

## **Alberta 2010 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, although producers in the province harvest significant acreage 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 Rural Development (ARD) 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 2010 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 municipality level. The information was then used, along with input from ARD specialists, to develop provincial estimates. It should also be mentioned that the yield and production estimates in this report are on a wet weight basis.

### **Alberta 2010 Greenfeed and Silage Production**

Growing conditions during the 2010 crop season in Alberta were mainly favourable, despite the lack of precipitation in the Peace Region and excessive moisture in some other areas of the province. As a result, provincial average yields and production for most crops were higher than in 2009. Based on the recently released Statistics Canada report entitled “November Estimates of Production of Principal Field Crops, Canada, 2010”, total production of tame hay in the province was 9.2 million tonnes, up 71 per cent from 2009. The substantial increase in tame hay production reduced the need for greenfeed and silage.

In 2010, Alberta producers seeded an estimated total of 17.7 million acres to spring wheat, durum, barley, oats, mixed grains, triticale, canola and dry peas (see Table 1). Of the total seeded area, 92 per cent was harvested as grains and oilseeds, six per cent as greenfeed and silage, and two per cent was either grazed or abandoned. The percentage of crop area harvested for grains and oilseeds was much higher than in 2009, as the area harvested for greenfeed and silage declined significantly.

Total area harvested for greenfeed and silage in 2010 was estimated at 1.1 million acres, down 48 per cent from 2009. Total area harvested for greenfeed declined 53 per cent from 2009, to 575,000 acres, while silage acreage dropped 40 per cent to 570,000 acres.

The mainly favorable crop growing conditions in 2010 contributed to higher greenfeed and silage yields. The estimated provincial average yield for greenfeed was 3.04 tonnes per acre for barley (2.28 tonnes per acre in 2009), and 2.99 tonnes per acre for oats (1.96 tonnes per acre in 2009). For silage, the provincial average yield was estimated at 6.74 tonnes per acre for barley, and 6.94 tonnes per acre for oats, both well above their 2009 levels (4.38 tonnes per acre for barley, and 3.76 tonnes per acre for oats).

Despite the higher yields, total greenfeed production declined 19 per cent from 2009, to 1.7 million tonnes. This was due to the marked reduction in harvested area (down 53 per cent). For silage, total production was estimated at 3.9 million tonnes, up 14 per cent from 2009, as higher yields more than offset the impact of a smaller harvested area.

In 2010, barley and oats were the major crops harvested for greenfeed and silage production, although significant acreage of mixed grains, spring wheat and triticale were also taken off as forages. For greenfeed production, barley accounted for 34 per cent of the provincial total, while oats represented 42 per cent. Mixed grains and spring wheat accounted for 16 per cent and seven per cent, respectively. The remaining one per cent was from triticale. In terms of silage production, 65 per cent of the provincial total came from barley, 21 per cent from oats, and 11 per cent from mixed grains. Triticale and spring wheat represented two per cent, and one per cent, respectively.

Estimates of greenfeed and silage production in Alberta for previous years, dating back to 2002, 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 )	( '000 acres )	( '000 acres )	( tonnes/acre )	( tonnes/acre )	( '000 tonnes )	( '000 tonnes )
<b>2010</b>							
Spring Wheat	6,000	50	5	2.51	6.27	126	31
Durum	360	-	-	-	-	-	-
Barley	3,750	195	380	3.04	6.74	593	2,561
Oats	950	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*	6,370	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,650</b>	<b>575</b>	<b>570</b>	<b>3.02</b>	<b>6.91</b>	<b>1,737</b>	<b>3,936</b>
<b>2009</b>							
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	835	350	130	1.96	3.76	686	488
Mixed Grains	185	100	50	1.93	4.55	193	227
Triticale	40	15	10	1.69	4.54	25	45
Other Crops*	5,800	175	225	0.97	2.12	169	476
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,625</b>	<b>1,235</b>	<b>945</b>	<b>1.74</b>	<b>3.66</b>	<b>2,150</b>	<b>3,460</b>
<b>2008</b>							
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>
<b>2007</b>							
Spring Wheat	4,867	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	140	50	55	2.54	5.67	127	312
Triticale	40	8	11	2.72	7.17	22	79
Other Crops*	5,645	-	11	-	4.09	-	45
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,357</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>2.47</b>	<b>5.64</b>	<b>1,063</b>	<b>3,099</b>

\* Other crops include canola and dry peas - Not available

Totals may not add up due to rounding

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

Source: Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development

**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
	('000 acres)			(tonnes/acre)		('000 tonnes)	
<b>2006</b>							
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>
<b>2005</b>							
Spring Wheat	5,587	25	40	2.50	4.90	63	196
Durum Wheat	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
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,062</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>860</b>	<b>3.06</b>	<b>6.86</b>	<b>1,960</b>	<b>5,900</b>
<b>2004</b>							
Spring Wheat	5,285	25	10	2.50	2.60	63	26
Durum Wheat	875	-	-	-	-	-	-
Barley	4,720	245	340	3.30	7.20	809	2,448
Oats	1,450	285	220	3.35	6.90	955	1,518
Mixed Grains	210	55	105	3.40	7.10	187	746
Triticale	100	17	28	3.80	7.90	65	221
Other Crops*	4,615	8	12	2.88	3.42	23	41
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,255</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>715</b>	<b>3.31</b>	<b>6.99</b>	<b>2,100</b>	<b>5,000</b>
<b>2003</b>							
Spring Wheat	5,158	90	20	1.27	3.63	114	73
Durum Wheat	1,025	5	-	0.91	-	5	-
Barley	5,300	380	500	2.18	4.99	827	2,495
Oats	1,600	470	270	2.00	4.63	938	1,249
Mixed Grains	250	80	130	2.04	4.54	163	590
Other Crops*	3,950	10	50	1.00	2.40	10	120
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,283</b>	<b>1,035</b>	<b>970</b>	<b>1.99</b>	<b>4.67</b>	<b>2,058</b>	<b>4,526</b>
<b>2002</b>							
Spring Wheat	5,159	500	520	0.64	1.27	318	660
Durum Wheat	1,100	30	40	0.36	0.82	11	33
Barley	5,360	750	1,000	0.83	2.09	626	2,087
Oats	1,650	450	310	0.82	1.54	367	478
Mixed Grains	250	70	80	0.82	2.00	57	160
Other Crops*	3,600	200	550	0.61	1.06	121	583
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,119</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>0.75</b>	<b>1.60</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>4,000</b>

\* Other crops include canola and dry peas - Not available

Totals may not add up due to rounding

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

Source: Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development