb / acre).

What it means: This research project was completed in 2007. Selection of genetically improved sainfoin varieties could produce a bloat-safe legume that is more productive and better able to compete and persist in pastures. Legume persistence would also benefit from grazing strategies that consider the critical growing periods of legume species. This would help to improve forage and soil quality, allow safer grazing of legume pastures, and improve animal performance. In 2008, the BCRC funded a pair of projects to follow up on these ideas.

Improved sainfoin varieties: Dr. Surya Acharya (AAFC Lethbridge) and co-workers are examining whether genetically improved sainfoin varieties will be more competitive with alfalfa and tolerate grazing better. They seeded four different varieties of sainfoin (Nova, as well as three experimental varieties) in Lethbridge, Swift Current, and Lanigan, Saskatchewan. Each sainfoin variety was seeded on its own in some plots, and seeded in alternate rows with alfalfa (AC Grazeland) in other plots. Plots were clipped to simulate grazing in mid June, late August, and early October. Plant establishment, winter survival, total yields, and the relative yields of the different sainfoin varieties and alfalfa were measured. This research has been expanded under the Beef Science Cluster to include a grazing trial. In addition to forage quality, yield, re-growth and persistence under grazing, this study will also measure methane production, bloat incidence, body condition score and animal gains. This project will be completed in the spring of 2012.

Grazing strategies: Dr. Shannon Scott (AAFC Brandon) and others are examining whether modified grazing management can help legumes to compete and persist in mixed legume-grass pastures. In late summer and early fall, alfalfa plants are preparing for winter dormancy and building up root reserves that fuel next spring's re-growth. Grazing alfalfa during this period may weaken the roots considerably, and hinder the plant's ability to recover next spring. This could allow grass species to out-compete the alfalfa and eventually dominate the pasture. Rather than grazing alfalfa-grass pastures in late summer through early fall, then swath-grazing an annual crop in late fall and early winter, these researchers are trying the

reverse. Grazing swaths in late summer through early fall may allow the alfalfa to build up its root stores during the critical period. The alfalfa-grass pastures could then be grazed in late fall and early winter once the roots have been recharged and the plant is dormant. This study has also been extended under the Beef Science Cluster under the direction of Dr. Hushton Block, and will be completed in the spring of 2013.

Canada's Beef Science Cluster is funded by the Canadian Cattlemen's Association and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to advance research and technology transfer supporting the Canadian beef industry's vision to be recognized as a preferred supplier of healthy, high quality beef, cattle and genetics. For more information, visit www.cattle.ca or call 403-275-8558.

ADOPT Project Looks at Brush Control Options in Pasture

Bapaume Pasture post-spraying.

Photo Credit: Glenn Barclay

Pastures in the Parkland region of Saskatchewan often experience brush encroachment which can significantly reduce forage productivity over time. Common brush species in the Parkland region include snowberry, rose, willow, poplar, wolf willow and several others. Due to the high cost of the herbicides used to control brush, pasture managers are often reluctant to use them. Failure to apply herbicides in a timely manner is also a common problem which can further aggravate brush encroachment.

A field scale evaluation showing the relative performance of commonly available herbicides was undertaken at two sites in the Parkland region at the Pathlow Community Pasture near Melfort and Bapaume Pasture operated by the Witchekan First Nation near Spiritwood.

Seven (7) treatments were sprayed at the Bapaume site and six (6) treatments at the Pathlow site including:

- 2 rates of Grazon - 2.8L/ac and 4 L/ac;
- dicamba (Banvel II) and 2,4-D LV Ester in a mixture;
- dicamba (Banvel II) alone;
- 2,4-D LV Ester alone;
- Restore; and
- Reclaim - a new product by Dow AgroSciences (Bapaume site only) which was registered in June 2010.

Treatments were applied on June 23, 2010 at the Pathlow site and on June 28, 2010 at the Bapaume site using a small plot sprayer (ATV mounted). The effect of application on brush and weed control were visually evaluated 4-6 weeks following herbicide application.

Table 1 – Herbicide Application Rates

Herbicide Treatment	Active Ingredient	Herbicide rate Applied	Water Volume Applied	Application Cost (per acre)
Grazon (Rate 1)	Picloram – 65 g/l & 2,4-D -240 g/l (pre-mixed product)	2.8 l/acre	75 l/acre	$40.60
Grazon (Rate 2)	as above	4 l/acre	75 l/acre	$60.00
2,4-D LV Ester	2,4-D LV Ester – 700 g/l	1.90 l/acre	75 l/acre	$18.05
Banvel II	Dicamba – 480 g/l	1.48 l/acre	75 l/acre	$49.58
Banvel II & 2,4-D Ester	Dicamba & 2,4-D LV Ester	1.48 l/acre dicamba & 1.78 l/acre – 2,4-D LV Ester	75 l/acre	$66.49
Restore A & B	Aminopyralid – 240 g/l & 2,4-D Amine - 564 g/l	Restore A at 0.2 l/acre & Restore B at 1.0 l/ac	75 l/acre	$27.66
Reclaim (New Product- Dow Agro)	Reclaim A (granule) & Reclaim B – 2,4-D LV Ester 600 –	A – 93 g/acre & B – 810 ml/acre	75 l/acre	$39.30

The Pathlow Community Pasture site is made up of a number of tame and native grass species including smooth bromegrass and bluegrass. The predominant invading species at this site were snowberry, saskatoon, wild rose and wild strawberries. The Bapaume site is also dominated by smooth bromegrass and bluegrass. The main species of brush at this site were poplar and rose.

The two sites showed differences in effectiveness amongst the herbicide treatments. It appears that there is some species specificity for these different herbicides. Generally the higher rate of Grazon was quite effective on the woody species as was Restore and the mixture of Banvel II and 2,4-D. Reclaim also showed promise at the Bapaume site. Woody species were effectively defoliated at the time of assessment, however it will be interesting to follow these plots over time to see if herbicide application has a lasting effect (beyond one or two years). Regional Forage Specialists involved in this project will continue to monitor the plots during the next two growing seasons to determine the longer-term effects.

For more information on this project, please visit the Saskatchewan Forage Council website at www.saskforage.ca to read the final report.

Pathlow Community Pasture (Site -1) - % Control* (Average of 3 replicates)

Herbicide	Strawberry	Snowberry	Saskatoon	Rose
Grazon (light)	80	35	75	80
Grazon (heavy)	85	76	85	85
2-4-D	55	60	85	45
2,4-D & Banvel II	75	80	90	90
Banvel II	50	50	60	70
Restore A + B	90	55	70	85

* % control = 0 - no control, 100 - full control

Bapaume Pasture (Site – 2) - % Control* (Average of 3 replicates)

Herbicide	Snowberry, rose, poplar & chokecherry	Dandelion	Strawberry, absinthe & meadowrue	Notes
Grazon (light)	95	80	15	Grass stunting is evident with Grazon.
Grazon (heavy)	100	90	35	More active on some lower canopy plants at this rate.
2,4-D	80	60	10	
Banvel II	15	70	20	Did poorly on snowberry. Good on yarrow and bedstraw. Only fair on Canada thistle.
Banvel II & 2,4-D	95	75	45	Grasses appeared stressed with this treatment.
Restore A + B	80	60	70	This treatment has gradually improved since first observed. The product appears least stressful on grasses.
Reclaim	85	90	65	Does appear to give more rapid control of woody species

* % Control = 0 – no control, 100 – full control

This project was supported by the Agricultural Demonstration of Practices and Technologies (ADOPT initiative under the Canada-Saskatchewan Growing Forward bi-lateral agreement. The Saskatchewan Forage Council also gratefully acknowledges project co-operators including the Pathlow Community Pasture and Bapaume Pasture. Technical assistance was provided by Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture Forage Specialists.

Promoting Growth of Canada's Forage Sector: Canadian Forage and Grassland Association

Since its incorporation in March 2010, the Canadian Forage and Grassland Association / Canadienne pour les Plantes Fourragères has been providing a national voice for all Canadians who produce hay and forage products and for those whose production is dependent upon forage/grassland production. Its founding directors represent a broad cross section of the industry; forage and livestock producers, provincial forage & grassland associations, processors, forage and grassland user groups (dairy, beef, equine and sheep), and representatives from the provincial and federal government. By working as a team, we can respond to issues on a national level and effectively initiate projects that address production issues, new technology, trade barriers etc.

Our mission is to promote the growth of the forage and grassland sector by advocating a sustainable and environmentally friendly industry. This includes research and development, market development and innovation to enhance the industry's ability to profitably produce and offer superior products to our producers, and domestic and international consumers.

The Canadian forage industry has traditionally been represented by Provincial Councils and, as a result, tended to be regionalized with activities limited to the jurisdiction of the Councils. The CFGA was formed to address this and provide a coordinated approach for the industry as a whole. As an association, the board will direct projects toward innovation, marketing and sales and thereby raise the profile of the industry and the bottom line of our producers and end users. With the development of CFGA, market barriers can now be addressed on a national basis. The current issue for many Canadian forage exporters is that there are several barriers that restrict market access in a competitive way. Transportation costs, currency rates, protocols, energy costs and market demands are some of the key barriers that Canada needs to overcome to effectively market into these regions.

For more information, please visit the CFGA website at www.canadianfga.ca.

Saskatchewan Hay Market Report

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

As listed Thursday, June 2, 2011

	Listings	Listings Priced	Tons Listed	Tons Priced	Lowest Price/ton	Highest Price/ton	Weighted Average Price/ton
Alfalfa	5	4	5,167	5,167	$48	$60	$59
Brome/ Alf	5	4	761	761	$33	$73	$40
Clover	1	1	85	85	$38	$38	$38
Other	2	1	731	731	$55	$55	$55
Organic Alfalfa	1		800	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
Dennis Widga, Torrington, WY
www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/to_gr310.txt
Trade and movement continue slow. Demand good. Hay prices are steady to firm. Supplies are very short in all areas. Interest has been noted from several out-of-

state buyers. Interest noted for new contract hay but very little activity reported so far. Good rains this week in most areas. Warm weather is now needed to get hay growing as the first cutting is still a few weeks away.

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

Compared to last week: Hay trend not applicable due to no recent sales reported. Hay prices below reflect old crop offerings previously sold or contracted. Trade activity is mostly inactive to very light due to the limited available inventories throughout the state. Demand moderate to good with majority of inquiries from out of state buyers. Producers commenting on numerous inquiries in contracting 2011 season hay crops with majority of inquiries coming from out of state brokers.

Prices are for the week of Thursday, June 2, 2011

	Eastern Wyoming	Central & Western Wyoming	Western South Dakota	Montana
Alfalfa				
Supreme	$140.00	-	$110.00-115.00	$100.00-150.00
Premium	$100.00-160.00	$90.00-110.00	$75.00-100.00	$125.00-135.00*
Good	$70.00-130.00	$70.00-105.00	-	$65.00-75.00
Fair -Good	$65.00-80.00	$70.00	$55.00-82.00	$45.00-60.00
Mixed Grass	-	-	$70.00	
Grass	$70-130.00	$60.00-80.00	$55.00	$40.00-65.00
Straw	$50.00-55.00	-	-	-
Alfalfa/Grass	$85.00	$75.00-85.00	-	-
Greenfeed	-	$55.00-75.00	$55.00-65.00	-

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

Hay Quality Designations - Physical Descriptions:

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you to the Saskatchewan Forage Council Sponsors:

The Saskatchewan Hay & Pasture Report *is published by the Saskatchewan Forage Council and is available online at* ***www.saskforage.ca****. If you are interested in re-printing content, please contact our office prior to use. Opinions and information are provided by the authors and publication does not imply endorsement by the SFC. Comments and suggestions are appreciated. If you wish to be placed on an electronic mailing list or have articles and suggestions for upcoming issues, please send them to:*

Saskatchewan Forage Council
PO Box 1715
Outlook, SK S0L 2N0
Phone: 306.867.8126
Email: office@saskforage.ca

Financial Support for the Saskatchewan Hay & Pasture Report Has Been Provided by Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation