



**Weekly Hay Market Demand and Price Report for the Upper Midwest
as of August 30, 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 28%. Large square bale prices were up 8%. Large round bale prices were up 13%. Sales activity was light to moderate.

For *Nebraska*, hay prices were steady to \$0.65 lower. Demand was light with slow hay sales. Quite a lot of cornstalk bales getting traded this summer are from cow/calf producers who stockpiled feed in case they had to feed cows all summer. With pastures in adequate condition, producers are selling excess hay. Most of the state is adequate for moisture except areas on either side of the Kansas and Nebraska border which is really dry. For *Iowa*, hay prices were \$20.85 higher on light test. Buyer inquiry was mostly light. Most producers are baling the third cutting. There are some reports of producers having to repeat spray for potato leaf hoppers and a lot of aphids are appearing in some parts of the state.

In *South Dakota*, hay prices were \$29.95 higher. There was very good demand for dairy quality hay, and good demand for lower qualities. Extremely high dew points are keeping hay from curing properly this week. There are drought conditions in many parts of the trade area as very little rain has been received in August, coupled now with temperatures in the mid- to upper 90's every day this week. Relief is on the way by Sunday when a cold front is forecasted along with chances of spotty showers. The lack of sufficient rain has hurt tonnage of the third cutting of alfalfa and regrowth of grass for a second cutting.

For *Missouri*, alfalfa hay prices were steady. Hay supply is heavy. Demand is light. Missouri hay marketing can best be described as stagnant. The limited movement being seen is fulfillment of previously arranged sales. A few shoppers have begun to make some calls, but the prices aren't at the point where buyers are willing to commit. Since pastures remain in good enough condition, neither side's hand is being forced.

In Southwest *Minnesota*, hay prices were \$16.65 lower on very light alfalfa hay sales. The demand for *Illinois* hay was mostly moderate. Hay prices were \$34.45 higher on light alfalfa hay sales. Offerings were light to moderate.

For *Wisconsin*, hay prices were \$1.55 lower on moderate trading at a quality-tested hay auction in Fennimore. Late-summer heat and dryness intensified during the last week of August. Temperatures exceeded 90°F across the southern half of the state, stressing crops and further degrading pasture conditions. Meanwhile, a passing cold front early in the week generated moderate to heavy rainfall (1-3 inches) across the central and northern areas, but the precipitation bypassed western Wisconsin where deficits now range from 2-6 inches and abnormally dry conditions have developed since July. After a drier-than-normal summer and a second week of extreme heat, crop conditions are rapidly deteriorating and many acres of late-planted corn and soybeans could fail without significant rainfall soon. Reporters commented that adequate precipitation and a late frost will be needed to allow corn, soybeans and forage crops time to mature.

The third cutting was 67 percent harvested compared to the 5-year average of 75 percent. The fourth cutting was 3 percent harvested compared to the 5-year average of 15 percent. Hay stands were reportedly showing poor regrowth due to dry conditions. Pastures conditions continued to decline and were rated at 14% very poor; 27% poor; 34% fair; 23% good; and 2% excellent.

Straw prices in the Midwest averaged \$3.10 per small square bale (range of \$1.50 to \$5.00); \$42.56 per large square bale (range of \$28.00 to \$62.00); and \$42.78 per large round bale (range of \$15.00 to \$70.00). Compared to the previous week, straw prices for small square bales were 9% higher. For large square bales, prices were steady. For large round bales, prices were 4% lower.

Hay Price Summary

Hay Grade	Bale type	----- Price (\$/ton) -----		
		Average	Minimum	Maximum
Prime (> 151 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	175.67	134.00	260.00
	Large Square	246.04	160.00	290.00
	Large Round	201.80	135.00	300.00
Grade 1 (125 to 150 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	No reported sales		
	Large Square	194.58	130.00	230.00
	Large Round	136.25	110.00	155.00
Grade 2 (103 to 124 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	20.00	20.00	20.00
	Large Square	115.00	100.00	140.00
	Large Round	109.79	85.00	140.00

The next Weekly Hay Market Demand and Price Report for the Upper Midwest will be posted on September 9.

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 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/>.