

Saskatchewan Forage Market Report

As of January 2015



This report determined current market prices and trends for forage products in Saskatchewan as of January 16, 2015 through the use of various sources and contacts. The goal of this report is to provide as much information as possible about the 2014 forage crop and the future of the 2015 forage crop in Saskatchewan. At the time of completion, all information gathered and utilized was as current as possible and is represented in an analytical, professional manner for use by the Saskatchewan Forage Council. The Saskatchewan Forage Council, and the report authors, has presented this information in an effort to reflect industry trends as accurately as possible, however it does not guarantee and accepts no legal liability arising from or connected to the accuracy, reliability or completeness of any material contained in this report.

Table of Contents

1) Executive Summary	4
2) Recap of 2014 Growing Season in Relation to Forage Production	4
3) Field Pest Impact and Projections for Forages	6
4) Current Saskatchewan and Neighbouring Transportation Costs	7
5) Current Saskatchewan Forage Prices	8
6) Regional Forage Pricing Trends	11
7) Current Alternative Feedstuff Prices	14
8) Adjoining Jurisdictions Forage Price Trends.....	17
9) 2015 Provincial Forage Market Projections	19
10) Forage Seed Prices	20
Appendix A: Forecast Maps for Soil and Weather Conditions	22
Appendix B Forage Insect and Disease Data	25

List of Tables

Table 1. 2014 Saskatchewan Dryland Hay Yields Estimates.....	5
Table 2. Transportation Costs for Forages in Saskatchewan.....	7
Table 3. Transportation Costs for Forages in Alberta (AB) and Manitoba (MB)	8
Table 4. Saskatchewan Forage Prices as of January 15, 2015	9
Table 5. Square Bale Asking Prices in Saskatchewan 2014/2015	10
Table 6. Saskatchewan Dehy Product Prices for 2014 Crop.....	11
Table 7. Timothy Prices for 2014 Crop in AB & SK.....	11
Table 8. Alternative Feedstuff Prices and Availability	15
Table 9. Forage Prices in Adjoining Jurisdictions.....	18
Table 10. Montana, South Dakota, Wyoming USDA Weekly Hay Report Prices.....	19
Table 11. Forage Seed Prices in Saskatchewan as of January 15, 2015.....	21

List of Figures

Figure 1. USDA Drought Monitor Map for January 6, 2015.....	5
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1) Executive Summary

The quality of the 2014 forage crop is inconsistent in Saskatchewan due to precipitation and late harvest in some regions. In general, producers who were able to harvest hay in the first few weeks of July have good quality hay, while those that were not able to complete harvest in that time may have seen an extended haying season into late July and August due to rains and humidity.

Forage prices remain mixed in late 2014 and early 2015, with variations in pricing based on quality and demand. Prices have remained relatively steady over the past 12 months with slightly more hay on offer in early 2015 than in January 2014 but not a lot of hay trading locally at this time. The 2014/2015 winter season has been mild as compared to the past two years but livestock producers are still working to rebuild forage supplies and are wary of approaching another potentially cool early growing season with insufficient hay on hand.

Demand in US and other export markets remains strong for commodities with established markets and for high quality forage. Drought conditions exist in California and other parts of the southwest, and buyers in these areas continue to demand high quality alfalfa hay and pellets. The widening gap between the US and Canadian dollars has been of benefit to exporters to the US market.

With beef cattle prices at record levels in 2014, producers may be opting to sell more calves and to cull or disperse cow herds this year rather than retain them through the winter, particularly in parts of the province where there is less hay available. What impact high cattle prices in 2014 and 2015 may have on forage prices and production is still unknown and any increases in forage demand will only result from a rebuilding of the Western Canadian beef herd, which is likely to be a gradual process if it occurs.

2) Recap of 2014 Growing Season in Relation to Forage Production

Many of the same conditions prevailed in the 2014 growing season as were experienced in 2013. An extended, cool spring delayed forage growth after a long, cold winter reduced forage stocks on farms in many parts of Saskatchewan. The Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture Provincial Forage Specialist reports that 2014 forage yields appear to be average (1.3 tons/acre) to above average (1.8 tons/acre) in Saskatchewan, with the exception of flooded areas in central and eastern regions where excessive moisture was an issue. Despite adequate yields, hay quality is variable and depended largely on whether forage growers were able to avoid rain and humidity while putting up the hay crop. For those unable to complete haying in early to mid-July the haying season was extended into late July or even late August as intermittent showers interrupted harvest. For this reason, the first cut of hay tends to be of higher quality than the second cut in Saskatchewan in 2014.

Forage yields were average in Saskatchewan 2014. Some areas experienced yield losses due to flooding and there were reports of some alfalfa winterkill after the cold winter of 2013/2014. Cool spring conditions resulted in a late start for forages and intermittent rainfall left some producers struggling to put up hay in a timely manner. Quality issues due to rainfall on swaths, humidity and late harvest of hay crops likely had more impact on availability of quality forage for sale than yields did in 2014.

Table 1. 2014 Saskatchewan Dryland Hay Yield Estimates (tons/acre)

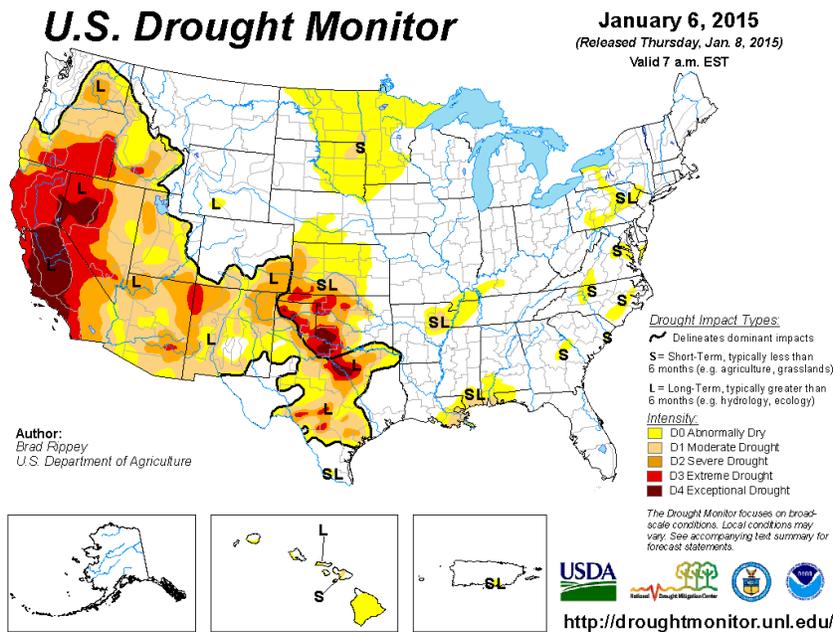
Region	Report Date	Estimated 2014 Hay Yield	Long-Term Average for Region*
Tisdale	Oct 28	1.7	1.7
Prince Albert	Oct 28	1.7	1.6
North Battleford	Oct 28	1.4	1.5
Kindersley	Oct 28	1.5	1.1
Outlook	Oct 28	1.5	1.4
Watrous	Oct 28	1.6	1.4
Yorkton	Oct 28	1.6	1.5
Weyburn	Oct 28	1.6	1.3
Moose Jaw	Oct 28	1.6	1.3
Swift Current	Oct 28	1.2	1.4
Provincial Average		1.54	1.43

Source: Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture Regional Forage Specialists and Crop Reports

*Long-term yields based on combined available Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture data, 1984 to 1997 and 2008 to 2013

The Water Security Agency Fall 2014 Condition Report states that, "This past year, most areas of the province received 150-200 percent above the normal amount of precipitation on what was an already saturated landscape. Due to this record rainfall during the first half of the 2014 growing season, many areas have as much or more water on the landscape than in the fall of 2010." (www.wsask.ca/Lakes-and-Rivers/Provincial-Forecast/Fall-Conditions/)

Figure 1. USDA Drought Monitor Map for January 6, 2015



Drought remains a serious concern in California and other Western US states. Recent stormy weather in the southwestern states had those in the agriculture industry hopefully that drought

conditions would ease but the U.S. Drought Monitor reports that reservoirs in California, Nevada, Arizona and New Mexico are still only at approximately 20-50% of normal levels. Alfalfa is the single-largest user of agricultural water in California and accounts for nearly 20% of applied water in the state (Orloff et al., California Alfalfa, Forage and Grain Symposium, December 2014). Although alfalfa crops would continue to grow without irrigation, the long-term results of decreased water supplies on the viability of the California alfalfa hay industry have yet to be seen. The lessening of drought conditions in the central US and states close to Saskatchewan has resulted in less demand for hay exports close to home but high quality alfalfa hay continues to be in demand for those willing to export to California and other drought-stricken areas. The most recent USDA drought map is pictured in Figure 1, above.

In January 2015, the average buying price of alfalfa-grass hay in Saskatchewan was \$70/tonne, a decrease of approximately \$3/tonne from last year's prices. Average asking prices have increased for mixed hay over the same period by about \$4/tonne, indicating that prices have generally remained stable over the last 12 months. Prices for grass hay and alfalfa have also not changed significantly during this period and higher-quality feed has maintained

With cattle prices at record levels in 2014, producers may be opting to sell more calves and to cull or disperse cow herds this year rather than retain them through the winter, particularly in parts of the province where there is less hay available. Livestock producers may also opt to purchase or salvage frozen crops for greenfeed, silage or swath grazing rather than more expensive hay.

The Statistics Canada semi-annual survey estimated a two percent decline in cattle and calves on Saskatchewan farms from July 1, 2013 to July 1, 2014 (*Cattle on Farms* Statistics Factsheet, Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture July 1, 2014). The estimated number of cattle and calves on farms in Saskatchewan as of July 1, 2014 is 2.8 million head. Western Canada as a region also reported a decline of two percent in cattle and calves for the same time period, while Canadian inventories were down one percent.

Straw is readily available in most parts of the province and there are few reports of insufficient straw supplies. Late September and October saw many advertisements listing straw for sale, with the average asking price at about \$45/tonne, very similar to straw prices in the winter of 2013/2014.

3) Field Pest Impact and Projections for Forages

The 2015 Saskatchewan Grasshopper Forecast indicates that there is low risk of grasshopper damage anticipated in the upcoming growing season. The report does note, however that, "Even with the cool, wet climatic conditions in the spring of 2014 that did not favour grasshopper development, warmer conditions and the extended fall provided sufficient time for many of the grasshopper species to complete development and egg-laying." (Scott Hartley, Saskatchewan Agriculture Provincial Specialist-Insect and Vertebrate Pests, 2015 Grasshopper Report). The 2015 Grasshopper Forecast map, produced by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture and Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation, and the 2015 Grasshopper Report can be viewed in Appendix B or on the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture website in the "maps" section.

Alfalfa weevils, *Lygus* bugs and alfalfa plant bugs are all insects that may cause economic damage to alfalfa in Saskatchewan. There were no reports of significant crop damage from any of these pests in the 2014 crop year. Information on scouting for these insects and suggested pest

management programs is available in the document [Alfalfa Seed Insect Pest Management-2014](#) (J.J. Soroka and D.W. Goerzen, AAFC-Saskatoon Research Centre, Saskatoon SK).

Forage Specialists with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture have been closely monitoring hay for the presence of ergot and fusarium, both of which thrive in the cool, wet growing conditions Saskatchewan has experienced in 2013 and 2014. Cases of these diseases have been detected in forage sources around the province. If 2015 environmental conditions persist in the same vein as the past few summers, those in the forage and feed industry will likely be on the lookout for both ergot and fusarium, particularly in grain, greenfeed, chaff and silage.

4) Current Saskatchewan and Neighbouring Transportation Costs

Forage transport rates in Saskatchewan have remained stable over the past year. Reported long haul and short haul rates have both changed very little over since with January 2014 report. Most transporters surveyed indicated that they feel it is necessary to maintain a similar rate from year-to-year to retain business but that they will add a fuel surcharge in years where diesel prices increase.

As diesel prices are a driving force in transportation costs, it is useful to look at the change in diesel prices over the past year when considering transport costs. Oil prices have dipped significantly in the winter of 2014/2015, and diesel prices have declined, although not as significantly as gasoline prices. Natural Resources Canada reports that the average retail diesel price in Canada on January 6, 2015 was \$1.161/litre as compared to \$1.369/litre on January 7, 2014.

Table 2. Transportation Costs for Forages in Saskatchewan

Location	Rate in \$/loaded mile (long hauls)	Rate in \$/hr (short hauls)
Northeast	6.00	125.00
West/West central	6.50	145.00
Central	6.64	125.00
East	6.50	130.00
South	6.50	135.00
Provincial Average	6.44	131.88

A survey was also conducted in neighbouring provinces to help shed light on hay and feed transportation costs in Alberta and Manitoba (see Table 3, below). This information provides a gauge on transportation costs for hay being exported out of province, an important variable in overall forage price determination. There continue to be few transporters who report hauling hay as their major enterprise, as hauling grain is more efficient and profitable in the current environment. Prices appear to be slightly lower than the January 2014 prices, although this may be due to fewer transporters reporting prices at this time. Hay transporters have exited the industry in recent years, and it remains to be seen if higher cattle prices will encourage more hay transport in 2015 or if the decreased size of the Western Canadian cattle herd overall will lead to fewer opportunities for those in the forage transport industry.

Table 3. Transportation Costs for Forages in Alberta (AB) & Manitoba (MB)

Location	Rate in \$/loaded mile (long hauls)	Rate in \$/hr (short hauls)
Alberta	6.00	110
Manitoba	5.50	110
Average	5.63	110

A number of advertisements of forages for sale in 2014/2015 indicated that transport could be provided, but these prices tend to be lower than commercial transport prices and so have not been included in the averages.

5) Current Saskatchewan Forage Prices

Table 4 reports the current prices for various types of forages in Saskatchewan derived from this survey. Numbers presented are collected from various sources including the fall 2014 and winter 2014/2015 Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture Feed and Forage Listing Service, hay and straw listings in the Western Producer from September 2014, weekly through January 15, 2015, as well as contact with the major feedlots in Saskatchewan (lot capacity of 1,000 to 30,000 head), auction marts and hay growers/brokers throughout Saskatchewan.

Reports from buyers and sellers indicate that prices have remained strong for good quality forage and in areas where there is less forage available, but there is a quantity of hay of uncertain nutritional quality being offered at a lower price. Similar to the situation with the 2013 hay crop, much of the 2014 hay crop was put up late was rained on and buyers are wary of nutritional content of hay. Average prices for most classes of hay remained similar to the January 2014 prices, although some extreme high and low prices may have altered the overall average in some cases. For example, mixed hay asking prices ranged from a low of \$50/tonne to a high of \$165/tonne. Mixed hay is the predominant class of forage being advertised for sale in Saskatchewan. Although generally alfalfa-grass hay, advertisements use the term mixed hay to describe anything from slough hay and weeds to high quality, second-cut, high percentage alfalfa hay and the result of this is that prices will always tend to be variable for this product.

Certified Organic Hay- More organic forage ads were discovered in the fall and winter of 2014/2015 than in previous years. The quality and type of organic hay was variable and this resulted in a wide range of price, Organic first- and second-cut alfalfa were on offer, indicating that growers may be beginning to take note of the demand for organic alfalfa for processing or as a specialty product for organic livestock producers. The high asking price of \$202/tonne was for second cut alfalfa. Also on offer was organic greenfeed, grass hay and slough hay/oats mix. Asking and settled prices were much lower in the 2014 survey and were in fact lower than average asking prices for mixed, conventional hay. Average prices for organic hay in this survey were higher than any other type/cut of hay in the survey indicating that there is a perception that this is becoming a more valuable commodity.

Table 4. Saskatchewan Forage Prices as of January 15, 2014

Forage Type	# of Traders	Quantity (T)	High (\$/T)	Low (\$/T)	Weighted Average (\$/T)
Grass Hay	18	3879	110	64	85
Alfalfa (1 st Cut)	14	2868	138	48	113
Alfalfa (2 nd Cut)	7	760	126	102	111
Alfalfa-Grass	83	16092	165	50	85
Greenfeed	19	5615	110	48	81
Organic Hay	6	2984	202	79	176
Clover	1	126	126	126	126
Cereal Straw	31	5799	55	22	43

LEGEND: T = tonne (all prices in CDN \$ per metric tonne (\$/T))

Grass- Despite an increase in hay offerings overall in 2014/2015, there was little increase in the amount of grass hay on offer in this survey. Weighted average asking prices increased from \$82/tonne in January 2014 to \$87/tonne in 2015. Auction marts prefer grass hay that is free from alfalfa and of high quality for young calves although they also purchase a large quantity of mixed hay. Hay buying prices for auction marts include delivery and often also include unloading and stacking at their facilities. Horse owners often look to purchase good quality grass hay, and as in January 2014, many of the higher-priced advertisements for this commodity indicate that it has little to no alfalfa and is “good quality horse hay”. Some timothy hay is included in the weighted asking prices, and these bales tended to be for lower-quality timothy and priced similarly to other grass hay asking prices.

Greenfeed- The amount of greenfeed on offer increased significantly in the past year. Late-seeded crops were salvaged for greenfeed after frost in September and when it became apparent that grain harvest would not be an option. Some producers may have also seeded greenfeed to increase forage supply or to sell in areas where hay and pasture land was flooded. There is a great deal of variability in greenfeed quality and this is reflected in the price listings. The low price of \$48/tonne was listed for a very late-seeded crop that had very little grain in the bales, and there were also producers with a large amount of greenfeed on hand who indicated that the price was negotiable for larger volumes. Greenfeed crops listed included triticale, oat, wheat, winter wheat and triticale with some pea straw included. The average asking price for greenfeed in this report was \$81/tonne, an increase of about \$10/tonne over the January 2014 prices, however this may be partly due to the low volume of listings in 2013/2014.

Clover- Clover hay is not a commonly traded feed source in Saskatchewan. One clover asking price of \$126/tonne was discovered in the January 2015 survey. Similarly, in past years, very few

advertisements exist in Saskatchewan for those buying or selling clover. This biennial crop is likely more often used on farm by livestock producers when grown as there is not an established market or pricing structure for forage growers to refer to.

Straw- Straw is reported to be available throughout Saskatchewan and supplies appear to generally be adequate. Asking prices increased since January 2014 by \$9/tonne, although this may be due to an increased number of ads discovered for the 2015 report. This year’s report found 26 asking prices for straw as compared to only 10 in the 2014 survey. With much of the province reporting average or light snow cover this year and a relatively mild December, straw supplies have likely not been reduced early in the season as in the past few years.

Small Square Bales- Small square bales, weighing 40 to 80 pounds are convenient for acreage owners or those with small scale equipment who require lesser amounts of feed. Small square bales represent a different market than large round or square bales and are priced accordingly. Very few small square bale listings indicate bale weights and asking prices are recorded as cost per bale rather than weight in Table 5 (below). Based on listings indicating bale weight, average prices for small square mixed or alfalfa hay are approximately \$170-\$200/tonne.

Table 5. Square Bale Asking Prices in Saskatchewan 2014/2015

Forage Type	Average Price \$/bale*
Alfalfa Hay	5.17(4 offers)
Alfalfa-Grass Hay	4.70 (11offers)
Grass Hay	4.17 (8 offers)
Greenfeed	4.00 (3 offers)
Straw	3.00 (8 offers)

*Listing sourced from Kijiji, Western Producer, SK Agriculture
Feed Listings and contacts at auction marts around SK.*

Standing Forages- Pricing for standing forages varies throughout Saskatchewan based on local demand and quality of the forage on offer. The weighted average standing forage prices from the September 2014 Forage Market Report were \$21/tonne for grass; \$32/tonne for alfalfa-grass and \$50/tonne for alfalfa. Many standing forage agreements on private lands are long-standing arrangements between neighbours or acquaintances, making accurate price discovery difficult for this commodity.

Silage-Feedlots surveyed reported usage of both barley and corn silage in 2015. Formulas based on current feed grain price or the price of grain when the silage went in the pit are used to calculate silage prices in feedlot rations. Feedlots contacted indicated that they make their own silage and may purchase silage as well depending on price and availability. Barley and corn silage prices ranged from \$41/tonne to \$48/tonne, depending on the method used to price the silage. Pricing is similar to January 2014, which had a range of \$35-50/tonne for barley and corn silage.

Dehy Alfalfa- Saskatchewan dehy processing plants produce a variety of sun-cured products (made from baled alfalfa) and dehy products made from standing alfalfa. The dehy products tend to demand higher prices as more nutrients are retained when the pellets or cubes are made from standing hay than from baled hay. Standing alfalfa hay for dehy production averaged \$50/tonne in 2014. Processors report that demand is strong for both dehy pellets and cubes and that if more

straight alfalfa hay was available they could likely produce and market more volume of these products. Table 6 provides average dehy product prices in Saskatchewan for the 2014 crop.

Table 6. Saskatchewan Dehy Product Prices for 2014 Crop

Product Type	Price \$/T
*Dehy Pellets	255
**Sun-cured Pellets	234
***Cubes	225

(prices in \$ per metric tonne (\$/T))

**Dehy Pellets – alfalfa pellets made from standing alfalfa*

***Sun-cured Pellets – alfalfa pellets made from baled alfalfa*

****Cubes-alfalfa cubes made from baled and standing alfalfa*

Export Timothy: In 2014, Alberta timothy growers struggled to put up timothy crops as late July and August became rainy and humid. September snow in many parts of Alberta put a damper on late harvest attempts. In fact, some growers report they were unable to harvest a first cut of timothy as of late September. Quality of timothy declines quickly as the plant matures and supreme or premium timothy for the export market will be in short supply in Alberta and Saskatchewan this year. Growers in Alberta report that the Peace River region of Alberta produced the highest quality timothy crop in Alberta this year but that yields were lower than normal in this region.

Saskatchewan timothy growers experienced better growing conditions and many were able to put up a high quality timothy crop in 2014 and both first and second cut timothy graded premium quality. Processors look to the Alberta timothy industry to purchase hay to process into cubes as very little pure timothy is grown in Saskatchewan. The majority of the timothy product produced by in Saskatchewan is sold domestically and into the US market, whereas Alberta timothy processors tend to export primarily to Asian markets. Low quality timothy for processing was approximately \$100/tonne to purchase this fall in Saskatchewan, while premium timothy price was as high as \$240/tonne. Table 7 shows the average prices paid for 2014 timothy crop delivered to Alberta and Saskatchewan plants.

Table 7. Timothy Prices for 2014 Crop in AB & SK

Timothy Quality Level	Price \$/T
Horse Hay or Supreme	-
Premium	210
Choice or Low Premium	198*
Standard	155*
Utility	113

(prices in \$ per metric tonne (\$/T))

**No Saskatchewan prices found for choice or standard. Lower Saskatchewan price included decreased average premium price. Alberta only premium average is \$240/tonne.*

Alberta Agriculture reports that the timothy export market continues to be a growth market, particularly in Southern Alberta. The quality of timothy hay was variable in Alberta this year and those growers that had their first cut of hay rained on in the swath often made up for this loss of quality with a better quality (and rare in non-irrigated areas) second cut of timothy due to late rains and good regrowth.

6) Regional Forage Pricing Trends

South-west and south-central: According to the Regional Forage Specialist and other sources in the southwest, hay supplies were low after the winter of 2013-2014, but adequate yields from the 2014 forage crop resulted in sufficient rebuilding of feed stocks for the upcoming winter. Hay quality is average in the southwest, which saw minimal rain during the haying season, although the cool spring and cold winter weather resulted in delayed or stunted growth of alfalfa plants. Overall hay quality is good to excellent in the region. Yields were higher in areas east of Swift Current with lower yields between Swift Current and the Alberta border.

There is strong demand for hay in Alberta and this has affected prices and movement of hay in this region, particularly near the Alberta border. Good quality mixed hay is trading at over \$100/tonne and many advertised asking prices are over \$150/tonne in the eastern portion of Alberta. Despite high prices, the long feeding seasons of the last few years have left livestock producers reluctant to sell forage which may leave their own operation short of feed. For this reason, not much hay has been advertised in the southwest region and buyers of hay tend to have established contracts or associations with suppliers.

The Regional Forage Specialist indicates that pasture conditions going into fall were good to excellent, with late-season rainfall resulting in significant regrowth on pastures on hay land. With average spring runoff, forages should have a good start in the spring of 2015.

Southeast: Supplies of hay are adequate in the Southeast region, with a reports of only a handful of producers looking to purchase forages in December and early January. Relatively warm December weather and minimal snow meant that hay supplies were not taxed early in the season. Straw supplies are adequate as there was ample opportunity to bale straw during fall. The Regional Forage Specialist reports that frost in the fall resulted in a number of late-seeded cereals being converted from grain to greenfeed and in some cases this had a significant impact on local hay markets.

Forage quality is average in the Southeast as a majority of the hay was put up under dry conditions in early to mid-July. Forage Specialists have seen some evidence of ergot in grass hay in the region but it does not appear to be a widespread issue. Pasture quality and moisture conditions were also adequate to good going into winter and forages should have a good start in the spring.

Little hay is trading in the region as of January, although there are a few hay auctions scheduled this winter and local forage growers and producers will be watching to see how the high cattle prices might affect forage pricing.

West-central: The SMA Regional Forage Specialist and other sources in the west-central region indicate that winter weather is milder than the last few years have been and there are no serious issues with quality or supply of forage on hand.

Supplies of Hay and straw appear to be adequate in this region. The 2014 season produced average yields of hay and feed and there was a large greenfeed harvest last summer as some producers rebuilt feed reserves. Hail storms north of Kindersley provided extra feed in that area through salvage of hailed cereal and pulse crops. Where hay and greenfeed are lacking quality there is ample, competitively priced feed grain available to supplement the feed if required. The region does not seem to be experiencing issues with ergot or fusarium in forages from the 2014 crop, although there are reports of high fusarium levels in durum and wheat crops in the region.

There is not a lot of forage trading, and any hay that is being bought or sold appears to be average as compared to other Saskatchewan hay prices. With most livestock producers reporting adequate feed supplies, there is generally no urgency being felt to purchase feed.

Fall 2014 was fairly open and warm before winter. Pasture conditions were good and moisture conditions were moderately dry going into winter. There should have been adequate carry-over on most pastures for spring and early summer grazing.

Central: The Ministry of Agriculture Regional Forage Specialist reports that hay supplies within the region are adequate. The region reported average hay yields and with very little to no carry over from the previous year. Producers may find themselves in short supply of hay if winter conditions remain colder than normal and persist. Straw continues to be a challenge to source within the region, however most producers do have an adequate straw supply on hand. Very little to no hay is advertised for sale within the local area.

Most of the feed supply in the region is providing adequate energy (56-58 % TDN) and protein for a cow (9-10 % CP) at mid-pregnancy. As calving season approaches, supplementation will be needed with nearly all feed supplies in the region.

Winter weather conditions have been colder than normal with extreme wind chills experienced for several days across many parts of the region and province. December weather conditions were warmer than normal. Up until December, snow amounts were minimal for the central region. Through December, the region has received several inches of snow.

Going into winter, hay land and pasture topsoil moisture conditions were adequate or short for parts of this region (see Appendix A). Adequate snow cover will be needed in the region to get pastures off to a good start in 2015.

There is not an abundance of hay trading in the region. Prices for alfalfa hay have been ranging from \$85-100 per metric ton. Grass/alfalfa hay has been trading around the \$75-85 per metric ton.

East-central: Cool conditions early in the season as well as excessive moisture hampered the efforts of producers to put up quality hay in the east central region in 2014. The Regional Forage Specialist indicated that hay supplies were reduced after the cold winter and late spring of 2014 and many producers may be relying on greenfeed, silage, feed grains or other supplements to provide adequate nutrition to cow herds and retained calves over the winter of 2014/2015. There are reports of localized feed shortages in the east-central region and indications that forage prices have increased by about \$10/tonne since early December 2014 as more livestock producers

became aware that supplies of forage were not sufficient or not of high enough nutritional value to maintain livestock.

A limited amount of hay has been trading in the east central region to date this year. Record high cattle prices have many livestock producers considering selling additional calves and cull cows this fall rather than retaining cattle and purchasing feed for winter.

The Regional Forage Specialist reported that pastures that were grazed heavily early in 2014 were showing the impact by fall. However, where producers had flexibility and were not forced to graze their pastures early and hard, pasture condition was good going into winter as they were able to take advantage of the August moisture and heat and produce fairly good yields.

Northeast: The SMA Regional Forage Specialist as well as other sources in Northeast Saskatchewan report that supplies of hay and straw are adequate to low in this region. Availability of feed for sale is low due to a few years of cold winters and livestock producers attempting to rebuild supplies rather than wishing to sell. Warmer than expected weather in December of 2014 has helped to reduce feed requirements this winter and there is less snow cover, giving livestock producers a break after two previous long winters.

Forage quality in the Northeast this winter is reported as average, with most hay having been cut late in the year but generally put up in good condition. There have been concerns in the region about fusarium and ergot but there is not report as to the actual volume of these diseases being found in forage crops.

Pasture condition was average going into winter in the Northeast and it is anticipated that there will be sufficient pasture and hay land moisture as well as livestock water supplies in the spring of 2015.

North-central and north-west: Haying was not completed until late September in the north central region and parts of the northwest as producers struggled with a slow start to the growing season followed by rains and high humidity levels. The result of these weather conditions is a range of hay quality and yields in this region. The Regional Forage Specialist and other sources in the northwest indicate that hay quality ranges from fair to good and pasture conditions were good for the most part going into winter.

Although not a lot of hay is reported to be trading locally, there were a number of advertisements of hay for sale in the Prince Albert area. These prices were often lower than those in other regions and forage quality appeared to be low for many of the forages on offer. This region also tends to offer small square hay and straw bales for sale, priced at \$2.5-4/bale for straw and \$5-6/bale for hay.

7) Current Alternative Feedstuff Prices

A variety of by-products and alternative feed sources are processed in Saskatchewan which can offer lower-cost replacements or supplementation to traditional forages. Feedlots and backgrounding operations are some of the largest customers of these products, and often have advance contracts with processing facilities to purchase by-products. In general, prices for these

commodities are based on the current market prices for forages and feed grains. Feed grain prices appear to have declined somewhat in the last 12 months and the alternative feedstuff prices have decreased somewhat overall. Reported averages for screenings and canola meal have dropped, while screening pellets have increased slightly or stayed similarly priced to January 2014. Prices fluctuate based on nutritional quality of the alternative feeds, which vary with the quality of grains or oilseeds being processed.

Concerns about fusarium or ergot content of grain-based feeds have led to some wariness in the livestock industry in regard to purchasing these products. It is more difficult to identify these diseases in cracked/broken or processed grains and consideration must be made for the animal species being fed as well as the percentage of the total ration that these feeds comprise when determining acceptable levels of ergot and fusarium contamination of feeds. Table 8 lists average prices and availability of alternative feed sources in Saskatchewan.

Table 8. Alternative Feedstuff Prices and Availability

Commodity	Price	Details	Availability
Screenings	\$150/T	#1 cracked wheat, durum or barley	Low availability
Screenings	\$10/T	Light screenings, mainly chaff	All contracted
Canola meal and pellets	\$287/T	36% CP min.	Good availability both products
Alfalfa pellets	\$220-260/T	17-22% CP	Some availability at some locations. Sold out at others
Grain pellets	\$140-231/T \$173/T avg.	12-18 % CP 65-80% TDN	Mid- to late February earliest availability at most locations
Fortified grain pellets	\$182-203/T \$194/T avg.	12-18% CP 65-80% TDN with Rumensin™, vitamin/mineral mix	Mid- to late February earliest availability at most locations
Wet Distillers grains	\$50/T	35% CP approx.	All contracted
Dry Distillers grains	\$200/T	36% CP 76-77% TDN	All contracted
Distillers syrup	\$45/T	31% CP 82% TDN	All contracted

*LEGEND: T = tonne (prices in \$ per metric tonne (\$/T))
Based on survey of companies in Saskatchewan as of January 15, 2015*

Screenings-Grain screenings consist of heavy screenings, which are broken or cracked grains, as well as light refuse or chaff. There is low inventory currently at the grain terminal facilities surveyed due to increased demand for feed. These facilities report that they tend to have supplies contracted or sell the existing customers and that the supply of screenings that are being produced is being moved out quickly. Feedlots and feed mills in close proximity are the major buyers for this product as demand is strong and it is inefficient to transport screenings and particularly chaff. Prices for both heavy wheat/durum or barley screenings as well as for light refuse have decreased from last year's prices. Average wheat/durum heavy screening price was

\$160/tonne in January 2014 and has dropped \$20/tonne to \$140/tonne in January 2015. Light screening prices have decreased as well.

Alfalfa pellets- Alfalfa pellet prices are identical to last year's price range of \$220-260/tonne. There is a steady demand for this product from export markets. Prices listed in the table are for sun-cured pellets, made from baled forage. Dehy pellets made from standing alfalfa tend to have a higher nutrient content and are priced \$20-25/tonne higher than sun-cured pellets (see Table 6). The USDA Ag Market News for the week ending January 9, 2015 reports sun cured alfalfa pellet prices at USD \$230/ton (approximately \$291/tonne Canadian) in Nebraska.

Canola meal & Canola pellets- When canola is crushed to make oil, the product remaining is canola meal, a good source of protein. Canola meal is sold in bulk form as mash or made into pellets. The Canola Council of Canada reports the average Canadian price for canola meal during the 2014 crop year was \$410.70/tonne, as compared to 368.42/tonne in the 2013 crop year. Of the total supply of canola meal produced in Canada, approximately 85% is exported (mainly to the US) and only 15% used domestically. As of January 7, 2015 Saskatchewan Agriculture reports a cash price of \$418.87/tonne for canola as compared to \$386.28/tonne one year ago, an increase of \$32/59/tonne (www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/MarketTrends) The current reported meal and pellet price of \$287/tonne in Table 8 is down \$60/tonne from the January 2014 price as there is much more meal available this year as compared to last year.

Fortified grain screening pellets- Grain screening pellets are produced by a number of sources within Saskatchewan, with products on offer for feedlot, background, cow/calf, range and finishing operations. Pellets may be fortified with vitamins, minerals and ionophores such as Rumensin™, or purchased without these additives. The additional cost of adding a fortified package ranged from \$17-\$37/tonne, with the variation due to the many different formulations available. For both the plain and fortified pellets, prices are similar to January 2014 prices. The average price for grain pellets (plain) increased \$2/tonne as compared to last year's price and the fortified average price increased by \$8/tonne. Pellets will be available in mid- to late February at most locations as more processing is scheduled to take place early in February. Some locations reported slightly higher prices than last year due to higher incidence of ergot in grain, which has reduced the amount of refuse that can be used in pellet production. In other areas ergot and/or fusarium have not been as much of a problem as anticipated and there is abundant feed grain available for processing.

Distiller's Grain Products- These by-products consist of the bran and fibre left over when grains are processed to produce ethanol. Wet distiller's grain, distiller's syrup and dried distiller's grain are available at different energy processors in Saskatchewan. Spot prices for dried distiller's grains have decreased on average since January 2014 by approximately \$45/tonne. Price for syrup has increased \$9/tonne since last January at the Weyburn location, although syrup is priced weekly and may vary. There were no facilities reporting production of wet distiller's grain in the 2014 report, and only one location indicated that this product is being produced as of January 2015. In general, these processing facilities report that their by-products are contracted in advance for shipment both within Canada and to the US and they are not actively looking for buyers. All facilities surveyed report that although some spot contracts were available earlier in the year, all production is currently contracted and prices are therefore indications only.

Feed Grains- Feed grain prices have increased since January 2014, although they are not at the high levels they were in earlier years. The Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture lists average Saskatoon feed wheat price at \$159.29/tonne on January 7, 2015 as compared to \$131.84/tonne one year ago. Feed barley cash price is currently listed at \$144.48/tonne although there is no figure available for the January 2014 feed barley price. US corn prices are reported to have declined since last January by approximately USD \$15/tonne (\$17/tonne CAD). Ergot and fusarium (types of fungus/mold that cause plant disease) have both been detected in increasing levels in the past few years in feed grains and are a cause for concern due to the mycotoxins they produce that may be hazardous to animal health if consumed in sufficient quantities. The presence of ergot and fusarium are of concern to feed grain producers and livestock producers as well as in processed feeds such as feed grain screening pellets, and may affect market prices if cool, wet weather conditions that favour mold and fungus growth persist in the 2015 growing season.

The December 2014 average feed grain prices for Saskatchewan are listed below:

Feed Barley -December provincial average: \$139/tonne (\$3.03/bu.)

Feed Wheat-December provincial average: \$165/tonne (\$4.48/bu.)

Feed Durum-December provincial average: \$181/tonne (\$4.93/bu.)

Feed Oats -December provincial average: \$162/tonne (\$2.51/bu.)

8) Adjoining Jurisdictions Forage Price Trends

Forage prices and availability in neighbouring provinces and states often influences pricing trends in Saskatchewan when export allows hay growers to receive a premium for their feed. Drought continues to have an impact on demand for hay from US markets, although those selling hay must be willing to ship to California or other Southwestern states to help ease feed demands in the drought areas. Saskatchewan's neighbouring US states are not experiencing drought and feed supplies have stabilized in Montana, North and South Dakota and Wyoming, resulting in less demand from these areas. Specialty feeds, such as high-quality timothy and organic alfalfa continue to demand a premium in the US market as compared to in Canada. Hay prices tend to be higher in the US than in Canada in general, making it attractive for Saskatchewan exporters, and in particular for those with existing relationships with US buyers.

Manitoba and Alberta forage growers struggled to put up high-quality hay in 2014. Humidity, rain, flooding and frost impacted forage quality and extended the haying season into late August and even September in some areas. As with Saskatchewan, there were regions where haying operations were completed in a relatively dry period in early July and this hay is of much better quality. The Peace and northwest parts of central Alberta received below-normal precipitation while other regions had normal to above-normal rainfall. The timing of this rainfall had more of an impact than the amount, however. Alberta normally anticipates receiving the majority of its rainfall in May and June, but much of the rain began in late July, which had a serious impact on forage quality. These late rains also impacted pasture quality in a more positive way, meaning the grazing season was extended in many areas where good late summer moisture resulted in more regrowth than average.

The range of quality has resulted in a wide variation in hay asking prices in all the Prairie Provinces. Alfalfa hay asking prices discovered in Alberta this winter ranged from \$143-268/tonne, a difference of \$125/tonne. After two difficult winters, feed supplies have been low in Western

Canada and although hay yields were average or near-average in 2014, livestock producers are concerned about feed shortages and are reluctant to sell hay until they have been able to better assess this winter's conditions.

There appears to be slightly more hay on offer in adjoining jurisdictions in January 2015 as compared to January 2014 and asking prices are higher on average. The Montana and North Dakota price increases are partially related to the decrease in value of the Canadian dollar relative to the US dollar over the past year, as all prices listed in Table 9 are converted to Canadian dollars. There is more greenfeed and straw on offer in 2015 as compared to 2014 in adjoining jurisdictions, similar to the situation in Saskatchewan.

Table 9 shows the forage prices from listings in Alberta, Manitoba, Montana and North Dakota. Prices from the Alberta government listing were sourced 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 reflect those from northern counties.

Table 9. Forage Prices in Adjoining Jurisdictions

Forage Type	Alberta Listing	Manitoba Listing	Montana State Listing	North Dakota State Listing
Alfalfa	\$143-268/T (8 offers)	\$110-176/T (5 offers)	\$139-177/T (7 offers)	\$114-159/T (3 offers)
Alfalfa/grass	\$85-230/T (13 offers)	\$88-154/T (11 offers)	\$63-151/T (9 offers)	\$83-190/T (8 offers)
Grass	\$72-138/T (4 offers)	\$53-154/T (6 offers)	\$89-190/T (3 offers)	\$69-95/T (2 offers)
Straw	\$40-66/T (7 offers)	\$44-46/T (2 offers)	\$56-81/T (2 offers)	\$70-84/T (2 offers)
Greenfeed	\$72-132/T (10 offers)	\$55-61/T (2 offers)	\$101-135/T (2 offers)	No listings

As of January 10, 2015 All prices converted to Can \$/tonne (\$1 USD=\$1.15 CAD).

Wyoming/Nebraska/South Dakota – The weekly hay report for January 9, 2015 indicates that compared to last week all classes traded steady on very light demand. According to the Wyoming NRCS Snow Surveys, last year at this time the state median was 118% with a low of 78% and a high of 165%. This year the state median is 104% with a low of 86% and a high of 140% of median. Snow and wind seem to be what's in store for the beginning of this New Year. All prices dollars per ton FOB stack in large square bales and rounds, unless otherwise noted. Most horse hay sold in small squares. Prices are from the most recent reported sales.

Montana – The USDA reports that in the early New Year demand is mostly moderate for alfalfa, the lightest demand is for dairy quality hay currently. Most out of state dairies contracted

a large volume of their hay needs earlier and now are balking at the offered prices. There is good demand for straw as cattle producers are needing bedding for their livestock to protect them and make them comfortable during this cold weather. Bitter cold temps and snowfall were experienced across a good portion of the state early in January. Hay producers aren't feeling the pressure to lower their asking prices as there remains a lot of winter yet to go through. All prices are dollars per ton and FOB unless otherwise noted.

The USDA weekly hay reports monitor settled prices for hay across auction houses in individual states. For the week ending January 9, 2015:

Table 10. Montana, South Dakota, Wyoming USDA Weekly Hay Report Prices (January 9, 2015)

	Montana	South Dakota	Wyoming
Alfalfa			
Premium or Supreme	\$253**	-	\$253-279
Good-Premium	\$190-203	\$101-115*	\$253
Good	-	\$159 \$161**	\$190
Fair	\$145	\$76	\$133
Alfalfa-Grass			-
Premium	-	-	\$165
Good	-	\$89* \$144**	\$89*
Grass			
Good	\$115-127*	-	\$190**
Timothy Grass			
Premium	\$304**	-	-
Good	\$203-228** \$127*	-	-
Oat Hay	-	-	\$127
Straw	\$51-57	-	-

All prices converted to Can\$/tonne (\$1 USD=\$1.15 CAD). FOB stack in medium to large square bales and rounds unless otherwise noted.

*Large round bales **Small square bales

Hay Quality Designations - Physical Descriptions (USDA):

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

9) 2015 Provincial Forage Market Projections

Hay yields were average in Saskatchewan in 2014 and forage quality was sporadic due to late-season rains, humidity and a late start to the growing season. Some areas report excellent quality hay and good supplies on hand, while others report that there are some producers experiencing shortages or requiring supplementation of poor quality forage. Prices have remained steady over the past 12 months and there has not been a significant amount of hay trading locally in January as supplies are rebuilt after a few long, cold winters. Spring and summer growing conditions and the supply and quality of 2015 hay will dictate the amount of trade and the price of forage in the upcoming year.

Market opportunities still exist for export to California and other parts of the Southwestern US. As supplies improved in 2014, Northern and Midwest states are no longer in desperate need of forage and are therefore able to be more selective with regard to hay class and quality. Forage growers interested in selling to the US market will likely be most successful with large square bales of pure alfalfa or other high quality forages. Use of alfalfa as part of a crop rotation strategy is another alternative that farmers are considering as some grain prices decline. Exporters who deliver forage mainly to US markets are enjoying higher or sustained prices in 2015 due to the increased gap between the US and Canadian dollars as compared to this year.

Recent news of alfalfa exports to China being rejected due to the detection of genetically modified organism (GMO) alfalfa (i.e. RoundUp Ready Alfalfa) has global exporters concerned about the potential to lose access to a lucrative forage market. Although not yet sold commercially in Canada, RoundUp Ready alfalfa trials are underway in Eastern Canada and exporters in the west are concerned about potential cross-contamination of GMO and non-GMO alfalfa if this crop makes its way into Western Canada. Those in the export industry continue to keep a close eye on this issue for any impact it may have on the forage export market and pricing in Saskatchewan.

Hay and pasture topsoil moisture conditions in Saskatchewan were adequate in the majority of the province as of November 2014. Isolate areas reported moisture shortages, while some areas also reported surplus moisture. There were no reports of "very short" and it is estimated by Regional Forage Specialists with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture that with good winter snow cover there will be adequate to surplus moisture in most areas of the province this spring. Saskatchewan's Water Security Agency anticipates a risk of flooding in some areas due to high moisture conditions over the past number of years and reports that if winter snowpack is normal then there will be above normal spring runoff again in 2015 (Water Security Agency, Fall 2014 Conditions Report).

Please refer to Appendix A for maps of Hay and Pasture Topsoil Moisture Conditions, Percent of Average Precipitation and for the Environment Canada Precipitation Anomaly Outlook for Early 2015.

Grain and cattle prices as well as perception of marketing opportunities for these commodities will likely have an impact on the number of acres of forage seeded or maintained in forage in the upcoming growing season. Record highs for cattle sales in 2014 have led to increased optimism in the beef industry which may lead to some increase in forage acres. The flip side of these high prices may also lead mixed farmers or those nearing retirement to consider liquidating cow herds to realize profits during the high price environment. The number of herd liquidations at auction marts in Western Canada in recent years makes it apparent that some producers have decided this is an ideal time to exit the cattle industry.

10) Forage Seed Prices

Table 11 presents 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. There were not any significant changes in forage seed prices within the past year. Some prices increased while others decreased and this was likely due to demand for different forages and blends as well as success of the forage seed crop and availability of seed. Tame forage prices are standard retail prices (SRP). The native seed prices that are provided from retailers are generally spot prices as prices can fluctuate from day to day depending on availability.

Table 11. Forage Seed Prices in Saskatchewan as of January 15, 2015

Class	Species	Average Price \$/lb	High	Low
Grasses	Carlton Smooth brome	4.18	4.39	3.95
	Smooth brome (common)	3.94	3.99	3.85
	Fleet Meadow brome	4.03	4.09	3.95
	Meadow brome (common)	3.92	3.99	3.85
	Hybrid brome	4.49	4.59	4.25
	Russian Wildrye	5.96	6.75	4.49
	Tall Fescue	2.92	3.09	2.75
	Fairway Crested wheatgrass	5.46	5.68	4.99
	Kirk Crested wheatgrass	3.99	3.99	3.99
	Crested wheatgrass (common) (only one company reporting)	3.80	3.80	3.80
Legumes	Alfalfa hay type	4.25	4.29	4.19
	Alfalfa pasture type	4.15	4.25	4.09
	Alfalfa (common)	3.87	3.99	3.77
	Cicer milk vetch	3.74	4.17	3.45
	Sainfoin	3.12	3.45	2.96
	Alsike Clover	3.46	4.05	3.19
	Sweet Clover	3.01	3.05	2.99
	Sweet Clover (common)	2.26	2.29	1.89
Native	Western Wheatgrass	12.77	14.40	11.19
	Northern Wheatgrass	11.87	12.72	11.19
	Slender Wheatgrass	4.52	4.89	3.95
	Green Needlegrass	18.21	29.51	11.91
	June Grass	26.60	30.57	22.62
	Canada Wildrye	12.79	13.51	12.07
	Purple prairie clover	44.23	44.34	44.12

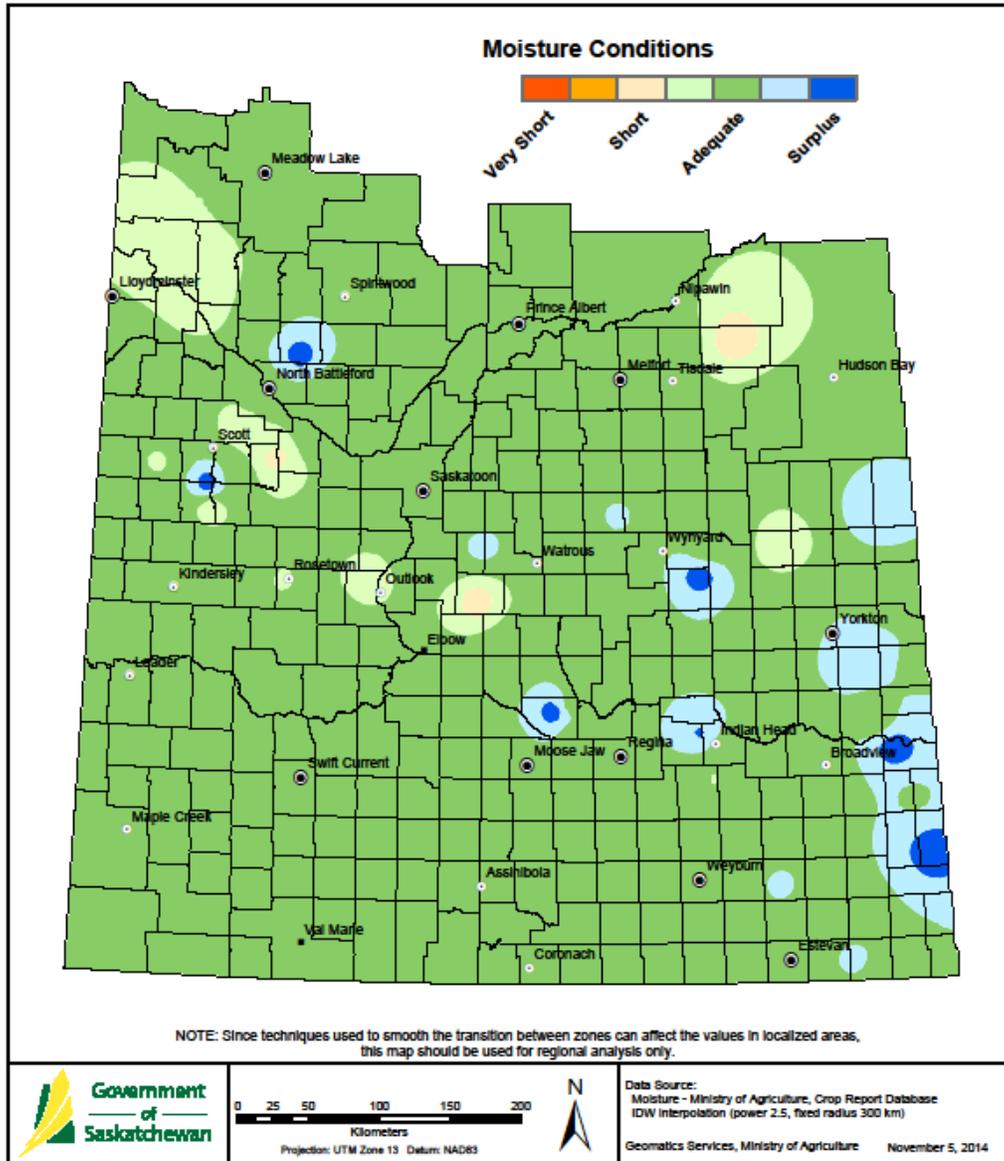
(prices in \$ per pound (\$/lb))

Appendix A: Forecast Maps for Soil and Weather Conditions

2014 Hay and Pasture Topsoil Moisture Conditions

2014 Cumulative Rainfall map for Saskatchewan
 2015 Precipitation Outlook

Hay and Pasture Topsoil Moisture Conditions
 November 4, 2014

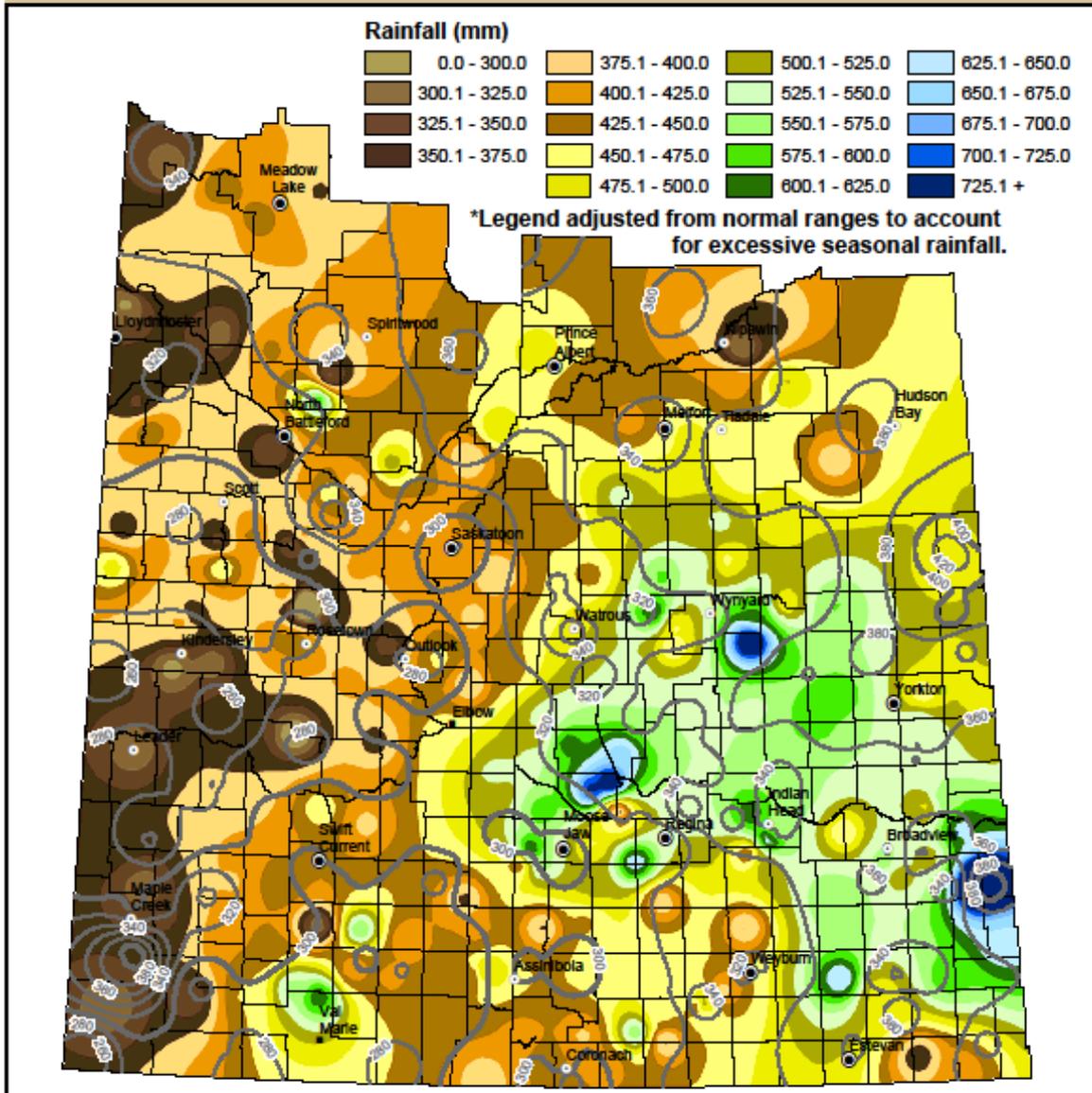


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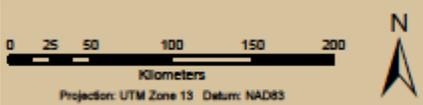
Cumulative Rainfall

From: April 1, 2014

To: November 3, 2014

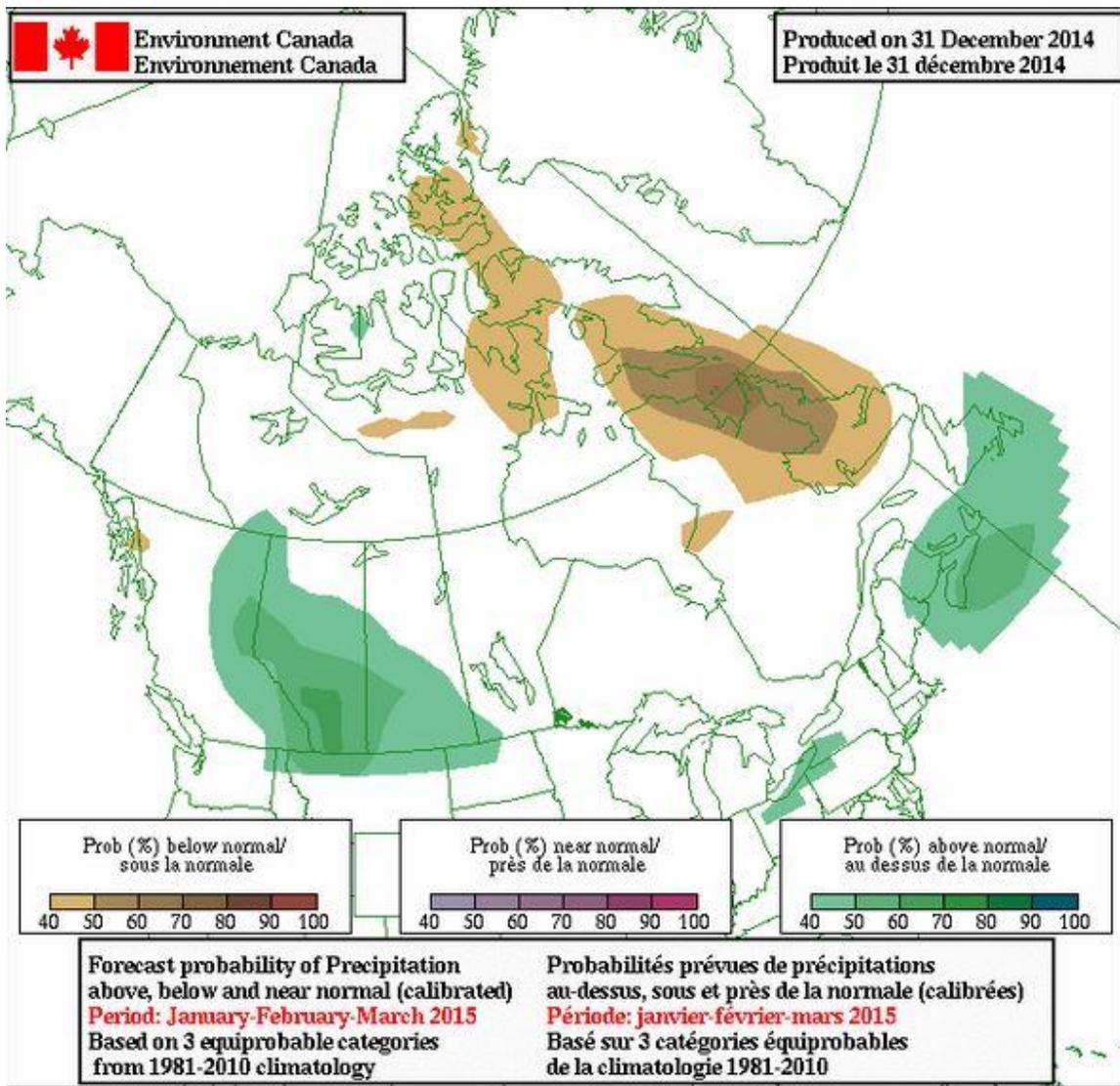


NOTE: Since techniques used to smooth the transition between zones can affect the values in localized areas, this map should be used for regional analysis only.



Data Source:
 Rainfall - Ministry of Agriculture, Crop Report Database
 IDW Interpolation (power 2.5, fixed radius 300 km)
 Normal Precipitation (April to October) - Environment Canada
 Geomatics Services, Ministry of Agriculture November 5, 2014

Precipitation Anomaly Outlook for Jan-Feb-Mar 2014



Source: Environment Canada

Appendix B: Forage Insect and Disease Data

2015 Grasshopper Forecast

Scott Hartley, PAg. Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture Provincial Specialist-Insect and Vertebrate Pests

The 2015 Saskatchewan Grasshopper Forecast map indicates low risk for most areas of the Province. A few areas of light infestations are identified, primarily in southern and western regions. Note that even light infestations can be of economic risk to lentil and flax where only two grasshoppers per square metre can cause significant yield loss.

The 2015 forecast map is based on adult grasshopper populations observed by Saskatchewan Crop Insurance field personnel in August and September of 2014 at 1,180 sites. The intention of the survey is to estimate the number of mature grasshoppers capable of reproduction and egg-laying prior to winter. Even with the cool, wet climatic conditions in the spring of 2014 that did not favour grasshopper development, warmer conditions and the extended fall provided sufficient time for many of the grasshopper species to complete development and egg-laying.

In addition to the adult grasshopper counts, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Saskatoon) conducted a grasshopper egg survey in the fall to estimate embryo development in the eggs for use in bio-climatic models to predict hatching dates in the spring of 2015. AAFC reported that it was not difficult to find grasshopper eggs in the survey, suggesting there is potential for an increase in grasshopper numbers if climatic conditions are favourable.

The survey and Forecast Map are intended to provide general information on risk levels. The actual severity of grasshopper infestations in individual fields may differ from the 2015 Forecast Map and will depend primarily on weather conditions in the spring. Hot and dry conditions will favour growth and development of grasshoppers.

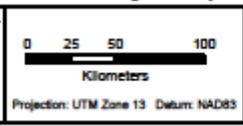
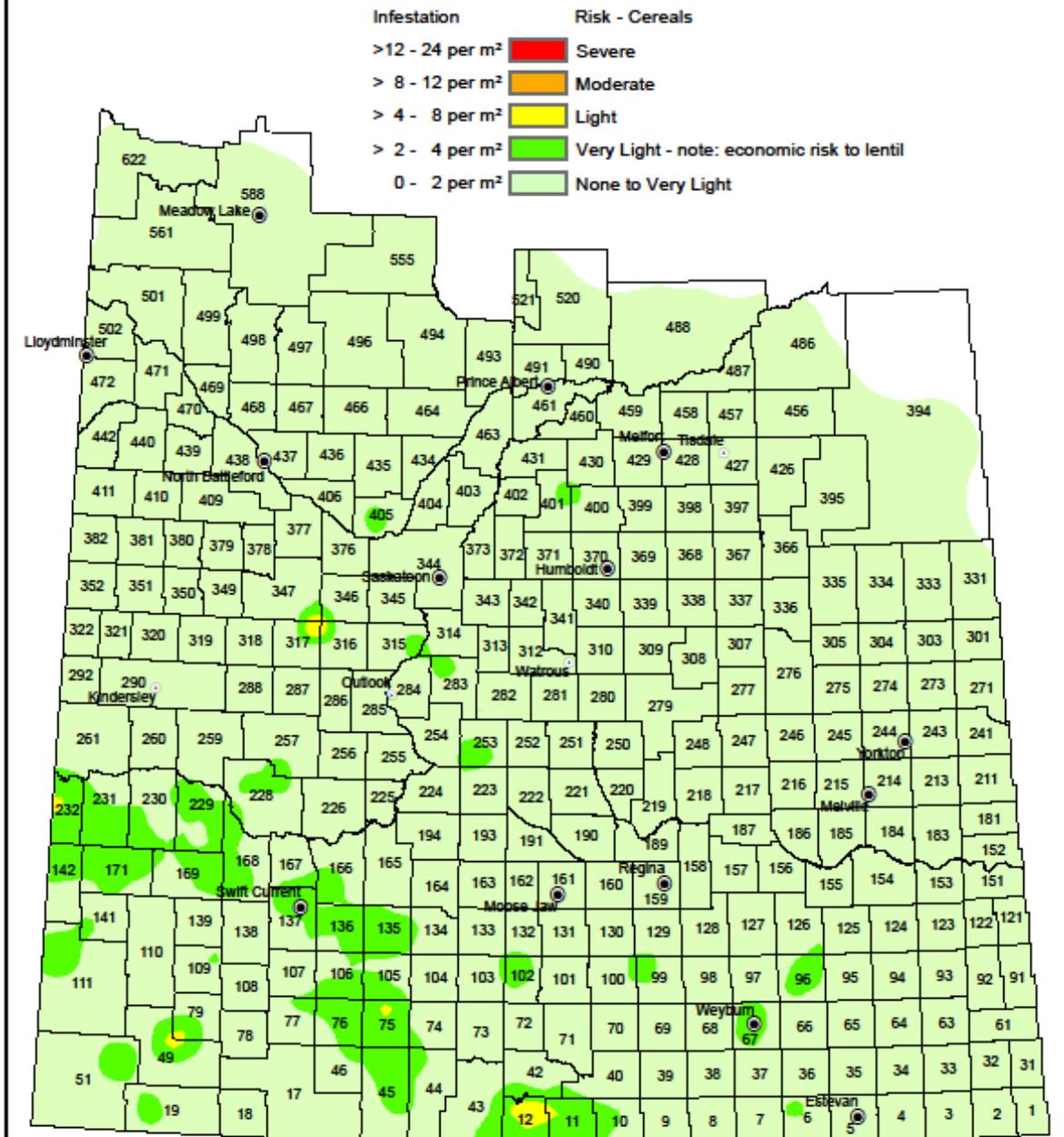
Keep in mind that not all grasshoppers are crop pests. The grasshopper survey is intended to consider annual species because they have a greater potential for rapid increase in populations. Grasshoppers that are already winged adults before June have coloured wings or make audible sounds are considered “non-pest” species. Many of this group require two-years to complete their life-cycle and do not tend to increase to economically damaging numbers.

Growers should monitor for young grasshoppers in susceptible crops in the spring and early summer. In lentil, flowering and pod development stages are especially vulnerable to grasshopper feeding. Similarly in flax, plants are most susceptible at the green boll stage. In both these crops grasshopper feed on reproductive parts of the plant rather than foliage and therefore have a more direct effect on yield.

Contact the Agriculture Knowledge Centre (1-866-457-2377) for further information on grasshoppers and updates during the 2015 growing season.

2015 Grasshopper Forecast

based on adult grasshopper counts



Data Source: Grasshopper Count - Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation Field Staff
 Geomatic Services, Ministry of Agriculture January 13, 2015

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Saskatchewan Forage Disease and Turf Report
Bruce Gossen, AAFC Saskatoon

Disease situation

General: There was only one survey conducted on diseases of forage crops, on blossom blight of alfalfa in southern Alberta. As a result, the report focuses of reports from provincial diagnostic labs. The only unusual report is a high number of submissions of brown root rot of alfalfa from Manitoba.

Saskatchewan (B.D. Gossen, C. Peluola, T. Kowalchuk) – Snow mold severity on fine turf was lower than normal because the snow cover came after the ground was already frozen. Some winterkill in alfalfa and purple prairie clover stands was attributed to a combination of crown rot and low-temperature injury.

Wet, humid spring and summer weather created conditions for leaf disease in forage seed stands, where there were issues with head smut in slender wheatgrass, ergot in brome and wheatgrasses, and fusarium head blight in crested wheatgrass.

The Sask Ag Crop Protection Lab received the following forage disease samples:

Crop	Symptom/ Disease	Causal agent	No. of Samples
Forage legumes			
Alfalfa	Crown rot	<i>Rhizoctonia solani</i> , <i>Fusarium</i> sp.	2
Forage grasses			
Crested wheat grass	Ergot	<i>Claviceps purpurea</i>	1
	Fusarium head blight	<i>Fusarium</i> sp.	1
1	Leaf spot	Physiological leaf spot , environmental	2

Research Update:

A study by S. Chatterton et al. (AAFC, Lethbridge) on blossom blight on alfalfa is continuing. Also, some projects are underway through the Pest Management Centre to examine the efficacy of foliar fungicide application on leaf streak of brome grass (Headline), purple eyespot and others on timothy (Headline), and rust on perennial ryegrass (Tilt).

The revised version of ‘*Compendium of Alfalfa Diseases and Pests*’ from APS that has been ‘almost finished’ for several years is expected to be shipped in December 2014.