



Saskatchewan Hay & Pasture Report

We hope that summer is going well for you! The Saskatchewan Forage Council has been busy collaborating with partners to bring you the Saskatchewan Pasture Tour on August 7th. We hope you'll take the opportunity to attend this event. There will be plenty to see and learn and some great opportunities to network with those in the forage industry! Watch the [SFC's Pasture Tour page](#) for more information and registration coming soon!

For more resources and for past editions of the Report, check out the SFC website.

[Visit the SFC Website](#)

Saskatchewan Agriculture Crop Report

Excerpts from the Report for the period June 25-July 1, 2024

Producers are reporting overall good crop, pasture and hay conditions throughout the province this week. Rain was widespread, with some areas receiving significant amounts along with isolated hail events. Excess moisture in some regions of the province is continuing to contribute to flooding of crops in low lying areas. In other regions of the province that have received reduced rainfall amounts, moisture would be welcome in the coming weeks to support crop, pasture and hay development.

Overall, crop development continues to fall behind normal for this time of year due to the cooler and wet conditions. The potential for warmer temperatures and drier conditions in the coming weeks will support crop advancement and haying progress.

Producers are reporting overall good pasture conditions throughout the province. Currently, 29 per cent of pastures are reported as excellent, 57 per cent are good, 13 per cent are fair and one per cent are reported as poor.

Many producers slowed or delayed their haying operations with the frequent and forecasted rains over the past week across the province. Six per cent of the hay crop has received its first cut with three per cent baled or silage. Hay quality is rated as 25 per cent excellent, 69 per cent good and six per cent fair.

[Read the full Crop Report here](#)

Reports on hay and pasture conditions from neighbouring provinces

The Manitoba Crop Report is not available for July 2024. We hope to report conditions in Manitoba in our next edition.

**Excerpt from Alberta Crop Report
Crop Conditions as of July 2, 2024**

Over the last week, precipitation has been variable throughout the province (see the map below). Many areas in the North East and Peace regions received at least 5 mm of rain while the North West, Central and South regions saw precipitation exceeding 30 mm, with a few areas receiving more than 80 mm. Despite the cooler temperatures to date, the province is anticipating warmer temperatures for the week ahead. All regions predict that higher temperatures across the province will improve crop development.

Precipitation over the months of May and June has significantly improved soil moisture reserves across the province. Currently, surface soil moisture is rated at 75 per cent good to excellent (see Figure 1 and Table 2), which is an improvement of 11 per cent compared to 64 per cent good to excellent reported at the beginning of the season (May 7, 2024). Specifically, the provincial surface soil moisture ratings are at 4 per cent poor, 19 per cent fair, 57 per cent good and 18 per cent excellent, with 2 per cent excessive. Regionally, surface soil moisture conditions improved 15 per cent to 69 per cent good to excellent in the South, 13 per cent to 73 per cent good to excellent in the Central, and 8 per cent to 89 per cent good to excellent in the Peace. Conditions slightly declined by 2 per cent to 82 per cent good to excellent in the North East, while the North West remained the same at 77 per cent good to excellent.

Pastures are generally growing well due to the growing season rains and recent warm weather, and the first cut of hay has begun in all regions of the province (see Figure 1). Provincial pasture growth (5-year average) is reported as 4 (14) per cent poor, 22 (31) per cent fair, 63 (47) per cent good and 11 (8) per cent excellent. Provincial tame hay growth (5-year average) is reported at 3 (12) per cent poor, 23 (29) per cent fair, 59 (47) per cent good and 15 (12) per cent excellent.

[Read the full report here](#)

Grazing tidbits from Jim Gerrish

by: Amber Friedrichsen, Associate Editor, Hay & Forage Grower Magazine, June 18, 2024

Perhaps the best way to understand grazing livestock and forage management from a fresh perspective is to walk a mile in someone else's shoes — or in their pasture. Whether you are a beginning grazer or a veteran rancher, exploring other systems can inspire new strategies and offer new solutions to routine challenges on your own operation.

Jim Gerrish has witnessed a spectrum of systems with over 40 years of grazing experience in diverse regions of the United States. After conducting grazing research and outreach in the hot and humid Show-Me State for over 20 years with the University of Missouri, he moved to Idaho to continue grazing livestock in the cool and dry Pahsimeroi Valley. He shares his expertise as an author, speaker, and grazing consultant, in addition to hosting grazing workshops and pasture walks across the country.

Last week, Gerrish hosted one such pasture walk at Starry Nights Farm near Burlington, Wis. The rotational grazing beef farm comprises roughly 140 acres and about 30 head of cows.

Attendees took their first steps of the pasture walk through a mixed stand that had already been grazed once and then cut for hay. Gerrish threw his wide-brimmed hat into the field like a frisbee and instructed the group to circle up around its landing point. Then, he asked attendees to pluck a single grass tiller from the ground and determine, based on its stage of regrowth, whether forage was ready to be grazed again.

“How do you know when a pasture is recovered?” he prompted.

Gerrish noted that counting growing degree days is not a reliable strategy to gauge pasture readiness. Cool-season grass development is driven by photoperiod, not growing degree days. Therefore, as day lengths get longer, cool-season grasses reach maturity faster.

Instead, he suggested assessing leaf stage, or the number of fully emerged leaves with collars that have formed between the blades and the sheaths. In this case, the group determined the average leaf stage in the pasture was roughly three and a half, indicating that the stand had transitioned from Phase 1 to Phase 2.

[Read more](#)

The Benefits of Including Forages in Your Crop Rotation

by: Manitoba Agriculture

Why Should You Consider Forages?

Forages can be a simple answer to soil erosion and decline in organic matter and fertility, a problem caused by modern cultivation and

following practices on much of the farmland in western Canada. Forages can also help you reduce nitrogen fertilizer costs and the energy costs associated with applying nutrients.

Many farmers are using forages for positive results on any land, but particularly, on marginal crop land. The numerous benefits in any situation include:

- increased soil fertility when legumes are used;
- increased soil quality;
- better water filtration and internal drainage;
- less disease in subsequent cereal crops;
- reduced weed populations;
- increased yields in subsequent crops;
- better economics in subsequent crops;
- greater and deeper carbon sequestering for greenhouse gas reduction.
-

Forages require fewer cash inputs than most grain crops, and although you will need special harvesting equipment, there are now many more options for harvesting forage crops than in the past. These include sharing equipment with other producers or utilizing custom harvesters.

[Read more](#)



Prairie Weed Monitoring Network

The Prairie Weed Monitoring Network is a network of federal, provincial, and academic weed scientists and specialists committed to generating new knowledge on troublesome weeds across the Canadian Prairies.

View herbicide resistance maps and find research and resources at <https://www.prairieweeds.com/>

Hay pricing information

Saskatchewan Hay Market Report

There is limited new crop hay on offer in Saskatchewan, and some old crop hay. Listings for new crop hay are mainly in southern Saskatchewan or offered in Saskatchewan from southern Alberta. The most recent price search (late June/early July 2024) found the following average asking prices from Facebook groups, Kijiji and other ads:

Grass hay: \$147/tonne based on 10 tonnes on offer

Alfalfa hay: \$179-418/tonne based on 309 tonnes on offer

Alfalfa/grass hay: \$171/tonne based on 832 tonnes on offer

Greenfeed: no offers

Clover: no offers

Cereal straw: \$55/tonne (based on one offer)

Pulse straw: no offers

Small square bales: \$5-8/bale based on 7 offers. Straight grass, straight alfalfa and mixed hay.

There are additional offers of standing hay through various arrangements: priced per bale, per acre and on a crop-share basis but not prices were associated with these offers.

USDA Market News Service Hay Report

June 28-July 5, 2024

Wyoming Hay Report: Compared to two weeks ago first cutting is almost complete with demand light but steady. Very little to no moisture and hot temperatures across the state have slowed the growth. According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service as of June 25, 2024, Alfalfa Hay 1st cutting is 46% completed.

South Dakota Hay Report: Movement is lower this week with some farmers starting to cut second crop and demand being lower than normal. Some farmers are still holding onto their hay waiting for quality test results to come back and offers from buyers. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor Website South Dakota is mostly under normal soil conditions except for Western South Dakota is under moderate to abnormally dry soil conditions. According to the National Weather Service precipitation has been higher for this time of year and temperatures have been average for this time of year.

Montana Hay Report: Compared to last report: Hay sold generally steady. Hay sales were light this past reporting period as most ranchers have cattle turned out on summer pasture and range. Most of the hay purchased was old crop hay for use next winter. Dry land and even irrigated yields have been lighter than most producers were expecting and some buying has been seen as a result. Western Montana remains very dry and limited rain has been seen. Drought concerns continue to be at the forefront of everyone's mind as the entire state is teetering between dry and drought. According to the drought monitor 39.54% of the state is in Moderate drought or worse, up 2.17% from two weeks ago. 4.63% of the state is in an Severe drought or worse, unchanged from two weeks ago. 0% of the state is in Extreme drought or worse, unchanged from two weeks ago. Notably, 91.99% of the state is abnormally dry.

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 5, 2024 for Wyoming, South Dakota and Montana.](#)

Saskatchewan Forage Council Sponsors

Gold



Silver



IMPERIALSEED

Bronze

DSV Northstar



Innovation for
your growth



DLF



The Saskatchewan Forage Council Gratefully Acknowledges funding for our 'Facilitating Forage Initiatives in Saskatchewan' project through the Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association Industry Development Fund:



The Saskatchewan Hay & Pasture Report is published by the Saskatchewan Forage Council and is available online at www.saskforage.ca. If you are interested in re-printing content, please contact our office prior to use. Opinions and information are provided by the authors and publication does not imply endorsement by the SFC.

Saskatchewan Forage Council | PO Box 124 | Ogema, SK S0C 1Y0 CA

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!