

Saskatchewan Forage Market Report

As of January 15, 2010



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1) Recap of 2009 Growing Season in Relation to Forage Production

At the time of the July 2009 Price Scan, reports from around the province were depicting a delayed haying season due to a cool, dry spring and late frosts in some areas. Much of the west side of the province was also reporting drought or near drought conditions. Due to the poor growing conditions, most areas of the province were predicting below average yields for hay crops in 2009. Overall, across the province this proved to be the case. Due to the slow spring, most areas in Saskatchewan were able to harvest only one cut, even in areas where a second cut is generally expected. In fact in the west central region, some hay fields were not harvested at all due to the poor production. In some cases these fields were grazed instead.

According to the yield estimates reported by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture Regional Forage Specialists, hay yields were either below average or near average in most areas for 2009. Some regions were well below average (north west, west central, and south west, with some pockets in the north east and east central). These areas received below average precipitation and hay yields responded accordingly. Based on these estimates, provincial hay yields were approximately 74% of the long-term average (Table 1).

Table 1. 2009 Saskatchewan Dryland Hay Yield Estimates (tonnes/acre)

Region	Report Date	Estimated 2009 Hay Yield	Long-Term Average for Region
Tisdale	Sept 28	0.90	1.35
Prince Albert	Sept 30	1.08	1.26
North Battleford	Sept 28	0.99	1.26
Kindersley	Sept 30	0.45	0.90
Outlook	Sept 29	0.63	1.17
Watrous	Sept 30	1.17	1.17
Yorkton	Sept 29	0.72	1.35
Weyburn	Sept 25	0.90	1.08
Moose Jaw	Sept 29	0.99	0.99
Swift Current	Sept 28	0.72	1.08
Provincial Average		0.86	1.16

Source: SMA Regional Forage Specialists

The 2009 Final Crop Report estimates that about three-quarters of livestock owners have adequate feed supplies going into winter. The west-central and south western regions of the province show the highest percentage of inadequate feed supplies. The west-central region is reporting 30% of producers have an inadequate supply of hay, 13% have an inadequate supply of straw and 6% an inadequate supply of feed grain. The southwest is reporting a 30% inadequate supply of hay, and 16% and 18% inadequate supplies of straw and feed grain, respectively. The north eastern region is reporting 27% of producers have an inadequate supply of straw.

As hay supplies appeared tight during the summer of 2009, forage prices in late summer and early fall were high around most of the province. However, as fall progressed into winter, forage prices began dropping. For example, asking prices for alfalfa/grass hay

averaged \$109/tonne in September and dropped to \$98/tonne in December (based on survey of advertisements in Western Producer and on SMA Feed Grain and Forage Listing). This can be attributed to several factors including the increasingly dismal situation in the beef industry. Rather than purchasing high priced hay in the summer and fall, some producers were opting to sell livestock. Cattle numbers in Saskatchewan are down again this year (3.37 million head July 1, 2009 as opposed to 3.385 million head July 1, 2008 – Statistics Canada), so the reduced hay production in 2009 is somewhat buffered by this reduced demand. Also, due to relatively mild weather conditions, many producers were able to graze livestock well into the fall and winter thus reducing their winter hay supply requirements. Still others were able to seed greenfeed crops when they determined that hay yields would be poor, or were able to utilize crop residue and failed crops to reduce their winter feed requirement. During this market survey, several of those contacted remarked about the falling trend of hay prices over the fall and winter. As usual, prices remained higher in areas where hay shortages exist (south west, west central and pockets in the north east).

2) Field Pest Impact and Projections for Forages

Gophers (Richardson's Ground Squirrels) continue to cause problems on forage land in localized areas within the province. Although the south west has historically been the most affected region, gopher populations have increased in the west-central region thanks to dry conditions there. According to Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture staff, research projects are ongoing to study a number of aspects related to Richardson's ground squirrel. These projects focus on the use and effectiveness of various rodenticides as well as non-chemical control methods and natural predation of this pest by its main mammalian predators (e.g. coyotes, badgers, weasels). The final report on a project entitled "Review of Control Methods and Severity of the Richardson Ground Squirrel Problem in Saskatchewan" indicates that gophers are indeed causing economic damage to pasture and hay fields in south western Saskatchewan as well as several other areas in the province.

During the 2009 growing season, grasshoppers were not much of a problem early on due to the cool dry conditions. However the warmer conditions late in the growing season saw localized grasshopper infestations. The 2010 grasshopper forecast predicts localized areas of infestations mainly in the west side of the province (see Appendix A for forecast map from the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture). The majority of the province is expected to have a very low level of infestation in the upcoming growing season. Grasshoppers can effect perennial forage production and establishment through defoliation, most prominently when spring moisture conditions are low and the temperature is warm.

Alfalfa weevil was a problem for Saskatchewan alfalfa producers in 2009. Although the main problem areas are in the south east and east central regions, this pest continues to extend its Saskatchewan distribution northward (now moving north of the Qu'Appelle Valley). As in the previous two years, high populations remained even after a first cut of hay and required foliar insecticides for control in some situations. However, due to the cost of insecticide application, a low number of acres were likely sprayed in 2009 (statistics not available). Alfalfa plant bug was a problem in several alfalfa fields in north east Saskatchewan and needed to be controlled twice. However, poor seed set prior to

the second pesticide application made growers question whether a second application was worth it.

For more detailed pest and disease information, please refer to Appendix B for the 2009 Insect and Disease Report presented to the Saskatchewan Advisory Committee on Forage Crops on November 18-19, 2009.

3) Current Saskatchewan Transportation Costs

Transportation costs have remained similar since the July 2009 forage survey. As seen in Table 2, rates average \$5.18/loaded mile or in the range of \$100-150/hr for short hauls. Transport companies noted that prices have remained largely unchanged due to more stable fuel prices this year.

Several transport companies noted that business this fall was slower than usual, partially due to there being less hay to haul and the fact that prices were initially high this summer and buyers were not inclined to purchase. As fall proceeded, companies remarked that local business picked up and that long distance hauls (mainly into Alberta and some into the USA) also increased. The long distance hauls into Alberta have indicated that producers in that province are still lacking hay supplies and are willing to pay the freight to import hay from Saskatchewan.

Table 2. Transportation Costs for Forages in Saskatchewan

Location	Rate in \$/loaded mile (long hauls)	Rate in \$/hr (short hauls)
North West	6.00	
North East	5.25	100.00
South East	6.00	150.00
Southern	4.50	120.00
South West	5.00	
South East	5.00	
Central	4.50	100.00
Average	5.18	117.50

4) Current Saskatchewan Forage Prices

Table 3 shows the current price for various types of forages in Saskatchewan derived from this survey. Numbers presented are collected from various sources including the fall 2009 and winter 2009/2010 Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture Feed and Forage Listing Service, hay and straw listings in the Western Producer from September 2009, weekly through January 11, 2010, as well as contact with the major feedlots in Saskatchewan (lot capacity of 5,000 to 30,000 head), auction marts and hay growers/brokers throughout Saskatchewan.

In general, sources contacted during this survey indicated that asking prices were initially high in late summer and early fall (\$100/tonne plus) but have continued to come down since then. Asking prices may remain high, but settled and buying prices are not nearly as high as livestock producers in Saskatchewan are unwilling/unable to pay these high prices. Some of the higher priced forage in the west side of the province has

moved into Alberta, but in general, it appears that livestock producers are not paying more than \$90/tonne for good quality hay. The exception here is dairy quality alfalfa or horse hay (small square bales).

Grass- Straight grass forage is less predominant than mixed stands of grass and legumes. However, auction marts in Saskatchewan seem to prefer high percentage grass hay (80-90% grass component) for young calves coming through their facilities and are reflected in the values shown in Table 3. The wide range of prices seen in grass hay is largely due to the variability in quality of this commodity. Auction marts commented that they try to source high quality grass hay (thus demanding a higher price), while other users (feedlots or cow calf producers) can often utilize the lower quality, lower priced types of this product in their rations.

Certified Organic Hay- There were only a few prices for certified organic hay found during this survey and all three were from Manitoba. The demand for organic hay is largely met by on farm supplies through seeded buffer strips and areas generally unfit to grow organic field crops. Clarity of organic forage and livestock production standards are still needed to create a stable, defined market for this commodity.

Green feed- There was more greenfeed found on offer this year compared to last across the province. This is likely due to the fact that some producers seeded greenfeed crops when they realized that hay crops would be poor in 2009. Greenfeed was also made from salvaged annual crop acres that were unable to be harvested in 2009.

Clover- A relatively small number of asking prices was found for clover during this survey. Overall, clover is in weak demand as a forage species in the province.

Standing Forages- The July 2009 price scan accurately captured standing forage prices within the province. Alfalfa producers in the north east report that yields were less than half of normal and second cuts were rare, but that they were able to secure enough acres to fulfill their production demands.

Dehy Alfalfa- Production capacity continues to decline in western Canada, mostly due to high energy and transportation costs making it difficult to compete in overseas markets. The Canadian Dehydration Association has wound down operations and is no longer providing reports to the Canadian Forum on Forages and Rangelands. However, the dehy industry was discussed at this meeting in December of 2009 where it was noted that the industry in Canada is facing tough competition from both the US and new processors such as China who have lower transportation and/or energy costs than processors here in Canada. Demand for dehy product appears to remain strong from the Asian Pacific countries with new interest coming from the Middle East.

The alfalfa processing plants in Saskatchewan are 1) Elcan Forage Inc. at Broderick which processes primarily sun-cured (baled) alfalfa, 2) Arborfield Dehy at Arborfield which processed standing alfalfa in 2009 and 3) Western Alfalfa Milling at Norquay which processes both standing and sun-cured alfalfa. In Alberta there are three alfalfa processing plants operational with varying combinations of actual dehy processing and sun-cured processing. However, recent reports have indicated that the Champion plant near Didsbury is closing at the end of January 2010.

Table 3. Saskatchewan Forage Prices as of January 15, 2010

Forage Type	Buying, Asking or Settled price	# of Traders	Quantity (T)	High (\$/T)	Low (\$/T)	Weighted Average (\$/T)
Grass Hay						
	Buying	12	4,584	120 (Maple Creek)	66 (Moose Jaw)	90 delivered
	Asking	10	663	147 (Yorkton)	45 (Theodore)	97
Alfalfa						
1 st Cut	Buying	2	11,880	138 (Osler)	96 (Outlook)	98 delivered
	Asking	27	4017	138 (Pense)	81 (Various)	102
	Settled	2	5,109	110 (Broadview)	99 (Rosthern)	109
2 nd Cut	Buying	1	3,750	96 (Broderick)	96	96
	Asking	16	950	154 (Various)	99 (Kipling)	132
	Settled	1	25	165 (Warman)	165	165
Alfalfa Grass Mixed Hay						
	Buying	21	14,568	132 (Grenfell)	42 (Weyburn)	82 delivered
	Asking	50	11,439	143 (Outlook)	66 (Fillmore)	97
	Settled	5	4,908	110 (Wynyard)	77 (Broadview)	83
Organic Hay						
	Asking	3	450	114 (Trehearne)	110 (Trehearne)	112*
Greenfeed						
	Buying	2	436	97 (Saskatoon)	65 (Assiniboia)	75
	Asking	14	3,475	139 (Maple Creek)	50 (Rosetown)	87
Clover						
	Asking	6	1,787	88 (Wynyard)	66 (Yorkton)	79
Millet						
	Asking	2	200	110 (Duck Lake)	110 (Lipton)	110
Clover						
	Asking	6	1,787	88 (Wynyard)	66 (Yorkton)	79

Forage Type	Buying, Asking or Settled price	# of Traders	Quantity (T)	High (\$/T)	Low (\$/T)	Weighted Average (\$/T)
Straw – Cereal						
	Buying	17	17,319	66 (Hazenmore)	30 (Melfort)	42 delivered
	Asking	7	817	66 (Saskatoon)	33 (Foam Lake)	38
	Settled	2	822	45 (Broadview)	31 (Wynyard)	45
Straw – Pulse						
	Asking	7	695	83 (Kyle)	42 (Lloydminster)	79

*Indicates simple average

Export Timothy- There is very little activity within the province in the export timothy market. The main players in the export timothy market in western Canada are both situated in Alberta (Wilbur Ellis and Green Prairie International) and generally do not purchase timothy from Saskatchewan due to the high cost of freight. Table 4 shows the prices paid for 2009 crop timothy delivered to these Alberta plants. Plants are located at Lethbridge, Standoff and Cremona, AB. Producers receive approximately \$30/tonne less in the field for timothy to account for trucking and storage costs.

Export companies are reporting that timothy acres in Alberta are down approximately 10% from 2008. Due to the cool spring, drought and late harvest, Alberta timothy export companies estimate that yield was down approximately 35% from 2008. Wilbur Ellis reports that they have reduced production at their compression plants by approximately 50% by running one shift per day instead of two to keep staff on throughout the year. They predict that timothy acres could be up for 2010, but seeing as there was such a late harvest, it is difficult to predict as fall seeding was not able to happen. Demand in Asian markets remains strong and both companies report that they would like to see more acres to fill demand.

Timothy Quality Level	Price \$/T
Premium	223
Choice	195
Standard	155
Utility	127
Horse Quality	280

Source – Wilbur Ellis, Green Prairie International

Elcan Forage Inc. of Broderick reports that they have not run their timothy press all year. They are finding it too difficult to compete in the overseas export timothy market and have decided to pursue other opportunities. For this reason, Elcan did not purchase timothy from outside sources in 2009.

5) Regional Forage Pricing Trends

South West: Reports from sources in this area including the SMA Regional Forage Agrolgist indicate that both hay and straw are in short supply. Alfalfa and alfalfa/grass mix hay at auctions in December was selling at around \$90/ton (\$99/tonne) with very little variance in price between poor and good quality hay. Some hay buyers indicate that prices remain in the \$80-90/ton (\$88-99/tonne) range. Many producers are still looking for more feed to purchase for their cattle however there is a lack of selection available locally. Trucking normally limits the distance forages can be transported from, but some producers are resorting to this to bring small amounts of hay into this area. Demand is strong and there are still buyers actively seeking hay and straw.

South Central: The SMA Forage Agrolgist in this region reports that there is adequate hay and straw, but not much excess. Trade remains light as most producers seem to have their winter feed in place. Asking prices for hay are in the \$75-80/ton (\$84-88/tonne) range, but it is difficult to tell if selling prices are at that level. Winter feed stocks appear to be adequate as pastures held out longer this fall, or cattle grazed on crop residue longer than expected. Most producers have compensated for reduced forage amounts by purchasing alternative feeds such as pellets and screenings. Forage acres are not expected to change for 2010.

South East: The Regional SMA Forage Agrolgist feels that trade is light as there is generally adequate hay and straw in the area. Prices came down for hay through the fall and now are in the \$44-90/tonne range. A hay auction in December near Weyburn saw hay prices in the \$35-40/ton (\$39-44/tonne) range. It appeared that prices were this low for hay due to the small number of buyers present. Sources in this area report prices more in the \$60-80/tonne range. Winter feed supplies appear to be adequate through most of the area. The SMA Forage Agrolgist feels that forage acres may decrease slightly in 2010 based on the decrease in cattle numbers.

East Central: The Regional SMA Forage Agrolgists notes that supply is generally adequate for hay with not much excess. Straw supplies appear to be adequate. Trade in this region seems slower than previous years, likely due to the poor yields and the fact that producers do not have excess hay to sell. Prices are in the \$70-95/tonne range for hay with the higher prices closer to Yorkton and lower prices in the Watrous area. Feed stocks should be adequate if winter weather is not particularly harsh. Feed grains in the region will likely be utilized in rations this winter to help ease the demand on hay stocks. Forage acres are predicted to be stable or down slightly in 2010 due to cattle sell off and old hay stands being replaced by annual crops.

North East: The Regional SMA Forage Agrolgist in this area notes that hay and straw supplies appear to be adequate for the winter. Trade of hay and straw has been slow as there was not much excess produced this year. Prices in this area have also declined since the early summer and are now closer to the long term average of \$60/ton (\$66/tonne) for hay. Straw prices are in the \$30-40/ton (\$33-44/tonne) range. Most producers will have adequate feed stocks for this winter. The late fall and warmer conditions in January have helped reduce the demand. Forage acres in the area are expected to remain steady or decline only slightly in 2010.

North Central: The Regional SMA Forage Agrologist in this area reports that both hay and straw supplies appear adequate. The later than usual fall alleviated much of the potential feed shortage concerns for the livestock sector. Asking prices for hay are in the \$80/ton (\$88/tonne) range, but selling prices are suspected to be somewhat lower (\$65-75/ton or \$72-77/tonne) for good quality hay. Forage acres are likely to remain static unless positive signals are seen in the cattle industry or if grain prices are reduced in the coming year.

North West: The Regional SMA Forage Agrologist in the north west feels that winter feed supplies are adequate in this region, but there is definitely not excess forage. However, he notes that the mild January weather to date has helped to ease the pressure on hay and straw supplies.

West Central: In the west central region, the SMA Forage Agrologist reports that hay supplies are tight in the region and that many producers are looking to feed grains to stretch rations. Straw supplies in the west central region appear to be good and the small amount of snow has allowed producers to use less straw as bedding. Trade appears slow in this region as poor production has limited the amount of hay for sale. High asking prices are also limiting trade. Hay sellers able to obtain higher prices are moving some hay into Alberta. Listings are in the \$80-110/tonne range for this region, but for the most part these asking prices are limiting interest from local livestock producers. Straw prices found in this area were in the \$35-55/tonne range.

6) Current Alternative Feedstuff Prices

In situations where perennial forages are short in regions of the province, alternative feeds derived from annual crop production, or ethanol production are being used to fill the void. These feeds may be used to completely replace or partially replace forages in cow/calf rations or in feedlots and backgrounding operations. In general, prices for these commodities are based on the current market prices for forages and feed grains. Table 6 shows the prices found for various alternative feeds that may be used in rations to replace forages.

Screenings- Grain merchants & large terminals generally have screenings contracted with feedlots or feed mills well in advance, leaving only small loads of this commodity available in most areas. Prices are down from last year due to weakening grain prices.

Canola meal & Canola pellets- The price fluctuates daily with the price of soybeans and soybean meal. The Nipawin location states that most of this product goes into the USA dairy feed market, but that small loads for local producers are available.

Alfalfa pellets- The price for these pellets has been steady this year due to relatively strong prices for perennial forages. A standard dehy pellet, geared towards beef production, is readily available, but trucking costs often limit their economic sense.

Table 5. Alternative Feedstuff Prices and Availability*

Commodity	Price	Details	Availability
Screenings	\$108	#1 cracked wheat or durum	Some availability
Screenings	\$34	Light screenings, mainly chaff	Some availability
Oat Hulls	\$20	Ground	Most contracted
	\$15	Loose	Most contracted
Canola meal and pellets	\$180	36% CP	Some availability
Alfalfa pellets	\$188	15-16% CP	Good availability
Grain pellets	\$129	12-16 % CP 63-78.5% TDN	2-3 week order wait at most facilities, good availability
Fortified grain pellets	\$145	12-17% CP 72 -78.5% TDN with vitamin/mineral mix	2-3 week order wait at most facilities, good availability
Wet Distillers grains	\$42	33-35% DM 29-39%CP	Contact plants for availability
Dry Distillers grains	\$158	28-39% CP 69-76% TDN	Contact plants for availability
Distillers syrup	\$32	31% CP 82% TDN	Good availability

**Based on survey of companies in Saskatchewan as of January 15, 2010*

Fortified grain screening pellets- Due to the drop in grain prices, screening prices and hence, the price of fortified grain screening pellets is somewhat reduced since last year at this time. Most processors of this commodity indicate that demand is steady but supplies are holding out. Most suppliers estimate a two to three week wait for delivery of this commodity.

Feed Grains- As prices for feed grains have come down over the past year, there has been an increase in use for livestock rations. Many producers indicated that due to relatively high forage asking prices this fall, feed grains are being used to reduce ration prices this winter. Feedlots, a major consumer of feed grains, are seeing barley prices in the \$2.30-2.75 range.

A price survey in December 2009 showed feed grain prices as follows:

Feed Barley- December provincial average - \$107/T (\$2.32/bu)

Feed Wheat- December provincial average - \$124/T (\$3.36/bu)

Feed Durum – December provincial average - \$113/T (\$3.07/bu)

Feed Oats – December provincial average - \$134/T (\$2.06/bu for #2 or better)

7) Adjoining Jurisdictions Forage Price Trends

As transportation costs continue to limit the distance that forages can be moved and the cattle industry struggles with low cattle prices, supply and demand for forages from the

adjoining provinces and states will continue to have a minimal effect on the Saskatchewan forage market as a whole. Occasionally, demand from the northern US states dictates the forage prices in Southern Saskatchewan or likewise for the eastern and western areas of the province when demand is high in Manitoba or Alberta.

Due to the drought that covered much of Alberta this year, forage production was well below average in 2009. This has had a noticeable effect on forage demand and prices in the western region of Saskatchewan.

Table 7 shows the forage prices from listings in Alberta, Manitoba, Montana and North Dakota. Prices from the Alberta government listing were taken only from the eastern side of the province and only from the western side of the province from the Manitoba government listing. Listings from Montana and South Dakota were taken only from the northern counties.

Table 6 Forage Prices in Adjoining Jurisdictions*

Forage Type	Alberta Listing	Manitoba Listing	Montana State Listing	North Dakota State Listing
Alfalfa	\$118-200/T (5 offers)	\$100-137/T (3 offers)	\$91-142/T (4 offers)	\$74/T (2 offers)
Alfalfa/grass	\$105-163/T (4 offers)	\$66-110/T (10 offers)	\$85-170/T (3 offers)	\$52-71/T (3 offers)
Grass	-	\$55 (1 offer)	\$85-113/T (2 offers)	\$27/T (1 offer)
Straw	\$71/T (1 offer)	\$7-14/bale (3 offers)	\$57-68/T (2 offers)	-
Greenfeed	\$88/T (2 offers)	-	-	-

*As of January 15, 2010.

The USDA weekly hay reports monitor settled prices for hay across auction houses in individual states. Table 8 shows the USDA prices for the week ending January 15, 2010 (www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/).

Table 7 USDA Hay Prices

Forage Type	Eastern Wyoming	Central & Western Wyoming	Western South Dakota	Montana
Alfalfa				
Premium	\$113-136	\$102-136	\$113-125	-
Good	\$79-109	\$91-102	\$74-96	\$85-102
Fair	\$68-85	\$79-91	\$57-79	\$57-85
Utility	\$57-62	-	-	-
Grass	-	\$74-85	\$55	-
Alfalfa/Grass	\$85-133	\$91-102	\$79-96	\$57-102
Straw	\$57	-	-	-
Timothy	-	-	-	\$204*
Oat Hay	\$57-62	\$68-91	-	-

All prices converted to Can\$/tonne FOB stack

*Small squares

Wyoming, South Dakota - trade and movement very slow. Hay prices mostly steady. Demand moderate to good for dairy quality hay, moderate to light for cow hay.

Montana - hay prices remain steady on small squares going to mostly horse customers. Cow hay in large rounds and squares trending steady to \$10.00 lower than last week with mostly lower money on lower quality hay. Trade activity and demand mostly light to moderate with moderate buyer inquiries. Ranchers have reported feed as adequate throughout the state with some surplus in bordering states.

8) 2010 Provincial Forage Market Projections

According to the final Crop Report issued by Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture (December 23, 2009), moisture conditions on hay and pasture land are rated as 8% with surplus moisture, 67% has adequate moisture, 19% is short and 6% is very short. Forty-four per cent of hay and pasture land in the northeast has surplus moisture, while in the west central region 36% of hay and pasture land is short of moisture. See Appendix A for a map of hay and pasture land topsoil moisture conditions.

SMA regional Agrologists again report that there have been few calls regarding seeding of forages this fall. Over the past number of years one call a day during the fall is expected. However, sources across the province have noted that forage acres are expected to remain static or decrease slightly for 2010, mostly due to the decrease in livestock numbers around the province.

Regional SMA Forage Agrologists agree that there will again be very little greenfeed planted in 2010. This is a difficult prediction to make as often the decision to seed greenfeed crops is made after the early spring weather is accounted for. As always, late seeded crops that do not make grain by fall frost, or damaged crops may be made into greenfeed as a last resort to salvage the crop.

9) Forage Seed Prices

Table 9 contains an inventory of commonly purchased forage seed prices compiled by surveying the major retail companies in the province. Three classes of forages are presented: grass, legume and native species. All prices are for certified #1 seed unless otherwise stated.

One of the retail companies recently (December, 2009) revised its prices for native seed however, the others are still working off the price sheet from early 2009. These retailers felt that there would not be a large change in native forage seed prices for 2010.

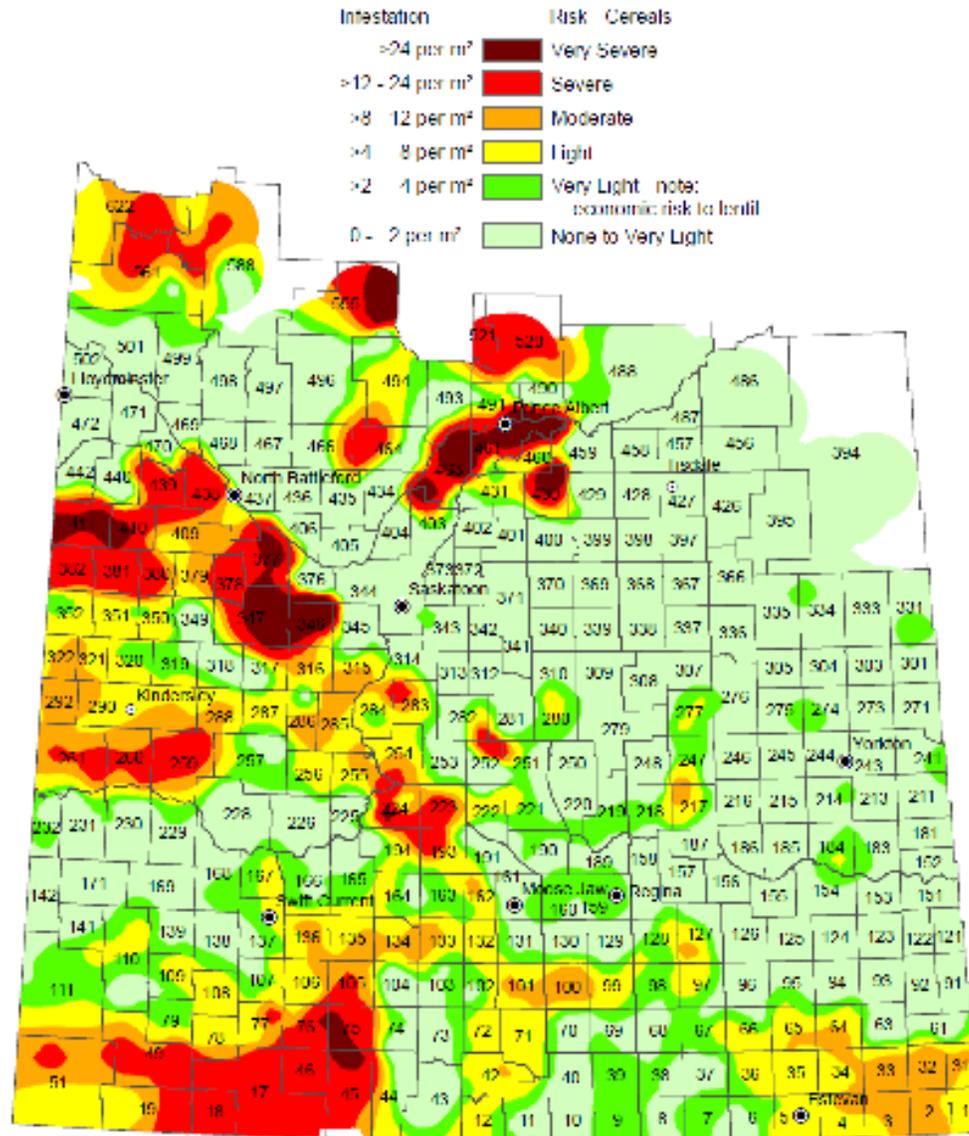
For more on the forage seed industry, please refer to Appendix B for the 2009 Forage Seed Industry Report presented to the Saskatchewan Advisory Committee on Forage Crops on November 18-19, 2009.

Table 8 Forage Seed Prices in Saskatchewan as of January 15, 2010

Class	Species	Average Price \$/lb	High	Low
Grasses	Carlton Smooth brome	2.15	2.37	2.05
	Smooth brome (common)	2.03	2.14	1.99
	Fleet Meadow brome	2.97	2.99	2.89
	Meadow brome (common)	2.89	2.89	2.89
	Hybrid brome	3.25	3.29	3.16
	Russian Wildrye	4.87	4.99	4.49
	Tall Fescue	2.53	2.69	2.29
	Fairway Crested wheatgrass	2.87	2.99	2.79
	Kirk Crested wheatgrass	2.68	2.86	2.59
	Crested wheatgrass (common)	2.49	2.49	2.49
Legumes	Alfalfa hay type	3.86	4.00	3.59
	Alfalfa pasture type	3.62	3.72	3.47
	Alfalfa (common)	2.64	2.77	2.59
	Cicer milk vetch	3.89	3.90	3.86
	Sainfoin	2.90	2.99	2.83
	Alsike Clover	1.79	1.93	1.69
	Sweet Clover	2.11	2.19	1.99
	Sweet Clover (common)	1.48	1.65	1.29
Native	Western Wheatgrass	8.14	18.87	3.75
	Northern Wheatgrass	11.38	21.70	5.00
	Slender Wheatgrass	1.84	2.29	1.50
	Green Needlegrass	8.91	15.33	4.00
	June Grass	46.50	85.14	22.00
	Canada Wildrye	16.09	22.76	6.50
	Purple prairie clover	73.87	101.51	35.00

Appendix A: Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture Forecast Maps
Grasshopper Forecast
Hay and Pasture Topsoil Moisture Conditions

2010 Grasshopper Forecast based on adult grasshopper counts



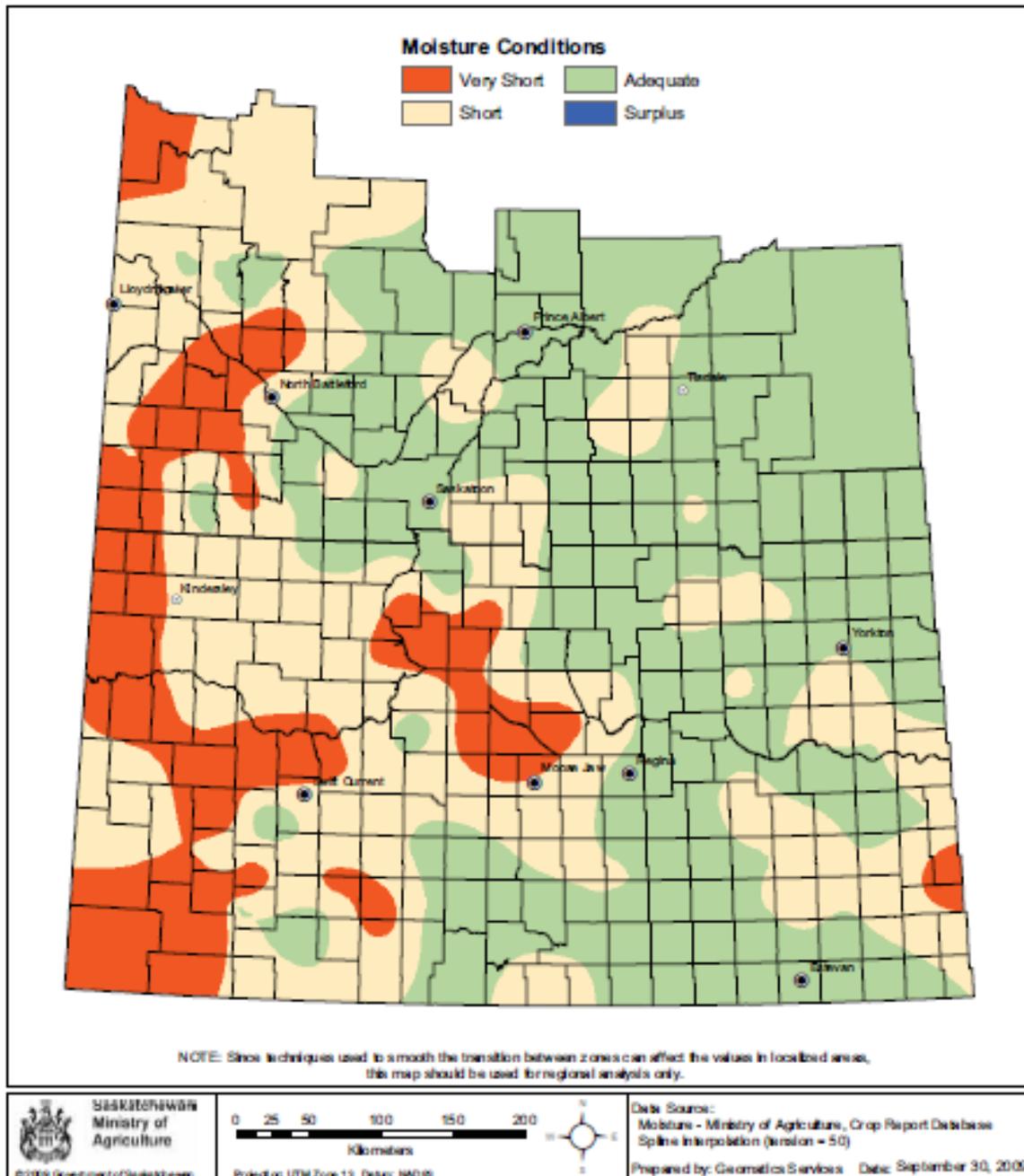
NOTE: Since techniques used to smooth the transition between zones can affect the values in localized areas, this map should be used for regional analysis only.

 <p>Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture</p>	<p>CANADA - SASKATCHEWAN</p> 	<p>News Source: Grasshopper Count - Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation Field Staff</p> <p>Prepared by: Geomatics Services Date: October 30, 2010</p>
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Hay and Pasture Topsoil Moisture Conditions

September 29, 2009



Appendix B: Industry Reports
2009 Insect and Disease Report
Seed Production Committee – Industry Report 2009

FORAGE CROP PESTS 2009

Insects and Diseases Committee Report to the Saskatchewan Advisory Council on Forage Crops Saskatoon, SK, Nov 18-19, 2009

J.J. Soroka, AAFC Saskatoon (sorokaj@agr.gc.ca)

1. Summary:

2008-09 winter conditions were generally moderate and there were few reports of substantial winter injury to forage crops. Cold and wet conditions in spring, then cold dry conditions for most of the summer led to few outbreaks of either diseases or insects. Occasionally, symptoms caused by frost, low temperature or drought stress were confused with those of diseases. Alfalfa seed production across several areas of the province may have been affected by late rains that made conditions conducive for blossom blight, but no surveys were conducted to substantiate this.

2. a. Insects (S. Hartley, C. Myhre, J. Soroka) – Alfalfa weevil (*H. postica*) was a major problem for SK alfalfa producers in 2009. Although the main problem areas are in the Southeast and East Central Regions, this pest continues to extend its Saskatchewan distribution northward. As in the previous two years, high populations remained after a first cut in hay and required foliar insecticides for control. Alfalfa plant bug (*Adelphocoris lineolatus*) needed to be controlled twice in many fields in NE SK. Poor seed set prior to the second application made growers question whether the application was worth it. Lesser clover leaf weevil (*Hypera nigrirostris*) was found in virtually all red clover seed fields sampled in NE SK, with second-year seed fields having the higher levels than first-year ones. Although most second-year fields were sprayed, levels overall were lower than in 2008. A cecidomyiid, possibly red clover seed midge (*Dasyneura leguminocola*), was found in a field of red clover in northeastern SK in 2009, the first report of this pest in the province.

Richardson's ground squirrels continue to be a serious crop and pasture pest, particularly with respect to crop establishment in the spring.

b. Insects and Diseases in Alfalfa Leafcutting Bee Populations (D. W. Goerzen) - Occurrence of the chalcid parasitoid, *P. venustus*, was evaluated in the 2008 - 2009 winter survey of Saskatchewan alfalfa leafcutting bee populations. The parasitoid was detected in 0.85 % of bee cells analysed from individual samples submitted by Saskatchewan alfalfa seed producers (n = 108). *P. venustus* was present in 82.4 % of alfalfa leafcutting bee populations surveyed.

Field-scale experiments involving a comparison of the efficacy of pyrethrin aerosol formulation KN418 with the efficacy of dichlorvos resin strips for control of chalcid parasitoids found that use of pyrethrin aerosol resulted in low or undetectable levels of alfalfa leafcutting bee cell re-parasitism (mean 0.09 %) and undetectable levels of alfalfa leafcutting bee pupal mortality due to parasitoid stinging. Use of dichlorvos resin strips in this series of experiments resulted in levels of alfalfa leafcutting bee cell re-parasitism as high as 0.53 %, combined with a mean alfalfa leafcutting bee pupal mortality level of 1.13 % due to parasitoid stinging, and a mean alfalfa leafcutting bee pupal mortality level of 0.92 % due to dichlorvos exposure.

Occurrence of chalkbrood disease (*Ascosphaera aggregata*) was also evaluated in the 2008 - 2009 winter survey of Saskatchewan alfalfa leafcutting bee populations. The disease was present at an extremely low level in bee cells analysed from samples submitted by Saskatchewan alfalfa seed producers (n = 108), with no occurrence of the sporulating form of chalkbrood disease documented and with 0.003 % of the non-sporulating form of chalkbrood disease noted overall.

Compounds have been evaluated for their efficacy in control of microflora in alfalfa leafcutting bee nest material. Incubation tests of alfalfa leafcutting bee prepupae within cells harvested from nest material treated with disinfectant compounds (Iosan™, Modyne™, Profilm™, and Ster-Bac™) found no adverse affects in the progeny of adult bees nesting in the treated material.

c. Forage Diseases (M. Tremblay, F. Dokken, P. Northover, B. Gossen) - Snow mold damage on fine turf was minimal. Infection was generally superficial and the turf recovered quickly. Weather related issues were observed, due to the unusual and unfavourable growing conditions occurring in 2009. Sometimes they were confused with possible disease problems. Frost, low temperatures and drought stress were usually the culprits. Dry conditions in spring held disease levels low throughout the season. Only five samples of forage crops were received at the provincial diagnostic lab, three alfalfa samples (two with *Phoma*, one with *verticillium*), and two timothy samples, both with root rot (one *Rhizoctonia*, one *Pythium*). Conditions in July were suitable for epidemics of blossom blight of alfalfa, but no surveys were conducted.

Levels of silvertop or sterile seed heads were generally low this year, although there were a few reports of silvertop (cause not known) on wheatgrass grown for seed. Some of the bromegrass fields in northeastern SK had ergot (*Claviceps purpurea*), and head smut (*Ustilago bullata*) was noticed in two slender wheatgrass fields.

3. Notes:

a. The second edition of the Alberta Forage Manual was published in 2009. Consisting of 348 well-illustrated pages, it is a much expanded version of the 88 page first edition, which was published in 1981. Also, a new website on blossom blight of alfalfa is available on the ARECA Alberta site (<http://www.areca.ab.ca/>).

b. 2009 fungicide registrations / updates in Canada:

New labels for **Rhapsody** (biofungicide *Bacillus subtilis*) on bluegrass, bentgrass, fescue, orchardgrass, and ryegrass.

Thanks to all those who contributed to this report.

SASKATCHEWAN ADVISORY COUNCIL ON FORAGE CROPS

Seed Production Committee – Industry Report

November 18-19, 2009

Submitted by Michel Tremblay, Chair, SACFC Seed Subcommittee

The Saskatchewan forage seed crop struggled against numerous hurdles in 2009. Most regions began the growing season late, with cool temperatures and varying intensities of frost slowing development. In some cases, frost damaged emerging growing points, leading to developmental delays. Dry conditions beginning in fall of 2008 prevailed across much of the province in the spring, further compromising production potential. Dry conditions early in the season hurt grass species such as timothy, and cool weather delayed development of all species. Grass seed harvest was delayed, due late development of crops, and rain during the harvest period. Stand age and species had a large effect on resultant yields.

Many grass species seed yielded 70% of average. New timothy fields had average yields, many old fields were plowed up. Crested wheatgrass yields were highly variable, ranging from below average to well above average. Intermediate and slender wheatgrass yields were above average.

Alfalfa pollination was impaired due to cool weather conditions in July, which reduced bee activity. Bee multiplication was poor in 2009. Alfalfa harvest was delayed by the late year, open warm September, and delayed frosts failing to dry down the crop. Many alfalfa fields were not harvested, were hayed, or remain unharvested. Alfalfa seed prices are in the range of \$2.00 per pound for certified, and \$1.75 per pound for common. European and United States markets are sluggish, causing reduced movement in seed markets.

The Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission successfully hosted a field day in the Carrot River area in July, and is presently planning its annual meeting. Levy revenue was down in 2009 due to declines in forage seed acreage. Forage seed agronomy and production research are a priority of the SFSDC. Recently the SFSDC has studied insect control issues, including methods of pesticide application, economic tolerances, insect surveys in forage seed crops, and minor use registration of pesticides. The number of registered forage seed growers have declined as acreages in most crops are down.