



## **October Hay Situation and Price Update**

*By John McGregor, MFGA Extension Support*

As we move into the beginning of October we are seeing that forage harvest is drawing to a close throughout most of the province. Producers in most parts of the province continue to make good progress with the hay harvest that has been delayed due to wet weather throughout the fall.

Manitoba has only had some very light frost which haven't been hard enough or long enough to affect the alfalfa crop. As we are now past the Critical Harvest Period and long term averages show that we normally will only accumulate 50 GDD's between now and the end of October, producers considering taking a final cut of their alfalfa shouldn't be concerned with winter kill due to nutrient draw down due to re-growth after cutting. Stands that have been allowed to flower at least once during the growing season should have adequate root reserves. Some factors to consider before taking the final cut are age of stand (young stands are stronger), adequate snow trapping on the field to insulate the alfalfa crowns and the need for some good quality forage.

Most areas of the province are reporting adequate to above supplies of forage. Cattle are still on pasture as frequent rains have helped to keep the pastures growing and green. Some areas are moving cattle on to hay fields to extend the grazing period.

### **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. Straw supplies are good.

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

Because of the variation in quality of hay this year, we are seeing quite a spread in prices at this point. Some of the higher prices reflect higher quality forage; there are

some indications that there may be some demand for higher quality forages because supplies of lower quality forages and straw are adequate. The level of demand may be determined once final cut is complete and producers assess forage needs.

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

*Special thanks to Mb Ag staff, Shawn Cabak, and to Bill and Isabel Acheson, 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](mailto:john@mfga.net)