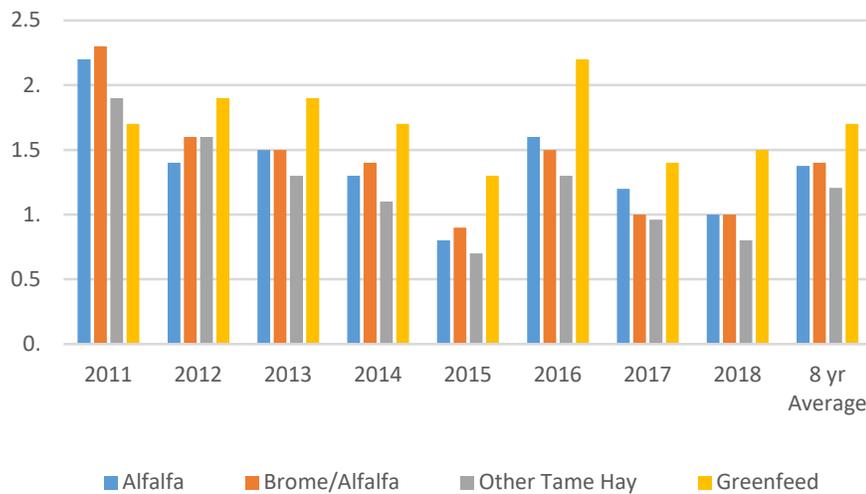




# A Snapshot of the Saskatchewan Forage Market Price Survey September 2018

Average Saskatchewan Hay Yields (tons/acre)  
2011-2018



**Hay yields** once again were significantly below the long-term average for Saskatchewan for the third time in four years.

**Soil moisture** at the start of May was adequate to slightly below adequate provincially. Overnight temperatures remained low during the first week of May, delaying growth. In the following weeks perennial forages became stressed with high heat, high winds and low moisture. Provincially, the conditions were not conducive to bulk stem/leaf production at a critical time in May. Yield averages are below.

**Haying weather** was variable across Saskatchewan with some localized rain delays seen. Due to the hot and dry spring, hay quality is lower than expected overall. Nitrates may be a concern in greenfeed due to heat and moisture stress or in haled crops baled for livestock use.

**Pests and disease** were not a common issue in forages in 2018. Producers should be mindful that pest and disease levels can change yearly with moisture and temperature conditions. Scout fields frequently in June for alfalfa weevil and grasshoppers.

2018 Provincial Forage Yields (tons/acre)

Crop	Dry Land	Irrigated Land
Alfalfa Hay	1.0	2.1
Brome/Alfalfa Hay	1.0	2.2
Other Tame Hay	0.8	2.0
Wild Hay	0.7	1.7
Greenfeed	1.5	2.7

2018 Forage Freight Rates



Forage Type	Weighted Average Price (\$/tonne)
Grass Hay	\$126.63
First Cut Alfalfa	\$138.82
Second Cut Alfalfa	\$183.72
Alfalfa/Grass mix	\$138.80
Greenfeed	\$137.01
Cereal Straw	\$55.63
Pulse Straw	\$87.05

**Hay listings** are resulting in hay sales in 2018. Transactions in northern and eastern regions have been slower as local demand has been for reasonably priced forages only. As producers see how on-farm supplies are holding up the price of forages will continue to fluctuate accordingly.

Cereal  
\$56.25/wet tonne

### 2018 Silage Values

Producers province wide are using silage as a viable forage option.

Corn  
\$63.30/wet tonne

### Average Forage Prices in Saskatchewan from 2013-2018

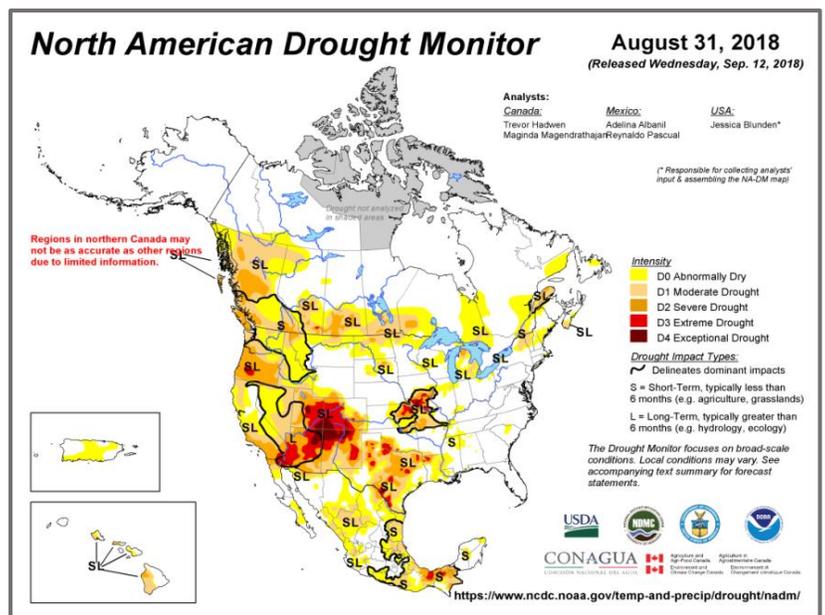
Forage Type	2018 Average Price (\$/Tonne)	2017 Average Price (\$/Tonne)	2016 Average Price (\$/Tonne)	2015 Average Price (\$/Tonne)	2014 Average Price (\$/Tonne)	2013 Average Price (\$/Tonne)
Grass Hay	126.63	110.013	\$100.66	\$162.98	\$94.00	\$82.00
First Cut Alfalfa	138.82	153.89	\$97.78	\$197.23	\$98.00	\$98.00
Second Cut Alfalfa	183.72	141.92	\$127.36	\$232.33	\$118.00	\$111.00
Alfalfa/Grass Mix	138.80	127.93	\$97.98	\$177.35	\$86.00	\$81.00
Greenfeed	137.01	120.37	\$94.60	\$140.96	\$83.00	\$79.00
Straw	55.63	54.80	\$63.11	\$47.99	\$44.00	\$46.00
Yellow Sweet Clover	-	87.87	-	192.90	-	-

### Small Square Hay Bales

2018 - \$6.52/bale  
2017 - \$6.20/bale  
2016 - \$4.89/bale

**Drought** is impacting forage production and the demand for forage in a wide band from the Pacific Coast to the Great Lakes. Producers had prepared themselves for a drought and poor forage yields in 2018 after the surprise of depressed yields and drought in 2017.

**Producers plan** to: feed greenfeed or silage they purposefully seeded; reduce cow numbers; sell all calves including heifers early in the fall; use straw and pellets or grain for feed; purchase feed at a premium; 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 shared their insight year after year on the forage market in September.

The full version of the September 2018 Saskatchewan Forage Market Report, including a review of conditions by region, is available at [www.saskforage.ca](http://www.saskforage.ca)