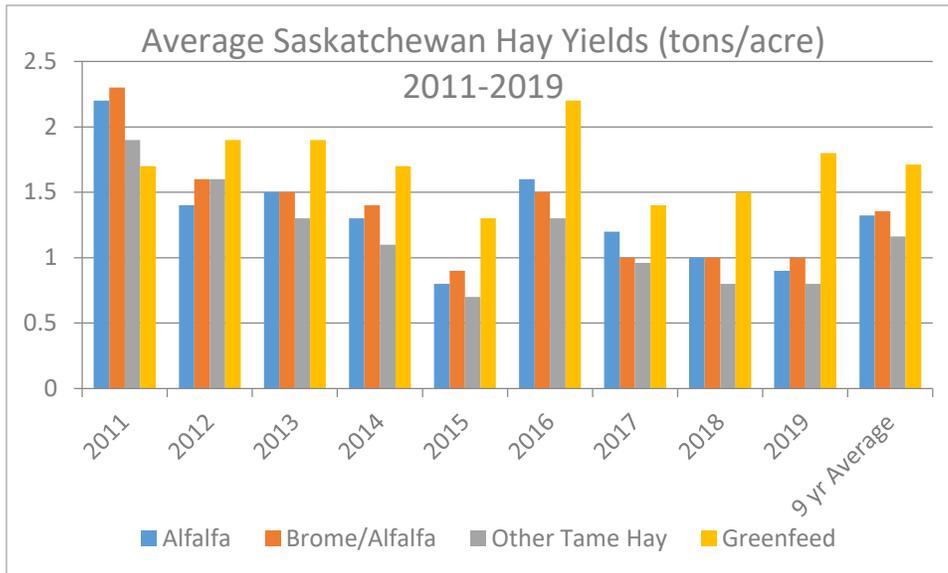




A Snapshot of the Saskatchewan Forage Market Price Survey

September 2019



Hay yields were significantly below the long-term average for Saskatchewan for the fourth time in five years. Greenfeed yields were above average.

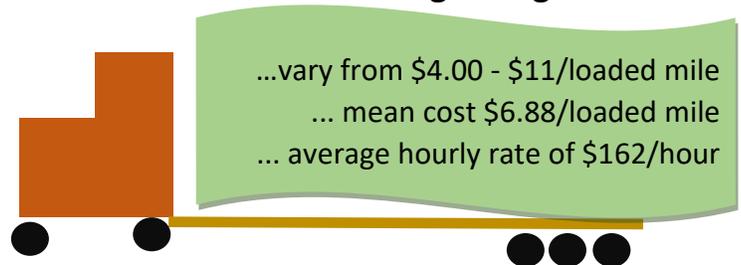
Soil moisture at the start of May was short nearly province wide. In the following weeks perennial forages became stressed with low moisture. Provincially, the conditions were not conducive to bulk stem/leaf production at a critical time in late May or early June. Yield averages are below.

Haying weather early in July was favorable. Where haying was held off to gain quantity, producers faced challenges with rain and high humidity. Due to weathering, hay quality will be lower than expected overall in 2019.

Planned Greenfeed was seeded and harvested across all regions of Saskatchewan. Across the province it is estimated 50-80% of cattle producers now utilize annual forages over winter, with usage as 50% or more on those operations. Two-thirds of forage users indicate they will have a sufficient supply in 2019 in comparison to last year when half indicated they would be short.

2019 Provincial Forage Yields (tons/acre)		
Crop	Dry Land	Irrigated Land
Alfalfa Hay	0.9	2.4
Brome/Alfalfa Hay	1.0	2.2
Other Tame Hay	0.8	1.9
Wild Hay	0.7	1.2
Greenfeed	1.8	3.2

2019 Forage Freight Rates



Forage Type	Weighted Average Price (\$/tonne)
Grass Hay	\$100.21
First Cut Alfalfa	\$175.98
Second Cut Alfalfa	\$181.66
Alfalfa/Grass mix	\$130.74
Greenfeed	\$125.40
Cereal Straw	\$65.36
Pulse Straw	\$88.50

Hay listings of average to below average prices are resulting in hay sales in 2019. Forage supply is decent in the south west where purchases often tend to support higher prices when there are shortages. Elsewhere, demand for reasonably priced forages is seen.

Cereal Silage
\$69/wet tonne

2018 Silage Values

Producers province wide are using silage as a viable forage option more and more every year. Majority of producers rely on custom silage crews for chopping, hauling, and packing pits.

Average Forage Prices in Saskatchewan from 2013-2019

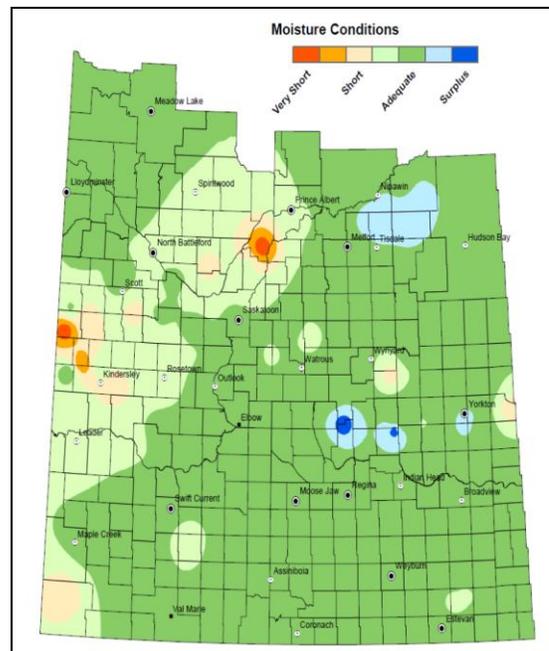
Forage Type	2019 Average Price (\$/Tonne)	2018 Average Price (\$/Tonne)	2017 Average Price (\$/Tonne)	2016 Average Price (\$/Tonne)	2015 Average Price (\$/Tonne)	2014 Average Price (\$/Tonne)	2013 Average Price (\$/Tonne)
Grass Hay	\$100.21	126.63	110.013	\$100.66	\$162.98	\$94.00	\$82.00
First Cut Alfalfa	\$175.98	138.82	153.89	\$97.78	\$197.23	\$98.00	\$98.00
Second Cut Alfalfa	\$181.66	183.72	141.92	\$127.36	\$232.33	\$118.00	\$111.00
Alfalfa/Grass	\$130.74	138.80	127.93	\$97.98	\$177.35	\$86.00	\$81.00
Greenfeed	\$125.40	137.01	120.37	\$94.60	\$140.96	\$83.00	\$79.00
Straw	65.36	55.63	54.80	\$63.11	\$47.99	\$44.00	\$46.00

Small Square Hay Bales

2019 - \$7.07/bale
2018 - \$6.52/bale
2017 - \$6.20/bale

Drought early in the growing season impacted forage production. At September 16th hay and pasture topsoil moisture conditions were adequate nearly province wide (Ministry of Ag, 2019). Fall moisture since has caused challenges for many livestock and crop producers. Pastures have yet to have had sufficient rest to recover from drought conditions in spring and early summer.

Producers plan to: feed greenfeed or silage they purposefully seeded; use straw and pellets or grain for feed; purchase additional feed as needed; and/or feed salvaged annual crops.



The Saskatchewan Forage Council would like to recognize and thank all of the producers, forage purchasers, sellers, and transporters, who share their insight year after year on the forage market in September.

The full version of the September 2019 Saskatchewan Forage Market Report, including a review of conditions by region, is available at www.saskforage.ca