



Weekly Hay Market Demand and Price Report for the Upper Midwest as of June 14, 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 3%. Large square bale prices were up 7%. Large round bale prices were up 2%. Sales activity was light to moderate.

For *Nebraska*, hay prices were steady to \$0.20 lower. There was no test on new crop hay. A lot of the first cutting is down; some is really good for tonnage whereas some is light. Some hay has been baled and is very good quality, while other hay in the Eastern part of the state is down and wet. However, the last few days in Nebraska have had temperatures in the high 90's to low 100's with good drying wind for hay production. Ground and delivered hay sellers remain very busy especially for this time of year. Several reports of a lot of "summer" feed have been planted across the state. This might include: millet, sorghum or sudangrass. For *Iowa*, hay prices were \$16.65 higher. Quite a lot of hay is cut and has been rained on. Many producers are hoping for bright sunny days so they can get hay baled and start cutting more hay. With the short supply of dairy hay in the state, some hay is getting imported from other areas. There has been some inquiry about straw price but no confirmed sales.

In *South Dakota*, hay prices were steady to \$6.65 lower. Demand was moderate for grass and lower quality alfalfa as the abundance of pasture grass has eased the minds of many cattle producers. Demand was slightly better for dairy quality alfalfa. First crop hay cutting is in full swing, with many producers trying to plan cutting and baling around the rains. The high levels of moisture and humidity have made it very hard for hay producers to get high quality forages put up, with many producers in the mindset that there will be above normal amounts of grinding hay put up for first cutting. There were a few reports of potato leafhoppers and alfalfa weevils in some alfalfa stands throughout the area. Hay producers are finding that there is some hesitancy to purchase new crop because of the varying quality that they have been seeing. Most hay sales reported this week were from 2012, with a few 2013 new crop sales.

For *Missouri*, alfalfa hay prices were steady. Supply and demand are moderate. Producers are welcoming the more favorable curing weather this week. In areas of the state producers are having to race to beat the armyworms to the harvest. Reports from those who have managed to get hay baled

have been positive as yields have been very pleasing allowing farmers to rebuild hay supplies. Fescue seed harvest is just around the corner and likely to be well under way by this time next week if weather holds out.

In Southwest *Minnesota*, hay prices were \$15.00 higher on moderate alfalfa hay sales.

There were no reports for *Illinois* posted this week.

For *Wisconsin*, hay prices were \$64.15 lower on moderate trading at a quality-tested hay auction in Fennimore. Warmth returned following last week's cool weather pattern. Near- to above-normal temperatures prevailed as afternoon highs ranged from the 70s in the north to the mid-80s across the south. Showers and thunderstorms developed in western Wisconsin on Sunday and again on Tuesday and Wednesday, preventing farmers from planting the last intended corn acres and further delaying an already very late alfalfa harvest. Based on the latest USDA NASS Wisconsin Field Office report, alfalfa harvesting was only 17% complete at the start of the week, compared to 90% last year and a five-year average of 58%. Reporters commented that dairies were taking haylage as needed for feed, but most other haying was at a standstill. Corn planting advanced to 81% complete, but few additional acres will be sown this year as farmers instead opt to plant soybeans or take prevent-plant insurance payments. Pastures continued to improve and were rated at 0% very poor; 2% poor; 20% fair; 54% good; and 24% excellent.

Straw prices in the Midwest averaged \$3.38 per small square bale (range of \$2.50 to \$5.00); \$60.71 per large square bale (range of \$25.00 to \$100.00); and \$59.38 per large round bale (range of \$52.50 to \$65.00). Compared to the previous week, straw prices for small square bales were 11% higher. For large square bales, prices were 14% higher. For large round bales, prices were 17% higher.

Hay Price Summary

Hay Grade	Bale type	----- Price (\$/ton) -----		
		Average	Minimum	Maximum
Prime (> 151 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	257.50	160.00	350.00
	Large Square	288.83	170.00	320.00
	Large Round	272.97	150.00	350.00
Grade 1 (125 to 150 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	120.00	120.00	120.00
	Large Square	259.17	185.00	300.00
	Large Round	175.73	115.00	220.42
Grade 2 (103 to 124 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	No reported sales		
	Large Square	177.50	110.00	215.00
	Large Round	148.52	100.00	174.55

The next Weekly Hay Market Demand and Price Report for the Upper Midwest will be posted on June 24.

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/>.