



Saskatchewan Hay & Pasture Report

Harvest season is progressing in Saskatchewan and many producers are wrapping up forage production for 2023. This edition of the Hay & Pasture Report shares forage market updates including our most recent findings on forage asking prices in Saskatchewan and neighbouring provinces. Stay tuned in the coming months for our Fall Forage Market Price Discovery Report for detailed forage market information.

For more forage resources, check out the SFC's Resources page or try the Forage U-Pick Tool on the website.

[Visit the SFC Website](#)

Saskatchewan Agriculture Crop Report

Excerpts from the Report for the period August 22-28, 2023

Producers are in the full swing of harvest with 33 per cent of the crop off, up from 21 per cent last week and ahead of the five-year average of 23 per cent and the 10-year average of 20 per cent.

The southwest has crossed the half-way point this week and is now 60 per cent complete harvest. The west-central is close to the half-way point, with 39 per cent of crop off for the year. With some moisture moving into the area this week, the northwest had to pause combining for a few days and is now eight per cent complete.

The east side of the province generally received moisture this week, with the Bankend area receiving 50 mm and the Tisdale area receiving 34 mm. Cropland topsoil moisture ratings are improving as recent rains seep into the ground. Currently, cropland is 32 per cent adequate for moisture, 43 per cent short and 24 per cent very short. Hay and pasture land is 22 per cent adequate for moisture, 49 per cent short and 29 per cent very short.

Crop damage this week includes environmental damage such as hail, wind, drought and localized flooding. Damage from grasshoppers and gophers continues to persist. Geese have returned to the northern fields and are causing damage to crops. Producers are busy combining, desiccating and marketing grain. Others are marketing cattle, hauling water and feed. Some producers have started to move cattle home for the winter. If producers have questions about feed, they are encouraged to call their local regional specialist.

[Read the full Crop Report here](#)

Watch for the SFC's Forage Price Discovery Report coming this fall!

This semi-annual report provides an in-depth look at forage pricing and quality in Saskatchewan and neighbouring jurisdictions; a recap of provincial growing conditions, transport cost and more.



Reports on hay and pasture conditions from neighbouring provinces

Excerpt from Manitoba Crop Report, August 29, 2023

Forages

- A handful of dairy producers are finishing up third cut with yields reported as significantly better than second cut. Beef producers continue to work on second cut between isolated rain showers.
- Baling of straw has begun and will continue on fields as they are harvested.
- Recent rain has helped pastures and second cut as things start to green up again and hay crops grow.
- Slough hay is being cut and looks to be average yields.
- Many beef producers in the Central region are having to start supplemental feeding, flies are still a big issue. Corn intended for silage is growing very well, pasture regrowth is very minimal.

Livestock

- Grass conditions on pasture are variable and highly dependent on moisture levels, grazing management strategy, and soil type.
- Some producers are supplementing hay on pasture to ensure nutrient requirements of cattle are being met and to take pressure off the grass.
- A handful of producers are beginning to move cattle onto fenced hayfields to graze available regrowth.
- Water levels in dugouts are low. This is of particular concern on pastures located in areas that have consistently missed out on rain.
- Pastures are still average to below average conditions. Dugouts are about 35% full in the Southwest.
- Pasture conditions range from poor to sufficient growth for grazing in the Central region. Regrowth is slow but has improved depending on rainfall. Drier pastures are browning off and will have minimal regrowth even with recent rain. Feeding on pasture is occurring in the drier areas. Some early weaning is happening due to lack of grass.

[Read the full crop report here](#)

Excerpt from Alberta Crop Report Crop Conditions as of August 29, 2023

Reports indicate that harvest is progressing rapidly in the South and Central regions due to continued hot and dry conditions. In the northern regions of the province, reports indicate that cool and wet weather over the past week has continued to slow harvest progress. Secondary growth has occurred in the spring cereal and canola crops in the northern regions, brought on by the significant rainfall through July and August, which is leading to producers either leaving crop standing until the second growth matures or swathing the crop to encourage drying.

Provincial soil moisture ratings have decreased this week due to ongoing dryness in the South and Central regions, while reports noted a growing percentage of the northern regions with excessive moisture ratings. The percentage of the province with surface moisture (sub-surface in brackets) rated

good to excellent is 37 (38) per cent. Regional surface (sub-surface) moisture good-to-excellent ratings are currently at seven (seven) per cent in the South, 23 (35) per cent in Central, 71 (53) per cent in the North East, 71 (76) per cent in the North West, and 69 (74) per cent in the Peace.

Provincial pasture and tame hay growth is largely unchanged in the province from last week; however, this is due to decreasing ratings in the South, Central and North West regions being offset by improved ratings in the North East and Peace regions. Provincial pasture growth rated good to excellent is at 27 per cent, which is unchanged from the last report. The percentage of pasture rated good to excellent is at six per cent in the South, 29 per cent in Central, 48 per cent in the North East, 44 per cent in the North West and 52 per cent in the Peace. Provincial tame hay growth rated good to excellent is at 35 per cent, a one percent decrease since the last report. Regional good to excellent percentages for tame hay are four per cent in the South, 33 percent in Central, 42 per cent in the North East, 46 per cent in the North West and 52 per cent in the Peace.

[Read the full report here](#)

Cowbytes ration-balancing software now available through the BCRC

Beef Cattle Research Council (BCRC), August 9, 2023

The Beef Cattle Research Council is excited to announce that CowBytes is once again available to cattle producers.

CowBytes ration-balancing software allows producers to formulate their own feed rations while considering various combinations of feed and byproducts at different prices, and in doing so, can find a way to reduce feed costs while still meeting production targets. Ensuring that cattle are being fed a balanced ration can also save producers on feed costs in the long run by preventing over- or under-feeding.

CowBytes is an easy-to-use ration-balancing software program that can assist cattle producers in developing rations and improving their herd nutrition. The program allows producers to select the type and breeds of cattle that they want to feed, then select the productivity levels of cattle based on body weight, average daily gain, body condition score, and the stage of gestation or milk production in cows. Producers can then also adjust for climatic conditions such as wind or temperature which affect nutritional requirements.

[Read more](#)



Forages can raise the resilience baseline

by: Kim Cassida, Hay and Forage Grower Magazine, May 3, 2023

The author is an extension forage and cover crop specialist with Michigan State University.

Resilience is a word that is often bandied around, but what exactly does it mean in relation to agriculture and forages? The Oxford Dictionary defines resilience as the “capacity to withstand or to recover quickly from difficulties.”

We can probably all agree that forage growers face no end of difficulties even in “normal” times and are used to dealing with challenges, often involving all kinds of weather at all the wrong times. However, resilience is about more than dealing with these ordinary challenges. Extreme events are truly becoming more extreme and ever more frequent, and these can have long-lasting implications for operations that are not prepared for them.

Stable is not resilient

We always strive for stability in our farming systems, but stability is not the same thing as resilience. Figure 1 illustrates the differences among stable systems and those with good or poor resilience. In an agricultural context, stability is defined as the ability to maintain function with only minor variations in capacity when challenged with “normal” events. An example is the recovery of pasture productivity after an ordinary summer slump caused by an expected seasonal dry spell or other normal weather variations. This is represented in the left graph panel where system performance varies up or down as conditions change but generally sticks close to the average.

[Read more](#)

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada’s AgriMarketing Program and Forage Exports

by: **Canadian Forage & Grassland Association**

The Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada’s AgriMarketing Program (AMP) aims to increase and diversify exports to international markets and seize domestic market opportunities. CFGA receives funding from AMP to assist with initiatives to support hay and forage export and domestic market opportunities.

The CFGA has created information pdf’s titled "The Canadian Advantage: Coast to Coast Canada Produces High-Quality Forage and Forage Products" in various languages.

[Click here to visit the CFGA and view the pdf’s](#)

Drought is More Than a Summer Challenge

by: **Beef Cattle Research Council (BCRC), August 24, 2023**

Drought has been a common occurrence on the prairies and many producers are familiar with the long-term consequences of dry conditions. Dry weather and feed shortages can have consequences that last beyond the summer season.

“Drought is not just an issue when you are on pasture,” says Dr. John Campbell, veterinarian and professor at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine. “Drought affects feed resources which results in feeding very different things than we are used to and can cause trickle down effects into winter and the following years.

Previous periods of drought have provided key learnings that can be useful in preventing further issues.

Impaction

When feed supplies are tight, some producers may be sourcing winter feeds that contain largely low-quality forages or straw as a fibre source. While this can be an affordable way to meet nutrient requirements, there are some things to watch out for.

Campbell highlights the fact that impaction can be an issue with these diets.

“Feed testing in general is a good idea when it comes to feeding these alternative diets.” says Campbell. “And then working with a nutritionist or veterinarian to make sure that NDF levels of the diet aren’t too high.”

[Read more](#)

Hay pricing information

Saskatchewan Hay Market Report

The Saskatchewan Forage Council found the following August average forage asking prices for Saskatchewan (based on Kijiji, Facebook and other online advertisements):

Grass hay: \$189.93/tonne based on 873 tonnes on offer
Alfalfa hay: \$233.10/tonne based on 448 tonnes on offer
Alfalfa/grass hay: \$197.60/tonne based on 4253 tonnes on offer
Greenfeed: \$185.19/tonne based on 293 tonnes on offer
Cereal straw: \$122.91/tonne based on 195 tonnes on offer
Pulse straw: \$104.72/tonne (quantity not listed)

Discovery in Neighbouring provinces:

USDA Market News Service Hay Report

September 1, 2023

Wyoming Hay Report: Compared to last week hay sales sold steady. Demand was light to moderate. Hot, humid days across most of the state. Many contacts in the east have started on third cutting of hay with second getting started in the west. There could be one less cutting of alfalfa hay across the state this year. But if there is a late frost many producers will try to cut another cutting if the stand looks ready to be harvested.

South Dakota Hay Report: Compared to last week: Alfalfa hay steady to weak. Moderate demand for alfalfa currently as producers are showing resistance to asking prices. CRP haying has put some pressure on the overall hay market, yet supplies of high testing alfalfa is limited this year as the drought and heat curtailed growth. Humid weather and smoky skies made for more challenges to get third cutting to dry quickly to make that really high testing hay. Row crops have fared the drought much better than the hay crops. Producers that were able to get a fourth cutting of alfalfa report tonnage to be very light. Very good demand for straw. Very hot weather for the weekend, no rain in the 10 day forecast. Corn silage harvest in full swing as the crop dried down quickly over the last two weeks.

Montana Hay Report: Compared to last report(8/18/23): Local demand for hay remains light while demand for hay to ship outside of the state is mostly moderate. Most of the hay in squares was purchased by out of state buyers this week. Market activity improved some over the past two weeks as more participation and sales occurred. Producers continue to keep asking prices \$180-200 a ton for green clean hay in squares and sales are occurring in that price range. Hay in rounds was not well tested this week but most asking prices are from \$120-150/ton. Another shot of rain is expected this weekend making it difficult for producers to finish second, however many are happy for the moisture as seasonally dry conditions are starting to be seen. Demand for straw is moderate. Barley sold mostly 5.00-10.00 lower than two weeks ago as the market continues to establish itself. Most asking prices are around 60.00-65.00 per ton. According to the drought monitor 38.79% of the state is in Moderate drought or worse, up 1.34% from two weeks ago. 26.29% of the state is in an Severe drought or worse, up 13.21% from two weeks ago. 8.91% of the state is in Extreme drought or worse, up 8.91% from two weeks ago, 0% of the state is in Exceptional drought, unchanged from two weeks ago.

View the hay reports, hay prices and hay quality designations at:<https://www.ams.usda.gov/market-news/hay-reports>

[Click here to view the table of hay prices for September 1, 2023 for Wyoming, South Dakota and Montana.](#)

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The Saskatchewan Forage Council Gratefully Acknowledges funding for our 'Facilitating Forage Initiatives in Saskatchewan' project through the Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association Industry Development Fund:



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