

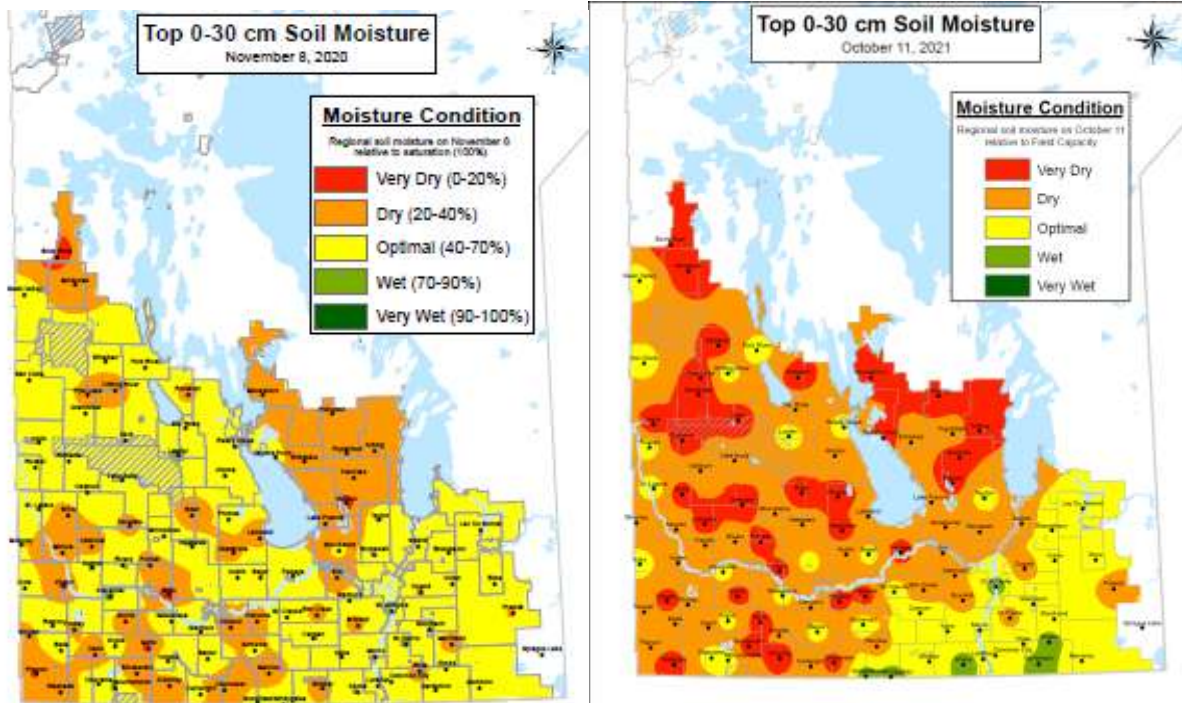
October Hay Situation and Price Update

By John McGregor, MFGA Extension Support

As we move towards the end of October, hay fields have been harvested and corn silage is complete. Across the province most areas are reporting a two thirds to half a crop for corn silage. With the grain corn harvest underway producers are taking advantage of putting up corn stover for feed or grazing corn stubble fields to extend their forage inventories.

Rain in August and early September helped rejuvenate dry pastures but by the end of September, some pastures had run out of moisture and began to go dormant.

Provincial rainfall amounts over the past six weeks has been very localized and as we go into the winter most of the province will be dependant on snow and spring rains if there is any chance of replenishing soil moisture levels. Below are the soil moisture maps for Manitoba showing how much drier we are compared to a year ago.



Hay Prices

As we move into October, we are seeing a few more hay for sale listings on Kijiji and the Manitoba Hay and Feed Buy/Sell. The Manitoba Hay List seems to have only a couple of new listing in October. Many of the postings have prices/bale but don't give weights so determining a price/lb or dollars/ton is difficult.

According to Ted McCollum at Texas A&M AgriLife, "Producers should buy hay by the ton and not by the bale. Round bales can vary by 100 to 200 pounds even when baled uniformly. But the weight can vary from 800 to 1,500 pounds, depending on the forage type, moisture content, bale dimensions and baling density."

The improved moisture conditions has provide the opportunity in many areas of an extended grazing period and many producers have taken a final cut of hay that has helped reduce the hay shortage on many farms and has provided additional forage for sale. Hay prices continue to hold steady to down slightly from [MFGA's September Hay Report](#).

With the increase in demand for straw to extend limited forage supplies producers looking to balance rations using grain are reporting increased grain prices.

[Kijiji Manitoba](#) and the [Manitoba Hay Listing](#) have a few 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 September/October. Prices listed below are from a very limited number of sources which may be reflected in the wide price range within a category.

Alfalfa:	10-12 cents/lb
	Dairy Quality 15-16 cents/lb
Alfalfa/grass:	Good quality 10-14 cents/lb
	Beef quality 8-11.5 cents/lb
Beef hay (grass):	7-10 cents/lb
Greenfeed:	8-10 cents/lb
Horse hay:	12-13 cents/lb
Native Hay:	5- 6 cents/lb
Straw: cereal	3.3- 6 cents/lb
Pea straw	6 cents/lb
Canola straw	2.3 cents/lb
Corn Stover	NA

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.

Special thanks to MARD staff, Pam Iwanchysko and Tim Clarke and to Darnel Plett, and Darren Chapman 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.

[All MFGA Hay Situation and Price Updates are posted here.](#)