



**Weekly Hay Market Demand and Price Report for the Upper Midwest  
as of August 8, 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 down 19%. Large square bale prices were down 8%. Large round bale prices were down 2%. Sales activity was very light to light.

For *Nebraska*, hay prices were \$19.40 lower on limited alfalfa hay sales. The mostly light demand on all forage products are forcing producers to back up their selling price if they want to move product. Dairy hay is mostly steady. Scattered rain across some areas of the state continues to hamper hay production. For *Iowa*, hay prices were steady on very limited alfalfa hay sales. There was very limited hay movement this week. Scattered rain showers in some reporting areas are making it very hard for producers to put up top quality hay. Some alfalfa in large squares is sold from \$1.38-\$1.45 per RFV point delivered to the buyer.

In *South Dakota*, hay prices were \$27.80 higher. There was very good demand for high testing dairy quality hay which has been in tight supply recently, with good demand for high quality grass hay and light demand for low quality alfalfa and grass of which supplies are more abundant. There was rain along and south of I-90 this week generally ranging from 0.50 to 3 inches in spots. This was much needed moisture for these areas, however, north of I-90 rains were lighter with more moisture needed as conditions have become very dry. Some hay producers were able to complete the cutting and baling of their third cutting, with quality reported to be good but tonnage lighter due to the lack of moisture in July. Other producers are hoping to make their third cutting soon so a good regrowth can occur before a fall freeze comes.

For *Missouri*, alfalfa hay prices were steady on very limited alfalfa hay sales. Hay supply is moderate and demand is light. Relief came as moisture was pretty wide spread over the state this week. Many pastures and hay fields had really begun to show signs of summer and condition ratings have been declining. There was a small amount of chatter that supplemental feeding might not be too far away for a small number of producers, but this should delay any of those thoughts.

In *Southwest Minnesota*, hay prices were \$10.85 higher. The second cutting of alfalfa hay was 76 percent complete. The third cutting of alfalfa hay was 13 percent complete. All hay conditions increased to 70 percent good to excellent. Pasture conditions decreased slightly to 71 percent good to excellent. Pasture conditions were rated 2 percent very poor; 5 percent poor; 22 percent fair; 56 percent good; and 15 percent excellent.

There were no state hay reports this week for *Illinois*. The second cutting of alfalfa hay was 97% complete compared to the 5-year average of 94%. The third cutting of alfalfa hay was 25% complete compared to the 5-year average of 34%. Pasture conditions declined and were rated at 1% very poor; 5% poor; 29% fair; 54% good; and 11% excellent.

For *Wisconsin*, hay prices were \$17.85 lower at a quality-tested hay auction in Fennimore. Locally heavy showers on August 4 interrupted an otherwise dry weather pattern across the state. Despite a July drying trend, most of the state's crops are faring well under moderate temperatures and sparse rainfall due largely to adequate subsoil moisture reserves established early in the growing season. Reporters statewide noted that dry soil conditions and a lack of heat units were keeping corn development behind normal, especially for late planted fields. Haying and small grains harvest proceeded, though showers and heavy morning dews limited the time farmers could spend in fields. The second cutting was 90 percent complete. The third cutting was 22 percent complete. All hay condition was rated 84 percent good to excellent. Pasture conditions declined and were rated at 1% very poor; 8% poor; 24% fair; 56% good; and 11% excellent.

See Table 1 for hay price comparisons for July 2013 and 2014.

Table 1. Prices received for hay by type and selected states and the U.S.: July 2014 with comparisons

	All Hay			Alfalfa Hay		
	\$ per Ton		Difference 2014 vs. 2013 \$ per Ton	\$ per Ton		Difference 2014 vs. 2013 \$ per Ton
	July 2013	Prelim. July 2014		July 2013	Prelim. July 2014	
Illinois	146.00	147.00	1.00	160.00	175.00	15.00
Iowa	213.00	143.00	-70.00	240.00	164.00	-76.00
Minnesota	168.00	111.00	-57.00	185.00	135.00	-50.00
Missouri	127.00	87.00	-40.00	240.00	170.00	-70.00
Nebraska	196.00	108.00	-88.00	213.00	113.00	-100.00
South Dakota	178.00	117.00	-61.00	185.00	118.00	-67.00
Wisconsin	184.00	133.00	-51.00	195.00	145.00	-50.00
United States	190.00	192.00	2.00	209.00	216.00	7.00

Straw prices in the Midwest averaged \$3.70 per small square bale (range of \$2.25 to \$5.00); \$36.43 per large square bale (range of \$22.00 to \$53.44); and \$45.81 per large round bale (range of \$30.00 to \$55.00). Compared to the previous week, straw prices for small square bales were 15% higher. For large square bales, prices were 24% lower. For large round bales, prices were 18% higher.

## Hay Price Summary

Hay Grade	Bale type	----- Price (\$/ton) -----		
		Average	Minimum	Maximum
Prime (> 151 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	185.00	150.00	240.00
	Large Square	192.29	130.00	250.00
	Large Round	140.39	100.00	190.00
Grade 1 (125 to 150 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	109.00	98.00	120.00
	Large Square	134.17	80.00	170.00
	Large Round	95.75	70.00	130.00
Grade 2 (103 to 124 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	No reported sales		
	Large Square	81.25	40.00	125.00
	Large Round	71.25	50.00	82.50

The next Weekly Hay Market Demand and Price Report for the Upper Midwest will be posted on August 18.

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/](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/>.

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