

August Hay Situation and Price Update

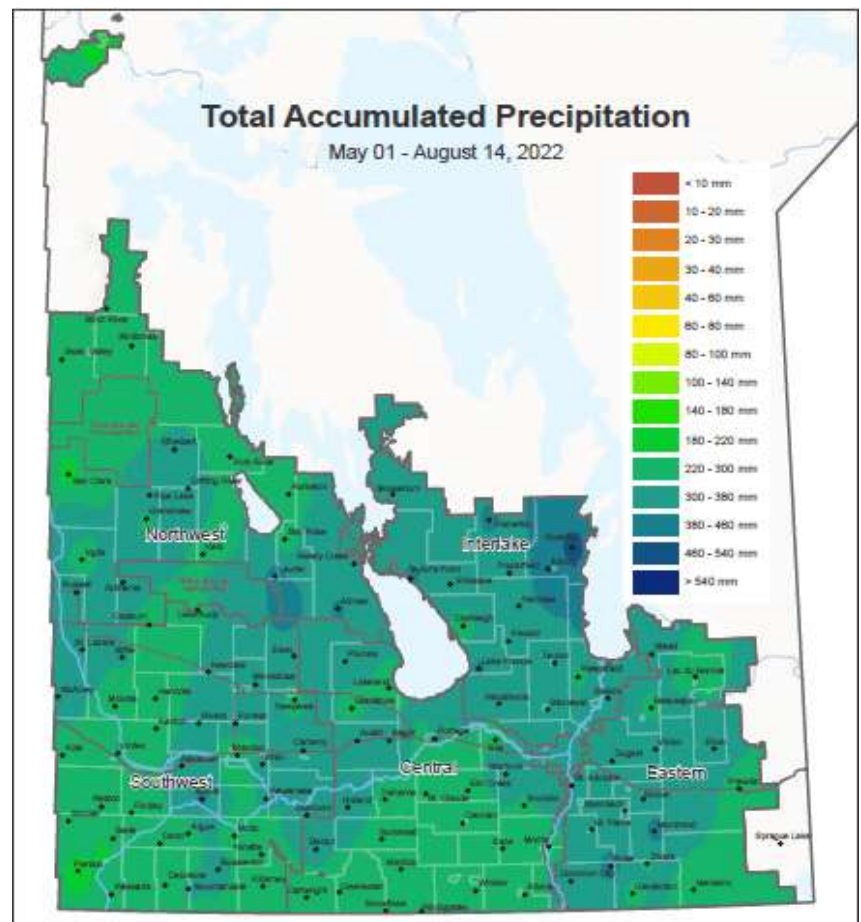
By John McGregor, MFGA Extension Support

As the end of August approaches, we hear reports of some very good hay yields that are near or above average. Most alfalfa growers and dairy operations have completed second cut and some took a third cut in mid August. Beef producers have completed their first cut with reports of a second nearing completion.

For most producers, the issue has been rain (too much). This has resulted in delays in cutting hay, swathed hay being rained on, and, with both situations, the potential for reduced quality.

Taking a look at the number of days with/without rain and using Carman and Brandon as examples, we see from June 10 to August 22 there was rainfall 26 days out of 62. When it comes to making dry hay, we see there were approximately 5 four-day windows without rain, which doesn't leave much opportunity to get dry hay.

Lower prices and higher yields may have producers looking westward or to the south where drought conditions are happening to market their hay. This article from Agweb provides some idea as to what the hay supplies are in the USA.



<https://www.agweb.com/news/livestock/beef/peel-hay-supplies-tight-record-hay-prices>

Hay Prices

With the moisture conditions this spring and the continuation of frequent rains, most areas are reporting above normal hay yields. The frequent rains have resulted in a lot of the hay that has been harvested as dry hay to be subject to the potential of nutrients being leached out as it lays in swathes, loss of leaf material where swathes have been turned frequently to speed drying, or delayed cutting resulting in overly mature hay.

A quick search of the sites listed below show that there are a fair number of listings of hay for sale and a fairly tight range prices.

Of note the alfalfa and horse hay price ranges reflect a discount for rained-on or lower quality hay in those categories.

[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 August. Prices listed below are from a very limited number of sources which may be reflected in the wide price range within a category.

Alfalfa:	8-12 cents/lb
	Dairy Quality 12 cents/lb
Alfalfa/grass:	good quality 7.5 -6 cents/lb
	Beef quality 5-6 cents/lb
Beef hay (grass):	5-7 cents/lb
Greenfeed:	NA
Horse hay:	8-16 cents/lb
Native Hay:	NA
Straw: cereal	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 Darnell Plett, Bill and Isabel Acheson and Darren Chapman and Mb Ag staff Shawn Caback and Pam Iwanchysko 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.