



Australian Fodder Industry Association



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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

- Late spring rain hampering hay production in many parts of the country now will again reduce the amount of good quality cereal hay being produced on what is already a reduced season due to export concerns and high grain prices.
- Good quality lucerne is expected to hit the market this year and potentially fill the gap where there is a shortage of vetch.
- Opportunist trade continues, where farmers can store hay, they are seeking out any available good quality fodder from previous seasons.
- Steady trade to farmers looking to secure progressive loads over the next twelve months will not likely push prices up significantly but will mean the movement of fodder will continue to be steady at a minimum.

Driving Prices Down

- New season prices are not expected to increase dramatically, farmers are now looking to see the quality of new season hay and how much has been produced. Current trade is minimal across most regions.
- A significant amount of last season's weather damaged hay is on the market at a reduced price. With more damaged hay from this season expected to drop onto the market in the coming months.
- Good spring conditions will see many farmers producing and conserving as much silage as they can themselves, particularly along the NSW Coast and Victoria.
- A mild October and rain have meant many farmers have not had to irrigate grass yet. Stock continue to graze and be supported by paddock feed at this point. Farmers able to utilise water for summer months.

Local News

- Wet conditions again this week in the West, Tasmania, Victoria, and New South Wales continue to impact and delay the new hay season.
- The hay season is well underway in most regions now with many growers racing to bale as much hay as possible before rain events this week. Ongoing rain events through New South Wales, Victoria, and Western Australia this growing season means many heavy crops will also be laying on damp ground and will require significant drying time.
- Boarder closures and permit requirements continue to be a concern for contractors as they work to understand the changing rules and regulations that they and staff must comply with when moving between regions and states.
- Silage season continues to be made in some parts of Queensland, New South Wales, and Southern Victoria. Again, many farmers that would not traditionally make silage have found they have needed to avoid more weather damaged hay this season.
- In the north demand in the Atherton Tablelands remains steady with a small amount moving locally. Following the ongoing rainfall in Northern QLD many parts including the Tablelands continue to have an influx of fresh grass. The Darling Downs region reporting one of the best

seasons following good rainfall for the first half of the year. Oaten crops have started to be cut in the area for hay.

- New South Wales reporting good crops following timely rainfall. South Australia impacted by dryer conditions, further in the Southeast crops are on track but yields are expected to be done after difficult growing conditions this season. Hay season is in full swing in Northern Victoria. 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 timely for the west this season. Varied qualities of cereal hay being produced in the West as the season continues to be hampered by ongoing rainfall. 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 the Tablelands. This is not expected to last as wet season conditions start to build in the north.
- Growers have been able to cut and bale rhodes grass again this week with good drying temperatures. Growers now looking towards summer crop plantings.
- Plenty of green feed in the region for grazing stock following ongoing rain across most of the Atherton area.
- Trade continues to be well down as many farmers further west have had improved conditions and have produced some hay which has been enough to carry current stock numbers through rather than freight hay in from the Tablelands. Reports that amount of hay being freighted in previous years is not being seen this season.
- No change to pricing this week.
- Pasture (Rhodes Grass) hay: +/-0 (\$280 to \$300/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- 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 this week for the Darling Downs.
- Reports that this is one of the best hay producing seasons in three to four years. Growers producing good quality cereal hay in particular barley. Cereal hay will continue to be baled for the remainder of the month. Silage season was up with many only finishing now. Spring rain has interrupted hay production, but no damage reported.
- Confirmation that new season hay is going into storage for personal use as trade continues to be minimal in the region. Many feedlots now producing their own feed as well as sourcing from News South Wales.
- Growers now looking to summer cropping, with good soil moisture profiles and available irrigation it has potential to be a good season as well. Growers will continue to bale new season straw taking advantage of a good clean product despite minimal enquiry locally.
- No change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$260 to \$280/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$380 to \$420/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.

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North Coast NSW

- The start of the week brought up to 75mm of rain across the North Coast.
- Growers cutting cereal hay further west. Yields down due to limited rain during the growing season, recent rainfall was too late and only continued to impact growers trying to bale hay.
- Dairy farmers looking to make silage now for personal use as grass improves following the recent rain. Not as much silage is predicted to be made this season as farmers still have carryover.
- Reports new season cereal hay freighting in from Central New South Wales. Coastal farmers securing progressive loads for the next twelve months.
- 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 \$280/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$380 to \$430/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$100 to \$150/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$200 to \$230/t). Prices remain steady this week.
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Central West NSW

- Rain this week across the Central west with 7 – 15mm recorded.
- Good conditions over the last fortnight for growers wanting to cut and dry hay. This week's rain will hold off any baling for at least seven days with big windrows needing time to dry out. Reports of a small amount of rust in crops but to be expected with significant rain, heavy crops and spraying windows lost with continued wet conditions.
- Enquiry from produce stores and dairy farmers about new season hay, wanting to know what fodder will be available in the coming months as they start to run out of current stores.
- Local trade continues to be minimal as good grazing increases in the region and low stock numbers.
- No changes to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$180 to \$210/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$310 to \$360/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$60 to \$80/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$160 to \$200/t). Prices remain steady this week.
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Bega Valley

- No significant rain this week for Bega.
- Conditions have been ideal for growers as grass continues to grow following good rainfall and average daytime temperatures now reaching up to 25 degrees this week.
- As farmers head into summer there is plenty of water available for irrigating. A significant amount of silage has again been made and put away by growers and farmers this season.
- Trade continues to be low with reduced amounts of cereal hay coming onto the coast for dairy farmers. Smaller farming operations continue to purchase small squares of fodder.
- No change to prices this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$290 to \$320/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$480 to \$520/t). Prices remain steady 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

- Rain this week in the north with reports of 15mm falling in most parts.
- Hay season is well under way as many growers raced earlier this week to bale as much hay as possible with rain forecast for mid-week. Warm conditions over the last seven days have helped with drying. A significant amount of pit and rolled silage has been made over the last two months.
- Crops are reportedly yielding well and will need big windows this year for drying time. Spring rain continues to be predicted every seven days making it difficult.
- Trade is minimal at present majority of local farmers have plenty of conserved fodder and good grazing grass for stock.
- No changes to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$180 to \$200/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/- (\$380 to \$410/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$70 to \$100/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: -\$15 (\$220 to \$260/t). Prices have eased this week.

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Gippsland

- Rain this week for Gippsland with 10mm falling in the north and 15mm in the south at Sale.
- Growers still baling silage in the north between rain events. Pasture hay to be cut later this month as conditions improve. The south and western parts of the Gippsland are still significantly wet. Growers now grazing paddocks that were set aside for silage due to the wet and will work towards producing pasture hay once grazed off.
- Corn plantings for chopped silage again to be reduced due to the ongoing wet conditions in the south. Farmers have feed out majority of last season's silage and are looking to secure good quality fodder for the next twelve months.
- Growers and traders trying to ascertain the value of new season hay. 2020 cereal hay freighting into the south for farmers as they need.
- Changes to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$200 to \$230/t). Prices remain steady week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$550 to \$600/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$70 to \$85/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$90 to \$110/t). Prices remain steady this week.
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Southwest Victoria

- Stormy conditions again this week with 34mm recorded at Charlton. The south remained dry this week following up to 50mm falling at Warrnambool at the end of last week.
- Silage continues to be made in the south of the region. Growers are locking up paddocks now for pasture hay that will be cut towards the end of November. Warmer days now will enable farmers to graze more feed as it continues to improve.
- Growers reporting significant damage to any remaining standing crops in the west following storms and gusty conditions last week.
- Farmers have also taken advantage of any reasonable quality cereal and vetch hay left in the Mallee and storing for use over the coming year in the southern parts of the state. Concerns most hay made in the west up until now has been weather damaged.
- No changes to prices this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$170 to \$220/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

- A significant drop of rain at the end of last week, with Keith recording 21mm. Warmer conditions this week for the region reaching over 30 degrees mid-week.
- Silage and hay have been cut across the region with many growers reporting the season quickly finishing this year. Late rain only hindering production now. Total production for the region expected to be down on previous years.
- Livestock are grazing and this continues to impact local trade. Recent rain across the region will have refreshed up pastures this week.
- Mainly opportunist buyers that have storage are taking advantage of any good quality fodder on the market. No significant enquiries for new season hay, many will be anticipating pricing and quality.
- No changes to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/- (\$180 to \$210/t). Prices remain steady 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

- No rain to report this week.
- Majority of new season hay has been cut in the Central South. Dry conditions have been ideal now for baling, some earlier crops did receive rain. Yields significantly down on what was originally predicted but a good product is expected to be made with spring rain currently not impacting the region.
- Exporters will only take a reduced amount of new season cereal hay and it will need to be a premium product. It continues to be an opportunist market and some trade is taking place for this reason.
- No changes to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$180 to \$1200/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$400 to \$450/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$90 to \$140/t). Prices remain steady this week.
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Southwest Western Australia

- Rain has continued to fall on and off in the west.
- Wet conditions continue to hamper hay production with many growers unable to get all their hay baled before the most recent rain event.
- In the north crops have only been impacted slightly by rust, further south in the York region new season cereal crops have been plagued by waterlogging. Any later crops will potentially yield better and avoid the current spring rain.
- In general, the season is still on track to finish well in the west. Mixed reports on how much hay will be produced this season. Growers who decreased plantings due to limited export opportunities are now looking at good yielding crops and finding tonnes produced will be on par with 2020. With export only taking reduced amounts of premium hay this season some growers could be storing downgraded hay due to recent weather damage.
- No changes to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$260 to \$290/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$450 to \$490). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$130 to 180/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$180 to \$200/t). Prices remain steady this week.
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Northwest Tasmania

- Lighter rain this week in comparison to previous with up to 10mm falling in the eastern parts of the Northwest.
- Silage season continues to remain on hold now until conditions become dryer. Feed has been slow to grow with ongoing cool conditions but warmer weather this week will see this improve. Growers will consider not cutting for silage, instead topping paddocks to improve quality again and going through to pasture hay.
- Crops are ready to be cut for hay but at this point it could be another two weeks before growers can start. Consistent dry conditions needed now for hay season to start.
- Demand continues to be steady as some farmers continue to purchase what they need to get through until the wet conditions ease.
- No changes to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$220 to \$280/t) Prices remain steady 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: +/-0 (\$200 to \$240/t) Prices remain steady this week.
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