

Alberta Forages



High quality forages and feed are essential for Alberta's livestock industries. Their use results in the production of high quality meat, fish and dairy products.





Forage, feed and supplements, keep livestock healthy. They also contribute to keeping equestrian or racing stock in peak performance condition.

In addition to forages, Alberta exports feed wheat, barley, oats, peas and canola meal. Alberta produces feed and forages for domestic and international markets. Alberta's forage and feed industries also provide customized blends and consulting services.



Forages

Forages are that part of vegetation that is nutritious and highly palatable for animal consumption. They are a significant component of the diets of numerous livestock species.

The forage industry in Alberta is extremely diverse. It includes native range (natural land for pasture), tame/seeded pasture, hayland, annual forage (fodder) crops, grass and legume seed crops, alfalfa leafcutter bees and sod.

Annual crops, such as oats, barley and triticale, are harvested as green feed or silage. Green feed refers to cereal crops that are harvested prior to the cereal crop becoming fully mature. Silage is produced through the preservation of green forage crops via fermentation and natural acidification. Straw, a by-product of annual crop production, is also commonly included in livestock rations.

Hay and Processed Forage

Alberta's cattle and other livestock industries rely heavily on hay production to meet the nutritional needs of their animals. Perennial grasses and legumes, such as smooth brome grass, timothy, alfalfa and clover, are the forages most commonly harvested and stored as hay.

A few perennial species, such as timothy and alfalfa, are processed into compressed hay, cubes or pellets. The majority of compressed timothy hay products are exported. It is used as fibre in beef and dairy rations. Compressed timothy hay must meet strict export requirements.

Alberta had 3,056,701 acres (1.2 million hectares) of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures (33% of the national total). The main products of the processed alfalfa industry are dehydrated "dehy" alfalfa pellets and sun-cured alfalfa pellets or cubes. Like the compressed hay industry, most of the dehy alfalfa products are exported.





Alberta Forages

- **15.9 million acres** (6.4 million hectares) of natural land for pasture
- **5.4 million acres** (2.3 million hectares) of tame/seeded pasture
- **3 million acres** (1.2 million hectares) of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures
- **over 164 thousand acres** (66 thousand hectares) of forage land harvested for seed



Supply Advantage

With a vast land base, Alberta has more than 25.7 million acres (10.5 million hectares) of forage land. As a result, Alberta has the capability to export grass and legume seed, grass and legume long hay, and value-added processed alfalfa and compressed timothy hay. Alfalfa is exported in bales, cubes and pellets while timothy hay is exported in a baled or double compressed form.

Quality and Safety

Alberta's clean water and fertile soil contribute to the highest quality hay and forage products in the world. Cold winter weather helps reduce insect populations and plant and soil diseases in our forage crops.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) provides a phytosanitary certificate for densified or baled hay for export. Certification under CFIA's Canadian Hay Certification Program (CHCP) is mandatory for processors, shippers and exporters of densified or baled hay, destined for countries that regulate certain quarantine pests.



Alberta Agriculture and Forestry has a voluntary Certified Weed Free Hay Program for producers. Those who want to produce certified weed free hay arrange for their fields to be inspected by a qualified agricultural fieldperson prior to harvest. If the field meets the criteria outlined in the program, hay from that field is certified as weed free. Weed free hay is often in high demand with livestock producers looking to avoid importing new weeds onto their operation when purchasing feed.

Service Advantage

Alberta exports:

- Double compressed hay bales for overseas customers who receive them in sea containers. These bales represent the maximum weight in the minimum size (typically 26 MT of product/container).
- Dehydrated products - including pellets and cubes in bags, totes and bulk.
- Long fibre hay bales - available in several sizes to suit shipping and the needs of our clients.
- Large round and square straw bales.
- Perennial legume and grass seed.

Many of our producers will provide nutritional analysis from an accredited agency upon request.





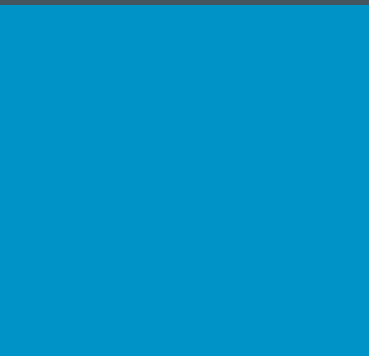
Animal feed, mineral and protein supplements

Alberta companies offer custom blending and mineral and protein supplements. Some supplements provide protein, vitamins and minerals to all classes of livestock including beef cattle, dairy, horses, sheep, goats, bison and elk.

Alberta can supply dairy producers with total mixed rations that provide the required level of nutrients (energy, protein, minerals and vitamins) needed by the cow. Feeds are also available for fish and poultry.

Alberta companies can provide nutrition and management consulting services.





Alberta ...

A valuable trade partner

Alberta is proud to be a reliable and trustworthy provider of high quality agriculture products. Our goal is to provide our industry customers and consumers worldwide, with safe, consistent, high quality products – and we will continue to work hard to earn and keep your business.

We invite you to visit our beautiful province to meet Alberta suppliers, conduct business and enjoy the scenery.

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry
Government of Alberta: www.alberta.ca
Email: agrifoodexports@gov.ab.ca
Website: www.agrifoodalberta.ca



2013