



**Weekly Hay Market Demand and Price Report for the Upper Midwest
as of July 25, 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 15%. Large square bale prices were down 7%. Large round bale prices were down 2%. Sales activity was very light to light.

For *Nebraska*, hay prices were steady to \$1.90 higher on limited alfalfa hay sales. Demand was light. For *Iowa*, hay prices were steady on very limited alfalfa hay sales. There was very limited hay movement this week. Warmer and dryer temperatures this week have enabled producers to put good or better hay in the barns.

In *South Dakota*, hay prices were \$30.30 lower. Mild temperatures and low humidity levels allowed hay to cure quickly. There was very good demand for high testing dairy quality alfalfa and high quality new crop grass hay, with less demand for lower quality alfalfa and year old grass hay. Demand remains moderate with producers reporting good interest. New crop straw is starting to move with wheat harvest underway across much of the state. Pockets of rain were reported across parts of the eastern region, with anywhere from .20 to 1.0 inches of rain received.

For *Missouri*, alfalfa hay prices were steady on very limited alfalfa hay sales. Hay supply is moderate and demand is light. Jackets were quickly thrown back in the trucks as last week's record lows turned to heat indexes of over 100. Producers in all regions of the state have made good progress over the last couple of moisture free weeks getting hay baled. Given that it is mid-July pasture and water conditions aren't in too bad of shape, producers would be accepting of a good shower to keep grass green. Hay movement continues to be very limited.

In *Southwest Minnesota*, hay prices were \$15.00 higher. The first and second cuttings of alfalfa hay were 97 and 50 percent complete, respectively. All hay conditions rated 1 percent very poor, 5 percent poor, 33 percent fair, 50 percent good, and 11 percent excellent. Pasture conditions were rated 2 percent very poor, 4 percent poor, 17 percent fair, 57 percent good, and 20 percent excellent. There were no state hay reports this week for *Illinois*. The second cutting of hay was 80% complete compared to the 5-year average of 85%. Pasture conditions declined slightly and were rated at 1% very poor; 2% poor; 25% fair; 54% good; and 18% excellent.

For *Wisconsin*, hay prices were \$24.80 higher at a quality-tested hay auction in Lancaster. Sweltering heat replaced last week's abnormally cool weather. A complex of strong to severe thunderstorms provided rain and some relief to the north and southeast, but much of the state remained dry. Showers and storms exited the southeast on Tuesday and cooler, less humid conditions returned for the rest of the week. Despite the early-week heat, the season is still an average of four days behind last year and nine days behind the 30-year average. Yield and quality of the second cutting was reportedly good, but difficult field conditions meant that some producers were just finishing the last of their first cutting while others were beginning the third. The second cutting was 66 percent complete. All hay condition was rated 88 percent good to excellent. Pasture conditions declined slightly and were rated at 0% very poor; 0% poor; 10% fair; 63% good; and 25% excellent.

Straw prices in the Midwest averaged \$4.00 per small square bale (range of \$3.00 to \$5.00); \$39.77 per large square bale (range of \$24.00 to \$50.00); and \$28.06 per large round bale (range of \$10.00 to \$42.50). Compared to the previous week, straw prices for small square bales were 16% higher. For large square bales, prices were 3% lower. For large round bales, prices were 40% higher.

Hay Price Summary

Hay Grade	Bale type	----- Price (\$/ton) -----		
		Average	Minimum	Maximum
Prime (> 151 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	187.50	155.00	240.00
	Large Square	187.35	130.00	245.00
	Large Round	141.15	80.00	190.00
Grade 1 (125 to 150 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	No reported sales		
	Large Square	129.38	80.00	162.50
	Large Round	94.06	60.00	115.00
Grade 2 (103 to 124 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	No reported sales		
	Large Square	76.46	20.00	115.00
	Large Round	81.42	55.00	90.00

The next Weekly Hay Market Demand and Price Report for the Upper Midwest will be posted on August 1.

Due to the lack of quality-tested hay auctions in Wisconsin, the following links are included in this report so producers can get obtain some state and nearby 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 Dyersville Sales Company of Dyersville, Iowa is at <http://dyersvillesales.com/hay-auction/hay-auction-results/>. 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/>.