

Alberta Crop Report

ALBERTA GOVERNMENT LIBRARY
NEIL CRAWFORD PROVINCIAL CENTRE
MAR 18 2008

7000 - 113 ST., RM 101
EDMONTON, AB T6H 5T6

Neil Crawford Ctr LIBRARY
Alberta Agriculture/Infrastructure
7000 113 St, 101 JG O'Donoghue
EDMONTON, AB T6H 5T6

Alberta 2007 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, despite significant acreage being harvested for greenfeed and silage production every year by Alberta producers. To fill this data gap and to 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 develop selected statistics for the forage industry.

As in previous years, the 2007 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. This information was then used, along with Statistics Canada data and input from provincial specialists, to develop provincial estimates.

Alberta 2007 Greenfeed and Silage Production

Estimates of greenfeed and silage production in Alberta in 2007 are shown in Table 1, while estimates for previous years are shown in Tables 2 to 6. Estimates of yield and production are reported on a wet weight basis.

In 2007, Alberta producers seeded a total of 16.82 million acres to spring wheat, durum wheat, barley, oats, mixed grains, triticale, canola and dry peas. Of the total seeded area, 92 per cent was harvested as grains and oilseeds, six per cent as greenfeed and silage, and two per cent was either used for grazing or abandoned.

Total area harvested for greenfeed and silage production in 2007 was estimated at 980,000 acres, down 30 per cent from 2006, as both greenfeed and silage acreages fell significantly. Total area harvested for greenfeed declined 28 per cent from 2006, to 430,000 acres, while silage acreage fell 31 per cent to 550,000 acres. The marked reductions in acreage were attributed mainly to high tame hay production in 2007, which reduced the need for greenfeed and silage. The latest estimates released by Statistics Canada in December 2007 showed Alberta's tame hay production increasing 14 per cent from 2006, to 9.28 million tonnes. As well, compared to 2006, producers harvested a higher percentage of crop area for grains and oilseeds production in response to improved market prices.

Due to a combination of delayed seeding and hot, dry weather in July, provincial average yields for both greenfeed and silage in 2007 were down from a year ago. The estimated provincial average yield for greenfeed was 2.49 tonnes per acre for barley (2.72 tonnes

per acre in 2006), and 2.45 tonnes per acre for oats (2.49 tonnes per acre in 2006). For silage, the provincial average yields were estimated at 5.72 tonnes per acre for barley, and 5.40 tonnes per acre for oats, both below their 2006 levels (6.12 tonnes per acre for barley and 5.44 tonnes per acre for oats).

As a result of lower yields and large reductions in harvested area, greenfeed and silage production declined substantially in 2007. Total greenfeed production was estimated at 1.06 million tonnes, or 32 per cent lower than in 2006, while total silage production fell 34 per cent, to 3.10 million tonnes.

In 2007, oats, barley and mixed grains remained the major crops harvested for greenfeed and silage production. Oats accounted for 44 per cent of total greenfeed production, while barley, mixed grains and triticale represented 42 per cent, 12 per cent, and two per cent, respectively. In terms of silage production, 63 per cent of the total came from barley, 22 per cent from oats, 10 per cent from mixed grains, two per cent from triticale, and three per cent from spring wheat and other crops.

Table 1: 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*	5,110	-	11	-	4.09	-	45
Total	16,822	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, Statistics and Data Development Unit

Table 2: 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
Total	17,378	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, Statistics and Data Development Unit

Table 3: 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
Total	17,547	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, Statistics and Data Development Unit

Table 4: 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
Total	17,740	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, Statistics and Data Development Unit

Table 5: 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 on a wet weight basis.

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

Table 6: 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 on a wet weight basis.

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

For further information on the survey results, please contact:

Chuanliang Su
 Crop Statistician
 Alberta Agriculture and Food
 Economics and Competitiveness Division
 Statistics and Data Development Unit
 Telephone: (780) 422-2887
 Fax: (780) 427-5220
 Email: chuanliang.su@gov.ab.ca

March 14, 2008