



Weekly Hay Market Demand and Price Report for the Upper Midwest as of July 19, 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 steady. Large square bale prices were up 4%. Large round bale prices were down 1%. Sales activity was very light to moderate.

For *Nebraska*, hay prices were steady. Trading was light on a few sales reported. 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. Mostly hot, dry weather remains over the state for the last week. High heat index is expected the rest of the week. For *Iowa*, hay prices were \$16.90 lower 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 continues to look good.

In *South Dakota*, hay prices were \$7.85 higher. Demand was light to moderate for all classes of hay. There was a quite a bit of interest noted for higher quality hay. Most producers are busy cutting or baling second crop this week. Last weekend, reports of anywhere from one to five inches of rain were reported throughout the majority of the region. High temperatures in addition to the sustained winds this week, already have some producers calling for rain again. There is a 30 to 50 percent chance of rain this weekend and into early next week, with temperatures in the 80's.

For *Missouri*, alfalfa hay prices were steady. Hay supply is heavy, with light demand. Some regions of the state are keeping an eye on the drought monitor again. Those areas of the state are desperate for even a light shower, but need more than that to freshen the pastures, set the soybeans and renew the corn. Worse for those producers is seeing folks just across the county line have abundant grass after haying and row crops in good condition.

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

The demand for *Illinois* hay was moderate to good, as sales activity was moderate. Offerings were moderate to good. Hay prices were \$57.40 higher compared to two weeks ago.

For *Wisconsin*, hay prices were \$2.80 lower on moderate trading at a quality-tested hay auction in Fennimore. Hot and humid weather persisted as a broad area of high pressure remained stationary across Wisconsin and the Great Lakes Region. The continued hot and mostly dry weather was beneficial for corn and soybeans entering the early reproductive growth stages, although most crops are now in need of additional moisture.

First cutting alfalfa was 97 percent harvested compared to the 5-year average of 100 percent. The second cutting alfalfa was 34 percent harvested compared to the 5-year average of 60 percent. The quality of the second crop was reportedly good. Pastures were stable and were rated at 0% very poor; 4% poor; 19% fair; 57% good; and 20% excellent.

Straw prices in the Midwest averaged \$2.75 per small square bale (range of \$1.00 to \$5.00); \$43.86 per large square bale (range of \$30.00 to \$63.00); and \$62.08 per large round bale (range of \$47.50 to \$70.00). Compared to the previous week, straw prices for small square bales were 6% lower. For large square bales, prices were 1% higher. For large round bales, prices were 16% higher.

Hay Price Summary

Hay Grade	Bale type	----- Price (\$/ton) -----		
		Average	Minimum	Maximum
Prime (> 151 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	260.00	200.00	320.00
	Large Square	245.03	175.00	280.00
	Large Round	195.00	120.00	300.00
Grade 1 (125 to 150 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	137.50	80.00	180.00
	Large Square	166.66	140.00	200.00
	Large Round	140.50	105.00	177.50
Grade 2 (103 to 124 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	No reported sales		
	Large Square	149.58	115.00	171.67
	Large Round	127.08	70.00	151.25
Grade 3 (87 to 102 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	No reported sales		
	Large Square	100.00	100.00	100.00
	Large Round	No reported sales		

The next Weekly Hay Market Demand and Price Report for the Upper Midwest will be posted on July 29.

From the July 15 Feed Outlook Report:

A modest increase in U.S. hay harvested acreage projections between the March Prospective Plantings and June Acreage reports masks significant changes in harvesting expectations in individual States. In March, 56.4 million acres were forecast to be harvested for hay; in June, that figure rose to 56.6 million acres- a difference of just 198,000 acres. In the same time period, intentions declined by 410,000 acres in Texas following a prolonged hot, dry period. In contrast, Wisconsin's recently improved weather facilitated sowings and resulted in an expected addition of 400,000 harvested acres. Elsewhere around the United States, less dramatic changes were reflective of myriad weather conditions, seed availability, and expectations of regional hay demand.

Expected harvested area for alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures, at 17.7 million acres, is up 370,000 acres year-to-year. Despite early concerns about high levels of alfalfa winterkill, improved weather has supported significant cultivation and re-seeding; producers now anticipate harvesting 230,000 more acres in the new

crop year than they estimated in March. Montana and Idaho also contribute significant numbers of new acreage, with increases in alfalfa harvest area projected at 350,000 and 110,000 acres, respectively. Dry conditions and concerns about water availability likely influenced Colorado grower expectations of harvesting 100,000 fewer alfalfa acres in 2013/14. The late spring and a lack of recovery from winterkill damage contribute to South Dakota's 70,000-acre decline; a similar decline is noted for Nebraska.

Compared to the 2012/13 estimate of 38.968 million acres, area harvested for all other types of hay is virtually unchanged at 38.995 million. Notable increases in other hay harvested area are reported for Nebraska, Tennessee, Wisconsin, and Wyoming, each of which is forecast to increase by 100,000 acres. Additional sowings in Wisconsin may, in part, be attributable to the opening of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) land for haying following concerns about forage availability.

For the week ending July 7, 49 percent of the pasture and range in the 48 reporting States was rated as good to excellent, a marked improvement over last year's drought-influenced rating of 21 percent good to excellent during the same time period. Good weather conditions in many areas aided producers with alfalfa cuttings. Some rainfall on cut alfalfa and timothy hay was reported in sections of Nevada and eastern Washington.

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/whatIsnew/>. The Tim Slack Auction and Realty, LLC of Fennimore is at <http://www.timslackauctionrealty.com/market%20report.html>. 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/>.