



January Hay Situation & Price Update

By John McGregor, MFGA Extension Support

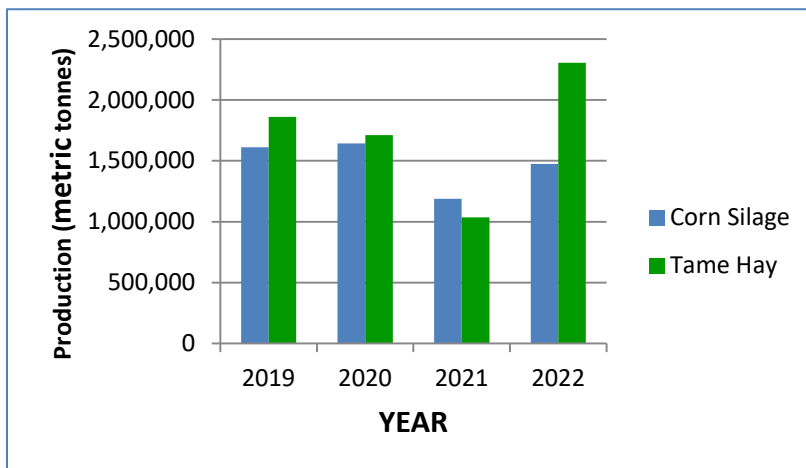
Recently, Manitoba Agriculture released its [Estimates of Field Crop Production 2022](#). The report summarized the 2022 crop production season as being very challenging due to early excess moisture that drastically delayed seeding weeks past the norm, preventing about eight per cent of intended acres from being seeded. The extremely late start also resulted in a delayed harvest. Despite these challenges, the 2022 production resulted in a strong recovery after the drought of 2021. Ample moisture throughout the growing season produced average to above-average yields with soybeans, oats, corn and flax even recording new record yields, while harvest quality was considered very good overall.

The report shows no mention of how well the forage crop (tame hay and fodder corn) fared unless you looked at the tables and graphs.

For most livestock producers, forages are the backbone of their enterprise. Forages have a major impact on the enterprise during both times of surplus and shortage. In 2021, tight supplies forced producers to cull herds or purchase feed at prices that cut potential income. In 2022, we saw forage production increase, enabling producers to build forage inventory, grow their herd size or sell surplus forage. This has softened prices in comparison to 2021/22 but not compared to previous years.

The chart below provides some insight as to what the forage situation in Manitoba has been over the past four years. In 2019 and 2020, Manitoba experienced drought in some areas but the 2021 drought hit all areas of the province.

MANITOBA CROP PRODUCTION 2019-2022 Source: Statistics Canada, Table 32-10-0359-01



Hay Prices

There have been some hay sales in January but looking at the sources of hay for sale we continue to see prices trending down to steady depending on type and quality. These lower prices can be attributed to both a good supply of forage and the cost of getting hay moved from seller to buyer.

With the lower Canadian dollar some producers are finding price support in the export market. With the dry conditions in Saskatchewan hay is leaving Manitoba for SW Saskatchewan.

Although there were a good number of forage listing this past month, listings for alfalfa and straw were limited to no new listings.

[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:	5 cents/lb (limited listings)
	Dairy Quality 8-11 cents/lb
Alfalfa/grass:	Good Quality 6-7 cents/lb
	Beef Quality 3-4 cents/lb
Beef hay (grass):	3-6 cents/lb
Greenfeed:	5-5.5 cents/lb
Horse hay:	5-6.6 cents/lb
Slough Hay:	3-4 cents/lb
Straw: cereal:	2-2.25 cents/lb

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 Darren Chapman, and Mb Ag staff Linda Fox, Elizabeth Nernberg, and Shawn Cabak 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.