



Saskatchewan Hay & Pasture Report

In this second edition of our Report for 2023, the SFC brings you reports from Saskatchewan and neighbouring provinces on hay and forage conditions as well as a look at the first hay prices of the new growing season. Don't forget to register for the Saskatchewan Pasture Tour, coming to the Cochin area on August 9th! It promises to be a day of great tour stops and time to network with others in the industry.

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 July 4-10, 2023

Crops continued to progress this week with the warm temperatures across the province. Canola is beginning to pod and wheat is beginning to flower in many areas. Dry conditions are impacting parts of the province and many producers are hoping for rain immediately.

Very little rain was received this week. The most rain was in the Dinsmore area, with 14 mm. A large decrease in soil moisture accompanied the warm weather this past week. Crop land topsoil moisture is currently 21 per cent adequate, 55 per cent short and 24 per cent very short. Hay and pastureland topsoil moisture is currently 17 per cent adequate, 55 per cent short and 28 per cent very short.

Producers have made swift and steady progress with haying this week. Fifty-one per cent of the first cut of hay has been baled or silaged, while 26 per cent is cut and 23 per cent is still standing. The quality of hay ranges from excellent to fair, with 59 per cent in good quality.

Crop damage this week comes from heat and moisture stress and grasshoppers. Producers are reminded to keep in mind economic thresholds when scouting for grasshoppers and to reach out to their local regional office if they have any questions.

Many producers are haying and monitoring their pastures now. With the heat, water quality is at the top of mind for many. If producers are concerned about the quality of their water source for livestock, they can bring in samples to their local regional office for testing.

[Read the full Crop Report here](#)



SASK PASTURE TOUR

AUGUST 9TH 2023

DETAILS

 **8:30AM - 5:00 PM** SUPPER TO FOLLOW

 **WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9TH, 2023**

 **MEET AT COCHIN HALL**
8:30AM REGISTRATION
9:00AM BUS DEPARTURE

 **75.00 PER PERSON**
LUNCH AND ROAST BEEF SUPPER INCLUDED

REGISTRATION

 WWW.SASKFORAGE.CA

 OFFICE@SASKFORAGE.CA

 **306-731-7610**

REGISTRATION DEADLINE AUGUST 1ST

TOUR SCHEDULE

HATHERLEIGH PASTURE

1

HISTORY OF HATHERLEIGH
NATIVE AND FOREST PLANT IDENTIFICATION
SAW FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

RISING SUN RANCH

2

ROTATIONAL GRAZING STRATEGIES
BEEF CATTLE MANAGEMENT & GENETICS
DUC FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

SIKLENKA ENTERPRISES

3

PERENNIAL FORAGE SEED PRODUCTION
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE FUNDING
OPPORTUNITIES

SUNSET BISON RANCH

4

SOIL HEALTH
MULTI-SPECIES & COVER CROP GRAZING
ROTATIONAL GRAZING OF BISON



Reports on hay and pasture conditions from neighbouring provinces

Excerpt from Manitoba Crop Report, July 11, 2023

Forages

- Forage crops are cut and baled with the majority of first cut done. Crops are average to slightly below average due of the lack of moisture in some areas and insect damage in others. Rainfall is needed to bring on any regrowth.
- Beef producers have completed first cut on approximately 85% of tame hay and 70 to 75% of native hay acres. Yields remain highly variable. Regrowth on hayfields is much slower and thinner due to the hot and dry weather conditions and increasing issues with salinity.
- Grasshoppers are causing damage on some pastures.

Livestock

- Cooler temperatures have given cattle some reprieve from the intense heat, however fly pressure continues to be strong.
- Pastures are average to below average condition and are in need of moisture in the southwest. Pasture conditions are declining and significant rain is needed soon to sustain grazing for the summer.

- Dugouts are about 70% full in the Southwest.
- Dugouts are approximately 30% full in the Eastern region

[Read the full crop report here](#)

Excerpt from Alberta Crop Report Crop Conditions as of July 11, 2023

Over the last 30 days, parts of the province have received much-needed rains. The North West Region received 125 to over 300 mm of precipitation. Parts of the Peace received up to 200 mm of precipitation, while some areas in the North East and Central received up to 175 mm. However, many areas of these three regions, as well as the entire South Region, only received 0-50 mm of rain.

Currently, 45 per cent of all crops are rated in good to excellent condition, well below the 5- and 10-year averages of 66 and 68 percent, respectively (see Table 1). Regionally, growing condition ratings were the highest in the North East and the Peace where conditions were 59 and 58 per cent good to excellent, respectively. Conditions are rated the lowest in South at 35 percent good to excellent. Compared to the 5-year average the Peace Region is only 1 per cent below average. The rest of the regions were 13 (North East) to 39 (Central) per cent below the 5-year average of crops rated in good to excellent condition.

Since the second week of June, tame hay conditions have increased moderately from 31 per cent rated good to excellent to 35 per cent. As of July 11, tame hay conditions are rated at 27 per cent poor, 38 per cent fair, 29 per cent good, and 6 per cent excellent with the best ratings seen in the Peace Region. The average yield for first cut dryland hay is 0.9 tons per acre and the average yield for irrigated first cut is 2.0 tons per acre. Currently, 59 per cent of dryland first cut is complete, well ahead of the 5-year average (38 per cent). Some producers are also putting annual crops into their grazing rotations due to lack of available feed.

Pasture conditions have been slightly decreasing since the third week of June and currently only 33 per cent of the pastures in Alberta are rated as good to excellent (see Table 3). Overall, 31 per cent are rated as poor, 37 per cent fair, 29 per cent good and 4 per cent excellent.

[Read the full report here](#)



Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence Progress Report

LFCE, May 1, 2021 to April 30, 2023 Progress Report

The Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence (LFCE) recently released a progress report. Learn more about ongoing projects, staff at the Centre, statistics and production numbers and more.

[Download the report here.](#)

Blister beetles can make for a bad hay day

by: Mike Rankin, Managing Editor Hay and Forage Grower Magazine, June 20, 2023

There are lots of insects that cause alfalfa plant damage and yield loss. The list is much shorter for those insects that have negative impacts on animals that actually consume the alfalfa — and blister beetles top that list.

In the Northern Plains, blister beetle sightings are already being reported in alfalfa fields, according to James Rogers, an extension forage crops production specialist with North Dakota State University (NDSU).

Blister beetles produce a naturally occurring toxin called cantharidin. If the beetle is crushed, this toxin is released and causes blistering on the skin. Horses are especially sensitive to hay that is contaminated

with crushed blister beetles. Several years ago, a Wisconsin horse ranch reported losing 17 animals to blister beetle-infested hay that they had purchased from a Western hay producer.

The potential for lethal consequences that blister beetles pose to horses and other livestock has been widely known and chronicled for many years. Actual occurrences are rare, but that provides little solace to the unknowing horse owner who experiences a catastrophic loss.



Image: Blister beetle
Image Credit: North Dakota State University

Adult blister beetles are attracted to blooming alfalfa fields and weeds such as goldenrod and dandelion. They feed on nectar and pollen and can also devour leaves, stems, and flowers. Blister beetles produce one generation per year and will be active from June to September, laying eggs in the soil from late summer to early fall. There are several species of blister beetles, including black, ash gray, and striped.

“Cantharidin from blister beetles can cause severe inflammation and even death in horses,” says Rogers. “Depression, inflammation and ulceration of the mouth, irritation of the gastrointestinal tract, and painful urination are common symptoms of sublethal doses of cantharidin. Cattle and sheep are much more tolerant of cantharidin ingestion,” he adds.

The forage specialist notes that blister beetle toxicity levels are higher in males but also vary by species and by the region in which the beetles are found. The 1/2- to 1-inch-long adult beetles are easily identified among other beetles as the “neck” region located behind the head is narrower than the head when viewed from above.

“Blister beetles are mobile and tend to swarm in large numbers in small areas of a field,” says Miranda Meehan, a NDSU extension livestock environmental stewardship specialist. “They can move into alfalfa fields from field edges that have a host plant such as sweetclover, which blooms earlier than alfalfa. Once alfalfa begins to bloom, they may move into a field and feed for a short period of time before migrating to other areas of the field or to new fields.”

[Read more](#)

Attn Researchers: BCRC Opens Proof of Concept and Clinical Trial Call for Proposals

by: **Beef Cattle Research Council, July 7, 2023**

The Beef Cattle Research Council invites proposals focused on projects related to proof of concept and clinical trials. The application deadline for this call is September 5, 2023, at 11:59 PM MT.

With increased investment in research through the Canadian Beef Cattle Check-Off, the BCRC has committed to provide research funding in two key areas that have previously had limited funding:

- 1. Proof of Concept** – proposals to help inform whether a concept is worth pursuing as a larger, more defined funding request
- 2. Clinical Trials** – proposals to validate practices or technologies that have been discovered through research projects and/or to facilitate the adaptation of technologies utilized in other sectors, commodities or countries

The BCRC has committed funding to short-term projects in these two areas, with a maximum of \$50,000 per project regardless of duration. Project duration should be within six months to one year unless a clear rationale can be provided demonstrating the need for a longer timeframe.

[Read more](#)

Hay pricing information

Saskatchewan Hay Market Report

The Saskatchewan Forage Council monitors hay prices throughout the year as well as producing two Forage Market Reports annually. As of early July, there is limited new crop hay trading and we anticipate reporting more hay sales in our next report.

In a recent search of ads, average hay asking prices were (source: Kijiji, Facebook, online classified ads):

Alfalfa-grass hay: \$243/MT

Alfalfa hay \$265/MT

Small Square bales: \$8.05/bale (grass hay and mixed hay)

Small Square straw bales: \$3-10/bale (old crop)

There is also standing hay on offer for a variety of pricing methods (single price for all, price per bale, etc) but most offers tend to be smaller areas of 40 acres or less.

USDA Market News Service Hay Report

July 7, 2023

Wyoming Hay Report: Compared to last week sun-cured alfalfa pellets sold steady with alfalfa cubes trading 20.00 higher. Very little hay put up on first cutting across the state. Several producers continue to seek a window where the rain showers might stop so they can produce some alfalfa hay bales. There will be tons of discolored first cutting alfalfa for sale this year. More than likely it will go to a feedlot to be ground into a ration. Some producers are very concerned where they will find enough green, dry and non-rained on hay to full fill orders to the dairy clients they have. Next week is the second week in July and many producers are just trying to finish up first cutting of alfalfa. Crazy weather pattern this summer.

South Dakota Hay Report: Compared to last week: Alfalfa hay steady. Good demand remains for all types of hay as the dry spring which expanded into a drought greatly affected tonnage of hay put up so far this year. There was some rain this week, which was greatly needed, that did affect some who were making their second cutting of alfalfa. Cool weather has moved into the area, slowing the drying down as well and making it difficult to put up nice hay.

Montana Hay Report: Compared to last report(6/23/23): The new crop hay market has yet to fully establish. Demand from out of state buyers was moderate while demand from in state buyers is light. Most producers are still trying to put up 1st cutting as wet conditions have kept them from cutting or bailing. Hay is abundant and supplies are heavy. With the sell off of cows in recent years hay supplies have far out paced demand this year. Many ranchers are putting up enough of their own hay, and are not needing to buy any additional hay. Producers are trying to put up as much hay in squares as they can, hoping to ship it to drought stricken regions. New crop contracts found very light demand as heavy supplies have caused buyers to have little interest in securing supplies, for now. Demand for hay to ship south has given some producers hope as prices for hay in drought stricken areas remain high, with some portions of Texas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico all seeing prices over \$300/ton for high quality alfalfa. According to the drought monitor 11.73% of the is in Moderate drought or worse, down 5.19 from two weeks ago. 3.52% of the state is in an Severe drought or worse, unchanged from two weeks ago. 0% of the state is in Extreme or 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 July 7, 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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