Weekly Hay Market Demand and Price Report for the Upper Midwest as of November 7, 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 2%. Large square bale prices were down 6%. Large round bale prices were up 16%. Sales activity was very light to moderate.

For Nebraska, hay prices were steady to $22.70 higher on limited alfalfa hay sales. Buyer inquiry was better this week. Most prospective buyers continue to shop around for the best deals that their pocket book can handle. Some farmers done with fall harvest other are waiting for their corn to dry down. Many people are busy putting up corn stalk bales. For Iowa, hay prices were $35.00 lower on very limited alfalfa hay sales. Most haying is done for this year; some producers will bale some cornstalks for feeding or bedding purposes. Demand is good for dairy hay with light demand on all other types of hay.

In South Dakota, hay prices were steady to $8.60 higher. There was very good demand for high relative feed value alfalfa and high quality grass for starting calves, moderate demand for hay fitting the Fair and Good grades, light demand for Utility grade hay. High testing, dairy quality hay is in limited supply this year due to untimely large rains which made it difficult to put up hay of high quality. Light reported sales this week. Corn harvest is wrapping up and fall fertilizing and tillage is underway. Cattle producers are busy weaning calves and getting them started in backgrounding lots or marketing them.

For Missouri, alfalfa hay prices were steady on very limited alfalfa hay sales. Hay supply is moderate to heavy and demand is light. Another week of favorable weather allowed farmers to gain ground and are now very close to normal harvest progress for this time of year. There are reports of some farmers doing some fall tillage in preparation for next year’s grain crop. Hay movement is very slow. A few gooseneck loads moving sporadically overall, however, very few sales currently occurring.

In Southwest Minnesota, hay prices were $36.65 lower.

The demand for Illinois hay remained light to moderate, with market activity slow to moderate, for moderate to heavy offerings. Prices were $38.25 higher. Demand was moderate to good for the better quality hay for dairy and horse interests. Interest in all hay has increased in the last couple of weeks, with
buyers making contact trying to line up some of their hay supplies before colder weather sets in. It was a
good year for hay production, according to the October Crop Production report released by the National
Ag Statistics Service. In the report, Illinois produced 1.312 million tons of alfalfa and alfalfa mixed
hay during the 2014 growing season, from 320,000 acres, with an average yield of 4.10 tons per acre.
That compares to 1.224 million tons produced in 2013, with an average yield of 3.60 tons per acre. In the
All Other hay category, Illinois produced 825,000 tons from 330,000 acres, with an average yield of 2.50
tons per acre. Total hay production for the 2014 season was estimated to be 2.137 million tons from
650,000 acres. The demand for wheat straw was good to very good, especially for small square bales, with trading moderate to active, for light to moderate supplies of straw.

For Wisconsin, hay prices were $14.80 higher at a quality-tested hay auction in Fennimore. The fourth
cutting was 95 percent complete. Reporters commented that hay stocks were variable this year, as
frequent rains made it difficult to access hay stands and make dry hay. However, overall hay and roughage supplies were up over last year, with 4 percent short statewide compared to 26 percent short in
2013. Pasture conditions are no longer being listed.

Straw prices in the Midwest averaged $3.67 per small square bale (range of $3.00 to $5.00); $44.67 per
large square bale (range of $30.00 to $60.00); and $37.94 per large round bale (range of $28.75 to
$55.00). Compared to the previous week, straw prices for small square bales were 8% lower. For large
square bales, prices were 10% higher. For large round bales, prices were 15% lower.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hay Grade</th>
<th>Bale type</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>226.67</td>
<td>200.00</td>
<td>240.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Large Square</td>
<td>200.83</td>
<td>150.00</td>
<td>330.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Large Round</td>
<td>161.35</td>
<td>80.00</td>
<td>200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 1 (125 to 150 RFV/RFQ)</td>
<td>Small Square</td>
<td>120.00</td>
<td>120.00</td>
<td>120.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Large Square</td>
<td>146.17</td>
<td>130.00</td>
<td>190.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Large Round</td>
<td>111.66</td>
<td>90.00</td>
<td>135.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 2 (103 to 124 RFV/RFQ)</td>
<td>Small Square</td>
<td>No reported sales</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Large Square</td>
<td>55.00</td>
<td>40.00</td>
<td>70.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Large Round</td>
<td>68.75</td>
<td>60.00</td>
<td>75.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The next Weekly Hay Market Demand and Price Report for the Upper Midwest will be posted
on November 17.

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
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/.

2014 Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System, doing business as the Division of Cooperative Extension of the University of Wisconsin-Extension