



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

- Good quality hay will be in demand as we approach Spring.
- There has been a significant drop in temperatures reducing the rate of pasture and grazing crop growth. This has supported an increase in the demand for hay and silage.
- Stocks of hay in many areas which had been providing donations into flood affected areas are now low. Growers who had been donating into the area are now concerned about managing the rising input and production costs and have significantly reduced the amount of hay they donate.
- Input costs continue to impact cropping decisions. Many grain and fodder producers will not prioritise fertiliser application for pasture hay. This is expected to reduce quantities of pasture hay produced during late winter/early spring.
- Opportunistic hay production has not been seen as a price competitive cropping option.
- Fodder users who are concerned about the potential of reduced supply are looking to lock in Spring hay supply contracts.
- Slow but steady increase in inquires to source feed and increase on hand supplies of high quality hay. Supplies of high-quality cereal hay are now very low in most regions.
- In a number of regions hay and fodder producers have little hay now available for open market sale or sale to new customers, most has been contracted for sale to long-term buyers.

Driving Prices Down

- Confidence pasture growth will support stock without need for supplementary feed has kept demand for hay and fodder steady.
- Growers with lower grade hay from past seasons, particularly hay stacked outside, are actively trading to clear the way for their new seasons hay.
- The slow build-up of enquiries, and a lack of awareness regarding the impact international grain prices have had on crop choices may be leading to a false sense of security about future available stocks and prices for new seasons hay.

Local News

- Prices are remaining steady in most regions due to lack of open trade. Most hay, being currently sold was contracted for purchase earlier in the year, so prices do not reflect current costs of production.
- The Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) continue to predict the high likelihood of a negative IOD event for the coming months. A negative IOD along with warmer than average sea surface temperatures increase the chances of above average winter–spring rainfall for much of Australia.
- BOM have reported the impacts of a strong cold front across most of eastern Australia bringing reasonable to heavy rainfalls across most Australian cropping regions. Particularly heavy falls across parts of WA and Tasmania.
- The range of biosecurity incidents which may impact Australian agriculture are causing significant concern. Reports of Foot and Mouth Disease in Bali, the incursion of varroa destructor mite and other pest incursions such as slugs are being raised as concerns by many farmers contacted for the hay report.
- There is concern the high price of inputs, lack of availability of farm labour and likelihood of continuing higher than average rainfall in some regions is not being factored into fodder prices.

- Buyers are encouraged to feed test and view fodder before purchase to be sure of the quality of feed.

Regional Commentary

Atherton Tablelands

- No rain during the past week, perfect hay making weather. Rain predicted in the coming days and across the weekend. Very cold temperatures across the region, down to 5 degrees some nights.
- Crops now needing a good rainfall event to support continued growth and development. A number of wheat crops in the region have been over watered and are now requiring disease control measures.
- Foot and Mouth disease was causing considerable concern across the region. Information about the Australian Vetplan and preparedness is available at <https://animalhealthaustralia.com.au>.
- Machinery repair costs, long delays to access replacement parts and high input prices will continue to deter many producers from opportunistic hay production this season.
- Fuel prices sitting between \$1.85 and \$2.05 per litre. Some suppliers are already indicating a price rise in the next few weeks prior to the return of the excise which will add additional cost.
- Urea prices have remained high currently around \$1,500 per tonne.
- Increased hay demand across the region but no sign of prices increasing.
- No change to pricing this week due to slow trade but input costs require a price rise to maintain interest in producing hay and fodder. Demand expected to increase in coming months.
- Pasture (Rhodes Grass) hay: +/-0 (\$300 to \$400/t). Prices remain steady.

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

- Light to moderate rainfall across the region with higher falls in the South, averaging 30-40mm of rain, whilst the north and west saw approximately 15-25mm of rain for the week.
- The rainfall whilst not very heavy, has been falling on already soaked ground with a full moisture profiles, dams and creeks are also at capacity. This has led to standing water in paddocks and across roads, causing delays in planting/harvesting schedules as well as issues with transport.
- There have been reports urea supplies out of Brisbane are being constrained, also some reports of suppliers cancelling contracts to retailers. Wet weather and nitrogen hungry crops will require additional nutrient support, it is expected high demand will result in increased prices for urea.
- Pastures are being sown with fast establishing wet soil tolerant ryegrass varieties around Dulcacca. Faba beans crops in the south of the region are flowering having taken advantage of the wetter conditions. Clover pastures around Goondiwindi are showing good growth and supplying feed for livestock in the region.
- Enquiries have steadied with ongoing interest in vetch hay as well as cereal and clover hays. Feedlots are still driving demand. Cattle feedlots are also looking for small quantities of straw.
- No change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$255 to \$280/t). Prices remain steady this week.

- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$380 to \$420/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$70 to \$135/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$220 to \$250/t) Prices remain steady this week.

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North Coast NSW

- Although there has been little rain in the past week, cold temperatures continue to impact the region.
- There is little if any trade in locally produced fodder as those able to produce/harvest fodder look to restock their own supplies. Supplies are very low across the region.
- Pastures and crop paddocks have been damaged by waterlogging, damage to soil structure and inundation with mud. Many days of clear dry weather will be needed to support hay production and pasture growth.
- Biosecurity incursions are increasing as the weather warms up. There are concerns regarding the additional costs farmers will face managing the diseases, weeds and pests.
- Prices are expected to increase across the region due to a lack of local supply. Hay being purchased and transported in is incurring high transport costs due to the distance travelled, much of the hay is being brought up from Victoria or South Australia.
- Shipments of relief fodder are still arriving from outside the region however quality is poor due to shortages in other regions. Straw is scarce.
- Prices steady but increased average price expected.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$260 to \$350/t). Prices steady but increased average price expected.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$400 to \$550/t). Prices steady but increased average expected.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$100 to \$220/t). Prices steady but increased average expected.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$200 to \$280/t). Prices steady but increased average expected.

Please note: Cereal hay, straw, and lucerne prices should be considered as a bookmark rather than a reflection of the local trade due to the reliance on donations and current conditions. We recommend feed testing and viewing of fodder before purchase to be sure of the quality of feed.

Central West NSW

- Moderate to very heavy rainfall across parts of the region with 50mm of rain around Coonabarabran. Hailstorms have been reported around Lake Cowal and Forbes.
- Growers who missed planting a winter crop due to the wet conditions are now preparing their summer cropping schedule. Parts of the region are still reporting soaked paddocks and full moisture profiles which will make the variety choice and sowing time critical. Some growers are considering early planting of Sorghum to take advantage of the full profiles.
- Oat crops around Peak Hill are coming along again after getting a few days of sun with plans to run lambs on the crop in late September.

- Canola crops around Eugowra are coming along very well with good flower emergence, recent rainfall is supporting continued flowering with hopes of strong pod development.
- Stripe rust is showing up in a fair number of paddocks in the south of the region, fungicides being applied but there are calls for research to ensure the top yielding varieties also incorporate better disease resistance.
- The FMD outbreak continues to be of concern across the region, with most farmers watching developments closely. However, the latest topic of conversation especially amongst irrigators is the Murray Darling Basin Plan and the publicised environmental water shortfall. Whilst this year has been very wet there are concerns regarding the amount of water that will be made available to irrigators in a drier year.
- Demand is steady however there is an awareness of the scarcity of hay in the area. There is a reasonable amount of fodder coming in from further south and interstate to support herds with additional dry matter.
- No change to pricing.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$175 to \$240/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$305 to \$355/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$65 to \$90/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$165 to \$235/t). Prices remain steady this week

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Bega Valley

- Light to moderate rainfall this week with averages around 20mm of rain at Bega through to lower rainfall totals further north.
- Another week of warmer temperatures saw improved pasture and crop growth; however, this will need to continue to secure fodder options. Growth remains slow and warmer conditions are needed. The forecast rain events are not being welcomed.
- In the west of the region, mixed vetch and sub-clover paddocks are ready to turn in as a green manure and nitrogen fixative in preparation for serradella and ryegrass pasture sowing.
- Stripe rust is being reported in an increasing number of paddocks across the state and the Bega Valley is no exception, samples are being sent for pathotyping. Information on susceptible varieties and individual pathotypes can be found at <https://nvt.grdc.com.au/nvt-disease-ratings>
- There is little hay moving locally. Some higher quality feed coming into the area from South Australia and the Riverina. Feedlot interest continues to be strong as they secure supply, with ongoing interest in straw.
- No change to pricing.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$265 to \$320/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$480 to \$520/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$200 to \$225/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$330 to \$360/t). Prices remain steady this week.

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Goulburn/Murray Valley

- Continuing low rainfall totals with some areas missing out completely, whilst others received a weekly total of around 20mm of rain. Temperatures continue to trend below average.
- Oats crops around Shepparton are coming along very well, with strong growth, however there is some concern the current conditions are perfect for red leather leaf to emerge so monitoring and management is being undertaken.
- Wheat crops around Invergordon are showing early signs of rust, so fungicide applications are being made. Long season wheats not yet showing rust but preventatives being applied on them due to prevalence of rusts this season.
- Paddocks of double sown vetch around Tatura around coming along well with heavy biomass, they are being grazed by dairy cows in the region.
- Growers in the region are gearing up for silage and hay cutting, with maintenance of machines front of mind. Some concerns are being raised about the availability of spare parts.
- Hay enquires have stabilised. Scarcity is well established, many farmers in the region are only servicing existing customers. There is still some good green feed available, so this has offset the smaller amount of fodder available. Some shipments have been reported coming into the area from the Riverina.
- No change to pricing this week
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$170 to \$225/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$390 to \$420/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$70 to \$120/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$215 to \$260/t). Prices remain steady this week.

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Gippsland

- Moderate to high rainfall across parts of the region this week with falls of around 60mm of rain around Leongatha. This has led to sporadic flash flooding and some damage to stock crossings and roads.
- Calving season is winding down with most dairy farms reporting between 75-90% calves born, with the recent cold and wet conditions the end of calving is a relief for those dairy farmers.
- Pastures of ryegrass and clover around Maffra are bulking up well and still showing some growth. They are providing plenty of green feed despite the wet and wintery conditions. However, supplementary feed will still be required until spring fully arrives.

- Grazing crops are doing well in the area. Silage season may be delayed in those areas hit by flooding but for the remainder it is estimated it is four weeks away depending on weather conditions over the next month.
- Fuel and fertilizer prices continue to be a concern, especially with the federal excise to be reapplied.
- Movement of pre-contacted hay has steadied, though there is ongoing interest in any available stocks in the region. Lucerne hay and silage in high demand especially in the west of the region. Straw is mainly going into feedlots as pre-contracted sales, or it's being sold for bedding.
- No change in prices this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$200 to \$250/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$530 to \$550/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$80 to \$110/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$90 to \$180/t). Prices remain steady this week.

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Southwest Victoria

- Low rainfall totals across the region again this week with falls around 10-15mm of rain, cold temperatures continue, though frosts are less frequent.
- Winter grass pastures are lush and ready to support the second lambing season after treatment with gibberellic acid.
- The ongoing wet conditions have forced some farmers around Grassmere to resort to aerial spraying of fertilizer as the paddocks are too wet to allow tractors on the paddocks.
- Some growers are already beginning preparation to sow summer crops around Dunkeld.
- Whilst there is plenty of feed in grazing pastures around Condah, supplementary grain feeding is being undertaken to support good growth in new lambs.
- While there is still some concern in relation to Foot and Mouth Disease, most of the farmers are more concerned with the proximity of Lumpy Skin Disease in Indonesia and the chances of it making its way to Australia. There is worry that with all the focus on FMD, LSD detection could be compromised.
- Input costs remain an issue, though fuel prices are on the downward portion of the cycle at the moment with the range around \$1.95 - \$2.07 across the area.
- Enquiries are steady with quite a bit of pre-contracted hay moving in the area. Strong enquiries for high quality vetch and cereal hay, but they are difficult to source, some is coming across the border from South Australia. Feedlots are looking for high protein fodder as well as some enquiries for straw.
- No change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$180 to \$230/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$330 to \$380/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$80 to \$110/t). Prices remain steady this week.

- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$150 to \$190/t). Prices remain steady this week

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Southeast South Australia

- Sporadic rainfall across the region, some heavier falls in parts of the region are supporting the filling of dams and improved soil moisture profiles.
- Across the region most crops are looking okay, some now experiencing minor waterlogging, colder temperatures have been slowing growth.
- Forecast is for significantly reduced hay production across the region. While supply availability will become clearer in Spring early contact with hay producers is encouraged.
- Growers with contracts in place will maintain hay production program. However, farmers have planted additional pasture rather than invest in cereal hay due to input and production costs.
- Hay and fodder sales have increased due to colder weather and many hay producers are now sold out. New customers should expect to have to pay for additional freight to access hay.
- Supplies of good quality hay are very low across the region. A lot of the remaining hay is already contracted for sale so reports of shortages expected to increase.
- Prices have increased due to colder temperatures and supply shortages.
- Cereal hay: +\$15 (\$250 to \$270/t). Prices have increased.
- Lucerne hay: +\$15 (\$340 to \$400/t). Prices have increased.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$110 to \$130/t). Prices remain steady good supply available.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$200 to \$230/t). Prices remain steady but supplies are very low.

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Central South Australia

- Reasonable weather for crop growth, steady falls of around 15-20mm of rain each week have led to a total of around 66mm of rain across most parts of the region during the past month.
- Crops across most of the Yorke Peninsula are doing well following the consistent August rainfall.
- There is a level of concern about the number of biosecurity incidences currently threatening Australian agriculture and the increased costs this will impose of grain and hay producers.
- Diesel is sitting at around \$1.90 to \$2.20 per litre. Fuel levies and increased prices for local deliveries are expected to remain a feature.
- Hay prices will need to rise to provide clearer market signals to support hay production and reflect the increasing costs of inputs, labour and commodity prices for alternative crops.
- Steady demand for hay, mostly from long term customers. Good quality older hay is still in demand, the quality and growth of pastures in the northern parts of the region have been impacted by frost.

- Farmers are using supplementary feed to support stock in the hopes of good stock prices remaining in Spring.
- Pricing remains variable however, stocks of good quality older hay are now in short supply and prices are expected to remain steady or increase as hay has not been a preferred crop this season.
- Steady demand however, supply shortages are prevalent.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$190 to \$260/t). Prices remain steady this week
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$400 to \$430/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$130 to \$150/t). Prices remain steady but supply is extremely short.

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Southwest Western Australia

- While there were heavy falls in much of southwest Western Australia there was only sporadic rainfall over some of the cropping areas in the region. For example; falls of less than 10mm of rain in Bunbury. Temperatures continue to be lower than average across the region.
- The on-going colder day and night-time temperatures, and the occasional frosts have slowed pasture and crop growth. As such hay and supplementary feeding continues for livestock farmers.
- Sowing of tall wheat grass into salt affected perennial paddocks fields for reclamation and future growth is taking place around Noman's Lake.
- Mid-maturing, high yield wheat crops around Kojonup are coming up well with full head emergence, flowering expected by end of the week. Barley crops around Kukerin are doing well, with good growth and timely rainfall keeping the growth going.
- Red legged earth-mites are requiring control in paddocks with good clover coverage. Earlier than expected warm dry weather has increased some pest numbers in some parts of the region.
- Reports of mice in the paddocks and some sightings around sheds and homes continue. Monitoring for mice activity remains a recommendation across many parts of the region. <https://grdc.com.au/resources-and-publications/resources/mouse-management>.
- Hay enquiries have been steady. Most hay currently still on farm is either pre-contracted or recently sold. There is a shortage of good quality pasture hay, so prices are remaining strong for quality. Cheaper prices for older, lower quality/paddock clean up hay as growers move it off farm.
- No changes to prices.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$210 to \$300/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$350 to \$490/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$100 to \$120/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$160 to \$180/t). Prices remain steady this week.

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Northwest Tasmania

- Moderate to heavy rainfall across the region this week, though less than in the south east of the state, with falls of 50-60mm of rain around Smithton.
- Winter canola crop sown in late April around Edith Creek with some early flowering being seen in the cool and wet conditions, however there is some concern about low fertility. This is being ameliorated with nitrogen applications.
- Pastures of multi-species blends of perennial ryegrass combined with fescue, phalaris, clover, chicory & plantain are powering along as a mid-winter feed source and is now being used to fatten cattle around Smithton.
- Recent days have been longer, and the growth is starting to pick up. The last few weeks of decent rainfall have supported pastures to put on good growth.
- Supplementary feed is still being distributed to ensure ongoing stock health.
- Calving season has kicked off in the region, with the next ten weeks set to be busy for dairy farmers. The wet conditions are causing some concerns but so far, the season appears to be going well.
- Interest in hay has steadied this week as the rains increase pasture growth potential, though some areas are seeing too much rain and are looking for feed options.
- Supplies are very short, new customers will find it difficult to source any hay. Most of the available hay is coming up from the south, where there is still some for sale, though that is also becoming scarce outside of pre-contracted deliveries.
- No change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$250 to \$275/t) Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$290 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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