

The Saskatchewan Hay and Pasture Report

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Saskatchewan Forage Council

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Note from the Saskatchewan Forage Council

It's hard to believe that summer has nearly reached its end and it's time for our third edition of the *Saskatchewan Hay and Pasture Report* for the 2010 season. In this issue we provide our compilation of updates on forage markets and growing conditions across Saskatchewan and surrounding locales. In addition, read on for a thought provoking commentary exploring the relationship between beef production and climate change, an overview of forage quality and the dairy industry, and a summary of a recently completed demonstration project investigating stockpiled perennial forages.

As always, feedback and your input are more than welcome. We encourage anyone interested in being placed on our email distribution list to contact the SFC at office@saskforage.ca or 306-966-2148. You may also want to visit our website (www.saskforage.ca) for regular news and information related to the forage industry.

Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture Crop Report For weeks ending August 16 and August 23, 2010

South Eastern Saskatchewan:

Week ending August 16

All areas received between six and 60 mm of rain during the week. The Redvers area received 60 mm, the Gainsborough area 35 mm, the Maryfield area 45 mm, the Broadview area 9 mm, the Weyburn area 34 mm, the Wilcox area 50 mm, the Marquis area 32 mm, the Radville area 28 mm and the Ceylon area 14 mm. Haying is proving difficult, with rain and high humidity slowing operations. Hay quality has also been reduced in some areas due to rain on the swath. Baling hours are cut short due humidity in the evening. Ninety-three per cent of the hay in the region is cut and 87 per cent of this has been baled or put into silage. Six per cent is in the swath. Quality is rated as seven per cent excellent, 73 per cent good and 13 per cent fair. Some producers are concerned that they may not get some hay fields cut. Estimated hay yields are as

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follows: dryland alfalfa and alfalfa/brome stands, 2.3 tons per acre; dryland greenfeed, 1.9 tons per acre. Some cattle producers are having issues with foot rot in cattle due to the wet conditions. On hay land and pasture, topsoil moisture is rated as 10 per cent surplus, 83 per cent adequate, five per cent short and two per cent very short. The following communities reported hail damage: Frobisher, Lampman, Manor, Tantallon, Fillmore and Ceylon.

Week ending August 23

Heavy rain swept across most of the region last week. All areas reported rain in amounts ranging from two to 108 mm. The Grenfell area was hit extremely hard on August 23, with heavy rain (108 mm) and severe winds. Swaths were under water and all low-lying areas were submerged. The Alameda area received 19 mm, the Whitewood and Kennedy areas 33 mm, the Weyburn area 67 mm and the Indian Head and Radville areas 50 mm. Most areas reported in excess of 25 mm of rain. Ninety-six per cent of the hay crop has been cut. Eighty-eight per cent of this has been baled or put into silage. Eight per cent is in the swath. Hay quality has been reduced in some areas after several rain showers on the swath. Baling hours were cut short due humidity in the evening. Quality is rated as 19 per cent excellent, 50 per cent good and 15 per cent fair. Depending on when and how much rain fell, hay quality ranges from excellent to poor. Pasture conditions have improved since last month and are rated as 53 per cent excellent, 43 per cent good and four per cent fair. Ninety-nine per cent of producers are reporting adequate supplies of livestock water. Foot rot is still causing problems in cattle herds. On hay land and pasture, topsoil moisture is rated as 21 per cent surplus, 76 per cent adequate and three per cent short.

South Western Saskatchewan:

Week ending August 16

All areas of the region received between 12 and 82 mm of rain for the week. Most of the region reported above 20 mm the week. The Consul area received 82 mm, the Rockglen, Tyner and Gull Lake areas 65 mm, the Coderre area 39 mm, the Shaunavon area 42 mm and the Glenbain area received 12 mm. Haying is wrapping up in the region. Ninety-five per cent has been cut, and 89 per cent of that has been baled or put into silage. Quality is rated as 23 per cent excellent, 65 per cent good and four per cent fair. The estimated hay yield on dryland alfalfa and alfalfa/brome stands is two tons per acre. The estimated yield on irrigated alfalfa and alfalfa/brome stands is 2.8 tons per acre. Dryland greenfeed yield is estimated as 3.3 tons per acre. Hay land and pasture topsoil moisture conditions are rated as five per cent surplus, 86 per cent adequate and nine per cent short. Hail damage was reported in the following areas: Rockglen, Glentworth, Consul, Shaunavon, Gull Lake and Maple Creek.

Week ending August 23

The region received between zero and 25 mm of rain for the week. Most of the region received more than 15 mm. The Viceroy area received 25 mm, the Spring Valley area 17 mm, the Mankota area 3 mm, the Rush Lake area 6 mm and the Gull Lake area 13 mm. Many areas in CD 3BS and 4A reported no rain for the week. Haying is wrapping up in the region. Ninety-seven per cent of the hay crop has been cut and 91 per cent of that has been baled or put into silage. Quality is rated as 15 per cent excellent, 68 per cent good and 10 per cent fair. There is some second-cutting of hay on irrigated stands. Pasture conditions remain similar to one month ago and are rated as 40 per cent excellent, 48 per cent good and 11 per cent fair and one per cent poor. Ninety-six per cent of producers are reporting adequate supplies of livestock water. Hay land and pasture topsoil moisture conditions are rated as three per cent surplus, 87 per cent adequate and 10 per cent short.

East Central Saskatchewan:***Week ending August 16***

All of the region's crop reporters recorded rain in amounts ranging from four to 80 mm. Since April 1, between 259 and 716 mm of rain has fallen on the region. The Saltcoats area received 75 mm, the Ituna area 4 mm, the Elfros area 80 mm, the Foam Lake area 70 mm, the Quill Lake area 22 mm, the Lumsden area 9 mm, the Allan area 64 mm and the Craik area 18 mm. Haying is continuing, albeit slowly due to high humidity and rain showers. Eighty-eight per cent of the hay is cut, and 75 per cent of that has been baled up or put into silage. Quality is rated as eight per cent excellent, 60 per cent good and 20 per cent fair. The yield on dryland alfalfa and alfalfa/brome stands is estimated to be 2.2 tons per acre. Dryland greenfeed yield is estimated to be 2.1 tons per acre. Hay land and pasture topsoil moisture is rated as 29 per cent surplus, 68 per cent adequate and three per cent short. The Churchbridge area reported flooding. Hail damage was reported in the Churchbridge, Stockholm and Saltcoats areas.

Week ending August 23

All crop reporters recorded rain for the past week in amounts ranging from two to 64 mm. CD 5A received between 21 mm and 64 mm. CD 6A received between two and 27 mm. Since April 1, the region has received between 266 mm and 744 mm. The Churchbridge and Stockholm areas recorded 58 mm, the Saltcoats area received 64 mm, the Kuroki area 35 mm, the Rama area 28 mm, the Craven area 27 mm and the Nokomis area 10 mm. Night temperatures dipped to as low as 4 C. Ninety-two per cent of the hay is cut and 79 per cent of that has been baled or put into silage. Haying is progressing slowly due to rain and heavy dew. CD 5B has 87 per cent of the hay cut, with 73 per cent baled or put into silage. Quality in this crop district is rated as 33 per cent fair and 56 per cent poor. Regionally, quality is rated as 17 per cent excellent, 41 per cent good and 31 per cent fair. Depending on when and how much rain fell, hay quality ranges from excellent to poor. Pasture conditions have improved somewhat since last month and are now rated as 43 per cent excellent, 53 per cent good and four per cent fair. All livestock producers are reporting adequate water supplies for their animals. Hay land and pasture topsoil moisture is rated as 35 per cent surplus, 64 per cent adequate and one per cent short. Hail damage was reported in the Foam Lake, Elfros, Wynyard, Quill Lake, Kelvington and Jansen areas.

West Central Saskatchewan:***Week ending August 16***

All areas reported between six to 79 mm of rain for the week. Most areas received more than 25 mm of moisture. The Conquest, Netherhill and Dinsmore areas received 66 mm, the Sonningdale area 6 mm, the Herschel area 79 mm, the Kerrobert area 49 mm and the Cando and Battleford area 13 mm. Haying continues. The hay swaths are slow to dry due to rain and high humidity. Most of the hay that has been cut in the past week has been rained on at least once. Eighty-three per cent of the hay crop has been cut, and 70 per cent of that has been baled or put into silage. Quality is rated as 63 per cent good, 26 per cent fair and five per cent poor. The estimated yield on dryland alfalfa and alfalfa/brome stands is 2.2 tons per acre. Dry land greenfeed is estimated to yield 2.6 tons per acre. The estimated yield on irrigated alfalfa and alfalfa/brome stands is 3.4 and 3.9 tons per acre, respectively. Hay land and pasture topsoil moisture conditions are rated as 24 per cent surplus and 76 per cent adequate. Hail damage was reported in the Herschel, Smiley and Major areas.

Week ending August 23

The region received between zero and 23 mm of rain last week, with most areas recording less than 10 mm. The Sonningdale area received 11 mm, the Hanley area 2 mm, the Marengo area

20 mm, the Kindersley area 12 mm, the Major area 23 mm and the Denzil area 10 mm. Haying continues. The hay swath is slow to dry due to rain and high humidity. Ninety-two per cent of the crop has been cut, and 75 per cent of that has been baled or put into silage. Quality is rated as four per cent excellent, 65 per cent good and 12 per cent fair. Hay quantity and quality are a concern in some areas of the region. CD 7A has 85 per cent of the hay crop cut and 68 per cent of that baled or put into silage. Quality in this crop district is rated as 50 per cent good and 33 per cent fair. Pasture conditions are much the same as one month ago, and are rated as 54 per cent excellent, 44 per cent good and two per cent fair. Ninety-eight per cent of producers are reporting adequate supplies of livestock water. Hay land and pasture topsoil moisture conditions are rated as eight per cent surplus, 91 per cent adequate and one per cent short.

North Eastern Saskatchewan:

Week ending August 16

All areas reported between 11 and 58 mm of rain for the week. The Porcupine Plain area received 46 mm, the Codette area 14 mm, the Alvena area 58 mm, the Humboldt area 38 mm and the Garrick area 23 mm. Haying was interrupted again this week by rain, high humidity and heavy dew. Eighty-three per cent of the hay crop has been cut and 74 per cent of that has been baled or put into silage. Quality is rated as 12 per cent excellent, 75 per cent good and 13 per cent fair. Dryland hay yields are estimated to be 1.7 and 1.5 tons per acre on alfalfa and alfalfa/brome stands, respectively. Dryland greenfeed yield is estimated to be two tons per acre. Hay land and pasture topsoil moisture is rated as 42 per cent surplus, 52 per cent adequate and six per cent short.

Week ending August 23

All areas reported between four and 39 mm of rain for the week. The Tisdale area received 18 mm, the Nipawin area 39 mm, the Vonda area 16 mm, the Alvena and Melfort areas 6 mm and the Prince Albert and Garrick areas 12 mm. Most areas recorded less than 15 mm of moisture. Night time temperatures dropped to 5 C in some areas. Haying was interrupted again this week by rain, high humidity and heavy dew. Ninety-three per cent of the hay crop has been cut and 81 per cent of this has been baled or put into silage. Quality is rated as 46 per cent good and 46 per cent fair. There are a few reports of livestock producers taking a second cut of hay. Pasture conditions have improved since last month, and are rated as 32 per cent excellent, 57 per cent good, 10 per cent fair and one per cent poor. All livestock producers are indicating they have adequate water supplies for their animals. Hay land and pasture topsoil moisture is rated as 29 per cent surplus and 71 per cent adequate. Hail damage was reported in the Porcupine Plain and Tisdale areas.

North Western Saskatchewan:

Week ending August 16

All areas reported moisture in amounts ranging from nine to 68 mm. The Duck Lake area received 58 mm, the Spiritwood area 13 mm, the Neilburg and Meadow Lake areas 20 mm, the Lloydminster area 62 mm and the Rapid View area 4 mm. Haying continues, but progress is slow due to rain, slow drying time and heavy dew. Some swaths have been in the field for two weeks. Quality of standing hay is starting to decline as it matures. Eighty-eight per cent of the hay crop is cut, with 69 per cent of that baled or put into silage. Quality is rated as 57 per cent good, 14 per cent fair and seven per cent poor. Hay yield on alfalfa and alfalfa/brome stands is estimated at 1.8 tons per acre. Dryland greenfeed yield is estimated at 2.1 tons per acre. Hay land and pasture topsoil moisture is rated as 100 per cent adequate. Hail damage was reported in the Radisson, Debden and North Battleford areas.

Week ending August 23

Rain was widespread throughout the region, and amounts ranged from one to 22 mm. Most areas recorded less than 10 mm. The Duck Lake and Debden areas received 6 mm, the Meadow Lake area 22 mm, the St. Walburg and Lloydminster areas 11 mm and the Neilburg and North Battleford areas 5 mm. Haying continues, but progress is slow due to rain, lengthy drying time and heavy dew. Ninety per cent of the hay crop has been cut with 76 per cent of this baled or put into silage. Quality is rated as 44 per cent good, 28 per cent fair and 11 per cent poor. In some areas, hay has been lying in the swath for two weeks. Some farmers have started a second cut of hay, hoping they may be able to bale it in better condition than the first cut. Pasture conditions are rated as 28 per cent excellent, 65 per cent good and seven per cent fair. Ninety-nine per cent of producers are reporting adequate supplies of livestock water. Hay land and pasture topsoil moisture is rated as 96 per cent adequate and four per cent short.

Eat Meat Free One Day a Week?

Peggy Strankman – Environment Manager, Canadian Cattlemen’s Association

According to what you read on some environmental group websites, eating meat free one day a week will save the world from a changing climate. However, simplistic solutions are easy to put on bumper stickers and fund raising letters, but rarely take all the factors into account.

Let’s put some critical thinking skills to work.

Eating less meat (protein) likely means people will choose another protein source such as beans, lentils, or grains. Does that actually mean less greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are produced? World Wildlife Fund Canada thinks the answer is yes. They reference a 2006 study from the University of Chicago that takes a look at the energy footprints of different dietary choices.

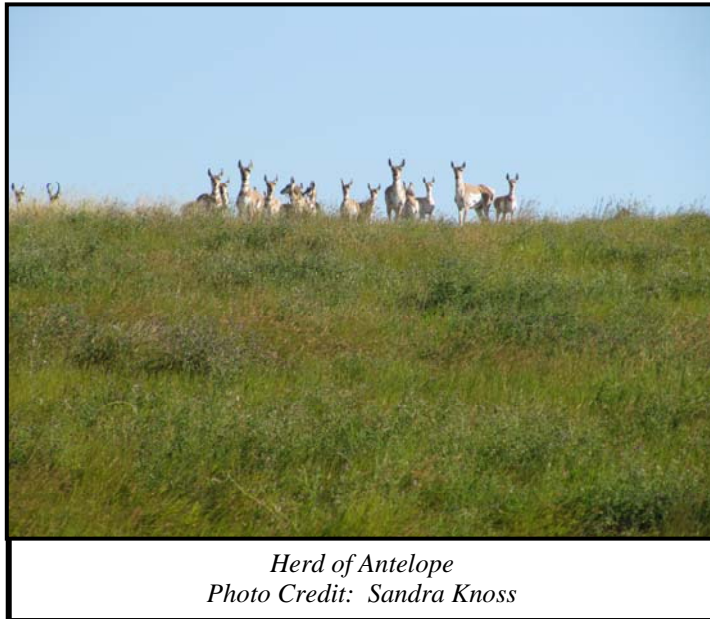
This energy/carbon footprinting is complex and a relatively new technique for energy efficiency measurement of primary food production. There are many challenges such as having access to quality data and knowing how to set the boundaries of the work to name a couple. I confess to becoming a bit sceptical when the study authors started using broad statements such as ‘per unit protein produced, meat production requires 6 to 17 times as much land as soy’. Do they really understand how livestock is raised and more importantly that all land is not created equal? Perhaps there is a grad student out there with interest and time to critically review this paper.

However, true or not, that comparison of land used for different foods does bring to light an important point. The major component in a bovine’s diet is grass and forages. Beef cows will



*Native prairie pasture
Photo Credit: Sandra Knoss*

spend at least 90 per cent of their time on pastures which sequester carbon. The cattle that are grown for beef graze about 80 per cent of their time. They are eating some grain in feedlots for the last 20 per cent. No matter which way you think about it those Canadian cattle are living on native grasses or a domestic perennial grass which can't be digested by people. It is also important to note that all of that land which is generating an economic return and keeping rural communities viable is also valued wildlife habitat.



Herd of Antelope
Photo Credit: Sandra Knoss

So if we take the advice of environmental groups like World Wildlife Fund Canada or the David Suzuki Foundation and decrease our meat consumption, what land use changes might we expect? It seems unlikely the answer is more conservation acreage. In all likelihood the demand for beans and lentils would cause native grassland to be converted to cultivated fields.

To keep a native prairie grass ecosystem healthy it needs a grazing animal. Research has shown that Canadian prairie grasses evolved under disturbances like fire and grazing animals. That ecosystem needs disturbance to maintain healthy

function. Knowledge from the scientific community and modern technology is helping cattle producers become more sophisticated in their pasture and range management. That management in turn supports ecosystem health.

Cattle are moved between pastures to keep them eating lush grasses. Those are easier to digest and so produce less GHG. Keeping those grassland ecosystems healthy means there is higher quality habitat for song bird populations and other wildlife.

So we are doing more with less. More wildlife habitat, more healthy functioning grasslands, more carbon sequestration, more efficient cattle so less GHG emissions.

Now tell me again how eating less meat will save the world?

How the World of Forage Quality has Changed: A 2010 Perspective

David Christensen – Department of Animal and Poultry Science, University of Saskatchewan

It has long been known that forage quality is very important for dairy cow health and for high milk production. What has changed in the past few years are the tools to measure forage quality. In the 1960s forage quality analyses were limited to protein, crude fibre, calcium and phosphorus. By the 1970s crude fibre was replaced by acid detergent fibre (ADF) and neutral detergent fibre (NDF). Research at Penn State showed that ADF could be used to estimate total digestible nutrients (TDN) and net energy. Then Wisconsin forage researchers showed

that dairy cows could only eat about 1% of body weight daily as NDF and 1.2% of body weight in a total mixed ration. By the mid 1980s Penn State researchers showed the importance of forage particle size and the need for particles long enough to provide effective fibre for rumen fermentation. Small particles don't stay in the rumen long enough to be fully fermented.



Dairy cow eating forage during a forage palatability trial at the U of S

Photo Credit: David Christensen

A major technical revolution took place in 1993. This was the publication of the Cornell Net Carbohydrate and Protein System (CNCPS). At the same time a computer program was distributed by this group to formulate rations for beef and dairy cattle. There are now many forms of this program, some commercially available and some closely held by feed companies. One of the best known ones is CPM Dairy. It has gradually been improved by Cornell, Penn state and the Miner Institute until a final version became available in 2009. The AMTS program that uses similar information was released the same year. These programs are now used by leading dairy nutritionists. More detailed forage analysis is needed to make

effective use of these programs that match carbohydrate and protein fractions to ensure rumen health, milk composition and yield. Forages are the most variable feeds in a dairy ration and they must be analyzed so the nutritionist can formulate effective rations. Using these programs and good information on feeds, it is now possible to formulate high production rations with 55 to 57% forage and only 15.5 to 16.5% crude protein. The most recent innovation is the use of Near Infrared Analysis (NIR) as a replacement for wet chemistry at about 30% of the cost. At least two NIR labs are available in western Canada. The computer models use up to 56 feed nutrients and characteristics. The dairy forage laboratories may measure up to 28 characteristics with the other values such as amino acids taken from databases.

As shown in Tables 1 and 2, each year may result in different patterns in forage quality. The table information is from a major feed analysis laboratory database made available to our Department for teaching purposes. The analyses are all of Saskatchewan origin between July 1, 2009 to Dec 31, 2009 and July 1, 2010 to August 27, 2010. A few of the critical analyses are shown.

Dry Matter. The hay dry matters are relatively low and the 81.4% in this year's hay may indicate potential spoilage.

Crude Protein. This determines how much protein must be supplied in the concentrate. There is no difference in alfalfa protein in the two years, but silage crude protein is higher than hay, perhaps due to less leaf loss.

| Table 1. Alfalfa Quality | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Alfalfa hay | 2009 | 2010 |
| Number of samples | 42 | 10 |
| Dry matter | 84.6 | 81.4 |
| Crude protein, DM | 18.9 | 18.4 |
| Soluble protein, % of CP | 38.6 | 34.2 |
| ADF, DM | 34.0 | 40.6 |
| APF Protein, % of DM | 1.70 | 1.71 |
| NDF, DM | 44.6 | 57.1 |
| Calcium, DM | 1.62 | 1.26 |
| TDN,% DM | 56.8 | 54.3 |
| NEL, mcal.kg | 1.28 | 1.21 |
| Alfalfa silage | 2009 | 2010 |
| Number of samples | 24 | 18 |
| Dry matter | 40.0 | 37.9 |
| Crude protein, DM | 19.6 | 19.4 |
| Soluble protein, % of CP | 65.5 | 64.1 |
| ADF, DM | 32.4 | 36.6 |
| ADF Protein, % of DM | 1.22 | 1.57 |
| NDF, DM | 36.6 | 43.4 |
| Calcium, DM | 1.92 | 1.69 |
| TDN,% DM | 60.0 | 57.0 |
| NEL, mcal.kg | 1.37 | 1.28 |

| Table 2. Barley Silage Quality | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 2009 | 2010 |
| Number of samples | 65 | 6 |
| Dry matter | 35.4 | 42.4 |
| Crude protein, % DM | 11.5 | 11.8 |
| Soluble protein, % of CP | 68.8 | 54.0 |
| Undegraded (Bypass) protein | 15.6 | 23.0 |
| ADF,% DM | 30.1 | 29.2 |
| NDF, % DM | 48.3 | 47.8 |
| ADF Protein, % of DM | 0.87 | 0.97 |
| Starch, % DM | 14.4 | 19.4 |
| TDN,% DM | 64.8 | 65.5 |
| NEL, mcal.kg | 1.48 | 1.50 |

Soluble Protein. This information is needed so the soluble protein can be matched with the amount and type of carbohydrate to maximize microbial growth and fermentation. Hay always contains less soluble protein than silage meaning that more readily fermented carbohydrate is needed from other ingredients to satisfy microbial utilization in the rumen.

ADF % of DM. This is a measure of indigestible plant cell wall. As the percentage goes up available energy goes down. In Table 1 it is clear

that in 2010 the ADF values are higher. This may have been due to the lush growth from abundant moisture. ADF Protein is increased in hay or silage that has heated, resulting in less available protein. The averages shown are in the normal range for hay and silage with these protein levels.

NDF % of DM. NDF is a measure of total cell walls and includes ADF plus the more fermentable cell wall. NDF is useful in estimating dry matter intake by dairy cattle. Dairy cows can take in about 1.2% of body weight daily as NDF in a total mixed ration. NDF provides bulk and is relatively slowly fermented and so limits feed intake. The higher NDF in 2010 alfalfa means that some ration adjustments may be needed to ensure adequate feed intake.

Starch. Alfalfa hay and silage contain little starch, while barley silage can contain 8 to 25% starch. This is an important analysis in supplying energy without causing rumen acidosis. Barley silage at mid dough contains about 18% starch. In 2009 the average barley silage was slightly less mature than 2010.

TDN and net energy of lactation (NEL). These measures of energy are calculated from the forage analysis. At least eight forage components must be analyzed for the best estimates. Some of the laboratories may use only ADF for the estimate. Good quality barley silage will supply about 65% TDN and alfalfa forages 55 to 60% TDN.

No two fields will have the same quality forage and the same field may differ from year to year. To ensure cow health and productivity, detailed forage analysis is a must!

Stockpiling Perennial Forages

Janice Bruynooghe, Saskatchewan Forage Council

With feed costs, mainly conserved feeds such as hay and silage, accounting for approximately 65% of the maintenance of a beef animal, any opportunity to reduce costs is a benefit to livestock producers. The Saskatchewan Forage Council and its partners, including the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture and the Western Beef Development Centre, recently completed an ADOPT (Agricultural Demonstration of Practices and Technologies) project to demonstrate different methods to stockpile and utilize perennial forages, providing producers with a practical look at potentially low-cost options to reduce winter feeding costs for beef cattle. Through demonstration sites, producers were given the opportunity to see low-cost winter grazing strategies being utilized within local beef operations.

The Western Beef Development Centre near Lanigan, SK and two producer co-operators (located near Biggar, SK and Ituna, SK) provided the three sites included in this project. Treatments at each site included: swathed stockpiled forage and standing stockpiled forage, with each treatment grazed during the traditional winter feeding period. The co-operators swathed forage late in the summer and fall season (2009) and grazed the treatments later into the fall and into the winter months (2009/2010). Co-operators recorded grazing periods and grazing animal days for each treatment. Utilization on each of the stockpiled standing and stockpiled swathed grazing treatments was assessed by the number of animal grazing days available at each site and treatment. Feed samples were collected and analyzed to quantify any differences in quality between the two grazed treatments at each site.



Cows graze stockpiled forage at WBDC site

In all of the treatments in all locations, there appeared to be no correlation between swathing and forage quality. In some cases, forage quality was slightly less in swathed versus standing forage. This may be attributed to leaf-loss during handling. It is also important to note that forage species composition may have had an effect on forage quality loss during swathing.

Actual forage utilization by grazing animals is understandably correlated with each site location and grazing management. At the Ituna site, the co-operator noted no difference in utilization between swathed versus stockpiled forage. However, at the Lanigan site it was noted that utilization was greater on the swathed treatment as compared to the standing forage. With any

winter grazing options, it is important to note that forage utilization will vary depending on environmental conditions, forage type, quality and grazing management decisions.



Aaron Ivey (centre) discusses stockpiled forage options with fellow producers – Ituna, SK, February 18, 2010

There was no clear indication at these three sites that swathing forage provided additional grazing capacity, whether through increased forage quality or utilization. The added costs of swathing forage as compared to grazing standing forage may not be justified, however this management decision will need to be determined by each individual producer at his specific location and within the parameters that he is managing.

This project very clearly demonstrated at all three sites that stockpiled grazed forages can reduce wintering costs for

beef cows. All three co-operators noted the reduced management/labour required to graze either swathed or standing stockpiled forage as compared to traditional winter feeding systems.

The results of this project do illustrate that stockpiling perennial forages is a viable option to consider for wintering beef animals. Producers need to consider forage type, local environmental conditions, fencing and water supply, as well as animal management expertise, before implementing a winter grazing option. These demonstration sites provided extremely valuable and practical information as well as a first-hand look at opportunities that should be explored.

A more detailed evaluation of these treatments, beyond what demonstration sites can achieve, is recommended, including standardized livestock classes, forage species grazed and timing of cutting and grazing.

To download the complete final report, including data results, visit

[http://www.saskforage.ca/Coy%20Folder/Projects/Stockpiling/Stockpiling Perennial Forages Final%20Report website.pdf](http://www.saskforage.ca/Coy%20Folder/Projects/Stockpiling/Stockpiling%20Perennial%20Forages%20Final%20Report%20website.pdf).

The Saskatchewan Forage Council would like to thank the producer co-operators on this project (Dean Tavanetz and Aaron Ivey) as well as technical assistance from the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture and the Western Beef Development Centre. The project was supported by the Agricultural Demonstration of Practices and Technologies (ADOPT) initiative under the Canada-Saskatchewan Growing Forward bi-lateral agreement.

Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture Provincial Forage Report – August 20, 2010

Compiled by Michel Tremblay – Provincial Forage and Grass Seed Specialist, Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture

| Region | Report Date | Crop Development | Estimated Yield | Long-term average yield for region ¹ | Harvest Progress | Quality |
|------------------|----------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| Prince Albert | Aug 19 | Forages are well advanced | 2.2 tons/ac | 1.4 tons/ac | 70 - 75 % complete | 1 st cut - medium quality; 2 nd cut - poor |
| Tisdale | Aug 20 | Of what has not been cut: grasses are ripe, alfalfa is still flowering and podding. | 2.5 tons/ac | 1.5 tons/ac | Approx 80 - 85% of first cut is baled. The rest is down or standing. | Variable. Most appears average to low. Most of the hay has been rained on. |
| Watrous | Aug 20 | | 1.9 - 2.2 tons/ac | 1.3 tons/ac | Approximately 85-90% cut and 75-80% baled. | Majority is good quality (50-70%). Some excellent - approx. 10%-15%. The majority around Watrous is good. |
| Yorkton | Aug 18 | | | 1.5 tons/ac | | |
| Weyburn | Aug 17 | Perennial stands yet uncut in 2010 are surprisingly green. Early cut perennials have excellent second growth. | 2.5 tons/ac (Note: up from previous estimate) | 1.2 tons/ac | 90% cut, 80% baled | Below average due to later cutting date and rain on windrows. |
| Outlook | Aug 19 | Full bloom | 2 tons/acre | 1.3 tons/ac | 80% | Fair |
| Kindersley | Report not available | | | 1.0 tons/ac | | |
| North Battleford | Report not available | | | 1.4 tons/ac | | |
| Swift Current | Aug 19 | Later than average due to the cool, wet weather. | 1.8 tons/ac | 1.2 tons/ac | Very slow due to rain and high humidity. Some producers have not even finished their first cut of hay. A few producers are taking a second cut, which is unusual for this region. | Much poorer than average for the region. Stands have been cut very late and also had significant rainfall while in the swath. |
| Moose Jaw | Aug 19 | Alfalfa - Mature, re-growth from 5% to 30% bloom | First cut 2.5 tons/ac, Second cut (if taken) up to 2 tons/ac. | 1.1 tons/ac | First cut: 5% standing, 5% cut, 90% baled. Second cut: very little cut. Some hay may not be cut this year due to late season. | First cut is mature and coarse. |

¹ Long-term yields based on SK Ministry of Agriculture Statistics, 1984 to 1997.

Summary for August 20, 2010:

- Cutting and baling of first cut is nearing completion.
- Yields are well above average in all regions.
- Many areas have potential for a second cut; however, lateness of year may limit harvest.
- Quality reductions due to late cutting and wet weather are predominant.
- Pasture conditions remain good.

Saskatchewan Hay Market Report*Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture*www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/FeedForageListing**Baled Forage Prices (dollars per metric Ton) to August 26, 2010**

| | Listings | Listings Priced | Tons Listed | Tons Priced | Lowest Price/Ton | Highest Price/Ton | Weighted Average Price/Ton |
|----------------------|----------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Alfalfa | 14 | 12 | 8455 | 8007 | \$50 | \$77 | \$63 |
| Alfalfa/Grass | 10 | 9 | 4154 | 4069 | \$40 | \$80 | \$58 |
| Grass | 1 | 1 | 65 | 65 | \$44 | \$44 | \$44 |
| Clover | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Green feed | 2 | 1 | 332 | 145 | \$62 | \$62 | \$62 |
| Other | 2 | 2 | 235 | 235 | \$30 | \$73 | \$55 |

USDA Market News Service Hay Reports*USDA Market News Service**For week ending August 28, 2010***Wyoming, Western Nebraska, and Western South Dakota Weekly Hay Summary***Dennis Widga, Torrington, WY*www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/to_gr310.txt

Trade and movement slow. Hay prices mostly steady. Second cutting near completion with some third cutting baled. Grasshoppers causing problems in some areas. All prices dollars per ton FOB stack in medium to large square bales and rounds, unless otherwise noted. Prices are from the most recent reported sales.

Weekly Montana Hay Report*James M. Ward, Billings, MT*www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/bl_gr310.txt

Hay prices mostly steady. Demand remains good to very good for Premium/Supreme quality hay, however supplies are limited on this commodity; light to moderate demand for all other

classes as supplies remain abundant on Fair/Good quality hay. Grazing forage remains adequate as light moisture and mild temperatures help to carry the grass into fall. Hay buying interests are mostly generating from Border States to the west. All sales FOB the stack and per ton basis in large rounds or large square bales, unless otherwise stated.

| | Eastern Wyoming | Central & Western Wyoming | Western South Dakota | Montana |
|----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Alfalfa | | | | |
| Premium-Supreme | \$118.00-124.00 | \$114.00 | \$114.00** | \$102.00-114.00 |
| Good – Premium | \$113.00-124.00 | \$85.00-102.00 | \$91.00 | \$79.00-91.00 |
| Fair – Good | \$97.00-102.00 | \$68.00 | \$68.00-85.00 | \$62.00-79.00 |
| Fair | \$74.00-85.00 | - | - | - |
| Utility | - | - | \$45.00-57.00 | |
| Alfalfa/Grass | - | \$85.00-91.00 | \$68.00 | \$79.00-91.00 |
| Grass | \$79.00 | \$68.00 | \$62.00 | \$114.00-125.00* |
| Greenfeed | - | \$85.00 | - | \$52.00-85.00 |
| Straw | \$57.00 | - | - | - |

All prices converted to CDN dollars per Metric Ton FOB stack in medium to large square bales and rounds unless other wise noted.

*Premium Timothy Grass

**small squares

Hay Quality Designations - Physical Descriptions:

Supreme: Very early maturity, pre bloom, soft fine stemmed, extra leafy - factors indicative of very high nutritive content. Hay is excellent colour and free of damage. Relative Feed Value (RFV): >185

Premium: Early maturity, i.e., pre-bloom in legumes and pre head in grass hays; extra leafy and fine stemmed - factors indicative of a high nutritive content. Hay is green and free of damage. RFV: 170-185

Good: Early to average maturity, i.e., early to mid-bloom in legumes and early head in grass hays; leafy, fine to medium stemmed, free of damage other than slight discoloration. RFV: 150-170

Fair: Late maturity, i.e., mid to late-bloom in legumes and headed in grass hays; moderate or below leaf content, and generally coarse stemmed. Hay may show light damage. RFV: 130-150

Utility: Hay in very late maturity, such as mature seed pods in legumes or mature head in grass hays, coarse stemmed. This category could include hay discounted due to excessive damage and heavy weed content or mould. RFV: <130

Thank you to Saskatchewan Forage Council Sponsors:



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