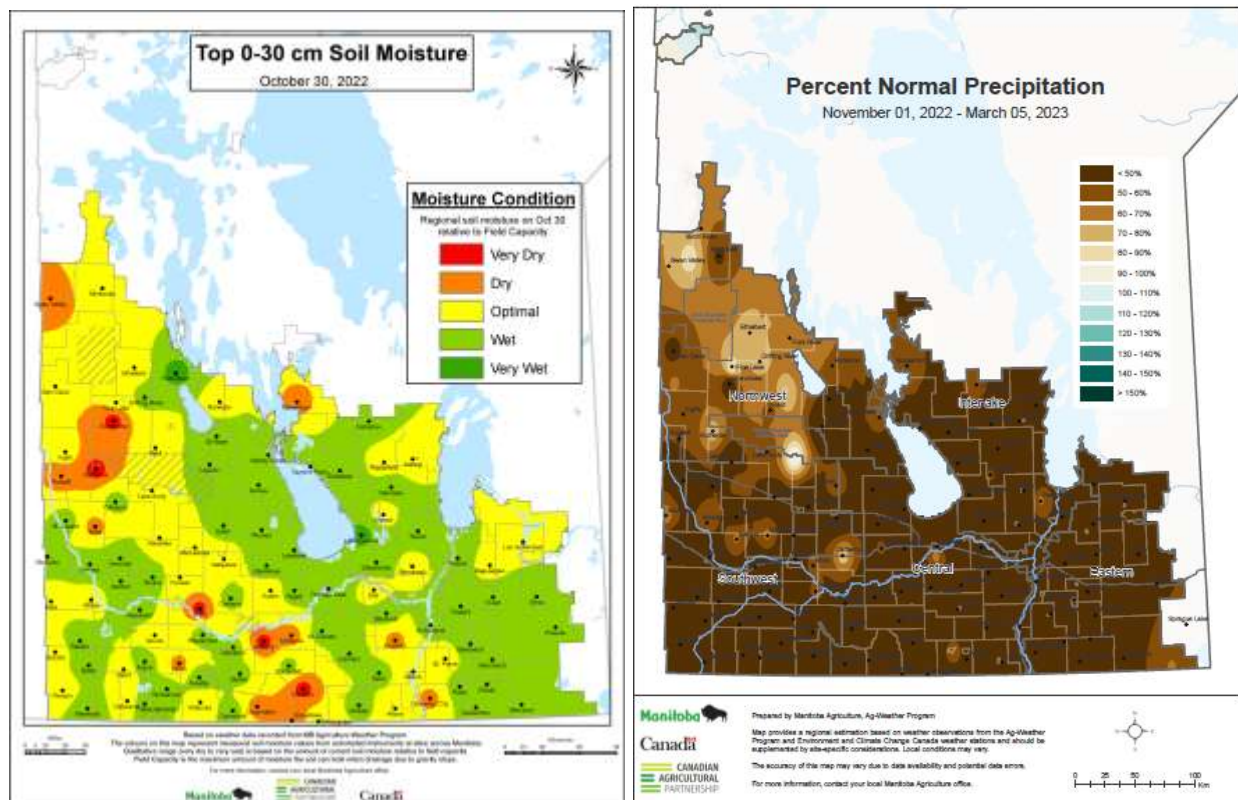


March Hay Situation & Price Update

By John McGregor, MFGA Extension Support

Moving from winter to spring (March 21), adequate soil moisture levels and precipitation are two key elements for a successful start to the growing season. Add to this temperature and, given the right combination, the growing season for 2024 can be off to a good start.

Fall soil moisture levels across Manitoba were optimum to wet for most areas. Snow fall amounts during the winter up until the beginning of March were considered less than 50 percent of normal except for the Northwest area which received close to 70 percent of normal precipitation. Although winter precipitation levels are below normal, snowfall amounts aren't a very good indication of soil moisture recharge as how much actually enters the soil versus the run-off depends on how quickly the spring progresses.



Presently Manitoba [snow depth](#) (March 10) is in the 12 inch range south of the #1 Hwy and depths as high as 36 inches to the north. With [soil temperatures](#) ranging from -2 to -6 celsius though February, there is the potential that with a slow melt a greater

percentage of the winter precipitation could stay on the field.

Manitoba's forage and grain crops are very dependent on timely rains but viewing the present situation, it is shaping up to a good start moisture-wise.

Hay Prices

Hay prices since January are down slightly for most classes of forage.

The 2022 forage crop was reported as average to above and going into the fall feed inventories were reported as adequate. With winter temperatures for the most part being normal to above normal the draw down of forage inventories has been normal.

Most of the sites with hay for sale have a fair offering in all categories. Although demand is difficult to determine, there are numerous listings where prices are negotiable or sellers are asking for offers.

[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.

Alfalfa:	4.6-6 cents/lb
	Dairy Quality 8-11 cents/lb
Alfalfa/grass:	Good Quality 4.5-6 cents/lb
	Beef Quality 3-5 cents/lb
Beef hay (grass):	3-6 cents/lb
Greenfeed:	5-6 cents/lb
Horse hay:	7-8 cents/lb
Native Hay:	4 cents/lb
Straw: cereal:	2-3 cents/lb

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.