



Australian Fodder Industry Association



06 August 2021

HAY REPORT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

NATIONAL SUMMARY	
Driving Prices Up	3
Driving Prices Down	3
Local News	3
Regional Commentary	
Atherton Tablelands	4
Darling Downs	4
North Coast NSW	5
Central West NSW	5
Bega Valley	6
Goulburn/Murray Valley	6
Gippsland	7
Southwest Victoria	7
Southeast South Australia	8
Central South Australia	8
Southwest Western Australia	9
Northwest Tasmania	9



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

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed within are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect Australian Fodder Industry Association Ltd opinion or policy. To the extent permitted by law, Australian Fodder Industry Association Ltd excludes all liability for loss or damage arising from the use of, or reliance on, the information contained in this publication. It is the readers responsibility to confirm accuracy, reliability, suitability, currency and completeness for private use.

NATIONAL SUMMARY

Driving Prices Up

- Farmers taking advantage of prices and securing the remainder of good quality cereal hay to be stored for when conditions are not as favorable.
- The recent increase in milk prices for Australian dairy farmers will see a potential shift in the coming twelve months on the amount of fodder purchased by this sector.
- A new season shortage of good quality cereal how as many growers weigh up a potential wet spring, increase in mice and good grain prices with reports of flooding in China and Russia's grain harvest significantly down.
- Wet and cold conditions have continued across Southern Australia and into Western Australia which are predicted to be the same for the remainder of August. This means some farmers will need to seek out additional fodder to carry valuable stock through until viable grasses are up, and paddocks can handle traffic again.

Driving Prices Down

- Significant amount of weather damaged hay is on the market now as growers look to move this before the new season. Any farmers that are wanting to purchase fodder are not interested in lower grade meaning this product will continue to sit on the market for some time and will be slow to move.
- Many farmers continue to work through conserved on farm stores eliminating a need to buy in feed. Last spring a significant amount of silage was made across New South Wales and Victoria and farmers have only started to utilise this feed since early June.
- Domestic hay trade has been at all time low for eighteen months due to improved conditions across the entire country. High prices and big volumes being frightened over significant distances was a reflection of long-term drought primarily on the eastern side of the country which has now ended.

Local News

- Rain again this week across many parts making conditions difficult for growers wanting to spray and fertilise. Paddocks are not drying out between weather fronts and with the combination of significant cold, crop growth has slowed but with five weeks till spring growers are still anticipating a good finish to the season.
- Farmers in many regions are feeding out while paddock grass is dormant and to prevent stock from bogging up paddocks that will be grazed or cut for silage in the spring.
- Wet and cold conditions have significantly delayed the harvest of summer crops with many having to abandon some maize chopping in the southern Victoria.
- In the north demand in the Atherton Tablelands remains steady with a small amount moving locally. Following the recent rainfall in QLD many parts including the Tablelands have had an influx of fresh grass. The Darling Downs region reporting one of the best starts to a season following good rainfall for the first half of the year.

- Southern Australia is again on track for a good season with timely rain, most regions are reporting good growth. Several key factors still needed to take place and a relatively dry spring to improve on last year's season.
- Western Australia has recorded one of its best season breaks. Rain has been widespread this season with reports July was one of the wettest months on record. Perditions of high yielding crops continue to be discussed for the west. Prices remain strong for all fodder types in WA.
- Buyers are encouraged to feed test and view fodder before purchasing to be sure of the quality of the feed.

Regional Commentary

Atherton Tablelands

- Clear conditions for the Tablelands over the last week, light rain forecast to return to the region next week.
- Growers have planted some cereals in the region with cutting planned for October depending on conditions. Ideally this will be for winter trade when rhodes grass production is slower.
- Plenty of green feed in the region for grazing stock following winter rain across most of the Atherton area.
- Reports that further west farmers continue to trade weaning cattle rather than carry them through with the cattle prices remaining high. Minimal trade to these farmers as well with many producing their own hay this season.
- No changes to prices this week.
- Pasture (Rhodes Grass) hay: +/-0 (\$300 to \$330).
- 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

- Darling Downs recorded 10mm of rain this week, following on from a relatively wet July.
- Spraying programs as well as fertiliser applications are currently taking place now when conditions allow. With late summer crops this year and a fast turnaround to plant new season winter crops many growers were unable to complete their normal fertiliser programs.
- New season winter crops are doing well. Growers waiting for improved weather conditions before cutting barley crops for silage.
- Many farmers are purchasing cattle and feeding with conserved fodder and paddock feed and turning them over while market prices remain strong.
- No changes to prices this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$280 to \$300/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$390 to \$430/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$60 to \$70/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

- Light rain this week with reports of up to 5mm falling in places.
- Further west new season crops are doing well, recent frosts have slowed growth but traditionally this is the hardest time of year. Moisture levels are good and new season cereals and pasture will lift as days continue to improve.
- Reports not as much silage will be made this season with demand down and many still carrying over from last season.
- Trade continues to slow even further as farmers head into spring with plenty of feed.
- Cereal hay, straw, and lucerne prices quoted are for supplies to be carted into the region.
- No changes to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/- (\$250 to \$300/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/- (\$380 to \$430/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/- (\$100 to \$150/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/- (\$200 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.

Central West NSW

- Up to 13mm was received across the Central West this week. Cold conditions have also continued across the region.
- Water logging is still being reported in the north with overcast conditions and consistent small amounts of rain making it difficult for paddocks to dry out. With some growers having abandoned planting now on crops that still needed to be seeded.
- In general, most new season crops are doing well, growth is slow due to the ongoing cold conditions. Some growers have grazed earlier crops due to being to advance for this time of year.
- Trade is minimal in the region with reports of small amounts freighting to the Taree area for regular buyers.
- <https://www.nsw.gov.au/initiative/mouse-control-support-program>
- <https://www.nsw.gov.au/media-releases/50-million-support-package-to-help-regional-communities-combat-mouse-plague>
- No changes to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/- (\$170 to \$200/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/- (\$330 to \$380/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/- (\$60 to \$80/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/- (\$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 recorded this week in the Bega Valley. Conditions are improving with days becoming warmer.
- Grazing grass for stock taking off now with ideal growing conditions, some rain now would be timely after a relatively dry July. Many growers making decisions now with regards to cutting pastures for silage. Many farmers still have a majority of last season's silage still conserved.
- Farmers are still utilising stored on farm fodder to feed stock and have been able to manage the moderate winter conditions thus far. Unlikely the need for extensive amounts of extra feed to come into the Valley at this stage.
- Consistent small amounts of cereal hay coming onto the coast for dairy farmers with springing cattle.
- No changes to prices this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$290 to \$320/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$550 to \$600/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$200 to \$230/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$350 to \$400/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

- Up to 15mm pf rain fell across the Valley this past week. Overcast and bleak conditions have continued for the first week of August following a wet and wintery July.
- Warmer conditions will see new season crops flourish and give growers an opportunity to get onto paddocks for spraying and final fertiliser applications.
- Very minimal rain needed now, paddocks are wet, and farmers continue to feed additional fodder to support stock as cold conditions continue. Local trade not expected to increase as farmers have sufficient stores of hay and silage.
- Small amounts of good quality lucerne continue to move into New South Wales primarily the North Coast.
- No change to prices this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$180 to \$200/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$450 to \$500/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$70 to \$100/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$230 to \$280/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

- Rain in Gippsland this week with 23mm recorded at Yarram. Despite relatively low rainfall for July the region is still significantly wet.
- Large quantities of fodder continue to be feed out to stock which will continue until conditions improve. Warmer weather needed for stock to be able to return to lower country for grazing.
- Despite the wet conditions Gippsland is on track for a good season.
- The region continues to recover from storm and flood damage. Many making enquiries to secure feed for the remainder of winter. A variety of feed moving into Gippsland with farmers making sure not to leave themselves short.
- www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/floods
- No change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$250 to \$290/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$550 to \$650/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$70 to \$85/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/- (\$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

- Southern most parts of the Southwest recorded up to 40mm in the last seven days.
- Growers in the Mallee and Wimmera now seeing crops improve with recent rain. Ongoing good rainfall with be needed in the area for crops to finish well.
- Report's vetch hay produced in the Wimmera and Mallee will be significantly down this year with rainfall only being viable in the last six weeks.
- Farmers had been taking advantage of low prices and storing some fodder. Majority of good quality hay has now been sold out from the Wimmera and Mallee regions.
- No change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$170 to \$210/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$350 to \$400/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$60 to \$80/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: +/-0 (\$150 to \$180/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.

Southeast South Australia

- Rain this week for the Southeast with Keith recording 25mm.
- Growers reporting crops are progressing well now despite the slow start to the season and are in the process now of spraying and fertilising prior to weather fronts passing through.
- Local movement of hay continuing for beef and sheep farmers who have been feeding out for a number a month's now due to a dry start.
- Steady trade for growers which looks to slow down further now as new season grasses will improve over the coming month.
- No change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$190 to \$220/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

- Central South recording up to 40mm of rain over the past week.
- A significant change in the season with good rainfall since the end of June. Growers taking the opportunity between weather fronts to spray and spread fertiliser. Crops are on track but growers will still need continued good conditions and a dry spring to complete the season.
- Growers have significantly reduced cereal hay plantings across the region due to concerns over limited export opportunities. Exporters will only be taking premium hay with a backlog still of last season's lower grade hay. Many growers have opted to increase legume plantings this year.
- Local trade has been steady with many reporting moving more hay than expected as farmers continue to seek out high protein fodder.
- No change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$190 to \$220/t). Prices remains steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$400 to \$450/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/- (\$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

- Parts of the Wheat Belt region receiving 150mm of rain during July, making it one of the wettest months on record.
- Reports that growers are still finding it difficult to get onto paddocks with the continued rain. Growers are also watching for disease in new season crops following the extended wet conditions in particular yield affecting fungal disease.
- Minimal domestic trade at present with small amounts of cereal and straw being taken up by cattle farmers on the coast.
- With a significant reduction in cereal hay plantings in the west it will be timely to see what is produced this spring and if domestic demands can be met.
- Pricing changes to pasture hay this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$280 to \$320/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +/-0 (\$450 to \$490). Prices remain steady this week.
- Straw: +/-0 (\$120 to 140/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Pasture hay: -\$20 (\$180 to \$200/t). Prices have eased 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

- The Northwest region recorded upwards of 140mm of rain during July. The first week of August has brought another 25mm to the Smithton area.
- Conditions are continuing to be cold and wet with farmers feeding out to stock now to save paddocks until more favourable conditions in the spring.
- August is often the biggest trading month as farmers run out of fodder.
- Many growers will sell out of cereal by the end of winter.
- No change to pricing this week.
- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$200 to \$250/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 (\$230 to \$280/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. We recommend feed testing and viewing of fodder before purchase to be sure of the quality of feed.