



Saskatchewan Hay & Pasture Report

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Note from the Saskatchewan Forage Council

Welcome to the first issue of the season for the *Saskatchewan Hay & Pasture Report*. As in the past 12 seasons (yep it's been that long!), we will continue to provide engaging information and updates related to the forage industry. As we look forward at the 2012 growing season, the spring so far has been encouraging to forage producers in most areas of the province. Warm conditions and timely rains appear to have set the stage for a good production year. In this issue of the *Saskatchewan Hay & Pasture Report*, you will find details on regional crop conditions, alfalfa stand evaluation, forage research in Canada, grazing options and management as well as information on upcoming events in the province. In addition, you will find a summary of forage market information from Saskatchewan and surrounding jurisdictions.

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 Forage Council Tour and AGM

Stakeholders from across the industry are invited to attend the upcoming Saskatchewan Forage Council (SFC) Tour & Annual Meeting to be held **Thursday, June 28, 2012** at the **Touchwood Hills Conservation Ranch** located near **Lestock, SK** ([click here](#) for a complete schedule of events).

Held in partnership with Ducks Unlimited Canada, the tour begins at 1:30pm and will include an overview of the Ranch, highlighting grazing management initiatives including forage establishment, planned grazing and managing brush encroachment. This venue provides an excellent opportunity to hear updates from across the industry and discuss forage-related topics.

Following the tour everyone is encouraged to attend the **SFC Annual General Meeting** which **begins at 4:45pm**. Presentation of the Forage Industry Innovation Award will be followed by a BBQ steak supper at 6:15pm. Enjoy a great meal and visit with colleagues and acquaintances from across the industry.

Registration, including supper, is \$20/person (payable at the door). Please add your name to our registration list by June 22 by contacting the Saskatchewan Forage Council at 306.867.8126 or office@saskforage.ca. We look forward to seeing you there!

Saskatchewan Agriculture Crop Report

(for period ending May 28, 2012)

Seventy-four per cent of the 2012 crop has been seeded according to Saskatchewan Agriculture's weekly Crop Report. The five-year (2007-2011) average for this time of year is approximately 70 per cent seeded.

Seventy-one per cent of the crop is seeded in the southeast, 80 per cent in the southwest, 59 per cent in the east-central area, 73 per cent in the west-central area, 80 per cent in the northeast, and 86 per cent in the northwest.

A large amount of precipitation across the province has stopped seeding for a couple of days to a week. Precipitation varied from less than one inch to over four inches in some areas. Producers in southern and eastern regions are dealing with very wet soil conditions.

Topsoil moisture on cropland is rated as 40 per cent surplus and 60 per cent adequate. Hay and pasture topsoil moisture is 26 per cent surplus, 73 per cent adequate and one per cent short.

Seventy-eight per cent of the fall cereals, 52 per cent of the spring cereals, 49 per cent of the oilseeds and 53 per cent of the pulses are at normal stages of development for this time of year. The majority of crops that have emerged are in good to excellent condition. Most crop damage this week is due to excess moisture and frost.

Farmers are busy controlling weeds and trying to finish seeding.

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

Spring is a Good Time to Assess Alfalfa Stands

Michel Tremblay - Provincial Forage Specialist, Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture



Low temperature injury to alfalfa.

Photo Credit: *Diseases of Field Crops in Canada*

Spring is a time when forage producers begin to think ahead to the new growing season. Forage yield and quality are what makes profits for the forage grower, and healthy alfalfa stands translate into yield. Alfalfa is a cornerstone of forage production in Saskatchewan. It is a hardy crop well-suited to Saskatchewan growing conditions, however it can be damaged by low winter temperatures. Diseases such as crown rot and winter crown rot can exasperate the effects of cold temperature on alfalfa, causing a reduction in yield and longevity. Fields should be examined every spring, to identify problems early. As in any crop, alfalfa requires adequate soil fertility to yield to its potential. Soil testing, and in some cases, tissue testing can identify nutrient deficiencies.

A good time to assess alfalfa stand health is in late April to early May, which allows for early detection of winter injury and disease damage,

and subsequent reseeding plans can be made if necessary. Severely affected plants do not initiate growth in the spring, or regrow unevenly. A few plants per square foot should be present to maintain yields. Sample exposed knolls, low spots, etc., to get a representative status of the field. Examine the crown buds, the root and crown, and the outer layers of the roots. Healthy roots are firm and white, healthy buds are white, rigid and sometimes pink-tipped. Diseased buds are soft, dark in colour, and shrivelled. Damaged plants have dark brown (or yellow), watery tissue and the outer layer of the root peels away easily.



Crown rot damage on alfalfa.
Photo Credit: B Gossen, AAFC

Crown rot, a fungal disease, is common across western Canada. Infection by crown rot is most common in plants with mechanical injuries, insect damage, winter injury, or nutrient deficiencies. Symptoms include dark brown areas that appear on plant buds or stems that spread down to the crown. Brown, V-shaped dry rot occurs in the crown, which can extend into the taproot. Destruction of bud and crown tissue reduces new stem formation and weakens plants.

Winter crown rot occurs in northern areas of western Canada, and is destructive in years of prolonged, deep snow cover. It develops under the snow in winter and early spring, and causes injury at temperatures just below 0C. Winter crown rot causes crown tissue to turn brown-black and soft. Fluffy white or pinkish mycelium can be seen immediately after snow melt in spreading, circular patches, but dries down to an inconspicuous brown layer when snow cover disappears. Identification of alfalfa diseases can be obtained by sending samples to the [Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture Crop Protection Lab.](#)

Adequate supplies of nutrients in the correct proportions will ensure optimal forage production. Alfalfa, if nodulated and actively fixing atmospheric nitrogen, will have minimal need of nitrogen from soil based sources. Nitrogen fertilization of mixed legume-grass forage stands stimulates grass production and reduces the longevity of alfalfa. Nitrogen should be applied in late fall or early spring. Alfalfa uses relatively large amounts of phosphorous. Phosphorus does not move readily into the soil so planning a phosphorous fertilizer program is important for alfalfa fields. Options for phosphorus fertilizer application include banding phosphorus with a disc bander, or dribble banding liquid phosphorus. If phosphorous is broadcast, two to three times the amount of phosphorus required when banding should be applied. Yield response to fertilizer application in forages is highly dependent on soil moisture.

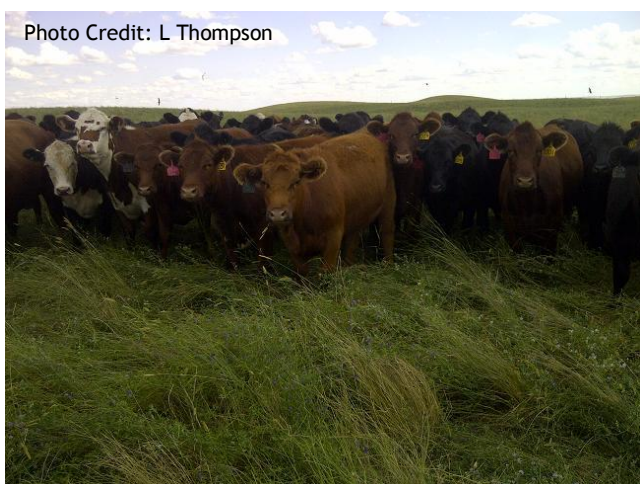
The winter of 2011-2012 had minimal snow cover, and above average temperatures, boding well for alfalfa health heading into the upcoming growing season. Forage production in Saskatchewan has been above average over the last few years. Soil moisture levels are favourable in nearly all areas of Saskatchewan, which will likely translate into another above average yielding crop. Mild weather last winter has reduced draw down of stored forage stocks. With higher yields, prices for hay have tracked below average for the past few years, and that trend may continue through the 2012-13 season. Spring is a good time to check alfalfa fields for vigor. Good soil moisture conditions usually results in a good yield response to fertilizer application, but carefully consider the economics of fertilizer application considering its current price, and the expected value of hay this year before applying.

Grazing Management – Quantity is King

Grant Lastiwka - Grazing/Forage/Beef Specialist, Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development

After years of running cattle it was only when I began working with the Western Forage/Beef Group in Lacombe in 1996 that I truly learned how a cow grazes. To be a better grazing manager or “grazier” and get higher performance out of my cattle it would help to understanding more about how they eat. With an understanding of grazing mechanics and intake we can put animals in situations for better grazing performance success. In the rest of this article I will share how a beef animal grazes and how an understanding of the grazing process and forage use by animals may help to benefit you.

Forage has a lot of water in it. Realistically, 90% water and only 10% dry matter in lush spring forage. A cow has to work hard to get the food she needs. A 1500 pound cow would have to take in 450 pounds of forage to get 3% dry matter intake. Can she do this? Yes, but she is limited by: Number of bites; density of forage/unit area; canopy structure; and the amount of time each day she spends grazing. Energy spent grazing is about 25% more than eating a hay or silage stored forage. This varies with the pasture condition and type. The faster she can be filled up with reasonable quality forage, the less energy she uses for maintenance making more available for performance.



Animal intake varies greatly. As “Low Cost Cow” educator Dick Diven says “There are three things you cannot discuss without getting into an argument: Politics, religion and dry matter intake.” Animal performance is about 70% related to intake. Nutritional value is the remaining 30%. That is why it is so important to manage animals for factors that affect intake. If we take it one step further, respected grazing instructor Jim Gerrish stated that “Close to 70% of intake is related to the residual left at the end of the grazing incident.” Dr. Vern Baron with the Western Forage/Beef Group at Lacombe in the late 1990’s and 2000’s carried out a seven year grazing system trial related to this theory. His grazing plan was based on a number of variables, one of which was maintaining forage volume of at least 5% body weight in front of all

animals to begin each grazing day. He found that animal average daily gain in the five trials each year over those seven years was quite similar. This occurred even though forage quality could be quite different in each of the systems. Due to the importance of quantity available and residual many skilled graziers try to make sure they have about 1500-1800 pounds/acre of forage after a grazing period.

Animals can only graze for a certain amount of time before they need to rest and ruminate (re-chew consumed forage to break it down to smaller particle size for further digestion). With cattle, the “roping in” of the forage is accomplished by the tongue and lips. The fodder is clamped between the incisors and dental pad and sheared off or torn by a head jerking action. This occurs about 20-45 times per minute for long periods of time before a beef animal gets tired. If we use an example of a 440 pound animal eating 3% (13 pounds) of its body weight, it would take an average of 6000 bites/day. Eating at a rate of 20 bites/minute could take five hours of steady grazing. Fortunately, bite size is greater on more dense forage

stands. If the stand yield varied from 550 to 2200 pounds of forage per acre, the number of bites would vary from 3000 to 12000 per day to get the same 13 pounds of forage. Therefore, better animal performance is achieved with less energy spent working and more energy directed to gain in a more dense forage stand.

A beef cow with no calf at side may graze for four hours to meet her needs. A cow with calf at side on range or pasture will graze for eight hours or more. A cow will seldom graze for more than 12-14 hours per day as time is needed to walk; go for water; rest; ruminate; and carry out normal herd social activities. Dr. R.L. Dalrymple who spent years in grazing research at the Noble Foundation in Oklahoma said “You can tell a yearling or cows grazing performance by the hours it grazes. If a yearling is grazing for 11 hours per day you will not get good performance.”

Grazing sounds like a simple act but it has many variables determining animal maintenance and performance end result. The success we have as graziers is determined by the performance of our animals. It only makes sense that we would want to optimize that performance for growth or gain. For yearlings we want higher pay weights to have more to sell. For cows we want to gain body condition score so that animals experience less winter hardships and we can adjust a ration to reduce the cost of feed consumed. Cow or yearling performance revolves around managing summer grazing for optimum animal performance. Wisely grazing for well managed pastures that have suitable volume at grazing turn in and residual at the end of the grazing period will result in improved animal, plant, soil organism, and overall financial performance.

Forage Research in Canada

*Reynold Bergen - Science Director, Beef Cattle Research Council (BCRC),
Canadian Cattlemen's Association*

After 10 years of extremely narrow or negative margins, the outlook for Canada's cow-calf sector has become brighter. Growing market access to an increasing global demand for beef means that feeders and packers are competing aggressively for the calves and fat cattle produced from Canada's smaller cow herd. Grain prices are also high, so grazers are competing with the grain sector for land. High feed grain prices encourage longer backgrounding and grazing periods prior to feedlot finishing. All of these factors point to the need for scientifically validated tools to increase forage productivity per acre.

At one time, Canada's forage research was almost solely funded by government. The beef industry focused on animal health, productivity, beef quality and food safety research, and didn't notice that retiring government forage researchers were not being replaced. This led to a drastic loss in Canada's forage production and breeding research expertise. Provincial forage councils recognized this problem, but had no check-off system to raise forage research funds.

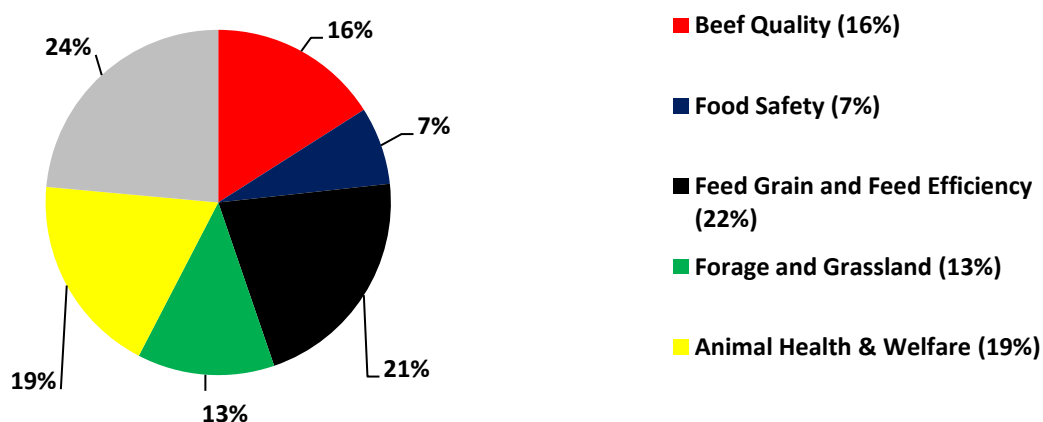
Canada's beef industry eventually realized that more productive forages would require a greater check-off investment in forage research. Between 2001 and 2008, the Beef Cattle Research Council allocated 10 per cent of its research budget towards forage and grasslands research. Since 2009, this allocation has doubled to 20 per cent.

Last month, representatives from Canada's seedstock, cow-calf, forage, feeding, animal health and packing sectors attended a National Beef Cattle Industry Research Workshop that was sponsored by Canada's Beef Value Chain Roundtable. Leading up

to this meeting, the Beef Cattle Research Council surveyed 25 federal, provincial and industry beef research funders to learn which types of research had been funded between 2007 and 2011.

As the graph below indicates, the survey showed that the lion's share of total beef research funding went into prion research (24 per cent). Beef quality, animal health, and feed grains and feed efficiency each received between 16 and 21 per cent of total beef research funding. Forage and grassland researchers received 13 per cent of total beef research funds; only food safety research received less at 7 per cent.

Overall Beef Research Funding in Canada, 2007-2011



Sixty-seven per cent of the total forage funding over the past five years was directed toward tame forages. Tame forage breeding was focused on sainfoin and alfalfa, probably because there are almost no active tame grass breeders remaining in Canada. Nearly half of the tame forage production research was focused on weed and pest control, with less directed towards improved establishment, persistence, quality or yield. Tame forage utilization research focused on extended grazing, forage finished beef, or grazing alfalfa or sainfoin. Considerable tame forage research was also focused on environmental issues such as carbon sequestration, water use efficiency and methane production by grazing cattle.

Annual forages received 21 per cent of total forage funding. This research was largely focused on breeding and variety testing for improved quality and yield, evaluating forage quality and reducing leaf and nutrient loss in swaths, and swath grazing and animal performance.

The remaining 12 per cent of funding was directed towards native forage research. Half went towards characterizing bloat safe native clovers, and forage quality and drought resistance in rough fescues. About a third funded weed and pest control and rejuvenation of native pastures, and a small amount supported grazing trials involving native forages.

Workshop participants, having discussed how the forage research funding had been allocated over the past five years, considered the current challenges and

opportunities facing their sectors. Those discussing forage and grassland issues identified a clear need for research that will:

1. Develop new forage varieties with increased yield, nutritional quality and stand life (recognizing that regional environmental differences can be important);
2. Take advantage of new molecular and genetic technologies that can produce faster and more targeted genetic improvements;
3. Follow a “systems-based” approach considering the entire beef and forage production chain, and incorporates a meaningful producer-level economic analysis demonstrating real benefits;
4. Clearly measure the environmental benefits of forage and grasslands, and demonstrate how maintaining and improving forages and grassland benefits both producers and society; and
5. Improve the productivity of native range by developing breeding, grazing and rejuvenation strategies that improve forage productivity on sensitive marginal land without degrading it.

Accomplishing these goals will be difficult. Coordination and cooperation among all of Canada’s beef research funders is required to generate the very large, long-term investment needed to rebuild the forage breeding and research expertise the industry has lost. Reaping the full benefits of this research will also require extension and technology transfer to demonstrate the benefits of adopting the new varieties, management practices and technologies developed through this research.

After 10 years of adopting and adapting innovative forage and cattle management practices to minimize winter feeding and overall production costs, Canada’s cattle industry needs proven, cost-effective tools to improve forage and grassland productivity. I am optimistic that the industry and government funders who participated in this exercise will work together to rebuild the research capacity and support the work necessary to develop these tools.

14th Annual Native Prairie Appreciation Week

Michelle Clark - Manager, SK Prairie Conservation Action Plan

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.

The Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Action Plan (SK PCAP) is encouraging Saskatchewan residents to “Wake up and Smell the Prairies!” from June 17-23, 2012 by visiting the various locations outlined on our NPAW 2012 checklist. The checklist can be found on the SK PCAP website at www.pcap-sk.org.

In addition, SK PCAP will send out five press releases during the week to help increase the general public’s awareness of this important resource. Booths will also be set up at the Regina and Saskatoon Farmers Markets, at National Aboriginal Day in Regina and at garden centers in Regina where native wildflower seed and native prairie information will be distributed to promote NPAW 2012.

As in past years, the Society for Range Management will be hosting a tour and workshop during NPAW. This year’s tour “Where Range and City Meet” will be based

out of Saskatoon June 20 and 21st, 2012 and will include tours of Kernen Prairie, Beaver Creek, Rudy Rosedale Pasture, a rare plant rescue project and a local ranch. For more information or to register for this event, please visit the SK PCAP website.

For more information on the history of NPAW or for a list of events, please visit our website at www.pcap-sk.org under *Native Prairie Appreciation Week*.

Corn Grazing in Saskatchewan

Kevin Elmy - Friendly Acres Seed Farm

Corn has seemed to be a dream to grow for a lot of Prairie producers. To see a crop grow so fast so quickly is an amazing sight. In the past, the varieties were not well suited as they matured way too late for our climate, making it too costly to grow. No one had any local agronomy to tell us how to successfully grow it. With the development of earlier maturing varieties and an easy weed control system, corn is starting to make a significant splash on the prairies.



Photo Credit: Kevin Elmy

We have been conducting corn grazing trials on our farm for 9 years. In those years, we have tested over 100 corn varieties from 9 corn companies and the cattle from Lonesome Acres Angus were kind enough to give us their thoughts on which ones they liked to eat and the ones that were less palatable. The first 6 years, we were using an airseeder, but bought a corn planter to better measure actual performance of corn varieties over the last 3 years.

There are some serious differences in corn stalk palatability. This is not to be confused with FSS (Frozen Stalk Syndrome) of grazing through December to February. As a quick rule of thumb, grain varieties or so called dual purpose varieties do not always make good grazing. Grain varieties will have thicker stalks with more lignin to prevent lodging. This is why some varieties are recommended to be seeded at higher rates. Good grazing varieties are ones that can be seeded at lower rates and still produce a feminine plant that is palatable. The caution here is not to cut the rates too low to reduce final dry tonne yields. Which brings up another good point, when comparing tonnages, compare dry tonne production. Corn silage can vary immensely between wet and dry tonnes.

One of the first things we have found in conjunction with one of our first corn customers, Ralph Strand from Preeceville, is that most corn crops are over fertilized for grazing. Over fertilizing corn will actually reduce your tonnage because the plant will stay vegetative too long and not produce a good cob. Once a good corn crop is established and grazed off, corn can be grown on the same piece of ground with no fertilizer. To prove that point, the last two years on our farm, we have grown corn on corn that has been grazed with no fertilizer. 2010 corn averaged 2.75 dry tonnes per acre seeded on June 7th, and 2011 averaged 4.12 dry tonnes per acre seeded June 10th.

The 2011 trial contained 14 varieties ranging from 2200 to 2550 CHU from Maizex,

Prairie Pacific Seeds, and Hyland. We normally give a variety two years to prove themselves before we cull them. We have tossed a couple of companies out due to the breeding program focusing on grain varieties only. If customers complain to them about a variety being too tall, then it is called a “dual purpose” variety. Maizex, Hyland, Pickseed and Prairie Pacific Seeds all select varieties based on silage breeding programs and screening.

Our Kinze planter is set up on 34” centers. We seeded 4 rows of each of the 14 varieties east-west then cross fenced it north-south so the cows would have access to all the varieties in each paddock over 4 weeks of grazing. The field was sprayed twice with RoundUp WeatherMax. The cattle moved in the last week of September. As predicted the Bt corn was not quite as palatable as the non Bt varieties.

Variety	Seeds/acre	CHU	Wet tonnes	% of Average	Moisture	Dry tonnes	% of Average
LF 690R	27451	2200	15.3	78%	75.55	3.73	91%
LF 728R	27451	2300	17.3	88%	74.26	4.44	108%
LF 815R	27451	2500	20.5	105%	78.36	4.44	108%
LF 755Bt/RR	27451	2400	17.5	90%	74.6	4.45	108%
MZ 1261BR	27451	2250	13.3	68%	76.69	3.09	75%
PPS 2146	27451	2300	12.8	65%	68.51	4.01	98%
PPS 7871	27451	2500	18.8	96%	77.01	4.31	105%
PPS 8811	27451	2300	20.5	105%	78.08	4.49	109%
PPS 7811	27451	2350	14.0	72%	80.92	2.67	65%
PPS 8781	27451	2250	20.0	103%	78.44	4.31	105%
PPS 7781	27451	2250	17.0	87%	74.22	4.38	106%
8098	27451	2400	16.0	82%	74.02	4.16	101%
BAXXOS	27451	2250	17.3	88%	72.31	4.78	116%
HL SR35	27451	2550	24.0	123%	81.74	4.38	106%
	average		17.4			4.12	
	<i>min</i>		<i>12.8</i>			<i>2.67</i>	
	<i>max</i>		<i>24.0</i>			<i>4.78</i>	

Highest wet tonnes came from the 2550 CHU variety at 24.0 tonnes per acre and the lowest was a 2300 CHU at 12.8 tonnes. But when the moisture content was equalized to dry tonnes the 24.0 wet tonne variety was 4.38 dry tonnes and the 12.8 wet tonne variety turned into 4.01. Other varieties proved that wet tonnes did not translate directly to grazing days due to moisture content. Dry tonnes did. It also showed that the early maturing varieties were not consistently the highest tonnes or best palatability. Ideally, I like to have 2/3 of the acres of the corn field to be in the milk stage (R2) and 1/3 being just getting to the dough stage (R4). Having corn grain that could be combined is dangerous because animals will overload on grain. High starch diets can kill ruminants.

Working out the economics of the 2011 corn crop, seed cost was \$67 per acre (\$201

per bag seeded at 3 acres per bag or 26,666 seeds per acre), 2 passes of WeatherMaxx at 0.67 litres per acre per pass or \$11.33 per acre, plus seeding cost of \$12 per acre, custom spraying cost of \$6 per acre per pass or \$12 per acre, two preseeding cultivation passes at \$10 per acre per pass or \$20. Cross fencing and water labour of 45 minutes per week at \$20 per hour is \$15 per week or \$2 per day. I left out land cost, perimeter fencing, opportunity cost, and other costs because they vary with each operation, and location. I just used cash costs. This works out to a total of \$122.33 per acre, plus \$2 per day for moving fence and watering. When you use our average of 259 grazing days per acre, it works out to \$0.47 per cow per day. Using Western Beef Development Centre's 2010 Saskatchewan Cow-Calf Cost of Production Analysis, direct costs and yardage is \$2.39 per cow per day for bale feeding. Notice my fertilizer bill was \$0 because it was grazed corn last year, so the manure supplied the crop with all the nutrients it required.

Corn grazing does not have to be nor should be expensive. For some reason, if you have cattle, you have manure. Manure is a wonderful nutrient source if managed properly, and can cut fertilizer inputs dramatically. Use this to your advantage and reduce costs. Pick varieties that are well suited to grazing as well as varieties that do not convert too much starch. That will make for happy cattle.

Green Gold Program

Brent McCannell - Executive Director, Manitoba Forage Council (MFC)

Editor's note: this is a MFC project and the full program may only apply to Manitoba residents. However, we felt this is an interesting forage initiative and wanted to inform our readers about the existence of this program.

The Green Gold (Alfalfa Scissor Clipping Project) is used to help predict the date when pure alfalfa stands are at optimum (150 RFV) quality. Over the past years, due to unusual environmental conditions (cool weather and extreme warming conditions), we have seen alfalfa reach optimum quality well before the traditional early bloom (10% flower) stage. In most cases, had producers waited for the crop to show these signs, harvest would have been delayed by up to 2 weeks and RFV would have been in the 110 range.

Samples are taken at approximately 8:00 a.m., twice a week (Mondays & Thursdays) and delivered to the lab before 11:00 a.m.

Regional results are posted on the Manitoba Forage Council website (www.mbforagecouncil.mb.ca) and communicated via Radio Southern Manitoba, the Manitoba Co-operator and the Carillon News. Results are also emailed to producers twice a week through the Dairy Farmers of Manitoba and by Coordinator John McGregor. If you would like to be added to his mailing list please [e-mail him](#) with your contact information.

The Dairy Farmers of Manitoba is a major supporter of the Green Gold Program for 2012.

The Green Gold Program is funded in part through sponsorship from the following participants: Feed-Rite Grunthal, Pioneer Hi-Bred Ltd./Marc Hutlet Seeds Ltd, Northstar Seed Ltd, Southeastern Farm Equipment, BrettYoung, Central Testing Lab, and Niverville Credit Union.

The program commenced the 3rd week of May. For more information and for up-to-date reports, visit the [Manitoba Forage Council's](#) website.

Saskatchewan Hay Market Report

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

There were no reports for baled forage asking prices as of May 30, 2012. There are two listings for baled forage, but no price is published. Standing hay is listed in limited quantity at this time (821 acres) at an average price of \$0.015/lb standing. This converts to a price of \$33 per T (metric) standing.

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 May 25, 2012)

Dennis Widga, Torrington, WY

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

Compared to last week: Most areas are reporting dry to very dry conditions with irrigation water in tight supply this year due to limited snow pack. A few producers have begun to cut hay with most 5-7 days away from the first cutting of alfalfa. The hay market is slow to start this year as producers are making sure that their own hay needs are covered before offering anything up for sale. Demand moderate and trade activity is at a standstill (no price reports for central and western Wyoming or western South Dakota).

Weekly Montana Hay Report (Week ending May 25, 2011)

Justin Lumpkin, Billings, MT

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

Compared to last week: Hay prices not tested due to no current sales being reported. Prices below reflect previously reported sales. Talks about new crop alfalfa prices put them around 140 to 160 per ton (one dollar per RFV point) however mostly all producers are opting to pass until the 1st cutting gets closer to being harvested. Trade activity light to inactive. Demand light to moderate. Supplemental feeding of livestock continues to decrease, but the hot, dry weather most of the state has been experiencing is beginning to be a concern for range conditions. Hay producers commenting on the lack of moisture throughout the state, especially in Eastern Montana, in both man and Mother Nature provisions. Yellowstone River is providing adequate runoff to irrigation ditches, however other water ways utilized for irrigation are low and not supplying much needed runoff.

Prices are for the week ending May 25, 2012

	Eastern Wyoming	Central & Western Wyoming	Western South Dakota	Montana
Alfalfa		No reports	No reports	
Supreme	-			\$185.00 - 210.00-
Premium	-			\$150.00 - 160.00 \$125.00 - 150.00*
Good	-			\$95.00 - 110.00
Fair -Good	\$180-195			\$75.00 - 95.00
Grass	-			\$85.00 - 110.00 \$125.00 - 150.00*
Timothy	-			\$150.00 - 180.00*

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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