



Weekly Hay Market Demand and Price Report for the Upper Midwest as of June 7, 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 14%. Large square bale prices were down 15%. Large round bale prices were down 3%. Sales activity was light to moderate.

For *Nebraska*, hay prices were steady to 13.75 lower. Some producers in the central part of the state have hay on the ground. Most are talking about harvesting. First cutting should be good quality and tonnage appears to be lighter than normal. New crop contract on 1st through 3rd cutting on large rounds of alfalfa from pivot at \$250.00 FOB. Some producers are spraying for weevils on first cutting of alfalfa. For *Iowa*, hay prices were \$42.50 higher than two weeks ago. There was no test on the market this week due to contacts are out of hay. Some are getting ready to cut. There has been some inquiry about straw price, but no confirmed sales. Some hay is moving through weekly auctions and demand has been good.

In *South Dakota*, hay prices were \$26.20 lower. Demand was mostly moderate for grass and lower quality alfalfa as beef cattle producers have put cattle out to pasture. There was better demand for dairy quality alfalfa. Several hay producers have started new crop alfalfa cutting, although there has not been any baled yet. There have been reports of potato leafhoppers and alfalfa weevils in some alfalfa stands throughout the area. Hay producers are still uncertain of the pricing levels for new crop.

For *Missouri*, alfalfa hay prices were steady. Supply and demand are moderate. A few dry bales have been made in the last week, but they are small lots for personal feeding. Little commercial hay has been marketed. Consistent rain, wind, and clouds, with few sunny days in between have set the hay season back. Some producers are finding excellent tests on what little has been cut, but the remaining stands will surely suffer a sharp reduction in quality. Haylage continues to be a good option, but has not yet begun to see enough demand to set the market price.

In Southwest *Minnesota*, hay prices were \$33.15 lower on moderate alfalfa hay sales.

The demand for *Illinois* hay was very good, with slow sales activity. Hay prices were steady. The delayed harvest of the season's first hay crop was a problem for both producers and buyers. The late harvest of the mature alfalfa crop was becoming a quality issue for dairy producers who value high

quality hay. The inventory of hay had become so low, that buyers were really looking forward to the first cutting for availability. Producers also wanted to get harvest underway as time was costing them yield for the year and money. Producers were still working on the pricing of the 2013 hay crop. With limited sales so far, it was very hard to establish a price for the first cutting of alfalfa and grass hay. Most producers, if they had any hay to sell, had left prices steady from last month on alfalfa and grass hay. According to the Illinois Weather and Crops report, released by the USDA, National Ag Statistics Service office in Springfield, the first cutting of alfalfa was 32% complete, compared to 95% last year and 57% for the five year average. Wheat straw demand was moderate to good for moderate supplies.

For *Wisconsin*, hay prices were \$12.90 lower on moderate trading at a quality-tested hay auction in Fennimore. Cool, showery weather limited fieldwork and slowed crop development again this week. Temperatures were below normal for early June and ranged from the 30s across far northeast Wisconsin to the lower 70s in the south. Periods of rain brought surplus moisture to already excessively wet soils and further delayed alfalfa harvesting, which advanced only five points in the last week to 7% complete. Alfalfa was reportedly beginning to bud in some areas, forcing farmers to cut around wet spots. Reporters anticipated many ice-damaged hay stands would be replanted to other crops after the first cutting was taken. Pastures continued to improve and were rated at 0% very poor; 2% poor; 27% fair; 49% good; and 22% excellent.

Straw prices in the Midwest averaged \$3.04 per small square bale (range of \$2.00 to \$5.00); \$53.30 per large square bale (range of \$25.00 to \$85.00); and \$50.83 per large round bale (range of \$35.00 to \$65.00). Compared to the previous week, straw prices for small square bales were 16% lower. For large square bales, prices were 46% higher. For large round bales, prices were 10% lower.

Hay Price Summary

Hay Grade	Bale type	----- Price (\$/ton) -----		
		Average	Minimum	Maximum
Prime (> 151 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	289.72	160.00	350.00
	Large Square	267.69	56.25	360.00
	Large Round	267.43	75.15	350.00
Grade 1 (125 to 150 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	174.17	120.00	220.00
	Large Square	252.50	180.00	300.00
	Large Round	196.04	140.00	235.00
Grade 2 (103 to 124 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	110.00	100.00	120.00
	Large Square	116.67	100.00	140.00
	Large Round	106.67	80.00	120.00
Grade 3 (87 to 102 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	No reported sales		
	Large Square	297.50	297.50	297.50
	Large Round	250.00	250.00	250.00

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

Due to 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/>.

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/>.