University of Wisconsin-Extension

**Weekly Hay Market Demand and Price Report for the Upper Midwest**
**as of February 7, 2014**

**Data Compiled by Ken Barnett, UW-Extension**

***All hay prices quoted are dollars per ton FOB point of origin for alfalfa hay unless otherwise noted.***

***The information presented in this report is compiled from public and private sales and reports in the Midwest.***

***The past several months of the weekly hay reports are archived. To view previous hay reports, go to the Buying and Selling Hay and Straw web site and click on the archived hay reports section.***

**Demand and Sales Activity**

Compared to the previous week, small square bale prices were up 5%. Large square bale prices were steady. Large round bale prices were down 1%. Sales activity was light to very active.

For *Nebraska*, hay prices were $38.45 higher on limited alfalfa hay sales. Demand was light to moderate. Blistery cold and snowy weather came across most of the state, with some areas of southern Nebraska getting up to 8 inches of snow. There are quite a lot of cornstalks and other hay products around most areas of the state. For *Iowa*, hay prices were steady on limited alfalfa hay sales. There was light to moderate movement. There is cold, blustery weather in most areas.

In *South Dakota*, hay prices were $2.55 higher. Producers are working on fulfilling contracts for cornstalks. Moderate interest is being reported as mostly coming from out of state buyers, with light interest from local buyers. Demand is light to moderate at best for all classes of hay, with sales mostly on an as needed basis locally. Subzero temperatures and high winds this past week have created some trucking issues, but otherwise producers have been able to meet the needs of their buyers. Some areas of the state received small amounts of snow early in the week.

For *Missouri*, alfalfa hay prices were steady on very limited sales. The hay supply is heavy, with light demand. With another heavy snow blanketing the state, feeding is once again the primary task for livestock producers. Hay is being fed liberally and with little concern about running out. Winter weather is far from played out, whether old wives' tales, groundhogs or just the local weatherman, most indications are that Missouri still has cold conditions in all regions for the foreseeable future. While snow is a barrier to productivity at times, those regions which closed out 2013 short on subsoil moisture would gladly take a few more winter storms to help with readying the ground for spring.

In *Southwest Minnesota*, hay prices were $23.35 higher. The demand for *Illinois* hay was moderate to good, with active sales activity. Hay offerings were light to heavy. Hay prices were $23.25 lower.

For *Wisconsin*, hay prices were $11.75 lower on very active trading at a quality-tested hay auction in Fennimore. Frigid temperatures returned to Wisconsin early in the week.

Straw prices in the Midwest averaged $3.55 per small square bale (range of $2.25 to $5.10); $41.00 per large square bale (range of $20.00 to $60.00); and $38.06 per large round bale (range of $28.00 to $50.00). Compared to the previous week, straw prices for small square bales were 6% lower. For large square bales, prices were 1% lower. For large round bales, prices were 4% higher.

**Hay Price Summary**

| Hay Grade | Bale type | ---------- Price ($/ton) ---------- | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Average | Minimum | Maximum |
| Prime (> 151 RFV/RFQ) | Small Square | 231.00 | 164.00 | 300.00 |
| | Large Square | 220.80 | 130.00 | 325.00 |
| | Large Round | 171.33 | 50.10 | 275.00 |
| Grade 1 (125 to 150 RFV/RFQ) | Small Square | 125.00 | 120.00 | 155.00 |
| | Large Square | 149.54 | 82.50 | 212.69 |
| | Large Round | 130.52 | 80.00 | 175.00 |
| Grade 2 (103 to 124 RFV/RFQ) | Small Square | No reported sales | | |
| | Large Square | 112.20 | 52.50 | 156.32 |
| | Large Round | 102.33 | 70.00 | 136.80 |
| Grade 3 (87 to 102 RFV/RFQ) | Small Square | No reported sales | | |
| | Large Square | 133.75 | 112.50 | 155.00 |
| | Large Round | 122.50 | 115.00 | 130.00 |

The next Weekly Hay Market Demand and Price Report for the Upper Midwest will be posted on February 17.

Due to the lack of quality-tested hay auctions in Wisconsin, the following links are included in this report so producers can get obtain some state and nearby state prices. The Equity Cooperative market report is at http://livestock.equitycoop.com/market_reports/. Go to the Lomira and Reedsville locations for their reports on hay and straw prices. The Fennimore Livestock Exchange is at http://www.fennimorelivestock.com/index.php?site=home. The Reynolds Feed & Supply, LLC of Dodgeville is at http://www.reynoldslivestock.com/what1snew/. The Tim Slack Auction and Realty, LLC of Fennimore is at http://www.timslackauctionrealty.com/market%20report.html. The Zumbrota Hay & Bedding Auction of Zumbrota, MN is at http://cla.crinet.com/page5295/ZumbrotaHayAndBeddingAuction. The Dyersville Sales Company of Dyersville, Iowa is at http://dyersvillesales.com/hay-auction/hay-auction-results/. The Farmer to Farmer website is an electronic neighborhood bulletin board that allows local farmers to get in touch with one another to facilitate the marketing of feed commodities. It has recently been expanded to connect those with productive pastures to those producers who are in need of pastures. It can be found at http://farmertofarmer.uwex.edu/.

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