



## **Hay Situation and Price Update December**

*By John McGregor, MFGA Extension Support*

I surveyed the MAFRD forage staff and some of the forage producers and industry personnel to get their impression of hay prices and the hay situation as of the end of December. Since our last release we have seen some very mild conditions across Manitoba which has helped ease the pressure on forage supplies.

Below is a table from Statistics Canada showing the hay situation across the Prairie Provinces as of the end of November.

<b>Geography</b>	<b>Harvest disposition</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
<b>Manitoba</b>	<b>Production (tons)</b>	2,885	2,950	3,200	3,290	..
<b>Saskatchewan</b>	<b>Production (tons)</b>	5,645	5,500	5,525	4,015	..
<b>Alberta</b>	<b>Production (tons)</b>	8,500	8,365	8,000	5,480	..

Source CANSIM - Statistics Canada's database released 2015-12-04

Presently the hay situation throughout the province seems to be adequate to surplus with most areas reporting that the extended fall has enabled livestock to continue grazing on good pastures. The good fall conditions have also enabled producers to get their corn silage off in very good condition and have late fall cuts of hay.

Our neighbours in Saskatchewan are seeing an improved forage situation due to the mild winter conditions. Forage prices there have returned to normal - slightly above normal.

In the last update, I reported that there were good supplies in the US according to an article in [AGCanada.com](http://AGCanada.com) - some of the USA's typical markets aren't buying, which is adding additional hay to other markets. On top of that, areas like South Africa, Eastern Europe and Argentina have increased their alfalfa production, adding to the global surplus.

## Hay Prices

All areas are reporting lower demand and lower prices for hay. Since the last report, hay prices seem to have softened by ½ to 1 cent per lb, and straw is down about ½ cent. The exception seems to be for good quality alfalfa.

Dairy Quality Alfalfa 8-10 cents

Alfalfa 5.5-7 cents

Alfalfa/Grass 3-5 cents

Grass hay 3-4 cents

Beef hay 2.5-3.5 cents

Straw 1.5-2.5 cents

[Kijiji Manitoba](http://www.kijiji.ca/b-manitoba/hay-for-sale/k0l9006) <http://www.kijiji.ca/b-manitoba/hay-for-sale/k0l9006> has more listings for hay for sale this month as does the [Manitoba Hay Listing](http://web31.gov.mb.ca/HayListCIntExtrnl/) site:  
<http://web31.gov.mb.ca/HayListCIntExtrnl/>

*Special thanks to MAFRD staff: Tim Clarke, Shawn Cabak, Ray Bittner and to, Alistair Pethick, Darren Chapman, Jonathan Bouw and Roelof Eising for their assistance in collecting and compiling this information.*