

## 2022 WINTER FORAGE MARKET PRICE DISCOVERY



January 2022

Saskatchewan Forage Council

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# winter forage market price discovery

## SASKATCHEWAN FORAGE COUNCIL

Sincere thanks to everyone who was contacted to share their insight and current perspectives on this valuable industry. Your input, expertise and willingness to share are greatly appreciated!

### 1. Review of Production Season 2021

Hay production yields in 2021 were well below the long-term provincial average, with the worst yields seen in all classes in the past 10 years. Moisture conditions were low early on, and following a colder than normal spring, the weather turned hot, dry and windy with severe drought conditions reported across most of the province throughout the growing season. Much needed moisture came in late August, and while this greened up some pastures and regrowth to extend grazing, it did not come in time to improve forage yields. Dry conditions continued into early winter. Snowfall in late December and early January was welcomed, but much more is needed to replenish soil moisture and water supplies.

Average provincial hay yields on dry land are reported as 0.79 tons per acre (alfalfa), 0.77 tons per acre (alfalfa/brome and wild hay), 0.55 tons per acre (other tame hay) and 1.13 tons per acre (greenfeed). On irrigated land, the estimated average hay yields are 2.8 tons per acre (alfalfa), 2.3 tons per acre (alfalfa/brome), 2.0 tons per acre (wild hay) and 4.2 tons per acre (greenfeed). Most of the hay going into winter is rated as poor to good in quality. Table 1. illustrates Saskatchewan's dryland yield estimates for the 2021 growing season.

**Table 1. 2021 Saskatchewan Dryland Hay Yield Reported (tons/acre)**

Region	Date	Estimated 2021 Hay Yield (short tons/acre)			
		Alfalfa	Alfalfa/Grass	Other Tame Hay	Greenfeed
<b>Southeast</b>	Oct 4	1.2	1.0	0.93	1.92
<b>Southwest</b>	Oct 4	0.41	0.56	0.42	0.75
<b>East Central</b>	Oct 4	0.66	0.72	0.45	1.06
<b>West Central</b>	Oct 4	0.42	0.38	0.32	0.6
<b>Northeastern</b>	Oct 4	1.62	1.47	0.66	1.80
<b>Northwestern</b>	Oct 4	0.93	0.73	0.48	0.94
<b>Provincial AVERAGE</b>	<b>Oct 4</b>	<b>0.79</b>	<b>0.77</b>	<b>0.55</b>	<b>1.13</b>

**Source:** Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture, August, 2021<sup>1</sup>.

During summer and fall reporting, most producers indicated that they would have inadequate supplies of hay, straw, greenfeed and feed grain heading into winter, with the exception of portions of the southeast and northeast regions. These shortages are due to the drought conditions resulting in a poor first cut of hay, the inability to get a second cut, stunted field crops reducing straw and greenfield yield and high grain prices. Due to the dry conditions again this year, dugout, slough and well levels have been low and

there are serious concerns with livestock water supplies. Some producers were able to use crop residue and straw from their neighbors as feed. Late rains allowed pastures in some regions to green up and extend the grazing season for another one to two weeks. Overall forage quality is below average. Increased nitrate levels are being seen in some cereal crops and cereal straw and elevated sulphur levels are noted in some canola and kochia, however these levels are easily managed by blending feed. Hay feed tests are fairly poor, with lower protein and lower TDN (total digestible nutrient), while some straw is testing better than usual with higher nutrient content than expected, especially in pea straw.

Producers implemented management strategies such as baling intentional greenfeed, feeding straw and grain, silaging, salvaging grain crops and baling non-conventional forage sources such as kochia, canola, cattails and slough hay. It is estimated that that 50 per cent to 90 per cent of livestock operations are using some form of annual forage for winter feed, with much of this being blended off with poorer quality feeds to stretch the forage resources.

Forage listings for quality feed were limited due to the low amount of forage available. Trades were quick throughout the fall and into January for reasonably priced forage. Ads were not posted for long with some being sold within hours. Higher-priced forages are slower to move as buyers seek other most cost-efficient options where they can, or make the tough decision of buying the more expensive forage versus reducing their herd size. There continues to be a strong demand for straw, and it's selling where available, and where transportation is affordable to the buyer. There are also more listings than normal for older forages and straw, some being 1 to 4 years old.

Alberta saw below-average rainfall in many areas resulting in variable forage availability across the province and regionally. Feed stocks are adequate or even surplus in some areas, while others were supplementing feed shortfalls with straw and other alternatives early on. Forage prices rose from summer to late fall, as some cattle producers are struggling to source forage for the winter. Hay and straw are mostly being moved locally to minimize trucking costs. Much of the province has moderately low to very low soil moisture reserves, therefore snow cover and spring moisture will be important to replenish these reserves. Provincially, forage reserves are 26% deficit, 26% shortfall, 50% adequate and 4% surplus, and feed grains at 18% deficit, 24% shortfall, 52% adequate and 6% surplus.

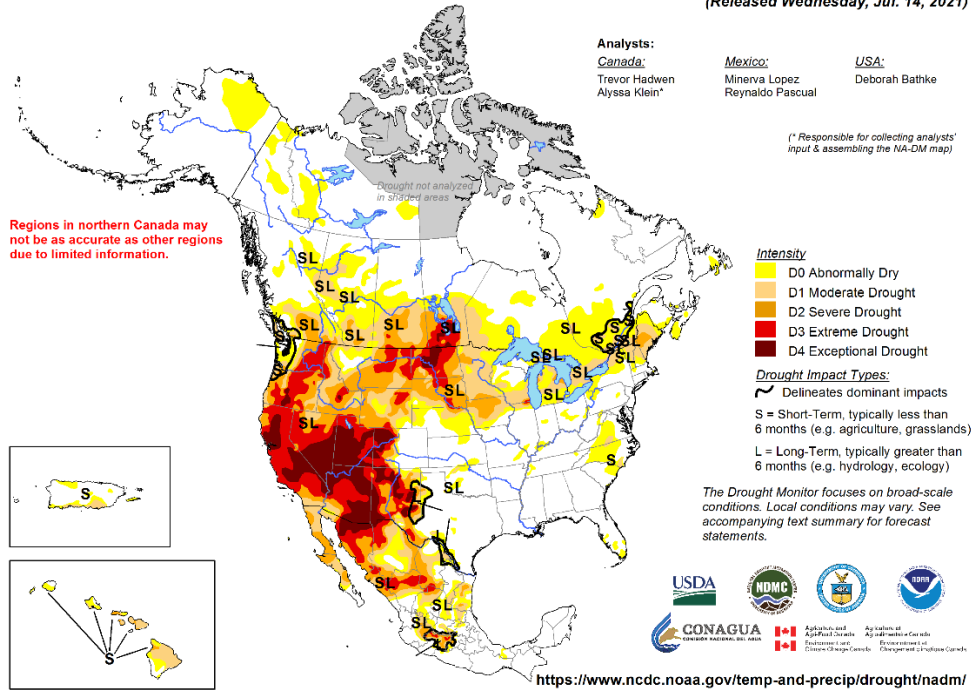
Manitoba livestock feed supplies were a challenge, after four consecutively dry summers across much of the agriculture acres in the province. With hay yields reported at one-third of normal, corn silage at two-thirds of average and cereal silage crops at one third to two thirds of normal, cattle producers are using alternative feed sources, including baling of non-conventional crop residue, increased in greenfeed usage, grains and pellets, and using cattails and bulrushes as a forage source. Many producers were supplementing feed on pasture as early as July and August due to serious feed shortfalls. Water is also a concern with many wetlands and dugouts being low or dry.

As is the case across a widening area of North America, moisture conditions in Saskatchewan remain a serious concern, minimal or below average rainfall across much of the province again this year, along with hot temperatures and drying winds throughout the growing season. Parts of the southern and central regions reported short, or very short, topsoil moisture conditions for most of the year. Significant precipitation is needed over-winter to replenish moisture levels in soil, on hay land and pastures and dugouts. Provincially, hay and pasture land topsoil is rated at 8 percent adequate, 35 per cent short and 57 per cent very short (as at October 4, 2021).

**Figure 1. Comparison of North American Drought Conditions; June 30 and November 30, 2021.**  
 (Source: North American Drought Monitor, 2021)

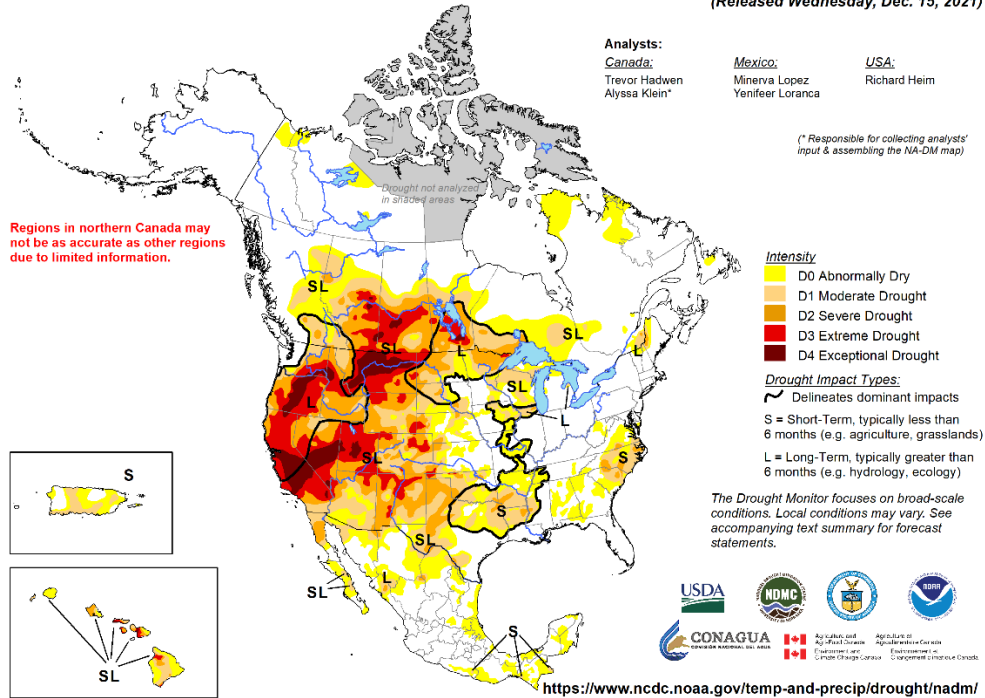
## North American Drought Monitor

**June 30, 2021**  
 (Released Wednesday, Jul. 14, 2021)



## North American Drought Monitor

**November 30, 2021**  
 (Released Wednesday, Dec. 15, 2021)

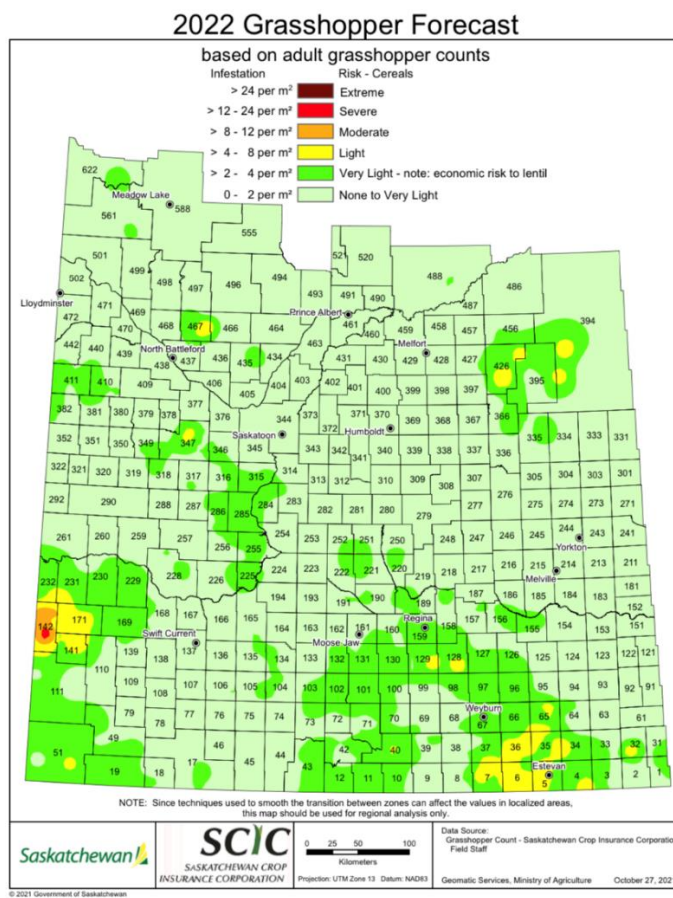


## 2. Field Pest Impact and Projections for 2022 Growing Season

There are several potential hotspots for grasshoppers in 2022. The grasshopper forecast map is based on over 1100 sites across Saskatchewan. Grasshopper numbers increased from 2021 and many incidents of spraying were reported throughout the province and in many crops. Localized hotspots may be underrepresented due to their proximity to lower densities on the map. Heavy populations (30 m<sup>2</sup>) were detected in the southwest near Enterprise and Maple Creek (the latter was detected in a brown mustard field); populations > 10 m<sup>2</sup>) were detected in the southwest near Enterprise (multiple sites RM 142), Souris Valley, Fox Valley, southeast near Torquay, Alida, Oungre, and Lampman, northeast near Bjorkdale and northwest near the Battlefords. Moderate counts (5-10 m<sup>2</sup>) were found at approximately 50 sites throughout the province. No grasshoppers were found on only eight sites. Two-striped grasshoppers were indicated as dominant in many regions where species identification occurred. Migratory grasshopper and clearwing grasshopper was also detected at multiple sites; clearwing grasshopper caused major damage to barley near Cadillac. Clearwing grasshopper numbers were again high in pasture (40 m<sup>2</sup>) in RM Laurier (SE) in late July. No *Entomophthora grylli* (fungal pathogen that kills grasshoppers) occurrences were noted.

**Figure 2. 2022 Saskatchewan Grasshopper Forecast**

(Source: Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture, 2021<sup>2</sup>)



The survey and forecast map are intended to provide general information on risk levels. The actual severity of grasshopper infestations may differ from the 2022 forecast map, depending on weather conditions in the spring. Hot and dry conditions favour growth and development of several grasshopper species.



### 3. Regional Forage Conditions in Saskatchewan

2021 started out with a soil moisture deficit throughout much of the province, followed by scorching temperatures, lack of moisture, and strong winds during the growing season which had a devastating effect on forage and field crop yields. Field crop yields were below average but of good quality due to limited fall moisture and limited disease issues. Across the province, there were fewer winter cereals seeded due to the low soil moisture. Below-average crop yields and higher grain prices have made economically-priced feed grains much harder to find. Dry conditions were an issue throughout the province, however parts of the south east and north east regions fared somewhat better. Many producers sourced (with some continuing to source) whatever they could find to secure winter forage supplies for their livestock including slough hay, ditch hay, kochia, canola greenfeed, and a wide variety of salvaged field crops. Greenfeed and straw, supplemented with pellets, is making up a large portion of early gestation feed, to allow livestock producers to conserve the higher quality greenfeed and hay for later gestation and calving season.

At January 10<sup>th</sup>, there is moderate snow cover across much of the province due to storms in late December-early January. Crop residue grazing, where available, continued into early to mid-December for some, and those producers with corn grazing indicated they would begin in late December to early January. The dry seeding conditions in spring 2021 reduced the acres of corn seeded, and the drought affected corn development and reduced tonnage. Indications from regional specialists are that while most producers, particularly in the east side of the province, either had enough forage or have secured their winter forage supplies, others are still looking. There are few advertisements for forages in relation to the number of ads looking for forages. There is also an increase in the number of trades for older forage (1-4 years old). In spring planning discussions (which are reported as infrequent, to date) producers are not indicating a major shift to seed more perennial forages. Some technical experts are advising against seeding perennial forages this spring. Planned greenfeed, along with increased use of silage and corn grazing is the direction producers continue to indicate going, however, rising grain prices may have an impact on the amount of greenfeed. Prices of \$22.66/bushel for canola, \$19.99/bushel for durum wheat and .56/lb for green lentils (AGR Market Trends, January 5, 2022) may not make greenfeed an economical proposition. Pasture conditions are of grave concern in the areas already noted as again being very short of moisture. Livestock water was and continues to be a concern. High sulphates were an issue in some regions, and water quality and water quantity left some pastures unusable.

Regional Observations:

#### **a) South-West and South-Central Regions**

The southern regions experienced another very dry year and extreme heat during the growing season, with topsoil moisture on hay and pastures reported at concerning low levels. Producers are predicting an even worse 2022 without significant snow and spring rains to replenish soil moisture. Mild temperatures allowed for a long fall, however poor pasture conditions and poor crops limited fall grazing opportunities for some, resulting in earlier winter feeding.

On hayland and pasture, topsoil moisture is rated as 6 per cent adequate, 25 per cent short and 69 per cent very short at October 4, 2021. There was some stubble grazing following harvest, however many crops were so poor, there was not much to graze.

Most of the region's producers reported being extremely concerned that there will be no pasture or feed in the southwest to get through another drought year. Many producers likely do not have enough winter feed to get them through to May 1, and definitely not to June 1 and are some are still trying to source

feed. They are utilizing greenfeed, straw, canola hay, silage and straw, salvage crops, kochia. Many producers have sourced greenfeed and are adding straw, pellets and anything they can find are being added to rations to stretch out their forage resources and to manage potential elevated nitrates in the greenfeed and cereal straw. Forage quality is reported as fair to poor and increased sulphur levels are reported in canola and kochia. An early, dry grain harvest resulted in less feed quality grain and much higher prices for commodities like barley. There are very few forage trades from within the region as many producers are having to transport forages from other areas.

Regional Specialists indicate 2021 culling rates higher than normal levels. With many producers having inadequate hay, straw, greenfeed and feed grains for winter, and with the high forage prices, they have few other options than reducing the herd to stretch forage and feed supplies. There have been a few dispersals, heavier cull of the cow herd and fewer replacement heifers kept. Pasture health and a lack of carry-over continues to be a concern that will be seen into the spring. Poor pastures may be a major influence on the cut forage sector for the region through spring and into fall 2022, resulting in cows turned out into hay fields, thus increasing forage demand from annuals or from off farm.

### ***b) South-East Region***

Spring soil moisture conditions were short to very-short in the south-east, however some timely rains in the growing season resulted in slightly higher yields than other areas of the province. However, even with these timely rains in the growing season, constant high winds and hot temperatures in July depleted soil moisture. Conditions are dry across much of the south-east, and moisture levels are a concern. Many grazing decisions were made centered largely on water quantity and quality. Significant moisture is needed before spring to replenish topsoil, sub soil and livestock water sources.

Many producers in this region are reporting generally adequate hay, straw, greenfeed and feed grain supplies, with a continued high dependence on greenfeed, however those in the drier parts of the region may have shortages. There is a lot of alternative straws being used for early gestation feeding. Cows were culled hard until their market crashed in November when prices dropped below what they were at the height of COVID in 2020, leaving some producers feeding cull cows in hopes that the market improves. In feed tests done, approximately 50% have high nitrates and many producers are blending straw with their greenfeed to dilute nitrates. Tub grinding or using TMR wagons is common, particularly in the Moose Jaw area, in order to mix greenfeed with lower quality feeds.

Hayland and pasture topsoil moisture was rated as 12 per cent adequate, 36 per cent short and 52 per cent very short, at October 4th. Snow cover is currently around normal, with significant snowfall in late December and early January throughout much of the region. Cattle were able to graze until early to mid-December where feed was available, but with the current snow cover, they will now need to be supplemented.

### ***d) North-East Region***

Dry conditions have been reported in parts of this region, with concern about hayland and pasture health going into 2022. Producers in the Prince Albert area are less concerned about the drought persisting another year. There have been few inquiries into seeding perennial forages this spring and some technical experts are advising against it. There is some concern over the potential loss of some better hay fields with the high canola prices.

Topsoil moisture on hayland and pasture is rated as 10 per cent adequate, 63 per cent short and 27 per cent very short.



This region continues to utilize a mixture of greenfeed, hay, straw, pellets and grain, and silage has become standard over the past few years. At least 90% of producers are feeding a significant amount of straw in the mature cow diets and also about 50% of producers are using pellets instead grain in their rations. There is an increase in the amount of canola (most commonly, canola greenfeed) and wheat used in ration, where these crops are typically used for grain. More producers are investigating silage production and continue to graze corn in larger numbers. Corn silage yielded better than expected. Producers have bought forages and will continue to trade for fair-priced product.

Forage supplies are variable with most livestock producers having adequate feed supplies, some even with a surplus, however there are some that will see a shortage. Those that were stubble grazing ran out in November. Those planning on grazing corn began in December and will continue through January. Producers plan to stretch the supply of quality feed as long as possible and hope for significant snowfall and spring moisture to replenish soil moisture. Pasture conditions going into spring 2022 are of concern as well.

#### **e) East-Central Region**

As in other regions of the province, drier conditions resulted in an earlier harvest of forages and grain this year, however with the heat and lack of moisture in the growing season, crop yields are below average, some about 50% of normal. There are concerns about adequate moisture throughout the region, hay and pasture production, as well as livestock water sources (including wells). Many producers are dry and worried about the coming growing season, but there is more optimism with the good snow cover in the region.

At October 4th, hayland and pasture topsoil moisture was rated as 9 per cent adequate, 40 per cent short and 51 per cent very short.

Forage stocks are reported from adequate to inadequate, and many have concerns with forage shortages. Producers are feeding a wide variety of feedstuffs to get them through the winter, including greenfeed, grain, pellets, all types of straw and cattails. Cull numbers were higher than normal with producers preg-checking earlier, calves weaned earlier, and fewer backgrounders kept. It was common to sell off more cows and keep more replacement heifers to reduce forage needs. There were a higher number of small herd dispersals (30 to 70 head herds). Regrowth of spring seeded crops saved many producers in this region, with many cows grazing until mid-late November until the first heavy snowfall. Greenfeed is well-utilized, usually mixed with hay, pellets and grain. Nitrate levels were not as high as expected. Many producers are considering annual forages to be their preferred option for 2022, as many are worried about it being too dry to invest in perennial forage seed, higher risk of establishment and they can't risk the lower forage production in the year of perennial establishment.

#### **f) West-Central/ Central Region**

This region is experiencing a fifth year of dry conditions, resulting in sub-par forage conditions. Hayland and pasture topsoil moisture conditions are rate as 2 per cent adequate, 27 per cent short and 71 per cent very short. About 5% of livestock producers are still sourcing feed due to a poor hay crop. Some were lucky enough to bale what little wheat straw there was from their neighbors but overall there is not enough feed available to maintain current herd sizes. Many livestock water sources (dugouts, wetlands) are very low or dry, leaving livestock producers trying to source water as well as feed, and adding the extra burden of hauling water in order to utilize as much fall grazing as possible. Snow cover is currently

lacking, which allowed stubble grazing to continue into December thus reducing pressure on stockpiled forages, however significant moisture will be needed this winter and spring to replenish soil moisture.

Many producers report inadequate forage, leaving many unsure how to stretch their feed and forage supply without further reducing herd sizes. Cull levels were up about 5% from last year with some producers exiting the business instead of struggling to source enough winter feed, while others are culling as needed to match forage supply and demand. Moving into spring, pastures are in very poor condition, which may be the greatest challenge for this region, going forward. Grazing corn acres remain fairly steady, however AGD/acre is lower than usual due to the dry conditions. Corn silage yield was also lower, at 6-8 tonnes/acre. Greenfeed, mixed with straw, is a common ration, with most producers conserving their perennial forages until a month before calving.

#### **g) North-West and North-Central Regions**

Adequate to surplus moisture was seen in much of the region in early spring, however below average rainfall resulted in the soils drying out significantly before the end of seeding. Conditions became drier as the production season progressed with the high heat and persistent winds. Snowfall across much of the north-west was below average, however there was decent snowfall in early January. As of the final crop report (October 4, 2021), hay and pasture land topsoil moisture was rated at 4 per cent adequate, 39 per cent short and 57 per cent very short.

While producers are using hay, greenfeed, silage, canola forage, straw, pellets, alternatives and grain, greenfeed and silage use has increased in recent years. There is a high percentage of alternative feeds being used this winter, as the hay yield was 15-50% of normal, leaving producers scrambling. Many producers are mixing greenfeed with other forages, and plan on using greenfeed as long as they can, while others plan to wait until late gestation before using their greenfeed. Feed quality is variable and includes some reports of higher nitrates, however protein and energy are testing higher. Many annual crops were cut and baled for greenfeed and many producers used their allowance to cut and bale ditches.

Some producers are reporting having adequate feed stock heading into winter however others feel they will come up short. There will likely be an increase in culling rates again if the spring looks dry. There have been inquiries regarding compaction issues, malnourished animals, utilizing straw rations for backgrounding calves, and they are seeing more molasses on straw being fed.

## **4. Current Forage Freight Rates in Saskatchewan**

Hay transporters reported steady demand throughout the fall. Early harvest across much of the province resulted in more time for producers to complete fall work, however with drought conditions and poor forage crops, many are concerned about having inadequate feed supplies. Demand for forages from far distances was higher than in 2020 and wait times for bookings were longer. Most transporters interviewed reported being steady to busier than expected this fall/winter. Producers opt for short-haul and neighbour-to-neighbour where they can, however in some areas, particularly the south west and west central, there were many trades from other areas in the province. About 45 farmers applied for hay through the Hay West program as well and at the end of October, 6 loads of hay were delivered with 4 more to go. The expected goal is 50 loads of hay shipped to Saskatchewan from Ontario.

Forage transportation rates remained consistent with the September Forage Market Discovery report. Operators typically maintain steady pricing throughout the year, for consistency. Standard hourly rates or per bale rates continue to be commonly applied to short-haul distances and to compensate for loading/unloading time and labour. Fuel surcharges are also commonly applied.

**Table 2. Hay Transport Costs Saskatchewan January 2022**

	Rate (\$/loaded mile) @34-37 bales	Hourly Rate (\$/hour)	Per Bale Rate (short hauls)
<b>Provincial Average</b>	<b>\$6.65*</b> (>100 miles); <b>\$6.84</b> (< 100 miles)	<b>\$143.00</b>	<b>8.50</b>

\*Note: a mobilization fee or empty travel fee may be additional to this rate.

Diesel prices continue to be a major factor in forage production costs and transportation costs. Carbon taxation on diesel is approximately 5.3 cents per litre 10.7 cents per litre in April 2021 with increases continuing until 2022 to reach 13.4 cents/litre (SARM, 2018 & nrcan.gc.ca). Diesel prices started lower in early 2021 (at about \$1.09 per litre), rose about 10 cents per litre until March when leveled out until September. From September to October, there was a sharp increase in prices which has remained steady to year end. The average price from September 20 to December 27 was \$1.40 per litre, with the low seen at \$1.29 per litre on September 20 and the highest price of \$1.43 per litre on October 18. Prices are up about 36 cents per litre from the end of December 2020.

On December 29, 2021, Natural Resources Canada reported average diesel retail pricing in Regina SK to be \$1.379/litre and \$1.383/litre in Saskatoon as compared to Dec 31, 2020, when average prices of \$1.021/litre in Regina and \$1.028/litre in Saskatoon were reported. It's anticipated that diesel prices may continue to increase resulting in higher trucking costs. Many transporters continue to add fuel surcharges, often as much as 10 per cent, to compensate. Most charge a rate for empty travel and mobilization charges continue to fall in the \$120 to \$200/hour range.

## 5. Current & Projected Saskatchewan Forage Prices for 2022

Forage prices were obtained throughout the fall of 2021; up to and including January 10th, 2022. Prices were assembled from listings, personal phone calls to producers, livestock nutritionists, feedlots, hay growers, and transporters.

Fall was mild and open, with harvest completed early; similar to 2020. Favourable harvest conditions meant quality grain, although with reduced yields and a decrease in the availability of feed grains. The following comments outline some comparisons between observations from last year's report, and the current market climate.

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2021: Hay sales were steady August through October, slowing to normal and low rates by end of harvest. Listings and trades late December through early January were very slow.	2022: Hay sales were steady August through January. Listings were low due to lack of availability and trades for reasonably-priced hay through early January were quick.
2021: Very similar to 2020, the trend to use forages other than perennial forages continues; producers appear to be waiting until later winter/early spring to evaluate needs.	2022: Similar to 2021, the trend to use forages other than perennial forages continues. Use of planned greenfeed and salvage crops is common due to poor hay crops. Many producers indicate they do not have enough forages to last through to grazing season.
2021: Forage inventory sales are meeting more traditional levels, after two rather unusual years. Listings are repeated, or on the market for longer periods of time, on par with long-term averages.	2022: Forage inventories are low due to the drought. Trades happen quickly and listings are not available for long. Some higher-priced listings are available for longer or are repeated, as livestock producers have to make the difficult choice of reducing herd size or purchasing expensive feed.
2021: Plans for silage and greenfeed that have proven successful in the past few years have become the norm, and that forward-planning has strengthened, but rising grain prices are almost certain to affect greenfeed planting intentions.	2022: Plans for silage and greenfeed are similar to 2021. Rising grain prices have affected greenfeed planting and along with poor soil moisture conditions, will likely affect existing and proposed perennial forage acres.
2021: Neighbour-to-neighbour trade of hay, greenfeed and straw were similar to 2020. Inventories of feed-quality grain are less than last year and grain prices are soaring to levels well above this time a year ago; not anticipated in August/September 2020. This will make grain production much more economical than planned greenfeed, and will decrease greenfeed availability.	2022: Neighbor-to-neighbor trade of hay, greenfeed and straw was less than in 2021 due to lack of available forages. Drought conditions resulted in much lower forage inventories and some producers were resorting to baling canola greenfeed, kochia and slough hay. Inventories of feed grains again is less than last year with prices continuing to rise. Planned greenfeed may decrease due to grain production being more economical.

The uncertainty around COVID-19 and its world-wide impact will be a factor for all ag sectors again in 2022, although negative impacts have not been seen on forages, to date. Food production has continued relatively normal business patterns, but market uncertainty will be a factor as restrictions continue due to new variants emerging. Although the federal government has backed down on the mandated vaccination policy for international truckers that was to be implemented on January 15, 2022, further disruptions in the supply chain are still likely to occur since unvaccinated American truck drivers will be turned back at the border. The U.S. plans to enact its own vaccine mandate for essential workers at the border on January 22. In an industry already short drivers, this will exacerbate the problem, leading to further delayed shipments and higher prices for goods.

Average prices reported in Table 3a are those **collected from November 1<sup>st</sup> 2021 to January 10<sup>th</sup> 2022**. The average prices collected from August through January were then collectively averaged to produce the figures in Table 3b.

**Table 3a. Average Current Forage Prices in Saskatchewan as at January 10, 2022**

<b>Forage Type</b>	<b>Simple Average Price (\$/Tonne)</b>	<b>Weighted Average Price (\$/Tonne)</b>	<b>High (\$/Tonne)</b>	<b>Low (\$/Tonne)</b>
<b>Grass Hay</b>	\$226.56	\$196.83	\$367.51	\$88.00
<b>First Cut Alfalfa</b>	\$300.26	\$252.54	\$479.26	\$176.37
<b>Second Cut Alfalfa</b>	\$297.15	\$323.14	\$374.78	\$125.98
<b>Alfalfa/Grass Mix</b>	\$267.81	\$257.76	\$396.83	\$137.79
<b>Greenfeed</b>	\$259.51	\$306.35	\$367.51	\$132.28
<b>Clover</b>	\$248.88	NA	\$275.58	\$161.66
<b>Cereal Straw</b>	\$109.90	\$98.53	\$206.68	\$48.50
<b>Pulse Straw</b>	\$111.21	\$92.76	\$165.34	\$79.36

**Table 3b. Average Fall Long (Aug-Jan) Forage Prices in Saskatchewan at January 10, 2022**

<b>Forage Type</b>	<b>Simple Average Price (\$/Tonne)</b>	<b>Weighted Average Price (\$/Tonne)</b>
<b>Grass Hay</b>	\$230.43	\$199.81
<b>First Cut Alfalfa</b>	\$275.23	\$267.27
<b>Second Cut Alfalfa</b>	\$274.19	\$300.84
<b>Alfalfa/Grass Mix</b>	\$251.61	\$251.21
<b>Greenfeed</b>	\$228.54	\$251.58
<b>Clover</b>	232.59	NA
<b>Cereal Straw</b>	\$99.08	\$98.91
<b>Pulse Straw</b>	\$130.11	\$97.96

The Saskatchewan Crop Report of October 4, 2021 indicated that producers in most regions were concerned about their on-farm inventory. Most livestock producers indicated they will have inadequate to adequate supplies of hay, straw, greenfeed and feed grain heading into winter. Shortages are expected as a result of a poor first cut of hay, the inability to get a second cut, poor field crops reducing straw yield and high grain prices. Dugout, slough and well levels have been low and many producers are concerned about livestock water supplies. Some producers utilized crop residue and straw from their neighbours for feed. Late rains in August allowed for some pastures to briefly green up and extend grazing for one or two more weeks. Mild fall temperatures and light snow cover in parts of Saskatchewan allowed longer-season swath and crop residue grazing where it was available; alleviating pressure on feedstocks for some producers. November storms were a double-edged sword for some producers in terms of shortening the fall grazing season. They had to dig into their forage inventories sooner than hoped, however they

were thankful for the much-needed moisture to replenish soil moisture and fill water sources. Corn acreage was down this year due to inadequate soil moisture in early spring, however in some areas, the corn yield was higher than expected. Producers indicated they were going to start grazing their corn in December and January.

Overall, many in the north east and south east regions are confident in having sufficient inventory at this time, but other regions are concerned about not having enough feed to last the winter. Early spring rains will be key to promote an early to normal start to the growing season. Many Regional Specialists have indicated adequate supplies to May 1<sup>st</sup>, but not enough to last through to June, which could support sales and average prices for perennial forages into late spring. Forage supplies lasting to May or June may be very weather-dependent for some, as a mild winter will allow them to stretch their forage supplies a little further. Continued drought into the spring will put a critical strain on grazing and could result in further herd reduction. If producers run low on feedstocks into the spring, many plan to turn livestock out on pasture early which may negatively impact yield and available amount of summer and fall grazing.

The near-term risks over this year will revolve around markets and weather. Keep an eye on rising grain prices that could determine affordability of feed grains and affect the amount of planned greenfeed that is included in 2022 plans. With strong futures on canola, barley and spring wheat, many acres that might have gone into greenfeed production will be planted with grain harvest in mind.

Feed stocks were reported as inadequate to adequate in most areas leaving some producers to source whatever they can for winter feed. Forage prices in 2021 were about double from 2020. Many producers have made the difficult decision to reduce herd sizes instead of purchasing expensive feed or modifying their rations to include more straw to stretch their better-quality forage inventories as long as possible. Price increases are not likely to be dramatic as it does not make economical sense for most producers to purchase expensive forages. Producers have a strong comfort level with their strategies around silage, corn and greenfeed, lessening their dependence on perennials. Listings of perennial forages over the past few weeks have been low, however reasonably priced forages are moving very quickly. There is an increasing number of listings for slough hay, poorer quality forages and previous years' forage stocks. More expensive listings are on the market for longer and sometimes repeated.

**Greenfeed:** No longer considered an 'alternative' forage, greenfeed continues to be used by an estimated 75 per cent of producers, for a minimum of 50 per cent of their forage needs. Producers are using a combination of planned and unplanned greenfeed sources due to poor crop yields, and some are using alternative greenfeeds such as canola. Many producers are relying on greenfeed to blend with lower quality forages in order to stretch their forage supplies and allow them to conserve their higher quality hay until closer to calving. The September Forage Market Pricing Survey saw a weighted average of \$237.88/tonne (\$213.38/tonne simple average), and noted that those prices did not align with what producers were prepared to spend. The weighted average for November -January came out at \$306.35/tonne (simple average of \$259.51/tonne), higher than fall pricing, however these are not staying on the market very long. While early indications from producers were that they planned to seed similar acres of greenfeed again in 2022, the change in grain prices over the past few months may change those plans, as grain crops have become more profitable.

**First and second cut alfalfa:** The current asking price for first cut straight alfalfa is \$300.26/tonne (simple average) and \$297.15/tonne for second cut. As in winter 2021, few offers of premium second cut straight alfalfa are listed. Poor conditions for second cut alfalfa limited good supplies in parts of the western provinces. Moving forward, alfalfa prices will be dependent on whether the drought persists and on 2022



forage yields, but superior quality products needed for the dairy industry can still expect to fetch a higher price.

**Alfalfa/grass mix:** Alfalfa/grass mixed hay had a low to moderate number of listings throughout fall, tapering off in December. The current weighted and simple averages are \$257.76/tonne and \$267.81/tonne, respectfully (majority as asking prices). The average fall-long weighted price for alfalfa/grass was \$251.21/tonne, with a simple average price of \$251.61/tonne- asking prices held fairly steady. Many listings advertised for hours to a few days before being removed or sold and listings in late December into January were very few. Higher-priced lots are being listed for more than a month, but reasonably priced (for the year) lots sell within hours to days. Prices are likely to settle out near asking price. If winter weather conditions become more seasonal and/or producers fear late turn-outs in the spring, in some regions with traditionally higher forage prices (southwest/west central) it may stretch somewhat higher.

**Grass:** Grass hay prices are slightly under the fall-long average of more average price seen in September; in the \$230/tonne range. Currently prices sit at \$196.83/tonne (weighted average) and \$226.56/tonne (simple average). Prices are likely to settle out at asking price.

**Straw:** has been widely used over the past three years, however there was an inadequate supply on offer in fall 2021/22 due to the higher number of field crops salvaged for feed and poor/stunted crops due to the drought. There are fewer numbers of straw listings than a year ago, and there are more listings for older (1-4 year old) straw which may pose an issue for transport. Straw is generally sold on a per-bale basis with the current asking price of \$109.90/tonne (simple average) for cereal straw and \$111.21/tonne (simple average) for pulse straw. This is at least double the historic prices. The fall-long average price on cereal straw is \$99.08/tonne simple average. Pulse straw has traded at a slightly higher average in the \$130.11/tonne range throughout the fall but prices have dropped coming into winter and there is very little on offer. There will be very little cereal straw remaining unsold in April 2022, as many feed rations are incorporating a lot of straw and it is needed to stretch higher quality forages into the spring. Prices are likely to remain steady.

**Clover:** Greenfeed has filled the forage gap that clover filled in the 1990's, however there were 3 listings for clover from November 2021-January 10, 2022 for a simple average of \$248.88/tonne. There are typically few trades for clover, however there is little forage available and producers in some regions are still trying to secure winter feed, so clover remains an option for some producers.

**Silage:** Use of silage continues to be strong across the prairies, in both beef and dairy sectors. Indications from feed companies, agrologists and producers are for silage acres to continue at current levels in 2022. Corn silage yields were reported as below average with drier regions noting 4-6 ton/acre yields and areas with some timely rains at 10-12 ton/acre yields. Corn silage prices reported ranged from \$65.00/tonne to \$90.00/tonne, while cereal silage prices ranged from \$60.00/tonne to \$104.00/tonne. Barley, oats and perennial forage silage is being used, as well as corn, although corn remains steady. Use of baled silage is on the rise in some areas, particularly in the eastern regions.

**Standing Corn:** The use of standing corn for grazing is remaining steady province-wide. Targets have dropped to below 100 cow days/acre in some regions, instead of 225-275 cow days/ acre typically planned for. Spring soil moisture conditions reduced the acres seeded in 2021, followed by the drought conditions during the growing season reduced tonnage in much of the province.

**Certified Organic Hay:** Often listings claim forage is organic but are found to not be certified upon further investigation. Premiums for organic hay continues to lack. Organic prices continue to sit within the average range for non-certified forages.

**Standing Hay:** 2021 prices for standing hay were similar to 2020 2021, however with less variability. Agreements for standing hay exist primarily neighbour-to-neighbour, or with habitat conservation agencies like Ducks Unlimited Canada, Nature Conservancy of Canada and Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation. Most agreements follow one of three trade guides: crop share, price per acre or price per weight of harvest. For an overview of production costs and evaluation of the value of standing hay, refer to the Fall 2021 Forage Market Price Discovery Report, page 18.

### **Small Square Bales**

The price for small square bales reported is based on listings from November 1, 2021 to January 7, 2022. Current small alfalfa/grass square bale prices rose slightly through fall 2021. Slightly higher prices year-over-year are indicative of higher demand as many producers have struggled to source forages this year. Straw prices are averaging \$4.65/bale, higher than the 2021 average of \$3.40/bale. Higher prices for bales fall-winter reflects the reduced availability, as well as the work that went into hauling and stacking. Listings (supply) can be found throughout the province; however the majority are located in eastern Saskatchewan.

Assuming an average square bale weight of 65lb/bale, average small square alfalfa and alfalfa/grass hay is priced at \$327.97/tonne and \$241.82/tonne respectively, more than \$100/tonne higher than a year ago.



**Table 4. Square Bale Asking Prices Saskatchewan  
November 1, 2021 through January 7, 2022**

<b>Forage Type</b>	<b>Average Price (\$/bale)</b>	<b>Range (\$/bale)</b>
<b>Alfalfa</b>	\$9.67	\$8.00-\$10.00
<b>Alfalfa/Grass</b>	\$7.13	\$4.00- \$10.00
<b>Grass</b>	\$7.38	\$5.00 - \$10.00
<b>Greenfeed</b>	\$9.00	\$8.00-\$10.00
<b>Straw</b>	\$4.65	\$2.00 - \$10.00

### **Dehydrated Alfalfa and Timothy Products**

There are two operational dehy plants left in the province (CanPro Arborfield and Norquay) and several facilities located in south-central Alberta. Agreements with alfalfa producers are long-standing and increased to \$40/tonne for 2020 and 2021. 2022 rates have yet to be determined. Table 5. depicts the average price for sun-cured and dehy products in Saskatchewan for the 2021/2022 growing seasons.

**Table 5. Average Saskatchewan Processed Alfalfa Product Prices for 2021-2022**

Product Type	Price (\$/Tonne)
Dehydrated Alfalfa Pellet (16-17% Crude Protein)	\$385 avg
Sun cured Alfalfa Pellets (15% Crude Protein)	\$350 avg
Organic Sun cured Alfalfa	not priced in 2021

**Table 6. Estimated Alberta Compressed Timothy Prices for 2021-2022**

Product Type	Price (\$/tonne)
Supreme compressed timothy	\$600 (includes premium on pet food quality)
Premium compressed timothy	\$550
Choice compressed timothy	\$500
Standard compressed timothy	\$450
Utility compressed timothy	\$350

Australia enjoyed favorable growing conditions in 2021, however increased freight rates and finding farm workers has been a challenge in the agriculture industry. Increased freight rates with bulk freight vessels and shipping containers in short supply and shorter shipping times from Australian ports mean that delivery costs is relatively more affordable for importers. For Canadian exporters, there are currently unusually high and climbing freight costs (approximately tripled), greatly increased wait time to ship product, and are located much further from the importing countries. As a result, Canada is not currently playing as large a role in the compressed timothy global market.

## 6. Additional 2021 Provincial Forage Market Considerations

Saskatchewan 550-lb steers averaged \$225/cwt from January to November of 2021, up 2% from 2020 and 2% from the five-year average. Canadian cow marketings is projected to be up 7.5% from last year. Beef cow culling rates were expected to be 13.1% in 2021, up from 11.6% in 2020 and the long-term average of 11.4%. Higher culling rates are expected to pressure cow inventories on January 1, 2022. Alberta hay prices averages \$173/ton from January to October, up 9% from 2020 and up 25% from the five-year average.

The 2021 growing conditions resulted in a challenging year for dairy producers. The dairy sector saw steady silage production however it took many more acres to get the same tonnage as previous years, which was easier for those with a larger land base. Some of the crops planned for silage ended up as greenfeed. A variety of atypical crops were ensiled including peas, canola, and kochia. Silage yields were well below normal due to the hot, dry conditions during the growing season, unless producers were fortunate to have it under irrigation. Those with irrigation were much better off in terms of higher corn silage yields and some were able to get up to four cuts of alfalfa. Producers are continuing to utilize more by-product fibre sources (forage extenders) to replace dry forages in rations, primarily in the form of beet pulp and hulls from cereals and pulses. Some are chemically treating low quality fiber sources to increase quality and using less bedding is a reality for many producers as they require the straw to be used as feed. Grains are making up more of the rations since they are easier to find than hay. Dairy quality hay is hard to find, costly with prices starting at \$350/MT and tough to get trucked in. The goal is to stretch current forage supplies until the next harvest.

The agricultural community continues to be concerned about the impact of carbon taxation on production costs, which are passed on to the purchaser.

Pastures are in very poor condition across much of Saskatchewan, due to widespread drought conditions. A good start to the 2022 growing season with good snow cover, spring run-off and spring rains will be critical in order for pasture growth to get ahead of livestock and for water sources to fill or replenish. If turn-out is prolonged, it is likely that producers will run out of feed before they can get cattle to pasture, with some producers already questioning if they have enough to get them through until May or June. Higher-quality forages would be needed at that time and dry-lot feeding livestock may still be forage user's best option at that time. Three weeks over below normal winter temperatures in late December and early January will deplete winter feed stocks, which may result in current feed supplies not lasting until May and June as some producers had originally hoped. Early turn-out onto pasture may further damage weak perennial plants' ability to meet growth potential already stressed by 2021 conditions.

Figure 3. again shows a marked decrease in general hay and pasture topsoil conditions over last year's report, with much of the province indicating short to very short soil moisture. Pastures in many parts of the province are in critical need of moisture, rest and optimal spring growing conditions to begin recovery.

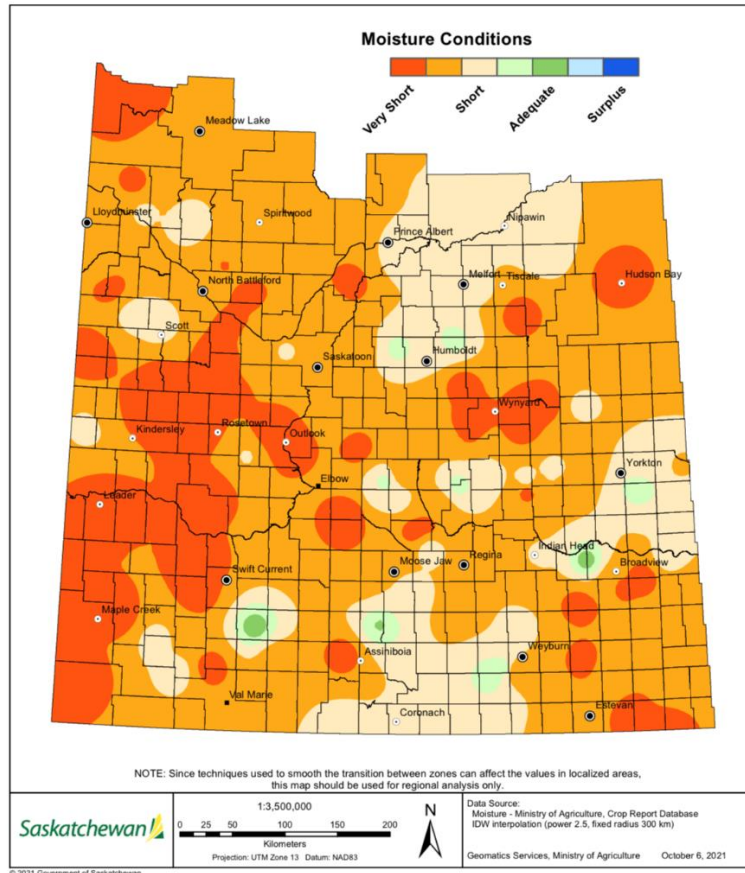
Interest in seeding new forage stands has not been strong in recent years, largely due to risks associated with less than optimum spring seeding conditions. Some specialists are recommending against seeding new forage stands this spring. Marginal annual cropland seeded to greenfeed has been filling the perennial forage gap, instead of being seeded to new perennial stands. If soil moisture and spring conditions improve, we might have anticipated an uptake in perennial forage seeding, but high grain prices are likely to have an impact on those decisions, encouraging producers to seed those marginal annual croplands to higher-value grain crops. There is also concern that some better-quality perennial forage stands will be terminated in order to seed higher-priced field crops.



**Figure 3. Hay and Pasture Topsoil Moisture Conditions Final 2021 Crop Report October 4, 2021**

(Source: Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture, 2021<sup>3</sup>)

### Hay and Pasture Topsoil Moisture Conditions October 4, 2021



## 7. Current Alternative Feedstuff Prices

The use of silage, straw, planned and unplanned (salvage) greenfeed as primary forage sources continues in Saskatchewan. These feedstuffs are often paired with feed grain or alternatives to balance livestock rations, and to stretch feed sources through the winter. Quality of forages across the province, despite drought conditions, is reported as poor to fair, with some areas reporting fair to good. Most livestock producers have reported inadequate supplies of hay, straw, greenfeed. Feed grains and barley used in producing many alternatives were in shorter supply this year and prices for barley have increased significantly.

Those producing alternative feeds provided valuable feedback on what indications they are receiving about the forage supply/demand through winter 2022. Most report that the clientele base continues to be mainly existing customers, but there are more inquiries from new customers as producers are looking for livestock feed sources to supplement and stretch their limited forage supplies.

Table 7. lists average prices for a variety of alternative feed sources in Saskatchewan. Unless otherwise specified, they are reported as picked up at the plant (FOB).

**Feed grain** prices can impact forage and livestock prices. Feed grains are less plentiful than January 2021, due to drought conditions reducing crop yield. Some processors have reported that a strong feed grain export market is driving the price up and reducing the amount of feed grain being sold domestically, more than a lack of inventory. Feed barley is priced in the \$371.86/tonne range (January 5, 2022), a sharp increase from \$235/tonne in January 2021 and \$165/tonne in 2020. Current feed wheat prices are at \$413.36/tonne compared to \$163.50 at this time last year. Feed grains do go into the pelleting and DDGS process, and those costs will reflect current purchase prices.

**Grain screenings** include cracked or broken grain and pulse seeds as well as chaff, weed and other crop seeds. Many grain handling facilities contract their screenings out ahead of time to existing customers and unprocessed screenings are usually moved out quickly. Pelleters indicate that the supply of good quality screenings varies by region, as some are able to provide a consistent supply of pellets, while others indicate a long wait time.

**Grain and grain screening pellets** are available to producers from numerous retailers across Saskatchewan. Pellets may be used in feedlot, backgrounding, cow-calf, range or finishing operations. Current prices for a variety of different pellet types are listed in Table 8. The higher usage by cow-calf producers continues to hold steady, with some pricing increases. Demand is noted as high, with wait times that range from in-stock to up to 5 months, depending on the product. This is due to a combination of the reduced inventory of feed grains and a strong export market driving prices and reducing the amount of feed grain being sold domestically. The increase in prices has some livestock producers opting for less costly feed sources.

**Canola meal** is the protein-dense product left remaining after canola is crushed for oil. There are several canola crushing facilities across Saskatchewan. With canola prices on the rise, canola meal prices can be expected to keep pace.

**Alfalfa pellets** include dehydrated alfalfa or sun-cured alfalfa pellets. Saskatchewan product is available in limited quantities; however prices have increased approximately \$70/tonne over the previous year. Long-term alfalfa supply agreements increased in 2021 to roughly \$40/tonne in-field, with potential increases to come in 2022.

**Distillers grain products** are the by-products remaining following ethanol production. Different distillers' products that can be used as livestock feed supplements include wet distillers' grains, distillers' syrup, and dried distillers' grains (DDG). The coronavirus and low oil prices have hit the biofuel business hard, and ethanol plants across North America are on slow-down, with many shutting down completely. This has resulted in a severe shortage of DDG, and many companies are unable to source it at present.



**Table 7. Alternative Feedstuff Prices and Availability as at January 10, 2021**

Commodity	Locations (FOB)	Winter 2022 Price	Details	Demand; Availability	Winter 2021 Price
Barley Pellets <sup>^</sup>	Clavet	\$477/tonne	Mixed grain	3-4 week wait time	\$295-350
Canola Meal	Harrowby Nipawin~ Clavet Foam Lake	\$450-524/ tonne	Loose	Low availability	\$335-431/tonne
Canola Meal		No local production	Pellets	NA	Not produced locally currently
Alfalfa Pellets	Norquay Legal	\$396/tonne avg	16-17% CP –dehydrated	Demand is steady. Limited availability	\$312/tonne avg
Alfalfa Pellets	Arborfield Norquay	\$350/tonne avg	15% CP – sun cured	Steady demand, limited quantity available	\$288/tonne avg
Alfalfa Cubes	Red Deer Legal	\$528/tonne avg	Cow 7/8" cubes		\$540/tonne avg
Greenfeed Pellets	Arborfield	\$350/tonne	3 new products – oat, oat and pea, pea and alfalfa pellets	Steady demand, limited quantity available	
Oat Hulls (ground)	Yorkton	75/MT		Strong demand, likely sold out	\$25/tonne
Organic Oat Hulls (ground)	Yorkton	120/MT		Less demand, about 70% sold as of Dec 30	\$55 avg/tonne
Grain and Grain Screening Pellets	Clavet Wolseley Stoughton Central Butte	\$310- 435/tonne	12-14% CP, bare with no add-ins	High demand; wait times vary; available to 5 month wait.	\$257-332/tonne
Fortified Grain and Grain Screening Pellets	Central Butte Wolseley Stoughton Moosomin Clavet	\$371- 444/tonne	12-13% CP, fortified with Rumensin, vitamin/mineral (backgrounder type)	High; wait times vary; available to 5 month wait	\$249-341/tonne
Fortified Grain and Grain Screening Pellets	Wolseley Moosomin	\$421- 448/tonne	14% CP, fortified with Rumensin, vitamin/mineral mix (range/cow type)	High; wait times vary; 2 weeks to 3 months	\$201-355/tonne
Fortified Grain and Grain Screening Pellets	Clavet Wolseley	\$457- 466/tonne	High Energy, fortified with Rumensin, vitamin/mineral mix Suited for heifer development or other high energy uses.	High demand, wait times vary; 3 weeks to 3 months	\$296-479/tonne
Fortified Grain and Grain Screening Pellets	Clavet Wolseley Stoughton	\$388- 468/tonne	Bull Development and Show Rations, 12-20% CP, with Rumensin, vitamin & mineral	High demand; wait times vary; available to 3 months.	\$270-408/tonne
Corn Dried Distillers Grains	Belle Plain Moosomin Unity*	\$370- 400/tonne		High demand; short supply. Wait times vary, depending on volume needed. Minimum 2 month wait.	\$295-350/tonne
Wheat Dried Distillers Grains	Unity* Belle Plain	\$370- 385/tonne		2-5 month wait	\$250-295/tonne

\*Mixed corn and wheat DDGs

<sup>^</sup>Mixed grain pellet to substitute pure barley pellet

~Not sold directly from the plant

## 8. Forage Price Trends in Neighbouring Jurisdictions

**Table 8.** Forage (Asking) Prices in Adjacent Provinces and States (Winter)

\*American prices have been converted to CDN currency values average from December 30, 2021 to January 5, 2022 (\$1USD = \$1.2719CDN)

Forage Type	Alberta		Manitoba		Montana*		North Dakota*	
	Price	Avg Price	Price	Avg Price	Price	Avg Price	Price	Avg Price
	Range	(\$/Tonne)	Range	(\$/Tonne)	Range	(\$/Tonne)	Range	(\$/Tonne)
Alfalfa-1st Cut	257.28-479.28	336.04	264.55-374.78	318.12	317.98-419.73	369.57	263.01-429.29	327.42
Alfalfa-2nd Cut	286.60-472.45	371.92	244.93-382.94	311.29	385.55-540.06	450.43	308.43-386.67	347.56
Alfalfa/Grass	141.76-423.95	292.42	180.99-352.74	278.25	420.60-583.24	493.26	233.57-400.70	299.54
Grass	190.04-396.83	305.33	66.13-413.36	258.82	322.46-583.23	457.28	163.47-630.90	295.48
Straw	44.09-133.33	84.91	55.12-143.30	88.64	105.15-140.20	126.96	63.64-175.24	116.49
Greenfeed	176.37-324.30	227.65	168.65-271.39	212.01	259.38-329.75	282.83	168.23-377.42	249.31
Pulse Straw	44.09-121.25	90.68	48.50-122.58	103.33	n/a	n/a	146.93-146.93	146.93

### Alberta

Weather conditions and forage production varied across Alberta. Much of the province has moderately low to very low soil moisture reserves, with the exception of the Peace region and a pocket northeast of Calgary, which are near normal. Feed availability is variable as well, with some producers having adequate and even surplus supplies, while others are supplementing feed shortages with straw. Some producers have to buy straw due to there being little crop harvested. Hay and straw are mostly moved locally to minimize trucking costs. As of late fall, the rise in grain prices make grain that was not pre-priced an expensive feed option. Bale silage is increasingly being used. There will need to be early spring rains positively impacting the start to spring growth and delays in turn-out. In these dry regions, forage supply will be tight again.

### Manitoba

The final Manitoba Crop Report for 2021 (October 13, 2021) reported that growing season rainfall across most of Manitoba ranged from 52 to 118 per cent of normal precipitation. Heat unit accumulations were generally higher than average. Livestock feed supplies were a challenge, after four consecutively dry summers (depending on locale). There were serious forage shortfalls due to reduced forage and pasture yield, leaving some livestock producers having to supplement for part of the summer. Forage yields are reported at 20-50 per cent of normal, causing cattle producers to look at alternative feed sources like baling non-conventional feeds such as slough hay and bulrushes, using more straw and increasing greenfeed. Corn silage yield is about two thirds of normal. Manitoba does not typically have a significant number of public trades available for analysis. Manitoba had little hay on offer, at time of writing. There is currently little wheat, oats and barley straw listed.

### Montana (from Hay Reports; December 2021 and January 2022)

December 17, 2021: Hay sold steady to weak. Demand for hay remains very good, however sales are very light. Buyers are showing some resistance for high prices and many cattlemen are opting to sell cattle instead of feeding hay. Hay offerings remain light. Most ranchers have purchased the hay they need for winter needs and new sales are light. Winter has arrived across the state as very cold temperatures are being seen. Many locations dipped well below zero this week. Producers report hay usage is high as cold weather and some snow cover is forcing cattlemen to feed in many locations. Hay being purchased out of Canada has tighten significantly over the past few weeks. According to the drought monitor 100% of the

state is in Moderate drought or worse; 89.26% of the state is in a Severe drought or worse. 66.24% of the state is in extreme drought or worse. 30.58% of the state is in an exceptional drought.

January 7, 2022: Compared to last report (12-17-21): Hay sold fully steady. Demand for hay remains very good. After a couple weeks of bitter cold some ranchers were searching for hay as very cold temperatures are eating through supplies quickly. Hay offerings remain light and a few limited sales were seen. Straw continues to move as ranchers are buying to grind and blend down high quality hay. Traders buying hay from surrounding states say hay is being delivered into Montana for 300.00-325.00 which is 25.00 more a ton the last month. According to the drought monitor 89.33% of the state is in Moderate drought or worse, 10.67% lower than the week of December 17th; 86.35% of the state is in a severe drought or worse, down 2.91%. 53.93% of the state is in extreme drought or worse, down 12.31%. 13.87% of the state is in an exceptional drought, down 16.71%.

### **North Dakota**

Not a lot of hay is trading currently, and only a small amount of straw for sale is on offer. There was little change in prices from November to January, and reasonably priced listings moved quickly. The Northern United States are suffering the same drought concerns as southern Saskatchewan, and precipitation and good spring growing conditions will be needed to alleviate those concerns, this spring. North Dakota offered the 2021 Emergency Feed Transportation Assistance Program to assist livestock producers who have feed losses from dugout and have to buy feed.

## 9. Forage Seed Prices

The average retail price of commonly purchased and seeded forage species in Saskatchewan is presented in Table 9. This information reflects general forage seed prices at the current time. Prices represent Certified #1 seed, unless otherwise specified.

**Table 9. Forage Seed Prices in Saskatchewan as at January 10, 2022**

Class	Species	2021 Average Price \$/lb	2022 High (\$/lb)	2022 Low (\$/lb)	2022 Average Price \$/lb
<b>Grasses</b>	Certified Smooth Brome *****	\$4.97	\$7.25	\$5.25	\$6.24
	Smooth Brome (Common)****	\$4.58	\$7.15	\$5.10	\$6.10
	Certified Meadow Brome *****	\$5.06	\$7.50	\$5.25	\$6.37
	Meadow Brome (Common)****	\$4.77	\$8.00	\$5.19	\$6.52
	Hybrid Brome***	\$5.79	\$7.75	\$6.25	\$3.92
	Russian Wildrye*	\$9.14	\$	\$	\$4.00
	Tall Fescue *****	\$3.55	\$5.12	\$3.50	\$4.22
	Fairway Crested Wheatgrass***	\$6.25	\$7.45	\$6.60	\$6.90
	Kirk Crested Wheatgrass *****	\$6.24	\$6.85	\$5.00	\$5.95
	Crested Wheatgrass (Common)*****	\$5.06	\$6.50	\$4.95	\$5.59
	Intermediate Wheatgrass *****	\$4.85	\$7.25	\$4.99	\$6.10
	Pubescent Wheatgrass **	\$6.45	\$7.70	\$7.25	\$7.48
<b>Legumes</b>	Alfalfa - hay variety *****	\$4.78	\$6.14	\$3.35	\$5.18
	Alfalfa - creeping root *****	\$4.89	\$6.19	\$3.50	\$5.32
	Alfalfa (Common) *****	\$4.57	\$5.60	\$2.85	\$4.05
	Cicer Milk Vetch *****	\$5.50	\$9.95	\$6.95	\$8.47
	Sainfoin *****	\$3.67	\$4.99	\$3.45	\$4.50
	Alsike Clover *****	\$4.20	\$5.50	\$3.50	\$4.27
	Norgold Sweet Clover***	\$2.83	\$3.95	\$2.90	\$3.38
	Common Sweet Clover *****	\$2.33	\$2.95	\$2.90	\$3.14
	Hairy Vetch*****	\$3.39	\$3.85	\$3.20	\$3.50
<b>Native</b>	Western Wheatgrass ***	\$10.57	\$22.22	\$8.17	\$14.13
	Northern Wheatgrass **	\$12.48	\$21.31	\$11.80	\$16.56
	Slender Wheatgrass ****	\$4.73	\$6.95	\$4.49	\$5.54
	Green Needlegrass *	\$19.52	\$	\$	\$12.24
	June Grass *	\$33.45	\$	\$	\$37.19
	Canada Wildrye*	\$13.51	\$	\$	\$10.88
	Purple Prairie Clover (legume)**	\$46.45	\$71.65	\$60.00	\$65.83

\* denotes the number of companies reporting price for that species.

Producers should contact seed companies or distributors for specific information related to product attributes and availability as well as any guarantees of quality, certification or other parameters that are specific to that company, species or variety.

Native seed prices listed are current January 2022 prices as per the major forage retailers. Prices do fluctuate regularly for these species, depending on demand and availability. There are several native seed growers who harvest and market seed directly across Western Canada, however supply for many species is limited right now, with exception of the wheat grasses which are in decent to good supply. A listing of native seed producers may be found through the Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan at <https://www.npss.sk.ca>.

Tame forage seed prices have remained reasonably consistent over the over the past three years, however are increasing for 2022 for many species. Challenges from pests, hail, heat, wind and shortage of moisture, resulted in forage seed quality was reported as generally good, but below average yields. Inventory varies by company and species. There are decent to good supplies of alfalfa, meadow brome, and crested wheat grass, however a possible market wide shortage of smooth brome. Some reports for sweet clover indicate a good supply, however others indicate a shortage. Tall fescue seed availability may be dependent on the variety. There are very few reporting availability of Russian Wildrye. Cicer milk vetch is likely to sell out. Some companies have a lot of seed produced under irrigation and some comes up from the US as well.

Interest in cocktail mixes of annuals/biennials continues to build, and more of these mixes are being seeded for soil improvement and livestock feed on cropland.

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