



MEDIA RELEASE

Unpredictable weather patterns prompting call for extra hay, straw and feed to be made available for purchase by livestock producers

July 29, 2020, WINNIPEG, MB – Challenging production conditions across Manitoba have provincial farm groups representing beef, grain and forage producers asking farmers with extra straw, hay or alternative feed to consider listing their products for sale.

Manitoba Beef Producers (MBP) and Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP), together with Manitoba Forage & Grassland Association (MFGA), are warning that livestock producers could be facing a challenging summer and fall that will affect their ability to source feed and straw for their livestock.

“In recent years Manitoba has experienced consistently inconsistent seasonal and regional production variability through drought conditions, snowstorms, and heavy rains. These kinds of challenging conditions are prompting concerns that 2020 hay and forage yields could be lower than expected across the province this summer and complicate the feed situation for livestock producers this coming fall and winter,” said MBP President Dianne Riding. “In the spirit of co-operation, we are encouraging Manitoba farmers to avail themselves of the listing resources and work together to ensure feed and straw is available for cattle producers who require it. We truly appreciate those who advertise their available resources for sale.”

“Across the province, we have seen both dry and wet conditions being reported, leading to a lack of quality hay and straw for livestock feed. We are calling on livestock producers and grain producers to work together to ensure that our industry can continue to thrive and to ensure livestock herds have enough feed for this year,” KAP President Bill Campbell remarked. “Our hope is that as grain producers begin to make harvest decisions, they will consider how they can support livestock producers who may not have enough feed for their herds. 2020 has been an immensely challenging year but we’ve learned that we all must work together when faced with difficulty.”

“While recent precipitation events have impacted certain areas, we are now heading into multiple consecutive years of key provincial regions in overall dry conditions. And with the dryness, we are very unsure of the forage yield potential coming off our fields,” said Larry Wegner, MFGA chair. “For producers that are planning to be carrying herds into fall and over winter, that feeding uncertainty makes the planning done now even more important. As producers and producer groups working together, we can all help each other better prepare for the times ahead.”

The three organizations have prepared a resource that outlines different options farmers have for selling and purchasing feed. Producers are encouraged to use any and all means available to list available feed for purchase.



About MBP

Manitoba Beef Producers is the exclusive voice of the beef industry in Manitoba, representing 6,300 producers around the province. Its mission is to represent beef producers through communication, advocacy, research, and education – within the industry and to governments, consumers and other, to improve prosperity and ensure a sustainable future. <https://www.mbbeef.ca/>

About KAP

Keystone Agricultural Producers is Manitoba's general farm policy organization and takes direction from its members across the province – including farmers and 25 farm commodity organizations. Keystone Agricultural Producers has a 19-member board, representing both producers and commodity groups. <https://www.kap.ca/>

About MFGA

MFGA is a producer-led organization that promotes the economic prosperity and environmental benefits of forages, grasslands, cover crops and healthy soils to benefit our forage and grassland producers, local communities and society. <https://www.mfga.net/>

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Hay and Straw Listing Fact Sheet

Farmers and producers in Manitoba have numerous options when it comes to listing available hay and straw, and for buying hay, straw and alternative feeds. By no means is this list exhaustive and we encourage you to share other avenues for listing and buying with Manitoba Beef Producers, Keystone Agricultural Producers and Manitoba Forage & Grassland Association.

Manitoba Agriculture

Manitoba Agriculture can assist farmers and producers with questions on where to source hay, straw and alternative feed. Call 1-844-769-6224 or visit your local [Ag Office](#). The Manitoba Agriculture [Livestock page](#) also has tools and resources for dry conditions.

Manitoba Government Hay Listing Service

The Manitoba government has a hay listing service that includes hay, pasture land, and alternative feeds available. There are also options to select certified organic and certified weed free feed. To learn more, [click here](#).

Social Media

There are two dedicated groups on Facebook for buying/selling hay and straw.

[Manitoba Hay and Feed for Buy/Sell](#)

[Hay/Feed for sale in Saskatchewan, Alberta and Manitoba](#)

Other social media avenues including Twitter also feature hay for sale across the province, however that exchange needs to occur on a user to user basis.

Hay Exchange

The internet Hay Exchange is a free hay listing and hay locator website. It includes listings from all 50 states and all Canadian provinces. For more information, [click here](#).

Others

Buy and sell websites like [Kijiji](#) and [eBrandon](#) will occasionally have listings for hay and straw. For more information.