



Australian Fodder Industry Association



20 August 2021

HAY REPORT

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The Hay Report is produced for Dairy Australia by the Australian Fodder Industry Association (AFIA) – the national independent voice for the Australian fodder industry which connects the entire supply chain from seed to feed.
For further information: www.afia.org.au

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NATIONAL SUMMARY

Driving Prices Up

- Reduced production of hay for export across the West and South Australia will mean no overflow into the domestic market.
- Despite a strong cattle market feedlots are increasing numbers to meet export markets and will need the fodder to support this demand.
- A new season shortage of good quality cereal how as many growers weigh up a potential wet spring, increase in mice and good grain prices with continued reports of flooding in China and Russia's grain harvest significantly down.
- Wet and cold conditions have continued across Southern Australia and into Western Australia which are predicted to be the same for the remainder of August. This means some farmers will need to seek out additional fodder to carry valuable stock through until viable grasses are up, and paddocks can handle traffic again.

Driving Prices Down

- All time high cattle prices continue to impact the trade of hay as many farmers are selling stock at weaning and not requiring the extra feed to carry them through.
- Significant amount of weather damaged hay is on the market now as growers look to move this before the new season. Any farmers that are wanting to purchase fodder are not interested in lower grade meaning this product will continue to sit on the market for some time and will be slow to move.
- Many farmers continue to work through conserved on farm stores eliminating a need to buy in feed. Last spring a significant amount of silage was made across New South Wales and Victoria and farmers have only started to utilise this feed since early June.
- Domestic hay trade has been at all time low for eighteen months due to improved conditions across the entire country. Another good season will provide plenty of good quality grazing grass and pastures for stock over the coming months.

Local News

- Dryer conditions for many parts this last fortnight enabling growers to try and spray and spread fertiliser where possible. Growers encouraged to be vigilant in the watching for disease in crops from wet conditions as well mice.
- Many farmers still feeding out in south Gippsland and northern Victoria where paddocks have still been too wet to graze and farmers wanting to prevent too much damage from stock before cutting for silage.
- In the north demand in the Atherton Tablelands remains steady with a small amount moving locally. Following the recent rainfall in QLD many parts including the Tablelands have had an influx of fresh grass. The Darling Downs region reporting one of the best starts to a season following good rainfall for the first half of the year.
- Southern Australia is again on track for a good season with timely rain, most regions are reporting good growth. Several key factors still needed to take place and a relatively dry spring to improve on last year's season.

- Western Australia has recorded one of its best season breaks. Rain has been widespread this season with reports July was one of the wettest months on record. Perditions of high yielding crops continue to be discussed for the west. Prices remain strong for all fodder types in WA.
- Buyers are encouraged to feed test and view fodder before purchasing to be sure of the quality of the feed.

Regional Commentary

Atherton Tablelands

- Dry conditions this week for Atherton.
- Good conditions at present for growers wanting to bale rhodes grass. Some farmers looking for silage opportunities now going into spring.
- Plenty of green feed in the region for grazing stock following winter rain across most of the Atherton area.
- Reports that further west farmers continue to trade weaning cattle rather than carry them through with the cattle prices remaining high. Minimal trade to these farmers as well with many producing their own hay this season.
- No changes to prices this week.
- Pasture (Rhodes Grass) hay: +/-0 (\$300 to \$330).
- Note: Hay in the Atherton Tablelands is traditionally priced at \$/bale, so it is important to check bale weights for conversion. The price range indicated is for feeds of varying quality with the price range generally indicative of quality of feed. We recommend feed testing and viewing of fodder before purchase to be sure of the quality of feed.

Darling Downs

- No significant rain recorded this week for the Darling Downs.
- New season winter crops are doing well, crops are all at different stages following late summer crops and a wet autumn. Lucerne has also been planted in the region with improved seasonal conditions.
- Reports that some early oat and barley crops are being baled for hay in the northern parts of the region. Silage is also underway in the area, production potentially down on previous years.
- Majority of new season fodder is going into storage for personal use as demand in the area continues to be well down.
- Changes to cereal hay pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$280 to \$300/t). Prices have eased this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$390 to \$430/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$60 to \$70/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$200 to \$240/t) Prices remain steady this week.

Please note unless stated otherwise, prices are per tonne, sourced and delivered locally. The price range indicated is for feeds of varying quality with the price range generally indicative of quality of feed. We recommend feed testing and viewing of fodder before purchase to be sure of the quality of feed.

North Coast NSW

- No significant rain this week for the North Coast.
- Further west new season crops are doing well, recent frosts have slowed growth but traditionally this is the hardest time of year. Moisture levels are good and new season cereals and pasture will lift as days continue to improve.
- Reports not as much silage will be made this season with demand down and many still carrying over from last season.
- Trade continues to slow even further as farmers head into spring with plenty of feed.
- Cereal hay, straw, and lucerne prices quoted are for supplies to be carted into the region.
- No changes to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/- (\$250 to \$300/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/- (\$380 to \$430/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/- (\$100 to \$150/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/- (\$200 to \$230/t). Prices remain steady this week.
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Central West NSW

- A dry fortnight for the Central west with the last major rain at the end of July. Several frost events have been recorded in the region.
- Water logging will reduce yields in patches but in general crops are progressing well and with warmer conditions now they will see new growth. No disease concerns at this stage in winter crops. Growers not wanting crops to get away too quickly now as bigger crops will reduce in feed value.
- Concerns in some parts over mice increasing again in the spring. Reports that hay production will be well down with many growers preferring to go through to grain due to current attractive prices and minimal ongoing trade.
- Trade is minimal in the region with reports of good quality lucerne still available.
- <https://www.nsw.gov.au/initiative/mouse-control-support-program>
- <https://www.nsw.gov.au/media-releases/50-million-support-package-to-help-regional-communities-combat-mouse-plague>
- No changes to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/- (\$170 to \$200/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/- (\$330 to \$380/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/- (\$60 to \$80/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/- (\$160 to \$200/t). Prices remain steady this week.
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quality of feed. We recommend feed testing and viewing of fodder before purchase to be sure of the quality of feed.

Bega Valley

- No rain recorded this week in the Bega Valley. After a significantly wet autumn the area has dried out over July and August.
- Rain now would be ideal setting up growers and farmers for the spring. Growers with irrigation have been utilising this over the last fortnight. Many growers waiting for more growth before cutting for silage.
- Winter was not a difficult time in the region for farmers with many not having to feed out until June. Significant conserved fodder from last spring has continued to be utilised to carry stock through.
- Trade continues to be low with reduced amounts of cereal hay coming onto the coast for dairy farmers. Small squares of lucerne also trading mainly to equine customers.
- Changes to lucerne pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$290 to \$320/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: -\$75 (\$480 to \$520/t). Prices have eased this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$200 to \$230/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$350 to \$400/t). Prices remain steady this week.
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Goulburn/Murray Valley

- No rain in the last seven for the region.
- Growers are trying to get onto paddocks to spray and fertilise. This continues to be difficult as paddocks are still soft on top following a wet winter.
- Very minimal rain needed now, paddocks are wet, and farmers continue to feed additional fodder to supplement the green feed that is now ready to be grazed.
- Small amounts of good quality lucerne continue to move into New South Wales primarily the North Coast.
- No change to prices this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$180 to \$200/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$450 to \$500/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$70 to \$100/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$230 to \$280/t). Prices remain steady this week.

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Gippsland

- No significant rain in the north this week. South Gippsland is still wet while the north has dried out over the last month.
- Cold ground temperatures from frosts are slowing pasture growth in the region. Warmer conditions needed to boost grass for grazing and potential silage.
- Reports crops are up to four weeks behind on where they would normally be for silage season.
- Cereal and vetch hay continues to be traded into Gippsland from the Mallee for dairy farmers calving in cattle. Some farmers taking advantage of pricing and purchasing good quality fodder to store for use in the future.
- Changes to pricing this week for cereal hay. Good quality vetch is being delivered for \$300/t into Gippsland from the Mallee.
- Cereal hay: -\$40 (\$210 to \$250/t). Prices have eased this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$550 to \$650/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$70 to \$85/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/- (\$90 to \$110/t). Prices remain steady this week.
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Southwest Victoria

- No rain to report this week in the Southwest.
- Good rainfall is needed now in the Wimmera and Mallee for crops to finish well. Reports that cereal crops are hanging on.
- Vetch hay produced in the Wimmera and Mallee will be significantly down this year with not enough rainfall at the right times.
- Farmers had been taking advantage of low prices and storing some fodder in the south of the region. Majority of good quality hay has now been sold out from the Wimmera and Mallee regions.
- No change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$170 to \$210/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$350 to \$400/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$60 to \$80/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$150 to \$180/t). Prices remain steady this week.
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Southeast South Australia

- No rain in the last seven days for the Southeast.
- Conditions have been wet for the region, but crops are looking good, and the region is on track for a good season. Reports that silage and hay productions will be well down on previous years.
- Paddock feed slowly returning, farmers with heavier stock numbers still needing to supplement feed.
- Steady trade for growers to beef and sheep farmers. Also, opportunist buyers that have storage are taking advantage of any good quality fodder on the market. Some inquiry for straw from farmers but a majority at this stage are not wanting to buy significant amounts of fodder leading into the spring.
- Changes to pricing this week for cereal hay.
- Cereal hay: +\$10 (\$200 to \$230/t). Prices are up this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$330 to \$350/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$100 to \$120/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$180 to \$200/t). Prices remain steady this week.
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Central South Australia

- Rain forecast for the coming weekend.
- Crops are on track and starting to grow with warmer weather conditions. Growers currently spraying and applying fertiliser. Hay season five to six weeks away at this stage.
- Growers have significantly reduced cereal hay plantings across the region due to concerns over limited export opportunities. Exporters will only be taking premium hay with a backlog still of last season's lower grade hay. Many growers have opted to increase legume plantings this year.
- Local trade has slowed as paddock feed has improved over the last four weeks. Minimal trade into other states at present. Significant amount of weather damaged hay on the market at present.
- No change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$190 to \$220/t). Prices remains steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$400 to \$450/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/- (\$90 to \$140/t). Prices remain steady this week.
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Southwest Western Australia

- No rain to report this week in the Southwest. August has brought up to 40mm of rain for some parts of the region.
- Growers are watching for disease in new season crops following the extended wet conditions in particular yield affecting fungal disease. Warnings also for a potential mouse plague with growers being urged to monitor crops for any damage.
- Minimal domestic trade at present with small amounts of cereal and straw being taken up by cattle farmers on the coast.
- The season is on track to be a success in the west with reports of big yields already forecast for grain and hay growers.
- Pricing changes to pasture hay this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$280 to \$320/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$450 to \$490). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$120 to 140/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$180 to \$200/t). Prices remain steady this week.
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Northwest Tasmania

- The region has become increasingly wet with more significant rain forecast for the coming weekend.
- Reports crops have been waterlogged with oat crops showing signs of stress. Conditions have started to improve with wind helping to dry paddocks out over the last seven days. Growers have not been able to get on paddocks to spray or fertilise.
- Reports growers are preparing for a big hay season. Ongoing wet weather could push the season out. The latest season start for the Northwest have been the second week of November.
- Demand continues to be steady as farmers continue to feed out until paddocks can carry stock again. Majority of cereal hay produced last spring has all but been traded now.
- Changes to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +\$25 (\$220 to \$280/t) Prices are up this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$300 to \$350/t) Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$150 to \$200/t) Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: -\$35 (\$200 to \$240/t) Prices have eased this week.
- Please note unless stated otherwise, prices are per tonne, sourced and delivered locally. The price range indicated is for feeds of varying quality with the price range generally indicative of quality of feed. We recommend feed testing and viewing of fodder before purchase to be sure of the quality of feed.