

Alberta Crop Report

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Alberta 2008 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 significant acreage being harvested for greenfeed and silage every year by producers in the province. To fill this data gap and to meet the needs of clients, the Statistics and Data Development Unit of Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD) initiated a greenfeed and silage production survey in 2002. Since then, the survey has been repeated annually to develop selected statistics for the forage industry.

As in previous years, the 2008 survey was conducted in partnership with Agricultural Fieldmen and Agriculture Financial Services Corporation. The survey collected data on greenfeed and silage acreages, 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 the yield and production estimates in this report are on a wet weight basis.

Alberta 2008 Greenfeed and Silage Production

In 2008, Alberta producers seeded an estimated total of 17.71 million acres to spring wheat, durum, barley, oats, mixed grains, triticale, canola and dry peas (see Table 1). Of the total seeded area, 95 per cent was harvested as grains and oilseeds, four per cent as greenfeed and silage, and one per cent was either grazed or abandoned. The percentage of crop area harvested for grains and oilseeds was higher than in 2007, as producers took advantage of strong market prices. Additionally, high tame hay production in 2007 and 2008 reduced the need for greenfeed and silage.

As a result, total area harvested for greenfeed and silage in 2008, estimated at 770,000 acres, was down 21 per cent from 2007. Total area harvested for greenfeed declined 22 per cent from 2007, to 335,000 acres, while silage acreage fell 21 per cent to 435,000 acres.

Due to improved crop growing conditions, greenfeed and silage yields for most crops in 2008 were higher than in 2007. The estimated provincial average yield for greenfeed was 2.77 tonnes per acre for barley (2.49 tonnes per acre in 2007), and 2.49 tonnes per acre for oats (2.45 tonnes per acre in 2007). For silage, the provincial average yields were estimated at 6.11 tonnes per acre for barley, and 5.53 tonnes per acre for oats, both above their 2007 levels (5.72 tonnes per acre for barley, and 5.40 tonnes per acre for oats).

Despite the higher yields in 2008, greenfeed and silage production was lower than in 2007, as a result of a significant reduction in harvested acreage. Total greenfeed production was estimated at 875,000 tonnes, or 18 per cent lower than in 2007, while total silage production fell 17 per cent, to 2.58 million tonnes.

In 2008, oats, barley and mixed grains remained the major crops harvested for greenfeed and silage production. Oats accounted for 48 per cent of total greenfeed production in the province, while barley, mixed grains and triticale represented 36 per cent, 13 per cent, and three per cent, respectively. In terms of silage production, 60 per cent of the provincial total came from barley, 26 per cent from oats, 10 per cent from mixed grains, three per cent from triticale, and one per cent from spring wheat.

Estimates of greenfeed and silage production in Alberta for previous years, dating back to 2002, are shown in Tables 2 to 7.

For further information on the survey results, please contact:

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Table 1: Alberta Greenfeed and Silage Production, 2008

	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)
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	-	-	-	-
Total	17,705	335	435	2.61	5.93	875	2,582

* 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 2: Alberta Greenfeed and Silage Production, 2007

	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	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
Total	17,357	430	550	2.47	5.64	1,063	3,099

* 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 3: 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	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
Total	17,240	600	800	2.61	5.82	1,565	4,660

* 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 4: 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	5,587	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
Total	17,062	640	860	3.06	6.86	1,960	5,900

* 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 5: 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	5,285	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
Total	17,255	635	715	3.31	6.99	2,100	5,000

* 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 6: 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	1,025	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
Total	17,283	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 on a wet weight basis.

Source: Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development

Table 7: 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	5,159	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
Total	17,119	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 on a wet weight basis.

Source: Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development