



Weekly Hay Market Demand and Price Report for the Upper Midwest as of September 6, 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 1%. Large round bale prices were up 7%. Sales activity was light to moderate.

For *Nebraska*, hay prices were steady to \$3.15 lower. Demand was light with slow hay sales. Most potential buyers continue to have enough of their own forage and don't have to buy any extra hay at this time. Hay sales may pick up once cattle come off of summer pasture and feedlots begin to wean calves. For *Iowa*, hay prices were \$10.00 higher on light test. Buyer inquiry was mostly light. Most producers are baling the third cutting. Some areas remain very dry while other parts have adequate moisture. Buyer inquiry was mostly light.

In *South Dakota*, hay prices were steady to \$0.60 higher. There was very good demand for dairy quality hay, with good demand for lower qualities. Extremely high humidity has hampered hay drying again this week. Drought conditions exist in many parts of the trade area. There has been very little rain received in the last month. With high temperatures pushing the mid- to upper-90's and wind, any ground moisture that may have existed has been removed. Few areas throughout the region reported receiving showers last weekend. Lack of sufficient rain has hurt tonnage of third cutting alfalfa and regrowth of grass for a second cutting.

For *Missouri*, alfalfa hay prices were steady. Hay supply is heavy. Demand is light. Fall-like temperatures are still more than a week away for most of the state. The continued hot weather has affected producers in widely different ways. In the driest regions, pastures have withered and yellowed forcing producers to begin supplemental feeding from their abundant supply. Other areas are still getting some hay cut and continue to build their supplies, even if the quality may be less than ideal. For much of the Southern half of the state, the pastures are still green and adequately full even with cattle grazing them. In Southwest *Minnesota*, hay prices were \$11.25 lower on very light alfalfa hay sales.

The demand for *Illinois* hay was moderate, as sales activity was slow. Hay prices were steady to \$3.30 higher. Demand for hay was slightly higher as many livestock producers had to feed hay due to unproductive pastures. Demand from dairy interest was slow, with many beginning to harvest and feed

corn silage. Many producers were trying to satisfy needs of established customers to get them through the fall harvest period. According to the Illinois Ag Statistics Service many producers have baled the season's third cutting of alfalfa. As of September 1st, 79% have harvested their third cutting, compared to 90% last year and 82% for the five year average. There were 28% of the state's pastures in good to excellent condition, with 43% fair and 29% very poor to poor. Wheat straw demand was moderate for moderate supplies.

For *Wisconsin*, hay prices were \$11.85 lower on moderate trading at a quality-tested hay auction in Fennimore. The third cutting was 78 percent harvested compared to the 5-year average of 89 percent. The fourth cutting was 10 percent harvested compared to the 5-year average of 28 percent. Tonnage and quality was reportedly down due to dry conditions. Pastures conditions continued to decline and were rated at 22% very poor; 34% poor; 25% fair; 18% good; and 1% excellent.

Straw prices in the Midwest averaged \$3.22 per small square bale (range of \$2.50 to \$5.00); \$49.43 per large square bale (range of \$28.00 to \$52.50); and \$47.63 per large round bale (range of \$35.00 to \$57.50). Compared to the previous week, straw prices for small square bales were 4% higher. For large square bales, prices were 16% higher. For large round bales, prices were 11% higher.

Hay Price Summary

Hay Grade	Bale type	----- Price (\$/ton) -----		
		Average	Minimum	Maximum
Prime (> 151 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	202.76	160.00	260.00
	Large Square	190.31	160.00	305.00
	Large Round	212.04	135.00	300.00
Grade 1 (125 to 150 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	146.67	120.00	160.00
	Large Square	185.83	120.00	280.00
	Large Round	159.33	110.00	238.33
Grade 2 (103 to 124 RFV/RFQ)	Small Square	56.67	20.00	120.00
	Large Square	143.25	80.00	225.50
	Large Round	117.29	60.00	150.40

The next Weekly Hay Market Demand and Price Report for the Upper Midwest will be posted on September 16.

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 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/>.