**HAY SALVAGE – PROVINCIAL HIGHWAY DITCHES**

Hay is once again available to producers for salvage at no cost in provincial highway ditches during spring and summer months.

Before and including July 8, landowners, or lessees nearest/adjacent to the ditch have the first option to cut or bale material, but after that day anyone can cut and bale without permission from the adjacent landowner or lessee if no salvage operations have already begun. It is recommended that participants contact their local Ministry of Highways (ministry) Office to provide contact information and limits on where they are salvaging hay to avoid disputes.

Hay must be cut at a uniform height in ditches and bales must be placed at least eight metres away from the shoulder of the highway. Farmers may salvage hay anytime during the spring or summer months. Landowners or lessees nearest/adjacent to the highway ditch have the first option to cut or bale this material unless the mowing contractor has begun salvage. Bales must be removed by August 8, otherwise they may be subject to removal and disposal by the ministry. After August 8, bales must be removed immediately following haying operations. The ministry may also remove and dispose of hay bales in locations deemed unsafe for motorists.

Ministry staff may either make a courtesy call to participants or place orange flags in bales that have exceeded the specified removal period. Flags will be marked with a removal date, that allow participants one week to remove bales, if public safety is not at risk. Participants not adhering to the requirements may become ineligible to hay on the highway right-of-way.

The ministry hires contractors to mow along the highway shoulders. Mowing may also be completed near some highway intersections and interchanges, railway crossings and tourism facilities.

The hay salvage and mowing program provides:

* free hay to farmers
* a neat appearance
* improved visibility
* better control of brush and noxious weed growth
* adequate snow storage in ditches during the winter months

For additional information, please visit [Saskatchewan.ca](https://www.saskatchewan.ca/business/agriculture-natural-resources-and-industry/agribusiness-farmers-and-ranchers/programs-and-services/livestock-programs/ditch-mowing-and-hay-salvage)