



FAQ on CFA's Hay West 2021 Initiative

What is Hay West?

Hay West is a relief program operated by the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, working with farmers across eastern and central Canada to provide hay to drought stricken western livestock producers.

How much funding has been acquired, and where is the funding coming from?

CFA has received contributions from a handful of different parties, enough to begin moving substantial amounts of hay.

We can say however, we are still seeking further funds and partners to allow us to move as much hay as possible.

To date, how much hay has been pledged/donated?

While this changes daily, as of Sept 17th registered suppliers in Ontario, Quebec, PEI, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick have offered 38,000 bales of hay, with an estimated extra 5,000 bales coming in the near future. CFA is expecting more hay to become available – some to be pledged and some donated.

Has any hay been shipped, under your program/organization from east to west at this point?

Yes, as of Sept. 16th a thousand bales of hay have been sent through CFA's initiative from the Atlantic Provinces, Ontario and Quebec to the Prairie regions. CFA expects this number to go up substantially over the next month as we build momentum and learn how best to ship and distribute hay.

How will you be choosing which applicants get hay?

Those who need to receive hay can apply at the website www.haywest2021.net. Those who are able to supply hay can also sign up at this website using a link near the bottom of the page.

Hay is being prioritized for those farmers who have breeding herds and access to water for their herds. CFA in partnership with its provincial members, is working to develop a distribution protocol that will result in securing as much breeding stock as possible –losing breeding stock will have the most serious consequences for the national herd levels for years to come. CFA is focusing on areas of the Prairies that have been hardest hit by the drought.

Has the CFA determined how much hay is needed and how much can be provided by farmers?



The drought has caused severe feed shortages in Western Canada, with estimates of up to a 4M tonnes hay shortfall. CFA's Hay West program will never be able to address the entire shortfall but the goal is to provide relief to as many of our western farmers who are most in need as possible, to save breeding stock and to help facilitate a meaningful opportunity for Eastern Canadian producers to show support to their Western counterparts. A drought of this magnitude brings serious implications beyond food production – in particular it compounds farmers' stress levels and can erode overall mental health for farmers and farm families.

Do farmers have to pay for the hay?

CFA is operating on a break-even basis under this initiative, with hay being purchased from Eastern Canadian farmers and resold at cost to recipients. The price to farmers receiving hay will be \$0.10 per pound for all hay supplied.

How do I donate to help farmers?

Cheques payable to CFA can be sent to CFA, or E-transfers can also be accepted. Donations will be used directly to pay for hauling hay to farmers in need. It should be noted that contributors will not receive a charitable receipt.

For any media inquiries, please contact:

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