



Saskatchewan Hay & Pasture Report

October 4, 2012
Volume 13, Issue 4

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

Inside This Issue:

- 1 Saskatchewan Agriculture Crop Report
- 2 SK Regional Forage Situation - 2012
- 3 AB Forage Year in Review - 2012
- 6 MB Forage Year in Review - 2012
- 7 Navigating Conservation Legislation - the Species At Risk Act
- 8 Producers Squeeze Greater Profits from Pastures
- 9 A Wild Ride for Forage Export Market
- 10 HayEast 2012
- 11 Saskatchewan Hay Market Report
- 11 USDA Market News Service Hay Report

Note from the Saskatchewan Forage Council

Looks like another growing season in Saskatchewan has come to an end. Many places in the province have now had a few frosts and the weather this week seems to confirm the arrival of fall. Reports from around the province indicate that forage yields this year were near average in most regions. However, short supplies of hay outside of our borders have been putting upward pressure on prices. In this final issue of the 2012 *Saskatchewan Hay and Pasture Report* will provide information on forage conditions around the province and in adjoining jurisdictions. Additionally, there are articles on forage export markets, economics of pasture, navigating conservation legislation and the HayEast program. 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 October 1, 2012)

Another week of warm harvest weather has allowed Saskatchewan producers to get most of the crop in the bin. Ninety-seven per cent of the 2012 crop is combined, according to Saskatchewan Agriculture's weekly Crop Report. The five-year (2007-2011) provincial average for this time of year is 83 per cent combined.

The southeast has 98 per cent combined; the southwest 99 per cent; the east central region 95 per cent; the west central region 96 per cent; the northeast 94 per cent and the northwest 97 per cent. Ninety-eight per cent of the spring wheat and durum; 93 per cent of the oats; 95 per cent of the canola and 74 per cent of the flax have been combined.

Across the province, topsoil moisture on hay land and pasture is rated as 34 per cent adequate, 38 per cent short and 28 per cent very short.

Farmers are busy finishing up harvest, controlling weeds and hauling bales and grain.

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

SK Regional Forage Situation - 2012

Compiled by the Saskatchewan Forage Council

Southeastern Saskatchewan

Reports indicate that production was average to above average in most areas with significant damage reported in alfalfa stands due to alfalfa weevil. The Regional Forage Specialist reports that forage stands dominated by alfalfa in some areas of this region saw reduction in first cut yields of up to 30%. However, production levels should mean that hay supplies in this region will be adequate again this year. Prices are in the \$55-\$100/tonne range with the higher prices associated with hay going south of the border. There are unconfirmed reports of up to \$150/tonne as well. The Regional Forage Specialist and others in this area report a significant amount of hay going into the US from this region. Similar to the south west region, local hay buyers are noticing significant upward pressure on hay prices. Due to weather conditions and other factors, the Regional Forage Specialist notes that significantly more second cut hay will be produced in this region as compared to normal. Prices for second cut hay are not yet clear as there has been limited trade to date.

Photo credit: Leanne Thompson



Southwestern Saskatchewan

Producers in the area have noted above average hay yields although lower than in 2011. This should mean an ample supply of hay for the area. Contacts in this area predict hay prices will be up significantly from last year due to demand for hay to go into the US. Prices appear to be in the \$50-100/tonne range for hay, with the higher end representing premium quality hay or hay to be shipped into the US. The Regional Forage Specialist estimates that more hay is going south out of this region this year than has in the previous 15 years. There is above average carryover of hay from the previous year so many local buyers are waiting to see if high prices prevail into fall and winter. Also, limited acres of greenfeed and a limited amount of straw are reported in this area.

East Central/Northeastern Saskatchewan

Much of the hay in the east central region was put up in good to excellent condition with yields reported as average. However, localized thunderstorms and high humidity did lower the quality for some producers and stretched out the haying season. In the north east region, rains and humidity caused more of a problem during haying season thus hay quality will likely be average or below average with yields reported as above average. The Regional Forage Specialist from Yorkton notes that alfalfa weevils impacted forage crops in the east central region but did not appear to be a problem north of Canora. Prices are reported in the \$50-80 range and there is less hay moving into the US from these regions as compared to southern Saskatchewan regions. Regional Forage Specialists predict that prices will be near average or slightly above average going into the fall. In east central regions there may also be an adequate supply of greenfeed from fields seeded late due to wet spring conditions.

Central/West Central Saskatchewan

In central areas, yields were reported as average to below average with variable quality due to challenges with weevil infestations and slow drying of the cut hay. Some hay is starting to move with most transactions occurring within the local market. Prices are on a slight rise due to the lower availability of high quality hay. In west central areas, the Regional Forage Specialist reports that if producers cut hay in late June there was excellent haying weather. In July the weather was more

unsettled with showers and high humidity making baling of good quality hay more challenging. However it was still possible to miss these showers and put up good quality hay. The Regional Forage Specialist also reports that there is not significant hay movement out of this region so prices are not clearly established.

Northwestern Saskatchewan

Regional Specialists also note the long haying season in this area due to frequent showers and high humidity slowing the dry down process. Yields are reported as average for the region but quality may be down due to rain on swaths or mature stands being cut. Due to the lateness of haying and the busy harvest season, little hay is moving in this area. Prices reported in the region range from \$35-75 with the lower prices associated with older or lower quality hay.

Summary

It appears that across much of the province, prices are anticipated in the \$50-80/tonne range. Supply of hay appears to be adequate with most areas reporting some carryover from last year and average yields during 2012. However, demand from the US may draw out a significant portion of hay from Saskatchewan this winter, especially in southern areas. This demand has put upward pressure on prices. Many predict that this demand will persist through the fall and winter and if it does could have the potential to reduce supplies of hay in southern areas. High quality hay may be harder to find especially in central and northern regions where haying conditions were difficult for much of July and August. These variables are expected to result in hay prices remaining above average for the coming winter feeding period.

AB Forage Year in Review - 2012

Grant Lastiwka - Grazing/Forage/Beef Specialist
Calvin Yoder - Forage Specialist, Peace Region
Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development

Land continues to be taken out of forages and put into higher priced oilseeds and cereal crops. Due to a nice winter and high hay yields in much of Alberta in 2010 and 2011, carryover feed inventory was very good. Although fertilizer was extremely high priced, more hayfields were fertilized as producers decided that they should do this if they chose to keep them seeded down. Still, the majority of pastures were not fertilized.

Photo credit: Grant Lastiwka



A dry fall in 2011 and a dry start to the spring of 2012 left many concerned about the 2012 forage year. Rains were slow to start in early spring but once they came they were more frequent and were generally in greater amount than we are used to. Humidity was higher this year than many of us have ever seen. These weather conditions explain the hay and pasture production being above average in all of Alberta except northern parts of the Peace. In the Peace, from the western Peace, and Manning north up to Fort Vermilion, conditions were very dry all year. At Fort Vermilion producers have had to sell animals or find

salvage grain crops to make up for feed shortfalls over the last two years.

Generally in Alberta, hay quality varies with the later June and early July hay cuts being excellent. Later cut hay is rained on and more mature. This made first cut hay average fair to good quality. The odd first cut field did not get baled and was left in second growth. Second growth was excellent even on some of the later cut fields. Grass regrowth was exceptional on high percentage grass stands. Excellent alfalfa regrowth with grass contributing more than usual for a second cut on higher alfalfa stands.

Salvage cereals and oilseeds were also put up as feed from numerous hail storms that started in mid-June covering small, but occasionally larger areas in central to eastern Alberta. More silage was shifted to grain as grain prices stayed high. Feedlots and some larger acreage dairies combined grain and oilseed crops. Feedlots are buying up hay to use in rations as cereal silage is too costly to feed in a volatile lower price return feedlot business.

Pastures are mainly good to excellent with the previous year's sell off of beef cows and the good and frequent summer rains. Late fall grazing will again be common as growth is abundant and grass dormancy has been just occurring on many pastures. Native pastures are also in good to excellent condition with a slightly earlier dormancy in many cases. The moist weather promoted water favored plants like clovers being again very predominant this year.

Densified forage yields were very good but much of the forage was quite mature. The strong second cut made the total years production be above average. Those who tried to cut hay earlier in July for less mature harvests were damaged by rain. After the last week of June and first of July, frequent moisture events left little window for success. The majority of first cut was rained on to varying degrees. Only a small amount has gone to the USA. More may go as other closer markets are tapped out.

The majority of Alberta's alfalfa seed crops are grown in the Brooks area. As of October 1, 2012 harvest is ahead of schedule but is not complete. Alfalfa seed yields are up quite a bit to around 600 pounds of cleaned seed/acre. Dockage is about 20-25% which is higher than normal. This is due to more dark seeds. Older seed stands had more diseases present. This may be due to the past two years being moister than normal.

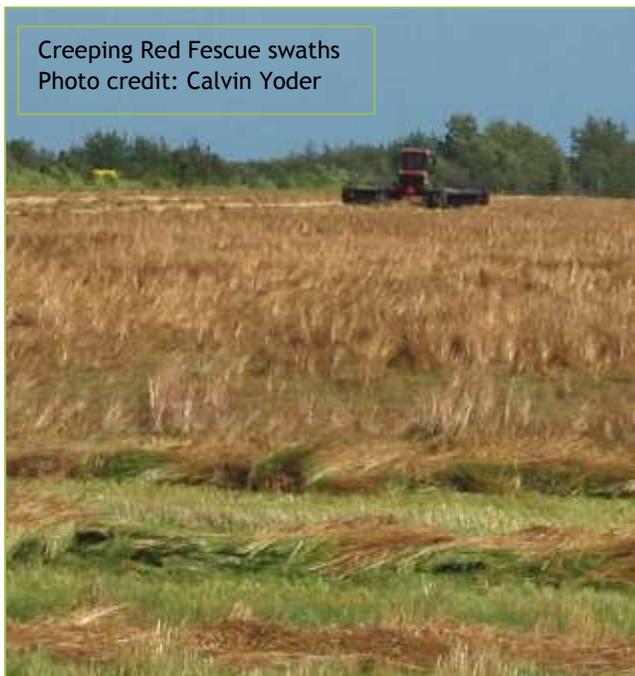
Forage Seed Production in the Peace Region

In the Peace Region this past summer moisture conditions were extremely variable. Soil moisture in early spring was very good for the seeding of annual crops. Most forage crops and winter wheat crops overwintered well, although there were reports of some winter damage to alfalfa fields on the east side of the Peace. In late May to early June, the east and central areas of the Region received substantial amounts of rainfall that resulted in a number of drowned out areas over many fields. The north and southwest regions of the Peace did not receive the same amounts of rainfall and remained very dry throughout the rest of the growing season. After the late spring rains, most of the Region, with the exception of the east side, conditions remained dry and this carried into harvest. Harvest conditions have been very good to date and should be completed by the end of September.

The majority of grass seed crops fared well this year, especially newer stands. Price quotes for most forage grasses are good. This combined with above average yields have resulted in very good returns on forage grass seed crops. Clover and

alfalfa seed crops have been desiccated, but with the exception of some alsike fields, most have not been harvested yet.

Creeping Red Fescue swaths
Photo credit: Calvin Yoder



Creeping red fescue: Seed yields were slightly above average across the region but acres were down dramatically. Fescue acres continue to be at an all time low and continue to spiral downwards. Fields matured a little earlier than normal and combining went well with only a few interruptions from some isolated showers. Seed yields on first year stands were excellent ranging from 500- 1100 lbs/acre. Yields on second year stands were poor which brought the overall average down to around 400-450 lbs/acre. Last year's excess rains in the summer followed by some timely rains in the spring were good for fescue seed production on first year stands. Seed weights on fescue are average generally in the 14 lb/bushel range. There were very few new seedings of creeping red fescue. Stands that were rejuvenated last fall or spring look to be in good condition but additional rain this fall would greatly improve next year's yields. There continues to be a lack of interest in growing creeping red fescue until fescue prices show improvement.

Timothy: This was an exceptional year for timothy seed crops. The region's main timothy production areas received good amounts of rainfall in June and this reflected in the yields. Many yield reports of timothy yields in the 400 - 800 lb/acre range. Average yields are close to 450 lbs/acre, which is much higher than the average of 300 lbs/acre. Seed quality is reported as very good in terms of above average seed weights, low weed seed counts and dockage levels. Above average yields combined with good prices have made for some great returns.

Bromegrasses (smooth / meadow): Acres of all bromegrasses in the Peace Region are down. So far, there have been few reports of yields.

Legumes (red clover, alsike clover, alfalfa): There has been very little clover or alfalfa seed fields harvested to date. Alsike fields have been desiccated or swathed and combining is now beginning. Alsike clover crops looked good in terms of flowering but when the seed pods are checked, the number of seeds appear to be on the low side, and in some cases very little is seen. It is expected yields will be average, (300 lb/acre range.) Red clover and alfalfa seed crop yields are also not yet reported however seed set of both crops looks good. One field of red clover that has been harvested yielded in the 500 lb/acre range which is quite good. Most growers harvest red clover after they are done harvesting annual crops, which should be earlier than normal.

With above average yields and very strong prices there will be some nice returns for grass and legume seed growers this year (with the exception of creeping red fescue, barring a winter price rally). Looking to next year, acres of grass and legume seed fields continues to be low, especially with creeping red fescue. This trend will likely continue as long as annual crop prices remain strong. Grass and legume seed stand establishment this year is excellent, particularly the clovers underseeded with

wheat. Soil moisture conditions are presently below normal throughout most of the Peace, which is not great for grass seed crops, especially the older stands.

MB Forage Year in Review - 2012

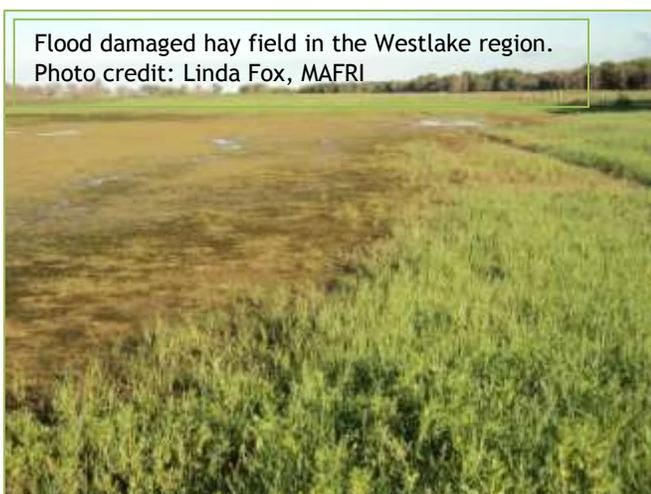
*Glenn Friesen - Business Development Specialist - Forages
Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives*

An early spring saw growth of forages starting in April, but a cool May with plenty of precipitation led to a slow, wet spring. Some May frosts seem to set forages back, and was reflected by reduced 1st cut yields by some producers. Then very dry conditions and extreme heat stunted forages particularly in central and eastern regions of the province. Additionally, alfalfa weevils caused crop damage to hay stands in the south west. Some producers took chemical measures to control the pest this year as weevils were out earlier than usual, before cutting was an option.

Haying conditions were good due to the dry, hot weather during much of July and August. These conditions resulted in lower yields but higher quality on tame hay in general. First cut hay which was cut early had good yields with average quality. However, provincially yields are slightly below average (above average in the south west, average in the north, slightly below average centrally, and poor in the south east).

On farms, hay stocks were low coming out of 2011/2012 winter because of a dry summer in 2011. Yields in 2011 were average to below average, thus many producers have little hay left over. Those that did have surplus hay are using it this year. Many producers are waiting for the last cut of the season to see how short they are.

Manitoba forage producers are selling significant amounts of hay in to the US (both square and round bales). There has been some hay traded locally, but as stated previously, many producers are waiting until the final harvest to sell or buy forages. Prices are up 50-75%, and in some cases 100% above average. \$110/T for average quality beef hay, is currently being paid at the stack.



Flood damaged hay field in the Westlake region.
Photo credit: Linda Fox, MAFRI

Forage acres in 2012 are down partially due to flooding in 2011. High grain and oilseed prices are also encouraging farmers to pull acres out of forage production and into annual crop production. If grain prices remain high, acres that were pulled from forages this year will likely stay in grain/oilseeds another year.

The hot dry weather is also taking its toll on pastures. Early grazed pastures are suffering now and supplemental feeding is occurring in pockets in many parts of Manitoba. Our dugouts are dry across the province so many are hauling water.

Navigating Conservation Legislation – the Species At Risk Act

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

The Community Pasture Program (CPP) is AAFC's largest and longest-running contribution to ecological conservation. Through active and ongoing management the CPP provides habitat attributes for many species at risk, resulting in the need to comply with the *Species at Risk Act*... which is easier said than done.



Heather Wiebe with a burrowing owl - one of the many Species at Risk found in Saskatchewan.
Photo Credit: AAFC

The predominantly natural landscapes of the CPP require disturbance (like grazing or fire) to maintain health, productivity, and biodiversity. However, the necessary infrastructure or implementation of these activities can sometimes come into conflict with environmental legislation. It can be very difficult for landowners to stay abreast of what, where, when, or how work can occur.

Five years ago Stan Day, Pasture Manager of Masefield Pasture, challenged me to put into plain language what can and cannot be done on CPP lands in regards to the *Species at Risk Act*. I dove into the legalese of Act, the science of numerous supporting documents like recovery strategies, then sat on corral fences, house steps, and tailgates to find out what information CPP staff needed. We developed dozens of types of tools to support

the decisions made by CPP staff. The result: maps/factsheets/setback guidelines/calendar/construction guidelines tailored for each of the 85 Community Pastures.

Built on species at risk data from the Saskatchewan Conservation Data Centre and CPP staff wildlife sightings we created tools focusing on the information needed to make decisions:

- what species at risk are in their area
- when species at risk are most sensitive to disturbances
- what areas have limitations to their use (without a permit from Environment Canada)
- how to document any decisions made on habitat supporting species at risk for future use

With anticipated changes to both the Community Pasture Program and the *Species at Risk Act*, the question is “where do we go from here”. The beauty of this process is it can be adapted. At a recent Saskatchewan Stockgrowers meeting, members were asking if this approach was feasible/necessary for private landowners. The task of creating tools like we did may be daunting for an individual producer, but could make sense at a group level. My take home messages: assess your risks and stay ahead of conservation legislation; a strong offense is more time effective than a legal defence.

Producers Squeeze Greater Profits from Pastures

Reprinted from the *Western Producer* [September 7, 2012](#).

Farmers can make higher net profits from grass than from canola. Legal grass, that is. That statement contradicts evidence presented by the sea of yellow seen across the Prairies in recent years, but comparative figures bear it out.

Arnold Mattson, grassland stewardship co-ordinator for Agriculture Canada, used to believe there was more money in cereals and oilseeds. But when the Alberta Forage Industry Network challenged him to make comparisons, he did. He found that pastures provided higher net profit than canola, spring wheat or barley, on average, over a 10-year period from 2000 to 2011. “I wish I would have known this 50 years ago. I would have farmed a lot differently,” said Mattson, who is an adviser to the forage network and used to farm.

He compared returns on the three crops with those from pasture grazing in the black, brown and grey-wooded soil zones of Alberta. Pasture netted an average \$96 per acre in the black soil zone, compared to \$87.16 for canola, \$24.15 for spring wheat and \$4.50 for barley. Results for the other two soil zones showed similar spreads, with pasture coming out on top.

Mattson’s figures didn’t impress Rob Davidson, a stockman who owns and manages 114 acres near Creston, B.C. That’s because Davidson nets about \$200 per acre on his pasture through management and grazing of cattle, sheep, pigs or horses – whatever type of stock he calculates will be most profitable in a given year.

“People just don’t treat grass as a crop,” said Davidson. “The people that grow continuous grazing, we can triple their carrying capacity if they would manage their grass even close to what they do their canola, but they don’t. They treat it as a no-profit thing. And grass is extremely profitable.” The profit is realized by feeding it through animals, and because ranchers attribute their returns to their animals, they don’t give grass its due.

Mattson said he once surveyed producers in British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan about their returns per acre. He was surprised when most people put no value on their pasture land because in most cases it was unsuitable for farming. “Where that mentality came from, I don’t know,” said Mattson, “but it makes us our own worst enemy.”

He suggested that producers reconsider their view of pasture and grassland. “If you look at it as though you were a cattleman, your grass and your feed is a cost. But when you look at it as a grass farmer, all of a sudden the grass and the land are a profit centre.”

Albert Kuipers, manager of the Grey Wooded Forage Association based in Rocky Mountain House, Alta., said producers often assume that pastureland is unproductive. However, farmers’ tendency to put their best land into cultivation means pasture is often on the poorest land.

“It’s amazing, when you put good land into pasture, the productivity that you’re going to get,” said Kuipers.

Davidson said that’s what he does, on land he admits is rich, irrigated and ideally located in a valley with a grazing season that extends from April to December. That’s how he achieves \$200 per acre on grass, but Mattson’s figures show that good

Pasture netted an average \$96 per acre in the black soil zone compared to \$87.16 for canola, \$24.15 for spring wheat and \$4.50 for barley.

profits are achievable in what is considered to be the more common prairie growing season of May to October.

Davidson is a ranch management coach and grazing mentor. He counsels calculation of production costs above almost all else. "For 25 years I've said put your best land into grass because it will make you more money, because you have less expenses."

Higher grain and oilseed prices in recent years are attractive to farmers, tempting them to cultivate pastures and crop them.

A Wild Ride for Forage Export Markets

Ed Shaw - President, International Quality Forage and Feed

What can I say - it looks like the stage is set for another wild ride in the forage export world! A wide range of factors effect export forage markets including weather, commodity prices, production levels and domestic and overseas policy. I will attempt to make sense of some of these things as I look forward to the 2012 fall and winter forage exports markets.

On the supply side, things are rather tight. Land use is trending away from forages in both Canada and the US. As we are all aware, the price of most grains and oilseeds including corn, soya, cotton, wheat and canola are all going through the roof. If alfalfa and grasses cannot keep pace economically (as has been seen in the past), land use decisions will likely continue in this direction making the supply of forages even tighter. Additionally, a wider variety of Canadian forage producers are sending hay south into the US this year as demand from drought stricken states reaches Canada. Many first time exporters are getting into the game - some with good results and some with not so good results. Demand from the US is putting huge pressure on all hay.

While US alfalfa crops had a reasonable yield there is very little test hay for dairies since the 2012 weather did not allow production of high protein and/or high RFV hay this year. First cut timothy in Washington and Oregon was severely damaged by rain, with over 40 % badly damaged with rains. As a result there is very little supreme timothy and a shortage of dairy premium timothy. This could create an opportunity for Canadian timothy producers as importers are scrambling for whatever is available. The Peace River area of Alberta had good timothy yields, and very high quality for the region. However, production from the Peace region will not make up for the short falls in the US.

On the demand side, things are looking good for forage exporters. Importing countries from all over the world are increasing demand. The UAE is increasing their demand to 1.5 million tonnes, up from 1.1 last year. China plans to double its forage imports this year. Saudi Arabia is in the forage market and paying top dollar which is expected to continue going forward. Vietnam is increasing its imports of forage, and India is just coming on stream. These increases in forage demand from around the world have many asking the question "where is it all going to come from?"

Now the worrisome news.

Dairies in the US are getting only \$14 per hundred wt for milk, down about \$3 from last year, putting many operations in financial difficulties. Many dairies cannot pay higher prices for alfalfa, and are cutting back on high priced corn feed.

There is also a theory that a panic scenario is going on in the US where animal/livestock producers are willing to pay any price to bring in forages. I believe that in short order there is likely to be some serious sober thought where many producers may realize that extremely high feed prices cannot be justified. These producers will start to cut back on animals and production, which may put downward pressure on prices.

Another troubling factor for forage producers. Export buyers are only buying forages if they have a back to back contract and are concerned that markets may go south and do not want to be left holding overpriced inventory. Many exporters learned this lesson in 2009...

Additionally, many large, long time timothy producers in Alberta are switching back to wheat and canola. In many cases, these are the same producers who sold all of their harvesting equipment, bins and grain equipment 12 years ago, swearing never to go back into grains and oilseeds. I guess \$15 canola is just too tempting!

While it is hard to make a good prediction, I think that the demand for export forages will increase and prices will go up from where they are now. One saving grace right now domestically is that our cow/calf producers are making good money and the increased price of hay may not hurt them as much as it did 4 years ago.

HayEast 2012

HayEast 2012 is a program with an Ontario contingent that is co-chaired by Mennonite Disaster Service and the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) and involves many other agricultural organizations across the country. The program has a mandate to work to sustain livestock through the winter by delivering much needed hay from Western Canada to eastern Canadian farmers. HayEast 2012 is a follow-up to the Hay West program that saw thousands of eastern Canadian farmers send forages to Western Canada in 2002 to help alleviate the effects of that region's drought. Organizers say western Canadian farmers are anxious to reciprocate that good will.

"We are grateful to the western Canadian farmers who are getting organized to send hay to their eastern neighbours," says Mark Wales, OFA President. "There is an urgent need for feed for livestock on many farms, particularly in areas where there is no crop to harvest. Inventories of forage are being used or are already gone because pastures dried up early in the season."

Forage producers who would like to donate hay are encouraged to visit the program website at www.hayeast2012.com or call the toll free line 1-855-429-2012. Cash donations are also being accepted at any Scotiabank location across Canada or by the Ontario Federation of Agriculture. Details on submitting cash donations can also be found on the HayEast 2012 website.



Saskatchewan Hay Market Report

Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture

www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/FeedForageListing

As listed October 2, 2012

	Listings	Listings Priced	Tons Listed	Tons Priced	Lowest Price/ton	Highest Price/ton	Weighted Average Price/ton
Alfalfa	3	3	3,495	3,495	\$44	\$121	\$66
Brome/ Alfalfa	11	10	1,927	1,774	\$16	\$132*	\$57
Organic Hay	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Straw	1	1	324	324	\$42	\$42	\$42

*Small squares

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.usda.gov/mnreports/) webpage.

Wyoming, Western Nebraska, and Western South Dakota Weekly Hay Summary (Week ending September 28, 2012)

Dennis Widga, Torrington, WY

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

Compared to last week: All classes trading steady to firm with some resistance noted at the higher end price levels this week due to lighter supply. Both producers and buyers are waiting to understand the upcoming feeding needs of the region before contracting remaining hay. Light to moderate demand with slow trading activity.

Weekly Montana Hay Report (Week ending September 28, 2012)

Justin Lumpkin, Billings, MT

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

Compared to last week: Hay prices firm. Trade activity currently mostly light as majority of hay supplies have been previously contracted. Demand remains very good for all classes. Ranchers opting to hold on to additional hay supplies as majority prepare for winter. Concerns about supplemental feeding supplies carrying farmers and ranchers into new hay season.

Prices are for the week ending September 28, 2012

	Eastern Wyoming	Central & Western Wyoming	Western South Dakota	Montana
Alfalfa				
Supreme	\$255 - 259	\$250	-	-
Premium	\$230 - 240	\$230	\$200 - 250	\$265
Good	\$225 - 230	\$200	\$175	\$195
Fair -Good	-	\$180	-	\$140 - 180
Alfalfa/Grass				
Good - Premium	-	\$225 - 250	\$125 - 158	-
Fair - Good	-	\$195	-	-
Grass	-	\$150 - 175	\$140	-
Oat Hay	-	\$135 - 175	\$170	-
CRP Hay	-	-	\$130 - 160	\$110 - 140-
Timothy	-	-	-	\$235 - 250*
Straw	-	-	\$100	\$70 - 85

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

Thank you to Saskatchewan Forage Council Supporters:



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

