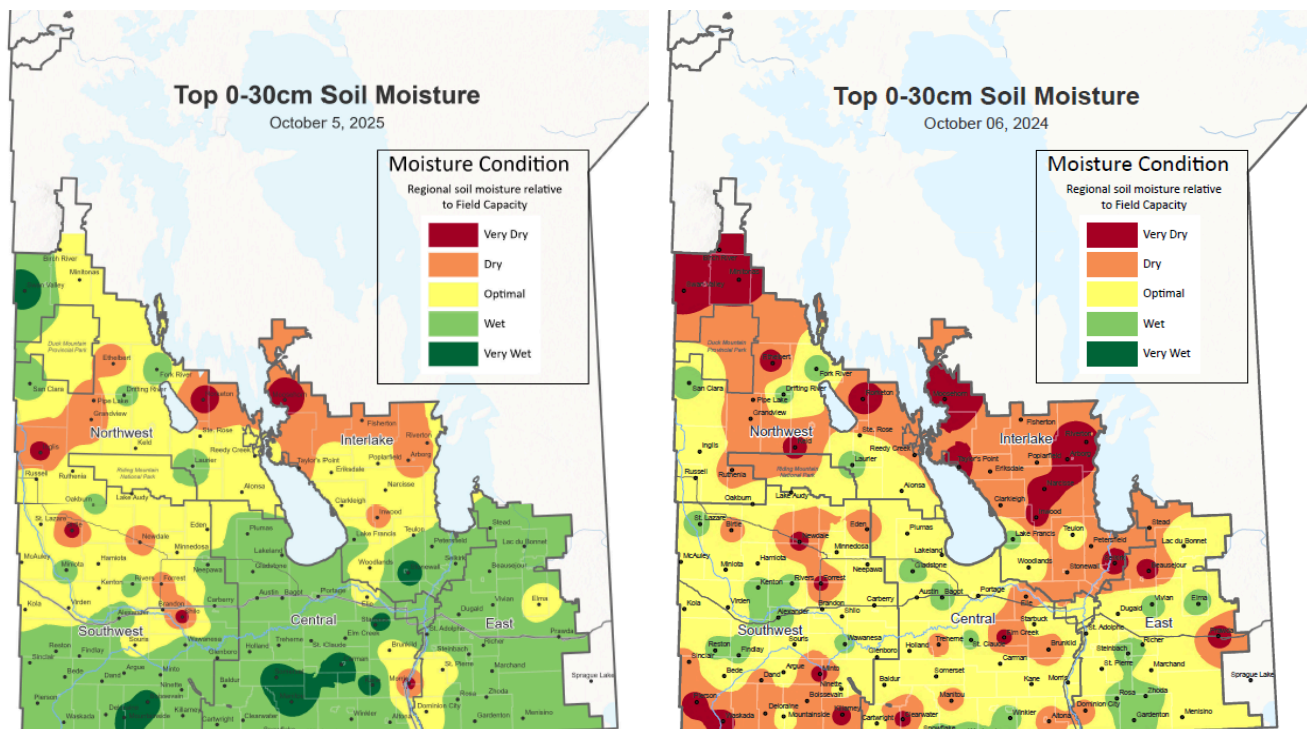


October Hay Situation & Price Update

By John McGregor, MFGA Extension Support

Looking back at the 2025 growing season we see that most of Manitoba received less than 100% of normal rainfall. This led to some concerns early in the growing season for hay and pasture production with hay cuts at normal to below average and some areas having to supplement cattle on pasture.

Fortunately most of Manitoba received significant rainfall later in the growing season which helped later cuts of hay and improved pasture conditions enabling producers be to continue grazing well into the fall.



Looking at the soil moisture in the top 0 - 30 m on Oct 5, 2025 we can see that we are going into winter in a much better condition than we were at this time last year.

The areas in the Northwest and Interlake areas that are dry and/or very dry have been short of moisture during the entire growing season and are reporting feed shortages,

Hay Prices

Now that we are in the later part of October and harvest has wrapped up, producers

have a fairly good idea of what feed they have on hand for the fall and winter feeding period.

Variable moisture conditions during the growing season has resulted in yields in some areas of the province falling short of expectations. First cut was at or below normal.,

Fortunatley better moisture conditions later in the season allowed for extended grazing in to the fall and a normal final cut for most areas.

Areas in the Interlake and Northwest regions were dry for most of the growing season and are experiencing below normal forage yields.

Looking at prices for the month of October, we are starting to see prices that reflect the present hay situation. Prices are up compared to the October 2024 report by 1 to 1.5 cents/lb across the board. Some of the asking price increase may be due to sellers feeling out the market to see what demand there is.

There is still some old crop hay available in the 3-4 cent range and a lot of hay that is listed presently doesn't have a price listed which may indicate that there isn't a huge demand for the 2025 crop.

Straw prices are difficult to determining as most listing don't have weights. Presently asking prices are in the \$30 to \$35 /round bale range.

[Kijiji Manitoba](#) and the [Manitoba Hay Listing](#) have numerous new listings this month.

The Face book group **Manitoba Hay and Feed For Buy/Sell** is another site that has a number of new listings.

Alfalfa:	7 cents/lb
	Dairy Quality n/a
Alfalfa/grass:	Good Quality 6-9 cents/lb
	Beef Quality 5-7 cents/lb
Beef hay (grass):	5-6.5 cents/lb
Greenfeed:	N/A
Horse hay:	6 cents/lb
Native Hay:	3-6 cents/lb
Straw: cereal:	\$30 to \$35 / round bales

One final factor that may influence hay prices are grain prices. The USDA is forecasting a record corn crop, which is expected to keep feed prices low in Canada. As grain prices decline, they could help keep a lid on hay market increases.