

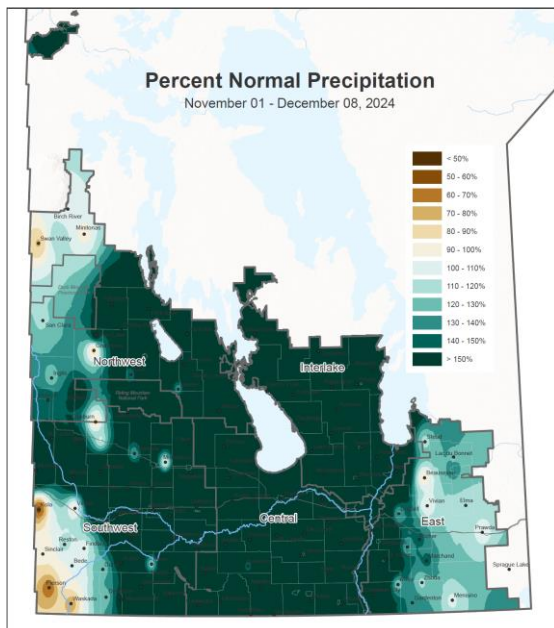
December Hay Situation and Price Update

By John McGregor, MFGA Extension Support

Warmer than average temperatures during the month of November and parts December have continued to stretched forage supplies.

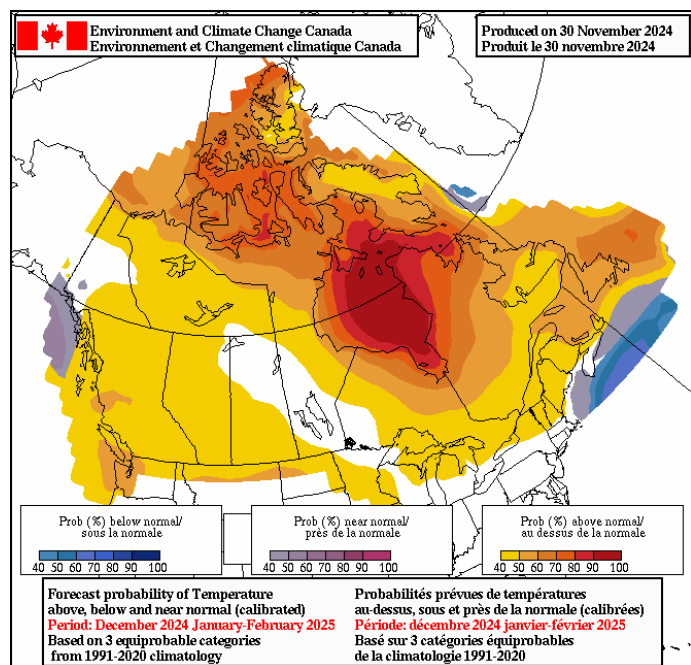
When we look at snow cover across Manitoba we are presently between 5 and 20 cm above normal for snow cover as of the Dec 16. The attached map shows how much above normal most of Manitoba has received during Nov and the first week of Dec.

The moisture and snow cover are a good indication that soil moisture levels come spring could be adequate to get the forage crop off to a good start and will then be dependent on temperature.



Looking at Environment Canada's seasonal temperature forecast for Dec-Feb it looks like southern Mb has a 38-42 percent chance of having above normal temperatures during this period but a 25 percent chance of it being below normal.

If this forecast holds we should expect a fairly normal to slightly above normal winter which will help extend the already adequate feed supplies that most producers have on hand.



Hay Prices

As we approach the end of 2024 producers have a pretty good idea as to what their hay inventory is and what if any hay they will be needing to get through the rest of winter.

Looking at prices for the month of December, we are starting to see prices that reflect the present hay situation. Prices are down slightly compared to the end of 2023 by 1 to 3 cents/lb across most categories of hay. There are still a few listings for carryover hay from the 2023 crop year which is adding to the present hay inventory in Manitoba but these listing are limited in number.

Straw prices continue to be difficult to determine as most listing don't have weights. Presently asking prices are in the \$20 to \$40 /round bale range with one offering of 3 cents/lb.

[Kijiji Manitoba](#) and the [Manitoba Hay Listing](#) have numerous 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.

Alfalfa:	4.6-7.5 cents/lb
	Dairy Quality 7-8 cents/lb
Alfalfa/grass:	Good Quality 4.5-8.5 cents/lb
	Beef Quality 3.5-5 cents/lb
Beef hay (grass):	3-5.5 cents/lb
Greenfeed:	6 cents/lb
Horse hay:	5-7.8 cents/lb
Native Hay:	4.5-5.5 cents/lb
Straw: cereal:	3 cents/lb (\$20 to \$40 / 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.