



Weekly Hay Market Demand and Price Report for the Upper Midwest as of June 28, 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 down 13%. Large square bale prices were steady. Large round bale prices were up 3%. Sales activity was mostly light to moderate.

For *Nebraska*, hay prices were steady to \$5.00 lower. Demand was very light. Buyers and sellers are having a very hard time nailing down a price on new crop hay. Hay meadows in some parts of the state look really good. Some are expecting good tonnage as long as Mother Nature cooperates. Quite a lot of the first cutting of alfalfa has been rained. A lot of bromegrass is cut and most reports of really good tonnage in the Eastern part of the state. For *Iowa*, hay prices were \$49.40 lower on very limited sales. Few bales of new crop alfalfa hit the market this week with no sales to compare with. Most of the large squares tested around 130 RFV due to the amount of rain received in the state. Some hay is still down and has had 6.00-7.00 inches of rain on it. Others have had really good luck putting up small squares and rounds without any trouble.

In *South Dakota*, hay prices were \$51.45 higher. Alfalfa and grass had few comparable sales. However, a weaker market has been noted by many producers and brokers. Demand was mostly moderate for all classes of hay. The first cutting of alfalfa and grass has been completed by some producers, with some acres left to put up in the northern areas. Weevils have been reported as problematic in some areas. The rains and warmer temperatures have made for quick regrowth of alfalfa, with a couple producers thinking that they may have to start second cutting next week in order to get dairy quality alfalfa. There is a 10 to 20 percent chance of rain for the weekend and into mid-week. The majority of sales reported this week were new crop.

For *Missouri*, alfalfa hay prices were steady. Supply is moderate and demand is light. Hay season and the perception of hay quality, yields and value are running the gamut this year. Some producers have had high quality bales at barn busting quantities, put-up for some time. Others are yet to have rolled any hay up and watch as the maturity dwindles down the quality each passing day. Even small producers with unfertilized fields are seeing higher than normal grass yields and most everyone is thankful for the ability to restock the back corners of their barn for the next round of tight times. Those harvesting alfalfa are not feeling quite as fortunate and are hoping to just get enough for the season. Marketing hay is a challenge

that all are facing equally. There just don't seem to be many shoppers right now, much less serious buyers. Trucking costs are limiting the out-of-state sales too. The local sales are mostly being talked about in a "wait for fall" way right now.

In Southwest *Minnesota*, hay prices were \$24.15 lower on moderate alfalfa hay sales.

The demand for Illinois hay was moderate, with very limited alfalfa sales activity. Offerings were very light. Hay prices were \$37.90 higher compared to three weeks ago.

For *Wisconsin*, hay prices were \$63.90 lower on active trading at a quality-tested hay auction in Fennimore. A wet and turbulent weather pattern prevailed since the last report. Several rounds of thunderstorms beginning on the evening of June 21 and continuing nightly through June 26 produced torrential rain and intense flash flooding across southwestern and south-central Wisconsin. First cutting alfalfa was 61 percent harvested. Reports of quality were mixed, as some alfalfa has developed past the window of best feed quality before it could be cut. The second crop was reportedly coming in quickly. Pastures declined slightly and were rated at 0% very poor; 3% poor; 16% fair; 54% good; and 27% excellent.

Straw prices in the Midwest averaged \$3.00 per small square bale (range of \$1.50 to \$5.00); \$45.43 per large square bale (range of \$30.00 to \$70.00); and \$47.08 per large round bale (range of \$30.00 to \$65.00). Compared to the previous week, straw prices for small square bales were 3% higher. For large square bales, prices were 16% higher. For large round bales, prices were 31% lower.

Hay Price Summary

Hay Grade	Bale type	----- Price (\$/ton) -----		
		Average	Minimum	Maximum
Prime (> 151 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	240.75	325.00	350.00
	Large Square	254.38	230.00	300.00
	Large Round	224.63	200.00	310.00
Grade 1 (125 to 150 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	95.00	60.00	120.00
	Large Square	168.33	100.00	205.00
	Large Round	132.81	70.00	185.00

The next Weekly Hay Market Demand and Price Report for the Upper Midwest will be posted on July 8.

Due to 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/whatIsnew/>. 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/>.

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/>.

From the June 28 USDA Acreage Report

Hay: Surveys conducted the first 2 weeks of June found that producers intend to harvest 56.6 million acres of all hay in 2013, up slightly from 2012. Expected harvested area of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures, at 17.7 million acres, is up 2 percent from 2012. Expected area for all other types of hay totals 39.0 million acres, down fractionally from 2012.

Harvested area of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures is expected to decline throughout much of the Great Plains and Rocky Mountains due to unfavorably hot, dry conditions throughout much of the spring and into summer. Exceptional drought coupled with inadequate snow-melt and irrigation water supplies triggered a significant reduction in expected acreage in Colorado.

Other hay acreage is expected to increase in States situated from the northern Rocky Mountains to the Great Lakes, as timely spring rainfall boosted hay field and pasture growth. Additionally, several States had a large amount of acreage come out of CRP.