



# Saskatchewan Hay & Pasture Report

Volume 20, Issue 2

August 13, 2019

We are pleased to bring you the second edition of the 2019 Hay & Pasture Report. The haying and grazing seasons are very much underway in Saskatchewan, and forages are on the minds of producers as we look to the fall and winter seasons.

We'd love to hear from you! If you have ideas for article topics, forage research information to share or updates on forages from your part of the province, send us an email or share your thoughts with us on social media @saskforage.

To be added to our distribution list, contact [office@saskforage.ca](mailto:office@saskforage.ca). Visit our website [www.saskforage.ca](http://www.saskforage.ca) for updates and information from the forage industry.

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## Saskatchewan Agriculture Crop Report

For the period ending August 5, 2019



Harvest operations have already begun in some parts of the province, according to Saskatchewan Agriculture's weekly Crop Report. As crops continue to mature in the next few weeks, most producers will begin to harvest. Some crops are one-to-two weeks behind in development and this may be of concern depending on weather during harvest.

Scattered rainfall covered parts of the province this week with some storms bringing hail. The moisture has helped later-seeded crops fill and replenish topsoil moisture. Rainfall ranged from trace amounts to 94 mm in the Porcupine Plain area. Provincially, topsoil moisture on cropland is rated as one per cent surplus, 60 per cent adequate, 36 per cent short and three per cent very short. Topsoil moisture on the hay land and pasture is rated as one per cent surplus, 48 per cent adequate, 41 per cent short and 10 per cent very short.

Across the province, pasture conditions are rated as four per cent excellent, 28 per cent good, 45 per cent

fair, 19 per cent poor and four per cent very poor. Additional rainfall would be beneficial for the pastures as they mature before harvest.

[Read the full report here](#)

## Evaluating forage species for stockpiled forages

Beef Cattle Research Council (BCRC) Research Project Factsheet

### **Project Title**

Building long-term capacity for resilient cow-calf production systems through creation of a forage industry chair supporting training and research in evaluation and utilization

### **Researchers**

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### **Background**

In Canada, the acreage dedicated to forage and pasture production has diminished with increased competition from annual crops for human and animal consumption. Therefore cattle producers have faced increased reliance on marginal lands to meet their forage needs. In order to remain sustainable and competitive, they continue to seek new avenues for extending the length of the grazing season and decrease the cost of winter feeding. It is clear that research is required to identify superior strategies for extended grazing to improve animal performance under the range of soil and weather conditions observed in the prairie provinces. Stockpiling can refer to forage accumulation from spring regrowth or following grazing or haying during the growing season. Forages that maintain production and persistence of quality during frost and snow are desirable in these pasture-based systems. This study includes examination of the impact of forage quality in fall/winter on animal performance, grazing behaviour, feed intake and energetic efficiency.

### **Objectives**

- 1) Evaluate annual and perennial forage species for their potential as stockpiled forages for overwintered beef cattle
- 2) Evaluate beef heifer performance, feed intake, energetics and grazing behaviour during stockpiled forage grazing in late fall/early winter
- 3) Evaluate the economic impact and risk analysis of stockpiled perennial and annual forages in overwintering systems

[To read project methods and results, view the full Research Factsheet on the BCRC website](#)

## Winterfat - Packed with protein for fall and winter grazing

by Agriculture and AgriFood Canada

<http://www.agr.gc.ca/eng/news/scientific-achievements-in-agriculture/winterfat-packed-with-protein-for-fall-and-winter-grazing/?id=1552419721722>

Winterfat is a native rangeland shrub that grows in the mixed grassland ecoregion of the Canadian Prairies. It is valuable for its high quality nutritional components that both domestic livestock and wild animals find very palatable. As a result, winterfat is preferentially grazed and can potentially be eliminated from a pasture. Overgrazing and range management strategies such as fire suppression that limit natural disturbances have resulted in decreased winterfat populations over the last couple of centuries.

Besides being a valuable forage, winterfat also functions as a deep-rooted, long-lived, drought-tolerant perennial plant, contributing to plant community structure, nutrient cycling, snow accumulation, erosion control and water infiltration

For producers interested in (re)establishing winterfat in their pasture, the following is Prairie-specific

information on seed source, seed mixes and seeding recommendations based on research by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) research scientist, [Dr. Mike Schellenberg](#), at the Swift Current Research and Development Centre in Swift Current, Saskatchewan.

At first glance, winterfat may be mistaken for sagebrush (hence its other common names) but it lacks the distinct "sage" odour when its leaves are rubbed.

#### **Historical use**

Historically, winterfat played an important role for the livestock industry. Cattle drives from Texas to Saskatchewan in the 1800s followed the winterfat stands for forage. Early ranchers planned their winter pastures and grazing rotations based on the presence of this valuable plant.

As well as using winterfat as a winter forage for their horses, some First Nations used it to heal burns, sores, rashes and boils; treat fever; relieve sore muscles; and prevent grey hair.

#### **Nutritional information**

Winterfat is considered a protein powerhouse for fall and winter grazing! Winterfat delivers more than enough protein and phosphorous to satisfy livestock needs throughout the fall and winter, even lactating cows, offsetting the lower nutrient levels of the dominant grasses in the mixed grassland prairie. Protein levels peak at 15% in the spring, holds steady at 14% into the fall and varies between 8% and 11% through the winter months. The organic matter digestibility (OMD) stays relatively constant throughout the year, between 55% and 65%.

[Read the full article here](#)

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## **Saskatchewan Hay Market Report**

A review of online asking price for forages revealed some hay, straw and other feed available to purchase in Saskatchewan. Asking prices remain fairly high, as producers rebuild hay stocks and sellers test out the market early in the season. Some ads were for pre-orders on greenfeed or straw not yet baled. Average asking prices were:

Alfalfa-Grass Hay: \$209/metric tonne and/or \$80/bale (6 offers)

Alfalfa Hay: \$198/metric tonne (1 offer)

Grass Hay: \$140/metric tonne (1 offer)

Greenfeed Hay (oats): \$154/metric tonne (1 offer)

Small Square Hay Bales: \$6.40/bale (9 offers)

Small Square Straw Bales: \$4.19/bale (4 offers)

Straw (oats, wheat, barley): \$42/bale (4 offers)

Standing hay (tame hay): 4 cents/lb (1 offer)

Additional hay for sale, with no price associated was offered, including alfalfa, greenfeed, grass hay, mixed hay, both large round and large square bales.

A small number of ads were found for those wishing to purchase hay, mainly for horses or smaller herds requiring only a few bales. No prices were associated with these ads.

*Note that very few ads include detailed forage quality analysis, or offer to provide these details. Before purchasing hay, be sure to request this information. Bale weights are often only estimates, so it is prudent to ask if the bales have been weighed.*

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## **USDA Market News Service Hay Report**

**August 2, 2019**

### **Wyoming Hay Report**

Compared to last reported market baled hay sold steady. Demand was good for large and small squares getting shipped out of state. Several reports of a lot of damaged or rain on hay across the state but no

confirmed prices. The collapsed canal tunnel in Goshen County continues to make headlines and has effected 100,000 acres in WY and Western NE. Valley video hay auction is Thursday Aug 1st and prices will be reported at [https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/to\\_gr325.txt](https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/to_gr325.txt) the report should be out sometime on Friday, Aug 2nd. Note: "All prices are dollars per ton FOB the field or hay barn unless otherwise noted." Read the full report [here](#).

**South Dakota Hay Report** Compared to last week: Alfalfa and grass generally steady on a light reported volume week. Weather challenges remain an issue again this week with rain and high dew points keeping hay from drying down quickly. Demand good still for high quality hay of all classes, straw as well. Demand much more moderate for lower qualities, especially the rougher grinding type hay as this supply is much more plentiful. All hay and straw sold by the ton FOB, unless otherwise noted. Read the report [here](#).

**Montana Hay Report** Compared to last report: New crop alfalfa hay has hit the market and moderate to good demand was seen for all hay in squares. Hay market activity was mostly active over the last two weeks with lots of hay being sold and beginning to move. Hay in rounds continues to struggle as many cattlemen are putting up their own hay and have carry-over from last year. Much of first cutting received at least some rain which has limited the volume of high quality hay available. Some producers had hay down for 10-15 days or more before finally getting it bailed. Much of this hay sold or is selling for or near bedding price. Some producers opted to rerun it through the swather and bail it with second cutting. Demand for grass hay is very good especially in squares. Much of this hay is selling into Canada. Demand for straw is good as dairies in Idaho are searching for straw. However, harvest for both wheat and barley have yet to start so no confirmed sales can be found. All prices below are new crop hay unless otherwise noted. All prices are dollars per ton and FOB unless otherwise noted. View the report [here](#).

**USDA Hay Prices for August 2, 2019**

	Wyoming	South Dakota	Montana
Alfalfa			
Supreme	-	-	160-165
Premium	220-270**	210	160-180
Good	150-160 180**	-	130 175-180**
Fair-Good	-	160	115-125 80-100*
Fair	100	125*	-
Utility	-	100*	95-100 40-60*
Grass			
Premium		-	175 125*
Good	-	-	110* 130-160**
Fair	-	110*	100-125
Utility	-	-	65-75*
Timothy Grass			
Premium	240 250**	-	240-270**
Good		-	160-180**
Alfalfa/Grass			
Premium	200	-	180**
Good	180	160	145*
Fair	-	-	75-90*
Straw	-	-	-

\*large rounds \*\*small squares

All prices per ton and FOB stack, unless otherwise noted

To read the full reports and to view the hay quality designations - physical descriptions [click here](#).

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