



October Hay Situation & Price Update

By John McGregor, MFGA Extension Support

Manitoba saw its first hard frost on October 7 and most areas of the province had temperatures drop below -5 C.

According to Manitoba Agriculture, grass hay and alfalfa has become dormant. The recent frosts have caused some silage-intended corn fields to dry down too rapidly for silage, and these will likely be harvested for grain. Corn silage yields are being reported in the 14 to 18 tonnes/acre range.

Forage supplies are being reported as adequate to surplus but there are a few reports of straw shortages in some areas.

Pastures generally have enough fodder to allow animals to graze for a short time longer, but some are starting to run short of forage and are being supplemented or the cattle have been moved to stubble fields or cut hayfields to extend grazing.

Hay Prices

Hay prices for October are trending downward on the lower price range for most classes of hay. The exception seems to be the Beef Hay (grass) which is showing an increase from last month on the upper price range.

Hay listings continue to indicate whether or not hay has been rained on, with an increased availability of forage that hasn't been rained on. We are seeing price discounts of between one and three cents/lb for rained-on hay.

There are numerous straw listings this month but mostly for small square bales. Prices listed below are based on the few large round bale packages where weights were available.

[Kijiji Manitoba](#) and the [Manitoba Hay Listing](#) have numerous new listings this month. The Face book group **Manitoba Hay and Feed For Buy/Sell** is another site that has a number of new listings for October.

Alfalfa:	4.2-8 cents/lb
	Dairy Quality 11 cents/lb
Alfalfa/grass:	good quality 4.5-7 cents/lb
	Beef quality 3-6.7 cents/lb
Beef hay (grass):	3-6.7 cents/lb
Greenfeed:	6.7 cents/lb
Horse hay:	5-6.6 cents/lb
Native Hay:	NA
Straw: cereal	1-4 cents/lb
Millet	4-4.8 cents/lb
Baleage	14 cents/lb (hay equivalent)

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