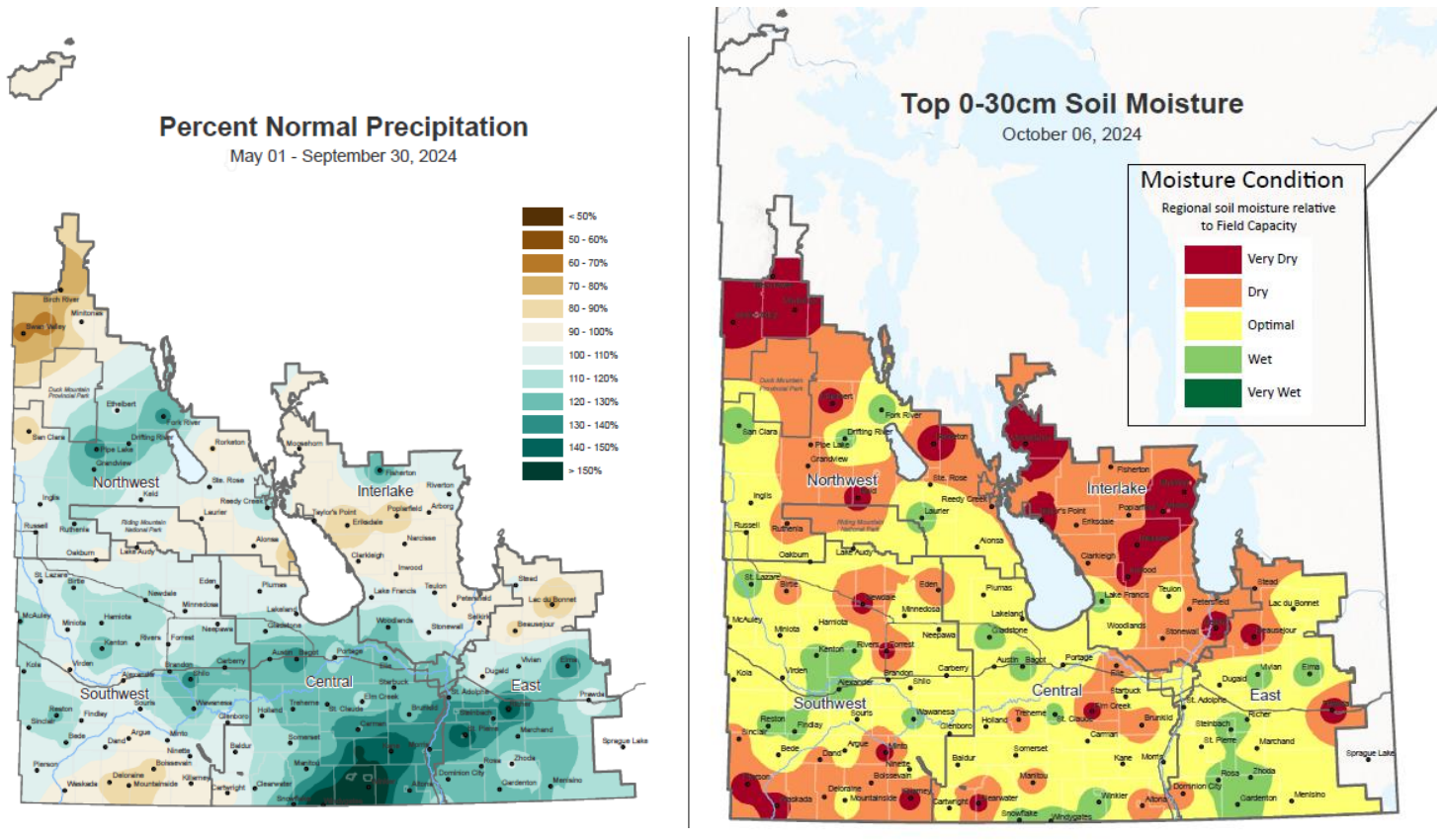


October Hay Situation & Price Update

By John McGregor, MFGA Extension Support

Rainfall accumulation in most areas has exceeded 100% of normal precipitation since May 1. Soil moisture in the top 0 - 30 cm shows on Oct 6, 2024 relative to field capacity although variable across agro-Manitoba the majority of area is showing optimal soil moisture conditions at the surface depths. It should be noted that the dry areas are expanding as lack of fall moisture continues



Manitoba Ag reports that the hay harvest is wrapping up for 2024. Pasture growth is slowing but quality is good due to early season moisture. Corn silage harvest is well underway and yields are close to or above normal.

Looking to our neighbours to the west, Saskatchewan forage prices are presently slightly higher than what we are seeing in Manitoba

Hay Prices

Now that we are in the later part of October and harvest has wrapped up, producers have a fairly good idea of what feed they have on hand for the fall and winter feeding period.

Variable moisture conditions during the growing season has resulted in yields some areas of the province falling short of expectations. First cut was at or above normal and good moisture late in the season allowed for extended grazing in to the fall.

Looking at prices for the month of October, we are starting to see prices that reflect the present hay situation. Prices are down compared to the October 2023 report by 1 to 1.5 cents/lb across the board. Listings for carryover hay from the 2023 crop year is adding to the present hay inventory in Manitoba.

Straw prices are difficult to determine as most listings don't have weights. Presently asking prices are in the \$30 to \$35 /round bale range.

[Kijiji Manitoba](#) and the [Manitoba Hay Listing](#) have numerous new listings this month. The Facebook group **Manitoba Hay and Feed For Buy/Sell** is another site that has a number of new listings.

Alfalfa:	4.5-7 cents/lb
	Dairy Quality 9 cents/lb
Alfalfa/grass:	Good Quality 3.5-5.5 cents/lb
	Beef Quality 4.5.5 cents/lb
Beef hay (grass):	4-5 cents/lb
Greenfeed:	N/A
Horse hay:	N/A
Native Hay:	4 cents/lb
Straw: cereal:	2 cents/lb (\$30 to \$35 / round bales)

Producers wanting to have their feed or pasture listed to 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 staffer who answers the toll free line will take the details and have the information uploaded to the web page.

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.