

Dealing with Dry Conditions: Livestock Hay and Feed Options



Crown Lands Options to Assist with Feed Shortages

Producers facing feed shortages due to poor hay production are encouraged to explore all available options including assessing the economic viability of harvesting hay on marginal Crown land. With calf prices at record highs, optimizing feeding strategies is essential to avoid sacrificing valuable weight gain.

Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs)

- WMAs and wildlife-coded parcels are currently available for casual haying and grazing permits, based on habitat management plans. Each year, agriculture and wildlife teams work together to align these permits with ecological objectives, ensuring responsible use of the land.
- As of July 31, 2025, **some WMA parcels remain available** for casual permit.
- WMAs are one tool in our broader response to feed shortages. While not a complete solution, they can provide valuable support to some producers during challenging conditions.

Agricultural Crown Lands (ACL)

- Standard **Agricultural Crown Land parcels are available** for casual permit.
- ACL permits are managed to support agricultural use while maintaining land health and productivity. Casual use of ACL parcels is facilitated through a permit system that allows short-term access for haying and grazing, providing flexibility for producers responding to feed shortages.

Interested producers can:

- 1) Refer to [Manitoba's Wildlife Management Area Map](#) to locate WMAs.
- 2) Contact the local [Agricultural Crown Lands Farm Production Extension Specialists](#) for available parcels.

Resources

[Managing Dry Conditions and Drought](#) information on managing crops and livestock, farm management calculators, financial assistance programs, monitoring and seasonal reports and mental health and wellness resources.

[Hay Listing](#) information on hay for sale and to list hay available for purchase.

[Livestock Webpage](#) information on what's new, resources and upcoming events.

[Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation \(MASC\)](#) information on insurance and program assistance. Contact your [MB Agriculture / MASC Service Centre](#) for program details, including [recently announced support measures](#) to aid Manitoba's livestock producers affected by drought conditions.

[Seasonal Reports](#) seasonal updates that pertain to crop and forage production.

[Weather Conditions and Reports](#) year round data from over 100 weather stations across agro-Manitoba that monitor air temperature, relative humidity, barometric pressure, precipitation, wind speed and direction, solar radiation, soil temperature, and soil moisture.

Contact Us

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