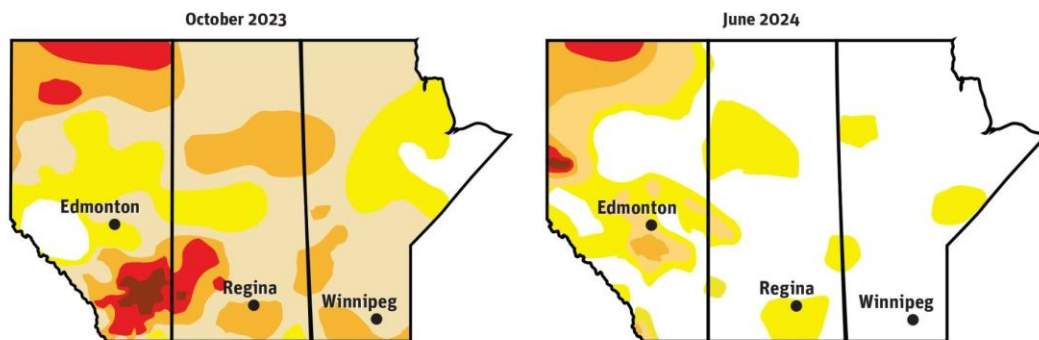


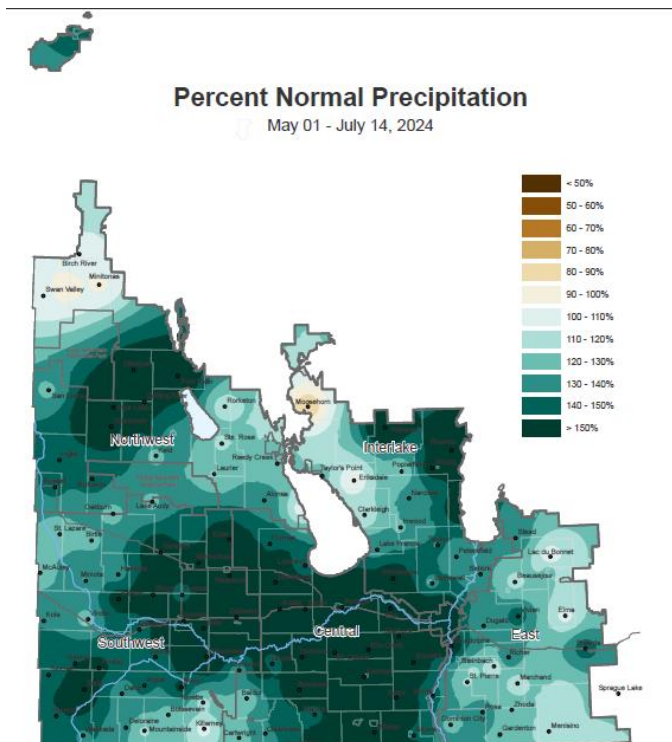
July Hay Situation & Price Update

By John McGregor, MFGA Extension Support

The concerns of lack of snow cover this past winter and the potential of dry to drought conditions for the spring and summer of 2024 are now well behind us. With the rains that we have received you can see that the drought conditions that we were seeing in October of last year have for Manitoba been reduced to a few areas that are considered dry while the rest of the province has adequate to excess soil moisture.



Source: Agriculture Canada | WP GRAPHIC



- Abnormally dry
- Moderate drought
- Severe drought
- Extreme drought
- Exceptional drought

Since May, Manitoba has received between 100 and 150 percent of normal moisture. This moisture has replenished soil moisture levels, increased river and stream flows, helped replenish water levels in dugouts and provided needed precipitation for forage and pasture growth. But like all things too much of a good thing isn't always good.

According to Manitoba Agriculture in their latest crop report, warm weather is promoting good growth in the forage crop.

Haying is well underway with initial yields at normal to above normal. Grasses are headed out and alfalfa is in the mid to late bloom stage.

Frequent rains and high humidity is delaying dry down of cut forage. These delays are increasing the maturity of the standing forage and reducing the quality of the rained on swaths.

Hay Prices

A quick check of current hay offering shows that there is very little new hay presently being offered for sale. Of the baled, large package hay being offered almost all are either grass hay or alfalfa/grass mix.

The delays in cutting and baling due to frequent rain events has left producers with uncertainty of how much hay will be put up and what the quality of that forage will be.

Back in January the forage situation looked promising as inventories were adequate to a slight surplus.

The mild winter put no pressure on these supplies and it wasn't until spring were cool conditions delayed pasture growth that we saw a need to draw down inventories with supplemental feeding.

[Kijiji Manitoba](#) and the [Manitoba Hay Listing](#) have very few new listings this month. The Face book group **Manitoba Hay and Feed For Buy/Sell** is another site that has a few new listings but this site seems to have become more of a used equipment site.

Alfalfa:	6.6-9 cents/lb
	Dairy Quality 11-15 cents/lb
Alfalfa/grass:	Good Quality 4.5- 9 cents/lb
	Beef Quality 2.5-6.5 cents/lb
Beef hay (grass):	3.7-6 cents/lb
Greenfeed:	5.5 cents/lb
Horse hay:	6-12.5 cents/lb
Native Hay:	3 to 4.5 cents/lb
Straw: cereal:	2.5 cents/lb also \$25/round bale

**Note prices in red denote the few prices that were available for July. All other prices are January 2024*

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.