
Alberta Crop Report



Alberta 2014 Greenfeed and Silage Production Survey Results

Purpose of Survey

Greenfeed and silage production statistics for Alberta are not available from Statistics Canada or any other source, despite the fact that producers in the province harvest significant acreages of annual crops for greenfeed and silage every year. To fill this data gap and to meet client needs, the Statistics and Data Development Branch of Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AF) initiated a greenfeed and silage production survey in 2002. Since then, the survey has been conducted annually, to develop selected statistics for the forage industry.

As in previous years, the 2014 survey was conducted in partnership with Agricultural Fieldmen and Agriculture Financial Services Corporation. The survey collected data on greenfeed and silage acreage, yields and production at the municipal level. The information was then used, along with input from AF specialists, to develop provincial estimates. Just to note, the yield and production estimates in this report are on a wet weight basis.

Alberta 2014 Greenfeed and Silage Production

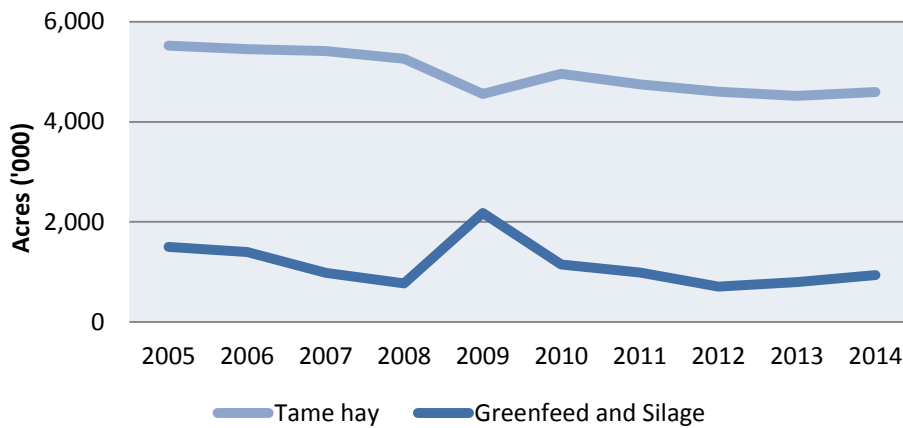
Crop growing conditions in the province during 2014 were mainly favorable, despite the hot and dry weather in July and August, and heavy snow and frost in early September. These conditions provided producers with an above average harvest, and crops of average quality. Provincial average yields were below the 2013 record year, but still above their 10-year averages for most major crops.

Total tame hay production in Alberta in 2014 was estimated at 7.26 million tonnes, based on the Statistics Canada report “Production of Principal Field Crops, November, 2014”. This was down 4.4 per cent from 2013, and 7.6 per cent below the 10-year average. The lower production was a result of smaller yields (1.7 tons per acre), despite an increase in harvested area (4.6 million acres).

In 2014, Alberta producers seeded an estimated 18.3 million acres of spring wheat, durum, barley, oats, mixed grains, triticale, canola and dry peas (see Table 1). Of this total seeded area, 94.9 per cent was harvested as grains and oilseeds and 5.1 per cent as greenfeed and silage. The percentage of crop area harvested for both grains and oilseeds, greenfeed and silage was higher than in 2013, as the area harvested for greenfeed and silage increased. Producers seeded more greenfeed and silage acres mainly because cattle prices increased and grain and oilseeds prices dropped compared to previous year.

Total area harvested for greenfeed and silage in 2014 was estimated at 938,000 acres, an increase of 18 per cent from 2013 (Figure 1). Total area harvested for greenfeed increased 35.1 per cent from 2013, to 447,000 acres, while silage acreage rose by 5.8 per cent to 491,000 acres.

Figure 1. Total Harvested Tame Hay and Sum of Greenfeed and Silage Area (2005 - 2014)



Source: Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

The mainly favorable crop growing conditions in 2014 contributed to higher yields for silage. Yields for greenfeed were relatively smaller than the previous year due to dry conditions throughout the summer, especially in the Peace Region. The estimated provincial average yield for greenfeed was 2.66 tonnes per acre, 39.3 per cent lower than in 2013. The provincial average yield for greenfeed barley was 3.48 tonnes per acre (a 22.1 per cent decrease from 2013), and 2.87 tonnes per acre for greenfeed oats (35.2 per cent decrease from 2013). While the provincial estimated average yield for greenfeed declined between 2013 and 2014, the estimated provincial average yield for silage was up 5.5 per cent to 7.67 tonnes per acre. The increase in silage yield was due to increased yields for spring wheat, barley and mixed grain. The yield for spring wheat silage rose 11.8 per cent to 6.46 tonnes per acre, barley silage yield was up 7.7 per cent to 7.83 tonnes per acre and mixed grain silage was up 6.1 per cent to 7.37 tonnes per acre. Oats silage yield decreased 1.4 per cent to 7.48 tonnes per acre, and the yield for triticale silage dropped 7.0 per cent to 6.74 tonnes per acre.

Due to decreased yields, total greenfeed production dropped 18.1 per cent from 2013, to 1.2 million tonnes in 2014. The production for greenfeed barley was 482,000 tonnes, 20.0 per cent below 2013. Greenfeed oats production was estimated at 467,000 tonnes, down 32.8 per cent from 2013. For silage, total production was estimated at 3.4 million tonnes, up 1.4 per cent from 2013, due to higher yields and harvested area. The production of barley silage was 2.5 million tonnes, 6.2 per cent lower than in 2013. Oats silage production was estimated at 519,000 tonnes, a 42.7 per cent increase from 2013.

The major crops harvested for greenfeed and silage in 2014 were barley and oats, although many acres of mixed grains and some spring wheat and triticale were also included. Oats accounted for 40.1 per cent of the provincial total harvested greenfeed area, while barley represented 34.2 per cent. Spring wheat accounted for 17.5 per cent and mixed grain accounted for 6.2 per cent. The remaining 2.0 per cent of total harvested greenfeed area was from triticale. In terms of harvested silage area, 71.4 per cent of the provincial total was barley, 15.6 per cent came from oats, 8.4 per cent from mixed grains, 4.2 per cent from spring wheat and 0.4 per cent from triticale.

Estimates of greenfeed and silage production in Alberta for previous years, dating back to 2005, are also shown in Table 1.

For further information on the survey results, please contact:

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Table 1: Alberta Greenfeed and Silage Production

	Total Seeded Area	Harvested Greenfeed Area	Harvested Silage Area	Average Greenfeed Yield	Average Silage Yield	Total Greenfeed Production	Total Silage Production
	('000 acres)			(tonnes/acre)		('000 tonnes)	
2014 Spring Wheat	6,045	78	21	2.09	6.46	148	121
Durum	550	0	0	-	-	0	0
Barley	3,200	153	350	3.48	7.83	482	2,488
Oats	670	179	77	2.87	7.48	467	519
Mixed Grains	100	28	41	2.67	7.37	67	277
Triticale	30	9	2	2.90	6.74	23	12
Other Crops*	7,700	0	0	-	-	0	0
Total	18,295	447	491	2.66	7.67	1,188	3,418
2013r Spring Wheat	6,415	9	9	2.11	5.78	19	52
Durum	600	0	0	-	-	0	0
Barley	3,650	135	365	4.47	7.27	603	2,654
Oats	580	157	48	4.43	7.58	695	364
Mixed Grains	90	26	39	4.65	6.95	121	271
Triticale	25	4	4	3.25	7.25	13	29
Other Crops*	7,080	0	0	-	-	0	0
Total	18,440	331	464	4.38	7.27	1,450	3,371
2012 Spring Wheat	5,800	7	3	0.91	1.29	6	4
Durum	580	0	0	-	-	0	0
Barley	3,770	110	290	2.49	5.99	274	1,736
Oats	640	145	75	2.80	5.89	406	442
Mixed Grains	80	40	30	2.32	6.32	93	190
Triticale	25	5	2	2.62	6.00	13	12
Other Crops*	7,675	0	0	-	-	0	0
Total	18,570	307	400	2.58	6.16	793	2,465
2011 Spring Wheat	5,972	2	0	2.09	0.00	4	0
Durum	536	0	0	-	-	0	0
Barley	3,610	150	390	3.13	6.40	469	2,498
Oats	892	210	115	3.15	7.28	661	838
Mixed Grains	202	45	55	3.38	7.91	152	435
Triticale	41	5	15	2.91	5.78	15	87
Other Crops*	6,778	0	0	-	-	0	0
Total	18,030	412	575	3.16	6.71	1,302	3,857
2010 Spring Wheat	6,020	50	5	2.51	6.27	126	31
Durum	360	0	0	-	-	0	0
Barley	3,730	195	380	3.04	6.74	593	2,561
Oats	940	245	120	2.99	6.94	733	833
Mixed Grains	180	80	55	3.38	7.91	271	435
Triticale	40	5	10	2.96	7.56	15	76
Other Crops*	6,485	0	0	-	-	0	0
Total	17,755	575	570	3.02	6.91	1,737	3,936

* Other crops include canola and dry peas - Not available r - Revised Totals may not add up due to rounding

Note: Yields and production are reported on a wet weight basis.

Source: Statistics Canada and Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

Table 1 (Cont'd): Alberta Greenfeed and Silage Production

	Total Seeded Area	Harvested Greenfeed Area	Harvested Silage Area	Average Greenfeed Yield	Average Silage Yield	Total Greenfeed Production	Total Silage Production
2009 Spring Wheat	5,875	205	75	1.05	3.06	216	229
Durum	930	20	-	0.91	-	18	-
Barley	3,960	370	455	2.28	4.38	843	1,994
Oats	845	350	130	1.96	3.76	686	488
Mixed Grains	200	100	50	1.93	4.55	193	227
Triticale	45	15	10	1.69	4.54	25	45
Other Crops*	5,800	175	225	0.97	2.12	169	476
Total	17,655	1235	945	1.74	3.66	2,150	3,460
2008 Spring Wheat	5,700	-	8	-	4.31	-	34
Durum	930	-	-	-	-	-	-
Barley	4,150	115	255	2.77	6.11	318	1,557
Oats	850	170	120	2.49	5.53	424	664
Mixed Grains	130	42	40	2.63	6.49	110	259
Triticale	35	8	10	2.80	6.67	22	67
Other Crops*	5,910	-	2	-	-	-	-
Total	17,705	335	435	2.61	5.93	875	2,582
2007 Spring Wheat	4,877	2	8	-	5.67	-	45
Durum	765	-	-	-	-	-	-
Barley	4,850	180	340	2.49	5.72	449	1,943
Oats	1,050	190	125	2.45	5.40	465	675
Mixed Grains	160	50	55	2.54	5.67	127	312
Triticale	60	8	11	2.72	7.17	22	79
Other Crops*	5,645	-	11	-	4.09	-	45
Total	17,407	430	550	2.47	5.64	1,063	3,099
2006 Spring Wheat	5,769	15	35	1.81	3.63	27	127
Durum	571	-	-	-	-	-	-
Barley	4,095	185	465	2.72	6.12	503	2,847
Oats	1,269	275	150	2.49	5.44	686	816
Mixed Grains	373	100	85	2.77	6.03	277	513
Triticale	76	20	30	3.04	6.80	61	204
Other Crops*	5,087	5	35	2.20	4.34	11	152
Total	17,240	600	800	2.61	5.82	1,565	4,660
2005 Spring Wheat	5,587	25	40	2.50	4.90	63	196
Durum	860	5	-	1.80	-	9	-
Barley	4,225	185	455	3.00	7.00	555	3,185
Oats	1,250	290	235	3.15	7.15	914	1,680
Mixed Grains	220	110	75	3.15	7.15	347	536
Triticale	65	20	20	3.05	7.30	61	146
Other Crops*	4,855	5	35	2.40	4.46	12	156
Total	17,062	640	860	3.06	6.86	1,960	5,900

* Other crops include canola and dry peas - Not available r - Revised Totals may not add up due to rounding

Note: Yields and production are reported on a wet weight basis.

Source: Statistics Canada and Alberta Agriculture and Forestry