

Alberta Crop Report

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Alberta 2004 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. The survey was repeated in 2003 and 2004. Crops covered in both 2002 and 2003 surveys were spring wheat, durum wheat, barley, oats, mixed grains, canola and dry peas. Based on requests from clients, triticale was added to the 2004 survey. Survey results for the last three years are presented in Tables 1, 2 and 3. 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 2004 survey was conducted in partnership with Agricultural Fieldmen and AFSC. The survey collected data on acreage and yield of greenfield and silage production at the municipality level to develop provincial estimates. Adjustments were made to survey estimates generated based on input from provincial forage specialists and the recently released Statistics Canada's November production estimates of 2004 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 total of 7.39 million tonnes of tame hay was produced in Alberta in 2004. This is up 16% from the production level in 2003, and 28% higher than the 10-year average.

Alberta 2004 Greenfeed and Silage Production

In 2004, Alberta producers seeded a total of 17.74 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, 87% were harvested as grains and oilseeds, 8% harvested as greenfeed and silage, 1% used for grazing, and 4% abandoned or still left in the field to be harvested in the spring of 2005.

Total area harvested as greenfeed and silage in 2004 was estimated at 1.35 million acres. This is 33% below the 2003 area of 2.01 million acres. Improved crop growing conditions in 2004 resulted in high forage yields, which reduced the acreage needed for greenfeed and silage production. A high tame hay production in 2004 also contributed to the lower area harvested for greenfeed and silage production. In 2004, total harvested area was estimated at 635,000 acres for greenfeed production and 715,000 acres for silage production.

In 2004, total greenfeed production in Alberta was estimated at 2.20 million tonnes, 7% higher than the 2003 production of 2.06 million tonnes. Total silage production in 2004 was 5.20

million tonnes, compared to 4.53 million tonnes a year ago. An improvement in average yields in 2004 more than offset the impact of lower harvested area for both greenfeed and silage.

The provincial average yields for greenfeed production in 2004 were estimated at 3.49 tonnes per acre for barley and 3.45 tonnes per acre for oats. The average greenfeed yield for barley was up 60% from a year ago, while the average yield for oats jumped 73%. Silage yields were 7.53 tonnes per acre for barley and 7.17 tonnes per acre for oats, both representing dramatic increases from last year.

Barley and oats remained the main crops harvested for greenfeed and silage production in 2004. Barley accounted for 39% of total greenfeed production in Alberta, while oats represented 45%. The remainder was composed of 9% from mixed grains, 3% from spring wheat, 3% from triticale, and 1% from other crops. In terms of silage production, 49% of the provincial total came from barley, 30% from oats, 15% from mixed grains, 5% from triticale, and 1% from other crops.

Table 1: 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 | 2.63 | 2.54 | 66 | 25 |
| Durum Wheat | 900 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Barley | 4,900 | 245 | 340 | 3.49 | 7.53 | 856 | 2,560 |
| Oats | 1,450 | 285 | 220 | 3.45 | 7.17 | 982 | 1,577 |
| Mixed Grains | 230 | 55 | 105 | 3.63 | 7.35 | 200 | 772 |
| Triticale | 100 | 17 | 28 | 4.08 | 8.26 | 69 | 231 |
| Other Crops* | 4,700 | 8 | 12 | 3.38 | 2.92 | 27 | 35 |
| Total | 17,740 | 635 | 715 | 3.46 | 7.27 | 2,200 | 5,200 |

* 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. Moisture levels of greenfeed and silage may vary across the province.

Source: Statistics and Data Development Unit, AAFRD

Table 2: 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 |
| Total | 17,608 | 1,035 | 970 | 1.99 | 4.67 | 2,058 | 4,526 |

* 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. Moisture levels of greenfeed and silage may vary across the province.

Source: Statistics and Data Development Unit, AAFRD

Table 3: 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 |
| Total | 17,959 | 2,000 | 2,500 | 0.75 | 1.60 | 1,500 | 4,000 |

* 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. Moisture levels of greenfeed and silage may vary across the province.

Source: Statistics and Data Development Unit, AAFRD

For further information on the survey results, please contact:

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