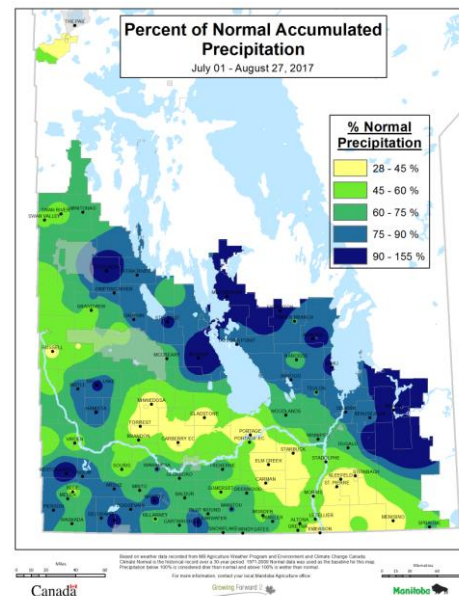


## September Hay Situation and Price Update

*By John McGregor, MFGA Extension Support*

As we move into September, most areas of the Province are reporting excellent haying conditions and in some areas 2<sup>nd</sup> cut alfalfa is complete with the 3<sup>rd</sup> cut progressing well where possible. Most grass hay is finished cutting and native hay is wrapping up. Across the province we are hearing reports of yields for all types of forage being average to mostly below average but there are no reports of shortages, regionally.

As you can see in the map, moisture conditions from July 1<sup>st</sup> to August 27<sup>th</sup> remain below normal affecting pastures and hay re-growth in all areas. I surveyed the Manitoba Agriculture 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 August.



1 source Timi Ojo Mb Ag

### Hay Situation

The hay situation varies across the province with the **Southwest** reporting good haying conditions with little or no rain on the hay. Second cut alfalfa harvest continues with yields average to below average (70%). Green feed silage continues to be harvested with average to above average yields. Supply is adequate but very little surplus. Demand is there from Saskatchewan. **Northwest** reports second cut is wrapping up with variable yields and reports as high as 1.5 tonnes near Swan River. Annual cereal forage harvest is underway on later seeded fields with yields ranging from below average to just above depending on moisture conditions. Native hay harvest continues. The **Central** area reports hay quality is good due to little to no rain during harvest. Most second cut hay is complete and Wild hay harvest continues. Yields for both are down due to dry conditions. First cut was better than expected but was still slightly below average. There isn't expected to be a 3<sup>rd</sup> cut. The **Eastern** area reports that hay yields are average and Alfalfa yields are average to above. Most haying is finished with the remainder with the exception of some second and third cut alfalfa and some second cut grass hay. Presently producers are reporting surplus hay supplies of certain types of forage. The **Interlake** area reports that haying is tapering off. Many fields do not have

enough regrowth to warrant a second cut. More acres of native hay are being harvested than the previous 3 years due to lower rainfall this season. The exception is in areas where lake levels are high. Yields are ranging from 0.75 to 1.5 tons/acre. First cut was 1.5 to 3 tons/acre on alfalfa/grass hay. Native hay is yielding 0.75 to 2 tons/acre.

## **Hay Prices**

As we move into September and we see how the forage situation in Saskatchewan and North and South Dakota is developing, we are seeing two markets: local and export. Prices at this time are still very dependent on final yields of hay, greenfeed/silage and native hay. The prices below are showing a fairly wide spread, due to location to export markets and demand.

Alfalfa:	5-7 cents/lb
	Dairy Quality 6-10 cents/lb
Alfalfa/grass:	good quality 4-7 cents/lb
	Beef quality 3-3.5 cents/lb
Beef hay (grass):	2.5-6 cents/lb
Horse hay:	7 cents/lb
Straw:	1.2-1.75 cents/lb

Local demand for beef hay looks to be limited but there are markets in Saskatchewan, North and South Dakota and Montana due to drought conditions. North Dakota has an emergency hay transportation program that will help reimburse a portion of the hay transportation to farmers and ranchers impacted by the drought. Presently, hay is moving west from Minnesota into the Dakotas.

[Kijiji Manitoba](#) has more listings for hay for sale this month as does the [Manitoba Hay Listing](#) site and the [Wisconsin Hay Report](#). You can go to [Kijiji](#) to access other provinces or the [Internet Hay Exchange](#) to access listing in the US and Canada. For those of you on social media [Facebook](#) has a Hay/Feed for Sale in Saskatchewan & Manitoba page that you may want to join.

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If you are interested in assisting the Manitoba Forage and Grassland Association in providing information for our monthly Hay Situation and Price Update, please contact John McGregor at [john@mfga.net](mailto:john@mfga.net).