



**Weekly Hay Market Demand and Price Report for the Upper Midwest
as of May 3, 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 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 18%. Large square bale prices were down 8%. Large round bale prices were down 11%. Sales activity was light to active.

For *Nebraska*, hay prices were steady to \$0.30 higher. Compared to last week, alfalfa hay, grass hay, ground/delivered hay and dehydrated pellets sold steady on a light test. Demand was good this week for all hay products. Corn stalk bales continue to be sought after from ranchers and feedlots alike. Sellers of ground and delivered alfalfa were moving more spot loads of product as ranchers are trying to stretch feed to summer grass. Light rain and snow in some parts of the state on Wednesday. For *Iowa*, hay prices were steady to \$5.00 higher on very light test. For the main markets surveyed in the state report, there were no prices reported this week due to the contacts being out of hay. However, some hay is still moving through area hay auctions. There probably won't be any more prices for the main markets until the first cutting of new crop hay.

In *South Dakota*, hay prices were steady to \$12.30 lower. Demand remains very good for all types and qualities of hay as supply is becoming tight. Interest has been very good this past week especially for grass hay and bedding materials. Some contacts are starting to receive inquiries about new crop contracts for 2013. Concerns with winter kill in alfalfa in some areas have some producers worried about how production this year may be affected. Moisture throughout the week and below normal temperatures have kept some farmers out of the fields, while others are pushing forward concerned about the delays that we have already had this year with getting the crop in.

For *Missouri*, alfalfa hay prices were steady. Supply and demand are light. The waiting game for hay makers continues this week, with rain last weekend freshening up the mud and more rain in the coming days. Pasture conditions are hardly improving. Eighty degree days followed closely by thirty degree nights have stunted each period of growth. Only the Southeastern region of the state has made corn-planting progress and they look to get their first cuttings of alfalfa soon too.

The demand for Illinois hay was still good, with active sales activity. Hay prices were steady to \$3.55 higher. The wet and cold spring weather conditions have pushed the timetable for the first cutting of

alfalfa hay further back than many producers have wanted. Many producers are running low or out of any hay inventory and orders for the first cutting of hay continue to grow. For many producers, the decision how to price the 2013 hay crop was the most difficult in many seasons. Some producers, especially in central regions of the state noticed some damage from the frost and freezing temperatures experienced in mid-April. The Prospective Plantings Report, released by the National Ag Statistics Service in March, indicated hay acres would be higher in Illinois for the 2013 growing season. Acreage for all hay in Illinois was expected to increase from 580,000 acres last year to 600,000 acres for 2013. Wheat straw demand was moderate to good for moderate supplies.

In *Southwest Minnesota*, hay prices were \$45.30 lower on light alfalfa hay sales. For *Wisconsin*, hay prices were \$32.80 lower on active trading at a quality-tested hay auction in Fennimore. Spring weather conditions finally moderated in the last week after a record-setting cold and wet start to the growing season. However, winter weather came back to the state near the end of the week. Planting has been delayed by as much as 2 to 3 weeks and other fieldwork has scarcely begun. Meanwhile, alfalfa and winter wheat remain dormant in the north, and soils are highly saturated or still frozen in some areas. The latest round of wintry weather has only further delayed the start of the growing season. Pasture conditions were slowly improving and were rated at 22% very poor; 24% poor; 30% fair; 13% good; and 1% excellent.

Straw prices in the Midwest averaged \$3.38 per small square bale (range of \$1.00 to \$5.00); \$39.99 per large square bale (range of \$25.00 to \$61.88); and \$39.38 per large round bale (range of \$16.00 to \$60.00). Compared to the previous week, straw prices for small square bales were 4% lower. For large square bales, prices were 12% 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	266.30	120.00	400.00
	Large Square	316.84	137.50	360.00
	Large Round	275.43	185.00	315.00
Grade 1 (125 to 150 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	173.44	90.00	230.00
	Large Square	267.19	170.00	338.75
	Large Round	216.11	140.00	285.00
Grade 2 (103 to 124 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	110.00	100.00	120.00
	Large Square	225.97	100.00	312.50
	Large Round	150.41	66.80	218.17
Grade 3 (87 to 102 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	No reported sales		
	Large Square	125.00	50.00	200.00
	Large Round	50.00	50.00	50.00

The next Weekly Hay Market Demand and Price Report for the Upper Midwest will be posted on May 13.

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/. 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

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