

# BRIAN WEBSTER

Mentions in [The Daily Herald-Tribune](#), Grande Prairie, Alberta, Canada

# Peace region ranchers scrambling to find feed

## Dry conditions this summer have put hay at a premium

KATHRYN ENGEL

Herald-Tribune staff

As Brian Webster waits in the back of his truck watching Brandi Sather of Keddiess in Grande Prairie fill his order of pasture salt, he says he's already hoping for rain next spring.

This fall, the Grande Prairie-area rancher says he had to look high and low to find an adequate feed supply for his 400 Hereford cattle.

"I bought some in Valleyview, some in High Prairie, 100 bales altogether," says Webster.

Due to extremely dry conditions, his mixed hay crop only brought in about 1/2 bale per acre, a far cry from its usual seven bales.

Back with a load of salt blocks, Sather says she's been busy dealing with a constant rush of customers as all types of livestock owners scramble to squirrel enough feed for the winter.

Customers like Darcy Cowell, who says she had a tough time finding any local hay for her 20 head of Belgian-quarterhorse cross horses near Sexsmith.

"I called all over the place," says Cowell as she helps Sather pile a load of feed into the back of her truck.

"I found 100 bales near Eaglesham and the prices were high, \$40/(round) bale."

Even so, Cowell says the hay is so dry this year she'll be supplementing it with high protein alfalfa cubes and a liquid vitamin.

Meanwhile, Cowell's neighbour, Laverne Fowley chats while he waits on his order of feed.

Fowley says he has already cut his herd of cattle back to a dozen head from 40 because of the dry conditions.

"I might have enough (hay) now but I'm buying a supplement because it's dry," says Fowley, whose pasture and hay crops deteriorated badly without moisture over the last two years.

Teepee Creek rancher Irvin Steinke says this is his second year of "shaving through" while Mother Nature bypasses his pastureland.

"I'm using a lot of straw and

grain, rolled barley and oats," says Steinke, who runs a 120-head cow-calf operation.

Steinke says while his leased pasture near Ridgevalley was in slightly better shape than that around his home place, finding enough bales to last over the winter was a frustrating task.

"I ended up buying 380 square bales from a neighbour – and I hate square bales. I'm too old for them."

**Brian Edward  
Webster, 72**



**Brian** Edward **Webster**, resident of Grande Prairie, Alberta passed away at home near Grande Prairie on Friday,

February 25, 2005 at the age of 72 years.

Brian was born in Edmonton, Alberta and raised in Duffield, Alberta where he farmed until 1976 when he moved to the Grande Prairie area where he raised registered Herefords.

Brian is survived by his wife, Patricia Lynn Webster of Grande Prairie, Alberta; his son, Michael J. Webster (Bobbie Cloutier) of Grande Prairie, Alberta; his brother, Jack Webster (Wilma) of Carvel, Alberta; his sister, Betty Erickson (Herman) of Killam, Alberta; as well as numerous nieces, nephews and friends.

Funeral service will be held on Wednesday, March 2, 2005 at 2 p.m. from Oliver's Grande Prairie Funeral Chapel (10005-107 Ave.) Grande Prairie with Pastor Dave Duinker officiating. Interment will follow in the Glen Leslie Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to Peace Country Health Home Care or Palliative Care or the Canadian Cancer Society.

**OLIVER'S GRANDE PRAIRIE  
FUNERAL CHAPEL  
& CREMATORIUM**