

# Alberta Crop Report

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## Alberta 2006 Greenfeed and Silage Production Survey Results

### Purpose of Survey

Statistics on greenfeed and silage production in Alberta are not available from Statistics Canada or any other source, although Alberta producers harvest a significant acreage of annual crops every year for greenfeed and silage production. To fill the data gap and meet the needs of clients, the Statistics and Data Development Unit of Alberta Agriculture and Food initiated a greenfeed and silage production survey in 2002. Since then, the survey has been repeated annually to capture selected statistics for the forage industry.

As in previous years, the 2006 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, which was subsequently used as part of the process to develop provincial estimates. It should also be pointed out that some adjustments were made, where appropriate, to survey-generated estimates based on input from provincial forage specialists and the recently released Statistics Canada's November production estimates of 2006 field crops.

### Alberta 2006 Greenfeed and Silage Production

Results for Alberta 2006 greenfeed and silage production survey are presented in Table 1, while production estimates for the previous four years are shown in Tables 2, 3, 4 and 5. Estimates of yield and production are reported based on wet weights. Also, it should be noted that moisture levels of greenfeed and silage may vary across the province.

In 2006, Alberta producers seeded a total of 17.38 million acres to spring wheat, durum wheat, barley, oats, mixed grains, triticale, canola and dry peas. Of the total seeded area, 90 per cent was harvested as grains and oilseeds, eight per cent as greenfeed and silage, and two per cent was used for grazing or abandoned.

Total area harvested for greenfeed and silage production in 2006 was estimated at 1.40 million acres. This was down seven per cent from the 2005 area of 1.50 million acres, with acreage for both greenfeed and silage showing significant declines. The lower acreage was attributed mainly to high tame hay production in 2005 and 2006, which reduced the need for greenfeed and silage production. Total area harvested for greenfeed fell six per cent from 2005, to 600,000 acres, while for silage, acreage was down seven per cent to 800,000 acres.

As a result of lower yields and reductions in harvested area, greenfeed and silage production declined significantly in 2006. Total greenfeed production was estimated at 1.57 million tonnes or about 20 per cent lower than in 2005, while total silage production fell 21 per cent in 2006, to 4.67 million tonnes.

Due to the persistent hot, dry weather in July, provincial average yields for both greenfeed and silage were down in 2006. The estimated provincial average yield for greenfeed was 2.72 tonnes

per acre for barley, and 2.49 tonnes per acre for oats, compared to 3.00 tonnes per acre for barley, and 3.15 tonnes per acre for oats in 2005. For silage, the provincial average yields were estimated at 6.12 tonnes per acre for barley, and 5.44 tonnes per acre for oats, both significantly below their 2005 levels (see Table 2).

Oats, barley and mixed grains remained the major crops harvested for greenfeed and silage production in 2006. Oats accounted for 44 per cent of total greenfeed production in Alberta, while barley and mixed grains represented 32 per cent and 17 per cent, respectively. The remaining seven per cent was comprised of triticale (four per cent), spring wheat (two per cent), and other crops (one per cent). In terms of silage production, 61 per cent of the provincial total came from barley, 18 per cent from oats, 11 per cent from mixed grains, four per cent from triticale, three per cent from spring wheat, and three per cent from other crops.

Based on Statistics Canada estimates, a total of 8.02 million tonnes of tame hay was produced in Alberta in 2006. This was down five per cent from 2005, but still 39 per cent higher than the 10-year average.

**Table 1: Alberta Greenfeed and Silage Production, 2006**

	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	6,033	15	35	1.81	3.63	27	127
Durum	600	-	-	-	-	-	-
Barley	4,300	185	465	2.72	6.12	503	2,847
Oats	1,200	275	150	2.49	5.44	686	816
Mixed Grains	250	100	85	2.77	6.03	277	513
Triticale	65	20	30	3.04	6.80	61	204
Other Crops*	4,930	5	35	2.20	4.34	11	152
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,378</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. Totals may not add up due to rounding.

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

Source: Statistics and Data Development Unit, Alberta Agriculture and Food

**Table 2: 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, Alberta Agriculture and Food

**Table 3: 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, Alberta Agriculture and Food

**Table 4: 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, Alberta Agriculture and Food

**Table 5: 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, Alberta Agriculture and Food

For further information on the survey results, please contact:

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