University of Wisconsin-Extension

**Weekly Hay Market Demand and Price Report for the Upper Midwest**
**as of August 22, 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 5%. Large square bale prices were steady. Large round bale prices were down 8%. Sales activity was very light to light.

For *Nebraska*, hay prices were steady on limited alfalfa hay sales. It appears there are a lot of forage products available. Premium hay is still selling for top dollar. Good to marginal hay is selling lower than last year. Rain fell across different areas of the state. Some producers reported alfalfa hay on the ground for 15 days before it was baled. For *Iowa*, hay prices were steady on very limited alfalfa hay sales. There was again very limited hay movement this week. Scattered rain showers in some reporting areas are still making it very hard for producers to put up top quality hay. Some alfalfa in large squares has sold from $1.38-$1.45 per RFV point delivered to the buyer.

In *South Dakota*, hay prices were $29.30 lower. There was good demand for dairy quality hay; good demand for high quality grass hay to start calves on feed; light to moderate demand for lower quality alfalfa; and light demand for lower quality grass hay. The third cutting alfalfa has been slow to put up with scattered showers and high humidity creating difficult drying conditions. The northern part of the state received rain showers mid-week with reports of up to 1 inch. Thunderstorms are forecast for the majority of the region for the weekend.

For *Missouri*, alfalfa hay prices were steady on very limited alfalfa hay sales. Hay supply is moderate and demand is light. Most all the state received some rain in the last week with the heaviest rains being recorded in the northern one-third of the state. Several areas reported 4 to 5 inches of total rainfall. Summer heat has arrived in full force so the moisture was quite welcomed. The hay market continues to feel pressure from promises of an overabundance of corn and pastures which have remained in good condition all year.

In *Southwest Minnesota*, hay prices were $13.75 lower. The second cutting of alfalfa hay was 91 percent complete. The third cutting of alfalfa hay was 41 percent complete. All hay conditions declined to 66 percent good to excellent. Pasture conditions decreased to 59 percent good to excellent. Pasture

conditions were rated 3 percent very poor; 8 percent poor; 30 percent fair; 49 percent good; and 10 percent excellent.

There were no state hay reports this week for *Illinois*. The third cutting of alfalfa hay was 56% complete compared to the 5-year average of 61%. Pasture conditions decreased slightly and were rated at 1% very poor; 6% poor; 27% fair; 53% good; and 13% excellent.

For *Wisconsin*, hay prices were $6.90 lower at a quality-tested hay auction in Fennimore. Significant early-week rainfall across much of Wisconsin improved moisture conditions for summer crops in the latter stages of development. The precipitation helped reverse the trend of below-normal rainfall that began in July, although the moisture was unevenly distributed and pockets of abnormal dryness persist in some portions of the state. The July-August dryness is adversely affecting most forage, field and vegetable crops, and yield reductions are probable if the dry weather trend continues in September. The second cutting was 97 percent complete. The third cutting was 57 percent complete. All hay condition was rated 79 percent good to excellent. Pasture conditions declined and were rated at 6% very poor; 14% poor; 34% fair; 39% good; and 7% excellent.

Straw prices in the Midwest averaged $2.96 per small square bale (range of $1.70 to $5.00); $35.46 per large square bale (range of $20.00 to $60.00); and $35.96 per large round bale (range of $25.00 to $55.00). Compared to the previous week, straw prices for small square bales were 15% lower. For large square bales, prices were 4% lower. For large round bales, prices were 7% lower.

**Hay Price Summary**

| Hay Grade | Bale type | ---------- Price ($/ton) ---------- | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Average | Minimum | Maximum |
| Prime (> 151 RFV/RFQ) | Small Square | 220.00 | 200.00 | 240.00 |
| | Large Square | 190.34 | 115.00 | 225.00 |
| | Large Round | 151.81 | 102.50 | 225.00 |
| Grade 1 (125 to 150 RFV/RFQ) | Small Square | No reported sales | | |
| | Large Square | 132.50 | 80.00 | 175.00 |
| | Large Round | 110.25 | 90.00 | 160.00 |
| Grade 2 (103 to 124 RFV/RFQ) | Small Square | 70.00 | 65.00 | 75.00 |
| | Large Square | 87.81 | 50.00 | 111.25 |
| | Large Round | 86.88 | 40.00 | 110.00 |

The next Weekly Hay Market Demand and Price Report for the Upper Midwest will be posted on September 2.

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/.

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