

## **Hay Situation and Price Update for March/April**

*By John McGregor, MFGA Extension Support*

During the month of February producers are reporting limited movement of hay within the province and some movement of good quality hay south due in part to the lower Cdn \$. Hay supplies continue to be adequate through most of the province. As we move into spring, depending on conditions, there may be some upside on the hay market.

MFGA's website lists a number of potential markets that might be worth exploring. You can access it by clicking on [Auction Marts & Hay Listings](#).

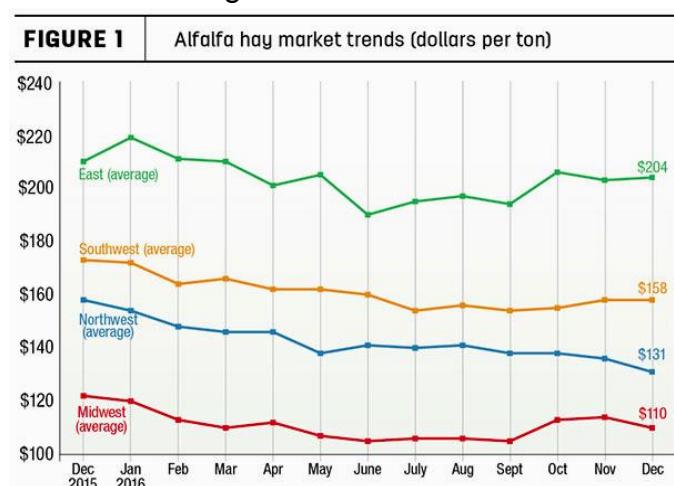
### **Hay Prices**

Hay prices seem to be flat, however there is some movement of local hay. Supplies of beef quality hay are still adequate to surplus and dairy quality supplies seem to be limited with limited sales. Straw supplies are limited but prices continue to hold.

Alfalfa:	4-7 cents/lb
	Dairy Quality 6-8 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:	<1-2.2 cents/lb

Hay prices to the south have remained low and steady. Buyer interest picked up in early February, suggesting the marketing year has begun to thaw, with price increases in the prime hay and beef quality hay.

Click on the below graph to read the report and get an indication of alfalfa prices across the US and where other hay prices are trending.



You can also get a better idea of their prices by going to: [Wisconsin Hay Report](#)

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

### **Hay Quality**

This year we have been reporting there are some concerns about the quality of the 2016 forage crop. Producers have been encouraged to have their feed tested to ensure the nutritional needs of their livestock are being met. The chart below provides an indication as to the quality of Manitoba's forage. This information was provided by Landmark Feeds and is a summary of the forages that they tested this year. One word of caution, most of the forages sampled are from Dairy operations.

### **2016 Hay Forage Summary courtesy Landmark Feeds**

Description	# of Samples	DM	CP	Ca	P	K	Mg	Na	NDF	ADF	NEG	NEL	NFC	RFV	FQI
Hay - 1st Cut Alfalfa	45	85.94	17.96	1.33	0.27	1.77	0.31	0.07	42.96	36.95	0.61	1.36	27.94	134.80	122.50
Hay - 2nd Cut Alfalfa	109	85.40	19.45	1.34	0.30	1.85	0.32	0.08	45.00	38.50	0.57	1.33	23.97	125.00	122.00
Hay - 3rd Cut Alfalfa	74	84.70	20.23	1.45	0.30	1.83	0.33	0.08	40.13	34.59	0.67	1.40	27.87	147.06	128.51
Hay - 1st Cut Alfalfa/Grass	37	84.68	15.01	0.97	0.27	1.64	0.29	0.06	53.04	40.26	0.52	1.29	21.38	103.78	110.38
Hay - 2nd Cut Alfalfa/Grass	46	85.53	18.42	1.19	0.30	1.66	0.34	0.08	47.82	38.05	0.58	1.34	22.06	117.90	120.05
Hay - 3rd Cut Alfalfa/Grass	14	85.28	18.84	1.36	0.29	1.58	0.38	0.09	43.01	35.09	0.65	1.39	25.89	136.55	124.92
Hay - 1st Cut Grass	51	86.15	10.77	0.57	0.23	1.19	0.23	0.05	58.22	40.62	0.52	1.29	21.73	92.70	100.60
Hay - 2nd Cut Grass	26	83.34	15.24	0.93	0.29	1.58	0.30	0.07	51.17	38.25	0.57	1.33	22.36	108.91	115.77
Hay - 3rd Cut Grass	6	84.13	17.67	0.91	0.33	2.07	0.28	0.07	45.62	34.99	0.66	1.39	24.01	127.53	125.45

*Special thanks to Mb Ag staff Tim Clarke and to Bill and Isabel Acheson, David Single, Alistair Pethick, Darren Chapman, 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).