

The Saskatchewan Hay and Pasture Report

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Saskatchewan Forage Council

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Note from the Saskatchewan Forage Council

The Saskatchewan Forage Council is pleased to release the *Saskatchewan Hay and Pasture Report* for July, 2010. In this issue we present information on hay preservatives, details on a recent Middle East forage fact-finding mission, tips on reducing hay drying time, and release of the provincial forage market price report. There is also a summary of forage markets across Saskatchewan and surrounding jurisdictions. Read on for information about the current market situation and environmental conditions in the Saskatchewan forage industry.

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 Ministry of Agriculture Crop Report For week ending July 5, 2010 and week ending July 12, 2010

South Eastern Saskatchewan: *Week ending July 5*

Most of the region escaped large amounts of rain although heavy rain fell in some areas as thunderstorms rolled through the region. The Redvers area received 35 mm of rain, the Fillmore area 6 mm and the Moose Jaw area 25 mm. On hay land and pasture, topsoil moisture is rated as 25 per cent surplus and 75 per cent adequate. Hail was reported in the Moose Jaw and Ceylon areas. Haying is underway and 10 per cent of the 2010 crop has been cut. One per cent is baled or put into silage. Quality is rated as good to excellent, and yields look good. With the scattered rain throughout the area, many producers are not cutting too far ahead of the baler. The swaths have been slow to dry due to high humidity, wet ground and rain. More rain fell in the region during the week. High wind and hail were reported in areas.

Week ending July 12

The region received varying amounts of precipitation over the past week. The Kisbey, Maryfield, Moosomin and Vibank areas avoided the moisture, while the Stoughton area received 63 mm, the Kennedy area 55 mm, the Weyburn area 68 mm, the Moose Jaw area 20 mm and the Ceylon area 29 mm. On hay land and pasture, topsoil moisture is rated as 26 per cent surplus, 73 per cent adequate and one per cent short. Hail was reported in the Kisbey, Weyburn and Pangman areas. Haying is continuing, and 22 per cent of the region's crop is cut. Eleven per cent is baled or put into silage. The majority of the hay crop is rated as good to excellent quality, and yields look good. Rain throughout the area has slowed some producers. The swaths have been slow to dry due to high humidity, wet ground and rain. High winds in some areas moved hay swaths around. Warm and sunny weather is needed to get the hay crop up in good condition.

South Western Saskatchewan:***Week ending July 5***

Thunderstorms and rain were reported across the majority of the region. The Limerick area received 12 mm of rain, the Chaplin and Consul areas 20 mm, the Stewart Valley and Cadillac areas 38 mm, the Blumenhof area 22 mm and the Gull Lake area 41 mm. Hay land and pasture topsoil moisture conditions are 14 per cent surplus, 83 per cent adequate and three per cent short. Hail damage was reported in many communities across the region, including Eyebrow, Mankota, Shaunavon, Vanguard, Blumenhof, Webb, Stewart Valley, Swift Current, Eastend, Consul, Gull Lake and Hazlet. The region has seven per cent of the hay cut and two per cent baled or put into silage. Quality is rated as good to fair. The hay crop looks good and farmers are expecting good yields. The unsettled weather has some people wondering if the crop will be put up in good condition. Hay is slow to dry due to high humidity, heavy swaths and rain showers. Strong winds in the Mankota area moved some hay swaths around the field.

Week ending July 12

The region received varying amounts of precipitation over the past week. Most areas recorded less than 10 mm of rain; however, there were areas that received thunderstorms. The Viceroy area received 20 mm of rain, the Coderre area 32 mm, the Vanguard area 7 mm, the Stewart Valley area 27 mm, the Leader and Fox Valley areas 12 mm and the Maple Creek area 10 mm. Hay land and pasture topsoil moisture conditions are seven per cent surplus, 87 per cent adequate, four per cent short and two per cent very short. Hail was reported in the Viceroy, Ponteix, Cadillac, Glenbain, Eastend and Shaunavon areas. Hail damage was evident on some hay fields in the Viceroy area. The region has 22 per cent of the hay cut and 17 per cent baled or put into silage. Quality is predicted to be good to excellent, provided the rain does not cause quality damage. Farmers are expecting good hay yields. Hay is slow to dry due to high humidity, heavy swaths and rain showers.

East Central Saskatchewan:***Week ending July 5***

Farmers continue to struggle with saturated soil conditions. During the past week, the region recorded between three and 143 mm of rain. The Rama area received 143 mm, which caused extensive flooding, swamped roads and overflowing culverts. The Yorkton area received 67 mm, and areas around Yorkton received considerably more rain, causing extensive flooding. The Elfross area received 77 mm of rain, the Churchbridge area 18 mm, the Earl Grey area 33 mm and the Bradwell area 27 mm. So far for this year, the region has received between 190

and 568 mm of rain. A tornado touched down in RM 279, destroying one farmyard and causing extensive damage to others. Hay land and pasture topsoil moisture is rated as 51 per cent surplus and 49 per cent adequate. Hail damage was reported in all crop districts, including the communities of Churchbridge, Neudorf, Abernethy, Langenburg, Ituna, Rama, Wynyard and Lintlaw, Holdfast, Semans, Leroy and Bradwell. Haying has just started and two per cent of the hay crop has been cut. Quality is reported as fair to excellent depending on the extent of flooding damage to the fields. Hay crops look pretty good, but some are too wet to cut. Hay that is cut is slow to dry. Access to hay fields is becoming a growing concern. Sloughs are getting bigger and fields are saturated from the continued moisture. There were reports of some farmers trying to seed oats for cattle feed, but the continuous rain has made it difficult.

Week ending July 12

Rain continues to fall on the region, although in lesser amounts than in previous weeks. During the past week, the region received precipitation varying from nil to 33 mm. Most areas in the region recorded more than 15 mm of rain. The Stockholm area received 20 mm of rain, the Foam Lake area received 33 mm, the Kuroki area 22 mm, the Bradwell area 32 mm, the Holdfast area 24 mm and the Kenaston area 11 mm. Since April 1, between 202 mm and 586 mm of rain has fallen on the region. Hay land and pasture topsoil moisture is rated as 51 per cent surplus and 49 per cent adequate. Hail was reported in the Ituna, Foam Lake, Rama and Meacham areas. Haying is underway, with 10 per cent of the crop cut and five per cent baled or put into silage. Quality is reported as good, depending on flooding and the amount of rain on the swaths. Heavy swaths are slow to dry due to high humidity and rain.

West Central Saskatchewan:

Week ending July 5

Most of the region recorded rain during the past week. Most areas recorded more than 25 mm of rain. The Sonningdale area received 55 mm, the Hanley area 18 mm, the Biggar area 39 mm, the Kindersley area 12 mm, the Battleford area 65 mm and the Cando area 30 mm. Hay land and pasture topsoil moisture conditions are rated as 30 per cent surplus and 70 per cent adequate. Hail damage was reported in the Eston, Herschel, Biggar, Kerrobert and Unity areas. Haying operations are under way, with eight per cent of the 2010 hay crop cut and one per cent baled or put into silage. Quality is rated as good to excellent. Some farmers are concerned about getting the hay crop put up in good condition. The hay is slow to dry due to rain, heavy swaths and high humidity. There are reports of cattle still being fed in the yard as the roads to pastures are impassable.

Week ending July 12

Most of the region received between 3 mm and 41 mm of rain during the past week. The Elbow and Eston areas received 41 mm, the Sonningdale area received 5 mm, the Biggar area 5 mm, the Unity area 28 mm and the Luseland area 12 mm. Hay land and pasture topsoil moisture conditions are rated as 24 per cent surplus, 75 per cent adequate and one per cent short. Areas that received hail include Harris, Herschel, Kerrobert, Luseland, Scott, Battleford and Unity. Haying continues, with 16 per cent of the crop cut and seven per cent baled or put into silage. Quality is rated as good to excellent. Some producers are concerned about getting the hay crop put up in good condition. The hay is slow to dry due to rain, heavy swaths and high humidity. Haying has not really started in some areas due to the unsettled weather. Heat and sun are needed. Haying continues between the rains, and some producers are having to turn swaths to speed drying.

North Eastern Saskatchewan:***Week ending July 5***

The week's rain dropped an extra 18 to 70 mm of precipitation on already-saturated fields. The Star City area received 56 mm of rain, the Nipawin area received 60 mm, the Vonda area 70 mm, the Melfort area 22 mm and the Prince Albert area 54 mm. Hay land and pasture topsoil moisture is rated as 78 per cent surplus and 22 per cent adequate. Hail damage was reported in the communities of Porcupine Plain, Star City, Vonda and Prince Albert. Haying has just started. Two per cent of the 2010 hay crop is on the ground and one per cent has been baled or put into silage. Quality is rated as good to excellent. Farmers are concerned that much of the hay will not be put up in good condition if the rains continue. High winds in the Porcupine Plain area knocked over bins and trees. Some soil erosion and compaction has resulted from heavy rainfall.

Week ending July 12

Rain was reported in the region last week, although in lesser amounts compared to previous weeks. Rainfall varied from 3 to 19 mm. The Porcupine Plain, Codette, Vonda and Prince Albert areas received 3 mm. The Tisdale area received 12 mm, the Melfort area 19 mm and the Nipawin area 5 mm. Hay land and pasture topsoil moisture is rated as 30 per cent surplus and 70 per cent adequate. Hail was reported in the Arborfield area. Haying is underway, with 11 per cent of the crop cut and six per cent baled or put into silage. Quality is rated as good to excellent. Producers are concerned about how much hay will be cut and put up in good condition if the rain continues.

North Western Saskatchewan:***Week ending July 5***

The region received between three and 52 mm of rain. The Radisson area received 52 mm, the Spiritwood area 22 mm, the Rapid View area 29 mm and the Neilburg area 8 mm. Some areas reported less than 11 mm of moisture. Pasture and hay land conditions are 15 per cent surplus, 82 per cent adequate and three per cent short. Hail damage was reported in the Hafford area. Haying has just begun, with three per cent cut. Quality is reported as good to excellent. Some livestock producers are reluctant to start cutting due to the unsettled weather. Hay yields look good; quality will be uncertain until more is baled. Pastures are looking good. There are reports of some farmers seeding greenfeed. There are areas in the northern part of the region that could use some rain. Farmers are busy cutting hay, scouting fields and controlling weeds and diseases.

Week ending July 12

The region received between trace amounts and 55 mm of rain during the past week. The Leask area received 22 mm of rain, the Frenchman Butte area 49 mm, the Glaslyn area 55 mm, the Pierceland and Radisson areas received 4 mm and the Lloydminster area 21 mm. Pasture and hay land conditions are 97 per cent adequate and three per cent short. Hail was reported in the Hafford, Medstead and Turtleford area. Haying is underway, with 10 per cent of the crop cut and four per cent baled or put into silage. Quality is predicted to be good to excellent; yields look good. Quality will be uncertain until more is baled. Pastures are looking good. An intense thunderstorm in the Glaslyn and Frenchman Butte areas resulted in a 12-hour power outage.

Hay Preservatives

Andre Bonneau, PAg and Christi Winqvist, PAg – Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture, Agriculture Knowledge Centre

(Editor's note: This article has been reprinted from the July, 2009 Saskatchewan Hay and Pasture Report. Due to this year's wet weather and 'challenging' drying conditions across the province, this information becomes increasingly relevant.)

What are Hay Preservatives?

Hay preservatives are products that allow hay to be baled at higher moisture. There are three types of preservative: organic acids, bacterial inoculants and anhydrous ammonia. When working properly, preservatives limit the growth of moulds in high-moisture forages.

Organic acids

When applied, organic acids produce an acidic environment (low pH) that is not conducive for mould or bacterial growth. Generally, low pH does not affect hay intake in livestock. The two main types of acids that are used as preservatives are propionic and acetic acid. Propionic acid is more effective at controlling mould and bacterial growth and is more common. If necessary, combining the two acids can be quite effective. These acids can be corrosive to the haying equipment if used in their pure form. Buffered acids are a less corrosive option.

Bacterial inoculants

Bacterial inoculants are very similar to silage inoculants. Most contain lactic acid-forming bacteria that compete with mould-forming organisms and help maintain forage quality. Some inoculants contain combinations of bacteria and enzymes. The role of the enzyme is to break down plant cells, making more cellulose and starch available to the lactic acid-forming bacteria. The lactic acid-forming-bacteria lower the pH of the hay thus reducing mould formation the same way propionic or acetic acid would.

Anhydrous ammonia

Anhydrous ammonia is more commonly used to improve the feeding value of straw and chaff. It can also be applied to high quality forages to prevent heating and spoilage when baled at high moisture content. Anhydrous ammonia binds to moisture, reducing moisture availability for mould and bacteria growth. It also reduces the number of mould-forming bacteria through sterilization. However, anhydrous ammonia can create a toxic compound if it is applied to high quality forage such as alfalfa. Bales that have been treated with anhydrous ammonia should not be stored for long periods. It is recommended that the hay be used within one to two months.

Preservatives will not increase the feed value of the hay. The role of forage preservatives is to reduce losses due to moulds and heating. Once quality deteriorates, adding a preservative will not enhance the quality. Non-protein nitrogen, such as anhydrous ammonia, can slightly

increase the crude protein levels in the hay. Some of the ammonia will bind with plant material and increase the overall protein content of the feed.

Preservatives allow forages to be baled at higher moisture content. There should be less leaf shatter and potentially better quality forage when baling at higher moisture content. However, it is still imperative that proper hay making procedures be followed when harvesting and baling. Preservatives are most effective when the moisture content of the hay is between 20 and 30 per cent. Preservatives are not effective if the moisture content is greater than 30 per cent. The amount of preservative needed will depend on the product and the moisture content of the forage in the swath.

| Preservative | Mode of action | Application Method | Moisture Content of Hay | Pros & Cons |
|--|--|---|-------------------------|--|
| Propionic acid | Controls mould and bacterial growth by altering pH. | Liquid - Added before swaths are baled. | Up to 30% | - Can be stored - Corrosive |
| Acetic acid | Controls mould and bacterial growth by altering pH. | Liquid - Added before swaths are baled. | Up to 30 % | - Can be stored - Corrosive - Not as effective as propionic acid |
| Buffered Acid (i.e.: Ammonium propionate) | Controls mould and bacterial growth. | Liquid - Added before swaths are baled. | Up to 30% | - Not as corrosive as concentrated acids - Not as effective as concentrated acids |
| Bacterial Inoculants | Competes with other micro organisms in the hay | Liquid - Added before swaths are baled | Up to 23% | - Can't be stored - Designed for silage production (aerobic condition with moisture content of 45% or more) |
| Anhydrous Ammonia | Binds to moisture in hay, making it unavailable to bacteria. | Injected - Into bale or released into covered bale stack. | Up to 30% | - Increases Crude Protein - Can't be used on all hay crops - Can't store treated hay for long periods |

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Canadian Forage Mission to the Arabian Peninsula

Sarah Sommerfeld, PAg

Members of the Canadian Forage and Grassland Association, along with forage producers, processors and other industry representatives traveled to the Arabian Peninsula on a fact finding mission for the Canadian forage export sector. The objective of this fact finding mission

was to learn about the livestock and forage markets of Arabian Peninsula countries and to identify forage marketing opportunities and barriers. Participants on this fact finding mission traveled to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates from March 17-25, 2010 and with assistance of the Canadian Embassy met with government officials and business representatives of the forage and livestock sectors in both countries.

The forage and livestock sector is a significant component of the agriculture industry in Saudi Arabia. Irrigation based crop production has been a substantial component of agriculture within the country, but changes in government policy are creating a movement away from supporting irrigated agriculture. As such, the need for agri-food imports is increasing and it is estimated that over 2 million tonnes of forages will be imported annually to Saudi Arabia over the next five years.



Figure 3: Camel market located 30 km north of Riyadh where merchants sell livestock, domestic and imported forages, feed concentrates and other supplies.
Source: Sarah Sommerfeld, PAg

Four potential markets for Canadian forages were identified in Saudi Arabia while on the mission:

- Large commercial dairies primarily interested in high quality (140-220 RFV, 21-28 % CP) long fiber alfalfa or alfalfa/grass hay in large to medium square bales, single or double compressed.
- Feed manufacturers who market complete feeds to livestock sectors, other than dairy, are primarily interested in alfalfa or straw packaged as cubes or pellets and feed grains packaged in 50 kg or 500 kg bags or bulk.
- The equine market which includes racing, recreational and endurance horses and is primarily interested in high quality alfalfa and timothy hay.
- The local Bedouin farmer. This fourth market is developing as the Saudi Arabia government transitions away from domestic forage production and irrigated agriculture towards an alternate feed supply and distribution system.

Within the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the forage and livestock sectors are major components of the country's agriculture industry. Over 246 000 ha (607 000 acres) are irrigated with the majority of these acres growing forages for the local livestock herd, primarily consisting of sheep and goats. Local Bedouin farmers are estimated to use 4.2 million tonnes of



Figure 4: A forage distribution site located in Emirate of Abu Dhabi where imported forages are unloaded and stored prior to distribution to the local Bedouin farmer.
Source: Sarah Sommerfeld, PAg

forages annually and large commercial dairies an additional 400 000 tonnes annually. Over half of the livestock population is found in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, therefore making it the emirate with the greatest potential as a market for Canadian forages.

The Abu Dhabi government is currently developing agricultural policies that discourage domestic forage production by the Bedouin farmer. In return, the farmers are being encouraged to grow a high value horticultural crop and replace the domestically grown forage with imported forages. Canada currently markets approximately 2 % of its forage exports into the UAE for the equine markets in Dubai and the large commercial dairies in Abu Dhabi and Dubai. However, with the anticipated increased forage need in the Abu Dhabi emirate, as a result of current government policy, the amount of imported forage could grow substantially.

Three forage markets in the UAE were identified on the mission:

- Emirate of Abu Dhabi government forage tenders have been created as a solution to discouraging local forage production. The forage purchased through these tenders is available only to the local Bedouin farmers. The tenders have been implemented since 2005 and will continue until at least 2030. Tender volumes in the first three years was estimated at 600 000 tonnes, which increased to 900 000 tonnes in 2008. Previous tenders have specified that only high quality long fiber alfalfa in large or medium square bales, single or double compressed are suitable. Other hay types including alfalfa/grass mixes, grass and straw in large or small square bales, and pellets or cubes are being considered for future tenders to better accommodate the feed and package size needs of the Bedouin farmer.
- The equine markets in Dubai and Abu Dhabi are interested in small, double compressed bales of grass or alfalfa/grass mixes, oaten hay or high quality timothy hay.
- Large commercial dairies import nearly all of their forage requirements and are specifically looking to purchase high quality long fiber alfalfa or alfalfa/grass hay in 500 kg square bales, single or double compressed.

An opportunity exists for Saskatchewan forage producers if forage market access to Saudi Arabia can be established and if sales to the UAE can be increased. The impact in Saskatchewan would be realized when forage processors and exporters begin sourcing good quality alfalfa, alfalfa/grass mixes, and grass hay from local forage growers thus creating an alternative cash market for Saskatchewan forage growers.

Access to these potential markets in Saudi Arabia and the UAE are limited by two major issues: the cost of freight and the inability to secure a reliable container supply and delivery system in Canada. These issues place the Canadian forage industry at a great disadvantage to other forage exporting countries. Also, both Saudi Arabia and the UAE economies closely follow the US dollar. As a result uncertainty in the value of the US dollar creates uncertainty in the price the importer is willing to pay.

Reducing Drying Time of Cut Hay

Michel Tremblay, PAg, Provincial Specialist, Forage Crops

The goal of conscientious hay growers is to minimize dry matter losses as the crop is cut, cured, baled, transported and fed. Large dry matter losses can occur when the crop is cut and field-cured to a moisture content that allows for storage with minimal risk of spoilage. Curing hay in

the field exposes it to dry matter losses due to post-cut plant respiration, microbial degradation, as well as bleaching and leaching due to the sun and rain. Extended drying times increase losses due to respiration within the plant, which is greatest immediately after cutting, when the moisture content is high or when microbial activity and oxidation of vitamins and minerals occurs. When drying a hay crop, the primary goal is to reduce the amount of time required to field-cure the hay to the desired moisture content. Some factors to consider when reducing drying times include:

Temperature

Higher air temperatures will result in faster drying, but relative humidity will have a significant impact on drying rates at a given temperature.

Relative Humidity

Drying rate is inversely proportional to relative humidity (Figure 5). Drying rates and equilibrium moisture levels at a given temperature will vary according to the relative humidity percentage.

Figure 5. Equilibrium moisture content of hay is proportional to the relative humidity in the air and the air temperature (Collins and Moore, 1995).

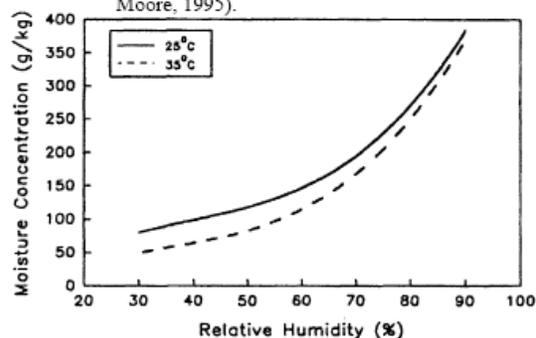


Figure 6: Correct spacing and tension on the conditioning rollers (left), and adjustment of the crop deflector (above) and windrow forming shields (right) result in quick drying with minimal crop damage.

Source: Saskatchewan Agriculture

Timing of Cutting

Crop development can have a significant impact on how quickly hay will dry down. As the hay crop matures, the moisture content of the crop declines. Pre-boot grass has a moisture content of 80 to 90 per cent. Boot stage grass has a moisture content of 70 to 80 per cent. Flowering grass has a moisture content of 50 to 70 per cent and grass in the seedset stage of development can have 50 per cent or less moisture. Cutting at a later stage of development, in order to reduce field-curing time, has to be balanced with the fact that forage quality declines as the plant matures.

Conditioning

Successful conditioning occurs when 90 per cent of the stem is cracked or exhibits a reduction in rigidity, with less than five per cent of the leaves exhibiting signs of bruising or blackening. The conditioning roller gap (Figure 6) and roller pressure should be set to achieve these results. Conditioning action should be checked in each field, as crop kind, windrow size, stem diameter, maturity level and moisture content of the crop will impact conditioning action. Windrows should be made as wide as possible to speed drying.

Packaging

Bale type will dictate safe moisture levels for storage. Generally, small, medium and large square bales will safely store at 15 per cent moisture. Hard-core round bales will safely store at 18 per cent and soft-core round bales will store at 20 per cent moisture.

Additives

Hay preservatives can be applied to hay at baling to reduce microbial activity, thereby reducing dry matter losses. Acid-based additives reduce microbial activity by reducing the pH of the hay. Biological additives contain cultures of organisms that inhibit harmful fungal growth. The cost of additives must be considered when determining the value of quality hay.

Taking the above factors into consideration will allow the producer to minimize field-drying time and dry matter losses and maximize feed quality and yield.

This article has been reprinted with permission from page 4 of the July 9, 2010 issue of the Crop Production News: <http://agriculture.gov.sk.ca/cpn100709>.

Saskatchewan Forage Price Report

Coy Schellenberg, Saskatchewan Forage Council

The Saskatchewan Forage Council (SFC) has just released the Saskatchewan Forage Price Report for July, 2010.

Price discovery in the forage industry is a difficult task due to the lack of a central marketing entity. Forages are generally sold on a person to person basis often negotiated at the farm gate. Therefore the information provided in this report was compiled through a wide range of contacts and sources from within the industry to best endeavor to depict the current market situation.

July is traditionally a slow point in the forage market as most producers are focused on the current year's crop during this time. July of 2010 has been full of anticipation as many producers

wait for drier weather to start haying. A very wet spring has resulted in expectations of above average hay yields, however, the quality and actuality of these yields will not be confirmed until the hay crop is put up dry. Many producers have not started haying yet or are just starting. The late start is a result of wet conditions that have continued from the spring. There are many inclinations that forage prices will be relatively low this year due to the higher hay yields expected. However, there is very little movement of hay currently, and this can most likely be attributed to the industry waiting to see what actual yields are being put up and the quality of those yields. Movement very likely will remain slow throughout July and into August until the industry has a more definite measure of market variables.



Baling alfalfa/grass hay in July.
Source: Perrin Ranching 1990, Ltd.

Most of the pricing for baled forage reported within this report is for 2009 crop moved between the previous price survey conducted in January 2010 and July 2010. While most are suggesting that 2010 crop will likely be priced lower, this report gives a starting point for buyers and sellers looking to price 2010 forages.

To view the entire report visit:

http://www.saskforage.ca/Coy%20Folder/Publications/Forage%20Price%20Report/Market_Pric_e_discovery_for_July_2010_Website.pdf

Saskatchewan Hay Market Report

Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture

www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/FeedForageListing

Baled Forage Prices (dollars per metric Ton) to July 15, 2010

| | Listings | Listings Priced | Tons Listed | Tons Priced | Lowest Price/Ton | Highest Price/Ton | Weighted Average Price/Ton |
|-----------------------|----------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Alfalfa | 2 | 1 | 467 | 127 | \$100 | \$100 | \$100 |
| Brome/ Alfalfa | 4 | 3 | 1277 | 443 | \$30 | \$100 | \$92 |
| Clover | 1 | - | 82 | - | - | - | - |
| Green feed | 2 | 2 | 400 | 400 | \$66 | \$110 | \$94 |
| Other | 3 | 3 | 354 | 354 | \$25 | \$37 | \$33 |

USDA Market News Service Hay Reports

USDA Market News Service

For week ending July 10, 2010

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 slow. Hay prices mostly steady. First cutting production well underway in eastern Wyoming and western Nebraska with some first cutting completed. A lot of hay damage reported due to wet conditions and May and early June. Drier weather this past week is helping production. Production in central and western Wyoming along with South Dakota is just starting this week.

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

Hay prices steady on old crop inventory. Trade activity and demand on new crop offerings mostly light with light to moderate buyers' inquiry. New crop hay season is in full swing with producers actively cutting and baling. Yields in bales per acre have been average to mostly better than average in majority of the coverage areas. New crop prices have not been fully established at this time however producers are looking for steady prices with last year.

| | Eastern Wyoming | Central & Western Wyoming | Western South Dakota | Montana |
|----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Alfalfa | | | | |
| Supreme | - | - | - | \$166.00-187.00* |
| Premium | \$109.00-114.00 | \$104.00-114.00 | - | \$88.00-104.00 |
| Good | \$78.00 | \$83.00 | \$62.00-73.00 | \$78.00-88.00 |
| Fair – Good | \$73.00 | - | \$52.00 | \$57.00-78.00 |
| Grass | - | - | - | \$156.00-187.00* |
| Greenfeed | - | - | - | - |
| Alfalfa/Grass | - | \$88.00 | \$62.00 | \$73.00-88.00 |

All prices converted to CDN dollars per Metric Ton FOB stack in medium to large square bales and rounds unless other wise 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 Sponsors:



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