



Australian Fodder Industry Association



18 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

- It will be crucial that rain continues to fall at the right time for growers this year. Despite the summer rain in many parts conditions can quickly become dry again.
- Cost of production continues to be a strong discussion point, as many growers particularly in the southern states have already had to control summer weed issues adding to the increasing cost to produce crops this coming season.
- Good quality cereal hay will be in short demand following two wet springs in many states during 2020 and 2021.
- Farmers actively seeking out fodder to fill their feed requirements for the coming cooler months.

### Driving Prices Down

- Varied qualities of fodder are currently on the market with new season hay being impacted by rain events across most states.
- Growers with hay stacked outside of a lower grade will look to trade this in the coming months.
- 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.

### Local News

- Dry conditions for most parts of the country this week.
- Farmers and growers of Western Australia continued to provide support and hay donations for those farmers affected by the fires in the Wheat Belt.
- 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 again this week for the Tablelands with light rain.
- 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.
- Conditions have been ideal for growers wanting to produce lucerne hay with summer rain now slowing.
- Local trade continues to be minimal, with some enquiries for quality hay, and older oaten hay.
- No changes to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$170 to \$210/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**

- No significant rainfall this week for the Valley.
- Conditions continue to be ideal for the region with good moisture from consistent rainfall, growers are now looking toward another good season.
- 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 and hot 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.
- No changes to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$170 to \$200/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$380 to \$400/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**

- Light rainfall this week for the region.
- 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.
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## **Southwest Victoria**

- No rain recorded this week, conditions have been warm for the region this week.
- Small amounts of pasture hay have 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. Varied qualities of cereal hay on the market.
- 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**

- Light rain this week with some parts recording 6mm in the Central South.
- 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. 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.
- No changes to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$190 to \$230/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$390 to \$420/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$90 to \$140/t). Prices remain steady this week.
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## **Southwest Western Australia**

- Dry conditions again this week for the Southwest.
- Growers and farmers now in recovery mode following several big fires that impacted the region. The Bruce Rock/Corrigin area was 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.
- Growers will be looking for good rainfall over the coming month to assist with the preparation of new season plantings.
- Trade is minimal with some last season hay shipped north.
- 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**

- Up to 8mm of rain was recorded this week across 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.
- No changes to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$240 to \$260/t) Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$290 to \$340/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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