Weekly Hay Market Demand and Price Report for the Upper Midwest
as of March 22, 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 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 11%. Large square bale prices were down 6%. Large round bale prices were up 2%. Sales activity was light to active.

For *Nebraska*, hay prices were steady. Demand was light to good. Most buyers are buying on an "as needed" basis. There was very light snow across some of the reporting area. Some livestock owners are going to plant oats on pivots for spring grazing. For *Iowa*, hay prices were steady to $10.00 higher. Hay stockpiles are short and some producers are holding current supply for their own needs. Many buyers are going to weekly hay auctions. Demand was moderate to good.

In *South Dakota*, hay prices were steady to $19.90 higher. There was continued limited trade as supplies are becoming more and more difficult to locate. Demand remains very good for alfalfa and grass hay. There is very good demand for corn stalks and lower quality grass hay as producers try to cheapen their rations and also for use as bedding. Hay producers continue to note an increase interest and demand by buyers. There is a slight chance for snow flurries Saturday night into Sunday. Cooler temperatures are forecast for next week.

For *Missouri*, alfalfa hay prices were steady. Supply is light, with light demand. The calendar says it is spring, however the forecast says winter isn't quite through yet. Temperatures are below average and snow is expected for all areas of the state courtesy of two different approaching systems. Green grass will be a sight for sore eyes when it arrives.

The demand for *Illinois* hay was mostly good, with moderate to active sales activity. Offerings were mostly moderate to heavy. Hay prices were steady to $0.90 lower. In *Southwest Minnesota*, hay prices were $21.25 higher. Sales activity was active.

For *Wisconsin*, hay prices were $4.95 higher on active trading at a quality-tested hay auction in Fennimore. Sellers at this hay auction are nearing the end of their hay supplies.

Straw prices in the Midwest averaged $3.20 per small square bale (range of $1.45 to $5.30); $39.20 per large square bale (range of $22.50 to $60.00); and $52.76 per large round bale (range of $22.50 to

$82.50). Compared to the previous week, straw prices for small square bales were 4% higher. For large square bales, prices were 4% lower. For large round bales, prices were 10% higher.

Hay Price Summary

Hay Grade	Bale type	---------- Price ($/ton) ----------		
		Average	Minimum	Maximum
Prime (> 151 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	265.81	160.00	440.00
	Large Square	289.16	200.00	312.78
	Large Round	268.31	100.20	300.00
Grade 1 (125 to 150 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	191.00	164.00	200.00
	Large Square	263.07	220.00	312.50
	Large Round	212.75	160.00	250.00
Grade 2 (103 to 124 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	124.25	96.00	152.50
	Large Square	184.17	80.00	223.33
	Large Round	170.36	133.60	207.50
Grade 3 (87 to 102 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	No reported sales		
	Large Square	215.00	215.00	215.00
	Large Round	223.75	205.00	242.50

The next Weekly Hay Market Demand and Price Report for the Upper Midwest will be posted on April 1.

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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