



## Weekly Hay Market Demand and Price Report for the Upper Midwest as of August 16, 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 steady. Large square bale prices were down 8%. Large round bale prices were down 2%. Sales activity was very light to moderate.

For *Nebraska*, hay prices were steady to \$13.75 higher. Demand remains mostly light since most summer pastures continue to be adequate and many producers are producing enough of their own forage. Most prospective buyers continue to sit tight hoping the hay price will follow the corn price down. There was spotty rain showers in most of the reporting area with some receiving up to 4 inches of rain, with some hail also reported. Some hay is down and wet. Producers would like some sunshine and warmer temperatures to get grass hay and third cutting alfalfa baled. There are still some loads of 2012 corn stalks available. For *Iowa*, hay prices were steady to \$2.20 higher on light test. There was not a lot of really high testing RFV hay in the area which has several producers stumped. It looks like they are producing great hay, but then RFV results come back lower than expected. Some reports of producers having to repeat spray for potato leaf hoppers and quite a few aphids are appearing in southwest part of the state. Buyer inquiry was light to moderate with many tire kickers and not a lot of buyers.

In *South Dakota*, hay prices were steady to \$3.75 lower. Demand was good for high quality hay, but more moderate for lower quality. Sellers are reporting moderate interest, however, most buyers are not anxious or aggressive and are continuing to only purchase hay on an as needed basis. The US Drought Monitor has all of eastern South Dakota as being out of the drought for the time being. Rain showers last weekend and throughout the week were reported as areas receiving anywhere from 1.5 to 3 or more inches. Third cutting alfalfa is in full swing with many producers having hay on the ground in hopes that the forecasted warmer temperatures for early next week assist in drying.

For *Missouri*, alfalfa hay prices were steady. Hay supply is heavy. Demand is light. Another quiet week has passed in the Missouri hay market. With alfalfa cuttings continuing and grass hay still being made as well, Missouri is certainly at an advantage to other states in hay volume. Sellers remain firm on their asking price while buyers remain patient. Even with temperatures well below average, little hay movement is likely to occur until extended cold temperatures and frost are noted around the state.

In Southwest *Minnesota*, hay prices were \$10.00 higher on very light alfalfa hay sales. The demand for *Illinois* hay was good. Hay prices were \$14.10 higher on very light alfalfa hay sales.

For *Wisconsin*, hay prices were \$15.40 higher on moderate trading at a quality-tested hay auction in Fennimore. Abnormally cool weather continued for the fourth successive week, threatening prospects for late-planted field crops which need several more weeks of summer heat to mature. Light to moderate rainfall early in the week maintained overall adequate levels of moisture for developing crops in the southern and eastern counties, while moisture remained mostly short or very short in the western region.

The second cutting of alfalfa was 92 percent harvested compared to the 5-year average of 96 percent. The third cutting was 27 percent harvested compared to the 5-year average of 44 percent. Lack of moisture was reportedly slowing hay regrowth in some areas. Pastures conditions declined and were rated at 7% very poor; 16% poor; 31% fair; 39% good; and 7% excellent.

Straw prices in the Midwest averaged \$3.80 per small square bale (range of \$2.60 to \$5.00); \$42.89 per large square bale (range of \$25.54 to \$54.38); and \$48.54 per large round bale (range of \$33.00 to \$62.50). Compared to the previous week, straw prices for small square bales were 13% higher. For large square bales, prices were 6% higher. For large round bales, prices were 9% lower.

### Hay Price Summary

Hay Grade	Bale type	----- Price (\$/ton) -----		
		Average	Minimum	Maximum
Prime (> 151 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	210.00	180.00	240.00
	Large Square	237.36	150.00	295.00
	Large Round	222.40	115.00	300.00
Grade 1 (125 to 150 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	151.67	150.00	155.00
	Large Square	158.75	110.00	220.00
	Large Round	138.44	90.00	167.50
Grade 2 (103 to 124 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	No reported sales		
	Large Square	118.75	80.00	150.00
	Large Round	105.63	70.00	140.00

The next Weekly Hay Market Demand and Price Report for the Upper Midwest will be posted on August 26.

### From the USDA August 12 Crop Production Report:

**Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures:** Production of the 2013 alfalfa and alfalfa mixture dry hay crop is forecast at 59.9 million tons, up 15 percent from 2012. If realized, this will be the second lowest production level since 1955. Based on August 1 conditions, yield is expected to average 3.39 tons per acre, up 0.38 ton from last year. Harvested area is forecast at 17.7 million acres, up 2 percent from 2012. If realized, this will be the second lowest harvested area since 1948.

Producers in Indiana are expecting a record high yield. Similarly, the expected yield in Utah is equal to the record high. Timely spring rainfall coupled with favorable temperatures throughout the summer led to expected increases in alfalfa hay yield throughout much of the United States. Despite an overall expected increase in production, hay quality was of concern in some areas because a portion of several cuttings was rained on before baling and storage was complete. Conversely, forecasted yields throughout much of the

Four Corners region declined when compared with last year due to long-term drought that has remained entrenched in the area despite recent monsoonal moisture.

**Other hay:** Production of other hay is forecast at 80.0 million tons, up 18 percent from 2012. If realized, this will be the highest production level since 2004. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 2.05 tons per acre, up 0.31 ton from last year. If realized, this will be the highest United States yield for other hay since 2004. Harvested area is forecast at 39.0 million acres, virtually unchanged from last year.

Record highs yields are expected in Mississippi, Missouri, and New York. Producers in Louisiana, Montana, North Carolina, and Tennessee are expecting a yield equaling the record high.

Abundant spring moisture throughout much of the country east of the Rocky Mountains had producers anticipating higher other hay yields this year. Conversely, hot, mostly dry weather in the West – where expected yields are either unchanged or down slightly from last year - has negatively impacted pasture and range grass growth during the summer.

\*\*\*\*\*

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/>.