

# Alberta Crop Report

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## Alberta 2005 Greenfeed and Silage Production Survey Results

### Purpose of Survey

To meet the needs of clients and fill in data gaps in the forage statistics area, the Statistics and Data Development Unit of AAFRD initiated a greenfeed and silage production survey in 2002. This annual survey has been conducted every year since then. Crops covered in the survey were spring wheat, durum wheat, barley, oats, mixed grains, canola, dry peas, and triticale. Survey results for 2005 are presented in Table 1, while production estimates for previous years are shown in Tables 2, 3 and 4. Statistics on greenfeed and silage production are not available from Statistics Canada or any other source, even though Alberta producers harvest a significant acreage of annual crops every year for greenfeed and silage production.

As in previous years, the 2005 survey was conducted in partnership with Agricultural Fieldmen and Agriculture Financial Services Corporation. The survey collected data on greenfeed/silage acreage, yield and production at the municipality level to develop provincial estimates. Adjustments were made to survey-generated estimates based on input from provincial forage specialists and the recently released Statistics Canada's November production estimates of 2005 field crops. Estimates of yield and production are reported based on wet weights. Moisture levels of greenfeed and silage may vary across the province.

In addition, based on Statistics Canada's estimates, a record high of 8.44 million tonnes of tame hay was produced in Alberta in 2005. This is up 14 per cent from the production level in 2004, and 49 per cent higher than the 10-year average.

### Alberta 2005 Greenfeed and Silage Production

In 2005, Alberta producers seeded a total of 17.55 million acres to the following principal field crops: spring wheat, durum wheat, barley, oats, mixed grains, triticale, canola and dry peas. Of the total seeded area, 90 per cent were harvested as grains and oilseeds, nine per cent harvested as greenfeed and silage, and one per cent used for grazing or abandoned.

Total area harvested as greenfeed and silage in 2005 was estimated at 1.50 million acres (see Table 1). This is up 11 per cent from the 2004 area of 1.35 million acres, due mainly to an increase in silage area. Total area harvested for greenfeed production was estimated at 640,000 acres, which is virtually unchanged from a year earlier. However, total area harvested for silage production increased 20 per cent from 2004, to 860,000 acres.

In 2005, total greenfeed production in Alberta was estimated at 1.96 million tonnes, down seven per cent from the 2004 production of 2.10 million tonnes. The lower greenfeed production is attributed partially to a record tame hay production in 2005. Total silage production was estimated at 5.90 million tonnes, 18 per cent higher than the 2004 estimate of 5.00 million tonnes.

The higher 2005 production is due to an increase in harvested area, as yields are relatively unchanged from a year earlier.

The estimated provincial average yields for greenfeed production in 2005 by crop type were 3.00 tonnes per acre for barley, and 3.15 tonnes per acre for oats. These yields are somewhat lower than in 2004, but nonetheless higher than the previous 3-year average. Silage yields were estimated at 7.00 tonnes per acre for barley, and 7.15 tonnes per acre for oats, and were in line with 2004 levels. Just to note, revisions were made to yields and production for greenfeed and silage in 2004 and are shown in Table 2.

Barley, oats and mixed grains were the main crops harvested for greenfeed and silage production in 2005. Oats accounted for 47 per cent of total greenfeed production in Alberta, while barley and mixed grains represented 28 per cent and 18 per cent, respectively. The remainder was composed of three per cent from spring wheat, three per cent from triticale, and one per cent from other crops. In terms of silage production, 54 per cent of the provincial total came from barley, 29 per cent from oats, nine per cent from mixed grains, three per cent from spring wheat, two per cent from triticale, and three per cent from other crops.

**Table 1: Alberta Greenfeed and Silage Production, 2005**

	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)	
Spring Wheat	5,737	25	40	2.50	4.90	63	196
Durum Wheat	870	5	-	1.80	-	9	-
Barley	4,500	185	455	3.00	7.00	555	3,185
Oats	1,300	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>17,547</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>860</b>	<b>3.06</b>	<b>6.86</b>	<b>1,960</b>	<b>5,900</b>

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

Note: Yields and production are reported based on wet weights.

Source: Statistics and Data Development Unit, AAFRD

**Table 2: Alberta Greenfeed and Silage Production, 2004**

	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)	
Spring Wheat	5,460	25	10	2.50	2.60	63	26
Durum Wheat	900	-	-	-	-	-	-
Barley	4,900	245	340	3.30	7.20	809	2,448
Oats	1,450	285	220	3.35	6.90	955	1,518
Mixed Grains	230	55	105	3.40	7.10	187	746
Triticale	100	17	28	3.80	7.90	65	221
Other Crops*	4,700	8	12	2.88	3.42	23	41
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,740</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>715</b>	<b>3.31</b>	<b>6.99</b>	<b>2,100</b>	<b>5,000</b>

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

Note: Yields and production are reported based on wet weights.

Source: Statistics and Data Development Unit, AAFRD

**Table 3: Alberta Greenfeed and Silage Production, 2003**

	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)	
Spring Wheat	5,158	90	20	1.27	3.63	114	73
Durum Wheat	1,100	5	-	0.91	-	5	-
Barley	5,400	380	500	2.18	4.99	827	2,495
Oats	1,700	470	270	2.00	4.63	938	1,249
Mixed Grains	250	80	130	2.04	4.54	163	590
Other Crops*	4,000	10	50	1.00	2.40	10	120
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,608</b>	<b>1,035</b>	<b>970</b>	<b>1.99</b>	<b>4.67</b>	<b>2,058</b>	<b>4,526</b>

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

Note: Yields and production are reported based on wet weights.

Source: Statistics and Data Development Unit, AAFRD

**Table 4: Alberta Greenfeed and Silage Production, 2002**

	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)	
Spring Wheat	5,659	500	520	0.64	1.27	318	660
Durum Wheat	1,100	30	40	0.36	0.82	11	33
Barley	5,400	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*	3,900	200	550	0.61	1.06	121	583
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,959</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 based on wet weights.

Source: Statistics and Data Development Unit, AAFRD

For further information on the survey results, please contact:

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