

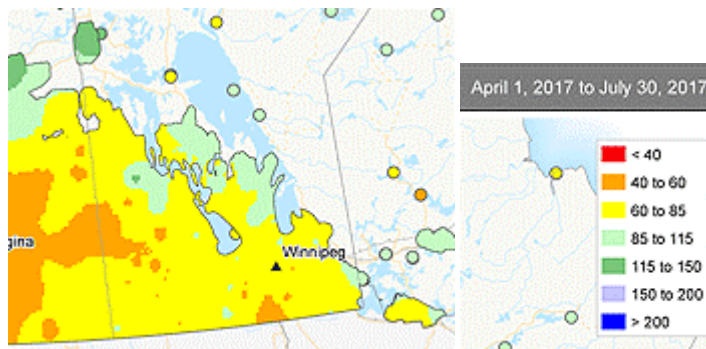


August Hay Situation and Price Update

By John McGregor, MFGA Extension Support

As we move into August most areas of the Province are reporting excellent haying conditions allowing for good quality hay to be put up and completion of second cut of alfalfa where first cut was taken early. Here are some highlights:

- Most areas report completion of second cut of alfalfa where first cut was taken early.
- Areas where first cut was delayed are looking at lower second cut yields due to moisture stress.
- First cut Beef hay is complete or near completion in most areas. Potential second cut will be dependent on rainfall, but some areas aren't expecting a second cut.
- Hay quality has been reported as good but yields are generally down 30% throughout the Province but range from average to below.



1 Percentage of Normal Precipitation

I surveyed the Manitoba Agriculture forage 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** reporting that the first cut of hay is complete and yields look to be average to below. Producers in this area report they will need rain if there is to be a 3rd cut of alfalfa. **Northwest** reports majority of first cut complete. Yields are average to above with good quality. Second cut alfalfa is expected to be below average in yield. The **Central** area reports good haying progress. First cut is complete but yields vary throughout the region depending on rainfall amounts. Second cut alfalfa is progressing quickly. Yields are reported below

last year due to winterkill. The **Eastern** area reports that yields are average. Alfalfa yields are average to above. Second cut is close to complete. Presently producers are reporting surplus hay supplies of certain types of forage. Industry is seeing shortages of good quality alfalfa due to winterkill. The **Interlake** area reports that second growth of alfalfa is very good with good haying progress. Native and grass hay has stalled due to heat stress.

Hay Prices

Presently there is limited information on hay prices throughout the province. Prices at this time are very dependent on 2nd and 3rd cut yields:

Alfalfa:	5-7 cents/lb
	Dairy Quality 6-10 cents/lb
Alfalfa/grass:	good quality 4-7 cents/lb
	Beef quality 3-3.5 cents/lb
Beef hay (grass):	2.5-4 cents/lb
Horse hay:	7 cents/lb
Straw:	5-10 dollars/bale in swath

Locally we are likely to see a shortage of good quality Dairy hay due to the winterkill situation this past spring. Local demand for beef hay will be limited but there seems to be markets in Saskatchewan, North and South Dakota and Montana due to drought conditions. The level of demand may be determined once final cut is complete and producers assess forage needs.

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

Special thanks to Mb Ag staff, Peter Petrash, Pam Iwanchysko, Shawn Cabak, Tim Clark and Linda Fox and to Darren Chapman, Alistair Pethick and Curt Bossuyt 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.