



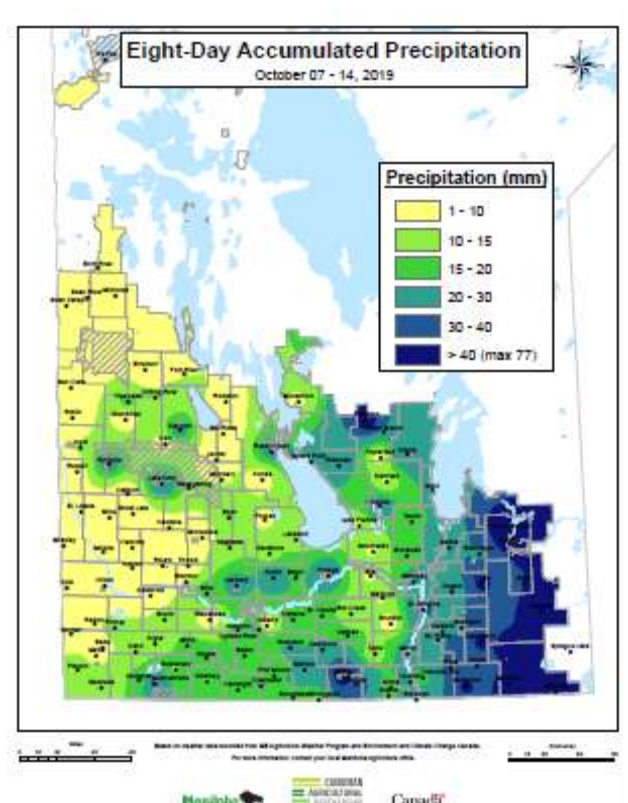
MFGA Hay Relief Report: Hay Situation & Update # 5 October 21, 2019

The MFGA Hay Relief report is a service for producers provided by MFGA to help producers keep tabs on the situation caused by weather challenges 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, and Tim Clarke and to Curt Bossuyt, Nutreco for their assistance compiling this information.

MFGA has also been working with Manitoba Beef Producers, Manitoba Agriculture and Keystone Agricultural Producers as part of the Alternative Feed Strategy Working Group to help producers during these challenging times.

Precipitation and Rainfall

Over the past two weeks, the Central, Eastern and Interlake areas of the province received record amounts of rainfall and snow. The South and Northwestern areas of the province received lesser amounts of rain during that same period. Despite the wet conditions, producers in some areas are trying to harvest as much corn silage as possible. Because of the conditions, producers that had been banking on this feed may not get the tonnage required which could put pressure back on the hay supply.



The [Crop Weather Reports](#) from Mb Ag gives a very good overview of rainfall amounts across the province. 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: Some progress has been made with harvesting of corn silage, about 30 per cent of the crop reported off by Oct 14. Further progress will be dependent on ground conditions. Additional harvest of green feed or hay is questionable due to weather and field conditions.

Northwest: Wet field conditions have halted supplemental feed harvest. Prior to the snowstorm corn silage harvest was progressing with about 30 per cent of the crop off except in the Roblin/Swan River area where it's estimated at 40 per cent. Some silage was being taken off this week with more expected over the weekend. Corn silage yields are reported to be average at 12 to 15 tons/acre. There likely won't be any more hay harvested other than the possibility of grazing hay fields. With the improved moisture conditions over the past months some extended grazing is happening in the Roblin/Swan River areas. Feed shortage is still a concern in many areas.

Central: Silage corn harvest progressed where field access was possible. Poorer fields destined for grain are being harvested as silage. There is concern that producers will not be able to chop on a timely basis before the corn dries down too much. Harvest of any additional hay or greenfeed has been difficult to impossible due to the wet weather. Heavy snowfall has made grazing more difficult and cattle need to be supplemented on pasture. Some early tests of greenfeed are showing signs of nitrates due to either drought or frost stress.

Eastern: Over the past two weeks parts of the Eastern area were hit hard with rainfall amounts exceeding four inches. Corn silage harvest was approximately 40 per cent complete with some producers continuing to harvest despite the wet conditions. Yields are reported in the 15 to 20 tons/ac range. Producers banking on this feed and not getting the tonnage required could put additional pressure back on hay supply. Adding to the pressure is the inability of producers to get the third or final cut of hay this fall due to conditions.

Interlake: Good progress was made with the corn silage harvest, with reports of producers having completed harvest and many at 60 to 70 per cent complete. In areas where grain corn yield potential is poor, fields are being converted to silage. Yields are reported in the 15 tons/ac range. Forage availability continues to be a big concern for the region. Although some supplemental feeding has started, cattle have had extended time on pasture as September rains allowed for decent regrowth. Retrieving straw bales off wet fields is now a problem. There are indications of more animals going to market due to low feed supplies.

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 continued to remain fairly stable. With the present difficulty of getting the final hay crop off and straw laying in swaths either underwater or

with conditions too wet to allow field access, there is the possibility of a push to access additional feed once the fate of the corn silage and final cut is known.

Sellers and Mb Ag staff are reporting some resistance to the higher asking range of certain classes of forage depending on the market (beef vs. dairy vs. horse). At a certain price ceiling producers look to other options to meet the nutritional requirements of their livestock.

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Alfalfa: | 10-12 cents/lb |
| | Dairy Quality 12-17 cents/lb |
| Alfalfa/grass: | good quality 8-12 cents/lb |
| | Beef quality 6-10 cents/lb |
| Beef hay (grass): | 3-8 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: | 2-6 cents/lb or in swath .5-2.5 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.