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# Alberta Crop Report

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## Alberta 2015 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 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 2015 survey was conducted in partnership with Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC). 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 2015 Greenfeed and Silage Production

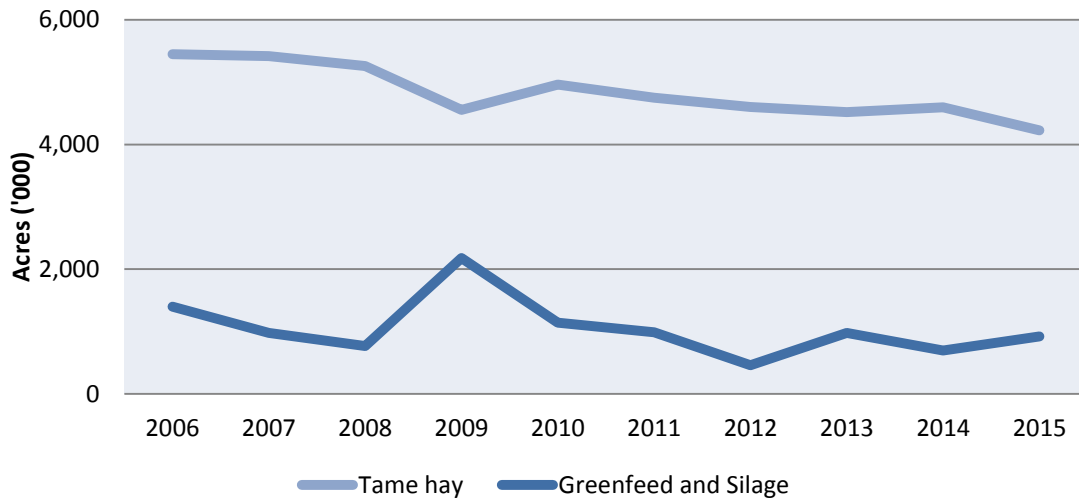
Crop growing conditions in Alberta during 2015 were mainly challenging for producers. The crop season in the province started with a dry spring and cool overnight temperatures followed by a hot summer with limited moisture which had an adverse impact on crop growth. As harvest progressed across the province, yields were higher than what was expected earlier in the summer. Pasture conditions remained poor and continued to show effects of the dry conditions during spring and early summer.

Total tame hay production in Alberta in 2015 was estimated at 5.0 million tonnes, based on the Statistics Canada report “Production of Principal Field Crops, December, 2015”. This was down 31.5 per cent from 2014, and 36.6 per cent below the 10-year average (2005-2014). The decline was attributed to a significant drop in yield, as well as a decrease in harvested area. The average yield declined 23.5 per cent to 1.3 tonnes per acre, while harvested area was down 8.1 per cent to 4.2 million acres.

In 2015, Alberta producers seeded an estimated 11.4 million acres of spring wheat, barley, oats, mixed grains, triticale and dry peas (see Table 1). Of this total seeded area, 92.0 per cent was harvested as grains and oilseeds (down 1.8 per cent from 2014) and 8.0 per cent as greenfeed and silage (up 1.8 per cent from 2014). Total area harvested for greenfeed and silage in 2015 was estimated at 919,976 acres, an increase of 32 per cent from 2014 (See Figure 1). Total area harvested for greenfeed increased 45.0 per cent to

438,219 acres, while silage acreage rose by 21.7 per cent to 481,757 acres. Producers harvested more greenfeed and silage mainly because of a significant shortage in hay production caused by the dry conditions in the province.

**Figure 1. Total Harvested Tame Hay and Sum of Greenfeed and Silage Area (2006 - 2015)**



Source: Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

Challenging growing conditions during the 2015 crop season and low night temperatures in spring contributed to lower yields for both greenfeed and silage. Yields for greenfeed were relatively lower than the previous year due to dry conditions throughout the spring and summer. The estimated provincial average yield was 2.17 tonnes per acre, 14.2 per cent lower than in 2014. Provincially, greenfeed barley was estimated to average 2.16 tonnes per acre, down 24.2 per cent from 2014, while spring wheat averaged 1.82 tonnes per acre, down 6.7 per cent. Greenfeed oats increased 2.3 per cent to 2.63 tonnes per acre. The estimated provincial average yield for silage declined 34.3 per cent to 4.39 tonnes per acre. The yield for spring wheat silage fell 37.6 per cent to 3.83 tonnes per acre. Barley silage yield was down 36.0 per cent to 4.28 tonnes per acre, while oats declined 22.4 per cent to 5.20 tonnes per acre, mixed grain down 21.6 per cent to 5.32 tonnes per acre and triticale dropped 57.7 per cent to 3.10 tonnes per acre.

Despite a 14.2 per cent decrease in the average provincial yield, total greenfeed production increased 24.0 per cent in 2015, due to a 45.0 per cent increase in harvested area. The production for greenfeed barley was 355,143 tonnes (unchanged from 2014), while for oats it was estimated at 298,774 tonnes (up 22.4 per cent). Total silage production was estimated at 2.1 million tonnes, down 20.0 per cent from 2014. This reduction was the result of a 34.3 per cent decline in the average provincial yields for silage which more than offset a 21.7 per cent increase in harvested area. Barley silage

production was estimated at 1.4 million tonnes (28.9 per cent lower than in 2014), while for oats it was estimated at 294,646 tonnes (down 13.9 per cent).

The major crops harvested for greenfeed and silage in 2015 were barley and oats, although many acres of spring wheat, mixed grains and triticale were also included. Barley accounted for 37.6 per cent of the provincial total harvested greenfeed area, while oats represented 25.9 per cent. Spring wheat accounted for 31.0 per cent and mixed grains accounted for 3.7 per cent. The remaining 1.8 per cent of total harvested greenfeed area was from triticale and dry peas. In terms of harvested silage area, 67.4 per cent of the provincial total was barley, 11.8 per cent came from oats, 10.9 per cent from spring wheat, 7.5 per cent from mixed grains, and 2.4 per cent from triticale and dry peas.

Estimates of greenfeed and silage production in Alberta for previous years, dating back to 2006, 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)	
2015 Spring Wheat	5,860	136	53	1.82	3.83	248	202
Barley	3,350	164	325	2.16	4.28	355	1,391
Oats	670	114	57	2.63	5.20	299	295
Mixed Grains	80	16	36	2.40	5.32	39	191
Triticale	35	5	10	1.20	3.10	6	31
Dry Peas	1,445	3	1	0.77	1.85	2	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,440</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>482</b>	<b>2.17</b>	<b>4.39</b>	<b>949</b>	<b>2,113</b>
2014r Spring Wheat	6,045	59	18	1.95	6.14	114	108
Barley	3,200	118	293	2.85	6.69	335	1,958
Oats	670	95	51	2.57	6.70	244	342
Mixed Grains	100	20	32	2.40	6.79	49	220
Triticale	30	10	2	2.20	7.32	23	14
Dry Peas	1,300	0	0	1.63	0.00	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,345</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>2.53</b>	<b>6.68</b>	<b>765</b>	<b>2,642</b>
2013r Spring Wheat	6,415	7	7	2.16	6.28	15	44
Barley	3,650	105	250	4.33	7.38	453	1,841
Oats	580	95	29	4.53	7.23	431	207
Mixed Grains	900	195	280	4.88	7.27	950	2,036
Triticale	25	5	5	3.18	10.67	17	49
Dry Peas	1,000	0	0	0.00	0.00	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,570</b>	<b>407</b>	<b>570</b>	<b>4.59</b>	<b>7.33</b>	<b>1,867</b>	<b>4,177</b>
2012r Spring Wheat	5,800	6	3	0.91	1.36	5	4
Barley	3,770	65	182	2.47	5.91	161	1,079
Oats	640	101	44	2.74	5.99	276	266
Mixed Grains	80	28	21	2.30	6.51	65	135
Triticale	25	4	2	2.39	7.88	11	15
Dry Peas	1,075	1	0	1.58	0.00	2	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,390</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>2.53</b>	<b>5.94</b>	<b>520</b>	<b>1,499</b>
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
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,030</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>575</b>	<b>3.16</b>	<b>6.71</b>	<b>1,302</b>	<b>3,857</b>

\* 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
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
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,755</b>	<b>575</b>	<b>570</b>	<b>3.02</b>	<b>6.91</b>	<b>1,737</b>	<b>3,936</b>
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
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,655</b>	<b>1,235</b>	<b>945</b>	<b>1.74</b>	<b>3.66</b>	<b>2,150</b>	<b>3,460</b>
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	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,705</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>2.61</b>	<b>5.93</b>	<b>875</b>	<b>2,582</b>
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
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,407</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>2.47</b>	<b>5.64</b>	<b>1,063</b>	<b>3,099</b>
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
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,240</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>2.61</b>	<b>5.82</b>	<b>1,565</b>	<b>4,660</b>

\* 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