



**Weekly Hay Market Demand and Price Report for the Upper Midwest
as of Dec. 14, 2012**

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 now 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 17%. Large square bale prices were steady. Large round bale prices were steady. Sales activity was moderate to active.

In *Nebraska*, hay prices were steady. Trading was light on most commodities of hay. The sale of ground and delivered hay was slow. However, hay grinders have been busy grinding at the feedlots blending ground corn stalks and hay. For *Iowa*, hay prices were steady. Sales activity was light. Buyer inquiry was light to moderate.

In *South Dakota*, hay prices were steady to \$9.25 lower. Good demand remains for both high quality dairy hay and for low quality grinding type hay. Many producers reported increased interest in hay now that we have had a cold snap and received some moisture in parts of the state last week. High quality alfalfa is in very limited supply along with high quality grass hay. Poorer quality grass hay is more readily available as a good deal of CRP hay was put up this year. Moisture is forecasted again for this weekend. The warmer temperatures mean rain for some, but northern parts of the state are expecting snow. The open grazing conditions that are still available have helped to stretch the short hay supplies.

For *Missouri*, alfalfa hay prices were steady. While the first cold snap of the season would normally spur some hay movement, this week has remained fairly quiet. Perhaps the long-term forecast showing above average temperatures kept buyers from worrying about the depth of their supply. The concern being heard throughout the state remains the lack of stock water and the effect extreme cold will have on the little bit remaining in some ponds. The summer drought and oppressive heat contributed to increased cow sales, but the nail in the coffin of some cow/calf operators may be the combination of drought and extreme cold. The majority of the state is in Moderate Drought and without enough precipitation to maintain that status, Missourians are preparing to go into spring the way they went out of summer, dry and worried.

In Southwest Minnesota, hay prices were \$12.50 higher. Sales activity was moderate. The demand for *Illinois* hay was moderate to good, with mostly moderate sales activity. Hay prices were steady to \$28.35 lower.

For *Wisconsin*, hay prices were \$27.90 higher on active trading at a quality-tested hay auction in Fennimore. There was no state report on crop progress and conditions.

Due to the drought emergency and 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/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.uw.edu/2012-2013-sheboygan-county-hay-auctions/>.

Straw prices in the Midwest averaged \$2.98 per small square bale (range of \$1.25 to \$6.00); \$37.62 per large square bale (range of \$20.63 to \$61.88); and \$35.80 per large round bale (range of \$20.00 to \$55.00). Compared to the previous week, straw prices for small square bales were 10% lower. For large square bales, prices were 7% lower. 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	240.91	140.00	375.00
	Large Square	294.10	173.55	370.00
	Large Round	270.14	200.00	300.00
Grade 1 (125 to 150 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	166.00	150.00	200.00
	Large Square	254.38	160.00	317.50
	Large Round	183.18	112.73	240.00
Grade 2 (103 to 124 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	No reported sales		
	Large Square	202.50	120.00	290.00
	Large Round	122.50	70.00	180.00
Grade 3 (87 to 102 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	No reported sales		
	Large Square	227.50	165.00	290.00
	Large Round	252.50	250.00	255.00

The next Weekly Hay Market Demand and Price Report for the Upper Midwest will be posted on December 24.

Helpful resources in Wisconsin about the drought:

Extension Responds - Drought 2012: <http://fyi.uwex.edu/drought2012/>

Farmer to Farmer website: <http://fyi.uwex.edu/drought2012/2012/07/20/farmer-to-farmer-website-connects-those-with-feed-for-livestock-to-those-who-need-it/>

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.

Drought 2012 (DATCP): http://datcp.wi.gov/Farms/Drought_2012/index.aspx

Drought 2012 (Wisconsin Emergency Management): <http://ready.wi.gov/drought/default.asp>