



## February Hay Situation & Price Update

*By John McGregor, MFGA Extension Support*

Moving into this month, there is little change in the hay situation throughout Manitoba. Forage supplies are being reported as adequate, and some hay marketers report they are sold out of hay and/or straw. Even with this winter still trending to the cold side, we aren't seeing an increase in sales or prices. There is a possibility that prices will increase closer to spring as producers get a better handle on forage usage thru the winter, especially if drought conditions delay pasture growth.

### **Hay Prices**

With forage supplies adequate to above, prices have stayed fairly steady from the December update. Supplies of beef quality hay are in a surplus situation and dairy quality supplies seem to be adequate but sales are limited. Straw supplies are limited and although demand has been good, prices have held steady to up just slightly.

Alfalfa:	5-7 cents/lb
	Dairy Quality 10-12 cents/lb (upper end for RFV 190-200)
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:	1.5-2.5cents/lb

In the December Wisconsin report we saw an increase in hay prices of \$5-10/t. Looking at the [February report](#) these gains have been lost and most grades are down \$10-20/t from the December average prices. The exception is beef quality hay (RFV 84-101) which is up \$5/t.

Manitoba Agriculture released it January [Forage Price Report](#) which is reporting that forage prices from January 2017 to October 2017 are down, with the exception of Dairy quality alfalfa and Grass hay which are up slightly.

The Progressive Forage [Hay Market Report](#) has some interesting observations on the drought situation across the US hay producing areas. As you can see from the map ND is one of those areas that is in a drought situation at present and that has producers north of the border echoing similar concerns for first cut if we don't receive additional precipitation between now and early spring.

This report also has the USDA monthly Ag Prices report that was released Jan. 30.

[Kijiji Manitoba](#) has more listings for hay for sale this month as does the [Manitoba Hay Listing](#) site and the [Wisconsin Hay Report](#). You can go to [Kijiji](#) to access other provinces or the [Internet Hay Exchange](#) to access listing in the US and Canada. For those of you on social media [Facebook](#) has a Hay/Feed for Sale in Saskatchewan & Manitoba page that you may want to join.

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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).

**FIGURE 1** | Hay drought

