



## Weekly Hay Market Demand and Price Report for the Upper Midwest as of July 5, 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 5%. Large square bale prices were down 12%. Large round bale prices were up 4%. Sales activity was mostly light to moderate.

For *Nebraska*, there was no state hay report posted due to the holiday week. For *Iowa*, there was no state hay report posted due to the holiday week.

In *South Dakota*, hay prices were \$10.00 higher. Alfalfa and grass had few comparable sales. However, a weaker market has been noted by many producers and brokers. Demand was light to moderate for all classes of hay. It was a very quiet week with few loads reported due in part to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Holiday. Warm temperatures and a chance for rain are forecast this weekend.

For *Missouri*, alfalfa hay prices were steady to \$3.15 lower. Hay supply is heavy, with light demand. There were few hay sales this week. However, fair weather has allowed for good cutting and baling conditions. The most talked about factor in hay production this year continues to be the high yields.

In Southwest *Minnesota*, hay prices were \$36.65 lower on light alfalfa hay sales.

The demand for *Illinois* hay was very good, as sales activity was moderate to good. Persistent rainfall or cloudy and wet conditions have made harvesting the first cutting of alfalfa and grass hay very challenging. Alfalfa hay prices were \$60.80 lower than the June 7 report. It has been easy to find producers that have had hay wet before it's baled. The rain has also delayed harvest of the first cutting, but yields have been very good. Demand was still very good from all livestock sectors, especially the dairy industry. Many producers did finally bale their first cutting and are looking forward to the second crop for better quality hay. The first cutting of alfalfa was 95% complete, compared to 100% last year and 95% for the five year average. There were 15% complete with the second cutting of alfalfa, compared to 94% last year and 37% for the five-year average. Wheat straw demand was moderate to good for light to moderate supplies. With the wheat harvest two to three weeks behind average, many farmers are still combining wheat. Baling straw was also running behind schedule and competing with sowing double crop soybeans.

For *Wisconsin*, hay prices were \$24.85 lower on active trading at a quality-tested hay auction in Fennimore. First cutting alfalfa was 77 percent harvested compared to the 5-year average of 93 percent. Yield reports varied from average to good, but quality was reportedly poor due to delays in cutting. Pastures improved slightly and were rated at 0% very poor; 2% poor; 11% fair; 61% good; and 26% excellent.

Straw prices in the Midwest averaged \$3.30 per small square bale (range of \$2.50 to \$5.00); \$48.29 per large square bale (range of \$30.00 to \$61.88); and \$43.33 per large round bale (range of \$35.00 to \$47.50). Compared to the previous week, straw prices for small square bales were 10% higher. For large square bales, prices were 6% 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	249.31	200.00	350.00
	Large Square	259.69	125.00	300.00
	Large Round	207.42	140.00	350.00
Grade 1 (125 to 150 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	137.22	120.00	160.00
	Large Square	155.21	75.15	225.00
	Large Round	133.44	120.00	150.00
Grade 2 (103 to 124 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	96.67	80.00	120.00
	Large Square	118.33	90.00	160.00
	Large Round	102.22	80.00	122.50
Grade 3 (87 to 102 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	No reported sales		
	Large Square	140.00	130.00	150.00
	Large Round	110.00	110.00	110.00

The next Weekly Hay Market Demand and Price Report for the Upper Midwest will be posted on July 15.

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/](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/>.

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/>.