



## Weekly Hay Market Demand and Price Report for the Upper Midwest as of August 9, 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 19%. Large square bale prices were up 2%. Large round bale prices were steady. Sales activity was very light to moderate.

For *Nebraska*, hay prices were steady. Demand continues to be light. Unseasonal cool temperatures along with spotty rain showers in some areas of the state have made it difficult for producers to cut and bale hay. Some producers getting ready to harvest third cutting of alfalfa, but are waiting for the weather pattern to change. For *Iowa*, hay prices were \$4.85 higher on light test. There was not a lot of really high quality hay in the area. Buyer inquiry was better this week. Some areas of the state are dry and other areas have ample moisture for now. Some are trying to put up the third cutting, while others are attending the Iowa State Fair.

In *South Dakota*, hay prices were steady to \$1.05 lower. Demand was good for high quality hay, but more moderate for lower quality. Spotty showers again this week with reports of over an inch in areas while other areas remain parched and in much need of rain. Third cutting alfalfa tonnage was being affected in the dry areas, which runs the I-29 corridor from Sioux Falls south to Sioux City, Iowa. Other areas could use a good rain, but only the East River area is officially marked as D1 (Drought-Moderate) on the US Drought Monitor map. Buyers continue to only buy what hay they currently need.

For *Missouri*, alfalfa hay prices were steady. Hay supply is heavy. Demand is light. Few changes have occurred in the recent hay market. After a week of rapidly changing weather, most everyone has other things to be concerned about. In the Northwest and North Central portions of the state, an area amounting to 15 percent of the state declined to moderate drought status. In Southern and South Central Missouri, the rivers, creeks, and streams are overflowing their banks and even pastures are boggy with far too much moisture and there is more on the way.

In Southwest *Minnesota*, hay prices were \$17.50 higher on very light alfalfa hay sales. The demand for *Illinois* hay was light to good, with slow to moderate sales activity. Offerings were light. Hay prices were \$37.10 higher.

For *Wisconsin*, hay prices were \$3.75 higher on moderate trading at a quality-tested hay auction in Fennimore. Cooler-than-normal weather continued to dominate much of the state, slowing growth of summer crops and pastures. Early-week showers and isolated storms delivered variable amounts of rain to portions of the state, though some of the storms on August 6 were severe. The unseasonably cool weather in recent weeks, coupled with below-average precipitation throughout July, has left late-planted crops in need of additional heat and rain to support development and ensure full maturation before a season-ending freeze.

The second cutting of alfalfa was 86 percent harvested compared to the 5-year average of 92 percent. The third cutting was 14 percent harvested compared to the 5-year average of 28 percent. As with other crops, hay stands were in need of moisture and warm weather to promote regrowth. Pastures conditions declined and were rated at 3% very poor; 13% poor; 39% fair; 38% good; and 7% excellent.

Straw prices in the Midwest averaged \$3.35 per small square bale (range of \$2.00 to \$5.00); \$40.64 per large square bale (range of \$29.06 to \$54.38); and \$53.50 per large round bale (range of \$33.00 to \$70.00). Compared to the previous week, straw prices for small square bales were 1% lower. For large square bales, prices were 7% lower. For large round bales, prices were 7% higher.

### Hay Price Summary

Hay Grade	Bale type	----- Price (\$/ton) -----		
		Average	Minimum	Maximum
Prime (> 151 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	207.50	140.00	250.00
	Large Square	253.67	200.00	295.00
	Large Round	223.64	100.20	300.00
Grade 1 (125 to 150 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	157.50	155.00	160.00
	Large Square	162.50	115.00	215.00
	Large Round	150.00	125.00	165.00
Grade 2 (103 to 124 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	No reported sales		
	Large Square	116.25	100.00	132.50
	Large Round	102.50	85.00	120.00

The next Weekly Hay Market Demand and Price Report for the Upper Midwest will be posted on August 19.

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 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/>.