



Australian Fodder Industry Association



04 February 2022

# 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](http://www.afia.org.au)

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## NATIONAL SUMMARY

### Driving Prices Up

- Drier conditions in some southern regions are driving interest in locking away some winter feed allotments.
- Quality hay will be in short supply in the coming months.
- Cost of production concerns remain a focus for the season to come.
- The cattle market with restocking and lot feeding circles at close to record levels is being monitored by the fodder industry.

### Driving Prices Down

- Hay quality is being affected by the wet conditions.
- Summer rainfall has brought good quality grazing feed as well as the reduced amount of irrigation needed for summer crops.
- Demand from feedlots continues to be well down.
- According to the Bureau of Meteorology, La Niña continues in the tropical Pacific, but modelling suggests the 2021–22 La Niña is near or at its peak, with a return to neutral El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) likely early in the southern hemisphere autumn. La Niña has delivered above average rainfall across much of northern and eastern Australia this summer.

### Local News

- Varied weather conditions across the country with storm activity across the eastern side of the country again bringing varied rainfall.
- Significant damage to roads in South Australia following recent heavy rainfall in the south particularly the Eyre Peninsula area. The impact being felt within the transport industry.
- Trade in hay continues to be slow, which can be traditional for this time of year.
- In Queensland, Fall Armyworm monitoring and spraying is well-underway. Summer crops are looking magnificent in the Darling Downs.
- Continued wet conditions throughout NSW mean that there is plenty of grass in the paddocks, and summer hay production continues to be hindered.
- Lack of rain in Southwest Victoria, and some parts of South Australia and Tasmania are driving some early enquiries from those looking to secure feed allotments for winter.
- [\\$50k grants](#) for November flood-affected farmers in [NSW](#) and [QLD](#) are now available to salvage damaged crops and stock, rebuild fences and replace machinery. The grants are jointly funded by state and federal governments for those in local government areas which were disaster-declared after the severe flooding.
- 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 and humid conditions have continued with storm activity bringing rain most days.
- Spraying underway for Fall Armyworm on corn and peanut crops – with growers taking a more pre-emptive approach this season and closely monitoring for moths.
- Plenty of paddock feed will be available following ongoing summer rain.
- Conditions have been too varied for growers to be able to bale any rhodes grass for 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**

- Rain this week for the Downs with Warwick recording 16mm and St George 13mm.
- Summer rainfall is setting growers up for a good autumn seeding season.
- Good summer grass for grazing stock, summer crops have also benefited for the recent rainfall.
- A small of lucerne has been moving.
- 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**

- Over 165mm of rain was recorded for the North Coast during the month of January.
- Some silage still being cut in the region but is a stop-go operation with ongoing rain events.
- Good feed in the region for farmers with grazing stock following the continuous rainfall across the North Coast.
- Trade is very slow at present which is normal for this time of year.
- No changes to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay, straw, and lucerne prices quoted are for supplies to be carted into the region.
- 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.
- 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 West NSW**

- Rain this week for the Central West with several thunderstorms, 15mm was recorded at Orange at the start of the week.
- Cutting and baling lucerne and teff grass in the area has been hindered by ongoing wet conditions. Quality has also been impacted by the rain.
- Many growers have opted to graze their lucerne especially dryland rather than try and make hay with the continued summer rainfall.
- Local trade continues to be minimal, with some enquiries for quality hay, and older oaten hay moving.
- 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.
- 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.

## **Bega Valley**

- Lighter rainfall this week for the Valley with 10mm recorded.
- Growers are concentrating on kikuyu grass and keeping summer weeds down between rain events.
- Small amount of quality cereal hay coming onto the valley for dairy farmers with pre-existing orders.
- Minimal trade locally, small amounts to equine customers.
- 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**

- Varied storm activity across the region over the last fortnight with some parts recording over 100mm.
- A significant amount of hay available in the region which growers will carry through now until a shift in demand.
- Graziers in the area continue to be supported by summer grasses and good on farm hay stores.
- Summer crops continue to do well in the region following wet conditions. Corn will be chopped for silage in the coming months.
- 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.
- 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.

## **Gippsland**

- North Gippsland recorded up to 24mm of rain at the start of the week.
- Farmers have grass for grazing at present, quality is good. More rain needed to keep these pastures going.
- Maize silage plantings down on previous years in the south due to wet conditions at time of planting and many farmers have significant stores of grass silage.
- There are some enquiries for vetch and oaten hay with farmers planning for the winter.
- No changes to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$200 to \$240/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**

- Rain for the Warrnambool area earlier this week with up to 15mm recorded.
- Some silage and grass hay interest but trade remains minimal. Inquiry in the coming months will be for high protein hay and good quality cereal hay.
- Varied qualities of cereal and vetch hay on the market.
- 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**

- No significant rain to report this week, a cooler seven days for the region following hot conditions previously.
- Small amounts of straw have been baled this season. Some growers still occupied with grain harvest in the south.
- A mostly hot and dry summer thus far has seen summer feed burn off in the area.
- Minimal trade occurring as expected at this time of year, but interest is increasing with dryer conditions.
- 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**

- No rain to report for the Central South this week. Parts of the region did record 30mm of rain during January.
- A significant amount of straw has been baled again this year in the Central South. Mostly dry summer conditions have been ideal for straw production. Demand coming from mushroom and chicken farms as well as exporters wanting premium straw for stock bedding.
- Summer spraying programs underway for growers that have received rain over the last three months.
- Small amounts of domestic inquiry as many farmers currently still have good summer feed.
- No changes to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$200 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**

- Conditions continue to remain dry for the Southwest this past week. While heavy rain activity has occurred in the far north, southern parts of the state have received a cooler change with temperatures reaching a maximum of 33 degrees.
- An increase in mice activity following a bumper harvest has been detected, growers are being asked to remain vigilant and implement baiting plans.
- Trade is minimal with some last season hay shipped north.
- A small amount of cereal hay moving to domestic clients on the coast. The continuation of this may change if the area receives rain.
- 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.
- 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.

## **Northwest Tasmania**

- Light rain recorded this week in the far Northwest while the remainder of the region has stayed dry.
- A third cut of lucerne is underway for some growers, as well as cuts of timothy hay. Oaten hay was finished before Christmas for many.
- There is a big variance in quality with earlier hay impacted by weather, more recent hay has been able to be baled without any damage.
- Current dryer conditions have increased inquiry for fodder.
- Prices remain steady this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$240 to \$260/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 (\$190 to \$230/t) Prices remain steady this week.
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