

MFGA Hay Relief Report: Hay Situation & Update # 1 August 24, 2020

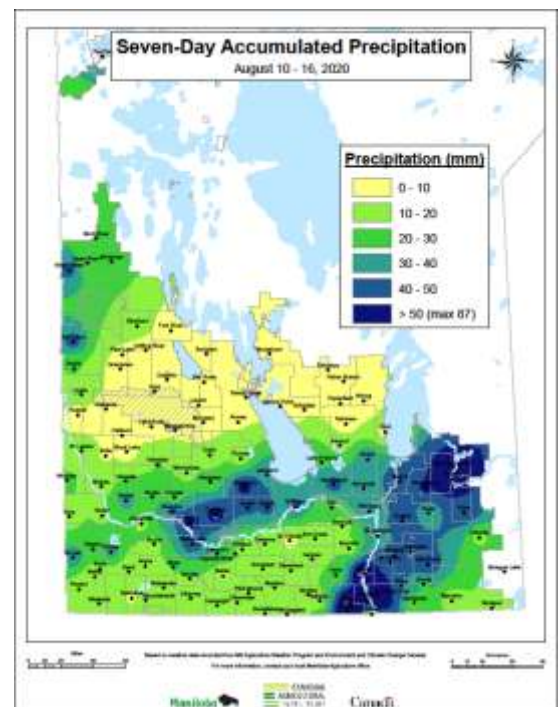
The MFGA Hay Relief report is a service for producers provided by MFGA to help producers keep tabs on the situation caused by weather across the province. The bulk of the content in this report was compiled by John McGregor, MFGA's extension specialist with Special thanks to MARD staff, Pam Iwanchysko and Ben Hamm and to Darren Chapman and Darnell Plett for their assistance compiling this information.

Most of the province has received a much needed dose of moisture over the past week. Although this rain was timely for pastures, many areas will need continued moisture to keep those pastures going into the fall or producers will have to start supplementing feed to make up for shortfalls.

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.

Northwest - Rain has benefitted pastures and second-cut alfalfa hay fields. First cut has been completed with yields ranging from below to near normal depending on management. Second cut alfalfa-hay growth looks good. Cereal silage harvest is ongoing with average yields. Later seeded fields are expected to yield better. Pastures are in poor to good condition depending on management and stocking density. Grasshoppers are still a concern in Ethelbert and west of Gilbert Plains. A feed shortage is anticipated in some areas of the region and producers are sourcing straw and other feeds to supplement hay.

Southwest - First cut is nearly complete and second cut hay is being made, with average yields expected. Cereal silage is underway with average to above average yields. Pastures are doing well. Corn silage looks to be average to above average. Straw is being put up as the fall rye and winter wheat harvest has started. There is adequate supply of feed and straw in the Southwest region this year as recent rains are helping pasture green up.



Central - Second cut alfalfa/grass is presently taking place with yields ranging from 800 to 1400 lbs/acre hay (average to below depending on management). Due to dry conditions and moderate to severe grasshopper pressure, pastures are starting to go dormant. Green feed yields harvested as hay or silage is reported as mediocre to average. Corn silage yields look promising; with estimate of greater than 6 tons/ac wet. Native hay and roadside hay are being cut and baled with yields ranging from 600 to 2500 lbs/ac dry. Straw is being harvested as wheat crop is coming off.

Eastern – Second cut beef hay harvest ranges from about 20 to 100 per cent complete with yields ranging from half of normal to average. Producers in the earlier flooded areas are still experiencing harvest difficulties. Second cut alfalfa is complete with yields reported as equal to or slightly better than average, third cut alfalfa dairy hay harvest has started. Pasture conditions ranged from fair to good with areas that received the lowest rainfall accumulations seeing limited improvement in pasture conditions. Producers remain concerned about feed supplies for overwintering and are making arrangements with grain producers to purchase straw. Baling of forage seed and winter wheat straw was been ongoing.

Interlake - Cutting and baling of greenfeed oats, millet and cereal mixes continues. Yields are expected to be good and will help to supplement alfalfa and grass hay supplies. Early rains in some areas of the northeastern and southwestern parts of the Interlake have resulted in very good hay yields. Recent rain has made some hopeful of a second cut, but many fields do not have enough growth to warrant cutting, particularly older stands. Rains have helped improved pastures, but some pastures have declined to the point where producers are taking cattle off. Cumulative effects of successive dry years are taking a toll. Native hay yields will be poor in most areas; sloughs are dry for the most part. First cut hay is essentially complete. Although better than last year in many cases, yields will be below average for most. Well-fertilized fields have fared better. Fields cut in the last month are seeing little to no regrowth in many areas due to lack of rain; second cut beef and third cut hay will be limited. Forage shortages are anticipated.

Hay Prices

There is still very limited information on hay prices throughout the province although Kijiji and the MB Hay Listing have a number of new listing this month. Prices and demand at this time seem very dependent on how well the grass hay yields and how the second and possible third cuts yield. As the present situation points to a potential shortfall, how producers make up shortfalls in their forage requirements will also affect prices.

Alfalfa:	7-10 cents/lb Dairy Quality 10-12 cents/lb
Alfalfa/grass:	good quality 6-10 cents/lb Beef quality 5-8 cents/lb
Beef hay (grass):	5-7 cents/lb
Greenfeed:	7 cents/lb
Horse hay:	8-12 cents/lb (\$1.00/lb one report)
Native Hay:	2 cents/lb standing
Straw:	3-3.5 cents/lb

[Kijiji Manitoba](#) has some listings for hay for sale this month. The [Manitoba Hay Listing](#) site has limited listing. The [Wisconsin Hay Report](#), and the [Progressive Forage Market Insight](#) provide some information as to what is happening to the south of us.

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 monthly Hay Situation and Price Update, please contact John McGregor at john@mfga.net.