
Alberta Crop Report



Alberta 2013 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 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 2013 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 ARD specialists, to develop provincial estimates. Just to note, the yield and production estimates in this report are on a wet weight basis.

Alberta 2013 Greenfeed and Silage Production

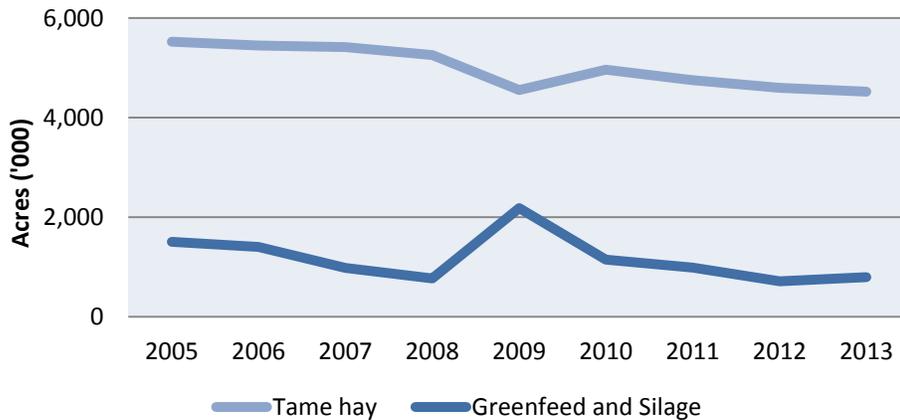
Crop growing conditions in the province during 2013 were very favorable. Producers started seeding later than normal given a wet, cool spring, but the remainder of the season was warm with frequent precipitation. These conditions provided producers with the opportunity for a record harvest, with above average crop quality and yields. Provincial average yields were from 10 per cent to 30 per cent above their respective 10-year averages.

Total tame hay production in Alberta in 2013 was estimated at 7.59 million tonnes, based on the Statistics Canada report “Production of Principal Field Crops, November, 2013”. This was down 1.6 per cent from 2012, and 1.9 per cent below the 10-year average. The lower production was a result of a smaller harvested area (4.5 million acres), despite the high yields (1.9 tons per acre).

In 2013, Alberta producers seeded an estimated 18.4 million acres of spring wheat, durum, barley, oats, mixed grains, triticale, canola and dry peas (see Table 1). Of this total seeded area, 96 per cent was harvested as grains and oilseeds and four per cent as greenfeed and silage. The percentage of crop area harvested for grains and oilseeds, greenfeed and silage was higher than in 2012. Producers seeded less greenfeed and silage crops compared to oilseed crops in 2013, despite feed crop prices for wheat, barley, and oats increasing from 2012. Oilseed prices also rose to a near record high, making them a more popular crop choice.

Total area harvested for greenfeed and silage in 2013 was estimated at 795,000 acres, up 12 per cent from 2012 (Figure 1). Total area harvested for greenfeed increased eight per cent from 2012, to 331,000 acres, while silage acreage rose by 16 per cent to 464,000 acres.

Figure 1. Total Harvested Tame Hay and Sum of Greenfeed and Silage Area (2004 - 2013)



Source: Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development

Producers reported higher yields for greenfeed and silage than expected, due to less crop damage from pest infestations than previous years, and favorable growing conditions (warm growing season with frequent precipitation). The estimated provincial average yield for greenfeed was 4.38 tonnes per acre. This was 70 per cent higher than in 2012. The provincial average yield for greenfeed barley was 4.47 tonnes per acre (up 79 per cent from 2012), and 4.43 tonnes per acre for greenfeed oats (58 per cent increase from 2012). For silage, the estimated provincial average yield was 7.27 tonnes per acre, up 18 per cent from 2012. The increase in average silage yield was due to increased yields in all silage crops. Mixed grain silage was up 10 per cent to 6.95 tonnes per acre, and oat silage increased 29 per cent to 7.58 tonnes per acre. The yield for triticale silage rose 21 per cent to 7.25 tonnes per acre. Barley silage yield was up 21 per cent to 7.27 tonnes per acre.

Due to increased yields, total greenfeed production jumped to 1.4 million tonnes, up 83 per cent from 2012. The production for greenfeed barley was 603,000 tonnes, (120 per cent above 2012) and 695,000 tonnes for greenfeed oats (up 71 per cent from 2012). For silage, total production was estimated at 3.4 million tonnes, up 37 per cent from 2012 due to higher yields and harvested area. The production for barley silage was 2.7 million tonnes, 53 per cent higher than in 2012. Oats for silage production was estimated as 364,000 tonnes, an 18 per cent decrease from 2012.

In 2013, barley and oats were the major crops harvested for greenfeed and silage, although many acres of mixed grains and some spring wheat and triticale were also taken off. For harvested greenfeed area, oats accounted for 47 per cent of the provincial total, while barley represented 41 per cent. Mixed grains accounted for eight per cent and spring wheat accounted for three per cent, while the remaining one per cent was from triticale. In terms of harvested silage area, 79 per cent of the provincial total was barley, 10 per cent came from oats, eight per cent from mixed grains and two per cent from spring wheat. Triticale represented less than one per cent of total harvested silage area.

Estimates of greenfeed and silage production in Alberta for previous years, dating back to 2004, 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)	
2013 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
2012r 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
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	1,235	945	1.74	3.66	2,150	3,460

* 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 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
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	2.8	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	5.4	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	6.8	61	204
Other Crops*	5,087	5	35	2.2	4.34	11	152
Total	17,240	600	800	2.61	5.82	1,565	4,660
2005 Spring Wheat	5,587	25	40	2.5	4.9	63	196
Durum	860	5	-	1.8	-	9	-
Barley	4,225	185	455	3	7	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	7.3	61	146
Other Crops*	4,855	5	35	2.4	4.46	12	156
Total	17,062	640	860	3.06	6.86	1,960	5,900
2004 Spring Wheat	5,285	25	10	2.5	2.6	63	26
Durum	875	-	-	-	-	-	-
Barley	4,720	245	340	3.3	7.2	809	2,448
Oats	1,450	285	220	3.35	6.9	955	1,518
Mixed Grains	210	55	105	3.4	7.1	187	746
Triticale	100	17	28	3.8	7.9	65	221
Other Crops*	4,615	8	12	2.88	3.42	23	41
Total	17,255	635	715	3.31	6.99	2,100	5,000

* 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 Rural Development