Weekly Hay Market Demand and Price Report for the Upper Midwest
as of June 6, 2014

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 Team Forage web site and click on the past hay reports section.

Demand and Sales Activity

Compared to the previous week, small square bale prices were up 23%. Large square bale prices were up 2%. Large round bale prices were down 11%. Sales activity was very light to active.

For Nebraska, hay prices were $20.30 higher on limited alfalfa hay sales. Several reports from contacts in the North Central and Eastern parts of the state received a lot of hail and some rain Tuesday morning with many fields at near 100 percent loss. These losses include hay, corn and bean crops. Some farmers are planning to replant as soon as possible. For Iowa, hay prices were $90.00 higher on very limited alfalfa hay sales. There is no price comparison to last week. There was one load of old crop hay on the market. Producers are having a hard time getting hay put up with all of the humidity and rain across the reporting regions.

In South Dakota, hay prices were $33.50 lower. Demand was light to moderate. Most cattle have been turned out to summer pasture which has reduced the need for hay. Many acres of alfalfa have been cut and producers are waiting for Mother Nature to provide good drying weather. Alfalfa for haylage and baleage have been getting put up, with very limited reports of dry hay being baled. Hand-to-mouth basis appears to be the way most buyers are purchasing hay at this time.

For Missouri, alfalfa hay prices were steady on very limited alfalfa hay sales. Hay supply is moderate and demand is good. While hay fields look good to the passerby, the baler is telling a different story for most producers. Yields are being reported as much as fifty percent lower than average for many grass hay producers.

In Southwest Minnesota, hay prices were $8.75 higher. The demand for Illinois hay was weak to good, with active sales activity. Hay offerings were very light. Hay prices were $55.15 higher.

For Wisconsin, hay prices were $82.35 lower on moderate trading at a quality-tested hay auction in Fennimore. Intermittent rainfall throughout the week disrupted alfalfa harvesting and prevented farmers from planting the last intended acres of corn, oats and potatoes. Showers and thunderstorms soaked much of the state on June 1 and 2. At the start of June, the outlook for the state’s field crops is very favorable,
despite recent heavy rain and a sluggish start to the planting season. Alfalfa conditions are reported as 88% good to excellent. The first cutting of alfalfa hay was 22 percent complete compared to 6 percent last year and a five year average of 34 percent. Pasture conditions improved and were rated at 0% very poor; 1% poor; 18% fair; 64% good; and 17% excellent.

Straw prices in the Midwest averaged $3.75 per small square bale (range of $3.00 to $5.00); $40.62 per large square bale (range of $37.50 to $42.19); and $41.25 per large round bale (range of $20.00 to $50.00). Compared to the previous week, straw prices for small square bales were 1% lower. For large square bales, prices were 7% lower. For large round bales, prices were 28% higher.

**Hay Price Summary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hay Grade</th>
<th>Bale type</th>
<th>Price ($/ton)</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Minimum</th>
<th>Maximum</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prime (&gt; 151 RFV/RFQ)</td>
<td>Small Square</td>
<td>172.50</td>
<td>60.00</td>
<td>280.00</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Large Square</td>
<td>212.79</td>
<td>87.50</td>
<td>260.00</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Large Round</td>
<td>181.86</td>
<td>110.00</td>
<td>250.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grade 1 (125 to 150 RFV/RFQ)</td>
<td>Small Square</td>
<td>No reported sales</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Large Square</td>
<td>144.06</td>
<td>97.50</td>
<td>175.00</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Large Round</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>80.00</td>
<td>140.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grade 2 (103 to 124 RFV/RFQ)</td>
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<td>Large Square</td>
<td>132.50</td>
<td>125.00</td>
<td>140.00</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Large Round</td>
<td>66.46</td>
<td>32.50</td>
<td>107.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grade 3 (87 to 102 RFV/RFQ)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Large Square</td>
<td>No reported sales</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Large Round</td>
<td>55.00</td>
<td>55.00</td>
<td>55.00</td>
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</table>

The next Weekly Hay Market Demand and Price Report for the Upper Midwest will be posted on June 16.