



September Hay Situation and Price Update

By John McGregor, MFGA Extension Support

September is seeing the hay and pasture situation across Manitoba worse than last month. Pastures for the most part are dormant, the prospect of a 3rd cut of alfalfa is unlikely and in areas where there has been some limited growth the crop height is short with producers wondering if the yield is worth the risk of winter damage.

Presently shortfalls are being made up with greenfeed, straw and corn silage but all these commodities are in tight supply again due to the dry growing conditions experienced in 2018.

I surveyed the Manitoba Agriculture livestock staff and some of the forage producers and industry personnel to get their impression of hay prices and the hay situation as of the end of August.

Hay Prices

As we move into September and the prospect of a 3rd cut becomes less likely in most areas we are starting to see some significant increases in hay prices. We are also seeing some asking prices (in red) that are a lot higher but not sure if these are being realized.

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|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Alfalfa: | 10-12 cents/lb (15-18) |
| | Dairy Quality 12-15 cents/lb (20) |
| Alfalfa/grass: | good quality 5- 7.5cents/lb |
| | Beef quality 5-6.5 cents/lb |
| Beef hay (grass): | 4-6 cents/lb |
| Greenfeed | 5-6 cents/lb |
| Horse hay: | N/A |
| Straw: | 3-5.5 cents/lb or in swath 3 cents/lb |

Just to give you an idea as to what is happening in the forage market, I looked back at September 2017 to see what type of increase we are seeing. Here is what Mb Ag staff, producers and industry were reporting a year ago.

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|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Alfalfa: | 5-7 cents/lb |
| | Dairy Quality 6-10 cents/lb |
| Alfalfa/grass: | good quality 4-7 cents/lb |
| | Beef quality 3-3.5 cents/lb |
| Beef hay (grass): | 2.5-6 cents/lb |
| Horse hay: | 7 cents/lb |
| Straw: | 1.2-1.75 cents/lb |

[Kijiji Manitoba](#) has more listings for hay for sale this month as does the [Manitoba Hay Listing](#) site and the [Wisconsin Hay Report](#)

Producers wanting to make use of the [Manitoba Hay Listing](#) service would call Manitoba Agriculture toll-free at 1-84-GROW-MB-AG (1-844-769-6224) and the department would call them back within 30 minutes to capture information.

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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.