



Ducks Unlimited Canada Hay Tender Program land available for producers to hay

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As Manitoba cattle producers continue to endure this dry year, Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) is reaching out to producers about a small number of lands available via DUC's Hay Tender Program to try and help producers facing shortfalls in their forage production.

"The Hay Tender Program is the way we make properties available to producers," says Ken Gross, DUC Manitoba's Head of Conservation Programs. "We always offer properties, usually on a three year rotation. This year we added more properties to the list and made them available to producers. We still have four or five properties available as they did not receive bids. We understand things are challenging with the dry conditions and we are hoping producers will utilize this opportunity."

DUC's Hay Tender Program has seen increased interest the past couple of years as many have struggled to grow enough hay to sustain their cattle through drought conditions.

"We opened up around 4,000 acres of hay this year, and we worked with 59 producers last year, which was up quite a bit from previous years" says Cam Ross, who administers the Hay Tender Program.

Beef producer, Kyle McPhail of Glenboro has used the Hay Tender Program several times and plans to bid again this year, as dry conditions look likely to affect his hay yield. "We have a marsh on part of our hay land that hasn't flooded in a few years, so production on that ground is not as good as it should be," he says. "If I can get hay at a reasonable cost through the program it helps financially, and has worked well for me."

DUC also works with 15 to 20 producers each year who graze about 3,000 acres of DUC land, and offers a Forage Program in southwest Manitoba, which last year assisted 75 producers with costs to seed more forage acres on their farms. Producers can get more information at DUC's new agricultural website at ag.ducks.ca.