



## **MFGA Hay Relief Report: Hay Situation & Update #3 September 11, 2019**

*The MFGA Hay Relief report is a service for producers provided by MFGA to help producers keep tabs on the situation caused by dry times across the province. The bulk of the content in this report was compiled by John McGregor, MFGA's extension specialist with special thanks to Manitoba Agriculture's Pam Iwanchysko, Tim Clark and Shawn Cabak and to MFGA's Darren Chapman and Curt Bossuyt, Nutreco for their assistance compiling this information.*

### **Precipitation and Rainfall**

From August 27 to September 9, 2019, most parts of Manitoba received 1 to 3+ inches of rain. These rains are helping to replenish soil moisture and green up pastures, however, fall growth continues to be slow to non-existent, adding little to the existing feed shortage. In some areas there may still be the opportunity to take a final cut of hay after the critical harvest period and/or provide grazing opportunities where the crop is too short to cut. The most recent [crop report](#) from Mb Ag provides a very good overview of the hay and pasture situation for the various regions of the province.

### **MANITOBA REGIONAL REPORTS**

**Southwest:** Pastures have perked up a bit, but the rains have arrived too late in the season to have a significant impact on forage regrowth. Greenfeed is still being harvested and with the recent rains some hay may be harvested this fall. Some cattle are being supplemented on pasture but in general, livestock are still on pasture.

**Northwest:** The second-cut was disappointing in anticipated yields so shortfall is larger than expected. Although recent precipitation was received in much of the area, this was not timely and little to no re-growth has occurred on hay fields and pastures. Many producers have been supplementing on pastures for the past month. Straw prices are high. In the Roblin and Swan River areas, baling of straw and greenfeed has been delayed due to frequent rains. Second-cut alfalfa re-growth on fields that had a first-cut in late July remains slow.

**Central:** Second-cut hay fields and pastures that were browned off by lack of moisture are now greening up via recent rains and will provide fall grazing. Cattle supplementation on pasture has been delayed with the rains though there has been improvement to the forage growth. Crops intended for grain are being harvested as silage or baled, with some alfalfa being taken as silage during the Critical Harvest period.

**Eastern:** Some hay producers are planning to take one last cut of alfalfa after critical harvest period. Supplement feeding is happening on pastures. Seventy percent of pastures are rated poor or very poor.

**Interlake:** Forage availability continues to be a big concern for the region. Yields are extremely variable depending on moisture levels; yields came in at 20 to 60 per cent of normal. Roadsides and ditches are being taken for hay.

### **Hay Prices**

The prices listed below reflect information from producers that have hay and straw for sale and have shared these prices with MFGA as well as prices posted on [Manitoba Hay Listing](#) and [Kijiji Manitoba](#). Note: Price discovery through the Mb Hay Listing Service is difficult due to the number of ads where the price is negotiable.

Over the past two weeks, prices have remained fairly stable.

Alfalfa:	10-12 cents/lb
	Dairy Quality 14-17 cents/lb
Alfalfa/grass:	good quality 8-12 cents/lb
	Beef quality 8-10 cents/lb
Beef hay (grass):	3-7 cents/lb
Native hay:	4-6 cents/lb
Horse hay:	10-15 cents/lb (bale size affects price)
Greenfeed:	8-9 cents/lb (oats)
Straw:	2-5 cents/lb or in swath 1-2.5 cents/lb

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

Producers wanting to make use of the [Manitoba Hay Listing](#) service should call Manitoba Agriculture 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.

**For more information on Hay Listing Services and Related Information visit the MFGA [Hay Relief](#) website.**

If you are interested in assisting the Manitoba Forage and Grassland Association in providing information for our Hay Situation and Price Update, please contact John McGregor at [john@mfga.net](mailto:john@mfga.net).