



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

- The continued wet weather across much of the eastern states has hampered hay production, particularly in NSW.
- Good quality cereal hay is in short supply, so it will be in high demand in the coming months.
- Rising production costs across fuel, chemicals and fertilisers are all factors being considered by growers for 2022 business decisions.
- High cattle prices and the potential impact on fodder needs are being monitored.

Driving Prices Down

- Green feed from summer rain will continue to keep trade down.
- Summer rain has impacted the quality of available fodder from most States.
- Good rainfall has been recorded across much of eastern Australia which will reduce feed needs during the season.
- The latest Drought Statement from the Bureau of Meteorology has declared no formal drought conditions are currently being monitored following record rainfall in November.

Local News

- Trade in hay continues to be significantly down.
- In the north, ex-tropical cyclones Tiffany and Seth have delivered rain in the Atherton Tablelands and the Darling Downs. Disaster assistance for those affected by flooding associated with ex-Tropical Cyclone Seth in some Queensland local government areas is available [here](#).
- Rain throughout NSW has seen challenging conditions for hay production.
- In Southwest Victoria the dry start to the year continues, but with reasonable soil moisture profiles, late summer plantings are occurring in some areas.
- South Australia and Tasmania are looking for summer rains after a dry start to 2022.
- The Australian Plague Locust Commission is keeping a close eye on locust numbers through the South West of NSW after recent monitoring found high numbers of adults around Jerilderie and Deniliquin.
- [CSIRO predicts](#) that a repeat of the horror mice plague that ravaged Central West NSW in 2021 is unlikely, however farmers in other parts of the nation, such as the Mallee in both Victoria and South Australia should remain vigilant.
- Buyers are encouraged to feed test and view fodder before purchasing to be sure of the quality of the feed.

Regional Commentary

Atherton Tablelands

- Tropical Cyclone Tiffany crossed Cape Yorke Peninsula bringing significant weather conditions to the region.
- Atherton was spared the worst of it, receiving 50-60mm of steady rain.
- Crops across the region are looking very good.
- Trade continues to be down with a good season out west slowing demand to that market. Sheds are well stocked with hay.
- No change to pricing this week.
- Pasture (Rhodes Grass) hay: +/-0 (\$280 to \$300/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Please 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

- Good grass growing across the region.
- Good rain received.
- Forage hay being cut at the moment but waiting for the big trough in the Gulf to pass and the weather to break.
- No changes to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$250 to \$270/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$380 to \$420/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$70 to \$90/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

- Grass is growing well, with wet conditions continuing to make on-farm activities challenging.
- Small amount of silage work happening.
- Occasional cereal hay enquiries are coming in.
- Trade continues to be low after the good season, with top-end quality product likely to be a challenge to source in the coming months after mice and rain affecting product.
- No changes to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$200 to \$260/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 (\$190 to \$220/t). Prices remain steady this week.
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Central West NSW

- Over 100mm of rain received in January so far in the region, with more expected in the coming week.
- The weather is impacting the hay season and quality, with a good 10-day dry period needed to get some baling done.
- Weed control activities are underway.
- Reports of fall armyworm in maize crops in the area.
- Local trade continues to be minimal, with some enquiries for quality hay.
- 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

- Bega has already received more than double the average rainfall for January, with light showers predicted for the week ahead.
- Plenty of silage has been put away in the area, with the weather hampering hay production.
- Trade continues to be low.
- 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 \$220/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$330 to \$360/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.

Goulburn/Murray Valley

- 30-40mm rain has been received around Elmore this week.
- After a good hay season, grain harvest has just wrapped up and some straw baling is happening.
- A little bit of trade is happening.
- 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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Gippsland

- No significant rain has been received.
- There is some silage activity.
- There are some enquiries for vetch and dry cow hay.
- No changes to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$180 to \$220/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$530 to \$550/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$80 to \$100/t). Prices remain steady this week.

- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$90 to \$110/t). Prices remain steady this week.
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Southwest Victoria

- Areas of the Southwest have missed much of the recent rainfall received elsewhere.
- There is enough moisture in the system to see reasonable amounts of summer crop going in late, mostly sorghum.
- Trade remains minimal, with interest around in protein hay and good quality cereal hay which is hard to find.
- No changes to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$180 to \$220/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$330 to \$380/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$80 to \$100/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

- The region needs summer rain to knock some feed down and reduce fire fuel loads.
- Minimal trade occurring as expected at this time of year.
- Those who planted late-maturing varieties will have good quality feed on offer in the coming months.
- 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.
- 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.

Central South Australia

- A small amount of rain occurred last week.
- Most growers have sprayed for summer weeds already and some straw baling for bedding, poultry market is underway.
- Trade remains minimal because of good rainfall around the country.
- No changes to prices this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$180 to \$220/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$400 to \$440/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$90 to \$140/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.

Southwest Western Australia

- After a wet end to 2021, harvest has only recently concluded in the region.
- Growers will look to weed control in coming weeks, with the late rains bringing early weeds.
- Trade is minimal with good rain in the dairy regions leaving growers self-sufficient feed wise.
- 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

- There has not been much rain in northwest Tasmania.
- The silage/hay season is half the usual crop because of a lack of finishing rain.
- There is movement of hay into the region from the northern midlands.
- Slight price increase this week for cereal hay.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$240 to \$260/t) Price is up slightly 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 (\$190 to \$230/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.