



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

- Flooding in Central and Western New South Wales, water continues to lay on paddocks damaging lucerne stands, paddock feed and new season crops.
- Farmers with storage securing loads of good quality hay from previous and current season while pricing is favorable.
- Limited vetch produced this season and flooding to lucerne farms in Central New South Wales and the Darling Downs could see an increase in price for good quality high protein fodder.
- Cost of production going into the new season with concerns now over AdBlue shortages as well as price increases already across fuel, chemical and fertiliser.

Driving Prices Down

- Varied qualities of fodder are currently on the market with new season hay being impacted by rain events.
- Milder conditions and regular rainfall have seen paddock feed continue to do well, alleviating the need for farmers to supplement feed.
- La Nina event where December to February is expected to bring above average rainfall and mild conditions for the eastern and central parts of the country further reducing the need for farmers to purchase extra feed over the summer months.

Local News

- Significant flooding continues in the Central West of New South Wales causing large scale damage to standing crops. The Darling Downs, Queensland also continue to be impacted by rain events as many rivers are expected to peak in the coming days.
- Majority of hay now baled with growers now concentrating on grain harvest. Trade continues to be significantly down and will be until the new year before an anticipated increase takes place once farmers plan for the coming season.
- Boarder closures and permit requirements are easing now and making movement of agricultural machinery and hay less difficult.
- Silage season continues to be made in Victoria where growers are attempting second cuts in the southern parts. Rain continues to hamper production and getting heavier machinery on paddocks still an issue.
- 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

- Hot conditions continue for the Tablelands this week with only light rain recorded despite regular storm activity through the region.
- No hay being produced at present due to rain and limited demand. Growers now looking towards summer crop plantings. Some crops have been taken for seed rather than cut for hay. Concerns again over potential Fall Armyworm damage and the cost to control.
- Farmers are selling weaning stock with ongoing good market prices rather than carry them through.
- Trade continues to be well down as many farmers further west have had improved conditions. Reports that the 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

- Wet conditions have continued for the Darling Downs with St George recording over 120mm for November with recent storms bringing 40mm plus. Hot conditions forecast for the coming week.
- Rivers expected to peak within the week following recent heavy rainfall with low level flooding in some parts. Some paddocks are just starting to dry out, lucerne cuts have been delayed with growers baling the lower grade cut into large squares now.
- Cotton production will again increase this season with many growers now concentrating on this instead of crops such as sorghum while prices continue to be high.
- Trade predominately for weaning cattle and some farmers taking advantage of pricing and storing for future use. Grazing continues to be good for farmers at this stage. Limited amounts of straw will be made with most stained from recent rain.
- No changes 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

- Rain this week on the North Coast with Coffs Harbour recording 70mm.
- A late season for the North Coast with many farmers now making silage which is currently being hindered by recent rainfall. Reports it is now turning into one of the best seasons and growers could be making silage and hay well into the new year depending on conditions.
- Good quality cereal crops were made in the west, yields were down due to limited rain during the growing season.
- Small amounts of new season cereal hay freighting in from the Gunnedah region for dairy farmers taking advantage of new season cereal hay prices. Straw production expected to be well down and a possible shortage of a good quality product for those farmers and feedlots seeking it due to the heavy rainfall and flooding this season in the Northern and Central parts of New South Wales.
- Cereal hay, straw, and lucerne prices quoted are for supplies to be carted into the region.
- No changes to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$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

- New South Wales has recorded its wettest November in 100 years.
- Farmers and growers on the eastern side of Forbes are reporting 90% of their farms were covered this time in flood water. A one in fifty-year flood, with 33 inches recorded to date this year where a normal year would see approximately 21 inches. Water has receded in most parts to the east, but water is expected to still be laying paddocks for up to three months west of Forbes. Reports it is a similar event to the 2015 floods.
- Lucerne crops significantly damaged with chaff mills seeking out good quality wheaten hay to be processed.
- Local trade continues to be minimal, still a significant amount of carry over hay of varied quality from last season stored in the region. Farmers seeking good quality cereal hay locally will have difficulty finding this.
- For flood assistance contact NSW Rural Assistance Authority [Disaster Assistance \(nsw.gov.au\)](http://www.nsw.gov.au/disaster-assistance) Service NSW can also assist with checking your eligibility.
- No changes to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$180 to \$220/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$300 to \$340/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

- Light rain this week recorded across the Valley.
- A significant amount of silage has been made thus far. Rain events have slowed production down. An abundance of feed in the area for stock has made it an ideal season for growers and farmers going into the warmer months.
- As farmers head into summer there is plenty of water available for irrigating.
- 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 for equine stock.
- No changes to prices this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$270 to \$300/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: -\$20 (\$330 to \$380/t). Prices have eased this week.
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Goulburn/Murray Valley

- Stormy conditions over the last seven days again for the region with a cold change coming through mid-week saw a plummet in temperatures.
- Majority of hay has been bailed across the Goulburn/Murray Valley. Growing conditions have been good enabling growers to take second cuts of grass for silage and pasture hay.
- Corn planting for chop silage continue in the region with forecasts of increased plantings by many dairy farmers this season. Focus for local growers in the region will now start to shift to grain harvest.
- Trade is minimal at present majority of local farmers have plenty of conserved fodder and good grazing grass for stock. Milder conditions and late spring rain have allowed feed to keep growing without farmers and growers having to utilise irrigation.
- No changes to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$170 to \$210/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$380 to \$410/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$70 to \$100/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$210 to \$250/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.

Gippsland

- Rain this week for Gippsland with the north recording close to 20mm, more rain and cold conditions forecast for the coming days.
- Growers have been cutting pasture for hay where possible in the north. The south and western parts of the Gippsland are still significantly wet. About half the amount of silage has been produced in comparison to a normal season due to wet conditions. Growers will be cutting well into the new year.
- 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.
- Reports of some vetch coming into the region from Charlton. South Gippsland will again need to secure feed for the next twelve months.
- No changes to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$190 to \$210/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$550 to \$570/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

- Conditions have been dryer this week for the Southwest, with only light rain for the Warrnambool area.
- Most growers have finished making silage now in the south, but it has been a stop, go operation with continued wet conditions. Reports the crops were bulky and quality down, farmers grazed where they could, to try and retain grass quality.
- Growers are currently making pasture hay where windows have been small with crops quickly toughening during baling. Ideally growers would like to produce as much as possible filling any silage gaps this season.
- Trade to potentially lift in the new year depending on summer conditions and how much feed farmers have been able to conserve themselves.
- No changes to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$170 to \$210/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$330 to \$380/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 reported for the Southwest this week, warmer conditions now for the region.
- Early hay was slower to cure and impacted by rain events.
- Cereal hay being baled now is good quality with limited rain damage, high humidity has also made it difficult to bale. Crops are later due to a mild growing season but are yielding well now. In general hay production is well down this year with reduced demand. Straw production will be down this season many contractors no wanting to take it on and quality issues.
- Warmer weather now will quickly burn off paddock feed if conditions stay dry. No significant enquiries for new season hay, many growers and farmers storing for when the market lifts, and some will utilise on their own livestock.
- No changes to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/- (\$190 to \$230/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 significant rain recorded this week for the Central South.
- Majority of hay in the north of the region has been baled with growers now focussing on grain harvest.
- Hay growers in the Owen area have managed to produce a good quality product despite only two – three good wet months. Exporters taking this for top quality and filling gaps where other growers have been affected by rain and dry conditions and unable to meet the grade. Crops affected by frost that were destined for grain were also cut for hay this year.
- Domestic trade is well down and new season hay is being produced for personal use. Straw production will again be up this season where crops have been tall enough with orders for pig breeders, small feedlots as well as for use across sandhills.
- No changes to prices this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$180 to \$220/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

- Hot and dry conditions this week for Western Australia.
- Many growers now focused on grain harvest in the west. Rain continued to plague farmers during November making conditions difficult to bale hay.
- A significant amount of pasture silage was made in the Margaret River region primarily for personal use. Hay trade has been slow, with growers reporting carryover of pasture hay from last season. Slow trade is thought to be due to high cattle prices and farmers reluctant to purchase more stock.
- Mixed reports on how much cereal hay has been produced this season. With export only taking reduced amounts of premium hay 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

- Improved conditions again this week for the Northwest with only very minimal light rain to the west.
- It has been a hard season for silage with constant wet weather across the region. Feed is improving now with warmer conditions and less overcast weather.
- Growers further east continue to make as much hay as possible, it has been taking longer to cure due to conditions. Quality is down this season on silage and hay due to weather damage and not being able to get onto paddocks in time.
- Demand continues to be steady as some farmers continue to purchase what they need to get through as feed continues to improve demand will reduce further. Farmers also considering feed needs for the next twelve months with the opportunities to make silage and pasture hay being limited this season.
- 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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