



**Weekly Hay Market Demand and Price Report for the Upper Midwest  
as of August 2, 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 18%. Large square bale prices were up 1%. Large round bale prices were steady. Sales activity was very light to moderate.

For *Nebraska*, hay prices were steady to \$21.25 lower. Several producers noted that hay interest had picked up this week. Some areas of the state report good quality on grass hay with about average tonnage. There have been unseasonably cool temperatures the last few days along with spotty rain showers in some parts of the trade area. Some producers are getting ready to harvest the third cutting of alfalfa next week. For *Iowa*, hay prices were steady to \$10.40 higher on light test. There is not a lot of really high testing RFV hay in the area. Buyer inquiry was better this week. Horse owners busy buying and stock piling for winter needs. Some areas of the state are dry and other areas have ample moisture for now. Some will start on third cutting next week or so.

In *South Dakota*, hay prices were steady to \$0.40 higher. There is good demand for high quality hay for dairy interest, and more moderate demand for other classes. Baling of second cutting finished for the most part, with third cutting to start soon. Spotty rains the last two weeks have many areas in desperate need of rain to encourage alfalfa and grass regrowth. Below normal temperatures have been a welcome relief as significant moisture has been hard to come by. Not as much straw was being baled this year due to the decreased winter wheat crop. Hay buyers are reluctant to build up their storage with the abundant feed supplies this year and are buying on an as needed basis instead hoping that the market will move lower.

For *Missouri*, alfalfa hay prices were steady. Hay supply is heavy. As usual around the state of Missouri, some regions have too much water, while others don't have enough and fewer still are just right. Supplies of hay are still quite heavy as barns are filled to brimming and a great many bales left to the elements as a last resort. Buyers are leaving only light demand as they have all the cards and likely will until fall and winter come creeping in again.

In Southwest *Minnesota*, hay prices were \$52.50 higher on very light alfalfa hay sales.

The demand for *Illinois* hay was moderate to good, as sales activity was slow to moderate. Hay prices were steady to \$0.70 higher. Many buyers continue to buy hay on a hand to mouth basis and are trying to keep inventories low. Hay producers are trying to gain some inventory of good quality hay that would come from the second and third cuttings. Supplies are better for the lower quality hay that came from the first cutting. So far with adequate rainfall in many areas of the state, yields of both grass and alfalfa hay have been very good. According to the Illinois Weather and Crops report, released by the USDA, National Ag Statistics Service office in Springfield, the second cutting of alfalfa was 89% complete, compared to 98% last year and 93% for the five-year average. They were 8% complete with the third cutting of alfalfa, compared to 52% last year and 25% for the five-year average. Wheat straw demand was moderate for moderate supplies. A few producers were still trying to bale straw in northern part of the state, as most of the state has finished baling straw for the season.

For *Wisconsin*, hay prices were \$24.75 lower on moderate trading at a quality-tested hay auction in Fennimore. A cooling trend continued during the final week of July. Temperatures plunged late last week, resulting in two consecutive days of record-breaking low temperatures. The unseasonably cool weather of the last reporting period slowed summer crop development, which is already highly variable across the state and within individual fields. Sufficient heat and additional moisture are needed this month for the state's extensive acreage of late-planted crops to properly mature.

The second cutting of alfalfa was 75 percent harvested compared to the 5-year average of 85 percent. The third cutting was 5 percent harvested compared to the 5-year average of 15 percent. Reporters noted that the second crop has yielded better than the first in most areas.

A few reporters noted that hay and pastures have stopped growing in response to dry conditions. Pastures conditions declined and were rated at 3% very poor; 11% poor; 34% fair; 42% good; and 10% excellent.

Straw prices in the Midwest averaged \$3.38 per small square bale (range of \$2.50 to \$5.00); \$43.71 per large square bale (range of \$30.00 to \$52.50); and \$50.25 per large round bale (range of \$55.00 to \$70.00). Compared to the previous week, straw prices for small square bales were 16% higher. For large square bales, prices were 21% higher. For large round bales, prices were 20% lower.

### Hay Price Summary

Hay Grade	Bale type	----- Price (\$/ton) -----		
		Average	Minimum	Maximum
Prime (> 151 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	209.17	110.00	260.00
	Large Square	246.51	167.50	295.00
	Large Round	224.07	147.50	300.00
Grade 1 (125 to 150 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	137.22	120.00	160.00
	Large Square	163.33	125.00	210.00
	Large Round	132.94	75.15	160.00
Grade 2 (103 to 124 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	88.33	60.00	120.00
	Large Square	118.13	60.00	180.00
	Large Round	116.67	80.00	150.00

The next Weekly Hay Market Demand and Price Report for the Upper Midwest will be posted on August 12.

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/whatIsnew/>. The Tim Slack Auction and Realty, LLC of Fennimore is at <http://www.timslackauctionrealty.com/market%20report.html>. 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/>.