



November Hay Situation and Price Update

By John McGregor, MFGA Extension Support

As we move into November, the hay situation throughout the province seems to indicate that forage supplies are adequate to above. All areas of the province are reporting that forage quality is below normal and that producers may need to supplement rations this winter to meet livestock needs.

The hardest hit areas seems to be the Northwest with field conditions being too wet from rain or snow to get on the low-lying meadow and native hay areas. This area and the Interlake are reporting wet conditions that are hampering the corn silage harvest and may be delayed until the ground freezes.

With the weather conditions this summer we are seeing some inequities with supplies of good quality forage and, in some situations, straw. Where straw is in short supply, producers are looking to use lower quality hay to make up this shortfall rather than buying straw. Another concern is storage. With the wet conditions this fall, hay stored on the ground may have wet bottoms that will make moving them in the winter difficult once they freeze.

Producers are being encouraged to have their feed tested to determine if their inventories will meet the nutrient requirements of their livestock.

Hay Prices

With forage supplies adequate to above, prices have stayed fairly steady from last month's update. Supplies of beef quality hay are in a surplus situation and dairy quality supplies seem to be adequate but sales are limited. Straw supplies are limited.

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Alfalfa: | 5-7 cents/lb |
| | Dairy Quality 10 cents/lb |
| Alfalfa/Grass: | Good Quality 5-7cents/lb |
| | Beef Quality 2.5-4 cents/lb |
| Beef Hay (grass): | 2.5-5 cents/lb |
| Horse Hay: | 5-7 cents/lb |
| Straw: | 1-2 cents/lb |

Movement of hay at this point seems to be very limited with little local or outside demand. Looking at hay prices to the south I am seeing dairy quality hay in the 5-9 cent range, good quality hay in the 4.5-7 cent range and beef hay at 2-5.5 cents/lb. You can get a better idea of their prices by going to: [Salk Center Hay Auction](#)

If you are looking at marketing hay here is some additional reading:
[Factors to Consider When Marketing Hay](#)

[Kijiji Manitoba](#) has more listings for hay for sale this month as does the [Manitoba Hay Listing](#) site.

Special thanks to Mb Ag staff, Pam Iwanchysko and Peter Pettrash, and to Darren Chapman, Alistair Pethick and Curt Bossuyt for their assistance in collecting and compiling this information.

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.