

## August Hay Situation and Price Update

*By John McGregor, MFGA Extension Support*

August finds most areas of the Province reporting poor yields but good haying conditions, allowing for good quality hay to be put up. 1st cut hay and 2nd cut alfalfa is nearing completion; regrowth is limited due to the dry conditions, with some areas reporting they may not get a 2nd cut. Most producers are getting only 1/2 to 3/4 in comparison to last year with some producers getting under half of the hay they will require.

Hay quality has been reported as good but yields are generally down 40-60% of normal throughout the Province.



1 Conditions as of July 31st

I surveyed the Manitoba Agriculture livestock 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 July.

### Hay Situation

The hay situation varies across the province with the **Southwest**. Second cut on dairy hay has started and most first cut beef hay is complete. Many of the first cut hay fields are currently dormant so prospects for a good second cut dwindle as the weeks progress. Many areas look like moisture has come too late to benefit pastures which may mean an earlier feed date this fall. Rains have moved through the area over the last month but mostly coming as thunder showers so moisture levels are very patchy with those areas reporting some good regrowth. **Northwest** reports first cut hay harvest is still ongoing, second cut hay harvest by dairy producers has begun. Feed tests are showing average quality first cut. The **Central** area reports first cut of alfalfa is done.

Hay yields are 1/3 to 1/2 of normal due to the dryer conditions. Some second cut alfalfa was taken with good harvested quality where moisture was adequate but most fields have too poor regrowth to harvest. Pasture conditions are deteriorating from the lack of precipitation. The **Eastern** area reports that first cut grass hay is complete with below average yields (40 to 60% of normal), but quality has been good. Alfalfa yields are 50 to 60% of normal for first cut and even less on second. Second cut is close to complete. Quality has been above average on the tests we have seen. The **Interlake** area reports second cut is limited due to poor regrowth. Cattle are being turned out on to hayfields early as pasture is used up. In some areas, grass is not actively growing. Most producers will be about 40% short of their hay requirements.

### **Hay Prices**

Presently there is limited information on hay prices throughout the province. Prices at this time are very dependent on how producers make up shortfalls in their forage requirements.

Alfalfa:	8 cents/lb
	Dairy Quality 10-12 cents/lb
Alfalfa/grass:	good quality 5- 7.5cents/lb
	Beef quality 5-6.5 cents/lb
Beef hay (grass):	3-5.5 cents/lb
Horse hay:	N/A
Straw:	30 dollars/bale or in swath 1-1.5 cents/lb

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

Producers wanting to make use of the [Manitoba Hay Listing](#) service would call Manitoba Agriculture toll-free at 1-84-GROW-MB-AG (1-844-769-6224) and the department would call them back within 30 minutes to capture information.

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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).