



## Weekly Hay Market Demand and Price Report for the Upper Midwest as of July 12, 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 up 9%. Large square bale prices were down 8%. Large round bale prices were up 6%. Sales activity was mostly light to moderate.

For *Nebraska*, hay prices were \$58.75 lower than two weeks ago. This was the first week with new crop hay prices and trading was mixed when compared to the close of last year's prices. The bulk of the new crop is trading lower on a light test, with a few loads steady. Most producers are getting in the full swing of second cutting alfalfa and prairie hay or bromegrass. Some areas of the state report average grass/prairie hay tonnage. Second cutting alfalfa is light on dry land fields and moderate to good on irrigated fields. There was mostly hot dry weather last few days with spotty rain showers in some areas. A high heat index is expected the rest of the week. For *Iowa*, hay prices were \$27.50 lower than two weeks ago on light test. There is quite a lot of low quality alfalfa on first cutting due to excess rain in most areas of the state. Second cutting is looking good.

In *South Dakota*, hay prices were \$18.60 lower. Demand was light to moderate for all classes of hay, with little interest reported. It was another quiet week with few loads reported. Rains early in the week were a relief after the high temperatures we experienced. Continued warm temperatures are forecast through the weekend and into next week, with a slight chance of rain over the weekend. Some hay producers have started second cutting alfalfa.

For *Missouri*, alfalfa hay prices were steady to \$6.25 lower. Hay supply is heavy, with light demand. More hay comes into the market each day, and buyers continue to sit back and watch. Coffee shop talkers don't have much to complain about with current Missouri weather, so they are reflecting on how harsh conditions were a year ago. Missouri pastures are nearly all in good condition, stock water is adequate across all regions, and hay supply is abundant with more still to cut.

In Southwest *Minnesota*, hay prices were \$44.60 higher on light alfalfa hay sales.

The demand for *Illinois* hay was good, as sales activity was moderate. Hay prices were not comparable to last week. Offerings were light.

For *Wisconsin*, hay prices were \$1.65 lower on moderate trading at a quality-tested hay auction in Fennimore. Hot, humid and mostly dry weather predominated during the first two weeks of July, benefiting summer crops and pastures. Locally heavy rain fell across the southern and central areas on July 8 and 9 and isolated thunderstorms in the north produced severe weather, but much of the state experienced the first extended dry period of the season. By various measures, the weather of early July has been the most favorable for crop development so far this season.

First cutting alfalfa was 92 percent harvested compared to the 5-year average of 98 percent. The second cutting alfalfa was 14 percent harvested compared to the 5-year average of 42 percent. Reporters noted good yields, but widely variable quality due to the dampness and delays to harvest. Hay ground reportedly remains very soft in many areas, with widespread reports of rutting and field damage. Pastures declined slightly and were rated at 0% very poor; 2% poor; 15% fair; 57% good; and 26% excellent.

Straw prices in the Midwest averaged \$2.93 per small square bale (range of \$2.20 to \$5.00); \$43.42 per large square bale (range of \$30.00 to \$70.00); and \$53.55 per large round bale (range of \$41.00 to \$70.00). Compared to the previous week, straw prices for small square bales were 11% lower. For large square bales, prices were 10% lower. For large round bales, prices were 24% higher.

### Hay Price Summary

| Hay Grade                    | Bale type    | ----- Price (\$/ton) ----- |         |         |
|------------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|---------|---------|
|                              |              | Average                    | Minimum | Maximum |
| Prime (> 151 RFV/RFQ)        | Small Square | 252.33                     | 220.00  | 350.00  |
|                              | Large Square | 232.53                     | 130.00  | 280.00  |
|                              | Large Round  | 208.44                     | 135.00  | 300.00  |
| Grade 1 (125 to 150 RFV/RFQ) | Small Square | 145.00                     | 145.00  | 145.00  |
|                              | Large Square | 150.83                     | 130.00  | 180.00  |
|                              | Large Round  | 131.67                     | 120.00  | 147.50  |
| Grade 2 (103 to 124 RFV/RFQ) | Small Square | No reported sales          |         |         |
|                              | Large Square | 110.00                     | 90.00   | 140.00  |
|                              | Large Round  | 97.08                      | 70.00   | 122.50  |
| Grade 3 (87 to 102 RFV/RFQ)  | Small Square | No reported sales          |         |         |
|                              | Large Square | 150.00                     | 150.00  | 150.00  |
|                              | Large Round  | No reported sales          |         |         |

The next Weekly Hay Market Demand and Price Report for the Upper Midwest will be posted on July 22.

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/](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/whatIsnew/>. 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/>.