Weekly Hay Market Demand and Price Report for the Upper Midwest
as of Feb. 15, 2013

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 now 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 3%. Large square bale prices were up 3%. Large round bale prices were up 6%. Sales activity was slow to active.

For *Nebraska*, hay prices were steady to $4.60 higher. A lot of cattlemen are very concerned with the drought situation. Many are trying to stockpile any kind of roughage source they can in case they will have to feed their cow herd all summer. For *Iowa*, hay prices were steady to $8.45 lower on a light test. Buyer inquiry was moderate. Hay auctions continue to be active at various locations around the state.

In *South Dakota*, hay prices were steady to $14.50 lower. There is very good demand for all qualities of hay. Producers are reporting to have continued good interest in their hay supplies. The margin between high quality alfalfa and grinding quality is narrowing, with end users appearing to be more conscious as to price instead of quality. Hay supplies continue to be tight. Several producers are sold out for the year or are down to just a few loads left to sell.

For *Missouri*, alfalfa hay prices were steady. Supply is moderate, with light to moderate demand. The Missouri hay market remains somewhat stagnant. With no major weather events and few other outside market influences in action, there isn't much reason for the market to fluctuate at this time.

In *Southwest Minnesota*, hay prices were $4.35 higher. Sales activity was moderate. The demand for *Illinois* hay was moderate, with mostly moderate sales activity. Offerings were mostly heavy to very heavy. Hay prices were $32.75 lower.

For *Wisconsin*, hay prices were $15.05 higher on very active trading at a quality-tested hay auction in Fennimore.

Straw prices in the Midwest averaged $3.36 per small square bale (range of $1.30 to $5.10); $40.26 per large square bale (range of $15.00 to $56.25); and $44.56 per large round bale (range of $25.00 to $75.00). Compared to the previous week, straw prices for small square bales were 4% higher. For large square bales, prices were 7% higher. For large round bales, prices were 8% lower.

Hay Price Summary

Hay Grade	Bale type	---------- Price ($/ton) ----------		
		Average	Minimum	Maximum
Prime (> 151 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	252.67	160.00	350.00
	Large Square	290.17	200.00	315.00
	Large Round	269.56	195.00	310.00
Grade 1 (125 to 150 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	165.00	120.00	214.00
	Large Square	204.25	50.00	310.00
	Large Round	225.46	162.50	257.50
Grade 2 (103 to 124 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	129.00	96.00	162.00
	Large Square	230.52	170.00	246.56
	Large Round	215.94	150.00	240.00
Grade 3 (87 to 102 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	No reported sales		
	Large Square	250.00	250.00	250.00
	Large Round	246.25	220.00	272.50

The next Weekly Hay Market Demand and Price Report for the Upper Midwest will be posted on February 25.

Due to the drought emergency and the lack of quality-tested hay auctions in Wisconsin, five links are included in this report so producers can get obtain some 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 Sheboygan County hay auction at Waldo is back. Results can be found at http://sheboygan.uwex.edu/2012-2013-sheboygan-county-hay-auctions/.

Helpful resources in Wisconsin about the drought:

Extension Responds - Drought 2012: http://fyi.uwex.edu/drought2012/

Farmer to Farmer website: http://fyi.uwex.edu/drought2012/2012/07/20/farmer-to-farmer-website-connects-those-with-feed-for-livestock-to-those-who-need-it/

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.

Drought 2012 (DATCP): http://datcp.wi.gov/Farms/Drought_2012/index.aspx

Drought 2012 (Wisconsin Emergency Management): http://ready.wi.gov/drought/default.asp

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