



## Weekly Hay Market Demand and Price Report for the Upper Midwest as of October 25, 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 up 18%. Large square bale prices were up 3%. Large round bale prices were down 1%. Sales activity was light to active.

For *Nebraska*, hay prices were steady to \$7.10 higher on very limited alfalfa hay sales compared to four weeks ago. There was not a lot of demand for forages this week. Many users of hay are content with their supply on hand and aren't looking to buy right now. For *Iowa*, hay prices were \$26.25 higher on very limited alfalfa hay sales compared to four weeks ago. Most producers are busy with fall harvest and some sellers have had a few calls and have moved some hay.

In *South Dakota*, hay prices were steady to \$12.54 lower. There was good to very good demand for dairy quality hay, with good demand for lower qualities. The production season for alfalfa and grass has come to a close. Corn and soybean harvest is in full swing with producers working on finishing up their acres. Corn stalk baling has been challenging with the moisture we have received in the last week, but producers are able to start baling again. There is very good interest and demand for cornstalks. Light moisture mid-week was received across most of the region, but that did not seem to slow harvest. A winter storm system is forecast to come across the region Monday-Tuesday of next week with a rain and snow mix.

For *Missouri*, alfalfa hay prices were steady to \$23.95 higher. Hay supply is heavy. Demand is light. Frost has been seen in some areas of the state and is expected to be in all areas in the next week. While this would normally spur some hay movement, this year livestock producers seem quite comfortable with what they have on hand for now. Out-of-state feeders are starting to seek a bit of hay, but that seems to be mostly shopping rather than buying right now.

In *Southwest Minnesota*, hay prices were \$15.00 lower on light alfalfa hay sales compared to four weeks ago. The demand for *Illinois* hay was moderate to active, as sales activity was moderate to good. Offerings were light. Hay prices were \$16.65 higher compared to four weeks ago.

For *Wisconsin*, hay prices were \$14.05 lower on moderate trading at a quality-tested hay auction in Fennimore. Fourth cutting alfalfa was 84 percent harvested. Reporters commented that the rain and

warm start to the month helped pastures and hay stands prepare for winter. Pastures conditions improved and were rated at 15% very poor; 27% poor; 32% fair; 22% good; and 4% excellent.

Straw prices in the Midwest averaged \$3.13 per small square bale (range of \$2.00 to \$5.00); \$41.38 per large square bale (range of \$22.50 to \$100.00); and \$66.83 per large round bale (range of \$55.00 to \$105.00). Compared to the previous week, straw prices for small square bales were 14% lower. For large square bales, prices were 9% higher. For large round bales, prices were 39% higher.

### Hay Price Summary

| Hay Grade                    | Bale type    | ----- Price (\$/ton) ----- |         |         |
|------------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|---------|---------|
|                              |              | Average                    | Minimum | Maximum |
| Prime (> 151 RFV/RFQ)        | Small Square | 222.50                     | 180.00  | 250.00  |
|                              | Large Square | 258.75                     | 160.00  | 310.00  |
|                              | Large Round  | 187.25                     | 130.00  | 300.00  |
| Grade 1 (125 to 150 RFV/RFQ) | Small Square | 130.00                     | 130.00  | 130.00  |
|                              | Large Square | 204.75                     | 110.00  | 273.75  |
|                              | Large Round  | 147.81                     | 92.50   | 200.00  |
| Grade 2 (103 to 124 RFV/RFQ) | Small Square | No reported sales          |         |         |
|                              | Large Square | 182.08                     | 135.00  | 211.25  |
|                              | Large Round  | 136.17                     | 80.00   | 196.00  |

The next Weekly Hay Market Demand and Price Report for the Upper Midwest will be posted on November 4.

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/>.