



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

- While the price of livestock remains strong, farmers are prepared to seek out good quality feed to maintain the condition of these animals. Reports that many farmers will look to increase numbers this year and build on breeding numbers.
- Drier conditions in some southern regions are driving interest as some farmers look to pre-contract feed for the coming months. Predictions that many parts could again face a dry autumn.
- Good quality cereal hay will be in short demand following two wet springs in many states during 2020 and 2021.
- Consideration of new season plantings are underway as growers take advice on export opportunities as well as the return of good grain and lentil prices.

Driving Prices Down

- Varied qualities of fodder are currently on the market with new season hay being impacted by rain events across most states.
- Summer rainfall has seen paddock feed continue to do well, alleviating the need for farmers to supplement feed and irrigate extensively. Many also have good, conserved fodder of silage and hay for the coming months.
- Demand from feedlots continues to be well down as many have cut numbers due to the high purchase price of cattle.
- 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

- The Eyre Peninsula in South Australia after receiving up to 300mm of rain in some parts is now struggling to receive the farm supply's they need including chemical and fencing equipment due to transport issue with many roads washed away. Reports that due to the council's vast land area that it will be sometime before full restoration is made.
- Farmers and growers from the Esperance region in the South of Western Australia have come together to provide hay donations for those farmers affected by the fires in the Wheat Belt area.
- Trade in hay continues to be slow, which can be traditional for this time of year. The equine industry continues to be consistent consumer looking for good quality fodder.
- In Queensland, Fall Armyworm monitoring and spraying is well-underway. Summer crops are looking magnificent in the Darling Downs.
- Summer rain throughout New South Wales has produced grass in the paddocks, any summer coastal 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.
- Buyers are encouraged to feed test and view fodder before purchasing to be sure of the quality of the feed.

Regional Commentary

Atherton Tablelands

- Overcast conditions and light rain earlier in the week, with more forecast for the coming days
- Maize plantings are well down due to the cost to produce and not the demand for chop silage.
- Conditions have been too varied for growers to be able to bale any rhodes grass for hay. Not enough consecutive days to allow for drying.
- Small amounts of trade will continue locally for farmers weaning cattle. Further west has had good summer rain and grazing feed is still ample for stock.
- 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

- Dry conditions this week for the Darling Downs.
- Summer crops are doing well following ongoing rain in the region. Some forage sorghum has been baled and put away as demand continues to be well down.
- Grass in abundance which continues to impact local trade. Some enquiries for straw from feedlots, limited amounts made this season due to the rain that followed harvest.
- Maize will be chopped for pit silage in the coming months. Reports that it will be one of the biggest cotton harvests on record.
- 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

- Rain this week for the North Coast with 15mm falling in the Coffs Harbour area.
- 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. Small amounts of cereal and lucerne hay coming onto the coast for dairy farmers.
- 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

- No rain across the Central West this week.
- Growers now working on summer weeds that been a significant issue this season with wet and humid conditions over the last two months.
- 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.
- Changes to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: -\$10 (\$170 to \$210/t). Prices have eased 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

- No significant rain this week with reports of 5mm falling this week.
- 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

- A dry week for the Goulburn and Murray Valleys.
- 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.
- Changes to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: -\$5 (\$170 to \$200/t). Prices have eased this week.
- Lucerne hay: -\$5 (\$380 to \$400/t). Prices have eased 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

- A dry week for Gippsland, some wind but conditions this summer thus far have been mild with reports of only ten hot days where temperatures have been in the mid to high thirties.
- Majority of maize crops are good. Late March before chopping of crops can start, more hot weather needed to finish them off. Small amounts grown in south this year as paddocks were too wet at the time of planting.
- No reports of hay coming into the region, sales of some dry cow hay locally. There are some enquiries for vetch and oaten hay with farmers planning for the winter.
- Farmers have grass for grazing at present, quality is good. More rain needed to keep these pastures going.
- 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.
- 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 Victoria

- A dry seven days for the Southwest.
- Small amounts of pasture hay has been made over the summer.
- Varied qualities of cereal and vetch hay on the market through the Wimmera and the Mallee areas.
- 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.
- 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 rain recorded this week across the Southeast.
- Southeast growers have produced good quality lucerne hay this season with ideal summer conditions. Baling windows have been harder with limited moisture needed but reasonable amounts have been produced this season.
- Small amounts of straw have been baled this season to fill contracts for livestock bedding and mushroom farmers.
- 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.
- January rain has provided a good moisture profile and growers now await to see if an autumn break will be received this year.
- The last of the straw is being baled in the region as well as clover seed harvest by some growers. Summer weeds have also been an issue for growers following summer rain.
- February is traditionally a slow time for domestic hay trade but there has been enquiries and movement for equine customers and sheep farmers in the Mallee region.
- Changes to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$190 to \$230/t). Changes to the bottom end this week.
- Lucerne hay: -\$15 (\$390 to \$420/t). Prices have eased 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

- The last seven days have been hot and dry for the West with tops of 43 degrees, cooler conditions over the last five days.
- Several fires have impacted the region with gusty conditions making it difficult for them to be brought under control. Bruce Rock/Corrigin area were one of the places severely impacted by a large blaze.
- 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.
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Northwest Tasmania

- No significant rain recorded this week in the Northwest.
- Hot and dry conditions not always traditional for this time of year have helped produce good quality lucerne hay. Growers reported good moisture leading in following wet spring conditions, they were able to irrigate when needed resulting in an increase of up to 20% in production.
- Growers are currently irrigating lucerne and planting some grasses.
- Trade is slow at present from what it was earlier on this year. Some farmers pre-planning now for the coming months. Reasonable steady demand expected during the cooler months. 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.
- Pricing changes to lucerne this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$240 to \$260/t) Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: -\$10 (\$290 to \$340/t) Prices have eased 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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