



**Weekly Hay Market Demand and Price Report for the Upper Midwest  
as of Jan. 18, 2013**

**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 now archived. To view previous hay reports, go to the [Buying and Selling Hay and Straw](#) web site and click on the [archived hay reports](#) section.*

**Demand and Sales Activity**

Compared to the previous week, small square bale prices were down 4%. Large square bale prices were up 2%. Large round bale prices were up 2%. Sales activity was slow to active.

For *Nebraska*, hay prices were steady. Hay trade was slow. Demand was moderate for dairy and grinding alfalfa, stock cow hay, grass hay and alfalfa pellets. Drought continues over the majority of the State. For *Iowa*, hay prices were steady on a light test. Buyer inquiry was moderate.

In *South Dakota*, hay prices were steady to \$1.90 lower. There is good demand for all qualities of hay. There has been lots of inquiry reported by most producers. Hay supplies are tightening up now that there is snow on the ground and cattle are not able to be grazed on cornstalks as easily. Several producers are reporting that they are sold out for the year or are down to just a few loads left to sell. Warmer than normal temperatures were reported across the region earlier this week, although a cold snap is forecasted to hit this weekend.

For *Missouri*, alfalfa hay prices were steady. Hay supplies are light and the demand is moderate. Hay producers who held bales back taking the wait-and-see approach to the remainder of their hay stacks may be questioning their decision. Within the last couple weeks, more hay has seemingly been made available, but those offerings aren't always finding a ready home. Until a clearer picture of the spring pastures and a boost to the confidence of the cow-men that they will be able to ride-out the winter's drought, some are hesitant to put high-dollar hay in their herds. Others have already reduced the head counts to match their own hay supplies instead of gambling they would be able to find feed over the course of the winter.

In *Southwest Minnesota*, hay prices were \$21.40 lower. Sales activity was very good. The demand for *Illinois* hay was moderate to good, as sales activity was moderate to active. Offerings were light to heavy. Hay prices \$9.70 lower.

For *Wisconsin*, hay prices were \$4.75 lower on active trading at a quality-tested hay auction in Fennimore.

Straw prices in the Midwest averaged \$3.16 per small square bale (range of \$1.50 to \$5.00); \$39.15 per large square bale (range of \$21.00 to \$60.00); and \$46.36 per large round bale (range of \$21.00 to \$62.50). Compared to the previous week, straw prices for small square bales were 10% higher. For large square bales, prices were 2% lower. For large round bales, prices were 22% lower.

### Hay Price Summary

Hay Grade	Bale type	----- Price (\$/ton) -----		
		Average	Minimum	Maximum
Prime (> 151 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	253.13	160.00	420.00
	Large Square	299.96	180.23	373.80
	Large Round	259.38	143.62	315.00
Grade 1 (125 to 150 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	182.00	104.00	290.00
	Large Square	266.67	220.00	320.00
	Large Round	211.25	165.00	245.00
Grade 2 (103 to 124 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	110.00	110.00	110.00
	Large Square	232.50	205.00	260.00
	Large Round	157.50	120.00	205.00
Grade 3 (87 to 102 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	No reported sales		
	Large Square	252.50	230.00	275.00
	Large Round	200.00	200.00	200.00

The next Weekly Hay Market Demand and Price Report for the Upper Midwest will be posted on January 28.

Due to the drought emergency and the lack of quality-tested hay auctions in Wisconsin, five links are included in this report so producers can get obtain some 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 Sheboygan County hay auction at Waldo is back. Results can be found at <http://sheboygan.uwex.edu/2012-2013-sheboygan-county-hay-auctions/>.

### Helpful resources in Wisconsin about the drought:

Extension Responds - Drought 2012: <http://fyi.uwex.edu/drought2012/>

Farmer to Farmer website: <http://fyi.uwex.edu/drought2012/2012/07/20/farmer-to-farmer-website-connects-those-with-feed-for-livestock-to-those-who-need-it/>

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.

Drought 2012 (DATCP): [http://datcp.wi.gov/Farms/Drought\\_2012/index.aspx](http://datcp.wi.gov/Farms/Drought_2012/index.aspx)

Drought 2012 (Wisconsin Emergency Management): <http://ready.wi.gov/drought/default.asp>

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