



Hay Situation and Price Update August

By John McGregor, MFGA Extension Support

Most areas of the province are reporting the completion of 2nd and/or 3rd cut alfalfa and some areas are waiting to take the final cut while others are reporting that straw is in short supply. I surveyed the MAFRD forage staff and various forage industry personnel to get their impression of hay prices and the hay situation as of mid August.

The Western portion reports alfalfa in the 6-7 cents/lb range, Alfalfa/Grass at 4-6 cents/lb and beef hay is priced at 3-4.5 cents/lb depending on quality. Straw is being sold at \$6-10 per bale in the swath. **The Interlake** reports alfalfa at 6 cents/lb, alfalfa/grass ranging from 4.5-6 cents/lb and beef hay at 4.5 cents/lb. Greenfeed is selling at 1.5 cents/wet lb standing. **The Eastern area** reports Dairy hay at 8-10 cents/lb, alfalfa/grass hay at 6 cents/lb and beef hay at 3-5 cents/lb varying due to rain or late maturity. **The Central portion** reports dairy quality hay at 8-10 cents/lb, alfalfa/grass at 6 cents/lb and beef hay at 3-5 cents/lb.

The hay situation varies throughout the province with the **Southwest** reporting that the majority of the second cut of alfalfa is being harvested and some third cut conditions here are reported as quite variable with certain areas having a small surplus while other areas will be short of hay. **The Northwest** indicates some haying continued on native hay and some second cut alfalfa mixes being harvested as well. Here yields are below average and native hay yields will help determine final supplies. **Central** reports second cut hay harvest is mostly complete. The wettest areas in the northwest part of the region report poor quality second cut; some is not advanced enough to take another cut and producers are waiting to see if there will be enough growth to warrant a second cut. Low-lying areas and sloughs are being cut for feed when producers are able to access them. **The Eastern area** reports a surplus of hay with quality being the major issue. Feed supplies are rated as adequate to a slight surplus. **Interlake** is reporting that Greenfeed and silage harvest is in full swing with average yields.

[Kijiji Manitoba](http://www.kijiji.ca/b-manitoba/hay-for-sale/k0I9006) (<http://www.kijiji.ca/b-manitoba/hay-for-sale/k0I9006>) has more listings of hay for sale this month as does the [Manitoba Hay Listing](http://web31.gov.mb.ca/HayListCIntExtrnl/) (<http://web31.gov.mb.ca/HayListCIntExtrnl/>) site.

Hay Survey Results

This past month MFGA carried out a short survey across the province asking you how the forage situation was on your farm. The results of this survey helped us confirm what we suspected.

Generally speaking, in the **Northwest portion** of the province, yields were below average and 60% of respondents from that area will be looking to acquire additional hay this fall and winter. For the **Southwest portions** of those participating, yields were average, with hay for sale. The **Central area** saw above average yields in the south and average yields in the central and northern portions, but there was no indication at this time that there will be hay for sale. The **Interlake** had an average to below-average crop and there is potential for some parts of the Interlake to have hay available for sale. Unfortunately there was no participation from the Eastern portion of the province.

MFGA plans to continue surveying producers throughout the winter and updating our Hay Situation and Price reports. Of those participating in the first survey, 66% indicated that they would be interested in providing additional information for future reports.

If you missed the first survey and would like to participate, you can go to <http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07ebc6umtficnpocat/a00zidtp66jq/questions> to fill out the 6-question survey or you can contact me at john@mfga.net.

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Related Links:

<http://www.kijiji.ca/b-manitoba/hay-for-sale/k0l9006>

<http://web31.gov.mb.ca/HayListCIntExtrnl/>